

From Food





Hang in there!!

(Dave Roche UL Out-Door Pursuits)

University of Limerick
Students' Union
Newspaper

Inside:

Bomb News
Rag Week Preview
Clubs and Societies
+ Lots More

Hilary 4 Monday 9th March 1992.

NEWS

An Focal Editorial Censored

Union Executive axed an editorial "which was due to be published in the last issue of An Focal".

The editorial entitled "One man and his university" was discussed at a union executive meeting the night before An focal was due to be printed. Executive decided that the article was not suitable for publication under the editorial banner, as they formed opinions which might be viewed as a union opinion, which they said it was not.

They did agree however that the article could be published in the future but under a different banner, those of opinion and letter were mentioned.

An Focal was initially disappointed at the Union stance on the issue. It does except that the editorial of such a publication can be seen as the opinion and views of the Students' Union .

and that a change in brand might "elicit more interested." The higher price has been recieved with mixed response. One student commented, "I enjoy good value for money in a condom."

A new shop in leeds selling over 250 varieties of condoms offers lucky leeds students a wide choice. Spokesperson for the new shop, Condomania, says that the 'glow-in-the-dark condom has been their most popular range so far.

College Fire.

Tuesday evening week 8 saw the evacuation of the library, Jonathan Swift theatre and surrounding areas, due to a fire in B block of level M.

The fire which started in a locker while quickly and successfully delt with still warranted the evacuation of the Library and the Jonathan Swift theatre where the gay and lesbian society were

showing a film.

No other damage was reported except the de-

WEEK NINE BOMB SCARE

For the second time this term the students of UL were forced to leave their well earned study spaces due to a bomb scare Thursday of week 9.

The telephone call which was made by an unidentified male stated that there was a bomb planted in the university which was due to go off at 10.33pm.

Detective garda Declan O' Reilly of Henry Street Garda Station told An Focal that they were alerted by UL security at approximately 9.33pm and responded immediately. He said that the evacuation was carried out quickly, in an orderly fashion, and within the required time limit. He also complemented students on

the cooperation they showed during the evacuation.

The question of a locker being the source of the problem was quickly ruled out by the gardai who then with the cooperation of UL security carried out an organised search of the building. On finding nothing and being satisfied as to the fact that there was nothing to find they gave everybody the go ahead to return to the college at about 11.15pm.

Gardai say they have no leads as to the identity of the caller but believe it was yet another hoax call. They would be obliged if anyone with any information as to the identity of the caller would contact them at Henry Street garda station.

Condom choice

There are very strong rumors circulating with regards to condom vending machines coming to the Students' Centre before the year is finished.

Newcastle University faces controversy following a change in their condom vending machines. Jason Stamp, Vice President Welfare Officer, believes Durex offers a better range

struction of the locker and the fire did not spread.

Library staff told An Focal that the evacuation was successfully completed and that the library was later reopened. they also told An Focal that fire drills are held at least once a year before which a meeting is held between the evacuation stewards and the assembly stewards to coordinate the exercise.

Stables Club Glass Mountains

By Michele O' Dwyer

The Stables Club is being bled by an acute rise in pilfering and breakages since last January(1991), enough it would seem to form a Glass, Cutlery and Delf mountain of it's own.

According to figures released by the Club Man-



Dr. Walsh encourages fourth-year class representatives to join Alumni. He was speaking at an introductory session on the production of this year's yearbooks which for the first time is a joint project between the Alumni Association and the Students' Union.

mountain of it's own.

According to figures released by the Club Management over 2,600 pieces of cutlery, worth £1000 and over 2,000 pieces of delf valued at £2,500 have gone walkies.

A staggering amount of glasses have also been replaced by the Club since last January twelve months also - exceeding the figure Of 10,000 glasses by 800. This figure however would include substantially more breakages than the other two.

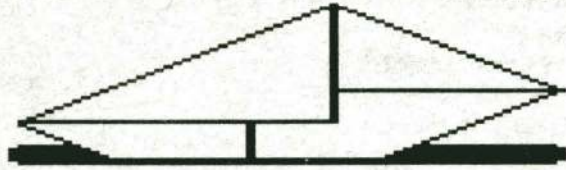
None of the figures contain replacement material from Glen Oaks catering.

Club Manager Donal Fagan said " It's amazing the amount of material we put on the shelves only to find us replacing it the next few weeks later".

The upsurge in pilferage is not alone confined to just Stables Club property; according to the staff the amount of jackets and gearbags that are being whipped out of the Club every night is reaching abnormal levels.

Management and Staff have appealed to students to be a lot more vigilant with their own property when they are in the Club.

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



The world according to you

Letters

One step closer to the Grim Reaper.

Dear Editor ,

O.K lets make this short and insulting. I write this for the detriment of all those wonderfully "career minded" farts in my class. My advice is this : go ahead, get your 'SAFE', 'RESPONSIBLE', position with a 'good name' company. Spend the next few years of your ever dwindling, pathetic existence working your ass off for somebody else, watching banal, inane televisions programs and looking forward to the Friday night slobber and grope.

I suppose its only logical really, 'everybody else' does

Why a letters page ?

Dear Editor (Let's not be sexist!)

Why would anyone want to write a letter to the editor here in this virtual paradise of the University of Limerick? Why would it ever occur to anyone to put pen to paper or cast a series of instructions at computers and printers or whatever? What could the topics and themes of such letters ever be?

Myself, I have been for only five years here at the University of Limerick. Five years here, I jest! Indeed I could never have been, five years here in this college. I have been four and a half years at this college, and three years in the University of Limerick. I am amongst the more experienced students here, in terms of college life in the land of UL is concerned. What are the major considerations of the average UL student, and if they ever should write to the editor what should be their themes?

Oddly enough, perhaps, the major concern of the UL student is himself or herself, yes the UL student is a selfish animal, concerned only with what affects directly the quality of the lived life and the aims and objectives of existence in UL.

Not for the UL student to be concerned with the effects of

is leadership they say! what we want done is not being done they say What the Union needs..... What the people that the Union elected to lead the Union need is to know what the "Union" needs, to be informed of what the "Union" needs. What the Union needs is to get involved!

People here live in a virtual reality, living in a sheltered environment without consideration for what exists beyond the pale, the concerns of the world at large, the concerns of the global village. They live for four years in a shelter, and then hope to go out into that village and find a job for life, to find they have the respect and admiration of their fellow villagers and to be considered a vital soul at any party. However they spend four years here with their heads buried in their own little pale, without consideration

Lit & Phil again !!

Dear Editor,

Upon returning from the Kieran Tracy Memorial Trophy Debate hosted tonight by the Literary and Philosophical Society of the University, I felt compelled to write.

The motion before the house was that " This house would legalise prostitution " and while we witnessed probably one of the most eloquent, verbose, passionate, witty and intelligent debates ever held by the society it is not on the quality of debating I wish to dwell but on a point made by Mr. Brian O' Farrell in the course of his speech.

Throughout Mr. O' Farrell expanded and reiterated the view that sex could not occur without some feeling of love being experienced or present. I ask you sir, where is the love in rape? Where is the love in a person using a violent sexual act to subjugate, degrade and humiliate another? It was his assertion that love equated to

sex and vice versa which, personally, defied conception. It was frightening in its romanticised naivety. Does he not realise that after "she was looking for it", "she enjoyed it" is the most frequently used, for me the most pathetic reason used, to justify rape.

Mr. O' Farrell is one of the most seasoned and respected debaters in the society. However tonight I feel he deserves nothing but scorn for his apparent lack of sympathy and understanding towards the victims of rape.

In closing I wish to Apologise to Mr. O' Farrell for having to present this criticism in written form and not affording him the opportunity to respond immediately. I am a person who is nervous in public and I wished to make sure I articulated my criticism fully and properly.

Yours Sincerely,

John Baird

1st European Studies

Dear Simon Snodgrass,

jectives of existence in UL.

Not for the UL student to be concerned with the effects of CFC's on the ozone layer, the effects of the cutting down of rain forests or the spilling of toxic and nuclear wastes into the seas of the world. Only what affects the virtual existence of the student here in this virtual University, a safe haven from the trials and tribulations of the real world, the real tasks of real people, and the living and dying of real life.

The topics which will most interest and arouse the emotions of the UL student are grades, results, examinations and of course the regular old bitch, the Union. There, I have mentioned the Union, and contradicted myself? Does anyone read these long letters anyway? Is the Union a separate entity from the students? Does its inclusion in the list not contradict my earlier statement that "the major concern of the UL student is himself or herself". Of course it does not! For the Union by its very definition includes each and every student, the Union is that very student that uncaps his or her pen to write. What the Union needs

they spend four years here with their heads buried in their own little pale, without consideration for even the local environment and the future of this lonely street in a global village. Today we live in a global village, in a village everybody knows everybody else, or at least shows some concern for their affairs. But not here, here its me for me and not to matter about the rest! Sorry mate, but you are taking yourself down a road which is leading back into the middle ages and the black times of old. Here in this sheltered environment is just the place to cultivate the tender saplings of diplomacy and communication, saplings that when full grown will be the tools of the future life of many if not all graduates, the necessary tools in the real world of the global village.

The time is come, the time is now to make a change, a change in the environment of this sheltered house to prepare for the future and exposure to the mean streets of the global village, where everyone needs to know the colour of everybody else's back door.

Jeremiah Russell

Dear Simon Snodgrass,

Thank you very much for you article 'I won the war' in the latest edition of 'An Focal'. It gave me the opportunity to participate in interesting discussions with my fellow students. Unlike me, most debaters took a controversial stand-point towards your article.

Some people said your article was as bad as the Irish - British food - like a muddy, indefinite, 'all in one'. Others stated that they didn't see the links between your military effusions, rugby players, the establishment and of course yourself. They said that you had lost your train of thought.

However, most students I talked with said they didn't reach the third paragraph of your article, because they were bored by your dull egotrip.

I think these criticisms were quite unfounded, blatantly exaggerated and in such sharp contrast to the clarity of your article. I was amused by the presence of such subtle intelligence and humour in your composition (i.e. the joke with

the Gestapo and the gas chamber). Also the way you brought your rich political and historical knowledge in line with public figures - ha ha brilliant! In your satirical contribution to 'An Focal' you confronted all those cheap cliches in our world today with the elegance of a great writer. What a shame that only the two of us appreciated it.

Dearest Simon, apparently this newspaper is looking mainly for long articles. Nevertheless I have to come to an end due to the pile of unfinished work waiting for me. (Carpe Diem but I'm sure you already know that...) Fight against your critics and I know you will use the 'good' English of received pronunciation, because you hate every kind of accent.

JanWilhelm (Erasmus)

P.S. Mein ursprünglicher gedanke war es, Dir in Deutsch zu schreiben. Das hatte dir zumindest die Möglichkeit gegeben Deinen begrenzten deutschen Wortschatz aufzustocken. aber wir beide wollen ja nicht unter uns bleiben. stimmt's?

I suppose its only logical really, 'everybody else' does it, so why not you? While you're at it, don't forget to go to mass every Sunday (three million sheep cannot be wrong), pay your taxes (to justify your incessant whining), and carry out the bins on Tuesday morning. Ah yes, the institutions of life. So much to look forward to

What am I rambling about? you may ask. Surely no sane, educated individual would resign themselves to such a BORING, PREDICTABLE life? They do and you will. So you wanted to be a rock and roll star, did you? Heres a Karioke machine for your birthday. Put it in your mortgaged semi-detach with your fat, boring spouse and your 2.2 kids.

So go ahead, good luck with your geriatric futures. Fill out that application form, tell your 'love' how you feel, take the step one step closer to the Grim Reaper.

Yours tastefully,
Cuchulainn's thumb.
A. Mc Donald

Union Brief

Constitutional Review

This is the current U.L.S.U. constitution as it is at the moment. It has been progressing from the original format approved in the mid eighties, on a number of fronts. The review of the Finance section occurred in 1988, to tidy up budgeting and to lay down proper accountancy guidelines for a Union of its size. The composition of Executive has been changing often - firstly bringing in a separate Clubs Officer and Societies Officer and then changing Womens' Officer to Equal Rights Officer, and the introduction of an Information Officer, culminating this year with the Post Graduate's Student Association nominating a non voting observer to Executive. Very little with regard to the ethos and fundamental founding principles of the Union have changed but a lot of the technical aspects of the Constitution need to be amended to take into account the way the Union is actually working today - and to prepare the organisation for greater expansion. To this end Class Rep Council elected a working Committee that would report back to Council with a drafted new Constitution for adoption at the next Union General Meeting early in term three. The draft will be subject to amendment and alteration at the first Class Rep Meeting in Week 1 (Tuesday night) and will be published in An Focal prior to the U.G.M. Week 2, as outlined at the general meeting this term. Those who have views on aspects of the current constitution should get them to their class reps for the start of term meetings.

PREAMBLE

Hereto are the articles of the Constitution of the Students Union of the University of Limerick.

This Constitution derives its authority from the student body of the University of Limerick.

Where the Students Union is affiliated to any organisation or organisations, such affiliations will only bind the Students Union in so far as the provisions of this Constitution are not contravened.

ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME

1.1 There shall be a students' union at the University of Limerick (hereafter called the University).

1.2 The name of the union shall be the Students' Union of the University of Limerick or as Gaelige - Aontas na Mac Leinn, Ollscoil Lutmnaigh.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 To represent its members, on matters affecting their interests as students of this University.

2.2 To promote unity and encourage communication amongst its members.

2.3 To seek the facilities required by, and advantageous to its members, or where appropriate to provide these services.

2.4 To actively pursue good relations between its members and the community.

2.5 To work for an equitable education system in this country.

2.6 To promote the use of all languages while cherishing our own native Irish tongue.

MEMBERSHIP

3.1 All students that are on the college books, taking full time courses and part-time courses shall be members of the union.

3.2 The full time officers shall also be members of the union.

of Union Executive (iv) A petition by at least 10% of union members.

5.8 The quorum for general meetings shall be 10% of total membership.

5.9 Meetings which are proved not to be quorate may only discuss matters, but may not decide on any policy matters or vote on opinions of any kind.

5.10 Every union member shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings.

5.11 All general meetings shall be run in accordance with the standing orders contained in this constitution.

THE REFERENDUM

6.1 This Constitution may be amended by referendum or by general meeting. Motions for referendum shall be proposed by five union members and seconded by fifteen union members, with the exception of the referendum on U.S.I. membership, ordered by Article 11.18 of this Constitution.

