



Campus Turns Colourful. Autumn, In Focus. Pages 12 & 13.



Fight Like Apes Exclusive. Read The Interview On Page 17.

# EDUCATION TO SUFFER IN “DRACONIAN” BUDGET

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald**,  
News Editor

THE Government has indicated education will be hit with the brunt of the cutbacks expected in the coming budget.

The Student Service Charge, which last year increased from €900 to €1500, will potentially double to €3000, according to sources close to the Department of Education.

This would represent a 690% increase in the charge since its introduction which, it is argued, will make third level education an unsustainable and unviable option for a rising cohort of students.

Those in receipt of higher education grants will still not have to pay the charge. But the Department of Education has indicated the grant monies paid directly to students will probably be reduced.

This move has been condemned as extremely regressive as the exchequer will now have to pay for increased service charges for students receiving grants. The Union of Students Ireland (USI) claims the proposals “fly in the face of the Government’s ‘smart economy’ policy”. It is understood that officials in the Department of Finance were last year reluctant to

increase charges but the deepening economic crisis means education cuts are increasingly likely.

USI President, Gary Redmond, has hit out at the suggestions, insisting that “additional cuts over the 5% announced in budget 2010 would simply put an end to many students’ education”.

ULSU President, Ruán Dillon McLoughlin has agreed with this statement adding that proposed cuts would have a “drastic effect” on the quality of education and the student experience.

He stressed the importance of UL in the Limerick region saying “UL needs to play a central part in bringing Limerick forward. A large amount of jobs in the Limerick region are directly related to UL. Drastic cuts to education would have negative effects not just on the university but on the whole of Limerick’s economic climate.”

The ULSU is privy to information which reveals essential services such as tutorials will most likely be reduced or removed altogether as a result of the Government’s “blind” cuts. “The overall student experience in the University would suffer to an

immeasurable extent,” claimed Vivion Grisewood, ULSU Campaigns and Services Officer. “Lecturer-student time is going to be drastically reduced too. Students will be paying more for a lower quality of education and service. It doesn’t make sense.”

A national protest against education cuts will take place on Wednesday, 3 November in Dublin. Thousands of Irish students are expected to march from Parnell Square to Leinster House to express opposition to the proposed education cutbacks.

According to Mr Dillon McLoughlin “these protests show that students actually care. They show unity. If we don’t make our voice heard then the Government will deem it acceptable to implement these cuts.”

USI is the sole national representative body for students in Ireland. Founded in 1959, USI now represents more than 250,000 students in over forty colleges across Ireland. ULSU has not been affiliated with USI since its withdrawal in 1991.



Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan



## HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

Written by **Annie Dillon**

A VEHICLE crashed into a lamppost outside the UL Arena on Wednesday, Week 8.

The accident caused bewilderment as onlookers tried to figure out how the car came to its final position on the road. Nobody was injured in the collision, which caused some traffic disruption.

UL Security personnel were at the scene of the accident to direct traffic around the car, which caused an obstruction on one side of the road. The driver was unavailable for comment and the car was removed within an hour of the accident occurring.

## News

## CAMPUS COMPANY SOLD FOR €10M

Written by **Annie Dillon**

CHIPSENSORS, a UL campus company, has been sold for €10m to Austin-based Silicon Laboratories. ChipSensors develops silicon sensor chips to detect temperature, humidity and gases.

The new company owner will retain ChipSensors' office at UL and all its full-time employees.

The company was established in 2005 after securing an initial investment of €100,000 from the Bank of Ireland Kernel Capital Equity Fund, an early stage equity fund supported by Bank of Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and private investors.

Professor Brian Fitzgerald, Vice-President Research commented on ChipSensors, citing it as the latest addition to an increasingly long line of successful spin-out companies UL.

"The attraction of foreign direct investment and high value job creation is admirable as UL spin-out companies now support in excess of 100 high-value jobs locally in the region."

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1. Contributors please note:

All submissions to An Focal are greatly valued. If you have submitted an article which has not been published in this issue, it is very likely that your piece has been retained for publication in future issues. If you are concerned that your article has not been published, please say so.

2. Editing:

If you are unhappy with how your article appeared in An Focal, please discuss this with the Editor. A number of strict guidelines are followed in the production of An Focal, which means some articles may be altered to allow them to fit on the page and to improve readability.

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**Finn McDuffie, Editor**

# EDITORIAL

SOMETHING amazed me recently. A US researcher has said he plans to electronically record and interpret dreams.

We've all come across the idea in science fiction. And for centuries, people have been fascinated by dreams and what they might mean. But is it finally possible to record them? Dr Moran Cerf of UCLA thinks so.

He recently wrote about a system capable of recording higher-level brain activity. The system is based on the findings of an initial study. The data gathered suggests the activity of individual brain cells (or neurons) is associated with specific objects or

concepts. So when one of Dr Cerf's volunteer thinks of a particular object, a corresponding neuron lights up. Each neuron is recorded when it fires and it's linked to an object. By exposing his subjects to numerous objects and observing which neurons fire, Dr Cerf plans to build up a database for each volunteer, enabling him to effectively "read the subjects' minds".

It seems a daunting task and a folly into the unknown perhaps. Further, these tests have been conducted on patients while they're awake. So "dream catcher" technology has a very long way to go before any palpable results arise. But the ideas are there.

And according to Dr Cerf, sensor technology is developing so quickly that eventually his project will see its goals achieved.

There have been attempts to create machine interfaces that aim to translate thoughts into instructions to control computers or machines. If thought can now be quantified and translated into a code or a language, then brain-machine interfaces might just be a reality someday. It's very exciting stuff and it's probably just a few decades away.



## The Big Picture

This photo was taken during UL Photo Society's trip to 'Animal Magic', an animal sanctuary in Askeaton. The sheep pictured is fully convinced it's a dog and spends its time with a pack of four or five rescued dogs. Nobody is quite sure what the tortoise's story is. Image: Hugh O'Brien

# SCHOLARS CLUB TO HOST ALTERNATIVE DRINKING EVENT

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald, News Editor**

IN an effort to change the way students drink, the Scholars Club will host a 'Change how you drink' campaign on Monday, Week 10. The event aims to show students that it is possible to have fun sober. Singer Lou McMahon and band will complement the water-based drinking games which are planned for the evening. It has been put forward by drink awareness groups that drinking large amounts of water can keep you energised and refreshed all night.

The Scholars will also host a "Comedy Hour" in Week 9. The comedy gig takes place on Thursday, 4 November, between 7:30pm and 8.30 and will see performances from renowned Limerick comedian Jason Keegan and special guests. They will also welcome Ben

Buckley, from UCC comedy society.

The gig seeks to highlight the dangers of drink driving. Campaign organisers claim almost one in three crash deaths in Ireland are alcohol related. They have also cited statistics, which show 90% of drivers whose alcohol was a contributory factor in a fatal crash were male and deaths are preventable.

The 'Change How You Drink' campaign is supported by UL Student Affairs. The campaign aims to highlight to students the benefits of responsible drinking.

There will be non-alcoholic punch for all designated drivers and a full bar for passengers.

The event is free and takes place at 8.30pm on 8 November.



**FREE Comedy Hour**  
in association with  
Anti Drink Driving Campaign - UL



The Scholar's Club  
Thurs 4th Nov (Week 9)  
7.30pm to 8.30pm



Join us on Monday WK 10 @ 8.30pm in the Scholars  
Lou McMahon and Band Live  
Games, Prizes, and FREE food.

Change How You Drink

UL Student Affairs

News

# EMPLOYERS COMMEND STUDENTS' "POSITIVE ATTITUDE"

Written by **Kelly O'Brien**,  
Features Editor

THE Cooperative Education and Careers Division recently hosted its 11th Careers Fair in the University Arena. The event, which hosted the highest number of employers in recent years, also attracted a higher level of student attendance than ever before. With 100 organizations taking stands at the event, the fair lived up to its reputation as one of the largest campus-based careers fair in the country.

Head of Careers, Mary Sweeney said "UL graduates have always competed better than average on the graduate employment market, partly because they already have work experience and also because they have a strong focus on finding employment." She followed this up by explaining that UL students have a "positive attitude" which impresses employers when they come on campus to participate in recruitment events, especially the annual UL Careers Fair. Though

the event was targeted at final year students, postgraduate students, and recent graduates, students from all years of study and all disciplines attended the event.

Mary Sweeney also said "the fair is an ideal opportunity to find out who are the key UL employers, what types of jobs are available, and what kind of skills employers are looking for. Pretty much all sectors of employment will be represented on the day."

In addition to these sectors, there was a Postgraduate Study zone and a Volunteering zone. The fair covered opportunities in Ireland as well as many international locations, including the UK, Japan and Korea.

A special attraction of this year's event was the presence of Spin South West who broadcasted a radio show from the Arena.



The Aula Maxima, NUIG

## NUI GALWAY BANS FACEBOOK

Written by **Darragh Roche**,  
Deputy Editor

THE NUI Galway Students' Union (NIUGSU) has banned Facebook on campus for the second time in several years.

NIUG students will no longer be able to access the social networking website on university computers between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday and it will be banned outright in the college library during exam weeks.

The college's class reps voted to ban the website in an attempt to prevent students from spending too much time on social networking and neglecting

their studies, especially at crucial exam times. NUIG has banned Facebook before but its stance remains unique in Ireland. Facebook was banned in Pakistan due to outrage caused by pictures of the Muslim Prophet, Muhammad and in China the "Great Firewall" prevents access to the site. North Korea, Vietnam and Iran have also made efforts to restrict access to it. The UL Students' Union (SU) does not have a policy on Facebook and uses the site to publicise its activities and answer students' questions. UL's Class

Reps' Council adopted a policy on the social networking site Bebo in 2006.

"We have a policy which bans the social networking site, Bebo," said SU Education Officer, Aoife Finnerty. "The intention was to ban the use of social networking sites.

However, the policy only refers to Bebo and therefore cannot be used to ban Facebook. The current policy needs to be referred to council for review."

## UL BASKETBALL WILL HOST 60TH INTERVARSITIES

Written by **Fiona Scally**

THE anticipated 59th Annual Intervarsities, hosted this year by UCD takes place in April 2011. But the UL Basketball Club has plenty of events planned to bring it to the 60th Intervarsities, which take place in UL in 2012. The Irish Fresher Tournament will be hosted by the club this year on 27-28 November and league games begin in Week 10. The club reports "enthusiasm is high as anticipation of the first games of the season builds."

A club spokesperson spoke about competition and the range of teams

available in UL Basketball. "There is fierce competition to make the Varsity teams. And there are other options if you would like to play. Another team plays in the Inter-Varsity league. The Fresher team is an option for first years. And at a club level, there is a Division 1 and Local League team. The Club also has an open session that runs on Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm."

The UL Basketball Club has a strong network both in college and around the globe and one of the main

highlights of the year is the club trip abroad. In previous years the club has travelled to Italy, Hungary, Scotland and Germany, playing games against various foreign teams and enjoying the different nightlife and experiences the countries have had to offer. The trips are open to any members of the club. For more information see The Grid on page 22.



UL's top class basketball facilities. Image Credit: UL Arena Marketing

Would you like to write news for An Focal?

We'd love to hear from you.

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## News

NEWS  
IN BRIEFRAG CHARITIES  
CHOSEN

THE SU Executive has selected the four charities to benefit from UL's Raising and Giving fundraising.

The four charities, which were chosen in the wake of dozens of applications, are:

- Console / iLife
- The Alzheimer Society of Ireland
- The First Tee
- Mid-Western Cancer Foundation

SU LAUNCHES  
JOBS WEBSITE

IN an effort to support students and improve their chances of finding a job, ULSU has established an online jobs website, available through [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie). The free service, which is intended to help students help themselves financially, is also a useful tool for local employers seeking employees. Employers who wish to find students can simply register and post on [www.ulsu.ie/jobs](http://www.ulsu.ie/jobs).

Interested students can then contact prospective employers. The new Bed for a Semester section gives students seeking shorter-than-usual tenancies to find a residence for a typical five-month lease.

## C&amp;S LOTTO

ONCE again there was no winner of the Clubs & Societies Lotto yesterday and the Jackpot now stands at €5600. The most recent winners of the lucky dip spot prizes for €25 are: Timothy O'Shea, Killarney; Michael O'Sullivan, MICRA syndicate, Limerick; Emma Platt, Limerick; Noreen O'Connell, Limerick.

The lotto can be played online at a lower cost at [www.registersc.ulsu.ie](http://www.registersc.ulsu.ie). The next draw is Tuesday, 2 November in the Red Raisins. The Photo Society will sell tickets from 11am-2pm before to the draw.

CASH STRAPPED  
STUDENTS TURN  
TO STRIPPING

THE Union of Students in Ireland (USI) has expressed its perilous concern after it has been revealed a worrying number of students are turning to performing sexual acts in return for cash.

It has been branded wholly unacceptable that students should turn to stripping, escorting and becoming sugar babies because they are stuck for cash and have financial commitments to meet. Given the country's ill financial state, traditional summer and seasonal part time jobs are unfortunately not an option for a majority any longer.

OKTOBERFEST  
AND UL  
BOARDERS

UL's Boarders hosted Oktoberfest in the Scholars' Club in Week 7 to raise money to buy equipment. The boarders hosted traditional German games and collected money for one of the SU RAG charities. The club will host a dog races night at the Limerick greyhound stadium soon.

UL RECEIVES €350,000  
GRANT FROM SEAI

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald,**  
News Editor

THE Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has awarded UL a grant of €350,000 for energy improvement projects. The Buildings and Estates Department of the University, who received the grant, will provide a similar amount of funding to the projects. The grant will enable the department to retrofit old and inefficient equipment with new energy efficient replacements.

This will include the upgrading of heating and ventilation in Phase 1A of the Main Building and the improved heating and insulation of Plassey House.

It will also involve the strategic improvement of street lighting on campus to energy efficient, LED lighting and a change in internal lighting in the Main Building, Schrodinger building

and PESS building. The delivery of these projects will be of major financial benefit to the University with estimated annual savings of 700,000kWh (between electricity and gas), equivalent to

315,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub> annually. The cut-off date for the completion of this work is 30 November. This deadline has been deemed "extremely tight" by Buildings and Estates. The department has said the deadline "presents a significant challenge to the Buildings and Estates Department and will entail a certain amount of disruption to the campus community."

But the department also states it will endeavour to minimise disruption and will advise the campus community accordingly as the projects develop.



## NEW ART UNVEILED IN UL

Written by **Annie Dillon**

UL has unveiled new additions to The National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland at the Bourn Vincent Gallery. Speaking at the launch of the exhibit, President Don Barry said "we are honoured and delighted to be the permanent home for the National Self-Portrait Collection which forms an important part of the cultural heritage of this country." There are now over 440 Self-Portraits in UL.

The National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland was founded at the National Institute for Higher Education in 1983 and remains on permanent exhibition at UL. Its purpose is to form a collection of illustrative of self-portraiture in Ireland and of self-portraiture by Irish artists.

Pictured is Limerick artist Brian MacMahon in front of a self-portrait he painted 20 years ago which is now part of the National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland, University of Limerick.

NUIG LAUNCHES  
"TELL YOUR TD" CAMPAIGN

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald,**  
News Editor

NUI Galway has launched an innovative web based campaign called "Tell your TD". The website, which allows users to send letters to their local TDs, is primarily concerned with opposing cuts to education in the upcoming budget and a potential increase in student service charges.

