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## WANNA WRITE?

An Focal staff meeting,  
7:00 Wednesday Week 1  
Meeting Room 4  
in the Students' Centre  
We need - writers, editors,  
photographers,  
cartoonists,  
proofreaders & designers  
Everybody welcome

## Welcome from ULSU

by Paddy Buckley

A warm welcome to the University of Limerick from your Students' Union. For those of you embarking on your college career, or those of you returning once again to the hallowed fields of Castletroy, welcome and enjoy the year.

For those of you just arriving in the University of Limerick, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. The Students' Union is here to help you make your years in UL the best years of your life. We will try to give you all the support you need, from photocopying to coping with exam stress, to entertainments and nights out.

The main services that the Students' Union provides are welfare advice, education advice, Clubs & Societies, Entertainments and An Focal. As well as these services, the Students Centre, which is administered by the Students' Union offers a large number of facilities such as photocopying services, binding and a games room. All of these services are



The University of Limerick Students' Centre

provided for you, so make sure to take advantage of them, and if there is any service you need that isn't provided, be sure to let us know.

We also run a large calendar of nighttime events throughout the year to make sure you're never bored, so

make sure to check out the entertainment section in the middle of the paper, which has details of the events going on for the next week. Also, keep a look out for information on Greek Week, coming to you in week 5. Enjoy the year.

## Student outcry expected as registration fees increase by 69%

by John Mulcahy

Students of the University of Limerick are expected to come out in force against the huge increase in third level registration fees put in place by the Minister for Education. A meeting has been organised by the University of Limerick Students' Union to discuss the views of the students on this issue and to organise a plan of action, to ensure that the Minister does not bring back third level fees by the "backdoor". This meeting will take place on Thursday Week 1, 26 September, at 7pm in the Jean Monnet lecture theatre (DG016). It is essential that all students attend as this issue affects us all.

On 18 July 2002 Mr. Noel Dempsey

T.D., Minister for Education, outlined an increase in third level fees and charges for the upcoming academic year. The Minister announced an increase in the charge levied to offset the costs of registration, examinations and student services, from €396 to €670. With a further levy towards the building of the Student Centre and the University Arena of €70 in place, the students of UL must now pay €740 to register.

The extra charge, introduced by the Minister, amounts to a 69% increase on this fee from last year. This will affect approximately 63% of university students, as those who receive a maintenance grant do not have to pay.



Minister for Education  
Neol Dempsey

continued on backpage

## President - Eoin Ó Broin

**Hello all,**

Welcome back to another year at this bastion of learning, known better as UL. Hope you had a good summer and got a few bob together or saw some of the Worlds interesting sites or spent a few relaxing months at the home place. Me, I was here slaving away on your behalf( shut up that's what your elected to do sez you ) from July 1st on. I sat in with Mick Phelan For the last two weeks in June and he explained to me the power structures of the University - and how decisions get made through governing authority, academic council & the students unions role in the managing of the Stables & Scholars.

I got stuck into it then doing some background research on issues such as the situation with bus lanes in Limerick, the half day Wednesday and library opening hours - watch this space. I will be making my findings known through class reps and this paper before long. Myself, Gráinne, Mags, Paddy & Gemma went off to USI officer training in July to learn about presentation skills, negotiation skills, campaigning and to meet the sabbatical officers from the other colleges throughout the 32 counties.

The officer board of USI have some very dedicated people involved so have an opportunity to prove their worth this year. Needless to say there are a few characters there although I am the only one with dreadlocks.

We have met up with the officers from the other 3 Limerick colleges - Mary I, LIT and LSAD (the art college) a few times. It is interesting to hear how the different student Unions in Limerick work and what's going on for the students. We cooperated to produce the blue cloth bags given to freshers which have the logos of the four colleges and the slogan "Limerick colleges working together". We will go marching together about the fees, for the Children's Chernobyl project fundraiser and about the bus lanes. Look out too for the freshers ball & the Halloween ball - two joint/giant affairs.

