

# An Focal

Rag Week  
line-up  
inside!  
pages 12-13



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FREE

## Zero tolerance for Rag Week misbehaviour

Aoife Breen - Editor

STUDENTS ARE being warned by the Gardaí and University authorities that misbehaviour during Rag Week both on campus and off campus will result in serious penalties and possible disciplinary charges.

In advance of the annual charity event and gigs on campus, Sgt Seamus O'Neil, head of Community Gardaí in Henry Street Garda Station, has warned that the Gardaí will be adopting a "zero tolerance" approach to students acting unlawfully.

He reminded students of public order offences including the by-law in place in County Limerick which forbids the consumption of alcohol in a public place and those flaunting this can be left with a €75 on-the-spot fine.

"There could be potentially hundreds of arrests which would look bad on students, look bad on the University and look bad on the community. We won't be putting up with any tomfoolery.

"If there's any hassle, then it's straight to Henry Street. There will be on-the-spot fines of €75 issued [for drinking in a public place] with no cautions whatsoever.

"Generally events are well run and controlled but our focus will be on people going home and in the estates and especially house parties.

"There's only a small group who

hide behind the decent people ruining it for everyone."

He urged anyone who sees any illegal activity to report it to the Gardaí or to campus security.

Sgt O'Neill mentioned the events in Galway during NUIG's Rag Week last month which saw 40 students arrested and 31 attend Accident & Emergency and hoped that a repeat situation would not occur during UL's Rag Week which is set to take place from Monday, 30 March until Thursday 2 April.

University security also reminded students that they are obliged to produce their ID card to any staff member or agent of the University upon request.

Mary Grehan, Facilities Manager with Campus Life Services remarked that they "will undertake certain procedures and policies keeping in mind the Health and Safety of our current residents and the protection our property during Rag Week".

She also advised students that there will be a sentry on duty at each Village on campus and all resident will be asked to sign in and out of the village.

No visitors will be permitted in the Villages during Rag Week. She said this is because of "the high level of damages caused to our properties during Rag Week in the past."

"We want our residents and all students in the University to enjoy Rag Week; however we must be mindful of our resident's wellbeing

and health and safety. With this in mind we would ask for all students co-operation with these procedures thus assisting us with their and our responsibilities."

Students are also reminded that drinking on campus is restricted to the campus clubs, that is to say, the Stables, the Scholars or the Sports Bar and drinking outside of these areas is both against the University's Code of Conduct and also classifies as drinking in a public place which is against the law.

Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar, wished the students "a successful Rag Week" and reminded them of "true spirit" of the charity aspect of the week.

"I am sure that in the course of enjoying themselves they will remember the purpose of Rag Week, which is to raise funds for charity. I hope that the true spirit of Rag Week is honoured and that, while having fun, students remember their responsibility to the University community and our neighbours."

SU President Pa O'Brien commented on the issue of student behaviour by adding, "The only advice I would give is to have the best time possible and not to ruin it by getting in trouble with the Gardaí or the University's discipline committee. If you do something crazy or stupid in the estates you could be suspended or expelled from UL. That's what we want to avoid at all costs."

## Twelve to contest SU positions

ELEVEN CANDIDATES will compete for four of the five sabbatical officer positions in the Students' Union for 2009/10 this week following the close of nominations last Friday. The positions of President, Education Officer and Campaigns & Services Officer and Communications Officer each have attracted interest from more than one party and will result in an election for each of these positions on polling day this Thursday, 26 March. No nominations were received for the position of Deputy President/Welfare Officer, so nominations opened for this again yesterday, Monday. Interested candidates can take out a nomination form and job description from the Students' Union reception.

Running for the position of President are Mark Conway, Ruan Dillon McLoughlin and Eamonn Gardiner.

Four students will contest the position of Education Officer. They are David-James Collison-Ryan, Aoife Finnerty, Emma Kerins and Huw Thomas.

Darragh Bourke, Fergal Demspey and Michelle Lawlor will compete for Campaigns & Services Officer while David Dolphin and Aoife Ni Raghallaigh will contest the Communications position. Polling will take place in six locations across the campus on Thursday with the station in the Students' Union photocopying room kicking off the voting at 8am. Stations in the library, the Schuman building, the Health Sciences building, the main B-Block canteen will open at 9am and a station in the PESS building will open at 11am. Polls will remain open until 6pm. All registered current students are eligible to vote on production of a valid University ID.

Students will be present with a ballot paper with the candidates names listed alphabetically and asked to vote, in order of preference, for their preferred candidate. Election procedures are the same as for Dáil Éireann elections i.e. a system of single transferable votes will be in place. Voters will also be presented with a ballot for the plebiscite (survey) on alternatives to exchequer-funded third level tuition fees. This ballot will have four options also which students will be asked to mark in order of preference.

For more information on the election and the plebiscite, please see the four-page pull-out special inside.

### POLLING STATIONS

- Students' Union photocopying room: 8am - 6pm
- Library foyer: 9am
- Schuman building: 9am
- Health Sciences building: 9am
- Main B-block canteen: 9am
- PESS building: 11am

# STUDENTS' UNION

aontas na mac léinn

## students' union polling day thursday 26 march



- su photocopying room
- library
- schuman
- health sciences
- pess building
- main b-block canteen

valid student ID is required to vote

# Rag Week Merchandise '09

*Have you got yours yet?*

## *Hoodies*

€30...but only €25 if you show a lanyard or Rag Week ticket!

## *T-Shirts*

€10...or just €8 when you flash your ticket or lanyard!

*Best of all...both for €30*  
...when you show your Rag Week ticket or lanyard!

*Available from SU reception!*

# Anonymous marking to be investigated

Aoife Ní Raghallaigh - News Editor

A RECENTLY formed Anonymous Marking Committee has been convened by the University's Academic Council to examine the practicality of implementing an anonymous marking system in the University. The Committee is comprised of two student representatives (one from ULSU and one from PSA) and one from Mary Immaculate College Students' Union.

The committee will follow the format of the recently formed ECTS committee and will meet once every ten days or so, mirroring the high profile committee it is modelled after. This point was highlighted

by student reps due to fears that a normal committee structure would not be able to report back constructively in time to Academic Council.

"This is a very serious issue and one that has been concerning students for many years in the four faculties", commented Eamonn Gardiner, SU Education Officer.

"The structural composition of the committee is important as it allows [us] enough meetings to be able to report comprehensibly to Academic Council before the end of semester", he continued.

"This will be vital if we are to be able to bring forward a motion to Council before the end of this semester so as to hopefully explore the possibility of a pilot project in

the next semester."

David James Collision-Ryan, ULSU Faculties Officer, explains that it is necessary to employ an anonymous marking system as it stops favouritism and racism, and also prevents discrimination and prejudice.

"Sometimes lecturers can discriminate against students that may not turn up to class and there is proof that the average mark received by women goes up with anonymous marking," said Mr Ryan.

Anonymous marking is normally set up in a similar way to the Junior and Leaving Certificate exams. In other words, each student would have an individual exam number which is generated randomly. This

number would be used instead of the current student ID number and would ensure that the Examiner would not know whose exam paper they are correcting. The student would not have to write down their name on their script.

Anonymous marking can be difficult to achieve because of the outcome of certain modules. For instance, modules with practical or physical tests cannot be easily examined anonymously. The same is true for modules with small classes, or for the assessment of FYPs.

However, there are ways around these problems; most universities have increased the importance of external markers for such subjects.

"Of course it will be difficult to implement such a system", Mr. Gardiner continued, "but every new endeavour is difficult in the beginning.

"We owe it to our students and to the members of our Union to be able to guarantee that they are getting the marks they deserve due to their own work, rather than who they are, the colour of their skin, their religious beliefs or who they fall in love with."

Some lecturers feel that anonymous marking will disrupt the feedback loop and increase the distance between lecturer and student. Lecturers have also expressed concern that they will be unable to do their job effectively if they are unable to write comment

for individual students.

However the Students' Union feels that the advantages of anonymous marking far out way the negatives.

Mr Gardiner commented finally that, "Almost every third level institution in Ireland and the UK have either adopted anonymous marking or are piloting a project on the issue; we're essentially in the Stone Age on this one and it is hurting our image as being the most modern and forward looking university in Ireland.

"In the dark and difficult months and years to come, our standard of education and the esteem in which degrees from UL are now held is what will make the difference when you go looking for a job."

# International flair to C&S Awards

Aoife Breen

UL'S INTERNATIONAL Society was the big winner at last Thursday's annual Clubs and Societies Ball walking away as with two titles from the award ceremony, taking the trophies for Best New/Improved Society and overall Best Society.

With the sun beating down on Thursday, 20 March, the social highlight of the Clubs & Societies year took off with a bang. Over 380 students made their merry way to the Strand Hotel to mark the flourishing year of 2008/09 for UL's 62 clubs and societies.

Students rose to applaud Kieran Phipps, President of the International Society, as he received the second of the society's awards.

"It was an honour to win both awards and I think it just goes to show hard work pays off.

"I think that these awards also give recognition to not only the society itself, but also to all international students in the university as well," Mr Phipps said.

Ruan Dillon McLoughlin also walked away with two awards scooping the title of Best Club Individual as well as the prestigious Jason Hackett trophy for his overall outstanding contribution to clubs and societies during his time at UL.

Mr Dillon McLoughlin, a 4th Year Construction Management student, is the president of the Kayak Club and current Clubs Officer on both the C&S Executive and the SU Executive. He thanked everyone for the honour of being awarded.

"Thank you very much; it really

is a great honour. I'd like to thank Paul Lee in particular; my time involved with clubs and societies has been the defining factor in my UL experience and I am very grateful.

"It is really great to see such a high standard in clubs and societies awards and I think everyone really raised the bar this year, and I believe the nominations this year were proof of that."

Derek Daly, Cathaoirleach of the UL Con Colbert Cumann of Ogra Fianna Fáil was awarded with the Mike Sadlier memorial trophy for his commitment over his four years at UL. He shared similar sentiments, saying "I am delighted and most appreciative of the award, and it was a great night out for everyone!"

## Best Club

- Sub Aqua

## Best Society

- International Soc

## Best New/Improved Club

- Dance

## Best New/Improved Society

- International

## Best Club Event

- Siege of Limerick - Ultimate Frisbee

## Best Society Event

- Skycon - Skynet

(Computer Society)

## Best Club Individual

- Ruán Dillon McLoughlin

## Best Society Individual

- Michael O'Connor

## Outstanding contribution to Clubs (Jason Hackett Award)

- Ruán Dillon McLoughlin

## Outstanding contribution to Societies (Mike Sadlier Award)

- Derek Daly

Clubs & Societies Awards 2009

## Proactive approach to the environment

Sarah Mann

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK will hit UL during Week 9. The entire week will be devoted to informing students about the troubles facing today's environment and finding solutions to the growing problem. Students in Marketing and Design modules had a hand in creating the advertisements that will be covering campus during that week. "The whole campus will be covered in environmental materials," said Students' Union President Pa O'Brien.

Scheduled events and activities include bike workshops, an ice sculpture carved into a map of the earth, and an Earth Hour scheduled for 28 March. Students will be encouraged to start biking more in order to start "burning carbohydrates, not hydrocarbons," O'Brien joked.

A series of environmentally-focused lectures has preceded Environmental Week, with the most recent talk held on 18 March. The lecture, entitled the "The Engineering Challenge of Climate Change," was the third in a four-part series focusing on the challenges of climate change. Siemens, a powerhouse corporation in electronics and electrical engineering, sponsored the lectures which will be given throughout colleges in Ireland.

University of Limerick is one of the few locations to receive all four lectures; many other universities will only receive one to three talks.

"They want to give the lectures, we want to give them a platform," said Dr. Colin Fitzpatrick, chair of the UL staff Environmental Committee.

The lectures focus on the severity of the world's climate change and possible solutions for combating carbon emissions and creating cost-efficient, renewable sources of energy. The topic is far more urgent than most people think.

"We can now say that in the next two years, for the first time in ten thousand years, there will be no sea ice at the poles," said O'Brien as he introduced the first speech in the lecture series, which focused on the science of climate change.

"We can tell them that even if we stopped producing carbon dioxide now the earth would continue warming until 2100."

The world is not without hope, however. Declan Murphy, founder of the Ecology Foundation and a 1986 graduate of UL, spoke on the technological problems and solutions associated with carbon emissions in the third lecture.

"We believe that all of the technology solutions are there," Mr Murphy said. The success of combating climate change depends entirely on the timeliness of the world's actions.

"We have to act," he said, gesturing towards graphs showing alarming trends in carbon emissions. "We have to respond as a society within a very short amount of time."

Murphy outlined several engineering solutions to dealing

with climate change, including switching to solar energy, utilizing carbon capture and storage technology, and using electric hybrid cars. The main problem, however, is not that there are insufficient engineering solutions or even that the costs of these technologies is prohibitive. Rather, there is no world-wide decision making process that would encourage all nations to act together to combat climate change.

Individually, though, "We [Ireland] are well positioned... to deliver dramatic emissions reductions," said Murphy. Currently, "we have the second highest carbon footprint in Europe," but "There's a huge opportunity arising for Ireland right now." Murphy pointed out that Ireland's three largest power companies have already committed to developing efficient energy sources and that the country is being considered as a test-bed for mass-use of hybrid cars.

Students can expect to see a radical shift in day-to-day life within the course of their lifetimes with an emphasis on local resources as well as wide-spread industrial responses, according to Fitzpatrick and Murphy.

The solutions and new ways of life that are coming will be a huge change from what we're used to, but, as Mr Fitzpatrick pointed out, "If you're proactive about it, you can learn to make this change. If you're reactive, it's going to be really painful."

Students Association (PSA) Ball held in February. The Ulster Bank staff helped organise the event by donating sponsorship from the Ulster Bank Enablement Fund. In doing so, they raised much needed funds of over €3000, for the Milford Hospice and St. Gabriel's in Dooradoyle.

The Law Ball, the PSA Ball and the Christmas/ Co-Op Ball are but a few which have already taken place this academic year. As expected they were all extremely successful, but most importantly, were enjoyed by everyone. Other balls to look forward to are the First Year, Education, Business and Engineering Balls which will take place after mid-term. Watch out for more information around campus on these events or ask your Class Rep as some faculties organise their own balls.

Also, keep your eyes peeled for the Student Union and Campus notice boards/ websites for details of up and coming balls or for more information contact Damien Cahill directly at services@ulsu.ie.

that "it's not too late to organise a ball", however "you must be able to commit with numbers who will actually attend". He also suggests interdisciplinary balls for classes with smaller numbers.

Traditional balls can be organized with a full meal and a dance. However, if you're not into adorning fancy dresses or suits, other balls can be planned to cater for your individual class's needs, from formal, informal, theme, dinner, buffet, band or DJ. If your class is feeling generous, the ball can also be organised in aid of charities; similar to the Postgraduate

# Egging break out on campus

Arielle McCarty

A RASH of egging has cropped up on campus this semester with students targeting houses, cars and people. Bernadette Barrett, Thomond Village Manager, said if the egging did not stop the residents would have to pay the bill for cleanup.

In a warning sent to residents of Thomond Village Ms Barrett said that an outside source would be needed to clean up the mess. Thomond is not the only village that has been targeted by egg throwers as residents of Kilmurry Village have also faced the sticky situation.

Laura Noon, a first year in Politics and International Relations, said her window has been hit five or six times this year. "One time it went through

my open window and got over everything. The worst part was my laptop was open and the egg got in there too. Luckily it wasn't damaged but it was very difficult to clean," Ms Noon said. "I still can't get the egg stains off my suitcase," she added.

Drive by egging of pedestrians has also become something of an issue on and around campus. Amanda Nosel was walking to the Lodge with a group of friends when an egg was thrown from a car and hit her. "The egg didn't break, but still it's childish. They really have nothing better to do than go around throwing eggs at people? I don't get it." Ms Nosel said.

James McGregor, a self proclaimed

former egger, says he did not have anything better to do the night he and three other friends were caught egging in Thomond Village, their own place of residence. They were caught two weeks ago throwing eggs at a window and ran straight into an RA. They were subject to a disciplinary hearing the next day.

"We got community service. We have a preliminary period of two weeks where we have to remove every egg from windows in Thomond," Mr McGregor said. He said it was not worth it in the end and said cleaning all the windows is a rotten business. "It's tough, the smell of rotten eggs is the worst, which is kind of ironic," he said.

## Psychology Society

**Starting in March 2009, we are hope to get anyone who is interested in psychology involved in our society, whether you are studying it or not, are a member of faculty, staff or a student the psych soc welcomes all!**

### We aim to:

- give students a chance to partake in psychological experiments, which will help any student prepare for FYP.
- broaden students' knowledge about career opportunities in the field of psychology.
- affiliate ourselves with the psychology society if Ireland (PSI) and hope to make it to at least one conference per semester, and keep psychology students up to date on events in the field of psychology and what is going on in the department.
- to welcome and integrate freshers and promote a strong relationship with faculty and students and the soc will serve as a means to address the problems of students in psychology and/or other disciplines.

### Please contact:

ulpsychsoc@gmail.com

Caroline Young 0879046064

Thursday 2nd April Week 10 at 15.00pm in CS305B

## Students having a ball

Amy Croffey

MANY SOCIAL events are organised in UL each year, but certainly one of the highlights include the numerous faculty balls. Balls are an integral part of the UL experience as they are not only a great way to enjoy a night out with class mates, friends and faculty, but also a fantastic excuse to get done up to the nines and to prove that that Debs dress was a great investment!

The UL Ents team are more than prepared to organise or help organise the event however, balls are dependent on the class and their reps to form a committee.

ULSU Campaigns and Services Officer, Damien Cahill assures

# Earth Hour 2009: Do your bit and hit that switch!

Jenny McCarthy

FOURTH YEAR Business and Marketing students are promoting Earth Hour 2009 as part of a project to create awareness on the UL campus of the global initiative asking people to switch off for one hour to save energy.

The fourth year class, with the help of their lecturer Maurice Patterson, is currently trying to create awareness of this possible solution to global warming. Deirdre O'Brien, one of the students involved, explained what Earth Hour, which will take place on Saturday, 28 March, is all about and how UL students can get involved.

"The 4th year marketing class is promoting the event and there will be different events and promotions on campus between the 25 and 28 March.

"We're trying to get as many people involved as possible and even if the students aren't on campus on Saturday, 28 March, we're trying to bring the message home and encourage even more people to take part in the fight against global warming."

Earth Hour began in Sydney in 2007 as part of the campaign against global warming. The first

'switch off' saw 2.2 million homes and businesses collectively switching off all electrical appliances for one hour to see how much energy could be saved by this simple task being carried out on a large scale.

Homes and businesses weren't the only buildings plunged into darkness; Famous landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, the Colosseum and the Sydney Opera House all lost their glow in aid of energy conservation and the planet.

David Morrin, another student involved in the project says, "I think that when we show some enthusiasm and some interest, like the 1 billion people who participated last year, that we can help make the world better, even if it is just a little bit at a time".

So far, over 74 countries have agreed to vote Earth in support of Earth Hour 2009. You can do your bit, even if you aren't on campus on Saturday, 28 March, by turning off lights, TV, your laptop (this might be the first step to overcoming your Facebook addiction!) between 8.30 and 9.30pm and have a good old fashioned chat with your friends or family.

Spread the word and think of the good you're doing for the planet with just the flick of a switch

# From Concept to Stage

Nicole Ní Riordáin

UL DRAMA Society will host the Irish Student Drama Association (ISDA) Festival this year, which runs from the 5th - 12th of April. Over 400 participants are expected to be involved in the festival, making it the largest yet. The theme "From Concept to Stage" will be expressed in 20 different plays in a range of genres. ISDA is made up of 15 different third level institutions from around the country. Formed in 1947, the association is the representative body of University and IT drama societies in Ireland. The festival, currently in its 62nd year, is an opportunity for students to showcase their talent on a national platform, as well as develop their performance skills and meet like-minded students from other Irish colleges. This year's festival, hosted by UL Drama Society, will be staged around Limerick city, with the Belltable Red Cross Hall, the LIT Millennium Theatre, Mary Immaculate College and the Jonathon Swift each hosting a show each weekday.