6.2 A referendum shall be called on any issue by any of the following: (i) The General Meeting (ii) The Union Council (iii) A request by at least 20% of union members.

6.3 For the result of a referendum to be valid, at least 20% of union members must vote and these votes must be proved to be valid.

6.4 All motions, including constitutional amendments must be passed by a simple majority in order for them to be valid.

6.5 Decisions of a referendum shall be binding on all union bodies, including the GM.

7.6 Any member of the union may attend council meetings as an observer but may be asked to leave if any confidential business arises.

7.7 Each councillor shall represent the interests and views of his or her class on the council and keep them regularly informed on the proceedings of the council.

7.8 In order to ensure the effective attainment of the principle in Section 7.7, each councillor shall hold a class meeting shortly after each council meeting.

7.9 At each class meeting, the councillor shall give a report of the proceedings of the previous council meeting and seek the views of his or her class on forthcoming issues.

7.10 Class reps are expected to keep their classes in touch with the business of the union and should form class committees to help share the workload where appropriate.

7.11 The council shall have the power to constitute at any time, any sub-committees as it may require for the better conduct of its affairs.

7.12 There shall be a union council entertainments sub-committee. This committee shall be responsible for the day to day management of entertainments and shall consist of the following members:

1. Transition Officer (Chairperson)

2. Ents Co-ordinator (Union staff member)

3. Ents Secretary (As appointed by union council)

the Students' Union, save in such circumstances where the contract applies to entertainment. In this case, the entertainments co-ordinator shall sign the contracts on behalf of the Union.

8.4 The Deputy President shall act also for and on behalf of the President in his/her absence.

The Deputy President shall also be the Education Officer and shall be responsible for the development and promotion of Union education policy.

The Deputy President shall also have responsibility for the seeking of those services which policy deems a need for.

8.5 The Transition officer shall oversee the organisation and co-ordination of the entertainments service of the Union, and shall ensure that Union members are informed of union activities and relevant campus activities.

8.6 The Secretary shall be responsible for the taking and publishing of minutes of all Union meetings. The Secretary shall have responsibility for the posting of notices relating to all Union meetings. The Secretary shall be responsible for all official correspondence of the Union.

8.7 The Welfare Officer shall represent the interests of the members in matters relating to their welfare.

8.8 The Treasurer shall oversee the keeping of accounts and budgeting and he/she shall present financial reports.

8.9 The Clubs Officer shall advise, aid

9.2 All payments made by the Union shall be by cheque.

9.3 The Union accepts no liability for overdrafts or debts incurred by clubs, societies or individuals connected with or recognised by the Union.

9.4 The accounts of the Union shall be audited by a competent person each year (not a University of Limerick student).

These audited accounts shall be prepared before and submitted to, an ordinary general meeting of the Union.

9.5 The full time officers shall both sign all cheques save in such instances where the executive give signing authority to another person. The President must sign all cheques.

9.6 The General Meeting shall determine the amount of the capitation fee, which shall be reviewed at each Annual General Meeting.

9.7 The finances of the Union shall be allocated annually, by the Executive, during Michaelmas Term.

9.8 The following shall be the procedure for allocating Union funds:

(a) The Executive shall formulate a budget for the funding of the Student's Union, within five college days after the result of the General Election shall have been declared.

(b) Recognised Clubs and Societies shall present budgets to the Executive within five college days after the result of the General Election, which shall be considered claims for funds.

(c) The Executive shall hold a Budget Allocation Meeting before the end of the Michaelmas Term.

9.9 Appeals against the allocations made by the Executive to Clubs and Societies shall be heard by the Union Council whose decision shall be final.

9.10 The Budget Allocation Meeting shall allocate funds to every club and society recognised by the Student's Union on an individual basis.

9.11 Union Council has the power to

Executive (which was previously held by the "Clubs and Societies" Officer).

10.6 The Clubs and Societies Council will comprise of representation of clubs and societies, in attendance at the Annual Clubs and Societies Administration Course.

10.7 The Clubs and Societies Council shall elect an eight person committee to advise the S.U. Executive on clubs and societies interests. The Clubs and Societies Committee will recommended guide-lines to the S.U. Executive for the allocation of Clubs and Societies Budgets. The Committee shall comprise of the Clubs and Societies officers, and three members each of the Clubs and of the Societies.

ELECTIONS

11.1 All elections shall be by secret ballot and by the system of proportional representation by single transferable vote.

11.2 Elections for union council and for Union Executive shall be held within three weeks of the beginning of the Michaelmas term.

11.3 The full time officers shall appoint a returning officer to oversee the elections mentioned in Clause 11.2. The returning officer shall make binding rulings regarding electorate disputes.

11.4.1 Subject to articles 11.4.2 and 11.4.3, all members of the Union shall be entitled to vote in elections for members of the executive.

11.4.2 In the elections held in the Trinity Term 1991:

(i) in addition to the members of the Union, student members of Thomond College of Education shall be entitled to vote for the posts of President, Deputy President, and Transition Officer;

(ii) candidates for the post of Transition Officer shall be nominated only by student members of Thomond College of Education;

(iii) candidates for the post of Transition Officer shall be student members of Thomond College of Education;

and seconded by another ten union members.

11.10 Candidates for the posts of secretary, welfare officer, womens rights officer and treasurer shall be proposed by five union members and seconded by another ten union members.

11.11 Candidates for the positions of class representatives must be proposed by one class member and seconded by another two class members.

11.12 Subject to articles 11.4.2 and 11.4.3, all

members of the Union shall be entitled to vote, subject to the other provisions of this constitution, in elections for the posts of Secretary, Welfare Officer, Treasurer, Equal Rights Officer and Information Officer.

11.13 The Clubs Officer and the Societies Officer shall be elected by the chairpersons of their relevant organisations. The returning officer shall oversee and organise such an election.

11.14 Members of the executive who get elected unopposed must present themselves to the first general meeting following their appointment for a vote of confidence. In the case of an executive member not winning a vote of confidence by a simple majority, that member must resign his/her post immediately and the post will open for election once again. For such a vote to take place the meeting must be proved quorate.

11.15 Union council shall make all the arrangements for the full-time elections.

11.16 Any executive member may resign at any time, but the executive members shall be deemed resigned if:

(a) A vote of no confidence is passed at a general meeting. A quorum of 20% is needed for such a resignation to be valid.

(b) If he/she takes up a co-operative education post.

11.17 The election for the full time officers must be held within five weeks from the start of the Trinity Term.

11.18 A referendum will be held bienni-

12.7 Only one motion, report or amendment to a motion may be before the floor at any one time.

12.8 Amendments to a motion shall be relevant to it and form an intelligible unit with it. They may not seek to negate it directly.

12.9 Before any vote is taken at a General Meeting a quorum count must be taken.

12.10 If an amendment is carried or accepted, the original motion incorporating the amendment shall become the main motion to which further amendments may be moved.

12.11 If at any time there is no discussion the Chairperson may inquire whether there is any opposition and, if not, shall declare the motion carried.

12.12 The following procedural motions may be moved:

(a) a motion that the question now be put;

(b) a motion that the question not be put;

(c) a motion to postpone or adjourn the matter to a later specified time or meeting;

(d) a motion to refer the matter to the Executive or to any other specified body for examination or report;

(e) a motion of no confidence in the Chairperson

(f) a challenge to the Chairperson's ruling

(g) a motion that an item be voted on in parts

12.13 Procedural motions shall require a seconder. They may not be proposed while any member is speaking on a point of order or during the act of voting.

12.14 The Chairperson may refuse to put any procedural motion if one of similar effect and related to the same subject matter has been defeated within the previous fifteen minutes.

12.15 The proposed of a procedural motion should speak in favour of the motion for no longer than five minutes followed by

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order or the act of voting, provided that the speaker states that he/she is rising on a 'point of information'. The speaker on the

be heard by the Union Council whose decision shall be final.

9.10 The Budget Allocation Meeting shall allocate funds to every club and society recognised by the Student's Union on an individual basis.

9.11 Union Council has the power to alter any allocations made by the Executive.

9.12 The full time officers shall sign a contract of employment which is deemed appropriate by Council. This contract shall be signed with the Executive before the officers take up their posts.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

10.1 For a club or society to be recognised by the Union, the following conditions must be met:

- (a) must be in existence for at least three months;
- (b) must be a minimum of ten members;
- (c) must be open to all students and staff of the University;
- (d) must have its own constitution specifically setting out its aims and objectives;
- (e) present accounts to the union Executive on request.

10.2 Political or religious organisations shall receive a maximum grant of £1.

10.3 Union Council may decide at any time to withhold allocated funds from a club or society if it can be proven that the money is being misused.

10.4 All money not claimed by individual clubs and societies shall be kept, in the Club/Soc account of the Student Union and allocated to clubs and societies in the following year's budget.

10.5 Clubs and societies are represented on the S.U. Executive by a Clubs Officer and a Societies Office. Both officers, elected by the Clubs and Societies Council at the Annual Clubs and Societies Administration Course shall share their vote help on

(i) candidates for the post of Transition Officer shall be nominated only by student members of Thomond College of Education;

(ii) candidates for the post of Transition Officer shall be student members of Thomond College of Education;

(iv) only those who are members of the Students Union of the University of Limerick may be candidates for the posts of President and Deputy President;

(v) candidates for the posts of President and Deputy President shall be nominated only by members of the Union.

11.4.3 In elections held between 1st September 1991 and 31st August 1993:

(i) only those members of the Union who are students in the College of Education shall be eligible for nomination as a candidate for the post of Transition Officer;

(ii) all members of the Union shall be eligible to be a candidate for the posts of President and Deputy President;

11.5 The nomination period for all union elections shall be three college days.

11.6 The election of all positions shall place six days after the close of nominations.

11.7 In any election, voters can be asked to identify themselves before being allowed to vote.

11.8 Any candidate in an election must present the following to the returning officer:

(a) a signed contract that the candidate wishes to be considered in the election for which he/she has been nominated;

(b) an appropriate nomination form signed by the proposer(s) and seconder(s) of the candidate's candidacy. This form must contain as mentioned in part (a) of this Clause.

11.9 Candidates for full time posts must be nominated by five union members

for such a resignation to be valid.

(b) If he/she takes up a co-operative education post.

11.17 The election for the full time officers must be held within five weeks from the start of the Trinity Term.

11.18 A referendum will be held biennially (beginning the academic year 1987/1988), the subject of which shall be the deletion or reinstatement as article 1.3 of this constitution which reads:

"This Union is a member of the Union of Students in Ireland."

STANDING ORDERS

The following standing orders may not be suspended.

12.1 Each speaker shall address himself/herself solely to the Chairperson.

12.2 The Chairperson shall ensure wherever practicable that speakers for and against the question under discussion address the meeting alternately.

12.3 Whenever the Chairperson speaks he/she shall be heard in silence and any other member shall at once cease speaking.

12.4 The Chairperson shall have a casting vote. If he/she is unwilling to exercise a casting vote, the motion may be put again or declared 'not carried'.

12.5 The Chairperson shall have general responsibility for ensuring that discussion is conducted in an orderly fashion and that speakers are not interrupted except as provided for in these standing orders. He/She shall ensure that speakers adhere to the motion when speaking.

12.6 Every motion or amendment which shall be proposed or any report given shall thereafter be open for discussion. The proposed shall have the right to reply immediately before a vote is taken, but may not then introduce fresh subject matter.

put any procedural motion if one of similar effect and related to the same subject matter has been defeated within the previous fifteen minutes.

12.15 The proposed of a procedural motion should speak in favour of the motion for no longer than five minutes followed by one speaker against the procedural motion for five minutes. It shall then be put to a vote. The proposer of the main motion under discussion shall have priority in speaking against the procedural motion except in the case of procedural motions 12 (e) and (f) where the Chairperson shall have priority.

12.16 When 12(e) or (f) is proposed the Chairperson shall leave the chair until it is determined. If (f) is carried the Chairperson shall resume the chair but shall not give a ruling in accordance with the procedural motion. If (e) is carried the Chairperson to whom it relates shall not take the chair for the remainder of that meeting.

12.17 When 12 (a) is carried the Chairperson shall immediately allow the proposer of the main motion to sum up and reply and then put the main motion to a vote.

12.18 Amendments may not be proposed to procedural motions except in respect of the element of time in 12 (c) or in respect of the body to which the matter is referred in 12 (d). No procedural motion may be moved in respect of another procedural motion.

12.19 A point of order shall have precedence over all other business except the act of voting (unless it refers to the conduct of the vote). It may be raised by any member provided that he/she raises the point immediately and states that he/she rises 'on a point of order'. A point of order shall relate only to the procedure adopted or to the conduct of the meeting.

12.20 A point of information may be raised at any time except during a point of

order or the act of voting, provided that the speaker states that he/she is rising on a 'point of information'. The speaker on the floor may accept or refuse a point of information and if the speaker refuses, the person offering the point of information shall immediately stop speaking. A point of information shall consist of brief and relevant information offered to or asked from the speaker.

12.21 Voting shall be by a show of hands. The Chairperson shall then declare the result. Decision shall normally be by a simple majority. The Chairperson shall appoint tellers if necessary.

13 Transition Provisions. On 1st September 1993

(i) articles 11.4.2 and 11.4.3 shall be deleted from this constitution,

(ii) the text "subject to articles 11.4.2 and 11.4.3," shall be deleted from article 11.4.1 and article 11.4.1 shall be renumbered to 11.4,

(iii) the text "subject to articles 11.4.2 and 11.4.3," shall be deleted from article 11.12.

INTERPRETATION

The word 'class' as used in this constitution refers to the various options of the courses, e.g.

3rd Business.

Marketing option (separate class)

Personnel option (separate class)

Finance option (separate class)

It shall be the role of the President to interpret the Constitution. A ruling on interpretation may be challenged at any quorate meeting. The decision of the general meeting shall be final.

Paschal Cleary Retires - The End Of An Era.

by John Brosnan

Pascal Cleary, the most famous famous "green man", porter to the SU retired on 25/2/92, due to ill health. Having worked here since March 1983, he has seen many changes. There were but 700 students at the NIHE at the time, with just the white House and Block A of the main building constructed at that stage.

