



AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

e-mail ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

www.ul.ie/~ulsu

TERM 2 WEEK 6



anarchy in the UL

pg. 14



rag radio it's all good

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being john malkovich

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EGM Called After Disappointing Meeting

There is to be an Emergency General Meeting of the Students' Union on Thursday of Week 7, after a meeting on Tuesday night was deemed inquorate.

Tuesday night's Union General Meeting, held with the objective of making important changes to the way student clubs and societies are run, and to the way the Students' Union works for the student body, ended in disappointment for those who had worked on the changes.

200 people were needed to make the meeting quorate, which would allow votes to be taken and decisions to be made on the changes proposed. This minimum number of students was not reached, even after trips to the Stables and the Scholars bar encouraging people to come up to the meeting.

The final count was 156, but when it was announced that the meeting was not quorate, and so no decisions could



a patient crowd wait to see if the 200 people arrive

be made, many of those 156 left the Johnathon Swift Theatre.

Those that remained discussed the proposed changes, and the general feeling at the meeting was that the proposed

changes should go through, and the discussion changed to how they could be brought about. The general consensus

contd. on pg. 5

Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date

we're looking for opinions, comments, ideas etc

Thursday Wk 4
6.00pm

new student centre
all are welcome

Congratulations Rosie!

Rosie Ryan, the UL athlete recently featured in An Focal, put in a great performance for Ireland over the weekend.

Running in the IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Portugal, Rosie finished 20th in the long course, and 28th in the short course the following day, beating many more experienced internationals.

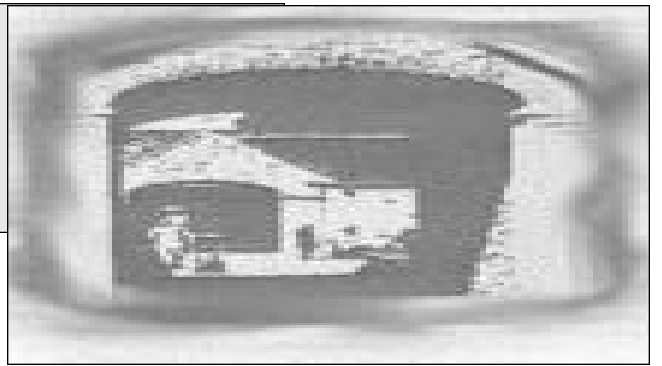
This excellent form puts Rosie in an excellent position for the Sydney Olympics next September.



Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

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



e-mail ; union.president@student.ul.ie



Well, as per usual, I've left writing this 'til the last minute with Dave having a paper deadline madness attack.

So what's new and exciting I hear you say? (You do say that every week don't you - waiting eagerly to read this part).

Well we had the UGM on Tuesday but since I'm writing this before the meeting I can't exactly tell you how it went.

Of course, Kollege Week is coming up with a bit of fire

walking, bungee jumping, etc. ya know - the usual stuff. Preparations are going well for that and you can read all about it in the upcoming Kollege Week Preview.

I've been told that over the summer the medical centre will be expanding allowing for bigger waiting rooms and more doctor's rooms. And shortly you should be seeing internet access being brought back from 10pm to 6pm in the major computer labs such as the VAX.

Apart from that, it's going to be Kollege Week preparations for the next two weeks and oh yeah, if you feel like taking part in a nation wide scavenger hunt over the weekend before Kollege Week and you and a friend can raise at least £150 between now and then, then call into the Students' Union and pick up a sponsorship card and get more details.

Until the next one, have a good one.

Pat

e-mail ; deppresident@ulsu.iol.ie



My term of office as Welfare Officer is almost over but I have to say what an educational year it has been for me.

Few things happen in your life that gives you cause to say 'I'll never be the same again'. This year but in particular this week has done just that for me.

The shock at the deaths of Anne Marie and Niamh O'Loughlin is something I will never forget. Graduates of the University of Limerick and Mary Immaculate, both represented everything that was good about life. Both had a love for peo-



ple and places which is why they were travelling around South America with their close friend Eugenie McGee who also died in the tragic accident on March 6th. Niamh had a theory on life which was to live it to the fullest of your ability, to experience as much as possible to love everything and everyone and that is exactly what she did. Everyone who met them loved them dearly - they had a profound effect on you. What can be learned from this tragedy is that Niamh was right, you never know what is in coming next so do as much as you can and be happy.

Dee

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Ohhhhhh! too much, too much.

just finishing this off now. i was

working on it all over the weekend, and i actually had it pretty much finished at around 10 this morning, (i.e.tuesday), which was a nice change. only problem is, it's kollege week in two weeks, and there has to be a preview ready for this evening, which wasn't part of the plan. so gotta get stuck into that now. pressure, i love it!

that's going to be a mental week by the way, loads of day time stuff planned and the frames are playing,, and that's always a good thing. just in case you're wondering, there won't be a paper out that week, 'cause none of you are going to want to read it on the thursday of kollege week, and you probably wouldn't be able for little print that week anyway. the next issue will be out in week 9, on the wednesday. why on the wednesday? 'cause the elections are on that week, and

we'll have a feature on the candidates that are running. we hope to have it out before the hustings, so if you're interested, you can read up a bit about each person, and come ask a few questions.

if you're interested in running for a position, then you can pick up a nomination form from Stan Blennerhasset in the main office here in the Student Centre. just come in and ask for him, and he'll fill you in on all the details.

what else have i been up to. trying to make some progress on some teaching practice problems, and i've a further meeting this week with the heads of the education department. that'll hopefully see us make some headway, and get a little closer to a result on improving conditions for student teachers. keep the eyes peeled on the next issue for that one.

still in the act of getting ourselves together for a push on student services. we had hoped to get to classes this week,

but it didn't work out, so with any luck, we'll be seeing yis all this week. so, if you have a particular comment to make, then let your class rep know about it, and they'll let us know, so when we meet with the people in charge of that particular area of the college, we'll have solid facts and figures to show them, and some solid requests to make.

that's about it for now, enjoy the frames, and all the rest of it. look after your heads, and we'll talk to yis soon.

dayvoh

it's wednesday morning, we've held the front page to report on how last night's meeting went, so i said i'd leave a tiny space here for reaction. and it's a bad one. not enough people there to get anything done. there's going to be another meeting thursday week 7, so please keep your eyes and ears open for the details, and try and get to that meeting so we can make a few decisions and maybe make some progress. see yis at the meeting.....dayvoh

Clubs and Socs Ball A Big Success

Last Wednesday night saw the members of UL's Clubs and Societies come together in the West County Hotel in Ennis for the Clubs and Socs Ball.

It was the icing on the cake for a great year for clubs and socs. Paul Lee, clubs and socs development officer had this to say about the year.

"It has been a hectic semester in terms of Clubs and Society development and unfortunately some of the smaller important items have been left undone to the benefit of promoting the greater good. Namely a regular report into the "An Focal" from yours truly or from one of the Exec' members but this small tit-bit will have to do for this issue and a more comprehensive year in review will follow in the next issue.

In terms of the development of Clubs & Societies it is not an easy task to promote development from one year to the next because in reality there are only 5 Clubs & Society Council meetings each semester to effect change with the consensus of the majority of Clubs & Societies on campus. This really boils down to 10 hours each year to establish positive results to be built upon for the next year.

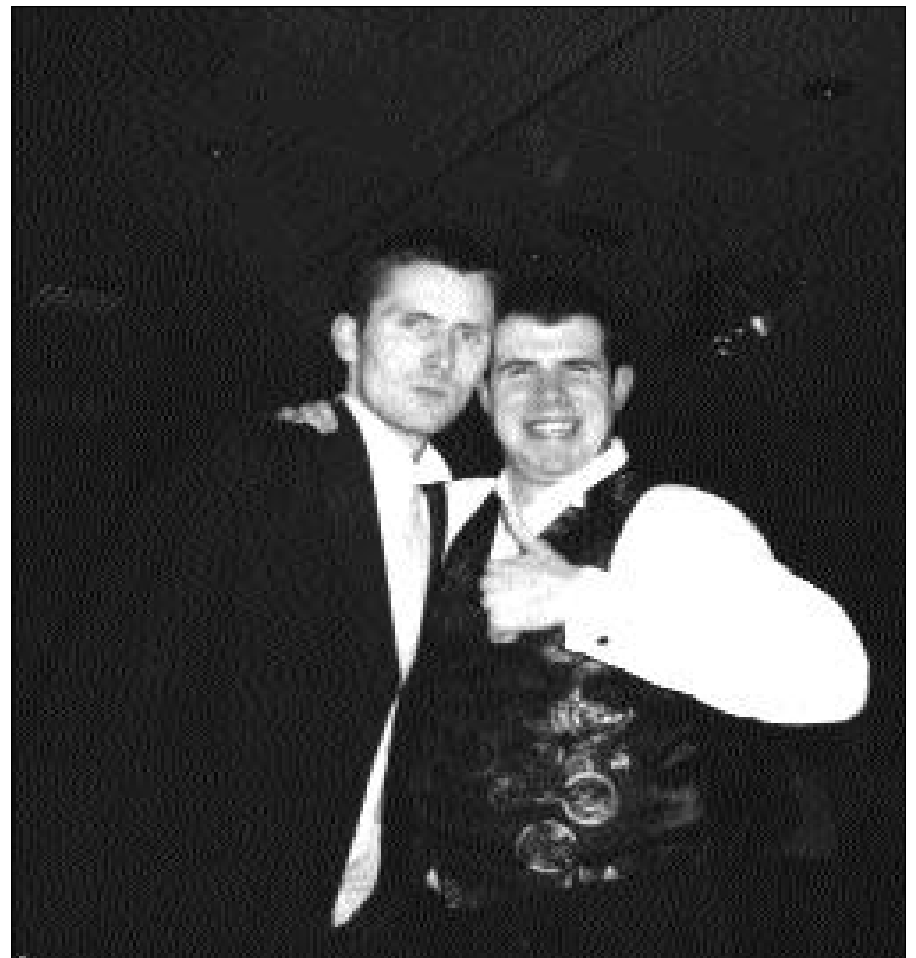
Despite these limitations this year has set some very solid foundations in

place for the new term in no small part due to the tireless work of the Clubs & Societies Executive, events this year include:

1. Administration Weekend in Kilkee (123 people and an overnight stay)
2. Election and Hustings for Clubs & Societies Executive positions!!!
3. Financial Review Committee (15 meetings)
4. Weekly Clubs & Societies Executive Meetings
5. Full-time Clubs & Societies Minuting Secretaries (Secretariat)
6. Childrens Hour Appeal (£2001)
7. Donation of Clubs & Societies Meeting Room # 1 to Computer Society for "Skynet"
8. Clubs & Societies Ball (PS: those pictures are computer engineered!!)
9. SoUL Week 2000
10. Clubs & Society Room Re-Dedication to Mike Sadlier
11. Memorial Wall for former Clubs & Society Members
12. Yearbook Re-Launch
13. Hosting of the Board of Irish Colleges (BICS) National Society of the Year Awards on April 20th

The following awards were presented at the ball.

Best Club of the Year



ULSU pres, Pat McCarthy, pictured approaching the end of the night (you'd never guess) with UL Debating Union's vampire lookalike, Michael Hourigan

- Women's Hockey club
Best New & Improved Club of the Year
- Waterpolo Club
Club Person of the Year
- Ms. Mary Smith (Women's Hockey Club)
Club event of the Year - Boston Head of the Charles (Rowing Club)
Best Society of the Year

- History Society
Best New & Improved Society of the Year - Sínn Féin/Amnesty International
Society Person of the Year
- Claire Cox (Debating Union)
Society Event of the Year - French Eclipse Expedition (Physics Society)

Financial Reforms Agreed For The Future Of Clubs And Societies

by David Fleming

from pg. 1

After months of work, Clubs and Societies have agreed the most impressive package of financial reforms that have ever been presented to them.

The Committee, whose name amounts to a report in itself (Committee to investigate and report to Council on the current financial procedures employed by the Students'

Union regarding clubs and societies) presented its final recommendations to the C&S Council at its last meeting.

The Council was filled to capacity as Pat McCarthy read the findings and proposals of the Committee, which included: -

- That written weighted criteria be applied when allocating money to clubs and societies.
- That a pre-printed budgeting booklet be used in applying for a budget.

- That two independent appeals committees be established to deal with any appeals that organisations may have after the budgeting process.

- That clubs and societies present a review of the year, accounts etc, in Week 13 of the spring semester.

- That set criteria be used when applying for the Special Events Fund.

- That article 10.6 of the ULSU Constitution be deleted and that political and religious organisations be recognised as ordi-

nary societies by the Union.

Numerous delegates from the Council representing such organisations as the Outdoor Pursuits, Photo, History, Drama, Tennis, Softball and Ten Forward voiced their opinions on the recommendations. By and large the vast majority of delegates were happy with the recommendations and the above were all passed.

The criteria and weightings which were also passed will create a more equitable system, the Committee

said, and although subjectivity cannot be totally eliminated it can be reduced to a minimum by these financial arrangements. Clubs remain to be satisfied as to their categories from which criteria are to be applied specifically to them. The Council will vote on this remaining matter at its next meeting. The financial arrangements came into affect immediately (apart from those which needed constitutional change).

This first recommendation to come into play

will be the review in Week 13, where clubs and societies are made accountable for the money they spent.

A final word must go to the Committee members who managed to complete a comprehensive and professional report for the Council. Those members were: Pat McCarthy (Chair), Mary Smith, Keith Pigott, Nessa Fahy O'Donnell, Fergal Fennessy, Michael Phelan, Muiris O'Sullivan, Claire Cox, Niall Dunphy, Declan Burke and Paul Lee.

contd on pg. 3

Nominations For SU Elections Open on Wednesday of Week 8

The elections for the sabbatical-positions of President, Welfare Officer, Education Officer, and Communication and Campaigns Officer within the Students' Union roll around again in Week 9 of this term.

This elections sees a brand new position up for grabs, following the decision to split the Communication and Education Officer's job into two separate roles, Education Officer, and Communication and Campaigns Officer. The decision was made at the UGM on tuesday evening, the details of which are covered elsewhere in the issue.

Nominations for the positions are open from Wednesday the 5th of April, and nomination forms can be got from 9am that morning in the Students'

Union from Stan Blennerhassett, the General Manager in the Students' Union, along with a £25 deposit, returnable after the election if the candidate gets more than ten votes.

The jobs, as described in the Students' Union constitution are as follows;

THE PRESIDENT..... shall have six major areas of responsibility: Services, Finance, Representation, Organisation, Co-ordination, Initiation of Policy. The President shall represent the interests of the members in matter relating to all services offered by the Union. This includes commercial and non-commercial services such as Entertainments, Retail Trading, Typing and Printing etc. He/she will be responsible for advising and communicating relevant Union pol-

icy vis-a-vis the services, to the Students' Union Services Management. The President shall, with the General Manager, on behalf of the Union, sign such employment contracts and other legally binding agreements, subject to ratification by executive. No other such contract shall be binding on the Students' Union.

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT - WELFARE OFFICER..... shall be responsible for the development and promotion of Union welfare policy.

THE VICE PRESIDENT - COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION OFFICER shall be chiefly responsible the development and promotion of the Union's Communications and

Educations Policy. He/she will be chiefly responsible for the production of the Union's regular publications, for the dissemination of Union information and for co-ordinating the Union's campaigns and information drives both internally and externally. He/she will also be responsible for the development of the Union Education policy and for keeping the student body informed of same.

SABBATICAL OFFICERS.....the Posts of President, Deputy President - Welfare Officer, Vice President - Education Officer and Communication and Campaigns Officers shall be full time waged positions. The wage shall be reviewed annually by a general meeting.

The An Focal team

editor and late night stay-er-upper

dayvoh

news collectors/gossipers
ella, dave, ger

musos

des the dock, bren g.,

film freaks

kp, aodain

book worm

daragh

features

*shell daly, mags,
iano, sinead,
kasey, dave, mystic, mcgell*

show me the money

becky

c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.)

p lee, + mates

phancy photo's

willie + co.

UL Gaelic Football Club Lose Senior Club Status

by Gerard Gill

UL decided to drop out of the Limerick county senior football championship last week, citing lack of player availability as the principal reason.

In a move, that will undoubtedly delight their club rivals, UL were stripped of their senior status by the powers that be. GAA development officer, David Daly, confirmed that due to the separation of the panel over the summer, it was not possible to enter a team. Many of the panel are going away for the summer on Co-op and other players have home club commitments, he said.

Mr. Daly also denied that there was any controversy about this decision and confirmed that it was a voluntary decision on the part of UL GAA club. The club did not want a repeat of last year when fixtures

could not be fulfilled due to a shortage of players. Mr. Daly did not think there would be any trouble re-applying for senior status next year.

When I asked Mr. Daly did he encounter any lack of support from the Limerick county board, because the UL football club's player base is almost entirely outside of Limerick, Mr. Daly replied that he never had any difficulty in dealings with the county board, but that he could not speak on behalf of previous development officers. He also denied that the incident with Galbally in 1997, when UL were stripped of their championship crown on a technical matter by the GAA authorities had any bearing on the decision to pull out of the competition. Mr. Daly admitted that if there was any resentment with UL entering the championship, it stemmed from individual clubs rather than from the county board.