The festival will close on Saturday with the ISDA Fringe Festival. It is a day of fun for everyone involved and will include live bands, an Easter Egg hunt and a musical cabaret. "The Fringe promises to have something for everyone", the Drama Society assures. While plenty of fun is guaranteed, it is important to remember the motivation behind the festival. Mary Halton, co-coordinator of the event, said "The role of the arts, not just in UL but in Limerick itself, goes largely unrecognised by the country at large. One of our main aims in hosting the Festival is to establish Limerick's position as a culturally and artistically rich city, and to promote theatre and the arts among the students of UL."

When asked how hosting the festival will affect the Drama Society, a member said that "the benefits to us as a society are that it gives us the opportunity to liaise with the wider theatre community in Limerick and to learn a great deal from both them and the visiting societies. One of the greatest aspects of ISDA is that we all have the opportunity to learn from ourselves and each other in an encouraging environment."

As well as hosting the festival, UL Drama Society will also be staging an original play during the event, written by student Thomas Dee. "Losing Elysium" is historical drama which is set in the 1940's in Berlin. Speaking about the entry, Ms Halton said "The competitive element of ISDA also brings us to our own highest personal standards and gives us the opportunity to be critiqued and advised by a panel of professional judges".

The professional judging panel, which will include Limerick playwright John Breen, will attend each of the 20 plays throughout the week. During the closing ceremony, 13 awards will be presented in a range of categories including set design, acting, writing, sound and lighting.

Anyone interested in a career in theatre should be mindful of the opportunities made available by this event- such well-known actresses as Pauline McGlynn and Fiona Shaw began their careers as an ISDA member. Deirdre Falvey of the Irish Times said regarding the festival, "For anyone who was ever involved in drama societies at college, the name ISDA has a special ring. Stimulating, varied, a great training ground and terrific fun, college and university drama societies have long been the seedbed for people who go on to make their careers in performance arts."

# Cleaning up the campus

Les McCall

"Encouraging people to recycle is just the start; it's more than that."

These are the words of SU president Pa O'Brien, in reference to both the litter problem on campus as well as the issue of litter and the environment on a broader scale. As for campus, the main point is the SU courtyard and Common Room. The Common Room being especially bad since there is no one employed to clean up the mess, which if you have been lately, may have noticed is substantial.

Although not wanting to sound too motherly, the issue comes down to "some people not seeming to be able to tidy up after themselves." It seems simple enough, but as Pa said, it's just the start.

Duncan O'Toole, operator of Scholars Club, had similar sentiments. He recounted recently seeing a student, like dozens of others, toss a can of orange on the ground when leaving, on the assumption that someone would pick it up.

Scholars, like the Common Room, is often plagued by blowing bags, rolling cans, broken bottles, and food wrappers.

"Change starts with everyone," says Duncan, "and the University should be leading the way."

That change begins with something as simple as a clean courtyard, because although it seems harmless, the problem goes outside the confines of the SU. Litter in the courtyard often blows into other areas, notably ditches or fields where it can remain for thousands of years. Everyone can get in on

fixing this, and as environmental week approaches, start to make a change.

Pa and Duncan and others are already looking beyond the courtyard however, stressing the need to recycle and pick up waste elsewhere. Notable is Duncan's desire for a compost pile or separate compost pickup, as he notes that, "at least half of a restaurant's waste is compostable, and it would save a huge amount of emissions to have a compost pile."

He urges campus leadership and activism, saying, "the University is unique in that it has a grid connecting it to local businesses, which it could use to help finance better waste management and cleanups."

However, for all his efforts, having been pushing for compost options for a year and a half, he has

had little success. Compostable waste is ill disposed of, and litter floats outside his restaurant's door at any time. Despite that, he says "we're ready to rock and roll right now," ready to make a change.

Perhaps we can all learn something from Duncan, and start to get serious about issues such as littering and recycling.

First step is getting into a habit of cleaning up after ourselves, be it in the common room, Stables, Scholars, or downtown, by using waste bins set up nearly everywhere. UL has a beautiful campus, and it won't take much to keep it that way. So as Pa put simply, "for the well being of everyone, throw it out, there's no one else there to clean it up."

It's a start, the tip of the iceberg of the Emerald Isle "going green."



# PhD student saves a life

Jason Kennedy

A PART-TIME PHD student saved the life of a fellow Corkman by performing CPR on him late last month.

DJ Collins from Cullen, Co Cork, saved the life of Diarmuid O'Connell, a former student in the University of Limerick, after he collapsed while playing a GAA match on Saturday, 21 February.

Mr Collins, along with his cousin, Gearoid O'Leary, performed CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) on Mr O'Connell soon after he collapsed.

The men also used a defibrillator to try and resuscitate Mr. O'Connell, which only emits a shock if it is needed.

Mr Collins said that as soon as Mr O'Connell collapsed, they got to work.

"I wasn't afraid or nervous. I just went into slow motion. I got in the zone and blocked out everything else and I did what

needed to be done.

"We kept CPR going for about 10 to 15 minutes until the ambulance came and took him away and they had to shock him three or four more time on the way to the hospital"

Mr Collins said that Mr O'Connell was drifting in and out of consciousness for the duration of the CPR. It is believed he suffered a form of heart attack.

"We were told later that Diarmuid was dead for around one minute, and it's very lucky we had a defibrillator handy to bring him back."

Mr Collins also mentioned that there was nothing he could do once Mr O'Connell was taken to hospital.

"Once the ambulance came in and took him away, there was nothing more we could do. I just went home, had a cup of tea and then went to see the Munster vs.

Edinburgh game.

"I got a call later saying that Diarmuid was still alive and that really was fantastic news."

Mr Collins is also getting used to being called a hero around the locality.

"It's pretty weird and we're both getting it quite a good bit. I hope people are only joking when they say it, to be honest.

"I'm only doing what I hope someone else would do for me if I was in that situation."

Mr Collins stressed the importance of knowing CPR and how not knowing it may have disastrous consequences.

"I think after what happened a lot of people will be going to CPR courses. It's something that's very important nowadays."

Mr O'Connell is currently recovering in hospital.

# Seachtain Na Gaeilge - the aftermath

Karen Ní Cháthain

Mar is eol do gach duine, nó ba cheart go mbeadh sé ar eolas go gach duine, cheiliúramar Seachtain na Gaeilge an seachtain seo caite i stíl ghaelach cheart. Idir damhsaí agus seisiún ceol go leor, aochainteoirí agus cluiche sacar as Gaeilge, ní dhéanfaimid dearmad go deo ar an seachtain.

Ba cheart a rá "Beart de réir do bhriathair" mar i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge ní amháin go labhraíomar an teanga, ach ghlac muid páirt i go leor gníomhaíochta eile a bhí mar chuid den chultúr. D'éirigh go hiontach leis an gcéilí mar tháinig slua mór amach; chuid acu chun damhsa, agus chuid acu chun breathnú. Tháinig 30 - 40 daoine chun damhsaí gaelacha éagsúla a fhoghlaim. Freisin, bhí oíche mór de cheol traidisiúnta i Javas Oíche Dé Chéadaoin. Bhí slua mór i láthair chun éisteacht agus chun taitnimh a bhaint as. Bhí cuid acu ag glacadh páirt chomh maith.

D'imir na leaids sacar trí Ghaeilge ar an Astroturf Dé Déardaoin. Bhuel a chailíní, níl aon rud níos fearr ná staic bhreá dhathúil i mbrístí gearra

ag caint Gaeilge!

Gan dabht, d'éirigh thar barr le Seachtain na Gaeilge san Ollscoil, agus cé nach raibh ach cúpla duine in aghaidh an tí san eagrú, bhain slua mór taitneamh as an seachtain. Ba mhaith liom an seans seo a thógáil chun bhuíochais ó mo chroí a ghlacú le gach duine a chabharigh leis an eagrú, a ghlac páirt sna imeachtaí agus ar ndóigh iad siúd uilig a bhain taitneamh as an seachtain. Má theastaíonn uait t-uile eolais a fháil nó pictúirí a feicáil, bí mar bhall de Bebo agus bí mar chuid den fheiniméan mór atá ag fás, feiniméan an Ghaeilge. Bebo: "TighN7"

As you all know, or should know, we celebrated the last week in pure Irish Style as part of Seachtain Na Gaeilge. From the ceilís and music sessions galore to the guest speakers and soccer matches as Gaeilge, it was most definitely a week to remember. I think its fair to say, "Actions Speak louder than words", so as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge not only was the language spoken but also events very much Irish-orientated were organised. The Ceilí

proved a success with people turning out for a jig or just for an auld gawk, between 30 - 40 people attended as the Siege of Venice and other Irish dances were taught and comically performed.

On Wednesday night, those with an appreciation for traditional music as well as those unwinding after a long day in college joined in Java's for a few drinks and tunes performed by very talented musicians.

Thursday on the Astroturf, a gathering of boys partook in a soccer game as Gaeilge. Well girls it doesn't get much better than a lovely looking lad in shorts speaking Irish!!

All in all Seachtain na Gaeilge was undoubtedly a success and although organised by few it was enjoyed by many. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who organised, partook and of course attended the different events. If you'd like to get more of an insight or photo footage of the past events please add us on bebo and become part of the ever growing phenomenon that is the Irish language. Bebo: "TighN7".

# Debate marks anniversary of Rwandan genocide

Darragh Roche

THE Debating Union and the Irish Peace Institute hosted a debate on Thursday 4th March to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide.

The debate was on the issue of intervening in ethnic conflict for the sake of global peace and distinguished guest speakers spoke on both sides.

Arnold Kashembe, a native of the Congo and head of the Politics Department Luke Ashworth spoke for the motion while veteran peacekeeper Col Colm Doyle and Kyle Murray of the Politics Department spoke against the motion.

First proposition Shane O'Callaghan of the Debating Union outlined how traditional peacekeeping

has failed and how military interventionism should take its place. Mr Kashembe also supported this cause.

Conor Kelly of the Literary and Debating Society of the National University of Ireland, Galway also spoke in opposition.

The liveliest and most controversial speech came from Kyle Murray, a Virginia native, who outlined how the white, western addiction to oil, copper, cobalt and diamonds is strangling Africa.

"Everyone in this room has blood in their pockets," Mr Murray said, explaining how our society simply would not function without the cheap resources of African nations.

He added that African countries needed to take control of their

resources away from the western powers.

"In a practical sense, colonialism never ended!" Mr Murray said.

The speeches got a spirited reaction from the floor with many audience members, from former UN Peacekeepers to international charity workers to natives of formerly war-torn Yugoslavia voicing conflicting opinions on the issue.

The guest chairman Prof Tom Lodge of Peace and Development Studies then took a vote and in a first for the Debating Union, the house was tied.

Prof Lodge had the casting vote but for the sake of retaining good relations he abstained and the house remained deadlocked after a fascinating debate.

Croí na Teanga - It's You!  
Seachtain na Gaeilge

# Terminating a Tenancy



## 1. When is a Tenancy Terminated?

A tenancy may be terminated by either the landlord or the tenant for any one of a number of reasons. It could be due to a change of circumstances (e.g. the tenant buys a house, the landlord decides to sell the house) or because of the behaviour of the parties (e.g. the landlord is constantly disturbing the tenant, the tenant is in arrears of rent). No matter what the reason for the termination, the process is always the same. The person ending the tenancy must serve a notice of termination on the other party and that notice must comply with the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 in terms of the content of the notice itself and the amount of notice (i.e. what period of time until the dwelling is to be vacated) given. The content of the notice will depend on whether it is served by the landlord or tenant, the length of the tenancy and the reason for the termination.

Where a tenancy that was entered into for a specific period (i.e. a fixed term tenancy) comes to the end of that period, a notice of termination does not have to be issued. If that period was 6 months or more and the tenant intends to continue in occupation, he/she must inform the landlord of that intention between one and three months before the expiry date.

## 2. Termination of a Tenancy by a Landlord

Valid notice

In order to be valid a notice of termination must:

- Be in writing
- Be signed by the landlord or by his/her authorised agent
- Specify the date of service
- State the reason for termination (where the tenancy has lasted for more than 6 months)
- Specify the termination date (the tenant has the whole of the 24 hours of this date to vacate possession)
- State that any issue as to the validity of the notice or the right of the landlord to serve it must be referred to the Private Residential Tenancies Board within 28 days from the receipt of the notice.

Serving the notice

The notice may be served on the tenant in person, may be left at the rented dwelling, or may be posted to the dwelling. If it appears that the tenant is not in occupation, the notice may be served in a conspicuous position on the outside of the dwelling.

Notice Periods for the Termination of a Tenancy by the Landlord  
Subject to the terms of any letting agreement in place, the notice period to terminate a tenant's tenancy is determined by the duration of the tenancy, as follows:

### Notice Period - Duration of Tenancy

28 days - *Less than 6 months*

35 days - *6 months or more but less*

*than 1 year*

42 days - *1 year or more but less than 2 years*

56 days - *2 years or more but less than 3 years*

84 days - *3 years or more but less than 4 years*

112 days - *4 or more years*

Where a tenancy has lasted more than 6 months and less than 4 years, the landlord must state in the termination notice the reason the tenancy is being terminated and the termination will not be valid unless that reason relates to one of the following:

- the tenant has failed to comply with the obligations of the tenancy
- the landlord intends to sell the dwelling within the next 3 months
- the dwelling is no longer suited to the needs of the occupying household
- the landlord requires the dwelling for own or family member occupation
- vacant possession is required for substantial refurbishment of the dwelling
- the landlord intends to change the use of the dwelling.

In the case of the last three of the listed termination grounds, the termination notice must contain certain additional details as specified in the Act relating to the former tenant being given first refusal to resume the tenancy should the dwelling become available for re-

letting. In the case of the first ground (except where the termination is for serious anti-social behaviour) the tenant must have been given an opportunity to rectify the matter and have failed to have done so for the termination to be valid.

## 3. Termination of a Tenancy by the Tenant

Valid notice

A valid notice of termination must:

- Be in writing
- Be signed by the tenant
- Specify the date of service
- Specify the termination date (the tenant has the whole of the 24 hours of this date to vacate possession)
- State that any issue as to the validity of the notice or the right of the tenant to serve it must be referred to the Private Residential Tenancies Board within 28 days from the receipt of the notice.

Serving the notice

The notice may be served on the landlord or his/her agent in person, or may be left at or posted to the landlord/agent contact address.

Notice Periods for the Termination of a Tenancy by the Tenant

Subject to the terms of any letting agreement in place, if a tenant wishes to terminate the tenancy, the notice period that must be given to the landlord is determined by the duration of the tenancy:

**Notice Period - Duration of**

**Tenancy**

28 days - *Less than 6 months*

35 days - *6 months or more but less than 1 year*

42 days - *1 year or more but less than 2 years*

56 days - *2 years or more*

The tenant need not supply a reason for terminating the tenancy except where terminating for a breach of the landlord's obligations or where the required notice period is only 7 days (see paragraph 4). It is important that a tenant serves a valid notice of termination as otherwise he/she might not be entitled to a refund of any deposit paid.

## 3 Lesser Notice Periods by Landlords and Tenants

Only 7 days notice need be given by a landlord to a tenant where the termination notice results from serious anti-social behaviour by the tenant or behaviour that is threatening to the fabric of the dwelling or the property containing it. Only 7 days notice need be given by the tenant to the landlord where the reason for the termination is that the behaviour of the landlord poses an imminent danger of serious injury or death or danger to the fabric of the dwelling or the property containing the dwelling.

Otherwise the normal notice period for terminating a tenancy by reason of non-compliance with tenancy obligations is 28 days for both landlords and tenants where the failure has been notified in writing

and not remedied within a specified period. Where the breach of the tenant's obligations is a failure to pay the amount of rent due, a termination notice may only be served following the written notification by the landlord to the tenant of the amount owing and the rent still being owed 14 days after that notification is received.

Landlords and tenants are free to agree a lesser notice period than those specified in the Act. However, such an agreement may only be entered into at or after the time that one of the parties indicates to the other the intention to terminate the tenancy. It is not, for example, legal to agree to a shorter notice period at the time the tenancy is being first entered into.

## 4 Greater Notice Periods by Landlords and Tenants

Tenants and landlords are free to agree longer notice periods than those specified in the Act. However the maximum notice period that can be given by either party to terminate a tenancy where the notice is being issued during its first 6 months is 70 days.

## Contact Details

Private Residential Tenancies Board  
2nd Floor, O'Connell Bridge House,  
D'Olier Street  
Dublin 2  
Tel: +353 1 6350 600  
Fax: +353 1 6350 601  
E-mail: [information@prtb.ie](mailto:information@prtb.ie)  
PRTB website: [www.prtb.ie](http://www.prtb.ie)

# Rwanda: 15 years on

Emma Kerins

This April will mark the 15th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide which saw the mass murder of almost 800,000 people in less than 2 months during one of the most brutal civil wars in recent memory. In week 6, the Debating Union and the Irish Peace Institute ran a debate on the subject of intervention in to ethnic conflicts, in order to reflect upon the atrocity that was the Rwandan

genocide.

Fifteen years ago the international community stood by as hundreds and thousands were slaughtered, then promising that such a tragedy would never be allowed to happen again. However, since then, conflicts in Chad, Darfur and the Great Lake region of the Congo have worsened, resulting in the loss of millions of lives. Ethnic conflict, genocide and war continue to hamper development of the Third World whilst the UN and the rest of the world watch, both

unable and unwilling to anything to stop it.

The atrocities of Rwanda that took place 15 years ago hold an important place in the consciousness of the international community. They were some of the most brutal acts to occur in a civil war in recent memory.

However, the real tragedy was the fact that nothing was done to stop the killings. Rather than sending in peacekeepers, the UN actually removed troops. The United States, after their experience in Somalia the previous year, were reluctant to even acknowledge the genocide, never mind take action to stop it.

Thus in under 80 days, the Hutu majority Rwandan government, driven by the right wing Hutu Power group, were responsible for the murder of almost one million Tutsis, as well as Hutu moderates opposed to the violence whilst the UN peacekeeping force present there was cut in its numbers significantly.

The only reaction the international community had was to evacuate its

own people from the region and then turn its back on the events unfolding, while at the same time refusing to acknowledge the reality of the situation and refusing to call it genocide.

At the beginning of July 1995, the Tutsi rebel forces, the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Force) captured the capital city Kigali and it was only then the killings began to cease. Shortly after a proper UN peacekeeping force was deployed and some form of order began to be restored.

Over the past 15 years Rwanda has struggled to cope with its past and deal properly those responsible for the genocide. Paul Kagame, the former leader of the RPF is now president of Rwanda. Even now, 15 years later, the search continues for those responsible for the genocide and the war crimes associated with it.

A lot can be said about the current Rwandan administration and its own weaknesses in dealing with bringing about justice, peace and stability. However, at the same

time the actions of the international community must also be examined, not only then but also in how we continue to act.

Since the end of the Rwandan genocide, the conflict has not ended, just changed location. Currently a war rages in the Congo, where millions of lives have been lost. This was a direct result of the civil war in Rwanda, where many of the perpetrators escaped across borders posing as refugees.

Kagame's government continue to hunt them down, thus continuing the civil war, just refusing to obey any confined borders. The UN with one of the largest peace-keeping forces ever deployed is present in the Congo, yet its hands are tied by the continued policy of non-intervention by military means.

So, even after the world pledged to never allow the likes of Rwanda to happen again, similar tragedies are occurring every day, not only in the Congo, but in Chad and Darfur. The only difference this time around is that the UN is actually present on the ground with the goal

of keeping the peace. However when the issue is not keeping the peace but instead stopping the conflict, how effective can the UN be when in reality all their presence means is that the rebel groups have a larger audience?

Fifteen years on from Rwanda the only issue that remains clear is that ethnic conflict is still as big a problem for global peace as it ever was. Not only that, but in spite of the pledge of all communities around the world, particularly the UN to strive for peace and protect those who are threatened by conflict, their ability to take action is still stifled by the likes of the veto of the Security Council, the constraints on peace-keeping forces, as well as the political will to interfere as are terms as 'internal matters'.

The tragedy of Rwanda, 15 years later, must of course be a time to reflect upon the massive loss of life, but it must be a time for the UN and the world as a whole to examine its attitude towards ethnic conflict and the steps we must take in order to stop it.

