



AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

e-mail ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

www.ul.ie/~ulsu

TERM 1 WEEK 10



**the frames
return**

competition +
preview pg.22



**comedy, james
brown and
james lavelle**

Ents + reviews
pgs. 23 +24



**meet the SU
exec.**

features pg.14

Dolans In Line For New Bar Contract After Stables Pull Out

Dolans may be confirmed as the operators of the bar in the new Student Center after they met the selection criteria, laid down by the students, when interviewed on Thursday, October 18th.

Widely recognised as one of the most successful establishments in Limerick, Dolans have a great reputation for live music and good food, and their application was accepted after the interview was held and the Stables had pulled out of the selection process.

After the last issue of An Focal went to print, it was revealed that the Stables Club management had

pulled out their application to manage the new bar in the Student Centre.

The decision to pull out was made on Friday of week 7, but was not received by the selection committee in writing until after the last issue of An Focal had gone to print. Confirmation has now been received, by the committee.

The process for selecting an operator for the new bar began last year, when the Students' Union initiated the setting up of a selection committee, incorporating two members of the Students' Union, the president and

contd. on pg. 4

Tragic Death Of Student At University Basketball Tournament.

by Michelle Daly

The University of Limerick is still reeling this week after the tragic death of first year student Ross Cooney at a basketball tournament representing UL in the national basketball arena in Tallaght .

Ross was pronounced dead by paramedics on the spot following unsuccessful attempts to resuscitate him after he suffered a massive coronary episode.

The first year student was an avid athlete and had proudly represented Limerick at an intervarsity and at county level. He had just before the attack rang home to tell his family how well the team were doing at the national

intervarsity challenge . The University of Limerick team had only played in one match before Ross fell ill.

Eighteen year old Ross had never been diagnosed as having any heart related problems. However, his sister was born with a serious congenital heart malady.

Growing up in Limerick in the Mallow St. area of the city Ross was well known for his sence of humour and diligence as well as his patience At his funeral in the city on Tuesday, a guard of honour of local scouts was held in his honour. He often helped out at Scout meetings after being involved in the

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Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date

*we're looking for opin-
ions, comments, ideas
etc*

Thursday Wk 8

6.00pm

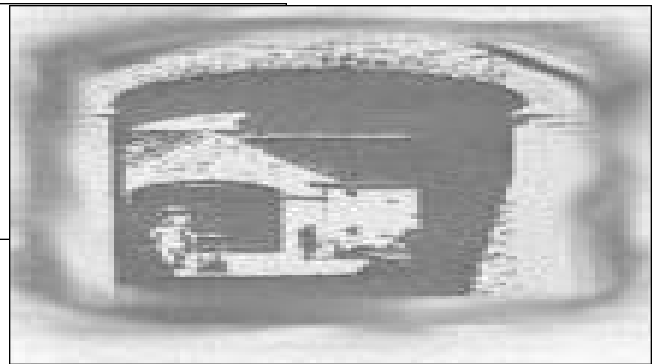
A1051

all are welcome

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

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



the boy mccarthy's been so busy, he hasn't even had time to write much for this

applicant can now be named as Dolan's Management who runs Dolan's Pub and Warehouse on the Dock Road. The weekend before last we had a Class Reps training day out in the Limerick Inn. Although there wasn't a huge turnout, the overall feeling from those who attended was that it was a worthwhile event. We're on our way to court this week to register the new Scholars' Club and for those of you who have not yet filled out an application form for the club you can do so at the reception desk in the Students' Union. It's that simple.

So for another two weeks, Happy Christmas Shopping.

Pat

You can almost smell Christmas now, can't you? So what's the latest?

Well the new bar should be open at the end of January. The last remaining applicant for the bar management contract was interviewed two weeks ago and won the contract. That

dayvo's under pressure, writing this two minutes before the paper goes to print.

Once again, my so called work mates have left me with loads of space to fill in this section, 'cause they're "too busy" to write any more than they've written. God!!!!

That's just fine, I reckon I'm the creative one anyway. And I've had to be for this issue. I don't know what it was, but this one was real hard to put together. It was kinda bitty. There weren't a whole lot of pictures either, so sorry if some of the clubs and socs stuff looks a bit texty, but there wsn't much I could do.

I think there's some interesting stuff in this one as well though. It's coming along well, and I think it's improved, and the feedback I've been getting supports that. If anyone has any comments on the paper, we'd love to hear 'em, so drop us an e-mail, ceo@ulsu.iol.ie, or call into the office.

We've got a feature on Ross



Carney, the first year student who died while playing basketball for the college in Dublin. I really hope we've done him some kind of justice. If anyone wants to write anything more about him, then we'll print it.

We've got some good reviews and previews, and a look at the SU exec to try and take some of the facelessness out of the whole set up.

The one thing we are struggling with is news articles. I'm finding it hard to keep up with everything that's happening, and all the people that are writing. This is my fifth issue of the paper, and

welfare week went,em, without a hitch. dee dee 'reflects'

It's that time of the week again when Dave tears his hair out (and what a lovely head of hair it is too!!) and Pat and I and scribbling a detailed account of our activities for the last two weeks.

Once gain time is flying by and I hope all of you are getting into the festive mood now that December is finally upon us.

The two days dedicated to Bullying last week had a pretty poor student attendance, thanks to those who did attend the talk given by Vivette O'Donnell head of the Anti - Bullying Campaign. Thanks also to Michael Fagan who sponsored her visit. While the discussion wasn't an enormous success I want students to know that the information and help is available should anyone every need it.

The Creche is up and running but unfortunately, students have not been availing of their places, any student that has been offered a place and hasn't taken it please contact Mary Maloney in the Creche as soon as possible. The Students Union and the University have worked hard to provide this



facility so please think of other students if you have decided not to avail of this facility.

Anyone interested in some Christmas work???? The ISPCC is offering work for the month of December - Hourly Rates, £4 per hour plus commission, full or part-time. You would be helping a National Charity with well organised fundraising work. All work is fully supervised. Please contact Pat Hayes in the ISPCC for more details at 061-400077.

So that's it for another two weeks enjoy the tides of great joy that will surround you over the coming weeks - and of course do a little bit of extra study so you can relax on January 1st!!!!

DeeDee

having done it for a few months, I can see how good it could be, and how important it could be as a means of communication for everything that's happening in the college. And there is a whole lot going on.

I'm looking at the possibility of splitting the job for next year, so students have a communication officer, and an education officer. Currently, it's impossible to do both jobs as well as they could and should be done. As I've said, the paper could be better again. A lot more time could also be spent on our education policies, which would again be to the benefit of

everyone. Anyway, stay tuned.

Loads of other stuff going on as well, by the way. The campaign for teaching practice expenses is up and running again, and we've a good bit of work to do on that over the next week or two. Class Reps looks like it might be getting a bit of a shake up after the training day that we had, and hopefully you'll all see the benefits of that. And, we've also kicked off our bash at having a good look at Student Services, talking to classes to find out specific complaints, and try and sort them out.

Help us out + wish us luck

dayvoh

UL To Host Golden Jubilee History Conference – Minister To Attend

It was announced last week that the Irish History Students' Association would be holding their fiftieth Conference in the University of Limerick in February 2000.

In what is seen as a major vote of confidence in the University of Limerick History Society, the Association which comprises all history societies in the country, has said its decision to choose Limerick was based on the successes of the society last year.

Founded in 1950, the Association, whose aims are to promote co-operation and historical analysis, will celebrate fifty years of Irish student history. A spokesperson from the Irish History Students' Association (IHSA) said that the Executive Committee considered Limerick the most appropriate choice for its conference as it had proven to be capable of organising large-scale events, citing 'the Vikings', among others as an example.

A spokesperson for the History Society confirmed that the Society had been chosen to host the conference and announced that it would take place from 4-6 February, next year. The spokesperson went

on to say that the society had known of the Association's decision to host the golden jubilee conference before the summer break and had made early preparations during the summer months. The spokesperson also confirmed reports to this reporter that the Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Micheál Martin TD would officially open the conference accompanied by Dr. Roger Downer.

It what as seen is one of the society's biggest coups to date, it is expected that over eighty students and over nine history societies from around the country will attend. David Fleming, the Conference Secretary, said that every effort was being made to make the 2000 IHSAConference a resounding success and said that the society was currently in the process of securing the massive financial commitment needed to run such an important event. The auditor of the History Society, Fintan Tuohy, said that "the conference promises to be a fantastic event for all history students across the country and should show UL in a very positive light."

The History Society experienced some problems a few weeks ago, but it seems that these have been

sorted out to everybody's satisfaction. It is a sign that the University's celebrated society is on track for another successful year. The society became one of the richest societies on campus this year when the Students' Union allocated over £3,800 to it.

From the University's point of view this can only be seen as a major step for the subject of history. For many years, behind the scenes, history lecturers have been campaigning strenuously for a department of history. Presently the six history lecturers are incorporated under the Department of Government and Society. Unconfirmed reports have stated that a Department of History will be established within the next year or soon after.

It must be noted that history students and indeed the History Society have played none too small a part in this quiet campaign. The launch of Ireland's only student history journal and consistent historical seminars and events have all served to highlight a strong and living subject that is history in UL. With this much said, this reporter must congratulate the history students of UL for their efforts.

Community Officer on the Ball

Alan Ryder, ULSU Community Officer

As community officer of the Students Union, I have been kept fairly busy for the last two weeks.

It is my role to help students in any matters that concern the community, to try to promote better relations between students and the longer-term residents and to develop projects of benefit to the community. The team of Student Liaison Officers (SLO) are also busy as we have been visiting students who need advice on community issues and I'd like to thank all the SLOs for their commitment to date.

In the last week I have visited some irate residents annoyed at the level of training done by local GAA players at all hours of the night. As stated in my last article I can understand these complaints, as people have to be up for work and lectures early in the morning. Folks, the All Ireland Championship doesn't start until the summer, so please try to curtail the winter training!

In the last couple of days an unusual request came my way. I was approached by some students who expressed their disgust and dismay at the wanton vandalism of the new

footpath between the Schuman walkway and Carysfort Avenue. The cement, which was still soft and vulnerable, was defaced with slogans and scribbles. People scraped their names on it and even the slogan "Come on the Banner" made an appearance. This is clearly foolish. (While I accept that Clare are good at hurling and have won more than they're share of All-Irelands this decade, we don't however need to be reminded of this. Anyway, surely its Galway for the double in 2000). There are one or two other things written on the cement but the censor would never allow them to be printed here. To finish, and leaving the joking to one side, this path was put in place for a reason, it took a long time to put it in place not to mind getting the funds for it, so in future lets all respect our surroundings and neighbourhood.

As ever if you ever need to contact me on any issues relating to our community, then leave a message for me in the SU offices. Alternatively you can ring the Community Help-line on (061) 202977 and leave a message or send an e-mail to 9641718@student.ul.ie. I will return your call / email within 24 hours.

Carpenters' Dispute At New Sports Complex

By Ron Byrne

Work at the new Sports Complex and Ireland's first 50m swimming pool at the University of Limerick was disrupted last Thursday (25th November) following the refusal of the main contractors to meet with the union representing six carpenters at the centre of the dispute.

The carpenters, who are now members of BATU (Building & Allied Trades Union), have been working for a sub-contractor on site and had not been getting their proper entitlements, such as pension and mortality benefit stamps. They were also denied their proper overtime rate of pay and other entitlements.

An issue arose between the sub-contractor and the main contractor about Saturday work. The sub-contractor advised the workers not to come in on Saturday 14th November. However, the main contractor advised the workers that their presence was required on site on Saturday. The workers obliged and came in to work, having got assurances that the main contractor would ensure their payment in the case of a disagreement with the sub-contractor.

Michael McNamara, Secretary of

the Limerick Branch of BATU, explains: "On the following Monday morning the workers presented their timesheets to their foreman. He said he would refuse to pay them for Saturday as he had instructed them not to come in to work. It was then brought to the attention of the unions that there were non-bona fide sub-contractors also employed on the site, and non-trade union personnel, contrary to local agreements."

The unions have been trying to obtain a meeting with management about these issues, but to no avail. The carpenters felt compelled to take action as they were informed that they were being let go from work as their contract was almost completed. Another sub-contractor had been given the contract for the new swimming pool, and he would have his own carpenters.

The carpenters held a peaceful protest outside the entrance of the site on Thursday morning last. They were supported by about 120 of their colleagues who refused to pass the protest. The protest was lifted to allow talks to take place within 24 hours, but again, management did not attend the talks, which were already agreed to. The talks are now set to for Monday morning, 29th November."

Dolans In Line For New Bar Contract After Stables Pull Out

from pg. 1

the general manager, and two members of the buildings office in the University. Both the representatives from the Students' Union and the university also nominated an outside, independent person to sit on the committee.

Tenders were received by the committee after adds had been placed in the national newspapers. Six tenders were received in all, and these were whittled down to two by the committee. The selection process stalled at this stage, as the selection committee failed to agree on a suitable tender. Last year's Students' Union decided to wait until students returned after the summer holidays in order to gauge opinion on the matter, and decide on how to progress. When this year's Students' Union took up their positions, they decided to con-

tinue with this course of action.

When students returned in September, it was decided to call a Union General Meeting about the bar issue. The meeting was badly publicised, and was inquorate. As a result, no decision could be made. A number of issues were raised at this meeting however, and the general feeling of the student body was evident to all, including representatives of the Stables club management who were present.

Having failed to get a quorate meeting, the Students' Union organised an Extraordinary General Meeting for the following week. Publicity was vastly improved for this meeting, with the Ents Crew helping the Students' Union in visiting classes to inform them of the meeting. There was also better poster- ing, and flyering, with a flyer also being

placed in each issue of An Focal, which came out that week. The meeting was quorate, with over 300 people attending. A set of selection criteria were established, which are printed on pg. 5 of the last issue of An Focal, and again, the students' opinion was clearly evident. The committee could now reconvene to interview the two remaining candidates. The details of the criteria were sent to both in advance of their re-interview, and the date for these interviews was set.

Castleoaks Catering Ltd. (operators of The Stables Club) who were one of the remaining two candidates for the operation of the new bar in the Student Centre, withdrew their application from the selection process. They were due to be interviewed, along with Michael Dolan on Thursday 18th of November. One of the reasons given for this with-

drawal was not having the full support of the student body.

The selection committee carried out the interview of the one remaining applicant and applied the selection criteria drawn up by the students at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Students' Union in October. The selection committee was satisfied that Dolans could meet the set criteria and the executive of the University is expected to endorse the decision on Wednesday next, the 8th of December. They have been asked to commence the setup process as soon as possible.

The successful candidate will be responsible for fitting out the kitchen and hiring both bar and kitchen staff. It is estimated that, once everything runs smoothly, that the bar should be open late January 2000.

Campaign For Teaching Practice Expenses Back On Track

The campaign of the Student Teachers Society to get expenses for teaching practice got a shot in the arm last Thursday, the 25th of November.

A meeting was held in the Jean Monnet to inform all education students of what had happened to date, and to ask their opinions on where to proceed from that point. Around 200 students attended the meeting, and some excellent suggestions were made.

A meeting had been held the previous Thursday, but was only attended by roughly sixty students. It was decided at that meeting to have a further meeting the following week. If there was a good turnout at that meeting, the STS decided that it would continue with the campaign. If not, then the campaign would be abandoned.

Given the good turnout that attended last Thursday's meeting, the STS and the CEO, Dave O'Donovan, have been asked to do some further research, namely on the common situations with other colleges, on the question of support from the University for the campaign, and on the support of USI and the teacher unions. The students have also undertaken some research, in that they are to contact the principals of the schools in which they were on teaching practice for a comment of support on the expenses they encountered during their time in the school.

There will be a further meeting on Thursday of Week 11, to review the new information, and decide the exact course of action to take from there.

The campaign last year included representation to the Dail, a march in Dublin, and the presentation of a petition with 5,000 signatures to Roger Downer, the HEA and a number of TDs. It was suggested at last week's meeting that the campaign be focused locally this time around. The current strategy, once the relevant information has been gathered, is to approach local TD Willie O'Dea, the government minister for Youth Affairs, as well as Jan O'Sullivan, and highlight the case to them for further representation. It is also the intention to release press releases to local papers and radio to further highlight the position of the STS.

It was also mentioned that the STS should approach the local clinic of Michael Martin, the current Minister for Education. The ULSU president Patrick McCarthy is in Mr. Martin's constituency, and intends to represent the case of the STS to him in person at one of his clinics. During the march that the STS undertook last year, Mr. Martin failed to come and meet them at the gates of the Dail. It is seen as an important opportunity to meet him in person, especially if the support of the university, other colleges, unions and local TDs is secured.

Tragic Death Of Student At University Basketball Tournament.

from pg. 1

scouts himself for years.

His University of Limerick classmates, friends, and fellow sportsmen will miss Ross' talent and his humour, whether working or playing. His, is a great loss to so many here and also to the area

of Mallow St., in Limerick where he grew up and still lived with his parents and his sisters.

An Focal would like to take this opportunity to sympathise with The Cooney Family and all of Ross' friends especially his girlfriend Lucey.

NOTICE

In the last issue of An Focal, there was an article about the date rape drug Rohypnol, entitled 'Date Rape Drug Found in Stables Toilet'.

An Focal would like to make clear that this article was not intended to implicate the Stables in any way, or for it to reflect badly on the Stables.

The purpose of the article was to report the story and take the opportunity to inform of the dangers of the drug

An Focal regrets any misunderstanding as to the content of the article, and apologises for not notifying the Stables management prior to publishing.

Heated Debate On Naming Of Student Center At Class Reps

The fourth class reps meeting of the semester was held on Tuesday of week 9. As always it promised to be controversial and full of heated debate.

Before the start of the meeting a minutes silence was held in memory of Ross Cooney, who died suddenly while playing basketball for UL in Talaght. Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a ainm.

Minutes of the previous meeting were not present-ed. Due to unforeseen circumstances the secretary of the last meeting was unable to make them available. They will be shown at the next meeting. It was decid-ed that for all future Class Reps meetings a secretary would be appointed who will be paid at the casual labour rate.

As a matter arising from the previous meeting Pat McCarthy SU President outlined to class reps the actions taken by him on the motions passed at the pre-vious meeting asking for a better bus service in the Castletroy area. He also showed the council a copy of the press statement that he had prepared.

The next item promised to be the most contro-versial of the night. A motion had been proposed at the previous meeting "That the new student Centre be named in memory of the late Garda Detective Gerry McCabe". This idea was originally mooted as a mark of respect to the Limerick Garda who had been mur-dered while carrying out his duty. It has gained support

in many areas of the University but it is the entitlement of the Students to have a say in what name the new centre will have. There were many conflicting opinions on what name the centre should be given or even if it should be given any name. Allegations were made of harassment and a private ballot was called for. It was noted that this was a very important decision that shouldn't be made lightly by council. After 20 minutes of lively debate a course of action was decided on.

Suggestions for the name of the new centre may be submitted to the SU until the end of week 13. At the first class reps meeting of next semester all suggestions will be reviewed and the council will narrow this down to a short list of five names. These names along with the suggestion of the "Gerry McCabe" and the "Student Center" will then be put to a ballot of all stu-dents to decide the name for our new building.

The next item to be presented was a review by Dave O'Donovan, CEO, of the excellent training seminar on effective communications and meetings given by Ms.Wendy Ryan at the Class Reps training seminar. It was a great pity that only 20 reps attended this seminar. Some suggestions for improving class reps and making more people aware of the role of class reps were proposed. These included making the agenda available earlier to allow Reps gain feed back their classes on upcoming matters. Also it was hoped to encourage more people to contribute and not to always

having the same people hijacking the meeting. It was decided that in the next few weeks all reps will accom-pany a sabbatical officer to a lecture to be introduced and have their role explained to the class. This will also give the SU a chance to gauge public opinion on the state of the Student Services facilities.

Next it was announced that Dolans would be running the New Bar. It is expected to be open in time for the second semester. Dolans fulfilled all the criteria laid down by the Students of UL except one. Unfortunately that was the one regarding a Happy Hour.

The final item discussed was a motion that the SU immediately pay £5 per hour for casual labour rates and that they lobby the University and other employers on campus to do likewise. It was noted that the SU has only a finite budget for the payment of casual labour. It was agreed that Pat would return to the next meeting with a proposal for increasing this rate of pay. The meeting was then closed.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday of week 11 at 6pm in Sr3008. As this will be the final meeting of the semester there's going to be a session afterwards in the Stables an maybe beyond as a thanks to all class reps who've put in an effort this semester. Nomination forms are still available from the SU if your class is still in need of a Class Rep.

