



# AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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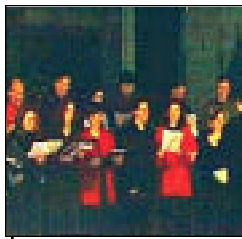
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TERM 1 WEEK 6



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# POWER CUT CAUSES CHAOS AROUND COLLEGE

By **Michelle Daly**

The University of Limerick was brought to a standstill on Tuesday and Wednesday of week 4 as a transformer supplying the power to a vast area of the college blew. Leaving shops, businesses, restaurants, lecture theatres, classrooms and even the most basic facilities without power. While there were some generators to provide emergency power for the most part the college was without power for close on two days.

While the Library, Computer Science and Foundation Buildings were all with power the Students Union, Scholars, Stables and the courtyards were completely without power. The main cafeteria was also without power as blocks C, D, A, and B were without lights also. While most students were resigned



**Stables Doors Shut Due to Power Failure**

to the loss of power on Tuesday night but upon returning on Wednesday morning many were surprised to find the university was still without power.

Lectures, labs and tutorials

were all disrupted as well as some clubs and societies activities. The disruption to normal college life was huge but most ul students were very nonplussed by the chaos.

**Continues on Page 4**

**Meeting to discuss  
An Focal's  
progress to date  
we're looking for opin-  
ions, comments, ideas  
etc**

**Monday Wk 7**

**5.00pm**

**new student centre,**

**SU -0123**

**all are welcome**

## Staff Unhappy with Clamping System

By **Patrick Kennedy**

It is just two weeks since An Focal brought you an anonymous letter regarding the clamping of students cars on campus. It seems that the staff themselves are becoming further entangled with the hierarchy of the university in a bid to see the current levies and fines dismissed. We have already stated the plight of the students of the University in their efforts to find some justice, now we

have been contacted by another anonymous source detailing the grievances of the staff.

The main problem seems to be that while the staff of the University were issued appropriate stickers allowing them use of the spaces for free, they are still being clamped.

The reason for this again seems to be due to poor planning by the University. While over one thousand car parking stickers were issued to the staff,  
**Continues on Page 4**

# Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

Each issue, we'll give you a quick dose of what we're up to.



Hello again.

Yet another 2 weeks have passed. For those of you who didn't register during week 1 but gave you names to the library assistants, should be receiving letters saying that you don't have to pay the £15 fine to Student Services. For those of you who had your names on the list and did pay the fine, ye are to be reimbursed. Since the last episode of An Focal, some of residents in the Castletroy area have complained about late night disturbances, so I urge all of ye to give some consideration for those residents who are trying to get their kids to sleep and the elderly.

Last week, the Mary Immaculate conferring ceremonies took place. Also Tom and myself had a meeting with

the University Management to try to resolve the issue of car parking for students. This has been an ongoing issue for me since I took the job in July, and I won't rest on it until a reasonable conclusion is reached for students. As I am writing this on Wednesday night of Week 5 and the meeting is on Thursday morning at 9pm, I don't know the outcome, but when you read this, I hope to be able to report that a satisfactory solution has been reached. I'll give an update for the next issue.

I saw the new University Arena on Tuesday last, it is a most magnificent place, and I hope you all enjoy the use of some of the best sports facilities in the country. Also one of the lads in the University lost a Silver Lighter Lost on Wednesday 18 Oct. Between Block D and E on Level O (Main Building), so if anyone found could you hand it into the Union, it would be much appreciated.

Till we meet again  
 Later  
 Mick

**Hey you Guys,  
 Siobhan here getting down with the groove man, Any problems with the Homies? Or "Whatever" your welfare woe remember don't fear I'm here. Word up, just the other night my friends had a fight, We were really lingers they were acting like head bangers, There were some tears shed but nobody ended up hurt, The mission that I'm dishin':**

**STAY IN LINE AND YOUR FRIENDSHIP**



**WILL BE FINE.**

**Peace,  
 Siobhan**

I don't know is it my imagination or does there seem to be a lot more going on this year than usual? I don't mean SU stuff but just everything in general, maybe it's because most of my friends are now in 4<sup>th</sup> year (where I should be) that there is more hustle and bustle about them and it's rubbing off on me? I don't know.

I was talking the other day with someone outside the University (not something I do a lot of at the moment) who had a theory that time is speeding up on us somehow. She maintains, and I have to agree with her, that time is going faster and that a year is no longer what it used to be. Maybe some mathematician out there could look into it.

Her thesis was based on the argument that everyone has at one time or the other heard it said by older people that time is getting faster and years don't seem to be what they once were, however when her nineteen year old daughter started to say the same thing it was definitely a new phenomena, something which needs to be examined.

Ok, so I know time is consistent (so did the person I was speaking to) but there is a lesson to be learnt here. That is that we have only a limited number of years on this earth so we better make the most of them. This is the best time of your life so make the



most of it! You will all be part of the real world soon enough and you'll be wishing you were back here reliving your College Days.

Organise yourselves a little bit, manage your time so that you have an opportunity to do the things you want to as well as the things that you have to. Block out a few hours a week to do something that is important to you something that relaxes you (and I'm not talking about making more time available for the pub here). Take time to get some sort of exercise and you will be amazed at the results. First off, a healthy body does make it easier on the mind...ask the sports science people! Secondly, if you take the time to do something for yourself you will feel better in your self and you can manage the stressful stuff better. Relax, slow down and live a little!



finish it off but I did!! Anyhow that's life and we've got to live with those things. I can't say much else 'cause I've got to get this to the printers.

Regards,

Fergal. F

Hi all, Sorry about the delay and for the quality of this weeks paper. It was because my computer crashed on Saturday and I couldn't get it fixed until Tuesday due to the bank holiday.

It's been a nightmare to

# Education Tirade

I have been told that I need to change the title of this my bi-weekly tirade on the education issues of UL. I like that, I think I'll use that - "Education Tirade" is from now until the end of my term in office the title of this column! Anyway, I've been informed that there are way too many "Diaries" in An Focal so I should change mine. It wasn't really a Diary as such anyway so I don't mind. It won't be much of a "Tirade" for that matter either!

As the time progresses I am trying to identify what is the best way to keep you aware of what is going on but at the same time keep it relevant as this type of material is not everyone's cup of tea. I have noticed that very often I am becoming aware of issues not because they are being brought to my attention directly but because I am hearing little bits here and there in the University Clubs when I happen to be in one or the other of them for a pint. Lads let me tell you this now I'm not in the University Bars all that often (I'm too busy most of the time) so if you have issues come in to my office! I can put my hand on my heart and honestly say I have

followed up on every single issue brought to my attention so far. The thing is I'm not clairvoyant YOU HAVE TO COME TO ME!

One of the points we need to address is what is the actual procedure for dealing with an issue in UL. If you as an individual have a problem the first place you should go is to your Class Rep. because maybe it is not an individual problem, maybe other people in your class are in the same or a similar situation. Your Class Rep. is the common contact point for everyone in the Class he or she will be able answer your query or direct you to a possible solution.

If the problem is of a personal nature and you want to keep it confidential then you should approach one of us here in the SU probably either Siobhan or myself depending on the nature of the personal issue and who you would be more comfortable approaching. Think about going to your Class Rep. first though if possible. Make sure you talk to your official advisor. The person who was assigned to you as your advisor in first year, his or her name is on the top of your tran-

script check SRAS as you would for your results and you will find it.

Because of the way the University deals with student issues i.e. after the fact rather than before, it is important that you have registered every pertinent fact with the relevant office in advance of the said same problem arising (sorry a touch of sarcasm there). No seriously folks, in your own interest if you have something going on in your life which could possibly affect your work then make sure your advisor is aware of it. It could make a big difference to you later on.

If for example you qualify for consideration under the discretion bands at some stage in your academic career and there was some outside factor which affected your grades, an illness, a death in the family or a disability which your advisor was not made aware of then, it is extremely unlikely that it will be taken in to account. Normally only your adviser is present to make a case for you in these circumstances. You are not always allowed attend. By and large the same would apply for Student Status except that you would have

written an appeal letter and have a better chance to make personal representation.

You as students have responsibilities under the regulations to do certain things at certain times throughout the year. For example you are required to register during week one or you may have difficulties at exam time or with other services you may require. If you need to repeat an exam for whatever reason you have an obligation to make contact with the lecturer who set the original paper.

You do this so as to firstly make them aware that you are requesting a repeat and more importantly to have them outline the format of the new paper that they are going to set. They are under no obligation to stay with the same format nor are they obliged to seek you out to give you any information on what will be happening. That is purely your responsibility. What's the legal term "ignorance is no defence under the law"? Correct me if I'm wrong but my understanding of that is just because you don't know about a law doesn't mean you can claim you are innocent of

## Class Reps Information

As of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2000. These are the Classes, which have Class Reps. If your class is not on this list, then you do **NOT** have a Class Rep.. If that is the case come to the Student Centre Reception and ask for a nomination form for your Class Rep. Each Class over 25 students is entitled to **TWO** Class Reps.

### Third Year, Fourth Year and Post Grad Classes You Are Under-represented!!!!

There are at present;  
15 - First Year Reps.  
22 - Second Year Reps.  
5 - Third Year Reps.  
7 - Fourth Year Rep.  
1 - Post Grad Rep.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year.

Applied Physics – 1 Rep.  
Business Studies – 1 Rep.  
Business & French – 1 Rep.  
Computer Systems – 1 Rep.  
Equine Science – 1 Rep.  
History Politics & Social Studies – 1 Rep.  
Industrial Biochemistry – 2 Reps.  
Industrial Chemistry – 1 Rep.  
Law & Accounting – 1 Rep.  
Material Science – 1 Rep.  
Maths Science – 1 Rep.

Production Management – 1 Rep.  
Public Administration – 2 Reps.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year.

Aeronautical Engineering – 1 Rep.  
Applied Languages – 1 Rep.  
Business Studies – 2 Reps.  
Computer Engineering – 1 Rep.  
European Studies – 2 Reps.  
Food Technology – 1 Rep.  
Information Technology & Telecommunications – 2 Reps.  
Law & Accounting – 2 Reps.  
Law & European Studies – 2 Reps.  
Languages & Computing – 1 Rep.  
Languages & Cultural Studies – 1 Rep.  
Public Administration – 1 Rep.  
Science Education – 2 Reps.  
Sports Science – 2 Reps.  
Wood Science – 1 Rep.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year.

Applied Physics – 1 Rep.  
Biological Science – 1 Rep.  
Computer Systems – 1 Rep.  
Education - Materials & Construction Technology – 1 Rep.  
Sports Science – 1 Rep.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Year.

Business Studies – 1 Rep.

Computer Systems – 2 Reps.  
Electronic Manufacturing – 1 Rep.  
Languages with Computing – 1 Rep.  
History Politics & Social Studies – 2 Reps.

### Post-Grad Classes.

MA in Interactive Media – 1 Rep.

### Class Reps Council Meeting

Class Rep. Council Meeting will take place in the SU Conference Room (Meeting Room 5) on Tuesday evening the 31<sup>st</sup> of October at 6pm. That is Tuesday of Week 6. All Class Reps are requested to attend.

Class Rep Council Schedule for Semester 1 of Academic Year 2000-2001 is as follows:

**Meeting 1. Tuesday Oct. 17 Week 4.**  
**Meeting 2. Tuesday Oct. 31 Week 6.**  
**Meeting 3. Tuesday Nov. 14 Week 8.**  
**Meeting 4. Tuesday Nov. 28 Week 10.**  
**Meeting 5. Tuesday Dec. 12 Week 12.**  
**Meeting 6. Tuesday Jan. 9 Week 14.**

## POWER CUT CAUSES CHAOS AROUND COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

In fact most students took the time to use the facilities in the library or to work on projects the main problem for students being the lack of hot food to be found around the campus .

However the ingenious people at the paddocks rigged up a gas fryer and gas facilities to supply the starving students of the university with some hot fare. The Students Union shop also suffered some losses when their freezers went down for the two day period and some food was destroyed..

Speaking to this reporter Students Union Vice President Tom O' Donovan said that he was shocked that a facility the size of the University of Limerick did not have a power reserve or back up plan for such an event that the mains power may be shut off. The Students union 's own building had to be evacuated on Tuesday evening as it was without emergency lighting , therefore for two days almost , the power did not return until 5pm on Wednesday , the students of this college were completely without SU facilities. The complete loss of so many classes lectures and tutorials was also a difficult obstacle putting many class projects and agendas out of schedule . The loss of all computer facilities was another extreme dilemma for many students trying to complete projects ./ The ITD department also recorded a number of lost projects because of the power outage

## STAFF UNHAPPY WITH CLAMPING SYSTEM

Continued from Page 1

there are only six hundred car space available where the stickers are valid. This has proven to a very frustrating affair as members of staff have had to utilise the parking area which requires the one pound payment (despite the fact that they are in possession of the aforementioned sticker).

Thought no-one was available for comment from the Buildings Department, who are responsible for the parking areas and the issuing of stickers, the staff have already organised the course of action they are pursuing. The proposal is for a one-day strike at some point over the next few weeks. The demands of the staff are quite clear either receive a pay increase sufficient to match the costs of parking, have clamps removed for free or a greater number of parking spaces where their stickers will be valid for use. While their argument is very noteworthy it should also be stated that the university again seems to be attempting the very people that make this should an outstanding institution.

## Grand Opening of 'The Edge ' in the Student Centre

By Michelle Daly

In Wednesday of week 4 it was time for the official opening of ' The edge ' here in the University of Limerick . The clothes shop that has been supplying students in Limerick with clothes and other necessities for example a huge range of accessories for over 10 years now. The main shop is based in the Milk market in Limerick city but last year the entrepreneurial John Coughlin owner of ' The edge ' approached the University of Limerick to place a shop in the students union courtyard.

John Coughlin invited ' Charlie McGreevy ' from television Bull Island to open the new shop here in UL. The wine reception held was a huge success was attendant were the president of the students union Mick Phelan, staff of the University and friends of ' The Edge ' as well as students. Speaking to An Focal John said that he hoped the relationship between UL and the edge would grow, as he and his staff were always open to suggestions and ideas from the students.

He hoped that the shop would also help students and that he was always open to clubs and societies whether for sponsorship for events or to help source and purchase equipment, costumes and other necessities.

'The Edge' played a central role in this weeks ' Green Fair' and in the development of student awareness of green issues, the edge was one of the first in the campus to adopt the enviro-soc



cloth bag campaign.

John Coughlin was to be seen this week with the minister for finance supping pints in the scholars club caused almost more of a fuss than the visit of the Taoiseach the genuine one that is to The Stables last week. He was very pleased with the reaction to the shop and how well it was doing here in the University of Limerick .

# CIOTOGS RISE UP AND REVOLT

By Michelle Daly

Over 12% of the worlds population is left-handed. Lefties make up to 20% of the college going population yet one wonders why it is so hard to find a left-handed seat in most lecture theatres in the university of limerick?

Without a doubt there are some left handed seats available in the 'new ' areas of the college for example in such out of the way places as c2o26- but a few doors down the hall at c2018 there are none. Or the classrooms of csg025 but in csg001 a brand new lecture theatre less than a year old there are none to be found at all.

It is to be expected in ancient and decrepit theatres such as the Jonathon Swift and the Jeanne Monet that it may be difficult to locate a left-handed seat but in a state of the art building only newly opened such as the computer science building it is a defeating ignorance of the needs of the left-handed students of this college.

I may perhaps be biased as a left-handed student who also has a back disability and therefore the way that I sit in lectures determines how much pain I suffer but even for able-bodied left-handed students the way in which we must twist to simply use the desks/supports available is surely damaging.

I know buildings have probably struggled to places some left hand desks but quite honestly these are hard to find if they exist at all . There is nothing worse than search-

ing a room for a left-handed desk. It is embarrassing and humiliating to have to search a packed lecture theatre even if you do arrive early only to discover there are no left hand seats at all/

As well as more desks it should be a priority to make the desks already in place more accessible. Where there are left-handed seats should be clearly denoted on the exits and entrances to every lecture theatre. Where there are none it should be also marked on the entrance. What is the point of having these facilities for left-handed students when we can't find them?

University of Limerick is one of the most progressive campuses in Ireland other older colleges are struggling to keep up with the cutting edge technology and facilities in ul then why is it so hard to find equality for left-handed students. ?

For UL to progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> century this problem must be addressed and soon because as time goes on more and more left-handed students are disadvantaged. We south-paws have suffered for years for being different. The Irish word for a left-handed person ' Ciotog' itself means the strange one; the left-handed woman was surrounded by stigmatism and superstition for some being left-handed meant being branded a witch.

Less than 25 years ago, children at school who

showed left-handed tendencies were made to write with their right hands. Through bullying and corporal punishment left-handed children were systematically excluded from classes, sports, games and punished unless they conformed to the norm.

The situation has thankfully improved somewhat but still the needs of the left-handed students are undressed. The basic right to a comfortable seat and desk upon which to write notes in lectures is not too much to ask?

The student body in the University of Limerick have so many facilities that are state of the art and on the cutting edge of technology , why are we continuing to suffer from this archaic form of discrimination in our classrooms and lecture halls ?.

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# A Word In Everyone's Ear

Get everything off your chest!!!!

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## In my opinion.....

As an ex-student of UL I like to keep up with what is happening on campus. I am still in contact with current students and enjoy browsing the UL web pages for information. My main source of information is the Independent Newspaper Scaoil Amach E, since there are no longer available web editions of An Focal. Generally, the publication is of poor quality however, it does contain some interesting articles.

Last week I noted the absence of 'the current edition' due to what was described as 'the threat of censorship'. On investigating further I noted that the Pub Spy Special which appeared last week had been removed from the server. I did manage to locate it on the mirror site. I read the badly written article and could not understand why this would be completely censored by its removal from the web. In fact being a trainee solicitor in my opinion was not libellous in any way. So I investigated further through my various contacts. It transpired that the current SU president had requested that the University remove the article from the web.

This is a very serious and foolish act act by a member of the Board of Governors to the University and a represented of students. The censorship of this article contravenes University policy and more importantly the Irish constitution under article 40 which states.....

6. The State guarantees liberty for the exercise of the following rights, subject to public order and morality:

i. The right of the citizens to express freely their convictions and opinions. The education of public opinion being, however, a matter of such grave import to the common good, the State shall endeavour to ensure that organs of public opinion, such as the radio, the press, the cinema, while preserving their rightful liberty of expression, including criticism of Government policy, shall not be used to undermine public order or morality or the authority of the State.

There would appear to be a legal case to be answered by the University and in particular the SU President. Clearly he has contravened the authors rights under this article by my censoring his opinion. The article did not seek to undermine public order or morality but expressed an opinion. In similar cases I've seen the settlement for such can be in the order of £250,000. If I was the President I be very worried.

But if we leave this aside, the act

## Letter of the week

Dear sir,

Picture the scene. A night in the pub. The banter is mighty, the music pumping the beer is flowing. Until 11.30 that is. All of a sudden the shutters come down over the bar. The drink is no longer being served. The craic does not end yet, but an ugly void develops where the bar once was. About half an hour later we are all literally thrown out of the pub. I agree that all good things will come to an end; but at such an early time is ridiculous. Basically the licensing laws in Ireland are pathetic!

When returning to Ireland after the summer break I was looking forward to experiencing the new licensing laws. While they are a slight improvement on what went before, they're pale into comparison with the more sensible laws that prevail on the continent and over in some cities in the UK. I don't know why the licensing laws are the way they are here, it can't be for social reasons because restrictive laws on alcohol licenses, in my opinion, cause more harm to society than good. How does throwing a large group of people out of a nightclub onto the streets at 2.30 or 3.00am help society? How does closing a pub at 12.00 make us more sensible drinkers?

A more sensible approach to take I believe is to allow pubs to open to 2.00am during the week and allow nightclubs to remain open until 4.00am. Pubs should be allowed to open until 4.00am at weekends and nightclubs should close between 4, 6 and 8 am at the clubs discretion at weekends. Better still no restrictions at all! This would create a more relaxed atmosphere for socialising, hell it could result in less of a crush in the student bars and the Lodge. It would also relieve the pressure of queuing for taxis afterwards as I believe longer opening hours would mean that some people would leave nightclubs at different times throughout the night.

Ireland is famous throughout the world for its pub culture. Positively for the great craic that can be found there but negatively for its archaic licensing laws. So the next time you are refused a drink just after the bar is closed or the next time you hear the bouncers shouting at you to finish your drinks remember this is not normal. Its just Ireland with its pathetic licensing laws.

yours sincerely,  
Shane Hughes

of censoring any students opinion reeks of fascism and should strongly condemned by all students and university staff alike. Just because one does not believe in or evens doubts the validity of a story/opinion they should not be censored.

**What ever happened to freedom of speech?**

**Paud Fitzgearald**

Dear Ed,

I apologise in advance of my use of your column as a free source of therapy. I'm angry, grrr! Just 4 weeks ago I was a fresh faced perky little fresher ready to take on U.L (the land of opportunity) by storm. The course of my transformation into a salivating, enraged beast with a martyr complex? I'm left handed. A most poorly dealt with minority in UL. Back in the days of Guillotine, torture chambers and dungeons, authorities could have halved the usage of such torture methods by just throwing ciotog like myself into the Johnny Monnit for an IT lecture. The mental torture of trying to twist my body like a circus contortionist/pole dancer just to write in shaking wooden things at the wrong side of my body. Ahhh! The "powers that be" displayed all the sensitivity of the Gestapo when they built this college. A few left handed seats wouldn't

have gone a miss.

Us freaks that think with the wrong side of our brain deserve a spinal-injures free degree. Take pity on us Oh mainstream and dull right handers donate your lecture notes freely so we can avoid such tortures and retreat to the stables.... Where they make seats and tables properly!!!!

Yours  
Yvonne Deane

P.S Decent looking male (masseuse) needed to sooth my aching limbs (any excuse!)

Dear Editor,

I have observed, over the past few weeks, that some students do not have a clue what work the four Sabbatical Officers do for us. Many of these students claim that it's a cushy job working for the SU, and that these officers have it easy. It's a pity that none of these students have taken some time to find out exactly how many meetings each officer has to attend on OUR (the students) behalf, and exactly how much preparatory and follow-up work is needed for each meeting. As well as attending meetings, they have to deal with the everyday problems of the SU, the student body in general, and also with any governing authorities (who normally do

not have any problems with the sabbats themselves, but with students in general). The SU sabbats are working for us, at a very low salary considering the hours and amount of effort and work they put into their jobs. In any other job, the conditions that the sabbats work under would not be tolerated. This is not a dig at the SU or the university in any way, it's just the way things are. In other jobs people are paid for overtime, and have set hours. The lads in the SU often work until 11 at night sorting out students problems, but they get no overtime, and more often than not, no thanks for it. Catering for 8,000 people (counting just the students on campus at any one time) is no easy job, and it's even more difficult and stressful when the people you are working on behalf of throw all the effort you make back in your face. I'm not saying that all students are apathetic or small-minded about it, many make an effort to find out what has been done (An Focal keeps up to date with SU events, but I presume anyone reading this already knows that). For the rest of you who haven't realised just how much work and effort the sabbatical officers are putting into their jobs for us, it'd be interesting to see how quickly you'd change your mind if there was no SU working for you!!!!