Pascal has lived in Limerick all his life. He did his Leaving Cert at CBS Sexton St, where he played Harty Cup hurling. With his club, Treaty Sarsfield, Pascal won 5 limerick county medals; 1 senior hurling, 3 minor hurling and one junior football.

After learning how to play the trumpets, Pascal joined his first dance band in the late 1940. By 1960, he had his own band, The Belltones which he led until 1974. In 1960, he appeared on Spot the Talent, a Radio Eireann program.

There have being several stories about Pascal which



Paschal & Peggie

have been pointed out to An Focal; here are a few samples.

Barry Quill, the first SU Coop student told of how Pascal invented a 3.30 coffee break in the Stables. Barry quickly learnt that the break was not for coffee. On another occasion, when a white ball went missing from the pool room, Paschal was heard to say "Jaysus is nothing sacred anymore, some one nicked one of my balls". Pascal described the Squirrel dance (a song the Belltones used play) "once around the floor and then out for your nuts". In the Summer of 1990 a female Erasmus student was observed sunbathing topless on campus. In keeping with his high moral standing he informed Carmel Ryan of the indecent exposure, but he says "I made sure I got a good

Coop students working in the SU) for breaking the back chassis of the car even after Maria fitness test said she was low on body fat.

One Christmas Paschal got a present of his favourite whiskey- Black & White. Unfortunately he left it in the taxi that drove him home. He claims it was the biggest tip he ever gave a Taxi driver.

Paschal claim to fame is that he was once deputised for the Mayor of Limerick, when he officially opened the Multicultural Experience of 1990. For weeks after he was being referred to as "Deputy".

Pascal gives some alternative reasons for his retirement. According to him the fact that there were 2 female Coop students appointed to the SU office

did, saying "was'nt I the brave man putting up with Croffy for a second term". The Su President was unavailable for comment to counter these Accusations.

When hearing of his retirement Barry Quill stated that "Pascal will have nothing to do now-some things never change. Carmel Ryan described Paschal as her "third arm" and as a "Father figure". Pascal has 5 children and 5 grandchildren. He is happily married to Peggie. He describes her as a "jewel" and he is "kind and gentle, one of the few good men left" according to her.

Pascal has 3 ambitions -Firstly to go on a Mediterranean cruise;

-Secondly to get a car that will pass the MOT test.

-Finally, for Donal Waide to get a haircut or even his hair combed.

Paschal's favourite duties were delivering flowers on Valentines day(he always made sure he got a kiss from the recipient) and trying to catch soaking students running from the fountain.

Of all his famous quotes this is the most renowned; "That pint tastes like another one". It will be strange not seeing Paschal around Campus, or in the Stables on a daily basis, but unfortunately time waits for no man.





Pascal at work with Croff & Carmel

Squirrel dance (a song the Belltones used play) " once around the floor and then out for your nuts". In the Summer of 1990 a female Erasmus student was observed sunbathing topless on campus. In keeping with his high moral standing he informed Carmel Ryan of the indecent exposure, but he says "I made sure I got a good Gawk before i sent Carmel out". Paschals Datsun Cherry failed its MOT test recently. He blames Maria Casey (one of the current

for the Mayor of Limerick, when he officially opened the Multicultural Experience of 1990. For weeks after he was being referred to as "Deputy".

Pascal gives some alternative reasons for his retirement. According to him the fact that there were 2 female Coop students appointed to the SU office was the final straw that broke the camels back. He also stated that he wanted to retire before Colm Croffy

from the reception and trying to catch soaking students running from the fountain.

Of all his famous quotes this is the most renowned; "That pint tastes like another one". It will be strange not seeing Pascal around Campus, or in the Stables on a daily basis, but unfortunately time waits for no man.

Pascal's retirement is just one more step towards the death of the NIHE. He will be missed by all.

Ego Ten

This is a truly wonderful Week 9 sweat is pouring like blood from the mind of a student searches frantically for the divine grace to sacrifice yet another episode of Home and Away in a forsaken void wanders a single strand of intelligence and catches the fleeing concept and strangles it with satisfaction is a long day of coffee drinking and paper and pens and cigarettes and greasy hair and heavy hair and talking and laughing and crying and spiting and blinking and depper thinking and a pint of plain in the

Stables and draw yur belts in tight lads the night has just descended on ego ten o' clock madness prevails in the room where we eat and drink and sleep and wake and live and die and everything depends upon tonight I will not be disturbed do you hear I will not be disturbed I must write all this down and the

only way is up or do you not know your music in my ears is the monotonic murmur all around it grows on you and you numb to the sounds of life all around this place is a living organism called earth and you learn to numb to that so that you learn everything just about

everything about everything depends upon tonight I have no time for anything and daffodils and grass and wild birds and wild birds not even wild birds don't interest me tonight theres something going on ego ten times my tiny size ten times my amazing wizard ego ten is jam packed like jam with strawberries thanks mam for strawberries and ice - cream for tea and a game of fig on the green and kissin' chase in the woods and I'm not on again I say eenie meenie mynie mo catch a biro by the neck and drag out the night for tonight everything depends upon me.



1953

Foaming at the Mouth

By Zen Zucchini

Well by Jesus, Lord-of-Hosts, King-of-Kings and wearer of a beard; it has been an interesting few weeks since last we spoke, oh my brothers (and sisters, damn you, I know !).

For starters, that well-known pacifist and humanitarian Moammar El-Quaddafi has, we hear, renounced links with the IRA. Why, pray tell ? The tent-dweller and holder of high military rank volunteers the information that our Provo friends are " terrorists ". Bugger me with a Breadvan, but I'm glad he told us. I, for one, would never have guessed.

Furthermore, our learned colleagues in SCHMUCK (I dare not elaborate on what the letters stand for) have taken an interesting interpretation of last week's Supreme Court decision on Abortion. I am reliably informed oh my brothers (etc.) , by a high ranking member of the judiciary, as to the REAL interpretation of the verdict.

From henceforth, al girls on the attainment of their fourteenth year will be forcibly subjected to abortions. It is, I am told, an irrelevancy as to whether or not the girls are actually pregnant. That is definitely the type of thing we need. There is too little discipline in our society: this decision

Florida state law. Meanwhile, Ben and that funky little Polack vixen (a niece of the Pope, incidentally) had stayed behind with Father Michael Cleary , to indulge in some pure Peruvian decongestant and sundry major sex crimes. All good clean fun, right ?

So, the next thing, we come back to the plush, ridiculously expensive hotel to find ourselves in the middle of a class A shitstorm. Ben, we heard, had been seized by the infamous MIAMI VICE team; clad only in his underpants, babbling and grappling with unseen enemies on a seventeenth floor balcony. He was, at the time , in full public view. In the meantime, his middle European harlot had been carried out like a six-pack, in the midst of a fair-to-middling cocaine coma.

I'll concede that he may have contravened the bounds of good taste, but we're talking about matters of degree here. Such behaviour, if in private, would of course have been perfectly acceptable. After all, who among us hasn't been caught in adulterous liason with a papist whore in a foreign

torpor and lethargy of the Irish Rugby team ? Well, in view of their impending visit to Paris, Ben and I (in conjunction with the National Selection Committee) made a decision as to what kind of pick-me-up they needed. With the old powdered dynamite in their system, they'd thrash those snail-eating vermin to within millimetres of their miasmatic, Gallic existences.

So what happened ? I've snooped around a bit, and can tell you the tale. Its not pretty, but it needs to be told. You might ask firstly, what became on the night in question of that snivelling little pisspot, Father Michael ? He was, it appears, the point-man in a conspiracy of unequalled foulness; to tip off the " Narcs ". Who, you might ask secondly, was involved in this infamous consortium ? As it happens, oh my brothers (Button it ! I'll hear no more whimpers of dissent.) , do the names Feargal Quinn and Maurice

NEW YORK DIARY

Andrea Heckleberk

New York, big, brash, bold and kind of exciting, such a mix of faces on every street, yellow cobs and mexican taxi drivers, straight out of Cagney and Lacey. Throngs of people always rushing to and from somewhere , no time to waste always moving twenty four hours a day, this city is alive.

Our first hours in NewYork was like something straight out of Eddies Murphys coming to America - thirteen of us stood in JFK airport surrounded by all our belongings and no Aerlingus staff to meet us.

Being brave and intrepid travellers we decided to get a taxi to our destination, outside it was minus 6, hands almost blue we loaded our suite cases into the taxi, into the back three of us, sat bags on knees and out onto the highway, whizzing along on what first felt like the wrong side of the road, peering out the window at Flyover bridges, cop cars and long angular cars. Going over Brooklyn bridge the view was magnificent - tall sky scraper reaching for the sky, illuminated by a million lights and perched just on the shore line.

While taking in the sights, it suddenly dawned that our taxi driver didn't have an idea or indeed how to get us to our address. To us all we could

Features

American houses so unlike ours at home are absolutely draft proof and for the first week they were totally unbearable.

Our exploration of New York is an on-going process which has being aided by our first wage check last wednesday.

We started of at the Empire State Building trailing around after a bunch of Japanese tourists looking like something off Clive James Show, then off

not the girls are actually pregnant. That is definitely the type of thing we need. There is too little discipline in our society: this decision should put the fear of God into them. A little known Codecil to the judgement is that rape, sodomy and cocaine-importation are to be decriminalised. Such a momentous decision makes a man swell with pride, and I for one applaud it.

Ah, but eventually we reach the week's, and in truth the decade's main tragedy. Yes, I'm talking about my main man Benny-boy. It can now be exclusively revealed that I, Zen Zucchini, was there on the spot when these events occurred.

Ben and I have been friends for years of course, ever since I intervened in that little episode a few moons ago with the boys in balaclavas. In any case, Ben, myself, and a select few others had just popped over to Florida for a drug-crazed binge of gambling, whoring and evasion of TV license fees. But, inevitably it had to go wrong.

The rest of us were out committing numerous felony offences under

in private, would of course have been perfectly acceptable. After all, who among us hasn't been caught in adulterous liason with a papist whore in a foreign country, while in possession of copious quantities of Schedule A drugs? Now they're trying to pin the ridiculous charge of traffick-ing on him. For a mere 32.5 grammes of Coke? Bah! Ben, you might say, is what you'd call a "fierce man". Not only can I guarantee you that this was for personal use, I tell you categorically that this was his supply for the NIGHT! This man has sinuses like the Bermuda Triangle.

Why would he need to traffick? He is, after all a multi-millionaire. More relevantly, we had recently made powerful connections with Peruvian Cocaine Barons, why would we need to smuggle it ourselves? If all had gone to plan, let us say that there would have been more than a few runny noses in the Emerald Isle over the next few months. Indeed, it was as much out of sheer selfless patriotism as anything else that we made the trip in the first place.

I'll explain. You have, no doubt, noticed the recent

consortium? As it happens, oh my brothers (Button it! I'll hear no more whimpers of dissent.), do the names Feargal Quinn and Maurice Pratt ring a bell? Exactly.

Ben is now neck deep in the smelly stuff, but with typical selflessness I'm sorting it out. Confidentially, I'm on the verge of striking a deal. Ben will have to bankroll a spin-off sequel to MIAMI VICE, and appear in the first six episodes as a villain, getting killed each time. He'll be brought back to life each time by a Haitian/Welsh witchdoctor named GWYNDAF LA-ROUSSE (played by Meryl Streep). Sounds promising, eh? Ben stands to make a tidy profit out of the whole shindig.

Of course, all this will be behind the scenes. As a face-saving gesture for the Floridians, it will appear that Our Man in Orlando will be publicly humiliated, forced to bite the Big One, sent down the river; and as many other cliches as you can think of. But we know better, don't we? Trust me, Ben does.

ZEN ZUCCHINI

line.

While taking in the sights, it suddenly dawned that our taxi driver didn't have an idea or indeed how to get us to our address. To us all we could see was masses of houses and parallel streets. After landing at the same spot for the third time we began to seriously doubt his abilities, then after numerous attempts to ask for directions failed, we began to doubt our chances of getting there at all!

Exactly an hour and fifteen minutes later we pulled up at what we hoped was home. Our pockets \$50 lighter and our arms weighed down by suite cases we made our way inside.

We started of at the Empire State Building trailing around after a bunch of Japanese tourists looking like something off Clive James Show, then off to Mc Donalds (well we have to keep our strength up) down Fifth ave to Maceys the biggest store in the world, around the Trump Towers and we had a peak down west 42 st. For those of you unfamiliar with it, it's one of the many red light districts, Sex shops, Peek shows, Prostitutions and dance shows. We actually stumbled on to it quite by accident as we work on East 42 st. it was east to get lost, but now sure were old veterans at getting round new york! More next week!!

ENVIRONMENT REPORT 25/2/92.

Today on BBC Radio 4 there was an announcement that 30 to 40 per cent depletion will occur in the Ozone Layer over the Northern Hemisphere. It is following in the footsteps of the Antarctic Ozone Hole which achieved 98 per cent depletion. This then mends itself. I have met some UL students who did not know what the Ozone Layer was (11 92). It is a special breed of oxygen which acts as a filter to protect life from dangerous ultra violet rays from the sun. Sight, skin, immune system, DNA, are at risk.

So take care. Gordon Hollyhood

Bach Education, Vancouver.

ITS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

John.H.

This problem of time just points out how far apart you students and I really are. See, our ideas about time and space are different.

When I think of time, I tend to think of clock radios, coffee breaks, afternoon naps, leisure time, half-time activities, parole time, Minute Rice, instant coffee, mid - life crises (at least once a term), that time of the month (bills), happy hour. And if I should suddenly mention space - aha ! I bet most of you think of your closets.

But when I think of time and space, I really think of Time and Space. Of course, now that its Lent I should really be thinking about infinity, although to be honest its not on my list of things to think about. It could be an ego trip, for all I know. After all, when you're pressed for time, infinity may as will not be there.

Is infinity time-released time ?

Frankly, infinity doesn't affect me personally one way or the other. You think too long about infinity, you could go stark raving mad.

But I don't want to sound negative about going crazy.

I don't want to overromanticize it either, but really, going crazy is the best thing that ever happened to me.

I don't say its for everybody; some people couldn't cope.