Name The New Student Center

Suggest a name for the new student center for inclusion on a form to be put to all students to decide what it should be called.

Suggestion for name ; _____

Why you think this should be the name for the student centre ;

Your own name ; _____

Your ID No. ; _____

Your year + class ; _____

drop your suggestions into the main reception in the Students' Union before Friday of wk 13, or give them to your class reps

Stables Club Announce Their Sponsorship

Again at the Stables club this year, we were happy to help you people out they're in club and soc's land to try and foot the bill for what ever you have planned.

So last week we sat down in conjunction with the clubs and soc's officer and the Students' Union and allocated almost £5000 in total to the various different clubs and societies. We hope that you are all happy with your allocation and also hope that the efficient manner in which the completion of applications took place this year will prevail in the future, making the entire process a lot clearer and easier for all involved.

Additionally, should your club or society require any special help with particular event do not hesitate to come in and speak with us. I have included a

full list of the monies allotted, which is also posted throughout the campus and on the ULSU web site.

Onto other business, could we please, as students, respect the no smoking areas in the stables particularly in the food area? As the nights get colder and close in quickly, please take care not to walk home alone, always avail of the night link bus or wait for a friend. We at the Stables do worry for your safety. There is not much left to be said, oh yeah keep an eye out for our on going promotions and details of our Christmas line up of entertainment.

John P. Flattery

(stables rep)

STABLES CLUB SPONSERSHIP

Envoirmental Society: £145
 Fianna Fail: £60
 Hurling (Men): £300
 Camogie: £150
 Ladies Football: £200
 Mens Hockey : £200
 History Soc: £300
 Waterpolo Club: £100
 Postgrad Soc: £150
 Softball Club: £100
 Volleyball: £200
 Rowing Club: £150
 Photo Soc: £100
 Radio Soc: £100
 Celtic Supp Club: £100
 Drama Soc: £100
 Tennis Club: £100

Rugby Club (Ladies): £200
 Rugby Club (Mens): £100
 Wind Surfing Club: £100
 Men's Soccer: £300
 Outdoor Pursuits: £200
 Hispanic Soc: £100
 Judo Club: £150
 American Football: £100
 Music Soc: £250
 International Soc: £100
 Sailing Club: £100
 Ladies Hockey: £300
 Student Teachers' Society £100
 Law Soc. 2nd Budget

This money is available at the stables club and can be collected only by the applicant form each club or society, with a current student ID.

Attacks Against Students, Amnesty Fights Back

By: Sally Donnelly.

In Mexico, there are human rights abuses being carried out against striking students. I am bringing this to your attention because, as students, I fell it will strike a chord.

The students of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM) went on strike on 22nd of April 1999, protesting against proposed reforms to the University system, most notably a planned increase in the students tuition fees. The UNAM is Mexico's largest state-run University and one of the largest in Latin-America. The strike has lasted over 3 months and the students are currently in a process with the UNAM authorities. Amnesty International is concerned at the continued reports of the attacks against students participating in the strike, especially those who make up the leadership of the strike.

According to information received by Amnesty International, students have suffered gross human

rights violations. There have been 40 reports of abduction and intimidation, 13 reports of serious death threats, 7 reports of illegal detentions and 24 reports of illegal surveillance.

Here is just one example: Héctor Pulido aged 23 was walking through Xochimilco in Mexico City early one morning on his way to college, when a black car drew up beside him. A man got out and placed his hand on Héctor's neck dragging him into the car. He was thrown on the floor in the back of the car and they drove in an unknown direction. Héctor guessed that there were 3 men in the car including the driver. At this time he entered into a state of shock. He could hear the men shouting abuse at him and threatening his friends and mother. They then began hitting him, first with an open hand slapping his head and then his back with an unknown object. He could not see his assailants directly while they drove around for 2 and half-hours. What Héctor did remember was being told that this was the

first and last time that they would speak to him. Then they threw him out of the car and ran off. He reported the attack and was informed of other similar attacks. Other students then took him to a place of safety.

This is an extreme example of human rights abuses i.e. the right to strike, the right to freedom of expression.

December 10th is International Human Rights Day and I call you all to make a difference on this day by giving a voice to these students in Mexico. Send a letter expressing your concern for the safety of the striking students and call on the authorities to guarantee their safety and bring justice to those who are responsible for the attacks.

Send appeals to:

Mayor of Mexico City,
 Ing. Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solóvzano,
 Jefaturo de Gobievo del Distrito Federal
 Plazo de la Constitución esq.
 Piso 1, 06068(5) Mèxico,
 O.F. MEXICO

You have a voice so USE IT!!

For more information please join Amnesty International. Meetings every Thursday at 6.00pm in room A1053

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A Word In Everyone's Ear

If you've got something to say, or even nothing to say but you can say it in a clever way, drop us a line in An Focal. You might get it printed, and you might just win yourself £10.

Either drop it in to Dave in the office, the girls in the General Office, or e-mail to Dave at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

Slandorous Gossip?

Dear Ed.,

I read in last week's edition of An Focal a gossip column written by Ms. Ella Daly, where along with your own good name, my own was summarily slandered. Having consulted with my legal team and having received certain advice, I can now confirm to you and to your readers that I shall be taking this matter to its proper conclusion. I can at this stage utterly refute the lies which Ms. Daly was come up with. A totally fictitious story about my personal love life was made up by this lady and surreptitiously placed in the paper's 'gossip' column. I can only wonder why Ms. Daly has taken this course of action against my good name. Whether out of mere naiveté or just pure mental strain, Ms. Daly has once again shown her colours. Ms. Daly, a first year, has seemingly pounced on unsuspecting males, whose names happen to be 'Dave' and subsequently decided that they should be brought down to her size.

I should, at this stage, reveal some material which may come to light in any future proceedings arising from her comments. I have in my possession written material, in Ms. Daly's own hand-writing, showing blatant racism against people living in Clare, her savage local nationalism for Limerick and undying love for a socialist revolution. Ms. Daly, a red-head (reference to her hair), goes into extreme detail in these papers and uncovers, in what an expert who has seen the material has said, "an uncontrollable megalomaniac devoid of any secure mental faculties". I also note from a letter recently published in An Focal, which Ms. Daly wrote, saying that "they will be tied naked to bus stops ... and forced to spent the rest of their lives being past out by buses." This was in reference to CIE, but I am clearly worried that Ms. Daly has other sinister and sexual fantasies which are building up inside her and will only be revealed in future editions of this paper. Who knows when the climax will be? (no pun intended).

Not wanting to insult Ms. Daly, in the way she has done it to me, I can assure her of my continued readership of her literary skills in this paper and hope that at least an apology is forthcoming. Suffice it to say that I think she should be locked up and the key thrown away, I shall always have a soft spot for the red-head.

Yours etc.
Dave Fleming

History Soc. Investigate

After allegations concerning David Fleming were printed in the last

Letter of the week

The Kylie Minogue Student Center?

Sir,

Maybe, as a former student of UL, it's none of my business what the new Student Centre is called. On the other hand, I put a few quid into the project, so dammit I'll have my...er...two cents worth on it.

Firstly, let me say that I don't have a problem per se, with naming the Student Centre after Jerry McCabe. The man gave up his life simply doing a job. He was murdered in cold blood. The crime was an unpardonable and cowardly act. That those responsible for it haven't been brought to justice is a terrible shame - but then, where the Provo's are concerned, there's all too often people willing to keep schtum.

But I digress. The problem as I see it, is that we have people getting all political about this. Both Muiris O'Sullivan and Shane Morris have commented in opposition and support of the suggested naming. Now, the Irish Peace Institute may very well be behind, or at least supportive, of the idea of naming the Centre after Det Gda McCabe, but is he the only person that they could come up with? Off the top of my head I can think of plenty. How about Gerry Adams? Or David Trimble? Both have done sterling work in the past few days for the peace process. Then there's George Mitchell, John Hume, Peter Mandelsson...David Ervine from the PUP. I could, but won't bother going on!

But I think that all of these people, while no doubt they would be honoured that a den of boozing, dancing, mayhem, farting, puking, shopping, and eating - a veritable oasis in a desert of academic excellence - would be named after them, they might not really want that honour. Would Jerry McCabes widow want that? I'm can't pretend to know, but I'm not so sure. And would she really want all this trauma visited upon her just because a few student political wannabies want to have a go at each other? And should the memory of her husband be bandied about the media that I believe it has?

As far as I'm aware - and I could be wrong about this - there have been press releases to the media about the naming of the centre. Saying that it would named in Det Gda McCabes name. Was this brought to Mrs McCabes attention. Or has she just found about about this silly little squabble over the air-waves along with the rest of Limerick.

Call me old fashioned if you will, but I do believe in respect for the dead - and that can mean that UL Fine Gael should find better things to do than use his name to shaft the Shinnners on campus.

If people do insist on naming the student centre after somebody, can't it be something a little more ambitious, a little more dynamic, and above all, for Christs sake and for the sake of the McCabe family, a little less politically loaded.

Yours, with a firm handshake - and behind the idea of the Kylie Minogue Student Centre 100%

Ivan Moran

issue of "An Focal", an investigation was initiated into the conduct of our esteemed ex-auditor.

These allegations relate to a time when David Fleming (the alleged rock on which the History Society is built) was a Committee member and concern the serious offence of misappropriation of History Society headed notepaper for personal use and the abuse of his position to impress naive young ladies. An action for bringing the Society into disrepute may still be brought and this may lead to the de-Flemingisation of the Society. The Committee are appealing for witnesses to these alleged misdeeds of David Fleming to come forward in the strictest of confidence and can assure potential witnesses that names will be changed to protect the innocent.

Pool Prices

Dear Editor,

I'd just like to express my disgust at the 40% hike in prices for a simple game of pool. Last year the pool tables were situated where the new shop has been opened. There were four tables there and it cost 50 pence a game. But then the pool tables moved to a new premises, the number of pool tables doubled and the price of the game jumped an amazing 40%. Last year at some stage during the year one of the pool tables opened and there was a counter inside registering the number of games played - when I saw it there was 85,000 games registered at 50 pence a game. From that one table alone the SU made £40,000. If we went into town we could rent a pool table for £4:00 an hour

and play as many as 8 games. The pool tables cost at most £700 pounds to buy and seeing that the pool hall is open 4 weeks now I'm sure that they have already paid for themselves and everything that is put into them from now on is sheer profit. So what's the logic behind doubling the amount of pool tables and pumping up the price so much? Is the student union so greedy that it has to exploit the pool playing students attending this college?

Yours sincerely
name with editor

Facing Accusations

Dear Editor,

Last week being Welfare Week, the focus of which was bullying, I would like to raise an issue which, I must admit, amazed and disappointed me with regard to it's timing and it's nature.

A student known to have republican beliefs was accused wrongly of harassing another student with regards to the issue of naming the new students centre.

I have no problem with a student making a genuine complaint about harassment. I do, however, have a problem with a false accusation being made with no chance for the party accused to defend his/her reputation and the accuser relying on the grapevine and the ignorance and bias of the listeners to believe all that is said. Harassment, yes - of the accuser, no.

How apt that all the usual clichés and accusations against our movement be made during the one week of the whole year dedicated to the understanding of beliefs that are different to your own.

Coming from a republican family, I have been bullied at both primary and secondary school and verbally abused in public many times throughout my life due to my family's politics. My family and the families of other republicans have been harassed by Gardaí and anti-republicans for years, and there is very little that can be done about it. When I joined University life I naively expected open-mindedness and the chance to air my views openly without the accusations, deliberate rumour-mongering and in some cases threats that have been levelled at my companions and I. In Welfare Week, I found out I was wrong.

To the accuser, you have done a disservice to us all, you have cried wolf when you in fact are the wolf and I would like to extend an invitation to you to join the republican movement so you can be made aware of what harassment really is.

Yours sincerely
name with editor

Loss Of A Bright Light For The University .

by Michelle Daly

Ross Cooney was according to all of those who knew him , one of the most energetic, enthusiastic and really genuine young men that you could meet.

He was a first year student in Business Studies in the University of Limerick and one of the most promising athletes that has ever graced our sports fields.

Though I didn't know Ross while he was alive I think after talking to those who did over the last week that I would have liked to have done so. Ross' life was cut short on Saturday the 20th of November while representing the University at the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght in an intervarsities basketball tournament. He suffered a massive cardiac arrest during the second match the UL team had played that day.

Ross, though only here for a few short months, has left a discernable gap in even the huge class of first business in UL. The class, with the help of the University chaplain Fr PJ Summers, has organised a memorial mass for Ross this week .There had been a memorial for Ross at Milford Church on Sunday 28th November. however Fr. Summers felt a more student /classmate oriented memorial would be better and that was to be organised for Week 10.



One of Ross's classmates, Eodhan McHugh, who knew Ross from the age of three, spoke to An Focal earlier this week. Eodhan expressed some of his, and others, absolute shock at the news . Eodhan spoke of Ross as somebody who was very involved in everything that he did, but still easy going. Ross has left nothing to his friends and family according to Eodhan if not an awful lot of warm and happy memories.

Eodhan and Ross went to the same montessori, and primary schools, the same as their mothers had done so before them. In secondary school they never really lost touch because they still went to the Garda christmas parties together as both their fathers were Gardai. Ross's father, John Cooney was the community garda for the Roxboro Rd area and the family had lived on Upper Mallow St. since Ross was a baby.

Eodhan, who is still dealing with the shock of Ross' death, spoke about the great sense of loss he felt for the Cooney family, Ross's parents, Helen & Joe, and his sister Nicola,. In the past week, he has tried to come to terms with the fact that his childhood friend has gone and has been looking at family photos of Ross and himself together .

An Focal also spoke to another friend of Ross' , John Brown, who went to Scouts with him. John and Ross met at

Crecora Scouts group, and though Ross' parish troupe were St. Joesphs, he was also involved in training younger scouts in Crecora. Ross was also an active Lifeguard at his local pool St. Endas and since completing his leaving cert in St. Endas, had continued to give his time as a lifeguard.

John too spoke of the great disbelief he felt when he first heard of Ross' death . He was extremely fit and active in addition to his lifesaving and swimming he also was consumed with his love for the sport of basketball . Ross was delighted to be playing at a national level for the University of Limerick and was extremely popular among the basketball team since his initiation onto the team in September .

Ross was commended by all who spoke of him this week as someone who gave a lot to his community, to his interests and to his friends and family. He was described as conscientious and hardworking in his studies, as someone with whom anyone could have a laugh, never taking the toll of his hectic lifestyle too seriously. His legacy to the University of Limerick and to all who knew him is that of the perfect all round student, someone who excelled at work and at sport as well as giving selflessly to his community . He was a role model to us all .

Forever Friends

some of Ross' friends write about him.

I am very fortunate to be able to say that I was a friend of Ross even if it was only for a short few years. I met Ross through one of his favourite organisations, the scouting movement. We met while partaking in a Venturer competition in Belgium. I will never forget the day that I met Ross and his partner Derek on one of the many country roads in the middle of the Belgian countryside. Ross was so sure that he was heading West and would not listen to any of us he was so sure that he was right. When he finally realised that he had been heading east all the time he wished for the ground to open up and swallow him whole and yet that smile that was permanently on his face did not fade and he picked up his rucksack and headed in the other direction, he certainly hated being wrong but was able to admit it when he was.

When we returned to Ireland we remained good friends and I was lucky enough to be accompanied by him to my Debs and he certainly helped to make it a night to remember. He was a kind and caring young man who always thought of others.

Although his life was short he achieved so much and excelled in everything he did. He had so much to be proud of and never bragged or showed off. I for one only found out about his success in "the young scientist competition", this week.

I am proud and glad that Ross was a part of my life even though he tried to put me out of action after a go-carting accident!! Lets just say his driving in small cars left a lot to be desired. He was a kind, smiley, gentle giant who will always be remembered not only for his sporting and academic achievements but for his bright and bubbly personality. I have lots of memories of Ross and will never forget his big smiley face. May he rest in peace.

Ciara Browne

I met Ross through the scouts. We met in July '98 while we were both on the explorer belt expedition in Belgium. The expedition involved hiking 200km in ten days with full rucksacks through the Belgian countryside. Ross thought he had a great sense of direction but his partner Derek kept them both going in the right direction.

Ross had a great lust for life. He had been involved with scouting for 12 years both with his own unit in St. Joseph's and the Crecora unit. Ross also played on the ULbasketball team aswell as being a Lifeguard. Ross was very bright academically achieving a great leaving cert, which allowed him to go to UL.

The thing that I'll probably remember most about Ross has to be his big smiley head. He was always cheerful. He always had a smile on his face. He had a very bright and bubbly personality.

I am very fortunate that I can say that I knew Ross and that I was one of his friends. He will be sorely missed

John Browne

College life is great, plenty of fun, laughs, drink, late nights and of course friends – friends the most important ingredient of all. Without friends, college life would be hard and difficult. Although here only 9 weeks I am lucky enough to have made many friends whom I know will be important to me over the next few years. On Saturday, two weeks ago, I lost one such good friend Ross Cooney.

While playing basketball, for the ULteam in Dublin, Ross collapsed and died suddenly. Shock to say the least was an understatement. Having just made the team Ross was ecstatic and was looking forward to a long run in the team.

I was fortunate enough to get to know Ross during Orientation week. Perhaps after knowing him only 9 weeks I'm not the best person to write this article, 9 weeks in my opinion is enough time to make an impression on anyone and Ross certainly did. Standing at 6'3 tall I will always remember Ross as the BFG (big friendly giant). A loveable character with a high regard for others, Ross was always easy to get along with. Be it a night out at the cinema, a discussion during a lecture or having a joke over a few drinks, one was always guaranteed to have plenty of fun with Ross.

Together with him and others in our orientation group we formed a merry little gang of eleven. That physically may be down to ten now but spiritually and mentally there will always be eleven of us. Together with the others in the business studies class, I would like to extend my condolences to all his family and especially his girlfriend, Lucy, who studies here in UL.

As you go through life it is always difficult to cope with death and in a manner such as this it is even harder. Remember apart from family, friends are the most important people in your life, therefore it is always necessary to value them and treat them well. Together with many more I have lost a valuable friend in Ross Cooney.

Don't worry Ross, you'll always have a place in our hearts, we'll never forget you, we'll always love you.

Colm O'Brien.

the real world

Each issue, we'll have a look at the life of some UL students who've finished college, and are now living and working abroad.

Meet Nicola (America), John + Tara (Europe)



Nicola Connolly writes from New York



The past two weeks have gone past at such speed that it's

hard in one way to remember what I got up too – it all seems such a daze of loud bars and clubs, hangovers and never-going-out-again declarations.

In fact, we were supposed to have two easy weeks in preparation for December madness, but the opposite occurred. Last Friday night, I managed to get myself into loads of trouble, with excellent assistance from my mate Paul from home. He arrived at my house armed with a bottle of [innocent enough looking] Finlandia Vodka, which we did great justice before we left for the pub. "Don't lose me" I said, as we parked our-selves at the first bar, cos he'd never been to White Plains before and I was the only person he knew. Harvey Wallbangers and a good few shots later, Paul managed to get us thrown out of a bar for trying to pull his own pints across the counter as well as shouting wild abuse in Irish at the bartenders. The bounc-

ers were not amused, full stop. As the night went on, I lost him within 10 minutes of arriving at the club, later he got stopped by cops for being drunk and disorderly in a public place and they thought I was being cheeky as I tried to get him out of trouble. I then lost my wallet (cash, bank and credit cards), we got locked out of my apartment (no keys) and left in the freezing cold for over an hour until the rest of the lunatics arrived home. Never again!

Things kinda straightened out following that episode, especially when my parents arrived on my front doorstep for a week of entertainment. I took six days off work and proceeded to take them in and out of Manhattan on a daily basis, showing off the wonderful sights of the Big Apple. We toured and photographed all the sights, the highlights definitely being the top of the World Trade Center and dinner in the Marriot Hotel rotating bar overlooking Times Square – great views. Thanksgiving came and went through a night of fuelled clubbing in Chelsea, so by this morning at work, I was pretty exhausted. Birthday celebration plans are still on the drawing board as we speak, but I can see the insanity already – Ah Jeez!!!!!!!
N

Snotty + the Bull write from Amsterdam

Jon and Tara Educate, but don't tell your Mother

So what are smart drugs and where do they fit in with the Amsterdam Scene???

Most mind-altering substances are classified as either soft drugs or hard drugs. A third group of so called 'smart drugs', however, falls in neither category. Consisting of herbs and natural ingredients, these legal drugs are said to either give you energy, relax you, or help with your sexual performance, depending on which one you take. Smart-drug shops have sprung up around the world to satisfy this market.