Over the past 15 years Rwanda has struggled to cope with its past and deal properly those responsible for the genocide.

## Old habits die hard

Eric Doyle

Last week the relative peace we had grown accustomed to in Ireland was shattered when in acts of deliberate terrorism, two British soldiers and a PSNI officer were assassinated by a group allegedly calling themselves the Real IRA. Not since 1997 has such levels of violence been seen in Northern Ireland. It has provoked outcry from both communities in the North and brought into stark realisation, that despite the great strides towards peaceful reconciliation that have been made in recent years, it is still a fragile peace.

Since 2007 the National Assembly in Stormont has been gradually laying the foundations for a permanent normalised political environment, albeit grudgingly slow as internecine squabbling has been a recurrent theme of much of its deliberations. But despite this, both of the largest parties Sinn Fein and the DUP have committed to making a permanent move away from the politics of violence and sectarianism. However the question is whether they will be able to maintain the moderate approach in the face of such unyielding and irrational hatred

even if it is representative of a minority.

While the public at large reacted with spontaneous vigils in honour of the victims, all the parties rushed to confirm their commitment to the peace and assuage fears that the actions of the RIRA would not derail the process. However the test of these values is not who can display their love of peace the best, rather it is whether the long established tradition of suspicion and cynicism that characterise the public's relationship with the security forces can be overcome.

Throughout the troubles an atmosphere of mistrust has developed between the police and the public especially amongst the nationalist community. This situation has on the surface meant to have been solved by the formation of the PSNI as a non-denominational police service fully representative of all of Northern Ireland.

Yet whether or not the positive discrimination recruitment campaigns have been enough have up until now has not been tested. The danger is that such sentiments are still alive and will hamper the attempts of the police to end the violence and only fuel further acts

of terrorism.

So as both communities recover from this body shock, the true assessment of the solidity of the peace process will be whether the nationalist community will be able to overcome its prejudices of the police. In the past extremists have been able to take advantage of this and count upon their community not to give them up. While this did not necessarily mean that the community condoned their actions, it did highlight the sharp divisions of Northern Ireland. If this repeats itself again it will only facilitate extremism and critically undermine everything that has been achieved to date.

It is the responsibility therefore of political and community leaders not just to jump on the media bandwagon and wax lyrical about how the peace will not be derailed, but reach out to their communities and temper any reactionary sentiments. It's one thing to talk about peace; it's quite another thing to deliver it, especially when there are those out there willing to do whatever it takes to wreck it. The only way to achieve this is to ensure both communities stand as one in the face of such acts.

## Climate crisis in Copenhagen: estimates are worse than thought

Eric Doyle

As a civilisation we have always been slow to acknowledge serious threats. It was 1997 when the Kyoto Protocol finally gave the ecological crisis its due attention by our leaders. However it is 12 years on and last week in Copenhagen an emergency summit of the world's foremost scientists concluded that not only have our efforts to date failed to live up to expectations, but now apparently our initial estimates are no longer accurate. It would seem that we are on course to miss the targets set down in the IPCC report by the UN in 2005.

The repercussions of this are quite stark. We need to maintain the temperature increase of the planet at two degrees over this century, if we are to avoid critical environmental collapse across large swathes of the planet. This includes the West as

much as it anywhere else. It was only six years ago that France an advanced Western society lost thousands of its citizens in a prolonged heat wave that brought on a drought. This type of event is destined to become far too frequent in the near future unless our leaders take on a more drastic approach.

In fact, according to the latest computer modelling, the possibility of us achieving the two degree rise that is necessary for the survival of 70 per cent of the species on the planet is 50/50. That is even if over the 10 years, all the countries around the world are able to make dramatic cuts in emissions, which in itself is highly unlikely.

In the last century the global temperature rose by 0.7 per cent, today if immediate action is not forthcoming we face an average increase of 0.5 per cent every ten years. The consequences of such

temperature increases are so severe as to put the human race itself in danger of extinction by the beginning of the next century.

The picture is dreadfully grim, which means that the special UN climate negotiations set for December are probably the singularly most important negotiations we as a species will ever have to engage in. This summit in Copenhagen has compiled a new set of targets for the reduction of emissions to be used by the UN in its deliberations on a more comprehensive and effective plan to confront what is probably the gravest threat we've faced since the prospect of a nuclear Armageddon during the Cold War.

The one thing we can be sure of thought is our current economic travails will be an insignificant bump in the road compared to the consequences of inaction on global warming.



# A Testing Time

James Bradshaw

I was just sitting down to my dinner earlier when my housemate Eileen walked in. She hadn't been around all day, and I soon discovered the reason for this; she was doing her driving test. The inevitable question was asked, and the unenviable answer was given; she had failed.

At this point I was faced with a choice. I could either give the conventional uplifting speech (you know, 'hard luck, next time you'll succeed, there's still the FA Cup' and all that bullshit) or I could make an effort to cheer her up a little.

Remembering the scant comfort that the ordinary nonsense gave me when I failed my test, I chose the latter course of action. Laughter is the best medicine after all; well it used to be, back in the days when doctors prescribed mercury as a cure for syphilis. So began an epic conversation about driving tests; one which will forever be remembered by those who took part in it.

My first advice was practical, or grossly offensive, depending on whether you're of a mindset similar to mine, or of one more compatible with Eileen. I asked if she was wearing a skirt during the test, and when she answered 'no' I immediately

suggested she wear one next time, and the shorter the better. Her response was two words long and somewhat blunt; I can't quite recall what the first word was, but I do remember that the second one was 'off'.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that a short skirt will guarantee every pretty young thing a driving licence, but with an overwhelming majority of testers being men (and old, pathetic 'hasn't got any since the night we beat Romania in Italia 90' men at that), it can't hurt. The exposed legs will probably distract the instructor enough to prevent him from noticing the mistakes you are making, leaving you in a strong position when it comes to result time. Cleavage works well too, but don't show both; that's just slutty. You're looking for a driving licence here, not a promotion.

While Cormac told stories of how he passed by the slimmest of margins, I got ready to relate to all and sundry the legendary story of my test. It was last May, just a few days before I started the Leaving Cert exams. My earlier appointment had been during the mocks, and being unable to cancel the same test twice I decided to bite the bullet

and take it, with or without lessons.

I drove myself to the test centre (oh irony, where would I be without you?) and whilst waiting to go in, I decided to invoke the help of the Almighty. Mam keeps holy water in the glove compartment, and I sprinkled on a few drops before saying a quick prayer. The feeling I got was unusual; although I felt that I was being listened, I could almost hear noises from high above.

Unfortunately for me, God wasn't talking back, he was shouting. "Are you f\*\*\*\*\* kidding me? You haven't had a lesson since Christmas, you haven't practiced one bit, and you've spent more time looking at FHM than you have reading the 'Rules of the Road' book. Now you're looking for my help? Enjoy getting the bus you arrogant little b\*\*\*\*\*".

It could have been worse; he might have turned me in to salt.

I'd be lying if I'd have told them that I remembered much of the test itself. All I know is that I made it back to the testing centre in one piece, and that the tester spent most of the journey writing on his clipboard (never a good sign).

He told me I had failed, before

adding in smug tone that maybe I should 'practice more next time'. Regardless of the four automatic disqualifications I got, he could have been a little nicer about the whole thing.

It turned out that Eileen's tester had been just as bad; he had barely spoken to her and was, in general, a horrible excuse for a human being. Being a naturally friendly person, Eileen was unused to that kind of treatment. She wondered aloud why driving testers are always such cold, emotionally-dead-inside people.

My theory is simple: when babies are born, they are all examined by Government Agents (think of the scene at the beginning of 300). If they are bitter, angry, or ill-tempered, they are taken away and placed in camps. Here they are beaten, insulted and tortured until such a time as all remnants of human feeling are removed forever from their personalities. When this stage is reached, they are ready to begin their work as driving testers.

The only pleasure in their lives comes from inflicting suffering on others, a joy they cannot but share with their co-workers. Oh, I can just imagine these monsters swapping stories about their victims tears: "You should have seen her cry when

I gave her the news!"

By this stage, Eileen seemed to have cheered up a little; and I decided that it was time for the piece de resistance.

When I failed my test my cousin told me a very special story, and it never fails to cause an explosion of laughter when told to someone who has befallen the same fate.

Many years ago, my cousin's friend was doing his test in Kilkenny. Knowing that he had made some mistakes, when it came time to pull over he pleaded with the tester to let him know there and then if he had failed already.

Despite the strict policy against informing people of their results before the end of the test, the tester reluctantly complied. "I've got bad news for you", he said, in that driving tester's tone of superiority, "you've failed your test".

Unfortunately for the tester, he was in for a major surprise. My cousin's friend had asked the question for a reason; he strongly suspected that he had failed, and he wasn't going to take it lying down.

It was time to give these guys a taste of their own medicine. He looked at the tester straight in the eye before beginning to speak: "And

I've got bad news for you too pal, you're walking back to the test centre". He then threw him right out of his car!

Despite the fact that I couldn't keep a straight face whilst telling it, the story had the intended effect; Eileen burst out laughing. I swear by this story, because it never fails.

After dinner, Eileen went to her room. She seemed chirpier than before, but then again she could have just been putting a brave face on things. Maybe she locked the door, put on the James Blunt album and had a good old cry. Or else she could have been going through her skirts looking for the shortest one for when she re-sits the test. Either way, I'd say she'll pass next time. Then it could just be me in the house without a full licence. I really should book a few lessons and re-apply. And if I actually try this time and still fail; that tester is so going to be found tied up in the boot of his car.

*Disclaimer: The writer of this article in no way supports or condones acts of violence towards driving testers. Such actions are despicable, unwarranted and ultimately futile-you cannot kill the living dead.*

# Power of one fountain

John O'Donnell

For most students the whole 'recession issue' is more like the bogeyman rather than a real fear, sheltered as we are from the worst of it by mammy and daddy. I personally held the opinion that by the time I graduated the worst of it would have passed; until then, life in the University would be sweet.

That was until the class reps meeting on Tuesday week 6 when, after listening to President Don Barry answer our questions, one thing became clear: we're screwed. Simply put, the University is about €2 million short of cash. Of course in his best Haughey impression the Don told us to be prepared to tighten our belts as we would roughly have to share the burden in terms of budget cuts; we were clearly living way above our means.

Now, to be fair, half the cuts are coming out of the staff payroll so we can't complain too much. But as I sat there listening to him turn to 'brighter' topics such as the new credit system and a more variable system of study allowing you to do History and Engineering at the same time. This of course will not be in place before we graduate.

My mind turned to those 'Power of One' ads that you see on the TV and I thought why we can't do that around the collage. For example

how many times have I walked to the Stables around 8pm at night to see the some buildings fully lit up inside with clearly no one in them.

My second point came to me as I was going to the aforementioned meeting. I was running to the computer science building from College Court in the rain and as I passed the Schuman building I noticed that the bleeding fountains were still on.

We live in one of the wettest countries in Europe and here's the University paying money they don't have to pump more water up into the sky! Maybe the Don feels that it isn't wet enough yet.

But it got worse. As I left the meeting at 7.30pm and I noticed that, despite the campus being half dead, our fountains were still pumping away and I have since been reliably informed that they are kept on till about 10, with the one at Plassey House going on till about 11pm or so.

I was personally surprised that no one directly asked the President about the amount of money that was spent in the good old days on useless statues and, of course, the Living Bridge. Now, think about the amount of money spent on lighting up the bridge every night. I realise that for health and safety reasons the bridge has to have lights on it, but that thing has to be a safety hazard for the pilots flying over on their way to Shannon it's so well illuminated.



So there you have it my three ideas to help reduce the amount of money the college has to spend and it doesn't even affect the staff or students – well apart from the nurses! In fact, they're so simple that you would think that the University being packed full of, and run by, geniuses with PhDs and Masters and all sorts that they would have thought of it themselves and not let an undergraduate stumble on it. And who knows, if they had thought of it back in the good old days then they might have had a chance to build a few more statues!

## Columnists

# A Fresh Approach

## Diary of a First Year

Jason Kennedy

I HATE fire alarms. I hate the people who set fire alarms off even more. But most of all I hate being woken up by a fire alarm at 4.10am and having to leave my comfy, warm bed to stand out in the cold with 40 other pissed off students.

To make things worse, security didn't come for 20 minutes, and when they did, they plodded up the stairs and, at snail's pace, left the building and drove off, leaving us all out in the cold. They didn't come back for a while, but when they eventually did, they took another five minutes to give out to some plastered, half-naked bloke, who was still clutching a can of Dutch, which did give most of us a bit of a laugh.

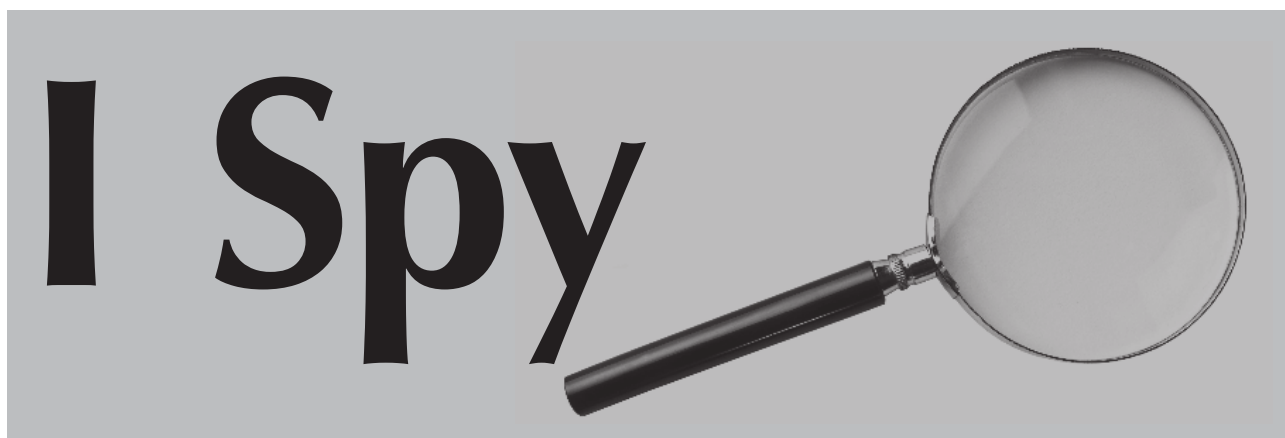
Nevertheless, our two federal friends took another eternity to sort out the problem and then toddled off back to Fed HQ. We waited outside for 40 minutes in total. If it wasn't for the incredibly irritating screech of the alarm, none of us would be bothered waiting outside. Still, could have been worse. Some of the people could have recognised me from my two-day stint on the Assassin most-wanted board.

For two days straight, other people participating in the G Soc event sprayed me with that rancid green silly string, expecting me to smile and say: "Go you, well done", each time. Still, it was an interesting game, if not absolutely terrifying. The thought that there is someone out there looking for you and, quite possibly stalking you gets you reasonably paranoid.

Still, I'm not much better. My first target was a friend of mine who was too afraid to walk to the ATM alone. Naturally enough, I volunteered to go with him and as soon as we left the Scholars, I pulled out my can of silly string, apologised in advance and sprayed him. Well, he was not happy. People around the area would have then seen him try and kick me and hit me while chanting "you b\*\*\*\*\*, you little b\*\*\*\*\*!" Still, worse things have happened to me in the courtyard after a night out.

My second target was the current president of Skynet. A dedicated final year student, whom I was sure would go to all his classes. I was right. Since I had a copy of his timetable, I managed to track him down outside his lecture. I didn't talk long for my unsuspecting target to leave the room and for me to spray his back.

I didn't know the next target I got, so I quit when I was ahead. Well, deadline for my assignment is next week. How dedicated am I?



*I Spy looks at what's hot and what's not about Rag Week*



Well hello there, Rag Week. Here at I Spy we pride ourselves on knowing what's best for students, and let me tell you folks the best thing that ever happened to students is not those god damn free fees. No, it's that free week they stick in the middle of Semester II to blow all our minds with music and beer and raise money for good causes while we're at it, yes dear... Rag Week is where its at..

Now, granted, many a Rag Week Reveller won't get their hands dirty by collecting money or anything like that, but there's lots of ways to raise cash during Rag week. For instance if you happen along to see the Wolfe Tones pipe out their hateful, I mean "patriotic" tunes, well then every cent of the money raised at this gig (as well as every other cent raised during Rag Week gigs), goes to charity. Result.

This is what embodies the charity while having the craic mentality of the week...so don't you forget it.

Right, well, no Rag Week is complete without some dickhead in the paper telling people what they think is great or shite about Rag Week. This year I get to be that dickhead, for I am one lucky boy.

### HOT

#### The Date:

I was unsure as you were at first: "F\*\*\*\*\* week 10," I uttered in disgust. But no, these Union heads are smarter than we think; surely that's why we elected them (or it could have been nice posters I can't remember). But, hey, here we are one week away and the sun is shining and it doesn't feel as cold as it did two weeks ago when a blizzard froze the balls off me. Plus the FYPs are in and we have a week off to recover. It's like two weeks off college...genius, woot woot!

#### The Weather:

So we should avoid snow and misery during Rag Week this year due to the date. But hey I'm thinking it could even be sunny. You know what happens round here when it's sunny don't you... yes, that's right. Please God grant onto us a sunny Rag Week so that women may frolic in the fields of UL scantily clad and wielding super soakers full of vodka which is the juice which dictates female morality. Lord hear us...

#### The Lineup:

One of my friends was like, "there's nothing for me there" to which I retorted, "Yeah, you must like progressive tribal drum and

bass meshed with acid folk electro beats with ska punk undertones and Cajun Irish overtones... pumping, that is".

Come on like. This is definitely the most varied line up I've seen. You have your Irish in the form of Christy tribute and the Wolfe Tones. You got your pop rock in the form of the Blizzards who rocked this place so hard during Orientation week my ear started to bleed a little (may be dramatisation). You've got the Hells Bells for the ACDC rockers on Tuesday and Japanese Popstars and Arveene for the drug - I mean dance - heads. Not to mention the up and comings like Dirty Epics and Walter Mitty and The Realists. Tis like a mini-fecking Oxegen round here. Oh yeah and Sash! for you cheese lovers.

#### The Beer:

This recession has proved one thing and that is that our on campus bars can go cheaper, and cheaper they are going. My guess is that the University is beginning to see that having students on campus where we only cause annoyance to each other rather than residents is actually beneficial. Our pubs must be realising that we need cheaper booze to stick around, hey presto here it comes for Rag

Week.

### NOT

So many gigs so little money:

Yes I know the money issue. I couldn't afford a Wonka ticket week 3 and they're surely gone now. I, like many, will have to pick and choose, but what to pick? Because I am of the lazy variety I haven't yet volunteered for charity. I know you're shocked... aren't you. So I'm going to hit at least three gigs safe in the knowledge that I'll have done my bit without having to do any work but stand at a gig. Job done, I'm a charity superstar.

### Spending all week drinking at home:

I spent my first Rag Week drinking in College Court with two lads from Ennis and a blow-up woman. Now I would like to say I had the time of my life, but I didn't. The Ennis lads did obviously because there was a blow-up woman. But here the craic is up round the courtyard flinging bucket o' water over some dude and getting into the festival atmosphere with our fellow students you know.

### The Line-up:

I ask where all these new bands are you know. Where are Ham Sandwich, Fight like Apes, Jape, Gemma Hayes, We Should be Dead and Damien Dempsey. Then I remembered I was at all them but Jape in UL over the last 18 months, but nobody else was there...so that might be a reason, so fine! Japanese Popstars is a brilliant add-on though, they're gonna be huge!

### Beer:

You've had a bottle of Vodka. Last thing you remember is ringing your mother to call her a b\*\*\*\* for teaching you to tie your shoe laces the wrong way as a child and never encouraging you to follow your dream of being an exotic dancer. Yes that's it, you've hit bottom. You're likely to wake up in a tree or in hospital with a pain that only time will heal. Drunk is fun, this kinda drunk is only funny given a retrospect of twenty years plus. I'll be hoping to avoid it this year!