Finally, I'd just like to thank the four lads for all the work they've done so far (and I was around all summer, I've seen how bloody hard they've worked, believe me!! Their work started back at the beginning of July, not just Orientation Week or Week 1, as some people might think). So thanks for everything lads, I hope ye get more recognition for all the work ye put in from now on!!!!

Dee

**If you've got something to say, or even nothing to say but you can say it in a clever way, drop us a line in An Focal. You might get it printed, and you might just win yourself £15.**

**Either drop it in to Fergal in the office, the girls at reception, or e-mail it to**

**union.communication@student.ul.ie**

# CULINARY GRACE -

## a beginners guide to gourmet cooking

I've been advised, by the Editor that I should write a little more rather than just putting in recipes each week, or people will think it's a farce and that I am just transcribing them from a book. This fortnight, we are going to cook with plain and simple spuds. Of late there has been a lot of emphasis on protein diets. Personally I think any diet that denies you of any food type in the long run cannot be good for you. Potatoes are a rich source of carbohydrate and not much else besides water, You have got to be careful not to overindulge on Carbohydrates i.e, things like rice, pasta, cakes, biscuits all the things we like. My philosophy is everything in moderation and you are on the right road to a healthier life-style

### Potato Dauphonois

#### INGREDIENTS

1/2 kg potatoes  
1/2 pt milk  
75g grated cheese  
50g bread crumbs  
1 clove of garlic,  
crushed or finely chopped.  
Salt & Pepper.

#### COST

£2.00  
£0.40  
£0.60  
£0.50  
£0.04  
£0.02  
£3.56

#### Serves 4

Prep Time: 15mins.  
Cooking Time: 25mins.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Peel, wash and dice potatoes.
2. Place in baking dish cover with milk and season with salt and pepper.
3. Cook in microwave for 20 minutes until potatoes are soft.
4. Cover with breadcrumbs and then sprinkle with cheese.
5. Place under the grill for 5mins to brown.

### Bubble & Squeak



#### INGREDIENTS

4 tbsp butter or oil  
1 onion, finely chopped  
450g/ 1lb potatoes,  
cooked and mashed.\*  
225g/8oz cooked cabbage,

#### COST

£0.05  
£0.08  
£1.50  
£0.85

finely chopped \*  
Salt and pepper

£0.02  
£3.00

#### Serves 4

Prep. Time: 40mins.  
Cooking Time: 30mins.

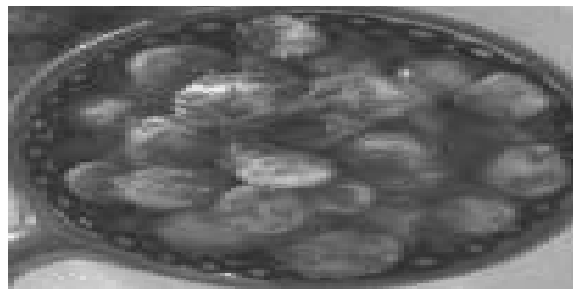
#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat half the butter or oil in a heavy frying pan. Add the onion and cook, stirring frequently, until softened, but not browned.
2. Mix together the potatoes, cabbage or sprouts and season to taste with salt and plenty of pepper.
3. Add the vegetables to the pan, stir well, then press the vegetable mixture into a large even cake.
4. Cook over a moderate heat for about 15 mins., until the cake is browned underneath
5. Hold a large plate over the pan, then turnover the vegetable cake onto it. Add the remaining butter or oil to the pan, then, when hot, slip the cake into the pan, browned side uppermost.
6. Cook the Bubble and Squeak over a moderate heat for a further 10 minutes or so, until the underside of the cake is golden brown, then serve hot, cut into wedges.

\*Boil potatoes until tender, add in four knobs of butter, and 5tblsp of milk and mash.

\*Finely chop cabbage and boil in salted water until soft not mushy.

### Spanish Chilli Potatoes



#### INGREDIENTS

1kg/2lb new potatoes  
6ml/tbsp oil  
1 onion, finely chopped.  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
15ml tomato purée  
1 tin of chopped tomatoes  
2-3 chillies, deseeded,  
finely chopped  
Hot chilli powder  
1tsp paprika  
salt and pepper

#### COST

£3.00  
£0.05  
£0.08  
£0.08  
£0.10  
£0.40  
£0.10  
£0.05  
£0.05  
£0.02  
£3.92

( just a splash of red wine where possible  
, the rest of which can be consumed before

going to the Lodge)

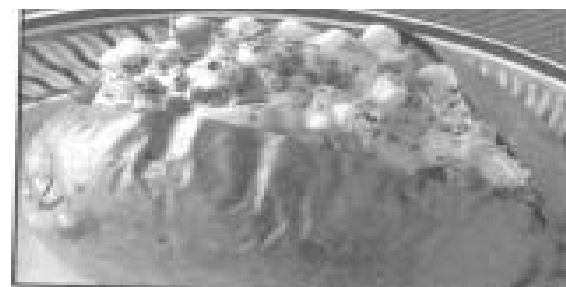
#### Serves 4

Prep. Time: 0  
Cooking Time: 30mins.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Boil the potatoes in their skins for 10-12 mins. Or until just tender. Drain and leave to cool and cut in half..
2. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large pan and add the onions and garlic. Fry gently for 5-6mins, until just softened. Stir in the tin of tomatoes, tomato purée, chilli, paprika and wine when flush and simmer for about 5mins.
3. Add the potatoes and mix into the sauce mixture until well coated. Cover and simmer gently for about 8-10 mins, or until the potatoes are tender. Season well and transfer to a warmed serving dish.

### Slimmer's Jacket Potato



#### INGREDIENTS

4 baking potatoes  
1/2 onion, finely chopped.  
1/2 red pepper, diced  
1/2 green pepper, diced  
1/2 tin of sweetcorn  
1 carton of low fat natural yoghurt  
2 tblsp of mayonnaise  
salt and pepper

#### COST

£1.20  
£0.04  
£0.16  
£0.16  
£0.37  
£0.32  
£0.10  
£0.02  
£2.37

#### Serves: 4

Prep Time: 5mins  
Cooking Time: 60mins

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cross Potatoes and bake in oven at 200 degrees Celsius, or cook in microwave on high for 15-20 mins.
2. Mix together peppers, onion and sweetcorn in a bowl.
3. Mix in yogurt and mayonnaise.
4. Season to taste.

# Blame the Movies

By Nick O' Brien.

Movies influence all of us. I think it is fair and right to say that is their purpose, we jump in moments of terror, cry in times of sadness, laugh at the jokes, always affected in some way, or else what is the point in spending money on a ticket in the first place?

But Hollywood is penalised now for this. Apparently we are allowed to feel some emotion during a film, but only the blander more humane emotions. I think this is an insult to an art. It is censorship, which is as bad a mis-use as any propaganda. People have picked up the bible, misinterpreted it and killed because of it, have they not? Does anyone blame the bible, try to censor the bible?

I will give you an example of the parental view of movies, with reference to the Columbine massacre, or any other you would like. They assume that teens are not intelligent enough to recognise the

difference between reality and imagination, and that Hollywood has to spell it out for them. They see any film with violence or drug abuse as a theme and wait for a bandwagon to hop onto as soon as another massacre, disaster or suicide happens. It is safe to say that there is little generation crossing between teens and parents today, and this has been true for a long time.

This shaded, tainted view is an insult. To the families of the victims, who demand to know why this has happened, and instead of pointing out the truths about ourselves, when Columbine happened, and many others I could name if you want me to, the Kip Kinkel incident, where they found a gun in his locker, then sent him home, and he returned later to murder his classmates, Heritage HS, Georgia, Two killed and twenty hurt in Springfield Oregon; A Classmate killed for dating an ex-girlfriend in Fayetteville Tennessee; A science teacher shot dead at a schooldance in Edinboro, 4 students and a teacher

shot dead in fake fire drill in Jonesboro Arkansas, Three students killed in West Paducah, Boy allegedly killed his mother, then killing two students in Pearl Missouri. There are many more to this list, and they are growing every day. Yes, so far, America has been the most obvious victim and main target of these shootings, but that is no reason to assume they won't happen here soon, next year, next month, tomorrow...

And this mass voice of violence and bloodshed needs an explanation. But what do the Parents associations across the world blame? Movies, like Pulp Fiction, The Matrix, Reservoir Dogs, and bands, Like Marilyn Manson, Eminem and KMFDM. This is the world's answer to the question "Why does a child pick up a gun and kill his parents, his peers?" ?

Recently a landmark ruling in the US means that Hollywood now is not allowed to market its movies in any forum where there may be an underage youth to witness them. This means that our media is being

censored because they think if we see killing we will kill. They are saying we have been programmed with no morality.

I think it is an interesting situation that we were bred into a warring world with the Falklands, the Gulf, and now the Mid-east explosion and yet the government wants to make everything that is supposed to mirror reality bland, to suit its own needs. When they do ruin the media, our media, everything we hear, and the shootings still occur, maybe then they will realise their mistake and make a new one.

Do they not realise that Kane killed Abel before the media even existed? Man will always have his own urges towards self-destruction. This, at least, we know as it has been proven time and again from The Battle of Hastings through to Jim Morrison, in every way, and trying to barricade us from influence to murder is as pointless as trying to prevent all motives in the world we have today. Somebody always hates you. More Disney and less Tarantino isn't going to change that. Until the world discovers this, can we not maintain any purity that is left in today's movie industry?

## MEISCEOIRÍ IOMLÁN

by SEANAN O'COISTIN

Dúirt duine éigin liom an seachtain seo chaite go bhfuil trí tabhairne eile chun oscailt anseo in Ollscoil Luimnigh. Ba ionadh é seo liomsa. Nach bhfuil dóthain i dhá tabhairne. Níl an "Scholars" oscailte fiú bliain agus tá siad chun trí tabhairne eile a oscailt. Caithfidh mé rá nach bhfuil siad chun oscailt go luath ach fós caithfidh mé an céist a chur - an bhfuil gá leis na tabhairne seo? Tuigim go ólann lucht léinn go minic agus taitníonn sé leo (táim cionnta den peaca sin) ach an gá trí tabhairne eile chun an peaca ollmhór seo a cothú?

Tá na "Stables" againn leis na cianta. Tá na "Scholars" tar éis oscailt ag tús na bliaina seo. Go luath beidh dhá tabhairne thíos sa Airéine. Agus tá sé beartaithe ag Cumann na Iar - Céimithe tabhairne san áraimh a oscailt dóibh féin i gclós na "Stables". B'fhéidir sa todhcaí beidh tabhairne i ngach foirgnimh cosúil leis an nós atá ann anois ina bhfuil bialann i ngach foirgnimh. Cinnte beidh drong mór den ollscoil sásta le sin. Nuair atá tú chríochnaithe le do léacht nó do rang is féidir leat siúl isteach sa tabhairne agus ól go dtí an céad léacht eile.

An rud maith é seo? Feicim na buntáistí agus na míbhuntáistí a baineann leis. Beidh neart roghadh agat chun dul amach san oíche. Beidh comórtas idir na tabhairne chun na costasaí a coimead íseal. Beidh níos mó siamsíocht san ollscoil tuisc sin. Mura taitníonn ceoil nó daoine leat is féidir aistriú go tabhairne eile. Beidh cáil ar Ollscoil Luimnigh mar gheall ar na CÚIG tabhairne a bheidh againn.

Ach feicim míbhuntáistí leis cómh maith. Gineann sé fadhbanna eile. Beidh ino-marca láthair ann chun a bheith ólta go h-iomlán. Is d'eol liomsa go mbeidh ino-marca ól ar siúl ag na lucht léinn (cé gur tárlíonn sé ar aon nós). I mo thuairimse tabhairfear an mí-cáil orainn gur meisceoirí iomlán muid. Beidh tuismitheoirí is muintir Luimnigh ag céistiú an gá le cúig tabhairne san ollscoil. Beidh imní ar tuismitheoirí ligeant dá pháistí freastal ar Ollscoil Luimnigh.

Ach is é mo phríomh cúis imní ná go mbeidh deighilt mór ann san ollscoil. Má tá cúig tabhairne ann beidh tabhairne éagsúil ag daoine áraithe. Do lucht spórtúil an ollscoil beidh an roghadh acu dul go dtí na tabhairníní san Airéine nó go dtí na tabhairne eile. Beidh an roghadh ag na Iar-Céimithe ól ina tabhairne féin nó i áit eile. Agus tá an éagsúlacht ann cheana féin idir na "Scholars"

agus na "Stables".

Dúireadh liom go mbíonn na tuathaigh" (culchies) ag ól sna "Stables" agus is é na "Scholars" áit na "baothghalántaigh" (snobs/yuppies). An ceart dúinn níos mó éagsúlacht a chur isteach san áit seo?

Is é barúil roinnt daoine san ollscoil go bhfuil deighilteanna dofheicte cheana féin anseo agus le h-oscailt na tabhairne seo beidh na deighilt seo le feiceáil go soiléir i measc na lucht léinn. Mar a dúirt mé faoi na tuathaigh is na baothghalántaigh agus na "Stables" is "Scholars" beidh sé seo méadaithe i bhfad níos mó leis na trí tabhairne eile. Beidh na daoine spórtúil sa Airéine agus na Iar-Céimithe ina tabhairne féin.

Mar sin beidh druing éagsúil san ollscoil agus ní beidh an méad céanna teangmháil idir na druing éagsúil. Tuigim go bhfuil gá agus cead ag na Iar-Céimithe a áit féin (tá ceart acu bheith scartha ón na bun-céimithe óg, seafódach, neamhaibí, ólta), ach fós beadh teangmháil idir na bun-céimithe agus na Iar-céimithe go maith. Ní beidh an méad céanna daoine ins na tabhairne mar atá anois agus mar sin caillfear an atmaisféar ins na tabhairne. Agus mar is eol do cách tá gá le beocht agus atmaisféar i tithe tabhairne.

Ag deireadh na dála admhaíom gur rud maith é tabhairníní eile a tógáil san ollscoil ach ní mé ró cinnte foai an toradh. Níos mó meisceoirí agus deighilteanna sna lucht léinn?



# State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

Abortion!!! A word that is probably least mentioned in conversation in Ireland today. The word and deed manages to infuse people with mixed and often heart-rending emotions. Even the use of words in describing the deed have to be carefully assessed for fear of insulting or misrepresenting a certain side or position. But instead of looking at the different positions of the so-called pro-life and 'pro-choice' sides, I have chosen to look at the individual, namely the woman who is faced with an unexpected pregnancy. Before I go on, many will argue that this piece of writing is flawed already since a male has composed it, and this cannot be avoided. All that I would ask of the reader is to consider the points made here, which have been formulated out of a desire to address the question rather than avoid it, as many do.

In modern society, sex and especially casual sex has emerged as part of a generation who seek to live life to its ultimate enjoyment. This, one necessarily cannot argue with no matter how good or bad it is, because it exists and there is nothing that anybody can do about it. But after a certain point things loose their casualness and more serious matters arise – a pregnancy that was unplanned and unforeseen. The pregnant woman has few choices. She could carry the child for its full term or consider having an abortion. I do not claim to know what goes through the mind of a woman in this situation. To me it is frightening and presumably many other men feel the same,

and therefore adopt a stand-offish approach. Of course this is no excuse. The man should and must claim part responsibility for the pregnancy. I presume that many different emotions swell up in a woman's body, maybe embarrassment, guilt, uneasiness, stupidity, etc. Those who decide to continue with the pregnancy face all the problems of supporting a family. But for many this future is not wanted, either out of economic reasons or otherwise.

But there is also the case of rape to be considered. This crime does enormous damage not only to the physical body of a person but also the mental well-being of the person. Where pregnancy occurs in these cases, a woman is placed in an almost impossible situation. If the result is a living child, can it be loved unconditionally by its mother, knowing where that child's life began. For many this love cannot be guaranteed and rather than allow an unhappy life for both mother and child, an abortion is often chosen.

The opinions of the different 'moral' positions may also encroach on the decisions of a woman contemplating an abortion. The churches for their part are against abortion in almost all circumstances. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that abortion is never right. Some denominations have reasoned that when the life of the mother is at risk, and aborting the child would remove this risk, then the mother should have this right. The 'pro-life' position will argue that 'killing' an innocent life is

wrong and therefore any action of this kind would be murder. Those of the opposite opinion, on the 'pro-choice' side, will state that the mother should have the right to choose an abortion if that is what she wants. I believe that none of these supposedly 'moral' organisations including the churches consider the actual person or people in that situation.

For years the state too has neglected to deal with abortion in law or in practice. Everybody recognises that there is a problem in this country. What exactly this problem is, is open for debate. Does the problem lay in the fact that Irish women have to travel to Britain or elsewhere for an abortion? is the problem abortion itself? Or is the problem lying in the hearts and minds of every Irish person who fails to tackle this issue in a compassionate and reasoned way? For too long Ireland has suffered under a veil of secrecy and a mentality of 'closed-doors'. People are coloured by their dogmatic and antiquated beliefs, that would have been worth considering in the past where they originated, but not now. If this country and its citizens are to maintain any degree of moral worth, then decisions such as that on abortion must be made. Everyday people go through the hardship of an unplanned pregnancy. Abortion is but one option that society has developed to handle this situation. But what is argued here is a more individualistic approach. Every case is different in context and meaning, and therefore different solutions suite different realities. But the reality of compassion and understanding must be the primary and sole consideration of people who think they help the situation by getting involved.

What this country needs is simply reasoned and thoughtful debate on a subject that rips at the very core of our society, and not the diatribes of the past.

## Snuff Films & Valium

## Diary of A First Year

Nicholas O'Brien shows us that men write diaries as well as the girls can!!!!!!

I was cheered up wonderfully by the "Queen of diaries" welcome greeting in the last edition of An Focal. Actually, I bought him a drink after...

Reason I was depressed is that I got rejected again by Mary I. I tried hard, but apparently, I don't have a rugby shirt or enough facial hair to fit in with the 80% female population there. (Oh come on, they are slugging us in their paper.)

In addition to this, I applied to get the name of "student services" changed. I queued for 15 minutes on Monday, and, get this, I didn't get serviced. I even used my best chat up line. ( has anyone ever told you that you look like Christina Aguilera?) This was a slight embellishment of the truth, but he looked pleased, and went so far as to lick his genitalia in front of me. (I have a query about this, are cats allowed in University buildings, let alone allowed to work in one? Do they have a union?)

I spent Wednesday convincing the health centre to give me the meningitis injection, but it didn't work because I have my next lecture in 10 minutes and I don't feel sick at all...

Depressed by this, I went to the college psychiatrist to get the emotional pain off my shoulders. I told him I was depressed. He told me he was depressed. He told me he was a woman trapped in a man's body. I told him I was a lesbian trapped in a man's body. I asked him what I should do, he informed me that there was likely some valium in the folds of the couch if I looked, but any spare change I found was his...

With Tuesday came those wonderful blackouts, and a welcome break from lectures in Monnit's. I devised a short list of things to do in the event of another blackout situation, to amuse yourselves in that short enforced break between looking at porn on the internet.

1. Run through "A block" dressed as a Klingon, humming the theme tune from the Exorcist and trying to convince people that you are, in fact, the

Lord of the Dance.

2. Run around the sports grounds with a computer strapped to your back, maniacally screaming "flower power!!!" With John Lennon glasses and a cannabis leaf tee-shirt trying to plug the computer into a tree, while laughing at complete strangers because they have to rely on electricity. The fools.

3. As soon as the lecturer passes by, bow down before him screaming "Worship the Curly Behemoth, and then inform him that you are Jim Morrison and he is standing on your drugs. Then prance around him using his hair as a maypole while singing "Light my Fire."

4. Walk up to a complete stranger and ask him if he has ever heard of the Punk Fu society, and regardless of the answer, give him a patented "Two handed nostril grab" and scribble "Copulation SubMachine Gunz Rule" on his forehead. Cos they do.

(N.B. Always try this on someone smaller than you)

5. Hide in the elevator shaft, screaming "seluR nataS" until someone comes along, then tell them that you are having a baby, but you won't let it out until an old priest and a young priest exorcise the demon of the elevator.

6. Go to the Clubs and Soc's budget meeting, and tell them you are from the "Punk Fu Society" (The Martial art THEY don't want you to know about) And you want a budget to make a snuff film, and you need money to hire a hooker. (Works so much better if you show up dressed in a leather catsuit.)

That is pretty ,uch my week, until next edition, my first year friends, and 2nd year enemies, I give you this advice: Stay away from Post Grads, they are not like us. Till then, Punk on forever, and never forget, Copulation Sub Machine Gunz rule.

# How Do You Cripple The Students' Union

**How do you cripple the might of the proud Student Union, whose automatic doors reside in a place of homage within the Courtyard, acting as both a beacon of hope and a focal point for student power?**

How do you bring the UL campus to its knees (without revealing where your stash of AK-47s and Stinger missile launcher's are), in the most simple and basic way possible? Nuke it? No, we're students! Maybe some of our culinary opuses may pose a significant health risk, and in isolated cases even emit gamma rays, but they're not THAT powerful!

How do you bring student social life on campus to a halt?

Simple, you destroy power by taking it away!

Of course I'm referring to the localised power-cut that happened in UL on Tuesday October 17th, 2000 (on that day in 1906, the eminent historian, political commentator and general source of all wisdom Brian Farrell.....Better not continue that!), even if the manner in which I began this letter is about as cryptic as the lack of explanation given! Nobody seems to know exactly WHAT happened, but at least the problem was mostly rectified by that Thursday.

Of course most of us don't give a s\*\*\* either way! Basically, it meant that most lectures were cancelled (even if tutorials still went ahead), the queues in the Library for computer access moved unusually faster, and for once in their lives, anyone who usually had five hours of labs in a row in the Schrodinger now only had as many hours as the HPSS students (no insult intended!). Trust the b\*\*\*\*\* engineers to benefit from a power-cut, when THEY'RE the ones who are learning to deal with REDUCING them!

Anyone who was half-awake at ten past twelve that day (well the night before WAS rough enough on the head, I mean it's hard enough to accept that AM means you have to get up, and then it's cold ..... and it's such a long walk from Kilmurray to the PE building..etc!) was already working out whether they had a gas or electric cooker at their house. Luckily, the cut turned out to be localised, but it could've been worse! Still, the potential for an excuse to have a house party in Elm Park (under the pretext of sharing any available cookers for dinner) which the neighbours couldn't object to the Gardai about (if some people brought a few cans along and play a bit of music, it couldn't be a house party, sure they're only eating their dinner!) stiffened the resolve of many to survive this major catastrophe".

What struck me as off were the areas that were and weren't affected! The Concert Hall was back up later that evening, and the only effect on the Library was that the Library staff had an "excuse" to waste even more time swinging on those chairs behind the desks. Their justification was, as usual, fairly arbitrary,

(but we all got the underlying message f\*\*\* off!- NOT a direct quote!) but it's not as if the Library Catalogue system hasn't experienced "minor problems" before! And of course the private computer labs! Not only were the monitors in the Postgrad labs in the E block blinking at the empty room, but the swipe card locks were also working.