The Amsterdam twist on smart-drug shops is that they also legally sell hallucinogenic mushrooms! Start your quest for mind expansion at the Magic Mushroom Gallery. In SPACE FACE, the space is bigger than its competitors, which gives you more room to explore without being so close to the clerks at the counter. Mushrooms are available fresh and dried for eating or boiling in tea. They even sell mushroom joints! An oral and written explanation of the effects accompanies every purchase. You can also find herbal XTC and other herbs. The gallery part consists of a changing exhibit of artists who create while under the influence of mushrooms. Owner Rodney Yzer explains that Van Gogh himself drank absinthe, the artists' drug of the day, created from the herb Alsem (wormwood). Van Gogh even painted a still life of a bottle of his favorite 'relaxant.' Although I can foresee future restrictions on the sale of 'shrooms (even The Economist recently wrote an article on their availability), Rodney is not worried. 'The Minister of Health herself has said that mushrooms are not a threat.' That may be, but just wait until the French find out....

The Red Light District Part one, All you ever wanted to know!!!

First of all, the red light district is basically safe. Sure, keep your eyes open and your money out of sight, but the red light district is not as dangerous as you might think. During the day, the red light district seems more like a neighborhood. People live there. People work there. People pass through there on the way to someplace else. But the ladies in the windows are there too. And after dark, when the red lights shine brighter, the place is



much more exciting.

Prostitutes: Just like every city and town around the world, Amsterdam has hookers. Unlike most cities, here they sit in windows with red lights. Not that you were thinking about it, but the going rate starts at 50 guilders for what they unpoetically call a 'suck and fuck' (always with a condom). It takes about fifteen minutes, and probably won't be the most romantic experience you've ever had. Naturally, there also are more expensive call girls who work for escort services who will charge you a lot more for a 'date'. The most famous and upscale brothel in Amsterdam is Yab Yum at Singel 295. Your cabbie will be happy to tell you all about it and receive a commission for bringing you there. In Amsterdam, some prostitutes are trapped in debt and drugs, and many Eastern European and Asian women seem to be having quite a unique 'vacation' in Holland, but many are in control of their own destiny. These women rent their windows for 100-150guilders for an eight-hour shift, and popular ones take in around 500-750guilders a day. They fill out tax returns, and many belong to a loose union, the Red Thread. **Porno shops:** No one should be embarrassed or scared to poke their heads in a sex shop. These are legitimate stores run by real businessmen who pay (at least some of) their taxes. You won't be ripped off or intimidated.

Look through the magazines, but not too long. You can be sure that the man behind the counter knows "Hey, this isn't a library" in every language. If you're looking to spice up your relationship, the most beautiful shop in the red light district is Absolute Danny. No dildos and novelty dogshit here, just a mix of underwear and outerwear where fetish meets lingerie. Everything is kind of expensive, but rubber panties are cheaper than psychiatrist bills if you repress your sexual fantasies.

Have fun and more updates in two week. Have a great Christmas and hope to see some of you spend your Granny's money over here. But rest assured it will go no further

Peace all and Happy Y2K

FROM NUTS TO BOLTS

IF YOU'RE IN BUSINESS, THEN WE'RE IN BUSINESS.

AIB

contact Niall Donegan, Angela Walsh or Dave Sheehan @ 061-334600



*Triona Hourigan
writes from France*

Since my last report we haven't been up to anything too exciting here in Rennes. Just mainly attending our 8 hours of lectures and going out!

It's been really cold here these past few weeks but we haven't had much rain, which makes a welcome change from Ireland! The more time I'm spending here in Rennes the more appreciative I am becoming of UL. You guys don't know how lucky you are! UL is a great college! I didn't realise how much I had taken for granted until I came to study over here.

There isn't the same buzz in Rennes as there is back in UL. Students just go their lectures and then back home again. No craic at all. Nothing like campus comedy tours, gigs, societies, enviro fairs, Live Wired, debates etc. As you well know there is always something going on in UL! It's very different here in France.

I really miss UL's lovely grounds and fountains. There are loads of weeds growing around on campus over here. The library is all graffiti and the buildings are shabby enough although to be fair there are a few nice modern buildings. The university is not looked after very well. Most of our lecturers are extremely nice and helpful. It is difficult to understand everything that is being said but you get the main gist after a while. However we have experienced some forms of ignorance, as you do everywhere you go. A few weeks ago myself and two other Irish girls attended a certain class where the attitude of the lecturer was unbelievable! I was joining the class on this particular day so I

the real world contd.

We've got this series running with UL students who've finished college and are living and working abroad. Now, Erasmus students are getting in on the act.

wasn't expected to have the homework done. My two friends had the work completed but due to some confusion they had omitted a section of the exercise. When the girls didn't know the answers the lecturer launched into them. He began to make generalisations about Irish people wondering if any of them did any work at all! He also reminded us that just because we were on Erasmus it didn't mean that we could do nothing. We were in with a class of natives and the two girls felt ridiculed. Everybody was looking back and laughing. The lecturer then proceeded to ask my two colleagues question after question putting them on the spot and under pressure. This was all really unnecessary. Even though it was a class for complete beginners, many of the French students were more advanced than us. The lecturer wasn't one bit understanding. We never went back again. Some British students on Erasmus are having a hard time. A few have been spat at and also verbally abused on the bus. Some of the French have been cold when meeting us first, thinking that we are English. However, as soon as they find out that we are Irish, their attitude changes and they become warmer and friendlier!

Life in the residence is the same as ever. My room is looking a bit homelier now. I have invested in some nice scented candles which add a bit of ambiance as well as getting rid of the smell of cooked food from my bedroom. We are all forced to eat our meals there as we have no main dining area. I thought we were badly off 'till I met a student staying in a residence in Grenoble. They have no fridges there at all and keep

their food fresh by putting it out on the window sill!

It is forbidden in the residence to make any kind of noise after 10pm. Now, I don't mean holding a big raucous party with the music up full blast. If you are just talking at normal pitch the concierge will still knock on your door and tell you to be quiet. The concierge will also refuse to put a call through to your floor after 10pm even if it is an urgent message from your family! Instead, you'll get a note placed under your door and your family member will be told to ring back at 7am the following morning. We know this from experience. Not many French people actually stay in these residences. The majority are Erasmus students. Everyone speaks English and this is really difficult if you want to try and speak French. There are no student language exchanges arranged by the college like in UL. I feel my written French is bound to come on due to the grammar classes but my oral French has not really improved.

So, that's all my news from France. The Cork-Rennes committee have arranged a trip for Irish students to Mont-Saint-Michel and Saint Malo next week so hopefully in my next report I'll be able to tell you how we got on. We were all delighted that someone arranged something for us, as the university has made no effort to welcome us - it's like we don't exist! Anyway it should be a bit of craic!

Talk to you again soon,

Grosses bises,
Triona

Have You Nothing Better To Do?

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

This issue, things we learn from the movies.

- * During all police investigations, it will be necessary to visit a strip club at least once.
- * All beds have special L-shaped cover sheets that reach up to the armpit level on a woman but only to waist level on the man lying beside her.
- * Honest and hard working policemen are traditionally gunned down three days before their retirement.
- * If being chased through town, you can usually take cover in a passing St. Patrick's Day parade - at any time of the year.
- * Rather than wasting bullets, megalomaniacs prefer to kill their arch enemies using complicated machinery involving fuses, pulley systems, deadly gasses, lasers, and man-eating sharks, which will allow their captives at least 20 minutes to escape.
- * Should you wish to pass yourself off as a German or Russian officer, it will not be necessary to speak the language, a German or Russian accent will do.
- * If you decide to start dancing in the street, everyone you meet will know all the steps.
- * All grocery shopping bags contain at least one stick of French Bread.
- * The ventilation system of any building is the perfect hiding place. No-one will ever think of looking for you in there and you can travel to any other part of the building you want without difficulty.
- * You're very likely to survive any battle in any war unless you make the mistake of showing someone a picture of your sweetheart back home.
- * The Eiffel Tower can be seen from any window in Paris.
- * A man will show no pain while taking the most ferocious beating but will wince when a woman tries to clean his wounds.
- * When paying for a taxi, don't look at your wallet as you take out a bill - just grab one at random and hand it over. It will always be the exact fare.
- * Kitchens don't have light switches. When entering a kitchen at night, you should open the fridge door and use that light instead.
- * If staying in a haunted house, women should investigate any strange noises in their most revealing underwear.
- * Cars that crash will almost always burst into flames.
- * It is not necessary to say hello or goodbye when beginning or ending phone conversations.
- * Even when driving down a perfectly straight road it is necessary to turn the steering wheel vigorously from left to right every few moments.
- * All bombs are fitted with electronic timing devices with large red readouts so you know exactly when they're going to go off. And, should you decide to defuse it, don't worry which wire to cut. You will always choose the right one.
- * It is always possible to park directly outside the building you are visiting.
- * Most laptop computers are powerful enough to override the communication systems of any invading alien civilization.
- * It does not matter if you are heavily outnumbered in a fight involving martial arts - your enemies will wait patiently to attack you one by one while dancing around in a threatening manner until you have knocked out their predecessors.
- * Any lock can be picked by a credit card or a paper clip in seconds - unless it's the door to a burning building with a child trapped inside.
- * An electric fence, powerful enough to kill a dinosaur will cause no lasting damage to an eight year old child.
- * Large, loft-style apartments in New York City are well within the price range of most people whether they are employed or not.
- * At least one of a pair of identical twins is born evil.
- * When you turn out the light to go to bed, everything in your bedroom will still be clearly visible, just slightly bluish.

THE CLASH OF THE TITANS:

Microsoft and Apple compete in the holy war of computers.



With the recent 'antitrust' ruling against Microsoft in the United States, attention has once again been focused on the so-called holy war between rival supporters of PC and Mac.

The war has increased in the last couple of years both from the point of intensity and range. The war has grown so large now that it can be divided into three distinct areas. Firstly there is the main battle between PC & Mac. Secondly there is the three-way battle between Microsoft, AOL (who bought out Netscape in the summer for \$4bn), and Linux (Microsoft's main competitor in the OS market). Finally there is the battle of the web browsers between Microsoft IE and Netscape Communicator.

The battle between PC & Mac, being the oldest of the three is the one which I shall deal with first. This battle has been going on for a good few years now but it has recently gained both pub-

licity and intensity on the Internet with the release of the iMac.

This compact computer has taken the world by storm and has made massive amounts of money thanks to its hold on the yuppie market. This is one area where I think that the hardcore PC supporters have some good arguments. When any serious computer user is going to buy a new computer, the last thing they should have to worry about is what colour to choose. The colours available by the way are tangerine, grape, strawberry, orange and lime which would be more suitable as ice-cream flavours than colours for a computer. In the end though if you have more money than brain cells then waste, sorry, spend your money on an iMac.

The fact that the new iBook is the first ever computer to have a direct satellite uplink to the Internet hasn't helped the problem much, nor has the fact that the new G4 is being marketed as a computer for serious users. The battle has also extended into the OS war with the recent news that Apple will no longer support Linux as a viable OS on its computers.

The next biggest division in the holy war is the battle between the rival operating systems namely Linux and Windows. Linux is a new operating system invented by a Swedish man named Linus Torvalds. It resembles windows

from the outside but that's where any and all resemblance stops. Linux is years ahead of Windows because it has lots of different companies competing against each other in order to make the best version of Linux possible. Linux also brings other resources to Windows such as Qcad which is a variation of Autocad for UNIX. In truth Linux is the way of the future because if Window's source code was made available to other manufacturers the benefits to the consumer would be endless.

The fact that the source code for Linux is openly available is another big factor in the Microsoft case. Given that three lawyers have now filed class action suits against Microsoft and more are sure to follow, the Department of Justice in America is being forced to make a decision about what punishment Microsoft should receive now that they have been found guilty of using their power to crush their software rivals.

Currently there are four solutions to the problem. The first is the one favoured by most computer users and that is to force Microsoft to cough up the source code for Windows. The second and third solutions involve cutting up the company into smaller pieces and the last solution involves tying up Microsoft in red tape for the next ten years. These other solutions however ultimately favour Microsoft because they all lead

A fortnightly look at the Internet
with Fergus Keely

up to Microsoft being completely unchanged in any way.

The last division in the battle, lest I forget it, is the war of the web browsers between Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Netscape's Navigator. After the war between PC & Mac this is the battle which has the most number of supporters, with thousands of people lining up on both sides. Having used both browsers before, I have to say that Navigator is by far the most reliable because it doesn't crash nearly as much as IE or open up as many windows or have as many bugs in it, all of which are major problems for serious computer users. A look at the Microsoft web site alone will show you the number of bugs in IE from the number of service packs that have been issued for it. Just to show you what the computer industry think about the browsers Netscape is packaged as the default browser in Linux (though this may be more as a result of the animosity between Linux and Microsoft).

Well, that's all from me for another week. Next week I will have a look at graphics cards and the future of online gaming with the release of the Dreamcast. Once again anyone with comments, questions or problems can reach me at fk1121@oceanfree.net.

The Morning After The Night Before...

Eric McDonogh continues the thought

We have all known it, all experienced it and those few who haven't, soon will.

What was that? That feeling you get when alone in your room. Sitting writing, dreaming and listening to soulful music that you know depresses you. But still you listen still, you hear and still you think. At least I do.

It is what we think in this moment just before bed, when the hustle of the day has mutated to mellow and the mobile phone has been put down for the night, that define us.

In this time we feel more than at any other. Experiences are distilled and all too soon become emotions. Perhaps we have a friend to tell the pure feeling to, perhaps not. Whatever the case, we feel it.

I got a stress cube at the I.T. fair the other day. A blue block of pudgy foam. Its lovely really and boy does it take some punishing, especially as I sit and soak up kodak images of my friends.

The mellow CD is relaxing isn't it. Ignore the clock and let your brain tick. Let my hand squeeze the cube, so much so that it no longer looks like a cube. Then again, things that seem concrete can change

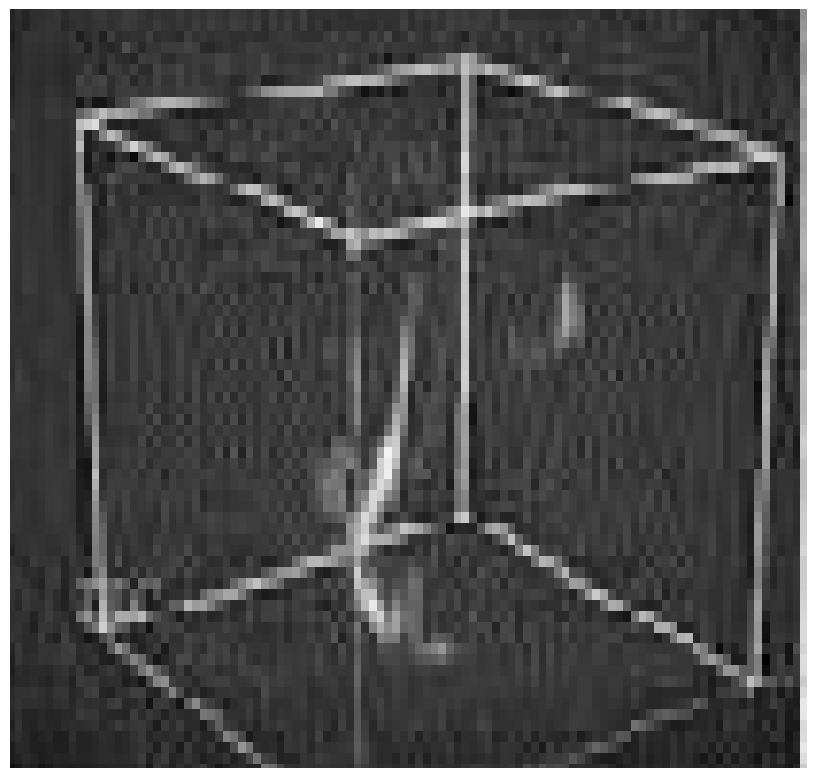
can't they. The blue piece of foam that was a symmetrical object about 5 secs ago is now just a crushed collection of colour in my palm.

Thing is, that no matter how out of shape the cube is, being foam, it always bounces back. Always.

In the depth of a night and just when you think you can no longer stand being crushed something will make you, no encourage you, to bounce back, at least for another day.

I realise too that what I am writing at this moment may seem like rubbish but we need to listen to WHY people are saying something and not WHAT. Then you will understand me.

When you see that cube reforming you'll know that once when you were crushed you reformed and became symmetric once again.



It does indeed take time, takes pushing, caressing and talking. Indeed time alone with the mobile off and mellow ebbing music.

It just takes time to realise your dreams again.

Eric McDonogh
November 1999

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

North D-DAY and Irish politics

– Sinn Féin Séan Sabhat Cumann ‘apprehensive’

‘D’ could stand for Devolution, Danger, Destruction or Dave, but why another article on the North? I know you are probably sick to the arse of it but I was stuck this week for something to write about and concluded that there was nothing safer to talk about than ‘the North’. How wrong I can be!

The sequence of events is at this stage well known. The UUP Council of 858 met on November 27th, and voted on the deal which allows the Executive to be set up; a meeting of the Assembly on November 29th followed this. On this day ministers were nominated and will act as shadow ministers until devolution is granted by Westminster on December 2nd. The IRA will on the same day that the Assembly meets nominate an interlocutor to ‘negotiate’ with the decommissioning body headed by General de Chastelain.

Negotiate was the word used by the IRA in their statement. Does this mean that they will talk about handing over weapons and if they are not satisfied they will withdraw their interlocutor? If you ask any Sinn Féin person if they think the IRA will decommission weapons, they come around the question by saying that all weapons should be decommissioned. The logic therefore being that if the British army and the RUC do not remove their guns, neither should the IRA. This could prove fatal for Sinn Féin, as all their political success to date is based on the peace process and will eventually come down to whether the IRA will decommission. If they don’t, Sinn Féin will be castigated to the doors of political oblivion, once again.

I asked a member of the University’s Sinn Féin Society (Séan Sabhat Cumann) if he was happy with the current deal being offered in the North to secure the establishment of the Executive. Of course he replied positively. Asked what he thought about the decommissioning aspect of the negotiations, he replied that he felt “apprehensive” at the way attention was being

focused on the IRA with little attention given to the loyalist forces. I also asked the person if he could comment on the rumour circulating in the University that a senior figure on the Cumann’s committee said that he would resign his party membership if the IRA decommissioned one bullet or an ounce of semtex. The person replied that he “could neither confirm nor deny” what had been said. Suffice it to say that this author will inform you if or rather when (in my opinion) the IRA does decommission about the current status of the person in question. The Cumann is experiencing some internal difficulties at the moment as its chairman has publicly indicated that he does not agree with the current leadership on the path that they have chosen for the party. It is known that a vote of no confidence was moved at a meeting in the Chairman, which was successfully negated by him, unanimously it is said.

Going back to the national scene, now that the Executive is formed the other bodies can be set-up that were established under the Good Friday Agreement. The Irish Government will also pass the necessary legislation in the Oireachtas to remove articles two and three of the constitution, with no come back unless a referendum on the issue is held again.

So, the question now begs, on the prospect of Sinn Féin, who having ministers in a devolved government and raking in the money in the USA, of making a stab (no pun intended) at holding the republic’s political parties by the balls in the next general election i.e. holding the balance of power. This may happen. If everything goes well – the IRA decommission their weapons – then Sinn Féin might successfully ride on the back of this and swing many voters to their side, as they have already done. The local and European elections prove that they’re on the move and moving fast. The money is rolling in from America (\$500,000 on one night alone) and is wisely being put to use in building a political grassroots structure. Last week Mr. Gerry Adams addressed the party’s ardchomhairle, and told those present that they “were part of the fastest-growing political party in Ireland today”. This nobody can deny. The party, again last week, came out with its pre-budget submission which called for a reduction in



David Trimble with his daughter

the corporation tax and a ceiling placed on the price of land zoned for housing. Mr. Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin said that this pre-budget submission placed Sinn Féin further on the left than any other party in the Dáil.

So Sinn Féin is quickly moving into the democratic fold and enticing the youthful electorate to vote for them. They are on line to get at least three seats in the Dáil at the next election and if so may hold the balance of power. The question is will any of the political parties embrace the beast that has only lately come out of the cold? Fianna Fáil may be the only one to do so, but at what cost to themselves? Many in the party are wary of this rival, especially if they start taking seats off them. The last local elections did not see this transpire though. Sinn Féin took many votes from Fine Gael. If political opinion turns against Sinn Féin could we in a few years see a grand alliance between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael.

So the next couple of months could prove decisive for the future of Irish politics. Of course all these hypothetical rantings rely on one thing – the decommissioning of the weapons. If this does not happen and if the IRA return to violence, then Sinn Féin are lost, back into the Siberia of Irish politics.