A case of UL being victims of their success perhaps?

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EGM Called After Disappointing Meeting

from pg. 1

was that a referendum should be held in Week 7. However, it was later agreed that the more practical option would be to hold another meeting, visiting classes and flyering houses to reach as many people with as much information about the changes as possible.

There were two major areas to be addressed at the

meeting, both concerning constitutional changes.

The first was the issue of splitting the job of Communication and Education Officer within the Students' Union. A proposal to split the job into two separate jobs, Education Officer, and Communication and Campaigns Officer was presented to Students' Union Exec. and Class Reps Council having

been prepared by the three current sabbaticals over the three weeks holidays.

Having undergone much discussion at both of those forums, a more refined proposal was ready for presentation to the meeting on Tuesday. Although the change could not be implemented when the quorum was not reached, there was a lot of discussion in relation to the proposal.

Current CEO, Dave O'Donovan expressed his disappointment at the meeting not being able to make a decision on the proposal. He said "we need two people doing these two very important jobs. We just have to try to get to as many people as possible and let them know that before next Thursday's meeting, and just hope from there that 200 people show up."

The other major change on the agenda were changes regarding the running of clubs and societies. The changes ranged from allowing clubs and socs to make their own policy, to granting budgets to political parties on campus.

These changes would allow clubs and societies to run more professionally, and continue the development they have undergone so far.

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Most people would.

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monday
the frames

watercress
abbaesque
potbelly
fire walking

wednesday
shine alan simms
bellfast

liquid wheel
back to skool party

tuesday
beatles tribute

blink
pimps & prostitutes

thursday
matt hardwick

(gatecrasher)
back alley
bungee jump

friday
beach party
night fever

kollege
week

3-7 april 2000

A Word In Everyone's Ear

Let everyone know what you're thinking, about anything. The best letter each week will receive a clean, crisp ten pound note. Easy money!

Me!

Dear Ed.

Well so far I have to say that this year has been an excellent year for me.

To borrow a much overused phrase, it's been "a voyage of self discovery". That might sound pretty sad, but I feel it really describes how I'm starting to feel about myself, the self I keep inside, the real me I suppose.

I know loads of you are ready to throw the article down and head for the nearest bucket (I have to admit, I'd probably be doing it myself if I wasn't the one rambling on here!!), but deep inside every person is the self you really are, the person you know you can be if you just let it out!!

I know this cause I'm finally realising that this person inside me can exist outside myself. Following first year and the frantic desperation to be accepted, to find some sort of place for yourself in a totally new world, you step back and think. Suddenly fitting in and allowing yourself to be carried along by the wave just doesn't seem as important anymore. People who you had thought you were pretty close to suddenly seem smothering, just because you've decided to take a new path, to attempt to try something different. Well to hell with it!! I say jump in there and try something new, something that appeals to you!!! Don't change who you are, let yourself be who you are! Fear is just a small block in your path and once you're over it you'll wonder why you ever thought it was such a big deal in the first place.

I know this may seem strange to those of you who are the one person in and out and I say more power to ya!!! But to those of you like me, take the plunge cause the depths are there waiting for ya and they're much more fun than the diving bored!!!!

name with editor

Enemies of truth and justice

Dear Ed.

March 15th 1999 was a black day for international human rights campaigners in Ireland and right throughout the globe.

Mother of three children, Rosemary Nelson was killed in a booby trap car bomb outside her home in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. Mrs Nelson was hailed as a champion of the north Armagh nationalist community from which she emerged, representing clients involved in some of the most con-

Letter of the week

The Challenge Is Set!

Dear Editor,

Since I arrived at UL, I have wanted to write for the newspaper, either the on-line newspaper, Scaoil Amach E, or An Focal, but the problem was that I never had anything very interesting to say.

However, the other night I was at a debate on the North of Ireland and it inspired me. It was in the Jean Monnet on Monday night. The first thing that struck me when I walked in with a few friends of mine was the pathetic turnout. I was embarrassed. There were excellent speakers there, for example Gregory Campbell, MLA, Eamon O Neill, MLA and Brian Crowley, MEP. For speakers of their calibre to travel to our University to a barely half full lecture theatre is a fairly poor reflection on us, the students.

I could leave it at that and just review the debate, but what I find more interesting is the total apathy of the average UL student, average being the operative word. Call me naïve, but isn't college supposed to be about something more than getting your proverbial piece of paper after four years of study. Aren't we supposed to care about our country? Doesn't it bother people that the problems in the North aren't going away nicely, the way that they were supposed to when the Good Friday Agreement was signed? At the risk of sounding melodramatic, people have died for this country and for what they believe in, but UL students couldn't drag themselves away from Friends and Ally McBeal to find out what's going down in the North. And so I wonder what does it take to capture the imagination of a student. How do you get them to care about something more than the Lodge and the opposite sex and your QCA.

When I was a child I had this silly idea of what your average student would be like. They'd be revolutionary and wild and would forever challenge the system. I thought that I would be the type of person to organise rallies/demonstrations against things like the situation in East Timor. I expected every student to be more than boring, beer drinking and disinterested. All students do is drink and go to college. They couldn't be more disappointingly amoeboid if they tried.

Maybe I am being unfair to some students who are a little less one-dimensional, but I can't help but feel disillusioned. Perhaps I feel this way because I took a few years off before I came to college and lived in reality for a while, I don't know. Even this newspaper can be pathetic at times. It is so bland. This reflects the input from students. Don't get me wrong in general the paper is fine and serves its purpose, but I know that people could make life so much more interesting if they just made a little effort.

I'm not a supporter of the IRA, but one volunteer by the name of Bobby Sands died on hunger strike for the country that he loved. He along with Michael Collins and Wolfe Tone was a patriot who died for the greater good, something bigger than himself. That is the essence of what I find amiss in people. Nobility, patriotism, pride and power. We all have the power to be more than what we already are, I just wish people would use it. If you think about it we are all the same, at least we all do the same things: we hang out, go to the Stables or the Scholars, go to lectures, miss lectures, score with guys/gals, talk, eat, drink, be merry.

To some extent we are all like the worker bee, drones. That's a scary thought. Who out there wants to be different? Who out there cares about something more than himself? Life doesn't have to be about waiting for that degree because life is what happens when you are waiting for it to happen. And when it's over, what will you be able to say? Did you make a difference? Were you average and predictable? Come on people, inspire me, I dare you. This is my rally. This is my one-woman demonstration. You are my cause, you being the general apathetic student body. Please just think and then go mad. Revolutionise your mind. Become multi-dimensional and don't let people like me be able to sum you up in a few disparaging words. Be more than a verbal equation: student=drunk and/or self absorbed. You already are more, you just have to realise it and then act on it.

Well that's enough from me, see you around,

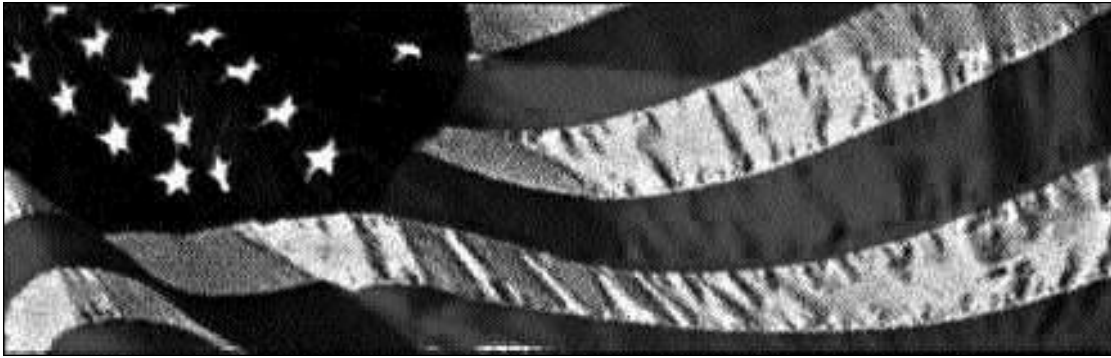
Tricia O Leary Duane.

tentious events of contemporary times. She acted for the Garvaghy Road residents coalition and she also represented the relatives of Robert Hamill, a Catholic kicked to death in a sectarian attack in Portadown. A murder which is chillingly similar to the London race murder of Stephen Lawrence both in terms of motive and police handling of the case.

On the first anniversary of her death an open letter from Mrs Nelson's family and a petition containing approximately 100,000 signatures was handed over to British Prime Minister Blair. The petition contained an appeal for an independent international inquiry into the killing. Dr Robbie McVeigh, chairman of the Rosemary Nelson campaign said "the key point of bringing the petition to London is to continue to press Tony Blair to take direct responsibility for truth and justice for Rosemary."

Malaysian United Nations official Param Cumaraswamy, the special rapporteur mandated to monitor the independence of judges and lawyers around the world, knew Rosemary Nelson. He had heard her fears for her life at first hand and had informed UN officials in Geneva of her allegations of police harassment. Rosemary Nelson had lodged several reports against RUC officers, there were tense scenes on a BBC panorama programme last year when RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan strongly denied that during a meeting he and senior RUC officers had with Mr. Cumaraswamy, that the United Nations official was told some lawyers may be working to a paramilitary agenda. The investigation into Mrs Nelson's murder is being headed by Colin Port, deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk police. Mr Port, who has been involved in investigations in the Hague into war crimes in Kosovo and Rwanda is running the inquiry from Lurgan RUC station, with a team of 45 non RUC officers, backed up by 20 RUC officers. For nationalists the investigation doesn't go nearly far enough and falls far short of an independent public inquiry. A former British soldier was arrested and charged with the killing. Meanwhile, Mrs Nelson's staff solicitor Pat Vernon and her administration workers are looking for employment elsewhere as Rosemary Nelson's practise in Lurgan has been closed down.

name with editor



American Diaries

there's going to be a pile of people heading off to the states for the summer or on co-op. so, we've extended the real world section to let you know what you're in for, according to ian and margaret, co-op students on the rampage.

MARGARET RYAN IN CHICAGO

Well, last weekend I was out on the town three nights, and I'm still in a rather fragile state. (Today is Tuesday).

Friday night I went out to Dinner with a cousin and her friends, and that was a blast. One of them is trying to set me up with a friend of her boyfriends. Evidently the main reason we would be compatible is that I'm 5 foot 4. He's 5 foot 6. We'll see how it goes.

Saturday night I went to a Charity Fundraiser with more cousins (I have 40 cousins in Chicago). This function had a Mardi Gras theme, and a free bar. That was also a blast. One of my friends from work showed up there entirely coincidentally, so between everybody, it was a very good night. And Sunday night I took my Aunt and Uncle to dinner at the same restaurant that they have been going to for the last 44 years. They're nearly an institution there now. Being known in a place only 2 months after you first walked in the door has its advantages.

The weather today is astounding for March – 24 degrees. Apparently it's a record, not that I'm complaining or anything. I'm starting to get a little sunburned, and I only spent a total of about 45 minutes out there today. It's a strange sensation in March that's for sure and for certain. One of these days, I'm going to have to invest in some sunscreen. I get through one bottle a year in Ireland, even though I'm very fair, but in three weeks here during the height of summer, I managed to get through 6 bottles of factor

20. This was a year and a half ago.

St Patrick's day is coming up while I'm writing this, and there are a million "Irish" cookies and cakes in the stores. Most are a putrid shade of lime green, not very appetizing at all. The good news is that there's a party in my house that weekend and another party in a microbrewery the following night. The dodgy Irish accents are getting dodgier, and some lady on the bus told me that her great-great-grandmother was Irish. Like I needed to know. My company has a St Patrick's day party every year and all the employees are invited. So this year there will be a large contingent from my department going. That should be fun. We all intend to go at lunchtime and come back to work pissed. This is even approved by the boss. We're not sure how many will end up going, but I bet it'll be about half the office.

The window cleaners are right outside my window now. This is a strange feeling. I'm on the ninth floor of this building, and there are two men outside risking life and limb so I will be able to look in the window of the next door building. There's a conference center or training center of some description over there, and it's funny to look over and see some instructor waving his or her arms about trying to make a point. Half the people taking the course look like they are ready to fall asleep – reminds me of math lectures at 5 on a Friday evening.

The St Patrick's Day festivities are in full swing

here, with parades and marching bands and parties left right and center. This weekend, like the first one mentioned here, was a blast. Friday night was an Indian and a Movie, Saturday was just lazing around, and drinking Margaritas, and Sunday was the South Side Irish Parade. I drank more beer than I care to remember, and by God it was fun. Definitely worth it, even if only to see the state of some of the people there. Half of them had their hair dyed green, and the other half had their dogs dyed green. There was one float that was supposed to be an imitation of the famine, but have you ever seen a smiling widow walking arm-in-arm with the Gravedigger? I think not. That was one of the more bizarre sights, but there were plenty more where that came from. There was a contingent of NYPD officers marching in the parade, definitely worth it if you ask me! A load of companies, people seeking election, including a certain Mr. Al Gore and Miss Ireland were also in the parade. So all in all, motley crew. But definitely worth it for the sights.

Tomorrow is St Patrick's Day, so sore heads all round this weekend. The company I work for is having a Paddy's Day party for all the employees, and there's a free bar, so work tomorrow might be worth it.

Well, that's all for this week,

Talk to you soon
Margaret

It's fairly cool the way over here. You can keep in touch with all the sporting events that are going on back home.

I've gotten to see all the Irish rugby games on replays, I wouldn't go to the live ones because they are on too early in the morning and they charge twenty bucks at the door!!! I have no idea what that's about because it would nearly be cheaper to get tickets for the game! And of course I keep in touch with any news or events through the internet at www.ireland.com. But the weekend before last I got to see the great and wonderful Liverpool play a pack of brainless pop stars from some team called Manchester United (!?) in a pub at two o'clock. In truth now the better team, Liverpool, should have won but unfortunately, Mr. Owen was a bit rusty that day... So after the game and a few pints myself and two of my Boston drinking mentors, John O'

Sullivan and Laurence Barden (ITT and Comp Sys UL grads in Fidelity Investments), decided we were still thirsty. So things started going down hill and we went to The Burren for "a few" and left there at about half past eight for some food and of course still our thirst's not fully quenched, we decided to go into town for some more... We met up with some more UL people (yes UL has done a good job at populating Boston!) in Mr. Doolys which we left at about half eleven because you know yourself, we needed maybe just one or two more pints... so we went to JJ Foleys which is a late bar in Boston. A late bar in the U.S. is a bit different to the ones in Ireland in that it doesn't close at one or two, oh no, we were eventually kicked out of this place at half past three in the morning, completing over thirteen hours of beer drinking and a decent Boston Binge!

Seeing as that weekend was a bit of a write off and I didn't wake up on

IAN DEMPSEY IN BOSTON

Sunday until well after four o'clock I figured I should do something a little bit more constructive the next weekend. So I went to the city that never sleeps, New York, the BBBIIIIIIIIIGGG AAPPPLLEEE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sorry right now to any Dubs out there (ha ha dayvoh), but Dublin is just a large busy town compared to the immense metropolis of New York.

When I first got into Boston I did notice the sky scrappers and how different everything was and I probably would have said something about them in awe besides "oh fuck its cold" if it hadn't been so absolutely freezing. But when I got into NY and stepped out onto the streets and went around I could not actually say anything!! The streets in NY stretch on straight for as far as you can see into the distance, flanked on the sides by enormous man

made canyon walls!!! It is huge. I went into Time Square at night and yes, there I was, the paddy with his jaw on the ground not just looking around but left, right, in front and behind and up and down. That place is incredible. It is open twenty four hours a day and you can actually go into the Virgin Megastore and buy a CD at six o'clock in the morning.

Seemly there is a law there that all buildings in Time Square have to emanate a certain amount of light because there is hardly any streetlights in the Square, well in all fairness I reckon they went a bit over board because the place is most definitely



brighter at night than at day! There is an NYPD office which is lit up like a night club, an army recruitment office which has the American flag on one side in neon lights and of course you can get your live stock quotes on the walls of buildings twenty four hours a day so you can know exactly how much you have left to spend when you stumble out of the pub.

While I was in NY I stayed with Grace Arthur, a Law and Accounting co-op, Dan Higgins, a Business co-op, and few other Business co-ops. There are a lot of Business co-ops in NY, and they work in a few financial companies like AIB and Fidelity Investments and in Irish companies like CIE and Aer Lingus. Now I don't know if this will

give any Business second years an idea of what they are doing but some of them said they were doing financial reports and some accounting on the computers and stuff like that.... There is also an App. Math and Computing co-op, Pauline, who organized her own placement and is doing statistics, and an Industrial Eng. co-op aswell, who also organized her own.

Just to give you an impression of the size of New York, Grace who lives in Woodlawns just north of Manhattan Island has to get up at six o'clock (holy fuck!!!) to be in for work at 8.30. Its literally like living in Tralee and working in Limerick!