O yeah the fees - the first we heard about this was at USI in Nenagh. Its thrown a spanner in the works to say the least. Free fees should not cost EUR700. The state of the exchequer means that the state will seek to reintroduce third level fees next year. This much is certain. The minister says that he will use the revenue this brings in to increase the grant thresholds, increase the level of the grant to enable more people from less well off backgrounds to enter third level college. It is certainly true that the free fees that came in a few years ago have not increased the number of people attending college from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Irish Times survey released last week shows that the schools that provide the most freshers for UCD and Trinity are all the fee paying second level schools. Sine quo non. So the minister could be right. But the thing is do we trust him? Do we



honestly believe that this administration is interested in taking money from those who have it to spread the wealth. They are cutting back on the health service and education sector as we speak. Who feels the effects of this - the fee paying families or the disadvantaged? Where is the windfall from the Celtic Tiger? Nice words minister but on the form to date we don't believe you, so we will be knocking on your door about this!

That's my rant for today. If you have any ideas for campaigns the union should be taking on, have any gripe with the University over facilities or want better services at cheaper prices from the union call in to me or email me [supresident@ul.ie](mailto:supresident@ul.ie). This stuff is all thrashed out at class reps

so be sure to become one. If not send your thoughts with your class rep or come along yourself. Class reps is an open meeting and all are welcome!

Looking forward to meeting you soon and having an action packed year!

Slán,  
Eoin

PS: I am quite aware of the fact that it is far more likely that someone from a fee paying school, rather than someone from a school in a disadvantaged area, is reading this article now. I went to a fairly good school myself. If you went to such a school don't take offence about my analysis of the above. Its not your fault. Its the system.

## Welfare/Deputy President - Gráinne Heffron

**Hey there,**

So finally September has come...and it's nice to have all you students back again, the place can get pretty deserted during the summer. We are finished with graduation and ready to face a brand new year in UL. It's a strange one for me, as most of the people I knew have just graduated and are out in the real world! Me, I decided to postpone that for a while and look after you students instead.

So what exactly do I do, as I was asked on numerous occasions at the grad ball. Basically I am here in case things are getting on top of you a bit and you need someone to talk to, are short some money, are having accommodation problems, personal problems or whatever the case may be. Sometimes I may not be able to help personally but I can definitely put you in touch with the people who can. I was a student too and I

understand that although there are many good times there can also be some bad ones. So please call in. That's what I'm here for. I also sit on committees within the college and if there are issues that you would like addressed e.g. the medical centre, student parent issues, campus security etc. then please tell me.

Here are a few things that might be of interest

- The Free Nitelink Bus Service will hopefully be running from week three and a timetable will be available from the students' union and on the website, so no walking home alone at night.

- There will also be some free self defence classes run by the welfare office during the semester, so ask in the union for details



- Also this year we will be running a service in conjunction with a taxi company whereby if you are stranded in town after a night out with no cash they will bring you home

and take your i.d. card as security. You get it back the next day when you pay the fare. More details will be in the next An Focal and in the union.

Now for a few words of advice for the year ahead

- Don't spend all your time in the library

- Don't spend all your time in the pub

- Join a club or society

- Discover Limerick City

- Keep a sense of perspective

College is a really great opportunity to do something different, to discover or rediscover talents. It's a time for protesting, asking questions and not blindly accepting the world the way it is. Change has to start somewhere, why not with you?

"I went into the woods because I wanted to live deliberately. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life...to put to rout all that was not life; and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." - Henry David Thoreau.

Slán go foill

Gráinne

## Education - Margaret Ryan

**Hi everybody and welcome back!**

I hope ye all had a great summer doing lots of remarkable things in interesting places.

First of all, I want to particularly welcome the First Years. It's not that big and scary around here, really. It'll take you about two days to find your way around, and once you've done that, it's half the battle. When the sun is shining (as long as it's not the week before exams) it's not the worst place in the world at all.