Then, the less important "institutions" whose presence recognise the volume and influence with UL, were hit! The shop, closed! The Paddocks, closed! The Bookshop-(OK so I don't go there myself that often, but still)-closed! And more drastically, the stables had to close later on, but the Scholars kept hope alive for those who demand the right to perpetuate the stereotypical image of drunk students having to stagger home! Fairly use to them!

Indeed, in spite of talks of reforming the Class Rep system to give greater power to students, the SU also found ITSELF without power! It was up in the Schrodinger that the meeting had to be held, and the diminished number in attendance indicates not only how much the power-cut had affected the determination of many to defy nature, but also that all of us are too dependant on electricity.

Of course, it gutted me personally to see the ESB advert with all these people using invisible electronic gadgets on TV that night! Not only was that ironic, (or in the words of Ed Byrne "it's not ironic, just a pain in the a\*\*\*) but the previous day, in a Tort Law lecture, the lecturer had just referred to a power-cut caused by negligence, and how nobody could sue the ESB cabling system in UL, it's as complicated as \*\*\*\*, when it doesn't need to be, it's as bent as Stephen Gately, and there's always a hole somewhere in it because somebody f\*\*\*ed up designing it all!!

So what AM I trying to say? Basically, I did something I thought I'd never do (at least until week nine or ten anyway!), I STUDIED! Imagine! Me! And it didn't feel too bad either! Maybe I just need a "jolt" in the right direction to sort me out, but at least I can see that there's more to students campus life than the Internet and drinking pints at eleven o'clock in the Scholars! (Sorry, that should be SINCE 11 o'clock)

The other, and more important thing in my opinion is that for that week the rain did impossible! It stopped! OK, so it wasn't a miracle, it was still cold and breezy, but to see the sun and feel its warmth HERE of all places changes things! (well not everything, I am after all typing this letter on a COMPUTER in the A-block) I bet you're thinking, "who cares about the weather?" Well, if I have to get up, I DO!

OK, so it was only a minor electrical fault. So most of us still went out to the Lodge that night and drank ample amounts of alcohol until the power-cut became yet another distant memory blurred by damaged brain-cells and copious quantities of Vodka and Red Bull. So things went on mostly as usual for those who were willing to defy the elements in order to make that nine o'clock lecture all the way down

in the Schuman. So student social life DIDN'T come to an end!

To me, it represents the triumph of Students Spirit! OK, so there wasn't much of an atmosphere on-campus! (ever been to UCC after 6pm – no power-cut everyone just goes into the city instead?) It would have been more profound if I could have said that the last paragraph was actually true, but leave me with my dreams, and you can stuff reality!

"We had the candles out, drinking deeply of both empty darkness and pints in the light of one solitary flame, flickering in the breeze blowing from the open door, swaying as it battled with invisible forces cloaked in the darkness of the unknown, unsure whether it would survive long enough to provide us with even one more second of light, of truth, of salvation from the evils of being plunged into total blindness. Every moment of life given to the fame was like a gift, its shape, its vibrance. In spite of being caged by the limits of the wick, the flame FELT free.

And it was! The darkness was its to rule, to brighten, to continue again the elemental struggle between good and evil, between light and darkness, the conflict which can never end. And as it strived to survive and yearned to live, it comforted us all, each of us in the eerie silence was touched in a different way, but all of us felt not special.

But different. As we sat at table, huddled around the source of , what was to us, "everything", a sense of unity formed. We were not alone somehow, the worries of the World of Light fell from our shoulder. The darkness seemed more welcoming, it was a simpler life. Out there, outside the shield of darkness, in the light of day, were the problems of reality; bills, exams, the pressures of an economic dictatorship to which none of us either subscribed to nor wanted to be apart of. No, this was ours!

The darkness was our protection, it was our whole world, because it was all we really needed. And as I surveyed my new homeland, it began to dawn on me that this emptiness was just that , empty! It could never be a world, because it didn't exist. Darkness is ephemeral, transient, it never last. And it shouldn't! That world is not for us! With that, the silence was breached by humming of the tools of economic oppression buzzing into life.

As electricity exercised its will into every light-bulb, illuminating the bar with falseness of our reality, one of the others made a move to blow out the candle, I stopped him "leave it for a minute, we may need it again" He shrugged-whether rejecting the concept of simpler life forever in favour of the eternal temptation of pleasing the sensuous desires of the flawed human complex through the Amber Nectar, or just didn't care either way and wanted another pint ASAP. I sat there, staring at the candle, now diminished in its greatness, replaced by a greater force, and reflected not only on what had been lost when the power came back on, but also on what humanity had ultimately gained"

# Is the SU A Clique

As I was moving between Clubs & Soc's meetings, class reps meetings and various other society meetings, the memory of the hustings of the last Students Union presidential elections came flying back to me. It was here that a fellow student asked the question of the candidates, what would they do to make the SU look less like a clique. This caused uproar in the hustings and ended in the student printing a retraction in this newspaper. While this is a controversial issue, I feel that it is one that must be addressed from both the general students point of view and my own opinion.

So as I made my way from meeting to meeting, looking at the reality of all the SU has to offer, the thought wandered aimlessly around my head as to whether the SU being a clique is a well-known fact or a common misconception.

Vague memories of the first Clubs & Soc's meeting come to mind, where nothing remotely interesting happened except an insurance talk that we had already received a few days prior at the Clubs & Soc's Admin Day. However this meeting was very well attended with a number of people having to stand in the conference room in the Student Centre. One might think that there was a genuine interest on the part of these students, which there may well be and I personally believe there is, but it must also be noted that a club or society can only miss one meeting with an apology all year and after that 5% is taken off their budget for every other meeting they miss, apology or not. While it is by no means a general consensus some students believe that people are being blackmailed to attend are not doing so out of their love for UL's Clubs and Societies or

even just an interest in what's happening at the council.

In Week 4 there was the first Class Reps meeting. It was, as always scheduled for Tuesday evening, little did people realise what was to happen on that day. This was the day lectures were cancelled, the computers were down and, worst of all, the pubs were closed, all due to the lack of power in the college. This, I believe, was an ESB conspiracy to make people sit down and watch Gay Byrne on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire'. So along with this class reps was also postponed until the next day, which made many of the drowned rats that call themselves class reps very upset, and resulted in the Education Officer having to deal with an amount of abuse being shouted at him, particularly from me, but he dealt well with it.

Anyway, I'm drifting from the point and my opinion on conspiracies and 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' can wait for another day. The meeting took place on Wednesday night. If I had thought that Clubs & Soc's the week before was non-eventful, this was ten times worse, with not one motion up for discussion. The worst thing about the meeting was the attendance with maybe thirty or so students turning out, around eight of who were members of the SU Executive and constitutionally had to be there. As I looked around at the faces I recognised a number of them as fellow clubs and soc'ers. These are the people I would see every Tuesday for the next year.

On Thursday of Week 4 I attended The Frames gig in the Jonathon Swift, brilliant night by the way. This is probably a strange arena to bring an article on the standing of the SU But I

have my reasons. During one of the support acts I took notice of the people watching over us, the Ents Crew. Yet again I recognised practically all the faces from either Class Reps or Clubs & Soc's. To me it seemed like instead of having almost ten thousand members, the SU has in fact one or two hundred.

I put the question to myself, a person who is involved in both Class Reps and Clubs & Soc's but a person who by no means is important within either, do I believe the SU is a clique. After thinking long and hard about it the only answer I can come up with is yes, ULSU is a clique. However, it is not the fault of the people who are involved in the running of the SU, it is the fault of the ordinary student, who is too lazy to get off their arse and do something positive for their fellow student. The person who quotes the fact that the SU is a clique as their reason for not getting involved are just hypocrites. I do agree that many people just aren't interested in the running of the SU and have no opinions as a result, I don't have a problem with these people in the slightest, and in fact I admire their honesty. It is beyond me why some people can't make an effort and get involved in Class Reps or Clubs & Soc's, and receive the rewards that one can get from their involvement, when others get involved in everything and sign away their evenings in the common aim of improving student life here in UL. As I go from meeting to meeting I see the same faces, the same people working for the good of everyone else, and I put it to anybody who believes that the SU is a clique to get off their arses and get involved, and as a result their opinion and mine soon might change.

## "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?"

After receiving press coverage usually reserved for moon landings and episodes of Big Brother where the contestants frolic naked in hot tubs, you would be forgiven for thinking last weeks debut of "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" was spectacularly unimpressive.

The sight of Gay, perched precariously on a high stool, attempting to put menace in to the words- "Is that your final answer?" and sighing dramatically before announcing the answer, was enough to make anyone switch over to the intellectually challenging "Popular."

The trouble with Gay, was that he had spent the best part of half a century learning how to make people feel comfortable on air (Calor gas housewife of the year, roses of Tralee, Pat Kenny etc) and creating tension in a game show was a bit beyond his capabilities.

This week however was a revelation. Gay isn't exactly terminator material yet, but that icy glare is definitely improving. Of course it works better on some than others.

- So, you're saying Graceland,

home of Elvis Presley is in Memphis?"

- Yes, definitely.
- You seem to be in doubt.
- No, I'm not.
- I'd slow everything down if I were you Jimmy.
- It's Memphis, Gay.
- Final answer?
- Yes.
- Final, final answer?
- Yes!!!!!!

On the other hand the "thick as two planks in a forest" quality of some contestants, let Gay have a field day.

- Where in the body is the

cornea?

- Is it a) The toe?
- b) The stomach?
- c) The mouth?

Or

- d) The eye?
- Ahhhh.....Jez, haven't a clue
- Any idea at all?
- Well, my first instinct is the toe, ya know, corn- cornea....
- The toe?
- Or maybe, the eye?
- Maybe the eye?
- Awww....I don't know Gay, can I ask

the audience?

The second show also showed the value of choosing your "friends" carefully.

-Right Kevin, any idea what the B in BMW stands for? It's narrowed down to either Baden or Bavarian.

- Jez, no idea. Any idea yourself Cathal?

- well, if I had an idea I wouldn't be ringing you!

All in all the second show was a vast improvement on the first- sharper, funnier and with more money being won. That said Gay will have to watch himself for signs of slipping back into presenter to housewife tittle-tattle.

After an opening question asking what was the staple diet of Koala bears( a. Baked beans b. eucalyptus leaves c. pate do foie gras or d. Sausages), he responded when the contestant answered correctly with:

- Yes, Eucalyptus leaves! Can you believe it? The little buggers eat up to 300 pounds of it a day! Absolutely amazing!

Gay, Chris here, I think we'll have to go over that menace thing again.....

### QUESTIONS FROM "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?"

#### HOW WOULD YOU DO?

-if you don't get these, hang your head in shame and hope to get on "Winning Streak" some day.

1. What is the name of an Eskimos house?
2. What planet & Disney character share the same name?
3. What city did the Beatles come from?
4. What is Jack & Vera's surname on Coronation St?
5. In the Wizard of Oz, what was the colour of the road?
6. Who played Fr. Ted?
7. Who was the first James Bond?
8. In 1979, which band didn't like Mondays?
9. Which of the following countries does not straddle the equator?
  - a) Kenya b) Indonesia c) Australia or d) Brazil?
10. Where is the Great Barrier Reef?

# Marian's Voyeur Column

- A fortnightly look at what's hot or not in the world



Since the concept of the teenager was invented in the 1950's an entire culture has developed around it. With their own fashion, music, food drinks and language, the teenager has become an unavoidable phenomenon. The term "teenager" gave those finding the transition from child to adult difficult an identity as well as an excuse for just about everything. Since then the teenager has become the target market of fast-food restaurants, alcohol manufacturers, record companies, fashion designers, movie studios etc. etc. You can just picture the marketing experts in their minimalist offices trying to think up ways to prey on the in-securities of impressionable 13 year olds. Which leads me to the topic of what's HOT this week – the Teen Movie. When the term teenager was first used they probably didn't imagine that the lives and loves of 13-19 year olds would spawn a whole movie genre.

Summertime at the cinema is the "serious movie goers" nightmare. All the "critically acclaimed" movies have already been released at Oscar time and they are faced with the Summer Blockbuster or the Teen Romance the best of all the teen movies. They tend to all follow the same "plot": boy meets girl, boy shows how brain-dead he is and boy loses girl. Occasionally they vary it a bit to girl meets boy, girl two-times boy.... You know the rest. And what's a teen movie without a prom or a homecoming or some major event where the geek can

turn into a babe and forget all their "hating the cool people" principles. So, you're all shaking your heads and wondering what some one in a third-level institution of this calibre sees in clichéd romance stories where one love sick teenager stares into the eyes of another love sick teenager and proclaims that they will never forget them. Honest answer; I don't know, maybe it's the guarantee of a happy ending or maybe I just appreciate the fresh new talent. (Acting talent that is!!!!) Whatever the secret ingredient is, it works.

Another sub-genre of the teen movie industry is the "disgusting but funny" genre characterised by American Pie. Which incidentally was the first movie I saw in the cinema as a third level student. I can't decide if Scary Movie goes into this category or not, maybe it deserves a category of its' own!! Either way it was definitely a teen movie, my mother was completely lost. Road Trip, although based on college students and given an 18 rating still qualifies as a teen movie, more funny than disgusting, which was no harm!!

Targeting people in the throws of adolescence while the struggle to fit in is at it's most prominent is a clever move on the part of movie studios. Teen movies have the power to create new ways of thinking, new fashion trends even whole new languages that are un-decodable to anyone over 20. Rebel Without a Cause gave us white t-shirts inside leather jackets and in the

50's and Clueless gave us knee socks in the 90's. Clueless also introduced us to Baldwins and Bettys, showed us that mobile phones could be more than a rich mans toy and who could forget the days when every self-respecting Betty's pencil case contained a fluffy biro. (Gone be the days when I used to watch it at least once a week in a sitting room full of quilt covers). More recently Scary Movie provided us with the incessantly annoying "Whassup!!"

The term "teenager" gives us a chance to get used to the idea of growing up. It must have been pretty horrific having to go from child to adult in one go. Being a teenager lets you hang onto your youth for just that little bit longer. Who wants the responsibility that follows being an adult, working, car loans, mortgages, pension plans, and I'm getting nauseous just thinking about it!

So, what's NOT HOT this week? The fact that I'm only going to be a teenager for another nine months. On July 26 2001 I have to say Goodbye to my license to have fun (and get away with it). It's going to be my most distressing birthday yet. Although I'll still be in college so that might extend my license for a bit longer!! Maybe if I stay on to do a post grad.....

## Have You Nothing Better To Do?

**You know those headwrecking e-mails that you get from people with nothing better to do. Now and again though, a good one turns up. We're going to see if we can find one a fortnight. Tough task.**

### (This is for the Lads) Courses for Women

**Training courses are now available for women on the following subjects:**

1. Silence, the Final Frontier: Where No Woman Has Gone Before
2. The Undiscovered Side of Banking: Making Deposits
3. Parties: Going Without New Outfits
4. Man Management: Minor Household Chores Can Wait Till After The Game
5. Bathroom Etiquette I: Men Need Space in the Bathroom Cabinet Too
6. Bathroom Etiquette II: His Razor is His
7. Communication Skills I: Tears - The Last Resort, not the First
8. Communication Skills II: Thinking Before Speaking
9. Communication Skills III: Getting What you Want Without

Nagging

10. Driving a Car Safely: A Skill You CAN Acquire
11. Telephone Skills: How to Hang Up
12. Introduction to Parking
13. Advanced Parking: Backing Into a Space
14. Water Retention: Fact or Fat
15. Cooking I: Bringing Back Bacon, Eggs and Butter
16. Cooking II: Bran and Tofu are Not for Human Consumption
17. Cooking III: How not to Inflict Your Diets on Other People
18. Compliments: Accepting Them Gracefully
19. PMS: Your Problem . . . Not His
20. Dancing: Why Men Don't Like To
21. Classic Clothing: Wearing Outfits You Already Have
22. Household Dust: A Harmless Natural Occurrence Only Women Notice
23. Integrating Your Laundry: Washing It All Together
24. Oil and Gas: Your Car Needs Both
25. TV Remotes: For Men Only

# Hitchikers Guide to the World-Wide-Web

In terms of online gaming, of COURSE there's nothing to beat Quake (except perhaps Quake II, but I'll leave THAT matter to be debated among the self-elected "experts" in the CS building!). However, for those of you who'd prefer an alternative to blast-em-ups, who couldn't give a flying f\*\*k about RPGs and who don't know (and more importantly don't WANT to know) the importance and benefits of Real-Time over whatever the ignored alternative is, all is not lost! I dedicate the focus of this feature to those who generally prefer the allure of the "disposable" game program, so-called because you play it once, and then get sick of it almost immediately! Why am I inflicting this unnecessary grief upon you? Because I CAN! Also perhaps it'll cut down on the amount of utter s\*\*\*\* that's floating around the network!

This is not a comprehensive guide to the world of disposable games that are to be found on-line (I've already been told that I couldn't produce a definitive guide to the back end of a donkey!), but then again, why should it be? New games are being designed all the time, and this is merely a brief introduction to the best of what I found SO FAR (which as you can tell even at this stage, isn't much to e-mail home about!) A follow-up IS in the planning stage, but might get disrupted by power-cuts, so watch this space! If this article provides you with enough attachments for next week's avalanche of e-mails which you intend to unleash on your unsuspecting friends, then fine! Otherwise, either save them on your desktop and keep them for one of those "rare rainy days" in Limerick, when you're about as bored as watching Man Utd win yet ANOTHER match! , or plague your friends with the fortieth crap attachment in ten minutes.

OK, OK! Enough \*\*\*\*! Down to business!

Now, most of you will already know of the extensive selection of "traditional" games which are available to all account-holders at <http://games.yahoo.com> (and no I'm not patronising you by giving you the URL, I'm just filling up space!), but personally, I'd prefer to play something a little more entertaining! Even I get sick of losing the fourth straight game of Chess in a row to some pipsqueak from Southern Yemen, who won simply because the connection was too slow, and by clicking the mouse incessantly for five minutes, the wrong move was made.....yadda, yadda, yadda! OK, no more excuses, I'm getting on with it!

I HAVE to recommend this site if only for the sheer amount of content (whatever about the standard!) [www.geocities.com/junkgetsbigger/funnyfiles.html](http://www.geocities.com/junkgetsbigger/funnyfiles.html) This is the index page for this particular site, which lists among its accomplishments, some more deskmates, and more importantly, games. With two pages to choose from you really can't go far wrong! Here's a short selection;

- Barney landmines-The unity of the two most destructive forces on the planet!(Apparently, the budget of the developers wasn't enough to include nukes or Riverdance!) I'm ashamed to admit that I found this game far too addictive for my own good, but I was trying to find the short-

est way to the mines, not the safest way around them!

- Kill Gerry-It's got potential, but the gags are too similar. Still, if you hate Daytime TV, and its most popular icon (or if you just want to feel like part of the audience during one of those off-camera incidents), give it a shot

- Go Postal with Bert and Ernie-As for this sesame street-inspired game, it's worth loading up just to see the storyline beforehand!

- Star wars & Kill Jawa-Hate commercialism? Do something about it with TWO games!

The basketball game from Office.com (which was actually going to appear in the next issue anyway!) with its realistic sound-bites, is about the closest thing resembling a "game"-as opposed to a random and meaningless momentary diversion (not that there's anything wrong with momentary diversions-after all what do you think most students regard this article as, a Pulitzer prize winner?) The only redeeming feature of a list which is annoyingly, devoid of any real lasting entertainment, is probably its size. At least it has a range of popular targets to ridicule!. The only exception to this objective is perhaps the Beertender game, which was floating around the network in German last year, now we get the official import. No matter what language it's in, the point of the game is the motto of every student in the Stables, don't spill any f\*\*\*ing beer, right!

Although I'll be doing an article on Deskmates next issue, I'd like to draw your attention to the following deskmates while I'm here

- Pot Noodle-Perpetuate society's stereotypical view of the eating habits of students by sending this friend to everyone you know.(I mean, we CAN'T be telling them about the Breakfast Club's veritable banquet of food and music which soothes all the senses (this is an unauthorised and unintentional plug for the aforementioned society-I just need to type SOMETHING to fill the space!) This guy will jog and exercise around your desktop (unlike the typical student, who's first lecture is at 9am on Monday morning and gets up at three in the afternoon to have his breakfast-on a GOOD day!)

- Cartman-Now's your chance to kick \*\*\*, and beat South Park at its own game! 'Nuff sed, really!

- Crash Bandicoot-I couldn't actually get this one to work, I think I had too many programs running at the same time, but potentially it looks promising. Maybe the PS2 version will rectify any Y2K bugs in it, but personally, I'd still prefer to see Sonic trail-blazing across my desktop!

A related site to this is

[www.idleworld.com](http://www.idleworld.com) As well as being the origin of the Barney classic, it also features a tribute to Stephen King's book, Misery And all with one common theme, get Bill Gates. It's about time too, that a site was devoted to ridiculing the man who built a company with the words "Micro" and "soft" in its name, (some people were very sensitive about that!). Then, to make things worse, he "invents" a more user-friendly way of using DOS, calls it Windows (that you can't actually look into half the time). If anyone doubts that he intended to play a massive practical joke on the whole computer-dependant world, why design a pro-

gram that crashes more often than it loads up properly, and then call it "Microsoft Works"?

Leaving my revolutionary kick aside (the days of the SU are numbered-which is ironic since they run An Focal!), the only way you could get busted for online gaming is [www.zooass.com](http://www.zooass.com). Beware, though, in order to get the full game, you'll have to register. As for the free demos, they take too long to load up (if at all), so it's definitely worth the time and the hassle to get the full version! If you're into taking the piss out of famous celebrities, This site is for you! I'm sure I saw the High-Noon game floating around the network last year (where you feed bulimic stars like the Friends cast and Ally Mc Beal, until they throw up on their opponent-trust me, the multi-player version is much more fun than it sounds here!)

As an aside try [www.forwardit.com](http://www.forwardit.com). This site has a new game on it every day, and I found a cool program there that allows you to cruise around on the surface of Mars! (without having to get OFF this planet using foreign substances!)

For an intriguing alternative to the inane diversions you generally find online (before I forget), DEFINITELY visit [www.nokiagame.com](http://www.nokiagame.com) Despite rumours (no doubt began by insecure Nokia phone users who fear some decent competition!), the game IS open to ALL mobile phone users! Even the network is irrelevant (as long as it supports SMS messaging). The game is not really of the online type, but you do need to use the Net to register your log-on name and phone number.

Anyone who has seen "The Game", starring Michael Douglas should get the idea. You act in a role as part of one large story, (probably a detective one), where you receive clues to what you are supposed to do by text message, as well as via e-mail and other on-line facilities. It's important to check the News site everyday too, as any clues will also be given here. I doubt there will be bullets flying over your head, but it sounds like it's worth getting stuck into! You've gotta be quick though, registration ends at the end of this month! The game itself will last from November 1 to December 1. It sounds different, but for those of you who get far too many text messages already, vital clues will probably go unnoticed!

Finally, if any of the supervisors in any of the computer labs accuse you of playing games, instead of engaging them in a philosophical debate on whether the whole purpose of our existence is merely part of one vast game without any rules (trust me, it doesn't work), try this technicality! (Much as I HATE lawyers, at least they can make up some decent legal \*\*\*\* when it suits them.) Explain that what is excluded under university regulations is the playing of games, not "interactive programs". Games is a generic term, used to encompass varying fields of activity, and for the purpose of any authoritative directive, an objective standard must be laid out, stipulating exactly what criteria must be satisfied in order for such a program to be designated as a "game" Or, you could tell them that it's NOT a game, since there's no score, so they should \*\*\*\* off, but I do not recommend such action (THIS IS A DISCLAIMER!)