On the Saturday in NY I went into town and checked out some of the

most enormous shops in existence with two of my cousins who were over on holiday, and I even managed to get a bit of culture in and visited the Museum of Modern Arts, which was fairly cool and amazingly busy. That night I went out with the Grace and Dan in Woodlawn and a load of other co-ops and I even met up with two lads from Comp. Sys., Rory Cohen and Glen Graham, I couldn't believe it! We went out in this Irish disco bar place called Behans which, seeing as it was New York, only shut at four a.m., tch, pathetic!!!!!! Then we all went back to the flat and had a bit of a party which didn't seem to end until everyone had gone unconscious.... So then some dazed and hungover heads headed into

town to do some sight seeing and I got to see the Twin Towers, Wall St. and the Statue of Liberty which is very impressive and then it was time to go home.

This weekend, of course, is Paddy's weekend and it looks like it will consist of another serious attempt at liver failure, a David Gray concert for just nine bucks, some sort of a parade and a lot of Americans wishing they were Irish. I'm telling you I've had Americans, Aisians and Spanish telling me they would love to be Irish!!! Its nearly a status symbol over here to have an Irish accent and drink Guinness!! Anyway I'll tell ye all about it in the next issue...

Ian Dempsey

the real world contd.

continuing on our tale of what it's like out there in the real world, is sinead kelleher, on co-op in Spain.



I guess everyone is settled back in now with projects to do, and it is pretty much the same here though at least I don't have to worry about handing in projects on time or exams, but I do have to work every day and it isn't as easy

as you may think.

It is hard work, and preparing classes takes up a lot of my free time, especially as I am teaching individual students or small groups. You have to have a good understanding of English verbs and grammar, half of which I hardly knew existed until I got here. Co-op isn't all fun and games. But I do have wages to look forward to for all this.

I am supposed to be here to learn Spanish. It is quite easy to get by with English, as the majority here speak have a good level of English, but I am learning a little more everyday. But whatever about Spanish, I will have perfect English when I get back.

The carnival I told ye about was brilliant and it

was a lot of fun. I did decide to dress up and went out as an indian. You should see the pictures. There were parades through the streets and it was like nothing I have ever seen before. The nightlife still continues to amaze me as people only start to go out when we are normally going home, not that I am complaining or anything.

Well, besides that, everything is quiet and I am hoping to do some travelling around now after Paddy's weekend, which is not a very big deal here, but the Irish bars do have celebrations and it is something to look forward to. I let ye know how it went. well happy Paddy's Day.

hasta luego!
sinead.

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STEP 18

Bank of Ireland

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Note: You do not have to be physically fit or trained in self defense previously

Diary Of A First Year

Mairead Moriarty gives us the low down on what it's like to be walking round this place for the first time.

(ps go on the Kingdom!)



Being a first year in UL is not easy.

Between fellow students taking the complete and utter piss out your writing and opinions and having to deal with the constant pressure of lectures, presentations etc, I sometimes wonder of the purpose of college. Then there's the whole deal of getting up early to go into EGO01 to learn about the relationships between this guy and that guy. Not to mention the fact that having the biggest hang-over doesn't help your concentration ability at that ungodly hour of the morning.

I'm telling you, there are some mighty parties and get-togethers in this part of the country. Drink, drink, and more drink. And a whole lot of fun in between – innocent and not so innocent!!

When you come to UL, the whole meaning of the word "fun" takes on a new perspective. It goes from the less mature second level thrill of a pint and a shift on a Saturday night to a more seductive, intimate relationship.

You lose a certain amount of innocence without losing the basic innocence of what you are. Sex, drink, drugs – they take on new meanings to the hush-hush, say-nothing attitude to what mummy and daddy taught you.

UL is not an education centre; it is a total change of character. You no longer have to sneak behind the school shed to have the essential fag or fake severe stomach aches to get out of PE class! And believe you me, being in an all-girls school did not help the sex life at all! The aforementioned Saturday night shift would only occur if you were able to persuade the folks that you actually deserve to go out for the night after having a hard week at school! Saturday night shifts occurring seven nights a week – how would the folks at home in the bog take that one?! I suppose if we didn't see so much of the


Lodge, the number of people out of work would be ridiculous – how poor a justification for drink is that one?!

Go to UL for life because you will never leave. The social life here is so much more enjoyable with the latest addition of the new bar to our college campus. I swear, I must see more of the inside of that place than I do of lecture halls or the library! The staff there is so lovable, it makes you want to buy a pint for every single one of them!

Besides, anyone who is not impressed by the apparent "best invention in the world", i.e., the automatic paper dispensers in the bathrooms, must be slightly lacking in human appreciation of all that is good and pure. I mean, if you don't get a kick out of those pieces of art, then there must be something up in the whole reality department. Not to mention the spiral, circle and square designs on the walls. Man, they could really mess with your mind if you've had a few too many!!

But enough of that rambling, it's now about time to wrap up this little gem of creation and get back to that total change of character that UL offers. By the way, there's no feekin' way I'm gonna buy a pint for all the guys behind the new bar! Ye can just forget it now boys!!!!

Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date
we're looking for opinions, comments, ideas etc
Thursday Wk 4
6.00pm
new student centre
all are welcome



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how many of us have spoken with Elvis?

This is an actual essay written by a college applicant. The author, Hugh Gallagher, was admitted to NYU.

Essay: *In order for the admissions staff of our college to get to know you, the applicant, better, we ask that you answer the following question: Are there any significant experiences you have had, or accomplishments you have realised, that have helped to define you as a person?*

I am a dynamic figure, often seen scaling walls and crushing ice. I have been known to remodel train stations on my lunch breaks, making them more efficient in the area of heat retention. I translate ethnic slurs for Cuban refugees, I write award-winning operas, I manage time efficiently. Occasionally, I tread water for three days in a row.

I woo women with my sensuous and godlike trombone playing, I can pilot bicycles up severe inclines with unflagging speed, and I cook Thirty-Minute Brownies in twenty minutes. I

am an expert in stucco, a veteran in love, and an outlaw in Peru.

Using only a hoe and a large glass of water, I once single-handedly defended a small village in the Amazon Basin from a horde of ferocious army ants. I play bluegrass cello, I was scouted by the Mets, I am the subject of numerous documentaries. When I'm bored, I build large suspension bridges in my yard. I enjoy urban hang gliding. On Wednesdays, after school, I repair electrical appliances free of charge.

I am an abstract artist, a concrete analyst, and a ruthless bookie. Critics world-wide swoon over my original line of corduroy evening wear. I don't perspire. I am a private citizen, yet I receive fan mail. I have been caller number nine and have won the weekend passes. Last summer, I toured New Jersey with a travelling centrifugal-force demonstration. I bat .400. My deft floral arrangements have earned me fame in international botany circles. Children trust me.

I can hurl tennis rackets at small moving objects with deadly accuracy. I

once read Paradise Lost, Moby Dick, and David Copperfield in one day and still had time to refurbish an entire dining room that evening. I know the exact location of every food item in the supermarket. I have performed several covert operations for the CIA. I sleep once a week; when I do sleep, I sleep in a chair. While on vacation in Canada, I successfully negotiated with a group of terrorists who had seized a small bakery. The laws of physics do not apply to me.

I balance, I weave, I dodge, I frolic, and my bills are all paid. On weekends, to let off steam, I participate in full-contact origami. Years ago, I discovered the meaning of life but forgot to write it down. I have made extraordinary four course meals using only a mouli and a toaster oven. I breed prize-winning clams. I have won bullfights in San Juan, cliff-diving competitions in Sri Lanka, and spelling bees at the Kremlin. I have played Hamlet, I have performed open-heart surgery, and I have spoken with Elvis.

But I have not yet gone to college.

Playing Football With A.....

You know, sometimes, there come times when you just think "What the f*** am I doing on this planet - Why the hell did God (if he is there) put me here if he, or perhaps she) only wanted to give me a hard time".

So many people run around trying to find the meaning of life. Is it love, success, survival or perhaps it is different for everyone. The thing is, when we have a stretch of happiness in life, we start to invent problems.

Our minds tell us we'll be alone forever (what a thought!!) or that we are destined to be failures (all the goals we set for ourselves). We get unsettled, create tragic disturbances to ruffle the smooth run of things just to remind ourselves that contentment is but a luxury.

You see, life is really hard sometimes. You have the difficult and upsetting traumas such as death, abandonment, loneliness which can occur in the blink of an eye and change the way we think and act forever. Then you have confusion, lack of focus, love trouble, unsettlement. I mean - how many people have no idea where they will be in a month, not to mind ten years from now (don't worry - you're not alone). I know, of course, that there are some people who know what they have wanted since they were two and could tell you every detail down to what promotions they will get and the colour of their curtains but are they really that lucky in all their security? I wonder. Personally, I think those people, including myself who are in the 'confusion bracket' are far luckier. Am

I mad? - not at all. At least we are keeping our horizons broadened (they couldn't get any wider). The world is, shall I say, at our feet (with a big question under it). It is open to our thoughts, opinions and it welcomes us with open arms.

We've got so much to do and not a clue where to start. If you think about it, humans are in such a rush really. They run around setting goals, fulfilling ambitions and sometimes forget to stop and take time along the way.

Time is important, let me tell you. You should savour what you have and fill it with good things where possible. Time is where all those other things like love, friendship, happiness and, of course, experience (life's knowledge) - these things which stop and make us think even when we do know our paths in life. You see, life isn't about our success and fulfilling dreams. It is about the routes we take to get to them - the people, places and lessons we learn on the way.

With every problem, there comes a unique feeling which tells us we survived, grew strong, learned and matured but in the end there is always something else around the corner. And why? What is the point? you may ask. Well, have you ever had that feeling where something works out and you think "nice one" or that excitement or contentment you get when someone special walks into the room. It is that feeling where you are holding your sides, doubled up in pain, tears rolling down your cheeks because you are laughing so hard and in that moment you realise how happy you are. It is called bliss and that is why it is



all worth it. These few seconds among all the bother that seem to make up for it all.

Life is a river with mountains by its side. You can sail away and let the current take you with it. You can stop and climb the mountain and see the other side. Perhaps there are greener pastures, safer rivers or maybe it is a barren desert. Perhaps you will look around and see your way or you might just stay where you are. In every case there are always choices - good, bad, unknown and some will prove right and some wrong. It is our strength and hope which help us to continue the journey and savour those few moments of bliss.

Remember there is nothing you HAVE to do in life except kick the bucket at the end of it all. Discounting moral obligations, you are free as a bird at all times. You can do, go, be what you want and there is no one who can firmly stop you. As a human, you are incredible. You have so much potential and courage which you may not even realise. Use it. Take the world and make it what you want. If someone gives you a lemon - play football with it, make lemonade, swop it for a banana or hold on to it and decide later. It's up to you

Kasey O' Shea

**Ella Daly's
Really Thin
Gossip Column**

Well, now ladies and gents, it's that time of the week again where we try just a little harder to make the acronym C and S as synonymous with sex and deviance as S and M and trust me this week it wasn't hard. The clubs and Socs ball. How does the song go, ohh what a night.....

Well now, Mr Fennessy hot on the heels of last weeks scandal involving the rugby club, Fergal, eager to restore his reputation was busy busy busy!!!!!! Hmm now what's the rumour again Fergal and a member of SU staff ? And whats that, there's photo graphic evidence over the page? And then to add to his deviance, he was spotted Paddy's night in the stables absolutely ossified and attempting to treacle up a monkey! And then of course there's Sinn Fein's golden boy Muiris O Sullivan last seen here when his affair with Dr Ian Paisley came to light well Mr O Sullivan has spent the last week in the C+S office denying doing anything to anyone on the night in question oh yeah sure Muiris we all believe you no really we do.....

The Kayak club was up for it too what with Deci getting his claws into the young and impressionable SU first year rep. Lock up your daughters.

Aengus O Malley was spotted in the wee small hours attempting to procure for himself a room. Now what's that about, there were buses back here so surly it wasn't a problem getting home maybe perhaps a problem getting her home. Just a thought.....The biggest scandal of them all has to be old timer Mike Bradley getting it on with a blond haired mystery woman I can exclusively reveal her name is Belinda and she's an art student she's also a good friend of mine and was supposed to be staying at my house huh this was days ago andwe still haven't seen her.....

Lastly Mr Fleming AGAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!What were you doing jumping up and down in the middle of the dance floor wearing fairy wings (the same wings indecently used to seduce Mr Bradley you could be in there Dave)? On a final final note check out the photo of Pat Mc Carthy and Mr Hourigan (or is it Whoreigan?) just what is El Presidente so happy about ?See you soon

Love and Hugs
Ella

**Clubs And Socs Ball '99/2000
You Really Should Have Been
There**

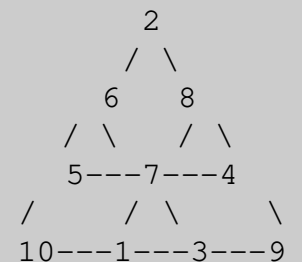
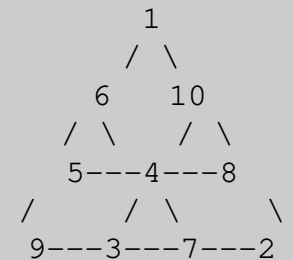


THIS WEEKS PUZZLE
from Omega, the maths
and Stats Society

If you have 9 golf balls with one slightly heavier than the other 8 and you have a balancing scale, is it possible with 2 weighings to find out which one of the golf balls is the heavier?

Answers to
omega@skynet.ie

(solution to last issues puzzle)



WINNER:
Dave Mulligan

ALL NEW THURSDAY NIGHTS



**Nu killa beats
+
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in the Doghouse and the
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the Doghouse**



make an appointment

If you have been watching RTE 1 recently who will have noticed a very interesting documentary on the history of Ireland in the last one hundred years.

It is called Seven Ages and for once it is deemed to be a balanced interpretation of the modern Irish nation. Through archival film footage and contemporary accounts, the viewer is informed of the key events of our recent past. In one episode the role of the Catholic Church in the 1930s was touched upon. The spectacular Eucharist Congress of 1932 – a celebration of five hundred years of Irish Christianity – was highlighted as a key event of this decade where politicians, eager to be seen by the world, partook in a lavish demonstration of the Catholic Church's strength in Ireland.

People today attack the Church for its interference, its dominating influence over Irish culture and its containing of a liberal society. A Love Divided, a film based on a true story about a family whose father was a catholic and a mother a protestant who were targeted by a local parish priest for their 'disobedience' of their vow to educate their children in a catholic school, affirmed in many minds the church's darker side.

But the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland was only as powerful as the people allowed it to be. The ordinary people, your grandparents, your parents, those generations sat by and watched as they were dictated to by a Church who extended their primary function of serving a religious community to one which controlled the minds and lives of the nation. It was the people as a whole who acquiesced with this form of authority and it was those generations who created the priests and the bishops which ruled over them. Some spoke out but more often than not they were ignored by the people and forgotten about. The film clearly highlighted the support of the locals in the boycott of Church of Ireland shops and shunning of all protestants. The government of Eamon de Valera only stepped in when undue international attention was being created. It was De Valera according to the film that sent a personal letter to the Vatican asking the authorities there to tell the Irish hierarchy to put a stop to the whole thing, which they did.

But how did the Catholic Church create such a power-base in the new Irish state. The Church had prevailed and survived the Penal Laws of the 17th and 18th centuries and began to grow with the impetus created by the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1826. It quickly began to assert itself in education and its

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming.....

on how the Roman Catholic Church were allowed to become powerful

priests were seen as their representative to the local landlord and administration. A great pile of schools and churches sprung up as the church accumulated wealth. Education was seen as a key element in the propagation of the faith and people were taught to respect the church and the hand that taught them. 'It was for your own well-being and protection that you should listen to and obey them, or else you'd burn in the fires of hell or worse you would be shamed and excluded by your neighbours'. The Church at local level often espoused nationalist overtones and were in sympathy with the nationalist leaders of Irish society, along with the Christian Brother's zeal for a truly Irish history for an Irish people. Sport and Gaelic games were particularly associated with the Church, a bishop being one of the founding members of the GAA in 1884. By the turn of the century the parish priest was more than the man who buried the dead and said mass, he was also chairman of the local hurling club, chairman of the board of management for the local school and intermediately with landlord and public servant.

Thus by Independence in 1922 the Roman Catholic Church was in a prime position to enter the quasi-vacuum left by the British. By 1932 Ireland could boast to the world that after centuries of persecution the Church was ready to administer freely to its flock in a free Ireland with the open collaboration of every Irish politician of note. It was ready for an Irish Catholic country, devout, holy and eager to await their direction. By the 1950s the Church dominated every aspect of Irish life, whether you were of the faith or not. Government policies took note of what the Church might say or do, but policy was not dictated or concluded by the Church. The Church's influence was accepted and respected. The people, I think, feared its power but it was created by them.

Ireland of the 1990s finally grasped the nettle that had stung them for many years and loosened the bonds that held them. But the fear now is that the Irish people will disown the Church altogether and



neglect its spiritual role in society. We no longer have a domineering church, but a church that tries to reflect the generation that it hopes to administer to.

Remember a nettle can also be good for a person if it is boiled and eaten.

The Diary of Doctor Zaius.

The best thing about office work is, without a doubt, the photocopying machine.

