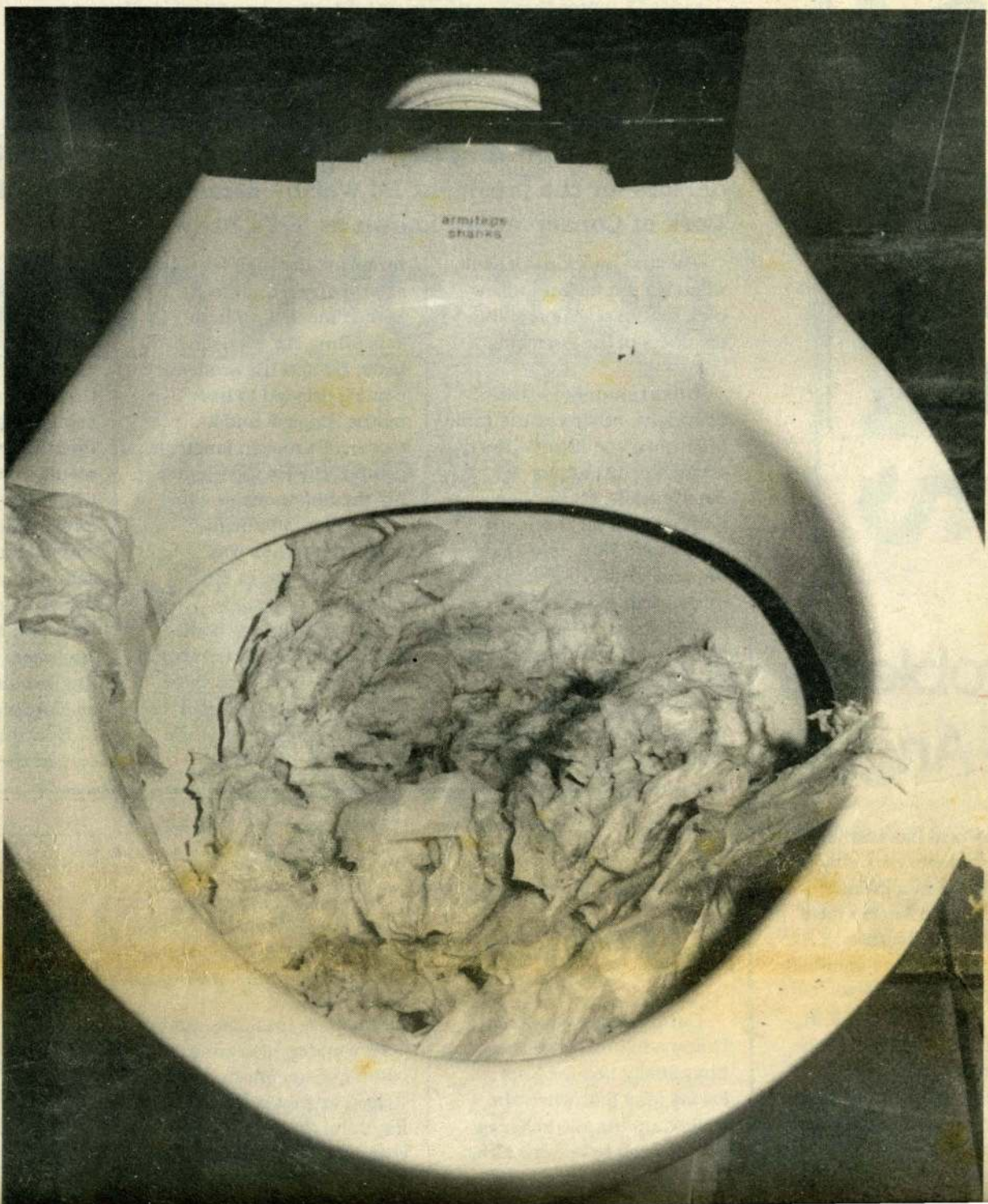
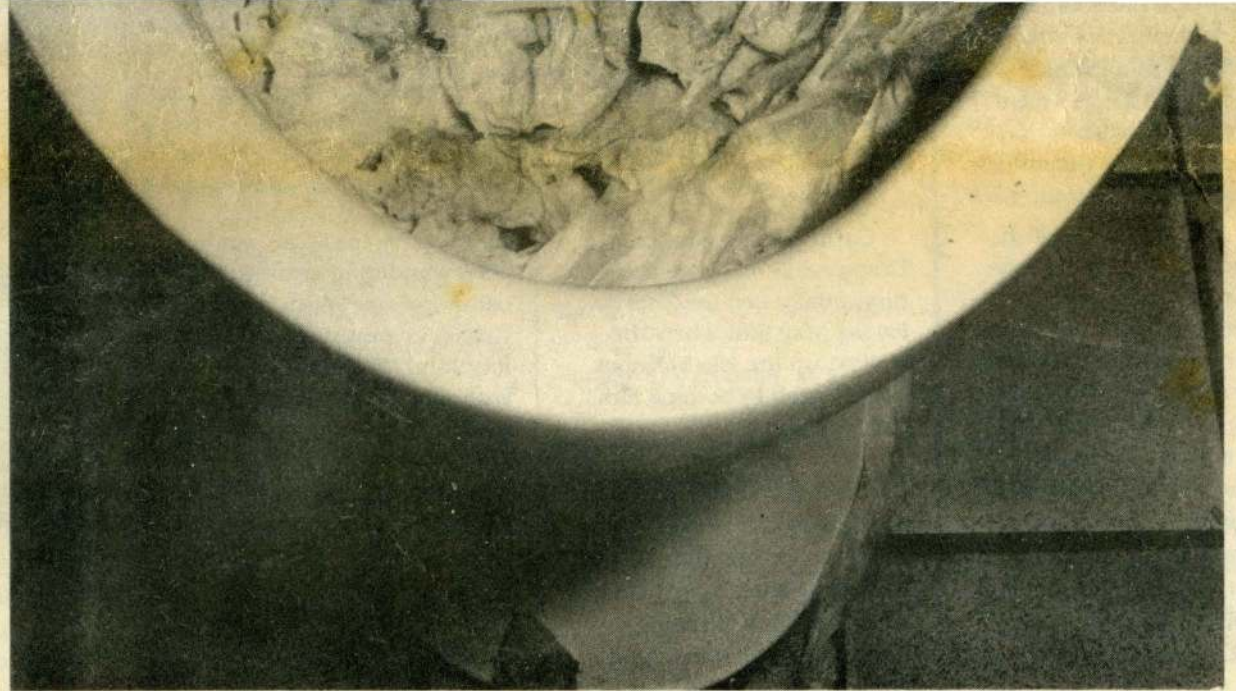


Mr Food



dn



University of Limerick
Students' Union
Newspaper

Loo awareness week 8

(news pg 2)

Inside:

Election Manifestos
and Job Descriptions
Rag Week Review
Abortion Special

Trinity 2 Monday 4th May 1992.

Problems in Angers

An Focal has learned that U.L. students currently on ERASMUS in a French university in Angers have had great difficulties in sorting out their timetables and gaining access to lecturers. One student in particular told us how she

Ed Walsh's Woes

As Appeared in Phoenix 1/5/'92

Last month's meeting of the governing body of Limerick University was quite a stormy affair, and was the scene of not one, but three defeats for the president Ed Walsh - something unprecedented in the Cork of Conservatism known as 'Ed's Body'.

The first knock-back came when Ed put forward a new plan for the selection of the members of the governing body.

Unfortunately for the president, others at the table (including the likes of Kerry councillor Brendain MacGearailt, staffer Joe Wallace and all three student reps.) were less than impressed, having some outlandish notion that college deans (there are four) would be too answerable to the great man.

Next to bite the dust - on the matter which caused most argument - was a proposal

regarding the Irish language as an entry requirement. Some time ago, without consulting the governing body, Ed and the academic council decided to have maths, English and a modern European language compulsory for those entering the Shannonside campus. Later, after some complaints, Irish was included as one of the European languages.

At the governing body meeting though, a number of members stated that there was a perception abroad the senior management at the college was anti-Irish

language. Chairman Daly, Bertie Wall and Dick Haslam threw their weight behind MacGearailt et al in expressing their annoyance that the Irish language was being relegated without their imprimatur. As a result, a vote was held where it was decided to forward to the academic council a directive that the compulsory subjects in future be maths, English or Irish and a European language, with both English and Irish qualifying as European languages.

Ed's third defeat concerned the matter of staff

pensions, which he raised briefly before being knocked down after complaints that there was no documentation before the body to examine. No doubt this proposal will come up for discussion again.

Meanwhile the jewel in Ed's crown - an International School for Learning which was to be tied in with the likes of Harvard and Yale - has lost its sparkle and there is talk of #250,000 going down the drain. On top of this Ed and vice-president Noel Whelan's dream of a Japanese campus for the university in Nobeoka (see Phnix 31/5/91) has been put to sleep with far less pomp than when it was announced back in December 1989.

Wedding Bells for S.U's Carmel

Carmel Ryan, Students Union administrative secre-

plumber by trade, he can be seen wandering around



University in Angers have had great difficulties in sorting out their timetables and gaining access to lecturers. One student in particular told us how she and many other foreign students are just not wanted in certain lectures and have been asked by lecturers not to come back as they will only hold up the class.

The student also stated that in these conditions she can only make up nine lecture hours as opposed to the fifteen she should be doing per week.

When contacted by An. Focal, Mr. Martin Chappell, lecturer in the department of languages and social studies, and one of the people involved in the ERASMUS scheme stated that the ERASMUS scheme is working quite well since it's introduction in 1988. He also said that lecturers are not under any obligation to accept ERASMUS students into their lectures and indeed many U.L. lecturers do not accept foreign students either. He said that the student in question had only taken the six month ERASMUS option rather than the full year one and as a result was finding it more difficult to settle in as several courses and subjects are run on a yearly basis.

S.U's Carmel

Carmel Ryan, Students Union administrative secretary, finally tied the knot on Friday May first when she walked up the isle in Knocklong church to become Mrs. Chris Carey.

Carmel, who is a native of Knocklong has worked in the Students Union office for the past six years. Carmel is to be noted for her welcoming nature in particular towards foreign students, and for her work with the Overseas Students Society of which she is the treasurer. She is the pillar in the S.U. office, always able to help and answer queries, but never afraid to give a telling off when needed!

Chris, indeed is no stranger to U.L., he is a member of the true U.L. team, the group who keep the place running. A

plumber by trade, he can be seen wandering around campus fixing pipes, sinks, toilets, and even the odd fountain! Not just content with plumbing, Chris is also the drummer with traditional band "Celtic Airs " who played at this years multicultural food fair held in the canteen during January of this year.