# Human Actions and Climate Change

The sixth session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of the Parties is being held in The Hague, The Netherlands, from the 13th –24th of November. There are currently 15 members from the environmental society going to the conference for the last three days, 22nd to 24th of November. The environmental society has booked a 50-seater bus for the journey, which will leave Limerick on the 21st and will travel via Rosslare and Dover. The bus will consist of students from UL and other universities and colleges throughout Ireland. The fare for both the bus and ferry journey will be in the region of £50 to £60. Accommodation costs will be minimal, probably free as it is being provided by local groups. Bring your sleeping bag! If you are interested in going or know of anybody else, even if they are not students, please contact the environmental society at [envirosoc@csn.ul.ie](mailto:envirosoc@csn.ul.ie)

before Friday Week 7 as numbers need to be known. There will be a fund raising and publicity day held on the 9th of November in Limerick city to raise both money, for the trip and awareness about Ireland's role in the conference.

The group will be joining up with a coalition of other likeminded groups collectively called 'Rising Tide: A Coalition for Climate Justice'. The Rising Tide Coalition for Climate Justice is a global grassroots initiative to launch a 'Season of Action for Climate Justice'. Rising Tide Coalition calls on environmental, human rights, and justice organisations, as well as schools, congregations, local communities, trade unions, peace and anti-nuclear activists to embark on grassroots initiatives around the world. Now is the time for a great push for climate protection and equity. Otherwise, after COP 6 in its current nuclear-power promoting, carbon credit-selling context, it may be too late. Our Government is not taking the tough decisions necessary to mitigate climatic change such as a radical departure from unsustainable energy policies, which rely heavily on coal, oil and peat. This is despite a huge wind energy potential, which has only been partially tapped to date, and an increasingly vibrant and healthy Irish wind energy industry. Clearly, major policy changes are required in the key sectors that are responsible for the growth in emissions - energy, transport, industry and the domestic sector (housing and heating) - if Ireland is to achieve even a modest reduction in emissions. According to Mr. David Taylor director of the Irish Energy Centre, Ireland may have exceeded the United Nations' agreed emission level last year, which the

country is committed to reaching in 9 to 13 years time, despite conservation efforts, national energy demand is increasing, resulting in rapidly growing emissions of the main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide.

Ireland signed the UNFCCC in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and ratified the Convention in April 1994. The Convention places a particular responsibility on developed countries to adopt policies and measures designed to mitigate climate change by limiting man-made emissions of greenhouse gases. These gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons and perfluorinated carbons. Of all these greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide is believed to be responsible for 70% of global warming. Since the 1880s, the ten warmest years on record have taken place in the last 15 years. Is this the writing on the wall stating that man is responsible for climate change?

It is acknowledged that within developed countries, there will be differences in starting points and approaches; economic structures and resources bases and that there is a need for equitable and appropriate contributions as between different developed countries to the overall global effort.

It is estimated that by the year 2030 the average annual temperature, in Ireland, would increase by 2°C: there would be a 5 to 10 percent increase in precipitation levels and an increase of 18 cm in mean sea level. Irish agriculture would probably have more production options available under such changing conditions. More new crops would be cultivated requiring less effort in terms of soil preparation, with a potential positive impact on overall agricultural costs.

Forestry is likely to react to climate change in one of two ways – increased productivity where the availability of soil water is not a limiting factor or decreased productivity where it is a limiting factor. The fisheries industry is not expected to be significantly affected by these potential changes. Some 2.5 percent of Ireland's land area is at risk from sea level rise. These are areas likely to be eroded, flooded, engulfed or environmentally changed. Most of them are in areas on the west coast of Ireland. The low-lying lands affected by the combination of groundwater rise and occasional marine incursions would need de-watering if they are to remain agriculturally viable. Also, according to preliminary estimations, erosion might increase by 15-20 percent a year with consequential economic loss. The cost of protecting all vulnerable segments of the Irish coastline by building sea defence is estimated to be approximately £27

billion.

It might be concluded that climate change could have marginal positive effects on Ireland's nature and economy, but other countries, particularly low land developing countries (which may not have the resources or knowledge to adapt to these changes) would be severely affected by rise in sea levels. It is therefore important that at this coming conference that each nation involved doesn't ignore all the other nations in their quest and commitment in addressing the possible affects of climatic change.

Ireland's ability to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, principally man-made emissions, is restricted by a number of structural factors. These include increased energy demand from economic expansion, reliance on peat, a carbon intensive fuel source, for about 14 percent of our energy needs and the low percentage of non-polluting sources of energy such as hydroelectric, solar power and wind power. In June 1993, Ireland launched its 'Climate Change – Abatement Strategy'. This strategy includes a programme of measures in the areas of energy conservation, fuel use, transport, waste management and afforestation designed to limit the levels of carbon in the atmosphere and to improve the energy efficiency of our economy. We students in particular can address energy conservation by taking simple measures in our homes. These measures include: turning off lights and other electrical appliances such as radios and TVs in unoccupied rooms. Installing more energy efficient light bulbs. Have houses properly insulated to reduce heat loss. When using an oven or an electric cooker, turn it off a little while before the cooking is done as the oven or element will stay hot after you turn it off. Use your dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads. Minimise hot water use by taking shorter showers. Dry clothes outside on a windy day! Saving energy is done by saving electricity, which saves the planet for you and future generations. If you are interested in joining the trip phone **061 – 339941**

or email to

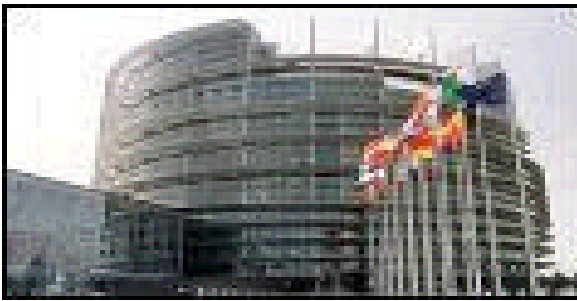
[envirosoc@csn.ul.ie](mailto:envirosoc@csn.ul.ie)

***A holistic global effort for a global problem!***

Sources:

<http://www.csn.ul.ie/~environ/cop6.htm>

# Brussels - The Home of the Euro



Does the lack of direction within the European Parliament buildings in Brussels represent a lack of direction in the union as a whole? I was left pondering this question after a visit to the parliament in Brussels last week. How can an organisation that can't signpost its main centre of operations clearly be expected to lead us all through the new millennium as a happy cohesive and coordinated unit? It is thoughts such as these that begin to race furtively around your brain, as you race gracelessly through the buildings looking for the souvenir shop so you can bring your granny back a "Europeans do it in 11 languages" mug. The building, despite its already giganormous size, takes on even more mammoth proportions as you lope like an escaped lunatic at, from the Paul Henri Spaak building to the Altiero Spirelli building, snarling at anyone who tries to slow you down, cursing those damned tourists and MEPs and generally causing a minor disturbance.

In this crazed chase to ensure that you stay on top of granny's list of favoured grandchildren and thereby maintain your rights to the 12 year old scotch and the prize bonds in her will, one can not appreciate the marvellous design and structure of the building. It boasts a magnifi-

cent piece of sculpture in the centre of the main stair case in the Spaak building, a climbing frame of silver metal reaching to the top of the atrium, which may represent the union's attempts to move onwards and upwards by uniting all its people or may just mean the sculptor had loads of iron bars lying around and needed to make a few quid, or euros as the case may be. If you thought that UL boasted an impressive collection of glass walls and sparkly buildings, then you ain't seen nothing yet. The Parliament buildings possibly hold more glass panels than the Crystal Palace and it is a wonder to behold. But it was not merely a trip to ogle the sights of this large and shiny piece of architecture, my presence there was as part of a delegation to a series of meetings organised by the Union for Europe of the Nations group, the UEN. This was an opportunity for young people from the UEN's member states to express their opinions on the EU and its effect on their lives. And it was an eye opener. It was a pleasant surprise to meet young people, fellow students and young workers who have such an active interest in the EU, politics and the future of Europe. But what was most surprising was their view of Ireland. As a fellow delegate remarked it had changed from 'here come the alcoholics to here come the economics'. It was heartening to hear other member nations speak with such praise for our nation. Indeed Ireland was being hailed as an economic dream to hearten the Tiger and even kittenless homes of Italy and Portugal.

All in all, the debates held were of a very high calibre and were very informative. I was surprised to hear some very right wing views

expressed from one delegate, whilst a member of another tried to get an argument going by claiming his nation was the oldest present and the rest of us didn't really know what we were talking about. But these differences were only minor and we all embraced the spirit of Europe by resolving our differences over food and a few sociable beverages. The meetings closed the following day with a list of resolutions being drawn up for the senior branch of the UEN and with many promises to attend conferences in our home countries.

Once all the serious work was done, each delegation had the wonderful task of trying to find their way back out of the building without becoming embroiled in a discussion on quotas or the Euro. But there were surprises in store for my fellow wanderers and I, in our continued search for the souvenir shop (I really want that 12 year old scotch). A kindly German official offered us some samples of traditional German beer. At first I thought it was an illusion brought on by the crazed meanderings of the group, but no. Like an oasis in the desert each of us was given a few bottles of Bavaria's finest to take home. Free beers, well you really have to love the EU don't you. I did eventually get home and the rest of the Irish delegation and I found our way out of the bowels of EU organisation. My granny did eventually get the "Europeans do it in 11 languages" mug, although she said she hadn't yet tested the Finnish.....

## The Queen of Diaries

Sitting here with a blank screen is so nerve-wracking! Just like the day I've had! Still having problems with college and lecturers, but now is not the time to go into it! Besides, you'd think I would have complained enough as a first year! So now down to the nitty-gritty!

Did you ever notice that when your mate starts having "other interests", you don't see them as much?!! I'm not saying this is a bad thing necessarily, but it's just good to know that your mate is still there for you if you need them. Speaking of friends – don't you love it when a very good pal calls you up to say she's coming up to Limerick for a night on the tear! Can't wait for that one! Maybe I'll introduce her to Soul Clinic?! You see back in the bog we wouldn't have any of that carry-on at all! All that dance music!

Aaaarrggghh!!!

Guess what?! I missed the Breakfast Club last Sunday. I swear I'm gonna go next week – no – it's actually not on during the Bank Holiday! So it'll have to be the weekend after that! Just in time for yet another deadline for the paper! Plus – the long weekend will give me plenty of time to catch up with some of the work from the past few weeks!

It's Week 5 – and can you believe that there are queues for the computers already?!! What's that all about, eh?! I mean, do people actually have any lives at all?! Where is your sense of adventure? Gone are the days when we used to sit around in the pub drinking pints. No! – we have to get all sophisticated and stare at a computer screen for hours on end! Relax and enjoy college

life, I say. We'll spend enough time at the computer throughout our lives!

By the way – who went to see the Frames in the Jonathan Swift theatre last week? Had a fine chat with Glen. He's a legend. Even got a picture taken –and he smiled! One thing about the gig was that we were all sitting down. It wasn't too bad in the Jonnie Monnie last year – but the J. Swift has lots of desks in the way!

I enjoyed myself nonetheless! However – it has to be mentioned that a certain few heads were seen walking out midway through the performance. One told me the next day that Glen wasn't being the Glen that we all know and love. He did tell a lot of stories and that – but that has to be expected as musicians mature. They

can't be guitar-banging rockers forever! It just doesn't work like that. The Frames will always be the Frames – no matter what they play – they have that charisma about them! My favourite bit was the Wooden Horse song thrown in for good measure! Classic! And, as ever, *Star Star* managed to get people off their seats at the end! Still can't believe that they played *The Dancer* – even though my favourite from that album would have to be *Downhill From Here*. Now there's a desert island song, if ever there was one!

Final note – the Frames rock – and I'm tired – need sleep. So I'll see you all soo.....

**Mairead Moriarty**

## No. 54 - 5 students...1 designer pad... 24 hour surveillance... anything can happen - Coming to a screen near you... soon!!

Five Irish students, who go to college in Dublin, have volunteered to live their lives on line from the end of October through to New Year in a new reality based web soap called **No54**. The programme will be transmitted over the Internet, 24 hours a day, 7 days week and has been devised by **Oxygen.ie**, the leading Website for students in Ireland.

The five students, three guys and two girls, were selected from over 500 applicants who expressed an interest in living in a designer pad "rent free" on the understanding that their every movement and utterance would be made available for public consumption over the web.

Webcams will cover every room in the 4 bedroom, duplex designer pad. In total over 20 spying cameras will cover the action with viewers being allowed to select the camera that best meets their needs. From the bathroom to the bedroom, all will be on view.

The show goes live on Friday, 27th October and has been described by the Irish media many as 'the Irish Big Brother'.

Cara Given, content manager for Oxygen said "We loved Big Brother as much as everyone else, but **No54** is not going to be the Irish version of it. Regular visitors to **Oxygen.ie** will know that we've been taking applications since April, for what will essentially be oxygen's entertainment channel."

"**No54** will feature live bands, dj sets, stand-up comedy and more, all from the house's living room. The students will live in the house, be online all the time, and their lives will make up the entertainment for the channel when there's no regularly scheduled events."

**Who's going to live there?** Short answer: we're not telling you yet. The student residents will be unveiled on Friday, 27th October.

As you get to know the personalities of the residents, you will be able post questions and comments to them via **Oxygen.ie**, igniting debates, fan clubs and campaigns. They'll answer you through online interviews. Each row, affair and scandal in the house will be documented by the flatmates every day.

To find out more about the visit **www.oxygen.ie** on Friday October 27th 2000 from 9.30pm and take part in the house warming party of the year.

**No 54** will be streamed on the Internet by **eircom net**, who are sponsors and exclusive streaming media partners for the project.

**No54 - coming to a web browser near you from Friday, October 27th onwards.**

**Checkout [www.oxygen.ie](http://www.oxygen.ie) for more details**



## ATTENTION ALL FEMALE STUDENTS R.A.P.E DEFENSE TM COURSE Real. Attack.



## Prevention. Effectively.

UL Tae Kwon-Do School instructor Mr. Philip Fox will be holding a one day (4 hour) course for all female students on effective self defense techniques. This course has been designed specifically for women by one of the world's leading martial artists. In this course Hollywood and gymnastic type moves are discounted and we get down to the nitty gritty on what really works. You will learn where to attack to disable your attacker - contrary to some opinion, the groin strike is not always the best method of self defense! During this course you will also learn how to use the bodies natural weapons effectively - which do not require years of practice to develop.

R.A.P.E tm Defense will give you true awareness and confidence knowing that you will not become a helpless victim. Take action and control by enrolling in the R.A.P.E tm Defense. Remember today's preparation leads to tomorrow's rewards, and in this case, it could mean your personal safety.

**DATE: 25th NOVEMBER @ 12.30pm SHARP**  
**VENUE: UL SPORTS BUILDING GYM**  
**PRICE: £ 10 PER STUDENT**



# FOCAIL EALAÍNE - Arts Section

Focail Ealaíne has been out and about on your behalf finding out details of forthcoming events both on and off campus. The Irish World Music Centre continues its series of free lunchtime concerts in the Performing Arts Centre in the Foundation Building. Nov 9 sees the Vanbrugh String Quartet visit the campus. Now in its fourteenth year the Quartet is firmly established as one of Europe's most successful string quartets performing around one hundred concerts each year to more than twenty countries throughout the world. They have now given over four hundred recitals throughout the length and breadth of Ireland, both in regular concert series, and for many communities which have never previously played host to a string quartet. On Nov 14 Catriona MacDonald, one of the new generation of fiddle players on the British traditional scene will perform with David Milligan and Conrad Ivitsky. Catriona comes from the Shetland Islands and inspired by the raw passion of the old players she has developed a smooth lyrical style infused with warmth and virtuosity.



Catriona Mac Donald

## UL CHOIR - CÓR OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Each Wednesday evening between 6pm and 8pm, the halls and corridors of block C echo to the sound of 40 harmonious (usually!) voices, honing their craft on various types of music. The University of Limerick Choir (Cór Ollscoil Luimnigh) is an eclectic mixture of students and staff who perform a wide range of polyphonic choral works.

The choir is directed by the virtuoso Catalan conductor Albert Llussà i Torra and meets every week (Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm) with the aim of singing some good music and having plenty of good craic.

### SOME HISTORY...

The choir was set up in 1992 by Clem Garvey and has had an active presence on the Limerick music scene, performing regular concerts since then. The choir was delighted to give a landmark concert with the performance of Vivaldi's Gloria for the opening of the University Concert Hall in 1993.

Along with singing purely choral material, every Easter, U.L. Choir joins forces with Mary Immaculate College Choir and the Limerick Baroque Players to perform a joint concert. This enables the choir to expand its repertoire to include some weightier material for large-scale choral and orchestral performance. Previous concerts have included performances of:

- Bach's Cantatas, in St. Michael's Church, with the Mary Immaculate College Choir and the Limerick Baroque Players
- Pergolesi's Stabat Mater in St. Mary's Cathedral, Easter 1999, with the Mary Immaculate College Choir and the Limerick Baroque Players
- Acis and Galilea with the Mary Immaculate College Choir and the Limerick Baroque Players

### PREVIOUS CONDUCTORS:

The choir has been fortunate to have availed of the services of some of Limerick's leading lights for their musical direction. Previous conductors have included

1992-1994 Clem Garvey  
1994-1999 Gareth Cox

1998-1999 Sandra Joyce  
1999-2000 Albert Llussà i Torra

### MORE RECENT HISTORY...

During 1999-2000, the choir gave three very successful concerts. The first was a performance of polyphonic renaissance works in the magnificent acoustic of Glenstal Abbey. The Abbey has a very strong choral tradition and this is a link that the choir and the monks at the Abbey are keen to develop. As part of Limerick's Civic Week, a choral festival was held in St Mary's Cathedral. The choir worked hard for this event and was duly rewarded, competing and winning first prize in its class.

A Christmas concert which included a variety of popular and less well-known pieces provided a very enjoyable conclusion to the first semester. The highlight of our second semester was an Easter Concert in conjunction with the Mary Immaculate College Choir and the Limerick Baroque Players. The mainstay of the concert was a series of choruses and arias from Mendelssohn's Elijah, a challenging but ultimately rewarding piece.

The choir is looking forward to many more exciting projects in 2000-1. We have a busy schedule for the first semester while in the second semester, along with our usual concert performances, we intend to exhibit the choral talents of the university when we participate in the Cork International Choral Festival. Further plans for 2001 include more travel, this time to the CICBAS International Choral Festival in Portugal. So plenty of exciting times ahead as the choir grows from strength to strength!

### REHEARSALS

Rehearsals take place every Wednesday between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the Music Rooms of Block C, in the Main Building.

### CONTACTING THE CHOIR

You can contact us at:  
Secretary:  
Ciarán Casey  
e-mail: [ciaran.casey@ul.ie](mailto:ciaran.casey@ul.ie)

Treasurer:  
Richard Sutcliffe  
e-mail: [richard.sutcliffe@ul.ie](mailto:richard.sutcliffe@ul.ie)

Conductor:  
Albert Llussà i Torra  
e-mail : [albert@glenstal.ie](mailto:albert@glenstal.ie)

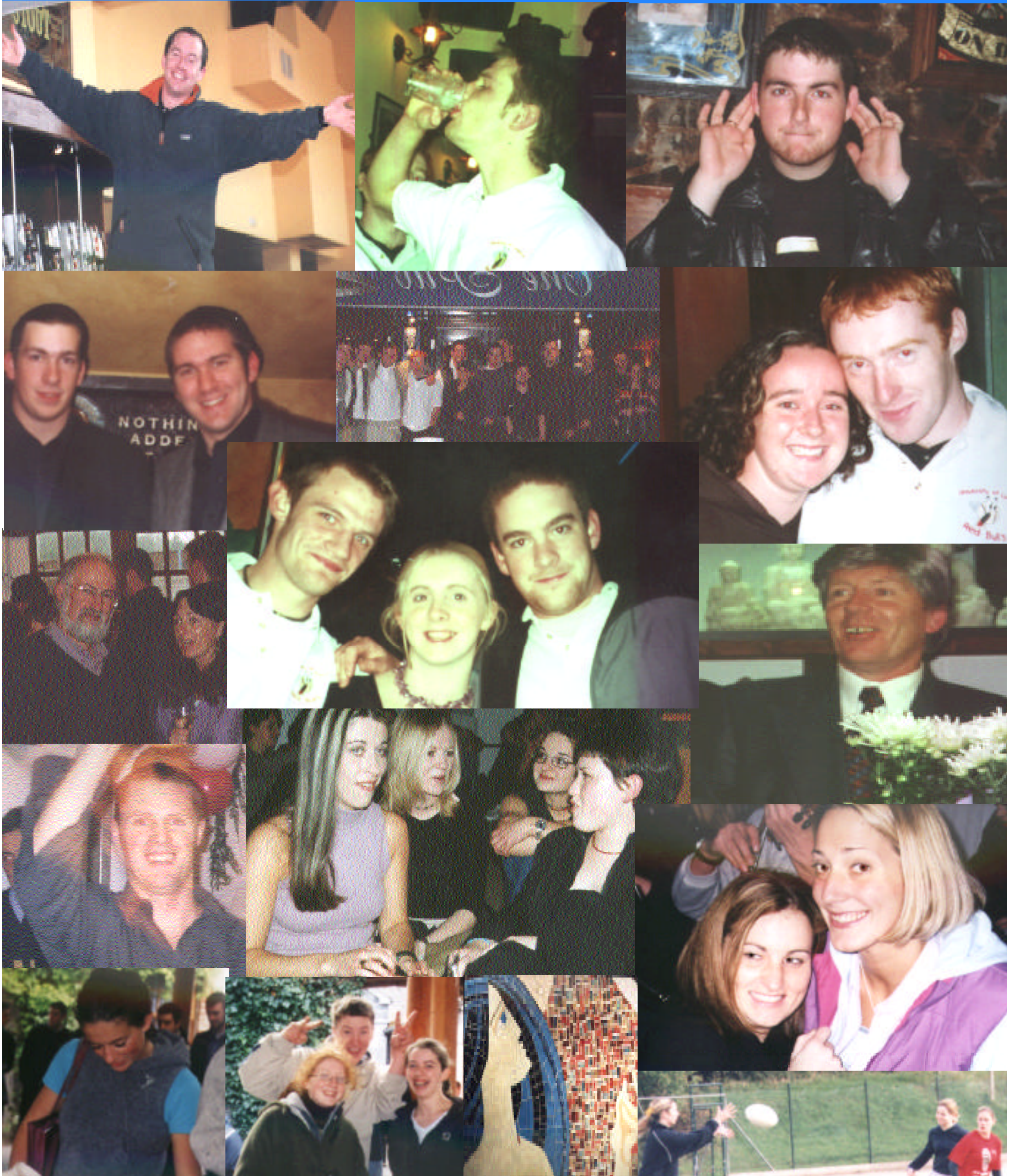
We're quite proud of our website, set up for us by Colm McGettrick. It provides a wealth of links to resources for choral groups. You can find it at <http://www.ul.ie/~ulchoir/>.