So Rag week eh? Woouoooo, yeahhhhhhh, woouoooo. I tell you what I am going to give it socks. This could be the best week of our lives. This will be epic...

# Deep Throat

By the time you read this the election campaigns of the various candidates for sabbatical office will be in full swing. Having taken the time to look quite closely at some of the candidates convinced us that Schwing might be being too generous. We're a punny lot at Throat Towers but we do like to stay marginally on the side of the truth. As well as being by the seaside. And outside people's windows at night that's nice to stay at too.

Naturally, we can't provide you with reviews of the actual campaigns as they haven't happened yet or are happening right now. This temporal nonsense of writing stuff for people to read in the future is just hurting our brains. Oh! Quick! Duck! (Someone will find that of immense help, and much as is the case with horoscopes will be absolutely convinced that all our time travel guff is 100% true). Further to that, 'yes' we do know what you're thinking and 'No' it's not a good idea to ignore that rash.

What we will just try to give

you instead is a brief overview of the positions that are being contested. We could just go with previous reviews of campaigns and see if they match but that would be too lazy even for us. And mistress has said we mustn't be lazy or she'll stop beating us.

**President:** The President, El Pres, An Pres ar Bulie. Call him what you will (and they are mostly male if you take the time to examine them carefully under a microscope) is meant to be our great and glorious leader. Or at least that's roughly of what it says on the tin of the Union Constitution. The president is supposed to decide what we should do and the others are really there to implement the will of the people as made manifest in the President. He says where we are to go, and the other sabbatical officers have to work out how to get there, who to tell about it, should we wear protection and can we get an 'I' grade for it. In practice the leading that actually happens most of the time is leading people into meeting rooms, leading the occasion dance and the odd

storming out of a room or a public march on evil. We could do with some of the old Moses magic right about now.

**Education:** probably the most incestuous sabbatical position and we mean that in purely a good way. The education head has to bury themselves up the apparatus of the university and burrow themselves so deeply into the operations of the permanent university that they become almost a part of it. The permanent university is that part of the college that has nothing to do with teaching or research. It will be here long after we are gone and long after those lecturers you've been so worried about are gone. A head for detail and currying favour is required for this position.

**PPO:** The Communications Office as it is now called apparently because PP sounded too puntastic. Basically, if you are in this office you're the propaganda officer of the union. The communications side of the operation is oddly enough the most public face of the union. Yet they are often the one

least involved in the decision making process because they don't have the time. Overworked, deadline driven and requiring skills that someone who has marshalled cats at a master level would balk at, this is not for the fainthearted. The most colour campaigns happen here.

**CSO:** See now this is the how-to job, you get to do things here. The President gets to say "We must climb this mountain!" And then CSO has to work out how to get there, is there a train at that time, should we buy food on the way or bring a thermos? Will we need an extra coat and should we bring some change for the taxi home? You need organisational skills and an immunity to panic for this job.

**Welfare:** God help us but this position requires more patience than even the HSE could handle. Ok make that the NHS we know the HSE can't handle patients. A listener, a conscience, an ability to understand the college's various welfare policies. Apprentice Saints need only apply.

One other position that used to exist and could be set to return in some guise is that of the entertainment officer. Yep, you lot just have to be entertained. A shiny set of keys and some fizzy pop doesn't do the trick anymore we're told. The people want go-go

dancing and play with adventure rope. It is possible that the task of organising Ents. may be thrown back on the SU if rumours about the long term plans of the current operators turn out to be true. It would seem that greener pastures or warmer ones at least may be tempting them away from us.

As for the other vote i.e the referendum on fees we're sure that cop out motion Number 1 will probably win. Option one being students vote to have no fees and free ice cream, option two being lots of fees and broccoli. We're not 100% sure of the point of the referendum except to try and get people out to vote but the most painless option will win out. For more up to date news of the campaigns and the actual candidates ulvoteforme will continue its longish tradition of live gossip on the campaigns. Check it at [Http://ulvoteforme.blogspot.com](http://ulvoteforme.blogspot.com)

Speaking of votes it would seem that we came close, but in the end we fell short of getting a sitting of the Seanad in UL. What we did get was a step closer to getting ourselves on an equal par with other colleges with the announcement of deadline for the passage of legislation by the end of this 2009. Anyway, could you just imagine a sitting of the Seanad here, with our reputation? Anyway we have a date for the passage of legislation allowing all 3rd level graduates to vote for the six senate seats. This is the first time any concrete deadline has ever been. So a couple of cheers are due to the minister as going to plan this coming Christmas there should be a new register with all 3rd level degree holders on it.

The recent mass gathering of faculty avoided any explicit mention of the dreaded word 'redundancy' but don't think it has gone away. Expect that many people on fixed term contracts will find themselves cast to the four winds come the summer. So look kindly on many of your lecturers they may not be here next year. And when it comes to the postgraduate population it would appear that some people are seeking to thin the numbers a bit earlier and perhaps illegally too. We're pretty sure that students, who are after all students of their department first and foremost and not the mere play things of their supervisors, can't be cut loose without some sort of official procedure and formal process of back and forth. We've not seen shenanigans like this since the legendary days of the Forty Thieves. Might such incidents provide a solid stick for the denizens of the neither A,B or D Sisters department to beat the liathróidí out of one of the upstart institutions on campus?

Parking as ever though is the mainstay for the members of staff when it comes to internal email discussion. Recently it has been the comparative precision of the parking of some members of staff (typically SUV types) and screams of entitlement in regard to the staff mileage allowance. The rate ranges from roughly 40/47c up to 60c per km for larger engines. The bigger your engine the bigger the allowance is how environmentally friendly is that? Why not give them all a flat rate and if they want to drive a Saab Turbo let pay for it. And it's a nice little earner too. From here to Dublin is about a 400km round trip. Taking the mid rate for a 1.2 to 1.5L engine of 46.25c per km, that works out at about €185. It's been a while since I filled a tank but I can't say that it would cost €185 to cover 400km. And remember that is the new reduced rate that the staff socialists are objecting too. They would prefer the old rate apply which is one third higher again meaning a cost in the region of €250 to drive to Dublin. Yep it is hard work defending the rights of the oppressed workers. Next time the staff try and rope in the students in protest it is worth keeping in mind what it is that it being protected and what is not.

As if things couldn't get any more surreal a number of signs belonging to the Cooperative Education & Careers Division went missing recently. These were the old 2ft x2ft corboard signs, with a tasteful burgundy background and bright white text with the UL logo, and mounted on pointed wood stakes. They are normally used as external direction signs for Careers Fairs and had been stored in D0016. But somehow they escaped! Hopefully they were found in time for the careers fair. There might not be much in the way of careers but at least our signs must be safe.

Let's finish on a poem! And remember above all UL Prevails!

First they came for the maintenance grant, and I didn't speak up cos I had a really great job while on my J-1.

Then they came with the higher registration fees sand I didn't care because I was rich. Did I mention my great J-1?

Then they came for the postgraduates and I didn't care because I was planning on working.

Then they came for a graduate tax and I didn't care because I was planning on working aboard.

And then . . . they came for me . . . but by that time there was no one left to speak as we'd all graduated and we reckoned those fecking students should pay for their own education!

## Postcard from UL

Notes from a German Erasmus student

Alexandra Gdanietz

Mind the gap! Can't get this out of my head after I spent a wonderful time with the French people, a Slovakian and a "I-want-to-be-on-every-picture-Luxembourgian" in the UK's capital this weekend!

UL was emptied of Erasmus-students because nearly everybody went to London (or to Metallica in Stockholm).

In London pretty much everything takes place in the underground where thousands of people squeeze themselves into the trains and the metro driver gives the helpful advise to mind the doors and of course the gap.

Widely ramified tunnel systems run through the city and sometimes you walk 15 minutes until you find your way to the right station.

Once you're in the train you can't help but look in other people's faces and it's so funny because everybody tries to avoid eye contact, which is almost an impossible thing.

However, I found the British people very polite whereas my Slovakian friend got into difficulties as he tried to flirt with a girl in the tube on our way to Camden Town.

He tried to smile at her since she looked kind of upset and by the time we got off the train, she told him that it would be rude to look at her and that he'd better go to hell whereupon a man standing close to us smiled and told him he'd be a nasty boy!

So far, so good. In a city with almost 8 million inhabitants, I guess, not everybody can be in a good temper.

London is so crowded, so stylish, so expensive, so alive. People on the streets really look like Kate Moss or Pete Doherty. Of course we went shopping and I spent half of my money for the month: Why is there, when it comes to the end of my money, so

much of the month left? (Fortunately I just got my deposit from my former student village back and my new landlady won't kill me for not being able to pay her!)

Every tour group has the same people in it: There are the ones, who take the initiative to guide the group, whether they know the city or not; there are the ones, who get lost and make the others wait for them and there are the ones, who pretend to know better.

Therefore it took us quite a while to get to Soho to party at night as we got lost in the streets of London, which doesn't necessarily have to be a bad thing since you can see far more of the city and the people.

By the time we finally arrived, we were convinced by a doorkeeper – tourist-like – to enter his club: "The best club, the best music, the cheapest drinks!" Well, almost.

But it was fun. We ordered a bottle of champagne to celebrate the birthday of our French friend and danced the night away, or half of it.

No matter if England or Ireland or Scotland, clubs close at three! For Erasmus students this really means an adjustment.

The Spanish, by the way, went to London too and as we left the club the Spanish crowd arrived. They're known for going out late, very late, and they don't care, they eat at 11pm and get ready at one and I like that philosophy.

London was great but to be honest, I travelled a lot lately and I just discovered all the work, which piled up over the last few weeks. So if you come to the library and find an Erasmus-student sitting in a corner looking totally desperate, that would be me!

# ULRAG W

## IT ALL BEGINS ON MONDAY.... DAY ONE FUN.....

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
11am	5 Buck Duck	Living Bridge	You can adopt a Duck for 5 euros and the first one which float pass the finish line is the winner.
12pm	Raft Race	Living Bridge	Built your own yacht with what you find and we will see if u end up as the Titanic or The Love Boat – McGyver baby, think Mc Gyver!
1pm	Red Bull Paper Airplane Competition	UL Arena	Registering may be simple, but winning Red Bull Paper Wings is a very different matter indeed. With just a sheet of paper, plenty of ideas, strong or skilful upper arms and a bit of creativity, you can go down in sporting history.
2pm	Stalls	Courtyard	Think carnival, hoopla and prizes!
2pm	Dodgems	Car park	Is there anyone in the world that doesn't like these little motors?!?!?
2pm	Hypnotist	Stables	Prepare to be dazzled by master hypnotist and mind reader Barry Sinclair, if only by what you'll get to see what he gets your friends to do!!!
2pm	Gnoming	All over!	Need to find the ultimate payback? Or maybe you're just pure evil....gnoming means paying for one of your friends to be followed around campus, no matter where they go, and their only way to freedom is to match the amount! Yep, pure evil.....
3pm	Pizza Eating Competition	Stables	Are you up for the challenge? A whole pizza as quick as you can!!
3.15	Yard of Ale	Stables	One really oddly long glass filled with beer. It amounts to close to 3 pints in one go and the UL record is 14 seconds are you hard enough coma along and find out?
3.20	Gunge Tank	Courtyard	Kinda speaks for itself doesn't it!?!?
3.25	Hard-boiled egg Eating Competition	Stables	Impressive to win, before the side effects take over that is! First to finish 20 eggs is the winner, but there'll be no kissing till at least Wednesday unless you meet a girl with no sense of smell
3.30	Boat Racing	Stables	Essentially a beer drinking relay – drinking your pint as fast as you can, put the glass on your head, then the next team member carries the torch, first team to finish wins!
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
3.45	Jelly Wrestling	Courtyard	Its wrestling, in jelly, so we called it jelly wrestling! We want to see your moves and a whole lot more.
4pm	Giant Twister	Courtyard	Get ready to stretch, reach, pull drag, jump, slide, and much more - we bring out our giant Twister mat and lay Twister with a crazy twist! Sure where would daytime fun be without it!
4.15	Head shave/waxing	Courtyard	Hair today, gone, well...today! Spring is here...you don't need it anymore!!
4.30	Great Race Results	Stables	As our heroes return, we find out which team reigns supreme!

## DAY ONE BLENDS INTO ONE HELL OF A MONDAY NIGHT.....

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
7.30	Christy Moore Tribute a.k.a. Liam Byrne & FRED	Stables Courtyard	Rag Week 2008 and Freshers week September gone, anyone who's been to see this guy can vouch for how good he is. Christy a.k.a. Liam Byrne is back to kick start UL Rag Week 2009. Lisdonvarna, Black is the Colour, Ride On...all the classic Moore hits with a little Johnny Cash thrown in for good measure!
10.30	Rubber Bandits & DJ Sash!	Trinity Rooms	This duo made up of Blind Boy Boatclub and Bobby

This 5 piece band from Cork have graced the stages of UL more than one (remember them on the big stage at the freshers ball?), and there's a reason for this – Joe, Jamie, Carolyn, Jamin and Justin put on one hell of a show. FRED are also one of four bands to not only make it to the finals of Indie Week 2008, but win it! Alternative and catchy teamed with an awesome sound, with songs like Skyscrapers and albums like Go God Go, they will be back with a bang to rock the first night of Rag Week 2009.

Chrome (their real identities are to remain anonymous) are the musical geniuses behind “Bag of Glue” and “Pure Awkward” and know for their phone pranks and rap comedies. Rubber Bandits last appearance in Trinity Rooms has cause for them to return again to entertain!

1997.... you were either preparing yourself for secondary school, begging the parents to let you go to the teenage disco, or just enjoying being a 10-13 yr old kid. Fronted by Sascha Lappessen, DJ Sash! On the other hand were busy selling their albums by the millions. “Encore un fois” was possibly one of the most popular and most played songs of the late nineties (ah the days of taping songs off the radio!), so just over a decade later, we figured why not revive the phenomenon that was DJ Sash!

## .....FOLLOWED BY TEDFEST TUESDAY!..... AH GO ON.....

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
2pm	Stalls	Courtyard	Practice from yesterday makes prizes for today!!
2pm	Dodgems	Car park	Sure how could there be just one day of these?!
2pm	Comedian	Stables	If your buds got you yesterday, well, you know what to do.....!!
2pm	Gnoming	All over!	Ah, where all eating competitions began... mustardtastic!
2.45	Hot Dog Eating Competition	Stables	Ah, wine, an acquired taste, made from the humble grape, spawned connoisseurs around the world....yep, fancy stuff.....we're more the jug of we-don't-care-what-type-of-vino it is type of people!
3pm	Wine Drinking Competition	Stables	The relay fun continues!
3.15	Boat Racing	Stables	Yeah, we kinda used the same naming technique genius as the jelly wrestling! Don't fear getting dirty!
3.20	Mud Wrestling	Courtyard	In honour of the day, Pa our resident priest will put you through your paces to see if you really know all there s to know about Fr.Ted!
3.25	Father Ted Quiz	Stables	If you can wow us with your rock star skills, we'll put you on the stables stage on Tuesday night to show them off....with Hells Bells!!! Time to shine!
3.30	Air Guitar Competition	Stables	Breakfast, lunch and dinner, in one sitting, but this exotic feast has a couple of twists thrown in....just a few!
3.45	Iron Stomach Competition	Stables	Was there ever a more popular Eurovision entry than “My lovely horse”...or do you want to give another euro trash tune a bash? Oh the cheese!
4.15	A Song for Europe	Stables	Come on lads, release your inner goddess!! Entry forms will be available @ SU reception...just so FR. Pa knows a little bit about your loveliness beforehand J
4.30	Lovely Girls Drag Competition	Courtyard	

## TUESDAY NIGHT IS POSITIVELY TREATFUL!.....

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
7.30	AC/DC Tribute a.k.a. Hells Bells	Stables Courtyard	AC/DC....what a band! One of the largest followings world wide, bands in their plenty have attempted to recreate their magic on stages all over the world. But none do it quite as well as Hells Bells. From 1996 these five guys have been tearing up the stages all over the states, in honour of one of the most influential acts in the history of rock'n'roll. And one of you can get yourself up on that stage with them – air guitars at the ready!

## .....SMACK BANG INTO MID-WEEK MAYHEM ON WEDNESDAY..... THE INNOCENCE OF THE DAYLIGHT JUST WENT OUT THE WINDOW.....

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
2pm	Stalls	Courtyard	Just in case you didn't win yesterday J
2pm	Dodgems	Car park	See how many people revert back to the age of 5 in these machines!
2pm	Magician	Stables	Bewitchin'!
2pm	Gnoming	All over!	All's fair in love and gnoming.....
2.30	Yard of Coke	Stables	Cola, before anyone gets any ideas or alerts any authorities!
2.45	Burger Eating Competition	Stables	Can you take the heat???
3pm	Boat Racing Final	Stables	The champions of this prestigious Olympic event will be decided – does your team have what it takes to go all the way???

students' union



WHO YA

GONNA

VOTE

FOR?

sabbat elections

polling day is thursday  
26 march 2009  
have your say

2009



an focal 24 march 2009  
election & plebiscite  
special pull-out supplement

# SU Sabbat E

## Position: President



**Name:** Mark Conway

**Position:** President

**Why are you running for election?** I believe the people in power in the Students' Union no longer represent the views of the entire student body, but rather a small minority of students. I aim to change this.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Lobby for an off license on campus
2. Free car parking everywhere on campus
3. Put the buzz back in student life.

**Why should you be elected?** President is a demanding job Unlike a cheap rubber, I won't split under pressure.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** My lovely blonde locks.



**Name:** Ruán Dillon McLoughlin

**Position:** President

**Why are you running for election?** I have been in UL for 4 years now and I think the general student population needs to be more aware of what the Union does. I think that by making the building more inviting we can get people to interact more with the union.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Student facilities - restaurants, ITD, parking issues to be resolved.
2. Security needs to be addressed.
3. Accommodation issues around quality.

**Why should you be elected?** I am deeply committed to improving the student experience in UL. I will work with whoever I need to achieve this. Working on behalf of the student will be my sole aim.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** I have a lot of hands on experience with the union from my time on the executive this year. Clubs and Societies involvement has given me great experience for dealing with people which the role of president revolves around.



**Name:** Eamonn Gardiner

**Position:** President

**Why are you running for election?** As education officer I have achieved a great deal of good working on behalf of UL's students. However, in my current position I can only do so much. If students elect me President, I hope to work for them on a range of issues which I believe will benefit them.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Bring the life back into the living campus
2. Making it easier and safer for students to come to UL.
3. Continue fighting for a students right to a proper, fair and quality Education!

**Why should you be elected?** I work hard for students: on average a 12 hour day as education officer. I will if elected, work at least as hard as your President. We're facing a tough time ahead, that's a fact. I can rise to that challenge with experience and a solid plan for the coming year to help students.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** I'm presently a Sabbatical Officer. I know what's involved in the job, I know the hours the system and staff in the university. If elected President I can take on the roles and obligations of the job with immediate effect and a much smaller training period. In light of the current financial difficulties which many members of the Students Union are suffering. I will be taking a 10 per cent pay cut in solidarity.



information age and we can all benefit from being up to date with everything our union does for us; from protests to parties. If it's on, you should know about it.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Upgrade the website into a live news source, make it THE place for UL news and discussion.
2. I'm introducing a free SMS notification service, for live updates and for people scared of computers.
3. Rants about the SU are too interesting to only bring up in the pub, I'm bringing in a soapbox for public critique of the union.

**Why should you be elected?** I've got plenty of website design experience; it was my job last year while I was in NY. I've had experience organising successful large events, this year's SkyCon (Best Society Event) was largely my work; this involved dealing with the national press and the quirks involved.

**What makes you stand out from the other candidates running for this position?** More real world experience in dealing with live media and buckets of technical experience in the systems involved. I'm an engineer at heart, I love to problem solve and there's plenty of opportunities to make the gears of the union run smoother - let's make this work with you, for you.



**Name:** Aoife Ní Raghallaigh

**Position:** Communications Officer

**Why are you running for election?** I've wanted to work in journalism since I was a child and I think the position of communications officer would be a really rewarding and interesting position. I also want to give something back as I got the majority of my experience from writing for the publications.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. More development of the website.
2. Increased foreign language articles.
3. Get more attention from national press.