An Focal would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Carmel and Chris and wish them happiness and good fortune for their future lives together. We would also like to compliment Carmel on her bravery in marrying a musician. In the words of Paschal Cleary "She's a brave woman to be going to bed with the rhythm section tonight"!



LOO AWARENESS

In response to last editions vox - pop Mr. Brian Hand University buildings manager, has sent in his contribution and asked that students notify the security if there appears to be a problem with the loos. We here in an Focal have decided to create the first ever loo awareness week . This will be sceduled for week 8, more up dates will follow!

U.L.S.U Sabbatical Elections

**Your Union-
Your Vote**

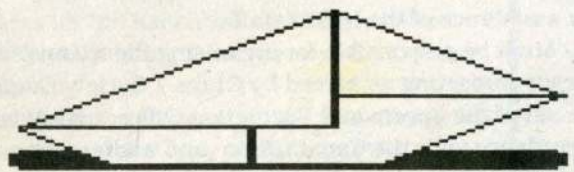
Hustings:

Wednesday 6th May 2pm Jean Monet

Polling:

Thursday 7th May 10am to 7pm Main Canteen

All opinions stated on this page are those of individual students and thus do not necessarily represent those of the Students' Union



The world according to you

Letters

Constipation at the Lit+Phil.

Sir,

This letter wasn't written it was puked. There is one secret chamber in all of our minds which we enter every so often to escape the trials of normality. It is a personal paradise, a bubble that no one may enter, and once inside there is no bliss which may compare.

Mine is not a book or a poem, a song a smell or a mood for although all of these may tickle my more sublime senses, I read my own literature in faces and expressions, words and accents, local charms and laughter and anger and despair, of people. The

spiritual union with my mind. Perhaps i should have known. But I don't often allow negative instincts rule my spirit, so I arrived at the theatre early, fully clad in my bubble, only to have the debate cancelled. And it was then that the bubble burst, only at that stage the bubble was floating high above the Swift, and I fell with a thud to the ground and am sore at the arse ever since.

And now I sit here, distilled in potent silence because I know I can no longer elude the truth. The artistic antics which the "Stables" feign smiles at the world but

In Response to Mike Moroney

Dear Mike,

Your letter in the last issue of An Focal was useful in so far as it expressed widely held though rarely publicised opinions. They are symptomatic of a widespread misunderstanding of homosexuality which is aggravated by the generally negative and prejudicial manner in which it is dealt with in the educational curriculum and by the "invisibility" of most homosexuals. In this, as elsewhere, ignorance leads to the expression of irrational viewpoints and one consequence is the frequent characterisation of the homosexual person as "unnatural", "immoral", "undignified", "unmanly", "unwomanly" or "unworthy". The rationale demands and

of stigma. Victimisation is an inevitable consequence and is frequently manifested in "queer bashing" whose violence can be physical, or as in the instance of your letter, verbal.

I offer these comments because the university that we are both members of has a mission to promote rational inquiry and understanding, not least in "greyer" areas of knowledge and culture. Your note implies that you might be interested in a "greater good" but your attempt to attain that is marred by a readiness to make statement that you know are untrue. You state for example that homosexual activity is unhealthy and dangerous. In itself, it is neither. What is dangerous

ours that scientists have shown to be "unsafe" and which facilitate the transmission of disease and as you know these can be found among heterosexuals and homosexuals alike. By helping to perpetuate the myths surrounding the transmission of AIDS, statements such as yours hinder its prevention and thus share responsibility for the destruction that they cause.

All the best,

John Logan
Department of European
Integration and Administra-

these may tickle my more sublime senses, I read my own literature in faces and expressions, words and accents, local charms and laughter and anger and despair, of people. The matter of my novel is the explosion of energy from balling actors, its in the faceless awe of an audience watch these demigodic monsters preform a super-human mastery which passive intellects long to have the spunk to perform. And that is why I have a feeling not unlike constipation when the Lit+Phil debate was cancelled on Wednesday.

In fact I'm quite certain that it rained all week in some kind of

And now I sit here, distilled in potent silence because I know I can no longer elude the truth. The artistic antics which the "Stables" feign smiles at the world but titillates the kind of madness of creativity which abounds these debates. Any mirth I show is false like my ghosts and poltergeist and prometh-ean monsters for there is no life without creation.

And one more thing. When at last the rabid froth disappears and the bowels relax, there is discharged a foul slime, something similar, in fact, to this letter.

Hamlet,
5th Philisophical
Speculations.

**Deadline for
Letters for the next
issue of *an Focal* is
Wednesday
13th May**

quence is the frequent characterisation of the homosexual person as "unnatural", "immoral", "undignified", "unmanly", "unwomanly" or "unworthy". The rationale demands and underpins the construction

that is marred by a readiness to make statement that you know are untrue. You state for example that homosexual activity is unhealthy and dangerous. In itself, it is neither. What is dangerous are specific sexual behav-

share responsibility for the destruction that they cause.

All the best,

John Logan
Department of European
Integration and Administra-
tion.

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the letter written by Mike Moroney in the April 14th edition of *An Focal*. In Moroney's letter he criticised an Article written by Cathal Kelly and attacked the aims of "the gay lobby" as well. Although there is some confusion over how serious Moroney was when he wrote the letter, some of the points he raised are, unfortunately, fears many homophobic people have.

First, he claimed that if "homosexual acts" were decriminalised tomorrow then the next demand would be gay marriages. The response to non-straight men and women getting married should not be one of alarm but rather of disbelief that they do not already have such a fundamental and essential human right. Why do people want to stop a loving and devoted couple from celebrating their

commitment to each other publicly and officially? It is an act of love, not some harmful or destructive union which should be prevented.

Moroney then goes on to accuse non - straight people of taking a "holier than thou vantage point" since they would like the right to adopt children, and are angry that they are not allowed to do so. Perhaps Moroney is similar to the other homophobes who panic with the thought of non - straights rearing children. Obviously, these people have not read a single article, book, or study on the subject. Those who "fear" that non - straight parents will "force or" encourage "their children to be non - straight will be relieved to know that children of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals grow up to have sexual orientations statistically equal to those raised by straight parents. Studies have shown that most non - straight parents tell their

children that they will love and accept them no matter which sexual orientation they have, which is more than can be said for most straight parents. It has also been shown that children of non - straight parents are generally more tolerant of other people's sexual orientations (gee, I wonder why)

The final point Moroney makes is that "making love" with a same sex partner "certainly can be dangerous". Making love without protection is dangerous for anyone, of any sexual orientation. The act of making love itself, between two consenting adults, is not.

Perhaps if people such as Moroney would read some of the studies on sexuality instead of just perpetuating ignorant, unfounded fears, non - straight people would have the human rights they are entitled to.

Sincerely,
Nikola Davidson
3rd Human Development &
Family Studies
(American Study Abroad)

President

Job Description

Liase with : Deputy President/Education & Welfare Officer , Transition and Services Officer, All Union Staff, Sports and Recreation officer , Arts Advisor , All at Student Personnel Services , Dept. Heads , Registrar , President , et al.

Responsible To : Executive, Council, General Meeting etc.

Office Begins : Two weeks after end of Trinity term , finishes after two week training programme with the incoming officer .

Purpose:

To be the chief representative of the students , and subject to union council and U.G.M. has five major areas of responsibility :Finance , Representation , Organisation , Co - ordination and initiation of Union Policy .

Job Content - Principle Duties/Functions

- Responsible for presenting management accounts(along with Treasurer and Union Administration Officer) and maintaining budgetary guidelines imposed by executive
- Responsible for all Union Finances and is the primary signatory (- other than Ents and Welfare) on all Union cheques .
- Ensure that proper accounts be kept in all areas of Union expenditure in cash analysis accounting and supply information of same to Council meetings. .
- Must ,ensure production of signed statement of accounts for the 12 month period of office to be presented at each initial first term Union General Meeting for approval .

- Must ensure the correct keeping of Club / Society accounts for the administration of certificates and telling of monies, with the assistance of the Union staff .

- Must be responsible for organising the manner of Club / Society budgeting as agreed by Clubs / Society Council , with the aid of the Sports and Recreation Officer and Arts Advisor in accordance with the Constitution and addressing problems caused by same .

- represent , defend and advance the intersets of Union members on:

- Governing Body
- Academic Council
- Faculty Boards -Engineering & Science , Humanities and Business
- Restuarant Committee
- Stables Club Management Committee
- Discipline Committee
- Plassey Campus Centre Board
- U.L.S.U. Services Ltd.

- Representing Students interests to the many lobbying groups such as Residents Associations, National Organisations ,Gardai and other outside bodies.

- Be a first contact point in associaton with other officers for Student problems and assisting their particular problems by either referral or making representations on their behalf .

- Organising and overseeing in conjunction with the Administrative Officer all Union official sponsorship, business deals and contracts (except entertainments) with the various interests the Union is involved in .

- Must be able to responsibly reflect the needs and views of students in a dignified and productive manner and therefore is

Linda O'Sullivan

Hi, my name is Linda O' Sullivan and I'm campaigning for the position of President of your Union. I want this job because as a student I've seen the many, many things that go wrong in this University and I see this as an opportunity to put them right. This might seem to be very idealistic or an easy political ploy but it is in fact the genuine reason for my candidature.



Diarmuid Scully

3rd Year Marketing
Student's Union positions held:

TOP GUNN

Michael Gunn is a fourth year business student who is running for President.

Michael led our University team to the final of RTE's "Challenging Times" quiz last year. These days he can be seen out on the soccer pitch, getting home runs in softball or wining the odd table quiz.

Michael has the benefit of six months work with the Union. While there, we all saw him as an approachable, efficient and friendly person.

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Students are not getting the service they pay for in this University ; Co-op is a joke for a lot of people, our library is totally inadequate, students are asked to type projects and are not given the resources to do so and we are asked to pay five pounds for a grade re-check when all we need is some feedback from lecturers. If a student should fail his or her future is left to the discretion of a lecturer who may or may not decide to set a repeat exam.

I am not saying that if you elect me that I will miraculously change the whole system. However I do promise that I will do all that can be done in one year and will open the way for longer term changes.

I hope you will read my manifesto and please call to my stand in the canteen during election week where you can find out more about my plans for the Union.



Diarmuid Scully

3rd Year Marketing

Student's Union positions held:

1990-91 Business Studies Class rep.

Current Student's Union Equal Rights

Officer

In recent years our Student's Union has improved dramatically in efficiency and in terms of both the quality and range of services it provides. Unfortunately, in achieving this task the Union has become divorced from the day to day needs of students. While much has been done to forward the long term aims of the Union, the immediate difficulties facing students have been largely overlooked.