By accessing the site [www.tellyourtd.com](http://www.tellyourtd.com), students, their families and anyone interested can send a personal letter to the TDs in their constituency

urging them not to support an increase in the annual Registration Fee and not to cut the Student Maintenance Grant or the Student Assistance Fund. Anybody can access the website, select their constituency and send a letter in their name to their TDs.

The letters request an immediate cap be placed on the Registration Fee. They also demand the continuation of the existing grant and the maintenance of current state funding to the Student

Assistance Fund. The website delivers letters directly to the offices of the TDs concerned. It was established in a response to the rumoured education cuts in December's budget. NUIGSU President Peter Mannion said "Education is under serious threat ahead of the next budget. It is clear from the number of calls to our office that any increase in the registration fee or cut to the maintenance grant would put education out of the reach

of many. It would condemn thousands of students to look towards emigration or the Social Welfare offices rather than third-level education."

He also stated "It would see the potential and talent of our nation's children un-realised." The campaign is in response to persistent rumours that the Student Services Charge could double to €3,000.

## Opinion

# IRISH NEWSPAPERS FAIL TO SATISFY OUR NEEDS

Written by **Darragh Roche**,  
Deputy Editor

It is incredible to think that Ireland has one of the most devoted newspaper readerships in Europe. While the rest of the world talks incessantly about the death of print media, we Irish are too busy with our noses in newspapers to notice. This trend is especially puzzling when you realise that Ireland's newspapers often lack the same weighty discourse as their continental neighbours.

True broadsheets that deal with the substantive, serious issues are an endangered species in this country. Newspapers that look like broadsheets but act like tabloids must be an Irish phenomenon. The Irish Independent fulfils all the stylistic requirements for a broadsheet and even has a political and professional readership, but it has slipped so far into the tabloid mire that every page screams "Sell more papers!" Not that the self-proclaimed paper of

record, the Irish Times, is without its faults. It can be held up as the only true broadsheet left, but its editorial line has never been more obvious.

If you are not a liberal with slight social democratic leanings who always questions the Government on principle, you will find little in the Times to interest you. If you want to read a newspaper of substance but don't want to sieve through reams of text on the Trinity Ball or the travails of Dublin's commuter towns, you should look elsewhere.

On the continent, reputable dailies are easy to find. In France, Le Monde and Le Figaro serve the right-left divide, while broadsheets proliferate in Germany: the Süddeutsche Zeitung, die Welt and die Zeit are the most widely read insightful newspapers. Given that tabloids and other scandal sheets are just as popular in France and Germany

as they are in Ireland, there seems to be no relationship between the readership of redtops and declining standards of more respectable journals.

So why does Ireland have only one classic broadsheet newspaper? Until 1995, the Irish Press competed admirably with the Times and the Independent. Its closure has had a profound effect on the newspaper market. Its two former rivals do not compete with each other. They have different readerships. It is widely joked that Fianna Fáil hacks read the Indo and people who hated Charles Haughey (and Bertie Ahern) read the Times. A gap exists for a reliable newspaper with excellent journalism that no-one has yet filled. Until then, I'll get my news from An Focal.



## DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES

### CONNECT

Connect—Student Network are having a lunchtime walk around the campus. Meet on the 27th of October at Brown Thomas at 1.00pm. All welcome!

### STUDENT ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

The provisional exam timetable is published on Monday November 1st with the deadline for change requests at 4pm on Thursday November 4th. The procedure to follow is: There must be overall agreement that a change should be requested. Contact the lecturer responsible for the module through the class rep with the valid reason. The lecturer emails SAA who looks at possibility of change request. SAA will notify class by email. The final exam timetable is published on Monday November 15th.

### LANGUAGE SUPPORT UNIT

Need help with learning languages? The LSU provides support and guidance to become a better language learner. All its activities are free of charge and are open to all UL students studying a language as part of a module or on their own.

For further information, contact: Catherine Jeanneau (catherine.jeanneau@ul.ie) or just drop in (LC2010).

### FIRST SEVEN WEEKS

Feedback Questionnaire  
Your feedback on your first seven weeks in UL is very important to us. Please tell us what you think at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BMTKXLS>  
One random entry will receive a €100 book token.

### FIRST SEVEN WEEKS AWARD

Now is your chance to nominate any one of your lecturers/tutors/advisors

for the First Seven Weeks Award: Which one of your lecturers/tutors/advisors has had the most positive impact on your learning experience here at UL during your first seven weeks?

To nominate your preferred lecturer, tutor or advisor please email their name to [ctl@ul.ie](mailto:ctl@ul.ie)

Please note only one entry will be accepted per student. All entries must be received by Friday, 5 November 2010.

### MILK LABS

This new initiative group aims to create a Limerick hackerspace; a place for people to work and collaborate on creative projects, to learn and to share their knowledge in art, woodwork, software, photography and electronics. All students are welcome!

For more information, contact Mikael Fernstrom or Gabriela Avram at the Interaction Design Centre. <http://groups.google.ie/group/limerick-hackerspace> and <http://www.facebook.com/milklabs>

### SHANNON CONSORTIUM'S DOWNTOWN CENTRE MOVES ON

The Downtown Centre, a support centre for adults (aged 18+) interested in progressing to third-level education, moved to new premises at LIT George's Quay, George's Quay, Limerick on Friday, 8 October.

The Centre is supported by its Shannon Consortium partner; UL, LIT, MIC & IT Tralee. See [www.downtowncentre.ie](http://www.downtowncentre.ie) for further details on our new location.

### CO-OP OFFICE

Attention Humanities Students preparing for Coop in 2011. We have exciting coop opportunities with Enterprise Car Rentals in locations across the UK. Interested students must have a full driving licence since January 2010 to be considered.

If you are interested in these positions please contact Emmeline Searson in the coop office.

# A STEP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

Written by **Josh Lee**

WRITING for the Irish Times on Friday, 24 September, UCD Professor Kathleen Lynch argued against the Government's proposed introduction of bonus points for Leaving Certificate higher level maths. Her arguments varied and included social and gender inequality.

While Lynch raised valid arguments against the bonus points plan, there's a need to further examine the problematic proposal of rewarding mathematically minded students more than their counterparts.

The rationale behind the Government's plan is the development of Ireland's 'smart economy'. While it is undoubtedly important to bear future economic challenges in mind, bonus points for maths is simply not the 'smart' way to go about it.

The Irish education system, in my opinion, should look beyond developing

students to prop up the failing economy. This country can ill-afford to further neglect the nurturing of our students' talents and ability and should see them as citizens first and workers second.

It isn't fair that pupils who excel at English, History, Art or Music should be rewarded less than those who perform well at math. Many students, myself included, decide to pursue humanities courses that have nothing to do with maths at all. The bonus point scheme will leave this type of student at a disadvantage as some colleges have already chosen to implement the plan for all courses.

In dealing with this issue the Government seems to have adopted a worryingly blinkered approach. The development of the cognitive skills associated with the study of maths is, of course, important. But we must grasp the bigger picture.



## HAVE YOU LOST A LOVED ONE IN THE PAST YEAR?



THERE will be a special Mass of Remembrance for relatives of students and staff who have died in the past 12 months in the Contemplative Centre (opposite the SU) on Wednesday, 10 November at 1:05pm. If you would like someone to be included, please submit the name to Marion Kinsella at [marion.kinsella@ul.ie](mailto:marion.kinsella@ul.ie)

All are welcome!  
Refreshments in Teach Fáilte afterwards.

## Features

# DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE HYPE

Written by **Philip Hearne**

THE X-Factor. It's great isn't it? We can sit back and relax in an environment with no mention of banks or recession or any of that other depressing stuff. Well, no actually, it's not great. It's the biggest tool of deception to ever come across the airwaves. We should take a proper look at this media monster and see it for what it really is; a horrible dose of junk food for the brain designed to milk the public out of their every last penny.

Every year the show starts by showing us what we really want; deluded people making us cringe. It's a guilty pleasure in which we all indulge. We see some deluded hacks fail miserably, and we get a laugh out of it. It is car crash television. What we are not told, is that these people have to go through

several auditions with other judges and producers first. The producers know the acts are rubbish and put them through anyway. This is the bait to attract the viewer.

Enter the real contestants. They pick up some vulnerable individual and give them a back story that runs like a midweek movie; cheesy music, slow-mo close ups and a sob story. Send them to the judges, and hey, they're not so bad. Now they have you exactly where they want you.

You can identify with this person. You have to see if they get through. So you keep watching. Just when you are about to find out, they go for an ad break. After the allocated minutes of being bombarded with crap you don't need, it returns to the tense life-changing scene.

Surprise, surprise; the person they just spent twenty minutes of airtime on gets through.

This is how the show is successful. It's not a singing competition, it's a popularity contest. They make you identify with the acts so you will watch it week after week.

The criteria for picking these people are based on demographics. Young and old, black and white, gay and straight create the biggest catchment area for voters. The show keeps you on your sofa. Don't believe the hype! Don't be a sheep! See the X-Factor for what it really is; a corporate, soulless, money-making machine.



The X-Factor Judges.

# A COMPANY THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

Written by **Kate Doyle**

STUDENT space travel is finally here! Providing your county council gives you €145,000 grant, that is. It's no Ryanair, but Virgin Galactic is definitely budget if you compare that €145,000 to the €29 million the Russian space agencies are asking.

Virgin Galactic has announced that space tourism can 'take off' in as soon as 18 months. The revelation comes in the wake of recent reports on the VSS Enterprise completing its first manned, glide flight reaching 45,000ft. So far, 360 future astronauts have signed up, including 41 year old Irish entrepreneur, PJ King.

Each ticket holder is required to undergo a three day pre-flight launch

programme in the days leading up to each flight. Think Armageddon as each traveller has to undergo centrifuge training to experience in-flight stresses stronger than gravity (also known as G-forces).

Virgin Galactic has based its space terminal in New Mexico, US. The building's design captures the drama and mystery of space flight. The building is extremely futuristic looking and environmentally friendly. Once inside, Virgin wants you to have the full space-tourism experience. You can visit exhibits and meet real-life rocket scientists.

The overall objective of the company is to have hypersonic space-planes that

will take off from New Mexico and land in Tokyo 45 minutes later. €145,000 for 45 minutes? Personally, I think it's a bit of a rip-off. But then again, €29 million will get you a trip on Russia's famous Soyuz spacecraft and a just few days aboard a space station.

The good news is that while none of us is in a position to pay those outrageous sums right now, maybe if we keep our heads in our books and earn our degrees, our wages will go up and, who knows, maybe Virgin Galactic prices will have come down a notch or two. Fingers crossed!



"Each traveller has to undergo centrifuge training to experience in-flight stresses stronger than gravity."

One of many Virgin Galactic concepts.

# MINERS WARM THE HEART OF THE NATION



The Chilean Miners are welcomed by Chilean President, Sebastián Piñera, at the presidential offices, Chile.

Written by **Emily Maree**

THE news is dominated by stories of tragedy, despair and terrorism. The mere mention of the word recession brings down morale. But just as we were beginning to think that no news was good news, a story filled with hope and optimism appeared and made us realise that no matter how bad things get, there is always a silver lining.

The 33 Chilean miners were stuck 2,300 feet underground after a cave-in on 5 August. For 17 days, they abandoned hope of ever being rescued. Though the original target was to rescue the miners by Christmas, in an amazing turn of events, the escape shaft took only two months to drill and all 33 miners were brought to safety on 13 October.

The men remarkably stayed in very good health despite a couple having medical conditions like José Ojeda, the seventh miner to be rescued, who has diabetes and survived without medication for 17 days.

The most touching and heart-warming stories, however, came from the families of the miners. Claudio Yanez, the eighth miner to be rescued, was proposed to by his long-term partner via a letter sent down the shaft. Having

accepted, when he was rescued, he was greeted by his new fiancée and their two children.

From the first miner, Florencio Avalos, to the last, Luis Urzua, we've heard tales of every miner's dramatic reunion. Ariel Ticona, the second last man to be rescued, was greeted by a new arrival when he reached the surface, as his wife had given birth to their daughter. The baby was named Esperanza, Spanish for "hope".

Only a week or two after the men were rescued, film and book deals are already in the making. Jonathan Franklin, an American journalist, has been signed up to write the biography of the miners who have set a new world record for 68 days underground.

Behind all the hardship they went through, there is light at the end of the tunnel, so to speak. Almost a billion people around the globe watched each man get rescued. But why? Because people need to see some happiness in the news and, thanks to the Chilean miners; I think we finally found some.

## Features

# THE ART OF SEDUCTION

Written by **Lorcan O'Neill**

ROMEO and Juliet had the right idea, it seems, even if it sounds ridiculously out-of-date now. After all, I imagine it would creep out most fourteen-year-old girls if you told them you'd fallen in love with them at first sight. However, one of the most unfortunate developments in modern seduction has been the loss of imagination and variety. Far too much emphasis has been placed on the drunken grope and the easier mind-set that occurs in our nation's nightclubs after midnight. I'd like to take this chance to remind our fair suitors that there are plenty of other ways to steal a girl's heart. One thing a guy can do is learn to play the

guitar, paint or write poetry. This may sound a bit naff but it's a proven game breaker. There's something about a man who seems to be able to use his mind that seems to trigger a magical new hormone in a girl's mind which negates sense in a way that alcohol never could. Musicians are traditionally sexual icons. Van Gogh and Michelangelo were the Brad Pitts of history. John Donne seemed to flamboyantly advertise his sex life using his poetry. It's always worth a shot. Someone once said "Treat 'em mean; keep 'em keen" which is terrible advice, in my opinion. Apathy is poisonous to any form of interest. So if you really like

a girl and want her to know how you feel, disagree with her all of the time so that there's plenty of friction and (more importantly) plenty of opportunities to admit you're wrong.

The key thing at the end of the day is not to limit your exploits with other people to what you can find while you're drunk. It's far more satisfying to sell oneself in a figurative sense rather than a literal one. It breeds a greater understanding and it's far more likely that you won't regret it when you roll over in the morning.



A scene from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

# A STREET VIEW OF MY OWN

Written by **Adam Leahy**

AM I the only one who flicked to the back of my Junior Cert geography book just to try and find my house in the satellite map section? Well, now we can do it on the internet. And let's face it, most of us have tried it. If you haven't, do it! It's an hour of procrastination well spent.

It has, however, come in for a lot of criticism. Many think it's a massive

invasion of privacy; that the evil Google is trying to steal our souls once again with its shiny new technology. One bright spark (for want of a better word), which I stumbled upon online, presented the stellar argument that he would constantly feel as if he were being watched. That anyone who knows his address could easily look at his home online. Sure, it's a little voyeuristic, but

so is looking into people's windows when they don't have net curtains and who hasn't done that? CCTV however; that's grand.

I won't sit on the fence in all this. I think it's brilliant. We've all seen the funny little stories in the news: the two boys mooning in Dublin's suburbs, the cringe-worthy yet sickeningly rare embarrassing shots. My personal



favourite is the unfortunate car wrapped around a pole in somewheresville USA. To a vast majority of us, Google Street View is just a bit of fun. It is a way for us to look at the same streets we see every day for no reason. For some it might even be a way of exploring places they might never get to see.

There is too much emphasis on malicious use of this pretty new tool.

Let's look at this on a larger scale, you can find online tours of New York City on YouTube. People post their touristy snapshots on open-access blogs across the internet, viewable to anyone. How different is this?

