



# AN FOCAL

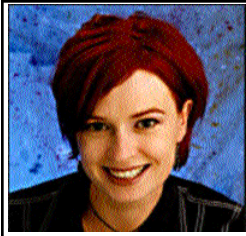


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THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

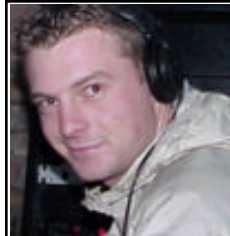
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TERM 1 WEEK 10



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# STUDENT'S OF UL SHOW THAT THEY WILL NOT BE IGNORED ANY MORE

By Jennifer O'Brien

It truly did rain on the UL parade last Wednesday, as hundreds of UL students protested at the main entrances of the University, seeking recognition and equality of treatment for students. Limerick weather did itself proud it attempting to dampen the spirits of those gathered at the East Gate, but to no avail. The various highs and lows experienced by the protesters that morning has restored the faith of many in the student body of U.L. No longer was this particular band going to be pushed aside, as the University pandered to investors, visitors, business and just about anyone else on campus who could prove they weren't a student. Instead, many of the students of this institution choose to stand up and be counted, to have their voices



UL Student Protest resulted in Tail-backs as far as the Ennis Road

es heard, to finally ask that we, the people upon whom the existence of all these lovely fountains and trees and buildings exist, finally get the respect we deserve.

It was a heartening experience to see people show up at the East Gate at 6.55 in the morning. The layers of clothes worn by those present wouldn't look out of place in the Arctic. They came well pre-

pared, even with a flask of coffee (with something extra for the cold, thank you very much Ms. Troy) and later the S.U. provided some tasty sandwiches. That is, they were tasty if your taste buds had not been frozen off after three hours in the cold. As soon as the early birds arrived at the East Gate the protest showed its effectiveness. Several

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## STUDENT PROTEST: JUST ABOUT CAR PARKING?...WAS THIS THE OPINION ON CAMPUS?

By Laura Greer

You would have to have been asleep on campus for the past fortnight to be oblivious to the protest. If you missed the signs practically wallpapering the university walls, the e-mails, 'An Focal articles' and leaflets should have brought you up to date. If all this is news to you, you've obviously been spending more time at home eating super noodles and watching Jerry Springer than attending college.

As if the posters, leaflets, e-mails, and articles in the last 'An Focal' weren't

enough, the hardworking student unions representatives went even further and campaigned door to door on the two nights preceding the protest to personally inform each house in all the student estates of the protest.

Seven am of the 14<sup>th</sup> of November dawned, cold, dark and wet. Despite these atrocious conditions a crowd of about 300 protestors disentangled themselves from the warm cocoon of their beds, not to mention away from teddy, and ventured out into the cold to protest for a range of students

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### Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date

*we're looking for  
opinions, comments,  
ideas etc*

Monday Wk 11

5.00pm

new student centre,

SU -023

all are welcome

# 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.

"What do we want? – Recognition" were the words of the protesters, now lets hope we get it! Last Thursday Tom, Fergal, Siobhan and I, met with the President Dr. Roger Downer and the VP Kevin Ryan. We discussed many of the issues raised at the SU AGM, - Medical centre, Students Services, increased frequency in bus services, bicycle shelters and of course car parking. Dr. Downer assured us that the management of the University is working towards improving areas of every day student life such as the ones mentioned above. I was glad to hear Dr. Downer say these reassuring words, but I can't help but feel that these are not the views of the entire Management committee!



What came out of the protest? – The students of UL spoke out against those that have ignored us for long enough! It also showed how important UL is in the Limerick City region, with traffic delays out the Ennis road. For those of you that think the Students Union is a waste of time, would you give us a chance! We have shown how effective 500 students can be, now as I sit here in the office listening to Bob Marley, "Get Up Stand Up – Stand Up for Your Rights!" I can only begin to imagine how effective 5000 students could be!

These issues will have been raised again at Governing Authority by the time the paper has been circulated. The Students Union will not leave these issues be put to bed until a satisfactory outcome has been reached. On Monday of this week, the Governing Authority of UL conferred Honorary Doctorates on John B Keane, Suzanne Murphy, Tom O' Dwyer and Patrick M Quinlan. Congratulations.

Finally I would like to thank all of ye who came out in the rain for the protest. By your presence on the University roadways, we might be able to get some work done around here before we are swallowed in "Red Tape". Also Congrats to the Societies Exec for a great SoUL Week, which is dedicated to Mike Sadlier.

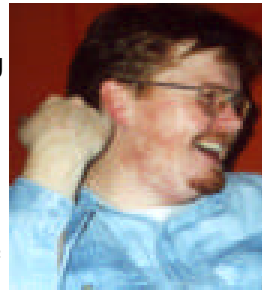
Laters  
Mick

Well folks I'm back again not that I was away or anything I was just not on these pages in the last edition. Thank you Fergal for filling in and covering for me. What a few weeks we've had. Among other things, a protest on the way students are treated here in UL. Something that hasn't been seen here in a while. Hopefully the people that make the decisions around here noticed how angry a lot of you were and will start to change the way they do business.

Five hundred of you came out on a cold wet morning and over the course of the day. Many of those stayed out for an hour or two before going on to classes, tutorials and labs some stayed out for the whole thing. To all of you I just want to say thank you. You are making a difference and you are going to get things changed. Slowly I know, but surely none the less. To those of you who stopped for a few minuets or longer to show your support and those of you who just stopped to sign the petition I also want to say thanks. Every little bit counts.

To those few students who tried to drive in and I know some did, I want to say thanks very much lads you really showed your true spirit! We're up here doing a job for you, a job that isn't very easy at the best of times and you certainly aren't making it easier. I just hope you remember when you

start saying, "oh, the Students' Union do nothing for us", that it was you who let us down, you who let all your fellow students down. That also goes for those of you who walked by us in the courtyard at eleven on Wednesday and didn't stop.



On other fronts the new Class Rep Committees have started to meet and are already doing good work. The Education Committee is looking into the Student Handbook, particularly at the regulations in the same document to try and tighten up bad practices that are widespread in the University. It is already thinking of introducing policy documents for the consideration of Class Reps. Council and thus mandating the SU to take action. A new working group made up of students, the library management and library staff has met for the first time. This initiative, the Library/ Student User Group started jointly by the SU and the Library Management, will hopefully help bring about a better library service and make things easier for UL students all round, on the campus and off.



## What our Welfare Officer has got to say to us this week....

Well done Outreach!!

The Outreach Society hosted the **fashion show/slave auction** in the stables courtyard during SoUL week. Thanks to everyone who helped out, and to all the models who participated, over £200 was raised for charity. It's not easy to walk up & down the 'catwalk' (stables benches!) (well, its not that easy when you're sober anyway..), and then stand up on the stage for the bidding to began for them to be bought as slaves!

Well done, you made it a most enjoyable event for all. As well as doing more work for charity.

Also, last week, the **10k walk for the Children of Chernobyl** project raised over £2000 (and that's still rising as the cards are still being brought back). Thanks to everyone who came out and did the walk – your money is going to go a long way. **Feel good** – you have reached out, and helped a child in need.

Outreach will be continuing its good work – look out for activities to get involved in if you are not already. It is very rewarding...to all involved.

Like to win a summer in America????  
Win a J1 VISA with flights.....

There is a raffle for the Children of Chernobyl – Week 10 in the canteen at 2.30. The prize is great – and the ticket money is for such a good cause.

Tickets cost £1 and can be bought in the SU Reception, and around campus by Outreach Members, and from 12.30 until the draw in the canteen on the Friday before the draw.



About the Disability access door...

Please do not use the automatic door into the main building unless you need to. If you have the physical ability to push the other doors open, please do. It unfortunately breaks easily – if only those who need it use it, it will stay working for longer – so please just realise this the next time you are about to use the automatic door.

See Ya,  
Siobhan

We would to take this oppunity to offer our sympetites to families and friends of the students who were rembered at last Sundays Mass in Mildford Chruch.

Unfortunity we not informed of when this mass was taking place, we apoligise for not being there in person but our hearts go out you all.



# Education Tirade

During the last graduation ceremony, I listened to Dr. Rodger Downer's speech to the graduating students and their families on the value of a University of Limerick degree. He said he would make no apology for how difficult it is to attain a qualification from this university, for it is this that makes a UL parchment so valuable. In stating this he was acknowledging to the graduating students how difficult it was for them to reach this accolade. He was recognising their achievement and telling them to be proud.

We here in the Students' Union would echo his sentiments. Three out of four of the sabbatical officers have completed their four-year degree courses here, (I've still got a year to go), so we are personally aware of just how difficult earning that parchment really is. Let me first state, that for the purpose of this article, the difficulty I am referring to (and which I believe Dr. Downer referred to also) relates to the high academic standard required of students. Our system here is perhaps the toughest in the country and is

certainly in the top two or three.

However, what has not been addressed so far, is the realisation that there are many unnecessary extra barriers placed before students of this University on this already difficult path. For instance, a library that cannot meet the requirements of the students it caters for, student teacher ratios that most second level institutions would find unacceptable, students not getting the final result on their summer exam until week six of the following semester, a class that is so big the students are sitting in the aisles, vital support staff leaving key areas because they aren't being paid enough, to mention but a few. These are all symptoms of where the real difficulties in UL lie, namely resources!

At present the powers that be are more interested in constructing additional buildings, expanding the campus and developing new areas. All commendable in their own right, but secondary to the primary function of this university, i.e. education. There is absolutely no point in enlarging the physical size of this

university unless structures already in existence, are consolidated. There are already rumblings of a system near collapse. To illustrate this point, I am reliably informed that unless there is a dramatic change in Student Services, there will be a serious problem in that department come the start of the next semester. Remember that the warnings were sounded here when the mud hits the fan come February!

At the ground level the people in these departments are putting phenomenal effort into keeping the boat afloat. For example the staff of Student Services put in long hours and work weekends at peak pressure times to meet deadlines, above and beyond what should be reasonably expected of them. The library has set up a Library Student User group to examine how it may best serve student's needs and make better use of its facilities. This extra effort should not be expected and cannot be sustained, especially in light of the pay scale and dependence on contract only employees.

A complete turnaround in the

allocation of funding is necessary to remove the barriers that have been mentioned. The focus of the university fundraisers needs to be redirected towards providing adequate funds for these vital services and support areas. The government must be lobbied to increase the number of teachers in this institution; student teacher ratios of 40 to 1 are no longer acceptable. There are other universities where the more desirable ratio of 7 to 1 has been achieved.

The University of Limerick has a great student environment, in a lovely setting. But because of the University's relative youth and distance from resources enjoyed by other third level institutions, extra effort needs to be made to maintain the competitiveness of this university. Dublin colleges have all the resources associated with being in the capital city plus, most of the universities there, have had more time to build on their resources, the same being true for all the NUI colleges. Unless we want to be left behind, resources for education must be prioritised.

## STUDENT PROTEST: JUST ABOUT CAR PARKING?..... WAS THIS THE OPINION ON CAMPUS?

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issues including increased car park spaces, the medical centre, student services, lighting and security on campus among others.

Rain continued to fall as the protestors armed with umbrellas, placards, and loudspeakers upheld the protest. There was a buoyant mood in the air, the protesters cheering as they turned away cars and singing to take their minds off the cold.

Reactions to the protest were mixed among the staff of the University. Many lecturers were very compassionate to the students and even went so far as to cancel classes although this was not asked for by the Students Union. Despite the hassle of getting to work without a car one lecturer pointed out that although it was inconvenient to walk it was more inconvenient for the students to have to protest in the rain.

Admiration was held towards the protestors, one lecturer saying, "*I understand why they're doing it, there should be car parking for everybody, it should be free for everybody and each new building should be planned with adequate car park spacing*". Many lecturers were under the impression that the protest was solely about car park spacing, unaware of the other issues being addressed but nevertheless said the students had a '*fair case*' and supported them. One lecturer rallied around the student cause when he said, "*there comes a time when people have to be supported to stand up and be counted, so I*

*support them in their cause*". As one staff member correctly pointed out, "*The University wouldn't exist without students, they need to be supported*"

Not all of the lecturers however were quite so encouraging and several were very annoyed at the picket. One said, "*I can't see any point, I can't see what it's all about*", he went on to say that a recent past student survey had been "*very positive*", and that students were "*wrong to be protesting*". But while past student surveys may well have been positive it does not alter the fact that the same problems prevail year after year and are as yet unsolved. The University Management declined to comment on the situation, as they were 'too busy'. It is important to remember with regard to the car park spaces that more spaces would not only benefit students but would aid staff also.

Thus while there were some lecturers totally unaware, or those angered by the protest, the majority supported the students. An unconfirmed staff strike on these issues is rumoured for the 27<sup>th</sup> November.

The 300 odd people on the picket made their voice well known and attracted media attention from 95FM, 'The Irish Times', and the RTE news among others, as well as causing massive disruption to traffic in Castletroy and throughout Limerick city. But why out of a college of more than 8000 students did only 300 join in the protest? Granted, to be awoken to the

sound of wind and rain howling at the window combined with darkness made leaving the house an unappealing idea. Alarm clocks failing to go off and hangovers could be attributed to others absence, the list goes on.

But what does it say about us as students that such a small percentage were bothered to stand up for student rights? A lot of people said they didn't know what the strike was about, one girl saying, "*I've no idea what it's all about, all I know is that we were given leaflets yesterday evening leaving work, I know it's nothing to do with me*". This was the attitude of numerous students I talked to, they felt too much emphasis was placed on car parking and because that didn't affect them directly they felt detached from the protest.

Despite the huge amount of effort the SU put into informing students of the reasons behind the strike countless were still unaware of why it was going on. Many people I talked to were supportive of their fellow students and admired their actions but week 8 essay deadlines and study pressures took priority, while others who had planned to join the picket found on the morning that they couldn't make it for various reasons. Some were dissuaded by the foul weather, while sleeping in deterred even more, projects, the flu, and unawareness all contributed, and then finally of course there were those who didn't care and just couldn't be bothered.

# STUDENT'S OF UL SHOW THAT THEY WILL NOT BE IGNORED ANY MORE



**Continues on From Page 1**

cars were turned away in the opening minutes of the protest, with that number increasing throughout the morning. Thankfully, the numbers protesting rose rapidly as the morning passed. It took a lot of effort to climb out of those warm havens of tranquillity and repose at such an early hour to march around in the rain, but those who did deserve to be commended. That includes those who commuted to UL to be here in time for the 7.00 start! Students came out because they believed in what they were protesting for.

It is, of course, a huge pity that the numbers weren't in there thousands, after all UL does have over 8,000 students. A petition was handed out to students walking in to college, the idea being that if you weren't going to protest physically, then a minute to sign your name wasn't going to take too much out of anyone. Many students did sign this and showed support for those out in the rain. But it is a surprise to see numbers of students walking past, refusing to sign or offer support. If this protest proves effective in attaining a positive response from the University for the needs of students, then it is all students who will benefit. Each and every registered student of the University will receive the same benefits, the same improvements and the same increase in efficiency and quality. A minority was doing the hard work for the majority and yet many of the students couldn't be bothered to stop and sign their name. A similar occurrence took place at the rally at eleven. Although there was a sizable turnout, many more could have stopped for 5 minutes or come out of the library, simply to show support and appreciation for those people who got up and got active on your behalf. Hopefully, when all the students of the uni-

versity see the positive effect a united stand can have, there will be more support and a greater sense of community among the student body.

But don't think that this took from the spirit or the effectiveness of those manning the front at the East Gate. Anyone who passed by cannot deny that there was often a party atmosphere, with much singing, the odd train and even a Mexican wave ensuring the mood was always upbeat. As the crowd gathered and the placards were handed out a sense of camaraderie pervaded. This was especially evident when cars attempted to pass through, as unfortunately some did. Several protesters were carrying the bruises of their labour the following day, as cars drove through, slowly but deliberately. Due to the legalities concerning the nature of the protest, the students had to keep moving and could not deliberately block or restrict traffic. Several cars took advantage of this, worming their way through, with some drivers being very abusive. This included staff, some more than others. Once rush hour hit, chaos ensued. Traffic was backed up from the Annacotty roundabout to Parkway, with delays throughout the city, all because students of the city's university were sick and tired of being treated as the second-class citizens of U.L. The Gardai at the East Gate were friendly, but requested that 15 cars be allowed through every 5 minutes to lessen the traffic mayhem that had ensued on Limerick's roads. Although this was initially disagreed to, once traffic hell was caused, this minor concession didn't have a huge affect on the flow. Constant singing, shouting and general revelry kept the party going, with requests on Limerick 95FM and Tipp FM (!!!!!!!) for the protesters ensuring the message was getting out around the country. The protest calmed down at 10.30 as students blocked one lane into the college and allowed cars to travel on the other. This continued until eleven, when the remaining hard core protesters made their way through the University to the square outside the main

reception, led by the Piped Piper of Mayhem himself, for a rally with the other protesters. Those who attended were vocal in their wholehearted support for recognition and equality for all students, even those who didn't make any effort to assist.

The rally ended with a song, which wasn't unusual for anyone who had been within a half mile of the East Gate, they were hard. It truly did rain on the UL parade laot to hear (try as you might) and a feeling amongst those present of being extras in "Michael Collins". The majority of people were on a high and the sense of community and achievement was almost tangible. Finally, enough U.L. students had gotten up and made a stand. Finally enough people had cared. Finally the University would have to listen, not just to our student representatives but also to the student body as a whole. U.L. is no longer the safe haven of corporations and business it once was. Its true heirs, the students, have rightfully reclaimed it.

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we go to extremes so you can too



## HOW MUCH DO THE UL STAFF LIKE THEIR JOBS?..... ENOUGH TO DRIVE THROUGH THEIR CUSTOMERS

By Patrick Kennedy

On a day when so many students did so much to attempt and achieve some decent recognition from the university authorities there was a much sadder sight to be seen. I turned up to the protest at the east gates of the university at around half past eight and was very impressed and proud to see so many people in attendance, however not long after this did I notice that there were some cars trying to barge their way through the protest.

Having joined in the circular march I was again shocked to find a number of drivers actually driving straight through the middle of the protest in a manner that could have left a number of students with an overnight stay in hospital. Two cases in particular stand out, though the number of actually dangerous incidents is far more. Firstly the Communications and Campaigns Officer, Mr Fergal Fennessy, was attempting to capture, upon camera, the registration plate of one of the said offenders when the driver accelerated towards him. Thankfully he was alert and managed to escape without any serious damage done to himself, though the driver of car 00-LK-1079 will want to hope that his insurance broker does not see the pictures in this issue.

The second case involves a four wheel drive off road vehicle. At around nine o'clock when the whole area of Castletroy was in the throes of traffic mayhem the said vehicle pulled right up to the protest. Upon

finding himself with no clear way through the blockade the driver began to rev his engine in the hope that he may scare away some of those standing before him. Discovering that this crowd were far more resilient than he had given them credit for he pulled up to the protest and used the bullbars on the front of the jeep to barge his way through the first part of the blockade. At this point it seems necessary to point out to any elected representatives that the stalling of policy to make this apparatus for vehicles illegal may need to be refreshed. After passing the initial movement of students to find himself, as they said in reservoir dogs, 'stuck in the middle' with us he continued to accelerate and actually dragged a student for some twenty yards beyond the protest before allowing them to escape.

Fellow offenders caught on camera include the following the owners of the following registration plates; 90-L-15, 97-L-1704, 00-LK-3061 (a navy blue BMW 520i at that). There are also the pictures of the bearded man looking increasingly irate and enraged at the whole trauma of having to answer to a crowd of angry protesters. What is really sad about the behaviour of the aforementioned people is their lack of respect for their fellow man. This is an independent nation founded on the basic tenets of democracy and as such allows it's citizens to express themselves when they are being treated unjustly and inappropriately. I would hope that all of those mentioned in



this article will be able to act in a similar manner the next time that the trucks drivers or the taxi men decide to mobilise their convoy and achieve a similar fate as the Students of UL on Wednesday last. Heaven forbid if the staff of the University of Limerick ever feel the need for support from the student that form the life blood of this Institute of Education. They can be sure however that they will receive sufficient respect for their cause as the students of UL would never be immature enough to sulk over having to walk a few extra yards to the library and not to their offices to earn over £25,000 a year ,may I add.

On a final word to the Building manager Brian Hand, the only reason that the University of Limerick has more parking spaces than any other college in Ireland is location. I hardly see it as likely that the Governing Authorities at Trinity College Dublin are going to rip out St. Stephens Green, and the same can be said of practically all of Universities within Ireland. Such a statement is like saying that Ireland lost fewer matches in the World Cup finals than Germany over the years, just because we weren't there.

## Proposed £3m Construction Plan of New Student Village in Bloodsuckers dispute

By Nicola C.

Feeling a few pangs of peckishness they silently wait in anticipation of a light lunch. Sensing a few ripples in vicinity nearby, they slowly glide through the water in search of their innocent prey. Suddenly they come fin to fin and the lamprey strikes with lightning force. He wraps his long slithery body around the unsuspecting Tom Trout or Sal Salmon, and with ruthless stamina proceeds to suck as much blood from the poor victim as will quench his thirsty urges. Who or what could perform such a demonic act? The answer is the three species of lamprey that do so on daily basis only metres from the college in the River Shannon. Now there,s some food for thought the next time you tuck into fish,n,chips in the Stables!