I can remember back in the land of the lay-abouts somehow managing to resist the temptation to make a facsimile of my somewhat unpretentious bottom. But in the office there are rules on how one behaves around such machines, especially in the presence of a female, apparently it's offensive (that's what a Christian upbringing breeds). I suggest you try this brave manly stunt, then make a birthday card for a girl you like out of it, if that doesn't impress her then nothing will.

This method of parroting a moony is highly effective when one wishes to see if your apparel does indeed make your bum look big or if it's the current of cream buns through your oesophagus that makes you look like a blue whale in a leotard. Ladies this is an invaluable method of checking, I suggest you do it, don't we want to look our best for the man in our lives? WARNING: If you cannot fit your entire rear on the glass do not try one cheek at a time, some poor unfortunate has to clean those things you know. If you must, get a friend to take a photograph while you back into a window (double-glazed if possible is

recommended, I would illustrate this with a diagram but you need a license to distribute that sort of thing).

The best use I have ever heard of for such an amusing portraiture was during the official opening of the Killmurry Village. A hand full or so hobnobs of the rich and thick of high society congregated in front of the Killmurry Village hall, each equipped with a glass of wine in their hand and half a barrel in their bellies. The students in true to form smelled the wine and circled like the sharks that they are. Eventually the wine got mixed with unopened cans of Royal Dutch and one decidedly brazen young male decided

to climb atop to the upstairs window facing a certain Mr. Spring and, with all the dignity of the queen herself, stuck his rear out of the window. In fairness this prank apparently went down quite well with the Judges and he scored a 9.6 losing only 0.4 because his legs weren't together when he landed.

Without a drink our hero doesn't feel he's having any jest, so from somewhere a photocopy of the fore mentioned extremity is found (perhaps not his own but only his mother would really know) and the copy is stuck to the window. So that even he can admire at his own comic genius.

WARNING: Never photocopy your face, it's very unhygienic.

**RIGHT FROM IT'S SEX PISTOLS-ESQUE HEADER,
YOU CAN SEE THAT UL HAS A MORE IRREVERANT
PAPER AT ITS FINGERTIPS**

SCAOIL *an Focal* **AMACH**

Michelle Daly
checks out 'scaoil
an focal amach' at
[http://www.csn.
ul.ie/~colm/safa/](http://www.csn.ul.ie/~colm/safa/)

next time you're on
the net, take a look
at the more alternate
view of our antics in
print.

A couple of weeks ago a friend and I were browsing on the new Compusoc 'Skynet' network when we discovered a new site called 'Scaoil An Focal Amach'.

There will be no cash prizes for guessing what this new and quite imaginative on-line paper is all about. Well quite simply it's about taking the mick out of the current campus publications, 'An Focal' and the on-line publication 'Scaoil Amach E'. So next time I was online I checked back and there it was with updates and new stories.

The format is very simple, but the writing is fresh and very funny. The sarcasm is, to use a pun, dripping, but this was indeed a very entertaining take on events as they happen here in UL.

Who knows maybe the future of written publications is in doubt, no one can argue but that 'Scaoil An Focal Amach' really puts it up there for publications such as ourselves to compete with. It covers a lot of the issues that the two other UL papers do, but in the way that can make us here and also those in the SU laugh at themselves. No one is too high or too low on the scale of things to be beyond it's scorn or ridicule.

Sometimes even the most dedicated and well intentioned of us seem to lose sight of the basics and sometimes sight of the entire plot. And it is always handy to look around at how everything can be interpreted by someone with a completely different viewpoint. It's also, most importantly a good laugh and who can't do with one of those.

I don't think that any one could care to seriously take into hand the topics covered, diverse and as unusually arranged as they are. Who can say whether the new name for College Week / Kollege Week will lead to fatalities in the Castletroy area, or whether the computer shortage could lead to riots. The website, through taking a cheeky look at the issues is doing a very important job, getting them talked about. Anything that can have as much readership (that is if all the people who claim to have read it really have done so ...) as it has in the first few weeks of publication can't be doing too bad. But the question

remains. Where has it come from, is it really a true representation of how the voiceless ordinary Joe Student feels about the Students' Union ? Or is it all just one very elaborate joke ?

Maybe the joke is on us? Personally I think so, still it can really be very funny and the stance of 'anyone but the union' as translated, can be sometimes over worked in the other publications here in college, so it's a sarcastic take . In 'Scaoil An Focal Amach' the stance is definitely 'Feck the union' and everybody else too, covered in a logical and yet non-sensical way. When they can't find dirt, they take the old fashioned comic sketch way and make it all upwho knows, next week it may be doing a farcical review of 'The Really Thin Gossip Column', (by the way anyone thinking of doing this will certainly get a wealth of dirt on author of the gossip column and socialite Ella Daly from me as well as a large and

growing fee from those disgruntled by both appearing and not appearing in the column).

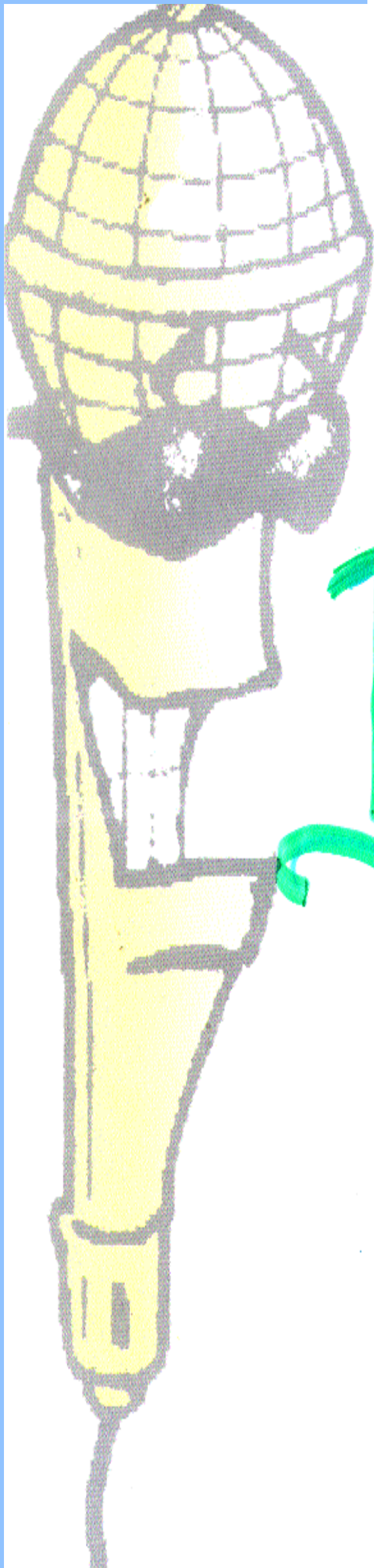
In a world gone mad with websites dedicated to people taking themselves and others too seriously 'Scaoil An Focal Amach' is a definite breath of fresh air and those responsible for it should definitely take a bow.

Long live 'Scaoil An Focal Amach', for without the realm of the critique where would we be? Let's hope that it continues to speak out for those who suffer from the injustice of being too much in the news and also those who suffer from never quite getting into the papers.

Remember, if you don't believe it here you can get the real story at 'Scaoil An Focal Amach'. Or can you?



picture, thousand words etc. 'scaoil an focal amach' pictures 'Roger + Co.' . go to the site, read the story, get the picture + the caption.



Broadcasting In Castletroy On 106.8FM

Wired FM Kollege Week Schedule

Monday
 10.00 Morning Madness
 11.00 Hangover Cure
 12.00 Coffee Break
 13.00 Gig Guide Ents
 22.00 Normal Broadcasting
 Wired FM Schedule
 23.00 Global Village World
 00.00 80's Disco Disco
 01.00 Indie/Alternative Show
 02.00 Daily Round-Up Views,
 and Interviews
 03.00 Morning Madness Breakfast
 04.00 Hangover Cure
 Coffee Break Staff
 05.00 Gig Guide Ents Preview
 Normal Broadcasting
 Schedule
 Global Village World
 06.00 80's Disco Disco Show
 07.00 TBC TBC TBC
 08.00 Daily Round-Up Views,
 and Interviews
 09.00 Morning Madness Breakfast
 10.00 Hangover Cure
 11.00 - 12.00 Coffee Break Staff Hour

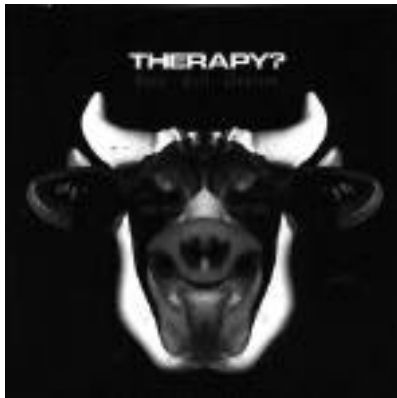
12.00 - 13.00 Gig Guide Ents Preview
 13.00 - 22.00 Normal Broadcasting Daily
 Wired FM Schedule
 22.00 - 23.00 Feet First Dance show
 23.00 - 0.00 ShanD Alternative Show
 0.00 - 2.00 TBC TBC TBC
 2.00 - 4.00 Daily Round-Up Views,
 Reviews and Interviews

Thursday
 8.00-10.00 Morning Madness Breakfast
 Show
 10.00 - 11.00 Hangover Cure
 11.00 - 12.00 Coffee Break Staff Hour
 12.00 - 13.00 Gig Guide Ents Preview
 13.00 - 22.00 Normal Broadcasting Daily
 Wired FM Schedule
 22.00 - 23.00 Indie/Alternative
 23.00 - 0.00 DanceNation
 0.00 - 2.00 Rhythm&Bass
 2.00 - 4.00 Daily Round-Up Views,
 Reviews and Interviews

Friday
 8.00-10.00 Morning Madness Breakfast
 Show - 40% music 60% chat TBC
 10.00 - 11.00 Hangover Cure 60% music 40%
 chat TBC
 11.00 - 12.00 Coffee Break Staff Hour -
 60% music 40% chat TBC
 12.00 - 13.00 Gig Guide Ents Preview -
 50% music 50% chat TBC
 13.00 - 14.00 AlterEgo 60% music - 40%
 chat TBC
 14.00 - 16.00 SoUL Week Review 70% music
 - 30% chat TBC

Now Hear This.....

We'll review the albums + singles that you might like to spend your grant on



Therapy?

'Hate, Kill, Destroy'

Therapy? are a band who have done a lot for the progression of Irish music in the past decade and yet have received so little credit.

With wankers like Boyzone and the Corrs taking all the glory for the progress Irish music has made in the last few years and the success it has achieved internationally.

Therapy? are the real men of rock and roll and have remained faithful to their roots even after all the years and all the albums and all the record companies and it is for this that I say, in the holy words of Ali G, respect.

This single was released on

march 3rd and is the first to be taken off the bands latest album offering , 'suicide pact....you first' , an album which has gotten a lot of stick for been too back to basics and raw. This rawness is very evident on this single sounding more like it was recorded in a garage than in a studio . Andy Cairns and crew however pull it off gracefully providing us with solid guitar grinding rock, leaving nothing to the imagination. The band are currently in the middle of a European tour having played Dublin's Olympia theatre on march the 11th along with Co.uk and Clutch, a gig which apparently was a treat for all.

In a nutshell 'Hate Kill Destroy' offers us three and a half minutes of raw rock and is well worth a listen. The b-sides are live versions of two of the tracks on the album namely; 'six mile water' and 'sister' and neither fail in packing a punch.

To hear the single tune into 'WIRED FM' this Thursday between 4 and 5 and to find out more on Therapy on the web check out www.therapyquestionmark.co.uk.

Des Dockery.....

classic corner

Each Issue, Brendan Gregory will take a look at a classic album from the 70's, 80's or 90's. This issue.....

Soundgarden - Superunknown

1991 was the year of Nirvana's "Nevermind", Pearl Jam's "Ten" and Soundgarden's Badmotorfinger". Seattle was, in the minds of a disillusioned generation, the centre of the universe.

By 1994 things had changed. Kurt Cobain had topped himself, Pearl Jam had become increasingly anti - commercialist and Soundgarden had released this , their most significant, groundbreaking post-grunge album. A departure from their previous shouty efforts.

Under the helm of producer Brendan O'Brien, Soundgarden refined their sound resulting in deep, downtuned guitar riffs, complex bass melodies and erratic drum fills. As a band Soundgarden were comprised of master musicians. Matt Cameron on drums, Ben Shepherd on bass, Kim Thayil on lead guitar and Chris Cornell on guitar and vocals.

While Chris Cornell was the main

songwriter in the band, each other member also contributed notable efforts.

From the first track "Let Me Drown" to the final "She Likes Surprises", the musical intensity never lets up for a moment, be it the garage rock of "Superunknown" and "Kickstand", or the Mammoth epics like "Fell On Black Days", "The Fourth Of July and "The Day I Tried To Live". Despite Cornell's usually incomprehensible lyrics, some sense and coherence does occasionally shine through.

"Hello don't you know me
I'm the dirt beneath your feet
The most important fool
You forgot to see"

This album saw the band breakthrough to huge commercial success on the back of singles "Black Hole Sun" and "Spoonman". The band released one more album in 1997, "Down on the Upside", and then called it a day, due to internal turbulence, immortalising themselves as martyrs of the post grunge movement.

Bren G.

Treading the Boards

Limerick has one of the best theatres in the country in the Belltable. We'll have a look at what is going on in there in each issue.

This issue, we get a preview of the upcoming play 'The Trickster'

**WIGS ON THE GREEN
'THE TRICKSTER'
THURSDAY 23RD
MARCH - SATURDAY
1ST APRIL.**

Three Fabulous Irish Designers have teamed up to magically recreate the high fashion of Limerick in the 1800's, for Island Theatre Company's new production 'The Trickster', opening at The Belltable Arts Centre on Thursday 23rd March One of Irelands

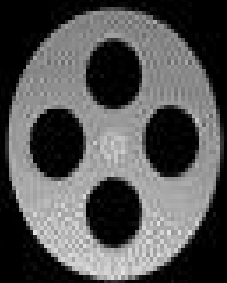
best perruquier Val Sherlock will be hand styling the wigs to be used in The Trickster. The Dublin wigmaker has handled many a top star's crown. Val who was trained in France, has created the hairpieces for Moscow's Bolshi Ballet and Stamilov Opera Company. Specking from his home in Dublin's Baggot Street, he said he was looking forward to working with Island for the first time. He also

explained that it would be a bit of a break from his work on a selection of 20 moustaches for Opera Ireland Award winning set designer Dolores Lyne, graduated from Motley Theatre Design at Drury Lane, London. Dolores has designed two West End Shows: Miss Julie and The Matchmaker, both at Jermyn Street Theatre. Her recent film work includes How To Cheat In The Leaving Cert (Dublin) and

Diggers (Shepperton Studios London). She designed Bloodstone Theatre's production of Dancing at Lughnasa for the Galway Arts Festival, Out Of The Heavens in Showers for Kilshanny Workshop Productions and Sweet and Sour at the Town Hall Theatre, Galway, Looking Glass (Pathways). Dolores has worked as a visual consultant for Granada Television and is a member of Artspace in Galway. For Island she

designed the set for Pigtown, with which she won Best Set Design at The Irish Times Theatre awards. The Trickster also features period costumes by Jacquie Fitzpatrick. Jacquie who is originally from Waterford, studied at that city's School of Art and Design and later attended The Grafton Academy of Dress Design. She worked as display artist in London before returning to Ireland and settling in

Limerick. She has dressed and designed many of Limerick's top shows and musicals at the Crescent, and for Island she has designed costumes for Borrowed Robes and Smoke In A Bottle, Pigtown and Carolan's farewell. She also designed costumes for D'Unbelievables D'Telly and Dat's Life!



The Reel Thing

Each issue, we'll take a look at some of the films available on both the big and little screen, to make sure that you're not wasting valuable time watching films like 'the Avengers'

Unmissable *****

Excellent ****

Watchable ***

Below Average **

No Thank You *



Clockwork Orange*****

directed by Stanley Kubrick
starring Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee, Adrienne Corri, Warren Clarke
duration 137 mins

Nigh on thirty years after its' original release, A Clockwork Orange is here.

Refused a certificate by the Irish censor in 1973 (around the time it was being pulled out of circulation in the U.K. by director Kubrick), this re-issue has already stirred a little controversy; current head of the board of classification, Seamus Smith insisted that the poster for the re-release be changed, with the line 'Being the adventures of a young man whose principal interests are rape, ultra-violence and Beethoven' omitted. But after all the fuss, is this the time for A Clockwork

Orange?

Is it a quaint period piece, a still-vital classic or an over-rated piece of hype? Kubrick's posthumous rep certainly could do with a bit of a boost, considering the disappointment that greeted last year's swansong, *Eyes Wide Shut*. But what will the multiplex hordes make of it -?

Distributor Warner Brothers are certainly hoping for a repeat of the massive business that *The Exorcist* re-issue did but they might be disappointed.

What's it about? Go and find out.