We should see Google Street View for what it really is: a way to digitally check if your house is still there from the comfort of your own home.

# TO HEAR OR NOT TO HEAR

Written by **Paula Jane Murphy**

EAVESDROPPING is defined as listening secretly to the private conversations of others. It developed from the early practice of hiding under the eaves of houses to overhear those inside.

Hopefully, in this day and age, none of us would hide outside someone else's house. But the concept of eavesdropping is still a reality.

Oscar Wilde said "my own business always bores me to death; I prefer other people's". This is the case for many, as the lure of the gossip from the celebrity world proves irresistible. Scores of people buy tabloids and magazines yet most of us claim not to care whether the Beckhams and the Cruises are feuding. Surely for the industry to be so lucrative, a large proportion of us must be very interested. It's a fact that if everyone else knows 'the latest' we do not want to be left unaware.

We can dress it up as an inquisitive disposition but it is actually insecurity. We find ourselves tenderly leaning forward when something catches our ear as nothing brings us closer to the edge of the seat than the sound of our own names. In complete disregard for the usually accurate adage "you

will never hear anything good about yourself", we strain to absorb another's unguarded opinion of us.

It seems there are levels of eavesdropping and categories of eavesdroppers. There are eavesdroppers who exist to frustrate you, the "I couldn't help overhearing but..." type. There are also times when it can come in useful. When lost abroad or in a new situation, discovering someone who can help by hearing they have the same destination or problem is a blessing. On approaching these people for help you'll find they will more than likely ignore the fact that you have been listening in and relish the chance to show you what they know.

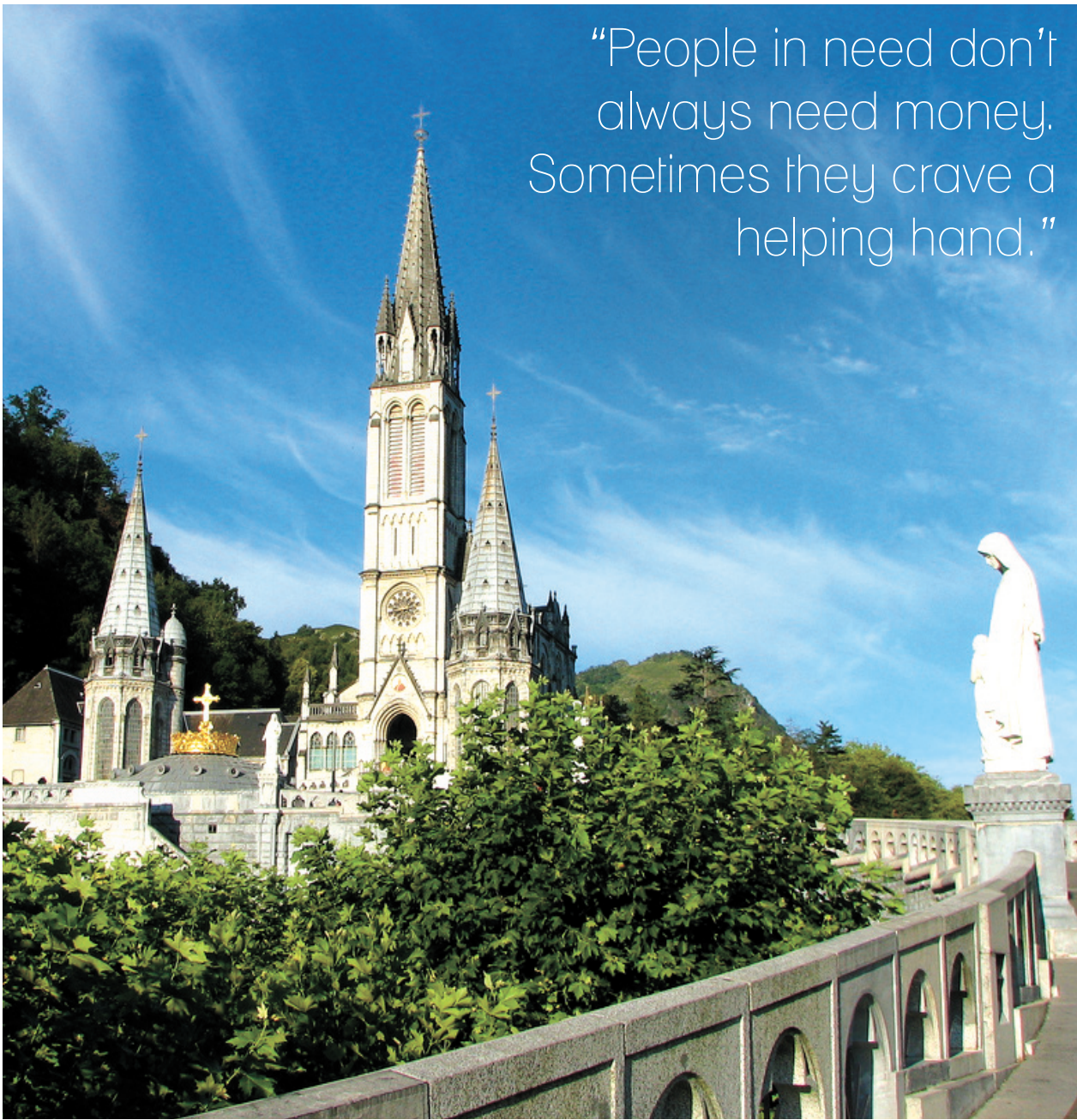
I'm sure we've all been an unwilling eavesdropper at some stage. This happens when the girl beside you on the bus gets a phone call she simply must answer. Then you're stuck beside her with nowhere to look, willing her to put her week's woes in a text message. Headphones may be seen as anti-social by some but the need for privacy works both ways.

"Nothing brings us closer to the edge of the seat than the sound of our own names."



There are levels of eavesdropping and categories of eavesdroppers.

## Travel



The Basilica of Lourdes, France.

“People in need don’t always need money. Sometimes they crave a helping hand.”

# A SUMMER LESS ORDINARY

Written by **Maria Treacy**

WHEN given the option of heading to San Diego on a J1, or taking part in a Youth Village volunteer program in Lourdes, which answer springs to mind? The J1 of course!

But when you start to consider your prospects for summer 2011, don’t just automatically decide to head off on a “booze up abroad” kind of holiday, or presume that a J1 is the only option when it comes to gaining experience and independence. There are other extremely rewarding and cost effective options.

Last summer I became a volunteer in “Le Village Des Jeunes” in Lourdes. Though I study French, I received so much more from the experience than an improvement in the language. I made multinational friends, engaged in the Lourdes experience and realized how lucky I am to have my full health, a home, and a wonderful group of friends and family. This is in no way an effort to push you to be a religious volunteer or to become a nun. It’s merely a proposal

for you to consider your summer options wisely. Because my experience was so beneficial and rewarding, I urge you to consider volunteering at some stage in your life because it changes the way you see the world.

Lourdes is a place of serious sacred pilgrimage for people who are fighting for their lives.

At the baths, people are plunged and “cleansed” in holy water. This was my favourite place to work because I saw the suffering on people’s faces before their turn, and witnessed this pain and turmoil being translated into flickers of hope and joy after their cleansing.

People in need don’t always need money. Sometimes they crave a helping hand, someone to talk to, or some advice. The people you help will not be the only ones who will gain from it. So consider being a volunteer this summer. You won’t regret it.

## ERASMUS IN WARSAW

Written by **James Bradshaw**

WHEN I looked at the map of Europe, Poland appeared distant. But an early flight from Dublin didn’t seem very long and we arrived in the Polish capital before midday. As we made our way through the grey suburbs of Warsaw, it seemed we had passed into not just a different time zone, but into a different era in history. It was the start of my Erasmus experience.

The taxi driver we found spoke very little until we came to a tall, unoccupied building near to where our apartment was located. Its boarded up windows and red brick exterior seemed out of place amidst the modern and colourless buildings in the area. But what really captured our attention were the bullet holes dotted across the building’s façade. We stopped just across the street, and the driver bid us farewell. My

apartment here is in Praga, a borough of Warsaw located on the eastern bank of the river Vistula. Praga has traditionally had a bad reputation, and has suffered from higher crime rates than anywhere else in the city. But since the fall of communism, an influx of artists and musicians has revitalised the area and given it a distinctly Bohemian feel.

There are small kiosks serving anything from hot food to cigarettes and there are a surprisingly large number of Roma migrants living in the city; attracted here by the relative prosperity Poland has enjoyed over the last two decades.

One block away from my apartment, the onion shaped domes of St. Mary Magdalene’s Russian Orthodox Church serve as a reminder of the past dominance of Poland by Tsarist Russia.

Its prominence and beauty caused the Catholic hierarchy to construct the even larger and arguably more beautiful Basilica of St. Michael and St. Florian directly across the street.

After the war, the Polish people rebuilt this city from the ground up, according to the original designs. They used original bricks wherever possible and restored the Old Town to its grandeur, earning them a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It will be next week before I find out what my lectures there will be like, but if the location is anything to go by, they will be more than a little different from either the Kemmy Building or the Concert Hall.



St. Mary Magdalene’s Russian Orthodox Church, Warsaw



One of the hundreds of hearts at the birthplace of the Greek Goddess of love. Image Credit: Emma Hayward.

## ERASMUS DIARY

Written by **Emma Hayward**

NOBODY here knows where Ireland is. If they have heard of it they immediately assume it’s part of Great Britain. It takes some effort to convince them that Irish is an actual language too. The remarks are always the same. “Isn’t that similar to English?” Then we say “Dia duit, Emma is ainm dom” and they say “Oh...right, that is different!”

I never realised before how small and insignificant our country is compared with the rest of the world. But we are working on changing this!

We are proving that we are not the drunkest people at the party, we don’t all love whiskey, we clearly don’t have

red hair and we’re not wild like apes (usually). What I find strange here is that it’s acceptable for people to call us “Irish” or “Ireland” instead of our actual names, where as we wouldn’t dream of saying “Hey, Germany.” Or “What’s up, Spanish”. I don’t mind but I do prefer to call people by their names.

Last weekend the Erasmus Student Association (ESA) arranged a day trip for international students to Pafos on the East coast of Cyprus. It was a great day out: we visited the castle, old harbour and ancient mosaics. Then we stopped by the beach for a swim and moved onto the birthplace of Aphrodite,

the Greek goddess of love, just in time for sunset. This place was beautiful. It was by the sea and everywhere around us people had made love hearts from the white stones.

There were hundreds of heart-shapes on the hills and ground around us. It was astounding. I added my own one to the collection. The sunset on this beach was one of those times when you just stand back, forget everything and admire the beauty of the moment. I live in Cyprus. This is amazing.



# GRANT ADVICE FOR FIRST YEARS

Written by **Fionnuala Corbett**

AFTER worrying for weeks about not having enough money the day has (hopefully) arrived and the Student Maintenance Grant is in your account. All that penny pinching was stressful, so now you can spend it like there's no tomorrow right?

Wrong! While it is a novelty being able to withdraw money from an ATM for once, if you're not savvy it won't be long before 'insufficient funds' flashes on the screen again.

Firstly, note exactly how much money you have. If you're getting a full maintenance grant you should receive approximately €1100 this semester. It's a nice sum, but it won't last as long as you think. You have to decide how much you need per week and take it out at the start of each week. It might seem like a good idea to take money out of your account as you go but trust me, this will end badly.

You probably have an endless list of college stuff that you couldn't buy for the first seven weeks. Books are generally top of that list and they are outrageously expensive. It's wise to

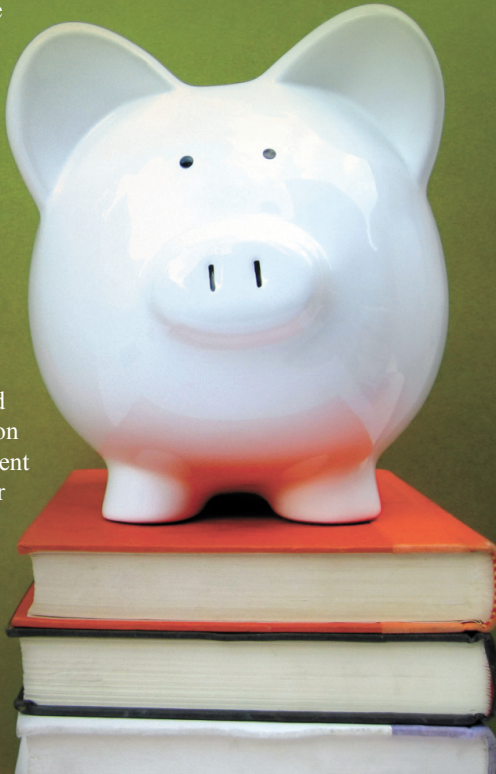
use the internet or the SU bookshop to avoid paying full price. Also, you may need a laptop but even with the grant you can't really afford it.

Instead, invest in a reliable memory stick and work on the campus computers. You'll avoid distractions at home and you will actually get your work done quicker.

Spending on your social life also has to be monitored. Take advantage of the many student offers on drink and nights out. Pubs and clubs both in town and on campus offer great student deals that won't hurt your wallet. You'll enjoy your nights out a lot more if you don't wake up the next morning with an empty wallet.

Being a student means that money will be tight. But if you're

smart about spending, then your grant should give you enough money to enjoy college life to the full.



# COUNTING THE COST OF HITTING THE BOOKS

Written by **Paul Carty**

PURCHASING your reading list is a bit like having a tooth ache. You need to go to the dentist but you put it off time and time again. Take it from me; facing up to the cost of those books is not going to be easy.

We are midway through the autumn semester at this stage and a lot of students will have felt the impact on their wallets. Bank accounts may very well have taken on that autumnal shade of red so prevalent around the Campus and the rest are likely sweating the potential effects shelling out will have on their finances. As the dentist: the longer you leave it, the worse the prognosis will be.

Is it fair that on top of the €1,500 registration fee, many parents and students are forced to spend outrageous sums on books and materials? Not in my opinion. It is true that some of the texts are housed in the library though two core texts between a whole class does not guarantee an entirely equitable distribution.

The SU will gladly flog your used books for a small fee, thus your initial outlay may not be wholly written off. Indeed you might find that your core texts may be available for half the price second hand. Beware, though, that a rate of depreciation far in excess of what you might anticipate can often occur.

Perhaps the dirtiest trick in the wretched book business is that of the book with accompanying software. The idea of strapping software and a one use code to a core text and linking it to tutorials or labs as a necessity is abhorrent. It is, to all intents and purposes, extortion. To tie a percentage of a final mark or to make tutorials useless without this software is nothing short of profiteering. As Oscar Wilde once mused; it is clear that Ireland's University's know the price of education but seem to have lost the value of it somewhere along the way.



# THE BEAUTY COLUMN

## THIS WEEK I'M TALKING ABOUT NAILS! SO LET'S GET CRACKING

Written by **Meghann Scully**



I used to have extra strong unbreakable nails but lately they crumble and break like crackers. I end up resorting to fake nails which leads to more breakages. Nails need lots of care as they are out in the elements constantly. So what you need are tips on hand and nail creams for these harsh winter months ahead.

There are some really great creams on the market these days. The first I've picked is once again from the Boots' Botanics range. They have an overnight hand and nail cream containing rich oils and deep moisturisation which will leave your mittens as soft as kittens! The next is Queen Sally and her radiant hand, nail and cuticle cream. She says she'll pamper your hands and give you a salon finish except you do the work yourself. Both ranges are under €10.