The biggest difference between here and secondary school is that nobody will hound you to go to lectures,

tutorials or labs. It's up to yourself. Now, obviously it'll be smarter to go to lectures, etc, but you'll be surprised how easy it is to stay in bed on a cold morning rather than go to lectures. It gets easier again when it's raining. That's all well and good until it comes to exams and you have nothing to base revision on.

You also need to read the rules and regulations so that you know where you stand in any given situation. There will almost certainly be a mix-up over something in the next year, and if you know the rules and regulations it's your best chance of being able to argue your case.



**Scholars CLUB**

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK  
TEL: 061 330190  
FAX: 061330710  
EMAIL: info@scholarsclub.ie  
WEB: www.scholarsclub.ie

Breakfasts 9am to 11.30am  
Lunches 12 noon to 4pm  
Evening Meals 5pm to 7pm

**WEEK 1**

**Welcome back to all our members**

**MON** DJ 8 - 12 pm

**TUES** Champs League Football  
DJ Eric Fitz

**WED** "Escapade" Live  
In association with Heinken  
+ DJ John Kelly

**THURS** Chart/Party Night  
DJ John Kelly

**FRI** DJ Keith Piggott  
Happy Hour 5 - 7  
+ Comp Finger Food

Did you know that you can book 'An Phluais' free of charge?

[www.scholarsclub.ie](http://www.scholarsclub.ie)



**Thurs. 26th Sept**

SUTRAS

With Special Guest: Niall Quinn

Single Release "The lonely one". They got song of the year by Hotpress and voted top ten most promising acts by Hotpress reader's poll.

Doors @9pm

Tickets: €10

SOUL CLINIC

Doors @ 12am

Tickets: €9 Student: €7

**Fri. 27th Sept.**

JUSTIN SULLIVAN & Friends

(NEW MODEL ARMY)

As founder member and main songwriter with the group New Model Army, Justin Sullivan has sold over 1.5 million albums.

**Sat. 28th Sept**

CATCH A FIRE

Bob Marley Tribute

Doors @ 9PM

Tickets: 10 Euro

**Mon. 30th Sept**

MARK O'LEARY

An evening of contemporary improvised jazz featuring Marc o' Leary on guitar, Marc Nauseef on percussion, Jorma Tapio - Tenor sax and Pepa Paivinen on tenor sax/bass sax/ flute.

Doors @ 9PM

Tickets: 10 Euro

Tickets available in advance from Dolan's Pub, 3/4 Dock Road, Limerick

061-314483 / info@dolanspub.com / www.dolanspub.com

The other thing you need to know is how all your modules are going to be assessed. There may be marks for assignments, tutorial/lab attendance, mid-terms and finals. These are all valid ways of giving you points, so make sure you're not losing marks because you don't go to tutorials. (They're handy for asking questions too, and more detail on what was covered in lectures, and even the odd exam hint...)

As regards getting to the end of your course here, someone once said "anyone can have a great year here. The smart ones have four great years here." What does that mean? Well, basically that as long as you do a reasonable amount of study, you should get to pass your exams and do it all again.

As long as I'm talking about it too, while the whole lecture/tutorial/lab/exam thing is the most important thing you're going to do in UL, there are other things you can do while you're here. There are about 70 clubs and societies on campus, you'll surely find one that interests you. And if you can't find one, start one. That's what the Clubs and Societies office (upstairs in the Students Union) is for.

Call in if you need something solved. If we can't solve it we'll point you to someone who can.

Have a great four years in UL,

Margaret.

## Communications - Paddy Buckley

**Hi everybody and welcome back to UL.** I hope ye all had a good summer, it will be good to have people back on campus though, this place can be fairly dead over the summer. As you can see, there are loads of events coming up to help you get settled back into college, (check out the ents section in the middle of the paper), so make sure you go out and sample the joys of nighttime in Limerick over the next few weeks.

From a students point of view, the big news story of the summer was undoubtedly the increase in registration fees. This decision was reached unilaterally by the Minister for Education after the election. USI was not even informed of the decision and ended up finding out by a journalist faxing them through a copy of the press release and asking them for a comment. UL is not in USI and has not been in it for the last number of years, primarily because the majority of students felt it was an ineffectual organisation. It is now firmly up to USI to prove their worth on this issue.