But for me it comes at a time when nothing else seems to be working. I have the kind of madness Socrates talks about, " A divine release of the soul from the yoke of custom and convention"

I refuse to be intimidated by reality anymore.

After all, what is reality anyway ? Nothing but a collective hunch. My friends in the SU Ents think reality was once a primitive method of crowd control that got out of hand. In my view, it's absurdity dressed up in a three - piece business suit.

I made some studies (its au naturel in a university), and reality is the leading cause of stress amongst those in touch with it.

I can take it small doses, but as a lifestyle I find it too confining.

It is just too needful; it expects me to be there for it all the time, and with all I have to do - I had to let something go.

(Let me report some of my latest findings :

- I think Peking Man may be even more advanced than is originally thought. Not only have I discovered bones and ashes which prove he cooked his meat, but I also found traces of what appears to be barbecue sauce.

- When a person dies of thirst, their eyes tear up.

- When a man gets hanged, he gets an erection, but when a woman gets hanged the last thing on her mind is sex.

- Here's another : As soon as humankind began to discover the truth about itself, we began to find ways to cover up the truth.

But maybe that's for the best: Our ability to delude ourselves may be an important survival tool.)

Now since I put reality on a back - burner, my days are jam - packed and fun - filled. Like, some days I go hang out in the Stables Club; I love to do this old joke: I wait for some music loving student(it takes a little bit of patience, does this one) to pass by and ask "How do I get a gig in the arts days?". Then I run up and yell, "Practice!". The expression on people's faces is priceless. I never could've done stuff like that when I was in my right mind. I'd be worried people would think I was crazy.

When I think of the fun I've missed when I was sane .. I try not to be bitter.

See, the human mind is like... an Easter egg.

When it breaks open, there's a lot of smarties inside.

Once you get the Easter egg perspective, you see that losing your mind can be peak experience.

Now, not only do I have a link up to extraterrestrial channels - students - I also have a hookup with humanity as a whole. Animals and plants all the time; then, one day, they started talking back.

They said, "John, shut up!" So I did.

SO YOU THINK YOU MADE MISTAKES !

Within the space of 20 minutes on the afternoon of October 15, 1966, a 75-year- old driver in McKinney Texas, perpetrated 4 hit and run offences, drove on the wrong side of the road four times, caused six accidents, collected ten traffic tickets and earned himself the label "Worlds Worst Driver" in the Guinness Book Of Records.

"Intersection six is still being planned" said a spokesman for the Dept of the Environment. Asked where it was going to be, the spokesman replied "We are'nt quite sure but i imagine it would be between Intersection Five and Interection Six" Manchester Evening News.

Lady Aster once told Sir Winston Churchill "If I were your wife I'd put poison in your coffee". Churchill replied "and if I were your Husband, I'd

drink it"

The court was told that soon after the party come into Maloneys bar, Hilligan spat at O'Flaerty and called him "a stinking Ulsterman". O'Flaherty punched Hilligan and Rourke hit him with a bottle and threw a pint of beer in Hilligans face. Hilligan kicked O'Flaherty in the groin and threw a pint of beer in Rourke's face. This lead to ill-feeling and they began to fight

-County Louth newspaper.

No person shall walk, run, stand, sit, or view the grass of this pleasure ground

-Byelon of Newquay Urban Council, Cornwall.

Mourners at a funeral in moinesti, Romania, were astonished to see a face peering down on them from the open coffin as it was being carried shoulder high across a road. Outside the Cemetery the "Body" a woman then leapt out of thee coffin and ran off down the road. She ran straight into the path of a car, was knocked down and killed.

Duffy 4th Business

ENGINEERING & SCIENCE SPEAKS

QUALITY OF EDUCATION & ADMINISTRATION

There has been much debate in recent times about (and indeed a student body vote of 2:1 in favour of) changing the present Tri-semester system to what many would hope would be a Semester system that guarantees a vastly improved quality of education for all U.L. students. Whether or not the proposed new system would actually achieve this, time may tell. One certainty remains however; bizarre and most frustrating inconsistencies and inadequacies within the present system require more urgent critical attention and reform than has to date been forthcoming from the authorities responsible.

Beginning firstly, with the issue of questionable relevance of certain maths modules for certain Engineering and Science students. Consider the case of 3rd Mechanical Engineering; their current timetable not having been sent out until week two by student

services (Co-op students had to sign a requisition form for one of these coveted items!), they found themselves assigned to the wrong maths class. Upon having caught up in week two with their intended maths module, they were a week behind their Electronics classmates who had some professional interest and previously acquired basic foundation in "Bessel functions" and "Wave equations" which their Mechanical counterparts clearly did not.

Moving on secondly, to the procedure of specialisation after Co-op. In mathematical terms this might best be described by the term variable rather than constant, due to the constantly variable nature of same. Once again considering the experience of this Yr's 3rd year Mech. Eng. class, they were given two days notice before making a decision of great importance regarding the chosen path of their longterm professional

career. Other courses have had similar experiences regarding specialisation options. There is seldom however a consistent procedure (right or wrong) from year to year.

Spare a thought for those who chose the Aeronautical option. A Chair of Avionics was created in this University in 1989, but to this day remains vacant. The position has been consistently offered by the University, apparently, but of the few qualified to occupy such a Chair none has been tempted to forfeit their present industrial employment. As a direct result of this, 3rd Aeronautics students will experience a one week long intensive lecturing course covering Avionics from a Queen's Lecturer in place of a more protracted and thorough course of lecturing from a permanent member of academic staff. Phew! This will in due course qualify them as aeronautical experts of course.....

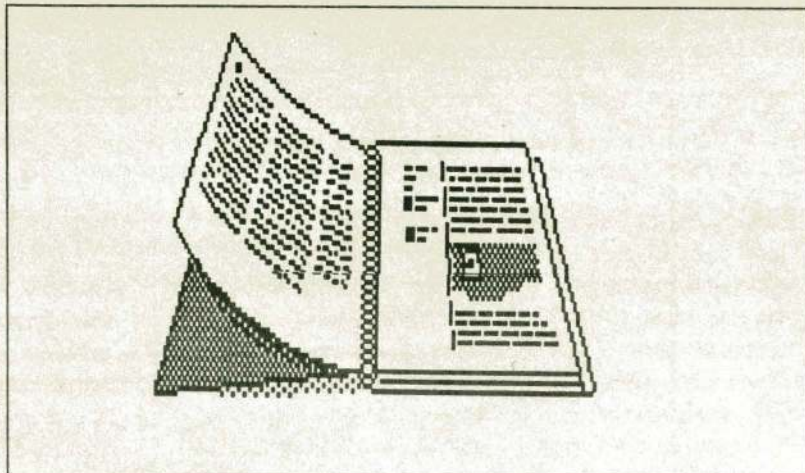
If I might cite just a few more general inconsistencies within the system as it operates at present: a Student Services directive regarding opening and closing times for lectures is not being complied with. When lectures do not begin on time and worse still run over time it renders punctuality near impossible when darting up from the Schumann or from the Thomond buildings to the main building or vice versa. Another more permanent anomalous feature of Eng. & Science is the manner in which time-consuming projects and lab reports, though of unquestionable relevance, fail to receive the percentage marks proportional to the amount of time, research or calculation required for them.

The issues mentioned above and a good many more besides beg serious questions as to the quality of both educational and administrative service available to us as

students in this University. But the most fundamental problem of all is the excessive workload of Engineering and Science students under our present largely continuous lecturing approach to education. The typical workload for most Eng. & Science students ranges from 20-30 hrs. a week. And that excludes the long hours of private study inevitably necessary, for the majority at least, outside of the official timetable. Does such a working-week make one a better Engineer or Scientist? It could be argued that it leads to too many engineers who are Jacks-of-all-trades but Masters-of-none, so that in many cases learning what is actually relevant to a job in industry, may not begin until one has left University and taken up such a position.

Without a rational reduction of workload some engineers will become robots long before robots ever emulate the capacities of Humans.

an Focal



We always welcome contributions for **an Focal**. We need to fill 16 tabloid pages every fortnight. We still need sub-editors in the following areas:

- * News
- * Features
- * Photography
- * Clubs and Societies
- * Opinion

Please come along to our weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 1.00pm in the Deputy Prsident's Office. All individuals, classes, Clubs & Societies, who are interested in writing forz **an Focal** should submit their copy to the Student Union Office.

has decended on the college for the moment, but, remember Shelly - "can Spring be far behind?" I say no. Once the exams are tucked away be-

events in the future such as Easter, Rag Week and Summer holidays to look forward to, I dare anyone to just try and stop the arrival of that Springtime feeling.

Credits

Editor: Maria C.
Design and Layout: Billy k.
Arts : John M.
Welfare: Donal W.
Ents: Billy k.
Paste up: Mbad j. & Niel

Thanks for Contributions From Every-
one who Helped Out
Printed by the Limerick Leader

Right of Reply

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

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

EVENTS

END OF TERM

Thursday 19th of March, in the Savoy end of term Disco Savoy

Advance Tickets £2.50, £3.00 at Door.

Friday 20th

We have " The Two Mile Inn " for this gig which starts at 10pm with a Disco in the Main Area, and at " Kitty O' Briens ". Northern pop band " Tibberious Minnows " play along with an alternative disco. We can give you a choice!!!

Advance Tickets are £3 (£4 at the Door)

Buses leave The Stables at 10pm - Hurlers 11.30pm

One Bus will leave Spaight's at 11.30pm. (For those who prefer to drink in town).

Saturday 21st

The biggest of the end of term nights with 2 nights giving you a choice.

The main gig will again happen in the Two Mile Inn. This time again with Two Disco's and a massive Laser Show - (especially imported for the night) BOTH GIGS ARE BY TICKET ONLY . You must have a ticket to gain entry.

The second gig, targeted at those who prefer a quieter atmosphere, will be a disco in the Glentworth Hotel.

The Two Mile Inn gig tickets are £3 (first 200) £4 all the rest.

The Glentworth Disco is £3 (first 200) £4 the rest . Please ensure you have a ticket for both Saturday night gig's.



END OF TERM TICKET SELLING TIMES.

TICKETS GO ON SALE BY THE ENTS DESK IN THE CANTEEN FROM TUESDAY OF WEEK 11 AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES;

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
11.30AM - 1 PM , 2.30 PM - 4 PM

FRIDAY
11.30 AM - 1 PM , 2.30 PM - 4 PM ,
6PM - 7PM

SATURDAY



START OF TERM (term 3)

We start the term on **Monday April 6th** using a venue new and up 'til now unavailable - The Royal George which has an excellent lighting system where we will have a disco.

Tuesday is the day for the hockey club disco in Cheers.

Wednesday its the badminton club disco in the Savoy.

Thursday its the Start Of Term disco at the Two Mile Inn with 2 discos - tickets on sale in the canteen at £3 each (£3.50 on the door) from Tuesday 12-2pm.

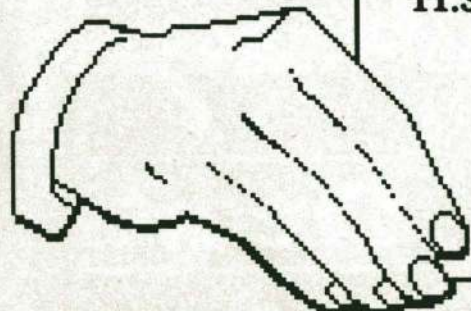
11.30AM -1 PM , 2.30 PM - 4 PM

FRIDAY

11.30 AM -1 PM , 2.30 PM -4 PM ,
6PM - 7PM

SATURDAY

1 PM - 5PM



Wednesday its the badminton club disco in the Savoy.

Thursday its the Start Of Term disco at the Two Mile Inn with 2 discos - tickets on sale in the canteen at £3 each (£3.50 on the door) from Tuesday 12-2pm.

Below "into paradise" - Tuesday week 3 - Rag week - Savoy



SUPPORT YOUR OWN ENTS !!!

RAG WEEK '92 RAG WEEK '92 RAG WEEK '92

NIGHT - PROGRAMME

At this time we are still putting things together for Rag Week. For the time being I can give you a little indication of what to expect.

MONDAY

The week starts on Easter Monday (week 3) with a free gig in the Stables (with a bar ext) and possibly, all going well, we should be putting a temporary roof over the courtyard for the night, making 3 areas for entertainment - student centre, courtyard and Stables.

TUESDAY

On Tuesday night its a 3-floor gig in the Savoy with a disco and alternative comedian on the ground level, the middle floor with a standard disco and the top floor with an alternative disco with Into Paradise so there's 3 choices again.

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday it's train-trip day. Originally we planned to go to Dublin but it would have worked out at £12 a ticket. Then we looked at Galway but the passenger line is temporarily out of action so next I went talking to a number of students and Cork is the city that most students wanted.

So at 5 pm the train will leave for Cork and all going well we get into Cork at 7.45 pm then it's food first and after there's a few pubs we'd like you to visit where we are in the process of arranging promotions (well Billy's working on it).

From 9.30 pm the doors will open for the disco at Riordan's Mill which is double the size of last years venue.

The gig ends at 1.30 am, the train returns to Limerick at 2.30 am and arriving back at 4.15 am (again all going well). Then you will be shuttled out to Castletroy. Most students who went last year had a brilliant time (that's those who remember), this year it should be as good if not better especially when we have a bigger venue. Unfortunately we only have 700 tickets for sale (the tickets include return trip and gig) and if its anything like last year it should sell out fast.

Also on the same night in Limerick we will have a disco in The Royal George (not confirmed at time of going to press).

THURSDAY NIGHT

Thursday night its the Rag Ball (approx. 1,700 people went to this last year) at the Two Mile Inn with The Stunning - best known for

RAG WEEK DAY-EVENTS

Every day of the Rag Week from 11am to 7.30pm (including Saturday) there will be Rag Week events like pup crawl, cow poker, cart race, blind date, raft race, greasy pole, yard of ale, kissing competition, slave auction, city centre busking, wine tasting and lots more. Events are normally scheduled on hourly slots. Entry forms and information will be available on the special Rag Week Information Stand in the canteen from Tuesday week 1.

A Rag Week Committee is currently working on arranging the above events and lots more. Already it looks like a vast improvement on last years. Many clubs and societies are involved in organising individual events and proceeds from events go to charity. Further information will be available in the special Rag Week preview.

HELP! YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!