**Why should you be elected?** I've shown complete dedication to the office since first year and have worked closely with the current officer to gain as much relevant experience as possible. I'm also willing to give 110% to the job at all times and promise to fulfil my manifesto promises.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** The fact that I'm shortlisted for Journalist of the Year by the Smedias! I believe I have the most relevant experience and over the last four years I believe I have shown that I am determined and willing to put all my effort into the job.

## Position: Education Officer



**Name:** David James Collison-Ryan

**Position:** Education.

**Why are you running for election?** Because I want to be the Education Officer of the SU!! I want to finish a lot of the issues that have been started over the last 3 years while I have been involved in the Students Union. I also believe I have the most experience for the job and I know I would really enjoy working in the office, with students, sorting out issues for a year.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Get FYP supervision sorted out!
2. Get recognition for students extra-curricular activities (Uaneen Policy)
3. Get the simple things sorted i.e. photocopiers in KBS and Health Science buildings.

**Why should you be elected?** Because I know the issues, I know the issues with issues, and I know how to get them sorted. I have been Business Faculty Officer for two years, and Faculties Officer for one year which is an executive position in the SU. So clearly my experience is linked with the education office!!

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** "Experience is the best education" plus when it comes to the election I'll have the longest name on the ballot: David James Collison Ryan - you won't be able to miss it!!

## Position: Communications Officer

**Name:** David Dolphin

**Position:** Communications Officer

**Why are you running for election?** I'm running this year as I feel I've got the skills and enthusiasm to bring about some really positive changes in how the union communicates with students. We're very much in an

# Elections 2009



**Name:** Aoife Finnerty

**Position:** Education

**Why are you running for election?** I'm running for Education Officer because it's a job I've wanted since I first got involved in the Students' Union. Not only that but I'm qualified and enthusiastic. Students come into the SU building everyday with problems to do with their course, their lecturers and their work load – I've been one of them- if I can have a job devoted to improving their (educational) situation, then that's the job I want.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Introduce compulsory evaluations for lecturers to improve the standard of teaching at UL.
2. Campaign to achieve the implementation of a better system of placement allocations for teachers and nurses based on their needs and commitments.
3. Evaluate the performance of the Co-Op office and explore acceptable and appropriate alternatives.

**Why should you be elected?** I should be elected because I have both the experience and the commitment to do this job justice. I'm approachable, organised and prepared for this job. I've spent the last two months talking to students to get an idea of the major problems affecting students in various faculties. I also guarantee that I will never stop fighting for changes that will make life here in UL better for students.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** I admit when I'm wrong - I don't believe I'm infallible and I will always take other peoples opinions on board. I have no problem confronting the faculty and staff on any issue, so long as it's in the best interest of the students. Probably most importantly Education would not just be a job because I care.



**Name:** Emma Kerins

**Position:** Education Officer

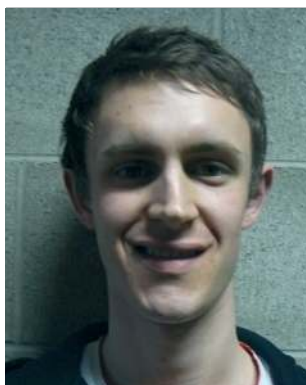
**Why are you running for election?** Students are being faced with many problems this year like no co-ops, fewer tutorials down to an economic recession. I'm running because I think that a fresh approach is needed to help students with their issues. I want to re-establish the link between students and the union.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Reterm the Class Reps system.
2. Sort out Co-Op related issues - find alternatives if no jobs available.
3. Campaign for proper long term investment into 3rd level education.

**Why should you be elected?** I understand how serious the issues are that are facing students and I think the way the union represents students need to be changed. I've been involved in clubs and socs since I started college and I've got a lot of experience in working with students and I think this experience will help me if elected on Education Officers.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** I have a lot of experience in clubs and societies since first year. I have a new idea on how to make class reps work better, how to solve problems with Co-op and also how to include all students in the Union. A lot needs to be changed so that students get better representation.



**Name:** Huw Thomas

**Position:** Education Officer

**Why are you running for election?** For the opportunity to ensure that all students have their voice heard on how they want to receive their education, and to deal with issues that affect them. I want to improve the way education should be provided at UL and deal with the issues outlined in my manifesto, which can be found at [www.votehuw.info](http://www.votehuw.info)

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. The entire print room. Online. For free.
2. Full wireless coverage in the library
3. Relevant co-op placement

**Why should you be elected?** I am a creative, hard-working and diligent person that will work around the clock to listen to you and deal quickly with your problems. I have experience of providing education within UL, having led tutorial groups for my course. I have worked to represent my class every year and have helped bring about changes in my department; I will do the same for yours.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** Most people do things by the book. I, on the other hand, am

very creative and like to positively change the way things are done. I am very good at problem-solving and do not rest until a job is well done.

## Position: Campaigns & Services Officer



**Name:** Darragh Bourke

**Position:** Campaigns and Services Officer

**Why are you running for election?**

I have a desire to improve the services offered to all students and I wish to improve the UL experience by promising students with absolutely top class entertainment whilst showing those who doubt the intellect of students that we will stand up and fight against fees.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Enhance the fight against fees.
2. Improvements to SU Shop including diversity of products including the establishment of an off licence.
3. Campaign to improve sponsorship of Clubs and Socs.

**Why should you be elected?** If elected, I personally guarantee students that the UL experience will be made fricking fantastic for those I represent. All on campus services will be expanded to the satisfaction of all students. Campaigns meanwhile will be enhanced to incorporate more media attention nationally and locally.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** As a business student, I have the relevant management skills to organise effective campaigns and to negotiate better on campus services and entertainment. Supplementary to this I also hold a campaigns and events management diploma which can show students that campaigns organised by me will show people that we mean business.



**Name:** Fergal Dempsey

**Position:** Campaigns and Services Officer

**Why are you running for election?** I wanna break the Students Union clique. I want to ensure all students know about every gig/event/campaign run by the union.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Getting a student ethos back on campus ie getting an off-license on campus.
2. Improve security, it's absolutely shocking at the moment, students pay for better.
3. Pimp out a limo that says fergalicious and give a life to people walking home alone to combat such terrible security.

**Why should you be elected?** I am the best person for the job. I would not run otherwise. I want to spend a year working for the students and helping them out, and making the union the "Students' Union" as above the door.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** I have an annoying ability not to stop until what people want is achieved - ask clubs and socs. I am a student and I think as students we deserve way better and I'll damn well get it.



**Name:** Michelle Lawlor

**Position:** Campaigns and Services Officer

**Why are you running for election?** I've been a student in UL for the past four years and I am familiar with its services. I've seen first hand what needs to be improved. I want to help improve the student experience on campus.

**What are the top three things you'd like to do if elected?**

1. Improve the car parking situation on campus.
2. Extend the Nitelink services.
3. Bigger, better ents crew for bigger better events!

**Why should you be elected?** I'm dedicated and hardworking. I've been a class rep and have experience dealing with problems and speaking on behalf of others. I enjoy meeting new people, I'm approachable and a good listener and I feel these qualities would benefit this role.

**What makes you stand out from other the candidates running for this position?** I'm very passionate about my work and if elected I will do everything in my power to ensure I meet the needs of students. I've very sociable and easy to approach... and I'm the only female!

# Plebiscite

## Plebiscite on Fees: Your opportunity to be heard

Eric Doyle

AS THE recession beds down for a long stay, the issue of the possible reintroduction of fees has been raised as a potential measure as the government seeks to plug the hole in its finances. The department has yet to officially declare either way on the issue. However, the smart money is that in April the Minister for Education, Batt O'Keefe will publicly announce their reintroduction, starting next semester.

At the recent Students' Union UGM, the issue of fees and their reintroduction was discussed at length, after which it was accepted that considering the importance of the issue and its potential fallout for students that all options should be up for debate. Out of this meeting came the idea of a referendum to be held in conjunction with Students' Union elections, wherein four options will be presented to vote on. The point is to allow for an informed debate to take place out of which a unified position can be taken, which has the democratic mandate of all of UL's students and that will allow us as students to engage productively with the government on this issue.

The referendum will work on a single transferrable vote basis; for those of you unfamiliar with this, basically it means we each will be voting according to preference. On the ballot sheet will be all the options, when casting your vote you will mark each option according to preference one to four, not unlike our current voting system

for national, local and European elections. The purpose of this is twofold. First it allows us to declare our personal choice on the matter, but crucially by ranking the options it also enables the SU to work off of a list of alternatives should our first preference fall. The logic of this is to ensure that we are not left out in the cold if the government rejects our first proposal out of hand. The likelihood of unilateral application of fees is quite high, so by having a list of viable alternatives, democratically chosen by students, we still have a platform from which to fight our case. It ensures the debate will not be stifled, giving the various student unions across the country the time to negotiate alternative schemes before implementation in September.

The following in no particular order are the options that will be presented at the referendum, starting with no fees (the 'I am opposed to alternatives to exchequer-funded third level tuition fees' option on the ballot), period. This effectively means that we as students are unwilling to advocate any form of funding for tuition fees outside of the exchequer. As of the UGM, this is the default position of the SU in UL. Unless mandated to do otherwise the SU is bound to no fees and will carry on lobbying for the continuation of said policy. This is the current situation and will remain unchanged.

The second option is a loan system, repayable at a future date, based on the future salary of each student reaching a certain level. This involves the creation of a binding agreement between the state and the student, committing the student to a repayment schedule, predicated on their earnings that will be enforceable internationally. That is to say should you leave the country upon graduation you will still be liable for the loan and the state will pursue your debt. It will be structured as follows:

- It will be available only to those currently qualifying for free fees.
- It will allow students to contribute directly to their own education, as soon as they are able to.
- Emigrants would be required to provide an equivalent P60 tax document from the authorities of their resident state to show their earnings which will be translated at year end exchange rates to the prevailing currency of the State. This will be stipulated in the contract.
- A graduate or student may redeem their loan (in full) at any time if they so wish.
- All funds are ring-fenced directly to the institution where a student attends and will be collected and administered by the government.

The next option is a graduate tax whereby all graduates pay a premium percentage of their wage for the entirety of their working life:

- This tax would be levied in the PAYE and Self-Assessment system. It ensures only those who graduate pay.
- It is not based on income levels, all graduates pay from time of graduation.

The final option will be a levy on all income earners, regardless of attending a 3rd level course (increase in general taxation). This will in effect simply be a charge on society as a whole for third level education.

Central to this is the need for the SU to get a complete sense of the student body's feelings on this issue. It is too important to take for granted and in turn is important that we all have our say. If you want to have your voice heard on this issue, this is your chance to do so. This referendum is going to decide how the Students' Union is going to approach the fees in the next few months, if you have concerns about it now is the opportunity to be heard.

### ULSU PLEBISCITE ON ALTERNATIVES TO EXCHEQUER-FUNDED THIRD LEVEL TUITION FEES

In light of the Irish Government's current refusal to rule out the reintroduction of privately funded third level tuition fees, please mark in order of your preference (with 1 being your most preferred and 4 being your least preferred) the following alternative methods of funding:

- A loan system, repayable at a future date, based on the future salary of each student reaching a certain level
- A graduate tax whereby all graduates pay a premium percentage of their wage for the entirety of their working life.
- A levy on all income earners, regardless of attending a third level course i.e. an increase in general taxation
- I am opposed to alternatives to exchequer-funded third level tuition fees.



# WEEK 2009

3.15	Tug of War	Courtyard	Break out the guns people.....that's muscular arms for anyone that hasn't seen Anchorman J Mmmmm, beans! It's a very big tin of beans and three different ways of eating them first to clear the plate wins.
3.30	Bean Eating Competition	Stables	One of your 5 a day! But it's a whole cucumber in a single sitting. Doesn't sound too tough just remember you have to swallow.....
3.45	Cucumber Eating Competition	Stables	This is an easy game that can be played with teams or individually. Start with a stocking cap that will cover the whole head of the contestant, pulling it down as far as possible and then take duct tape wrong side out from the bottom of the head all the way over the top and mummify the head (let them breathe of course!). Once the head is covered then draw a square on the carpet with duct tape and dump 100 plastic spoons on the ground, into the square. The contestant must use his taped head to pickup as many spoons as possible, getting them out of the square. The one with the most spoons is the winner!
4pm	Duct Tape Head	Stables	Lay out paper plates on a table and place one clean whistle on each plate. Cover each whistle with one scoop of whip cream. Each player runs to the table, bends over with hands behind their backs and has to find the whistle with their mouth. They are to position the whistle in their mouth and the first to blow the whistle is the winner!
4.15	Creamed Whistle	Stables	Line the youth up into 2 or more team lines a few feet from a table and have each team send one person at a time up to the table where the paper bags and soda bottles are. Without looking in their assigned bags they are to pull out one smooshy item. As fast as they can, they are to smoosh whatever they pull out of the bag into the tiny opening of the plastic soda bottle. When they finished, "with the approval of the table judge", have them run back to the line and switch with another team mate. The nastier and messier the product the more fun it is! Inventive creations encouraged!!!!
4.30	Cola Bottle Shove	Stables	

**ONLY BY THE NIGHT.....**

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
7.30	Derek Warefield	Stables Courtyard and the Young Wolfe Tones	We hare honoured to have Derek Warefield and his crew to kick off the session on the Wednesday night. Led by the founding member of the legendary Wolfe Tones, Derek Warefield has been on the scene as a singer, a songwriter and an ambassador of musical tradition for nigh on 42 years. His love of the Irish music tradition led him to assemble the Young Wolfe Tones to continue the legacy of some of Ireland's finest young musicians. Derek and the fantastic four are seriously no to be missed! It's good to be Irish! Declan McLaughlin aka Decky Hedrock, Gary Curran, and Gareth Donoghue are the Northern Ireland guys that make up The Japanese Popstars. Having built up a sizable live following before releasing their first major single, they put on one hell of an electric sound that really gets blood pumping. Escaping every genre, only you can decide where their sound lies – trinity rooms will be alive!
10.30	Japanese Popstars	Trinity Rooms	

**.....AND ROUNDED OFF BY THE EAGERLY ANTICIPATED RAG BALL ON THURSDAY! TAKING A BREAK FORM THE DAY-TIME STUFF, IT ALL STARTS @ 3PM.....THE BIG STAGE IN THE COURTYARD IS BACK!!!!**

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
3pm	Baby Jenx	Big Stage	Named after a character in Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles, Baby Jenx was born in the summer of 2005. Their first demo was chosen as Hot Press magazine's 'Demo of the Fortnight' by none other than Jackie Hayden (the former CBS boss, known for giving U2 their first record deal) and are currently in studio recording their debut album proper. Entitled "Trial By Fire" it will be released early 2009.
3pm	Music Soc	Stables Courtyard	UL's finest, here to entertain you!

4pm	Walter Mitty The Realists	Big Stage	The band formed in the late months of 2006, and hailing from Limerick and Galway are steadily becoming one of Ireland's best-known live acts. Fans of the likes of Dirty Pretty Things, The Rapture and The Dead 60s will adore them but in fairness, these guys would entertain anyone. Energetic to the very last, Walter Mitty and The Realists don't stop for even a second once they hit the stage. They were also one of the talented four acts to reach the final of Indie Week 2008. Currently in the studio with Fergal Lawler of the Cranberries, Walter and the crew hope to have their debut CD in the spring of 2009.
5pm	Vesta Varo	Big Stage	Winners of Indie Week 2007 and named 'Best Band' at the prestigious 'Indie Week' festival in Toronto, the 'Best New Musical Artist' at the MAMCA awards and "ones to watch" by the NME, Vesta Varo are a real treat. They've supported the likes of Editors, BellX1, The Frames, The Thrills, Damien Dempsey, Republic Of Loose, Sultans of Ping and The Wonderstuff. They also appeared at the Bud Rising Festival and O2 Wireless Festival. Yep, they're good!
6.30	Dirty Epics	The Big Stage	Co. Wicklow is where this four piece alternative rock band has their base camp. Dirty Epics have performed at numerous festivals, which include and Oxegen '07 and '08, Solas Festival, and have appeared on Miss Ireland and RTE 2's The Café. If we had to compare, names like The Gossip, The Subways and A Romance Thesis come to mind.
8pm	Arveene	The Big Stage	Arveene Juthan has quite a healthy portfolio – top clubs in both Dublin and London, opening on more than one occasion for The Prodigy and working with the likes of Calvin Harris, this guy is the business! From the age of sixteen, Arveene has been working his way up the ladder of success, and will be here on the Thursday night to light up the big stage!
8pm	Headphones Disco	Stables	Is there anything more strange and wonderful – we think not! Mucho fun J
9pm	The Blizzards	The Big Stage	Headlining the night, Niall Breslin and the boys round of rag week that will have every inch of the SU Courtyard failing miserably to sing in tune as the join in with hits like "Fantasy", "Trouble" and "Trust me I'm a Doctor". The fivesome from Westmeath have close to double platinum album sales in the bag, along with support slots with Kasabian and Kaiser Chiefs, not to mention a Meteor win for Best Live Act. Four years down the line, that's one impressive ride to the top! The Blizzards rocked the campus at Freshers Week 2008 in the Stables Courtyard – imagine what they can do on a bigger stage!

**THAT FRIDAY FEELING!! FOR ALL THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE.....AND THOSE THAT REFUSE TO GIVE UP AND GO HOME!**

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT IS IT?
Time is an illusion	The RAG Week Wrap Party	Stables	What better way to celebrate a week-long session.....than another party!!!!

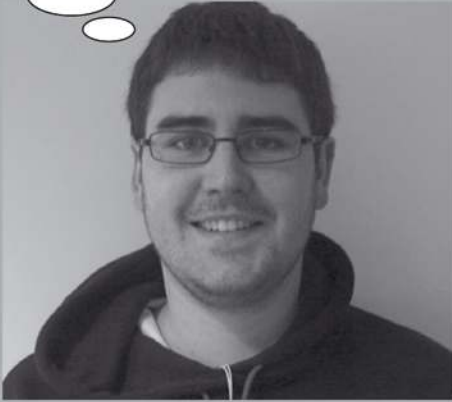
**WANT TO SEE A LITTLE TASTER BEFOREHAND??**

- Here are the ways and means of having a peep at the Rag Week acts.....just a hop, skip and a click away to realising that recession or not, you made a sound investment in buying your ticket!!!!
- Check out FRED on [www.fredtheband.com](http://www.fredtheband.com) or [www.bebo.com/fredtheband](http://www.bebo.com/fredtheband) and to see a taster of a live performance go to [www.indielimerick.blogspot.com/2009/02/fred-live-at-belltable-unfringed.html](http://www.indielimerick.blogspot.com/2009/02/fred-live-at-belltable-unfringed.html)
- Check out Rubber Bandits on [www.trinityrooms.ie](http://www.trinityrooms.ie)
- Check out DJ Sash! on [www.sashworld.com](http://www.sashworld.com)
- Check out Hells Bells on [www.hellsbells.info](http://www.hellsbells.info) or [www.myspace.com/hellsbellsrocks](http://www.myspace.com/hellsbellsrocks)
- Check out Derek Warefield and The Wolfe Tones on [www.derekwarefield.com](http://www.derekwarefield.com) and [www.theyoungwolfezones.com](http://www.theyoungwolfezones.com)
- Check out the Japanese Popstars on [www.myspace.com/thejapanesepopstars](http://www.myspace.com/thejapanesepopstars)
- Check out Baby Jenx on [www.myspace.com/babyjenksmusic](http://www.myspace.com/babyjenksmusic), [www.muzu.tv/babyjenx](http://www.muzu.tv/babyjenx) or [www.youtube.com/user/isand84](http://www.youtube.com/user/isand84)
- Check out Walter Mitty and the Realists on [www.myspace.com/waltermittyandtherealists](http://www.myspace.com/waltermittyandtherealists)
- Check out Vesta Varo on <http://www.myspace.com/vestavarro>
- Check out Dirty Epics on <http://www.dirtyepics.com/>
- Check out Arveene on <http://www.myspace.com/arveenej>
- Check out The Blizzards on <http://www.theblizzards.ie/> or [www.bebo.com/theblizzards](http://www.bebo.com/theblizzards)

# Student Speak

## With the race against fees on, we go on campus to see what UL students would like as alternatives...

Alan O'Sullivan  
2nd Year Business  
There are no alternatives to fees!!