If elected President, I propose to create a Union which is more responsive to the needs of ordinary students.

The need for:

More telephones

More laser printers

Longer library opening hours

More study places

A proper night time catering service

Equality of treatment of all students with regard to exam repeats.

Class reps. must be given more responsibility and authority, but they must be made more accountable to their class. The whole focus of the Union must be changed from one which concentrates almost solely on long term goals to one which takes more account of the problems facing us in our everyday lives as students.

This can only be done by electing Diarmuid Scully as Student Union President.

TOP GUNN

Michael Gunn is a fourth year business student who is running for President.

Michael led our University team to the final of RTE's "Challenging Times" quiz last year. These days he can be seen out on the soccer pitch, getting home runs in softball or winning the odd table quiz.

Michael has the benefit of six months work with the Union. While there, we all saw him as an approachable, efficient and friendly person. He will use this experience to good effect as President.

As well as being Clubs Liaison Officer for the Union, Michael was heavily involved in the production of the Union Handbook and in the administration of the Hardship Fund. He sees clubs and societies as a catalyst for greater activity on campus and is very well versed on their problems.

Michael will deal with all the important education issues. Co-op, semesterisation, repeats, library facilities and exam pressure are obvious issues where you need a strong voice representing you.

Michael is more than approachable and will be happy to hear your opinions or answer your questions in the canteen or wherever. Not just for this week but for all of next year as well.

Michael's main aim is to improve the "Quality of Life" on the campus and to build on the success of the "Crosby Era". He can be trusted to do a good job as your Student Union President. He is the best choice.

Don't forget to vote on Thursday, be it for Micheal or any other of the candidates as it is important that your voice be heard.



Job Description

Liaise with: President, Deputy President, full time staff as well as other University Administrators involved with the faculty of Education.

Responsible To : Executive, Council, General Meeting etc.

Office begins: Two weeks after end of Trinity term, finishes after two week training programme with outgoing officer.

Purpose

To seek the services which policy deems a need for and to oversee the organisation and general co-ordination of those services and shall represent the interests of the members in matters relating to their welfare.

Job Content - Principle Duties/Functions

-Overseeing the integration of the College of Education into the University of Limerick System.

-Dealing with very specific Educational and Welfare problems of students of the College of Education due to the integration process.

-To oversee the organisation and co-ordination of the Students' Union Information Service.

-The T.S.O. in conjunction with the Information Officer are responsible for the collection, vetting, processing, archiving, and dissemination of Information that students' "want to know" & "need to know".

-The T.S.O. must select along with the other full time officers a compatible and loyal information crew. The T.S.O. is responsible for the training of the information crew.

-Responsible to the Administrative Officer for the financial affairs of the Information service.

-Together with the Ents co-ordinator, organise and co-ordinate the Students' Union Entertainment Service.

-The T.S.O. must select along with the other full time officers a compatible and loyal Entertainment crew. The T.S.O. is responsible for the training of the Entertainment crew.

-Work together with the Ents. Co-ordinator, Crew Head (as appointed by Council) towards the effective, efficient & Safe running of all events.

-Responsible to the Administrative Officer for the financial affairs of Entertainment Service.

-Assist in the development of Union policy, organisation and campaigning on all issues.

-Liaising with Departments within the University, Outside Companies & the General Public.

-Prepare an annual report to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of Trinity term.

the main spokesperson for the Union public relations in general matters .

- Oversees all the Executive and Council elections as well as assisting in all areas of the Union Organisation .

- Must organise a proper training programme for Class Council so that it may understand the workings of the Union and university and be aware of issues .

- At the end of his/her term must give the incoming president every assistance and training in the two week hand-over period.

- Chairs all Executive meetings

- Assists the other officers in the co-ordination and organisation of specific Union projects and programmes, i.e., Orientation Week .

- Organises campaigns and awareness drives (through assistance of Transition Officer and Information Officer) on issues as directed by Council .

- Signs on behalf of the Union with the Administrative Officer , all employment contracts , job specifications and other legally binding agreements.

- Must prepare along with other fulltime officers ; an annual report to be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Trinity term .

- Ensures that all component units , officers and staff of the Union are carrying out their functions to a level deemed satisfactory by members and where necessary assisting in the fulfilling of same .

VOTE

Maigs Fleming

No. 1



This is a summary of my manifesto; read the booklet for a more detailed overview.

1. Communication:

VOTE

Maigs Fleming

No. 1



This is a summary of my manifesto; read the booklet for a more detailed overview.

1. Communication:

- Work to ensure all students are aware of what's happening on campus.

2. Accommodation:

- Create an office which serves students and provides quality + value for money.

3. Improve Co-op:

- Giving those going on Co-op practical skills.
- Working to provide a better Co-op experience.

4. Welfare:

- Increasing no. of waiver of fees granted.
- Publishing topic by topic welfare booklets.
- Involving class reps more in Union affairs.

5. Resources:

- Increase no. of PCs available to students.
- Improving quality of lab assistants.
- More machines & materials required in labs.

6. Academic Affairs:

- Increasing no. of resits granted.
- Better management of library resources.
- Ensuring Semesterisation decreases workload.

7. Improving Campus Life:

- Utilising fully the student centre.
- Improvement weekend activity on campus.
- Promoting campus talent.

Working on your behalf

Vote Maigs No. 1 for Pres.

training of the Entertainment crew.

-Work together with the Ents. Co-ordinator, Crew Head (as appointed by Council) towards the effective, efficient & Safe running of all events.

-Responsible to the Administrative Officer for the financial affairs of Entertainment Service.

-Assist in the development of Union policy, organisation and campaigning on all issues.

-Liaising with Departments within the University, Outside Companies & the General Public.

-Prepare an annual report to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of Trinity term.

Billy Kirwan

Hi my name is **Billy Kirwan** and I have spent this year working for you as Transition officer in the students' union. Previous to this I graduated from Thomond doing Metal & Engineering Technology. I am going for the position of Transition & Services Officer for next year. There are many reasons why I would like to be in office again one being to develop what I have started in the services section. These include the development of the first ever Information Service which incl. anFocal, weekly activity sheet, pocket size cards, canteen information system, flyers & posters, & information crew. New items include Computer linkup of Students Union, Campus radio for specific weeks, thumbing cards and lots more. The maintenance of a professional entertainment service built over the past year. And to use my experience gained with the U.L. system, the Faculty Board of education, the various committees & sub-committees, Lecturers, U.L.S.U, schools, Teaching Practice, Students Status, class reps and individual students over the year to ensure students of the college of education rights are maintained & problems Answered fairly during the transition period.



Services

Deputy President

Job Description

Liase with : President, Transition and Services Officer, as well as other Union fulltime staff, Student Services and Student Personnel Services.

Office Begins : Two Weeks after the end of Trinity term, finishes after two week training programme with incoming officer.

Responsible To : Executive, Council, General Meeting etc.

Purpose To act for and on behalf of the President in his/her absence and shall be responsible for the development and promotion of Union education and welfare policy.

Principal Duties / Functions

- It is the responsibility of the Deputy President to co-ordinate all matters relating to Education as well as overseeing the co-ordination of the welfare service it provides for members, together with making representations regarding welfare related services provided by the college and other organisations for students.

- To direct and co ordinate Union educational policy and represent the Union's Educational policies at the following fora:

- a) Governing Body
- b) Academic Council
- c) Faculty Boards - Engineering and Science, Humanities, Business and Education.
- d) Library Consultative Forum
- e) Teaching Quality Committee
- f) Academic Council Standing Committee
- g) Academic Council Calendar Review Committee

- Representing involves a lot of briefing, researching and lobbying of various interests to achieve progress on issues and problems. The Deputy may also have to involve himself/herself in any other bodies or committees that would prove beneficial towards advancing the educational needs of all Union members.

- Must utilise Class reps council as much as possible to organise feedback on various issues and collating research reports.

- is a member of the Discipline and Stables Club Management Committee

- Must act as the initiator of Union Welfare Policy, in conjunction with the Welfare Officer and Equal Rights Officer

- Must act as a reference point for a wide variety of welfare problem cases and solve either by referral or representing individuals involved.

Edits the Welfare Guide in the Annual Handbook and is responsible for the editing and publishing of all S.U. Welfare material on campus.

Is responsible for the rostering of Casual (Hardship) Labour.

- Must ensure that the Student Hardship Fund is correctly allocated by the Waiver of Fees Committee and liase with the Chaplaincy Office in doing so.

- Ensure the proper accounting and debt collection of same by Union staff.

- Must prepare, along with other fulltime officers: an annual report for publication after the A.G.M. in Trinity term.

Working Conditions

Full-time waged position with full details contained in standard contracts currently been drawn up.

Odhran O'Mahony

Odhran O'Mahony here. I am a native of Cahirciveen in County Kerry and am currently in my third year in Y.L. studying Public Administration. Over the past three years I have been a prominent member of the G.A.A. Club and have represented the College at both Intervarsity and intercounty level. I have played minor and U-21 for Kerry and in

the Sigerson Cup for U.L. I am also a founding member of the U.L. Racing Club which has grown from strength to strength since.

I spent my Co-op on campus with Student Personal Services. Here I dealt with the Medical Centre, the Accommodation Office, the Chaplaincy, the Student Councillors, the Arts Advisor and the Sports Office. I also worked in close connection with Student Services and the Students Union



Enda Lonergan

WHO? ENDA LONERGAN (4th Man. Tech.)

WHAT? As you should already know that the "Enda Lonergan" campaign for deputy president is well under way.

WHY? Students need a change now!

HOW? Stepping up Union pressure on Governing body to:

- provide exams re-sits (regardless of lecturers personal opinions) e.g. summer re-sits.

- establish a consistent grading system for each module i.e. either set grades or a distributive curve.

- provide a suitable "Teaching Practice"

Deputy

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the Sigerson Cup for U.L. I am also a founding member of the U.L. Racing Club which has grown from strength to strength since.

I spent my Co-op on campus with Student Personal Services. Here I dealt with the Medical Centre, the Accommodation Office, the Chaplaincy, the Student Councillors, the Arts Advisor and the Sports Office. I also worked in close connection with Student Services and the Students Union during this time. It was spent working directly with the student population and it was also a highly confidential department.

For the past year I have been a member of the Students' Union Executive as Clubs Officer - I feel I have made a very valuable contribution to the Students' Union's activities over this year and I also have come to be very much aware of the workings of this Union.

I feel that I am an outgoing person who one can approach and discuss any problem or issue with at any time on a one to one basis and know that I will treat it with the strictest confidence and take the appropriate action on your behalf. This as well as having worked in both the University and Students Union previous to this make me the best person for the job.