Having said that, it is important that we as students have our say on this issue. The free fees system was

introduced in the 90's by a coalition government seeking to increase its popularity. Its stated goal was to increase participation in the third level education system by students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. If this was its purpose, then the free fees system was a failure, and it never worked, because it helped middle class students far more than it ever helped poorer students. The Minister is using this argument to justify rowing back on the whole free fees system. The problem is that while I might believe someone who said they were going to reform the fees system to help poorer students in a time of economic prosperity, I think someone who says they are going to launch a "reform" of the fees system in the middle of an economic slowdown somehow lacks credibility. But then again, I was always a cynic. Anyways, the Students' Union is having a campaign meeting about this issue (see overleaf), so if you want to have you're say, come along to that.

Apart from that, anybody who wants to get involved in Campaigns or An Focal for the year can come along to the An Focal meeting in the Students' Centre Wednesday Week 1. An Focal can only be as good as the



people writing for it, so if you want a good student paper, then help out by getting involved.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Patrick Kennedy (last years editor) for all his help over the summer. I was lucky enough to have PK around for the whole summer, and he was absolutely brilliant in helping me out with the diary and An

Focal, and a million and one other little things that I would have never taught of myself. Thanks a million for all the help and advice, and good luck in Australia.

Thats my piece for this week, enjoy the year.

Later  
Paddy

# WANNA WRITE?

An Focal staff meeting, 7:00 Wednesday Week 1  
Meeting Room 4 in the Students' Centre

We need - writers, editors, photographers, cartoonists, proofreaders & designers  
Everybody welcome

# FEES BY THE BACK DOOR?



This summer the Minister for Education announced a 69% increase in the registration fees for all students. Is this the first step in the reintroduction of tuition fees? For information on this and other fee and grant related issues:

**Students' Union Campaign Meeting**  
Thursday Week 1, 7:00pm in  
The Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre

## Date rape drugs - Know the risks

by Marian Roche

**We are all aware that drinks get spiked** in night clubs and pubs all around the country but maybe you think it only happens in clubs in big cities. If you think this you are wrong! It can happen anywhere. It can even happen in places you think you think know well. There were a number of incidents of drink spiking during Graduation week, although none of these incidents were on campus. Hopefully these incidents will drive home the importance of being cautious at all times when you are out for a night. It is important to remember also that your drink is just as likely to be spiked in your local as it is to happen in any of the big clubs in town.

According to The Drug Rape Trust if your drink is spiked with one of these kinds of drugs you can be rendered "mentally incapacitated" and physically helpless. You may be aware of what is happening but may be powerless to prevent an attack. You may also have little or no memory of what happened. Some of the memories may come back, some will not. The drug rape trust suggests that if you are experiencing memory loss; try to piece together the facts. Where were you when you were drugged? What is the last memory? Where were you when you first regained consciousness? If all these were in different places, how long will it have taken to move between them? Did anyone else see you during that time?