Considering his present status as a Z-movie staple, it's amazing to see Malcolm McDowell back on the big-screen in his youthful prime, an awesome presence that dominates every inch of Kubrick's take on Anthony Burgess. Forget your Roths and Oldmans because here's the original. He gives the movie an energy and lucidity lacking in the narrative, which after a kinetic opening twenty minutes is, it's fair to say, somewhat all over the shop. But, whatever flaws there are, and, indeed, this is a far from perfect work, they are countered by in-his-prime Stan's dictatorial directorial vision. And it is a vision. When he was filming a scene where McDowell's Alex jumps out a window, he simply threw the camera out, destroying the equipment, but getting the shot he wanted. As science fiction, the future's eclipsed it in far more terrifying ways, but as a movie, it's still a bloody masterpiece.

Derek O'Connor
courtesy of www.doras.ie

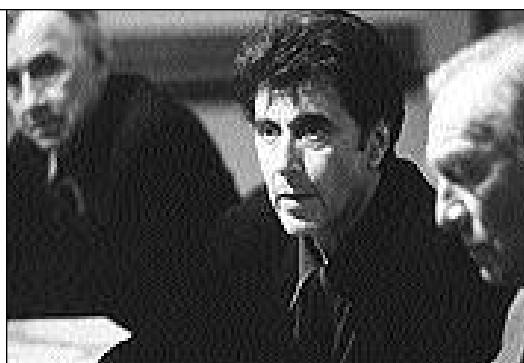
The Insider***

directed by Michael Mann
starring Al Pacino, Russell Crowe, Christopher Plummer, Philip Baker Hall
duration 160 mins

What we have here is a classic case of good story not so great movie.

That can maybe be explained by the disclaimer at the end of the movie that points out that while this is a true story, there are characters and elements that have been introduced by the makers. If they had stuck to the original story and not descended into the average Hollywood stereotypes, then this would have risen from a film that is worth seeing to a film that should not be missed.

So what is the story? Jeffrey Wigand (Russell Crowe) is the former head of R&D with a tobacco company, who turns whistle blower. Lowell Bergman (Pacino) is the CBS producer who fights with the network to have Wigand's story aired on 60 minutes, CBS's premier news programme. The film charts their struggle with both corporate bodies, the broadcaster and the tobacco company, and that is where it descends into stereotypes. One man against the world, fighting to save his family against the fat cat corporate moguls who are in turn aided by other fat cat corporate moguls and the real serpents in the



grass, the corporate lawyers. You feel that there is a real good movie to be made based on the full story but because the facts are somewhat glossed over and new storylines introduced you do feel a bit cheated.

As for the acting, Crowe is excellent and worthy of his nomination. He was helped by the fact that for the first time in a while Pacino's role did not involve a lot of shouting over everyone and grandstanding i.e. He acted as apposed to hamming it up. But despite their performances they are still let down by the movie itself, which serves as a lesson that if there is a good story to tell then tell it and don't change it just for the sake of Hollywood. This movie failed at the box office in the States, hard to see how it will do here but it is worth seeing however is a long way from being unmissable.

KP



Being John Malkovich*****

directed by Spike Jonze
starring John Cusack, Cameron Diaz, Catherine Keener, John Malkovich
duration 112 minutes

You can't really write about Being John Malkovich. You shouldn't really even read about Being John Malkovich. You should just see Being John Malkovich.

Spike Jonze's feature directorial debut - after acclaimed music video and ads, - has bagged him an Oscar nomination for Best Director, along with nods for fellow first-timer, Charlie Kaufman's script and Keener as Best Supporting Actress. It's also proved a minor hit at the almighty U.S. box-office, and has generally received reviews best described as euphoric.

And guess what? It ain't gonna stop here. Because this film is one of the most original beautifully twisted and damn enjoyable cinematic experiences you'll be having at the movies this year. And if, as has been claimed, the likes of this and P.T. Anderson's forthcoming *Magnolia* are indeed ushering in a new era of outstanding American cinema, then it's a hell of a start.

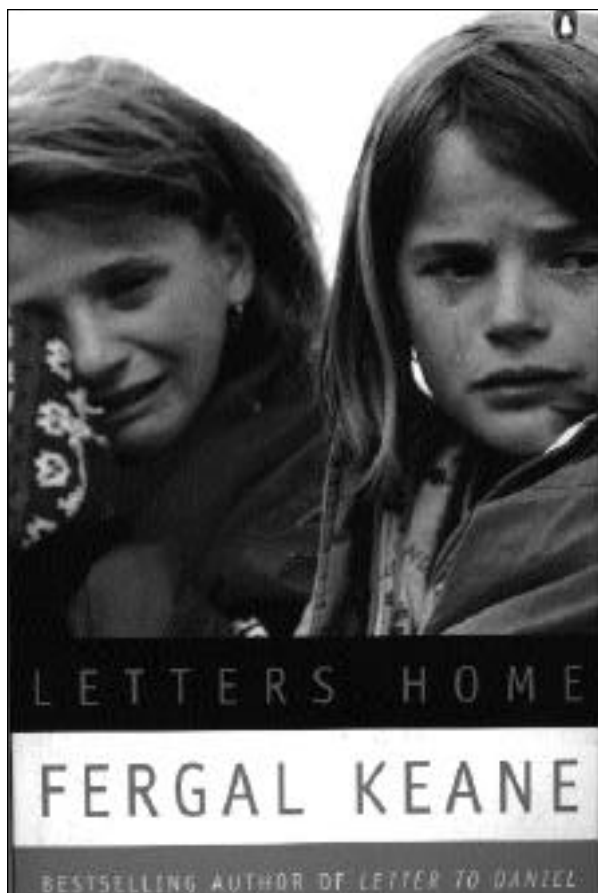
What do you need to know? Well, for a start it goes a little like this; unemployed puppeteer (Cusack) with animal-mad wife takes office job, falls in love with co-worker (Keener) and finds doorway behind filing cabinet. Said doorway allows him to enter the brain of Great American Actor, John Malkovich (yes, Malkovich) for fifteen minutes. After which, he's dumped out onto the New Jersey turnpike. He smells a business opportunity. And that's only the first half-hour. The triumph of Jonze and Kaufman's completely unique vision - and this is a movie that resolutely defies comparison or categorisation - lies in their creation's absolutely perfect internal logic, combined with a downbeat visual style that makes the most fantastical scenario seem perfectly natural.

It's a movie about identity, celebrity and desire. Or maybe it's just a movie about Being John Malkovich, who gives the performance of a lifetime here - as himself. Either way, it's funny, it's tragic and it's a classic. So go.

Derek O'Connor
courtesy of www.doras.ie

Very Well Read.

Darragh O'Donoghue reviews the books that might be worth reading
This issue, Fergal Keane's 'Letters Home'



Letters Home

by Fergal Keane

(Penguin, £6.99 UK)

Here is a local boy done good. He has a column in the London Independent, you'll hear his name mentioned on the BB, he even won a BAFTA.

Not bad for a Cork lad who used to write for the Limerick Leader. Fergal Keane has become one of the most respected journalists working in the UK right now. His reputation is built on his fine foreign correspondence - he sent dispatches from Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, and Northern Ireland. 'Letters Home' is a collection of his recent journalism.

It is easy to be cynical about compilations like this one. Sometimes you get the feeling that they are put together so the writer can get paid twice for the same article. Keane gets sent by his newspaper to Kosovo, say, produces a piece on life there, goes home and collects his fee. Then 'Letters Home' comes out six months later and the man is paid again.

He's not the only one up to that trick - PJ O'Rourke and Bill Bryson do the same thing. Another potential gripe with this kind of publication is that newspaper articles are pretty short by nature. When published in book form they might seem a bit slight. You start reading, feel like it's getting to a good bit and then what do you know - the thing is finished, time to move on to the next subject. Reading a proper book you expect something a little more meaty. After all you would not have spent the best part of a tenner on a book just to catch the headlines or read a few skimpy paragraphs of analysis. Even an exhaustive collection of short pieces might still not add up to much. But 'Letters Home' defies such criticism. The

parts add up to a pretty moving whole.

There are a number of different sections to the book. The first one is called From Close to Home. Here, Keane looks back nostalgically on his early years in Cork and Kerry. He seems to have had a kind of Maeve Binchy 1960's upbringing. There were tuggish priests and monks in his school, teaching and beating in equal measure. His teenage nights were filled with drink and the odd embarrassing attempt at snogging girls in the local disco. He even formed a short-lived rock band and played in the parish halls of Kerry. It was a time "before prosperity arrived in Ireland, when the rest of the world seemed a great distance away, and Irish people were still held in the iron grip of the church", (to quote his editor). It all sounds like one of the movies that get shown on TV every St Patrick's day, a somewhat romanticised view of pre-Celtic tiger Ireland. It's pleasant enough to read if not terribly exciting. But this is the calm before the storm. Next the scene moves to Kosovo.

In his first collection, Letter to Daniel, Keane wrote from Rwanda about the terrible things that he had seen. One million Tutsis were murdered by Hutus in the central African republic in 1996. Despite the fact that this was the most gruesome act of genocide this world has seen since the Second World War, Western governments stood idly by. Faced with the horror of Rwanda and the indifference of the world, Keane wrote an article with his baby son Daniel in mind. It was an attempt to explain to the innocent child the ways of the world he had just been born into. Letter to Daniel was a despairing piece of writing.

Much of 'Letters Home' was written in Kosovo early last year. It has a similar task to his previous book in that it is an attempt to put a human face to an otherwise faraway current affairs item. It is not a straight reportage of missile hits and casualty figures. Instead, Keane introduces us to the various characters he meets on his travels, the people whose lives were ruined by the ethnic conflict in Yugoslavia. Again it is a despairing book, one that uses the old cliché, 'man's inhumanity to man', but presents it against the rest of the world's disinterest and the effect is disturbing.

The next section sees Keane return to central Africa. He meets kids who witnessed the atrocities of only a few years before and wonders if they will ever recover after what they have seen. Back in London he tries to track down a former Hutu big shot believed responsible for directing thousands of murders. At one point he even chases this man down a street in the attempt to interview him. All through these stories Keane displays an anger towards the lazy Western journalists who failed to understand the complexities

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of the situation in Africa and left us fairly ignorant of the situation.

It's not all stories of brutal killings though. There are lighter pieces to soften the blow of the tougher stuff. There is an account on Keane's frustrated attempts to find dentists on his travels around Israel and Spain. (He must have pretty lousy teeth going by these stories.) The moral of these tales, kids get your teeth checked out before even thinking of leaving the country.

Darragh O'Donoghue

O'Mahony's Bestseller List

13 April 2000

Paperback Fiction

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <i>Never Look Back</i>
(Penguin) | Lesley Pearse |
| 2. <i>Man & Boy</i>
(HarperCollins) | Tony Parsons |
| 3. <i>The Testament</i>
(Arrow) | John Grisham |
| 4. <i>The End of the Affair</i>
(Penguin) | Graham Greene |
| 5. <i>The Beach</i>
(Penguin) | Alex Garland |

Paperback Non-Fiction

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <i>Cooked in a Flash</i>
(Appletree) | Jeremy Bristow |
| 2. <i>Angela's Ashes</i>
(Flamingo) | Frank McCourt |
| 3. <i>This Great Little Nation</i>
(Gill & Macmillan) | Gene Kerrigan |
| 4. <i>Easy Way to Stop Smoking</i> Alan Carr
(Penguin) | |
| 5. <i>2000-2001 Money Pension and Tax Guide</i>
(Tab) | |

Original Fiction

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <i>The Brethren</i>
(Century) | John Grisham |
| 2. <i>Something for the Weekend</i> Pauline McLynn
(Headline) | |
| 3. <i>Fortune Rocks</i>
(Abacus) | Anita Schreve |
| 4. <i>Monster</i>
(Little, Brown) | Jonathan Kellerman |
| 5. <i>Last Chance Saloon</i>
(Poolbeg) | Marian Keyes |



Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Socs on campus.

Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Center, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

Tarrant and the Transvestites

SOUL week 2000 and what a week it was. For the newly formed, still wet behind the ears Omega, the Maths and Stats Society, it was a roaring success (even if we do say so ourselves!) The long weeks of discussions, arguments and agonising decisions over what to wear (for the lads), finally bore fruit, as the society treated U.L. students to a sight not often seen around Campus..... fully attired Drag Queens strutting their stuff and we have the pictures to prove it.

The Omega Blind Date Competition was enjoyed by all and we were lucky to have Cilla, flown in especially to present, albeit looking blonder and more masculine than you've ever seen her before (Well done Eddie, even though we know you enjoyed it really). Two couples were duly matched after some dubious questions and even more questionable answers. Was it love at first sight.....only time will tell. The couples were duly treated to a meal out at a secret romantic venue (not The Restaurant okay!) Finally the climax of the evening when a certain unsuspecting Comp Sys student looking for love got more than he bargained for. He selected a maths student of dubious moral character and even more dubious hair colour. Yet even dressed as a woman someone remarked that Mick had something special! Even though our Comp Sys student left the scene running and screaming it was reported that the couple caught up with each other later although whether they actually found love in each others arms could not be confirmed on going to press.

After all this excitement it was the turn of Chris Tarrant (aka Gordon Lessels) to find us a winner in the "Who wants to be a Mathematician" competition held over the three days, culminating in the final on Wednesday. After an intense competition a champion emerged and was conferred with an honorary maths degree. Well done to the winner and all the others who took part.

So passes our first SOUL week of many and will we ever forget it. Well no because we have the photographs for posterity. Check out our Web Site for some interesting snaps!!! (www.csn.ul.ie/~omega/)

Finally, a big thanks to all the committee for all their hard work and to all of ye who took part. Look out for upcoming events including talks in week 7 and week 9. We'll keep ye posted. From all in Omega.....to infinity and beyond!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Enviro Soc Appeal For Help For The Mapaland Hunger Strikers

MAPALAND:

In September 1995, the Philippine Government stated that 137 landless families in the 'Mapalad' co-op on the island of Mindanao were to be given legal ownership of 144 hectares of land, under the Government's Agrarian Reform Programme.

This land belonged to a powerful landowner called Norberto Quisimbing. Each family would receive about 1 hectare of good land in the village that they came from: a dream had come

true, it seemed. However, over the weeks, months and years that have passed, the dream has turned into a nightmare. The Mapalad farmers have been cheated of their right to the land by political corruption and violence. The landowner, Norberto Quisimbing, had strong connections with local politicians. Together, they pressurised the President at the time, Fidel Ramos, to award the land back to Quisimbing. This was in March 1996. In the meantime, the land remained guarded by Quisimbings private security force. The Mapalad farmers decided to assert their

rights - the land was theirs - justice should be on their side. In July 1997 they entered the land, set up tents and began clearing the ground for farm-work. They lasted two days.

Quisimbings security force, fired guns, burned their tents and drove them from the land with brutal force.

"Give them Church land because I will not give them my land. You will be responsible for the blood that will be shed if they don't leave in five minutes."

Norberto Quisimbing addressing the Local

priest at the time of the farmers land entry.

"If you try to take my land, you'll become organic fertilizer."

Carlos Fortich, Governor of Bukidnon, owner of thousands of hectares of land, tells Department of Agrarian Reform officials what he thinks of agrarian reform Hunger for Justice

The farmers appealed to all who could help them: the local governor, the judge, the President himself. They got nowhere. Finally, in October 1997, out of desperation, they decided to go on

History Society lose all dignity during Soul Week.

The History Society took part in SoUI Week with the Debating Union by staging a toga debate in the Stables Courtyard. The motion that "Brutus was a bastard" was proposed by the History Society. We faced tough opposition as the Debating Union put out their best team (Limerick Gold) consisting of Micheal Hourigan and Keith Pigott who between them have thirty five years of debating experience, eighteen years of college education and have won three world titles, five European titles, fifteen Irish titles, a Miss Oola contest, two F.A. cups and a Champion Hurdle.

Against this class of opposition, the History Society sent out

Fergal Noone and Tadhg O Shea (making their maiden speeches) into the lions den that was the courtyard. As a treat for the ladies three of the speakers wore togas, however Mr. Pigott declined to wear one, but quashed rumours that this was because the circus had asked for their tent back! The debate ended up in farce as Keith Pigott resorted to telling racist Northsider jokes, but as the Debating Union claimed victory the History Society ended up being threatened with wedgies. However the great advantage of togas rescued us as everyone knows you can't get a wedgie in a toga (no boxers). A rematch has been called and we await a suitable venue.

hunger strike. For 30 days, 18 hunger strikers stayed in makeshift tents on the streets of the Capital Manila, and the regional capital, Cagayan de Oro. Seán Farrell of Trócaire, worked as a volunteer with the Mapalad farmers for two years, and was present during their hunger strike: "The 11th day of the hunger strike has dawned. All of the strikers look weak, drawn and tired as they gather around Peter Tuminhay, the leader of this group. Their swollen deep eyes, weak bodies and dark faces again try to summon the energy that will see them through another day."

The strikers had to wait another 19 long, pain-wracked days, before the President, Fidel Ramos relented and said that the farmers would receive two-thirds of the property, and Mr. Quisumbing would receive one-third. The farmers, exhausted, several of them near death, returned joyfully to their families. Justice denied?