Pat Leamy



Hi, my name is Pat Leamy or "Shifty" among friends. I hail from the seaside town of Tramore in County Waterford. I'm a fourth year Business Student and this year I'm running for the position of Deputy President of the Student's Union.

Throughout my four years at this University I've been actively involved in the Student's Union to varying degrees. I've been a class rep. for the last three years. I've also worked on the ent.'s crew for almost two years and was a member of last year's Rag Week committee.

I've spent both my co-operative education placements in England working in the Administration Department of Crown Hotels Ltd.. During my second placement I held the position of Assistant Manager in one of the groups hotels

in Newcastle, where I was required to deal with many grievances both from customers and staff.

I am a very approachable person, please do not hesitate to call to my information desk throughout the week, if you have any queries regarding the contents of my leaflets. My campaign team or I shall be more than willing to help.

I hope to meet as many of you as possible throughout the week.

WHO? ENDA LONERGAN (4th Man. Tech.)
WHAT? As you should already know that the "Enda Lonergan" campaign for deputy president is well under way.

WHY? Students need a change now!

HOW? Stepping up Union pressure on Governing body to:

- provide exams re-sits (regardless of lecturers personal opinions) e.g. summer re-sits.
- establish a consistent grading system for each module i.e. either set grades or a distributive curve.
- provide a suitable "Teaching Practice" arrangement for the College of Education Students.
- provide a full-time G.P. on campus.
- provide more phones on campus(especially in the Schuman Building).
- provide an improved time-tabling system.
- include more communications & entrepreneurial modules for the Engineering and Technology students.
- provide basic computer modules for Business and Humanities students.

Also through the Students Union to:

- push for Union representation on the "Castletroy Residents Association".
- provide a more concise orientation package for Freshers and an annual refresher packages for all others.
- push Bus Eireann to provide more buses at peak times.
- Promote a greater awareness of environmental issues in the college as a whole
- step up Union support for "Shannon Status".

WHERE?

Talk to me any day any time, in the canteens or wherever you see me.



S.U. Elections - Candidates - Issues

Editorial

How will the students of U.L. approach the Student Union elections on Thursday of week five? who will guide us in our decisions? What will encourage us to vote in any particular way? What in fact will even encourage us to vote at all?

Election campaigns indeed can seem very offputting to the electorate. The strong political element in each candidates campaign coupled with the seemingly endless supply of promises lends a sense of falseness to the campaign and generates a feeling of apathy among many voters. We see potential presidents, deputy presidents, and transition and service officers stand before us adamant that that they are the ones who can make the changes once they have our support. we watch and listen many of us somewhat bemused and sceptical about what really can be done, in fact about what really needs to be done.

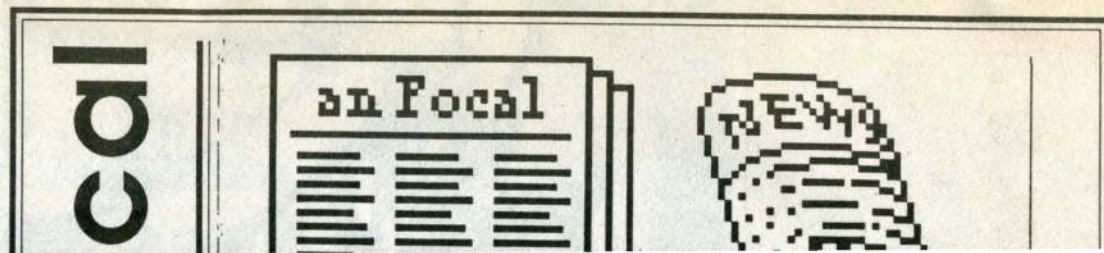
Issues such as semesterisation, and Plassey Campus Centre (the group responsible for Plassey Village among other things) are just two of the issues thrown at us in the past two years. On each occasion we were offered little information on subjects we knew virtually nothing about. What was offered was too one-sided and biased to allow us make informed decisions. Our union heads steam-rolled us into making hasty decisions based on little information. If the

Week five will once again witness the big speeches about big issues. campaigns will be based upon the political idea of promise now and see just how much of it you can deliver later. many candidates put across ideas that are not viable. They try to grab our attention with important sounding issues, but few have stood the test of time. The candidates that can solve our many every day problems such as overcrowding, poor lecturing standards, and problems with co-op, to name but a few are the ones starting to make the effort. They are making promises on subjects that can be tackled while the other larger issues can be investigated to deem them viable or not.

No candidate can be one hundred percent credible, after all we are talking politics here and Irish politics and politicians in recent times have certainly not been very credible.

As the week wears on however, three candidates should emerge. These three will be one hundred percent genuine, seeking the positions of President, Deputy President, and Transition Services Officer, and willing to put their best into it.

On election day remember one thing, each of us has the right to vote. If we do not utilise that right, then we cannot criticise those elected nor those who elected them for any of their actions.

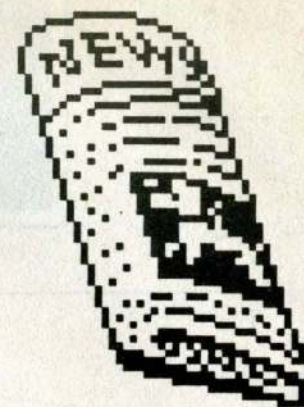


...such as the Committee for the
sey Campus Centre (the group responsible for Plassey Village among other things) are just two of the issues thrown at us in the past two years. On each occasion we were offered little information on subjects we knew virtually nothing about. What was offered was too one-sided and biased to allow us make informed decisions. Our union heads steam-rolled us into making hasty decisions based on little information. If the union is to remain credible it must tackle issues such as these in the proper fashion. Our representatives should merely be there to guide us as they see fit, not brainwash us into seeing their way, after all they are our representatives, they should have no need to use bully tactics.

The elections themselves are conducted in somewhat of a steam-rolling fashion. For one week each year we are bombarded with names slogans and promises. more often than not the election day comes upon us and we still have not set eyes upon many of the candidates. Ultimately it is the campaign that wins the election therefore these unknown candidates are immediately eliminated and the battle of the campaigns begin.

On election day remember one thing, each of us has the right to vote. If we do not utilise that right, then we cannot criticise those elected nor those who elected them for any of their actions.

an Focal



We always welcome contributions for **an Focal**. We need to fill 16 tabloid pages every fortnight. We still need sub-editors in the following areas:

- * Features
- * Photography
- * Sport and Societies
- * Student Union News

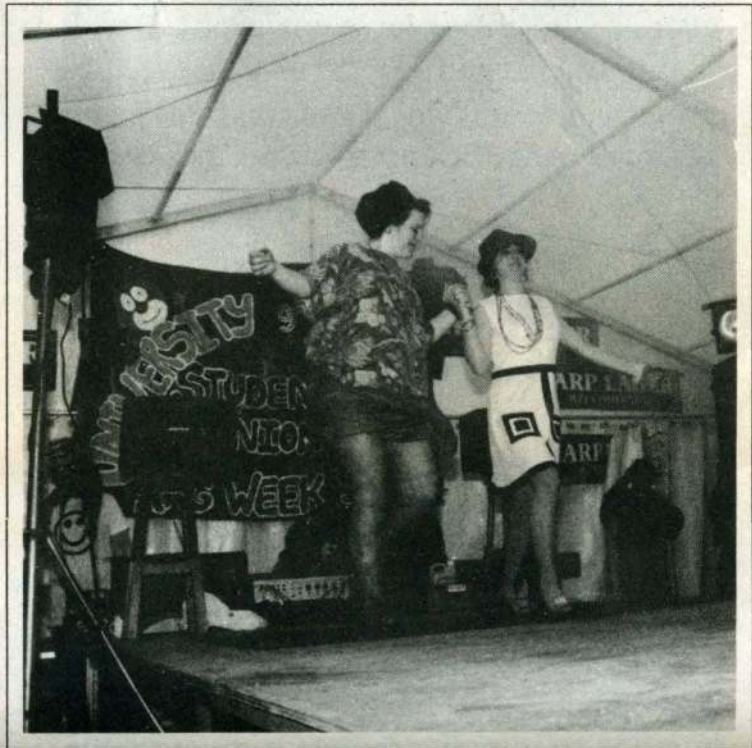
Please come along to our weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 1.00pm in the Deputy President's Office. All individuals, classes, Clubs & Societies, who are interested in writing for **an Focal** should submit their copy to the Student Union Office.

Right of Reply

An Focal sees its role as a medium for the dissemination of information and opinion, which readers may require and enjoy.

Inevitably, in spite of our best efforts, we will make mistakes but we wish to ensure that we correct such mistakes as promptly and as fully as possible. We therefore offer readers who feel they have been unfairly treated in the **An Focail** a right of reply, subject to reasonable length and the laws constraining press freedom. We also undertake to publish corrections, on being informed of errors.

Rag Week





Top Left: Cucumber Race

Top Right: Yard of Ale

Middle Left: What a Mess!

Right: Alternative Fashion

Below: Billy Catches Croff Unawares

THANKS!

To the best students in the
whole world

Probably

From

Croff, Waide, Billy, Ber, Vera, Carmel, Maria,

From

**Croff, Waide, Billy, Ber, Vera, Carmel, Maria,
The Ents Crew, Rag Week Committee, Day
Events Crew, Campus T.V., Wind Surfing Club,
Liff and Phil, Outdoor Pursuits Club, G.A.A.
Club, Cumman Gaelach, Kayak Club, Life
Saving Club, Racing Club, Music Society, Law
Society, All the Volunteers and all the Spon-
sors.**

Here's to Rag '93!