How on earth, I hear you ask is this in any way related to the proposed construc-

tion plan of the college. The University hopes to develop a student village to accommodate over 500 undergraduates, postgraduates and faculty staff on the northern banks of the Shannon River. A link bridge and access road is to connect the village to the present campus and it is this feature of the project that is a primary source of complaint and objection. Following the University,s application for planning permission with both Limerick and Clare County Councils (the proposed project overlaps the county boundaries), objections were raised from a number of organizations and groups. The stretch of the River Shannon located alongside the campus is one of the most important salmon spawning grounds in the Shannon catchment area. It also had populations of three species of lamprey (jawless bloodsuckers), which are protected under a

EU directive and are actually considered to be of international ecological significance. Soon authorities will be demanding protective habitats for cannibals! Because of these circumstances Duchas and Taisce, (both state heritage bodies), the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board and the Shannon Mulclair and District Anglers Association all objected to the present design and location of the bridge.

Gordon Daly, Executive Planner with the Limerick Co.Co. told *An Focal* that the current status with regard to the application is that further information is requested and matters remain to be resolved,. He also stated that An Taisce and the Fisheries Board are prescribed bodies entitled to comment and Limerick Co. Co. must take on board their concerns in any decisions reached,. At present the Co. Co. has requested a

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# Proposed £3m Construction Plan of New Student Village in Bloodsuckers dispute

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detailed report on the extent and location of salmon spawning in the vicinity of the application site, and, an assessment of the impact of construction of a bridge on this spawning. Interestingly, this must be carried out in conjunction with the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board, who has voiced a lot of concern over the project. The fishing folk of the Shannon Mulclair and District Anglers Association in a joint statement concluded that the construction phase would have a serious detrimental impact on the riverbed aquatic life and all resident fish species.

So will this prevent a bridge being built over the Shannon? Mr. Brian Hand, Building and Estates Director at the University of Limerick informed *An Focal* that the University is in the process of compiling the additional information requested to submit

to the two planning authorities. The concerns of the Angling community and the Fisheries Board are being taken into account, but the fact the proposed bridge location is a primary Angling area is a difficulty. The University undertook an extensive Environmental Impact Study with regard to the project and was aware of the protected species (Species IV: Bloodsuckers to be viewed at a river near you, coming soon!) and the spawning area. Mr. Hand said that discussions had taken place, but that moving the position of the bridge wasn't seen as good planning. It is believed that because the bridge's proposed location is in a shallow part of the river, it shouldn't interfere with spawning or cause a major threat to the protected lamprey. A survey of fish life will, however be carried out in the river and an expert has been engaged for this purpose. In his statement to *An*

*Focal* Mr. Hand said that any developments would be sensitive, and aim to address the various voices of concern. He is hopeful that a position can be reached that will satisfy all interested parties.

One thing remains certain though; the bloodsuckers will continue to roam among the reeds and pools of the riverbed, poised to pounce on their prey. Even their name Lamprey indicates their murderous intentions, hunting down prey with a cool calculatedness. OK, I know we all need to supply ourselves with food and hunting is inbred in the nature of all creatures and mammals, but these guys seem to be taking the thing a little far! Well I guess if that bridge is constructed it will at least literally kill the time for voyeurs as they may then have the chance of actually viewing this excruciating experience!

## Strike One to the Student's: The Aftermath of the Protest

**By Michelle Daly**

We all tramped out to the main gates on a cold and frosty morning. We got wet and cold. We really annoyed an awful lot of people all over Limerick City, Castletroy and in the University itself, also receiving some very nasty and critical phonecalls at the SU. And for what, do the greater number of UL students ask? What happened next?

Well, one of the main results of the student protest on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of November last was that new dialogue has taken place between the ULSU sabbatical officers and representatives of the university management. This is progress. Issues that have previously been ignored are again being brought to the attention of the university at the highest level. The Students' Union representatives have met with the President of the University, Dr. Roger G.H. Downer, and a high-ranking member of the University executive in UL.

The resource problems facing Student Personnel Services, Student Services and the Medical Centre were highlighted during these discussions. The Students' Union pointed out that Student Personnel Services has lost two counsellors since the summer, mainly due to lack of funding. This is of grave concern to the Students' Union and the general student population, in light of the stressful conditions that exist in this institution. It was also highlighted that, in the opinion of the Students' Union, Student Services would be facing extreme difficulties at the start of Semester Two this year because of these resourcing problems. These problems have contributed in no small way to the high rate of staff turnover.

The recent protest has resulted in some movement on the car parking issue. The university management authorities have granted a few minor improvements, for example more covered bus shelters will be constructed, as well as covered bicycle shelters to offer an alternative to bringing cars on campus. However on the really large and contentious issues, there has been, as yet, no movement from the University management. According to Mr. Tom O'Donovan, Students' Union Education Officer, when speaking to this reporter, "The concessions that have been made, are not an awful lot. These few sops have been neither constructive, nor, in the spirit of cooperation, very helpful and seem to be an effort to divide the staff and student consensus".

From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of November, any car without a permit in a 'staff only' carpark will be clamped. A number of spaces, approximately 100, have been taken from staff only carparks to extend the spaces used by 'students and visitors' in University of Limerick. Therefore students in this college are effectively still deemed as having the same value to this campus as a visitor and with no extra rights or privileges. A fact that, quite frankly, is not likely to appease the 12,000 students enrolled at this college!

Mr. O'Donovan also said that, "despite the actions of management on this to date, the Students' Union has not yet exhausted all the avenues open to it". He went on to reiterate that, "while the car parking issue was the final spark to light the flame, it was for the Students' Union only the tip of an extremely large iceberg." He said, "resources and organisational structure are the main problems in this University at the moment.

UL is still caught up in its NIHE/Thomond mindset, even though it is now much more than that. It would appear that the focus of the the money people and the planners of the University's future is the further expansion and physical development of the campus, with little regard for consolidating what is already here".

Certain issues that were raised by the Students' Union with the University, for example Student - Teacher ratios, have been deemed beyond the realm of their control. According to the University, this problem actually lies with the Government whose responsibility it is to regulate the number of lecturers per student and also allocate funding for the provision of teaching staff. The average student: lecturer ratio at the University is 22 to 1. This in itself is the worst in Europe and in some departments far exceeds this level, with a ratio of as much as 40 to 1.

The fact that the University can afford to spend a six figure sum on erecting flagpoles outside the college gates but cannot afford to staff or adequately pay the staff already employed in these essential departments, is of serious concern to the Students' Union.

It is the seeming insignificance of students to the University of Limerick management that has students riled up enough that they see fit to protest at the gates of the college. Let us hope that similar action is not necessary again and that the university will work to accommodate the students in their quest to achieve an equitable agreement.

# A Word In Everyone's Ear

Get everything off your chest!!!!

The best letter each week will receive an amazing £15, up £5 due to inflation

Public opinion in the twenty six counties of Ireland is very much misinformed and doesn't understand the conflict that has plagued this island of late. That inescapable fact was in my own humble opinion encapsulated by Gerard Gill letter in your last issue.

He starts off "I decided to do some research into that controversial march", yet blatantly omits the truism that Roy Kells has openly supported the orangemen at Drumcree by instigating and directing disruption tactics. Whose single minded endeavour is to terrorize the nationalist community into capitulating to the wishes of the Orange Order, as a consequence of his "co-curricular activities" nationalists boycotted his clothes shops in Lisnaskea, Irvinestown and Enniskillen. Roy Kells's career in the UDR/RIR is also selectively missing as are the allegations made by the Catholic Church and the G.A.A in ermanagh of collusion between the loyalist paramilitaries and the regiment of which Mr Kells was a senior member. The UDR/RIR in Fermanagh was also involved in the desecration of graves belonging to nationalists killed by the security forces. Homework is obviously not one of Gerard Gills strong points.

Sinn Fein is not the IRA, Sinn Fein longs for the day when the IRA no longer exists. Sinn Fein is an open political party with councillors, TDs, MPs, and MLAs it has the third largest voting strength on the island of Ireland. Sinn Fein has an elected national executive like all the major parties on the island and in tune with those parties has an annual conference. Sinn Fein was not involved in armed struggle and contests elections on the basis of policy documents. Individual Sinn Fein members reaction to IRA actions which inadvertently lead to civilian casualties is one of shock, horror and anger. Sinn Fein's distinction from the IRA was probably best highlighted last spring by David Trimble when he called for separate statements from both organisations on the arms issue, surely if Sinn Fein and the IRA were one and the same only one statement would be suffice to satisfy Mr Trimble.

The IRA is an armed secretive organisation. It doesn't contest elections as an organisation, it was involved in armed struggle. The IRA is symptomatic of the conflict its raison d'être comes from the British military presence in those six north easterly counties of Ireland and the refusal of the British government to allow the people of Ireland to exercise their right to national self-determination. The IRA is now on ceasefire its fourth in the last thirty years, a figure which compares favourably to none called by the British Army. Whose presence in South Armagh was described by an Taoiseach Bertie Ahearn as intimidatory, inflammatory and unhelpful. The IRA shares the same ultimate objective as Sinn Fein i.e a solemn belief that the ownership of Ireland is vested exclu-

sively with the people of Ireland and no one else.

Sinn Fein is no more part of the IRA than Fianna Fail is, even though three of its ministers were alleged to have armed the aforementioned group in 1970 and scores of party members have been detained about IRA activity particularly in the border counties and in England. Nor is the SDLP the IRA despite the fact that many SDLP activists have continued to pay their IRA stipend whilst continuing to be a member of the party. The most notable of these was Tommy Murray an SDLP councillor in Tyrone during the eighties.

To read Mr Gills letter one would think that the IRA is the sole source of violence in Ireland. Loyalist violence actually predates IRA violence (Peter Ward murdered by the UVF 1966) as does British Army violence. The IRA emerged as a response to the onslaughts of both those armed groups on their community. According to Jack Lynch the Taoiseach in 1969 the responsibility for outbreak of violence which snowballed into thirty years of conflict lay with past and present Stormont administrations. "The present situation is the inevitable outcome of policies by successive Stormont governments".

Mr Gills claim that in his eyes "some may say that Sinn Fein has contributed little to achieving reconciliation and integration in the north". Is once again like the bones of his letter ignorant of the facts and biased in the extreme. Sinn Fein sits on committees in district councils throughout the six counties and on committees in Stormont with parties that possess all shades of diverse opinion in that statelet. It has been universally praised for its work in the peace process by such opponents of Irish republicanism as the former chairman of the UUP, the last four secretaries of state for Northern Ireland and by nearly every editor of the British Daily broadsheets. Sinn Fein has also participated and engineered numerous cross community projects in the north.

Sinn Fein's problem with the Orange Order is that they want to march in areas where the host community hasn't been consulted or consent from that community hasn't been requested. Republicans only object to marches taken this route when there are alternative less contentious routes available. For instance nationalists don't protest when the Orange Order marches down the Catholic Ardoyne road because there is no alternative route. Republicans don't march in loyalist areas so why should the Orange Order be permitted to march through nationalist housing estates.

Mr Gill states that "people need information from both sides to form a true picture of the conflict". That is very true its high time a South African style truth and reconciliation was established to investigate open wounds such as collusion and the disappeared. In sum, why Mr Gill do you seek to

inform yourself and comprehend the British viewpoint of the conflict, when quiet clearly you don't understand the Irish side of it?.

**Is Mise le Meas,  
Aengus O Malley**

Dear sir,

I am writing to you to complain about some poor standards I found in the SU shop. No doubt, many others feel the same way. (I hope) but haven't voiced their criticisms. As I was browsing around the frugal stocked shop with its limited selection of fresh fruit & vegetables. I noticed an even greater inconvenience for students.

Quite a lot of goods sold in the shop do not even have their prices marked clearly on the shelves! If you go over to the section where you find biscuits and refrigerated soft drinks you will be hard pressed to find a single item in the area with its price clearly marked on the shelf.

All of which means that students are forced into buying goods without any knowledge of the price. This is not the sort of practice found or tolerated in other major retail stores and even smaller shops.

Every consumer has the right to know the cost of product he or she wishes to buy before purchase, but it seems that consumer rights is given short shrift by the students' union shop.

This shop is not serving the interest of UL students and gouging our already insubstantial financial reserves. It is time that the SU took action to rectify these poor standards in their shop so that all goods have their prices clearly marked on the shelves or on fridges or freezers.

I would be very interested to hear what the shop proprietors have to say on this matter, if indeed anything.

yours, etc.

E.O.C

**Howye lads and lassies,**

I would like to bring something very important to the attention of all Females in this University. Although the number of fine birds attending UL has dramatically increased over the past four years, no doubt due to the fact that a certain Willie Ryan has decided to stay on for another year or so, the fact remains that not enough of ye are putting out on a regular basis.

Now, before ye all get offended, we lads in UL are extremely grateful for the plentiful supply of handshandies and blowjobjobs, however, the fact remains these necessary forms of light relief simply do not compare to a Ride (NOTE: I didn't specify a good ride).

So come on girls, don't let those ugly sluts from Trainers (Hun

bitches), UCD and especially those slags from LIT put ye to shame in the riding stakes. Put UL back on the map, we're better than them, and I have a sneaky feeling the lads in UL will be more than willing to accommodate ye in the quest to re-establish this great University as a leading force in the development of fulfilled bread winners for generations to come in Ireland.

Do it for your University!!!!!!

Do it for your Country!!!!!!

And most importantly....

Do it for the MEN

Your esteemed

Willy Ryan

(This Guy is a friend of Micks)

## Apology of the week (Doesn't get the money though)

Dear Editor,

I wish to apologise for a letter I wrote into An Focal last week. The letter involved legalising cannabis which was written by Conor Kenny. The problem was that instead of signing my own name to the letter, I found out Conor's e-mail password and sent the letter from his account. I know how wrong this was, as it may cause discrimination against my classmate Conor from his friends, parents and lecturers.

I wrote the letter with no malicious intention but realise now that it was out of line. It was also cowardly of me to hide my beliefs behind an innocent victim, for this I'm truly sorry, I also hope that he forgives me in time. Still that meditation room should be a hashish cafe.

Yours Truly,

Doug Sadleir

4th Year Law & Accounting

**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**

**I Need your name & ID Number otherwise I will not print your letter.**

# CULINARY GRACE -

## a beginners guide to gourmet cooking

Ooh! There's something fishy going on here boom! boom! Okay enough of the puns.

Fish is a great source of protein and is generally good for you. White types such as Whiting and Cod are best as others for example mackerel and shell fish have a higher oil content. Hope you enjoy these, they are slightly less adventurous as last fortnights cause it seems by the response that I got that the Irish are still stuck in the dark ages when it comes to experimentation.

### FISHERMAN'S SUPPER



Ingredients	Price
1 small onion	£0.10
? leek	£0.40
2tsp oil	£0.04
11/2 tins tomatoes	£0.50
1 tblsp tomato purée	£0.12
1 oz (28g) wholemeal flour	£0.10
? tsp mixed herbs	£0.03
1lb (454g) whiting	£2.30
1oz (28g) breadcrumbs	£0.25
2 oz (52g) cheese	<u>£0.60</u>
	£4.44

#### SERVES 4

PREP. TIME: 30 mins.

COOKING TIME: 35 mins.

264 calories per portion

#### Instructions

Boil Potatoes, cool and slice.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit, 180 degrees Celsius, gas mark 4.

Thinly slice onion and slice leek. Sauté in oil.

Stir in tomatoes, tomato purée, wholemeal flour, mixed herbs. Cook for 2-3 mins.

Transfer to a shallow ovenproof dish and

cover with whiting fillet pieces on top.

Season with salt and pepper.

Sprinkle with breadcrumbs and cheese

Cover and bake in oven for 30 mins.

### LAK HUI MACCHI (Indian style fried plaice fillets)



Ingredients	Price
1 1/2 lb. (700g) plaice fillets with dark skin removed	£3.50
1 tsp. salt	£0.01
black pepper	£0.01
1 1/2 tsp. ground cumin seeds	£0.08
1/2 tsp. turmeric	£0.04
? tsp. cayenne pepper	£0.02
1 tblsp mixed herbs	£0.08
2 large eggs	£0.20
breadcrumbs	£0.25
oil for shallow frying	<u>£0.04</u>
(enough to leave 1/4 inch (1cm) in frying pan)	£4.23

#### Serves 4

PREP. TIME: 25 mins

COOKING TIME: 5 mins.

#### Instructions

Cut the fish fillets crosswise at a slight diagonal, into 1/2 inch (2cm) wide strips.

Lay the strips on a plate and sprinkle them on both sides with the salt, pepper, cumin, turmeric, cayenne and mixed herbs.

Set aside for 15 mins.

Break the eggs into a deep plate. Add 4 tsp. water and beat lightly.

Spread the breadcrumbs out on a second plate.

Dip the fish pieces first in the egg and then in the crumbs to coat evenly.

When hot, put in as many pieces of fish as the pan will hold. Fry for 2-3 mins on each side or until golden brown.

Dry on kitchen paper. Serve hot.

### FISH PARCELS

For a low calorie but colourful and tasty meal try making these quick and easy fish parcels. Simply place fish steaks of choice



on individual sheets of cooking foil and squeeze over a little fresh lemon or lime juice cover with sliced leeks and slice skinned tomatoes. Sprinkle with a little fresh ground pepper and top with a bayleaf. Seal the foil to form parcels. Transfer to baking sheet, cook in a moderate oven for approx. 30 mins. Or until tender.

**PRICE: Approx. £3.50 depending on fish fillet.**

PREP. TIME: 10

COOKING TIME: 30 mins.

### TUNA MELT

Cut some wholemeal bread in half, scoop out the middle and chop finely. Mix with a little tuna fish, chopped tomatoes, onion and mayonnaise. Season with salt and pepper. Spoon the filling into the scooped out rolls and sprinkle with cheese and warm through in the oven before serving.

PRICE: Approx. £2.80



## by Nick O' Brien

Are you the nervous type? Do you worry about exams, protests, deadlines and notes? Do you react badly to academic pressure? If yes, then U.L. wants you! Yes you! Come to U.L. where the only competition for the pass rate is the dropout rate.

I am enrolled in a pressure course (apparently), not that others aren't in worse trouble, and the course content is... workable, if not obvious. I have a reasonable understanding of my subjects, I am not too lost in tutorials, but I HATE HATE HATE my course.

Computer Systems, historically, has one of the highest

dropout rates. As such this year it is being studied slightly, psychologically evaluated with questionnaires and the like, so they can tell us why we are all leaving.

We have had an exam every week since week 4, another next monday, another the week after that, a project due for next month, homework assignments labtests and numerous other little offerings hanging over us like an academic Domacles Sword, and they wonder why we are all going. Am I telling you all a familiar story? Does it depress you as much as it depresses me?

I seem to have acquired a grim expectation for the future, for my

course, and question how in the hell I will manage it for the next four years of my life.

I love being in U.L., the freedom that goes with it, the extra-curricular activities, but the course continuous assessment situation is shattering. The system needs some sympathy, a more helpful attitude at tutorials as opposed to the demanding and tireless situation that currently pervades.

I have headaches, migraines, anxiety attacks, losing sleep because of exams, I have stormed the library at 8:30 to work for exams, I've pulled an all-nighter, and this battlescarred glory in 10 weeks of college? So forgive me when I think about

doing this for the next four years and cringe. I just don't want to live the pressured environment, breathe the stale sweat of another labtest, and I'm sure there are many others in the same situation. I was praying for a break after the dreaded leaving, a fatigue cushion, but I got Computer Systems. Orwell saw freedom in a simple  $2 + 2 = 4$ . In Com Sys we were told that  $1 + 1 = 10$ , and that is that. Except Big Brother isn't as obvious.

College life is a constant self-examination on adaptation. After being at Uni from 9a.m. till 8, 9 or 10 at night, can you handle coming home and revising the lecture notes? That is difficult, but it is just cruel to do that and pile on lecturer's expectations as well. I am not asking for an easy life, just a livable one.

## Nach Aoibheann an Saol Dúinn?

### Le SEANANO'COISTIN

Mic Léinn. Arís - mic léinn. Is ábhar con-spóideach é seo. Do daoine áirithe is fuath leo mic léinn. Do dhaoine eile cuireann sé i gcúimhne dóibh a h-óige. Bíonn mic léinn i gcónaí sna mean cumarsáide. Cloistear scéalta fuatha an t-am ar fad.

Ach cad é mac léinn? Is é seo duine atá ag foghlaim i foras éigean ar feadh tamall. Sin é an míniú bunúsach. Tá a lán rudaí eile a bhaineann le mic léinn. Is seal é i saolta a lán daoine. Cuimhníonn an chuid is mó de na daoine a raibh ina mic léinn ag am éigean ina raibh siad ag foghlaim(!) in áit éigean. Cuimhníonn siad ar na smaointe maithe atá acu do na laethanta sin. Ach is mic léinn gach duine ó naois a ceathar nó a cúig. Téimid go léir ar bhunscoil is ansin ar meanscoil. Ní téinn chuile duine ar ollscoil nó áit eile do oideachas eile. Táim ag caint faoi na daoine sin a bhfuil ar ollscoil nó áit eile cosúil le sin. Is iad na mic léinn sin ar a bhfuil an méad sin poiblíocht sna blianta beaga anuas. Nuair a cloistear faoi mic léinn de gnáth is iad na mic léinn seo atá i gceist.