This brings me to a more high street market. Clarins hand and nail cream has been awarded various well deserved awards. Containing sesame oils, Shea

butter and mulberry extracts you have to be very careful not to eat it. This is in the €20 range but brittle nails deserve it. If you simply haven't got time to wine and dine your nails just put on some baby oil and cotton gloves and hit the hay.

Once your nails are fighting fit, it's time to splash them with colour. With so many affordable polishes you can change them daily if you want to! Essence is a relatively new brand on the market which is cheap and cheerful with prices from €1 - €2. At this price don't expect a chip-less week but they do the job for a night out.

Rimmel do a great range of polishes and the 60 seconds drying is amazing. For just €6 it is a bargain but it chips easier than you think. Whatever you do, don't but nail varnish from the Chanel range. At €25 you would expect it to last a full week but this chip-tastic polish lacks stamina. Stick to the 'cheap and cheerful' polish and dazzle those nails!



# PUMPKIN SOUP

Written by **Elizabeth Neylon**

ONCE you've scooped out the pumpkin and carved your scariest face, don't throw away all the good flesh inside. Make some frighteningly good soup instead!

### Ingredients:

4oz butter  
2 onions, chopped  
1kg pumpkin, diced  
½ tsp ground cumin  
900ml veg or chicken stock  
Salt and pepper

### Method:

Heat the butter in a large pan on a medium heat, add the onions and cook until soft.

Add the pumpkin, cumin and just a few spoons of the stock, cover and cook on a low heat for around 40mins until tender.

Liquidise until smooth and then return to the pan adding the stock, heat through and season to taste.

If you make too much, you can always freeze it and heat it up again some other time.



Delicious with croutons!

Letters

**AN FOCAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

The Editor, UL Students' Union, Castletroy, Limerick. T: 0860435304 E: sucommunications@ul.ie W: www.ulsu.ie  
An Focal endeavours to accommodate all letters as far as legally possible. All parties have the right of reply to letters printed herein.

Sir, - As Budget 2011 draws nearer the alleged cuts the county is facing are becoming higher and higher. Some economists and politicians believe the cuts could amount to €5bn. Mary Harney has claimed at as much as €1bn could be cut from health service funding. On 20 October, Ireland watched as Chancellor George Osborne introduced radical cuts worth €94bn in the UK's four-year spending review. This includes the loss of 490,000 public sector jobs by 2015 as well as an average of a 19% cut in government departments. Soon Irish citizens will face figures similar to that of their British contemporaries. It is uncertain how long the recession and its effects will last in this country but it is guaranteed that at least four years of draconian budgets lie ahead. Students are not immune from the effects of the Recession. Last week's careers fair in UL left many of us angry and worried as the Class of 2011 realised how limited their prospects are. Emigrate, they tell us. Teach in Indonesia; volunteer in Africa! All these opportunities sound fantastic but what happens when our adventures overseas end? Will there be anything to come home to?

As members of the opposition were briefed by the Department of Finance in an attempt to find common ground among the parties it became evident that up until now only the government knew the real costs of the bank bailout. Enda Kenny accused the Government of "wilfully concealing the truth [...] in what amounts to a national catastrophe". The most alarming fact is that no one has a solution to get the country out of this mess. If the opposition parties had an effective economic policy then they would be in government by now. So it looks like the combined efforts of Brian Lenihan and Brian Cowen is all Ireland has to rely on. That is a worrying reality.

Yours, etc,

COLETTE SEXTON

Sir, - I wish to congratulate the writer of the second letter under "Anonymous" in this week's letter page in An Focal (Vol. XIX, Issue Four, Page 10. Published 19 October 2010). It is a very sad reflection on

today's society and I include myself as a senior in such society, that it takes such a tragic event for our younger members to "see everything". Having spent all my life in the Hospitality business, it saddens me today to see the abundance of cut-price alcohol outlets throughout our country. And as your letter-writer suggests, our obsession with it. In my day, alcohol was part of a social experience, if you so wished. Today more than ever, we require our young people to keep focused, as we are depending on them to lead us forward in a New Ireland, away from the corruption and dishonesty of our past.

Yours, etc,

MICHAEL FAGAN

Sir, - I was in Dublin at the beginning of October and called to visit Cian Cleary, the student who was seriously injured in a freak accident at the Schuman Fountain following spring semester exams 2010.

I asked his mum and sister if it would be okay that I update the campus community and they were more than happy to allow me. They are extremely appreciative of the messages of support that they have received.

I was amazed at the significant progress Cian has made since I last saw him. He is now conscious and has started physio in the Mater. Cian's recovery has been slow, but his doctors are happy with the recent improvements he has made. He can breathe independently and can now talk, although it is tiring for him. He is also beginning to eat, though not full meals.

Most importantly for Cian's family, he regained consciousness and now has no significant long term memory loss and his personality has not been affected by the accident.

The next big hurdle for Cian is the matter of if or when he will walk again, but his recovery to date has been extremely encouraging.

I would ask you all to keep Cian and his family in your thoughts and prayers for a full recovery.

Yours, etc,

DEREK DALY  
Welfare Officer,  
ULSU

*A letter of response to a student who argues protesting against Government cutbacks is futile. The student does not wish his letter or his name to be published.*

Sir, - UL is in a critical position financially.

Funding cuts have been affecting us year on year and we are at a stage where education is being affected. Vital educational features such as tutorials are likely to become a thing of the past. Lecturer-student times will drop and access to lecturers outside of class time will cease to exist.

These are the facts of our educational institute.

As a sabbatical team and as Student representatives we are fully aware of the budget strains on our country. We have regular meeting with local politicians and even our Taoiseach who has outlined the full picture to us. We encourage protest to show that our institution and our education can't take any more cuts.

We can't sustain it. They need to look at the system as a whole before just making blind cuts.

It is ridiculous and reckless of our Government to introduce upfront fees, as they are doing.

If they increase the student service charge to €3,000 as they are suggesting, then they are introducing Fees, albeit in a different guise. Fees upfront don't work. This is what we are protesting about. We aren't protesting saying no cuts should take place, but it is how those cuts are being administered is why we have the problem.

If you are happy to pay €3,000 each semester and indifferent when it comes to your tutorials then that is your choice and that is your choice to make.

But if you don't want this to happen then I would encourage you to make the effort and join the march on 3 November and try and make a difference. This is our last chance. We have exhausted all other means.

The choice is in your hands.

Yours, etc,

RUÁN DILLON M'CLOUGHLIN  
President,  
ULSU

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Clues

Across:

- Punctuation mark
- Acronym, alias.
- 32nd President of United States (Initials)
- Pungent bulb
- Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Robins
- This river flows through Cork
- Count \_\_\_\_\_ of jazz
- Green gem
- Vane direction
- Proportion
- Glasgow native
- Lustrous fabric
- \_\_\_\_\_ de toilette
- Most tyrannical
- Acronym, percentage used in loans.
- Florida bay
- American doctors' group (abbr.)
- Silent
- A long sandwich
- Poverty-stricken
- Tractor trailers
- Spring flower
- Succeeded
- Adjective, sovereign
- Best
- Flat cushion
- Adriatic \_\_\_\_\_
- Untidy
- Timid
- Male cat
- American Sheriff's helpers

Down:

- Male swan
- Out \_\_\_\_\_ limb (two words)
- St. Louis's State
- Slightly wet
- Over again
- Dined
- \_\_\_\_\_berly biscuits.
- Columbus discovered the \_\_\_\_\_
- Bubbleless
- Food shop
- Repeat an action
- Talk wildly
- Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Connery
- Guitarist's aid
- Like old bread
- Carrying weapons
- Intoxicated
- Most sharply inclined
- Simplicity
- Arrogant
- Bar bills
- Fit of temper
- Cowboy show
- Recipe measures (abbr.)
- American state beginning with "U"
- Titled woman
- Cowardly person
- Zodiac lion
- A large vegetable, uncommon in Ireland
- Mule's father
- Drain opener

20. Scot	45. Ideal	6. Ate	28. Smug
19. Ratio	42. Statey	5. Anew	27. Eastness
18. SSW	41. Won	4. Moist	26. Steepest
16. Emerald	38. Tulip	3. Missouri	24. Topsy
15. Baste	37. Rigs	2. On a	23. Armed
14. Lee	36. Nedy	1. Cob	22. Stale
13. Tim	35. Sub		21. Capo
12. Onion	33. Noiseless		20. Sean
9. PDR	32. AMA	53. Posse	17. Rant
6. AKA	31. Tampa	52. Tom	11. Redo
1. Comma	30. APR	51. Shy	10. Deli
	26. Strictest	50. Messy	9. Flat
	25. Eau	49. Sea	8. Americas
	22. Satin	48. Pad	7. Kim
			29. Tabs

**OVERHEARD IN UL**

**Three hungover guys walking home in Kilmurry**

Guy 1:  
"So I put the firecrackers in the sink last night...we have no fridge now."  
Guy 2:  
"Fridges are bad for the environment anyway."  
Guy 3:  
"For a second there I thought you were going to say we lost the sink!"

**A gang of girls walking past the UL Taxi rank.**

Girl 1: "(Stops dead, eyeing the crowd) Who did it lads? Who stepped in shit?"

Girl 2: "You're fucking mad."  
Girl 1: "I'm not mad (removes shoe and sniffs the sole). Why does nobody else smell this?"

**Three Mary I students in the library lobby.**

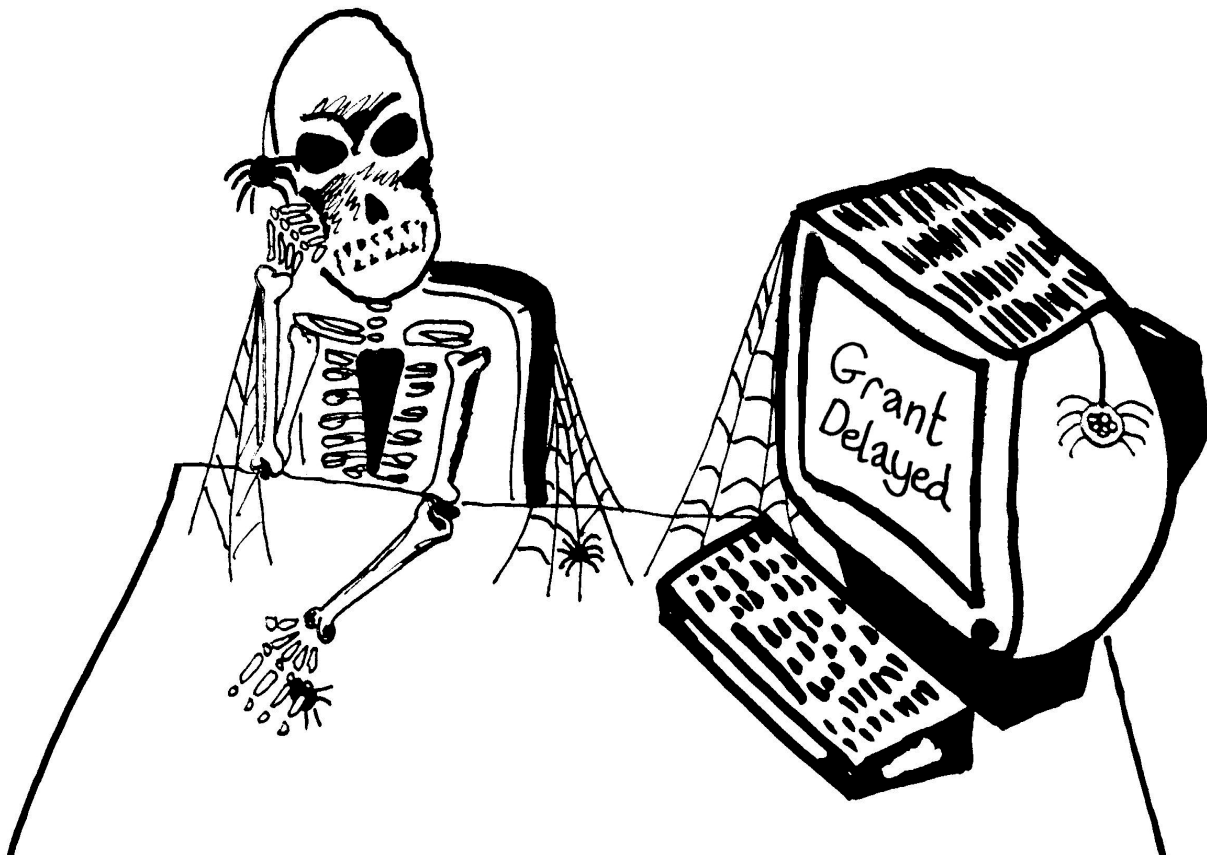
Guy 1: "Where's the library?"  
Guy 2: "You're standing in it!"  
Guy 1: "This is LIT isn't it?"

**Overheard in the Main Building:**

"I put the sex in dyslexic".

**A security guard in the library:**

"You have to realise this place is mad for the books!"



Are you still waiting for yours? Credit: Brige Newman

## Union

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Written by **Ruán Dillon-McLoughlin**, ULSU President

TO protest or not to protest. Our backs are to the wall at this stage. Lobbying has gotten us know where, our education is suffering as it is and we are facing huge funding cuts as well as huge increases in fees. Things look grim.

The Student Service Charge has been increased 13 times already; from £250 to €1,500. Now it looks like it will increase to €3,000. Maybe we are advertising the protest incorrectly. Maybe your Union should be pitching it as a No Fees protest.

At present we pay more for our 'free' third level education compared to most European countries that charge for third level.

Upfront Fees don't work. Everyone knows that. Even the Government has admitted it. But what are they doing, effectively? They're introducing upfront fees. Short-term blinkered decisions should not be made on long term strategic areas such as education. We can't just give it away. Education's our nation's trump card.

Will you pay €3,000 next year? You have the power to influence the answer. Join us at 8.30am on Wednesday, 3 November at UL's East Gate.

## WELFARE WATCH



Written by **Derek Daly**, Welfare Officer

I ALWAYS knew it to be the case. But I could never quite accept that it's not possible to do everything yourself. I'm one of these "if you want a job done right, do it yourself" people.

But in the past number of weeks I've been loosening the grip of my iron rule. I now have an excellent team of volunteers to help out with fundraising. And sorting that is Leslie, who is great at organising stuff.

We also have Tomás, who's great for the odd jobs that take loads of time if we do them (setting up bank accounts, creating new record keeping methods), the C&S guys (Paul and Liz), Lee and Sheila in Accounts, Róisín for all our paperwork and meeting needs and the great team at Reception (Adele, Glory, Lucy, Conal, Joanne and Aoibhne).

Sometimes students are quick to tell us we're doing a great job, but without all the support we have behind us it wouldn't be possible.

So next time you interact with the staff in your SU, tell them they've done a good job if they have. They don't hear it often enough!

Contact me at [suwelfare@ul.ie](mailto:suwelfare@ul.ie)

## ENLIVENING EDUCATION



Written by **Aoife Finnerty**, Education Officer

IT'S Week 9. But panic not, because there are loads of things that you can do now to make things much easier in five weeks' time! The earlier you get yourself organised, the better off you'll be...First, get a rough idea of how you are going to be examined. Check your module outline that each lecturer should have given you access to in Week 1. After you know the examination format, prepare!

**Notes**

Put your notes into a big pile and split them into your different modules. After that sub-divide any subjects that have separate parts to them. Pay special attention to tutorial notes. Finally, take the time to rewrite some of your messier notes now. You won't have the time in Week 13!