This YEAR for Rag Week events we are putting even more emphasis on day events - improving the existing and adding a lot more extra events meaning there will be even a lot more happening during the day. Also this year we run into the weekend running day and night events on Saturday. This we hope will encourage co-ops and grads to return for the weekend and also make it ideal for students to invite friends.

We have cut the running costs for the night-time gigs so we can offer much cheaper tickets this year but we will still need 60% turn-outs to break even (we'll be very happy if we can do this).

Basically the lower the charge the bigger the number we need to break even.

This year we feel we offer a little more variety so I am pleading with you to let the hair down and support the events and gigs and have the crack. On the marketing side of Rag Week we will again be publicising in the cities and using 2FM in our publicity drive.

If you can help with putting up posters or distributing flyers in your own town give me (Ber) a shout.

Rag Week will be brilliant if you support - your support is vital.

There should be no excuses (2 faculty final-year projects will be up), its early in term (week 3)-save the coppers now!

Preview

RAG WEEK TICKETS:

All Rag Week tickets will go on sale Tuesday Week 1 at 12 pm to 2 pm including the limited tickets for the train trip.

First tickets on all gigs will be cheaper and there will be a special combined train trip/Tuesday gig tickets. Tickets will be on sale on the special Rag Week ticket stand.

THURSDAY NIGHT

Thursday night its the Rag Ball (approx. 1,700 people went to this last year) at the Two Mile Inn with The Stunning - best known for songs like "Half Past Two", "Romeo's On Fire", "Got To Get Away", "Brewing Up A Storm" and the latest radio-friendly "Everything That Rises".

Also on the night there will be two discos and prizes for the best Rag ??? dress.

FRIDAY NIGHT

We will be covering the floor of the Two Mile Inn with tons of sand for a Beach Party where we will have two discos and Beach- Boy-sounding Tennessee Surfers and lots of surprises (Billy, our resident beach boy is arranging).

SATURDAY

The Saturday night is at the moment not fully decided but it is likely to be a Rave/ Indie night.

More detailed information on the week will appear in a special Rag Week Preview.

Ber Angley

special Rag Week ticket stand.

the **stunning** amazing wonderful



RAG WEEKGIG PROFILE:

Rag Week Tuesday gig.....in the Savoy Tues
21st April.....tickets £3 (adv) up to 300 tickets, £4
after.....3 floors.

Top Floor ... Indie/Alternative disco with Jerome
(small room Parkway DJ) and INTO PARADISE from
Dublin signed to influential Setanta label and pro-
duced debut E.P. "Blue Light". Now signed to major
label Ensign. Produced highly-rated "Churchtown"
L.P. Into Paradise are a powerful energetic band.

Middle Floor....standard disco

Ground Floor....oldie disco (60's, 70's, 80's) and
U.K. comedy act MARK LAMARR, the founder of the
London Comedy Store has appeared on numerous TV
programmes- "Up The Junction"(Anglia), "Stand
Up"(Granada), "The Tube"(Channel 4), "Saturday
Review"(BBC 2),

"The Happening"(Channel 4).

"Sharp and skilful" is how "Time Out" describe
him.

"Straight-talking intelligent and funny, one of the
best" ("City Limits").

"Quick-witted and biting funny"("Whats On").

"Hysterically funny, impossible to ignore"(Greater
London Radio).

Overall should be a good night.

" FENTON McKOOT and NIGELUS NICKELUS NOTORIOUS "

Poetry and Music - Upstairs McKnight's, March 1st.

Heretofore a haven of Limerick " wide-boy " (and " wide-girl ") culture; it appears
that the change of ownership at midnight has occasioned the turning over of the
proverbial new leaf. Upstairs has been converted into a club of alternative nature, for
which this performance was the initial one.

" Fenton McKoot and Nigelus Nickelus Notorious " are the ALTER EGOS of " Blonde
on Blonde " coiffeur Andrew Gleeson and general BON VIVEUR Nigel Nicks. Nigel
strums and sings, while " Fenton " supplies verbals both cynical and sanguine. The
duo are an eclectic mixture of serious poetry, lighthearted songs and hilarious par-
odies.

Despite the malign and flatulent sound-system, these two gents gave us their
updated rendering of the beat generation; combining unobtrusive melodies with zany
presentation and sardonic (at times ludicrous) verbiage. The general formula was to
alternate between sung and spoken musically-accompanied poetry. Intervals were
provided by Nigelus' solo versions of well known songs such as Lou Reed's " Satellite of
Love ".

Toasted Heretic Thurs. wk 7



Smile its an Focal



I'm a poet ?!!



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These interludes served as breathers, both for the performers and the audience. For, make no mistake, a rest was at times needed. Fenton's delivery is somewhere between John Cooper Clarke and Vincent Price, periodically exuding severe intensity.

The poetry itself is generally witty and good, but occasionally strikes veins of pure gold. The bold Fenton comes across as a well read, uncontrived and genuinely disturbed young man; with an opinion on almost everything. His odes and elegies deal with such diverse subjects as pessimism (and its corrolary; optimism), time, employments in take-aways, a satirical love poem, philosophy, a battle of wits with a fly, and sandwiches. The word play is at times brilliant (although at other times relying overmuch on puns), namechecking everyone from James Brown to Gandalf the Wizard.

Yet, as you might expect from such strange folk, the timbre of the performance is at somewhat schizophrenic. The music at times veers toward supper-club pseudo-jazz; while the commentary through farce can be pointed. An element of theatricality comes into the show when the two amigos don masks or hats at various stages.

For me, the best set-piece of the night was the mock-Shakespearean " INFLUENTIA ", which catalogues the overbearing influence other people can have on your life; and ends in the couplet: " If someone tries to run your life on this lightly ponder, either lighten up, or fuck off yonder. "

However, even for those with little taste for poetry, the dynamic duo are not unaware of entertainment value, and kept the crowd well amused. In this respect, a country and western style tilt at Motorhead's " Ace of Spades ", and a reggae version of Black Sabbath's " Paranoid " (for which the pair assumed Nordic Skiing caps and Jamaican accents) were highlights.

While it may not be everyone's cup of 'scald, this bizarre act deserve to be checked out at least once, and perhaps more if they continue. At the very least, the maestro of " Blonde on Blonde " hair salon (in Catherine St.) has proven that he's adept with more than just the pruning shears.

Anyone wishing to try their hand at pleasing the punters in this new venue should contact Mike or Leonie (the Proprietors) at McKnights. It is to be stressed, however, that no wannabe Bob Dylans are required. Only those with something unconventional to offer are encouraged.

TOM FABOZZI

I'm a poet ?!!



can i be in an Focal



Island finish successful run and award winning company arrive.

Island Theatre Company finish a very successful run at the Belltable, Limerick on Saturday 7th March with their production of Shaw's romantic comedy ARMS AND THE MAN. Sumptuous costumes, stunning set designs, delicious lighting and a wonderful cast have all added up to a charming and highly entertaining show. Reviewed by the Irish Times as having "much to enjoy...", this "elegant" and "classic" play, should be seen. Catch one of the last performances at the Belltable.

A treat in store for lovers of new Irish work, good comedy and excellent work when Waterford's awardwinning Red Kettle Theatre Company present their world premiere production of Bernard Farrell's new comedy FORTY FOUR SYCAMORE which was specially commissioned by Red

Kettle.

Set in a middle class housing estate, the play is an hilarious send-up of two upwardly mobile young couples. A dinner party in one of their homes goes badly wrong when an unexpected guest arrives. FORTY FOUR SYCAMORE is one of those sharply paced comedies with a sting in its tail which lends a raw credibility to what might otherwise be a mere suburban fantasy.

This highly acclaimed production has played to capacity houses in Waterford, where it delighted public and critics alike. Playwright Bernard Farrell is particularly respected as a writer of comedy. His previous plays include the classic comedy I DO NOT LIKE THEE DR FELL and CANARIES which is enjoying a new release in Dublin at

present . FORTY FOUR SYCAMORE features Des Braiden , Malcolm Douglas , Rachel Dowling , Hilary Fannin and Tom Murphy .

Red Kettle Theatre Company are based in Waterford and are currently regarded as one of the hottest properties on the Irish theatre scene. They have built a big national audience by touring extensively over the last two years. Recently they won the overall award in the R.T.E./ Bank of Ireland Arts Awards, the first time the award had been won by a group outside Dublin.

Booking for FORTY FOUR SYCAMORE is now open at the Belltable box office on 061-319866. Make sure of your seat for one of only four performances of this comedy which comes highly recommended as a good entertaining evening of top quality Irish theatre.

" DA "

by Hugh Leonard.

Da was presented by Touth Players. It was written by Hugh Leonard and is semi-autobiographical. It basically deals with a son's attempt to resolve his feelings towards his father.

The play opens after the funeral of the father and we are introduced to the son, sorting through the remnants of the father's life. The haste with which the son deals with this task is an obvious pointer towards the conflict that existed between them, during their lifetime together.

Within his imagination, the son attempts to deal with the conflicts he felt as he went from boyhood to manhood , towards his father. We are presented with scenes from this period in his life, in which the father, mother and the son as he was then interacts with the son he is now.

While achieving little, it provides an outlet for the cramped up feelings which the son has experienced towards the father.

Although an emotional play, the simplicity of the father provides a humorous backdrop, as he continually reiterates to the son the old saying - " A cup of tea is a cure for all ills".

Da has to be considered one of the best plays presented this season so far in the Belltable.

Arts

Poetry in motion

Waiting to Whisper

ST. PATRICK

so far the story,
descending into the room
he soothed them, and
one by one
he conveyed them through the
opening,
down the knotted cords
and so into the boat.

and it was said unto him
'For thou art a man of vast strength'
and it was said unto him
'Come to us thou,
mighty hero,
and help us out of our strait,
for thou art a man of vast strength'

and a foolish woman never stopped boasting
of how she could make soup out of a stone,
and all the neighbours
laughing
behind their hand at her
'spoon falls baby calls
spoon falls baby calls'

and so said the hero
'Lapse of time shall bring forth
neither decay nor death,
and you shall be for ever young,
and gifted with unfading beauty and strength.
let us pretend we are deep in our soup
let us pretend we are finally on our own
(ah shur jaysus what
what more could the body want ?)'

and on he went
rock sham shim
shim rock shim
peeled loose again and peeled aside,
a sodden, hard, aborted tide.
so far

by John H.

Air: The stone outside Dan Murphy's door.

This story I'm going to tell you
concerns both the College and you;
When you hear it I think you'll be driven to drink
'cause in substance it's all very true;
It tells of the college's spending
in a country supposedly poor;
Of cash not their own to purchase a stone
to place outside Jim Christian's door.
They've posted out grand invitations
to T.D.s and others well known;
Who will come for the feed just to satisfy greed
while someone unvels the new stone;
They'll come from all over the country
when they hear that there's liquor galore;
when they think they're alone then they'll piss on the stone
that stands outside Jim Christian's door.
All the big shots will make known their presence,
though unable to express a view.
By blaming the drink as the cause of the stink
they made while inside in the loo.
Alan will play on his fiddle while Pat does a jig on the floor,
and Brian will look cute while blowing on his flute
on the stone outside Jim Christian's door.
The storemen while working here daily
find their sanity hard to retain;
For they spend many hours mopping up many floors
made dangerous by puddles of rain.
A new roof has oft' been suggested
but the college just chose to ignore;
They'd rather spend cash on a big lump of trash,
like a stone outside Jim Christian's door.
There's that grawnd institution in Plassey
which is called University Club,
why they christened it so - the reason we know
'tis a posh sounding name for their pub
But should some lesser mortal dare venture
their shadow to cast on its floor
They'd be told to their face to get back to their place
by the stone outside Jim Christian's door.

by A. Shortt

I lie on my bed thinking of you,
of the times we had and those of new.
I have just finished walking you home,
now I'm left to think all alone.
A tear may crash to the ground as we part,
walking hand in hand what did we start?
I know we have something, something in time,
but you're in your course and I'm in mine.
I got the chance as you lie in my bed,
words in my mind of what must be said.
I stumble, I fall, not so easy to do,
waiting to whisper that I love you.
Maybe you understand what I thought
the joy and happiness your kiss has brought.
You know how I feel, the letters they say,
that I miss your touch almost every day.
With you I'm happy no need to run,
I'm proud to be seen with you by my side.
We feel in each other, in each other we feel
but can you tell me, will it last for real?
If you packed up and went, left me on my own,
my world would collapse, I'd be all alone.
I'm thinking of you, there's a smile on my face,
there it runs down my cheek, a tear to trace.
You tell me you care, I tell you it too
So would there be a problem in telling you,
That I long for your hand to be left in mine
Auspicious ! I love you, now and till the end of time.

McGoohan's Exam

McGoohan stood behind the counter
with the ulcer on his underlip,
flaring like mad
at the tardiness of the hour hand
on the better-value,

It's face contorted by a silly grin.

McGoohan blinked both plain glass eyes
and looked, but didn't see a thing
all day long,
past the street of never-never land,
his rump long numbed by pain

from demotion to the middle shelf.

From the Triangle

The Way We've Been Changing

The move towards a more liberal society in Ireland has been a slow process, and it still has a long way to go. The slowness is often attributed to the opposition of the Roman Catholic church and organisations which base their philosophy on its teachings such as SPUC and Family Solidarity. These groups have had a leading role in opposing change but, paradoxically, progress has also been hindered by the nature of the support given by many people who see themselves as liberal and supportive of an open society. Our politicians enact legislation which introduces the change in a narrow and restrictive way. The new 'liberals' see the change and believe that the needs of an open society have been met.

The history of the availability of contraception is an example of the ridiculous results this can produce. In attempting to meet a need for change we gave ourselves the 1979 Health (Family Planning) Act. Without any hint of irony Charles Haughey proudly declared that this act was an "Irish solution to an Irish problem". Under this law we allowed ourselves the privilege of contraception for what were called *bona fide* family planning purposes. The bona fides were to be guaranteed by a doctor whose prescription was needed to obtain contraceptives, including condoms, and they were to be sold only in certain pharmacies and registered family planning clinics.