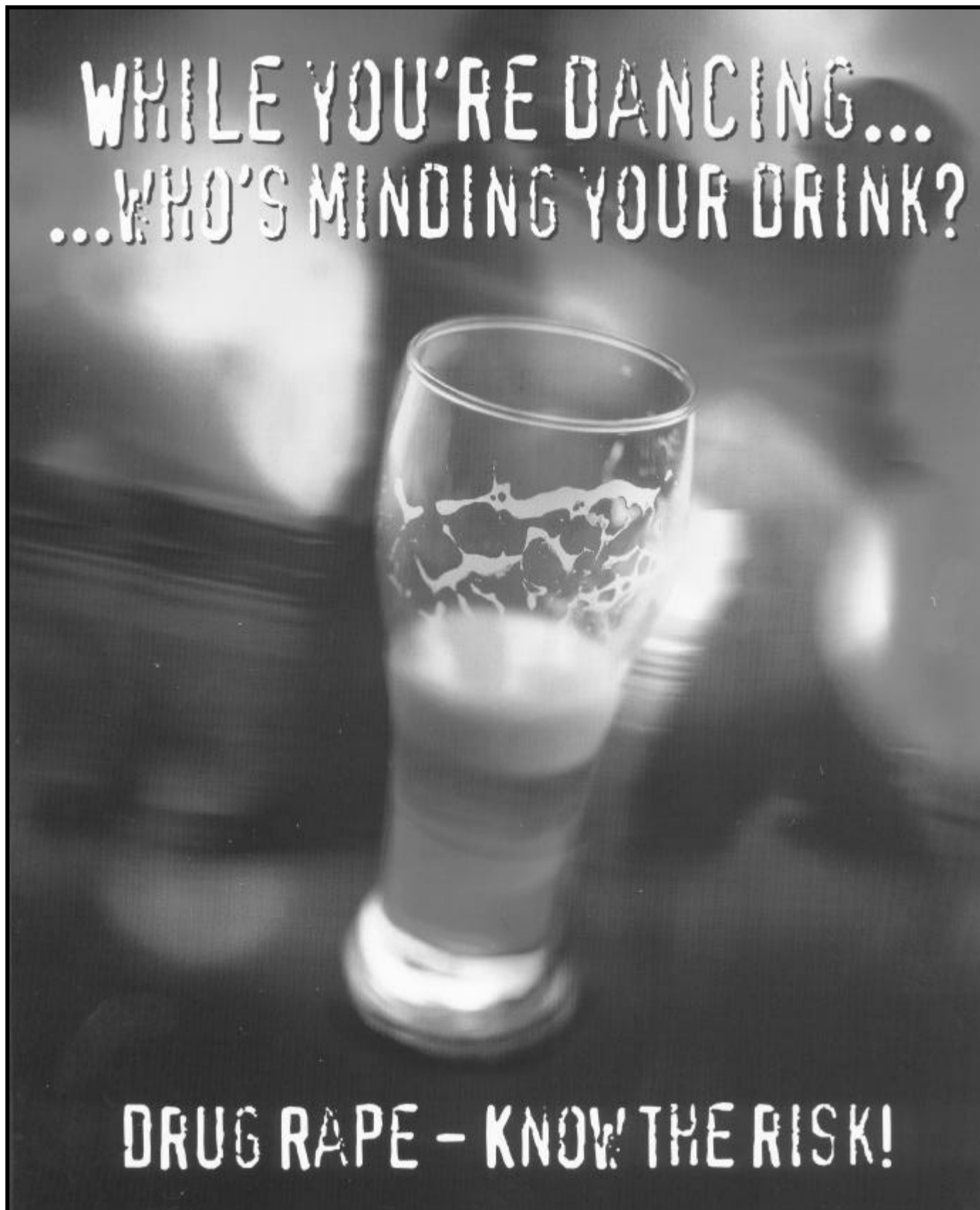
It is important to report anything you even think happened to the police, or go to the hospital immediately to be checked out. You can also call into the Students Union and report it to one of the Officers, they will then point you in the right direction.

However as always prevention is better than cure. The Drug Rape Trust suggests a number of practical steps you can take to reduce the risk of drug assisted sexual assault.

- Plan your journey or night out, make arrangements from start to finish.

- Make sure someone knows where you are going and what time you will be home

- When going to a pub, club or party



avoid going alone. Friends can watch out for each other.

- Appoint a nominated drink watcher.

- Alcohol does affect your actions and reactions, as well as your ability to be alert.

- Stay aware of what is going on around you and stay away from situations you do not feel comfortable with.

- Never accept a drink from anyone you don't completely trust.

- Do not share or exchange drinks

- Don't leave your drink unattended

even when you are going to the toilet

- Remember that drugs can also be put into soft drinks as well.

- If you return to your drink and it has been moved, looks different, appears to have been topped up or tastes strange do not drink it, just get a new one.