### CONDUCTOR PROFILE

Albert Llussà i Torra, our Catalan conductor, started his musical education in Manresa, Catalunya (in Esclat Music School and with a private teacher, Ms. Filomena Comellas). Later he joined the Escolania of Montserrat, at the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat. There he studied general musicianship, voice, piano and oboe, and gave regular concerts with the choir throughout Catalunya and Europe. On leaving Montserrat, he furthered his studies in voice, piano and oboe at the Conservatoire of Manresa and later in Albuquerque, New Mexico, US, where he spent one academic year. After graduating from Law at the University of Barcelona, he became a music teacher in Glenstal Abbey School, Murroe, Co. Limerick, where he is currently Head of Music. In 1999, he succeeded Sandra Joyce as the conductor of the UL Choir.



# Out & About - Watch out the Photo Soc's About

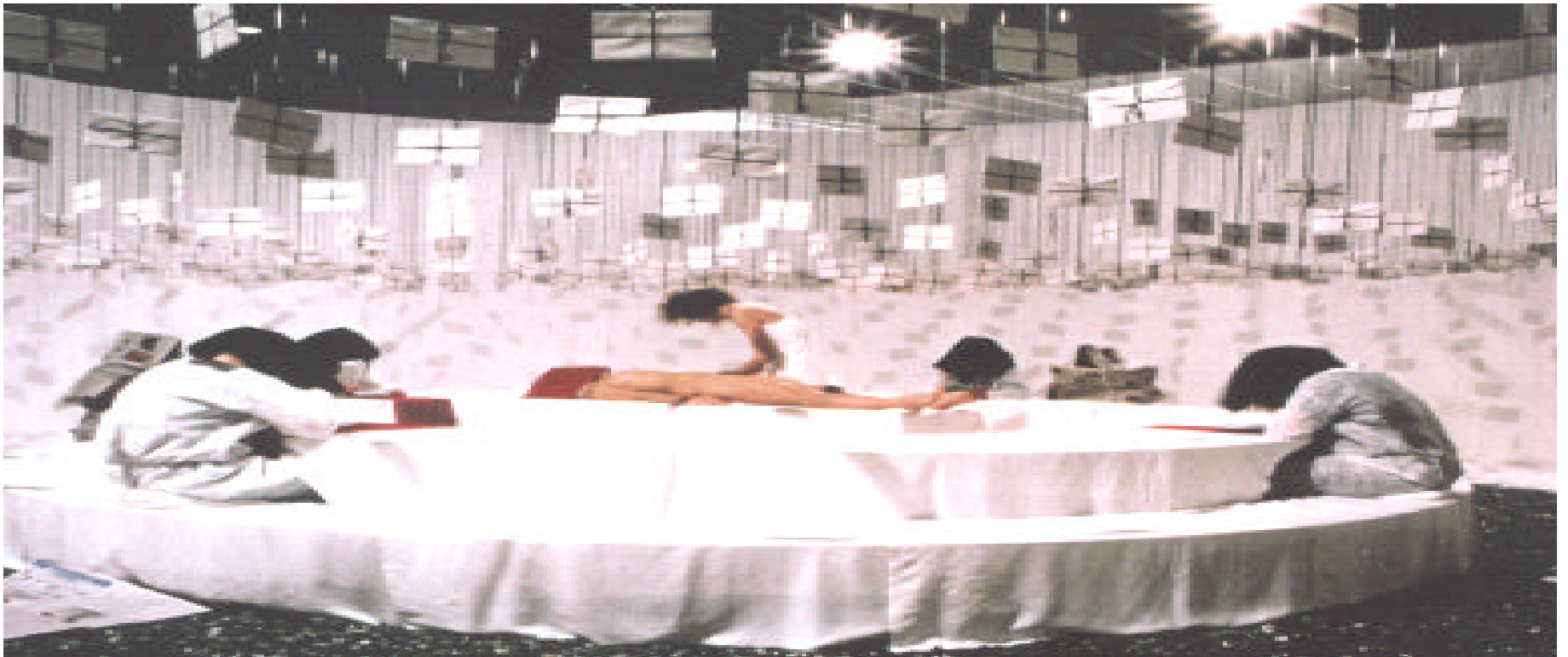


Don't Do anything We won't do.....



**CIMA ADD**

# Limerick City Art Gallery



**Limerick City Art Gallery** is hosting the multi media installation **LEAVING CHEYENNE** by Athy born US based artist Michael Timpson. Michael has been constructing a concrete space in the Gallery's East Gallery for the last number of weeks, assisted by sculpture students from Limerick School of Art. The room/ dwelling has four corner spaces filled with household detritus. There will be groupings of objects outside this room, laid out on the axes of the four foot high breeze block construction. On Nov 2, 3 and 4 this interior will house a performance, including music with humming women washing their hair like domestic sirens and mysteriously draped figures being attended by tuxedo clad amanuenses.

A boy soprano will perform in the centre of this sanctified and elevated domestic arena. NOT TO BE MISSED!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Belltable News



**Belltable** is playing host to an exhibition of drawings and paintings by Thomas Delohery inspired by a visit to Poland in 1997 and the Jewish holocaust. Initially working in oil on canvas Delohery has spent the last one and half years working on paper using ink and oil pastel. Each piece is born from various beginnings – from visits to Polish concentration camps, photographic connections, words from the works of Primo Levi and colours that he sees around him that he feels

work well with specific ideas and images. The Belltable is also continuing its **Film Club**. Nov 5 is the screening of the Jim Jarmusch film **Ghost Dog** starring Forrest Whitaker as a lugubrious bear like contract killer who lives by the ancient creed of the Samurai, only coming alive when communing with his pigeons. Blending the advantages of high tech gadgetry with the reliable anonymity of pigeon powered correspondence **Ghost Dog** is a lethal original. **Tango** by Carlos Saura on Nov 12 is both a poignant back stage drama and a passionate exploration of the spiritual and political significance of tango dancing. Membership details are available from 319866.

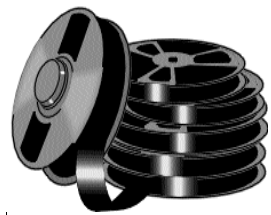
## The Limerick Jazz Society

continues its successful series of concerts in the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel on Nov 9 with the Simon Nabatov Trio as part of their short Irish tour organised by the Improvised Music Company. Pianist Nabatov's dazzling technique and limitless creativity have earned him a formidable reputation since he arrived in New York in the eighties.. He is accompanied by bass player Drew Gress and drummer Tom Rainey, both legendary jazzmen in their own right. This concert is bound to be a sell out so it is advisable to get there early. The Limerick Jazz Society have given a special rate of £3 but bring your ID.

**Focail Ealaíne** book reviews, concert reviews, event listings should be sent to Room S1 – 22 , Schuman Building or [patricia.moriarty@ul.ie](mailto:patricia.moriarty@ul.ie).

The newspaper comes out on a fortnightly basis and any reviews article etc should be forwarded by these dates – NOV 6, NOV 20, DEC 4.

**Focail Ealaíne FREEBIES** will give free passes to Venues on and off the campus Focail Ealaíne in return for a review. If you are interested contact the above address, bearing in mind the copy deadlines above.



## THE BACK ROW

( Now Showing at a Cinema/Theatre Near You... )



labour, and little else. Brief love interests flit in and out. And of course the obligatory Stephen Rea role, without whom no Irish film would be an Irish film. Rea's mournful face perfectly suits his role as the cousin in England, where life is like "shouting from a deep black hole".

Also raised is the question of cultural identity. I would argue that our narrator is more Irish than most of us. Because of his origins and social stature he has been compelled to cut turf, carry bricks and break roads to survive, wandering and searching at irregular intervals. His fellow Irish ex-patriots sleep in barns and tunnels. I will probably never have to sleep in a tunnel.

However, *I Could Read The Sky* is no *Peig*-esque yee-don't-know-how-lucky-yiz-are preaching misery-fest. This has humour, stylistic brilliance and, unlike *Peig*, finishes after an hour and a half (younger readers: ask anyone roughly 24 or older who did the Irish Leaving Cert. to discover one of the luckiest escapes of your lives).

My viewing companions could have done with less misery, and wished that the 10 minute short, *Holiday In Ireland* (USA, 1962), had come after the main event rather than before. I didn't. These two films shown together compared Oirland with Ireland, respectively. After a few early laughs at this hokey and dated tourism promotion piece, the unintentional joke wears thin – descent into squalid arse-licking is swift as American tourists and natives defile their collective dignity in unison, culminating in an orgy of senseless, sticky commercialism. Nasty.

The next film to be shown as part of the season will be Jim Jarmusch's *Ghost Dog* (1999), at the Savoy, 8 p.m., November 5<sup>th</sup>. Forest Whitaker plays the eponymous contract killer, a loner living by the ancient creed of the Samurai warrior. Goody.

More good news (whilst providing a handy link): the **Film Society** is trying to organise trips to the remaining Belltable **Season of World Cinema** films over the coming months. This will keep us from uncultured heathenhood until the arrival of the **Film Society's** first screening. This year sees the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society's existence, but there's more to celebrate than its birthday – namely, its resurrection from the dead.

Once the university's most popular society, it grinded to a halt in 1998. Now, this fledgling phoenix from the ashes returns, battling a ridiculously low budget to bring you some of the coolest films you may ever see and may never see again on a big screen. Screenings will take place in the Jean Monnet Theatre, saving you the trouble of trekking miles to be overcharged to watch crap at one of Limerick's premier fleapits. Films will be shown via the miracle of DVD in all its gloriously crisp full-on in-your-faceness. A final selection cannot yet be unveiled, but I've seen the list of candidates...you won't be disappointed. These gems will be shown at very student-friendly prices, hopefully circa Week 8. It'll be well worth the wait. It was originally 'suggested' to the Society by unnamed forces that they show films on...a *video*. These evil forces were obviously unaware of the extent of the Society's ambition, one hoping to organise, in conjunction with the Drama Society, a production of **The Rocky Horror Show**. Also, in tribute to its '70s inception, there is a double bill of '70s classics planned for SoUL week. Keep your ears to the ground and your peepers peeled for more details...

by John Murray

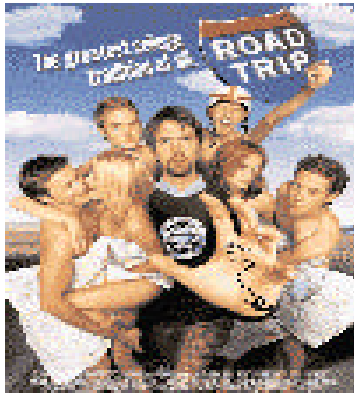
Limerick...two cinemas...(more or less) exactly the same stuff...and, at this moment, most of this stuff gives cack a bad name. Thank someone, then, for the **35<sup>th</sup> Season of World Cinema** at the **Belltable Arts Centre** and the imminent arrival of a slew of films brought by UL's **Film Society**. Just in time too – new films on general release this week (of writing) offer: 1. dinosaurs, and 2. Harrison Ford (when's the last time you saw him flex both of his facial expressions in a *good* film?).

Rescuing Limerick from being not very good this week was *I Could Read The Sky*, an Irish-British co-production from 1999. Directed by Nichola Bruce and adapted from Timothy O'Grady and Steve Pyke's photographic novel, it is a memoir of an ageing Irishman (Dermot Healy) working in England. Conventional narrative is ignored – what we see are his memories, "the bricks used to ballast the boat". Highly subjective scenes and images melt in and out of view, brilliantly mimicking the workings of memory. The browns, darkness, mildew and cold are almost tangible, but enough about the Savoy – from November 12<sup>th</sup> onwards, the season will continue at the Belltable Arts Centre itself.

The importance of memory to human identity has been explored elsewhere (*Blade Runner*, for one high profile example), but rarely with such poignancy. Sixty-something, bearded, unkempt and bedsit-bound, our solitary narrator possesses a quiet dignity derived from a childlike spirit – childlike because he was denied a fulfilling life, or any life to speak of. For most of his life he has had his labouring skills, his



# Roadtrip



For a film that has been branded to be somewhat of a must see, I have to say I have mixed feelings about this film. I was looking forward to seeing it based on "d'you know what I saw over the weekend" conversations I overheard on the bus on Monday, which, I fear, ultimately gave the film an elevated status in my mind.

The title of the film is a bit of a give-away with regard to story line but just for clarification-four randy students need (if I delve any eeper I'll ruin the story) to take a (here it is) roadtrip. I am extremely reluctant to say that this film is mediocre because,



By Jay Boyar  
Orlando Sentinel  
Published: 10/27/00

The best thing I can say about Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2 is that it's that rare sort of movie with the potential to bring people together.

Last year's Blair Witch Project -- with its shaky camera and improvised dialogue -- divided audiences. Some people (me included) got caught up in its creepy atmosphere while others thought it was all a crock.

BW2, however, strikes me as likely to provoke an identical response from nearly everyone who sees it: deep, profound regret at having been suckered into an awful sequel.

Creating a movie that virtually everyone can hate is no small accomplishment. But filmmaker Joe Berlinger may just have pulled it off.

In theory, his approach makes sense: Instead of attempting to recapture the unrecapiturable faux-documentary vibe of the first film, why not just make a more conventional sort of movie -- one with an actual script, standard

35mm cinematography, typical fright effects, graphic violence and all the rest of the Hollywood trap-pings?

BW2 starts with the premise that the first film created a phenomenon that has attracted curiosity seekers to the place where the three student filmmakers of the original movie were supposedly lost -- the woods of the Black Hills near Burkittsville, Md.

Jeff (Jeffrey Donovan), a Blair Witch-obsessed townie, is conducting a tour of those woods. Along for the ride are Kim (Kim Director), a sourpuss in full Goth drag; Erica (Erica Leerhsen), a Wiccan who feels that the film misrepresented her people; and Tristen (Tristen Skyler) and Stephen (Stephen Barker Turner), graduate students who are writing a book about the Blair Witch phenomenon.

Central Floridians Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sanchez -- the co-directors of The Blair Witch Project -- get executive-producer credit on the new one. But the sequel (which opens today) seems mainly the work of director/co-writer Berlinger and co-writer Dick Beebe (last year's House on Haunted Hill).

Berlinger is a respected documentarian whose films include Brother's Keeper and Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills. Clearly, BW2 is his attempt to explore levels of reality and to comment on how delusion and myth help to shape that reality. Or, as he put it in his official director's statement:

".. . I hoped to create a psycho-

logical horror movie that serves a mainstream audience while simultaneously commenting on the media-created event called The Blair Witch Project, thus connecting my first feature with the kind of social analysis I have undertaken in my documentary work." Well!

Berlinger may have connected the new film to his documentary work. But it doesn't serve any audience that I know anything about -- mainstream or otherwise. There may be intelligent, lofty intentions behind the new film. But it still plays like the sort of travesty that clueless Hollywood execs might have come up with in a vain effort to artificially re-create what had happened so naturally in last year's film.

As in the original movie, for example, the actors have the same names as the characters they play. But this time, what's the point? It's just a mannerism carried over from the first film, where it did make sense because the actors were improvising freely. The biggest loss is the powerfully creepy atmosphere of the original movie, which was achieved almost entirely through suggestion. The more graphic fright effects of the new film aren't just inelegant, they aren't even very frightening.

The Blair Witch Project, in other words, has approximately the same relationship to BW2 as the world has to Epcot's World Showcase. And, actually, that's a little unfair to Epcot. BW2 isn't just artificial-looking, it's a shambles. The camera work is pointlessly showy and the acting is out of

control, with actors shouting at each other from two inches away.

As for the story, it's neither unnerving nor plausibly developed -- and it's not even particularly coherent.

Some of the murkiness is undoubtedly intentional -- the mystery of the witch and all that jazz. But a lot of it just seems like clumsiness.

The skills required to make an ultra-low-budget documentary like Brother's Keeper and those needed to create a more standard fictional film like this one are apparently quite different. And the evidence tends to suggest that Berlinger is in possession of only the former skills. In fact, the best part of the new film comes early, in a pseudo-mini-documentary sequence that comments directly on the sweeping cultural impact of the first film. And as BW2 continues, it occasionally scores a laugh by alluding to the original:

At one point, in a sly reference to the famous nostril actress of The Blair Witch Project, somebody pauses to inquire, "How many Heather Donahues does it take to screw in a light bulb?"

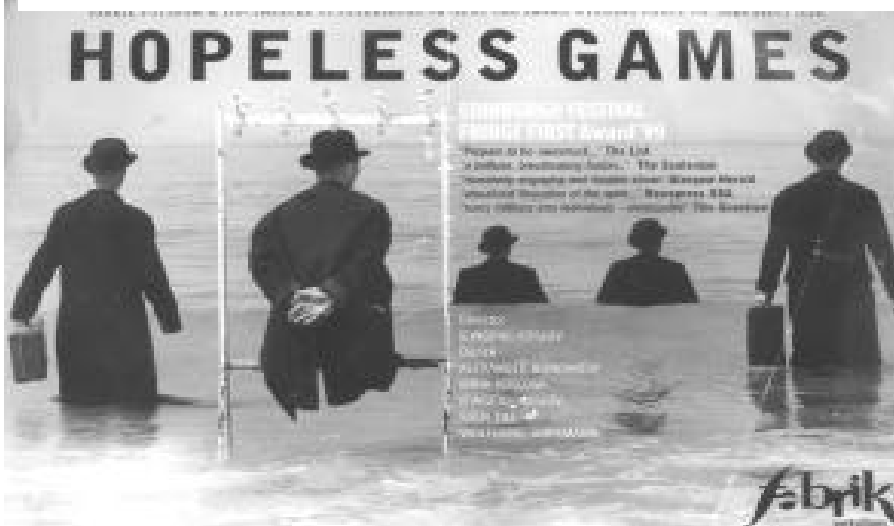
Most of the film, however, lacks suspense, wit, style, imagination and any sense of proportion. You might say that it's the movie that the people who didn't "get" the first film thought they were seeing.

Maybe it's not too late for Berlinger to change his director's statement -- to replace it with something that Donahue said in the first film:

"I am so, so sorry for everything that has happened."

Jean Kent

## HOPELESS GAMES - At the Belltable



The Belltable hosted the Fabrik Potsdam & Do-Theatre St. Petersburg Companies award winning dance theatre spectacle.

This amazing production calls for individual interpretation, hence there were no programmes to give us any idea of what to expect, or what to take home with us. The opening scene had a set that consisted of two coats on hangers mid stage and a coat rail with two more cloaks on it. A strange looking dwarfish headless person in a

brown trench coat came onto stage carrying a blue balloon and a suitcase. At first I wasn't sure if it was a puppet on a string or a person then the coats came to life and the deformed creature up-righted itself to a full sized ballet dancer this led to the magic of the show. The cast of five, consisting of three Russians and two Germans, brought the stage to life with ballet, mime and eccentric dancing. The impression of this show was that it represented the monotonousness of life in communist Russia; this came from a scene where all of the cast were sad, bored mimes playing Russian roulette. The different expressions on their faces showed that life had little or no meaning for any of them, however fear of an unknown afterlife gave rise to apprehension. Playing around with the gun for a long time made one believe that it was all a game and when it actually did go off, it got a big reaction from the audience because the next thing you know- they're all dead. The rest of the show for me represented the afterlife. The use of film during the performance had powerful imagery giving it a ghost-like feel almost like the "Blair Witch Project" suspense and tension. The closing scene of fireworks gave it a heavenly theme. I really enjoyed this style of artistic expression and will be on the look out for any further productions by this company.

Sheila Ellis

## Open Your Mind - Book Reviews

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### The Thief of Time

author: John Boyne

Matthieu Zéla was born in 1744 and just kept on living and living and living. He witnesses his stepfather's execution for his part in his mother's untimely end, and leaves Paris, his younger half-brother in tow to forge a new life on English soil. Subsequent to this Matthieu plays a not inconsiderable part in just about every momentous occasion in modern history. He survives the French Revolution head intact and the Wall Street Crash financially secure, is a patron and co-founder of the First Modern Olympics, and later co-ordinates the Crystal Palace Exhibition. He is a close personal friend of Charlie Chaplin, Edgar J Hoover and has rubbed shoulders with a plethora of other fictional celebrities, *daahling*. Women want him and men want to be him. Lover to the masses, and more failed marriages behind him than Ross Geller the term Dirty Old Man is brought to a level that even Peter Stringfellow wouldn't recognise. With a 256-year-old life experience all who come into his care are touched by the

proverbial redeemed angel. Our friend Mattie is not without a past, he has known murder, love, fear, pain and mercy. The single most impressive thing that John Boyne achieves is the creation of a human, and for the most part, believable character, a spectacular feat given the century jumping done and the sheer number of situations and characters that present themselves. This story pivots between the late eighteenth century and the present, and Boyne weaves the tale in such a way that the reader is never allowed to become lost in the melange of unfolding mini-dramas. This is in many respects a story of redemption, but one question burns to be asked, having found peace after two and a half centuries what is the point of his continued existence? Deep musings aside The Thief of Time is a reasonable read for anyone who enjoys light fiction, dry humour and doesn't mind the educational value of the historical references. If I knew how to do it on this computer I'd give it two stars.

### O'Mahony's Bestseller List

#### BESTSELLERS LIST

WEEK ENDING 23/10/2000

#### Paperback Fiction

1. A Star Called Henry - Roddy Doyle, Vintage
2. Timeline Michael Crichton, Arrow
3. Girls' Night In Various, HarperCollins
4. Just Friends, Robyn Sysman, Penguin
5. Three Times A Lady, Sarah Webb, Poobeg

#### Paperback Non Fiction

1. 'Tis: A Memoir, Frank McCourt, Flamingo
2. The Dublin & Monaghan Bombing, Don Mullan, Wolfhound
3. Mister Are You A Pries, Edward Daly, Four Courts
4. Big Brother: The Unseen Story, Jean Ritchie, Boxtree
5. A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, David Egger, Picador

#### Original Fiction

1. Sushi For Beginners, Marian Keyes, Poolbeg
2. The Last Precinct, Patricia Cornwell, Little Brown
3. Someone Like You, Cathy Kelly, Poolbeg
4. Scarlet Feather, Maeve Binchy, Orion
5. Roses Are Red, James Patterso, Headline

#### Hardback Non Fiction

1. One Voice: My Life In Song, Christy Moore, Lir/HodderS
2. The Beatles Anthology, The Beatles, Cassell
3. An Unsung Hero: Tom Crean, Antarctic, Michael Smith, The Collins Press Survivor
4. Whatever Green Is Worn, Tim Pat Coogan, Hutchinson
5. Father and I, Carlo Gebler, Little Brown

# Music is the Answer - Reviews & Interviews



## The Frames, Thursday Week 4

**So good you could Frame it again!**

A kind of childish giddiness made its way along the queue. The more daring or smug skipped by hoping to go unnoticed whilst the remaining more enduring ticket holders leaned on doors and shoulders mixing the slightly dormant tunes in their mental jukebox.