The law has since been amended to remove the requirement for a prescription for non-medical contraceptives, but the number of places where they can be obtained is still severely restricted. Thus,

by Cathal Kelly

twenty years after contraception was first legalised in Ireland, the Virgin Megastore was fined for selling condoms, and many of those who oppose the availability of condoms were given the satisfaction of seeing the law enforced. On the other hand, students' unions (including our own) continue to sell condoms without prosecution. Perhaps Charles Haughey was correct in stating that he had given us an Irish solution: an uneasy balance that allows both sides to feel that 'the others' have not won the battle on the values by which we shall run our society. The 'Irish solution' probably reflects the views of a middle ground who are not involved in the nitty-gritty fighting: people whose own lives will not change, but who feel that others who don't wish to live according to Roman Catholic rules should be allowed to do so.

I recently encountered an example of this attitude in a friend of mine. She was preparing a project for a class, and she had chosen the title *Discrimination Against Homosexuals*. After she had read a number of books she asked me to help her prepare her presentation. One topic we discussed was the law relating to the age of consent for sexual activity. In the UK the legal age of consent for heterosexual sex is sixteen. The law for gay men is different. Both men must be over 21 years of age. I cited this as an instance of discrimination, but my friend objected. She asked what was wrong with that. "Was it not a good idea", she wondered, "to set a higher age in case"...she paused. In case what? We discussed the possibilities. Her hesitation came

activists have become concerned that the presence of a large group of people who are supportive of liberalising changes in this vague way may not be enough.

To understand this apparent change of heart on the part of those who have devoted a lot of time and energy in campaigning for changes you need to understand the nature of the battle during which these issues have been fought in recent years. It has had a number of different formats. They include the publication of pamphlets and booklets such as *The Homosexual Challenge* (Family Solidarity) and *Equality Now* (the Irish Council for Civil Liberties), and participation in seminars organised by the Law Reform Commission as part of its consultation process. Although most of this debate has technically been in public (the Law reform Commission's reports, and the books have been published), in reality it has been directed at the institutions of the state: those who will decide the details of legislation.

The feeling on the part of those working for reform is that the moral battle has been won. The Law Reform Commission has recommended that there be no distinction in our laws between homosexuality and heterosexuality. The Gay and Lesbian Equality Network has been told that they have proved the case for including a prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in new employment legislation. The fear is that those opposed to reform - our new Minister for Justice, Padraig Flynn is believed to be among them - may thwart those who have put many years in lobbying for

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY ?

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY ?

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this as an instance of discrimination, but my friend objected. She asked what was wrong with that. "Was it not a good idea", she wondered, "to set a higher age in case"...she paused. In case what? We discussed the possibilities. Her hesitation came from the idea that young people should not be allowed have sex until they are 'really certain' that they are gay. This implies that homosexuality is 'less normal' than heterosexuality (when is the last time you heard somebody being asked if they are 'really certain' that they are heterosexual?). This opinion is inconsistent with the view (accepted by the medical profession) that homosexuality is not abnormal, no more than having red hair or being left-handed are abnormal. More importantly, it is inconsistent with a truly liberal approach, which recognises the dignity of each individual as a person in their own right, and which does not attempt to limit activity which in itself is neither dangerous or destructive. Making love with a member of the same sex is neither.

My friend displayed a contradictory combination of views. She was in favour of gay rights, and had selected it as a topic for her project, yet her initial reaction to a law that discriminated against gay people was to say that she saw nothing wrong with it. I think this is typical of an emerging new consensus that is growing. Most of the time this new semi-liberal approach adds weight to the impetus for change. Lately however, many gay

tion on the basis of sexual orientation in new employment legislation. The fear is that those opposed to reform - our new Minister for Justice, Pdraig Flynn is believed to be among them - may thwart those who have put many years in lobbying for change by exploiting the semi-liberal attitude that is emerging.

Mr Flynn is the minister who now has responsibility for bringing Ireland into compliance with of the European Court of Human Rights on the Norris case. He will have the task of overseeing the preparation of legislation which will end the criminality of sex between men. He has a number of options. At one extreme he could present to cabinet a bill which would enact the Law Reform Commission's proposals that make no distinction between gay sex and non-gay sex. On the other he could introduce a law similar to that which operates in the UK which prohibits gay sex between men under 21 years of age. Not only does this law make a distinction between gay and non-gay sex in a way that stigmatises gay people, but since it's enactment there has actually been an *increase* in the number of prosecutions of gay men. The fear is that Mr Flynn will go for the latter option. He would then have 'reformed' the law as required by the European Court of Human Rights, and many of the 'semi-liberals' will believe that the long-sought gay rights have been granted. Those who see gay people in the UK suffering under such a law know otherwise.

Irish Rugby 2



The Unthinkable happens -
we're beaten by the Welsh!

Opinion

The International Rugby team are in dire straits at the moment. The stars of the past bemoan the lack of spirit in the side, the public roar for changes - the players are sick of the criticism. At this

pected it from a Euro Stud. Hence

their was nationwide shock when the dismal Welsh beat us.

The second problem has manifested an age old one. Lenihan,

ble form and because of the profusion of struggling oldies on the team. From once we lost the Welsh game the visit to Twickenham was always going to be an exercise in damage limitation.

adequate against England returned to his worst form against the Scots. He wasn't the only one, Neil Francis played like he'd been "on the bottle" the night before. Mullins, Fitzgibbons and Smith all

much talent sprinkled throughout the pack. This side certainly aren't Grand Slam material but should be beating Scotland and Wales and running anybody close in Dublin.

The International Rugby team are in dire straits at the moment. The stars of the past bemoan the lack of spirit in the side, the public roar for changes - the players are sick of the criticism. At this stage only the old folks can remember the last time Ireland won. Ireland abu has changed to Ireland aBooo. Few can remember spirits being so low. So the questions must be asked, how did we get into this mess ? and how do we extricate ourselves ? Well as usual I reckon I have the answers.

The first problem was with our delusions of grandeur. In my last encyclical on Irish Rugby I warned against reading too much into our many moral victories but did you listen to me - not a bit of it. The logic went that since we'd come closest to beating the World Champions therefore we are second best in the world. Well honestly I wouldn't even have ex-

pected it from a Euro Stud. Hence

their was nationwide shock when the dismal Welsh beat us.

The second problem has manifested an age old one. Lenihan, Fitzgerald, Matthews, Crossan and Keyes all in the team was a recipe for disaster. In the last twenty minutes of the Welsh game the Irish team simply ran out of steam or whatever else it is they run on. They were mauled in that period and almost conceded two other tries. One from Bob Saunders blocked kick and another was only averted by a spectacular saving tackle from Richie Wallace.

We can always console ourselves with what "might have been" in the Welsh game. Had Tony Copsy, a student of the Finlay Calder school of rugby, not thumped Francis. It might have been so different. Not likely though since Keyes was on terri-

ble form and because of the profusion of struggling oldies on the team. From once we lost the Welsh game the visit to Twickenham was always going to be an exercise in damage limitation.

In the end the Irish team conceded a record number of points. The English player's had broad grins even early in the match. For them it was just a runabout, they hammered us by 30 points without even breaking a sweat. What amazed me most was the critics reaction. They literally fell over each other telling us there was nothing to worry about . Van Esbeck searched through the archives and quoted reams of Irish trashings from the past which were supposed to make us feel better. Nobody commented on terrible tackling in centre mid-field, nobody noted the amount of soft tries conceded (Three)

Ralph Keyes, who was

adequate against England returned to his worst form against the Scots. He wasn't the only one, Neil Francis played like he'd been "on the bottle" the night before. Mullins, Fitzgibbons and Smith all blundered around the pitch aimlessly. It was clear the Irish team had lost confidence and direction. The slow handclaps and the booing were indicative of how the punters felt.

Alright I promised a solution so here I goes. The first thing that should be pointed out is that this present Irish team is a very talented one. Almost all the changes made over the last month or so have been good ones. One or two more would be welcome. Its difficult to quantify quite what Philip Matthews contributed. One also wonders whether Mick Galway is international class. Still the Irish three-quarter line would be envied by some. there is also

much talent sprinkled throughout the pack. This side certainly aren't Grand Slam material but should be beating Scotland and Wales and running anybody close in Dublin.

What we need are tactics and technique. And the central argument of my solution is that we should go abroad to get them. We need foreign coached. Charlton has proved it in soccer, Murray Kidd has shown it at Garryowen. Australia and New Zealand are best not because of talent alone-there is plenty of talent in the Northern Hemisphere but because they know how to harness it. Be it rucking or running they know they know how to do it better. It is their expertise and commitment that can help revitalise the Irish team. It is regrettable that the IRFU is discouraging them from playing and coaching here.

Loneliness

by John Baird

The fear of being alone, the fear of being struck down by loneliness scares many; the fear of being without the physical company of another misinterpreted.

Loneliness is the excuse used by us when confronted with doubts about ourselves. The image of loneliness is one synonymous with rejection, alienation, polite hellos and casual acknowledgements. Loneliness does not mean that others don't like us it simply means that we don't like ourselves.

All any person needs is the company of oneself. Why waste time on trivial conversation with "casual" friends when one can

explore, contemplate, confront the fears opinion desires and wishes that rage inside ones mind. Discussion with someone who knows how you feel think and act and is the most meaningful and contenting. The words wasted in explanation to another are necessary. You can immediately evaluate your feelings and emotions to a higher plane of consciousness, to a plane which raises alone the common and banal.

Everyman is an island as long as he has himself, as long as he has the food, warmth and water necessary for spiritual and emotional survival. The meaning of ones life cannot be found in the conversation of others, only in the contemplation of oneself. It is this fear of contemplation, this fear of regression, this fear of

being alone which stifles development. It mitigates against any person being true to themselves.

Being alone is not to be rejected it is to be at ease with ones own company, at ease with the person who knows you best. Loneliness is the fear of those who huddle in groups and echo opinions, for it is the fear of being different.

TROCAIRE 24 HOUR FAST

Trocaire has always linked its fund raising for the Third World to Christian self-denial and solidarity. The 24 Hour Fast Trocaire raises most of the money which is spent on the hundreds of long-term development and relief projects Trocaire support in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Last year was the first 24 hour Fast. It was a huge success raising £550,000. Trocaire used this money to relieve victims of famine and natural disasters and

SUMMER WORK ABROAD FOR STUDENTS

As with every year, as summer holidays approach, students all over the country begin to think of working for the summer and in particular, of looking abroad to find summer work. Because of the increasing number of students wishing to work abroad, and in particular here in U.L. because of the late date in June that we finish, preparation before travelling abroad is becoming vital. USIT, the student travel association in Ireland, provides many details and opportunities for students who wish to travel abroad. USIT publishes leaflets and booklets to help students.

Work Programmes in the U.S. and Canada

Living and Working in another country gives you a chance to see that country in a way you never would as a student. It allows you to take part in the culture and everyday living of that country, giving you a far broader view of it than you would get if you were seeing it merely as a student. The Student Work and Travel Programme that USIT offers provides you with the opportunity to spend over 4 months in the United States working and travelling with very few restrictions on what kind of work you take or where you live. Jobs range from bar and restaurant work, to building and painting, to computers computers and even sailing construction! Students who avail of this programme come home each year with reports of new experiences and the scope widens each year.

The programme is sponsored by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) in the U.S. and by USIT in Ireland. CIEE meet all students on their arrival in the U.S. provide their first night's accommodation and are also available during their stay to offer help and advice if needed.

USIT also offer a Working in Canada Programme intended to give students the opportunity to experience Canada by living and working within the community, with time to travel and explore Canada as well. Students taking part in this programme receive a work permit which allows them to work legally in Canada for their summer vacation.

by students who took part in the programme in 1991 is also available in the main Students Union office.

Summer Work in Britain.

Britain has traditionally been the most popular destination for Irish students wishing to work abroad for the summer. It's popularity is due to the fact that it is cheap to get to and also there is no language barrier. In the past, students went to Britain 'on spec' and because of its proximity, have not made the preparations that they would make if they were going further afield. The vast majority of students go to London and the south east which have traditionally proved good for summer work. This year due to the downward turn in the economy USIT are strongly advising that anyone intending to work in Britain should make as many preparations as possible before they travel.

The main areas where students have traditionally worked have been in the service or construction industries. A minority have been able to get jobs in word processing and office work and there are also some jobs available with professional skills.

Students visiting Britain this summer should be aware of the recession there. Sometimes in a recession there can be temporary vacancies as employers are reluctant to hire permanent staff but this is not always the case. This year all employment opportunities in London and South East England have been hit by the recession and people are finding it increasingly difficult to find jobs in these areas. The British Tourist Au-

mer, ask in the S.U. office or visit USIT in town to get some advice as to how to go about getting a job abroad.

AN INFORMED STUDENT DECISION.....

The Students Union was approached by Condom Sense, a campaign established to promote the greater availability of condoms, they wrote to the S.U. asking for a donation towards the administrative costs of their campaign.

The campaign was launched by Condom Sense on St. Valentines day and included installing condom vending machines in pubs, discos and other outlets throughout the country. The letter and subsequent proposal, discussed at the Exec. meeting of Monday week 5, was put to Class Reps Council the same week. The proposal was:

1. To donate a sum to Condom Sense to help them in their campaign.
2. To install two condom vending machines in the S.U. toilets.

Both proposals were passed by class reps and the decision taken was not for publicity reasons, nor was it because 'all the other colleges are doing it', rather it was to highlight the need for legislative change in this area, a need of which we are all aware.

Charles Haughey, former Taoiseach described the current laws on condom availability as "outdated and unsatisfactory". John O'Donnell, the newly appointed Minister for Health, in his first press interview stated clearly that one of his priorities as Health Minister is to acquire great changes in the areas of contraception availability, in particular the laws governing the distribution of condoms.

Legislation in this area will never be changed unless the issue is highlighted, unless politicians are willing to take a stand so that Irish people, in particular young Irish people can make responsible decisions about protecting their own health.

AIDS cases, teenage pregnancies and other STD's are increasing rapidly in Ireland. unprotected

Trocaire support in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Last year was the first 24 hour Fast. It was a huge success raising £550,000. Trocaire used this money to relieve victims of famine and natural disasters and to help the people of the Third World in their efforts for self reliance and development.

Last Friday we had a 24 hour fast on campus and I would like to thank all those who were involved. Fast cards to be returned to my office as soon as all the money is collected. Once again, thanks folks!