- Consider the possible consequences before you leave a pub or club early with someone you've just met.

- If you begin to feel drunk after one or two drinks seek help from a trusted friend.

The main thing to remember is to be careful of your drinks, do not let them out of your site. Also try to always go out with people you trust in a large group. As well as being careful of your own drinks watch out for your friends as well. If they are night around do not assume that they are ok, they may have gone home or they may have scored!! Take your phones out with you and give them a ring if someone goes missing.

For further information, visit

<http://www.drugrapetrust.org>

## Renewed threat to college bar licences

by Marian Roche

**The residents of College Court have raised** the contentious issue of the Scholars and Stables Club licences again this year. As with all clubs the licenses must be renewed annually and despite last year's efforts to resolve the problem this year's renewal sees further objections by some Castletroy residents.

The objections have been put forward by Elvio Nardone and the College Court Residents association. Mr Nardone has objected on the grounds that "(a) there is frequent drunkenness on the club premises, or that that persons in a state of intoxication are frequently seen to leave the Club premises, or that the Club is conducted in a disorderly manner and (b) that any rules of the Club are habitually broken". The objection from the College Court Residents Association is along the same lines, that the rules are not conformed to and that the club is "habitually used for any unlawful purpose or mainly for the supply of excisable liquor".

Students have acquired a reputation for drunkenness and disorderly behaviour due to the actions of a small number of troublemakers in UL. When the licences were objected to

this time last year all students were encouraged to be on their best behaviour, especially when going through housing estates. Luckily the behaviour did improve during the year and thankfully the licences were renewed after several court hearings.

The main bone of contention for the managers of both Clubs at the moment is that of underage drinking. Because UL students use their Date of Birth, their ID number as well as a PIN number to access their transcripts it is more secure not to contain the ID number and the Date of Birth, hence the Date of Birth is not included.

The University has established a new system whereby any students who are under the age of eighteen will be issued with a different colour ID card than those students who are over eighteen. This new system basically means that any students with this different colour ID card will not be allowed on the premises of the Scholars Club or the Stables club. Due to the sheer size of the campus and the number of students (over 10,000) it is not feasible for the bar staff to check all ID cards at the bar therefore it will prove necessary to place a blanket ban on under eighteens on the premises to avoid the risk of them being served alcohol.



**The Scholars Club licence is under threat**

Obviously there will be students who are under eighteen on entering UL in September but may turn eighteen during first year, in this case the student will have two options. The first being to go to students services and they will be issued with a new ID card with a change of colour. Alternatively they can hold onto that ID card and bring another form of ID to the Scholars or Stables Club with them, either a Drivers Licence, Passport or Garda Age ID.

The outgoing ULSU Community Officer John Mulcahy stressed again

the need for concern for the residents especially on the way home from a night out. It is extremely important that the UL students accept that there are non-students living in close proximity to them, people with jobs to go to early in the morning, children to get ready for school and lives to lead that do not need to be interrupted by noisy disruptive students on their way home from a night out. These type of students are in the minority. However if the licences are to be renewed all students are encouraged to be in their best behaviour during the coming year.

## Deiseanna oibre in Aonad na Gaeilge

by Deirdre Ni Loingsigh

Múinteoirí

An bhfuil cáilíocht sa mhúinteoireacht nó taithí múinteoireachta agat? Más spéis leat dul ar phainéal mhúinteoirí



Aonad na Gaeilge seol do CV chuig Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge. Fostófar múinteoirí ón liosta seo chun ranganna an Aonaid a chur i láthair don bhliain acadúil 2002/03.