Poetic moments as always when the Frames return to U.L. Tickets at a premium and demand at an all time high fuelled by rumours of a tour that was, at its weakest, an amiable experience to be cherished; the promise of a new album and support from an array of varied talent. A transformation from the banal to the entrancing accommodated the enthusiastic devotees at the Jonathon Swift. Most present found it difficult to close their pencil cases and open their ears but soon the special occasion was understood. Glen Hansard later commented on this as he explained the philosophy behind the current tour. These were some of the few occasions where all present were there to honor and share and where music was master.

"The Troll's" were first up. These four lads surprised their audience with accomplished melodic, upbeat and reggae styled sounds. Their instrumental opener was followed by "never give up", a happy positive feel song, which summarised "The Trolls" approach for the night. Thanking their audience for their support the lads finished with a more conventional song with a striking "Give me a reason not to hate you" lyric dictating the chorus. It would be hard to find a reason to hate this band.

The short interval lent itself to some commotion as the heaving lecture theatre rearranged itself. Steve Flanagan was next to take the court's musical stand. With accompanying samples and beats and his acoustic guitar, Steve was complete. Without labelling Steve, parallels were quickly drawn with David Kitt who in similar fashion was present at the Frames gig in the John Monet last year. Unfortunately, Steve was less entertaining and at times lacked presence and a vivid technique. With his haunting voice and passionate singing, Steve did shine with some memorable moments and his debut album "by way of" will certainly deserve investigation.

If Steve was to some extent tame, then his successors were his antitheses. Four lads with loads of loud guitars, drums, beer, trucks, scratching, burping, hair, drinking...okay, I'm wandering. Basically, "National Prayer Breakfast" are a frenzy of simple guitar rock and even simpler lyrics. With energy as abundant as pasta in

a student shop they took to the stage like excited kids. At one stage proclaiming they were giving "lectures in rock" in the mid-sized theatre, "National Prayer Breakfast" certainly were tremendous musicians and on stage they were most enjoyable to watch. Regrettably, a blunt edge of lame lyrics and an over reliance on covering any imagination with great guitar playing keeps them just below that threshold that friends strive to escape from when forming a band.

Adian Kelly was the Soul Clinic maestro entertaining all later in Dolan's Warehouse but as The Frames were expected, he took his seat far from the decks in the Jonathon Swift and sat back in appreciation. In their usual scruffy and unorganised appearance the band took the stage to the night's thus far loudest applause. Opening with "The Dancer", Glen's prolific voice guides the band as they accompany his own acoustic guitar. Afterwards, he asks if anyone in the audience "has a plectrum?" His appeal is soon answered once everyone actually realises he is serious.

"Angel at my Table" was next to follow with its frantic chorus. Colm Mac Con Iomaire on Violin towered as ever over the powerful and unadulterated music bridging the jagged edges with smooth whines.

However, the songs were only part of what "The Frames" live are about. As Glen sang "God bless YOU" and relaxingly chatted to the most reverential audience, a sense that we were part of a very special gig which could never be planned or repeated, and yet was something that one might almost expect from the Frames; soon encapsulated the room.

Then there were time when you could almost literally hear a pin drop, such was the attention and understanding that their songs demanded. Glen, a dab hand now at framing his own sensitive side, spoke of tales of travel, friendship and love. As he sang the lyric "Words don't really fit what I'm feeling now," many present couldn't but agree.

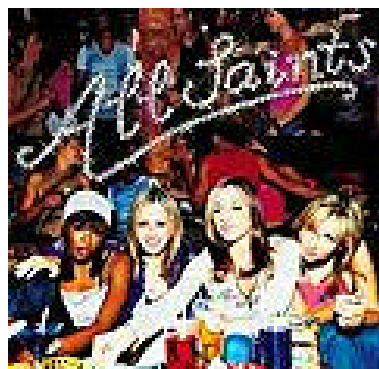
There was the time when The Frames were one of the crowd. Sharing their drinks and chatting to their audience, the very people who have made them certain sell-outs almost nation wide. Questions regarding that much anticipated follow-up to "Dance the Devil..." were answered also. Provisionally titled "For the Birds", the release date now set somewhere around February.

And there was the time when the Frames were as loud and unpredictable as ever. "Revelate" and "Dance the devil" were performed with vivacity and enthusiasm which some had feared lacked slightly in their previous performance during Kollege Week. However, it's in intimate venues with an appreciative and loyal crowd that the Frames seem most relaxed and expressive.

A standing ovation was inevitable following an encore that included a "Joy Division" cover in which Steve Flanagan joined Glen as well as an extensive version of "Star, Star" which at one stage drifted to Celine's "My heart will go on" but returned to a touching rendition of "Two Little Boys..."

Thursday night, no bar and a group of enthralled students packed uncomfortably in a lecture hall. It takes the Frames!





**ALL SAINTS - 'SAINTS & SINNERS' (LONDON)**  
Released on: Mon 16 Oct 2000

**Saints & Sinners**

Somewhere in there, it seems, everyone forgot about the music. After becoming stars in 1998 when Shaznay Lewis' brilliant 'Never Ever' got to Number One the old fashioned way, slowly climbing the charts, ensnaring listeners with its circling cycle of hooks and harmonies, All Saints were recast as a caricature of a pop group.

To be fair, this wasn't entirely the band's fault, though they were certainly complicit, as countless photo shoots found Melanie Blatt, Natalie and Nicole Appleton playing up the sex kitten image for all it was worth.

But now, with the release of this unimaginatively named, shoddily packaged record, it seems almost like the music is as much of an afterthought for them as it has been to the editors and readers of the country's tabloids and lad mags.

**All Saints**

The depressing reality is that, two William Orbit-produced Number Ones apart, there's little here to fulfil the immense promise of All Saints' effervescent debut. Some tracks are just weak, while otherwise decent ideas are submerged in surface detail.

'Ready Willing And Able' tries so hard to be En Vogue but never gets close, while Orbit's by-numbers synth/guitar trick is trotted out for the umpteenth time to smooth out the parts of 'Surrender' that dare to try to become a distinct song. And the less said about the pointless Latin dalliance of closer 'One More Tequila' the better.

There are some highs, of course, the title track being one such, a strong song which benefits from a relatively uncomplicated recording courtesy of the band's long-time collaborator K-Gee. Another, oddly, is 'Whoopin' Over You', a sort of Northern Soul-via-Edwin Collins stomp where a rap from Lewis that ought to be toe-curlingly embarrassing - "Do you like my cowboy hat?/I dance like a kitty-cat" - comes across as a rare moment of unforced, natural light-heartedness.

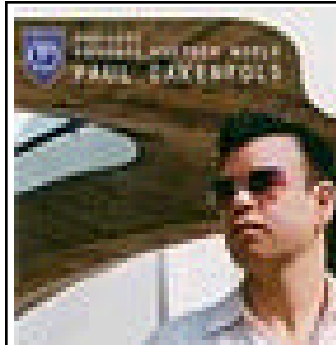
The Natalie Appleton-penned 'Dreams' keeps its head above the waterline too, a song that deserves a place on a better album than this, while Blatt's 'Ha Ha' has a bounce and a refreshing lack of self-consciousness that are in all too short supply. All Saints

It's desperately unfortunate, in a way, that Lewis wrote 'Never Ever' at such an early stage of her career, as she and her band will always be judged against what is unquestionably one of the best pop singles of the '90s.

To try to continue from there, while acknowledging their new place in the pop star cosmos, they've sacrificed an easygoing sense of fun and exuberance in favour of some nebulous notion of sophistication.

When these stars eventually come back down to earth, they may well make an album as good as they're obviously capable of. But All Saints haven't done it yet.

**Courtesy of dotmusic.com**



**Paul Oakenfold  
Perfecto Presents  
Another World  
(London/Sire)**

Paul Oakenfold is certainly not resting on his laurels, even after being dubbed "Best DJ in the World" by countless magazines and publications worldwide. Aside from his many personal appearances across the globe, the mega-popular mixmaster has given fans several mixes in the Journeys by DJ series, Tranceport -- his 1998 first U.S. release -- and Resident: Two Years of Oakenfold at Cream, commemorating his almost legendary stint at Liverpool's super-club. And that's just to name a few.

Oakenfold aims to continue his global dance assault with Perfecto Presents Another World, a two-disc epic mix filled with his usual energetic blend of trance and progressive house. Throughout the mix, Oakenfold follows the proven formula of prefacing more beat-heavy, climactic tracks -- such as Max Graham's "Airtight" and Tone Depth's "Majestic" -- with otherworldly vocals-only tracks by Dead Can Dance and Sabel, among others. The build-up is no doubt effective on the dance floor -- where Oakenfold excels -- but the effect sounds a bit repetitive after the first few occurrences.

The highlight of Another World is Oakenfold's seamless blending of three driving tunes -- Quiver's mix of Led Zeppelin's "Baby I'm Gonna Leave You," Timo Maas' superb "Ubik," and LSG's "Into Deep." If the 24-track mix were trimmed down to say, maybe 15 tracks of this caliber, the album would leave a much stronger impression.

Kirsten Terry  
CDNOW Editorial Staff



**UEFA  
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Win yourself a Party Pack  
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1. Who scored for Real Madrid in Last Year's Final?
2. How many times have Real Madrid won the European Cup?
3. Who was the top goal scorer in last year's Champion League?

Drop your answers into the main reception in the Students' Union, in the new Centre, along with your name, ID number and a contact number.

# Music is the Answer - Reviews & Interviews



## JAZZ LIVE AND KICKING IN CASTLETROY

The Limerick Jazz season kicked off on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, with a memorable performance from Louis Stewart and his band at the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel. His performance was the first of many jazz acts who will frequent the hotel over the next year.

Stewart thrilled a large audience with his delightful, intricate guitar playing. This wasn't a one man show, however and Stewart was supported superbly by the tremendous drum playing of Stephen Keogh, the lovely, soft piano playing of Miles Drennan as well as the passionate double bass playing of Arnie Somygi, who at times threatened to steal the show with his remarkable performance.

The first set was mixture of thumping jazz tunes and

beautiful pieces of melancholy and sadness. The tune "Speak Love" was a potent example of the former, while "Alone Together" was a sombre piece that epitomised the gentler side of the group's performance.

The second set was somewhat surprisingly, even slower and more relaxed than the first "Railway Trains", "I can't get started", and the mournful tune "You've Changed", a tune associated with Billie Holiday, were some of the pieces with which the group played to great effect.

Stewart finished up with the amusingly title song "I'm so miserable without you its almost like having you here", bringing to close an enjoyable night of jazz and leaving the audience waiting patiently until 9 November, the next night of live jazz in the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel.

**By Lorcan MacCurtain**

## Plush - Are you listening?

**They're here to show you what they're worth**

Plush. It's a Stone Temple Pilots song. It's an original name for a band – just like their music. The four-piece gave a sneak preview to an elite gathering in Costelloes on Wednesday night, October 24<sup>th</sup>. They banged their drums, strutted their guitars and basically rocked.

The UL outfit consist of Ollie Malone (lead guitar & vocals), Jonnie Maher (rhythm guitar & vocals), Cormac Cullen (bass guitar) and Stephen Fennessy (drums & percussion). Their sound is basically original. When I asked one member what type of music they played, the reply was "we rock!!!" And they do.

Although there are certain influences in their music, they still manage to pull off the whole originality stunt! After all, Ollie writes all the music (they don't do covers!) and has been doing so for years. He even gave up his full-time job to dedicate his time to the band. Jonnie is a UL Postgrad and Stephen is also a UL student. Cormac is, as bass players go, the laid-back one. He takes it all in. But he still manages to enjoy himself at the same time.

So what was the gig like?! For the hour and a half they played, they entertained their audience, to say the least. They had me convinced at the end of it all that they were actually enjoying themselves at the same time. After all it was only a warm-up gig. They play Costelloes again in Week 6, and they have more gigs lined up around Limerick, Waterford, Cork and Galway. Vicar Street in Dublin on the

second Friday and Saturday nights of January. The GPO in Galway also has the privilege! Watch out for them!

Now to the music. With a set-list of 14 or 15 tunes, it's hard not to get something there for everyone. *Serpent's Tongue* and *Time Traveller* are amongst the oldest. Ollie couldn't really think which one was the newest! You'd think that would be easy!! But he reckons it's *Death by Misadventure*, which had a rocky-reggae twang to it, with some easy-going guitar riffs thrown in for good measure! Their set was opened with *Beautiful Love* – it's like nothing you've ever heard before. It rocked the heart of everyone in the room. The real foot-tapper was *Cakewalk Queen*. There was a bit of a Blink 182 thing in there but not too much to discourage the audience. A bit of familiarity goes a long way. Plus – it was catchy – definitely a future single!

*Dogda Blues* revealed a laid-back side to Plush. It was pure guitar-Jimi Hendrix blues. Cool. *Once Bitten Twice Shy* was a real love-song – "to fall in love – it's now or never" – a bit like Plush. You'll either love them or hate them. Now for the real controversial one – *Seedspiller*. Ollie refused to introduce any other song – but he made an exception for this one! But he said, "Don't listen to the lyrics. If you do, don't tell anybody!" This was my favourite so far, and I did manage to catch some of the lyrics: "He laughed as they cried/He smiled as they died....." I'll leave the rest to your imagination!!! The next one was

*Serpent's Tongue*, which had a bit of a Stone Roses influence in it! And their final one, *Dusk Til Dawn*, portrayed some slight Radiohead-esque drumbeats.

But above all, the most important part of any band's career – Sellotape!!! Jonnie had a bit of trouble trying to find it – his mike stand managed to make itself lopsided somehow! During the gig they still had a few problems with the microphones! Ollie's mike just didn't want to stay where it was! And it was almost as if Jonnie was afraid of his, in case it might topple over!

The audience reaction was encouraging. After all – it was their first proper gig with their new PA and everything! (Jonnie – do you know yet what it stands for?!?) The real test is this week in Costelloes – to see if they are actually able to pull the whole thing off! But I'm sure they'll do fine. As Jonnie said himself, he wasn't actually as nervous as he thought he would be!! And that's always a good start! That, as well as the new haircut sported by Ollie. Just do yourself one favour though – don't pull a Real Slim Shady stunt! Please!

So there you have it – Plush – one of the better new acts I've heard in a while! Make it your business to go and see them. You'll be impressed anyway. And in their own words – "I hope everything works out fine"!!!

# University Concert Hall - News & Reviews



## TOSCA UCH, Oct 18, 2000

Limerick's opera aficionados turned out in force for the second night of the Chisinau National Opera of Moldova's recent performances which featured a full three act version of Puccini's *Tosca*. Set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars of the Nineteenth Century, *Tosca* is typical of the late Romantic mood in Europe. Premiered in the first month of the twentieth century, its themes of liberty and justice and the tragedy of their non-fulfilment are tropes of art informed by politics, a form typical of the preceding century. The dichotomy between the public sphere as a male oriented political space and the private as a female oriented apolitical space and their attendant virtues lies at the heart of the piece. The confusion of roles and identities as the two spheres clash in the rela-

tionship between *Tosca* and Cavaradossi and that between Cavaradossi and the Republic, as represented by its leader Angelotti, is the animating force in the piece. Although professing love for *Tosca*, it is for Angelotti that he says he will die, the ultimate expression of devotion. After the first act sets the scene by introducing the main characters and themes, the second act forms the core of the drama. Having exploited *Tosca*'s jealousy of the Marchesa Attavanti (Angelotti's sister), Scarpia extracts incriminating evidence from her, hoping to quell any possible revolt against the Ancien Regime and to force her to surrender to his advances in order to save Cavaradossi's life. *Tosca* gets drawn ever closer to the public sphere against which she rails in the dramatic moment of Act Two, the aria *Vissi d'Arte, Vissi d'Amore* in which she asserts that she has lived according to the aesthetic rather than the political. Having betrayed the cause for which Cavaradossi is being tortured in exchange for his life, *Tosca* kills Scarpia, the prefect who betrays everything, including his virtue. *Tosca*'s tragedy ultimately lies in her involvement in an alien masculine environment, in which she is caught between two male categories of desire, Cavaradossi's 'love' and Scarpia's lust. Her choices informed by art and love, she falls victim to the political machinations of the corrupt Scarpia, whose deceit results in the death of both Cavaradossi and *Tosca* who throws herself off the ramparts of Castle Sant Angelo defiantly invoking divine judgement against her deceiver Scarpia.

With suspension of disbelief a key to successful opera each performance has to combine excellence in two fields, music and drama. Companies are faced with two options, to achieve a huge spectacle involving gigantic props and elaborate stagecraft or to create an intimate atmosphere in which disbelief is not suspended, but rather gently set aside. The problem with the super spectacle form of opera lies in the conventions of a form that can often lead to a mechanistic and formulaic melodrama. Performances are often bereft of humanity as both producer and performer sacrifice evocation for technical brilliance. Wisely, given the limited scale of both the Concert Hall stage and the company's budget, the Moldovans chose the intimate option. *Tosca* lends itself to such a play as it is confined to three basic sets, all of which were more than competently created by unfussy stagecraft. Although some traditionalists were disappointed with the small size of the stage, all were impressed with the cast, particularly the Russian diva Ludmila Magomedova as *Tosca* who amazed onlookers with her powerful yet subtle style. The orchestra, led by the conductor Alexandru Samoila, were also remarkably tight, responding to the events on stage with perfectly judged musical accompaniment.

Even for the opera sceptic (among whom I count myself) this was an excellent evening's entertainment.

By SEÁN MOLLOY

## Pulse, UCH, Oct 25, 2000

**"Don't bother Doc, I checked the P.U.L.S.E., and this one's DOA"**

I want my money back. For a ticket to see the performance of P.U.L.S.E. – the "ultimate Pink Floyd tribute band" - I parted with ten of my dwindling supply of pounds, and I want all ten of them back.

I was real excited about seeing the show. All the fliers around campus promoting it - they all looked real neat. They had that little energy orb hovering amidst those rainbow electrostatic shockwaves, and the word "P.U.L.S.E." omnipotently overlooking it like a mysterious hooded-cloaked Rock God from a realm beyond - the very same Rock God that the real Pink Floyd could always make you, at least for a moment, believe actually existed. I read in the paper about how the concert would feature a spectacular light and laser show that was "not to be missed" and how this particular band had been "quoted as being the best scaled down version of the original group ever." So with all this in mind I went right over to the kindly old lady at the University Concert Hall's box office, shined a special sparkly smile at her and in the

cadence of a little boy at the candy shop counter, I proudly asked for a ticket to the P.U.L.S.E. concert, please.

But now I want my smile, my cadence, and most of all my money back.

I've seen good tribute bands – they all have such an enthusiasm towards their particular band and a good enough sense of humor about what they're doing to either make you forget they're impostors, or make you just say *Tahellwidit!* and join in the celebration. P.U.L.S.E. not only continually reminds you that they're fakes, but they indict themselves as vandals too. All that is dynamic and pleasurable and provocative and even poignant about Pink Floyd was gobbled up, digested, and excreted into a boring, preening, amateurish pile of sludge not suitable for those of us with weak stomachs.

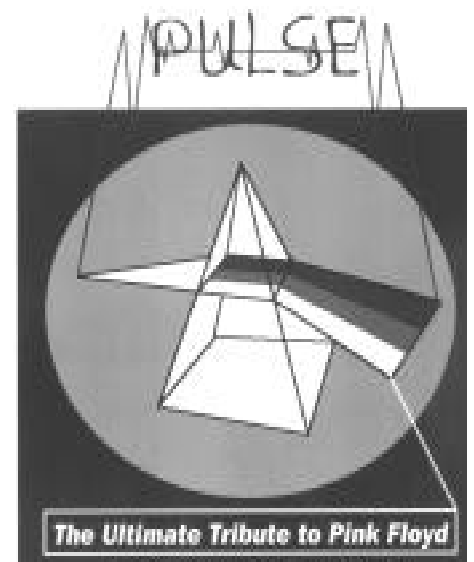
The show began when this little machine onstage hissed at you a pathetic little cloud of smoke which I guess was supposed to conjure the mysterious aura of Pink Floyd, except that the smoke quickly dissipated into nothing, which only conjured the mysterious aura of Spinal Tap. Then the band came out looking like they just woke up from a sound nap and opened with "Shine on You Crazy Diamond." This of course would have been a

fine song to commence the evening with, except they sounded like they'd never played it before, so you just winced and accepted that this would be a long night of ear poison. And you were right.

The spectacular light show? Bah! Play a Pink Floyd CD in your room and have a friend flip the light switch on and off. The awe-inspiring laser show? Bah again! Pure obnoxious frippery. The band members? Appallingly unprofessional - the saxophonist couldn't seem to stop hitting on the female back-up vocal duo that couldn't seem to stop hitting on all the wrong notes. (Their version of Clare Tory's breath-taking vocal in the original "Great Gig in the Sky" was an absolute travesty). How about the production? Well, you know that line in "Brain Damage" that goes "you shout and no one seems to hear"? YOU COULDN'T HEAR IT!!! All you heard at that point was some raucous feedback. The band and the performance was stiff and sleazy and I hated every traitorous second of it.

In sum, I think P.U.L.S.E. will be the band that's playing when I'm being marched down to Hell.

So now it's time to get my money back. Here's my plan: *An Focal* is gonna make this the "Letter of the Week" and pay me the fifteen pounds. I'll take ten of those



pounds and put them in my pocket, that'll be the recompense.

The other five I'm gonna take down to the Stables where I'm gonna shine a special sparkly smile at the bartender and this time in the cadence of a man deranged I'm gonna ask for three pints, please. The pints I'm gonna drink really fast, which (ha ha!) will go directly to and immediately destroy the brain cells that are storing this abominable concert in my memory.

P.U.L.S.E. – sounds bad.  
My plan – sounds good.

-Lucas McMillen

# Focal Eile - Arts Event Guide

Any information on forthcoming activities of Societies and Clubs should be sent to Room S1 – 22, Schuman Building or [patricia.moriarty@ul.ie](mailto:patricia.moriarty@ul.ie)

## UL RADIO SOCIETY - SOUL RADIO

Every day between 8.30 am and 4.00 am UL Radio Society will present a range of shows. If you want to join in on the fun or just try a little broadcasting contact us at [wiredfm@mic.ul.ie](mailto:wiredfm@mic.ul.ie)

## LIMERICK MUSIC ASSOCIATION

**NOV 3** RICHARD WATKINS (HORN)  
KRZYSZTOF SMIETANA (VIOLIN)  
NORIKO OGAWA (PIANO)  
Programme features Brahms Horn Trio. Time 8.00 pm Tickets £10.00 at door Jean Monnet Theatre

**NOV 7** NEW NAMES FROM MOSCOW  
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £10.00 at door Jean Monnet Theatre

## LIMERICK JAZZ SOCIETY

**NOV 9** SIMON NABOTOV TRIO  
Time 8.30 doors open 8.00 pm Tickets £8.00 Special Student rate £3.00 Kilmurry Lodge

## DANCE CLUB

host Salsa Classes with a professional teacher every Mon in the Games Room, Student Centre. 2 classes 6.00 – 7.00 pm and 7.00 – 8.00 pm. Beginners and experienced Salsa fiends catered for. The programme of instruction is being extended to include belly dancing and flamenco.

## UL DEBATING UNION

meet every Mon in the Function Room of Scholars for a lively debate on topical issues with a cross section of UL Students. Debate and discursion are promised, resolution is hoped for, lollipops are guaranteed.