Chris Ryan  
1st year Electronic Engineering  
Chocolate!



Eoghan O'Shea  
1st Year Mechanical Engineering  
The Rag Ball – But it's too close to exams for me!



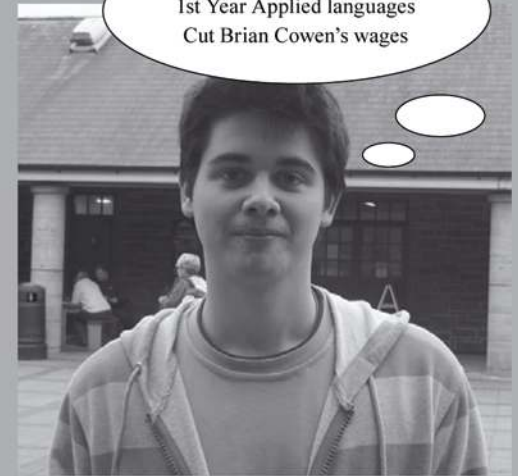
Ide Curtin  
1st Year Industrial Biochemistry  
I'd rather there aren't any!



Lorraine Breen  
1st Year Mental Health Nursing  
An education!



Niall Curry  
1st Year Applied languages  
Cut Brian Cowen's wages



Richard Teahan  
2nd Year Psychology and Sociology  
A better grant system!



Sean Mooney  
1st Year Multimedia and Games  
Vodka!



Tom Kehoe  
1st Year Wood Science  
I love lamp



# An Focal

University of Limerick  
 Students' Union  
 University of Limerick, Plassey, Co Limerick  
 Volume XVII, Issue 12  
 Tuesday, 24 March, 2009

Letters to the editor (Aoife Breen, 2008/09) may be sent to the above address or alternative may be emailed to editor@ulsu.ie. Please note that submission of a letter does not guarantee publication, but you never know, you may be lucky. Recycle An Focal (and all waste paper) in blue skips located at the rear of your building.



# Just one vote

With the election campaigns now in full swing, the time is approaching for you, the voter, to make your choice as to whom you would like to represent you for the coming academic year. On Thursday, take five minutes of your time to cast your ballot in one of the six polling stations across the campus. By taking the time to express your preference, make it so that you have the right to hold next year's team of sabbatical officer accountable for their actions. Take the time to number the candidates in order of your preference so that next year you can be safe in the knowledge that you had a part in putting them into the positions that they're in and therefore earn yourself the right to question who is representing you. By giving five minutes of your time on Thursday you will have a say in what happens to your campus next year. Take a few moments this week to stop and look beyond the dazzling colours of the candidates' posters. It's a week to capitalise on all the freebies as monstrous campaign teams roam the campus dishing out lollipops and sweets for your number one preference. Take them; take them from all the candidates but give back your number one to your preferred candidate as well. With a number of candidates running for the positions, every single vote will count and will make a difference. Positions will be

won – or lost – on transfer votes. So when you've decided who your number one is, mark down your number two, your number three and so on. This will matter. Your vote matters. Polling starts at 8am in the Students' Union photocopying room. At 9am, you can also cast your vote in the main canteen in the B-block, in the Schuman building foyer, in the library foyer, in Drumroe Village Hall and in the Health Sciences Building. You might not have an interest in the Students' Union, nor might you even care who's running for election, but make sure you cast your vote so that whoever does have an interest in the SU is the person you want to care on your behalf. These are the people who will sit on University committees and argue on your behalf. These are the same people who will make decisions for you. These people will organise ents for the coming year. Part of your registration fee at the start of the year goes to the Students' Union and pays their wages. Make sure that come Thursday you know where your money is going and on whom it is being spent. On Thursday, take five minutes of your time to cast your ballot in one of the six polling stations across the campus. Just one vote could make all the difference. That could be your vote.

## Pa's Propaganda

Hey what's the craic? Well I hope everyone's looking forward to Rag Week. It looks to be a great week with some savage day time activities (Ted-Fest Tuesday including Ted Quiz, Lovely Girls, and A Song for Europe!), I'm a bit of a Ted fanatic to be honest, and some great gigs like the Wolfe Tones, Japanese Popstars and the big gig on Thursday, look out for Dirty Epics at that one they're great.

I would encourage anyone who hasn't signed up to do something for charity to do so and let's raise some money. You can do whatever you like as long as you run it by us so any ideas still welcome. Alternatively if you buy a ticket to a gig you are donating as well with all money raised going to our four selected charities.

I hope people are happy with the line-up. Most people I've spoken to like different acts and dislike others, i.e Wolfe Tones fans generally wouldn't listen to Japanese Popstars, but this is what we were going for.

There's definitely something there for everyone. People have asked me why we couldn't get Snow Patrol or The Script. Well the same reason we can't get U2 really, they cost too much and don't wanna play Rag

Weeks anymore! We are looking into running the kind of gig where we could attract an act like that but we would be talking costs of probably €50,000 so we need to find the right venue and act before we can risk Student money like that. Look out for September!

The other thing I would say is try not to go too crazy during the Rag Week. The Gardaí will be out fining people for public drinking and public order offences. They are operating zero tolerance this year due to what has been happening nationally. We don't want anyone's week ruined by fines or court appearances so don't go there. Also have some consideration for your neighbours with children and elderly people especially.

This week also sees the election of a new team for the SU. They will take office in June so I will be representing you until then and don't worry I'm not going to take it easy until then or anything! The last couple of weeks will be spent training in the new guy/girl who replaces me so that should be fun. I just want to wish all the candidates well it should be a mental but memorable week for you all,

All the best,  
 Pa



With job opportunities at an all time low, the Students' Union doesn't seem so bad anymore. Cartoon by Larissa Mirtschink

## The Advice Bureau

# Education In Focus

## Essays & Presentations

Eamonn Gardiner - Education Officer

It's after coming to the time of semester again when essays and presentations need to be submitted. All those weeks ago in week 1 you thought week 8 was this magical place that would never come and as happens most students it has a nasty habit of just creeping up on you! But the end is not nigh! There is light at the end of the tunnel and it's not the headlights of the train coming at you. Essays need not destroy your life; they're not fun either, but they are manageable.

The object of this article is to give you some semblance of understanding about how to approach an essay, how to reference it correctly, how to build up your bibliography and how to effectively construct your argument.

All writing is describing something that has happened (or will happen) and then analyse that event and break it down into its component parts for you. My first paragraph in this article can be taken as my introduction. An introduction should ideally be written last after you have written your main essay and drawn your conclusion.

It should reflect what will be said in the body of the essay and should provide the reader with a brief overview of the subjects about which you will be talking. It should explain and outline your arguments in relation to the essay question and it should tell the reader how you will be answering the questions asked of you.

The main body of your text should be written in a fashion resembling the human body. Each paragraph will deal with a single point in itself, in a fashion similar to limbs. Each will be self contained, but will relate to the overall thematic question and will contribute to the final question. The limbs join the torso and the head completes the body. Each paragraph should link into the one that goes after it like a chain. This will give the reader a sense of achievement; as he/she reads the essay, they are able to deal with questions which are answered on their way and thus reconciled from the main problem. Eventually at the end of the essay all the major aspects of the question should have been answered as part of the larger question.

Your summary should reflect this and should summarise the core points of each paragraph/section of the essay. This has the effect of drawing together the entire project and finishes it off nicely. The conclusion is a short paragraph which takes the initial essay question and answers it with the abbreviated points from the summary. The essay is usually finished with an affirmation or disaffirmation (yes or no) to the original question.

Marks in essays usually go for the substantive work, for advancing the problem one step. Your analysis of the question and your answer (advancing the question one step) should demonstrate that you are familiar with the area and able to give an effective commentary on the topic. This demonstrates to the person marking your essay that you know what you're talking about, that your conclusions are worthwhile and logical answers to the problems and that you have constructed a reasoned argument for/against the question.

For presentations it is a little harder. Presentations are spoken essays; you will have to read them out in front of your class. If you're nervous then just focus on the page and don't stop talking! If you're comfortable with public speaking then go for the bonus points! Have a short slideshow to enhance the experience for the class. A few bullet points per page should be enough, with a few pictures (where available) applicable to your presentation go down well. Practice speaking your presentation. Take note of how long this takes you and where there is potential for getting caught up in places.

Have all your work checked by your friends for spelling before you submit it!

# Show me the money!

## Tax relief on medical expenses

### What is it and how much is it?

Tax relief for medical expenses is money you can claim back at the end of the tax year for money spent on particular medical procedures, equipment and treatment. Relief is given by way of repayment at the end of the year. Since 1 January 2005, the time limit on claims for repayment of tax is four years.

Twenty per cent of certain medical expenses incurred in any one year can be claimed back so long as they are not covered by the State (HSE or local authority), by private health insurance or by any other source e.g. compensation. These certain medical expenses include the following although this list is not exhaustive;

- Costs of doctors and consultants fees
- Items or treatments prescribed by a doctor or consultant
- Maintenance or treatment in a hospital or an approved nursing home
- Costs of speech and language therapy carried out by a speech and language therapist for a qualifying child
- Transport by ambulance
- Costs of educational psychological assessments carried out by an educational psychologist for a qualifying child
- Kidney patients' expenses (up to a maximum amount depending on whether the patient uses hospital dialysis, home dialysis or CAPD)

In addition if the following are prescribed by a doctor, they also qualify for medical expenses relief;

- Specialised dental treatment
- Routine maternity care
- In-vitro fertilisation
- Drugs and medicines
- Diagnostic procedures
- Orthotic or similar treatment
- Hearing aids
- Orthopedic bed or chair
- Wheelchair or wheelchair lift
- Glucometer machine for a diabetic
- Engaging a qualified nurse in the case of a serious illness
- Physiotherapy, chiropody/podiatry services or similar treatment
- Cost of gluten-free food for coeliacs. As this condition is generally ongoing, a letter (instead of prescriptions) from a doctor stating that the individual is a coeliac sufferer is acceptable. Receipts from supermarkets in addition to receipts from chemists are acceptable.

Although you cannot get tax relief for routine ophthalmic and dental care, which covers sight testing, provision and maintenance of glasses, contact lenses, extractions, scaling and filling of teeth and provision and repairing of artificial teeth and dentures. The dental treatments do qualify for tax relief:

- Crowns
- Veneers/Rembrandt Type Etched Fillings
- Tip Replacing
- Gold Posts
- Gold Inlays
- Endodontics - Root Canal Treatment
- Periodontal Treatment
- Orthodontic Treatment
- Surgical Extraction of Impacted Wisdom Teeth when it is undertaken in hospital.
- Bridgework
- Dental Implants

Where qualifying health care is only available outside Ireland, you can also claim reasonable travelling and accommodation expenses. In such cases the expenses of one person accompanying the patient may also be allowed where the condition of the patient requires it.

**Who is eligible?** As always terms and conditions apply...

There is no limit on who you can claim for no longer apply for claims for the 2007 tax year onwards.

However if you are claiming for the 2007 tax year you may claim tax relief on medical expenses you pay for yourself and on behalf of any other person for example your spouse or your own child (or any other child of whom you have custody and you maintain at your own expense) under 18 years of age, or if over 18 years is receiving full-time education. You may also claim for any other person who is a relative of yours or your spouse who is incapacitated by old age or infirmity from maintaining himself or herself, your widowed mother or father (or that of your spouse) whether or not they are incapacitated, or your son or daughter who resides with you and on whose services you must depend due to old age and infirmity.

Claims up to and including the 2006 tax year you must have spent €125 (claiming for one person) or €250 (claiming for more than one person) on health expenses before you qualify for tax relief. This means you do not get relief on the first €125 or €250 spent in 2006 or previous years.

### How, when and where to apply?

Medical form MED 1 is used to claim tax relief on all general medical expenses (including dental expenses). You can only claim for medical expenses if you have receipts to prove your claim. However you do not need send your medical receipts with your form; but you must keep your

medical receipts for six years because Revenue may investigate your claim. A medical form MED2 is a receipt to prove your dental expenses. Your dentist will normally have a supply of MED 2 forms and should complete it for you.

You can request these forms by using your mobile by sending a text message to 51829. Text the word 'FORM' followed by your PPS number and either 'MEDI' (or 'MED2', if you need to provide your dentist with the form). For more information please contact the welfare officer, Citizen's Information or your local Department of Social Welfare office.

## Let's talk about sex baby!

An Focal sex columnist Annie Glyde-Dammes

Since my column two weeks ago I've obsessed with the taste of sex (no pun intended). Well, that and the fact that a friend suggested food and sex as a possible topic when I was running low on ideas...Anyway, I thought it might be fun to do an article on the many uses of food in sex and do a bit of poll about the foodstuffs that people most enjoy using during sex and why;

Personally I'm a big fan of food and sex combined. For starters, it combines two of my favourite things and second of all, it makes sex more relaxed and fun and a bit more of a laugh.

The most popular answer seemed to be strawberries and cream. The reason: "because it's nice..." Ok, so the reasoning isn't the most convincing, but the suggestion is still the most common and apparently the best.

### So on to the rest;

1. Cinnamon: "because it makes everything hotter and more sensitive." I'm not sure how it would work for me because I hate cinnamon but for those of you who don't, give it a shot!

2. Champagne: "because it makes me feel like a high class hooker." Ok, bearing in mind that we're all students maybe sparkling wine might be a bit more appropriate. But from what I've heard it seems to be a favourite amongst those who enjoy the feeling of the bubbles.

3. Ice: "because he says it feels like two tongues instead of one!" Don't knock it until you try it - it's cheap, cheerful and just a little bit naughty.

4. Chocolate sauce: "because I'd lick it from anywhere." Ok, before any of you run off and go melting chocolate we're talking about cold chocolate syrup - freshly-melted chocolate burns!

5. Marshmallows: "it's like a body Treasure Hunt!" Ok, I can only think of one or two places that one can hide a marshmallow. I figure that would be a pretty short treasure hunt.

6. "I don't like to use food or drink - it's such a waste, I'd prefer eat it." Well that's the point, except in this case you eat it off somebody else as opposed to a plate.

7. Tabasco sauce: "It warms it up and it hurts just the right amount." Hey, look, I never said the people that I talked to for this were normal or functioning members of society!

In conclusion, get your ass into gear and start rooting around in your fridge for something new and interesting to use...You never know what you might discover!

## STIs Uncovered: Pubic Lice (crabs)

### Description:

They are tiny insects, like head lice, that live in pubic or body hair.

### Effects:

The itching will continue and get worse. You can pass it on to your sexual partner(s).

### Cause:

Close body contact with an infected person. Rarely, infected bed linen or clothes may pass on the lice.

### Symptoms:

Itching in your pubic hair. You may be able to see the lice.

### Treatment:

It can be treated with creams and lotions - for you and your partner(s). You can buy these at a chemist, however, you should also have a full STI check.

### Prevention:

Don't have intimate sexual contact. Using condom may not protect you against pubic lice

# Keeping within the law for Rag Week

**With Rag Week looming on the horizon, make sure you stay out of trouble and keep within the law and within the University's code of conduct. Remember, if you're caught breaking the rules the consequences could rule out any fun you might have had. Reprinted below are the relevant parts of the Code of Conduct and laws that you don't want to break.**

## Knowing The Law

The law on public order offences in Ireland is mainly set down in the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994. This legislation deals with the behavior of people in public places in Ireland and provides for various controls to be exercised at public events.

For the purposes of the law in Ireland, a 'public place' includes roads, public parks or recreational areas, cemeteries, churchyards, trains, buses and other public transport vehicles.

In the case of most of the offences under this Act, if a Garda suspects you of being involved, you are obliged to give your name and address if asked. In fact, it is an offence if you fail to do so. You may be arrested without warrant if you fail to give your name and address. You are liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €1,000 for that offence. You may be arrested without warrant if the Garda suspects you of having committed one of these offences.

### Intoxication (being drunk) in a public place

Section 4 of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 deals with the offence of being intoxicated (that is, drunk) in a public place. While the maximum fine for being intoxicated in a public place in Ireland is €500, the section gives the Gardai the power to seize the intoxicating substance (normally, the alcohol) where they suspect that an offence of being intoxicated in a public place is being committed.

### Disorderly conduct in a public place

This offence is concerned with what is described as "offensive conduct".

Section 5(i) of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 makes it an offence for anyone in a public place to engage in offensive conduct:

- Between the hours of 12 o'clock midnight and 7 o'clock in the morning next following; or
- At any time, after having been requested by a member of An Garda Siochana to desist.

Offensive conduct is unreasonable behaviour which (having regard to the circumstances), is likely to cause serious offence or serious annoyance to other people. The penalty for this offence is €1,000.

A typical example of this offence would be people shouting late at night having left nightclubs where this would cause serious annoyance to local residents.

### Threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour in a public place

Section 6 of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 makes it an offence for any person in a public place to use threatening, abusive or

insulting words or behaviour with the intention of causing a breach of the peace. A typical example of this would be where a person, by their words or actions, was likely to cause a fight with the person or persons they were insulting. It would also cover the situation where groups of youths were looking for trouble by their threatening behaviour towards other people. Again, the Garda may confiscate alcohol.

Any person found guilty of this offence can be fined to a maximum of €1,000 and to a person sentence of 3 months maximum.

Failure to comply with the direction of a member of An Garda Siochana

Section 8 of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 was designed to create an offence of failure to comply with a direction from a member of the Gardai to desist (or stop) from such conduct in circumstances where the Garda concerned has a reasonable apprehension (or fear) for the safety of persons or property or for the maintenance of the public peace. The section represents a sensible approach where people are acting contrary to section 4, 5 or 6 (above) and the Gardai are of the view that to simply nip in the bud the potential trouble they can direct such people simply "move on" without having to apply the full force of the criminal law through arresting, charging and bringing before the courts such people.

Any person convicted of this offence is liable to a fine not exceeding €1,000 and or to a maximum term of 6 months in prison or both.

### Limerick bye-law

There is also a new system in place here in Limerick whereby persons found consuming alcohol in public places will be liable for a fixed penalty/ on the spot fine of €75.

# University Code of Conduct

## University Code of Conduct

### SECTION 1 - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1.2 Members of the Campus Community shall:

1. Not engage in any conduct liable to or calculated to infringe the rights or lawful activities of others on the University Campus or otherwise engage in any activity calculated or likely to bring the University into disrepute, whether on the University property or otherwise.
2. Treat all property of or on the University Campus with respect and shall not cause any damage to any such property.
3. Not enter any property or facilities (including electronic access to computer facilities) on the University Campus entry to which is either not authorised or is prohibited.

For the purpose of this Code of Conduct, the University of Limerick and the University Campus shall be deemed to mean all property occupied or under the control of the University of Limerick including, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Student Villages.

1.2.1 It shall be an offence to engage in any act or conduct contrary to the matters set out above.

1.4 Without prejudice to the matters herein before set out it shall be an offence, which shall be deemed a Major Offence by any member of the Campus Community to:

- (a) Assault or abuse physically or verbally any other member of the Campus Community or any other person on the University

Campus.

- (b) Bully or harass, sexually or otherwise, any other member of the Campus Community or any other person on the University Campus.
- (c) Misuse University property or the property of any other member of the Campus Community or occupied or used by them or any property of any employer occupied or used while on cooperative education placement or teaching practice or practice placement or research or student exchange programme or other off campus assignment which is part of a programme of study.
- (e) Engage in conduct likely to bring the University into disrepute.
- (g) Use or possess any offensive weapon.
- (n) Drive any vehicle on the University Campus in a manner which constitutes a danger to others.
- (p) Cause damage to any property in excess of 10% of the annual fee for First Year Arts
- (q) Abuse the use of alcohol so as to be incapable of exercising reasonable control over his or her behaviour.
- (r) Use or be in possession of or deal in any substance the use or possession of which is prohibited by law.