Tá saol deas againn i mo thuairimse. Níl muid ag obair ar feadh roinnt bliain. Taitníonn sé sin go mór liomsa. Tá áiseanna iontach againn. Féach ar na foirgnimh gleoite atá againn timpeall láthair an ollscoil. Tá saol caidreamhach iontach againn tuisc na áiseanna sin AGUS na dhá tabhairne. Bíonn an cuid is mó de na mic léinn le feiceáil ins na tabhairní ag amanna áirithe. Bíonn a lán rudaí ann go h-áirithe do mic léinn. Féach ar na laghdú costasaí do mic léinn gach áit. Is féidir linn rudaí a fháil ar costas íseal. Rudaí cosúil le costasaí tais-teal, costasaí bia is éarraí eile uaireanta, costasaí éide, brógaí agus leabhair. B'fhéidir an rud is tabhachtaí dúinne ná na ísealú costais ar siamsaíocht. Is féidir linn laghdú a fháil ar costasaí chun isteach i pic-

tiúrlainne agus níos tabhachtaí fós ins na tithe oíche. Is breá linn oíche na mic léinn. Is féidir linn bheith ólta ar £10 mar bíonn gach rud comh saor sin. Bíonn cúntasaí sainiúl ag na mbainc do mhic léinn. Tugann siad cúntas breá dúinn le bronnainis deasa iontu cosúil le GSG nó raidió agus leabharín leis na ísealú mic léinn. Bíonn tithe ósta ann do mic léinn amháin. Tá na mílte rudaí ann a bhfuil díreathe amháin ar mic léinn. Ní d'eol liomsa go bhfuil aon dream eile sa domhain ar an bhfuil an méad sin bhuntáistí ag baint leo.

Ach fós bíonn daoine ag gearrán fúinn. An té a bhíonn ag gearrán fúinn an chuid is mó ná - Gerry Hannon. Agus an rud is greanmhaí faoi seo ná gur iar-mhic léinn é den áit seo. B'fhéidir nach thaitin an áit leis. I mo thuairimse bíonn na daoine seo ag gearrán mar tá éad orthu. Tá siad éadmhar mar níl an spraoi céanna acu ina shaoil. Ní taitníonn sé leo go mbíonn mic léinn ag baint sult as an saol an cuid is mó den am, nach bhfuil fadhb ar bith acu, níl an méad sin chúram acu. Uaireanta bíonn siad ceart - má tá mic léinn ag ól inmarca nó ag caitheamh drugaí.

Ach is rudaí maithe iad mic léinn. Tugann siad postanna do a lán daoine. Gan iad ní beidh an tír seo comh maith is atá sé anois. Ní bheadh an "Tíogar Ceilteach" againn gan mic léinn, mar nuair a d'fhág siad na h-ollscolanna chuidigh siad leis na comhlachtaí nua a chruthaíoch. Deireann gach duine gurb é daoine le oideachas a cruthaigh an "Tíogar Ceilteach". Tá an ceart acu. Gan daoine le oideachas ní bheadh tada againn inniú.

Mar sin a chairde is a chomh mhic léinn, lean oraibh. Bain taitneamh as an saol iontach seo atá againn. Nílimid anseo ach ar feadh seal agus mar sin ná lig do na laethanta anseo imeacht gan rud éigean maith a déanamh leo.

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# State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

Draconian is the only word that can describe, with any degree of accuracy this country's legislation regarding those people who wish to enter Ireland and seek refugee status. The Oireachtas in its ultimate wisdom decided only a few years ago to adopt legislation in the form of a refugee act which gave imposing new powers to the minister and department of justice to 'handle' the refugee migration into Ireland. But it is only now in recent weeks that an aspect of the legislation has come into force which allows the Minister for Justice a type of censorship that amounts to discrimination of the worst kind towards our fellow man. Now the media are obliged to seek the permission of the Minister for Justice if they want to broadcast the individual story of a refugee who is seeking asylum in this country. How can we justify this utter tripe that our politicians have passed in our name? Not only is it contemptible and offensive, but it ranks of racism, of a kind that has not been seen in this country since the Penal Laws of the eighteenth century. Then Roman Catholics and Presbyterians or dissenters were discriminated against and not allowed political or religious freedom.

Ireland is now depriving people who may legitimately require asylum in our county of the right to openly present their case to the Irish people through the media. This can only lead to the continuation of perceptions, held by many Irish

people, surrounding the 'problem' (as they tend to believe) of refugees. As these perceptions go unchallenged, as refugees are not allowed to make their case in an open fashion through normal societal mediums, such as television, the growing hatred of racism will emerge and be augmented. Ireland has a massive racism problem. We might like to forget or hide it, but it is there. We have seen it this year when towns and villages refused access to refugees who could not be housed in Dublin due a shortage of spaces. Now our legislation abounds of it too. We easily forget that our family relatives were once refugees fleeing this country because of several political, economic and social reasons. We gained entry into countries and sometimes were discriminated against because they were Irish. How easily then we forget when we are in the position of authority and can dictate events that we are the oppressors. Is it that we don't have enough space in this country? Is it that we don't want to give away our vast accumulation of wealth and prosperity? Is it that we don't like the colour of their skin? Or is it a combination of these and more?

It is not true to say that we can travel and live in any part of the world. It is more difficult now than any other time in history for a person to travel to any place they wish and reside there. Our borders are closed. European Union citizenship is held so tightly that few gain it. American and

Australian citizenship are likewise coveted by people, so much that they await the results of lotteries to determine their suitability. And even when we have agreed to open our borders to people in distress, they remain, more often than not, closed. The United Nations charter and other ancillary agreements all seek to protect the people of the world who fall victim of famine, war, pestilence, disease and the many other ills that afflict this planet. Yes we send aid and yes we condone political actions which cause death. But do we try to help the actual people escape from their predicament, whose only wish is to survive and live. NO! We tell them that your application will be processed. That you cannot tell your story to the people of Ireland because it may somehow affect you or them. That more than likely your application will be turned down and that you will be sent back to your last port of call before arriving in Ireland. But am I being unfair, I wonder? Did not the minister say that he would more than likely allow any journalist, who applied to him, to use the story of individual refugees? Did not he say that he would be lenient if the law permits it? Maybe he did. But when the law itself is draconian, how can the minister be fair?

We as a nation have failed to show compassion and friendliness to the people that need it. We must hang our heads in shame that we have allowed the adoption of laws which are vile and degrading. We are every day turning into a racist people who fail to realise the Christian and democratic values that we profess to believe in. The quicker this country rids itself of this destructive element, the sooner the Irish nation can redeem its place among those peoples who do actually give a damn.

## Pig Hunting and Boyband promoting.

## Diary of A First Year Nicholas O'Brien shows us that men write diaries as well as the girls can!!!!!!

Fans of my amateur (immature?) genetic manipulation efforts will be delighted to hear I have found a surrogate mother for my seal-man. Her name is Natas, and any suggestions for the seal-child's name you have, send them on in. In vitro fertilisation will take place soon, despite numerous offers of a more direct method from desperate looking freshers, and we are expecting a fully fit, slightly perverted child next year.

This week was fun wasn't it? What with the protest (congrats if you stuck it out on the picketline, I barely lasted an hour.) We (or they) actually cancelled most of the College's morning lectures which was even better!

But we need to extend on the minor success of stopping traffic, as I know numerous women who can do this without the benefit of a 500 strong student union behind them, to a random path of local terrorism, looting and guerilla warfare until we have enough space to drive a f\*cking aircraft carrier to Uni if we want to.

I felt really proud to be a student that day, power to the people and all that. But... Just think of the responses we would get if we...

1. Rampaged naked through the coffeebars of limerick squirting waterguns at the genitalia of anyone in a suit.
2. Jumped on cars, screaming "Kill the pig, cut his throat, bash him in" anytime we saw a postman on his way to Southill.
3. Dress up as Cavemen, sing the "Flintstones" theme song while marching up O' Connell st., clubbing anybody who looked at us funny.
4. Invade the ceiling of Brown Thomas holding up signs welcoming

"The Visitors" and commenting on how pretty the alien lights are.

5. Start a revenge cult against bad parking where we must worship the omnipotent "Clapping system."

Musically this week is a turbulent one. Moshin with the Saviour broke up, each of the three members taking a third of a shamrock back in a symbolic gesture, and we nailed our manager to a wall for stealing from the collection bucket at our last church concert. The priest also caused this split up because he refused to allow a mosh pit in front of the altar.

But even as the officially elected peoples Antichrist "A democratic Armageddon bringing, mark of the beast plagueing, little girl possessing force for all evil on earth of the people for the people and by the people", I have seen some scary things in my time, the most freaky thing I have ever seen occurred this week, Shane and Keith from Bogzone trying to sing a rap song slagging off boybands. What???? And where did you make your money, you losers? Sorry, I get touchy when it comes to "pop" music.

Till next week, a little advice. Stay away from disaffected talentless members of past-it popbands because they will force their biggoted rightwing opinions down your throat in the hope that you will tell a smalltime reporter and make some tiny local paper becoming an overnight celebrity, and if I see that happen with the names of the members of Boyzone: Ronan, Steven, Mike, Shane and Keith, there will be hell to pay.... AWW DAMN!!!!!!

# Marian's Voyeur Column

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



Technology-is it more trouble than it's worth? My mother would argue that it's a menace on society, but that's because she's a technophobe! Me, I'm not so sure. In one sense, I know that I couldn't manage without it, (pretty obvious considering I'm sitting at a computer as I write). I never realized how reliant on computers I could actually become. My secondary school only had about 10 computers and they only got them when I was in sixth year, so I was totally computer illiterate before I came to college. I'm nowhere near being an expert now but at least I can handle the basics. I suppose the biggest thing to evolve out of the computer revolution is the Internet. 10 years ago families considered buying a set of World Books a major investment, and everyone knew that any child's education would be greatly enhanced by owning one. The encyclopedia is practically unheard of these days except on disk, and to think, all those sets of the World Book sitting in sitting room bookshelves all over the world have been replaced by a little silver disk.

Anyone who knows me can tell you that one of my passions in life is shopping; the Internet has even taken that over. And I don't just mean for buying consumer durables straight from the manufacturer. Clothes shopping on the Internet is more fun than I expected it to be, my personal favorite is [www.voodoooshoes.com](http://www.voodoooshoes.com), and the best thing is it's not just shoes, they have accessories and clothes as well. I know, I know, "I'm such a girl", With Christmas heading our way pretty fast, more and more people will use the internet to avoid Christmas rush. It's hard to

blame them, traffic jams, trying to park and the general hassle of last minute shopping, especially for presents!

At this point I have to mention what technology has done to films, I'm not a big special effects fan, I'm not into all those explosions and all that Matrix type stuff. The greatest achievement has to be computer generated animation, only two words need to be said about that: TOY STORY. But obviously I'm not going to stop at two words. A BUGS LIFE has to be mentioned as well.

But it's not just the computer that has taken over our lives; the mobile phone is possibly the best and worst thing to have ever happened our society. I love mine and can't be separated from it for longer than 10 mins but maybe that's really a bad thing. I don't think any one (least of all me) is so important that they need to be contactable 24/7. The mobile phone basically means you have no time to yourself, that is if you're delusions of grandeur are so great that you leave it turned on all the time. The whole WAP thing is beyond me to be honest, I have a WAP phone and have only used the Internet once, it's so expensive and it's only for text anyway. Although if the queues for the computers get any worse, I may have to try checking my emails on my phone.

Obviously there are negative sides to technology, one of the main arguments against it is that instead of making life easier and reducing peoples workload technology has caused stress levels to rise. I read an article in the Irish Times last week that pointed out that "TRA" or technol-



ogy-related rage is on the increase. It can be really frustrating when something you're working on disappears and you have no idea what happened it or how to get it back. It's easy to understand how people are driven to physically damaging a machine, when it comes down to it you can't interact with a machine to the same extent that you can communicate with another person. I've always thought that it must be easier to be a doctor than a computer engineer, at least humans can tell you where they hurt, but with a machine, well they're inanimate objects.

Having said that I still couldn't be without access to a computer, and as for my phone, it's an extension of me at this point. I can't really complain about computers and the internet considering the fact that I'm going to email this to the editor in about two minutes, God forbid I'd have to walk over to the SU and hand it in!

## 5 Simply Ways to Use More Irish in Your Life

1. Start using the Irish form of your name and use it as often as possible.
2. Use your Irish name on all official documents - passport, driving licence, student ID, bank accounts, job application forms, when joining organisations, etc.
3. Use "Dia Duit" as a greeting and "Slán" as a farewell. Use them when greeting people and when answering the phone.
4. Record an Irish message on your mobile phone message-minder. Press 172 and record. A sample message is: "Dia Duit! ( Anim) anseo! Níl mé in ann an guthán a fhreagairt anois. Fág do anim, uimhir agus teachtaireacht i ndiaidh an fuaim agus labhróidh mé leat go luath. Slán."
- 5 Watch 1 programme a day on TG4, listen to 15 minutes of Raidió na Gaeltachta a day and read Foinse and the Irish articles in An Focal.

Issued by Cumann na Gaeilge.

## Hola! from Spain

As you can see I am settling in quite well as I hardly even have time to write. Too many parties and the like but I'm back now. Well the aforementioned Erasmus party didn't turn out to be such a great party as it was cancelled due to rain on the day and then moved to another venue during the night and no-one came from Santiago. But don't worry there has been plenty of more. We've met lots of people now even a few more Irish and have sampled much of Lugo's nightlife especially the good wine. cheap too.

University is fine so far although some subjects are quite difficult but we've got plenty of help from both students and teachers alike. We do have a few projects to prepare at the moment but they're well under way with the help of our dictionaries. Thank god for dictionaries is all I have to say!

But I am getting very sick of the rain and the cold here. Its definitely worse than limerick if thats possible. So Lugo is definitely not the place to come unless you love continuous rain and freezing cold.

What I do like about here is everything is so cheap and just to help you out its not very difficult to find work teaching English as there are always people looking for private classes or even in an academy. At the moment I am working in an academy just a few hours a week and also have a private class one day a week. just to help out with the expense of Erasmus.

We've also got more feast days coming up don't know what for but then again the Spanish will use any reason for a fiesta and we will get 5 days holidays for this. We have a choice of touring galica organized by the Erasmus office or going skiing with friends, such decisions to be made

¡Hasta Luego!  
Sinead.



# Wired Fm Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:30-10:00	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!!
12:00-12:30	Seachtain Whatcha in Castles	Class A Laser Product	Body & Soul	Soundbyte
12:30-1:00	EX- TEMPORANEOUS		Left of field	
1:00-1:30	Pulse	The Junk Show	Alternative World	Last Splash Dance
1:30-2:00	Dis Harmony			
4:30-5:30	Activate	..... Inkbliets	..... Sports Ann	.....
5:30-6:00	Timewarp	The Arts show	Sports Weekly	..... Vortex
6:00-6:45	Plastered	..... Sceitimini	..... Fargo	..... 4 To the Floor
6:45- 7:30	Big Sack	..... In Focus	Ascension 7-8pm	..... Side View
7:30- 8:00	Common People	..... Dead Air		..... POP IS DEAD
8:00- 9:00	..... Anything Goes	The Pat & Mike Show	Crazy Sexy Cool	BOYS AND GIRLS
9:00-10:00	GREEN ..... Composition of Sound ..... .....	Evil monkeys In Space	Beats & Rhythms ..... .....	TALKING HEADZ

## National Protest Against the Grant

### Limerick City

### Wednesday 29th November

### Buses Leave Stables Courtyard

### @2:45pm

# Hitchhikers Guide to the World-Wide-Web

Nothing in particular to discuss for this issue, thought I'd start without any theme and see where the keyboard led me!

## Q&A

Seeing as you're all sick to the teeth of me listing out inane websites with ridiculously long URLs (that's web-addresses to the less techno-proficient of you), I decided to try a search on some seditious information, the most obvious question of relevance to all net-surfing students being "How do I hack into the Pentagon database?" Of course, I can't legally endorse, condone or otherwise encourage any of you to follow up on this example, but to my surprise it was easier than expected! Firstly I tried [www.eHow.com](http://www.eHow.com) and got nowhere with it, but recalling from the recesses of my cerebrum, the solution dawned "Ask Jeeves!" So I did! The most renowned webcrawler was of course the most helpful, refusing to dodge the task at hand, and even corrected my spelling for me! Therefore, the colloquially-titled "ask Jeeves" site, [www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com) not only broke down the question into RELEVANT parts (and not just a literal search), but it also actually succeeded in ANSWERING the question it was asked (unlike my humble self in almost every exam to date!) I therefore submit that for that reason only, it deserves a closer look, as it has the potential to be a great research tool, as you use a question, rather than keywords which lack any context. And the CRUCIAL point, you don't have to wait around twiddling your thumbs waiting for the site to e-mail you your solution, you get it on the spot (like a proper search engine is SUPPOSED to work!)

On a related topic, check out [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com), which explains how common household appliances (and not so common weapons) actually work! Apparently, there's a little more to just plugging them into that hole in the wall! Besides, if they have the common sense to feature "how a silencer works" as a popular link, it HAS to be good!

I guess [www.soyouwanna.com](http://www.soyouwanna.com) is also probably in the "how to..." website Mould, but it deals with more pressing issues, namely how to pull off stuff you're not supposed to know about! I highly recommend the "Bizarre" section of this site, if nothing else go here, it's WELL worth it! Whether or not I found the answer to my burning question here, I'll let you work out for yourselves!

## Life's Unanswered Questions of Universal (in) Significance

OK, maybe you've noticed that I'm sort of on a philosophy kick at the moment, so you might as well pay attention and check out [www.straightdope.com](http://www.straightdope.com) The questions may be preset, but the answers are entertaining! Check out the radical proposal to use marijuana (no connection to the address of this site, just a

coincidence) to help the environment, and whether you can declare a no-fly zone over your house! It also has an article on the truth behind the "meaning of American Pie" conspiracy. If that's not enough, scroll down to the end of the page, where there are links to other sites, where you might find that elusive answer!

## Miscellaneous Others

For all of you who like football (instead of Man United fans who just like operatic performances), check out [www.Ithatemanunited.com](http://www.Ithatemanunited.com) In spirit, this site has everything to offer to the true fan of soccer, including scores scrolling across the bottom of your browser (true or fictitious I've no idea!) and the amount of money Roy Keane has made since you arrived at the site. Even the address is after my own heart! However, the selection of games isn't great. The "Who wants to be a Beckham-heir" game may have started out as a pisstake, but in order to win, you actually have to KNOW something about the player (and not just hate him for no apparent reason!). The ref rescue sees our Corkonian Roy the Rebel show the ref the colour of red (by giving him a right thumping), and unfortunately the Dress Beckham game, which had the greatest potential in terms of a Posh pisstake, falls flat!

Wanna adopt a virtual pet? Try [www.neopets.com](http://www.neopets.com) but be warned, they're not the easiest to install! Besides, I've already prepared an article on deskmates, so there's no really need to go here, unless you're looking for something a little different! They also have a selection of wallpapers for your Desktop, but I've always preferred the "set as wallpaper" command myself, since you can put ANYTHING there!

For more fancifully inept diversions, visit [www.pres-sanykey.com](http://www.pres-sanykey.com) If you're smart enough to get into the website, (press the ANY key) you can try the Densa Quiz, under Fun Stuff. The personality tests are also worth a look, especially the Egotest (which I of course failed again!), and the personality reflector, which claims to be able to predict your personality based on a simple questionnaire. Check it out of only to laugh at the ridiculous assertions it proposes! But that's just to whet your appetite! The motherload's at [www.psychtests.com/tests.html](http://www.psychtests.com/tests.html) They appear to be real tests, as opposed to fake ones, but that's all the more reason to try them out just to quench that suppressed thirst for knowledge of oneself that is welling up within you as you're considering this right now (hopefully). I personally recommend the procrastinator test and the Giver/taker tests, as even I was surprised by the results. Note that they should only be considered as persuasive, psychology is rarely an exact science, and the on-line version is as susceptible to errors as the "couch"!

Did you ever grow out of playing with bubble wrap? Well, see if you can resist the temptation with this real-sounding on-line version at [www.urban75.com/Mag/bubble.html](http://www.urban75.com/Mag/bubble.html). The slogan says you'll waste vital minutes of your life on this, but it's possible to waste a lot more time on-line

doing something a lot less enjoyable. (I think it's called research or something.....)

And for those of you who think the Irish version of "Who wants to be a Millionaire" is actually worth entering, get a head-start on everyone else at [www.triviaworld.com](http://www.triviaworld.com) It boasts an extensive range of questions from as any categories as there are strikes on the railway lines this month, so you should find no shortage of topics to keep your grey matter in shape! There are also links to the Fun Trivia and Trivia Machine sites, should you require advanced level!