Here’s those kittens he was talking about

The Diary of Doctor Zaius.

The library all of a sudden has become the centre of all the college activity, yes folks its week nine so Ill reinvent myself as a postgrad.

Shame on you, all of you. Most of you will not get your assignments in on time because you haven’t started them yet am I right? There are of course some of you who in the grand tradition of the chess club seem to be more organised than an organisation called Piss Ups In A Brewery.

It defies me how anybody can be more organised than his or her lecturers. Personally I love the buzz of having five minutes to go to a presentation on The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, with nothing more than a hand-drawn overhead with a cute kitten in a box looming towards an untimely end, and a charming anecdote about a tree falling in a forest and nobody but

a bunch of hippies being around to hear (or give a damn) about it. Maybe that’s the buzz of caffeine in my

veins from snorting ground-up Nescafe for that all nighter, yes we all do stupid things in first year, even the genius among us.

Are we all in touch with our felling now that another welfare week has passed us by? If you havent the Students Union does have a lost and found section that is getting rather crowded with anxiety and panic and the lack of space is causing them to be filed in and anger and hopelessness there not mixing well as you might imagine. Anyone missing a sense of humour should have gone to the comedy where they gave it out for free. Kudos to DeeDee.

Paul McElligott

Just To Let You Know.....

a little more about the Students' Union Executive

(it all sounds very posh, but it's not really)

compiled by Aido!

The executive committee of the UL Students' Union meets once a week to discuss all matters relevant to the needs of students in UL, and then discuss these with class reps. It consists of the three Sabbatical officers the General manager of the Union and eight other people. Each person on the exec has a specific role. This year the following officers have been elected to the ULSU executive committee.



RYDO!

Community Officer.

The Community Officer this year is **Alan Ryder**, a 4h year business studies student from Tuam. Alan's role is to co-ordinate specific projects with a view to improving links and relations with all sectors of the community. He also has to liaise with any committees, working parties or authorities dealing with Students' Union/Community Relations



eh! BOBBY-O(?)!

Equality Officer.

This year our Equality Officer is **Bobby O'Connor**. Bobby is a 4th year market-

ing student from Abbeyfeale. He was also President of the ULSU in 1997/98. According to the constitution of ULSU the Equality Officer "shall advise, aid in the development of the Union's Equality policy. He/she shall be familiar with the affairs of groups on campus and shall also represent the interests of the members in matters relating to equal rights".



DECO!

Clubs Officer.

Declan Burke is a 3rd year applied maths and computing student. It has been claimed that he is the best Kayaker ever to come out of West Clare. In order to make himself more noticeable to club people needing his services Decie has recently invested in a brand-new blond hairstyle. He was elected Clubs Officer at the Clubs Administration weekend in Kilkee. It is his job to advise and aid on the development of all clubs. He is also responsible for the development of new clubs. Declan also is a member of the Clubs executive committee.

Societies Officer.

Muiris O'Sullivan is a postgraduate student who was elected to the position of Societies officer by the UL societies who attended the administration weekend in Kilkee. Muiris is Chairperson of the Sean Sabhat Cumann UL Sinn Fein as well as being involved in many other societies. His role as societies officer is to advise and aid in the development and organisation of all Societies. He is also responsible for the development of new societies. Muiris sits on the Societies Executive Committee.

The Postgraduates Officer

According to the Constitution "the Postgraduate Officer on Executive will be the postgraduates representative on Academic Council and shall be co-opted by Executive to represent this body at Executive Meetings." This year **Niall Dunphy** fills this role.



NIALLO!

The Student Teacher Officer.

Paddy Sheelan from Dundalk Co. Louth is STO this year. He is a third year science education student. His job is to represent the interests relevant to the College of Education students.



SHEELO!

The following officers sit on the SU executive in a non-voting capacity.



LENO!

The First Year Rep.

When no first year has been elected to fill one of the other exec positions then a first year is co-opted on to the Exec from Class Reps Council to represent the interests of first years. This year **Helena Quinn** who is a first year Computer Systems student from Abbeyfeale Co. Limerick is our First Year Rep.

The General Manager of the Students Union.

Stan Blennerhassett is the man with the Purse strings. As general manager of the Union Stan sits on the exec in a non-voting capacity.



and AIDO!

Chair-Person Class Reps Council

The Chair-Person of the Class Reps Council is **Aidan O'Gorman**. Aidan is a fourth year Computer systems Student. His job is to act as chairperson for all Class Reps meetings as well as chairing all ULSU Union, Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings. Aidan sits on the ULSU executive committee as a non voting member to represent class reps at exec meetings. If you want any issue discussed at a class reps meeting e-mail Aidan at 9632859 or leave a message in the Union Offices.

ps And then there's us three

ickle dee dee --->



<--- ickle pat

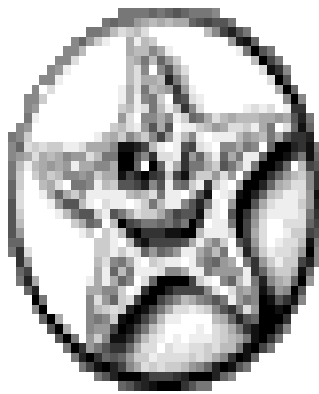
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It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December

Recently, you have been busy, but don't worry; things will soon calm down. You can't let yourself get too stressed out. And if you're feeling lonely – ring home – they may be missing you too.

Capricorn 21 December – 19 January

Money matters need to be settled this week or you'll find yourself in an even deeper mess. What you really need this week is to discard your conservative streak and lose your head for a while.

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February

A secret admirer will soon make their feelings known to you but remember not to get too carried away and respect this new person in your life. They have feelings too you know.

Pisces 19 February – 19 march

Social activity intensifies and doesn't let up until next week. This sudden popularity does wonders for your ego but could ravage your sincerity towards others.

Aries 20 March – 18 April

Things become clearer next week after some recent confusion disappears. There may still be a lot of figuring out to do but it will all eventually fall into place.

Taurus 19 April – 19 may

Your social life has been fruitful lately, but will soon come to a standstill. Other more important issues need to be addressed before you get too carried away. There are also some problems at work.

Gemini 20 may – 21 July

You have been lucky in love lately, but with some difficulty. Try to forget certain complications and concentrate on what's important, i.e., that someone new in your life

Cancer 21 June – 21 July

Long term plans come to life this week, which, reveal that your future looks very bright. Just remember to keep on top of things (or someone) and know exactly what you want.

Leo 22 July – 21 August

Recent hitches with a friend have been difficult but not to worry, they will soon blow over. These things tend to be forgotten.

Virgo 22 August – 21 September

You're in the mood for some hot lovin' this week, so maybe you'll find it in some unexpected social outing. The short-term advantages are welcome but beware of unwanted long-term relations.

Libra 22 September – 22 October

Your long-term academic affairs don't look great. Your current position isn't suiting you all that well. What you really need to do is decide what is important to you and resolve to do something productive with your life.

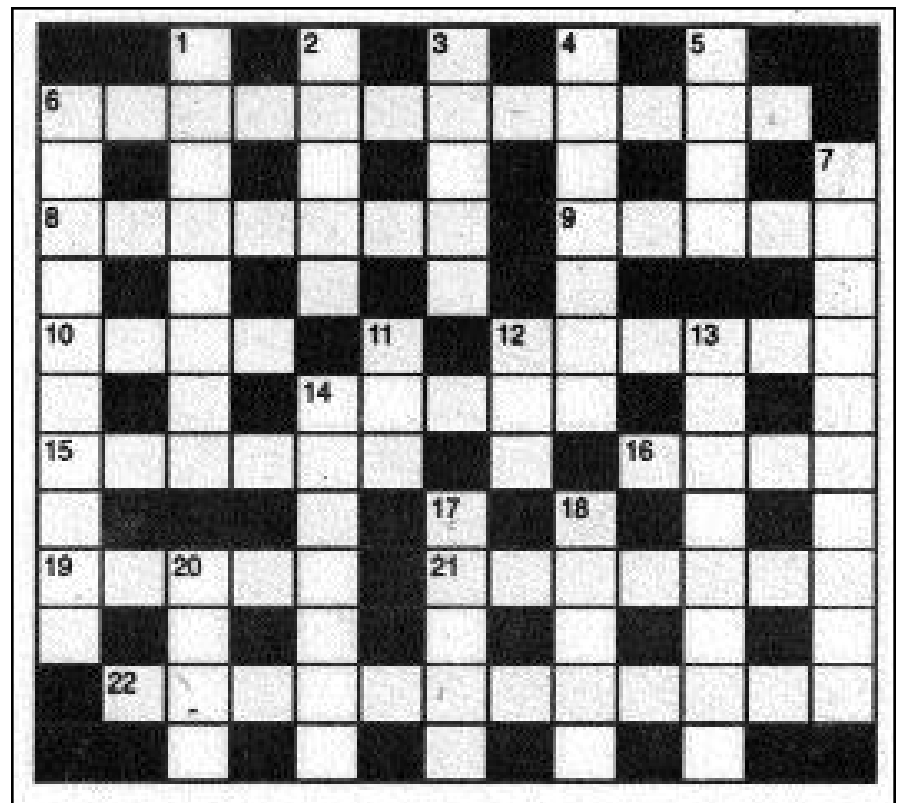
Scorpio 23 October – 21 November

It's time to get off your ass and do things for yourself. It doesn't matter what everyone else thinks – you have to do what you feel is right for yourself. Maybe some soppy movie and a bowl of popcorn might do the trick.

The New 95FM Student Talkback Crossword

Student Talkback every Thursday 9pm

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



ACROSS

- 6. In ABC order (12)
- 8. Springing into the air (7)
- 9. Main artery (5)
- 10. Proceeds (4)
- 12. What the "D" stands for in "A.D." (6)
- 14. Amplified light generator (5)
- 15. Value highly (6)
- 16. Noel (abbr.) (4)
- 19. Subject (5)
- 21. Worker with water supply systems (7)
- 22. Unmarried French lady (12)

DOWN

- 1. Obvious (8)
- 2. Madly excited (5)
- 3. Hold royal office (5)
- 4. Spears bull from horseback (7)
- 5. Set of two (4)
- 6. Somewhat brisk (mus.) (10)
- 7. Cake shop (10)
- 11. Amateur radio operator (3)
- 12. Young "Sloane Ranger" (3)
- 13. Motionless (8)
- 14. Moved with bar (7)
- 17. Ghost (5)
- 18. Pop (5)
- 20. Test (4)

Last weeks answers

ACROSS:- 1. Notable. 7. Bails. 8. Psychic. 9. Bleach. 11. Prize. 13. Comb. 14. Nuclear. 15. Stag. 16. Scull. 17. Advert. 21. Revisit. 22. Smile. 23. Beagles.
 DOWN:- 2. Obstructed. 3. Accusing. 4. Loir. 5. Call. 6. Clan. 9. Bleed. 10. Compulsive. 12. Scout. 13. Cracking. 18. Vamp. 19. Rill. 20. Were.

Life & How to Live it!

an interview with the manager of
rock's finest - Bertis Downs, courtesy of the Apologists.



They crawled from the South, blitzkrieged their way through Europe (wooing 47,000 revellers in Dublin along the way) and had a grand finale in the States.

REM's recent Summer tour (their first since the departure of drummer Bill Berry) saw them perform with as much vigour and intensity as they did during the Green World Tour of 1988. However while Peter Buck, Mike Mills and Michael Stipe may have been busy paying homage to Andy Kaufmann, performing goofy Elvis impressions, taking helicopter rides with Courtney Love (Michael Stipe), being kissed (intimately) on stage by Cerys Matthews (Mike Mills) and of course blistering through a set from "Lotus" to "It's the End of the World as We Know It", behind the scenes one person keeping things in check was band manager, Bertis Downs .

On a recent telephone conversation with Bertis, The Apologist learnt a few backroom secrets about the recent tour. Unlike the Monster Tour in 1995 which was heavily hit with bad luck concerning the health of the band members and subsequently the cancellation of several European dates, REM could be grateful that their most recent outing went uninterrupted.

BD: "Firstly the trials and tribulations of managing the band were not nearly as difficult as managing them during the 1995 tour..... (in 1995) we had three different surgeries, we had Bill's brain surgery, the German abdominal surgery for Mike and while we were in Prague we had surgery for Michael's hernia.....that was a heck of a lot more challenging.....this tour went pretty breezy, it was pretty easy going."

Eleven days prior to their appearance at Slane Castle in 1995, bassist Mike Mills had undergone abdominal surgery in Germany.

BD: "Slane was a special show in '95 but that was our first show back from Mike's (Mills) injury.....that was a good show, but everybody was on pins and nee

dles...are we going to make it through the show".

The Up Tour commenced in Lisbon on The 17th June and finished on the 11th September in Boston. Within three months the range of venues that they played included Europe's biggest festivals such as Glastonbury and Werchter as well as the more intimate surroundings such as Vienna State Opera House and a sports hall in Koper, Slovenia.

BD: "It was a little bit scaled down, a little more do-able (than 1995)....I guess we just got lucky this time, we got some good breaks , everybody stayed healthy, the band played very well...the crowds were very enthusiastic and when the crowds like the show it really makes the band play better, it's one of those things that you can tell from the first couple of songs that it's going to be a great night".

Since early '99 the rumour mill had been spinning as to whether REM would be headlining this year's Glastonbury festival.

BD: "It's about timing, Glastonbury always comes at a certain time of the year, and if you're not touring it's very rare that the band will do what's called a one-off when their not on tour, where we get everything together, fly somewhere do the show and come back, it's difficult logistically and musically...we arranged the tour to be around Glastonbury....Montreux and Vienna Jazz festivals and the Werchter festival in Belgium. Put those as you're anchor dates and schedule everything around that....that's the reason we did Glastonbury ... it was finally the right timing, they had come to us before and we considered doing Glastonbury, but it was never the right timing in terms of being on tour".

REM's blistering set at Glastonbury on a warm June night was heralded by many as the standout act at this year's festival (along with Pavement and Hole). Georgia's finest certainly enjoyed it.

BD: "We had a great time there...all these other bands were playing, there must have been about a hundred bands, six or seven stages, we all wanted to stay for

four days, but unfortunately we had a show to do the night after.." (in Oberhausen Germany).

REM's first Irish appearance was in Dublin in 1984 at the SFX, since then they played at the same venue in 1988, before 80,000 at Slane Castle in 1995 and on the 16th July at Lansdowne Rd.

BD: "We got to Dublin the day before, if we can we try to schedule a day off in Dublin... our producer Pat McCarthy is from Dublin and his family is there....plus we've made a lot of friends there over the years..it's just always been a real home away from home for REM."

Pat McCarthy who now lives in Athens, Georgia has produced REM's highly acclaimed masterpiece Up ('98)

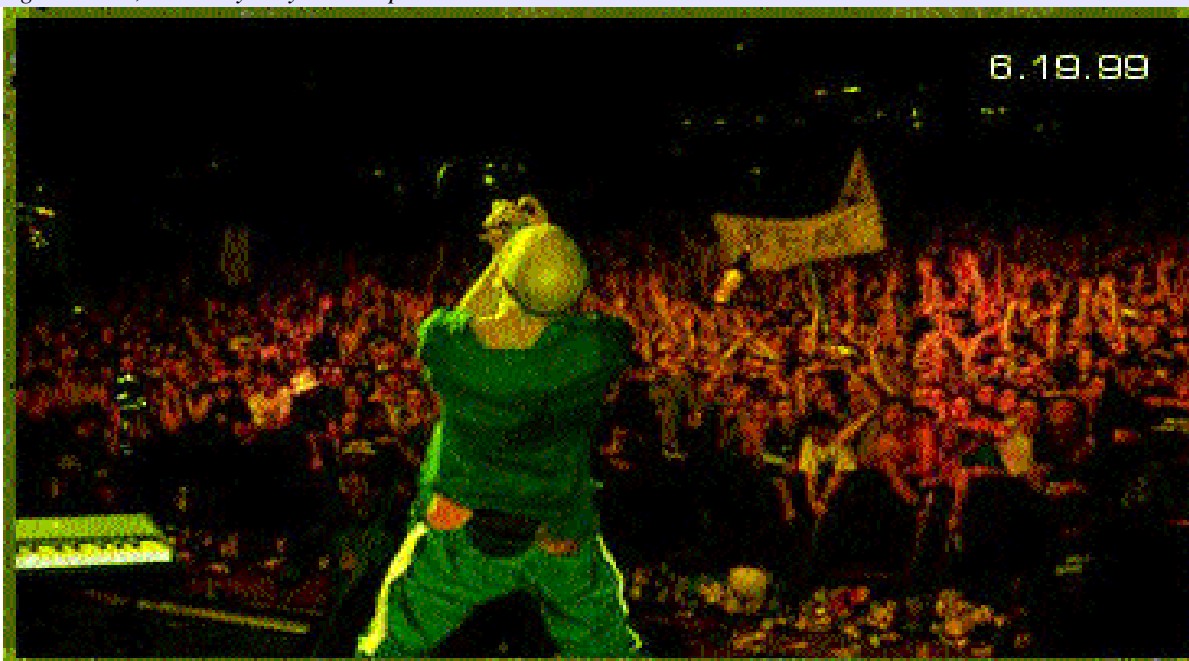
BD: "We went to the show fairly early. The opening band was Paddy Casey who is managed by some good friends of mine, some principal U2 people (Paul McGuinness)..he is excellent, certainly a great part of the show, really great music and he's a really nice kid....he seems sharp. Divine Comedy who we were told are really big in Dublin that they would do their own show for several thousand people, they turned in a great set..the thing I remember about the show, the kids during the second song....the kids were bopping up and down like pocho dancing all the way beyond the soundboard...it was that way...that was remarkable that meant the crowd was really into it, it was a huge stadium, it was packed. The band are not crazy about playing while it's still daylight but if you are going to play in Europe during the Summer you're going to play a lot while it's still daylight. By the end of the show...it was really the encore that was very special.....I've been telling people it was in the top five best shows of the whole tour".

"the thing I remember about the show, the kids during the second song....the kids were bopping up and down....that was remarkable that meant the crowd was really into it, it was a huge stadium, it was packed."

During the '95 Tour REM played in Sicily and Tel Aviv as part of a "bonus week" where they made the effort to play in countries that would not normally be considered while planning the tour (for geographical and production reasons).

BD: "We always look at two or three things at the very end to see would that take us somewhere that we've never been before.....they would be difficult to get to otherwise, it's not really reasonable in the sense of being able to write into a regular tour.....this time we decided to do Athens, Greece, 'cause there's always been a lot of demand for REM down there, but it's hard to get down there, you have to kind off figure out what else to do around Athens... so the agencies went out and looked at different parts of world, different promoters and we considered various places and Slovenia was the place we decided to go, it's close to Italy, close to Austria, in the Balkans, it's close to Croatia and it was a great show, we ended up having a wonderful time there..production wise it means flying everything, you have to fly as much as you can and it was a lot of fun, we quite enjoyed it".

The catalogue of acts that have supported REM on previous tours could headline any summer festival; Radiohead, Grant Lee Buffalo, Sonic Youth, Crowded House, 10,000 Maniacs, Plant and Page to name a few. During the Up Tour, REM's support acts were as intriguing as the headliners themselves and one in particular,



King Mike

Patti Smith, has been an idol of Stipe since he first heard her screaming through "Gloria" in 1975.

BD: "It was cool for the band, they played Vienna and then together in Paris and we played a show with her as well in Saratoga, New York...we loved playing with Mercury Rev, they were the Radiohead of this year, they were a band that we didn't know much about, we heard they had a great reputation, they came on the road and they were tremendous live...and let's see..Wilco played a bunch of shows with us and Catatonia did a few shows with us...and the Bambi Molesters was an instrumental surf-band that played with us in Slovenia".

The biggest contrast between the previous two tours, was how deep the band delved into the back catalogue during the Up Tour. At each show the band thrilled audiences by performing plenty of material from the vintage "IRS years" (IRS was the label REM were signed to before signing to Warner's in 1988). The sight of Michael Stipe punching out The One I Love and Cuyahoga (of Life's Rich Pageant, 1986) at Lansdowne Rd and the vintage Pilgrimage (Murmur, 1983) at Stirling Castle, Scotland will leave a deep impression on those not old enough to have seen REM perform this early material when they first came to these shores in the early eighties. The inclusion of older material in the REM sets may be partly credited to some of the new musicians which have become part of the band on the tour; Ken Stringfellow (Posies), Joey Waronker (Beck) and Scott McCaughey (Young Fresh Fellows). In particular the younger members such as Ken and Joey have been listening to REM since their teenage years.