- 1.5 It shall also be an offence which shall be deemed a Minor Offence by any member of the Campus Community to:

- (a) Litter the University environment.
- (b) Engage in disorderly conduct on or off campus.
- (c) Smoke in any areas other than those designated as smoking areas.
- (d) Eat and/or drink in areas where eating and drinking are specifically prohibited.
- (e) Consume alcohol at any time in any area of the University Campus other than licensed premises or student accommodation, except for special circumstances approved in advance by the President of the University or his or her nominee.
- (f) Cause damage to any property less than or equal to 10% of the annual fee for First Year Arts replacement cost.
- (g) Be in or enter off-limit areas without authorisation.
- (h) Steal or remove or use without authority any item of property (including computer software/hardware) less than or equal to 10% of the annual fee for First Year Arts in value.
- (i) Fail to vacate any area or fail to go to any area when lawfully requested so to do in circumstances which endanger life or property.
- (j) Fail to identify oneself on request when properly and lawfully requested to do so.
- (k) Any complaint under Section 1.4 which has been considered by the University Advocate as a minor offence.

For the purposes of this code any member of the staff of the University or authorised person shall, subject to identifying him/herself, be entitled where he/she has reasonable grounds for believing that a breach or an offence under this Code has been committed to require any member of the Campus Community to identify him/herself and to require to be produced to him/her the said persons' identification card, and it shall be an offence for such member of the Campus Community to fail or refuse to furnish such identification.

# Clubs & Societies Ball 2009

photos by Sharon Brosnan





# Sport

## UCC land Fitzgibbon as UL disappoint

Tomás McCarthy reports from Parnell Park

*UCC 2-17  
UL 0-14*

KEVIN HARTNETT lifted the Ulster Bank Fitzgibbon Cup for UCC's fortieth title after comfortably defeating UL under the lights at Parnell Park on Saturday, 7 March. Their victory on the night was well merited as UL failed to find the kind of form which got them to this stage. UL's short passing game never got going as UCC closed down the space and were also very accurate in the forward line. UL also failed to use the wind to their advantage in the first period and with UCC leading at the break it was always going to be a tough task. The Cork side also had momentum from Friday after defeating the champions WIT and were clearly the more confident and composed side throughout the hour.

The game opened in lively fashion. Shane Burke had the first score on 2 minutes but Alan Egan quickly responded for UL. That was the pattern for much of the half with the sides exchanging scores. Some of the score taking was spectacular.

Matt Ruth and Seamus Hickey had good early points for UL but Stephen Moylan and John Mulhall were also hitting over eye catching scores. The sides were level four points apiece after ten minutes but after that UCC had the edge. The two Kilkenny men Matt Ruth and Martin Walsh were hurling well for UL though and Ruth fired over his second to narrow the gap 0-6 to 0-5. Sean Ryan was also making his presence felt at wing forward and he set up Alan Egan for a goal chance that

was snuffed out by keeper Anthony Nash.

UCC controlled the remainder of the half as UL didn't score after Tom Stapleton's 20th minute free. The UL full forward line were starved of possession as Joe Jordan and his half back colleagues prevented any ball going inside.

John Mulhall at full forward was also winning his duel with Kieran Joyce and he added two points to his tally. The best of these was just before half time when he picked up the ball in midfield darted through the UL backs and clipped it over the bar. UCC lead 0-10 to 0-6 at the small whistle and were playing into the scoreboard end with the breeze in the second half.

Within seconds of the restart the destination of the Fitzgibbon Cup was put beyond doubt. Bill Beckett delivered the ball into corner forward Tadhg Og Murphy who appeared to be fouled for a penalty but the sliothar fell to Mulhall who pulled low to the net.

This was only 24 seconds into the half and UL's chances were completely shattered minutes later.

This time Tadhg Og Murphy rounded his marker Brian Fox before firing to the corner of the net from a narrow angle. At ten points down the game was effectively over. UL brought on Dylan Hayden and Shane O'Brien and mid way through the half they started to fight back. Points from Gleeson, Ruth and Carroll suddenly gave UL fans something to cheer about.

The idea of a comeback though was never on the cards as UCC clinically saw the game out. Their hunger on the night was something which UL couldn't cope with.

Shane Burke, Brian O'Sullivan and Moylan all had points and with Ritchie Foley landing a stunning effort the game was dead long before

the finish. Substitute David Burke, Carroll and Gleeson scored consolation points before Barry Kelly blew full time as UCC celebrated victory.

UCC's Joe Jordan was awarded Man of the match after a thundering display at wing back. The Rebel outfit had heroes all over the pitch with Kevin Hartnett, Shane Burke and John Mulhall also impressing. Best on the night for UL were Martin Walsh, Michael Gleeson, Sean Ryan and Matt Ruth. This is one final though which UL will rather forget as the players and management will wonder how it all went wrong.

*UCC -- A Nash, S O'Neill, D McSweeney, C O'Sullivan, J Jordan, K Hartnett, R Foley (0-1), B O'Sullivan (0-2), M Cahill (0-1), S Burke (0-3), B Beckett, D Hanley (0-1), T Og Murphy (1-1), J Mulhall (1-3), S Moylan (0-4 2f). Subs: E Martin (0-1) for Hanley (50), D Browne for Cahill (55), W Kearney for C O'Sullivan (56), M Grace for Burke (58), C O'Driscoll for McSweeney (59).*

*UL -- P McCormack, B Fox, K Joyce, M Verney, JB McCarthy, T Stapleton (0-1f), M Walsh, S Hickey (0-1), M Gleeson (0-2), S Ryan (0-1), R O'Dwyer, J Greene, B Carroll (0-3 1f), M Ruth (0-4), A Egan (0-1). Subs: N O Murchu for Greene (35), S O'Brien for Fox (37), D Hayden for Stapleton (42), D Burke (0-1) for O'Dwyer (52), K Lannigan for Egan (56).*

*Ref -- B Kelly (Westmeath).*

## UL Ladies soccer retain intervarsity title

Tomás McCarthy

The UL Ladies soccer team overcame IT Sligo to make it two intervarsity titles in a row at Milebush Park, Castlebar on March 7. UL once again outclassed the opposition in a competition that they have dominated in the last couple of years. It is their fourth intervarsity triumph in six years.

UL were drawn in Group D alongside DCU and Tralee IT.

Their campaign began on the Thursday against Tralee IT. A 1-0 win was claimed here for the UL ladies as they got off to a winning start. Later on in the day DCU were the opposition. Despite only playing a couple of hours earlier UL showed no signs of fatigue. A comprehensive 5-0 victory sealed a spot in the semi finals.

Friday saw UL and UUJ meet

in the last four. UUJ had one win and a draw from their two previous encounters. The UL ladies again had too much for the northern outfit. Another clean sheet and a 2-0 win saw UL qualify for another final. Their opponents would be Sligo IT who defeated Athlone 3-0 in their semi final clash.

UL made the ideal start on the big day at the Mayo venue. Niamh

Mulcahy opened the scoring on 25 minutes with a long range strike. Sligo responded seven minutes before half time. Patricia Coyle was on hand to level affairs and it was game on once again. This led to tense and close second period. On the hour mark Kacey O'Driscoll was on hand to score after Sligo goalkeeper Tina Hughes produced a save. It proved to be the winner as the UL defence

held firm in the closing minutes. This included impressive UL keeper Laoise O'Driscoll making a vital save. In the end UL were worthy champions and it completes a remarkable year for this incredibly talented team.

After winning the Futsal indoor competition last semester UL have completed the clean sweep this term. The Premier League title was claimed in late February

as UL ended up eleven points clear of second placed UCC. Lynsey McKey won the golden boot award. Laoise O'Driscoll, Siobhan O'Sullivan, Niamh Mulcahy, Sarah Considine, Kacey O'Driscoll and McKey were all named on the All Star team. Now thanks to O'Driscoll's player of the match performance the UL Ladies soccer team can celebrate yet another success.

## Club

# UL's path to premier glory

Tomás McCarthy

UL'S ROUTE to a historic first league title began in October in Limerick and finished in style under the lights of Terryland Park in Galway. Throughout the journey they maintained a remarkable consistency which is the hallmark of champions.

Waterford IT were first on the agenda in the Premier South on October 15. Paul Cummins was on the mark for UL as they began their campaign with a 1-1 draw. The following week, again in Limerick, Cork IT were in for a major shock to the system. Incredibly UL ran out winners on a score line of 13-1.

Martin Deady found the net four times, Chimka fired a hat trick, Quill and O'Shea got two as Daly and Paul Walsh also got in on the act.

UL sent out a serious message with that display of firepower. Another Cork side were put the sword in early November. Colaiste Stiofan Naofa were the victims this time as UL recorded a 4-0 away win. Paul Cummins was on the score sheet twice as was Colin O'Shea. Another trip to Leaside a week later yielded a 0-0 draw in Bishopstown with UCC.

The final Premier South tie against IT Tralee saw UL bang in the goals once again. Two from Paul Cummins

and one each from Paul Walsh, Paul Danaher and Brendan Daly ensured a 5-0 win and a place in the quarter finals.

The New Year however, saw a major change for the team. UL manger Trevor Lovell departed to a new coaching position in South Africa. Conor Molan was the man chosen to steer this UL team to glory.

January 29 saw UL face IT Tallaght in the quarters at Fairview Rangers in Molan's first test as manager. A free kick from first year Martin Deady earned a 1-0 triumph gave Molan the best possible start. The semi final against UCD was always going to be tough and that's how it proved to be. It took extra time to separate the sides at the Salthill Devon venue. Bobby Tier in the end proved to be the hero to send UL to the final in Terryland.

Of course we all know what happened in Terryland as the firepower of John Tierney and Paul Cummins came to forefront to make history.

The Colleges and Universities Premier League title is by no means an easy title to win and by going unbeaten in the whole campaign UL have shown that they are more than worthy winners. The players, manager Conor Molan and everyone involved deserve great credit.

## UL Taekwondo Club Hosts AIAA '09 Munster Championships

Simon McNamara

The competition was held in the sports hall of the PESS building, on Saturday, 28 February. Competitors from all over Ireland came to take part in the event; some members of the AIAA association even came from Scotland to attend the event. Ages of participants ranged from as young as five years of age, all the way up to 18+ age divisions.

The age divisions were then broken down into belt categories ranging from white to green belt, blue to low brown, high brown to high red, and black belt divisions. All age and belt divisions were split into male and female bouts.

The events scheduled for the day were sparring, breaking, and high kick. The competition started off at half eleven that morning with sparring in the black belt divisions both male and female. After this the competition moved on to black belt breaking and high kick. The sparring divisions took place in descending order from the black belts to the lower grades throughout the day.

The last event of the day was the over eighteens lower grade sparring and breaking.

The competition overall was a great success for the club, there was a great turnout of competitors and spectators to the event, it also gave an opportunity for new members of the club to experience some competitive sparring and breaking.

Several members of the UL Taekwondo club achieved podium places with trophies for first, second and third places. The event also helped the club raise awareness and some funding for the club. The next competitive event the club will be attending is a competition being held in NUI Galway on the 29 March. If you are interested in joining the club or if you would like to see more pictures from the Munster Championships just check out: [www.tkdo.ul.ie](http://www.tkdo.ul.ie)

# Ryan double saves UL after dismal first half

Tomás McCarthy & Fiona Reidy

UL 3-13  
LIT 2-11

UL looked set for a heavy defeat to their city rivals LIT, if the first half of the Ulster Bank Freshers B Hurling Final was anything to go by. UL were very poor in the opening half putting many scoreable frees wide of the posts throughout.

LIT were first on the scoreboard with their captain slotting over a point after 2 minutes. UL responded with a point by Johnny Cohen but then LIT seemed very dangerous in front of the UL goal, with UL quite literally being saved by a puddle of water when the ball got slowed down in the mess! LIT's tails were up and for the next twenty minutes LIT dominated possession and scoring stakes with UL only managing two scores in this time. The score at that was LIT 1-4 to UL's 0-2 and LIT looked destined for an easy victory. LIT continued popping the points over and extended their lead to 1-7 to 0-2 with five minutes remaining. UL continuously failed to score from frees and notched a tally of 8 wides in the first half. Liam Ryan scored for UL in the dying minutes of the first half to make the half time score 1-8 to 0-3 in favour of LIT.

LIT opened the second half looking sure of a convincing win over the home side. Despite UL's hard work they consistently failed to clear their lines which ultimately gave LIT possession and a chance of scoring. LIT were first to attack in the second half which resulted in UL fouling and hence conceding a free which LIT put wide. There

was lots of hard pulling, very physical tackles and "pucks" from both sides throughout the game. UL upped their game 100% in the second half scoring 4 unanswered points in the first ten minutes of the second half. It now seemed that the home side could have a chance to win the game. LIT responded soon after with 2 consecutive points from frees but UL were desperate to pile on the pressure once more. UL's half backs and midfield started delivering quality ball to the forwards who duly converted this into scores. UL by now had all the possession and the scores started coming more freely. Tom Langton scored a point after a well worked passage of play which was immediately followed by a goal for UL by captain David Mullins after the ball was won from LIT's puck out. UL again piled on the pressure and a crisp pass from Langton to Ryan resulted in Ryan burying the sliotar in the back of LIT's net. The score now was UL 2-8 to LIT's 1-10 with UL looking to be in control. This time however it was LIT who were to reapply the pressure and they certainly looked as if they could pull out all the stops and win scoring 1-1 in less than 3 minutes and missing another definite goal opportunity when LIT played the ball across the face of the UL goal and their corner forward blasted it wide. LIT then had three consecutive wides which set the tone of their game for the rest of the match. UL scored the rest of the scores for the remainder of the game notching up 4 points one of which came from a penalty which Coomey put over the bar, and a goal which was again scored by Ryan. The final score of the game came from Coomey who blasted the ball over the bar from halfway.

UL claimed the Fresher B hurling championship in the end by five points, a feat which seemed unlikely at half time. Best for UL were Ryan, Coomey, Mullins and Langton.

## UL Snow Sports Club dare to dream

Tomás McCarthy

MARCH 3 saw the beginning of something new, exciting and rather unusual on the UL sporting scene. It was the first meeting of the UL SnowSports Club and I for one was curious.

Sisters Nicola and Carly Hally are aiming to found the university's first ever snowsports club on campus. They pointed out that every other major university around the country has one except for UL. UCD, UCC, NUIG, DCU all have a club such as this.

The club will be aimed at

people who have never skied or snowboarded before. People like yours truly who wouldn't know the first thing about skiing. Not that I like the snow anyway.

Kiltiernan in Dublin is the facility the club plan to use for training and practice. Here there are indoor ski slopes. Also, this venue hosts the annual intervarsities. Across the water there are slopes in London, Glasgow, Birmingham and Edinburgh. The club hopes to be able to go on trips to these locations next semester. There are also plans to head to a major location in Europe.

For the moment, though, the

Hally sisters and company need to park these dreams. Currently they are working on getting the club up and running. At the moment the objective is to get members signed up and to have a committee in place by the end of the semester. Work is also being done to advertise and publicise the club to generate a degree of interest. The aim is to have the club set up in time for the new college year.

This means that a stand at the Clubs and Socs in the UL Arena in September is in their sights.

If anyone is interested there are many ways to get involved. You can drop an email to

0732974@student.ul.ie.

Alternatively you can get check out the UL SnowSports Club's brand new bebo page.

The main positive thing to come out of the meeting was the friendly and welcoming atmosphere. A club needs a to create a good environment to survive and the Hally sisters as well as the other new members who attended appear to have the enthusiasm to succeed. If this can be continued the UL SnowSports Club will have many more days in the sun and in the snow.



## Fitzgibbon Cup Analysis

# Cunningham gives his honest assessment

Tomás McCarthy from Parnell Park

UL HURLING manager Ger Cunningham faced the media after his side's defeat to UCC and while his disappointment was clear he was also proud of his charges.

Speaking to An Focal Cunningham was first asked to explain UL's under par display.

"It's very difficult especially when you look at yesterday. We just collapsed. There's more in this team than what we saw there in the last hour. We know we are a lot better than that performance."

The difference between the UL in the semi-final the day before and the final was staggering. Cunningham was at loss as to how his team were

unrecognisable from the previous day.

"Everything was going very well. I mean we were nervous this afternoon. I thought it was a good thing because at least they were focussed on the game."

The UL boss looked back on the first half with some regret.

"We fell apart in the first half.

Playing with a breeze and going in four points down was a killer."

Cunningham claimed that the half time team talk was positive saying that "Playing against the breeze suited us" due to UL's short passing style of play. However he said the goal after half time "took it out of us".

"Every time we got a score they got a score. We got on a run for five

minutes but it was very hard to claw back a nine point lead."

On a brighter note, there were plenty of good things to take from the weekend's action.

"The University of Limerick can be so proud of the lads they worked very hard put so much into it. There are good freshers coming in there is a huge nucleus of a team for next year

and I hope the lads would believe in themselves and build on what happened this year."

Ger Cunningham is a true sportsman and took this defeat graciously. Both he and the rest of the UL set up will pause to reflect on this Fitzgibbon final but also look forward to going one step further next season.

## A lost opportunity

Liam Togher

AT TIMES things can seem too good to be true. Such is the near-perfection of circumstances that you can be lulled into a false sense of security. On the contrary, just as all seems to be lost, a lifebuoy could be thrust in your direction and you never look back.

This was the legacy of the 2009 Fitzgibbon Cup final for UL and UCC respectively. While UL left their best form behind them in the two games before the decider, the Cork college launched a last-gasp salvage operation in the semi-final and the momentum continued on a memorable day in Parnell Park for them.

Ger Cunningham's UL will look retrospectively on the events of that

Saturday evening with a feeling that a gaping opportunity had been left behind. After a truly admirable and heroic opening against holders WIT in the group stage, the Limerick side then embarked on a string of emphatic wins. DIT were dispatched with ease in their next group outing and St. Pat's took a similar hammering in a lop-sided quarter-final. While CIT did not quite lie down as helplessly on semi-final day, they were never going to disrupt the progress of a rampant UL. By contrast, UCC snuck into the final after their 65th minute smash and grab goal against WIT.

Players like Brian Carroll, Alan Egan, Seamus Hickey and Thomas Stapleton had given exceptional displays in this Fitzgibbon campaign, but UL's big names had a day to forget when it came to the final. The lack of quality ball into the full-forward line was one of the major letdowns for UL, who also failed to make the most of having the wind advantage in the first half.

UCC hurled as if their lives depended on it and their opponents could not

match them for hunger.

Several fine UL hurlers will be disappointed with their contributions on the day that mattered most. Even while four points down at the interval, they stood a decent chance of turning it around. Two quick-fire UCC goals shortly after the break killed the game as a contest, the final insult being the dog pile celebrations before referee Barry Kelly even blew the full-time whistle.

No doubt the manner of the defeat hurt for UL, but Ger Cunningham, his backroom team and the players should not be too despondent with the last few weeks. After a hugely disappointing group stage exit in 2008, the team gave some resplendent performances this year and their anti-climatic showing against UCC cannot be analysed without acknowledging the insatiable desire of the eventual winners.

Hopefully there will be lessons learned so that UL can kick on next year, not make the same mistakes, not find themselves licking their wounds afterwards and claim the 2010 Fitzgibbon Cup.

## Fitzgibbon Friday in Fontenoy

Tomás McCarthy

UL's Fitzgibbon weekend began with a 12 noon semi final against Cork IT at the Fontenoy venue in Ringsend. The pitch was in pristine condition but there was a sharp wind blowing and by the throw in heavy drizzle began to fall.

UL made a blistering start to proceedings. By the fourth minute they were 1-3 to 0-1 to the good. The goal came courtesy of Matt Ruth after neat work by Alan Egan. Ryan Clifford and Brian Corry were on the scoresheet for CIT but UL were on a roll.

The full forward line in particular were creating endless problems. The speedy Egan lashed over a brace of points and further scores from Seamus Hickey and Brian Carroll stretched the lead to 1-7 to 0-4.

CIT responded with a goal however on 17 minutes. Cathal Naughton, who was kept relatively quiet, set up full forward Tony Murphy who buried a low shot past Paddy McCormack.

It was most enjoyable game at this point but UL upped a gear nearing half time. Matt Ruth had a point before adding his second goal on 26 minutes. Ryan O'Dwyer, who was at the heart of everything

positive, set it up driving through the centre before passing to Ruth who at the second attempt scooped the ball to the net.