**Books**

In many courses, external reading is advised. Take more notes or you'll forget! Photocopy anything relevant to ensure you have everything you need when the exams come round. Highlight! On each photocopy you make, write the name of the book and the author. That way you have your source. There are loads of ways that you can relieve stress come exam time but having the little stuff done is the best way.

## CAMPAIGNS BRIEF



Written by **Vivion Grisewood**, Campaigns and Services Officer

THIS week is a mental one. Week 9 is SHAG week and as I'm sure you are aware, on Wednesday, 3 November we are all heading to Dublin for the National Student March. Everyone in the Union and a large number of students hope UL will have a strong presence among the other colleges at the National March.

It is hoped a large enough number will attend to prevent the proposed increases in the Government's forthcoming budget. By the sounds the Government has been making, our student experience is under threat. We need as many students on the buses as we can get, so we need a large sign up in the SU reception.

Next week, sees the launch of Movember. On Tuesday, Spin South West will be on campus to promote the month-long, men's health awareness campaign.

There will be free shaves in the SU Courtyard and later, Anchorman will show on the big screen. On Thursday there will be another big screening of Slumdog Millionaire, with curry on sale. All proceeds will go to Pakistan flood relief.

## WORDS FROM THE PSA



Written by **Dan Comerford**, PSA President

THANKS to those involved in the PSA Halloween Fancy Dress Party in The Scholars; the PSA Exec, The Scholars management and staff and all who attended. It was the most successful PSA Halloween party to date.

We're seeing record levels using the PSA website. It's a great resource, so make sure you use it!

We're flying through semester one, with assignments and midterms upon us and exams looming. It's not a fun time of the semester. Here are some helpful tips: Firstly, help is available through many UL support services. For example, the writing centre. The PSA will also ask faculty for information or action on your behalf, should you require such help. Secondly, get organised! Create a timetable and mark your availability (For example, food breaks, time with friends, TV etc.) Leave a review spot to catch up/review your progress. Plan carefully and you'll manage your time very effectively. Thirdly, eat properly! You cannot function properly without a healthy diet. Finally, take a break. Go for a walk, visit the Arena, get some fresh air or enjoy a night out. You need to strike a balance between study and play. Too much of one will negatively affect the other. Contact me at [dan.comerford@ul.ie](mailto:dan.comerford@ul.ie) or see [www.postgrads.ie](http://www.postgrads.ie)

## SHAG WEEK!

Did you know? please talk

Condom size relates to the width of a penis and not its length? Condoms have room to expand in length much more than width. So next time you're looking for a "snug" or "magnum" condom, make sure it's for the right reason.

## SEXUAL HEALTH MYTHS BUSTED!

NOBODY can assume that they are exempt from the risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections or AIDS. Safer sex practices are the best way to limit the chances of contracting STIs.

1. MYTH - Contraceptives protect against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.  
FACT - Other than total sexual abstinence, only condoms currently provide significant protection against HIV and other STIs

2. MYTH - "I haven't been exposed to sexually transmitted infection because we only did it once."  
FACT - Don't deceive yourself. By being sexually active (vaginal, anal or oral sex) even once puts you at risk of developing or transmitting STIs.

3. MYTH - "I don't have any of the signs or symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases, so I can't be infected."  
FACT - Not all STIs have signs or symptoms of infection, especially Chlamydia. If you have had unprotected sex you should visit your local STI Clinic and get tested.

4. MYTH - "I have a vaginal discharge and am a little itchy. I don't need to see a doctor. I can just buy one of those vaginal yeast infections."  
FACT - Not all vaginal infections are yeast infections. STIs can be confused with other conditions, resulting in a misdiagnosis.

## SEX HAPPENS

YOU'RE at university now. Sex happens for some people and for others it doesn't. It's no biggie either way, once you're happy enough to go with the flow. But either way, always carry a condom. That applies to guys and girls. Always practice safe sex and do not assume your partner has a condom. Condoms are available from your SU. You don't have to pay, but the SU staff encourages you to give a donation towards our nominated RAG Charities if you're picking up condoms. The SU supplies different types of condom, including extra

strong for anal sex and non-latex for the small minority with a latex allergy. Lube is also provided. Wearing a condom is the safest form of contraception and protection from STIs. Glyde Dams are also available. Always use a condom for sexual activity, even if it's not full on sexual intercourse.

## STI CHECKS

If you are having sex, practice safe sex. If you are sexually active you should have regular STI Checks. Screening is free in the Student Health Centre. If the screening shows

something up, then you can make an appointment for an STI test at a HSE Clinic. They'll have seen it all before, so embarrassment takes a back seat. Your health is more important. There is more information on STIs on the ULSU website.

## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

If a condom splits, the female partner may wish to take a "morning after pill". You should make an appointment with the Student Health Centre to get a prescription for this.

*In Focus*

In Focus



## Sport

# HEARTBREAK FOR UL MEN IN LEAGUE OPENER

Written by **Mark Connolly**,  
Sports Editor

THERE was drama and controversy amidst despair for UL Men's Rugby at the conclusion of their first College's League match of the season against NUI Maynooth at the 10 Acres. UL felt themselves assured of victory with the contest entering its dying minutes but two late tries from the visitors including the controversial decisive score with the last play of the game denied them in dramatic fashion.

The home side scored first with a fine breakaway try after only five minutes having pierced the Maynooth defence with ease. Out half, Cillian Kennedy added the extras with his successful conversion.

The Kildare team responded with a penalty following a sustained spell of possession to narrow the gap minutes later. Indeed, Maynooth looked the slightly more dangerous side for most of the half but it was UL next to score with a truly bizarre try. As Kennedy's long range penalty effort drifted right, Maynooth fumbled as they attempted to catch the inaccurate kick and then saw alert UL openside James McGregor pounce on it to strike just on the stroke of half time. But they got themselves back into the contest with a quality try

just minutes into the second half of an evenly matched contest. UL responded by extending their lead to seven via a Kennedy penalty and it looked as though Maynooth's consistently poor discipline would cost them dearly.

The Shannon siders seemed to have made the points safe when pacey full back Sean Mallon crashed over after a brilliant counterattacking run to give them a commanding 14 point lead.

That was soon whittled down to seven by the visitors and a grandstand finish loomed. Maynooth did indeed crash over again in the corner but their chance to take a share of the spoils seemed to have evaporated when their out half missed the touchline conversion.

But they touched down again at the death with a sublime team move to claim all points but UL were incensed as the referee missed an obvious Maynooth knock on just moments earlier. It was a bitter pill for the UL squad but a performance they will surely take encouragement from as they look ahead to the rest of the season.



Sean Mallon, of UL Men's Rugby in possession during UL attack.

# CONVINCING VICTORY FOR UL SENIOR HURLERS IN LEAGUE CLASH

Written by **Mark Connolly**,  
Sports Editor

UL's senior hurlers ran out convincing winners in their league match with Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) on pitch 1 by 2-18 to 0-11.

Things did not always seem so comfortable for the home side however as it was the visitors who started brightest racing into an early four point lead as they showed better touch in the opening exchanges. But UL hauled themselves back into the match with some quality scores as the first half ended level, eight points apiece. But the home side changed gear in the second half to

overwhelm their opponents with skilful display of hurling which delighted the reasonable sized crowd. An early second half goal helped them to move away from GMIT and they effectively ended the contest midway through the half on rattling the visitors net a second time from a penalty. The potent UL forward lines tagged on more points against the growingly dispirited and disinterested looking institute defence to round off a good day's work that will allow them to look forward to the rest of the college's hurling season with optimism.

# UL SOCCER CLUB ROUND UP

Written by **Cian Healy**

THE Ladies continued their league campaign with matches against UCC and IT Sligo, with both A and B squads in action. The A squad had a solid 4-0 victory over UCC with Karen Duggan, Ruth Fahy, Julie-Ann Russell and Jenny Critchley getting the goals. The B squad secured an impressive 3-1 victory over UCC B in their league opener, with Ariel Pelletier grabbing a brace, and Stefanie Schmidt scoring the other. The following week both squads travelled to Sligo, with the A team losing 3-2 with a Ruth Fahy strike and a Sligo Own Goal registering for UL. But the B team maintained their unblemished winning record with a 5-3 win over Sligo B's. Aine Tighe scored a hat trick, which was added to by Csilla

Bobok and Jennie Brennan. The next challenge for the Ladies is Athlone IT in Week 9, while the B's are waiting for the Challenge Cup draw after receiving a bye in the first round. The Men's teams showed more inconsistency over the last two weeks, with the seniors losing 2-1 to IT Tralee but then producing a superb performance to beat WIT 1-0 a week later. UL Intermediate team are still looking for their first points after losing 7-0 to a very impressive IT Carlow team, and 2-0 to WIT's second team. UL Freshers secured their first point of the season with a dramatic injury time equaliser against Tipp Institute. This made amends for their 4-2 defeat at the hands of IT Tralee's second team the previous week.

## Next Fixtures:

2 November -  
CSN vs UL Seniors

3 November -  
UL Intermediates vs Mary I

4 November -  
Northside Campus vs UL Freshers

Fixtures are subject to change. The Collingwood Cup Draw has been made, with details posted on UL Soccer Club Website.

Check <http://ulsoccerclub.webs.com/apps/blog/> for all match details.



UL Eagles maintained their 100 percent record with an 89-72 win over a vastly improved Belfast Star at the UL Arena on Saturday, 23 October. Images: Sean Reidy

## Sport

# FORGOTTEN FOOTBALLER, FRANCIS JEFFERS

Written by **David Prendergast**

“But Jeffers proved to be anything but a fantastic fox.”

EVER wondered why Arsene Wenger is so cautious spending money? Remember Francis Jeffers? Rogerio Ceni, Jose Luis Chilavert, Jorge Campos and Dimitar Ivankov are just some of the goalkeepers who have scored more goals than the Scouse born footballer. In 191 games Jeffers has only managed to hit the cows arse with the banjo 35 times. He even failed to score in the rehabilitation league for strikers when after only six months in the SPL, Rangers sent him back to Charlton after he failed to ‘live up to expectations.’ Jeffers began his career at Everton bowing into the Premiership as a half time substitute in December 1997 against Manchester United.

Jeffers first stint at Goodison was relatively prosperous where, despite playing in an average team, he managed 20 goals in 60 appearances for the Toffees. It was enough to convince Arsene Wenger to spend £8m to bring the ‘fox in the box’ to Arsenal in 2001.

But Jeffers proved to be anything but a fantastic fox for the Highbury faithful. Dogged by injuries, he spent his time at Arsenal brushing up on his French while he laced up teammates Thierry Henry and Sylvain Wiltord’s boots. In four years he scored four goals for the Gunners, a return of £2 million per goal.

Passed on from club to club where plaudits came as seldom as his goals he finally found stability with Championship side Sheffield Wednesday in 2007. But he didn’t find form managing only five in 54 appearances and after a red card for



Jeffers is currently in Australia.

head butting Port Vale’s Tommy Fraser, Jeffers was placed on the transfer market in August 2009. After nine months and not a single offer, Jeffers’ contract with Wednesday was terminated. Despite his fall out with manager David Moyes during one of his many wanderings in the wilderness he was invited back to train with the Everton Reserves as a gesture of good

will after failing to find a new club over the summer, which included a failed trial with Blackpool. 29 year old Jeffers is currently in Australia on trial with Newcastle United Jets for a guest contract to play 10 games for the club.

# SPORTS QUIZ

Written by **David Prendergast**

1. Which American baseball team plays at the Rogers Centre?
2. Who was the first player to win the Wimbledon men’s singles tennis championship as a wildcard in 2001?
3. Brett Favre spent 15 years as a quarter back with the Green Bay Packers but where did he start his career?
4. Brian O’Driscoll is the top Irish try scorer in Heineken Cup history. How many times has he crossed the try line?
5. Luton Town play their home games at which stadium?
6. Which team knocked Meath out of this year’s GAA Senior Football Championship?
7. Frank Rijkaard has recently been sacked as the manager of which Turkish Premier League team?
8. Who won this year’s 2010 Hurling Young Player of the Year?
9. Which Asian country has been added to the roster for this season’s Formula One Championship?
10. Who was the last European to win the US golf masters?

10: Jose Maria Olazabal  
9: Korea  
8: Brendan Maher  
7: Galatasaray  
6: Kildare

5: Kenilworth Road  
4: 28  
3: Atlanta Falcons  
2: Goran Ivanisevic  
1: Toronto Blue Jays  
ANSWERS

# GOULDING AND SHINE CAN FEEL HARD DONE BY

Written by **David Prendergast**

THE All Star selections are a lot like playing with a beehive. Every time, someone will get stung.

The committee’s 40th selection since 1971 proved no different as Cork made history by becoming the first All-Ireland winning team not to see even one of their forwards win an All Star award.

While some pub talk could argue the whole team is flawed, there are more criminal inclusions than Graham Canty’s at centre back. In reality the main talking points lay in the full forward line. The inclusion of Colm

‘Gooch’ Cooper annoyed some but the truth is while Kerry had a bad year, Gooch did not. His contribution from play was below par but his overall attack was simply genius. His ability to unhinge defences is as close to an Irish Lionel Messi as we will ever get. Although the exclusion of all Cork forwards may seem bizarre, remember that until the second half of the All-Ireland final they had played close to the standards of a Junior team and at times their attacking play was about as exciting as the Lodge sober.

That said, Daniel Goulding, under the circumstances, should have been selected ahead of Cooper having played in twice as many games as him and having played consistently well. While Cork’s forward line lacked the electricity that seemed to possess the likes of Down and Kildare, you cannot win an All-Ireland without a signature forward. While Cork’s attacks often collapsed from open play, Goulding

gave them air to breathe from dead balls. He gave exhibitions in placed kicking and when the final whistle sounded in Croke Park on the 19 September he finished the season with 1-43, including a 0-9 man of the match display in the decider.

Donie Shine’s performances for Roscommon were phenomenal. The 21 year old kicked 1-31 from his team’s total of 1-41 in four championship games. His display in the Connacht Final against Sligo when the Rossies were a titanic 4/1 underdog explains their first Connacht title in nine years. If Roscommon were a violin then Shine would be the bow which made it play. In comparison Benny Coulter was shackled for the most part against Tyrone, Kerry and Cork, failing to register even a single score in the 3-20 to 0-10 massacre of Sligo which should have excluded him from consideration.



## Sport

## SPORTS EDITORIAL

Written by **Mark Connolly**,  
Sports Editor

"Greed is always good as it breeds the hunger for success."

AS Irish rugby faces into the November international tests while Wall Street 2 hits the screens, your Sports Editor is reminded of Gordon Gekko's immortal line 'greed is good'. In sport, especially rugby, greed is always good as it breeds the hunger

for success that I believe continues to abound in the current squad. Like Gekko, this greed will prove insatiable. Unfortunately, it will be insatiable for very different reasons.

Irish rugby is staring a lengthy barren period right in the face as we simply lack the quality to compete seriously in the coming years.

The problem our national side has and will have as we chase success to match the expectations built up over the previous decade is in the front five. We do not have the grunt to match the most physical sides.

A glance at our provinces demonstrates this as we persist in

drafting in South Africans to paper over the glaring inadequacies of our home grown forwards. Wian du Preez is now a regular as Munster can't find a suitable Irish replacement for Marcus Horan while Tony Buckley on the other side will surely be found out in the green jersey this November.