BD: "I never really worry about the setlist with the

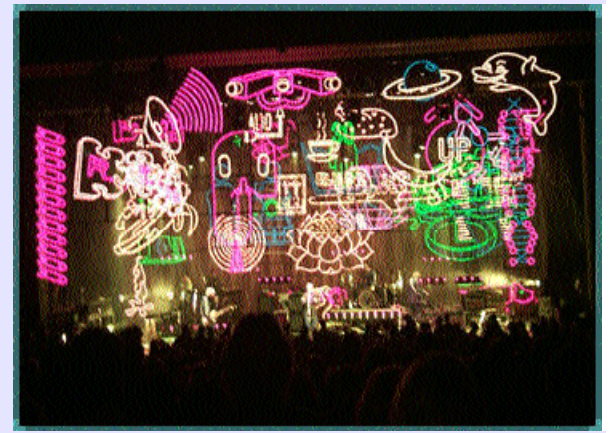
band, the band always set the setlist themselves, sometimes they just throw in the songs themselves and part of it may be that the extra musicians were such big fans growing up, you know, these guys Joey and Ken are a bit younger than the guys in REM and they kind of grew up when they were in Highschool listening to some of the stuff that comes out in the radio and listened to some of the early tracks from REM. So yeah it may have been that those guys have made suggestions or started playing things during the soundcheck, the guys just try to keep it different every night, they're certainly going to play Losing my Religion, Man on the Moon and songs from the new album, but then those grey areas of the set which can change, they really try to mix it up. They were doing things at the end of the tour which they hadn't done at the beginning like Life and How to Live it and Sitting Still, that they didn't do at all at the end.... they played Radio Free Europe at the last show in Boston". (oh the lucky sods!).

At this point Bertis asks The Apologist how old he was in '84. "Seven" The Apologist confesses. "That's great!" laughs Bertis.

After eighteen years founder/member and friend, drummer Bill Berry announced his retirement from REM. At the Chastain Park show in Atlanta, Bill appeared on stage during the band's set.

BD: "It was very very nice, very emotional, very real. Nobody planned it all, it was very spontaneous, a very neat thing".

Michael Stipe commented on Bill's departure; "a three-legged dog is still a dog, it just has to learn to walk differently". The three-legged dog maybe REM, but thankfully the person holding the lead is Bertis Downs!



the light show to beat all light shows

Bertis Downs first saw REM perform at the 11.11 Koffee Klub in Athens, Georgia on the 19th April 1980. Nineteen years later REM have accelerated from college rock icons to global status as they venture into the next millennium on the back of the beautiful and experimental Up and scoring the soundtrack to the soon to be released film based upon the life of a certain Mr. Andy Kaufmann; "Man on the Moon", as well as a highly successful tour with a more than animated Michael Stipe (he broke more microphone stands than Iggy Pop!). In this period Bertis Downs has acted as REM's manager and legal advisor. The soundtrack to the film "Man on the Moon" was released on November 23rd. It contains the US hit single "The Great Beyond". To find out more about REM and their recent Up Tour check out: www.remhq.com

The Apologist, Nov. '99

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!)



Y o u know, the past ten weeks of college have really enlightened me.

I don't just mean educationally, but socially as well. There are certain things that I have learned here in the great world of UL that I never noticed back in the bog that I call home.

For starters, did you know that the female of the species is different to the male?! Not in that way, you sick-minded individuals who just sniggered at that last comment! I mean their attitudes and actions. I was sitting in the Stables one day, drinking coffee etc. and I noticed a table of seven males! And before you get too carried away, there were only a few of them actually worth looking at! Anyway, the thing I realised was that not one of them was smoking! I remember thinking that they must have been athletes, because the odds are that at least

one of them would have been smoking. If that was a table of seven females, I can guarantee that at least four or five of them would be smoking! It has been proven statistically that more females smoke than males. It's shocking to think that I actually belong to a gender that would poison their bodies with tobacco and nicotine! Like, who would think that we could be so stupid?!

Have you ever noticed that men are more trustworthy than their opposite sex? Tell a girl about a secret, delicate matter and the whole female species knows about it! Tell a guy, and he, more than likely, has the cop-on to keep it to himself! But then, that's just women for you - they talk!!!! We can't keep anything to ourselves! We feel the need to spread whatever gossip we hear about anyone (even our closest friends) around, so that we come across as having a life! Let's face facts - females are bitches! And men are just dogs! It's almost scary to think how sound guys can be. They can recognise when things should not be repeated - but girls just can't keep their mouths shut. It's like the

total opposite to what we've been lead to believe. We were always told that girls mature faster than boys! I don't think so!!!

Having said that, there are certain instances when the male gender of the species has shown itself up. Not everyone's perfect! For instance, why are (most) men obsessed with anything to do with football, computers, drink etc. etc.? Why do they feel the need to discuss the most unimportant, minute details of every pass or kick or goal that the latest team has made. (Note that I refuse to name any particular team for fear of coming across as biased!) And then there's the whole thing where they insist on recalling every single achievement made by them with regards to computers. Who cares how many megabytes or momobytes your hard drive can hold! Is it really that important?! And last, but not least, they always insist that they are not drunk when they cannot even hold a perfectly intellectual conversation with the person sitting beside them! And why do they always drink so fast? Slow down!

Mind you, girls have their faults too! We obsess about our weight, no matter how thin or fat we really are! We think that every male is out to annoy the hell out of us. We can't understand it when "he" doesn't ring or call around when he says he will. We are incapable of operating certain technological

devices. We don't want to get a nail broken. But that's all a front, you know guys?! We just want to come across as dainty, helpless, little creatures just to make ye feel somewhat useful! We let ye think that ye're in control of the situation, no matter what it is! Just because ye're the macho males! And we're the delicate females! (Sorry girls, did I just let the secret out?!)

So, being a first year has certainly opened my eyes to a lot of these things! Here in college I don't just meet fellow class-mates, comrades etc., I get to meet older, more experienced people who have taught me a lot about being mature and "grown-up"! (Like, they can call themselves grown-up when they sit around all day discussing football or computers!)

I have learned that I will never be able to do all that I want to do. Instead, I will have to put up with what others want me to do, and live with the suffering! By that, I mean I can no longer spend hour after hour chatting and drinking coffee in the Stables. I actually have a life to live - even if it only involves going to lectures, giving presentations and sitting exams. Yes! I do hear ye say that ye all had to do it at one stage! But remember this, ye were all first years at one stage too! Nothing will ever change that! So, in future be nice to us misfortunate fresher who have to walk around campus and feel as meaningless as a fly on the wall!

Now Hear This.....

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



FILTER 'Title of Record'

Some of you might remember this band as the support to the Smashing Pumpkins at the point back in 1996 where they launched a well impressive musical assault on the jam packed crowd in support of their 'short bus' album.



One album on and they're still parading the best devil music on the go.

'Title of Record' is a stunning new album and the band are currently riding high on its success in the States and in the UK. It is undoubtedly modern industrial rock music at its best.

'Sand' is the album's opener and it is a short 30 second intro to the main single on the album, the almighty, 'Welcome to the Fold', which offers us nearly 8 minutes of pure rock bliss. The storming 'Its going to kill me' is the next stand out track on which it finds Richard Patrick claiming that this girl is going to kill him by wanting sex off him all the time – he should count his blessings and stop complaining – I reckon, the muppet.

'Take a Picture' is the most recent single and is an acoustic offering best described as sublimely gorgeous. The rampant rhythms of 'I will lead you' and the brooding soundscapes which are thrown at me in 'Cancer' are just two of the highlights of the album.

In a nutshell this is a brilliant, interesting rock record and deserves a fair hearing. Check it out.

Web Site: www.officialfilter.com

Des Dockery

The Chemical Brothers Surrender.

One could say lots about this album and indeed the rise of the brothers to date but I'm not, I'm only going to say a little about the album Surrender.

I believe I'm right in saying that this album was widely anticipated. It appears that Tom Rowlands and Ed Simons are happy with where they are going and with the sound of Surrender - "we've always been part of a scene or reacting against a scene but this is just our music"-Ed. The album certainly does sound different and has moved on from the last one, Exit Planet Dust, and if I may say so, I like where they've gone to.

From the beginning, Ed and Tom were big-beat boys (and Fat Boy Slim owes his entire career to their pioneering) and in fairness it's what they're good at. On Surrender we meet a host of guest stars and hear the fruits of their labour, including Noel Gallagher (Oasis - duh), Jonathan Donoghue of Mercury Rev, Hope Sandoval of Mazzy Star, Primal Scream's Bobby Gillespie and Bernard Sumners of Manc legends, New Order. I think the first track, 'Music:Response', is nearest in sound and set-up to Exit Planet Dust. However from track two to the final lullaby-ish musings of 'Dream On', it is a roller-coaster ride of sound, intensity and emotion - 'block rockin' beats' style.

As Tom reportedly said "we liked the idea of giving into something and it taking you somewhere else; we're fairly obsessed with music that takes you out of yourself". I think they succeeded - Surrender is everything the last album gave us, only in bigger portions. It's

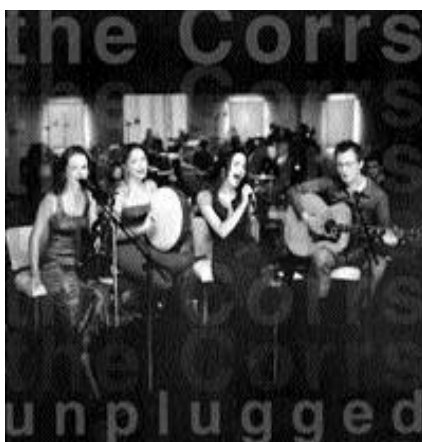


more intense, more emotional, more imaginative and more ambitious. Even better, it's more successful and has firmly placed Ed and Tom on the world stage.

Firstly the single, 'Hey Boy, Hey Girl', is a great musical moment. What intensity - A brilliant fusion of pop/acid. It's a great. Now for my favourite, the centrepiece and epic tune 'The Sunshine Underground' really does steal the show (at least most of it anyway). Noel Gallagher makes a good job of 'Let It Be'. It's more original than their last collaboration 'Setting Sun' or 'Tomorrow Never Knows' (Beatles) if you like. Track seven, and Hope Sandoval makes some cool sounds. However, in fairness to the girl, give me Beth Orton any day. "We were attracted to it for the sense of continuity" - Ed and Tom. To be honest, so was I. The dreamy, narcotic lullaby with J. Donoghue (Mercury Rev) is great.

A critic wrote that "this album won't change your life but it will make it more enjoyable". Well, this album has made my life a damn sight more enjoyable and I'm looking forward to the next one.

Louise Hegarty



The Corrs Unplugged

Unplugging The Corrs doesn't really mean a whole lot. It's not as though Dundalk's shiny, skinny

people are whirring with electricity in the first place, unless of course you find tempered pop/rock ballads and glossy "Celtic" airs electrifying.

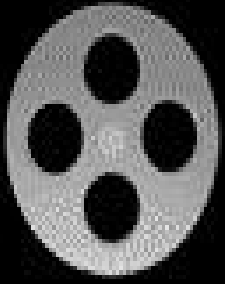
So, "Unplugged" serves to sell the same songs again, and being a live record, it enhances their credibility in a Q Magazine kind of way. The truth is, despite (or because of) the constant recurrence of that word "bland", there's nothing offensive about The Corrs. In fact, they're a mildly impressive group. If you've ever seen them live, you'll notice how Andrea often loses herself in the moment, how they all possess strong singing voices, and how they actually

take their bodhrans and fiddles and tin whistles seriously, albeit in the pop context. The Corrs' appliance of traditional Irish music is as about as exhilarating as an instrumental overdub on Ballykissangel, but nevertheless, the playing is competent and the diddly-aye quotient is kept to a minimum. The Corrs never really go down paddywackery lane, they're far too concerned with making romantic, slushy pop music for the international radio. Yes, this is international pop; soft, anthemic, almost soothing to the ear, suitable for adults who'll lap up the bland sophistication, and kids who simply like listening to love songs on the radio. "Only When I

Sleep", "What Can I Do" (with its neat rumble of classical orchestration), "Radio" and "Runaway" roll by with unostentatious grace, each one an obvious hit. Three eerily beautiful Irish sisters aside, with these songs and these voices, The Corrs were always gonna be big. See, they're not just prettier than Brian Kennedy and his earnest-than-thou singer-songwriter pap, they're actually better. And that goes for Boyzone too.

- Leagues

courtesy of www.muse.com



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 *



The World is Not Enough

Directed by ; Michael Apted
Starring ; Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau, Robert Carlyle , Denise Richards

Brosnan's third outing as Bond, James Bond is definitely his most disappointing. Its got the chick, the baddie, the action ,all that you expect from a Bond movie. But the script , oh my God its awful !!!

You might think that you don't need much of a script for a Bond movie to be enjoyable, but this one is so bad it gets to

you. The cheese is laid on extra thick and ruins what would have been a pretty good movie.

Brosnan himself despite the script turns in another classic Bond performance he is indeed the Bond and will prove difficult to replace when the time comes for him to leave. Carlyle as the baddie is very under utilised and is indeed overshadowed by the delicious Sophie Marceau who dupes us all ,well me anyway ,into thinking that's shes an innocent victim. Denise Richards suffers at the hand of the script and yet another flick passes by without giving her the chance to prove that she can act.

The story goes along the usual lines ,exciting intro where Bond kills a few non entities and wrong is done , Bond goes about undoing the wrongs gets it on with female number one much too the annoyance of M. Carlyle steals nuclear missile Bond meets female number two, lots of explosions loads of shooting Bond saves the day and then gets it on with female number two. So it's the same story line as every other Bond Film , the same ending as every other Bond film but not quiet as much fun as the others and believe me when I say they saved the worst line in the film , one that sums up the problems with the film, till last.

Worth going to see if you have nothing else to do but don't miss the first episode in the new series of Friends for it. That's what I did and it wasn't worth it.

KP

Taxi **

Directed by ; Gerard Pires
Starring ; Samy Nacéri, Frédéric Diefenthal, Marion Cotillard, Emma Sjöberg

A massive success in its native France, this Luc Besson presentation (he's responsible for production and script) already has a sequel en route. Directed by old hand Pires, it's high concept par excellence.

Speed freak taxi driver/outlaw Daniel (Nacéri) is blackmailed by geeky cop Emilien (the thoroughly irritating Diefenthal) into helping him to bust a seemingly unstoppable gang of German bank robbers. With a light polish, Jerry Bruckheimer could have the U.S. remake - with Nick Cage and Freddie Prinze Jr. - ready for Tuesday week.

More Smokey And The Bandit than Bullitt, if the point was to prove that France can do a big stoopid attraction-of-opposites buddy action pic better than the Americans then we've a serious triumph here. There's spectacular car chases, back-flipping scooters, obligatory love interests, spectacularly stereo-typed teutonic villains, the tough but fair captain...Perhaps if Besson had have



directed this himself, then his particular brand of visual genius would have compensated for the wafer-thin script. As it stands, Pires unimaginative wide-screen lensing couldn't be less spectacular. There might be a tad more colouring to the characters - em, they get stoned - than your average U.S. flick, but not much.

While its highly commendable that auld Luc can beat the Yanks at their own game, it doesn't make for very inspiring viewing. Making Bad Boys look like Betty Blue, let's hope some Irish bright spark doesn't get any notions anytime soon. French fromage.

Derek O'Connor
courtesy of www.muse.com

East is East ****

Directed by ; Damien O'Donnell
Starring ; Om Puri, Linda Bassett, Jimi Mistry, Jordan Routledge

Home-grown talent O'Donnell's been making a splash on the international scene in recent years with a series of acclaimed short films, most notably the multi award-winning Thirty-Five-A-Side.

For his debut feature he's chosen to tackle an adaptation of Ayub Khan Din's stage play, an affectionate yet absolutely unsentimental comedy detailing the conflicts within a Pakistani family living in racist Salford in the early 70's. It just happens to be the finest first film you'll see this year.

George "Genghis" Khan (the powerful Puri) is a staunch, old school Muslim, determined to raise his

children according to rigid tradition. When eldest son Nazir (Ian Aspinall) bails out of his arranged marriage at the altar, however, its a sign that changes are gonna come in the Khan household. While Nazir is completely disowned, the remaining six offspring - studious Maneer (Emil Marwa) aside - just want to hang out with their mates. Be normal, like. George refuses to compromise a jot, however, and secretly plans a double wedding for the remaining two eldest. As ever-tolerant wife Ella (Bassett) tries all the harder to increase the peace, something's got to give...

Filled with one joyous set-piece after another, O'Donnell takes a relatively stoney scenario and infuses it with boundless, colourful energy, his unfailing comic touch positively radiating from scene to scene. A remarkable, multi-layered performance from Puri is the standout in a faultless ensemble, his patriarch warmly endearing one minute, shockingly brutal the



next. The best Britfilm you'll see this year, the finest Irish debut this decade and the best laugh you'll have anytime soon. Promise.

Derek O'Connor
courtesy of www.muse.com

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, **Ella Daly** comments on all the Belltable had to offer, as well as some tremors from the UL Drama Soc.

This weeks offerings at the Belltable included performance art and a new play by Limerick's own Quarry players.

Daghda are well known for their tours heading into the country's schools to bring dance to the great snivelling masses and sometimes to their parents too. This was one of those occasions. Daghdha have spent the last month touring the country with "Feels Like Thunder, Looks Like Rain". They opened the doors on Saturday night to a wider audience (having spent the week providing matinees to the cities schools), and along with a hundred or so others, I went along for a gawk. The show set in three separate and independent pieces incorporated all elements of contemporary dance. Lasting just over an hour it covered topics as diverse as rain and mass media. Each piece directed by a different choreographer (from Limerick, Dublin and New York) used the same 5 dancers and different music. We the audience were kept informed the whole way through as we were told how each piece was a work in progress changing with each performance.

The second performance this week was the Quarry Players' "Portia Coughlan". Written by Miriam Carr it is a tale of incest, death and madness. The Quarry players, though an amateur group, usually turn out fairly professional work (last years "The Cripple Of Inishmann" being a good example) I was, however, disappointed with this offering. The set was too com-

plex, the plot hard to follow and the script so full of gratuitous swearing it should have had an X rating. The blame is not solely that of Quarry who did well with a bad script. Miriam Carr when writing this had obviously never heard of Dramaturgy. Her plot was inconcistant and her style patchey. An example being how, after the main characters death in the first half, the story went back in time in the second.

I must say the standard of acting was good with fine performances from all 9 actors in their respective roles. The set though a little complicated, was imaginative and used every inch of available stage space.

Finally, many of you will know that last weeks production of "Oleanne" produced by our own fair Drama Soc had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Fear not, we plan to bring you a play in week 11 by the Bare Faced Cheek Company in Wexford that will knock your socks off. "Crave" is a harrowing tale of incest, sexual abuse and mental anguish. It swept the boards in Edinborough National Coverage for its portrayal of this difficult topic. Keep an eye out, and don't miss it or you'll regret it.

On a lighter note Drama Soc is also going to stage "Once A Catholic" in week 12. A tongue in cheek look at the lives of three convent girls in Irish Catholic 1950's London. Directed by Sarah Robinson with an all UL cast, it's a must see before Christmas.

Until next time, enjoy yourselves

Controversial Play For Limerick

Bare Cheek Theatre Company, who's version of Berkoff's 'Lunch' ran for four successful performances during the Wexford Opera Festival, has announced new dates for their production of Sarah Kane's 'Crave'.

The Wexford based company ran 'Crave' at Wexford Arts Centre during November to great critical acclaim, and are now presenting this tour-de-force at the Jonathan Swift Theatre for two dates only, here in the University of Limerick.

The play is written by Sarah Kane, the controversial playwright who shocked audiences in London with her portrayal of incest, extreme sexuality, cannibalism and profanity. 'Crave', her penultimate play is about the love between a father and daughter, which can be seen as being corrupt and debased. The play is a post-modern look at mental illness, religion and the nature of familial love. 'Crave' is directed by Tony McCleane-Fay who says of the play: "Bare Cheek wanted to stage something

very contemporary and topical and we choose 'Crave' because it is so brilliantly written, lyrical and very unusual. Some people may find the play offensive and some scenes and images are very challenging for an audience, but the underlying message is one of hope. I feel that Irish theatregoers are enlightened and want more than 'kitchen sink' domestic drama. All of our work to date has been brilliantly received by audiences and critics alike and we welcome this opportunity to present our work at the University."

Bare Cheek, the Wexford based theatre company, have staged 'One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest' in the Theatre Royal and St. Michael's Theatre, New Ross and more recently Stephen King's 'Misery' and Steven Berkoff's 'Lunch' at the Wexford Arts Centre, all during 1999!