Within weeks, however, Mr. Quisumbing went to court once again. The judges decided that he should keep all the land, and the Mapalad farmers would get nothing. The Mapalad farmers were not giving up, however. They took the case to the Supreme Court.

Last August 19th, the Supreme Court struck down "with finality" the claim of the Mapalad farmers over the 144-hectare agricultural estate formerly

owned by Quisumbing's--a tragedy not just for the farmers, but also for millions of landless farmers.

The court had not looked at the case on the basis of need, or on the basis of the Government's obligations to redistribute land to the poor. Instead they concentrated on legal loopholes and technical details and awarded the land to the powerful Mr Quisumbing.

Justice was dealt a killer blow, or so it seemed. In the words of the farmers:

"Our own painful experience of being betrayed by the Supreme Court is yet another proof that justice sold to the rich, like the Quisumbings, can never work for the poor. We were ready to die during our hunger strike to fight for our lives. We were prepared to sacrifice our own lives so that the people would look at our case beyond the technicalities. But our Supreme Court never saw nor understood this for they are blind, blinded by the power of the rich."

Tragically, one of the farmers has committed suicide as a result of the Supreme Court decision. Ruben Lision, a 23-year-old farmer, tried to commit suicide in despair, following the declaration on August 19th that the farmers had lost the case. The poison he ingested ravaged his already weak body, and he died a month later. This tragedy highlights the extreme brutality of a

system that puts politics and privilege before the lives of the poor.

The situation now...

The Mapalad farmers are not giving up - in fact they intend to work even harder in their struggle for land and justice, not just for themselves, but for all small farmers.

Maybe all is not lost yet for the Mapalad farmers. There's still the possibility that the Supreme Court sitting en banc might reconsider the decision of its Second Division. Responding to an appeal of the farmers to elevate the case to the full court, the division on Sept. 20 directed all parties to submit their position papers.

It is very important that the case is heard by all 15 Supreme Court justices ('en banc'); the technicalities are put aside; and the rights of the Mapalad farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law are the only basis for deciding on ownership of the land.

International pressure on the President, the Director of Agrarian Reform and the Supreme Court Justices is urgently needed. Take Action now. Send an e-mail to the following people telling them that they are a backward, racist, evil group of M.F's.

SEND TO:

Chief Justice Davide: bryan@supremecourt.gov.ph, ocjdavide@justice-mail.com

Justice Ynares-Santiago: jcys@supremecourt.gov.ph

Justice Mendoza: jvvm@supremecourt.gov.ph

Justice Quisumbing: jlaq@supremecourt.gov.ph

Department of Agrarian Reform
Secretary Horacio Morales:

HoracioM@dar.gov.ph

Nenan Benza a member of the Mapaland community gives a talk in Mary I on "FARMING REALITIES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY"

Other SPEAKERS : John Dillon, Deputy president of the I.F.A.

Date Monday March 27th.

Time 7 p. m.

Venue Ceann Córa, Mary Immaculate College, S.C.R.

Link.

Entrance by Library Building.

UL Young Fine Gael at the YFG National Conference

The Young Fine Gael National Conference was held recently in the Regency Hotel in Dublin.

There was a strong UL contingent which was evident throughout the debates on the various motions and policy documents.

YFG are a semi-autonomous organization from the senior party. We elect our own President and National Executive which no other youth party can do in Ireland. Candidates came from all over the country from Donegal to Waterford. With much wrangling, wheeling and dealing, UL managed to gain representation on the YFG eight member National Executive with Elaine

Byrne who got in on the second count (ahead of both UCD and Trinity!). Despite the toughest competition in years, UL YFG still holds its place on the National Executive.

On the Friday night of the conference we had a Q&A session with party leader John Bruton. He was asked a number of questions, one being what were his hobbies, tennis, reading and drinking if you want to know! UL had a team in the inter branch debate chaired by Maurice Manning on the subject, "Politics in Ireland is the last refuge of the scoundrel" which was, to say the least, lively. Later that night we had the Ceili where much canvassing was done and social "alliances" made. Some of UL delegation

attempted sleep but it proved impossible since "canvassing" and deal-making went on throughout the night.

Saturday morning we managed to pull ourselves together for the motions. UL's motion that, "that farmers should be given a single rate of tax of 12.5% the same as corporation tax." was passed. Other motions debated included, same sex marriages, rule 21 and the GAA, rent control, grants and fees in education, car insurance for young drivers and many others. The conference got very heated at times, particularly when the policy document titled "Ireland and the Commonwealth" was discussed which saw an overwhelming rejection on the suggestions to join.

On Saturday evening we had the debate on Northern Ireland, with high profile speakers such as Brian Heading (SDLP) and Stephen King (advisor to David Trimble) with our own Charlie Flanagan TD, (front bench spokesperson on the North) chairing the meeting.

Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, the founder of YFG, presented an award in memory of his late wife, Joan and received a standing ovation. Much more happened throughout the weekend than can't be put into words here.(due to censorship laws!!)

If you want to know more about UL YFG, drop into any of our meetings which are held every Tuesday @ 8 on the C block corridor. In the

near future we hope to have some guest speakers. Our other plans include a trip to Dail Eireann on Wednesday 15th March. Just let us know if you are coming beforehand.

We also have an invitation from the SDLP to visit Stormont buildings. This invitation is on foot of close links with which UL YFG have developed with Youth SDLP following canvassing by members of UL YFG with Youth SDLP in Belfast in the run up to voting for the Good Friday agreement. Two members of ULYFG will travel to Belgium at the end of the month as part of a YFG delegation to NATO headquarters and the European Parliament.

There are many other events happening

throughout the year with which UL YFG will be involved in, such as policy, activities and social weekends.

UL YFG also has a large role within the YFG International Committee (IC) with our current chairperson, Eoin Brazil, as secretary. In June, YFG will host a Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) conference in Dublin. This will see people from nearly every country in Europe participate from Belarus to the Netherlands. In the past year, members of UL YFG have represented YFG at YEPP conferences in Romania, Budapest, Lisbon and Warsaw. So if you want to know more about us, see you on Tuesdays or drop a line to:

yfg_ul@hotmail.com

UL Badminton Club Reaches The Varsities Final In Front Of TV Cameras



The UL Badminton Club's Intersvarsities Team

The UL Badminton Club lost in the final of this year's intersvarsity despite a brilliant team performance over the weekend in NUI Maynooth.

They were beaten 4-1 in the final by a very strong UCD team that contained no fewer than 4 players with international experience.

The UL team was rocked on the Tuesday before setting off when the news that Annemarie Reid would be unable to travel because she was unable to get off work. Despite frantic behind the scenes phone calls from Neasa in the Sports Dept, the manager in the Hotel where she worked refused to budge so UL had to plan without their only player with international experience. More bad news was to follow when it was revealed that Andria (on Co-op in London) couldn't arrive until Saturday morning and Karen C. couldn't get off teaching early enough on Friday to make the 1st game.

UL were drawn in a very tough qualifying group with UU Magee, UU Jordanstown and UCC. With 3 of the top 4 teams in the country in the group we realised that it would be very difficult to qualify, as only the top team qualified for the cup. UL's first game was against UU Magee, despite being a player short UL still managed to scrape through 4-3. The most exciting game was definitely the 1st mixed, the all-Kerry pair of Eric Nelligan and Karen Kennelly over came the all-Donegal pair in a thrilling battle, this game lasted well over an hour and both pairs got a standing ovation at the end of the game. It will be interesting to see how these pairs get on when Kerry meet Donegal in the All-Ireland final when they'll meet again. The other UL wins came in the 1st women, 2nd Men & 2nd mixed, However UL suffered another setback as Alan Nelligan injured his toe in his mixed game, this injury now ruled him out of Saturday's games.

That night was spent in the Students Bar in Maynooth University, with a DJ and cheap beer. Under these circumstances, it would have been difficult to have anything

but a great night, and sure enough it didn't disappoint. I'd like to offer some advice to any class of Engineers planning a class party next year..... go to Maynooth. Maynooth's student population is 65% female (that's 1500 extras females) so basically you're guaranteed a good night.

Following a good party from the night before (with the injured Alan), UL recommenced their qualifying ambitions against UU Jordanstown on the Saturday morning, thankfully the arrival of Karen C. and Andria meant that UL now had a full team. Again UL won by the narrowest of margins, the 1st men were hammered by the Jordanstown pair who had recently won the Irish Junior Championships, the 1st women also lost, but this game was very close. UL now had to win 4 out of the remaining 5 games, and like so often this year they didn't disappoint. The 2nd men of Shane & John and 2nd women of Fiona & Andria both had great wins to get UL right back into the match to level the score at 2-2 before commencing the mixed. As with the previous day the UL pair playing in 1st mixed managed to cause a major upset by beating the opposition in 2 sets, this was another great victory as nobody expected UL to win. Jordanstown levelled the score at 3-3 when they beat the John & Darina Doyle (no relation) in the second mixed in a very close game. The final UL pair of Andria & Shane produced the goods to hammer the 3rd Jordanstown pair in the deciding game.

In the final qualifying game UL easily over came UCC to win 7-0. Now the focus shifted to the UU Magee & UU Jordanstown. Even though UL won the three qualifying games the top team in the group was decided by team with the most points, UL had a total of 15 points and both Jordanstown and Magee had 10 points before starting their final game. If either one of these teams won 6-1, UL would have been knocked out. Thankfully this didn't happen as Jordanstown won 5-2, this meant that UL and Jordanstown both had 15 points, however UL qualified because they had won a total of 33 sets as opposed to 31 by Jordanstown.

The second night out was spent in the Leinster Arms hotel in Maynooth town. In a much smaller environment, everyone got to meet everyone else and forget his or her name 5 minutes later. This was followed by a late night in the Hotel's resident bar, after some hours of drinking the bar staff finally got rid of us around 5.00 or was it 6.00!!!!

The semi-final against DCU on the Sunday morning was a one sided affair as UL easily won 4-0, now Eric the UL captain had to make a few tough decisions for the final team selection against UCD who over came NUI Galway in the other semi. Should Alan play with his injured toe and who should partner Fiona in the 2nd women. It was finally decided that despite the heavy bruising Alan would play and Andria would partner Fiona in the 2nd women's. The atmosphere was now building up towards the final against UCD; the TV cameras from TG4 had arrived and set up shop to record the event. As everybody knows, modern sport is greatly influenced by the media, so with this in mind or team charmer (Alan) decided to chat up the stunning presenter. His charm definitely worked as she elected to wear the UL tracksuit while commentating on the game (this didn't cause any favouritism...I swear).

With 90% of the large attendance behind UL, the game got under way with the 1st men's. UL's Nelligan brothers, Eric and Alan took to the court against the Smyth cousins, Patrick and Justin. Despite a gallant effort the UL pair were beaten 15-7 & 15-11, however both of Smyths have represented Ireland so this was a great effort. UCD took a 2-0 lead after the 1st women's as Karen C. & Darina also lost to current Irish senior international Elaine Kiely and her partner Sandra Lynch (Irish Junior). The UCD pair easily won the 1st set 15-4, but the UL pair barely lost the second set 15-13 despite leading for most of the game. UL got right back into the game in 2nd men's as John & Shane had a brilliant victory in two sets. However that was as good as it got as UCD won the 2nd ladies by the narrowest of margins 15-13 & 17-16. All credit must go to Fiona, who playing in her very first intersvarsities played brilliantly and never once lost her cool (unlike a nameless senior member who got sick with nerves before the final). The pressure now focused on the 1st mixed, Eric & Karen had to win this game to keep UL in with a chance of winning. UCD won the 1st set 15-9, just as the second set got under way UU Jordanstown won the plate final so now every person in hall focused on the 1st mixed. Every shot and miss was lived by the whole attendance, a number of UL students on co-op in Intel who never in their life played Badminton left the hall with no finger nails left, just imagine how people into Badminton coped!!!! The first few scores remained even as UL and UCD levelled the score at 7-7, the UCD pair then got a scoring streak going and shot up to 14-7 in two serves. With this began a fight-back any world player would be proud of, UL slowly but surely brought the score up to 14-13, Eric then took a cheeky flick

serve, however we reliably informed that it landed half a mm out (who are we to argue). UCD then took the serve and finally killed off the spirited UL challenge.

The final night was spent, luckily, in our very own hotel. After a tasty (but uncannily similar to last year's) dinner, on came the music, then the party pieces. UCD got things rolling with their special flavour of Blind Date, while DCU resorted to old favourites such as Best Men's Legstm and Best Women's Legstm, along with other gems of ritualistic humiliation. Most definitely the best night yet. As anybody who has had the experience of travelling away with teams will know, you're opinion of fellow team members usually change, sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse. Our little story concerns a certain boy called Alan and a young impressionable 1st year called Fiona. A story seems to have surfaced whereby Alan took advantage of his seniority on the team and took advantage of the innocent Fiona. Alan on the other hand claims that Fiona used him to get a place on the senior team, I wonder who's telling the truth?

It would be impossible to pick the UL player of the tournament as great over all team performance was produced. Shane, Ronan & Karen K. all came home with 100% records, Eric & The Karen's beat some of the best players in Ireland in 1st mixed while the Doyles in 2nd mixed both produced some great displays.

UL varsity team: Karen Cinnamond, Darina Doyle, Karen Kennelly, Fiona Farrell, Andria Beazley, Eric Nelligan, John Doyle, Alan Nelligan, Shane O'Sullivan & Ronan Walsh.

Pictures of the competitions are available on the club's website at <http://badminton.csn.ul.ie>.

The semi final of the Haynes Cup will take place at 9.00 on Thursday week 6 in the UL Sports Hall, everybody welcome.

We would like to thank our sponsors O'Mahony's bookshop, the Stables and the Bank of Ireland for their assistance in getting us to the varsities.



Karen Cinnamond in action for UL

UL Outdoor Pursuits Club In Welsh Banana Scandal



The OPCs who did the whole tour of Wales

The Outdoor Pursuits Club had a very successful trip mountaineering in Wales. The group, which consisted of 15 students, left Dublin port on the 24th of January.

There were a few minor hick ups, like some students going to the wrong port! The whole group was reunited in Holyhead and then Llanberis, in North Wales, was our destination

On our first day in the mountains we rose at 7.00am. By the time breakfasts had been cooked and eaten, lunches made, rucksacks packed and the bus taken to Plas Y Pas it was 9:30. Already it was looking like a good day. There was a bright winter sun shining on us from a clear blue cloudless sky. We were lucky that the weather stayed like this for the whole day and this gave us spectacular views of much of North Wales.

All morning a large RAF helicopter was flying around above us training and this, along with the views, distracted us from the effort of the climb. Finally we arrived on the peak, which was carpeted in snow. Snowdon at 1,085 metres is the highest mountain in England, Wales and Ireland.

On the decent we used our survival bags to slide down the snowy slopes and this raised eyebrows with the more conservative Welsh and English mountaineers. It was good craic but there were a lot of sore and bruised bodies afterwards. A few of us were then lucky enough to see the rare natural phenomenon called a Brocken Spectre. It is a giant shadow of yourself projected onto the clouds with a circular rainbow around your head.

On Wednesday our aim was to traverse the

entire horseshoe of Snowdon. This is a classic mountain route, which is arguably the finest and most satisfying in the British Isles. To get onto the ridge we first scrambled up the steep rocky slopes of Crib Goch. From here through intermittent fog we could see the Crib Goch ridge before us. It was

about 1 foot in width with a 400 metre drop on either side of the ridge and a splash of snow and ice thrown in for good measure. So it was out with the harnesses and we roped together in 2 separate groups. Moving over the ridge some people were pretty terrified while others just got a rush but everyone worked together as a team.

From the summit of Snowdon the group split up with some people heading straight back to the hostel while those who had not yet received enough punishment continued on to complete the horse-shoe. They managed to reach the track by darkness and made the walk out to Plas Y Pas by the aid of headtorches.

After 2 days of peak bagging it was time for some celebrations so the OPC hit the pubs of Llanberis. Of course after the night had been whiled away, with random vegetable attacks, and high-level traverses of the climbing frame in the children's playground, Thursday was our day off. Most people spent the day bouldering or walking around the lake and taking in all the sights.

That night it was time to check the weather for our planned route in the Glyders. It didn't look good; strong winds, rain, fog and low temperatures but we decided that the weather forecast is not always right and that we should make an attempt anyway.

After about an hour of climbing through exactly the weather which had been

forecast it was decided to retreat to the warmth of the hostel. But a few persistent members did make it to Adam and Eve, the summit stones on Tryfan.