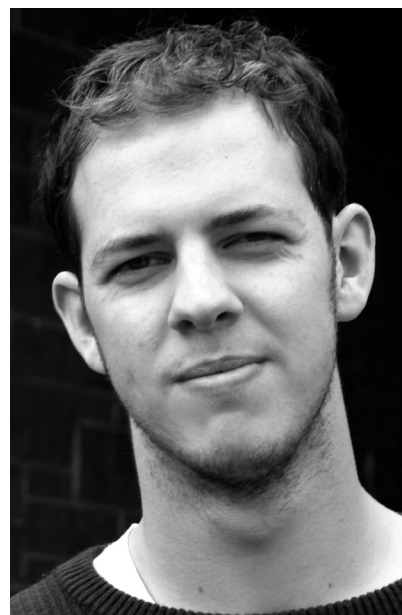
Meanwhile, Leinster has imported Heinke van der Merwe to replace Cian Healy. It was hoped that Healy would be the long term fulcrum of the Irish front row but, as Toulouse proved conclusively last April, the 'beast of Booterstown' is just not up to it.

The most distressing panorama emerges in Ulster where almost the

entire front five is South African. Ominously for us, unlike wine, in rugby South Africa tends not to export its best so this all bodes very badly for our upcoming test match against them. If one adds in second row concerns with the very real question marks that still exist over Donncha O'Callaghan's international credentials, we could be facing a Paris style trouncing.

If the old adage of forwards deciding games and backs deciding the margins of victory is true (which I believe it is) then a very barren era awaits us.

Occasionally, the Southern Hemisphere teams don't perform in Novembewr and we may get away



with it this year but long term we will not as the frightening possibility of Mick O'Driscoll making our starting team says more than I possibly could about our weakness in this crucial area.

## PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS FACING BARREN YEAR IN EUROPE

Written by **Robert McNamara**

THE Champions League final will be held at Wembley this year but it won't be an English team cradling 'ole big ears' come May.

No Premier League side is in a position to compete with the sheer might of Real Madrid. The Spanish giants have squad resources that the English teams can only dream of.

Manchester United is starting an extensive rebuilding operation with the impending retirements of so many veterans. The club is not exactly in free fall as many have suggested but with Rooney off form and troubled by injury, there is little hope of Fergie landing his third European crown.

Arsenal just doesn't have the firepower or guile to deal with more tactically astute teams. The emergence of Jack Wilshere, the extra attacking threat of Marouane Chamakh and Wenger's strengthening of the Gunners rear guard over the summer will mean they have a better chance. But the goalkeeping situation at the Emirates will be their undoing.

Chelsea has started the domestic season in some style and will command the Premier League race. However, a

lack of real strength in depth and the continuing injury problems of Frank Lampard, Didier Drogba and Yossi 'Gary Neville on speed' Benayoun will expose them against the stronger opposition.

Spurs are finding their way in the Champions League and have far from embarrassed themselves thus far. The signing of Rafael Van Der Vaart could just edge them into the knockout stage but judging by their performance in the San Siro they are not quite ready for the big stage.

'Ole big ears' will surely be heading back to Spain. Jose Mourinho has worked wonders with Real Madrid. He has gotten rid of the dead wood and brought in young, hungry players while adding the experience of Ricardo Carvalho to tighten their leaky defence.

The midfield artistry and the firepower of Madrid upfront are just phenomenal. This is not a team of mere Galacticos, this is a team of real substance. It better clear some space for silverware in the Bernabeu trophy cabinet.

## WHY CHELSEA WON'T WIN THE LEAGUE



Stamford Bridge celebrates a success.

Written by **Paul Carty**

EXPECT to find Stamford Bridge pretty muted next May when Chelsea surrenders its League title. Carlo Ancelotti's all-conquering machine will falter. Break down time is going to come and no Abramovich sponsored January rescue will be forthcoming.

Squad depth is going to be exposed. Chelsea has, for the most part, kept a remarkably clean bill of health across their squad in comparison to their challengers; chiefly Manchester United, Manchester City and Arsenal. Essien and Bosingwa aside they've had no long term injury concerns. Which is where they will fall down; who will bang in the goals if and when Drogba or Malouda get injured? Or more likely suffer a dip in form. Nicholas Anelka is far too erratic. With supersubs like Sturridge, Benayoun and Kakuta, things aren't looking too

rosy on the Chelsea bench. Springing Sturridge to bang in a brace against an already battered Wolves team is fine and dandy; ask him to change the game against either the red or blue half of Manchester and it'll be a different story.

Didier Drogba's biennial benefit games against Arsenal aside, the competition has significantly intensified and will cause the blues headaches. We've seen it already against Man City where they were exposed and expect it to happen again against the top 6. Ferguson will be gunning for the games against Chelsea having surrendered rather meekly last year and with a treasure chest of oil dollars washing through Man City they are quietly fancied by this column to take the league. Its fine hitting Wigan and West Brom for six, but it's

the games against City, United, Spurs et al that will decide the destination of the title.

The fixture list has been incredibly kind to the Londoners. In fact, it's a wonder they aren't further ahead in the league. The games against the bottom half of the table peter out soon though, and an extremely tough December awaits with Everton, Spurs, Man United and Arsenal coming in quick succession. Couple this with the fact that one imagines they'll be concentrating even more on the prize that has eluded their Russian sugar daddy since he took over and you can see why they might take their eye off the domestic ball. The Champions League will be the primary focus of their affections this year.





# AN FOCAL



Rich Hall Delivered his Unique Style of Comedy in Dolans Warehouse. Page 19.

Volume XIX  
Issue 5 FREE

2nd November 2010

## A PILGRIMAGE, WORD GAMES AND SOME MICROWAVED RASHERS

### Fight Like Apes talk to An Focal

Written by **Caitriona Ní Chadhain**, **Entertainments Editor**

DISCIPLES flocked from all corners of UL, from Thomond to Plassey and beyond, to revere before Fight Like Apes as they took to the stage two Thursdays ago in the manger. I mean, The Stables. Blessed were those who bought tickets, for they stood before the Apes as they bounded onto stage, and kicked off proceedings by asking the imperative question, Do You Karate? Those of us who made the pilgrimage have UL Music Society to thank for bringing us a show brimming with gusto.

I caught up with the “Flapes” after their gig. The foursome consists of MayKay, Pockets, Tom and Lee. What’s the best thing about being in Fight Like Apes? “That the biggest worry I have at the moment in these couple of hours is where I’m going to get food and drink, and then you get to go on stage and have a laugh,” said MayKay. Pockets (or Jamie) added, “we like being in Fight Like Apes and we like the music we make, and that’s kind of the best thing about it.”

So how did the album title The Body of Christ and the Legs of Tina Turner come about? Well, like most of the Apes’ lyrics and titles, through a game

of contrafibularities. In other words, one person says a word, and then the next person says another word and so on. If you do this for long enough you come up with a good album name. MayKay is the wildcard in the game. “They all sit around and I jump in when I feel the sentence isn’t coming together. A good verb or an adjective really rounds things off.”

We somehow landed on the subject of Come Dine With Me. Who would be Fight Like Apes’ ideal guests at a dinner party? “Drickers (Brian O’Driscoll), Glenda Gilson, Nigel Mansell, Lane Smith (the Chief in The New Adventures of Superman), and Shannyn Sossamon, she’d be on Celebrity Come Dine Naked With Me, or Celebrity Give Us A Shot of your Knockers” (possibly not coming to a screen near you soon. And the last people they’d like to have over? “Drickers, Glenda Gilson, Florence Welch, and Little Boots, she wouldn’t be invited.”

Your standard Fight Like Apes set is likely to induce a lack of control over the movement of your own limbs, as many of The Stables congregation could testify. Other side effects include getting bashed around a wee bit, and

making a holy show of yourself. Warming up the crowd for the Apes that night were I Caught Fire, Loaded Kings, Phillip, Blank and Rabbit Fox. Later that night the Apes caused a bit of a stir with Campus Security. They stayed around college drinking atop their van until six-ish in the morning, to the disapproval of security, (beside whom they had parked). They came back the next day to find they had been clamped and issued a fine of €25. Off they scampered to the bank, where they got €25 in one cent coins and handed this over to security. Solicitors were called.

I asked the Apes if they had any habits or rituals while making their album. “We actually microwaved bacon a lot while we were recording. Throw a few rashers on a plate and put them in a microwave on full for a couple of minutes. Throw the plate in the dishwasher after and you’re laughin’.”

“Only when you’re gargled or starving,” Pockets added. These are the words of the Flapes.



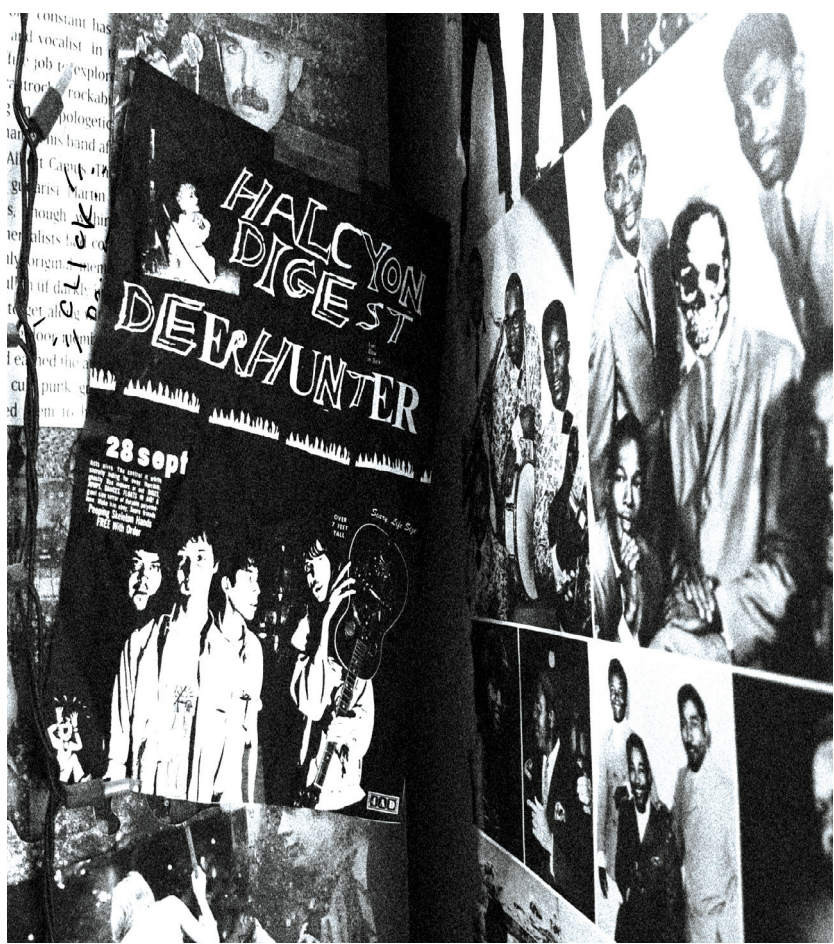
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sat 6th	<b>I Love Hip Hop</b> DJ ELEMENTAL FREE B4 11	10PM €7
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Entertainment



# SUBTLE AND STRONG

Written by **Liam Corcoran**

USUALLY, caution should be applied liberally when approaching new indie music that you have heard praised to the hilt by various journalists and industry professionals. There's a good chance it will be some brutal underground 'avant-garde noise-pop' that should have stayed even further underground. Atlanta band Deerhunter's latest album, *Halcyon Digest*, proves to be a major exception.

Moving away from their earlier guitar-driven influences (although front man Bradford Cox lists so many different bands as influences that it's hard to be sure), Deerhunter has delved deftly into a musical landscape rich in melodies, lyrics and everything else that makes an album special. Opening with the lolling 'Earthquake', *Halcyon Digest* calmly moves through every

single wondrous adjective you could think of until you're at least a small bit impressed. And it is a very calm record indeed, full of measured bass lines and rhythmical electro-acoustic riffs. The listener's attention could be caught by any of the first five tracks, and then comes the sixth, 'Desire Lines', a noisy yet delicate rocket which illuminates the album's real genius.

Despite its drawn-out and warbling intro, the second of the album's singles, 'Helicopter', is such a worthy track that it already feels like a familiar and reliable classic. All that music that Cox has been listening to has evidently gone to good use. 'Coronado' follows, featuring distorted vocals and spiralling Exile on Main Street inspired saxophone notes. Does this track, you may by now be thinking to yourself,

really come from the same year as Eminem and Rihanna's upsettingly shite 'Love the Way You Lie'? And the good news is that yes, yes it does!

The album finishes with 'He Would Have Laughed', a seven-and-a-half minute tribute to the prolific garage-rock musician Jay Reatard, who died in January. It's weird, it's incomprehensible, it features crashing cymbals and a rather abrupt end and it is brilliant. Deerhunter hasn't made the perfect record, but they've come closer than most, and if nothing else, they've ensured that Arcade Fire will have some serious opposition heading towards the 'Best of 2010' lists.

# LIFE AFTER DEATH

Written by **Jennifer Meaney**

THE *Lovely Bones* is Alice Sebold's debut novel. It is a very unusual and brilliant novel. Sebold's talent as a writer is excellently portrayed throughout the pages of this enchanting and sometimes haunting book. It begins with the central character introducing herself 'My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973. You're immediately hooked.

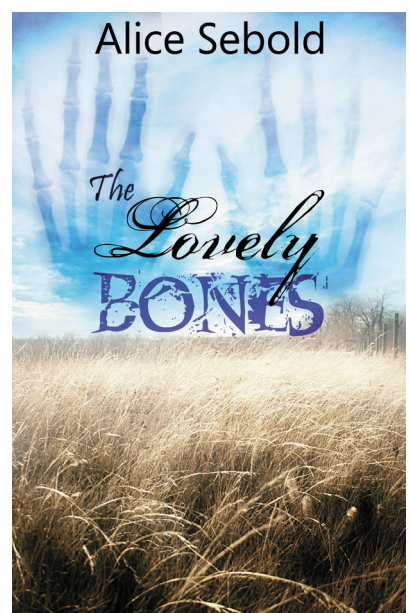
This novel is an example of writing at its best, and at times is comparable with poetry. We learn Susie is now in heaven, her own personal part of heaven where she watches over her family, friends and killer in the aftermath of her death.

In this way from heaven she speaks of her killer Mr Harvey as wearing his innocence like a comfortable old coat.

We are taken on this journey with Susie as she discovers more and more of her heaven and as she continues to observe the events on earth. This is a moving and powerful book, dealing with themes of death, loss, grief, family, justice, heaven, hope and the human spirit. The latter of which is truly tested, the tragedy that befalls the Salmon family is immense and they each try to deal with it in their own way. Susie's father tries to comfort the family. Her mother who never wanted children hides from her pain, and eventually turns away

from the family. Susie's sister fights her feelings of loss and hurt and tries to block it all out, while Susie's baby brother tries to understand why Susie isn't coming home.

This is a heart wrenching story beautifully told by a stunning writer, who fills the pages of the novel with detailed descriptions of these harrowing and terrible events. Readers are compelled to turn the pages of this novel to follow Susie and her family in this unimaginable journey, from utter despair and hopelessness to understanding, healing, love and happiness.



# LIGHTING UP THE STAGE LIKE A FLAME

Written by **Brige Newman**

FAME opened on the UCH last week to the delight of many a dance fanatic.