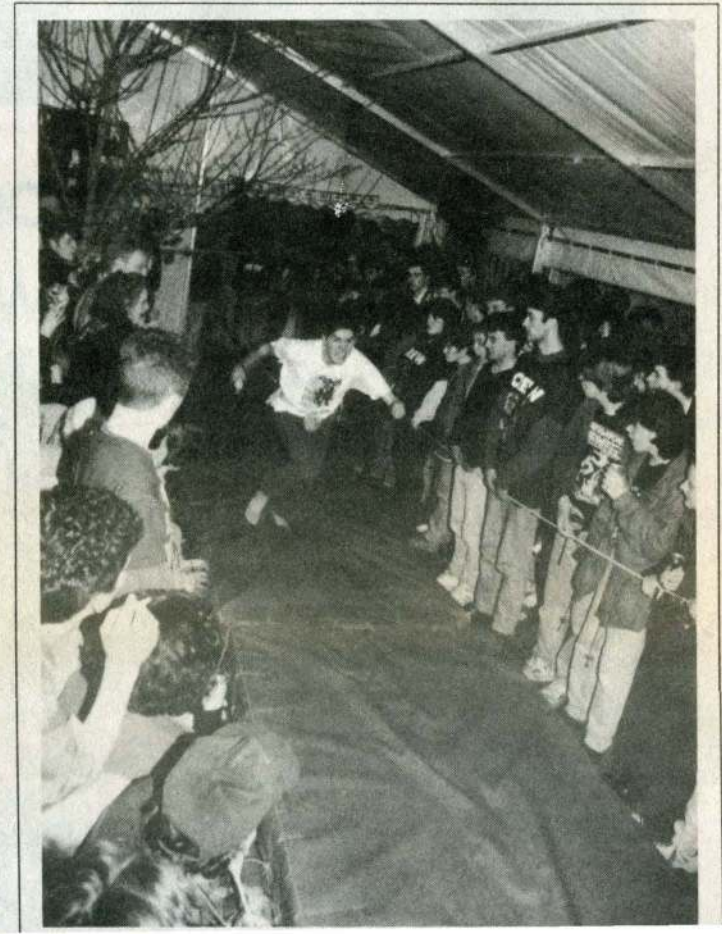
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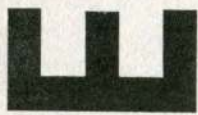


Dermot Carmody - Comedian

Win Lose or Draw The Election Night Gig.

Traditionally a great night after the hassle of the S.U. elections. The place to be where everyone will analyse the candidates and where it is all happening is at The Two Mile Inn. In the main area there will be a disco and in the second area there will be an oldies disco, and a shit hot blues band from Dublin, "Kicking up Dust". Playing the best R and B around. Advance tickets from the union shop from Tuesday week 5 (shop open between 9am and 6.30pm). Tickets are £3 (£4 at door) buses leave The Stables at 10pm, Spaight's and The Hurlers at 11.30pm. Buses to Castletroy, first run 1.30am second 2.15am.



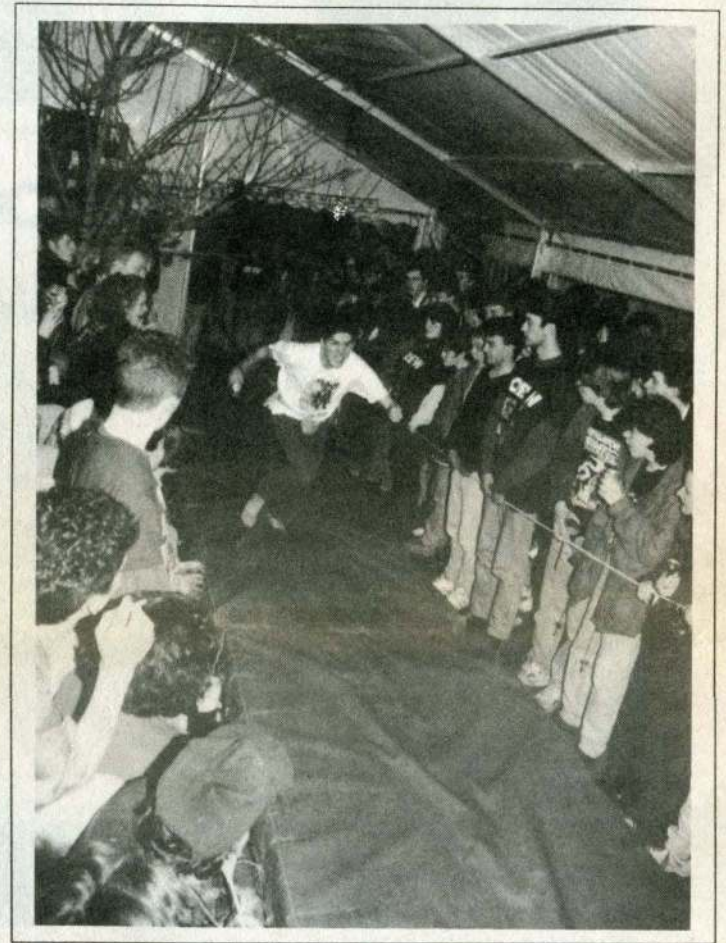


Dermot Carmody - Comedian

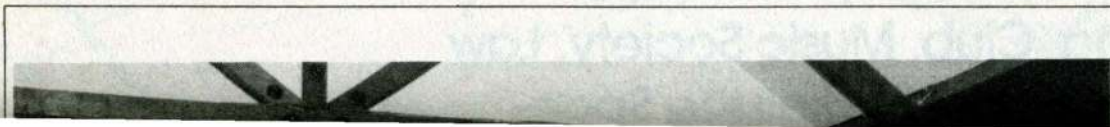
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Speakers Corner



Elastic Run



**The Drunken Prophets Representing
UL at the Stag Contest - Tickets
Union Shop**



Speakers Corner





Elastic Run



**The Drunken Prophets Representing
UL at the Stag Contest - Tickets
Union Shop**

STAG
Colleges Song Contest
NATIONAL FINAL
The Rock Garden, Dublin
Wednesday 6th May 8.00pm
Tickets £3
Please arrive before 8.30pm Ticket not valid after 10.30pm



Eng and Science Speaks

Well Mr./Mrs. BEng - Just how highly Educated are you? Oscar Wilde once said of modern journalism " There is much to be said in it's favour. By giving us the opinions of the uneducated it keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community."

Although I would be as comfortable with the title of "Journalist" as I would with the title "Expert Electronic Engineer" (if perchance someone should happen to call me such), perhaps there is a case for describing me as a "modern journalist", if only a part-time one, in the rather humbling Oscar Wilde perception of the role. Modern journalism in that sense is an activity of the "uneducated" an ,arguably to a point, accurate description of one. For it is in that latter end of the above Oscar Wilde quote that I find a particular correlation between the sentiments expressed therein, and how in one sense they might so easily be applied to final year students of the University of Limerick.

It would be absurd, not to mention grossly inaccurate, to claim that a very thorough and rigorous education in the general principles and practices of electronic engineering is not made available to students of U.L. Moreover, the U.L. electronic engineering course provides industrial work experience (largely of a some way career-relevant nature) and well-established specialisation option within it's programme.

To my way of thinking, however, (and I know I am not alone in expressing this point of view) to provide a University education that is relevant solely to the industrial reality of the day while not entirely without merit, is nonetheless far too narrow a focus to adopt if the University is to serve the broader long-term needs of a modern society and if it is to serve the broader educational and developmental needs of its students. It is in fact in the broader, fuller sense of education that University of Limerick students graduates, in spite of their technical expertise will number amongst "the uneducated". Nor is "uneducatedness" in this sense confined to the University of Limerick alone.

4. investigate European Studies cautiously but purposefully with a view to pioneering explorations of uncharted areas of mutual experience with members of the opposite sex.

5. philosophise, idealise, chase one's dreams.....

6. maybe, we just might, perhaps....do a little bit of.....well..study as well...?

And so after spending some months sorting the swots from the naturals, the cute hoors from the genuinely honest, the shy and introverted from the socially active, after joining a club or society and making friends from other faculties, after drinking and making several forays (successful and otherwise) into the European and Business Studies of the attractively disparate gender ratio, one somehow ends up falling short of fulfilling the 5th priority (which under different circumstances might have influenced all other priorities for the better) .

Time moves on, the years fly by until eventually many a final year students priorities looks more like this;

1. study/ final year project

2. drink

3. short-term relationships (if not minutes-long one-night mutual experiences of an unspecified nature)

4. get a job

Gone are the dreams, the ideals, the motivation to contribute something above that normally asked by society, and thus to be a part of changing it and developing it for the better.

I remember in that first week a senior electronic engineering lecturer (now head of that department) telling us that we were going to be the leaders of

Features

STABLES CLUB NEWS

We'd like to thank everybody (Clubs, Societies, individuals etc.) who helped to make Rag Week the huge success it was. It was great to see so many co-op students, graduates and people from other colleges around the place during the week.

We hope that everyone enjoyed the chance to let their hair down!

STABLES CLUB ENTS.

Week 5: Tuesday - Nuttin' Yet

the broader long-term needs of a modern society and if it is to serve the broader educational and developmental needs of its students. It is in fact in the broader, fuller sense of education that University of Limerick students graduates, in spite of their technical expertise will number amongst "the uneducated". Nor is "uneducatedness" in this sense confined to the University of Limerick alone. No it is not. It is possible however that due to the continuous lecturing and exam-orientated obsessive nature of the system in Limerick that the social dimension of education is accommodated even less here than in other 3rd level education institutions.

Cast your mind back, it seems not so long ago, to your first week in this University. Back then of course it wasn't a university - it was an NIHE. Personally I find it rather difficult attempting to discern any major differences between the 3rd level institution as it was then then and as it is now. Apart from a few signpost changes, increased student numbers, 2 new buildings and 2 extra stools and a few extra knives and forks in the grossly over-crowded Stables to cope with the same increased student numbers little else has changed, visibly at any rate.

Nonetheless I do remember my first week in this University. In particular I remember Orientation Week. How eager, enthusiastic and hungry we were for student life. There was so much to do and learn quite apart from study, and how we thought as students we'd have all the time in the world to do it. The priorities at the time were much like as follows:

1. get to know everyone in your class
2. join a club/society
3. (a) take up drink as a matter of extreme urgency
- (b) if already acquainted with alcohol take immediate measures to become a "seasoned" drinker.

Gone are the dreams, the ideals, the motivation to contribute something above that normally asked by society, and thus to be a part of changing it and developing it for the better.

I remember in that first week a senior electronic engineering lecturer (now head of that department) telling us that we were going to be the leaders of society. I was a little sceptical of that even then as I am decidedly so now. How were we ever to learn or acquire those leadership skills? After all we were being educated according to the requirements of Industry. Ironically the ideas initiative and leadership as it were behind our university education were coming from industry, and not to any significant degree from the University, students or academics. And yet ideas, initiative and leadership in any modern society should come primarily from third level education institutions. Industry is possessed of far too narrow a focus (being controlled almost exclusively as it is by market forces) for it ever to be able to deliver the ideas and thinking necessary for building, developing and planning a society; not just five or ten years hence, but its future ten, twenty and thirty years from now. Only University can provide the necessary scope of ideas and thought. It cannot be over-emphasised as things stand at present, that industry must not be allowed to dictate the operation of a University. By the same token, the influence of third level education institutions and their graduates should be to inspire industry and society in general with its direction for the future.