Further scores from captain Tom Stapleton and O'Dwyer left UL in cruise control 2-10 to 1-5 ahead at the interval.

The second half turned into one way traffic for Ger Cunningham's side. UL's incredible work rate and superior forward movement was something CIT couldn't match.

The backs led by Stapleton, Martin Walsh and Michael Verney were also proving solid. Brian Carroll's free taking saw UL maintain their half time advantage before a burst of 1-3 without reply put the icing on the cake. Michael Gleeson had two points and Carroll had one before the Offaly man added the third green flag.

Substitute Sean Ryan made the hard yards before setting up Carroll who made no mistake to put UL 13 points clear. CIT's best player Tony Murphy found the net from 21 metre free with ten minutes to go but it was no more than a consolation score. UL were queuing up for scores by the end.

Dylan Hayden, Hickey, Carroll and Gleeson all found the range to wrap up a stunning 3-20 to 2-11

win. UL boss Ger Cunningham was "over the moon" with the win.

"The pressure was on us to perform because we know we have quality hurlers all over the field". He also paid tribute to the "savage" work rate. "The forwards defended more today than they ever did". Cunningham went on to say "We have a system of play that the lads absolutely love, we are playing to our strengths".

The second semi final proved to be a fascinating battle between UCC and WIT. It ended in dramatic fashion with Bill Beckett striking late to break the hearts of the champions.

The first half was tense and tight with a lot of physical exchanges. There wasn't much to separate the two teams on the scoreboard either. WIT began to edge though as UCC gave away too many frees. Ray McLoughney and Stephen Lillis were more than willing to punish their indiscipline.

UCC kept in touch through the firepower of Bill Beckett and John Mulhall. They trailed by three points 0-10 to 0-7 at the break. The second half was a thrilling spectacle. Kilkenny man Mulhall began it all with three exquisite points all from impossible angles.

Stephen Moylan brought UCC level 11 points apiece.

Then came the first moment of controversy. Timmy Hammersly appeared to be in the square when he flicked James Ryan's delivery to the net but the goal stood and WIT had got a decisive break.

When Hammersly got his second goal a minute later the champions seemed to be on their way to another final.

The Cork side had other ideas. The likes of Don Hanley, Ritchie Foley, Kevin Harnett, Shane O'Neill and Mulhall dug in and suddenly the comeback was on. From six points behind UCC reeled it in to one with an outrageous Mulhall sideline cut.

Before that Eoghan Murphy had a goal ruled out for a square ball. UCC had shot 13 wides but played well enough to deserve at least a draw. McLoughney struck a free in the first minute of injury time and UCC were now two behind.

However, in a dramatic climax a Ritchie Foley delivery into the WIT goalmouth somehow broke to Bill Beckett and he pulled to the far corner of the net past Adrian Power. The champions were out with the last puck of the game as a jubilant UCC marched on 1-18 to 2-14.

## UL Player By Player

Tomás McCarthy

*Pat McCormack*

The Tipperary goalkeeper couldn't be faulted for any of the goals over the weekend. He can satisfied with a solid campaign between the posts.

*Brian Fox*

He was outstanding until the final. Fox found Tadhg Og Murphy too hot to handle on the night.

*Kieran Joyce*

The Kilkenny underage star found the going tough over the weekend. Tony Murphy and John Mulhall caused him plenty of problems. *Michael Verney*

*Jim Bob McCarthy*

Probably has the best name in the UL panel. Jokes aside Jim Bob has been a vital member of UL's strongest line.

*Thomas Stapleton*

The Tipp centre back and UL captain has led by example in this year's Fitzgibbon.

*Martin Walsh*

This campaign has seen Walsh come on in leaps and bounds. One of UL's better players in the final.

*Seamus Hickey*

His midfield role suited the Limerick county star down to the ground.

*Michael Gleeson*

Gleeson has impressed in the whole

campaign and chipped in with many scores over the weekend.

*Noel O'Murchu*

The hard working wing forward from Waterford struggled over the Fitzgibbon weekend.

*Ryan O'Dwyer*

O'Dwyer was inspirational in the semi final but never got going in the final.

*John Greene*

The tall Galway man always gives his all for UL but just never got into the semi final or final.

*Brian Carroll*

A class act and has been consistently displaying his immense scoring ability during this Fitzgibbon run. *Matthew Ruth*

UL's best player in this year's Fitzgibbon Cup. The Kilkenny men has scored freely against every defence which included 2-1 in the semi and 0-4 in the final.

*Alan Egan*

The Offaly forward used his pace to create havoc against CIT but found the going tough against Shane O'Neill.

*Sean Ryan*

Came on in the semi final and kept his place for the final. Ryan can be proud of his industrious efforts.

UL were also represented by the following: Pat Kelly, James Dempsey, Shane O'Brien, Lester Ryan, Kevin

## Comment

# Kerry win county colours challenge

Tomás McCarthy

DO UL students take pride in their county anymore? Is wearing your county colours on campus a thing of the past? An Focal sport aimed to answer these questions and also find out the most visible county around UL. To do this we decided to note which county colours we saw over a two week period.

The first week of the survey proved to be unsuccessful. This could have been due to the poor weather conditions. Despite this even in the indoor areas county colours were few and far between. The usual suspects did begin to come to the forefront though. Cork, Kerry, Clare and Limerick made early appearances on the list. One Cork girl I spotted twice in the pouring rain close to Thomond Village. If you are that girl and are reading this contact us and there'll be a small prize for you because that's serious dedication!

The second week was much more productive. Offaly hoodies and jackets were making a good case for their county. They even began to threaten the top early in the week.

The main battle though was between Kerry, Cork and Clare. Limerick faded completely from the picture. Other Munster counties Tipperary and Waterford fared poorly. The sports editor is probably the only one you will see with a Waterford jacket. There was one Deise flag spotted in Cappavilla, however!

Some counties made a very surprising appearance on the list. A Longford hoodie was seen in the library while a Cavan hoodie was spotted near the Arena. Northern counties Antrim and Donegal were the other surprises. It was Kerry though who had their sights set on the winner's enclosure. Kingdom jerseys, hoodies and jackets were consistently seen around UL and in the end it was an emphatic victory.

Despite a sluggish start the positive aspect from this is that UL students still have pride in their county and they are not afraid to show it. The only negative is that there is another title going to Kerry!

# The Rumour Mill

Conor McGrath

Rumours around UL are like baby after baptism, they just never seem to quieten down! Word has it in the Stables that Paul Caffrey will be their guest door man for the duration of RAG Week, in a bid to curb the enthusiasm of UL's elite drinkers. Lads I wouldn't throw any bacon at him, he does have Ciaran Whelan on speed dial you know! Should one be afraid? The Chess club have been at it as usual these days. With their intervarsities coming up soon, some of their talismen have been angling at more weight room time which, unfortunately, cuts into the Munster rugby team's schedule. One angered, prominent member told yours truly that he was "bigger than Paul O'Connell". Does he think he'll put the fear of God into a possible Lions captain? We'll have to wait and hear on that

one. On a completely different note, this reporter and I suppose the rest of Castletroy heard some of the inebriated UL Soccer bunch chant "Bucket seats for the Bowl" outside the Lodge last week. I suppose if Tallaght has two stadiums, should UL at least have a terrace? Unfortunately, the university's higher powers were unavailable for comment on the issue. On the subject of football, I honestly thought I saw Adrian Mutu walking out of Lidl last weekend. The former Chelsea striker does owe a considerable amount of money to a Russian billionaire, so times are tough for him. I also hope this possible imposter paid for that bag of sugar which he swiftly put in his pocket on his exit. Well, as the old saying goes "A rumour is not a rumour that doesn't die".

## Who Are Ya?

Compiled by Tomás McCarthy

### The Basics

**Name:** Darragh Kelleher  
**Age:** 19  
**Course:** Applied Physics  
**Club:** Ultimate-Frisbee  
**County:** Dublin  
**Nickname:** None  
**Sporting Heroes:** Lance Armstrong, Niall Lynch, Brian Corcoran  
**Biggest sporting achievement:** Winning the Dublin div2 u-21 hurling championship.  
**What's the best thing about UL Ultimate-Frisbee?** Catching the disc in the end zone and the people involved are just legends  
**And the worst?** To be honest there is nothing bad about ultimate-Frisbee. Everything runs smoothly there isn't even a referee for matches  
**Favourites**  
**Favourite song:** The Magic Bus by The Who  
**Favourite movie:** Gran Torino  
**Favourite number:** 0

### Take Your Pick

**The Lodge or Trinity Rooms?** Lodge  
**Dunphy or Giles?** Dunphy  
**O'Connell or O'Gara?** O'Gara  
**Cup o' tay or cappuccino?** Cup o tay  
**Chips or spuds?** What are spuds, I like potatoes!  
**Friends or Home & Away?** Friends  
**Four To Finish**  
**Describe yourself in three words?** Outgoing, opportunistic, tall.  
**Who's going to win the Premier League?** Man United, I don't want them to though.  
**What's the best chat-up line you've ever heard?** Pick a number between 1 and 10 (girl picks 3). Sorry you lost, you'll have to take all your clothes off . What happened?" and he goes "I fell for you".  
**What are you going to be when you grow up?** I don't have a clue.



## UL Sports Round-Up

Liam Togher

### Surfing

Eoin McCarthy came third in the Longboard competition at this year's surfing intervarsities. UCC hosted the competition that was held in Lahinch Co Clare.

### Ladies Football

The UL ladies football team are through to the O'Connor Cup semi finals. UL defeated UCD after extra time in their quarter final clash on pitch one on March 12.

### Ladies Rugby

After receiving a walk over against the Guards UL are now through to the Division 1 league final which more than likely will be against UCC.

### An Focal Mastermind Challenge

Recently the An Focal sports team were put to test with yours truly being the quizmaster. Congratulations

to John Condren who emerged victorious on 34 points. Full details of the quiz can be seen on our bebo page.

### Chess Festival

The Bunratty chess festival was held over the weekend of the 20 to 22 of February with a total of 290 players aiming to win one of the four sections ranging from absolute beginner to master.

With the current world number 20, Peter Svidler, fresh from his win at the Russian Chess Championships playing in this event, it was going to be no easy task. However, some UL Chess Club members performed exceptionally well and came close to winning their respective sections, with Deirdre Gleeson coming third and Muthu Thangaramanujam picking up a prize. Congratulations to them and all others who took part! It is hoped that the UL Chess Club

will continue the success seen at this event, later on this month on the weekend of the 27 to 29 March at the Cork Chess Congress. If you would like to attend this event or have any questions regarding the event or any future chess event, please email 0658499@student.ul.ie.

### Comments

If you need to get something off your chest regarding sporting matters in UL email mossy.mccarthy@gmail.com or post a comment on the bebo page www.bebo.com/anfocalsport. In a report on the UL v LIT Colours match in the last edition of An Focal, Vivion Grisewood was incorrectly stated as the Man of the Match. Noel Kinnane was actually Man of the Match. Grisewood (no.14) was replaced at half-time by David Hynes who scored the conversions. An Focal apologises for the error.

## Top Ten Irish Sporting Moments of the Eighties Recession

John Condren

10. Golden Fleece winning the 1982 Epsom Derby.
9. Eamon Coughlan running the world's fastest indoor mile at Meadowlands in New Jersey, 1983.
8. Cork snatching victory over Tipperary in the last four minutes of the 1984 Munster Hurling Final.
7. Big Jack Charlton becoming Ireland manager, 1986
6. Beating England to clinch the 1982 Triple Crown.
5. Dawn Run winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup, 1986
4. John Treacy winning silver in the 1984 Olympic marathon in Los Angeles
3. Seamus Darby ending Kerry's dream of the five-in-a-row, 1982.
2. Michael Kiernan's drop goal against England to seal the Five Nations Championship, 1985.
1. Ray Houghton putting the ball in the English net, Euro '88, Stuttgart

Just for fun

# The Score

Liam Togher

## Badge of honour

Still perplexed as to that patch of white above the sponsor on the Man Utd shirts worn in the 2-0 win at home to Inter Milan? It was a badge displaying United's status as world club champions which the Premier League has not allowed them to wear in domestic games. As if the rest of us need, or want, reminding.

## Hamburg tuned in

Chelsea Dagger and Song 2 are often played on the tannoy whenever the home team scores, but Hamburg's choice of celebration tune was somewhat unexpected. Their goals at the Nordbank Arena are greeted by the playing of Viva La Vida by Coldplay. That should provide adequate consolation for Chris Martin and co missing out at the Brit Awards!

## A load of old hat?

One message board comment on Sporting Lisbon's 12-1 aggregate defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League was "You could beat Lisbon with your cap". Harsh, considering they reached the last 16 of the competition, but as analysis

goes it doesn't get much more precise than that.

## Hate is a strong word...

So desperate were Flamengo fans to see arch-rivals Vasco da Gama relegated from the Brazilian league that they egged their team on to lose against Vasco's fellow strugglers Atletico Paranaense. Flamengo duly lost 5-3 and Vasco eventually went down. Bittersweet is a very apt description.

## Have they got the appetite?

Cash-strapped Hednesford Town may be top of the Unibond League, but a lack of a training pitch has led to the application of unusual training methods. The players are routinely sent on a two-mile jog...to the nearby McDonald's! Handy if any of them forgot to have breakfast.

## Cling to the positives

Luca Toni is not looked upon by many non-Italian observers as a highly prolific striker, but maybe he does not have much trouble scoring after all. The lanky Bayern Munich man was named as the world's sexiest footballer by an Italian magazine. Explanations on a postcard, please.

# Magic Numbers

Conor McGrath

**25** The number of years Paolo Maldini has played for AC Milan. Will we ever see the likes of him again? Maybe some of the Waterford hurlers could give him a run for his money.

**750** The accumulation of caps won by the Irish starting XV v Scotland in Murrayfield a few weeks ago. Now that is a classic example of experience and reliance.

**4** times Tiger Woods has blown out his left knee in his golfing career. Will he be able to break Nicklaus' record of 18 majors? You can bet your last copper he'll try.

**£80.00** The size of the fixed penalty which Ashley Cole was required to pay after his drunken antics outside a London nightclub. He was surprisingly unable to pay the on-the-spot fine at the police station, which begs the question: Thought you were getting more money at Chelsea, Cashley?

**17** The number of years since Manchester United last conceded

**4** goals at Old Trafford in a league game. I suspect that this statistic has only widened the grin on every Liverpool fan's face.

## A Sports Writers Diary

Tomás McCarthy

### 28 Feb

O'Gara bottles his kicking duties but King BOD (as McGrath calls him) strikes to defeat the English.

### 1 March

Red and yellow cards galore between Waterford and Kilkenny as the Deise get a little bit of revenge for last September.

### 2 March

The United lads on my course savour the second of a possible five trophies. One of them missed the penalties in order to get the bus to UL. Harsh.

### 3 March

Fantastic UL soccer success in Terryland Park.

### 4 March

I meet the nice people of the UL SnowSports club. They are not too happy that their posters were taken down though! I also bump into an upbeat Martin Hayes after the win the previous night. He calls me "Mossy" as well which is legendary.

### 5 March

On the way to the class party in Galway the lads discuss the trials and tribulations of Mayo football. It's a harrowing tale.

### 6 March

Early trip to the Big Smoke for the Fitzgibbon. I get two entertaining semi finals, an encounter with Nicky Brennan and a feed of sandwiches!

### 7 March

Fitzgibbon final day ends in disappointment. I have a fine view from the press box in Parnell Park but the result isn't pretty. I arrive back in Limerick at midnight absolutely wrecked.

### 8 March

Recovering from the Fitz! I hear that the ladies soccer team retained their title in Castlebar.

### 9 March

Still recovering from the Fitz...!

### 10 March

Iker Casillas has a busy night in Anfield. The sports writer's meeting moves to The Stables for Cheltenham.

### 11 March

Down in Na Stablaí for United and Inter. The United fans slag that Benitez is a fat Spanish waiter!

### 12 March

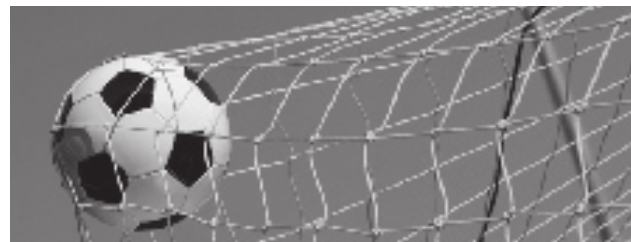
Fierce sporting activity around the student villages as the hurleys and footballs come out at last.

### 13 March

The sports editor has lost his voice after the late bar in Na Stablaí the previous night and I find out that Fiona has a gambling problem.

## Give It A Lash Quiz

John Condren puts your sporting know how to the test



1. Tommy Bowe scored his first Irish international try against which team?
2. In which year did Eric Cantona sign for Manchester United?
3. Who won the best-of-three Test series on the Lions' last tour to South Africa?
4. How many goals did Portumna's starlet Joe Canning score against Ballyhale Shamrocks in the All-Ireland Club semi-final?
5. Which Irish-trained horse won the 1986 Cheltenham Gold Cup?
6. How many Wimbledon titles did Pete Sampras win in his illustrious career?
7. Who scored Real Madrid's winning goal in the 2002 Champions League final?
8. How many All-Ireland Club football titles do Crossmaglen Rangers have?
9. Whose goal for Everton knocked Liverpool out of this season's FA Cup?
10. Who was the first ever Formula One World Champion?

## Quotes Of The Edition

Tomás McCarthy

*"Yeah it's UL against the scum at the Bowl"* The sports editor tells the other sports writers about the upcoming UL v LIT rugby game.

*"I can't stand this situation anymore. They have neither included me for the Champions League nor do they want to play me in La Liga. Juande (Ramos) does not have any confidence in me. I want to leave Madrid. I can't bear this."* Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar settling in nicely at Real Madrid, six weeks after joining the club.

*"The UL goalie might as well do the report for the second half twil give her something to do!"* An Focal reporter Eoin King starts feeling a bit lazy during a ladies football game.

*"John O'Shea is like a hospital. Good to have but bad to need."* A Stables customer tells McCarthy what he thinks of the United defender.

*"Tomas I don't have the euro sign on my keyboard"* Eoin King finds an unusual problem with his computer as he writes an article!

*"Would you watch the f\*\*\*in ball?"* A fresher hurler gets told by his friends to focus on the game.

*"LIT by three points"* Another misguided prediction by the sports editor as UL win by eighteen!

*"One of these days McCarthy there'll be a summons waiting for you"* Kevin McNamara threatens legal action if one of his quotes appears in An Focal again. Oops!

### Answers to Sports Quiz

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. USA             | 2. 1992             |
| 3. The Lions, 2-1  | 4. Two              |
| 5. Dawn Run        | 6. Seven            |
| 7. Zinedine Zidane | 8. Four             |
| 9. Dan Gosling     | 10. Giuseppe Farina |

## Under the Spotlight

# MUMPS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### WHO SHOULD GET THE MMR VACCINE?

**-Those living with a student with the Mumps**

**-Those who spend the working day in close proximity to someone with Mumps i.e. working in a small lab**

**-Close friends**

**-Boyfriends, girlfriends, friends with benefits (even those not living in Limerick)**

**In particular anyone in the above categories who have had only one or no MMRs should definitely get vaccinated.**

### COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT MUMPS

**-If you have marks on your arms it does mean you have had the MMR it is more likely to be the BCG**

**-If you had a shot in Primary or Secondary School it may not have been the MMR, it is more likely to have been Meningitis (especially post 1999)**

**-If you were born pre1988 you may not have had your first MMR vaccine as the MMR only came to Ireland in 1988**

### WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE EXTRA CLINICS?

**-Tuesdays after 5pm in the Medical Centre. Please state you require the MMR when making the appointment.**

**The symptoms of mumps include:**

**-fever**

**-headaches**

**-painful, swollen salivary glands**

**-tenderness in the testicles or ovaries**

**You can find out if you have had the MMR vaccination from:**

**-Your GP**

**-Your parents or guardians**

**-Your local health centre (full list available at [www.hse.ie/Find\\_a\\_Service/Health\\_Centres](http://www.hse.ie/Find_a_Service/Health_Centres))**