Irish star of the hit TV show *Fame* - The Musical Ben Morris proved that he deserved to win the coveted role of Nick Piazza. Hitting high notes any soprano would have been proud

of, he played the role of the brooding determined teenager spectacularly.

Jessica Cervi, who also won her role through the reality TV series, sang her heart out as Ben's love interest Serena Katz.

Director Bryan Flynn and musical director David Hayes

collaborated well to make a foot tapping, heart wrenching show that had the audience on their feet by the time final curtain call arrived. As *Fame* has said for the past three decades, it is going to live forever.

CAMPUS LISTINGS	DAY	WHAT'S ON	WHERE	TIME	TICKETS	
<b>WEEK 9</b> November	Monday	Open Mic Night + DJ	Stables	8pm	Free	
	Tuesday	Anchorman On the Big Screen (November Launch)	SU courtyard	8pm	Free	
	Tuesday	UL's Got Talent (Heat 3)	Stables	8pm	Free	
	Wednesday	National Student Protest	East Gate-Dublin	8:30am	€ 2	
	Wednesday	Karaoke	Stables	8pm	Free	
	Wednesday	Trad Session	The Scholars	9pm	Free	
	Thursday	Slumdog Millionaire On the Big Screen	The Scholars and SU Courtyard	8:30pm	Free	
<b>WEEK 10</b>	Thursday	Jerico (Boston Buy Back)	Stables	9pm	Free	
	Friday	International Party Night (DJ and finger food)	Stables	9pm	Free	
	Saturday	Open All Day	Stables			
	<b>Ents Highlights</b>	Monday	Open Mic Night + DJ	Stables	7pm	Free
		Tuesday	First Year Class Party	Stables	8pm	Free
		Wednesday	Karaoke (Ladies free cocktails)	Stables	8pm	Free
		Thursday	UL's Got Talent Final (Boston Buy Back) Late Bar	Stables	8pm	Free
Friday		International Party Night (DJ and finger food)	Stables	9pm	Free	
Saturday	Trampolining Intersarsity (DJ and Music All Night)	Stables	9pm	Free		

## THE HURLERS BAR

Castletroy, Limerick

**Sundays**

**Mondays**

**Tuesdays**

**Wednesdays**

**Thursdays**

**First Year/Second Year Night**  
Student promotional deals in back bar area to kick start the week! Free entry and live band playing from 9:30 p.m.

**MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS!!!**  
FANTASTIC student promotional deals  
Free entry and live band from 9:30 p.m.

**COMEDY NIGHT**  
Comedy night with live performances on stage in back bar area

**ACOUSTIC MUSIC Sessions**  
Live music sessions, in the front bar area from 9:00 p.m., with great promotional deal for the night

**BEAT THE RECESSION MONSTER**  
Best student promotional deals in Limerick offered in the back bar area from 9:00 p.m. for the night

**We now do promotional deals and events for class parties and birthdays, just contact us via our facebook page**

To find out all about our student special offers each week, check out or join our facebook page 'Hurlers Limerick' where we advertise weekly all upcoming events, bands and special offers

## Entertainment

# HALL IN A WAREHOUSE

# FANTASIES OF A MAN WHO HAS IT ALL

Written by **Sinéad Ní Chatháin**

"There was something about Dolans' intimate venue and Rich Hall's unique humour that made us feel part of something special."

AT the dot of eight, Rich Hall announced himself on stage at Dolan's Warehouse, wearing a cheesy black cowboy shirt and runners. He launched straight into a rant about the two empty seats in the front row and America's \$14tn debt. Known mostly as 'that American guy from QI', Rich Hall began his comedic career as a street comedian in North Carolina. Since then his reputation has grown and he now performs regularly all over Britain and on TV. This whiney, sarcastic humour was exactly what I had come for. Once deemed the inspiration for Moe the bartender from the Simpsons, Hall has a way of making an audience feel both better about themselves and guilty for his 'misfortunes' at the same time.

The first hour of the show was mostly dedicated to all that's wrong in Hall's world and the world in general. He spoke to members of the audience in a familiar, Dara O'Briain-esque way, interrogating them and making them part of the show. Something as simple as an audience member leaving to use the bathroom mid-joke can set Hall off on a rant. He even managed to keep the joke going until the said toilet-goer returned! Hall reappeared for the second half of the show armed with a fresh beer, a guitar and a piano. Most topics were accompanied by a musically and linguistically clever song in which Hall sang and played a bluesy piano melody. Some were pre-written but most were made up on the spot. Hall has a very unique talent for puns. The song in which Hall sings of weight gain using only the names of Irish towns (called 'Dublin-up') was comedy genius.

There was something about Dolans' intimate venue and Rich Hall's unique humour that made us feel part of something special. Rich Hall belongs in comedy, and here's hoping he never leaves it.



Rich Hall is probably best known as a panellist for BBC show, QI.

Written by **Joshua Lee**

KANYE West is nothing if not polarizing. Last year the rapper provoked uproar after interrupting Taylor Swift during the VMAs. And now, with the imminent release of his fifth LP; My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, the hip-hop artist again looks set to divide audiences as he releases his 34 minute-long music video/film, entitled Runaway. The short film had its UK premiere on MTV last Saturday, 23 October, and saw West make his directorial debut. The film was shot in Prague and features heavily stylised set-pieces and a captivating use of colours and contrasts. West stars as the protagonist, Griffin, who falls in

love with a phoenix, played by model SelitaEBanks, who has fallen to earth in a meteorite. The film quickly kicks into the first of eight songs off West's upcoming album. After rescuing the phoenix from her fiery landing, Griffin introduces his new, scantily clad companion to earth.

Of course, in the world of Kanye West this means dinner parties in an abandoned warehouse, parades involving a paper-mâché mock-up of the late Michael Jackson's head, the Ku Klux Klan, a troupe of ballet dancers, and an impromptu performance of the rapper's next single, 'Runaway'. West has described the film as an "overall

representation of what I dream." It certainly is a fascinating insight into the mind of a man whose passion for what he does is undeniable, but often over-zealous.

The cryptic work is likely to bewilder. But the incredibly lush visuals and West's clever use of colour and contrast is very elegant. Despite some woeful acting – courtesy of Kanye, the film manages to be thoroughly entertaining. Coupled with his recent music, it acts as a mouth-watering taster for the flamboyant rapper's upcoming album, released on 22 November.



**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**  
ON THE BIG SCREEN

**CURRY FOR A CAUSE  
IN AID OF THE  
PAKISTAN FLOOD  
APPEAL.**



**SU COURTYARD . 8:30PM . THURS, WEEK 9**

CURRY €5 . PROCEEDS TO MSF  
KINDLY SUPPORTED BY THE SCHOLARS

## LES MIS CELEBRATES ITS 25TH YEAR INTERNATIONALLY

Written by **Lorcan O'Neill**

LES Miserables is widely considered one of the world's favourite and most cherished theatrical works. It is the third longest running Broadway show in history.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of its debut on the West End in London, which was also the first production of the show to be staged in English.

Previously celebrating its 10th anniversary with a star-studded cast performing at the Royal Albert Hall, it marked its 25th anniversary at the O2 Arena in London on 3 October 2010. What made this a truly unique experience though, was its live broadcast to cinemas across the UK, Ireland and the world – including the

Limerick Omniplex at the Crescent Shopping Centre. This allowed many more fans of the musical to share in this crowning recognition of musical success despite limitations of distance or capacity.

I found this to be a wonderful method for sharing in such an event, one which did not break the bank (€15 for three hours in the cinema) and one which I would encourage in the future. Surely with cinema attendance falling, this should be embraced as a marketing tactic to fill their seats again!

# SPARTACUS: BOOBS AND SWORDS

Written by **Ruairí Moore**

"I hate him with the burning passion of ten thousand toasters for that sickening pantomime Spiderman 3."

I VALUE my weekends. I spend my days home from college lying around, raiding the fridge and being a waste of oxygen. It's me time.

So I didn't devote my time lightly when I sat down to catch up on the latest big thing on television, Spartacus: Blood and Sand. With such a compelling title, how could I lose?

I did have my reservations. Take Sam Raimi, executive producer of the show. Sam and I have a love/hate relationship. I love him for the Spiderman movie, and hate him with the burning passion of

ten thousand toasters for that sickening pantomime Spiderman 3. I had seen the trailers; heard the talk. I expected gladiators, boobies, pointy objects, and bleeding. Still, the testosterone-soaked gushing of arteries that was shoved down my eyeholes over the next hour took me by surprise. I don't have a problem with gore. But Spartacus takes it to a level where I worry for any character who might dare pick their nose, for fear their head could explode in a bloody mist of sheer manliness. To make the production team's problematic understanding of blood pressure worse, Spartacus uses so much slow-mo that shows boil down to no more than five minutes of orgies and violence.

Conversely, the show does offer a different take on a tired genre. So I continued to watch despite my complaints, and was rewarded with a shrinking focus on blood and body parts, and a heavier emphasis on character and story by season's end. The occasional unnecessary flash of genitalia in the middle of key scenes still cropped up.



Lucretia, played by Lucy Lawless, a lead character in Spartacus Blood and Sand.



## DAVEY PUTS HEART AND SOUL INTO DOLANS PERFORMANCE

Written by **Emily Maree**

STANDING in the busy, bustling restaurant that is Dolan's Pub & Restaurant, you wouldn't think that just behind the smoking area is a warehouse; the eclectic gem of Limerick. The Warehouse has been host to many big names and believes in supporting Irish artists. On the bill the next couple of months are Irish musicians of all different genres. On Friday, 15 October, it was the turn of blonde bombshell Cathy Davey.

The room was relaxed but fans waited with bated breath. The first support

act was one of our own; a UL veteran called Bobby Noonan. With his almost childlike lyrics and relaxed sense of style, he reminded me of a male Emma's Imagination. He is comfortable on stage and I can see him becoming a big name on the Irish music scene in the future.

Soon it was time for Cathy Davey to perform. And that she did. Singing beside a table with flowers and candles, her soulful lyrics captured the audience and soon had everyone dancing and singing along. Wearing a 1940's shift dress and a hat to match, the newly

appointed Concern ambassador sang all of her hits passionately, including 'Little Red', 'The Nameless' and 'Reuben'. She interacted incredibly well with an audience of all ages.

All in all, Cathy Davey put on an incredible show, with the use of five different instruments. She put her heart and soul into entertaining the audience. If that's not the true mark of a great artist, I don't know what is.

**AM I AWARE?**  
6 pints?! Yes!! 24 burgers?! No...?

WEDNESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER AT 2.00 OUTSIDE STUDENTS UNION IN COURTYARD  
PRIZE: THE ULTIMATE STUDENT SURVIVAL PACK FOR THE ULTIMATE STUDENT  
SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE ON FACEBOOK AT UL ALCOHOL & HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN  
MC BY CONOR QUINN

AKA Snap Gaelic Mac Léinn Student Affairs  
In conjunction with UL Alcohol & Health Awareness Campaign 2010

**UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL**  
THE Entertainment Venue on Campus

**Special UL Student Price**  
€15 (per show)  
Students offer applies to TAKE THAT & CIRCUS OF HORRORS

**FAKE THAT**  
THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE SHOW  
TUESDAY 2nd NOV

**THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS**  
"IF QUENTIN TARANTINO DIRECTED CIRQUE DU SOLEIL THIS WOULD BE IT!"

**KEITH BARRY** "New On Sale!"  
"Orgasmic, boogie line mental, an unmissable show"  
Sibhan O'Connor  
"In a World of his own, a must-see show"  
Brian O'Connell  
"I laughed till my face hurt"  
Keith Duffy  
OUTRAGEOUS UNBELIEVABLE CONTROVERSIAL

**MONDAY 24th JANUARY**  
OVER 16'S

TICKETS €28.50  
CONC. €26.25  
(BOOKING FEE APPLIES)

**BOOKING: 061 331549 / WWW.UCH.IE**  
(BOOKING FEES APPLY). BECOME A FAN ON facebook

## AN AGE OF DECADENCE

Written by **Michael Lawlor**

IN 1925, Scribners published what would prove to be the best of F. Scott Fitzgerald's writing style in The Great Gatsby. The narrator is Nick Carraway, a young man in New York learning the bond business, and through his eyes, we witness the novel's true subject, the enigmatic Jay Gatsby and his attempt to recreate the past.

The novel begins with Nick's recent move to West Egg, in Long Island. But the focus is quickly placed on East Egg, where the rich and decadent congregate at Gatsby's house time and again for drink and revelry.

Nick is the first to notice that the host of these great occasions stands detached, ultimately alone. Upon attending one of these functions, Nick and Gatsby meet, and a fragile friendship is struck. But despite all his success, Nick realises, Gatsby cannot attain the one thing he wants, that which he has lost. Economic but still displaying the delicacy and imagery typical of his writing, Fitzgerald

captured the age he himself helped to create, a world of late night parties and careless living, even though at its core, he seeks the reason behind all this distraction.

Hailed constantly as one of the greatest novels of the last hundred years for its critique of the American Dream, the notion that success and money equates happiness, the book uses both plain narrative and symbolic motif to make its point.

Sadly, it was only after Fitzgerald's death that the book would become fully appreciated. Eighty-five years on, the novel has still not lost any of its ability to impress and touch its readers as it explores the fallibility of people and their efforts to find lasting happiness.

Student Speak

# Facebook users roll up!

## Are you in this issue of Student Speak?



An Focal Photographer Keith Beegan, and intrepid Reporter Róisín Peddle zoomed around the campus last week in search of your wise opinions.

### So guys, should Facebook be banned from campus computers?

**Breeda Kennedy** *"Yes, because when you need a computer to print an assignment, you're stuck behind some idiot looking at pictures of himself that nobody cares about."*



**Louise O'Sullivan and Neasa Peters** *"Don't ban it! Some people don't have laptops and have no other way of accessing Facebook."*



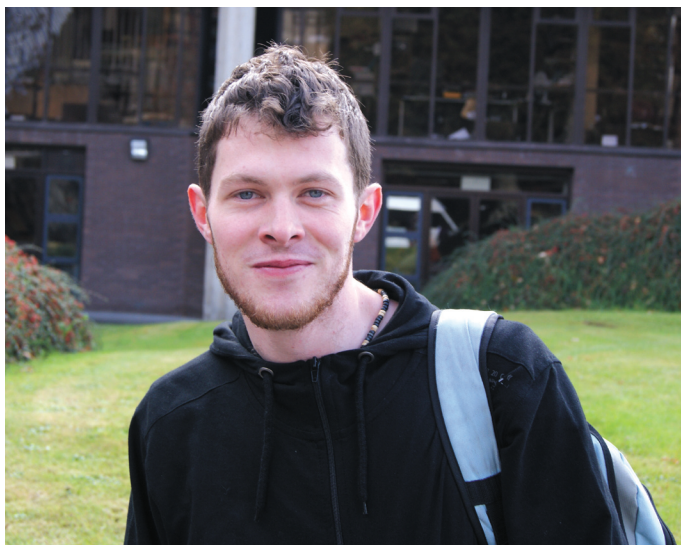
**Chris Fitzgerald** *"If there were more computers on campus, it wouldn't be a problem."*



**Una NíFlatharta agus Aisling NíFhéinne** *"Maybe ITD should put a time limit on its usage instead of an outright ban."*



**Shane Cusack and Anna Garcia** *"It shouldn't be banned because it helps people de-stress."*



**Lorcan O'Neill** *"Ban it! We should all go back to Bebo."*



**Laura Griffin** *"People need Facebook for recreation."*



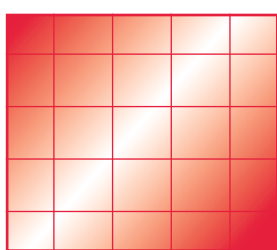
**Chloe Wade** *"Don't ban it! It's an easy way to keep in touch with friends from home and other colleges."*



**Tom Byrnes and Zara Walsh** *"Perhaps. I mean, we can get a bit side-tracked sometimes."*



**David Carroll** *"Don't ban it! Sometimes you need to be distracted from study."*



# The Grid

## Exclusive communication for Clubs and Societies.

Attention C&S PROs! Send content for The Grid to [sucommunications@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunications@ul.ie) before Friday, 5 November to benefit from your space in the next issue.