And for those of you in the CS building who are taking up all the computers in the Callisto lab playing Quake-(YOU know who you are!)-just head to [www.gamespynetwork.com](http://www.gamespynetwork.com) Here, you'll find links to all the major gamesites from which such mutations like Quake, Hexen and the on-line version of Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six originated, and also where are tips on strategies, (yes I am aware that I should say tactics!) power-ups and general hints on how not to get shot in the back! Of course if I catch any of you wasting computers in the Callisto lab again...well no amount of "aliens v Predator" will save your butt! As for the rest of you, [www.metaspynet.com](http://www.metaspynet.com) features a link to some program that lets you see what other people are typing into search engines, and even better, what results they're getting! Perfect for those hard-to-find sites, and for a few good ideas too! I know that most of you prefer the challenge first hand though, so maybe you'll keep the contents of your searching more secret in future!

## Momentary diversions For Co-op Students

Some harmless violence now at the official-looking [www.myvangel.net](http://www.myvangel.net) but only to the discerning eye that scrolls down the page. You'll find two programs to help you blow off some steam on the left. Teach the slave-driver some manners in "Beat the Boss", or if you're unfortunate enough to be on Teaching Practice, the "whip the worker" program might suit you better!

If anyone deserves to visit [www.workingwounded.com](http://www.workingwounded.com) it has to be Co-op students! Dedicated to relieving the pressures of the typical working environment (such as getting up FOR 8 instead of AT 12!), the site features lots of useful practical information, but it's the pranks section that's more useful! The voodoo doll allows you to commit some very unpleasant acts without fear of recrimination. And for those of you wasting your time on QCAs, why not download your own personal degree here? You can even get a screensaver that throws up a selection of meaningless charts every time your boss walks past while you're "busy" online! There are also some written lists of pranks played in offices already, but I'll leave the selection of those to the Co-op students! Hmm, that prank memo gives me an idea.....



# gamespynetwork

# My leaving Cert Year - A Tribute to Uaneen Fitzsimons



**By Marian Roche**

For most people the year they do their Leaving Cert. is not the most enjoyable! You have teachers telling you that this is the most important year of your life, warning you to spend at least four hours every night studying. You have the really annoying people in your class who say they don't study at all and then get straight A's, on the other side of the coin you have the ones who brag that they stayed up till 4am studying and talk of nothing else except the exam. You have your Guidance Counselor putting pressure on you to fill out your bloody CAO form. There's the dreaded parental units, some peoples' take no interest at all and some become obsessed with how much you're studying or not studying as the case may be. And to crown it all off, there's non-leaving cert fami-

ly members, who just don't get it, laughing hysterically at whatever's on TV, and you can't concentrate on Macbeth or Na Danta Roghnach or whatever!!!

But everyone should have something that keeps the sane during that dreaded year, for me it was music. I always loved Dave Fanning's show on 2FM but it was over at 10 o'clock, and the dribble they played after that just wasn't worth wasting the electricity by leaving the radio on. Imagine my sheer delight when they changed the 2FM schedule and Dave's show was changed to 9 to 11, to be followed by Uaneen Fitzsimons. Between the two of them they kept me from losing my mind completely during the year. You could always rely on them to play some obscure song that I hadn't heard for ages, the fact that their shows sometimes overlapped in content didn't matter because the content was always quality.

I can't really explain what ran through my mind when I found out that Uaneen had been killed in a car accident on her way home from a gig in Limerick that I almost went to go to. It's so hard to know what to think. I never met the woman so it doesn't feel right to be upset, she has a family and friends who are going through hell right now, I'd feel as if I was taking away from their grief

or something. I still feel as if I've lost something though. When your listening to the radio and the DJ plays a song that means something to you, or that you haven't heard for ages, you know they're on the same wave length as you. And if your choice of music goes beyond the charts that doesn't happen very often, so when it does it's pretty cool.

Road deaths are a major problem in this country, but it took Uaneen's death for the gravity of this problem to actually hit home with me. I'm not in any way trying to play down the other deaths on our roads, but when music is an important part of your life any one with similar tastes as you is an automatic soul mate.

I just keep thinking what are they going to put in her time slot on 2fm? If they put another chart music show it will undo all the good work that her and Dave Fanning have done trying to convert the nations radio listeners to music with meaning. No "bubble gum" pop or manufactured boy/girl bands on their shows. And a radio program that doesn't have an entire section devoted to celebrity gossip is always a novelty (no news about Posh and Becks, or Catherine and Michael, wow!!!!)

I just want to finish by saying Thank You to Uaneen for knowing what we wanted to hear before we did!! Rest In Peace

## Who Wants to be a Class Rep?..... You ask the Audience

**By John Mulcahy**

Hi all! My name is John Mulcahy and I am the recently elected chair of the Class Representative Council. Not only do I try to keep some sense of order at class reps meetings but I also represent the council's views on the SU Executive. From now on I will be writing a column in every issue of this newspaper letting you know what's going on with class reps. This week I'll break you in slowly by giving a brief outline of class reps and what they do. And remember if it affects class reps it affects you because they are working on your behalf.

Class Reps Council is the third most important decision-making body of the SU, after a referendum and a UGM. It has more power than the president, the executive or any other SU body. This year class reps has been totally revamped, thanks to a lot of hard work put in over the summer by the Sabats. It has now been split up into sub-committees. These consist of the Finance, Education, Welfare, Communication, Entertainment, and the General Affairs Committees. So while you may not be interested in finance or education, maybe you'd be interested in trying to help organise Rag Week, and become part of the Entertainment Committee. Are you fed up with the fact that the price of a cup of coffee changes depending on what building you enter? Join the General Affairs Committee, have your say. If you don't want me writing any more crap for this newspaper, join the Communication Committee and make your position known. Surely you must be interested in one of these areas, and by becoming part of class reps and these committees you might improve the lives of many students.

So outside of the committees and the meetings, what do class

reps do? Well their most obvious function is to represent their class. It is you who elected them, and they are speaking on your behalf, so always let them know your opinions. If anyone has any problems they should pass them on to their class reps, whether they be with lecturers, timetables, or something that's just bothering you. You'd be surprised what can happen with a little help and support. It may be the same thing that's coming up over and over again with different people, but without letting your class rep know you might all get different answers and no solution. By going through your class rep you are providing a united front. Class reps have other minor functions but in a way this is their only function, to be of service to their class, those who elected them and whose views they are putting across.

Before I finish up, I would just like to remind everyone to support your class rep. If you don't already have one, get one! Maybe you could be one yourself!! If you were interested enough to read this article, you'd be surprised at how interesting the meetings are! During this semester class reps has grown from a handful of people at the first meeting to around eighty at the last. It is obvious that we are moving forward, so it's up to you to find out if you already have a class rep, if you don't already have one, why not?

If anyone wants to get in contact with me don't hesitate to do so. My e-mail address is [9923586@student.ul.ie](mailto:9923586@student.ul.ie) <<mailto:9923586@student.ul.ie>> and if that's too much trouble you'll probably find me sitting in the Scholars, just look out for the guy with the dodgy looking hair colour!

**Talk to you later!  
John**



# Spontaneous Creative Explosion

Creativity is not sitting in The Scholars @ 1pm frantically scribbling your personalised gossip column, with jokes to flatter your friends or heroes. Anyone could do that, for example & more cryptically; "Agnes! Betty! Its all in the shoulders!" shuffling along, pants around your ankles, bopping to 'loaded', by the frames.... OR; Fatbastard, funky legend, lethal boy!....means more. ("Ra Ra, Up the kingdom... what the?)

If you are passionate about your inspiration, you will not be disheartened by peoples attitudes or 'strange looks'. When your page is full of original ideas worth sharing, then publish it. If not, pick up a burning bible or some other random foreign object. Better still, just find Nicholas O' Brien & shake his hand.

What's the key to creativity kids? Imagination! No Barney, you stole it from Bosco... it's all on video.

A strong complaint- you squander Ma & Da's money on "coffee& beer" and the jukebox? What a fun life you have! Get out of your cocoon for a few months. Do you know what's beyond The Parkway? Co-op is an opportunity to expand your frame, swim through your OWN money and hopefully see the difference between open-minded & unimaginative.

Our last point on creative lessons for today is confidence.

When one person knows he has searched his best mates soul and completed his girlfriends happiness, he may then stand proud, he has conquered emotional equilibrium. Confidence is sitting on a stage, sober with Johnny Moy, saying " Some day man, I'll be playing with you, lethal!".

And I, confident enough to STATE, not question that MY diary will be published. Those who have seen it will chortle with understanding. I challenge anyone to doubt my literary skills whenever they encounter any of my SPONTANEOUS CREATIVE EXPLOSIONS. Heres a sample, keep a copy, I WILL be famous.

(For Des\*)

Lights dim, sight fades, smiles thin.

Winds sharpen, tongue blunts, voices magnified.

Crutch lost, limp returns, crumbling without my scaffolding.

Looking confident, feeling vulnerable.

Everytime you leave me.

-Aine\*

## Stars in Their Eyes

### By Mairead Moriarty

It's such a bad idea to have a television in your room. Not only do you stay awake all night to watch it, but you also subject yourself to second-rate television programming. Who wants to watch continuous re-runs of granny-style game shows and current affairs programmes at 4 or 5 in the morning?! (Actually – who wants to watch TV at that hour of the morning anyway! But that's beside the point!)

Radio fails to provide any significant musical entertainment after Dave Fanning & Uaneen Fitzsimons on 2FM, may she Rest in Peace, or Donal Dineen on TodayFM. (Not to mention that WiredFM stops broadcasting after 11pm!) And even Dave the Rave™ is slowly, but surely going down the resented road of sacrilege Pop Music. Dave – where are Nick Cave and JJ Cale when you need them?! And so, the early hours of the morning are spent watching videos from the over-rated 2TV.

I'd like to mention that when Dave Fanning started presenting the long-standing show, he was beneficial to the Irish Music Scene. But now he appears to have been sucked in by all these corporate businesses that make up today's music industry. There's no longer any originality or passion in the mainstream music that airs

prime-time media. The question is whether this is the media's fault or is it as a result of our own ignorance of quality and originality in music.

The mind boggles to think that people are not only listening to, but also buying the records of some of the most untalented and wasteful, let's call them "musicians" for argument's sake, that walk on two feet! I fail to comprehend why anybody would want their own copy of the drones and wails of Westlife or Ronan Keating. Has Louie Walsh no shame?! Not one of them plays their own instrument, write their own songs or can even read their name in the tabloid headlines!!

Or there's Geri Haliwell, with her latest video, which suggests that she is the Spicy Queen of Porn. What else could one derive from those seductive male dancers, manoeuvring their muscular bodies around those poles. And Geri isn't exactly wrapped up in her Winter Woollies either! To think she is meant to be a role model for young girls?!

Then there's Oasis, who haven't produced an effective tune since Bonehead and Guigsy bought sense and quit. With only two original members remaining now, it's not hard to detect that the band are falling apart. Did they really expect

their new album to touch the hearts of those who were moved by their first two/three albums?! I mean, they can't even get the grammar in the title right!

But let us not lose faith in music altogether. After all, U2 returned with their excellent new album! They may have been speaking about the state of the music world in their song "*Stuck In A Moment You Can't Get Out Of*". Is it just a matter of time before we hear decent and original music on mainstream media or are we doomed forever? If so, I can always rely on the fact that Bono's voice will soothe my aching heart!

Another stream of hope is the upcoming release of the new Frames album in February. Glen Hansard speaks from the heart and yet still manages to have fun at the same time. Where would UL be without him?!

The new album from Coldplay, best known for their legendary tune "*Yellow*", (which can be heard at the best of times in the Scholars – especially when Phil is working!!) offers us more hope for the quality, originality and passion of music today.

Legends, such as Bob Dylan, Neil Young, John Lennon, Leonard Cohen, Suzanne Vega, JJ Cale and Jeff Buckley will never fade from the ears of true music fans. Then there are more

recent heroes, such as David Gray, Paddy Casey, Paul Weller, Bjork and Nick Cave, who will remain untainted in the same ears and hearts.

I've recently discovered a female solo act from the US – called Dido. Her album is simply excellent. Incidentally, notorious US Rap Artist Eminem samples one of her tracks on his latest "hit"! Buy the album "*Dido*", and try to figure out which one it is!

During Orientation Week I was introduced to the "new band on the scene" Badly Drawn Boy. I don't know much about them except that they're nominated for the Mercury Music Prize. I was promised to hear the album over coffee some day! But I'm still waiting!!!

Closer to home, we have our very own college bands who strive to succeed in an ever-growing music world. One such band is Plush, who write all their own music, and who are set to do big things in the future.

So there we have it, the good and the bad of the music world – in a nutshell! It's just a pity that the bad seem to be making prime-time media, where the original and quality musicians suffer. Is this how the twenty-first century is to continue? Where has the passion in music gone? Has it died?

# Societies Questionnaire

**PLEASE TAKE 5 MINUTES OUT OF YOUR DAY TO HELP US EVALUATE AND IMPROVE THE ACTIVITIES OF UL SOCIETIES.**

**PLEASE PLACE ✓ IN RELEVANT**

1. WHAT YEAR ARE YOU IN :

1      2      3      4      POST GRAD

ERASMUS      STUDY ABROAD

2. DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW A SOCIETY IS FORMED

YES                      NO

3. DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW A SOCIETY GETS ITS FUNDS

YES                      NO

4. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SOCIETIES

YES

NO BECAUSE :

POOR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

WORK LOAD TOO HEAVY

DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SOCIETY DOES

5. HOW EFFECTIVE WAS THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

VILLAGE IN PROMOTING SOCIETIES ACTIVITIES

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

6. DID YOU JOIN A SOCIETY BECAUSE (Tick all boxes that

apply to you)

PERSONAL INTEREST

YOUR FRIENDS WERE JOINING

YOU WERE IMPRESSED BY THEIR PRESENTATION

OTHER

7. WERE YOU PUT OFF JOINING A SOCIETY BECAUSE

OF ITS PRESENTATION:

YES

8. HAS THE SOCIETY YOU JOINED LIVED UP TO ITS PRE-

SENTATION      YES              NO              UNDECIDED

9. HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR SOCIETY :

**MEMBER PARTICIPATION**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**EVENT PROMOTION**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**COMMITTEE APPROACHABILITY**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**VARIETY OF EVENTS**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER SOCIETIES**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**PARTICIPATION IN SoUL**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**USE OF EMAIL**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**POSTER CAMPAIGNS**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**USE OF WEB SITE**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

**USE OF AN FOCAL**

POOR      AVERAGE      EXCELLENT

10. WHAT ASPECT OF YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS IMPROVE-

MENT

(Tick all boxes that apply to you) :

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

EVENT DEVELOPMENT

FACILITIES

COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC RELATIONS

MARKETING

SPONSORSHIP

11. HAS YOUR SOCIETY BEEN INVOLVED IN CHARITY OR

COMMUNITY EVENTS ON CAMPUS :

YES              NO                      DON'T KNOW Ñ

12. HAS YOUR SOCIETY BEEN INVOLVED IN CHARITY OR

COMMUNITY EVENTS OFF CAMPUS :

YES              NO                      DON'T KNOW

13. DID YOU LEAVE A SOCIETY BECAUSE

(Tick all boxes that apply to you) :

HEAVY STUDY WORK

LACK OF PERSONAL COMMITMENT

LACK OF INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

POOR COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE

POOR EVENT DEVELOPMENT

CO – OP

14. DO YOU USE THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES OFFICE :

NEVER      SOMETIMES      OFTEN

15. DO YOU THINK YOUR SOCIETY WILL CONTINUE TO

DEVELOP

YES              NO

IF ANSWER IS YES GIVE REASONS

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---



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IF ANSWER IS NO GIVE REASONS

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# FOCAIL EALAÍNE - Soul Week Special by the Photographic Society



**Aero Bar Eating - Aeronautical Society**



**Daily Sing-a-long - Music Society**




**Belly Dancing - Dance Society**



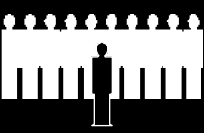
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Medieval Banquet -  
History Society**

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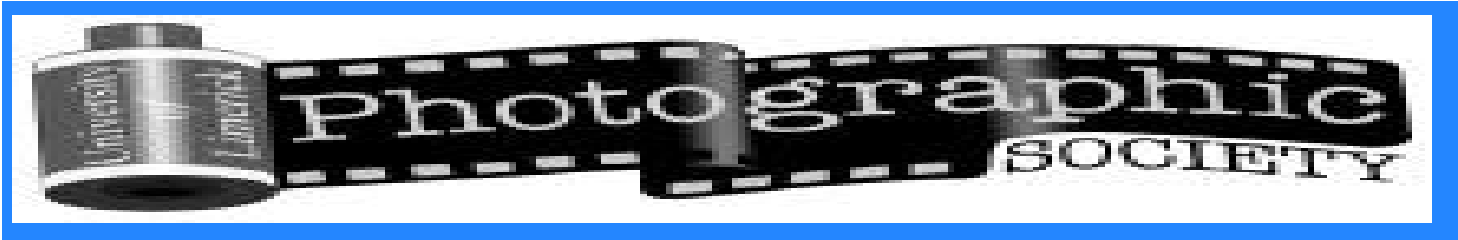


**No Pain No Gain (Enviro Soc)  
- Take a Twister**



**Who's Line is it Anyway -  
Drama Society**





**Battle of the Bands (Ember) - Music Society**



**Band Showcase - Music Society**



**Daily Executions - History Society  
Guillotine**



**Drumming workshop - Environment Society**



**International Society Food Fair -  
Stop Cooking & Start Eating**



# THE BACK ROW

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



Continuing **The Belltable Film Club 2000**, Carlos Saura's **Tango** (1998, Argentina) concerns the production of the ultimate film about tango. Deadly serious filmmaker Mario, uncomfortably approaching middle age, struggles against the traditional rigidity of his aging collaborators to bring a new dimension to tango. Cue mucho shots of Mario brooding against beautiful stage backdrops, grappling with his muse. Enter his muse, a ridiculously beautiful tango dancer, auditioning for the film, who just happens to be, handily enough, the reluctant moll of the local Big Gangster who just happens to be, handily enough, paying for most of the film's production. She is brought to Mario's attention when Gangster No.1 asks him to "consider" her for a part in the film. Physical grappling with his muse ensues. And so the screenwriter puts the kettle on, sits down, feet up...his work is done.

**Tango** is beautifully shot and never fails to impress visually, despite its confinement to the film studio and rare glimpses of other interiors. The story moves forward episodically, broken up by some of the most incredibly erotic and tasteful (i.e. fully clothed) dancing committed to celluloid. However, enjoyment of the dancing diminishes as the lack of narrative drive persists and impatience takes hold. A key scene finds Mario engaged in some quality brooding, recounting the main points of his film's plot and coming to the conclusion that it's all one big cliché: "Inspiration, where are you?" – a relevant question at this point. He looks for a fresh angle to an old tale, but **Tango** itself fails to find one.

As distraction from the plot, aside from the dancing, we are presented with The Message. Mario insists on adding an elaborate dance sequence depicting the dark period in Argentinean history in which thousands 'disappeared' through fascist purges.

Responding to opposition from his peers and financiers to this dramatic sequence (that it's too jarring for a musical), Mario utters something vaguely Orwellian about the victors of history rewriting the past and the responsibility of all of us to keep the past alive. The importance of this responsibility is reiterated and underlined in the closing moments of the film. In a wide mirror we see the reflection of a film set, previously home to a scene of turn-of-the-century drama, now empty and silent. A camera glides slowly down on a crane. It moves closer until it stops, staring at us in the mirror's reflection, implicating us, the people, in the responsibility for preserving the past.

Filmmakers of the past have delved into the use of point-of-view, implicating the viewer in the act on screen, based on psychoanalytic theories of vicarious participation in what we see. Hitchcock, although never explicitly declaring an interest in Freudian theory, explored his ideas of voyeurism with brilliant technique and imagination, particularly in **Rear Window**. Michael (**The Red Shoes, A Matter Of Life and Death, The Life And Times Of Colonel Blimp, Black Narcissus**) Powell's determination to explore voyeurism and viewer participation with the then shocking (and still creepy and perfectly nasty) **Peeping Tom** (1960), the story of a killer who films his crimes, effectively destroyed a sparkling career in his native Britain. Whatever Powell's extremes, he never stooped to use such a blunt device as in Saura's closing scene. And there, under the weight of its own heavy-handedness, **Tango** collapses, prompting "Is that it?" responses from the audience.

The Belltable Season improved considerably with the following week's presentations. Patrick Carey's 20 minute short **Reflections** (Ireland, 1978), with fitting music from Paddy Moloney and the Chieftains, offered the perfect antidote to a rough weekend. Described as a "National Geographic Special" by my lovely but misguided assistant, **Reflections** gazed across beautiful rural Irish scenes, catching patterns in the landscapes and waters. Even the reflections of **Reflections** on the Exit door were a joy.

And then on to the main event, Tomas Guitierrez Alea's **Guantanamo** (1995), and an introduction to certain drawbacks of the Belltable Arts Centre as a cinema. Every time (i.e. rarely enough) there's a heavy bass sound, the theatre rattles like an off-road Bus Eireann excursion. And wrap up very carefully because it's frickin' freezing in

there. But while the multiplexes continue to flick cinematic turds at us on a weekly basis, it's the only show in town.