In conclusion, the average University of Limerick graduate may at first sight appear highly educated and indeed in many respects, so he or she is. I for one nevertheless believe that after my five years of attendance at UL, I am in too many respects "uneducated", nor do I anticipate that industry with its narrow market-force controlled interests will fill that educational void in the near or distant future.

James Hurley, 4th Elect. Eng.

many co-op students, graduates and people from other colleges around the place during the week.

We hope that everyone enjoyed the chance to let their hair down!

STABLES CLUB ENTS.

Week 5: Tuesday - Nuttin' Yet

Thursday - The Tubes

Week 6: Tuesday - Willie

Wednesday - Racing Club Night

Thursday - Shantytown

BARPERSON OF THE TERM:

Congratulations to Jason Hogan winner of the Stables Club Trophy for Barperson of the term. Jason won the award for his exemplary "cheer" and "charm" in term 2. Keep up the good work Jason!

STOLEN PROPERTY:

Thanks to everybody who took the time to return stolen Stables Club property to either the Students Union or the Club itself. As we promised there will be no punitive action taken. Anybody else who'd like to return knives, forks, spoons, ashtrays, trays, glasses, stools or tables drop them into either the S.U. or the Stables Club.

Finally the Stables Club management would like to remind patrons that only food and drink purchased in the Club may be consumed on the premises - all others will be confiscated and not returned.

charm" in term 2

Opinion

S I M O N S N O D G R A S S

Me and Fr. C

The hilly Country of Tipperary, looking idyllic can be seen through the windows of the frugally furnished country cottage. It is evening and the falling shadows change the perspectives of the surroundings. In the darkening room sits a young man of ruddy countenance and athletic build scribbling occasionally into a notebook which he holds at his side.

The sound of steps can be heard coming up the path. A familiar knock on the door.

The young man rises and admits the visitor. The visitor is a priest about the young mans age but more corpulent. The priest is handed a glass containing spirits. The young man administers himself a generous amount from the same bottle. The conversation is lively throughout.

MYSELF: "I was reading in the auld newspaper rather that the two Greencore inspectors were being paid a fee of £1,750 a day for their services. And, do you know that when these beef tribunal shenanigans come to a close the Free State will finish up forking out again. They reckon it'll be over the ten million mark. What do you reckon, Father? Them bloody barristers have the country bled dry. Their ruinin' us all."

Fr. CLITORIS "It may seem that way to the uninformed but it should be remembered that they do have certain hidden costs."

MYSELF "Well damn them anyway, they keep them well hidden."

FR CLITORIS "Also of course they don't earn that amount everyday because they don't work everyday."

MYSELF "Is it my fault Father if they're a lazy shower? I tell you I've spent many years at the bar myself and I've never asked for that class of funding."

FR CLITORIS "Barristers do provide an invaluable service."

MYSELF "Implying that I don't, of course? God then Father you're an awful man. The whole discourse brings to mind an incident that hap-

FR CLITORIS "Oh really Snodgrass, there's no harm in the soccer."

MYSELF "I tell you it is not at all a manly game. All those fellows with long hair."

FR CLITORIS "Yes well naturally I don't approve of long hair."

MYSELF "But Father did you ever see them after getting a goal? all this jumping up on top of each other and kissing one another. One would have thought a handshake would suffice. And it is such a boring auld game too, with all the nil-all draws. I tell you it is no wonder that the gang on the terraces start acting the tinker. From sheer bloody boredom they slap people around the place. I mean when there's no activity on the pitch there has to be some on the terraces."

FR CLITORIS "A most original thesis! You've a moral responsibility to contact the authorities!"

MYSELF "You can make your sardonic comments if you like but I tell you hurling's your only man. There's nothing to match the sweet sound of the hurley in the afternoon sun."

Another pause while the glasses are refilled with the fiery liquid.

MYSELF "They're not real Irishmen like ourselves."

FR CLITORIS "Who?"

MYSELF "The Jackeens, of course. It's upbringing you know. We were weaned on homemade bread and Peig Sayers. I walked the four miles to school barefoot every morning. Ya...barefoot and often without shoes too."

I mBéal an Phobail

Disenfranchising the Students

Scriobh mé tamaillin ó shin faoi na toghacáin a bhéas ar siuil anseo in Ollscoil Luimnigh i rith seachtain a cúig. Léigh mé sa bhunreacht nua atá ag an Aontas, nach bhfuil cead ach ag lucht an

I mBéal an Phobail

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Scríobh mé tamaillín ó shin faoi na toghacáin a bhéas ar siuil anseo in Ollscoil Luimnigh i rith seachtain a cúig. Léigh mé sa bhunreacht nua atá ag an Aontas, nach bhfuil cead ach ag lucht an oideachais, duine a thogha mar 'Transition Officer'. Sin mar a bhí sé anuraidh. Cé go raibh sé an tábhachtach ansin go mbeadh duine éigin ann a thuig fadhbanna na mac léinn, i rith an chomh-nascadh idir Tuamhain agus Ollscoil Luimnigh. Ní féider le h-éinne a rá anois go bhfuil an t-éileamh céanna ann anois. Faoi láthair, tá an job déanta ag Billy Kirwan, ach caitheann sé an chuid is mó dá chuid amá ag obair leis na "Entertainments". Nach mbeidh duine ag teastáil an bhliain seo chughainn le cabhrú, agus treorú nuair a thosóidh na cúrsaí ealaíonna i gColaiste Mhuire Gan Smál. Ní cheart go mbeadh an post seo dirithe ar dhream airíthe amháin (na micléinn hOideachais). Cad a tharla do chothrom na féinne agus na "ideals" eile atá le féiceáil i mbunreacht nua an Aontais.

Student Apathy

Tá Rag week críochnaithe anois. Seachtain iontach spraoiúil a bhí ann. Cé nach raibh an ghrian ag taitneamh i mbliana, bhain gach einne a ghlac páirt ins na h-imeachtaí an-taitneamh as.

Ach níor bhain go leor scoláirí taitneamh as, mar ní dhearhadar aon chaitheamh síos agus dul ag ól, is ag ceol, is ag moladh na mban / na bhfear! Bhí an slua céanna ann ar an Luain, an Máirt, go deireadh na seachtaine. Fuí, níor dhíoladhar na ticéid ar fad don Rag Traein. An bhfuil suim ar bith ag an slua seo in aon rud seachais na leabhair. Tuigim go bhfuil aistí agus projects á ndeomh ag lucht na ceathrú bliana. Ach ar an dtaobh eile, chonaic mé na shiaite ó

that amount everyday because they don't work everyday."

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FR CLITORIS "Barristers do provide an invaluable service."

MYSELF "Implying that I don't, of course? God then Father you're an awful man. The whole discourse brings to mind an incident that happened a few years ago in a Cork district court. There was a lot of noise and disturbance coming from the gallery, so much so that the judge ordered the court cleared. << All the blackguards that aren't lawyers will have to leave >>, he cried.

FR CLITORIS "Very comical indeed Mr Snodgrass."

There is a brief lull in the conversation as the glasses are replenished.

MYSELF "I'm a bit annoyed at that Dublin crowd, Father."

FR CLITORIS "Pardon!"

MYSELF "The Jackeens, Father. They're not like us, they're not manly at all, with all their posing and their soccer."

ranganna eile sa leabharlann ag stadéair i gcomhair scrúdaithe nach dtarlóidh ar feadh ocht seachtaine eile.

A chairde, bainisí usaid as an deis atá agaibh. Ní bhlaistear an oíge ach uair amháin. Tá Rag Week thart anois, ach beidh go leor deiseanna eile le fáil. Nil an ceart ag Ed Walsh nuair a deireann sé go bhfuil "a vibrant social life" anseo. Tá ag daoine áisthe, ach ag dream eile, tá siad ag fás agus ag éiri sean i bhfad ó thogaidh.

An Spalpin Fánach.

Another pause while the glasses are refilled with the fiery liquid.

MYSELF "They're not real Irishmen like ourselves."

FR CLITORIS "Who?"

MYSELF "The Jackeens, of course. It's upbringing you know. We were weaned on homemade bread and Peig Sayers. I walked the four miles to school barefoot every morning. Ya...barefoot and often without shoes too."

Both laugh a little foolishly.

MYSELF "And on cold mornings too. When we got there the headmaster would beat the tar out of us and dropkick us around the classroom but we were thankful to him for it because them's were hard times. Only a week ago I met him on the street."

FR CLITORIS "Did you?"

MYSELF "I did and I thanked him for whacking me because they were hard times you see. He was a hard man the headmaster, did I tell you that?"

FR CLITORIS (gulping back his drink) "No."

MYSELF "Oh, a hard man. He's been all around the world. On one occasion he was caught by the cannibals and finding that his blood was almost pure alcohol,

they drew off a pint each day for the chief. He got fed up with this in the end and put his foot down-

<<Ate me if you want to, you hungry go-mbeen men but stop sticking me for drinks >>.



Abortion: A Burning Issue

The on-going debate regarding abortion has raised many important issues. However, most people are very confused about these issues due to the Supreme Court judgement, the Maastricht Treaty, its protocol, and the forthcoming Treaty referendum. In this article I would like to analyze the results of the Supreme Court judgement, with particular reference to the evidence presented.

THE SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT:

Whether we like it or not the Supreme Court have interpreted article 40.3.3. of the constitution to mean that "limited abortion" is now legally permissible in Ireland. Article 40.3.3. of the constitution states:

"The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as is practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right."

In the case of the Attorney General versus X (the 14 year old girl who has been allegedly raped), the case was presented by the media and also by some legal experts as a dilemma. In its most simplistic form this dilemma was: either the girl is allowed to have an abortion or she will most likely commit suicide. The task of the Supreme Court was then how best to balance the right to life of the mother and the right to life of the child.

A majority of judges of the Supreme Court took the view that a substantial risk to the life of the mother existed, since the young girl had threatened to take her own life if she continued with her pregnancy, and that therefore the only way to avoid the death of both (mother and child) was to terminate the life of the unborn child. On the face of it, this would seem to be a logical and well-reasoned argument. However, it would appear that the facts of the case were not objectively presented, and therefore the dilemma was not as black and white as it may have appeared in the media or indeed in the court. This was due to the fact that the basis on which the risk to the life of the mother was assessed was medically flawed.

"As Obstetricians and Gynaecologists we affirm that there are NO medical circumstances justifying direct abortion, that is, no circumstances in which the life of the mother may only be saved by directly terminating the life of the unborn child"

These are indisputable medical facts. They reflect the findings of professional medical practitioners whose interest lies in presenting scientific evidence in an unbiased manner.