Clubs	<b>Handball</b> Training in the PESS building from 7pm, Mondays and 8.15pm, Thursdays. E: <a href="mailto:ulhandball@gmail.com">ulhandball@gmail.com</a> or Facebook "University of Limerick Handball Club".	<b>Rowing</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a> .	Societies	<b>History</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>American Football</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a> .	<b>Judo</b> Meetings: Monday 7:30pm to 9pm at Claughan Club, Childers Rd, and Thursday 8:15pm to 9:45pm in the PESS.	<b>Sailing</b> Training: Saturdays and Sundays - Meeting at Stables at 9am Upcoming Events: Eastern Championships - Carlingford, Co. Louth - 6 to 7 November. ITRA Nationals - Schull, Co.Cork - 13 to 14 November. Visit our new website at <a href="http://sailing.skynet.ie">sailing.skynet.ie</a> .	<b>Anime and Manga</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>International</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Archery</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://www.ulac.tk">www.ulac.tk</a> or email <a href="mailto:ularchery@gmail.com">ularchery@gmail.com</a> .	<b>Karate Shotokan</b> Training Times: Tuesdays 6:15pm to 8:15pm and Thursdays 8:15 to 10.15 "Putting a Little Ying in Your Yang"	<b>Skydive</b> Jump solo for the amazing, new, low price of €120! For information on courses email <a href="mailto:info@skydiveul.org">info@skydiveul.org</a> or see Facebook - SkydiveUL - for regular updates. Blue Skies!	<b>Architecture</b> Facebook, Twitter or <a href="http://societyofarchitecture.blogspot.com">societyofarchitecture.blogspot.com</a>	<b>Law</b> See news section for report on constitution launch.
<b>Athletics</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a> .	<b>Kayak</b> Check out <a href="http://www.ulkayak.com">www.ulkayak.com</a> for the latest info on trips, pool and outback river sessions!	<b>Soccer Training</b> Monday to Wednesday. Info on training, matches and reports is available online. Club gear available to purchase. See <a href="http://ulsoccerclub.webs.com/apps/blog/">http://ulsoccerclub.webs.com/apps/blog/</a> or email <a href="mailto:ulsoccerclub.mail@gmail.com">ulsoccerclub.mail@gmail.com</a>	<b>Christian Union</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Medical</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Badminton</b> The Limerick badminton league will be starting very soon. Games work on a home and away basis. The UL badminton club has entered a team in three categories: grade 6 (entry level), grade 4 (experienced players) and grade 2/3 (very experienced players).	<b>Krav Maga</b> Training on Mondays from 6:30pm until 8pm in the PESS Main Hall. Wednesdays from 7pm until 9pm in the PESS Small Hall.	<b>Softball</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Computer</b> Photoshop contest running until week 10: <a href="http://competition.skynet.ie">http://competition.skynet.ie</a> For activities, talks, and other events visit <a href="http://www.skynet.ie">www.skynet.ie</a>	<b>Music</b> Mondays: Open Mics in the Stables. Tuesdays: UL Live. See: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/ulmusicoc">www.facebook.com/ulmusicoc</a>
<b>Basketball</b> Senior Women's training Mon and Wed 21:30 - 23:00. Senior Men's Training Tues 20:00 - 21:30 and Thurs 21:30 - 23:00. Fresher Women Thurs 07:15 - 08:30, Fresher Men 07:15 - 08:30. For more see <a href="http://www.ulbasketball.skynet.ie/">http://www.ulbasketball.skynet.ie/</a>	<b>Ladies Hockey</b> New members always welcome! Training: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm on Astro-turf beside PESS. Email: <a href="mailto:ulladieshockeyclub@gmail.com">ulladieshockeyclub@gmail.com</a>	<b>Sub Aqua</b> Thank you divers for participating in our sportswear fundraiser! On the 9th and 23/24th, members went to Portroe Quarry to work towards higher qualifications and refresh fundamental diving skills. See <a href="http://subaqua.csn.ul.ie/">http://subaqua.csn.ul.ie/</a>	<b>Cumann Gaeilge</b> Ciorcal Comhrá i Club na Scolairí gach Ceadaoine. 7pm. Conversation group in Scholars Bar every Wednesday at 7pm.	<b>Nature Society</b> Meetings every Wednesday at 6pm in the Jonathon Swift theatre.
<b>Boarders</b> Visit <a href="http://ulboarders.com">ulboarders.com</a>	<b>Ladies Rugby</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Tae Kwon Do</b> Taekwondo Training Times Mon - P.E.S.S. Building - 19h00-21h00 Wed - P.E.S.S. Building - 21h00-22h30 Thurs - P.E.S.S. Building - 19h00-20h15	<b>Debating Union</b> Regular meetings. Contact <a href="mailto:uldebu@gmail.com">uldebu@gmail.com</a> .	<b>Out in UL</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Capoeira</b> Classes at 6pm on Tuesdays in the PESS Building Dance Studio and at 7pm on Wednesdays in the PESS Building Hall. Visit <a href="http://ulcapa.webs.com">ulcapa.webs.com</a> for more.	<b>Men's Rugby</b> Training on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6pm on McGuire's.	<b>Tennis</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Development</b> Concerned about global issues, Human Rights, Fair-trade? Meeting every Monday at 6pm. E: <a href="mailto:uldevsoc@gmail.com">uldevsoc@gmail.com</a>	<b>Photographic</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Chess</b> Mondays 6-10 EGO010 Thursdays 6-8 SU Room 3 If you want to find out more information then give us a buzz at <a href="mailto:ulchessclub@gmail.com">ulchessclub@gmail.com</a> Look forward to hearing from you!	<b>Mountain Bike</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Trampoline</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>DJ</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Poker</b> Two Aces is the best pre-flop hand you can get in Texas Hold 'Em and you should always re-raise. Poker Championship takes place on Monday week 10 in the sports bar. Check Facebook for more info.
<b>Dance UL</b> Meetings: Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays in Dromroe Village Hall. Ballet started in Week 6 and we've also got Hip-Hop, Jazz, Ladies Hip-Hop and Yogaletes. Visit <a href="http://www.uldance.ie">www.uldance.ie</a> or search "Dance UL" on Facebook	<b>Outdoor Pursuits (OPC)</b> Caving, Climbing, Hill Walking, Mountaineering and Orienteering. Keep up to date with our activities by joining us and checking the club message board regularly <a href="http://www.ulopc.com">www.ulopc.com</a> . E: <a href="mailto:Info@ulopc.com">Info@ulopc.com</a>	<b>Ultimate Frisbee</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Drama</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Socialist Youth</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Fencing</b> Meetings: Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm (practise), Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm and 7pm to 8pm (coached training). Main Hall, PESS. Email <a href="mailto:ulfencing@gmail.com">ulfencing@gmail.com</a>	<b>Parkour</b> Dun Laoghaire Overnight Trip, Friday 5 November, outdoor and indoor Parkour equipment, come along! Training: Monday 9pm to 10.30pm in the PESS Gym Thursday: 7pm to 8.30pm in the PESS Sports Hall	<b>Water Polo</b> congratulations to Marie "Tayto" Geraghty, on her recent appointment as the new Ladies Captain. Training times (in Arena pool!): Waterpolo - Mon and Wed 9.45pm - 11.00pm. Swimming: Wed 9.00pm - 9.45pm	<b>Enterprise &amp; Finance</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>ULTV</b> Weekly meetings every Monday at 6.30pm in SU Room 3. Weekly meetings to arrange Dublin studio show trip every Wednesday at 6pm in C1058.
<b>GAA</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a> .	<b>Pool &amp; Darts</b> Pool Tournaments on Mondays in the SU Pool Room, from 7pm. Darts Tournaments on Tuesdays in the Sports Bar at 7:30pm.	<b>Windsurfing</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Games</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Young Fine Gael</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>

# PARKOUR. WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

Written by **Roisin Healy**

IT'S a sport involving fitness training on a par with any gym. Parkour UL is only a few months old and already the club has an impressive track record when it comes to events and training.

Don't just take my word for it though. Talk to any of the 100-plus members who joined in September. Parkour UL is the answer to your fitness and entertainment needs.

The sessions combine drills, circuits, technique training and running in a guided work-out that is effective and enjoyable. "If you are looking for a way to get fit, have a bit of fun at the same time and meet people who encourage you then Parkour is the place to go," committee member Keith Young enthused.

Parkour training improves the entire body. Member Jack Deacon has just

two things to say to anyone new to training. "You will enjoy it, but bring water!" That might all sound like hard work but another benefit is the opportunity to meet new people. "I have met a lot of people I wouldn't know otherwise," member Mike Bachke said. Socialising has been a big part of the club's calendar so far.

The club puts a lot of emphasis on meeting and having the craic outside the sports hall. "Definitely give it a go," member Sophie McDermott advises.

See Facebook for news and updates. If you want to give our training sessions a go, training times are available in our C&S Grid submission. Come see what the fuss is about!

# NAIL BITING STUFF FROM UL SAILORS

Written by **Billy Clarke**

LAST weekend the UL Sailing Club opened their sailing season with a strong podium finish at the Irish University Western Championships hosted by NUI Galway at Clifden, Co. Galway.

But Saturday morning dawned with no wind and surprisingly low temperatures.

By 2pm, a breeze had steadied and racing began. The UL team got off to an unstable start first losing to UCD1 and then DIT before redeeming themselves by soundly beating UCC1.

On Sunday, everyone took to the water early in an attempt to get the competition back on track. UL fared better that day, beating CIT1, NUIG1 and Trinity1 before finishing with a loss to DCU. UL went on to once again defeat UCC in their best of three quarter

final, winning two races in quick succession, before going head to head with UCD1. In a twist of unlucky fate UCD1 successfully claimed grounds for a redress when one of their rudders disintegrated prior to the start of the original semi and in the most thrilling race of the event, the winning team went back and forth several times on each leg.

With a nail biting last beat to the finish, UCD1 overcame UL and knocked them off the final leaving them with a respectable third position.

UL Team: Patrick Hegarty, Conor Martin, Billy Clarke, Jane Cunningham, Maddie O'Connell, Tom Martin. Also sailing was: Ross Murray, Emma O'Sullivan, Dave Kenny, Catherine Finn.

# DCU NO MATCH FOR ALL CONQUERING UL

Written by **Michelle De Barra**

ON Wednesday, 13 October, the inaugural CUSAI Autumn Rugby 7's took place at NUI Maywood's grounds at Barnhall RFC. A total of eighteen teams and approximately 200 students partook on the day, including a modest turn out of six ladies teams, two of which were entered from UL Ladies' Rugby (ULLR).

The Freshers were up first against travelling companions LIT Ladies. Unfortunately the LIT side dominated. But the girls enjoyed a far more successful game against division one side, DCU, with the majority of

the players showing great skill and much potential. The senior squad's opening game was against Carlow IT. The girls won and carried momentum into following games, dominating NUIM in all aspects on the pitch, but exceedingly so in terms of fitness and ball handling.

ULLR would like to take this opportunity to thank CUSAI, Barnhall RFC and the IRFU for organising the event. The club looks forward to competing in the tournament next autumn.

# BE A PART OF MOVEMBER! HELP CHANGE THE FACE OF MEN'S HEALTH!

Written by **Mark Connolly,**  
**Sports Editor**

THE Medical Society in association with the SU is organizing its second annual Movember campaign. We would like to build on last year's success and get more UL students involved as Mo Bro's and Sista's, helping to raise funds and awareness in the fight against Prostate Cancer.

#### What is Movember?

Movember challenges men to change their appearance and the face of men's health by growing a moustache.

#### What are the rules?

Following a clean shave, we will grow a moustache for the entire month.

The moustache becomes a ribbon for men's health and the means by which awareness and funds are raised for the major issues that affect men's health. All funds raised benefit Action Prostate Cancer.

#### When do we begin?

The campaign launches on Tuesday, 2 November in the SU Courtyard. Spin SW will broadcast live with giveaways too. Last year one lucky student won two tickets to Lady Gaga.

Everyone will have the chance to register for the Official UL Movember Team. The first 50 to register will get a free Movember T-shirt and gift pack.

So come along, get involved and join Movember!



# UL TAEKWONDO VISITS CHANNEL ISLAND

Written by **Sofian Tlili and**  
**Michael Johnson**

THE first weekend of October saw seven members of ULTKDO travel from Limerick to the Channel Island of Jersey for a weekend's training with the island's longest-running martial arts club.

The club's first training session was an ice-breaking and motivational conditioning class. The instructors pulled out all the stops to make the session interesting, rewarding and taxing for all grades taking part. This was no easy task. A grading ensued and standards were high. Miss Markowska, trainer at the Jersey club, is currently WUPA's World Female Sparring Champion. Her

training and conditioning workouts have to be experienced to be believed. Training sessions covered speed work and kicking drills as well as some more traditional TaeKwonDo techniques.

In addition to all the training, UL's delegation got a chance to experience some of the local lifestyle and culture. Jersey is a relatively small island with a population of approximately 90,000 individuals.

A visit to the Jersey War Tunnel Exhibition and tour some of the amazing coastal scenery on the island were just some of the exciting activities enjoyed by UL TaeKwonDo Club. UL

TaeKwonDo Club trains in the PESS Building on Mondays at 6:50pm, Wednesday at 9:00pm or Thursday at 6:50pm. Student or external members are welcome. TaeKwonDo is a Korean Martial Art, and is widely regarded as one of the best ways of getting fit, staying in shape and learning something useful and different. Contact us at [ul.taekwondo@gmail.com](mailto:ul.taekwondo@gmail.com) or search University of Limerick TaeKwonDo Club on Facebook.



**The UL Rowers have made history as the first club to win all the men's intermediate sweep rowing events at the Irish National Rowing Championships. UL President, Professor Don Barry congratulated the club. Pictured is Stephen Penny and Liam Rice.**

# POKER CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK 10

Written by **Christopher Murray**

MONDAY, 9 November sees the UL Poker Championship in the Sports Bar. Buy-in is €15 if you pre-register or €20 on the night. Buy-in to be paid before Monday, 9 November to avail of the reduced fee.

It's a freeze out. Starts around 6:30pm but see Facebook for notification of change. Register at [ulpokersoc@gmail.com](mailto:ulpokersoc@gmail.com) or see Facebook. This event is open to everyone. Non students are welcome to attend.

The Championship will be the biggest UL Poker event this year. Players will compete for a coveted, first-issue UL Poker Championship bracelet.

# RAISE THE ROOF

Written by **UL Drama Society PRO**

UL Drama Society presents Raise The Roof, a musical variety show. Jonathan Swift, 10-11 November at 8pm sharp. Tickets €4. Musical Director, Michael Young. Producer, Emma Langford.

National March

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