Perhaps the greatest of film genres, the road movie has blessed us with likes of **The Wizard Of Oz, Easy Rider, Vanishing Point**, Roger Corman's **Death Race 2000**, Cheech & Chong's **Up In Smoke**, Van Sant's **My Own Private Idaho**, David Lynch's return to **Oz** in **Wild At Heart** and many other disparate classics. When the credits proclaim **Guantanamo** a Road Movie Production, hopes rise. Happily, it's a worthy addition to the genre. Spelling mistakes in the subtitles led me to imagine the involvement of a team of over-worked, uncaring, illiterate, bilingual idiots. But these mistakes flow with the good spirit of the film, a freewheeling, carefree and highly enjoyable trip.

The story: housewife Georgina is tethered to her tosser husband, Adolpho, a self-important bureaucratic official in Cuba's communist government. When Georgina's aunt dies during a reunion with her long departed true love, a kindly old gentleman musician, Georgina, tosser husband and Kindly Old Gentleman Musician head across Cuba to bury her body in the country's only (and thus probably very large) cemetery. With hilarious results. Really. Georgina is herself reunited many times with a rugged old flame (with heart-warming results), and tosser Adolpho repeatedly falls foul of the bureaucracy he strives to enforce (with hilarious and socially critical results). Its insightful observations are carried off with a warmly humorous lightness of touch, a refreshing contrast to the weighty pretension that sank **Tango**. Nice one.

Sadly, the Belltable Film Club 2000 series concludes on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with **Three Seasons**, the first film to be shot in Vietnam since the war. However, the following night they are presenting a Christmas Fancy Dress Party, with a screening of Tim Burton's **The Nightmare Before Christmas** at 8pm.





# Out & About - With the





# This page is dedicated to the memory of Uaneen Fitzsimons

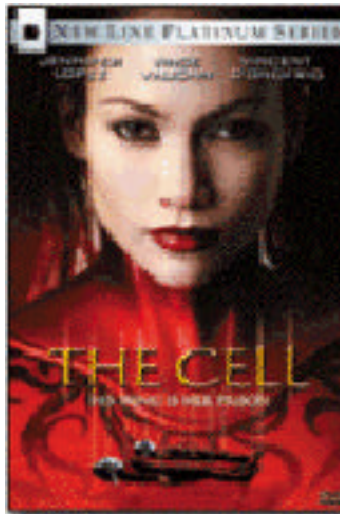






# THE BACK ROW

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



## The Cell

The sensitive amongst us may term this film as disgusting, maybe even harrowing, but that said, I thought it was great and I would consider myself fairly squeamish when it comes to dislodged large intestines.

The story line isn't very complex, I actually think that the film make it out to be more convoluted than it is. The gorgeous Jennifer Lopez plays the caring social worker vainly trying to bring a little comatose boy back to the land of the living, awww, by entering his subconscious- I don't even think the mechanics of how she does this is entered into, so you don't get confused with superfluous technical information. When a much sought after serial killer works himself

into a catatonic state taking the secret location of his most recent victim with him it seems that it is up to Lopez to enter the sick mind of this murderer and find the victim's location before it is too late.

This is where the question of "what kind of a twisted person came up with this?" regularly stumbles off the lips. The special effects are flawless and never fail in their job of intensifying the gruesome nature of the inner world created in the mind of the psycho killer. The fast elapsing time limit is a constant factor and that helps to keep the tension levels at static high. The acting is what one would expect from the cast involved-nothing worthy of an Oscar, but not as bad as it could have been considering the presence of Ms.Lopez, who I don't really like.

This film is in possession of everything that makes a damn fine two hours of viewing- one very sound story line, suspense, tension, action, and for the romantics in our midst, a very underdeveloped love interest. This is a must see and I wouldn't really consider this my type of film, two grotesque and mangled thumbs up!

Jean Kent

## Poetry Some Original, Some Not So.....

### Beauty In Mind

Last night I dreamt of Beauty,  
So far beyond me  
I wish I did not exist.  
My minds eye so captivated,  
Why did this image persist?

A beauty no time could mock.  
Defined with grace and charm,  
That could cast a stone,  
It makes me feel so alone.

I wish I'd never know of such beauty,  
For it stole my heart and Soul.  
And in truth it felt quite safe,  
This beauty could never be.  
O Lord don't give this Beauty flesh,  
Cause I will want to touch and possess,  
This vision that escapes me,  
This Beauty In mind.  
A heart entwined.  
It doesn't exist,  
So it cannot be mine.

..flor Crowley

### eviviscence: A Room With A View.

So, You have nothing better to do;  
Rotting in the lethargy of your spiritless noon.  
Lock You in a room,  
Assume the position of the womb.  
Until You twitch, muscles taut,  
And your mind switch wrestles thought.  
No, think hurricane and You may act your part with a twisters' frenzy.  
No, think dream and You may act your part with reckless, thoughtless energy.  
Excavate scars of masks, bones of memories, and time-dulled artifacts;  
Sift for the meaning lest the lesser hails forth through minds' eye cataracts.  
And Eagles bring food and word and tune,  
That gone be the malice of your snowflakes in June.  
The music rains delirium tremors through the chords of your brain.  
You stomp around the purple-fire, a warrior of pain.  
Anonymous Summer blistering the  
doors' back to open wounds, shredding  
chairs You threw,  
Would You dare your padded cells  
implode letting nothingness gnaw You  
anew?  
And say, I.

By Dorian Gray

### A Lecture on No muse

All's lost in this unyielded fire,  
The screaming hatred of the heart,  
Proclaiming time as godly liar,  
The end of origin has start  
With tears of flame the dying fools!  
That life goes on and time has rules.  
What rules are these that kill my sleep?  
What rules are these, apart we weep?  
The ember of tedium in my heart,  
Of one in ten thousand, of dead at the start,  
And us two souls that threw together  
Are stormed to teacups in stormy weather,  
Now nothing where your hand once laid,  
Left alone here, and darkness stayed.

By Emmanuel Goldstien



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# Open Your Mind - Book Reviews



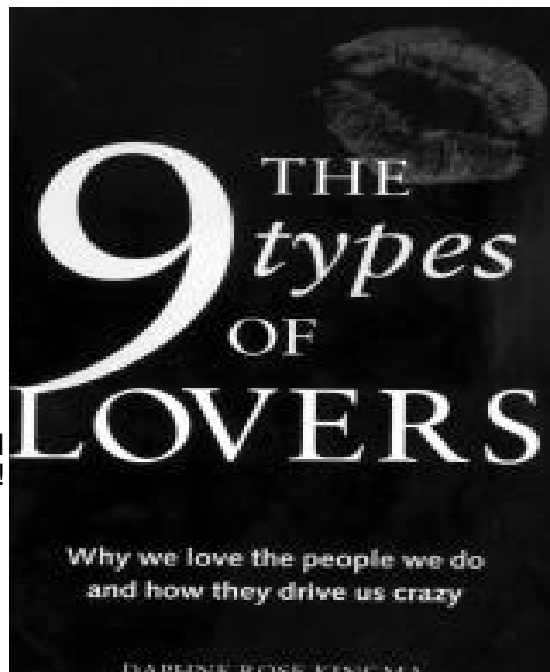
**The Nine Types of Lovers**  
**Daphne Rose Kingma**  
**Colourbooks: 1999**

What a load of absolute tripe. This rubbish is the muddled meanderings of "a practicing psychotherapist with an expertise in relationships." Loosely translated this means a shrink no longer makes her living from that profession, and who is a veteran of eighteen failed marriages. There are, apparently, in this diverse and wonderful world of ours, a meagre nine personality types: the Attention Seeker, Emoter, the Cool Cucumber (what an impressive and technical sounding name), the Sceptic, the Workaholic, the Perfectionist, the Fantasizer, the Controller and the People Pleaser. It is that clear cut and simple. The reader (me) is dragged backwards kicking and screaming through a tortured analysis of each type. She asks, "What's really going on?" Deep stuff. And she also tells you how "to come life into balance." But wait for this, at the end of each chapter you get a meditation and some "balancing affirmations" Some of the gems included "Yes I do have feelings. Yes feelings are real", "I've got something powerful and wonderful to do" and "when I offer my wound as a gift of healing, it will be transformed and I will be transformed". Spare us please! Can anyone else hear the wind whistling through her ears? We all allegedly have emotional wounds, and these wounds mould our personalities. So in the name of An Focal I took a

look at mine. Going on my prevalent character traits I am from an unstable household, with drug addicted, control-freak parents. Ok...(incidentally, all personality types seem to stem from such backgrounds – scary, eh?). I have just three more things to say on this subject and then I'll recycle the book.

The author has no concept of the English language, as she puts prepositions at the end of sentences and questions.

It's full of nonsense pseudo-meaningful phrases such as "the four wings of feeling" and "the river of your emotions". Avoid.



**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, Bostree
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



**Famous People On The Toilet**

No. 97 Magnus Magnusson





# Music is the Answer - Reviews & Interviews



## Smirnoff Kindred Tour - Johnny Moy & Jon Carter

It's not easy to write about the great night that the Smirnoff Kindred Tour brought to Limerick last Tuesday in light of the tragedy that shocked us all the following day. And so, before discussing the gig I'd like to pay tribute to our friend and idol, Uaneen Fitzsimons. Uaneen presented the Smirnoff Kindred Tour as it traveled the country to the delight of her many fans from campuses everywhere. Unfortunately, Limerick was to be the end of that tour for Uaneen. On behalf of myself and all of us who were so impressed by her love and respect for music for simply being music, and her kind friendly word for all she met, we send her family our deepest sympathies and say goodbye to a friend.

That final gig however, was superb. Skinny Boy Jazz was first up to kick-start the 2nd date of the Smirnoff Kindred Tour. Familiar to all of us, Skinny warmed the decks in style as the comfortable crowd moved in to Dolan's Warehouse. It too was in fine style with impressive visuals adorning the rocky walls and the bright Smirnoff logos glowing across the dark Warehouse ceiling. We even had an outsized bottle of Smirnoff bobbing around the dance floor.

Johnny Moy was the first of the touring duo to take hold of the decks reigns and steer the cantering sounds into a galloping frenzy. The crowd responded and took their place, many not sacrificing the place they felt they had earned until the end of the night. Moy was impressive with some noisy techno and happy house. Perhaps not as uplifting as some of his other sets but then Jon Carter was to fol-

low so it's understandable that Moy would hold back a little.

Carter entered the arena to a reassuring applause. Starting off with more upbeat and heavier sounds, Jon added a new spark to the already raging dance fire. Building up to

some memorable moments, those lucky enough to be present felt compelled to let themselves go and give it all! This was the special part of the November Tuesday night. It was real and it was for all of us who enjoy great tracks and novel mixing.

Never in the night did either DJ feel the need to stray from the set they presented. Finishing with some interesting garage inspired tracks, and cooler chilled house, both DJ's stood behind the decks and acknowledged their loyal audience. And so, for over 3 hours Dolan's Warehouse became host to a traveling showcase of some the finest talent to garnish our clubbing experience.

**I was impressed.**



## Ascension Takes to the GLOBE



**Brian Phelan - Plays the Funky Stuff**  
The first night of the Taxi strikes and the first night for ASCENSION to move into the city. Not the perfect combination. Limerick was a ghost city. Well, almost a ghost city. The exception was the GLOBE where the UL Radio Society presented some of their finest DJ's as well as some new talent.

It was hailed as the perfect night of SOUL WEEK 2000 with buses to and from the gig, a multitude of drink promotions and the best night's music guaranteed. It didn't disappoint. Buses were filled, as was the dance floor. The Globe's basement was quickly jammed and the DJ box became the focus of attention as enriching and distinct house raged in all its glory. It was obvious we were in for a treat.

The night began with a DJ competition with the supreme mixer winning an opportu-

nity to play during Kollege week. Brian Phelan, Nick Corcoran and Liam Curran all entered the small cage like DJ box of the Globe's basement and none did less than excite their audience.

Fergal Fennessy admitted before announcing the winner, that the decision was difficult with all the lads at such a fine standard, however, Brian Phelan was chosen as the winner to the delight of many assembled. Fergal and Deccy, who regularly play at the fortnightly ASCENSION gig's in the Scholar' function room, also played some trance, techno and uplifting house setting the GLOBE alight with delight.

Nevertheless, Brian was requested to return and did so in style exhibiting funkier sounds. If one could find fault with the night then space could be the only consideration. However, ASCENSION can only grow now from strength to strength gathering melodic momentum as it showcases the best in real and dedicated talent where the music is what is most important.

Overall, the night was a resounding success, and to the delight of all involved in ASCENSION, confirms that people are thrilled to experience UL's finest DJ talent. It also sets a precedent. Perhaps we need look no further than our own University to unearth sincere and creative talent.

**I'm still impressed.**



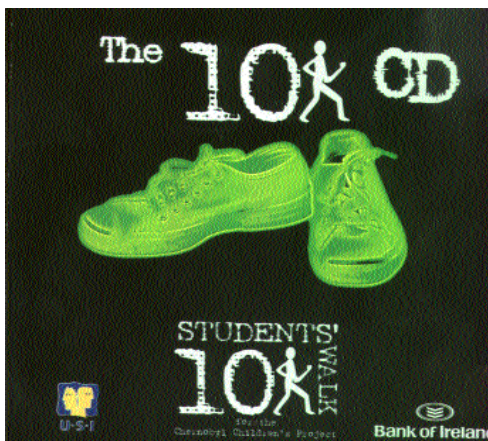
**DETAILS OF ALL THE ABOVE EVENTS ARE LISTED IN FOCAL EILE**

**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.

# Music is the Answer - Reviews & Interviews



## 10KM Walk CD Review

The 10 k Cd - More than just the music....

The 10 k cd is to be given away free next week to every person who walks the feshair / fresher 10 k walk . An 11 track album

it encompasses the very best in modern contemporary music, with such famous names as ' The Walls ' , 'Kila ' ' Juliet Turner 'and 'Picturehouse ' . Also some little perhaps known but definitely upcoming sounds like ' Green ' , ' Brilliant Trees' and the excellant 'Sack'.

The CD is more than it would seem don't let the fact that it is to be given away free take the precedant it is a worthy CD and well worth the hike you may have to take to recieve it .

The SU will also have a few copies available for sale at the generous price of £1 so if you can't walk you could give that for a copy, all monies recieved for the album will be given directly to the charity .

It's not in anyway full of depressing tunes and soft music you might expect of a charity album espieccally one for a charity as poignant as this one .

It's pretty lively with easy listening being the key to all of the songs upon it . All the artists involved gave their time and their effort for the very worthy cause of the Chernobyl Childrens Project and the result is an album that will only add to any selection . Available in the SU Reception to buy for a small donation to the Chernobly Childrens Project.

**Michelle Daly**



## Charlie's Angels' Return Flight

Various Artists

The new Charlie's Angels is less of an update than a translation for the year 2000. Its accompanying soundtrack attempts to bridge decades by selecting classic '70s tracks (best appreciated now, in hindsight) mixed with a few fresh musical equivalents.

The featured single comes from the rocky diva team of Destinys Child . "Independent Woman Part 1" begins with a shout-out to the new bevy of Angels, then morphs into a shopping list, itemizing the goods they've recently bought for themselves. It's a holler of equality, directly equating wealth with independence: "All the honeys / Makin' money / Throw your hands up." It's sharp, catchy, and stylish -- even if it is a wee bit misguided in its feminist philosophy. This is Charlie's Angels, after all, not the National Organization of Women.

The album continues with offers of feathered-hair, glitter-ball ditties like Leo Sayer 's "You Make Me Feel Like Dancing" and "Brandy" by Looking Glass (with an awful a cappella intro courtesy of Tom Green). Angel-themed music abounds with "Heaven Must Be Missing an Angel" by Tavares and "Angel's Eye" from Aerosmith.

Apollo Four Forty, the band last heard butchering John Williams' Lost in Space theme, can now be found slaying the original Charlie's Angels theme. The remix sounds like cheesy mood music for the laser tag arena at the local mall.

There are lots of entertaining inclusions here, such as Sir Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back," the Vapors' "Turning Japanese," and Deee-Lite 's "Groove Is in the Heart." One baffling addition, though, is Spandau Ballet's sappy ode to sentimentality, "True." It just doesn't belong in the company of this otherwise winning collection.

**By Jen Oliver**



## Amstel Champions League Competition

Win yourself a Party Pack of Amstel to get you through the next Champions League game.

1. Who scored the most goals all European Competitions for Man Utd.?
2. How many times have Liverpool won the European Cup?
3. Who won the European Cup in 1998?

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.

Last Weeks winner - Stephan Driver, Business Studies  
Lee Brazel, Manufacturing Technology  
Shane Hughes, Law & European Studies



# University Concert Hall - News & Reviews



## Emmylou Harris

The pure Emmylou Harris remains uncorrupted in the world of country.

Emmylou Harris the multi Grammy Awards winner comes to UCH on the 28th November. With hits like "The Wrecking Ball" album, and each of her first nine albums having passed the half-million mark in sales, she has a remarkable achievement in an industry

steered by conformity. Her legion of fans are in for a night to remember when she performs songs from her latest album "Red Dirt Girl" released in September.

**Tuesday 28th November at 8.00pm**  
**Tickets £25 & £23**  
**Presented by Folk & Blues Revue**

## The NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Under the baton of the acclaimed conductor Alexander Anissimov returns to UCH with the world renowned pianist Joaquin Achucarro. Joaquin has performed in 5 countries, with over 160 different orchestras and will perform Rakhmaniov's Piano Concerto No. 2 as part of a stunning programme of music which also includes works by Bernstein and Tchaikovsky.

Gould: Stringmusic

Conductor: Alexander Anissimov

Soloist: Joaquin Achucarro (Piano)

Programme: Bernstein: Candide,

Overture

Rakhmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 2

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6

**Wednesday 29th at 8.00pm**

**Tickets £6, £8, £10.50, £12.50**

**Concessions Available**



**Tickets available from UCH Box Office,  
 Telephone: 061-331549  
 061-314314**

## 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.moriarthy@ul.ie](mailto:patricia.moriarthy@ul.ie)

### UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK ORCHESTRA

in association with **THE LIMERICK SINGERS** ( director **Deirdre Clancy** ) perform in the University Concert Hall on **DEC 2 at 8.00pm**. The Orchestra will be conducted by John Davis with soloist David McKenzie. The Christmas concert will feature Beethoven's Carolan Overture, Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 in G. Minor, Dances from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, Humperdink's " Eveniong Prayer " from Hansel and Gretel, and a selection of Christmas Songs and Carols.

Time 8.00 pm

Tickets £ 7/£5, Concessions £3

### LIMERICK MUSIC ASSOCIATION

has been in existence for 33 years and regularly performs in the Jean Monnet Theatre. They first appeared in the University in 1986 and have organised somewhere in the region of 750 recitals over the years. **DEC 9** sees the first piano recital of the season

with the visit of **EVGENY ZARAFIANTS**. A former winner of second prize at the Pogorelich Competition in Pasedena, California, which precipitated his international career, this is his first visit to Ireland. He is particularly noted for his interpretations of Chopin and Scriabin. The Limerick Music Association receive a small Arts Council grant and are dependent on members' subscriptions . However they do accept donations in lieu of full admission from UL students. The organisation has been spear-headed by John Ruddock but he is anxious that new members become involved.

**The concert will commence on this occasion at 7.30 pm**

### UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK CHOIR

will perform in **UCH on DEC 9** in aid of Milford Hospice. DEC 10 sees them performing in a Christmas carol Service in **GLENSTAL ABBEY at 3.30 pm** and on **DEC 13** they will perform in **MILFORD HOSPICE** in the evening.

**Further details are from**  
**ciaran.casey@ul.ie**

### IRISH WORLD MUSIC CENTRE

**DEC 5 Tony McManus**

Born in 1965 in Paisley, Scotland, self

taught Scottish guitar wizard McManus is considered to be one of the finest acoustic guitarists in the world. He has developed a solo guitar repertoire of startling originality, combining mesmerising technique with a deep love of traditional music from the islands of his homeland and beyond. In addition to playing traditional music from Scotland and Ireland, McManus is well versed in the traditions of Brittany, Galicia, Quebec, Cape Breton and Eastern Europe. **FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.**

### DEC 6 The Wrigley Sisters

Jennifer and Hazel Wrigley are two of the fastest rising stars on today's international folk circuit. Born and raised in the northern Scottish islands of Orkney, the twin sisters began performing together – Jennifer on fiddle, Hazel on guitar and piano – when barely into their teens. A decade or so later, their fan base stretches around the world, built up through an increasingly hectic schedule of tours and festival appearances in Europe, the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East. This universal audience appeal reflects both the calibre of their music – a sparkling blend of traditional, contemporary and original material, invigorated with jazz, blues and ragtime flavours. Their



third album " Huldreland " was voted one of the Folk Roots Magazine's Top ten Albums of 1998

**FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.**

### **BOURN VINCENT GALLERY**

( Foundation Building )

**NOV 9 – JAN 6 2001 NEW WORK BY PADDY LENNON**

### **UL PHOTO SOCIETY**

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

### **DANCE CLUB**

host Salsa Classes with a professional teacher every Mon in the Conference Centre, 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.