## HISPANIC SOCIETY

meet every Mon at 6.30 pm in the Language Resource Area for the screening of Irish and Spanish based films.

## UL PHOTO SOCIETY

will photograph your event, Club activity. Contact 9937285. Minimum 1 week notice period desirable – these are busy guys.

## UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK CHOIR

rehearse every Weds from 6 – 8 pm in the Music Rooms of Block C. Regularly performing in venues on and off the campus the student/staff choir always welcome new members.

## UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK TRIBAL SPIRIT DRUMMING CLASSES

with John Bowker – Absolute beginners are absolutely welcome to join in these weekly sessions in the Students' Union on Weds from 7 – 10 pm. A small fee of £5(or less), student rate of £3 (or less) ensures an evening of rhythm and celebration.

## FOLK GROUP

meet every Thurs at the Salesian Hostel at 8 pm. New members are welcome. The group also perform at the 7.30 pm Sunday Mass in the Salesian Church.

## IRISH WORLD MUSIC CENTRE

**NOV 2** Students of the IWMC's MA in Classical String Performance.  
FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

**NOV 7** Artists to be confirmed  
FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

**NOV 9** RTE Vanbrugh String Quartet  
FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

**NOV 14** Catriona MacDonald ( fiddle )  
David Milligan ( piano )  
Conrad Ivitsky ( double bass )  
FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

## UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL

**NOV 9** JOE DOLAN IN CONCERT  
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £16.50

**NOV 11** FOSTER & ALLEN  
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £14.00

**NOV 12** PHIL COULTER & THE 3 CELTIC TENORS  
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £17.50/£15.50/£12.50

## MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE CHAPEL

**NOV 8** LUCERNARIUM with Helen Phelan of the IRISH WORLD MUSIC CENTRE  
FREE Time 1.10

## HUNT MUSEUM (Rutland Street)

2,000 original works of art and antiquity. Admission £3.20 Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 5.00 pm, Sun 2.00 – 5.00 pm

## LIMERICK CITY ART GALLERY (Pery Square)

**NOV 2** onwards LEAVING CHEYENNE – Mixed media installation by Michael Timpson – Performances, **NOV 2** 8.00 pm, **NOV 3** and **4** at times to be confirmed  
FREE Mon – Fri 10.00 am – 6.00 pm, Thurs 10.00 am – 7.00 pm, Sat 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

## BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE (69 O'Connell St)

**Nov 2–11** Three days of rain – Presented by the Rough magic Theatre Company and co – produced by the Belltable Arts Centre. Directed by Lynne Parker and written by Richard Greenberg.

**Three Days of Rain** is a spellbinding exploration of the distance and the resonance between one generation and the last. In this Pulitzer-nominated play, Greenberg deftly teases out the threads which bind children and parents, past and present, truth and belief.  
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £10.00, concessions £8.00

## THE BELLTABLE FILM CLUB

**NOV 5** GHOST DOG ( Jim Jarmusch, 1999, 116 mins ) @ Central Studios, Cinema Savoy  
Time 8.00 pm

**Nov 12** TANGO ( Carlos saura, 1998, 115 mins )  
Time 8.00 pm

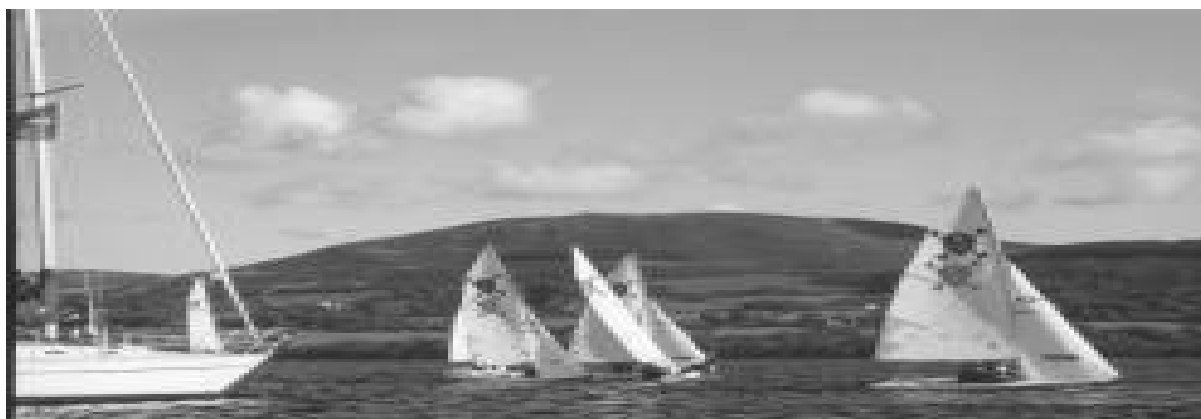
**NOV 2 – 25** Thomas Delohery – exhibition of drawings and painting



# Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Societies on campus. Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Center, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

## SAILING: UCC DOMINATE AT WESTERN INTERVARSITIES



**University of Limerick Sailing Club (ULSC) were host to the 'Irish Examiner Western Intervarsity Race Weekend', held at the University's Activity Centre on Lough Derg on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October.** Twelve teams took part in an event that contrasted Saturday's tactical, moderate wind racing and the thrilling survival conditions that competitors faced on Sunday morning. The event proved to be an early opportunity for UCC sailors to show off their up and coming strength for this season's hectic team racing schedule.

In recent years, Intervarsity team racing has provided a useful, affordable and accessible means for student sailors to develop team racing skills and often go on to compete in international team racing or Olympic sailing. This year, the Irish Universities Sailing Association (IUSA) hope to keep the momentum up and intensify the seasonal racing schedule with supplementary events, such as the Western Intervarsities. 'We hope this event (Western Intervarsities) will provide an earlier than usual kick start to what will be an action-packed season of Intervarsity Sailing' – *ULSC*. The event format meant that the twelve teams were split into 2 fleets of 6, in which each team raced every other in their group. The top 3 teams in each group qualified for the gold fleet in Sunday's racing, while the remaining teams competed in a secondary silver fleet.

### Saturday:

Sailors woke to an uncharacteristically sunny October morning in Limerick. As competitors climbed into their wet suits and scraped layers of frost from their boats, a thick fog lifted from the serene Lough Derg, revealing ideal team racing conditions. A moderate breeze of between 8 and 12 knots fuelled 30 races with exceedingly tactical and furiously aggressive racing.

In fleet 1, UCC were dominant, with their 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams both earning a position in the gold fleet. UCD also showed they hadn't forgotten how to race since their victory in last years National Intervarsities. They finished second overall in the fleet. UCC also showed their

strength in Fleet 2, where their second team remained unbeaten after their 5 races, despite stiff opposition from 3 Trinity teams in their group. Trinity's first and second teams also qualified for the gold fleet. Hosts, UL had to be content with the gradient of their learning curve and a position in the Silver fleet where they would compete with UCG1, UCG2, CIT and Trinity's third team.

As competitors gathered to discuss the day's action back in the Stables bar in Limerick, a looming forecast of gale force winds was casting doubt over Sunday's sailing.

### Sunday:

The forecasters got it right for once and on Sunday morning, any lingering hangovers were literally blown away by the onset of bitterly cold winds. Organisers hastily got races underway to beat the impending gales. Contingency plans were put in place to shorten the event with both silver and gold fleets engaging in elimination competitions.

### Silver fleet:

UL's first team battled their way to a place in the Silver fleet final, ousting their own second team from the competition followed by a contentious, collision ridden victory over CIT. UCG's teams also exited the competition at this stage. Trinity's third team had a relatively easy path to the final against UL. UL's poor start in the final left the team struggling to keep pace with what was a well rehearsed solid performance from the Trinity sailors. UL did have a glimmer of hope as they closed in on the finish line, with Paul Ruddy finding himself back in contention. However, team-mate, John FitzGerald slipped out of his boat at the crucial moment causing his boat to capsize allowing Trinity to take overall victory in the silver fleet.

### Gold Fleet:

The race area resembled somewhat of a battlefield early in the gold fleet competition with the excessive winds causing collisions, a bent mast and multiple capsizes. However, the races did get underway and UCC1 and Trinity 1 emerged as the finalists. In a thrilling final, UCC1 came

out on top after the first windward leg. Despite struggling with gear failure, UCC captain Ronan Keneally manoeuvred to snag Trinity captain Mary O'Loughlin at the windward mark, causing her to capsize. This allowed his team-mate skipper Colin Barry and Peter O'Donovan to secure a sizable lead in first and second positions. UCC never looked like losing and were to be the ultimate winners of the inaugural Western Intervarsities.

Teams will meet again in early December at the UCC hosted Southern Intervarsities in Royal Cork Yacht Club. Visiting teams will surely have their work cut out for them between now and then.

*ULSC Director of Racing, John FitzGerald  
22/10/00*

### UL Sailing Club – Upcoming Events and Club Information

#### Beginners:

ULSC are continuing their beginner training activities on Wednesday afternoons (absolutely no experience required). Buses (£2) depart from the foundation building at 2pm to go to the Activity Centre. All equipment is provided. You can expect to be back in Limerick before 8pm (via the Pipers Inn on the way home). For membership information see the Notice Board in the canteen or simply turn up for the bus on Wednesday. For beginners who are busy on Wednesday afternoons there will be opportunities to help out on Saturday mornings with team training sessions, although coaching will not be provided. ULSC's annual 'beginner training weekend' takes place on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November. Intensive beginner coaching will be available for those interested.

#### Team Sailing:

Team training continues every Saturday morning at 9am. UL has been invited to send on team to Crosshaven on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, to compete against UCC, Trinity and UCD in a friendly competition. The Southern Intervarsities takes place in Crosshaven in the first weekend of December. This is the current focus for UL's training. 2 UL teams will be competing at the event.

**ULSC contacts:**  
John FitzGerald  
Paul Ruddy

[9728287@student.ul.ie](mailto:9728287@student.ul.ie)  
[paulrudds@hotmail.com](mailto:paulrudds@hotmail.com)

# Pub-Golf mania in aid of Milford Hospice.....



A great night was had by all on the inaugural softball v sci-fi pub golf night out. The whole night was organized in aid of Milford Hospice, and in excess of 250 pounds was raised. The evening kicked off in scholars last Wednesday at six o'clock, where each member of both teams successfully knocked back a pint of scholars finest brew.

From there it was head on to the other 17 pubs, although most of us can't remember anything after the tenth pub.

The An Focal hack along eventually passed out in sympathy in the white house after copious amounts of Jagermeister consumed along the way.

Photos are available for bribery from the clubs and socs office and from Gerry Guckian next week for all those interested. Huge thanks have to be given to a few people, for without their help and hard work the night would not have gone ahead. Firstly the hard work and organising of Ten forward's president Niall McGlade, without whom the night would never have happened.....Cheers Nial!!!!, secondly The Softball club and Ten Forward would like to thank the 18 participating Pubs for their enormous contribution.... And those pubs were,

**The Scholars**  
**The Old Quarter**  
**Molly Malone's**  
**Nevada Smiths**  
**The Brazen Head**  
**The High Stool**

**McGregor's**  
**McDaid's**  
**Mickey Martins**  
**Riddlers**  
**The White House**  
**Baker Place**

**Quins**  
**Nancy Blakes**  
**Nestors**  
**The George Bar**  
**The Globe**  
**Docs Bar**

Also thanks to the unbiased referee Gerry Guckian .....you over stepped the mark Mother F\*\*\*\*r, and lastly to everybody who helped collect money and all those who came out to support us!!!!

Through the very tough competition Softballs team comprising of Myself, John Ryan (Captain) George Curley, Kieran and Will Daly eventually won out.

Niall Mcglade, Shane Walsh, Bruce O'Donnell, Padraig Dennison and Aidan "The Man" O'Brien made up the Sci Fi team.

**By Rob Hickey, Softball Club.**

## The Law Society - Solved & Unsolved

William, heir to Richard De Clair Baron Gitface was of late feeling much disillusioned with the endless string of parties, premiers and prostitutes that naturally accompanied Daddies Gold card. One morning

after his café late and caviar, he announced to Mummy

"My life has become tedious, dull and meaningless. I hereby renounce the evils of this elitist society and go to be with my brothers and sisters in Tibet, as I throw off the shackles of wealth and enjoy the simple pleasures of life. There I will feel their pain (.ASIDE: and anything

else I can get my hands on. He He!!!)

He writes a letter to Julian, his faithful friend and "companion"

**Dearest Julie,**

By now you will have heard that I am leaving. No, please don't cry! Hold back that tear! Don't try to stop me! It is a far better thing I do than

I have ever done before. I find I will no longer need my Porsche 911, or

my D4 appartement. Please cancel my subscriptions to "Men's

Weekly", "S&M Monthly" or "The Beano". Also please could you settle any

outstanding debts to Lady Loves Massage Parlour. I am sure you will find

more than sufficient funds in my account, which my financial advisor is

currently transferring into your name. All I ask is that you look after

Fi Fi my little baby poodle and treat her with the same love and

tenderness as I have.

**Farewell old chum,**

**You've been a bloody good sport,**

**Willy XO**

Smoking animal manure and snorting dust left William feeling a little

bit unfulfilled. He decided to return to the loving bosom of his family

and the society which was doing so well without him. On return he

accosted Julien and demanded the return of his worldly goods, stating

there was no enforceable agreement between them.

**Advise Julien and William**

**What is the moral of the story?**

Answers to [solvedandunsolved@ulstudent.com](mailto:solvedandunsolved@ulstudent.com)

<<mailto:solvedandunsolved@ulstudent.com>>

Answers to last weeks

Joe is guilty of;

1. Indecent exposure (exposing himself to the old ladies)
2. Stealing (of the flowers)
3. Harboring a concealed weapon (the axe)
4. Breaking and entering
5. Burglary
6. Manslaughter

The moral of the story is

a) 2 words NET CURTAIN

b) Never wear a Spice Girls t-shirt (EVER!!!)

c) If you lick alcohol from the floor of a pub you have a problem.

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# Spies like us, not!

## Act 1, Scene 1 - A Trip to Spanish Piont!!

### Cast (in order of appearance)

**The Spy:** Eva Kreuzbergova  
**Scary Godmother :** Maria O'Callaghan  
**Sir Ham / Cabbage:** Tomas Flanagan  
**The German:** Axel Don  
**Captain Pillowcase:** Mark Brislane  
**Extras taken from the rest of the Folk Group as required.**

The presence of an alleged MI6 official in the most extreme corners of west Clare may not have been expected by the good folk of UL, but there was nay a complaint audible from the aforementioned persons when the identity of this would be threat to their unconventionality creative natures was exposed. She was none other that Eva Kreuzbergova who made her name as a restaurant owner in the former Czechoslovakia and the graduated to a more illustrious career in the oil business, under the assumed name of Electra, in the Czech Republic.

Rumours have spread during the last few months that the seemingly harmless Folk Group at UL are, in fact, a mere front for the Irish-Mafia organization, and headed by the Godmother (Mocking aside – we know who you are). In addition to this the 27<sup>th</sup> clone of the good Sir Ham, has also been considered an evil threat to our otherwise peaceful society.

Eva is no novice, having been trained by the K.G.B. done her co-op with Mossad, graduate program with the C.I.A. and now working for M.I.6 – her blond hair and the use of phrases like 'you say tomato, I say potato' should not be allowed to deceive.

The weekend was as usual pleasant – a late night ingestion of not insignificant quantities of alcoholic substances (although not including paint-stripper this time – alas the crazy French people are gone elsewhere) was followed hard upon by yet another version of "Limerick, you're

a Langer" and other non coherent mumblings, One of which would warrant a mention – perhaps some other time. The Ceili and disco which followed could only have been considered a success on Baker Place standards - we did fill the kitchen.

Anyway, the early afternoon greeted most people the following morning with a kind of sunshine, somewhat foreign to your average October in Clare and the good folk of UL did thus endeavour to have some fun with their spy. And so it was that an evil pact was signed with the German to lead poor Eva for a nine-mile hike which ended up exactly where it started, while the less motivated members of the group made for the Cliffs with haste in the big red fun bus.

An effort was made during the aforementioned hike to initiate renovation of the old Group HQ, which suffered serious damage last ice-age after a party got out of hand. The expected completion date is the next ice-age, if global warming doesn't flood the place first.

As one would have suspected dinner on Saturday tended to revolve around the whole theory of why we only have thick chicken soup – do the other chickens run away? One wise old individual posed the question – 'Have you ever heard of Kentucky Fried Owl?' Other topics of conversation were Talking Heads (of cabbage) and the masochistic tendencies of a football that cause it to like being kicked around the place.

During another evening of senseless song at the Crosses of Annagh our favourite spy informed the good Sir Ham that he will be taken off the list of dangerous persons and put on the list entitled Gobs\*\*te.

Despite this diagnosis of Sir Ham as a non-sinister individual – Miss Kreuzbergova, with the assistance of Captain Pillowcase as he was later to be re-christened, did attempt to render our favourite Cabbage motionless, by adjoining his footwear to the nearest hound – or was it a chair.

Sir Ham freed himself easily by a swift, majestic opening of the somewhat amateur knots.

Sir Ham, desperate to redeem his good name – good Sir Ham – after an evening distinctly lacking in madness made an unparalleled attempt to create havoc. A mammoth pillow powered duel ensued along the lines of the 1992 Munster Football Final between Kerry and Clare. As in the original, Clare beat Kerry, in a close affair, but was out-foxed in later contests. Captain Pillowcase was depleted of his last energy and as slumber overtook him, our favourite Sir Ham attached our would-be villain to some implements of cookery and bed linen, and began the Chinese water torture, using facilities provided by the Scary Grandmother (or was it Godmother).

Flash photography accompanied the not-so-little droplets to provide a somewhat unpleasant awakening for Capt. Pillowcase. An unparalleled wrath was unleashed. Captain Pillowcase reversed the roles in the Chinese water torture, but something went horribly wrong, and all the water came out at once. Sir Ham, now known as 'not so brave Sir Ham' ran away and is alleged to be hiding under a Dolmen somewhere in the Clare Outback. Some say he has taken potato sandwiches with him, others say tomato.

So, much fun was had by all and the not so rested, good folk of UL, returned for their Sunday night fever. Some say the miracles were a gift from God, other say their beliefs come from hot chocolate.

The Folk Group meet every Wednesday night at 8:15 in the Salesian Hostel (by the East gate)

Contact [folk@csn.ul.ie](mailto:folk@csn.ul.ie) or visit our website at <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~folk>

Written by the Minister for Propaganda, with a little help from the Minister for Finance.

## Green Fair a Resounding Success for Enviro-soc



The Green Fair held in the Stables courtyard on Wednesday of week 5 was declared a resounding success by Catriona Jackman the newly elected president of the University of Limerick Environmental society . The fair was an attempt by the society with the help of local businesses to promote environmentally sounder ways of life around college.

Dakini from Henry St . in Limerick as well as Indigeno and Ul's own The Edge from the Milk Market in Limerick all worked in harmony to make this years Green fair the biggest one held in the uni-

versity yet!!!

At lunchtime a drum instructor and twenty of his class gave a concert to a large audience in the courtyard. The cold and brisk October weather did not deter many students from coming out to support the green fair. All of natural arts and crafts swell as clothes and some home furnishings were on sale at the fair.

A lot of the ULSU Indigeno cloth bags were given out to students as enviro-soc sought to continue their campaign to promote the use of cloth bags instead of paper or plastic bags.

The campaign that has been going on since last year has been really successful for the students of soc-soc, this year they also were giving out some natural recycled paper fuel logs. Con Traas of life sciences donated twenty bottles of the finest apple juice from his orchard in Clonmel to the cause and an enviro-soc were also boosted by the appearance of The natural law party and amnesty International at the green fair.

## ULKC DO LAHINCH

Our annual trip to Lahinch took place last weekend (between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October). As per usual it did not disappoint. Our 2 busses (one mini and one big bus) left from the East Gate car park at 6pm heading straight for fine wines, who gave us a 5% discount on slabs and wine (which was nice). Once we had obtained our essential refreshments we were on our way. It was a fairly eventful journey with lots of songs being sung and once we were bored with them, there was no alternative but to begin the dreaded drinking games. This is when the true spirit of Lahinch came alive and by the time we reached Bidy Early's there was no turning back from the impending drunkenness. We only had time for a brief pint there and then moved quickly on to Lahinch. Once we arrived there we put all our gear into the hostel. After all the arrangements had been made by our captain and treasurer, yes you guessed it, we headed for the pub!

The quiet tranquil setting of O'Looneys was the perfect place for our night of drunken debauchery. Everyone played their part in the doubling of the profits and the population of the pub. To the unsuspecting people in the pub this was ground zero for the outbreak of the deadly "PVG" virus. After crawling to the Claremont, the club continued carelessly into the early hours of the morning, with unsuspecting people contracting this life-threatening bug. One female member thought that it was just to far of a journey to walk to her bed in the hostel so she fell asleep on the prom instead! However, her slumber was to be

What better way to spend your weekends than knee deep in a bog or hanging half way up a cliff or even eating your lunch 200 meters below ground? I certainly can't think of anything better. If you're looking for a different way to spend your weekends, join the O.P.C.

It's week 4 and already, we have had 4 successful club trips. Week one was especially for beginners, and introduction to getting wet and dirty (hill walking). We chose the burren for this trip since it is one of the least wet and mucky places in Ireland, perfect for beginners. Those with no experience looked on with fear as they watched the more experienced members putting all the wet gear, packing their rucksacks and checking maps and compasses. They soon learnt the reason for the wet gear; it's amazing how wet you can get on one hour of light rain.

Wednesday week 2, the first caving trip. Again the venue was the burren and again the trip catered for the beginner. Caving is a strange sport, its not for the claustrophobic and a very early squeeze in the cave sorted the claustrophobic from those who have no fear of death stuck forever in a hole in the ground. Many miles and streams and waterfalls later, they emerged dirty, tired and exhilarated. Next stop the pub....

End of week two was a rock-climbing trip to the burren again. After a few early showers, the weather cleared and we started climbing. It was strange that only one person fell all day, he knows who he is and he discovered how well the ropes work. Wasn't a very spectacular fall through, he slipped. We started climbing at an area Ballyryan, which is good for people starting off and later we moved to Aillaide where the harder routes are found. Everyone who had a go loved climbing and some are now regulars at the climbing wall.

Finally the end of week three was the big Killarney weekend. It was truly international affair, over half of the group were Erasmus students and

short-lived, as she was rudely awakened by a big grizzly man, who was uttering the words "...and all because the lady

loves..."/> But the story took a turn for the worst as she proceeded, with help from her compatriot, to beat the *livin shite* out of him! Edel left the scene accompanied her knight in shining *amour*. Reports of strange but true incidents were numerous, bare asses, Mel being rocked, but the reliable 2can was fast asleep as pure usual. Those who dared to brave their morning sickness caught the best of the Atlantic swell. The combination of "rocks" and waves caused many a scare. It was rumoured that local radio stations were reporting congestion on the waves, which was causing lots of carnage. Once the waves were off the rocks it was time for the freshers to strut their stuff. These were their chance to wash the taste of alcohol out of their mouths and replace it with seawater. By the time stage 2 hypothermia had set in, the annual club trip to Seaworld commenced. Despite many warnings from the lifeguards the whole club hit the Jacuzzi. This is where 2can ribbed his fingers, for extra sensation!