Crave is on at the Jonathan Swift Theatre from Wednesday 8th - Thursday 9th of December at 8pm. Admission to the play will be restricted to mature audiences.

Belltable Listings Information

Theatre

Monday 6th - Saturday 11th of December
8p.m.

The Everyman Palace Presents
'Playboy of the Western World'

By JM Synge

Directed by Geoff Gould

Tickets £10 and £8

Art

2nd to 23rd of December
Quadrant '99

9a.m. to 6p.m. Monday to Saturday

Admission is free

An annual showcase exhibition, featuring the work of four young Irish artists. Selected by Paul O'Rielly.

For further information please contact Rachel Murphy on (061) 319709

Very Well Read.

Darragh O'Donoghue reviews the books that might be worth reading

This issue of An Focal takes a look at the popular fiction section in the Glucksman Library.

According to market research on the spending patterns of students, most of the money that we have goes on beer. Food comes next, then rent. And where do fiction books come on this list? Way down there!

The average student probably spends more cash on toothpaste in a year than he/she does on books. And even if you had surplus funds, would you pop into your nearest bookshop to spend them? If you're handing over large sums to O'Mahoney's or Eason's at the beginning of the semester for what's on your reading list, then it's only natural to begrudge spending a few pennies more on the stuff you don't need to know for college.

Since the average student is unable to spend bucket loads on extra-curricular reading, the provision of non-academic titles in the library is to be welcomed. After a couple of hours immersed in European Community Treaties or whatever you are having yourself, it's good to be able to take out and read stuff you will never be questioned on come exam time. As the winter draws near, why not borrow something to snuggle up by the fire with. Don't mind Friends, forget Podge and Rodge, take out a book, it's FREE!

There's a fairly wide selection on offer. You'll find 20th century classics like *Catch-22* and *Catcher in the Rye*. Kafka and Joyce make appearances. But there is lighter stuff too. When it's pissing rain, you're skint and there's nary a sausage to eat in the house, maybe you reckon your life is depressing enough as it is. For anybody in need of a little escapism, the library also contains fantasy, science fiction, and horror. Irish writers are represented, like Roddy Doyle, Neil Jordan, Maeve Binchy and (though it pains me to say it) Patricia Scanlon.

The originator of the initiative was librarian Lindsay Mitchell, but other library staff-members have a role in deciding what goes on the shelves. Pattie Punch, humanities librarian: "I ask people to recommend to me so I have a list of suggestions myself but this year I tried also to get some gay fiction (Alan Hollingsworth) because nobody else will buy it, some women's issues fiction (not too serious) because the Women's Studies postgrads said.. "wouldn't it be lovely if". I tried to get some American Fiction because of the investment from the American Studies fund: it is always nice to say to a donor that we backed their investment with some of our own." Anyone who uses the library is free to make a suggestion and that includes students.

What's nice about it is, aside from being really entertaining, it's also really short. So you can head in to the library after lectures and you'll probably have it finished by the time the security guards come to kick you out. Although it is Volume I in what the blurb calls a trilogy of four, you can enjoy it on its own. However, should you decide to keep going and finish the series, the other volumes are also in the library. This is good science fiction. It won't just appeal to fans of *Red Dwarf*, although it is an obvious inspiration for that TV series. It's also funnier.

Before your average UL student was born, the *Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* began life as a radio series on BBC Radio 4 and I have very vague early memories of it as a TV series. But it is as a book that it is best known and it has been a big seller since it's first publication 20 years ago.

It concerns a certain Arthur Dent. He'd been living a reasonably normal life in the West Country, unaware that Planet Earth was due for demolition to make way for a hyperspatial express route. All of a sudden the world is

The University of Limerick library is not unique in having popular novels in its collection. Mary Immaculate College has an impressive choice of pulp fiction, due to its large resident population. Trinity College has a right to a copy of all books published in the UK. They are not too choosy so you'll find a *Thomas the Tank Engine* book there if you go searching. But such books are not easily accessible, they are generally kept deep in the bowels of the Trinity library. What is different about the Glucksman is the amount of space on easy-to-find shelves devoted to non-academic stuff. The point of this is that university is supposed to be more than just the particular course you are

on, it's about broadening your horizons. So a library with a wide variety of books available is vital.

For funding, leftovers from the annual budget go on the section, plus for the last two years it has had its own budget provision. The section is actually about to get a good deal bigger: Pattie Punch is in the process of bringing down some fiction currently hidden upstairs. There's a large amount of literature up there that nobody has looked at in years, books that get borrowed about as often as *Fine Gael* are in government. But it's good stuff so once it is downstairs with the rest of the popular fiction, chances are it will trade more.

destroyed and he finds himself on board a *Vogon* spaceship in the company of his best mate, Ford Prefect. Only it turns out that Ford isn't actually human at all, he hails from *Betelgeuse* and not *Guilford* as he usually claimed. Naturally Arthur is a bit put out by the whole situation. He's pissed off and confused. So at this point his friend introduces the *Hitch Hiker's Guide of the Galaxy*, an unofficial guide to the ways of the galaxy.

In this guide space is described as big. Really big. You just won't believe how vastly hugely mindbogglingly big it is. I mean you may think it's a long way down the road to the chemist, but that's just peanuts to space. Listen, and so on.

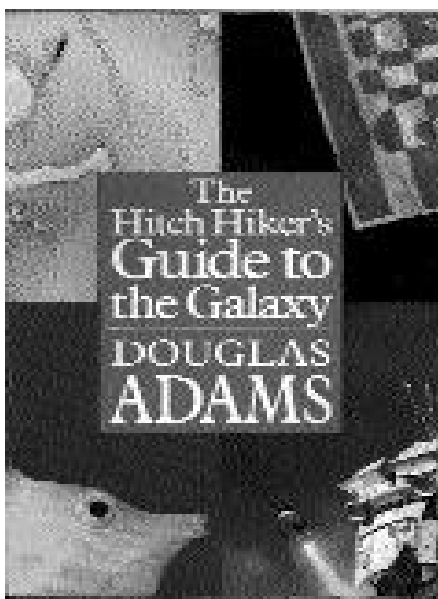
Then we learn about the book that after a while the style settles down a bit and it begins to tell you things you really need to know, like the fact that the fabulously beautiful *Bethselamin* is now so worried about the cumulative erosion of ten billion visiting tourists a year, that any net imbalance between the amount you eat and the amount you excrete whilst on the planet is surgically removed from your bodyweight when

you leave: so every time you go to the lavatory there it is vitally important to get a receipt. Most of the humour is in these little asides. They don't get in the way of the story but they add to the overall entertainment.

Once Arthur finds his bearings, he and Ford are flung out of the spaceship to be rescued seconds later by a craft containing the fugitive Emperor of the Galaxy, a depressed robot called *Marvin*, and *Tricia*, a girl he met at a party in *Islington* only six months previously. See, the craft they are travelling on is powered by the *Infinite Improbability Drive*, so lots of unlikely coincidences take place on board.

On their subsequent travels, the characters discover who created the earth and why: it was a bunch of mice apparently, and they are sure not happy about the earth's destruction. You might never think of these furry little creatures the same way again.

Thumbs up for the *Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Read it if you fancy a laugh.



The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

This is just one of the books that you can borrow free, gratis, and for nothing from the fabulous popular fiction section in the library.

BE THERE!

**JEAN MONNET THEATRE, WEDNESDAY WEEK 11, 8PM
TICKETS £5, NEW STUDENT CENTER**

The Frames

Jubilee Allstars

David Kitt

Dave Cleary

'The Stars Are Underground' (Film)

Irish Tour December 1999

the frames have a bit of a reputation down these parts. after their amazing student center gigs, and then their storming rag week gig, they've chosen our very own college to kick off their new and very different tour. Here's the spiel.....

The Frames are accompanied by Jubilee Allstars, David Kitt and Dave Cleary as they hit the highways and byways of Ireland for an 11 date tour in December. The multi-media shows include a showing of Darragh McCarthy's infamous film about the Irish independent music scene, 'The Stars Are Underground'.

To coincide with the tour, a limited edition EP will be available at the gigs ONLY (featuring The

Frames, Jubilee Allstars, David Kitt, Barry McCormack & Friends, and Dave Cleary, and also including the brand new video for The Frames track "Star, Star").

The dates are as follows:

- Wed 8 Limerick UL
- Wed 15 Issac Butt, Dublin
- Thurs 16 The Metro, Cork
- Fri 17 The Lobby, Cork
- Sat 18 Connellys of Leap, Cork
- Sun 19 Scotts Hotel, Killarney
- Tues 21 Garter Lane, Waterford
- Wed 22 The Point, Dublin w/David Gray (The Frames only)
- Mon 27 The Empire, Belfast
- Tues 28 Cleeres Hotel, Kilkenny
- Wed 29 Townhall Theatre, Galway

"What we are trying to do is to do a tour that is more than just a plain ol band doing a gig..... we want to do something different for a change."

Glen Hansard

The Frames released their third and most acclaimed album Dance The Devil.. in June of this year. Dance The Devil... Of course, it's taken Glen Hansard and co. a while to get here, from the Nick Drake-meets-The-Pixies joyous noise of their 1992 debut Another Love Song, through the almost Zeppelin-esque plains of Fitzcarraldo three years later, to the I Am The Magic Hand EP of a few months ago but at last, this is The Frames at their most evolved harnessing the acclaimed kinetic energy of their live shows and converting it into recorded sound. The



it's in the expression

Frames continue to sell out pretty much every gig they play in Ireland.

Jubilee Allstars feature the collective talents of Dublin's McCormack brothers (Niall, Barry and Fergus) together with childhood friend Lee Casey. From their formation as Jubilee (the "Allstars" was added after it was realised that a UK band had got to the name first) the band began crafting tortured musical tales of love and longing tempered with equal measures of humour and cynicism. They release their first new material for 2 years in December when they release a new split single, "Lamplight", (with Dot Creek) on the Road Relish label.

David Kitt's music brings Belle & Sebastian and Nick Drake straight to the fore of your mind with his electronica-tinged folk-pop. Or, as Melody Maker put it: "The Boy Wonder with the sweet-as-Nick Drake lilt and the bonny beat-box-flavoured folk lullabies".

Dave Cleary is one of Dublin's most highly tipped, eclectic club DJs spinning a broad spread of tunes ranging from the latest in fucked up hip hop and weird-beard beatology to Will Oldham and My Bloody Valentine.

Competition

win two tickets for
Wednesdays gig

"What was the name of the
Frames first album?"

e-mail dave on ceo@ulsu.iol.ie



You Had To Be There.

Last week was welfare week, and as always, when your worried about someone-s welfare, you straight away think of bringing down three of Ireland' top comedians

It was all Tomas Finneran could do to stay sitting upright.



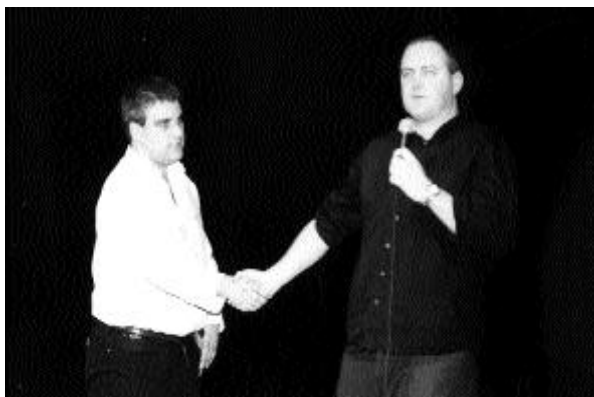
dara 'the lunge' o'briain

“Nothing cures the pangs of pain or the strains of stress like a good laugh.”

Last week was Welfare Week, and this age-old remedy was prescribed with astounding results. Welfare week presented every stressed student with two hours of top quality amusement to take his or her worried little minds away on a journey through the weird and often wonderful world that is comedy.

Free admission put tickets at a premium. At 6 o'clock a queue outside the SU office illustrated this. Many who arrived expecting the final batch to become available at half six were astonished when they discovered that tickets had to be given away earlier due to the enormous demand.

By half eight, everything was in place as we were escorted to our seats. It was amazing to see a concert hall with every seat occupied. One thing was certain. This wasn't any Monday morning micro-economics lecture, this was an occurrence that would see such comic genius as award winning David O'Doherty, the



you can call me 'garvs'!!!! c'mon man!

distinguished Paddy Courtney and of course the Gondola himself, Dara O'Briain enthral and amuse the six corners of the Concert Hall.

Our MC for the evening was Paddy Courtney. It wasn't Paddy's first time to UL and this fact was exploited early in the evening. As Paddy enthusiastically entered into the core of a gag about the cliché "Ulster says no!" he was immediately condemned by a brave but unfortunate heckler who shouted down "Heard it before..." and continued to finish the joke. Paddy was a little dismayed but, like any comedian worth his salt he had an encyclopedia of material to retaliate with when he discovered the confident rebel was a wood-science student. References to everything from chopping down trees to how to sow a seed were directed to Courtney's right hand side. Nevertheless, Paddy's gags were already tested here a few months ago and perhaps this kind of response could have been anticipated.

Without any further interruptions Paddy introduced us to the winner of "So You Think You're Funny" at Edinburgh this year, David O'Doherty. Dressed in casual jeans and carrying a modest keyboard, the audience was presented with a style that was both relaxed and down to earth. David was the type of comedian that you couldn't heckle, he'd apologize for any substandard material and quickly change subject to return another chuckle. It was this approach that made his whole performance likable and different.

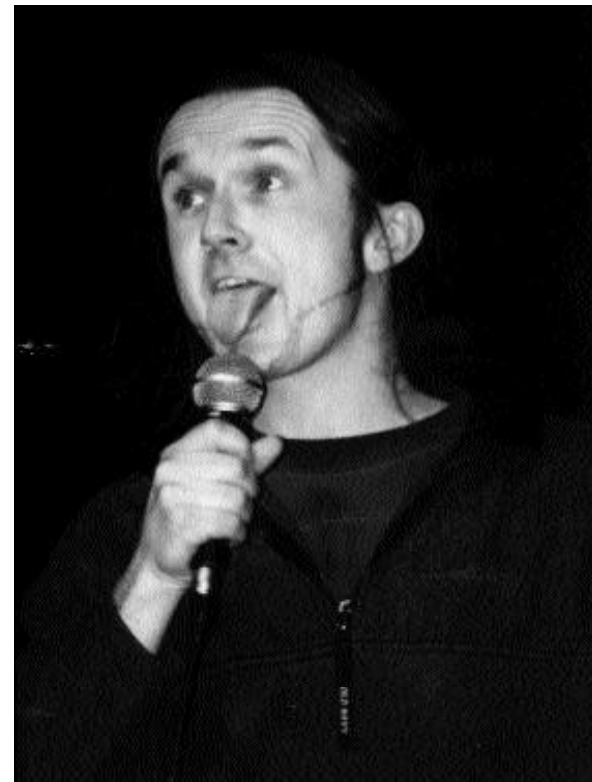
Firstly, David informed us that he lived with four Paraguay mid-fielders, the Village People and David Copperfield as a child. Gathering on the wealth of knowledge and wisdom that this domestic experience must have given him, David explained how he had the solution to TnaG's problems. Taking his keyboard to one side and to a humble tune he sang about spicing up boring old Films "as gaeilge" by adding more porn to our TV screens, in Irish of course. We await these hopeful developments.

But David's real charm was the unrehearsed spontaneous bits that you'd never expect. One well-known, blonde, French camera lady was suddenly forced up on stage and subsequently swapped roles as O'Doherty adopted the stance of a photographer. David tells us the photograph will be available soon on the internet as a result of the tremendous demand for copies after the show...obviously art students.

To conclude what was certainly an unusual but highly entertaining act, David revisited some of the special moments of the show. It's amazing what you'd see the second time around, such as David's trousers falling down to reveal his gentle green boxers.

After a short interval, during which an unassuming portable bar was stormed, the audience was quick to return in anticipation of Dara O'Brian. Dressed all in black Dara arrived on stage and introduced himself to all those who weren't accustomed with the wonderful world of telly, as the man in RTE's satirical programme "Echo Island".

Dara spoke to the audience in conversational style. He told us firstly about his impression of Limerick. O'Briain christened the Kilmurry Lodge as the most easily defended hotel in the world and noticed that we "were building like f*** here" in UL.



paddy 'the lick' courtney

Succeeding this, Dara introduced himself to "Maureen", the now infamous French photographer. Dara explained how he is very much a European and told us about his experience in Spain where he tried to order a meal in McDonnell's, only to say to the assistant as he read from the poster: "Why not try our lunch-time meals".

We progressed in some logical way (I think) to the tragic tornadoes that swept across Florida recently. However, Dara now believes the first "two little piggies" built Florida after watching houses being demolished by the winds.

Again, like any good conversationalists, we drifted away on more tangents than your average circle possesses, to subjects such as the lack of Jews in Cork, Y2K and on to the funny side of "the Exorcist". Each topic was given the unique and extremely amusing Dara O'Briain angle. (Angles, tangents...okay!) He continued to tell us about a boy he bullied whilst in school, using the innocent youth as a blackboard duster. Naturally, Dara was highlighting the evils of his old ways as part of the welfare week programme.

To conclude Dara exposed the trade secrets of every language student's past (and present maybe). He recalled the French exam and the recurrent letter that always mentioned meeting some unsuspecting French family at a train station within hours. The Gondola felt all this writing was a waste and that perhaps we could locate some French addresses in a phone book and begin to actually send them! As if this wasn't funny enough Dara continued to dictate the typical French essay in pseudo-French style.

As the clocked moved past half ten, the cocky O'Briain thanked the still giggling audience and left the stage. Paddy returned to conclude but found the height of the microphone a little too high. It didn't matter. The congregation gave a rousing applause for what was the best value for money gig this year.

What Lavelle Sir?

If you weren't in the Gallery last Wednesday night, then you missed one of the gigs of the year. James Lavelle stormed the crowd. *Tomas Finneran* was there to dance, and report back, in that order

Sometimes you have to dance. "It's a spiritual thing, and body thing and soul thing" as one DJ so impeccably generalised last year. When you enter a Vivid night to the sounds of Skinny Boy Jazz and await the arrival of James Lavelle, it's one of those times.

By midnight on the Wednesday of week nine things were really heating up. Local talent Skinny was sounding superb and thankfully a very healthy gathering ensured an unbeatable event. Skinny Boy entertained admirably with attractive mixes, which included some interesting eastern style sounds and cool bass.

But by twenty past the hour everything was just sweet. Ent's crew were in position, dancers were in position and James Levelle was in position. James is not your average hyped DJ whose English accent and stretch limo are all part of the act. James has proven himself time and time again. He founded the "Hipper-than-tomorrow" dance music label at the age when most of us were still worrying about getting in to the local kennel we thought was a "Night-club". James also owns his own modest line of clothes and his own production company. He stood before us looking down on his decks like an artist looking over his paints. He was going to paint us a masterpiece- you could feel it.

The array of sounds produced by the son of a

jazz drummer is difficult to articulate. With an unruffled mixing approach James crossed decades with influences, samples and tracks. Arrested Development's Everyday People could be heard early in the night but it was given a whole fresh presentation by the MO'Wax maestro. Acid jazz and trip-hop sounds were present from James' Mo'Wax label but the mass appeal of the familiar is an integrate part of the Levelle machine. We progressed to "Pump up the volume" and on to the cooler more composed "Another one bites the dust". With such pleasant mixing and such an array of musical directions, the dance floor was invaded, captured an established.

As the technology that sits below the Ent's crew's platform pumped out a raspberry flavoured nebula and James responded with the melody of the Exorcist, an eerie ambience was fabricated and the night moved to the final level of Levelle. The echoes of the church piano and the hellish packed dance floor were something special all right. People danced everywhere as they finally discovered what was meant by "music that triggers some kind of physical response"

Then it happened. One of the most unexpected but brilliant finishes to a night in years. James launched into the whine and spin of "Smack my bitch up" to the excitement of everyone. You felt this was the great finish to a top night, but there was more.



a bit of a genius

Basement Jaxx followed in worthy fashion and then, in a unique manner James destroyed the Bose behind me with "Smells like Teen Spirit". Words like ecstasy, exultation, satisfaction and bliss could only try to kneel beside the experience of the actual fantastic finale. People refused to leave the floor but stood in admiration, clapping and honouring the craftsman.