### **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 Weds 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.

### **UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL**

**NOV 29 NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The National Symphony Orchestra perform selections from Bernstein, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky under the baton of acclaimed conductor Alexander Anissimov. Making his debut appearance at UCH will be the world renowned pianist Joaquin Achuarro. Time 8.00 pm Tickets £ 12.50, £10.50, £8, £6, Concessions available

**DEC 4 RTE VANBRUGH STRING QUARTET**

Enquiries 207300

**DEC 5 PERM STATE BALLET present DON QUIXOTE**

Time 8.00 pm Tickets £15, £12.50, £10

**DEC 6 BARRY DOUGLAS RECITAL**

Time 8.00 pm Tickets £10 Concessions available

**DEC 10 IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA " Millennium Celebration " with the LIMERICK CHORAL UNION ( Music Director MALCOLM GREEN )**

The programme will include works by Vivaldi, Torelli and Corelli with soloists SINEAD BLANCHFIELD and DOREEN CURRAN, conductor DAVID JONES Time 8.00 pm Tickets £12 Concessions £8

**DEC 14 IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA present HANDEL'S MESSIAH with THE NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR**

Conductor BRUNO GIURANNA, soloists MAJELLA CULLAGH, IMELDA DRUMM, JOSEPH CORNWELL, RODERICK WILLIAMS Time 8.00 pm Tickets £15 Concessions £12

**DEC 6 MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE MAEVE SCAHILL ( concertina )**

**NICOLA CAHILL ( harp )** with a programme of traditional Irish music FREE Time 1.10 Mary Immaculate Chapel

**ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK**

**DEC 9 ANÁIL DÉ** - part of IWMC's Festival of Sacred Music features performers from Greece, Zimbabwe, the UK and Ireland. The line up for the concert includes Iannis Aviatis, a Greek Orthodox Chanter and Chartwell Dutiro, a Zimbabwean mbira-player and singer, also Irish traditional singers Lillis O Laoire and Sandra Joyce and headlining will be Iarla O Lionaird, best-known for his vocals with the Afro Celt Sound System. All proceeds from the concert go to the Limerick-based charitable organisation DORAS (Development Organisation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers).

Enquiries Ellen Byrne IWMC 2917

### **GLENSTAL ABBEY**

**DEC 17 BACH 2000** to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the death of the composer the six suites for solo cello will be performed at Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, Co Limerick by the internationally acclaimed cellist FERENC SZÜCS

**Dec 17 SUITES 5 & 6.** Refreshments are served and each concert will be introduced by monk and author Mark Patrick Hederman.

Time 4.00 pm Tickets £5, Concession £3

### **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 Christmas Craft Fair

### **LIMERICK CITY ART GALLERY**

( Pery Square )

**NOV 3 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

**CHRIS DOSWELL'S PRINT GALLERY**

NOV 18 – DEC 23

**LIMERICK SMALL PRINT EXHIBITION 2000**

Selected by paul O'Reilly

FREE Mon – Fri 9.00 am – 5.30 pm ( closed lunch 1.00 – 2.00 pm ), Sat 11.00 am – 3.00 pm

### **BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE ( 69**

O'Connell Street )

**THE BELLTABLE FILM CLUB**

**DEC 3 THREE SEASONS** ( US/Vietnam, Tony Bui 1998, 113 mins )

Time 8.00 pm

More details from 319866

### **VISUAL ARTS**

**DEC 1 - 22 QUADRANT** – Selected by Andrew Boyle

An annual showcase exhibition, featuring the work of young Irish artists. Originating in 1993 as a forum for young Limerick artists, Quadrant has since evolved into a national. Selected from the open submission of slides and documentation. Quadrant annually features the work of four artists. This year's selector is artist Andrew Boyle. The exhibition title refers to the measure of an artist's work as they look out at their future. A quadrant was an early instrument for taking angular measurements, often used to measure the altitude of celestial bodies.

### **THEATRE**

**DEC 7 - 9 A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES** ( Presented by theatre na nog from wales )

A musical adaptation of Dylan Thomas' recollection of childhood by well known authors Jeremy Brookes and Adrian Mitchell. The cast enchant us with familiar Christmas carols, some traditional, some new. Through Thomas' unique poetic lilt this magical tale captures the child's eye view and an adult's warm recollection of Christmas gifts, delights to eat in cosy settings and newly fallen snow. Full of wonder and snowball mischief !

Time 8.00 pm Tickets £12, Concession £10 Group rate £6 pp ( 2 adults, 2 children )

**DEC 12 - 16 1900 – THE PIANIST ON THE OCEAN**

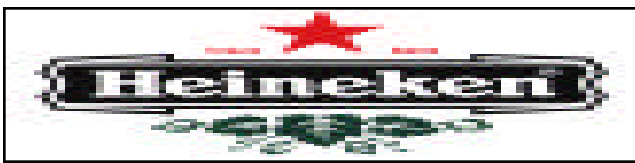
Presented by Civic Theatre Company

Written by Alessandro Baricco

Directed by Leticia Agudo

Starring Donal O'Kelly

1900 – The Pianist on the Ocean is the story of a great jazz pianist who was born and lives on a transatlantic ship never setting foot ashore. He is found as a newborn baby on a ship on the first day of the 20th century and is "baptised" thus. 1900 is a man without parents, nationality or identity. He never leaves the ship, his home is the sea and his language is the music he plays upon the ship's piano. 1900 the Pianist on the Ocean features a five – piece live jazz ensemble performing a specially commissioned score by composer Justin Carroll Time 8.00 pm Tickets £10, Concessions £8



# 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 Centre, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.



SoUL week has been and gone in a haze of food and fun . Check out the arts pages for all of the photos to see it in action for yourselves. A big thank you to all of the societies who took part and all of you the students who came out to see what SoUL was about.

Lots of appreciation has to go to Heineken our sponsors and to both the Stables and Scholars clubs for all the time and space they provided. Also I have to

mention the Photo Society under Cian Davis who were excellent in covering every event

The important thing to remember and take from the festivities is that SoUL week is not just for week 9 it's for life .All the events held in SoUL week are held regularly by the relevant societies.

Moving on , the societies questionnaire is being printed in this edition of AN Focal to gauge student opinion and participation in societies of University of Limerick. It will only take 5 minutes vso flick through and tick some boxes and let us know what you think .

This is a very busy week for two of our most prominent societies with the Law Society holding their Law dinner on Wednesday night at The Royal George Hotel followed by a night in the Globe .

And the Hlstory Society launching the publication of their Hlstory Journal , this is a very great honour and one which the History SOc. greatly deserve for their work in research and diligence in the field.

The Enviroinmental Society trip to the Hague to the Climate Change conference went really well despite the collapse of the talks on Saturday last ( we are assured that UL Enviro Soc had nothing to do with it....!)and they will have a report of their trip in the next issue of An Focal .

That's all for now , please if you have any questions regarding societies here in UL or any of the events going on contact me [starlett@Dramaqueen.co.uk](mailto:starlett@Dramaqueen.co.uk)

Bye for now ,  
Ella

## OUTREACH SOCIETY SELLS THE BLUES (*BROTHERS THAT IS!*) FOR SOUL



**Fashion show and Slave Auction , brings in the money for Outreach society.**

One of the gala moments of SoUL Week , that is week nine was the Gala Fashion show sponsored by The Edge clothes shop and the slave auction of the models . This was one of the major money spinners for the Outreach Society . The Outreach society is one of the most charity wise society on campus bringing help to the disadvantaged all over Limerick city.

After all who wouldn't pay a Tenner for an hour with Mick Phelan , el presidente extraordinaire? Or 50pence even for the privilege of an hour in the presence of other members of the executive committee here in ULSU.

Organised by Outreach with some help from Siobhan O'Connell Deputy President Welfare, and Societies Officer Ella Daly . The fashion show was a huge success , garnering huge crowds in the Stables courtyard on the coldest of November afternoons for the stripping models .....

The greatest of thanks however has to go to John Coughlin , the benevolent owner of The Edge shop here in UL and in the Milk Market. Who stepped in at the eleventh hour to save the day when the previous costume provider pulled out the night before the show.

The Outreach Society was one of many societies showcased in the University this week .As clubs and societies development officer Paul Lee told SideView Wired fm 's current affairs show this Thursday, the week was planned to provide societies with a venue to show themselves off.

Also involved in the week was a guillotining in the new courtyard with the History Society , off with their heads being the cry from the galleries. ( That is the windows in the Clubs and Socs office....I think perhaps they may have been calling for the History socs heads....)

And who could omit the unforgettable Blind Date . The showcase Food Fair and Ten Forwards Pub Dash – brilliant idea you guys !!! . These are of course only a sample of the huge amount and variety of events that were ongoing during the SoUL week. The whole event is dedicated to the memory a former Societies Officer Mike Sadlier who died under tragic circumstances in 1995.

The idea of SoUL week is a mini Rag week and hopefully it's starting to get a bit more attention from students , it's gonna be held in week 7 from this year forward so next year make sure that you are ready to participate in the High Jinks . SoUL week is very much organised by the societies officer and a great deal of hard work goes into it from each society also .So I'm sure and recommendations and suggestions for next year would be gratefully received , as would comment on this year's week. Just write to The Editor or even Assistant Editor and we will be sure to pass it all on .

## ULKC'S GOT NEW BABIES

Finally the new members of our family have arrived. We are after buying two new boats, a H2 Zone and a Prozone 235, this past week. By the time this is published we will have had them fully broken in. They will have to put up with the testing rivers of the kingdom (that's Kerry) when our club venture to Killarney, on the second big trip of the year, at the end of week 9. The H2 zone is a high volume river running boat while the prozone is a rodeo boat which is really good in surf also, however it is a bit unforgiving as Darren found out when they went up to collect it in Galway.

Three weekends ago some of the lads embarked on a journey to Kerry hoping the water levels were still high and they would get to do some rivers. Deccie, Mick, Paul and Jimmy left early on Saturday and were able to get the upper and middle Flesk

done, which was a new river for all of them. They survived, relatively unscathed with only one swimmer for the day. They then went out for a night in Tralee where not much could be remembered except for earthquake Mick nearly killing Paul and Jimmy. Jimmy became "muppet" of the hour by breaking Deccie's car key so they had to spend all of Sunday looking for a locksmith to cut the key, still finding time though to harass a nice girl in radio Kerry (*'the voice of the kingdom'*). They finally found someone to cut the key and made it back with their bellies full thanks to Jenny's cooking.

There was a very special piss-up on Saturday two weeks ago in the Globe where we all celebrated Deccie's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday. It all began downstairs where there was lots of food and drink, with everyone having lots of both. Deccie got his 21 kisses and then he

attempted to make a spellbinding speech, but at this stage of the night only dogs could understand him. After the DJ had finished playing downstairs we headed upstairs for more drinking and dancing. The lighting upstairs really brought out the best out in Georgina but she didn't like the way her eyes shined. Upstairs was also where some romances blossomed, with some of our older members not going home alone. A great night was had by everyone especially Deccie if he can remember any of it.

Friday last saw the start of the Munster league, which is being run again thanks to the work done by the polo committee. The cup has not been presented in some years and there is great interest in its return.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Prize For Keeping It Up...(and size didn't matter) - Aeronautical Society QUIZ

Granted, a quiz on Aeroplanes may not seem like the most exciting way to spend a Friday. To some people it is as good as a night in the Lodge. Aerosoc sent 3 of its' members, Ruth Bagnell, Cian Davis and John Donnegan to one such quiz.

Getting sponsorship, accommodation, flights and packed in two weeks was an interesting experience to say the least. The quiz was organised by the Royal Aeronautical Society, London. The MAE department forwarded us all relevant information that they had received. Ryanair and the Students Union helped fund our endeavor.

A 7am flight on Thursday meant an early rise (5am, 4am for one!) but this had the bonus of two seats in the cockpit for the flight. After a rest we did a quick tour of London. We even managed to convince Ruth that the guards outside Buckingham Palace were only relieved every 48 hours.... The night only allowed a lightning tour of Piccadilly and some shopping on Oxford Street. Ruth dragged to two lads around every clothes shop she could find. It was an educational trip. They now know never to shop with her again.

Before things could get out of hand the purpose of our trip was nearing - the Aerochallenge. Finding we were the youngest team was unnerving but we lashed into the first round with enthusiasm. It was a 'Buzzer Quiz', we were faced with team from Rolls Royce, who were very trigger happy even though they got few questions right, for which there was no penalty. After meeting a 4<sup>th</sup> year team from the University of Bristol in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, we were knocked

out.

As well as the main quiz, there was also a competition to build a hot air balloon out of crepe paper, straws and string, with points going for size and time spent floating in the air. We were up against 4<sup>th</sup> year Aero students and graduates who all had a better knowledge of theory than us. After lunch, the moment of truth came. We were the last to launch our untested balloon. I was reminded of the R101 disaster when a great airship caught fire and crashed. Of course, some of our male competitors came up with complicated designs. They all failed. Not one of the other balloons floated! However, after a 30 second blast of 500°C air, ours was the only one to stay up. While there were points for size, it didn't matter in the end. The crowd OOOHed and AAAAAHed while our decorated and colourful balloon stayed in the air for those precious seconds.

The Rolls Royce team was victorious in the Quiz, on which there was a UL graduate, Paul Vaughan! They were presented with a prize from British Midlands. Return flights to any destination in Europe. We were then presented with 3 beautiful limited edition framed prints; a DC - 3, a Harrier, the Red Arrows. Getting them home would be fun!

In the great Irish (and it seems European) tradition, the pub followed where we socialised with fellow Aerosexuals. While not as mad as many nights in the Stables, it capped off a good day. Following two British teams, an all-you-can-eat Chinese restaurant for £4.50 seemed too good to be true. It was - upset bellies reduced the little sleep-

ing time we had. This meant the 5am alarm went unnoticed until 6am. This wouldn't have been too bad except the train we needed wasn't running. After two changes we managed to get to Liverpool Street on time. Exercise may be good, but it nearly killed us. Try carrying luggage and framed prints while running from tube station to train station and all around the airport! A delay on the airport train further reduced our chances of making our flight. In the end we checked in 30 minutes before take off, lucky they even let us board. We must have set a speed record through Stansted Airport. Another spin in the cockpit completed an eventful 3 days. Maybe next year we'll send two teams.....





## UL Men's Volleyball Team Outclass Opposition

UL's 3rd game in Division II of the Men's National League brought their 3rd win in the competition to keep them at the top of the league with full points. In UL's first home game of the competition, Trinity College Dublin offered the opposition. UL kept the same starting line-up from their previous 2 games but the squad was strengthened with the debut of Rasmus Quante, initially on the bench. The home support were happy with the opening few minutes of play as UL got to grips with the first set and led 11-4 after some good serving and blocking. Trinity could not get back after their poor start and UL ran out as comfortable winners of the 1st set. Rasmus made his playing debut at centre for the second set as Mike took a rest on the bench. In the second set, setter Ger Conway, put up some very good sets, which allowed UL to push for a 2-0 lead. These good sets were just the ammunition needed for two of UL's best hitters, Olivier Mellin and Carl Grapenfelt. Excellent hits from these two and the newly introduced Rasmus led to UL taking a good 2 sets to 0 lead.

In UL's previous two games they had not dropped a set and they were keen not to start now so they kept the concentration levels high in the final sets. Some good play from Jonathon Collins on the wing, especially an excellent left-handed spike down the line helped UL maintain the momentum up in

the final set and the Team gave Trinity no chance.

Unfortunately our home match on November the 5th was postponed at UCDs request. Hopefully the match will be played in the New Year, with January 27th looking like a strong possibility. The Squad trains each Tuesday at 9:00pm and Thursday at 7:30pm in the UL Sports Building but will soon be moving over to the fantastic new University Arena which is to be opened in about a weeks time. For information on the team's progress, training/match times then feel free to email [9850805@student.ul.ie](mailto:9850805@student.ul.ie)

Also in the New Year UL Volleyball Club will be hosting the 2001 Volleyball Intersarsity. Plans have already being put in place for what promises to be a great event in the new UL Arena. The event itself takes place From the 1st – 3rd February.

A big thank you to MAC LTD ([www.mac.ie](http://www.mac.ie)) who is sponsoring us this year. MAC, a university based computer software/hardware company, came on board with us at the start of the year and has helped us out a great deal.

**SQUAD:** Gerard Conway, Nicklas Karlsson, Jonathon Collins, Gerry Reynolds, Carl Grapenfelt, Mike Hanlon, Rasmus Quante Olivier Mellin, Rohan West, Donncha Daly.

### Remaining Fixtures:


Date	Venue	Time
17-Dec-2000	Dublin	10.30
Naas	vs.	UL
17-Dec-2000	Dublin	12.15
ESB	vs.	UL
06-Jan-2001	UL	13.00
UL	vs.	UCD
21-Jan-2001	Dublin	12.15
ESB	vs.	UL
21-Jan-2001	Dublin	14.00
TCD	vs.	UL
27-Jan-2001	UL	13.00
Naas	vs.	UL
25-Feb-2001	UL	13.00
UL	vs.	TCD
31-Mar-2001	UL	13.00
UL	vs.	ESB

## The Law Society - Solved & Unsolved

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Law Society were unable to assemble a case for Solved and Unsolved this week. We do hope to be back with another tale of intrigue and dubious misbehaviour for the next issue of An Focal. However we would like to appeal to you the readers to respond by contacting us at our usual address

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

, giving us your opinions, reactions and suggestions regarding the column. Most amusing answers to the questions posed each week will be published, anonymously is so wished, in the following edition - the more outrageous the better. Once again, apologies to our regular readers for the absence of this week's column.



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Sat 9.30am-5.30pm

# UL Badminton Club - Aiming Hgh and Getting Smashed!!!

UL Badminton is now in full swing with the commencement of the Limerick League, the Grade 4 team have now played their first two matches with one win and one loss, they will have four more matches before Christmas. The Grade two team haven't played any games yet but the first home match will take place on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December in the Arena at 9 pm. The confirmed fixture list at the moment is as follows:

Grade 2  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov Riverside V's UL  
4<sup>th</sup> Dec UL V's Mungret  
St. Paul's (Arena @ 9.00)

Grade 4  
28<sup>th</sup> of Nov Mungret St. Pauls V's UL  
27<sup>th</sup> of Nov UL V's Hosiptal  
(Arena @ 9.00)

## First Grade 4 Match ends in narrow defeat!

Grade 4 League: Athlacca 4 - U.L. 3

The first ever UL Grade 4 team traveled to Athlacca on Thursday the 16th, to play their first match of the campaign. All the players were nervous as it was their first time playing competitively together and they were unsure of what to expect. The pressure of having a good start to the season and the "voyage" into the unknown for most of the players resulted in a disappointing start to the match.

The game started badly as UL lost 3 of the first 4 games, the only victory came to Ger Mullally who played extremely well win his singles game. Claire Doran playing in the ladies singles started brightly however her experienced opponent soon got the better of her. Both doubles partnerships failed to live up to their good play in practice as they both narrowly lost. Thankfully the four players made amends in the mixed as they produced great performances to bring the game level going into the final match. Unfortunately the Athlacca pair were too strong for the UL duo of Rachel Mordan and Michael Kennedy. It was an average team

performance overall with some excellent periods of play, but we're sure that an improvement will take place for the next game against Effin on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Thrilling finale in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 4 Match

Grade 4 League: U.L. 4 – Effin 3

In the first ever competitive Badminton game in the new sports arena the UL grade 4 team managed to take a narrow victory over a strong Effin side. Things got off to a good start with a solid display from Sandra Hedigan in the Ladies singles, her power and fitness proving too much for her opponent. The match was leveled when Ger Mullally, master of the singles court, lost his match after taking a good lead in the opening set. UL had the girls to thank again when took the lead as Susan Gilmore and Brid Walsh had a very convincing win in the ladies doubles. The combination of Susan and Brid where making amends for their shock defeat in the last match against Athlacca! Unfortunately the feat was not repeated by the men's doubles pairing of Conor Flatley and Gavin Quinlivan, who failed to make an impression on court against the Effin Men. The sides where now level at two a piece going into the mixed pairings, so an exciting finish was in store. Making their first appearance together in the league Declan Bolger and Deirdre McCarthy but up a brave performance against their opponents in the third mixed, but Declan's powerful smashes and Deirdre's quick reflexes at the net were not enough against the great defensive play of the experienced Effin pairing. The tables turned once more when the All Ireland Division 5 champions Susan and Conor stepped onto the court in the penultimate match. After dropping a set the Galwegian pair showed their experience and superior fitness in a match that they always looked like winning and leveled the overall score at three all. The deciding match and the responsibility of ensuring ULs first win fell to Brid and Gavin. This was a



thrilling game, which displayed everything that is good about Badminton, both pairing give an excellent, but thankfully (for us) it was the UL pair that kept a cool head under the pressure to scrap through with a narrow victory. After dropping the first set and taking back the second it took a brave comeback, with Effin pair serving to win the game and match at 14 –11 in the third Gavin and Brid produced a brilliant come back to finally take the match 17-14. This was a fitting finale to the first competitive Badminton game in the Arena.

In a great display of skill and determination the Grade 4 team came through to take their first win in the league. The victory all the more sweeter with the presence and much appreciated support from members of both the UL club and the Senior Division Two team... making the night one to remember. The quest for glory continues on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November with another home game to Hospital and the following day with an away game to Mungret St. Paul's with the hope of establishing a stronger presence on the league table.