Donal Waide, D.P.

the opportunity to experience Canada by living and working within the community, with time to travel and explore Canada as well. Students taking part in this programme receive a work permit which allows them to work legally in Canada for their summer vacation. There are virtually no restrictions on the type of work you may seek, where you work or the number of jobs you hold at one time.

If you would like to spend the summer of '92 in the U.S. or in Canada you can pick up a leaflet in the Students Union office which tells you in detail whether you are eligible and how best to apply.

A US and Canadian employers list giving details of jobs recommended

employers are reluctant to hire permanent staff but this is not always the case. This year all employment opportunities in London and South East England have been hit by the recession and people are finding it increasingly difficult to find jobs in these areas. The British Tourist Authority is optimistic that the situation is improving so jobs are available in hotels, restaurants etc.

As with the USIT programmes for the U.S and for Canada, there is detailed information available on employment contact addresses and accommodation and your very own S.U. office will help you if you call in !!

There are also many other opportunities available for those who wish to leave Ireland and work elsewhere for the sum-

Legislation in this area will never be changed unless the issue is highlighted, unless politicians are willing to take a stand so that Irish people, in particular young Irish people can make responsible decisions about protecting their own health.

AIDS cases, teenage pregnancies and other STD's are increasing rapidly in Ireland, unprotected sex is dangerous, condoms provide the protection needed. Now at least on campus, those who wish will be able to buy condoms without hovering around the shop waiting 'till friends have gone and without having to ask breathlessly for "2 pencils, condoms, and a folder" as so many red-faced students are forced to do. If condom vending machines will help reduce embarrassment, and go a little way towards reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies and also reducing the number of AIDS and STD cases, then the students, in deciding to install them, have made a very educated decision.

A message from the Deputy President;

Now, at long last the results have come out can I congratulate everyone who did well in their exams and wish you the best in your forthcoming exams this term. Unfortunately, not everyone got the results they wanted and there were a few disappointed faces on campus last Tuesday, Week 8. Those of you who suffered will by now have contacted either myself, Billy, Croff or your class reps and we will endeavour to do what we can regarding fails etc. Just now you should be concentrating on getting your exams this term out of the way.

Most of you seemed to enjoy yourselves on Tuesday but once again we got the trouble makers out again. A resident has complained to me about an event outside her home on Tuesday night/ Wed. morning. Some mindless asshole decided to become a binman. He/she/they went around the side of a house in Oaklawn and proceeded to set a dustbin on fire. Not only did this create a thick smoke which, incidently, would have been toxic due to the plastic, but also was beside a brand new car. With the wind as it was that night the flames could have gone anywhere. What kind of mentality sees this as funny or even slightly amusing. **There is a reward offered to anyone who can help identify this culprit.** So, if you saw anyone involved in this mindless act of vandalism please contact me in my office.

It is good to see that there are two much needed footpaths on campus, one going down towards the pool-room and the second on the way to the Schuman Building from Car-park A to the road.

Also the hedgerow by the Salesian exit has been cut back to give maximum visibility. There is replanting ongoing at the moment which will give even further visibility. Thanks very much to the buildings office for their help and co-operation. Many thanks to our students who participated in the 24 hour fast last Fri/Sat. and could you return your sponsorship money to my office as soon as possible. The pool room has had an eventful term. Many thanks to all the supervisors and those who supported us. It closes on Tuesday, Week 10 at 9 p.m. We hope to reopen as early as possible next term.

As some of you are aware, the Student Hardship Fund has been closed for this term. We had to close it on Friday Week 8. The reasoning behind this is because we will need money for next term's hardship cases. Bearing in mind that third term is the only term on campus where no-one is coming back from Co-op and the money is scarce all round. The SHF money that some of you received is now outstanding. If at all possible would people repay what they can. After all, any money that comes back more or less goes straight out again. So if anybody you know who is on Co-op and has money outstanding please remind them of same.

After meetings with Student Services there is now a list of those grants already in available outside my office in the corridor. And for those of you who don't know the location of my office yet (there is still a few!) it is on the left of the arch as you enter the courtyard from the college side.

Keep in touch, Donal Waide.

Equestrian Club Intervarsites

The Equestrian Intervarsities took place in Dublin last weekend (end wk. 8). The event this year was hosted by Trinity College Dublin and took place in the Kill International Equestrian Centre. A total of 18 teams competed this year from various colleges and universities both north and south of the border.

The Dressage team were the first to compete. There were 54 riders in total with 18 to go through to the second round. Of this both Sinead Grogan and Helen Kelly qualified for the second round. Unfortunately Sinead was drawn against Elaine Perry from Queens University Belfast who went on to win the competition outright for the 4th consecutive year. But Sinead successfully finished 11th and Helen 13th out of the 54 starters. The dressage team together finished 8th overall. Well done!

The next event of the day was the Prix Caprilli competition. Due to an abundance of riders on our part and the shortage of riders for RTCG, UL kindly donated two riders for their team of three, namely Richenda Barrett and O'Onagh Casey. Unfortunately it was rather too kind a gesture on our part since RTCG Prix Caprilli team finished 2nd overall with Richenda Barrett winning 2nd in the individuals

Victory for UL Ladies Soccer



The University of Limerick Womens Soccer Team who won the Irish Universities Cup beating Maynooth 3-0 in the final. Back row (left to right): Donna Rohan, Ursula Mullane, Pauline O'Callaghan, Anita Foley, Evelyn Halpin, Debbie Joyce, Fiona O'Boyle, Amanda Sweeney. Front: Emma Keane, Olywn, Keyes, Mary Sheedy, Tanya Kilcoyne, Avril Dorley. Five members of the team were selected for the combined Irish Universities team: Donna Rohan, Emma Keane, Mary Sheedy, Sara Toft and Fiona O'Boyle.

The University of Limerick Ladies Soccer team beat Maynooth College to bring the L.U.S.A.I. Perpetual Cup to Limerick for the first time.

The competition hosted by D.C.U. began on Friday for U.L. who beat D.C.U. 2-1 with an unfortunate penalty donated by our generous sweeper Emma Keane being D.C.U.'s only score. Since U.U.J. never found their way to Dublin, U.L. played the host team a second time.

D.C.U. came out in force. At half time the game looked over with D.C.U. one goal up and U.L. playing sloppy. A subtle speech given by Cas and Seo at half time was enough to waken U.L. Within 30 seconds of the second half commencing U.L. retaliated in fury with a goal from Sara Toft. A one all draw took U.L. into the semi-final of the cup.

Waterford R.T.C. posed the threat now. Trouble began early off the pitch when it was discovered that Waterford had developed a liking for canary yellow and bright green. Jerseys were changed and a 2-0 victory over Waterford catapulted U.L., a totally alien squad into the final.

In the other games U.L.C. were having a tough time. There were

The final was nerve wracking. From the first whistle, U.L. bombarded Maynooth's defence threatening to swipe the cup from them. U.L.'s first goal came from a cross off Sara's foot to Fiona O'Boyle's right leg, which she never knew she possessed. The team held the one nil advantage into the second half where they continued to dominate the game. U.L.'s only threat was Maynooth's mid-field No.7 who thanks to the tight shadow-marking of Mary Grehan was tied up in knots. U.L.'s second goal came from Sara halfway through the second half. Two goals were not sufficient to satisfy U.L.'s hunger for honour. Pauline managed to slide another splinter into Maynooth's foot by beating the offside and their goalie to finish the game on a 3-0 score in U.L.'s favour.

U.L. received the cup in D.C.U. pub where they also learned that five of their squad made the combined intervarsity team. They are Donna Rohan, Emma Keane, Mary Sheedy, Sara Toft and Fiona O'Boyle.

There are loads of people who deserve a special thanks from the team, our coaches, Cas Seo and Dave. One of them already got his due coming home on the bus, unfortunately the other two were too

Cubs

rather too kind a gesture on our part since RITCG Prix Caprilli team finished 2nd overall with Richenda Barrett winning 2nd in the individuals for them. (It happens!) Congrats to Richenda.

However UL kept the flag flying finishing in 12th place in the team competition and NO individuals, individuals, with the infamous "Clare Woman" (quote Martin Walsh) Maeve Quinn managed to come 11th in the individuals out of a total of 54 riders.

On Sunday our show jumping team showed their true colours coming 4th in the team event. Martin Walsh willingly rendered his services to the lether clad female College of Surgeons. We haven't seen him since - but we believe he came 12th overall, probably due to his excellent display in the warm "up" arena. Better luck next year Martin. Ronan Sheehan came 8th overall and Catriona Fallon was placed 14th. Justin was a bit unfortunate in that he overschooled his 17.2hh pony for the next rider and the other two didn't get through to the 2nd round.

On Sunday evening the Prize Giving Ball took place in the Keadeen Hotel in New-

Waterford R.T.C. posed the threat now. Trouble began early off the pitch when it was discovered that Waterford had developed a liking for canary yellow and bright green. Jerseys were changed and a 2-0 victory over Waterford catapulted U.L., a totally alien squad into the final.

In the other groups, U.C.G. were having a tough time. They were knocked out by U.C.C. who went forward to meet Maynooth in the semi final. A dead locked game which went to extra time and penalties. U.C.C., unable to withstand Maynooth pressure, lost their cool and missed their last shot at the title. maynooth went through to face U.L.

bridge with once again many firsts for UL.....first on the bus, first to the bar and of course first on the dance floor, not to mention that we finished 8th in the overall placings. Well done everyone.

On Monday morning a quite but content team "mounted" the bus to head back to UL in the good hands of Duckie our Bus driver kindly donated by Bus Eireann. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stables Club, the Students Union, the students of UL, not forgetting our hard working club members and our various other sponsors without which this weekend would not have been possible. See you all again next term.

"ARRA Fuck it, it happens, we'll win next year"
(Quote of the weekend)

Donna Rohan, Emma Keane, Mary Sheedy, Sara Toft and Fiona O'Boyle.

There are loads of people who deserve a special thanks from the team, our coaches, Cas Seo and Dave. One of them already got his due coming home on the bus, unfortunately the other two were too cunning for Ursula, Anita, and Fiona. Debbie Joyce and Donna Rohan also put in a lot of invisible painstaking effort.

I would like to thank everyone, the supporters, coaches and particularly the players for a weekend of 'sensual' football crazy fun and most of all for bringing the Cup to U.L.

Eibhlin Halpin (Centre Back)

INTERVARSITY INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1992

On Friday the 31st of January, the first intervarsity indoor athletics championships were held in Nenagh, hosted by the U.L. Athletics Club. On the occasion, U.L. proved too strong for the opposition by winning both the Men's and Women's events and the overall award. This was a fine achievement considering U.C.D. have athletes on sports Scholarships and therefore have the strongest team generally but on the day U.L. proved they were the best.

John Naughton proved how agile he is by winning both the Long Jump and the Triple Jump and finishing third in both 60 metres and 200 metres. Ted O'Brien finished third in the 60 metres hurdles and third in the High Jump, joint third in the men's High Jump was Colin Casey also in this event. Alan Giblin finished second in the men's Long Jump and third in the Triple Jump. Tom Cummins finished a good second in the 60 metres, only beaten by Roger Sexton by 0.02 a second. Colin Casey who was third in the High Jump finish third also in the Long Jump. Danny O'Brien ran a commanding race to win the 800 metres and doubled up by winning the men's 400 metres also. Finally the Men's 4X200 metres relay team won their event beating a strong U.C.D. team into second place.

Marie O'Meara had an outstanding day by winning the 60 metres hurdles, finishing second in both the Long Jump and High Jump. She also finished fourth in the 60 metres final. Gayle Culliton won both the 1500 metres and the 3000 metres, a fine performance to win both these middle distance events on the track. Siobhan Hillery finished third in the 60 metres hurdles while Mary Buckley finished second in 1K 800 metres to Arleen Smith who is on a scholarship in U.C.D. The U.L. womens team finished second in the 4X200metres relay.

Due to space restrictions, I cannot mention everyone who competed but all athletes performed well and made up the vital points to ensure U.L. won both events, hopefully a larger team will be available for the Track and Field as some members were injured while others had the flu, so things look bright for the upcoming Track and Field competition.

Ciaran Treacy Memorial Trophy 1992

by Matthew Hamilton

One of the greatest debates in 6 years coming to the 'Lit & Phil' was Jerry Hayden's opinion of Ciaran Tracy memorial Trophy night. With a full house, a good motion and the Lit & Phil's best speakers such an accolade was well deserved.

The first speaker to propose ' That this house would legalize prostitution was Eamonn O' Ciardha . The first position speaker was Matthew Hamilton . Both dealt largely with practical issues while Lorna Kerin was the first to address moral side of the argument. She boldly proclaimed sex to be a product, as entitled to be bought and sold as any other product. Ms Kerin added that quibbles with this point of view could be attributed to the fact that members of the opposition were 'sexually repressed' !

The moral argument was taken up with gusto by James Aurley who attacked the motion that condoms were good for controlling AIDS, saying this made as much sense as suggesting the arm race was good for world peace. Mr Neville Bourke promptly labelled Mr Hurley as Mr Family Solidarity . Next was Seamus Clune followed by a hilarious Sean Dwyer and the defending holder of the trophy Donal Waide.

To round up the night we had a classic piece of Lord Brien O'Farrell virtuosity . He affirmed that there was a God and that life is sacred . To rick bringing a child into the world without love was wrong . He so incensed the opposition that they were frequently rising in unison crying ' point of information' needless to say Lord Brien sat down to rousing applause.

The adjudicators returned their verdict :

James Hurley to take the trophy with Lorna Kerin runner-up. All in all it has generated an air of anticipation amongst all present members for events to come next term , starting with a week 2 major intervarsity, followed by a week 3 Rag debate.



French Society News

French Day - Thursday Week 7 was an unqualified success!!

Activities ranged from the madcap antics of those involved in the Crep-making demonstration in the canteen to the more sedate yet nonetheless lively task given by French academic Annie Chapon on "Woman in French Politics " . The day continued with a no holds barred debate between a team of French Erasmus students and a team of Irish wits and raconteurs. The novelty element was that the Irish had to debate in French and the French in English . The Irish proved to be equal to the motion and did indeed demonstrate that the Irish do IT better than the French?!!!