I had to meet the man and did. He was nothing like the six foot seven giant that his creations would have you believe. I immediately asked him to explain what it was he did out there on the dance floor: the finish, the response from the crowd. Dressed in a tee shirt and shades and in a confident yet decent manner, he admitted the night was special. "I just play whatever I feel" he explained. "Well then, explain your music in one sentence?" I asked. Smiling to himself as he searched for an answer. He eventually responded: "Confused!".

James Brown Tribute @ Dolan's

Mr. Dynamite meets his match

Entering to the Latin and Jazz influenced "Night Train"; Marcus Valentine appeared on stage. As he walked up to the microphone he turned quickly and moved his hands from side to side. And so Marcus became James Brown.



link starts the party

ULphoto soc

'Soultrade' are the best James Browne tribute band around. Consisting of two guitarists, a confident jazz drummer as well as two saxophonists and combined with the active Mr. Valentine, this show becomes an exhibition as well as a journey back in time. Dolan's warehouse once again played host and Soultrade did the rest.

Dave O'Donovan

provided the pre-show entertainment with a DJ link that gave us the very best in soul, hip-hop and laid back beats. A modest gathering meant the night was more special and personal than the often-crammed venue.

As the final cords of 'Nighttrain' concluded, the band moved through the best, be it familiar or otherwise, of the living legend that is James Browne. 'Papa's Got a Brand New Bag' was Browne's commercial breakthrough in 1965 and it was also a breakthrough in Dolan's as the audience began to party. Valentine could be heard shouting out "hit me" and other indistinguishable comments in true Browne fashion. He would turn and sing on his knees on occasions as he and his band recreated the passionate performance. James Browne was famous for his stamina and split second timing and it takes something special to recreate it.

The night progressed with all the hits including 'It's a Man's Man's World'. The sax solo here was astounding as Tenor switched to Alto. 'Soul Power' was powerful and the collected 'Try Me' was riveting



you can't fight the feeling

courtesy of ULphoto soc.

with its bass line.

Marcus never forgot his audience and had everyone responding categorically singing "yeah!" and "Hit Me!" It was clear that the collaboration between band and vocalist was brilliant. Unlike Brown, who had well publicised tribulation with his band, Marcus and Soultrade were a smooth and finely polished unit.

It's difficult to summarise the feeling you get from such "gospel impassioned fury and complex poly rhythms", but you could sense the passion and depth of feeling from Soultrade which is not usually a characteristic of a tribute band.

Certainly, Soultrade have played a distinguished part in the wide ranging bands that we have seen in Dolan's this year. I think it's fair to say Marcus could be christened "Soul Brother Number Two".

And The Comedy Train Roles In.....

to the Jean Monnet on Tuesday the 14th of December

The Carrolls Comedy tour is back in town. Get ready for a great night of comedy and here's a little snippet of what you can expect.

John Henderson



John Henderson wasn't bullied at school. He isn't short or fat and never really lacked self-confidence. He doesn't wear an anorak and he doesn't know the parrot sketch off by heart. Despite all this he has been performing stand up comedy for nearly five years.

John is a native of Dublin and having cut his comedy teeth there he has played everywhere from theatres to toilets the length and indeed a lot of the breadth of Ireland. He has recently taken his Irish brand of humour, or 'kebab free comedy', as he likes to call it, to the UK and has performed extensively there.

John was just one of the Irish comics who took Edinburgh by storm in 1996, taking third place in Ch.4's 'So You Think You're Funny?' competition. He returned in '97 for a sell out run as one third of the hugely successful show 'Young Gifted & Green' and again in '98 staging another sell out show. This time the highly acclaimed two hander 'Full Irish Breakfast.'

John's TV appearances include RTE's groundbreaking sketch show 'Couched', BBC's 'Comedy Nation', ITV's 'Big Talent Show' and Ch.4's 'Comedy Lab' and 'Father Ted'. He has also acted as warm-up man for a variety of RTE shows thus achieving his lifetime ambition of making a middle aged man from Leitrim laugh! He completed writing and recording a half-hour special for BBC Radio 4 ('Sketches that make Monty Python look like Bernard Manning'. - The Irish Times that was broadcast on New Years Eve. On the film front John has drawn on his uncanny ability of doing things arse about face by following up his first feature film, 'Separation Anxiety', with his first short film, 'Swag'.

John's live performances are too numerous to mention. Suffice to say if it has a stage and a microphone he's probably played there and if it doesn't, he's probably been asked to play there anyway by some dodgy promoter who heard that 'the comedy was popular'. He is a regular at all of Ireland's top festivals, Kilkenny, Kinsale, Killarney. All the K's in fact. Next stop Knock, probably.

People have said many things about John and some have even gone to press. Hot Press say 'ingenious' and 'hilarious'.

Henderson delivered brilliant socially aware material that was clever in it's construction and subtly subversive in it's content'. (Some people take it all a bit seriously don't they?) In Dublin Magazine describe him as 'wonderful' adding 'Henderson had the audience eating out of his hand'. The Irish Times reckon he 'represents the future of Irish comedy'. The Sunday Times insists he's 'a revelation, very funny and a guaranteed crowd pleaser'. 'Very funny rapid-fire anecdotes. Top stuff' says The List. In 1997 The Edinburgh Evening News said 'Sharp, fresh and exiting. Buy the ticket I've seen the future'. In '98 they confirmed their prediction by describing his show as 'Comedy at it's best', which was nice. The Scotsman called him 'A truly gifted and skilful comedian with great comic timing' adding 'His faint air of the Irish entrepreneur clinching the deal adds to his iconoclastic charm'. I've no idea what it means either but it's my personal favourite.

John Henderson has never attempted to keep three balls in the air at any one time.

Brendan Burke



Brendan Burke is an actor / comedian who has been working the Irish comedy circuit since 1991 his last gig in UL was a great success when he supported Patrick Kielty last December. He has a proven track record of hooking in all types of audiences and has appeared at a variety of corporate and charity functions, often performing as the "Grand Masters of Comedy" with his partner Gerry Lavelle.

"A roller-coaster of comedy" - Tommy Tiernan (1998 Perrier winner) His true-life stories, accompanied with superb character touches, make his shows appealing, exciting and downright hilarious.

"His bouncer-barman routine is still one of the funniest comic sketches I've ever seen" - Hot Press Magazine

He has performed at all the major Irish festivals and played to packed houses in clubs all over Ireland and the UK, as well as in Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx. His US gigs were so successful that he has already received an invitation to return.

"Go see this guy." - New York Irish Echo

More recently, Brendan debuted at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival hosting the sell-out show, "Best of Irish", at The Stand Comedy Club. Not only known as one of Ireland's "best", he was also considered as the "Cream of Irish" performing to more sold out crowds at the Gilded Balloon. He also had the opportunity to perform to an audience of ten million when he played live across the Internet on the "Festival Revue".

"Burke had more than enough up his sleeve. His bouncer barman routine is part Travolta, part Gorilla and part pure Genius." - The Scotsman

Television credits include "The Empire Laughs Back" (BBC), the "Late Late Show" (RTE) and the "The Father Ted Christmas Special" (Ch.4). His numerous radio guest spots include "The Brendan Burke Experience" on the Murray Mackay show for Ireland's Today FM.

"Great show by a natural born wit" - Irish Independent

David O'Doherty

Winner 1999 Channel 4 'So You Think you are Funny?' Award He recently played the Welfare Week Gig and now he's back again. It has been an extraordinary year for the former East Leinster under 14's triple-jump bronze medallist. Best New Stand Up at The 1998 Comedy Cellar Awards in Dublin, runner up in the televised final of the 1999 BBC New Comedy Awards, and victory in what is generally regarded as the most prestigious newcomers competition of all, Channel 4's 'So You Think You are Funny?' at the 1999 Edinburgh Festival. O'Doherty joins an illustrious list of former winners that includes Phil Kay, Dylan Moran and Tommy Tiernan. Born in 1975, his early work was characterised by it's mediocrity, although teachers pointed to some promise in punctuality (satisfactory) and spelling (in Irish). The eighties were a lean decade work-wise, the only real highlight being a letter printed in The Irish Times in 1982 about how dangerous it is to cycle with no lights.

While at university, O'Doherty was a founding member of the Trinity College Breakdance Posse, and did some work on Barry Murphy's "The End" (RTE Television 1995/96). Since that time he has worked widely in jobs as varied as a mobile floor cleaner in a sausage cannery (Germany, Summer 1995) to an unintentionally frightening Santa Claus (Dublin, Christmas 1997). More recently O'Doherty has appeared

on the RTE comedy series "Couched", and has completed a short film for @Last TV based on the life of Paddy Irishman. He will appear in the forthcoming series of "Virgin Laughs" on the BBC's UK Play.

2000 sees the launch of O'Doherty's first book for Children, "Ronan Long Gets it Wrong" (Egmont Books) and he is featured in the forthcoming anthology of new writing from Ireland "Flame Angels" along with Dermot Bolger and John McGahern.

His stand-up material covers such diverse topics as yodelling, flamingos and how you should get 10% more money for going on Winning Streak and talking in Irish. He's also a pretty mean keyboard player! His ambition remains to get a letter in the Life's Like That section of The Reader's Digest.

"A new Irish hero. a gifted act with highly incisive and fresh material." - The Irish Times

"His time is now." - Hot Press

Michael Mee



Michael Mee is from Cork, Ireland. He is a qualified solicitor and believe it or not lectured for four years in law here at the University of Limerick. He began performing stand-up comedy in the summer of 1997 when he reached the final of the 'Kenny Live Irish Comedy Awards'. He now performs regularly at all the major clubs in Ireland, and in 1998 played numerous festivals including Murphy's Ungagged, The Galway Arts Festival, and a full run at the Edinburgh Fringe in the best of Irish show "Just For The Craic".

"Michael Mee's keen eye for the absurd and his ultra-relaxed manner made him the high point of the show" - The List
"a revelation. the brightest Irish comedy talent of recent times" - The Sunday Times

Michael is also an accomplished writer. He was runner-up in short story competitions at both the Westport Arts festival and the Kilkenny Arts Festival and has been included in the prestigious anthology "Phoenix Irish Short Stories 1998".

Michael has performed monologues on RTE and the BBC World Service and recently completed a novel for which he is seeking a publisher.
"Brilliant comic timing. hysterical. Go see." - Hot Press



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.

Rhona McGee a big hit at the Music + Radio Society Acoustic Competition

The UL Music Society and UL Radio Society in conjunction with The Stables and Heineken held it's annual acoustic competition in the Stables on Monday night of week 9.

The competition was open to all singer/songwriters and groups on campus and has over the last two years proved immensely popular. Each entrant was required to perform one original song and one cover and the final decision rested on the talented judges of Dee Dee Hosty, Pat McCarthy, Juliet McCarthy (no relation!) and Michael Hourigan.

As in previous years the standard of songwriting in UL is very high and this has become apparent at the weekly Heineken Live Wired "open-mic" night held every Monday in The Stables by the UL Radio and Music Societies.

Highlights of the night included Sweet Teeth, led by the great vocals of Tracy Culloty (including a wacky Madness cover), Kieran McSharry performing Amigo (from the ULSU Unplugged CD), Mick Phelan's blues instrumental, the...ahem...rousing version of It's the End of the World as we Know it and Dave O'Donovan's "State of Mind" also from the ULSU Unplugged CD, among others. Other contestants included Brendan Gregory (one to watch for the future), Karl Costello and Doug Sadleir (of The Undecided), Dave Skelton and Peter Kelly (BIG David Gray fans!), Revelade (obviously fans of The Frames..(not!)), Roy Barry (talented), Smiling Politely (another ULSU Unplugged act), Dave Whelton (another one to watch) and Donal Gibson (check him out on the ULSU Unplugged CD).

However Rhonda McGee's stunning vocals on a TLC cover was followed by an intriguing original song. With no guitar accompaniment, the solely vocals song held everyone in awe and was truly fantastic. When the judges announced her as the winner, in true "Eurovision" style, she performed the chirpy song again and had everyone in the crowd clicking their fingers to the up-tempo beat.

Many thanks to Dave O'Donovan for a wonderful display as the master of ceremonies (and let's hope that Glen Hansard doesn't sue for that version of Revelate at the end of the night!). Ah well, at least we can hear Glen and co. in The Jean Monnet lecture theatre on December 8th! Also many thanks to Mike Knightson at Heineken and The Stables for continuing to support the acoustic nights.



Rhona McGee charms the crowd
ULPhoto Soc

If you want to hear any of these artists or even sing a couple of songs, come down to The Stables every Monday night for Heineken Live Wired from 10pm until closing time.

U.L. Students In Prison :

.....Well, foronly two hours, when members of the Law Soc. received a guided tour of Limerick Prison on Thurs. of Week 8.

For all of us, it was an eye-opening lesson on an institution which we frequently pass on our way to and from Limerick city. Yet the large, grey fortress-like building reveals little about the happenings inside...Limerick Prison accommodates 220 male prisoners and 15 female prisoners approx., predominantly from Counties Limerick, Clare, Tipperary and Waterford, as well as transferees from other over-crowded Irish prisons. The inmates are sentenced for crimes ranging from not paying one's TV license (no, it's not just an empty threat!) to committing murder, and Limerick Prison, like other prisons has to try and rehabilitate the inmates - a very difficult task, especially for those who have shorter sentences.

There is a drug problem in the prison, as prisoners will go to any extent to smuggle

in drugs, the penalty for which, when caught, is one month solitary confinement. Doctors cannot inform the prison authorities if a prisoner is HIV+, due to patient-doctor confidentiality. This can unfortunately be to a prison warden's detriment and we were told of one incident when a warden contracted HIVafter been bitten by a prisoner. The warden did not discover that he had the disease until 6 yrs. later - a daily risk most prison wardens have to take.

We took the route of a new inmate and also saw the visiting-rooms, the workshops, recreation area and the cells. Prisoners spend most of their time in these cells and have their own TV and radio, both of which have helped bring down the suicide rate.

The Law Soc. was delighted with the success of the trip and is very thankful to the prison wardens and to Governor Walsh for the tour and for answering all our questions. We are hoping to turn this trip into an annual event, so, if you didn't make it this year, don't miss out again!!

New HQ For Clubs And Socs Office

Just a quicke about that fact that if you're looking for the gorgeous P.Lee, you'll now find him and all his c+s babies on the second floor

of the new student center.

To say goodbye to the old place, the c+s oldies took a slab down there, and toasted all the work



that was almost done there.



Pat McCarthy, Muiris O'Sullivan, Paul Lee + Garvan Barry saying goodbye

Enviro Soc Ask..... Progress or Poison?

The food fair was a classic. Luckily for all the hungry people we were late bringing out our "loaves and fishes".

Anyone who had missed out on the "international food" could fill himself or herself with our good healthy wholesome organic vegetable soup. Originally

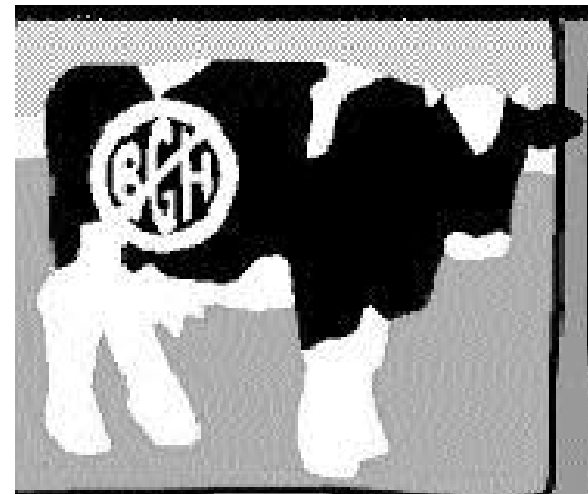


the reason for our controversial presence at the food fair was to highlight to all that there is an alternative to processed food, especially processed food which contains genetically modified ingredients or derivatives.

But, regardless of that issue, thoroughly enjoyed the food fair and would be more than happy to participate again. Thanks for having us. More food for the food eaters!

On the genetic engineering issue we encourage everyone to not accept the word of the governments and companies who are promoting this technology as gospel. Undoubtedly there will be benefits from this technology in a broad spectrum of areas but these aforementioned groups have vested interests in us having blind acceptance of the technology. In the food sector there has not been adequate testing done to ensure the safety of the GM food for humans. There is no labelling of processed foods to say if they contain GM ingredients or derivatives. Why not? If processed food must be labelled with calorie content and vitamin content, then why not GMO content. If the stuff is safe what could be possibly wrong with labelling.

* A recent alignment of GE companies (who incidentally call Genetic Engineering a "life Science") to lobby US congress against labelling legislation is



calling themselves the "Alliance for Better Foods". Hopefully the use of the word better will be as transparent as General Pinochet saying "What victim's".

What we would encourage people to do is to do their own lobbying in this country. Of particular concern should be foods that contain soya, maize or any of their derivatives such as cornstarch or lecithin. Away from the processed food an area that could concern farmers is milk from cattle that have been treated with recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH). This is an American approved hormone which tricks cow's into producing more milk. The EU has so far banned its import into Europe. The World Trade Organisation's conference which started in Seattle on the 30th November will determine if this rule is kept in place.

There's Naught Like Folk Groups

What's the Spanish Point of it all anyway?

I mean, if James Dean hadn't lent his coat to the jester, what influence would that have had on the economic situation of Russia – and would this have an effect on the price of teddy bears in China? Would the Golden Vale mart group have a major influence on Billy Joel? Would this result in the whole population of north east Fermanagh jumping up simultaneously in surprise, causing a tidal wave to travel down the Shannon at the speed of sound; knocking any unfortunate fish in the aforementioned river off their bicycles and thus placing them on the last train for the coast (of Limerick). Probably not! In any case, it's unlikely that anyone cares. It's all madness.

The Cliffs of Moher probably would nevertheless be windy during a storm. Pubs in Spanish Point might still allow singing at 'nine o'clock' on a Saturday and the irregular crowd might still shuffle in. In keeping with the rugby world cup thing i.e. a version of 'swing low, sweet chariot' might still be looked at through a concave mirror from space, while under the influence of Jagermeister, hot whiskey, petrol, paint stripper and whatever else the French rugby team took before facing the

HaHaHacka. The more Jamaican among us would proceed to tear into a reggae version of 'One', followed by a stinking rendition of 'I smell it on my fingers, I smell it on your toes'. The Austrian yodeling song –swisch, swisch, vable, vable, ruff, ruff – would still create an impression. Songs would be cut through like a cold knife through reinforced titanium.

People would still wake up to the literary skills of Nika Hackinin. However, even then there's a point at which the madness must stop and the idea of peeping through the kitchen window is taking things a bit too far.

If you don't know 'what the dirty duck' I'm talking about, well neither do I. However, comprehensive, concise and meaningless answers will be given on Thursday at 8p.m. in the Hostel near the church. Travel to that location, should be by nuclear powered rollerblades only. Modest F1 drivers from Northern Ireland, Santa Claus and Elvis like characters are especially welcome.

By Thomas Flanagan

(even though I think he wanted to remain nameless.)



the folkies giving it loads

History Society's Birthday Party Supports East Timor

The History Society celebrated its second birthday party in style in Limerick city on Tuesday of Week 8.

Society members met in the Stables, and from there moved into the Old Stand before the party's climax in Costello's.

There we were joined by other UL students attending the PSA event organised to support East Timor. History Society party goers enjoyed much beer and a really historical

birthday cake (depicting the face of Bart Simpson).

Deep into the night there were inebriated discussions on affairs of state and other high-brow matters. This was accompanied by "melodious" singing and joyous revelry.

And just in case you were in the Old Stand that night - I'm kidding when I say "melodious".

UL Ladies Footballers Win Freshers Plate

The 'BREQ White Beer' sponsored U.L. Ladies Gaelic Football Freshers Teams decamped to St Pats Drumcondra on Saturday 20th November for the annual Higher Education freshers seven-a-side blitz.

The A team comprised Clíodhna Ní Cheallachain, Kathleen Foley, Góbnait Ní Laoi, Frances Walsh, Linda O'Loughlin, Fiona Farrell, Suzanne Wall, Neasa O'Halloran and Ciara Clerkin while on the B team were Noreen Walsh, Soibhán Ní Cheidigh, Marion Fallon, Deirdre Mc Carthy, Nichola Culleton, Catriona Fitzgerald, Eimear Kelly, Catherine Deegan, Tara Scully and Gillian Collins. The girls had been training hard for the previous eight weeks under the tutelage of the ever dedicated Cian O'Neill and were more than prepared for the task ahead, competition was fierce on the day with a total of 24 teams entered and both teams had a lot of work to do if they were to get out of their first round groups.