We'd like to thank all our sponsors: The Scholars, The Stables, The Lodge, O'Mahonys Bookstore and Miller. And don't forget to check out the clubs website for all the latest news and fixtures on: <http://badminton.csn.ul.ie/> & <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~shuttle/>

## Music Society and the Radio Society - Heineken Unplugged Competition

Monday of week 9 saw the Music Society and the Radio Society team up with the Stables and Heineken for a memorable Unplugged competition. There was a great turnout for the first big SouL week event of the week. Judging the competition were Michael Phelan and Birr Angley. The Music Society would like to extend its thanks to them.

With over fifteen different acts there was a wide range of musical style. The standard has improved each year since the competition began in 1998. Sponsorship has also helped to make this competition worth winning. Each competitor received a Music Society polo shirt thanks to the Stables and a free pint thanks to Heineken. Heineken also donated the cash prizes. Our winner walked home with £100.

Democratically staged by our fantastic American hostesses Leanne and Kathleen the order of play was picked from a pint glass. This was more significant than it seems as those who were to play later in the night had to battle with serious amounts of alcohol intake to gain control of their guitar strings. Not one of the win-

ners but the cover song that impressed me most was Dave and Manolis's version of the U2 song 'Beautiful Day'. Also fantastic as ever was Blathnaid MacNamara battling a serious amount of pints to pull off her original song which her adoring fans sang along to. Second place singer guitar player Elvis pulled off a too real version of redemption song and took home £60 as a result. The eventual winner Micheal got the crowd going towards the end of the night with a version of Man on the Moon by REM and then got them going some more with a lively original song.

Thanks to all who played and all who supported.

**Doug Sadleir**  
**Music Society**



# Clubs Questionnaire

**PLEASE TAKE 5 MINUTES OUT OF YOUR DAY TO HELP US EVALUATE AND IMPROVE THE ACTIVITIES OF UL CLUBS.**

**PLEASE PLACE ✓ IN RELEVANT**

1. WHAT YEAR ARE YOU IN :

1 2 3 4 POST GRAD Erasmus STUDY ABROAD

2. DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW A CLUB IS FORMED

YES NO

3. DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW A CLUB GETS ITS FUNDS

YES NO

4. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CLUBS

YES

NO BECAUSE :

POOR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

WORK LOAD TOO HEAVY

DON'T KNOW WHAT THE CLUB DOES

5. HOW EFFECTIVE WAS THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES VILLAGE IN PROMOTING CLUBS ACTIVITIES

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

6. DID YOU JOIN A CLUB BECAUSE (Tick all boxes that apply to you)

PERSONAL INTEREST

YOUR FRIENDS WERE JOINING

YOU WERE IMPRESSED BY THEIR PRESENTATION

OTHER

7. WERE YOU PUT OFF JOINING A CLUB BECAUSE OF ITS PRESENTATION

YES

8. HAS THE CLUB YOU JOINED LIVED UP TO ITS PRESENTATION

YES NO UNDECIDED

9. HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR CLUB :

**MEMBER PARTICIPATION**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**EVENT PROMOTION**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**COMMITTEE APPROACHABILITY**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**VARIETY OF EVENTS**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER CLUBS**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**PARTICIPATION IN INTERVARSITIES**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**USE OF EMAIL**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**POSTER CAMPAIGNS**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**USE OF WEB SITE**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**USE OF AN FOCAL**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**FOCUS ON COMPETITION**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**COACHING STANDARDS**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**TRAINING FREQUENCY**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

**TRAINING FACILITIES**

POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

10. WHAT ASPECT OF YOUR CLUB NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (Tick all boxes that apply to you) :

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

EVENT DEVELOPMENT

FACILITIES

COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC RELATIONS

MARKETING

SPONSORSHIP

COACHING

TRAINING

11. HAS YOUR CLUB BEEN INVOLVED IN CHARITY OR COMMUNITY EVENTS ON CAMPUS :

YES NO DON'T KNOW

12. HAS YOUR CLUB BEEN INVOLVED IN CHARITY OR COMMUNITY EVENTS OFF CAMPUS :

YES NO DON'T KNOW

13. DID YOU LEAVE A CLUB BECAUSE

(Tick all boxes that apply to you) :

HEAVY STUDY WORK

LACK OF PERSONAL COMMITMENT

LACK OF INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

POOR COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE

POOR EVENT DEVELOPMENT

CO – OP

14. DO YOU USE THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES OFFICE :

NEVER SOMETIMES OFTEN

15. DO YOU THINK YOUR CLUB WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP:

YES NO

IF ANSWER IS YES GIVE REASONS

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IF ANSWER IS NO GIVE REASONS

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## UL RETAIN TETRATHLON TITLE

**By Emma Murphy**

SHOOTING...RUNNING...SWIMMING... RID-ING.....otherwise known as Inter-Varsity Tetrathlon, hosted this year by DCU, in Tralee last weekend. Contrary to popular belief, one does NOT have to be of super-fit calibre to partake (hey I survived) and as usual standards

ranged from the internationals to those who had actually never sat on a horse before. UL fielded the team of Robert Downes, Rhona Howell, Keira-Eva Mooney and Paul Downes, and two individuals - Fiona O' Keefe and myself. The Galway team were kind enough to pick us up en route, so we joined them on their merry way down to the Earl of Desmond hotel, our place of residence for the weekend.

Acquaintances were made with the rest of the competitors at the disco on Friday night; in fact we managed to recruit a random from Galway to make up a team with Fiona and one Joe Moran, honorary UL student for the occasion. The thumping tunes from the other function room were so tempting some of us ventured down, only to find Mick Flavin getting the country n' western weekend underway. Bring on the line dancing!

Not easy to leave the luxury of our hotel beds to venture forth into the inclement Kerry weather early on Saturday morning. The prospect of running through a bog (that does conform as football pitches in less flooded times) and losing runners in the muck was none-too-appealing. But we kept laughing in the face of such adversity and Keira-Eva and Robert had the fastest times in their respective competitions. Next discipline was shooting, held in Tralee Sports Centre, in which Rhona had the highest score. Keira-Eva, in claiming to be a Ballybunion woman as she poised to pull the trigger, succeeded in getting a photo shoot (all charity giggles at my witty pun welcome) with the local photographer for the esteemed "Kerryman". After a short break for lunch, it was straight to the swimming pool. The com-

petitors swam as many lengths as possible in three minutes for the girls and four minutes for the boys. Everyone was relieved to have completed the day of physical exertion and all were looking forward to the banquet that evening.

It was pleasant to be able to peel our wet and mud-caked garments off and don the glad rags. Time to eat, drink and be merry. Once again that evening our curiosity overcame us and we had to ensure that no-one else was consuming more food or alcohol than us in the other function rooms. The country n' western was still in full swing and we succeeded in being seated with some of the Garth Brooks wannabes there, before being politely escorted to the exit doors...."sorry I said WESTERN, not EQUES-TRIAN". We proceeded to grace the regional youth diocesan meeting briefly with our presence but promptly left, under the stern gaze of the clergy present! Back at the tetrathlon banquet, the revelry continued well into the wee hours, with nobody seeming too concerned about the prospect of showjumping on Sunday morning.

It was many a hungover head that was eventually recruited that morning from various states of unconsciousness hidden under blankets, or torn away from their new-found BF - the coffee machine, or...have you checked the bar? The horse-riding phase was held at Kennedy's Equestrian Centre and everyone fared quite well, considering. Unfortunately, Joe refused to be on our team any more after I had an argument with him over Malibu (one of the horses, no rum involved). Not to worry the other team picked up the pieces and preceded to win the competition, winning an array of individual prizes in the process. Rhona Howell won the girl's competition and Keira-Eva came third.

Robert Downes was both best individual overall, so congrats to all who took part. Finally, if anyone has seen the cup, please contact the Equestrian Club!!!

## Ella Daly's Really Thin Gossip Column

Unfortunately Ella has been so busy this week with something or other, I just can't think of it right now she never got time to write all the sca'....

I'll write an old gossip column all about Ella, for want of another title you could call it, 'Diary of a Slapper'. So here goes well Ella was ushered out of Deccie Burkes 21st celebrations after some rumours that Deccie was looking for some Bird to give 21 kisses to. Our Deccie was in flying fine form ...

The she was solely responsible for the dumping of 3 tonnes (this may be exaggerated you know how An Focal hacks are for that...) of Melon on the head of our most revered and worshipped CEO, el editor Fergal Fennessy. She also caused some chaos with the daily games of twister there are rumours (Again I know !!) that she made some of the moves up to encourage certain members of different societies into compromising positions...(Dirty tricks campaigns are not a thing of the past.)

On Tuesday night she was seduced into a drunken stupor (This involves only 2 bottles of ritz for those unfamiliar with ellas legendary tolerance for alcohol) by no less than Stan "the Man", Paddy Buckley, El Presidente and the other Blues Brother (Eamon). I had to carry her home via Zacs and tuck her in, it was a disgrace.

Then there was the other nights that she was roaring like sailor and failed to gain entrance to even her own house...her parents allegedly moved out this weekend in an effort to escape her. And little wonder is it after seeing her debating skills in action on Thursday night at the inter-society debate. Well they were very scary indeed no wonder she was St. Marys head scrubber...oops sorry debater at one time....all in all Ella had an eventful week and not too many animals or innocent students were hurt in it. Sorry it's not as witty as usual but rest assured Ella will be back with her usual standard of smut next issue.

**Happy SoUL Week Ella, from your Darling Sister Michelle.**



## UL Volleyball Club put a Brave Fight in the Annual Mixed Volleyball Tournament in UCD

On Friday 10th of November a representative mixed side from the UL volleyball club arrived in UCD for the annual and highly renowned UCD Mixed Volleyball Tournament. 8 games, several trips to O'Biens Sandwich Bar, one decisive victory over Japan in the rugby and almost 3 hours of volleyball later the team could look back proudly on their 2 days work. Losing out in the cup quarterfinals to what was definitely one of the top two teams in the tournament was no small achievement. Friday night saw the beginning of the group stages and UL took one good win from two games. The defeat coming from the fast hands of the team which eventually put UL out of the competition. After the final game buzzer went for the evening it was off to sample the UCD Sports Bar. Sometime later the team made their way to the bus stop only to discover that the buses had stopped running, "Anyone know the number for a taxi" came the call. Somehow we didn't think that

313131 would pick up in Belfield. But, despite the current debates about the lack of taxis in Dublin we were lucky enough and picked up one passing by in a matter of minutes. A majority vote led to the taxi being told to drop us off at Burger King and after a hefty feed each player was beginning to wonder how they would be able to jump for a hit the next morning. However, all such thoughts were gone the next morning and Saturday morning brought a good win for UL in the final group game and now they were into the second round with a cup quarter-final place as a possibility. UL's first game in the second round group was a very tight affair which only really swayed in the opposition's favour with the last few points. Perhaps the opposition (Aer Lingus) were spurred on by a jibe that we should serve quicker "in case they go on strike". Whatever the case it was strike one for UL and they needed to win their final 2 games in the group to keep alive a chance

of getting to the latter stages of the cup. And win them they did! 2 excellent performances with good teamwork and composure led to full points from the last 2 games and a place in the cup quarter-final for UL. Despite a brave and enthusiastic performance in the quarter-final UL had to be content with missing out on a semi-final place as they were beaten by the better team which included several male and female international players from the Irish squads. All in all the tournament was a big success and provided some good practice before the Intervarsities next Spring which are being held here in UL in the new Arena.

The squad for the tournament were: Gerard Conway, Jonathon Collins, Gerry Reynolds, Siobhán Cotter, Sheila Trintee, Sarah Roberson and Michael Hanlon. The club trains in the new arena on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:05pm

## UL Athletic Club Women's Road Relay Team Run Riot



The men's and women's road relay intervarsity was held in Maynooth on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. It proved to be a really exciting day of athletics, with the UL women displaying their true ability by topping the board and retaining the title they won last year. The men's "A" team also ran well to improve on last year's result, finishing 4<sup>th</sup>, while the "B" team finished a creditable 8<sup>th</sup> in a top class field.

Representing UL on the women's team were Rosie Ryan, Eliz Egan, Elaine O'Donoghue and Fiona Reid. The girls were in a class of their own as they destroyed the field, winning by over three minutes. Success is no stranger to our Olympian Rosie who is only recently back from Australia after competing in the 5000m in Sydney. The girls won the intervarsity title last year for the first time and have every intention of holding on to that title for another few years to come.

The men's "A" team comprised of Brian Swaby, JP O'Brien, Patrick Muldoon, Vincent McGuinness and John Egan. The lads had it tougher than the women, with top class teams from UCC, DIT, and QUB taking the honours. Despite the tough competition, the lads still managed to improve dramatically on last year's 8<sup>th</sup> position. The "B" team of Nicholas Walsh, Damien Cunningham,



Lucas McMillan, Adrian Gurn and Kieran Clancy also did us proud.

The club will be back in action again next weekend at the Indoor Championships in Nenagh. Last year the club put in an outstanding performance to take the men's, women's, and overall trophies, amid tough competition from Trinity, UCC and UCD. The competition this year should prove just as tough, so the pressure will be on our athletes to perform to the same standard we are used to, to confirm our place as the best University athletics club in the country. Watch this space in the next edition of An Focal for a full report on the event.

The club would like to say a warm welcome back to Derek Malone, who competed with distinction at the Paralympic games in Sydney. Derek ran outstandingly well, and did his club and country extremely proud. After a well-deserved rest, he will be back in action again this weekend with the rest of the gang in Nenagh.

We are having a fundraising night out in the lodge on Thursday of week 11. Tickets are 3 pounds and can be purchased from any club member. Come along and watch the elite athletes in the club take second place for a change, as the club's elite drinkers prove their worth and drink these lightweights under the table! See you there!

# UL Soccer Club's National Universities League Update...



## UL 1 NUIG 0

This fixture has traditionally been of high quality and this one was no different. After UL securing a victory in last seasons Collingwood cup, Galway were seeking revenge. The game began at a high tempo, which was to set the pace for the rest of the game, with Galway enjoying a lot of early possession. The first clear chance of the game fell to Conor Molon and his shot was touched around the post for a fruitless corner by the visitor's net minder. UL then came more into the game and enjoyed more of the possession without really creating any clear-cut chances. Galway always looked dangerous from set pieces but the home defence stood firm. Just before the break Galway created a good opportunity but Darragh McMahon parried and Scott Brady completed the clearance. So it was level at the interval. UL began the second half by putting twenty to twenty-five consecutive passes together as they searched for

that elusive goal. The game began to open up a bit more with Eddie O'Brien twice being denied by the Galway keeper. At this stage UL seemed in control with the likes of Oran Weldrick, Eoghan Poil and Ross Dunphy heavily involved. The breakthrough came when a superlative Scott Brady pass let Ross Dunphy free down the left flank and he centred for the inrushing Oran Weldrick to see he shot parried but substitute and former NUIG player Gordon McCann was on hand to slot the ball home much to the delight of the home fans. Galway began to push more and more players forward but this only left more space for the likes of Michael Ryan and Hugh O'Loughlin to exploit. UL pushed for more goals but in the end were happy with the three points. It was a good team performance and a win away to ST Pats next week will set up a league quarter final against UCC. The team was as follows: Darragh McMahon, Eoghan Poil, Peter Murphy, Scott Brady, Stephen Driver, Hugh O'Loughlin, Oran Weldrick, Conor Molon, Ross Dunphy, Bryan Donnelan and Eddie O'Brien. Reserves were Brendan McDermott, Eoin Killackey, Eoin Keating, Gordon McCann, Kevin Murphy, and Michael Ryan.

## Friendly game... UL1 Limerick FC U-21 1

This was a useful exercise for UL against high-flying Limerick FC who currently top their division in the U-21 National league. UL were missing a few regulars and this gave the chance to a few players to stake their claim for a place in the side. Both sides played some good football with chances being created at either end throughout the match. The goals came in the second half, first for UL when Oran Weldrick set up Eddie O'Brien to finish from close range. Limerick FC equalised late on when a deep cross wasn't properly cleared and the ball fell to current UL and Limerick FC player Bryan Donnelan to finish with some aplomb. The game finished level at one goal a piece with both sides happy with that result. There were some good performances from Brendan McDermott, Scott Brady and Eoghan Poil.

UL FC is kindly sponsored by Guinness, ULSU, AIB, The Scholars Club, The Stables Club, Kilmurry Lodge and Analog Devices for the coming year.

## UL's Olympic Athletes are Ignored by the Local Papers

We have all read the more popular gossip rags which present themselves as the "news-papers" of Limerick, and anyone after reading one of these we can no longer wonder why the people of Ireland refer to Limerick as "stab city". For some reason people would prefer to hear of rape vandalism and murder than the heroic efforts of Students of our University in going to the Olympics. Yes it is there to be said that if I a student got sick on O'Connell Street at 03:30 on a Tuesday night it would probably make front page news in certain popular "newspapers", whereas three students of UL train work and dedicate their lives to represent us the people of Limerick and Ireland at the Olympics and they will not publish this article. If you did not know that your fellow students were in Sydney you cannot be blamed, because apparently it was not deemed news worthy at a time when every quality news publication in the world was absolutely plastered with the thrills, spills, agonies and ecstasies of the world ultimate sporting event.

Here is the article which was sent to a prominent Limerick "newspaper" and we apologise for the delay in publication but we did not realise that it would not be published

### UL Athletes in Sydney

#### Rosemary Ryan

##### Club: Bilboa AC

Rosemary's links with UL Athletics Club go back to 1993/4 when she initially represented UL at intervarsity competition including World student x-Country in 1994 here in UL where she was first Irish woman home. She then took up an athletics scholarship at Boston University and continued her athletics career in the US until her return last Summer. On her return she again competed for UL and this year was a member of the road relay, indoor and track & field winning teams as well as achieving gaining titles at each intervarsity championship. Rosemary's career in athletics has shown her to be a dedicated athlete who earned her place on the Olympic team through hard work and commitment to training

#### Tom Comyns

##### Club: Limerick AC

Tom Comyns first competed for UL in 1991/2 and since then has been a dedicated member of UL Athletics Club, competing at 100 and 200m and also in both relays. In his time in UL he helped the men's team to

many Intersarsity victories. Tom's athletics career has seen him represent Ireland on numerous occasions including World Student Games and World Championships. He was a member of the 4x100m team which competed at the World Championships

#### Gary Ryan

Gary Ryan competed for UL from 1996-2000 in 100m, 200m, 400m and relay events. He was a member of many victorious Indoor and Track & Field teams during his years here. Despite having to overcome some obstacles Gary's dedication to his sport has seen him qualify for his second Olympics. This former 100m and 200m National record holder was unlucky not to get the individual 200m qualifying standard but should be a strong addition to both relay squads.

We welcome them home with the great honour of knowing that they have represented their country and college to the best of their ability. This they will carry with them for all times. We are indeed very proud of what they have achieved.



## “Lie back and do it for the Debating Union”

I'm an extremely fortunate First Year for many reasons, two of those reasons being that 1. I've been given the opportunity to write for An Focal and 2. I've earned this unique chance through my really enjoyable involvement with THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK DEBATING UNION.

Our Auditor, Mr. Connor Barry (in his infinite wisdom- although he may well live to regret the day!!!) appointed me with the task of becoming the society's Press Officer (term to be used in the loosest form possible!). I'm only too thrilled to share with you details, tales and the usual gems of wonder and information that one would expect to find in a society of such high standards and calibre- such as the Debating Union. Since the beginning of the semester we've been involved in such debates as "This House Believes in Adam over Eve", "That This House Would Switch Off Granny", and "This House would Caress its Masculinity". Many varied Private Members motions included, "This House would apply to special apps. for £4million to fund the destruction of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the destruction of Ivy House", proposed by Stephan Boggs, "That R.T.E. Be Wound Up", proposed by Gavin Ward, and "That the majority of Roman Catholics in Ireland under the age of 30 would be more accurately described as New Age Protestants" proposed by Eamon O'Flynn.

Last week the Debating Union was introduced to a new rendition of the Our Father- (let me just say it's now the Our Lager!!!)- a prayer that shall be said at the beginning of all the society's meetings! I'll just give you a short extract and to find out

the rest- well you'll just have to join the DEBATING UNION SOCIETY!!! "Our Lager which art in Barrels, Hallowed be thy Drunk.....but deliver us from Hangovers .....Forever and Ever -BARMEN!!! What one enjoys most about the Debating Union is the variety of interesting individuals and the multi-talented views one is invited to consider (not forgetting the free lollipops and er... the beer sampling!!!). I'm always in awe of those who produce such eloquent Points Of Information, as were offered in the debate concerning euthanasia ..."Sofia Loren should die and Shane Mc Gowan should live...that's gotta be flawed!!!"... "When a person in a coma, signs their will I'll be suspicious too!!!"...and the unforgettable "Are the elderly of any use to us?...we should kill

them off at 65yrs.-they'd be useful in death -full of nutrients...we could recycle them and produce fossil fuels and fertilizers, crime would also drop 'cos there'd be no one to mug!" The Debating Union is also of course a place where serious matters are discussed; at time of writing The Irish Times run-offs were but a day away and the motions included "That Kosovo should be given back to Serbia" and the infamous "A Woman's Place is in the Home"-Good luck to all involved!!!