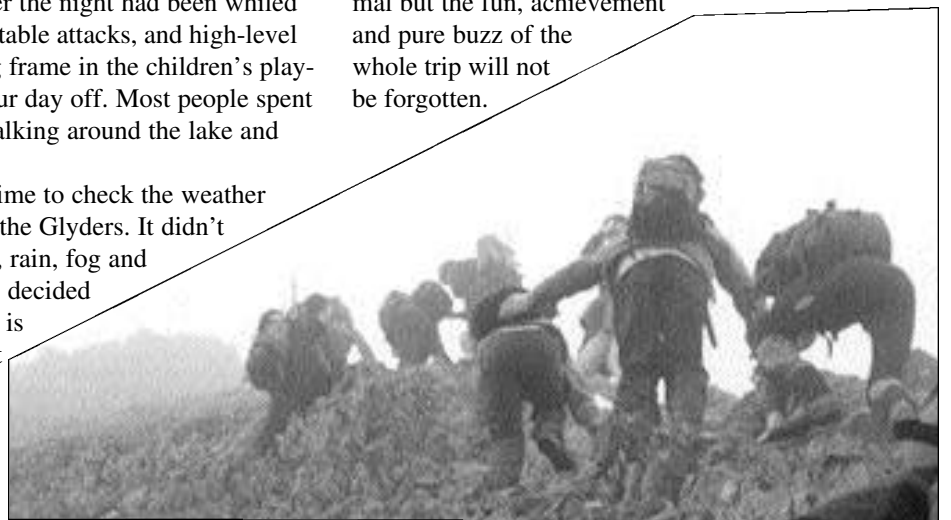
And so after warming up and drying out at the hostel it was decided to make something of the day and head to the local climbing wall. The bus journey there was quickly passed with a classic rendition of 50 green bottles, which finished at -5, by Miguel and Thomas. Everyone was quite impressed with the wall and immediately set about using all of their energy trying the problems.

The next morning we awoke to even more bad weather and so the day was spent exploring the gear shops of Llanberis. That night a group headed out into the wind and rain to the summit of Snowdon while others reacquainted themselves with friends like "Stella Artois" and "Bananas". Come 4 in the morning after the return of the first batch a few more hardy souls ventured up Snowdon to catch the sunrise.

After all the activity of the night before, it was after midday the next day before everyone was active. So it was back to the climbing wall to use our last reserves of energy to show the Welsh climbers how we Irish do it.

Then it was all over, our bags packed and we were ready to go. Because of the stormy seas it looked like the ferry might not be sailing. Luckily we were put onto another ferry and although it was a very bumpy ride we arrived back on Irish soil in one piece.

From here, the 15 of us disbanded and went our separate ways to try and re-integrate back into civilian/student life. Some members have returned to normal but the fun, achievement and pure buzz of the whole trip will not be forgotten.



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The UL Windsurfers Take Valentia

Well it's that time of year, time to report from the windsurfing intervarsities.

The culmination of the competitive calendar has come and gone leaving only the bitterest memories. The bus journey of all things brought an unfortunate omen, losing the trailer lights getting broken didn't help any of us. Lucky for us we had two able engineers, Brian and Diarmuid, who were able to hold the torch for the bus driver while he mashed all the wires together as best he could (this actually worked). The important theme of the event being that "no one knows what they are doing".

And so, on to the real reason for going to Valentia. The races. After one of the nicest days of the year on the Saturday, nice, but for the lack of wind and so the fanatics started to rig up their 9.5's while the rest of us made do with trying not to kill yourself when doing backflips off the pier. Racing began in earnest on the Sunday. Full congrats to Diarmuid for finishing with the big boys of A-fleet. (Of course having started his journey two hours earlier in the B fleet this did not mean a lot to anybody but Diarmuid) Jon Harper, a former hero of all of ours, didn't perform on the day, maybe those twelve hours of solid drinking at the postgrads ball affected him more than he was willing to admit. Which left the supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Wesley to get out there and restore some pride that was disappearing really fast. Apparently, UCD ended up winning although in a more real and totally false way UL were winners also cos at the end of the day we tried our best didn't we kids.

Apart from those bloody farcical attempts at racing, the nights were promising. Though maybe that was just due to the fridges of free drink. The Hawain theme night was.....well it wasn't to be honest, Trinity being the only crowd with enough



UL Windsurfers in action in Valentia

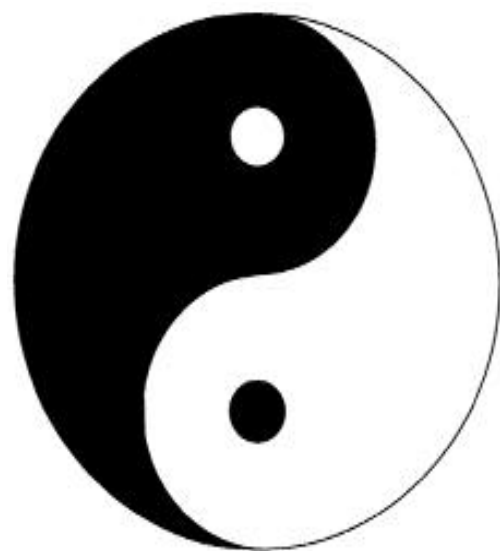
insecurities to wear grass skirts, as for us, we decided we couldn't do it without Ronan. As for the Drum'n Bass disco the usual suspects moved to the groove and lost the plot on the dance floor with the notable addition of Jon Harper, shattering further illusions here. The HSS Iano arrived at some point which was unfortunate for those who had thoughts of going to bed. As did the guards who kicked us out of the pub at 2. Our protests of residents bar fell on deaf ears, unfortunately.

All in all it wasn't a bad weekend. It was a fun

filled few days and unusually for a windsurfing weekend we actually got to windsurf for a while.

In summary, we still have to learn to windsurf, drunken dancing has no redeemable qualities whatsoever, Brian punched Diarmuid for not being involved in his group photo (my sources reveal that no props or livestock were involved and maybe you can hear the sentence "That is one tasty Big Kahuna Burger" too many times in one night!

There will be a weekend away in Kilaloe this weekend. anyone interested, sign up in the canteen.



Tai-Chi Chuan, or Tai-Chi for short, is an ancient form of meditative exercise, originating in China, used to improve and maintain good health and increase longevity.

It is also used as a means of self-defence. It is practised by hundreds of millions of people around the world and can be recognised by its slow captivating movements. Its lit-

eral translation is supreme ultimate boxing.

Although descriptions of individual postures and principles can be found in records over 3,500 years old, the exact origins of Tai-Chi are lost in time. Chang san Feng, a Chinese monk, is widely acknowledged as having cre-

ated the first set of postures over 600 years ago. He observed that with time, that which remains soft and pliant endures while that which is hard and rigid withers. For example, a branch that yields to the wind does not break, unlike those that are not supple and are unable to bend. This resulted in a series of movements which follow natural principles and assist in the

UL Introduced To The Ancient Art Of Tai Chi

development of an "internal" understanding.

Most people who practise Tai-Chi do so to improve health, increase energy, promote a balanced lifestyle and for self-defence. Tai-Chi is an internal art since it focuses on the development of internal energy, or Chi, through movement and meditation.

Practitioners learn the benefits of responding to an attack or event in a relaxed fashion and how the chances of success are increased.

Tai-Chi is an extremely effective martial art. Initially, students learn the fundamental principles and concepts of Tai-Chi such as Chi Kung, Yin and Yang, Tan Tien, the Form, Grounding and Roundness. Each posture has many martial applications which are demon-

strated to help remember the postures. When practising, the focus should always be on increasing sensitivity and internal understanding. Using internal energy as a martial art is the result of many years of dedicated practice. However, the use of its principles as a means of self-defence is immediate.

The principle style of Tai-Chi are Chen, Sun, Wu, Woo and Yang. Yang style is the most common and is taught at UL by Brian Mitchell. Brian is a qualified instructor and has been practising for over seven years. Anyone can do Tai-Chi. No special clothing is necessary, though loose clothing should be worn to aid relaxation and freedom of movement.

It takes some time to

learn and refine, but its benefits can be experienced almost immediately. I started practising Tai-Chi over two years ago and don't regret doing so. I find it is of great benefit in helping deal with the stresses of college life and of life in general. It gets to the root of the problem, combats tiredness and other stress related symptoms and results in increased performance.

Tai-Chi classes are usually expensive but are free to staff and students at UL. Anyone interested in starting is more than welcome to come to our weekly sessions. They are held on Wednesday afternoons from 14.30 to 16.30 in Kilmurphy Village Hall.

Colin Doherty

The Hockey Showdown Has Begun!!!

The hockey scene in U.L. has certainly reached its climax in recent weeks with all three teams partaking in their cup campaign.

All teams have been training diligently and coaches have, as always, been exhibiting their dedication and commitment. The Munster league, in all divisions, has also been causing much excitement as the U.L. teams all compete for top positions.

The cup campaign has been joyous for some but extremely disappointing for others. The senior team, despite their best efforts were defeated by Cork team, Church of Ireland in the first round. Church of Ireland were certainly favourites for this match as they are competing with the league winners of last season, Harlequins for top position in the league at the moment. From the first second of the match, you could see that the Cork girls were women on a mission, taking the Limerick girls by surprise and putting

them on the back foot immediately. Three well executed short corners for C. of I. which resulted in goals within the first eight minutes determined the fate of the U.L. players.

The first half passed in a haze, as constant pressure was put on by the Cork players. However, it was obvious that U.L. were not going to give up very easily. This was shown to a great extent in the second half where U.L. demonstrated great team spirit and determination and played with great heart. There were some spectacular passages of play from Eveanne O Reilly and Keely Cantrell and also great individual skill and strength from Lorna Kingston who scored a very deserved goal.

Captain Sally-Ann McAulliffe, had to retire due to an ankle injury and Mairead Murphy was a more than capable replacement. This allowed South East's Lisa Smith to make her come back to the defensive position she seems to prefer. Lisa certainly put pressure on C. of I.'s forward

and ex-international and did not allow her take command of her own game. Despite some amazing play, UL were not to be victorious on the day and the score remained 3-1. On the other hand, all is not lost as there is everything to play for in the league where we are currently in fourth position.

The minor A team were equally disappointed with their result in the cup. Initially, after getting a by into the semi-final, an easy route to the final was forecasted. This was not to be the case. They were drawn to play rival college UCC in Limerick and after previously beating them in the league, were confident that they would be victorious.

The minor As were not on top form on the day and it seemed that very little went in their favour and UCC were quick in taking advantage of this. The Munster representatives on the team, Sharon Carty and Clare Delaney displayed great skill and intelligence in their play and it was Clare that turned some good

play into a much needed goal. But a little more was needed as the Cork team were pressurising the UL defence to a great extent.

Joanne Kirby and Claire Ryan both defended very well and were certainly invaluable on the day. The score line, 3-1 certainly was not a true reflection of the game as UL had some good attacking play but were unfortunate not to convert them into goals.

The minor A team are under great pressure in the league at the moment and are close contestants for top position, competing with Moyne, Co. Tipperary. They must win all remaining matches if they are to be promoted to the Junior B division next year. This is indeed a tall order but we have ultimate faith that they will put their cup experience behind them and succeed. Their last league match was against Cobh and was indeed a tense affair but thankfully they came out on top due to two outstanding goals scored by Darina Drumm. The scoreline

should have ended 3-1 only for a goal being disallowed but 2-1 did the job.

The newly formed minor B team is our last hope of winning a cup this year. They are the only team remaining in the Munster Cup Competition and are presently in the semi-final stages after beating Cobh in the preceding stage 2-1. This was a very impressive scoreline and there were some great performances by many of the players, including Janet Ryan and Carolyn Ahearne, the goal scorers. In addition, the Fingletons, Karen and Susan, and Eavan Monahan in defense had great games with our attackers Louise Smith and Emily Pickering also in great form.

In the league, the minor Bs are also in top form in second place. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any hope of topping the table by the end of the season even if the remaining matches are won. Oh well, heres to the cup Good Luck Girls!!!!!!!!!!!!

UL Football Club Impress at the Collingwood Cup

The oldest and only All Ireland soccer competition, the Collingwood Cup, took place in Coleraine in week one of this semester.

UL were drawn in the group of death, which contained UCC and reigning champions NUIG along with RCSI. Whoever came through this group would have been favourites for the competition.

The UL team, managed by Stephen Driver, met up early on the Sunday morning before the competition to set on the journey to Coleraine by coach. A whole eight hours travel lay ahead of the squad. (quicker to fly to New York!!!) The journey took us to Dublin to collect key members of the squad and also to pick up Jason Carey, who is the coach of the Ladies team who were playing DCU on that Sunday.

The full squad was now together and the road to Coleraine now lay ahead of us. A few select tunes from the 'Firestarter' Denis McCarthy and a talent (lack of talent) show hosted by Jason Carey broke the back of the journey. The spirit of the squad was now very high and a good week beckoned.

Portrush was now to be our home for a week and what a week it was. We resided in a very upmarket *((**)) hotel. Free pool and a free jukebox kept the lads away from drink and women (not for the want of trying) until we got knocked out.

Monday saw us in action against UCC. Played on the worst pitch in Ireland, it was always a very

tight game with probably only a goal going to separate the sides. UL had a very slow start to this game, having a few early scares around the box. UCC broke the deadlock after 20 minutes when they broke down our left, shot from a very acute angle. Niall 'Fuzzy' Cahalan did very well in goals, made a very good save from the shot but was very unfortunate that the ball spun into the net.

After this setback UL started to play themselves back into the game with Oran 'Trigger' Weldrick and Jason Carey going very close. After the change of ends UL had UCC pinned for the majority of the second with Ciaran McElwaine and Dermot 'Sniffer' Phelan linking up well in midfield. The introduction of Eddie 'Suker' O'Brien saw UL use a more direct approach to create chances but to no avail as the pitch took its toll on the standard of football being played. UCC just about held out to the final whistle, as UL could not convert possession into goals. This was to prove a vital win for UCC.

Monday night's entertainment was the Collingwood table quiz, in which UL entered two teams. The questions were abysmal and the answers were even worse. You would swear we were supposed to know something about football!!!! There was a customary bet between the two teams where the end results saw team 1 finish second last, with team 2 finishing in eight. For legal reasons we cannot name the



UL player/manager, Stephen Driver in action

people associated with team 1. A few members of the squad decide to go to the local nightclub 'Traks', where the talent was so hot that those involved will never see it again especially in 'the Lodge'. Some witnessed the treatment that the bouncers dished out

and a blow by blow account was given by a lad that got thrown out. It went something like 'BANG BANG BANG BANG' as he demonstrated uppercuts that the bouncers had supposedly given him. Dolly was late out of the club and he claims he scored in the nightclub but no one saw him, so it was assumed that he just went to the toilets to make a dump. Anyway Dolly had cost the group to be late for the curfew back at the hotel.

Back to the football and NUIG, the reigning champions, was the opposition on the Tuesday. The rivalry between the teams goes back years and there was certainly no love lost on this occasion either. The back four of Gary 'Daisy' O'Donovan, Hugh O'Loughlin, Scott Brady and Stephen Driver were outstanding in this game, dealing with everything that NUIG had to throw at them. The central midfield partnership of Dermot Phelan and Ciaran McElwaine worked tirelessly throughout the match when they played the Galway midfield off the pitch both physically and skillfully. This helped both wide men Eoghan Poil and Peter Murphy to get quality service and to set up attack after attack, which Galway had no answer to. Jason Carey and Oran Weldrick did not let the Galway back four relax for a minute as they menaced around the park.

Dermot Phelan got his just rewards for a trojan display when he was set up by Peter Murphy to strike from 30 yards to bury the ball in the top corner. Fuzzy Cahalan kept UL in the game by pulling off an outstanding save to deny NUIG's centre forward. Stephen Driver and Scott Brady made sure UL made no mistakes in the lead up to half time. Michael Keane gave the team a stern team talk at half time to send UL out to the second half even more determined to win. Galway threw their last throw of the dice when making three substitutions early in the second half.

UL handled Galway's attacks competently as UL's frontrunners went looking for more goals. The introduction of fresh legs in the form of Mervyn Farrell up front made the difference when UL extended their lead in dying minutes of the game. Mervyn Farrell made a crunching tackle out on the left with the ball breaking to Peter Murphy. His deep cross found Oran Weldrick lurking at the far post. His downward header was excellently saved by the Galway netminder, but the alert Weldrick followed up the rebound to slide the ball home to see UL pick up maximum points from the game and end all hopes of NUIG qualifying for the cup.

Tuesday night was an uneventful night with many of the squad retiring to bed, while others went to the cinema. However a select few ended up in the Student Union Bar to mingle with the best talent that UU Coleraine had to offer. The night ended with none of the squad scoring.

Going into Wednesday's set of matches UL needed to beat RCSI by four clear goals and hope that NUIG do them a favour by beating UCC. Two changes to the UL line up from the NUIG match saw Denis McCarthy and Mervyn Farrell come into the team. Played on a woeful pitch, a professional and patient display was needed by UL to overcome a hardworking RCSI team. In the first fifteen minutes UL had RCSI pinned back, with RCSI struggling to get out of their own half. Chance after chance went a begging with Oran Weldrick and Ciaran McElwaine unfortunate not to convert a handful of goals between them. The deadlock was broken midway through the half with Dermot Phelan adding his second goal of the tournament after RCSI nearly scoring with a breakaway attack.

Conditions were taking its toll as it became increasingly hard to play the nice attractive football



The panel that represented UL in the Collingwood Cup in Coleraine

that UL were playing up to now in the tournament. RCSI were doing very well in trying to frustrate UL with their stubborn defence.