The day came to an end (almost) with a "soiree

musicale" where the French students proved that even if they can't do IT better than the Irish, they can at least do IT just as well with a spectacular and fast-moving trip through the history of contemporary French music from Piaf to Rap, ending with a climactic and hilarious parody of the current French alternative rock scene ! Et apres - Quoi ? To the stables of course for well deserved refreshments and a night of Gaelic revelry where the wine flowed and a la prochaine - Baille -Baille !!!

P.S. A very large thank you (merci bien) to all who helped and took part in the activities during French Day.

P.P.S. - Watch out for French Week - Week 4 Trinity Term

Hanafin

Pat



U.L. Kayak Club

Championship Success for Outdoor Pursuits

The University Outdoor Pursuits Club is celebrating the victory of our men's orienteering team at the National Intervarsity Championships. The intervarsities, hosted by Bolton St., were held at Ravensdale Co. Louth, right on the border (no difficulty in guessing which way was north - just look for the helicopters flying overhead!).

A humble team of 6 from UL took on the might of the other universities and RTCs. Ucc fielded a team of 45 and UCD, a team of 58. The UL men's team of Roy Barton, Enda Lonergan, John Reidy, Enda Ryan and Des Lambe proved that talent is not lacking in UL. Des Lambe who was placed 3rd in the national 2-day championships in the Glen of Atherlon last term, proved his worth again, being placed 3rd in

the individual placings at Ravensdale. Orla Kelly, though new to the sport, was the only competitor representing UL on the ladies course. Hopefully this time next year, we will field full teams in both men's and women's events, with the same success.

Also competing that weekend were the UL climbing team at the Trinity Indoor Climbing Intervarsities. The team, sponsored by Abrakebabra, consisted of Bryan Rogers, Dave Roche, John Hawkins, Adam de Vyto, John Hanly, Robbie McDonald, Willie Coughlan and Kathy Kirwan. Although victory alluded them, they did gain valuable experience. Hopefully we will have a climbing wall of our own soon, for while our ability to climb rocks is not in question, our lack of experience on the wall was obvious.

This we expect to change and hopefully our climbers will prove to be as triumphant as our orienteers.

Let it not be forgotten that the Outdoors Pursuits Club is about the outdoors and good clean (environmentally) fun. Our end of term excursion this time is to the Dingle peninsula. Staying at Tigh an Phoist (the house of marriage) in Ballydavid, activities for the weekend will include rock-climbing on the Cliffs of Dooneen (and you thought that they were in Clare!), walking on Brandon and the Sliebh Mish mountains. We are also arranging the rental of a number of bicycles for people who wish to tour the peninsula. Further information will be posted on the S&C noticeboard in the canteen at the end of this week.

Bigi faire!



UL Rockclimbing Team

Back (L-R) Willie Coughlan, John Hawkins, Adam de Eyto, Bryan Rodgers,
Front (L-R) Robbie McDonald, Dave Roche

Bronze medal for U.L. in Lifesaving Intervarsities

On February 22nd, 1992, the second ever Irish Lifesaving Intervarsities was hosted by the Dublin City University (D.C.U.). Organised by the D.C.U. Swimming club and particularly by Linda Crosbie, this Intervarsity was a great success. With the presence of almost all of the Universities of Ireland (U.C.D., U.C.C., U.C.G., T.C.U., D.I.T., U.L., etc.), the event kicked off at 10am in Ballymun Pool and continued late in to the afternoon and also into the night right up to 6 in the morning!!

During the afternoon and from the beginning of the competition the U.L. team composing of Sinead O' Callaghan (1st Business), Sengsouvanh Phoummavongsa (Erasmus Business Studies), Tara Smith (1st European Studies) and Lourdes Verde (Erasmus Languages) succeeded in taking third place and kept it up until the end of the following four tests.

The "staged incident" had shown the value and the fighting spirit of the U.L. team. The pool represented a beach and it was a collision between a canoe and a windsurfer. An unconscious baby, a spinal injury, drunken onlookers were our main objectives to save amongst others.

The "Relay Throw and Tow" was a complete success and allowed U.L. to hold their third place. During the systematic search of the pool, each team needed to locate in four minutes a specified number of objects from the pool bottom, by using systematic team search patterns. The objects had to be returned to entry point. The "Relay Speed and Cany" confirmed the quality of the U.L. team. Third place is a performance to take note of for two reasons: Firstly, according to the competition rules each team will comprise of four members and of which must be female!!! In U.L. we made the quality choice - three females and one male. How about that! Secondly, it comprised of two foreign students: Lourdes Verde (Spanish) and Sengsouvanh called "Phoumma" (French).

That night, the meal and the prize-giving ceremony took place in the function room of the DCU bar, and was followed by



music entertainment and bar extension until late... Our drill inspector Patricia Leader (3rd year PE/Chemistry) needed to drive a french car le volant a gauche, bien, bien! to bring back all the team to the Regency Airport Hotel where the celebration continued.

As for Billy Kirwan, student union officer and our financial adviser (the original organiser of this event), he was busy from the beginning of the afternoon until late However, he joined the team during the celebration and succeeded to organise a "boat race" and stuff like that!

It was good crack and if you want to participate in such events, join the Royal Lifesaving Society or the Irish National Safety Council; make your own choice! And have good fun!

PS A special thanks to Maria and Dervla for the connection...

CARLSBERG SOFT BALL TOURNAMENT

Now's the time to start getting your teams together for the fun game of softball. The game is similar to rounders with a touch of baseball. Easy to play and great crack. A team consists of 10 people and you must have 2 subs so 12 in all. And at least 2 of the players must be female. Don't worry if you haven't played before as before each game there will be a 30-minute crash course.

As we only have one area to play the game we are limited to 16 teams. We welcome teams from all faculties, years (including postgrads) and staff.

The Carlsberg Softball Tournament starts week 2 of next term. To enter a team (12 people) go to the softball stand in the canteen on Wednesday week 1 (April 8) between 12-2 pm with a full list of names.

Don't worry if you haven't played sport before as you don't have to be brilliant to enjoy it. The tournament starts week 2 (skips Rag Week) and the Final will be at approx. 7pm Wednesday week 6 (after the 9-a-side soccer). Then the action turns to the Hurlers where the prizes (lots and lots of Carlsberg beer) will be served up to the winners and runners-up. Later we will share a disco with the 9-a-side organisers. So get together your teams NOW. Entry fee and softball membership is only £1 per person. We hope also to have regular games every weekend (for all to play) from week 4 - see the student info in the canteen as it gets nearer the date. The softball club is also helping to inaugurate a similar club in UCC and DCU so we can play games outside UL. More info: Willy O'Brien (postgrad), Ber Angley (S.U.), Treasa Curtin (postgrad)

SHOOT

On Sunday Wk 8 our home intervarsity 'happened' in Thomond and it was, by all accounts, a great day. I want to extend thanks to all those members who got involved in organising it, and to all those who took part. Unfortunately we didn't win. That honour was stolen by U.C.D., along with most of the trophies. Anyway there's two shoots to go to this year so anything could happen at these.

Anyway back to training! The beginners course which is currently running on Tuesday nights will finish on Week 9. This means that there will be a competition on this night, and certificates will be awarded to all those who finished the course. For anyone who has dropped out of the course, or for anyone else out there who would like to try their hand at Archery, a brand new course will commence on Tuesday of Week 1 of next term at 8pm in Thomond. Remember, anyone who has completed this course, and there are a lot of you out there, come and train on Thursday nights from 8 to 10 pm. This will continue through the holidays and next term. Impress your friends; turn their silvermints into polo mints.

I have to thank the sponsors of our intervarsity, The Stables Club. Their help was very much appreciated. Thanks also to the campus foodstore for providing us with tea and biscuits for our guests. Our message to you isThe Stables is Megal

"The Hurlers on the Ditch"

Congrats to both the Gaelic Football and the hurling team who recorded victories in recent games. At the time of going to press we await the result of the Sigerson Cup match between U.L. and U.C.C. , full details in next issue. This column would be quick to slag them had they lost so it is only right that due credit is given to them after their victories . At least if this column slaged the teams it would be showing an interest in the performance of the teams. This is in stark contrast with the general sense of apathy that exists in the collage about sport in general , and in particular the performance of the teams that represent this University whether it be ib hurling , soccer , badminton or windsurfing. More people should become involved in the clubs that cater for the

various sports or even if one feels that he\she has not enough time to get involved , they can at least spare two hours on a Saturday afternoon to go watch the footballers or the hurlers in action . After all these players have given up their time to go training and to travel long distances to play matches so the least we can do is go to support them.

On a lighter note , it seems that Manchester United will be league champions before too long. Notice I resist from saying that they will win the league . Instead it seems that everyone else will lose it . Man. Utd. have been jittering and unsure over the past number of weeks . However their performance have not needed to be brilliant as teams such as Liverpool and Manchester City have faded miserably . The intention of Carsberg Lager to sponsor Liverpool next year makes

one wonder how appropriate it is . The sight of "probably " written across the chests of various Liverpool players will evoke different responses : Jan Molby probably porridge; John Barnes and Mark Walters probably bananas , or even probably protestant in response to a new signing by Greame Saness , given his sectarian record while with Glasgow Rangers . Okay he signed Mo-Fo but that was only to put one over on Celtic. How many more Catholics did he sign after that ?

Speaking of Mo-Johnston , what is the difference between him and Katherine Krabbe, the German athletic? Answer he got away with using drugs. I spoke in the last issue of the scandal Mike Tyson and Maradona have got into in recent times . Now Ms. Krabbe , I wouldn't mind but she was the one decent looking female athlete. At least we

think she was female!! Thank God our home grown stars are more dependable. No word on Nicky English or Mick Lyons yet. Rumour has it though that Ben Dunne was thinking of competing in the high jump for Ireland while in America. Unluckily for Ben he was "high" all right but he didn't jump. Maurice Pratt is offering 10% of all cocaine in response to Dunnes stores reducing the cost of theirs. The new Dunnes logo - " Dunnes stores better value beats them all. Ben might be high but his prices are low !!!

Maybe Mr Dunne should sponsor the Irish Rugby team as that Nilzan or Fasinex that Philip Matthews is giving them does not seem to be working. Indeed Mr Matthews is a poor advert for the Pitman Moore Company as he always seems to have a virus and in this case he seems to have passed on to

his team-mates. Mind you it would be the first thing they've caught all season. Neil Francis is a "puffer" to put it mildly as while not wishing to sound like Rudolf Valentino himself (Doyler) it is about time we get rid of Matthews. How about bringing in Keith Wood of Garryowen at wing-forward as he lacks the size for an international hooker at the moment. Phil Danagher should be made captain and without wishing to seem completely brain washed by Garryowen I would introduce Murray Kidd as coach. Just look at what he has done for Garryowen transforming them from an "alright" Munster side into a team which has finished first and second in the two All - Ireland Leagues so far.

Question : What have Mike Tyson and Ben Dunne got in common ? They both " pushed " and were " pulled " on the 17th floor.

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Winners of the European Society / an
Focal photo quiz :
Collette M Murphy, Denis Farrell, Marie
Horan, Niall Mc Nulty, Regina Doyle

SU Shop

Open Saturday Week 10 from 8.30am until 6pm and
all exam week from 8.30am.

Note: We will be closed Tues 17th March - all day.

Closing Saturday Week 11 at 4pm.

Get all your pre-exam, pens, pencils, rulers, tippex etc
etc.Good Luck!

Second Hand Books

Last call for owners of books left into SU shop.

Please take them back NOW.

We are doing a clear out next week and wont be held
responsible for those not collected.

Paschal Cleary - Student Centre's "green man" has recently retired.

A well wishing card will be available for signing in the SU
shop. Anybody who wants to wish Paschal well in his
retirement is welcome to come down and sign it.

Part-time Work

Five to six students required for part-time work in Limerick
City from mid - March onwards.

Terms: About six Hours per week

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

Rate: £3.60 an hour.

Persons must be reliable and well presented during the
working time. Ideally it would suit persons living in the Limerick
area who would continue the work during the holidays, summer
etc. It is an on-going job - from now till you pass on.

For further information contact Carmel in SU office. Interested
parties only please.

CROSSWORD WINNER

The winner of the crossword competition in the last issue of An Focal was
Gearoid Collins - 4th Bust. contact Billy Kirwan at the students union.

ACROSS

- 8."For peace comes...slow"(Yeats).(8)
- 9.Yea, won over by single traffic
flow.(3-3)
- 10.Lasso, rope for catching horses. (6)
- 11.No, Nice it is not to smoke.(8)
- 12.Large mounted gun.(6)
- 13.Scatter widely in small drops.(8)

DOWN

- 1.Fleet of armed ships.(6)
- 2.No oil tap here, but it's up to
yourself.(8)
- 3.Items in a house such as built-in
cupboards etc.(8)
- 4.Worry unduly, struggle over a
decision.(7)

Focal photo quiz :
Collette M Murphy, Denis Farrell, Marie Horan, Niall Mc Nulty, Regina Doyle

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Gearoid Collins - 4th Busi. contact Billy Kirwan at the students union.

ACROSS

- 8."For peace comes...slow"(Yeats).(8)
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- 11.No, Nice it is not to smoke.(8)
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- 13.Scatter widely in small drops.(8)
- 15.Impish enjoyment.(4)
- 17.One who lives alone and avoids people.(7)
- 19.Secret way of acting or doing something.(7)
- 22.Fruit of the blackthorn.(4)
- 24.Complete, not limited by anything.(8)
- 27.Paltry, miserable.(6)
- 29.Apparel, dress.(8)
- 30.Tenth parts, one payable to the church.(6)
- 31.Sheep with very fine wool.(6)
- 32.Physical or mental disability.(8)

DOWN

- 1.Fleet of armed ships.(6)
- 2.No oil tap here, but it's up to yourself.(8)
- 3.Items in a house such as built-in cupboards etc.(8)
- 4.Worry unduly, struggle over a decision.(7)
- 5.Association football.(6)
- 6.The scientist went on.(6)
- 7.Motor-cyclist's long glove.(8)
- 14.A Mexican dollar.(4)
- 18.Blamed me for having treated a dead body.(8)
- 20.Trying to persuade to evil, enticing.(8)
- 21.Slaughter-house.(8)
- 23.Long,tiresomely so perhaps.(7)
- 25.Get, Gain.(6)
- 26.In it, everyone is singing in the same ptch.(6)
- 28.To make it up is to make up for lost time or ground.(6)