We're having a great year - so far we have had 3 teams qualify to the Irish Times Nation quarter finals, we've won colours debates against UCC and UCG, and one of our teams - Mike Hourigan and Keith Piggot reached the finals in the Oxford Intervarsity with Keith winning best speaker. Oxford is the biggest IV outside of the World champi-

onships this year - so that's a big deal! We're sending 3 teams to the World Championships in Glasgow in January, and have high hopes. I can't but speak highly of the Debating Union -everyone is encouraging, everyone feels welcome and having discussed the following with many other fellow debaters, you'll go home feeling that you've made a worthwhile contribution (even if it was only a Point of Information). I guarantee you that you'll come back- even if, like one of our members, you're "just here for a free pint"!!!! Mind though I'll just warn you in advance, Article 10.3 of the Union's constitution states: "Anyone who spills a pint\* shall do 10 press-ups in front of the house (\*any alcoholic beverage)-I kid you not!!!! Seeing Mike Hourigan struggling to lift his body off the floor is a sight not to be missed. I'll leave you now with a thought for the day, inspired by a quote from the main motion of one of our more recent debates "That This House has the right to sell its body"- "soft drugs lead to hard drugs, lager leads to kebabs"..... and I can honestly say that involvement and participation in the Debating Union can only lead to great times to come and a really enjoyable opportunity for all-We meet every Monday -for further details keep an eye on the notice boards or contact me @ [0021377@student.ul.ie](mailto:0021377@student.ul.ie)-I'd be happy to help! The Union also runs Debating Workshops each Wednesday for those who wish to improve their debating skills-so there's no excuse- you'll just have to find out for yourself!!! See you there then, 'til next time...slan go foill Mairead.

## Climbing Mt Brandon with Outdoor Pursuits Club

There is only one word for what we were all feeling that day - MISERABLE!!!! It was cold, wet and windy. Nothing unusual in that you might say given the climate we have herein Ireland, but the thing about Mt. Brandon is that it is right on the coast, totally breathtaking on a clear day I'm told, but that fact however also increases the wind chill, giving the body a somewhat numb feeling even though you are moving.

We set off from the Stables around 9.00am and arrived at our destination at around 11.30am. By 12.00 we were ready to set off up the mountain. Some of us seasoned club members, who knew what to expect with the weather, were a little dubious of the foreigners among us, as a lot of them were ill-prepared, with quite a few wearing trainers. But they were determined to go on.

The climb up Mt. Brandon is a slow, gradual ascent, following a path, which is well marked throughout. We had plenty of visibility to start with, but we were aware of the mists in front of us. The pace was kept very steady throughout and breaks very short. After about 1.5 hours of walking and about 45mins from the summit, we stopped for a break and people had the choice to go on or turn back. Most people were soaked through and quite cold at this stage, so 8 decided to return to the bus. The return 12 remaining chose to slog on up the steepening path to the summit.

It had been arranged to meet 3 other club members; Frank, Dodgy, and Darragh on top, as they had camped there the night before (Saturday night). However, the tent was deserted when the group reached the top. Tom, who was leading the group knew that the lads had no food, so he left a note to tell them that they were there and some fruit cake (its amazing what you will eat when you're hungry, eh Frank?) in the tent. Then they made their way back down the path.

At this stage, those of us who turned back were now snug and dry in the bus, wondering where Miguel and Gen had gone. Earlier they had escorted a member, who wasn't feeling well back to the bus and then took off up the hill again. However, they took another path up, unbeknownst to the rest of us. As a result, they didn't cross our path on our descent, which we thought was unusual. The other group also didn't see them. But, we had faith as both Miguel and Gen are very competent in the hills.

Surprisingly enough, Frank, Dodgy and Darragh arrived down not long after the last group, completely shattered and starving (even after eating the fruitcake). Once everybody was safely down and changed into a dry change of clothes (some people forgot this), we headed off to the pub in Tralee, where we had some well deserve drinks.

# Outdoor Pursuits The Year So Far.....

## Millenium Youth Initiative



'On reflection after my recent trip to the Himalayas in Nepal, I realise that the past three years have indeed encompassed a multitude of unforgettable experiences. It was a sheer privilege to have been selected back in 1998 from over 400 applicants to participate with seventeen other young people from North and South of Ireland, in a three year mountaineering programme called ' The Millennium Youth Initiative ' .It was a prestigious and high profile undertaking ran under the auspices of The Mountaineering Council of Ireland and we had as our mentors and instructors such leading climbers as Dawson Stelfox and Frank Nugent, members of the First Irish Everest Expedition in 1993.

Following several training weekends in Ireland our initial introduction to winter mountaineering came in 1998 with the Scottish highlands as our base for a week. Here on Ben Nevis and the Glencoe region we familiarised ourselves with the technicalities of items such as crampons and ice axes. Our next adventure saw us amidst the Swiss Alps for a fortnight in July for our first taste of alpine mountaineering. The rugged and spectacular setting of the Swiss Alps provided our first introduction to serious altitude with heights of over 4000m being accomplished ( that's over four times the height of Carrountohil ! )Features such as crevices, cornices and seracs were now familiar yet surmountable obstacles. By now a U.L student holidays were dexterously utilised, and post exam relaxation necessitated a trip to the French Alps in January! With plenty of ice-climbing and rock-climbing being availed of, this action packed trip saw us flavour the thrills of other fantastic winter pursuits such as snowboarding, skiing and blading.

Unavoidably, a week of college was tearfully sacrificed last February for another winter trip to Scotland, with the cream of Irish and British mountaineering in the vicinity to advise on routes and conditions. Last July the French Alps once again played host

to Irish mountaineers seeking the challenges and thrills of alpine climbing. Here JohnHarrison, a fellow U.L student and I, got in some final preparation before our expedition as part of the MYI this September for five weeks to the Himalayas in Nepal.

The fact that when questioned about the trip I respond in a single breath using words such as spectacular, amazing , unbelievable , is but a mere indicator of how fantastic the trip really was. My head, still freshly laden with vibrant images and memories finds it difficult to accentuate specific moments, for the trip in its entirety was the most amazing experience thinkable. As we trekked, the ubiquitous presence of the sublime peaks of the Himalayas was awe-inspiring. The cultural insight we received was enormous, from the inhabitants of desolate villages to the gregarious and highly talented team of thirty Nepalese who worked with us. Unforgettable was actually climbing peaks in the Himalayas, scaling heights of 6000m saw dreams being largely realised in the most uniquely superb environment in the world. Vivacious images such as watching the sunrise on Everest from the splendid position of Kala Pattar, a 5586m trekking peak and gazing at the worlds highest mountains such Nuptse, Lhotse, Cho Oyu , Pumori and Ama Dablam looming tall starkly contrasted with the ethnic experience of Kathmandu. The jovial interaction with our eclectic staff are also memories which still captivate my thoughts and will undoubtedly be perpetually engraved on my mind forever.

John and I would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the U.L Sports Department and the Outdoor Pursuits Club for their generous support and encouragement.'

**Deirdre Mc Carthy**

### Diary of a first year climber

Oh, what a year it has been. Unfortunately, it has gone by all too quickly. Last October,



I wandered into the climbing wall to see what it was all about, and found myself going back night after night. Within a week or so, the lads in the Outdoor Pursuits Club asked me to be the 1st year Rep. Naturally, I accepted and was thrilled with my position within the club, and was determined to do a good job. Before joining the club I hadn't even walked up a hill much less climb a mountain, which it appeared was all the guys ever seemed to do. I had also been smoking like a chimney up to this point. This was all to change drastically, as I set off for my first day in the hills.

Destination: Caher Mountain, in Kerry. Fortunately, I survived this trip (only just) and after that I was a regular attendant. It was the first of many trips and within the following months, a strong 1st year base was built up. There was also a great sense of comaradery among all of us. This could be clearly seen during our expedition to Wales, in January, during which we conquered Snowdon, not once, not twice, but three times - the last being on a stormy wet night. Trips like the traditional Christmas as trip to Doolin, and the Intervarsities in Belfast brought many funny stories, as well as many drunken climbers. (No smart comments Dodgy!) The Intervarsities was a great trip, as we surprised our opponents and ourselves, by winning the overall team award. It was one of the final club trips before the summer and a great way to wrap up our college year, but the activities didn't stop there. I am going to give you a glimpse of what my summer of outdoor pursuits was like.

I had secured a job with Wild Country Ltd. (a climbing equipment manufacturer) in England. The company was situated in the heart of rock-climbing in England - The Peak District. I started work in early June, working in reception. It didn't take them long to load me down with tonnes of filing!!! My co-workers were obsessed climbers; two of them are legends in their own time - Basher Atkinson and Richie Patterson. Even though I was very intimidated by them, I went climbing with them to some of the world's most famous crags. These included Ravens Tor, Stanage, Froggatt, The Coaches, Millstone, and of course Burbage - home of the first gritstone E10, erected by Neil Bentley. The Peak District can be divided into two distinct areas - the White Peak and the Dark Peak. This signifies the main stone or minerals in each area i.e. White Peak contains limestone, and Dark Peak contains gritstone. I found it strange climbing on gritstone for the first few times, having only ever climbed on limestone, but soon came to love it and all of its friction. If only there was a gritstone crag nearby.

At the end of July, I headed off to

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France for 2 weeks. My destination was Ailefroide, in the French Alps for the MCI Alpine Meet. After spending the night in Charles de Gaulle airport, I met up with my friends and we caught the train down south. It was an overnight train, so we got a chance to get some shut-eye. There were 5 UL students at the Meet, consisting of myself, Dee McCarthy, Barry Watts, John Harrison and Miguel Nicolau. We all had varying levels of alpine experience. This was my first time in the Alps, so I decided to sign up for 2 courses -Introduction to Alpine Mountaineering, and Hut-to-Hut Walking. I found both courses extremely beneficial and I learned how to use crampons, rope-work for glacier walking, crevasse rescue, ice climbing and numerous other things. I was also involved in an epic while I was rock-climbing. My climbing partner and myself had to climb the last pitch of a 9-pitch route in the dark and then wait at the top for somebody to show us the way down. We had not expected that the route would take us so long and had brought no provisions with us. Luckily, some guys who had also been caught in the same situation a few days previously, came up and brought us down. I learned

a valuable lesson - that you shouldn't start a 9-pitch route at 1.00pm, having only done your first multi-pitch the day before and having only one person leading. In any case the trip for me was very successful, I was dead chuffed at summiting the Roche Meane, at a height of 3762m.

After my alpine trip, I returned to England to continue working for Wild Country. In the following weeks, I led my first trad climb and was progressing quickly until my climbing partner hurt his wrist. I then turned to bouldering, of which there is an abundance of, in the Peak District. It is also something that doesn't require a climbing partner. I left the Peak District with a promise that I would return as soon as possible.

My first year in the Outdoor Pursuits Club has been highly successful. I have progressed from never walking up a hill, to scaling the heights of the Alps. I have also made a fantastic lot of friends both within and outside UL. I would like to thank all the members for making my first year in the OPC so memorable, and here's to many more.

**Joanne Hession**



 **A Few Announcements**

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 Enviro Soc  
Green Fair  
Thursday, November 30th  
10am -4pm  
Stables Courtyard**

**The An Focal team**

editor *Fergal F.*

assistant editor *Michelle D.*

news collectors/gossipers Jennifer, Paddy, Michelle, Ella

Focal Ealiane 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 *tommy f.*



**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

# It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



**Sagittarius** 22 November – 20 December  
An old flame rears its hot head this week. Beware of the heat that could arise. The past is the past for a reason. Look to the future now.

**Capricorn** 21 December – 19 January  
A close friend needs your help this week. Be patient and try to help them as best you can. It will do you good to share yourself with others.

**Aquarius** 20 January – 18 February  
A new romance is found over a pizza in a not-so-romantic setting. Be sure not to get too caught up in the cheese! It can only stretch so far!

**Pisces** 19 February – 19 March  
A recent trip has relieved certain stresses and upsets. It was just what you needed. But it will be hard to get used to reality again.

**Aries** 20 March – 18 April  
Good moods and high spirits overtake recent inactivity. A new wave of energy is found in a sports related activity. Kick the ball and aim high.

**Taurus** 19 April – 19 May  
The romantic side of your life is blossoming. Just be careful not to kill the blossoms with too much water!

**Gemini** 20 May – 20 June  
You're getting down to work seriously this week. Well done! You're finally copping on to yourself. No more messing about!

**Cancer** 21 June – 21 July  
You need a good night on the town. Go out and have a few beverages and paint the town red for Christmas!

**Leo** 22 July – 21 August  
The world is a wonderful place. It's all good. Your other half provides some agro but all will sort itself out in time.

**Virgo** 22 August – 21 September  
Your innocent streak rears its head this week. Those around you will appreciate this, as you've been partying like mad lately!

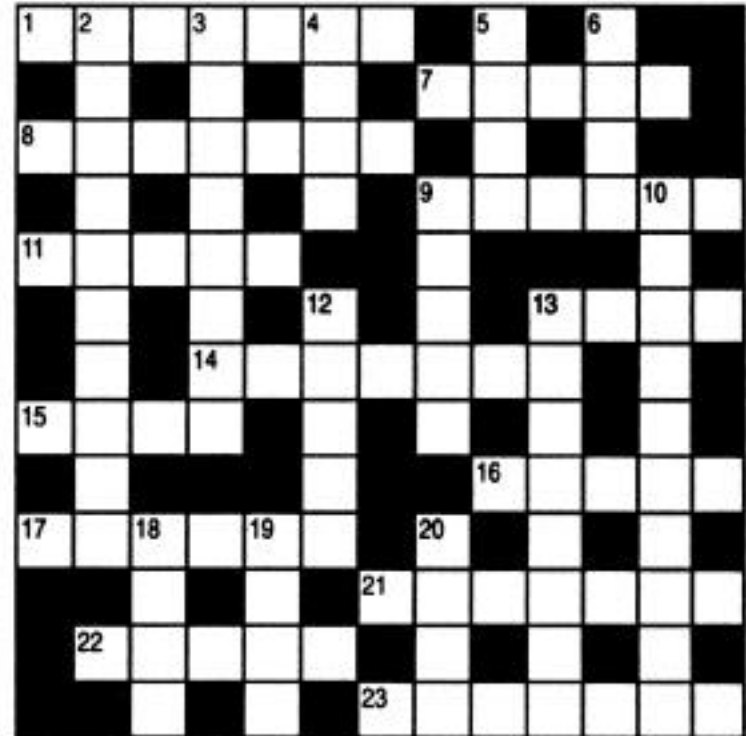
**Libra** 22 September – 22 October  
A recent decision has questioned your morals. Have faith in yourself to have made the right decision. You did the right thing.

**Scorpio** 23 October – 21 November  
Beware of how you treat others. Everyone can be heartless at some stage, but you overdo it at times. Just be careful that you don't lose friends.



Drop the correct answers into the New 95 Fm &

Win yourself a few CD's



No. 114

**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

- |                                        |                                         |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Store of historical information (7) | 2. Customers of a newspaper etc. (10)   |
| 7. Person on horseback (5)             | 3. Poignant and persistent (memory) (8) |
| 8. Defamation (7)                      | 4. Source of grapes (4)                 |
| 9. Down-at-heel (6)                    | 5. Relations etc. (4)                   |
| 11. Nitpicking (5)                     | 6. Plant used in cookery (4)            |
| 13. Cry out loudly (4)                 | 9. Woolly creature (5)                  |
| 14. Home for babies (7)                | 10. Perplexed (10)                      |
| 15. Vicious hooligan (4)               | 12. Pace (5)                            |
| 16. Protect from light (5)             | 13. From happenstance (2,6)             |
| 17. Placed at intervals (6)            | 18. Termites (4)                        |
| 21. Metal casting plant (7)            | 19. "Green-eye" (4)                     |
| 22. Section of a barrel (5)            | 20. Heavy, of print (4)                 |
| 23. List of items to be inserted (7)   |                                         |

le scribble box

Last weeks answers

ACROSS:- 1. Elasticate. 8. Succumb. 9. There. 10. Come. 11. Hero. 12. Mrs. 14. Easily. 15. Kirsch. 18. Etc. 20. Chat. 21. Sell. 23. Incur. 24. Isolate. 25. Ill-starred.  
DOWN:- 1. Encamps. 2. Arum. 3. Tablet. 4. Catholic. 5. Therm. 6. Psychedelic. 7. Leaseholder. 13. Placards. 16. Steward. 17. Marina. 19. Cecil. 22. Four.



# Life through a Lens

## - Sinead's view of Life

I should be listening to the Spice Girls or Courtney Love while I'm writing this, but I don't have any of their albums so I'm substituting it with Alicia's Attic and Sinead O'Connor. In case you're wondering why I'm doing this, I am on a man-hating binge and I feel the need to be Girl Empowered. Normally I've no problems with the uglier (stupider) sex, but since Sunday I'm carrying the proverbial boulder on my shoulder, and this my sisters is why...

I got on the bus (I do a lot of travelling) on Sunday, ready to return to Limerick after a lovely weekend at home being pampered by my mammy. Little did she know, as she waved me off, of the cesspool of pornography, to which I was being sent. I settled myself in my seat and took out the really bad book, which I reviewed and off we went. The book, as I've mentioned was *úafásach*, so I took a wee look around me and I saw some filthy great lump enjoying a good old perv at Playboy, and not a bother on him. (I was informed only yesterday that there are much worse - or better, depending on your perspective - magazines that he could have been reading, what would that be the Serial Killer's Monthly?) Anyway, there he was just leering away with a huge dirty grin on his face and his jacket on his lap. (I noticed he didn't remove his jacket even though the bus became very hot indeed - call Sherlock and Watson to figure that one out.) My dear highly sexed friend obviously found that his needs weren't sufficiently fulfilled by Playboy, so he purchased en route a girls magazine, (methinks MORE! - the one smart GIRLS buy) complete with a swimwear supplement. And the sleazy sod continued on his merry path caressing his way through the catalogue, all the while blissfully unaware that he was only one ogle away from the greatest mother and father of a beating of his sexually deprived life. The only thing that stopped me was a friend's pointing out that he was probably a sado-masochist, and would most likely get an even greater kick from it. I know where I wanted to kick him. Deep, Cleansing

Breaths. I got off the bus without committing murder, which was only due to the fact that there were too many potential witnesses and if I'd killed one I'd have had to kill them all...

Mr Sex-starved obviously had a profound effect on me as I did seriously consider taking holy orders and joining a convent, but then I remembered the vow of poverty and the shapeless habits that would give Kate Moss holster hips.

If there are any homosapiens felix max still reading this, I have a question, and I'm going to use very, very simple English, and I'm typing very slowly because I know that none of you can read quickly. What is your fixation with the naked female body? (Sorry, big word in there, I'll rephrase that) Why do you like looking at pictures of ladies who aren't wearing any clothes? Send your answers on a postcard to the editor. The best one will receive the prize of one month's humanisation at the clinic of your choice, courtesy of Germaine Greer, and the ten best runner's-up will get a collection of Nell McCafferty's articles, leather bound. While I have your limited attention, I've another question. What would you do if you heard one of your co-cavemen saying "look at the fine arse/tits on that one" and it subsequently transpired that he was speaking about your mother/sister? Would you grab your club and batter ten shades of smart-ass out of him? Probably would, so have a think about that one gents.

Sisters, I propose a rebellion. The next night that you're in the Lodge and Mr Boombastic asks if you want to dance (because that's *all* he wants), grab his Bacardi Breezer and pour it down the front of his trousers and shout "the rocket in your pocket's just gone off, you *were* pleased to see me." Alternatively, try the non-aggressive approach and just give him a complex by saying "I'm not gay, but you're making it really hard for me." I'd better stop this before the big "F" decides that An Focal would be better off without this contact-lensed view on life.

Just to prove I am not completely biased in my views and to add some balance to this discussion I asked Barney Gumble for his opinion on scantily clad female figures. He said (I'm paraphrasing) "Phhaarrfff!" No joy there so I turned to two fine upstanding members of male society for help - Beavis and Butthead. They gave a much more enlightening insight into the mystique of the male psyche. Buttheads reply went something like "uh-huh-huh-huh-huh boobies are cool Beavis, boobies are

cool" and Beavis further added "I am the great cornholio, I need TP for my bung hole." Gee, thanks boys.

Am I being a little unfair? Let's see I've compiled a short list of the greatest blights on human creation and, guess what they're all male: Hitler, Pol Pot, Judas Iscariot, Gary Glitter, Bill Clinton... Next I made an even shorter list of all the good, kind, benevolent men on the world stage and I came up with Daniel O'Donnell, Ronan Keating and Gary Lineker. Would you want to be stuck in a lift with any of them? No. Therefore, Conclusion: All men are tossers, but until we perfect that whole cloning thing it appears that we're stuck with them.

In the abject doldrums of misery that came along with the discovery that possibly half the population of the planet is composed of knuckle-dragging porn fiends, a friend (female) cheered me up considerably with a series of wonderful text messages entitled "*Why Chocolate is Better than Men*"

1. You never lose interest in chocolate
  2. Chocolate never has to rest for a football match in the morning
  3. You can share chocolate with your friends or keep it for yourself
  4. Chocolate understands when you've got a headache
  5. You can choose where and when you have chocolate
  6. Chocolate doesn't care if you have garlic for lunch
  7. You can enjoy chocolate while your parents are in the house
  8. Chocolate tastes good and leaves no unpleasant aftertaste
  9. You can have as many chocolates as you want without being called a slapper
  10. Chocolate stays harder for longer
- You can still enjoy chocolate when it's soft