On the basis of the above it would appear that the Supreme Court judgement is seriously flawed on medical grounds. For the life of a mother to be saved, the direct killing of the unborn child is not required in any circumstances. The indirect death of the child may occur as a consequence of medical treatment given to the mother when this is necessary for her health, but this has never been equated with direct abortion by the medical profession, the State or the Churches and therefore such treatment IS available in this country. The lives of Irish women were never put at risk by the 1983 amendment and it is utterly false to paint the pro-life groups as being in any way anti-woman. Any attempts to safeguard the life of the child will never be at the cost of the life of the mother. Unfortunately these facts were not made available to the Supreme Court and it would seem that their decision flies in the face of contemporary medical findings. I would contend, based on the material presented that the respect

abortion, are being re-examined in the face of mounting pressure and genuine regret at the fate of millions of unborn children who have died as a result of that decision.

LIMITING ABORTION BY LEGISLATION:

This country now finds itself with "limited abortion" introduced by the Supreme Court, despite the fact that a majority of people in Ireland, when they last received a chance to express their views on the matter in 1983, were very much opposed to it. The Government have said that they will try to pass legislation so that the most undesirable consequences of the Supreme Court judgement will not come to pass. For example, since the judges made no reference to a time-limit for an abortion, if a psychologist thinks that the life of the mother is at risk from suicide, the same mother could have an abortion up to the very day of birth. This means that one day the baby can be killed "legally", but the very next day it would be "illegal."

Most people would agree that this is a ridiculous situation but the very real and frightening aspect of it is that the DAIL may not be in a position to limit the scope of the judgement through legislation, because the Supreme Court is superior to our legislature. The legislation would have to adapt to the guidelines given by the judgement, and not the other way around.

THE NEED FOR A REFERENDUM:

Opinion

able to see through this emotional rhetoric and see the debate for what it is, an attempt to recognise that all human beings are equal and that they are all deserving of at least one equal and undeniable right, THE RIGHT TO LIFE. Unfortunately for the unborn child the struggle for recognition of this right is difficult. The unborn have no voice, they have no defence other than that which people make for them, and therefore require our best efforts to defend and vindicate their rights. Some

existed, since the young girl had threatened to take her own life if she continued with her pregnancy, and that therefore the only way to avoid the death of both (mother and child) was to terminate the life of the unborn child. On the face of it, this would seem to be a logical and well-reasoned argument. However, it would appear that the facts of the case were not objectively presented, and therefore the dilemma was not as black and white as it may have appeared in the media or indeed in the court. This was due to the fact that the basis on which the risk to the life of the mother was assessed was medically flawed.

Surely it is reasonable to expect that if the life of a human being hangs in the balance, be it mother or child, and the issue has to be decided by the courts, then the evidence presented to the court should be as factual AND complete as possible, and should be provided by those who are best qualified to give it. However, in this case the only evidence to support the assessment of the risk to the life of the mother was presented by a psychologist as opposed to a medically trained clinical psychiatrist. I argue that this evidence was insufficient, given that as a direct result of it, the death of a human being was justified by the court.

THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE:

Prof. Patricia Casey, of the Dept. of Psychiatry in UCD, a recognised expert in the field of suicide and the treatment of suicidal patients, has pointed out (Irish Medical News, 16 April) that a psychologist is "not a medical doctor" and as such "the (Supreme Court) ruling in relation to medical suicide was medically unsound". In addition she said that as far as she was aware "there has never been a case in Ireland where a termination of pregnancy would have been recommended by a psychiatrist as part of the treatment of a suicidal patient." She also stated that "despite the amount of medical knowledge available on suicide, it was impossible to term a person suicidal for more than two or three days in the future."

The Supreme Court judgement also provoked a strong reaction from four Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and another leading consultant psychiatrist. They stated:

were never put at risk by the 1983 amendment and it is utterly false to paint the pro-life groups as being in any way anti-woman. Any attempts to safeguard the life of the child will never be at the cost of the life of the mother. Unfortunately these facts were not made available to the Supreme Court and it would seem that their decision flies in the face of contemporary medical findings. I would contend, based on the material presented that the respect due to the equal right to life of the mother and child has become unbalanced. The Supreme Court judges made a decision based on incomplete and questionable evidence. In doing so they have stated that the taking of the life of an unborn child can be justified based on this same incomplete and questionable evidence.

OTHER LEGAL MISJUDGEMENTS:

Courts in Ireland and in other countries have made flawed decisions before. These are often due to not considering ALL the evidence available, or to the fact that some judgements are passed in a highly charged emotive atmosphere, which unduly influences the judges and makes them lack objectivity. We only have to look at the case of the Birmingham Six and more recently that of Nicky Kelly to see the effects of such actions. But these decisions are not written in stone and they can be changed.

At this very moment in the United States Supreme Court the consequences of the 1973 Roe vs. Wade judgement, which forbade states restricting the availability of

real and frightening aspect of it is that the DAIL may not be in a position to limit the scope of the judgement through legislation, because the Supreme Court is superior to our legislature. The legislation would have to adapt to the guidelines given by the judgement, and not the other way around.

THE NEED FOR A REFERENDUM:

In Ireland there is no court of appeal for cases that have been heard by the Supreme Court. The only way in which the Supreme Court judgement can be overturned is by a referendum that will reinstate the EQUAL right to life of the unborn. I for one would like to see this referendum take place as soon as possible.

If the issues of right to information and travel can be resolved by constitutional amendment, then so also can the central issue of the equal right to life of the mother and child. It is simply not good enough for the Government to say that an appropriate form of wording can be found for the first two issues, but that it is impossible to arrive at a form of wording which will guarantee the equal right to life of the mother and child. I believe this point shows a certain lack of political will on the part of the Government regarding this issue.

DOWNGRADING OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS?

It is indeed sad that some people and groups try to equate the present debate as a struggle between women on one hand, and the unborn child on the other. Hopefully women will be

human beings are equal and that they are all deserving of at least one equal and undeniable right, THE RIGHT TO LIFE. Unfortunately for the unborn child the struggle for recognition of this right is difficult. The unborn have no voice, they have no defence other than that which people make for them, and therefore require our best efforts to defend and vindicate their rights. Surely women and women's groups can identify the struggle for the rights of the unborn with their own long, difficult and on-going struggle to establish the equality of their rights in society.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If having read this article, or for any other reason, you believe the Supreme Court erred in its decision, you can do something about it. You can start by making your views known to your family and friends, in private and in public. You can inform YOUR ELECTED DAIL representative of your views and of your desire that he/she will make them known at Government level. I urge anyone who reads this article with an open mind to consider carefully the facts pertaining to the issues raised, and to bear these things in mind as they consider the future consequences of the present situation.

Ger Healy, Students for Life.

The Co-op System. Job or Joke?

by Donal Waide, Welfare and Education Officer

According to the University of Limerick 1991/92 degree course handbook there is a Co-operative Education Programme, hereafter called the CEP, in operation here much different to the one many of us have gone through or are going through. It says, and I quote, "Cooperative Education, by placing the student in employment relevant to his or her academic interests, integrates classroom theory and laboratory practice with the "real world of work"."

Now relevant seems to be a word used outside it's dictionary definition such as those studying insurance going to Normandy to learn german. The real world of work does not involve a mechanical engineer working in the accounts department for the majority of his co-op ed.

The CEP goes on to add that some of the major features are as follows:

- Each student is assigned to a particular faculty member during placement.
- The faculty member then visits the student at the place of employment to discuss the work assignment and to meet with the employer representative.
- The students receive adequate payment for their work responsibility and experience.

Now many students would agree that it would be nice to know who your supervisor is before you meet him/her in the workplace. How does it look for the employer when the student and the faculty member have never laid eyes on each other prior to the visit. 'What will they tell?' may be in a student's mind before he/she speaks *freely* with the faculty member.

Admittedly some of the students will be on co-op in foreign lands and may not get a visit but there is a lot to be said about the students working in this country. Now maybe a student in the far away vales of Swinford or in radiation torn areas near Cork may have missed out on a visit because of the distance to travel in this immense isle of ours but for the cases of students working on the UL campus this is disgraceful.

On the other hand there was a case where the faculty member flew out to a mainland European city and telephoned

Students are at present very much set academically as to when co-op starts and ends so why are employers interviewing in Weeks 12 and 13. These are not necessarily the new companies grabbed just in the nick of time but companies who have had co-op students for a number of years and know that students would rather know where they are going that put extra stress on them wondering if they will be able to beat the deadline before being obliged to do a project in the college for a lowly weekly allowance.

Normally before attending an interview a student will need some basic facts about the company. Here, we are subject to an under resourced library where many of the co-op companies are not listed despite the fact that some of them have been employing students for a number of years. Should it not be mandatory for the companies to provide some information to the library if they wish to take on co-op students. Or where a company is not listed could a co-op report from the previous student(s) be available.

The interview system is not very well defined. Cases of a company requesting a student to return but still having to schedule interviews for five or six others with the candidate already chosen causes many false aspirations for students. Is the coop form where you have a choice of location ever looked at?

In view of all this it is a well known fact that the economic climate world-wide is not the greatest. Even employment in Ireland is difficult with an unemployment rate of 285,000 here and credit to the co-op office for achieving what they have done in relation particularly to this country.

Some students have been offered jobs by their respective co-op employers. Others have received great reports or references when searching for full-time employment in later life. On the other hand some employers and especially recruitment agencies have laughed at the idea of a graduate claiming he/she got experience over a six or nine month period. This is ridiculous as any work over a period of time that long can only be classed as experience. After all, not many students have spent nine months as teaboy or charlady.

So in summation the co-op office have a few problems but who hasn't? But many of the problems are on-going for

member.

Admittedly some of the students will be on co-op in foreign lands and may not get a visit but there is a lot to be said about the students working in this country. Now maybe a student in the far away vales of Swinford or in radiation torn areas near Cork may have missed out on a visit because of the distance to travel in this immense isle of ours but for the cases of students working on the UL campus this is disgraceful.

On the other hand there was a case where the faculty member flew out to a mainland European city and telephoned the student on co-op from less than 1km away. What is it? The meals aren't good enough here? Maybe the students have something to say which the faculty member can't answer on a one-to-one basis.

On the third point, payment is not as cracked up as we perceive it to be. Some students can expect to earn anything between £60 to £180 a week depending on placement and not experience.

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So in summation the co-op office have a few problems but who hasn't? But many of the problems are on-going for some time now and need to be tackled and cured. Some people have co-op exemptions by travelling on Erasmus and get some sort of weekend work to tide them over. Maybe more Erasmus might help but not every one wants that. The final line is that, like many other facets of University of Limerick life, co-operative Education is not as shiny as some would like to think so.