The smooth taste of traditional spagball created the perfect soakage for Saturday night. The night began in the hostel, the same place as it was destined to finished. Once we polished off the last of our offie we headed to O'Looney's while some headed off to consummate their relationships (JJ). Despite some people's efforts to put the night in the dark, a new strain of the PVG virus broke out again. Halloween came early as ULKC hit the dance floor and the fear could be

clearly seen in the faces of the locals and the bouncers. As the night moved on so did we, as we ventured into a further state of inebriation. It seemed like *deja-vu*, as we returned to the hostel, to repeat the previous night's activities. Ger was offering his new variety of fragrance to the carpet in his room, but more important issues arose as the hostel was under siege from the rebellious locals. Fortunately both the hostel and everybody in it survived unscathed, thanks to the gallant bravery of some drunken individuals.

The following day saw Lahinch under attack again, but this time by the weather! The surf was blown-out, and later on that day our tired weary, but content bodies, made their way back to Limerick.

The weekend previous saw a freestyle competition in Melick, Co. Offaly. There was an excellent representation from the club at the event, with Mick Fallon, Jimmy Evans and Ross Redmond making the final. Marcus Lalley won, with a UL paddler, Jimmy coming second. The event was organized by Ross and was such a success that, a ranking competition is being held there this November. He would like to thank his sponsors: River Deep Mountain High and Red Bull, for there help also.

### **Notices:**

Polo has started on Thursday and Friday nights, at 6.45 and 9.00 respectively. The Munster league will start soon and ask Spud, Seanie or Emmet for details.

## Outdoor Pursuits Club - Do it Outdoors

the rest of us came home fluent in French, German and Finnish. On the Saturday, we left base camp (hostel in Killarney) and took the bus to advanced camp1 (the car park). We prepared for our attempt on the summit of Carrantuohill, checking gear, and informing the group of where we intend to go. We set off hoping to reach advanced camp 2 by nightfall we reached it (first lunch break) 1 hour later. After a brief rest, we pushed on, however disaster struck soon after. Some members of the group came down with altitude sickness at 700 meters and two of the experienced members volunteered to miss possibly their only chance of reaching the summit that day. They took the first group down; the rest of us packed up the gear, roped up, put on crampons, wielded our ice axes and pressed on. Camps 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and 11 were reached during the next 4 hours until at last we gained the summit. We peeled back our facemasks, took off the oxygen masks and took a breath of the thing air at 1,039 meters before starting our descent. The group was split up on the way down and finally, several hours after leaving base camp, we were back. We were alive, a 100% survival rate, until we returned to base camp (hostel) where the celebrations took place that night. I'm afraid not many people survived the night. Those who still had full control over their bodies went climbing on the Totem Poles of Tasmania or was it crag E in the Gap of Dunloe, I can't remember, its all a blur.



## SENIOR WOMEN'S HOCKEY: MATCH REPORTS

### U.L. 0 C.O.I. 5

On Saturday the 14th of October the minor A's, minor B's, men's team and the seniors set out for a sunny rebel city. Garryduff hockey club being their final destination. The senior match was scheduled at midday and everything went to plan. However once the ball was hit off by a fiery Church of Ireland side things took a dramatic turn. 5-0 was the final score to C.O.I. This score line says nothing about the ability of the senior squad this year. We put it down merely to 1st match of the season match

nerves and disorganisation. It was hard to lift spirits during and after the match but team captain and centre back Lisa Smyth had a positive thing to say after the match "We can only go upwards and get better". We are looking forward to a challenging season and can't wait until we get C.O.I. back here on home ground.

### U.L. 3 LANSDOWNE 1

On another glorious Saturday the 21st of October spirits were high with the U.L. hockey girls, as we were looking forward to our first encounter with our old rivals Lansdowne. However, things didn't start off very well for us and it seemed as though the match was going to be a repeat of last Saturday's against C.O.I. Lansdowne's left wing Ailbhe Bourke scored the opening goal of this first time ever Munster division cup. However, this didn't put off the U.L. girls and finally after superb work down the right by Eveanne O Reilly and Cara Weldrick the ball reached the circle and it was Eveanne who got the final touch. This meant that the game was to go to extra time and 10 minutes each way was the decider. 5 mins. into extra time Eimear Cregan broke down the center and passed the ball to Lorna Kingston running in from the left wing. Lorna found the net. About 5 mins. to go from the end of the game Sandra Hedigan pushed the ball inside the circle of the Lansdowne defence and she to found the backboard. The final score was 3-1 after a superb game of hockey. We are playing U.C.C. this weekend in Cork and we are all looking forward to another nail biting encounter.

#### Sandra Hedigan

#### university Of Limerick branch of Fine Gael Refugee Seminar a big success!

Feeling the need to highlight the present ill state of the refugee asylum process, UL Young Fine Gael held a seminar on the position of refugees in Ireland, last Tuesday the 24th of October. In attendance were members from DORAS Luimnigh, a group helping asylum seekers and emigrants to integrate into Irish society. Also there were asylum seekers and refugees who have had first hand experience of this process.

Dominic Murray, Professor of Peace and Development Studies in UL, chaired the event. There were four main speakers, Kevin Browne, who talked about DORAS (Development Organisation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers); second was the founder of DORAS, Ann Scully, who explained the current system for granting of asylum in Ireland. Third was Lu Aneteda, who is a former lecturer from Nigeria, and currently seeking asylum here. Lastly, Senator Mary Jackman presented Fine Gael's policy document on the asylum issue, "Ireland Plus".

The night proved very informative, and the contributions ranged from moving accounts of obvious discrimination to discussion of progression and reform in the Fine Gael policy. Half an hour was given over at the end for contributions from the floor. The issues raised at this point proved emotive, challenging, and without a doubt controversial.

Young Fine Gael were delighted at the turn-out, and felt it was an excellent start on their extensive plan for the coming year. The next planned event will be the Dáil Trip on Wednesday 8th of November, where all are welcome (watch out for posters). Our seminar on the North will hopefully be held November.

For information on topics mentioned above, or to join YFG e-mail Catherine-Ellen O'Keeffe, the secretary of YFG ([9932992@student.ul.ie](mailto:9932992@student.ul.ie)).

## University of Limerick Basketball Club

U.L. Ladies National League Team took on Sasha Meteors last Saturday night (14-10-2000) in what proved to be a very exciting game from the outset. UL got into the game quickly with some good fast breaks but following three quick scores from Meteors were only up by one point at the end of the first quarter - UL 19 Meteors 18.

In the second & third quarter, basket was matched by basket. Some great rebounding by Sinead Leahy & Nicola Farrell of UL ensured that the teams remained level and at the end of the third quarter the score was UL45 Meteors 45.

Meteors tried unsuccessfully throughout the last quarter to push ahead of the UL team but could not penetrate the strong offense & defence put up by UL. Good scores from Dearbhla Breen & Maire Guiney put the UL girls ahead. The last few minutes of the game were tension filled with Meteors coming within three points of the UL team with a minute and a half to go. However, the UL girls continued with their strong defence and won the game by three points 59 - 56. Top scorers for UL were Nollaig Cleary 10 pts, Maire Guiney 10pts and Dearbhla Breen 7pts.

The UL team travel to Dublin to play Killester this Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October. Their next home game will be played in the new University Arena at the University of Limerick on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November at 18.30.

**Team:** Juliet Murphy, Nollaig Cleary, Carol Fennell, Jillian Aherne, Nicola Farrell, Eimear Kyne, Marie Moriarty, Maire Guiney, Dearbhla Breen, Sinead Leaghy.

**Coach:** Ger. Tarrant and **Assistant Coach** Ursula Kyne

The University of Limerick Local league team got off to a fine start as well this season with the UL "A" playing just one game so far and winning and the UL "B" playing three games winning one and losing two, they lost on Monday night to Mary I by the closest of margins one point and this proved to be a very entertaining game.

## LADIES MINOR A HOCKEY - PROGRESS REPORT

The Minor A team have played two matches since our last report in An Focal. Two weeks ago we faced Church of Ireland, in Garryduff, Cork. The teams' hopes were high after our 10-0 victory in our first game. We started well and it wasn't long before we were a goal up, from a sweep by Darina Drumm. A fantastic chip from Niamh McAuliffe on the top of the circle, a short time later, put us two ahead. On the stroke of half time, Jill Murray sent a great cross into the circle and Claire Delaney added to our tally by deflecting the ball over the goal-line. We continued to dominate the game and second half goals from Niamh and Sharon Carty put the game out of the Cork teams reach at 5-0.

The team played well with excellent performances from Claire Delaney(left wing) and Sharon Carty(left mid.). The defense also did very well, with some good saves from Louise Kenworthy(gk).

Our next game was against UCC, in the Mardyke, Cork. The weather was terrible and a lot of the pitch was flooded. UCC wanted to postpone the game but instead both teams agreed to play 25 minutes a side (usually 35). The wind and heavy rain made it very difficult to

settle into a rhythm, but still the UL girls managed to put the UCC goalie under pressure. Good first half performances from defenders Niamh McCormack and Nora Nelson helped keep the ball in the UCC half for a large part of the 25 minutes. At half time the score remained 0-0, however, and the pressure on the UL team was increasing. The second half was dominated by our wingers Keira-Eva Mooney and Claire Delaney who splashed their way through the puddles to start some good attacks, and also some great play from Claire Ryan(sweeper) and Joanne Kirby(left back) who between them put a stop to every UCC break. It wasn't until the final 10 minutes of the game that we got a reward for our pressure. The goal came from a short corner - Kate Rushe received the ball on the top of the circle and managed to weave her way through defenders, before skillfully placing the ball Beyond the keeper, much to the relief of all her team-mates!! For the final minutes UL battled hard to ensure we went away with our third victory out of three games this season.

Darina Drumm.



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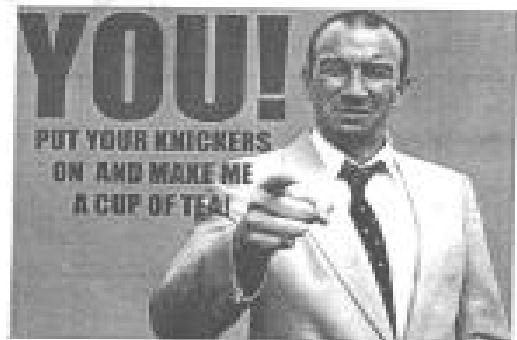
**Clubs & Societies Room 2  
Students Union**

Contact: Patricia

Email: [ul\\_workabroad@aiesec.net](mailto:ul_workabroad@aiesec.net)

If anyone is looking to speak to the campus Garda Seamus O'Neill, he will be on campus every Tuesday evening Between 6pm and 10pm. Call into ULSU reception between those times to contact him.

## UL Radio Society



...or you could try

**SOUL RADIO**

STUDENT SOCIETY OF UL AND UL RADIO SOCIETY ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A RANGE OF SERVICES AT THE ULSU STUDENTS UNION FOR THE NEXT TERM. CONTACT US AT THE STUDENTS UNION FOR MORE INFORMATION.

meeting thursday 26<sup>th</sup> october

**WIRED FM 106.8FM**

## Alcoholics Anonymous

**Meeting of  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
every Thursday  
in room E0019  
at 6.30p.m**

**If you want to drink that's your business, if  
you want to stop that's ours.**

Has your life been affected by  
Alcoholism  
Violence  
Gambling  
Or

Any other addiction or dysfunctional behaviour.

If so

You are welcome to meetings of Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families.

**When:** every Friday Night

**Where:** Bishops Place,  
Nicholas Street, Limerick.

**Time:** 8.30p.m

## The An Focal team

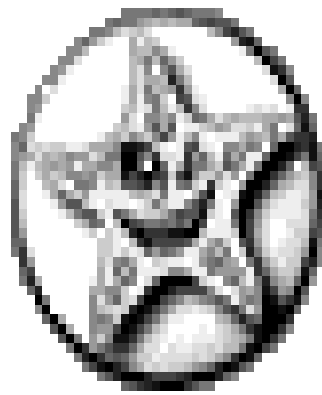
editor	<i>Fergal F.</i>
assistant editor	<i>Michelle D.</i>
news collectors/gossipers	Jennifer, Paddy, Michelle, Ella
Focal Ealians	Patricia Moriarty Sean Molloy Ciaran Casey John Murray
features	Mystic, Sinead, Nicholas, Grace, Seanan, Marion, Dave Flem, Nicola. C
show me the money	Becky
c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.)	Paul & CO.
phancy photo's	Fergal F. & Photo Soc.
Gig goers	<i>tommy f.</i>



# It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



**Scorpio** 23 October – 21 November  
 Things seem a bit strange at the moment. It's almost as if you don't know where you are. But a close friend will provide you with direction.

**Sagittarius** 22 November – 20 December  
 Your partner seems to think that you are something that you're not. Compromising and negotiating play big parts in your life this week.

**Capricorn** 21 December – 19 January  
 New beginnings are always good. There will be trouble to start with, but all will settle itself in time. Patience is a virtue.

**Aquarius** 20 January – 18 February  
 Being slightly self-centred is never good. You need to realise that there is more than one person in this world. Just remember to think of others too.

**Pisces** 19 February – 19 March  
 It's all fun and games in the romantic side of your life, that is, until someone loses an eye! Words are often stronger than actions, so beware!

**Aries** 20 March – 18 April  
 You'll have to face up to the certain truths soon. Try not to be so naive. You can run but you can't hide!

**Taurus** 19 April – 19 May  
 Distraction is a killer. Concentration is a lifesaver. You still haven't learned that it's all up to you and that no one else can change your life.

**Gemini** 20 May – 20 June  
 The lack of financial funds will soon change. Luck is found in the numbers five and seven. And a second half in your life also looks likely!!

**Cancer** 21 June – 21 July  
 This happy-go-lucky bubble you're travelling on is set to change. You need to realise that you can't keep all the bad feelings in all of the time.

**Leo** 22 July – 21 August  
 Financial luck is set to hit you this week. And you, being your generous self are bound to share it with those around you – especially those who work with you!!

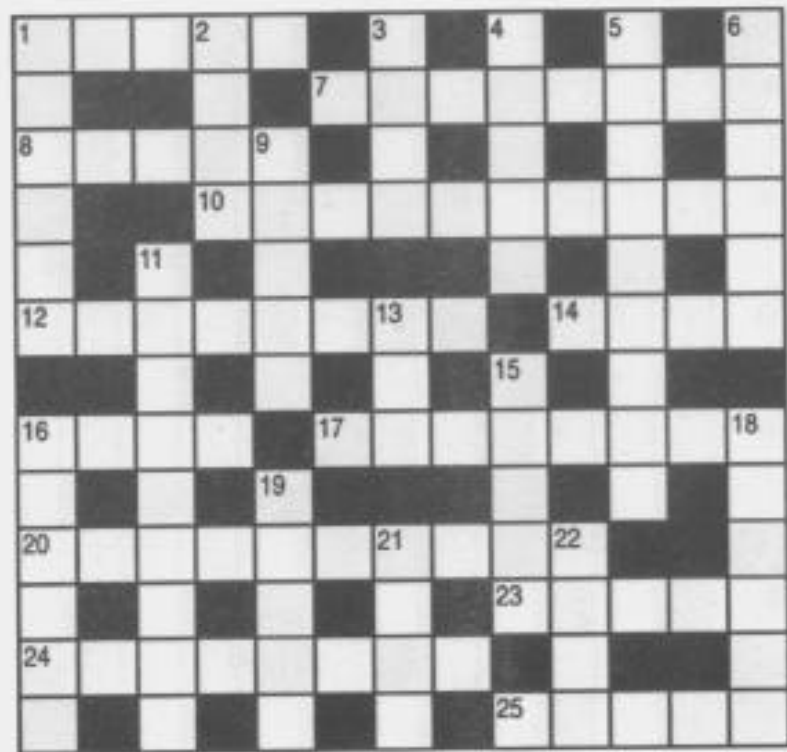
**Virgo** 22 August – 21 September  
 Fun-lovin' and tree-huggin' – that's what you are this week! Constant partying is just the best! And it's just what you need to relieve some stress.

**Libra** 22 September – 22 October  
 A close friend tests your patience this week. You need to ask yourself whether you have the time to deal with petty grievances at the moment.



Drop the correct answers into the New 95 Fm &

Win yourself a few CD's



**ACROSS**

- 1. Coming in (5)
- 7. Reduce by one tenth (8)
- 8. Bend the legs (5)
- 10. Wound (10)
- 12. Willing (8)
- 14. Soon (4)
- 16. Put one's back out (4)
- 17. Artillery (8)
- 20. Segregation (10)
- 23. High-minded (5)
- 24. Fiddled (8)
- 25. Sting (5)

**DOWN**

- 1. Inhabitant of Greenland (6)
- 2. Spool (4)
- 3. Festival (4)
- 4. Currency of Kuwait (5)
- 5. Ill-disposed (9)
- 6. Long thin flag (6)
- 9. Chuckle (5)
- 11. Polls (9)
- 13. And not (3)
- 15. Employees' organisation (5)
- 16. Land ownership (6)
- 18. Knowledgeable person (6)
- 19. Small bay (5)
- 21. After that (4)
- 22. Ordinary standard (4)

le scribble box

*Last weeks answers*

No. 111  
 ACROSS:- 3. Stepsfield 8. Erse 9. Lorraine 10. Eyefal 13. Nappy 14. Bedtime 15. Wed 16. Attaché 17. Tack 21. Marmoset 22. Dotted up 23. Fact 24. Slumbered  
 DOWN:- 1. Perennial 2. Osteopath 4. Tally 5. Parried 6. Heat 7. Lane 11. Minicement 12. Mentality 14. Box 15. Whorlfit 16. Armpit 19. Wool 20. Plum

# Life through a Lens

## - Sinead's view of Life

On Friday last I had the misfortune of travelling home with Bus Éireann, a feat that I would not normally undertake, as an enthusiastic traveller I am not. I didn't mind the snail's pace of the journey, the lack of legroom, the sitting beside a very nice, if talkative lady who had garlic for lunch, or indeed the granite padded non-adjustable seats that I sat on for six and a half hours. I am young and resilient and can handle all of these conditions that conspire to crush me. But there is one thing that makes me quake with anger. It is lack of consideration and respect for my fellow man, put simply it is bad manners. I bore witness to the perpetration of this crime against humanity on Friday evening, by our charming Bus Éireann driver. And dear reader it gets worse, he wasn't rude to me, but to two sweet little old ladies who were sitting in front of me, and were on their way back from the holy shrine at Knock, laden down with holy water and holy relics! They asked if they could get off the bus between stops and were told in no uncertain (unprintable) terms that they could not. This horrified the sensitive soul in me. How could anyone swear at some-one's granny? I'm assuming that they were grandmothers because they bore a striking resemblance to my own. How would that bus driver feel if some ogre took it upon himself to speak like that to one of his grandparents, although I suspect that he would probably sell them? Some one's granny or not, those women should have been spoken to with the respect they merited as human beings, two very nice human beings at that.

My CIE tale of woe does not end here, but this gripe is beyond the control of the bus drivers. About an hour from my destination we had a FIVE-MINUTE break, and after five and a half hours of continuous travelling and combating motion sickness I was much in need of a little pit stop. I alighted the bus and rushed to the nearest bathroom as I had unwisely consumed two bottles of Volvic en route. And curses and swear words there was a queue in front of me reminiscent of the Rag Week rush for tickets. With two minutes to go, (praise the Lord, alleluia) I reached the front of the queue. The cubicle door opened, a lady came out, and then from behind me like a swot rushing to short loans, ran a really bad (foreign) person into *my* cubicle. I let it pass, but then her friend did exactly the same thing. Suffice to say I had to get back on the bus and wait 'til I got home. I could never be accused of being xenophobic, and Máire Ní Chónáill, I am not, but I would willingly have had those girls deported. Have you people no respect? Queues are not for skipping! They are for facilitating the people who got there before you.

This brings me nicely along to my main theme, which is R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Don't run screaming, throwing this paper into the near-

est bin, because this isn't about a New Age tree-hugging, love-everyone-in-the-whole-wide-world ideal. I am personally too irritable to embrace the global nation in a great big bear hug. This is my analysis of who we should respect and why. It is of course rebuttable (the new word I learned in Torts), but I'm the one writing the piece.

So I'll start at the beginning. I've given it some thought (it's a *very long* bus journey) and I've come to the conclusion that there are three groups:

The people we learn respect as children.  
The people we grow to admire and respect.  
The people for whom we feign respect to make our lives easier.

Group 1 are all the happy persons that your mammy tells you to be nice to when you're small and yourself. Their number is small and they are the lovely people who more than likely give you Christmas presents, remember your birthday and probably have really embarrassing photographs of you grinning toothlessly at the camera in the stripy jumper that they knitted for you, because they LOVE you. Into this category falls your mammy and your daddy, your grandparents and miscellaneous aged relatives, the nice lady who lives down the road and views you as her surrogate child and all those other characters who feature in your happy childhood memories. The older ones usually smell of soap and denture soak, because there were *no fancy body gels in their time* and gave you sweets when your mother said you couldn't have them. I'll throw siblings in here too because it is as small children we learn that our brothers aren't pincushions.

The list of people who earn our admiration and esteem for me is relatively short, because I'm the grumpy sort who isn't that easily impressed. It includes my teacher from baby infants and a handful of secondary school teachers, who managed make me learn my spellings and the more boring aspects of the Leaving Cert syllabus respectively, without resorting to threats of violence, even though I severely tried their patience. It also includes the 1992 Gaelic football All-Ireland winning panel that achieved what we all thought impossible, and may some day even include an inspirational lecturer or two.

Now I'm on to my favourite group. It contains all of the banes of your existence, all those folks who demand your respect, because they are in a position to do so. . . I sometimes wonder if they know how we really feel. They demand respect under the guise of age, authority and self-perceived primacy of position. This comprises of all the how-dare-you-talk-in-my-class teachers and the authoritarian school principle, hiding behind the mask of the department of education. It encompasses the pulpit pounding parish priests of old, the *Fire and Brimstone* brigade who would

regularly turn scarlet with rage as they warned the congregation of their impending doom and inevitable languish in the flames. It also includes all those penny-pinching employers who try to equate the term young with stupid, because they are bitter that they are unable to recapture their own lost youth. The school-yard bully fits nicely into this slot also.

Remember, the big monsters that pulled your pigtails and stole your purple snack? These are the people who can't gain the respect of their peers, so instead they seek to stamp their authority on them. I don't know if they are more to be pitied or blamed. There are probably lots more but I just can't think of them just now and they aren't worth the neuro-stress anyway.

In conclusion I want to say, don't be like that bus driver—respect the aged, because you, with the help of modern medicine will be really ancient some day. If you are from planet I'm the Boss get over yourself, because we did. And if travelling on Bus Éireann and you find yourself in a queue for the ladies between buses don't in the name of all that is holy jump ahead of the people in front of you. Their need is greater than yours - that is why they went there before you did. I'd like to finish with a Gerry Springeresque statement but I don't want to lower the tone any further, so I'll just stop Here.

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6/7 Steamboat Quay, Limerick.