The B team were first into the fray with a good win over Maynooth but were unlucky to lose out to Queens and Colaiste Ide and so the competitive aspect to their day came to a premature conclusion, however the girls must be commended for the sterling performances put in by everybody who gave their all against some very strong teams. Meanwhile at the other end of the park high drama was developing with the A team, they had beaten UU Coleraine comprehensively but lost to UCG on a very narrow score line which meant that they had to seal victory over UCD in order to go into a playoff for a cup placing. This they duly did and in style, with a brace of goals from Fiona "Cud"

Farrell, Suzanne Wall, Linda O'Loughlin and Neasa O'Halloran (who scored a total of 17 points in that game) the girls thought they were in for another crack of the whip with UCG, this did not transpire as UUC went on to beat UCG which meant the three teams were tied and a penalty shoot-out ensued. Blood pressure was now rising steadily in the UL camp and all were bitterly disappointed when UCG emerged from the shoot out with a cup semi-final place leaving us to tackle for the plate.

The UL girls did not allow this setback to dampen their mood and came out against St. Pats in the Plate Semi final with all guns blazing, a low scoring encounter followed, due in no small part to the stout defending of Góbnait Ní Laoi and Kathleen Foley, UL had the majority of the possession in this game which was not reflected in the half time score line due to some fantastic saves pulled off by the St Pats goalie. A full offensive was launched on the opposition goal in the second half and the girls were well rewarded when a Suzanne Wall pass to Linda O'Loughlin was buried and UL were into a final pairing with WIT.

From the start UL stamped their authority on this game, after 2mins a Suzanne Wall shot was deflected off the WIT goalkeeper into the waiting arms of "Cud" who registered the first goal of the game. WIT replied in the 4th min with a point but found it increasingly hard to catch UL after a Frances Walsh goal in the 5th min and another Fiona Farrell goal that was converted after a Kathleen Foley free kick in the 7th min.

The half time whistle did not see complacency set in on the UL front and all seven were fully alert

when the initial attack came from a well put together WIT manoeuvre culminating in a cracking shot on goal which was expertly deflected over the bar by UL goalie Clíodhna Ní Cheallachain, UL quickly counter attacked with a point from Suzanne Wall and goals from Ciara Clerkin and Frances Walsh. At this stage WIT could not hope to make up the deficit and on the final whistle the UL girls had more than exorcised the ghost of losing out on a cup semi placing in such an unlucky fashion.

The celebrations were greatly enhanced by a keg of BREQ WHITE BEER kindly supplied by our sponsors Guinness - thank you to Darragh Duggan; needless to say all the freshers were on their best behaviour on the Lodge on Sunday night - especially Cud and Nichola!

The club would like to say thanks to their coach Cian O'Neill for all the effort put in so far this year and to mentors Sinead, Caroline and Majella for travelling with and looking after the poor innocent freshers (they obviously lost their touch on Sun night). Also to the girls who put in many training hours in preparation for this tournament, well done to both teams, remember the season is only starting and there are plenty places up for grabs on the Intermediate and Senior panels so don't disappear on us now!

Other results

UL(Div 2) 1-3 ; UCC 0 - 12
(played on Tues 23rd)

UL (Div 1) 1-9 ; CIT 4 - 12
(played Thurs 25th)

Next game: Munster Higher Education League - UL v Garda College

Wednesday week 10 in UL at 2.30 p.m. - all supporters welcome

Thanks to all who supported the club at our Lodge Disco last Wednesday night and once again to BREQ and Guinness for their sponsorship.

Another Great Win For UL Ladies Basketball

On Wednesday the 17th, UL ladies basketball team had another victory over WIT.

UL started slowly and were down 16 - 6 after about four minutes. UL then called a time out and from there on the intensity was lifted and UL caught WIT. UL lead at half time 40 - 25.

Into the second half, and UL played excellent defence holding WIT to a mere eight points, while UL had players like Grace Jordan, Marie Moriarty and Frances Shiely in excellent shooting form. UL ran out easy winners 73 - 33.

Best for UL Grace Jordan 20 pts, Frances Shiely 16 pts, and Marie Moriarty 14 pts.

TEAM : Grace Jordan, Frances Shiely, Marie Moriarty, Eimear Kyne (c), Nicola Farrell, Fiona Larkin, Elaine Murphy, Clíodhna Murphy, Margaret Daly and Michelle Hynes.

Coaches : John Glesson and Paul Whealan.

The UL mens basketball team chalked up another win in the ICBA league against Waterford, on Wednesday the 17th as well. Although they were lacking the services of coach Sheamus Woods and key players including Robert Lynch and John Gleeson.

The team started slowly, giving an in form Waterford side a sizable lead, but UL really stepped it up and fought back in the dying moments to tie the score at the end of regulation time. UL carried their new found momentum into extra time to record a really important victory with excellent performances from Cian O'Neill and Kevin O'Connor both scoring 18 pts. Shane Murphy also contributed well with 11 pts.

If this UL team continues to improve they may have what it takes to win the intervarsity this year in Dublin.

Next home game on Monday 29th v LITLadies @ 7:30pm Mens to follow.

Windsurfers Declared Masochists

Firstly, we would like to thank the most legendary bus driver of all time who allowed us avail of his intercom system all the way down to Kerry.

We adopted an unconventional (for formula 1) three-stop strategy on the 2 - hour journey to Castlegregory. Average times were 15 - seconds per stop but some competitors took on far too much fuel and some times went up to as many as 23 minutes. Eventually after all the delays we made it to Spillane's pub which is located in the middle of the flood that is Castlegregory. Some of the worst pool playing in history took place before we were booted out the door at 11pm sharp. Among the wasters present were Barry, Doug, Mary-Kate, Eddie, Marian, Derek, Paul and of course that stud Jon Harper.

Next day was brightened up by Alan Kavanagh's mums dress sense. It was seriously windy so only about ten percent of those present took on the gale. A dune-

surfing expedition led by the nutcase Paul Quigley kept the rest of us occupied.

Back to the cottage for a few light refreshments beside the fire with musical accompaniment. The God Iano arrived with his Sax and quote "are there any nice birds here" under his arm were twenty four bottles of Texaco's cheapest. On to

Spillane's where activities included

falling off bar stools, pool playing and spilling pint competitions. Back to the house for a bout of indoor wall climbing. Paul told the most brutal horror story ever. As more fuel was taken on board three

engines conked out. A total state of inebriation was declared. Eddie woke up in the boot of a Ford Escort, mafia style. Doug literally drank himself under the table and Austrian Erasmus student, "Declan" woke up in the bath. Gardai are still looking for information about the abduction of these people. Suspects include Paul, Ronan, Diarmaid, the sheep in the neighbouring field and, of course, that stud Jon Harper. We're barely alive but you'd have to be happy with that...



UL Get Off To Winning Ways In First Limerick County League Match.

In the first competitive Badminton of the year for the club, UL got off to the best possible start by coming home from Kilmallock with a 4-3 victory after 4 hours & 30 Min. of Badminton against Bulgaden-Martinstown.

This valuable victory on a freezing cold night was just the boost the club needed in its very first year playing competitive in club competition in Limerick City and County. The victory was made even sweeter because of the harsh seven-point handicap placed on the club by the county board. The handicap imposed meant that UL began every match at -5 and Bulgaden began at 2, with four players unable to play due to injury and teaching practice, we did not have much confidence of victory before the match.

However we received the perfect tonic with two victories in the first two singles matches. Andria Beazley played some brilliant singles play to overcome her opponent 5-11, 11-2 & 11-7. This was an

exceptional victory, as Andria needed to score 16 points against her opponents 9 for victory. Shane O'Sullivan also played very well to win his singles in two sets by 15-7 & 15-8.

However at this stage Bulgaden began their fight back, and went on to win the next three matches in a row to leave UL trailing 3-2 going into the last two mixed matches. Bulgaden won both doubles and first mixed with Mike O'Brien playing very well for Bulgaden. The UL team finally got going again when Eric Nelligan & Andria Beazley scored 11 points unanswered before finally losing 15-14 in the first of the mixed matches. Alan Nelligan & Mascha Hoeks made the score level by winning 15-12 & 15-8 in the second mixed. The final match also resulted in a UL victory with Shane O'Sullivan & Mary Brosnan winning 15-13 & 15-8. These last two victories were because it



the victorious UL badminton team

was the first time that both pairings ever played together due to the last minute with-drawls of Anne-Marie Reid and Karen Kennelly. The clubs next league match is set for Thursday the 2nd of December in the Sports hall all support welcome.

On more general news, the clubs standing in the college was also improved with the massive membership to date of over 150 players; this nearly doubles last years membership of 80. The club would like to inform members that it will be holding it's first inter-club competition for non-senior team players in the next few weeks.

UL Hurling Club Kick Off Their Season With A Couple Of Wins

Three of the four hurling teams in U.L were in action in week 6 with the seniors and intermediates having wins against C.I.T while the fresher's A were beaten by a better U.C.C team on the day.

U.L Intermediates 3-16 C.I.T Intermediates 3-4

On a dry, dull and overcast day the U.L team took to the field apprehensively as this was their first outing of the new campaign. Under the management of one Noel Madden who has been there and done that through previous years it was expected that U.L would win. The match started slow enough as the players got to know each other but once in their stride there was no stopping U.L.

With Moloney, Slattery and Salmon hurling like the famed Clare half back line and Stritch and Lomasnuie keeping midfield ticking over there was never any doubt that the forwards would get chances. Danny Sweeny set the ball in motion and by half time all the forwards had scored. The half time score was 3-09 to C.I.T 0-01. U.L had played with the aid of a strong breeze in the first half but with Madden having the management skills Eammon Cregan would be proud of a couple of tactical moves were made and although C.I.T did play better in the sec-

ond half there was too much of a mountain to climb and U.L dug deep to secure the victory. The final score ending 3-16 to 3-04. U.L played like a team and as a result won out easy winners but those too catch the eye were Danny Sweeny with a personal tally of 1-08 William Lomasnuie (U.L version of Mike Houlihan) Austin Salmon and Cathal Connolly. Keep an eye out for there manager something tells me we will be hearing a lot more about him in the future.

U.L seniors 0-17 C.I.T Seniors 1-11

Played after the intermediates the home team had the aid of the strong breeze in the first half and as a result went about building up a lead. With Eoin Fitzgerald and young O'Donoghue causing problems for the C.I.T backs we went into the lead and once in front were never behind in the match. Brian Geary was playing the game like he drinks beer a slow starter but once off the mark there was no keeping up with him. Beside him on the Half back line Colin Forde (better known as baby spice) was clearing everything. Mal Travers was keeping the midfield ticking over (although 11 Wexford boys on team of the decade I don't think so) U.L had things under control but had to face a stiff gale in the second half. C.I.T threw everything they had at our boys but when the pressure was put on our boys responded like the

Movin' To Those Latin Grooves With The UL Dance Club

Well how about some Ricky Martin???? Latin Lovin? Salsa Grooves?? The Dance Club's Latin American Dance classes have gotten off to a flying start this semester!

OK, maybe we were a tad late starting up, but we're in our stride now and the beat is hopping!! Once a week the unwary explorer in the sports building is astounded by the foot tapping grooves emanating from the dance studio!! It's like "Strictly

Ballroom" and "Dirty Dancing" all rolled into one with Ricky Martin doing the soundtrack(?)!!!

It's great really!! Numbers have been steadily growing since our first class three weeks ago, and the studio is practically full on Wednesday evenings. If the numbers get too large, priority will be given to members so you have been warned!! Join Up Now!!! (please!) And you might think that all we do is perfect our sexy moves for the Lodge on Thursday nights, but that's not all!!! Plans are

afoot (and that foot is tapping!) for a Latin night out in a Limerick city establishment in the near future, a dance workshop in association with another performance orientated society, and there may even be collaboration between ourselves and the Hispanic Society!! So come on down to the Dance Studio on Wednesday evenings between 5:15 and six o'clock. It's only 50p for the lesson (30p for members) and you don't need any dance experience, just a sense of fun!!!

men they are to pull off a great victory. Short a few regulars like Rory Gantley (rumour has it he is dating one of his students in Gort) and Fergal Healy (rumour has it he was in the hurlers drinking beer with Karl Quinn) and one or two other stars like Butler, Coogan and Brendan Ryan (scary spice to his friends).

Under the guidance of Kieran O'Loughlin Manager although there is a rumour that the intermediate manager had a lot to do with the seniors success.

Ger Cunningham had the boys as fit as the Knockainey hurling team. This could be the year we win the Fitzgibbon cup now that Karl Quinn has left the College and they have the right men in charge of the team.

The night after the match all the team headed for the stables where a lot of beer was drank by Monty and Fitz with a little help from one or two other who shall remain unnamed.

The freshers were beaten 1-14 to -09 points U.C.C.

UL The admirals take yet another Galway side.

by Michelle Daly

There were tears, fears and a whole lot more experienced by the misfortunate natives of Galway city on the weekend of the 19-21st of November last as the University of Limerick Softball team (known as the "Admirals" for reasons best kept to themselves) hit the city of the Tribes with a bang to play a mixed Galway side at NUI Galway.

we set off as we were to continue, in the lap of luxury. That is we were duly ensconced in probably Bus Eireann's least comfortable and unluxurious 52 seater bus.(The Admirals certainly didn't cut any corners with travel arrangements.....) There were only 13 travelling from UL with 3 more to join us later . In we squeez for the long trip, preparing our plan of action for the battle ahead. Club president John Ryan, and treasurer Gerry Guckian began by swearing the loyal compadres in threatening anyone with death if they were to disclose the secret strategy .

The PRO, Robert Hickey, started to liberally ply me with bribes in order to favourably flavour the account of this An Focal hack . The inbibing by the softball lotharios of generous quantities of a bottle of "Stroh", probably Holland's most poisonous export, led to an eventful trip up, especially when we hit the rumle lines outside Crusheen. The red carpet was already beginning to fray a little upon our arrival in Galway (though that may have been a "Stroh" induced hallucination).

After hitting our accomodation we didn't even get 10 mins to gilt and dazzle ourselves up before we hit the streets to try and surprise the enemy team, after pretty much cleaning Supermacs in Eyre Sq. out of food first that is. We had a mini pub crawl (or rampage would really be more accurate) before the night began in

earnest in Bar Cuba, with the cocktails flowing more than freely and we ended up in the 3rd floor Live Cuba expierence. Cover band "Tightrope" pandered to our varied demands (look Gerry, no one wants to play 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'...get a new party piece) and even supercomedian Tommy Tiernan made an appearance . After a good bit more drink (no strict regime for these athletes) we staggered back to the hostel . Well nearly, with warm memories of the cock-tails still in their minds Julie Moroney and Samiya Hussain wanted more "Sex on the Beach", but Mike Verzi, Niall Brosnan, John Egan and Will Daly all told them sternly that it was too cold at 3am to divert to Salthill. Jon Ryan, in hyperactive overdrive, decided to keep everyone awake until 6am (as poor Becky Rushe can testify). Some time later, as everyone slept, the fire alarm went off (mysteriously). Some wisely slept through the din (ok, so I didn't care if I was going to burn to death or not, I wasn't getting up). Others hastily grabbed their belongings and leapt from their beds. Some just watched the panic and laughed. After that we slept for the most part through the morning . Though Diehards Gerry and John did venture out to find some Balls (Fair play to yee lads...)_

We breakfasted quickly and led by Rob and myself, the gang trouped through the city to the Dangan pitch. Gerry and John having sucessfully located the balls they were looking for mikeyed out of the walk to take a taxi. We nearly did lose a few on our way to ravenous monsters and shoe shops (see the death notices) but when we arrived at the pitch, we could see the enemy shaking with fear (well almost).

The first match was a friendly, though trounce them we did. The second was also an easy win for the Admirals. I'm not much of a sports writer but you can imagine that with a result of 17/2 it was pretty one sided. Even if the traitourous, scum sucker Niall

Brosnan did go over to the other side for a while , we beat them still. (Sorry Niall, had to get that one in)

Afterwards, we wearily trudged (well actually I hopped even though I didn't play) to a nearby bar for grub and some fresh dry clothes (actually the clothes we supplied ourselves) and some drink ... (well more drink actually). Of course, Julie Behan mixed up the bus timetable so we all ended up an hour and a bit early for the next bus so what did we do ?

Yes off to another pub (well done Julie!!) Actually, re-reading this drivel, it doesn't do the great weekend had by all justice. The softball club are a great bunch of crazee guys and gals . We did some really funny, sad and probably illiegal stuff (not nessecarily in that order eh? Yvnone and Cora Ryan you know what I'm on about don't you

They are playing Cork on the 8th of December next. Go on, give them your support, I know Kieran Kenneally will appreciate all the support he can get...(mind that arm Kieran). I'll be there, leaning on the odd baseball bat. For more info, check out the noticeboard in the Canteen.

The club will have to thank their sponsors, The Stables Club and the Kilmurray Lodge Hotel, and ULSU for making the trip to Galway possible, for NUI Galway for being such good sport and everyone above mentioned and probably whoever I forgot for the excellent weekend of fun, drink and debauchery as experienced by all . And by the way Rob , I know you only want me for my input into An Focal. You really aren't fooling anyone, An Focal is a true ethical newspaper and would have nothing to do with me should I succomb to your seduction and bribery attempts.....hahaha.....

Yours till next time.....*Michelle Daly*

UL Rowing Club's Blessington Blitz

UL Rowing Club has started the 1999-2000 season in great style with an excellent performance at Neptune Head in Blessington Co. Wicklow.

Two UL crews travelled to the event, the mens novice eight and the ladies novice four. Conditions on the day were extremely difficult with strong winds and driving rain. Both crews did not let this dampen spirits however and rowed incredibly well to win both events.

The mens novice eight cox by Amy "Arrows" Fitzgerald rowed in the morning head in extremely difficult conditions. The first one thousand meters saw waves crash against the boat, the lads fought hard to keep the boat steady and began to get good length into the stroke. Coming up to the bridge, the half way marker the rough conditions were taking a lot out of the UL men but they dug deep and found something special to regain their momentum and drive for home. This fighting spirit is becoming the hallmark of this crew that fought so hard in Boston. Approaching the finish stroke Paddy Quinn brought the rate right up to 33 coxain "Arrows" Amy drove us for home and we recording a fantastic winning time of 12m 21sec. ULRC men novice eight Neptune Head winners.

The ladies rowed later in the afternoon. Conditions had improved slightly but competition in the womens novice four was extremely tough with several crews from the Dublin rowing club feeling


confident. The girls handled the conditions excellently, coxed by the experience Claire Hennessy who make a comeback to competitive rowing. The UL ladies held their high rate from start to finish and never let the adverse conditions or tough opposition get to them. The ladies rowed an excellent winning time of 16mins 9 sec this time would have won the novice eight competition and shows the quality of this crew. ULRC women novice four Neptune Head winners. Other members of ULRC were also in action rowing for our affiliated club Castleconnell they also rowed extremely well. All our members are looking forward now to St. Michael,s Head on Dec 4th where further success will hopefully be the order of the day.

On a slightly less positive note Neptune Head once again highlighted the inadequate resources available to the club. Both womens and mens crews were restricted in their entries due to limited funding and resources. Hopefully recent success will encourage increased sponsorship and support any companies or individuals interested in helping our winning club will be welcomed with open arm (and empty pockets). Once again thanks to our current sponsor S.A.I. Ireland their continued support is fuelling our success. Training continues as normal cals 50p on Thursday .All new members get ready for St. Micheal's Head, ye are about to enter the competitive Irish Rowing scene.


As always everyone LASH IT OUT.



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A Few Announcements

Co-op Ball Tickets On Sale

Monday Week 12

from SU reception
Tickets £21

Line-up includes the
amazing, all swallowing
Stevie Starr

UL Radio Soc. presents **KICKBACK**

in Java's, Catherine St., Limerick

Every Thursday evening, the UL Radio Soc present the best in Soul, Hip-Hop, Drum + Bass and laid back beats from Wired FM DJ's.

*Taking place upstairs in Java's from 12 - 3am, **kickback** is the perfect afterclub session. Get yourself a bottle of wine, a coffee, and a toastie, + sit back and enjoy the atmosphere.*

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Aikido of the University of Limerick

proudly presents

the first course of this year with Helma Mair (2nd dan) student of John Rogers sensei (5th dan) and leader of the Irish Aikido Federation (IAF). With a record number of new members this year we are looking forward to this course which will take place in the small gym opposite the sports hall with the following course times:

Saturday 4th December: 4 – 7pm

Sunday 5th December: 10 – 1 pm

*All beginners are welcome. For further information contact:
Pamela O'Shea 087-2460809, pamoshea@csn.ul.ie*

*Thanks to our sponsors, Kilmurray Lodge, for
the complimentary accomadation*

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**IF YOU HAVE NOT FILLED OUT AN APPLICATION FORM FOR
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