In the beginning was the plan
And then came the assumptions
And the plan was completely without substance
And the darkness was upon the face of the students
And they spoke among themselves saying
"It is a crock of shit and it stinketh."
And the students went unto their class reps and sayeth unto them.
"It is a container of excrement and it is very strong, such
that none may abide by it!"
And the individual class reps went unto council and sayeth.
"It is a vessel of fertiliser and none may abide its strength."
And council spoke amongst themselves, saying one to another.
"It contains that which aids plant growth, and it is very strong."
And Council went unto the Executive and sayeth unto them.
"It promotes growth, and it is very powerful!"
And the executive went unto the sabbatical officers and sayeth unto them.
"This new plan will actively promote the growth and efficiency of this Union."
And the sabbatical officers looked upon the plan.
And saw that it was good
And the plan became policy.
That ,ladies and gentlemen, is how

SHIT HAPPENS!!!!

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY ?

**YOUR WORK IS YOUR
BUSINESS !**

**YOUR PLAY COULD
BE OUR BUSINESS !!**

**CONTACT US IF YOU NEED US, AT
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27 MALLOW St., Tel. 312026

U.L. Athletics Club

Guaranteed Irish Invitational meet

On Easter Monday, this Athletics event was held on the Athletics Track, hosted by the Limerick Athletics Club. Unfortunately on the day, the weather conditions were far from ideal as a strong wind was blowing down the home straight. The main event of the day was the 10,000 metres invitational race with Ireland's leading athletes at this event competing but due to the wind, the event had to be reduced to 5,000 metres as the Olympic qualification time would not be obtained. Gerry Curtis won the race in impressive fashion with a time of 14 mins. 11.80 seconds, an excellent time considering the weather conditions. Several members of the U.L Athletics Club competed on the day, Paul Kellegher won the men's 400 metres in a time of 51.66 seconds. Marie O' Meara won the women's long jump, John Naughton won the men's pole vault. Gayle Culleton was unlucky not to win the women's 1500 metres, she gave an excellent performance only to be pipped at the line, she also finished second in the junior women's 800 metres. Noel Conway, Ray Doyle and Donal O' Gorman finished fourth, fifth and sixth respectively in the men's 1500 metres. These three teamed up with John Breen to compete in the 4x200 metres relay and what a performance they gave, outshining even their own expectations when finishing a good second, this teams performance can be put in context as it was very much a U.L.A.C. "B" team. Finally, thanks to the organizers for putting up the free beer afterwards, it was thoroughly enjoyed and for an excellent Sports Day.

Intervarsities Track & Field Championships 1992

This event was hosted by Trinity College on Friday and Saturday, week three. Friday's events were held in Belfield while Saturday's events were held in the historic College Park, the venue for the first ever Athletics meet in this country. The Athletics Club sent up a strong men's and women's teams to compete in these championships. A full list of results and overall results will be published in the next issue of An Focal.

Athletic's Club to host first U.L. Sport's Day

Plans are afloat for the first U.L. Sport's Day during week 7. Help would be appreciated for the running of the events, further details from the committee or see Athletics Club Noticeboard for information.

Training

Conditioning Training every Tuesday and Thursday at 5pm in the Sport's Hall and on the Athletics Track on Wednesday at 3pm.

Student Golf Club

On Wednesday 22nd April the annual Leem's Cup match between the students and the somewhat understrenght staff team too place at the Castletroy Golf Club. Despite bad weather conditions a good day was had by all, with the student team winning by five matches to three. Those to win for the students were newcomers Niall Rock and Paul Walsh. While stalwarths Niall McNutty, Declan O'Brien and Niamh McDonnell recorded good wins.

The following week a ten man team travelled to Portmarnock to play D.C.U. as part of the 35 Trophy. Despite some early loses in the top matches, the team rallied to emerge winners by 7 - 3. Those to win were G. Dunne, N. Rock, P. Walshe, N. McNutty, D.Hogan, J.O'Gara and D.O'Brien.

On the fixture front, there are two upcoming outings to be held at Shannon Golf Club on Wednesday 20th and 27th of May. The entry fee is #5 and the booking sheet is in CM072. Any queries contact Kevin Martin in CM006 or by phone on extension 2410.

I did it in cork

Well, tough luck to all of you who didn't want to, didn't dare ,or simply didn't, come on the trip to UCC (Wed wk. 4). I did and what a brilliant trip it was too.

I was not daunted by the initial flabbergasted reaction of the students nor by the rain . In fact the sliding around proved quite interesting!!!!!! The delayed reaction was terrific - bread from the 'happy Christians', kisses from laughing lecturers and cheers from the excited mobs.

Despite the inconvenience of purple paint in every nook and cranny of our bodies, all the individuals involved had a wild and memorable 12 hours of no inhibition and pure unadulterated madness!!!!

Thank you I soc



Clubs & Soocs

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What sexy..... you have ma cherie!!

Well without a doubt la semaine francaise (French week) started with a loud bang (not to mention a few busts and bottoms). Oh la

quelles belles jambes!!!! "Passion Killers" was perhaps not the most appropriate title since participants and audience did become highly excited despite our innocent intentions. Charmaine's strip-tease undoubtedly stole the show especially as her 'essentials' fell to the floor ("Patricia the stripper" might have been a more suitable title). Merci a touset a la prochaine!!!!!!!

wild and memorable 12 hours of no inhibition and pure unadulterated madness!!!!

Thank you I soc



FRENCH DAY - TERM 2.



cos

Equestrian Club

Would you like to spend a weekend crosscountry trekking in Donegal, or Dingle or Clifden?

If you are interested, leave your name in the Equestrian Club box in the Students' Union or contact one of the committee.

"Double tents will be available"

Alissa and Martin take note!

Photo soc.

We would like to thank all those who made any contribution to our exhibition, photographs or otherwise. We hope to take this exhibition on tour to other colleges around the country.

In case anybody didn't, our recent trip to Belfast was a great success and was enjoyed by all. Even though it was a bit short, the "trippers" really got around and a couple of shots of the city can be seen in the forthcoming exhibition.

Also, keep an eye out for our Disco in Week 6. It will be an excellent night with plenty of dodgy photographs to be taken. All blatant exhibitionists, strange persons and ego trippers are most welcome.

Badminton Club

End of week one we went to Dublin to the "Badminton Intervarsities" hosted by Trinity College Dublin. The overall winners were Trinity whom we lost to in the first round in the U.C.D sports complex. (By the way the "Sports Bar" serves great Guinness, but 'cos of the match schedule very little of it was consumed.) We reached the semi-finals but were beaten by the University of Ulster Coleraine. The high light of the weekend was undoubtedly the banquet in the Mont Clare Hotel. This consisted of dinner/disco/lots of drink. The insuing party went on into the early hours of Monday morning. Next morning (ie a few

hours after the party finished) many heads were still throbbing and thanks to Tom and his primary school "fan club" the heads were the same when we finally reached home. The first order at this stage was bed, more bed, and even more bed.

Thanks to all concerned for a very enjoyable and unforgettable (that is if you remember any of it) weekend.

A very depleted squad went to D.C.U. and put on a great show under hostile conditions, thanks again.

Article courtesy of The Kleptomaniac Sub-Committee.

Noticeboard

What is Jobline?

A new way to reach prospective employers is being offered by JOBLINE on minitel the electronic network system which was introduced to Ireland in '91.

The JOBLINE service gives prospective employees the opportunity of presenting their full text C.V. on the minitel network to be read by potential employers all over Ireland.

Once a C.V. is set up on JOBLINE a free-text search can be conducted i.e. prospective employers can enter key words to identify the person required. All the C.V.'s containing these key words will be presented. The search can be broadened or narrowed as required.

JOBLINE

Put your CV on-line.

Advertise your CV on JOBLINE, the electronic service that will be read by prospective employers and personnel managers all over Ireland on the Irish Minitel Network.

To include the full text of your CV free of charge on JOBLINE:

Send your CV on Floppy Disk in ASCII format (i.e. printed to a file) to the address below.

Alternatively send a paper copy of your CV with 65 and

U.L.S.U Elections

Hustings:

Wednesday 6th May 2pm Jean Monet

Polling:

Thursday 7th May 10am to 7pm
Main Canteen

Your Union- Your Vote

Meet the candidates any day
this week in or around the main
canteen area.

EXHIBITION '92

The University of Limerick
Photo Society
proudly presents:

an exhibition of student
photography during week
six of this term.

The photographs will be on show
on levels O and M in D block
for several weeks.

Please Support.

U.L. contemporary dance club
present:

"A game of Cards"

8.30pm May 4th and 5th
(Mon and Tues Week5)
in The Jonathan Swift theatre.

Across

- 1 Cautionary statement. (6)
- 4 It's a nail into the Europeans. (8)
- 9 Valid and authoritative doctrines. (6)
- 10 Short veil worn by Spanish women. (8)
- 12 Sing in one tone. (5)
- 13 Genuine, the real thing. (9)
- 15 Top of stove. (3)

Down

- 1 Postscripts to wills. (8)
- 2 People with no homes or no jobs. (8)
- 3 Racial segregation. (9)
- 5 Raise a glass in honour. (5)
- 6 Supple and graceful. (5)
- 7 Apportions, metes out. (6)

NO

To make the full text of your CV free of charge on JOBLINE:

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Thanks for Contributions From
Everyone who Helped Out
Printed by the Limerick Leader

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- 12 Sing in one tone. (5)
- 13 Genuine, the real thing. (9)
- 15 Top of stove. (3)
- 16 Machine that rotates material for shaping. (5)
- 17 Flat French caps. (6)
- 22 Animal sacks containing milk. (6)
- 24 Wake from sleep. (5)
- 27 With cry, it's a commotion or to-do. (3)
- 28 Of early times, not advanced. (9)
- 31 Moving with great speed. (5)
- 32 Understood though not spoken. (8)
- 33 Submissive and easily managed. (6)
- 34 Person who makes or repairs small arms. (8)
- 35 Remain loyal or stick fast. (6)

Down

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- 5 Raise a glass in honour. (5)
- 6 Supple and graceful. (5)
- 7 Apportions, metes out. (6)
- 8 Seize or grab suddenly. (6)
- 11 Blather, prattle. (6)
- 14 Weeding tool. (3)
- 18 Grasslike marsh plants. (6)
- 19 Sill of a door. (9)
- 20 One who is on the run. (8)
- 21 Connoisseur with appreciation of the arts. (8)
- 23 Little Dorothy. (3)
- 25 Choosing top gin. (6)
- 26 Japanese name for Japan. (6)
- 29 Language peculiar to a person or group. (5)
- 30 Fool, ass, ninny. (5)



Philistine

apartheid