After a snowstorm at half time the teams went back into action. The trend of the first half continued for the second half with UL dominating proceedings. Midway through the half Ciaran McElwaine added a second with a well taken goal. Dermot Phelan clinched his third goal of the tournament with a powerful header from a perfectly taken corner by Jason Carey. UL changed to a more attacking formation with the introduction of Gary Gorman, Eddie O'Brien and Peter Murphy in search of that elusive fourth goal. With ten minutes left Gary Gorman and Ciaran McElwaine linked up well to set up Oran Weldrick to grab a brilliant goal to ease UL's nerves. The final ten minutes were played with not much action. All eyes were now focused on the NUIG / UCC with the score at 1-1 with only injury time to play. NUIG had UCC pinned in search of the winner. UCC held strong for a 1-1 draw that saw them qualify for the cup and UL qualify for the plate to meet UCD.

Wednesday night's activities brought the squad to the exclusive nightclub in Portrush, Kelly's. This club houses over 5,000 people and with the ratio of women to men at 6:1 the UL squad were in their element. With the players still on the dry, their spirits were not to be quenched as the women wearing half nothing teased the lads. This was sure a quality place. With the house camera filming events on the dance floor, the 'Jim Larkin' impersonation was carried out by a select number of the squad with the majority of the dance floor doing the 'Jim Larkin'.

Semi-final day in the Collingwood saw UL compete against a very well organised UCD side. The game was only 15 minutes old when Stephen Driver, the player/manager, had to retire from the game due to a twisted knee. Stephen Driver was to prove a huge loss, as he had built up a very solid partnership with Scott Brady, only conceding one goal in the tournament thus far. So Stephen Driver was now reduced to a managerial capacity. With the defence being reshuffled, UL were a bit fortunate to get to half time with the game scoreless, as UCD started brightly. The second half saw the game being even enough. Gary Gorman came into the game for a very tired Eoghan Poil, who was outstanding for UL in his first Collingwood. UCD went ahead after good work down our left hand side saw a cross come into the box when the UCD centre forward finishing with ease.

After this setback UL rallied and played themselves back into the game. Eddie O'Brien was introduced for the injured Jason Carey who in his last Collingwood had a good tournament.

UL were caught on the break as they pushed forward for a goal. UCD broke down the right with their right-winger who cut inside and from 25 yards scored a wonder goal to leave UL stunned and giving Niall Cahalan no chance. UL changed to a more attacking formation and threw caution to the wind. Ciaran McElwaine, Dermot Phelan, and Oran Weldrick all went close. Peter Murphy doing great work down the left, crossed for Oran Weldrick to finish with a tap in.

With 10 minutes left on the clock time was running out. A couple of minutes later the UCD keeper was sent off for handling the ball outside the box and with all their subs used, the right full back took the responsibilities of the keeper. Eddie O'Brien had a glorious chance to see UL get back on level terms when his shot came back off the post. Oran Weldrick also went close with the keeper pulling off a remarkable save. UCD got off the hook with the sound of the final whistle and were very relieved to go through to the final. UL however can keep their heads held high after doing so well in a tournament where no one gave them a chance at all. UL FC can look forward to a bright future with most of the squad having at least another two Collingwoods left in them. The player's man of the tournament went to Gary O'Donovan, who had an outstanding last Collingwood tournament.

Thursday night's events cannot be published for legal reasons what happens on tour stays on tour.....

ULDUO GET INTERNATIONAL CALLUP

At Friday night's banquet Jim Lawlor named the international squad. Ciaran McElwaine and Oran Weldrick were picked in his squad, which is due to play three matches in March. It is a great honour for the Club and the University to have two players on the International panel. More importantly it is a huge honour for the players to represent their country. A lot of credit goes to their coaches who have taught them how to play the game the right way and also credit has to go to their families for their support. A lot of work and dedication has to be put in, if you want to play at this level and it is a testament to the players that their hard work has paid off. Well done lads!!



A Few Announcements



UL KARATE CLUB

PISS UP

“THE LODGE”

Thursday Night (23rd)

Tickets: £2
(On sale in the canteen at 4:00-Thursday)



UL DEBATING UNION

PRESENTS

INTERVARSITY FINAL
Saturday, 25th of March
Venue ; Kilmurray Village Hall, 8pm

probably the best oral experience
 you'll have all year
 see you there

UL Athletics Club Time Trials

Wed. 29th, 6.30pm
 1500m, 5000m

Wed 5th April, 6.30pm
 800m, 3000m, 1500m steeple chase

Open to all Staff and Students

UL Enviro Soc

"FARMING REALITIES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY"

SPEAKERS : John Dillon, Deputy president of the I.F.A.

Nenen Banza, from the Philippines.
Date Monday March 27th.

Time 7 p. m.

Venue Ceann Córa, Mary Immaculate College, S.C.R. Limk.
Entrance by Library Building.

Enviro Soc.

presents Green Day
takes place next Tuesday.

Cycle walk or bus to collage.
Cleanup of Shannon
Riverbank in afternoon.

Opening of foodcoop.

Yemanja play in
Stables that night.

Avoid plastic bags for the day.

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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

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It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Aries 20 March – 18 April

Love and fun don't mix. Decide which one you want and also consider your partner's needs and wants. It has to be a two-way thing or else it just doesn't work.

Taurus 19 April – 19 May

Your stubborn streak seems to be getting the better of you. You need to spend some time with your friends. A celebration or a party of some kind will be fun – filled and enjoyable.

Gemini 20 May – 20 June

The love life is going according to plan lately, as a certain someone makes you tick, which is a major change. And it looks like your money situation will improve over the next while too.

Cancer 21 June – 21 July

Planned events never work out. You have to take things as they come. Certain things cannot be prepared for in advance. Relax and take it easy.

Leo 22 July – 21 August

You've been under some stress lately and it is getting you down, whether you realize it or not. Time is the only healer before a very messy situation is cleared up. Just be patient.

Virgo 22 August – 21 September

Lately, it seems as though no one is on your side. Everyone is against you. You need to realize that you are your own person and that you come first. The most important person in your life is you.

Libra 22 September – 22 October

Open your mind to the opinions of others. Just because you don't agree, try not to dismiss others straight away. Respect others and their opinions.

Scorpio 23 October – 21 November

Your complex character means that you are having some slight problems lately. But not to worry, all will be solved soon. All you need to concern yourself with is improving your love life!

Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December

There have been some problems with a friend lately, and it may not be clear to you yet. All you have to do is take some time out and clear your head.

Capricorn 21 December – 19 January

Those born on the cusp between Aquarius and Capricorn are in for a roller-coaster ride over the next few weeks. The love life is going to take a turn for the better. And if your name begins with an "A", well, A is always a good start to things!

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February

You feel under-appreciated lately, but this will all change with the discovery of that thing called love. A certain someone is going to hit the right spots for a change.

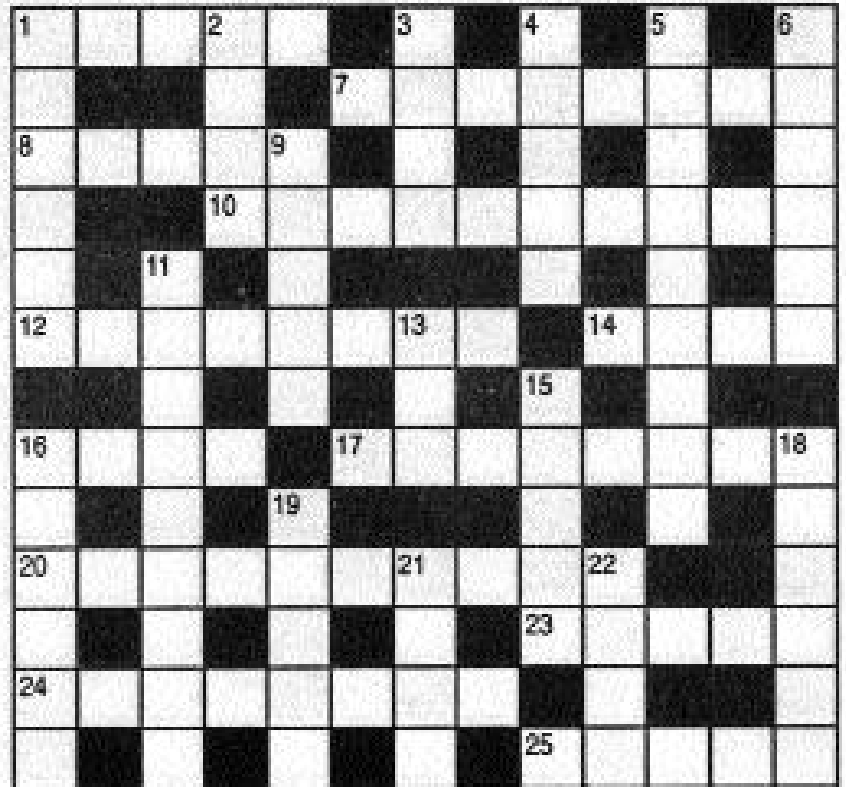
Pisces 19 February – 19 March

All is looking well lately, love life and financial affairs included. And it looks like things will continue on the positive side for a good while yet. Enjoy it while it lasts.

The New 95FM Student Talkback Crossword

Student Talkback every Thursday 9pm

Fill 'em in, drop 'em in, + win yourself a couple of CDs



ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Nose-blowing cloth (abbr.) (5) | 1. Warmed up (6) |
| 7. Occasional (8) | 2. Lump (4) |
| 8. Jargon (5) | 3. Beer containers (4) |
| 10. Woodwind musician (10) | 4. Junior (5) |
| 12. Was much too loud for (8) | 5. Causing dependency (9) |
| 14. Pertaining to the ear (4) | 6. Acid in vinegar (6) |
| 16. Vein of ore (4) | 9. Finishing line strips (5) |
| 17. Parachutist (3-5) | 11. Standard of measurement (9) |
| 20. Hit back (10) | 13. Large deer (3) |
| 23. Thick (5) | 15. Lazed (5) |
| 24. Load down (8) | 16. Frolicked (6) |
| 25. Piece of land (5) | 18. Shortly past (6) |
| | 19. Hold responsible (5) |
| | 21. Encourage in a crime (4) |
| | 22. Cervine creature(s) (4) |

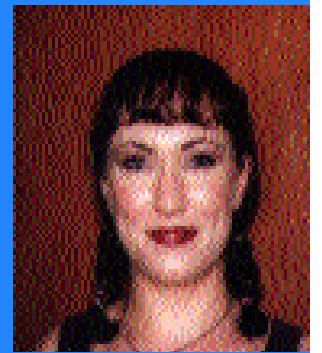
le scribble box

Last weeks answers

ACROSS- 6. Over-the-top, 8. Penelope, 9. Puma, 10. Edge, 12. Tea-bag, 14. Speed, 15. Speed, 16. Oral, 19. Night, 21. Borealis, 22. Covered's wood.
DOWN- 1. Teenager, 2. Penny, 3. Speed, 4. Skimped, 5. Tint, 6. Opposing, 7. Computer, 11. Wind, 12. Tea, 13. Harlequin, 14. Panther, 17. Sheep, 18. Antler, 20. Gail.

Isla's Eye.....

Brightening up our back page, Isla's going to take it over for the rest of the year, and let us know how she see's things



Is it true that all things end badly, or else they wouldn't ever end?

I'm talking about ex's. And not just 'the ex' as in: "yer one/yer man I was seein' for, like, three weeks". No, I'm talking about the true ex's; the ones who have dented your heart, the ones who still enter your head, regardless of how long it's over or who ended it.

This was the person who you were into sooo much, that when you heard an alleged story about him/her being with somebody else, or even just having a conversation with a member of the opposite sex, you felt physically sick - like you had just been kicked in the lower stomach. This was the person who you opened your heart to, the one who you shared things with, who you really talked to. Even now, maybe years later, certain phrases, words and places throw you right back into reverse and transport you to that time when you were happy, when you loved and were loved in return. I believe that if it was true, passionate, real love you can still feel the hurt and sadness right now as you think of him/her. And for what? Why is this whole love thing so painful anyway?

This sudden outburst had been provoked by my watching the very deep and philosophical (!) "Sex In The City", followed by a documentary called "The EX Files". It raised, in me, a few questions and instilled a few home truths. Here's the story:

Kate wanted to meet her ex's before deciding whether or not to make a full commitment to her present boyfriend, John. Only one of her previous relationships had seemed significant: a relationship of 3 years with Luke, which had ended 15 years earlier. She explained how upset, hurt and humiliated she had been when Luke just upped and left one day, without a word of explanation. Whenever she analysed her other relationships, Kate used this one as a yardstick. She remembered it as being passionate, fun, brilliant and loving. She was extremely nervous about meeting Luke 'cause she was afraid all these feelings would come flooding back. Anyway, Luke turns up and bluntly tells her that he never spent any time thinking of her since the split, that he was hugely relieved when it ended and that it had been nothing special to him, nor left him in any way inspired or filled with happy memories. In a word, he was a pig! Lovely.

Needless to say, all Kate's illusions had been shattered. She had remembered an entirely different version of events and now she realised that Luke had not been the love of her life; rather the selfish guy she had just had a bit of fun with when younger. So, she ran back to John, safe in the knowledge that he was "The One". I mean, how pathetic! How sad! The only reason she felt that John was "The One" was because,

unlike her ex, he had not yet broken her heart. He had not just disappeared, without a word, from her life. Instead he had done everything she wanted him to do and been everything she wanted him to be. He had been patient and understanding through all her soul searching. John was her rock - the safe, reliable and dependable option. Although he may have been her 'touchstone', it was clear that the passion wasn't there. Unless father figures were her thing, how could he possibly be "The One"? Who's to say that if Luke hadn't been a prick, she wouldn't have declared him as "The One"?

Just to be a total cynic, I think the only reason John wanted to be with Kate was because she hadn't let her guard down yet; she hadn't fully opened her heart to him, she was still a chase, still a mystery - and once he catches her, that's it, destroyed! Once he gets her, the relationship will get boring and horribly comfortable (ugggh!) between them. It will end. Yet, ironically, Kate will probably look back on John as being the next great love of her life! And why? Because he broke her heart!

Ok, so what's my point? My point is that, unfortunately, we equate love and passion with heartache and pain.

We do not appreciate a partner until they're gone and, then, we only appreciate them because they're gone! I once had a long-distance relationship, which I felt meant a lot to me at that time, until my uncle outlandishly stated one day; "Girl, the only reason you're still together is because you're not!" I just wonder if all this is true. And, if so, what the hell is the whole point of it all? Yes, I know that they say heart-break is life educating but why torture yourself, when life will do that for you anyway? Why waste our time and effort? Is the human need for acceptance, companionship and a healthy dose of passion so great that we have to put ourselves through so much grief and misery? I think not. And, what if monogamy really is foreign to the human make-up? Then, we are all well and truly screwed (literally!). But that shall be another story.

Take my friend Carole for example:
 - She goes for a "baddie" (for loss of another B word!) who inevitably breaks her heart
 - She stays with him in the vain hope that she can change him into a "nice guy"
 - If she succeeds, she becomes disillusioned and promptly dumps him
 - If not, she gets dumped (for trying to change him)
 - She looks back on "baddie" as being the love of her life, forgetting poor "nice guy"
 Geddit?

So, what's the solution? If I knew

"Do You Think You're Better Off Alone?"

- Alice DeeJay

that, would I really be writing for An Focal??

How about: Back up! Relax! Take it all in your stride, try not to change that person, analyse the relationship nor figure out "where it's going". To turn all 'grannyish' on you: you're young, Jesus! Stop being so serious about your big, intimate relationship. You have your whole life ahead of you, so start to live it. (Y'hear me, Sam?) I'm not being all pessimistic and cynical and cold and I do realise that every relationship is unique, but try to bear in mind that nearly everybody cheats. (Sorry!) Think of your mates. How many of them have cheated or been cheated on? Exactly! I am so sick of seeing perfectly sane people change their lives to suit their partners' moods. It's so not worth it. Be yourself, let them be themselves and if it's not working, it's not meant to be, so EXIT, and stop playing games, putting things on pedestals and wasting your time and theirs. Bin the rose-coloured glasses 'cause, in the end, you're only fooling yourself and giving everybody around you headaches. As Santana's "Smooth" goes: "Gimme your heart, make it real or else forget about it". Knowing when it's real is the killer, though.

Maybe, according to some of you, I've said everything there is to say; yet I've said nothing at all. (Long live the use of sad, old clichés to disguise a paragraph of babble!!) If, after reading this article, you have come away with a very negative view of relationships as well as thinking that I'm full of s**t: Bite Me! What do I know any-

way? You have your right to believe that it is only with the heart that one sees rightly and what is essential is invisible to the eyes. Afterall, something like 95% of people eventually "end up" married! (Whoopie) So, yes, maybe one day somebody will really want you for who you are!! But, here's a message for those of you who successfully managed to meander through my complicated 'stream' of thought and have come away feeling a little bit more enlightened and discerning: unless you can have the passion without the ups and downs, I'd advise you to start growing that second skin right about now 'cause it's a battlefield out there!

Finally, here's one 'specially for the girls: you can grab 'em by the balls but it don't mean to say their hearts and minds will follow. Then again, maybe that's not such a bad thing!(Sorry boys).

Isla O'Dowd

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