Beidh cúrsa oiliúna do mhúinteoirí an Aonaid ar siúl san Ollscoil ag deireadh na míosa seo. (Dé Sathairn, 28 Meán Fómhair 10.00-17.00). Ceardlanna seachas léachtaí a bheidh i gceist le cinntiú go mbeidh páirt an-ghníomhach ag rannpháirtithe an chúrsa. I measc na dtoipicí a ndíreofar orthu beidh pleanáil cúrsaí, cur le chéile pleananna ranga, nithe is féidir a dhéanamh le cinntiú nach bhfágann an oiread foghlaimoirí rang roimh dheireadh cúrsa, rólghníomhú, cluichí teanga, agus múineadh na gramadaí. Níl aon táille don chúrsa

seo ach beidh ar rannpháirtithe bheith sásta dul ar phainéal mhúinteoirí an Aonaid. Is í Ailín Ní Chonchúir MA, H.Dip., cainteoir dúchais ó Chorca Dhuibhne, iar-Oifigeach Gaeilge sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath agus dearthóir shiollabais nua Aonad na Gaeilge a chuirfidh an cúrsa i láthair. Iarratais chuig deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie roimh 20 Meán Fómhair.

Riarachán páirtaimsire

Ar mhaith leat obair pháirtaimsire a dhéanamh in Aonad na Gaeilge. An bhfuil Gaeilge líofa, caighdeán ard scríbhneoireachta agus scileanna ríomhaireachta agat? Ráta EUR9 san uair, 4 uaire sa tseachtain (uaireanta solúbtha). Ar na réimsí

oibre beidh riarachán, aistriúchán agus margaíocht do sheirbhísí an Aonaid. CV chuig Deirdre Ní Loingsigh roimh Dé Máirt Seachtain 2.

Oifig C1074  
deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie

Ceoltóirí / rincoirí

Ba mhaith le Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge painéal de cheoltóirí agus rincoirí a chur le chéile d'ócáidí Gaeilge i rith na bliana. Más cainteoir Gaeilge tú agus más spéis leat d'ainm a chur ar an bpainéal seo, déan teagmháil le Deirdre ag na seoltaí thuas. Fostófar mic léinn ón liosta chun ceol agus siamsaíocht a chur ar fáil ag ócáidí sóisialta an Aonaid i rith na bliana.

# Safety within the University

by Philip Thornton

**Universities in general are very safe places to be** and the risk of you being involved in an accident is very low. The education sector has a particularly good record with accident levels consistently much less than many other work areas.

However, there is always a potential for serious injury. Exercise care when working in science laboratories, engineering workshops, whilst on fieldwork trips and Co-Operative Placement and when taking part in sport activities, which are incidentally the cause of many injuries.

The University invests a great deal of resources to ensure that you study in safety and while it would be impossible to list all of the precautions in place, below is a simple check list which will hopefully assist you in fulfilling your individual responsibility for your own health and safety and that of your classmates:

1. Be sure to read the University's Emergency Evacuation Procedure contained in the Student Support Services Handbook and the Fire Notice Signs in the main corridors.

2. On your first visit to lecture theatres and laboratories take some time to familiarise yourself with the location of the escape routes, fire alarm call points, fire extinguishers, assembly points and telephones.



The University of Limerick campus

3. Report all accidents and injuries to the person in charge of your class or to another staff member. In the event of a fire or other emergency alert Security (ext. 3333) or if urgent contact the local emergency services (i.e. fire brigade, ambulance, Gardai) using the 999 system.

4. Read any departmental safety guidance documents and attend any health and safety induction session arranged by your lecturers.

5. Do not misuse or tamper with the fire detection/fighting equipment or other safety equipment. This can endanger not only your own safety but that of your fellow students.

6. Physical activity and sports are essential elements to a healthy lifestyle. Play by the rules of the game and do not endanger the health and wellbeing of yourself or others.

7. Walking and cycling are very enjoyable and environmentally friendly ways to get to where you want to go but they have certain risks

attached to them. Follow the Rules of the Road and ensure that your bike is roadworthy.

8. For health and fire safety reasons, smoking is prohibited in all parts of the University's buildings, except in the designated areas of the Main Building restaurants and private offices.

If you have any specific safety concerns or questions please contact me on extension 2239.

Have a successful and safe time at the University.  
Good Luck!

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blank screen's, poor audio etc...

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# Graduation 2002

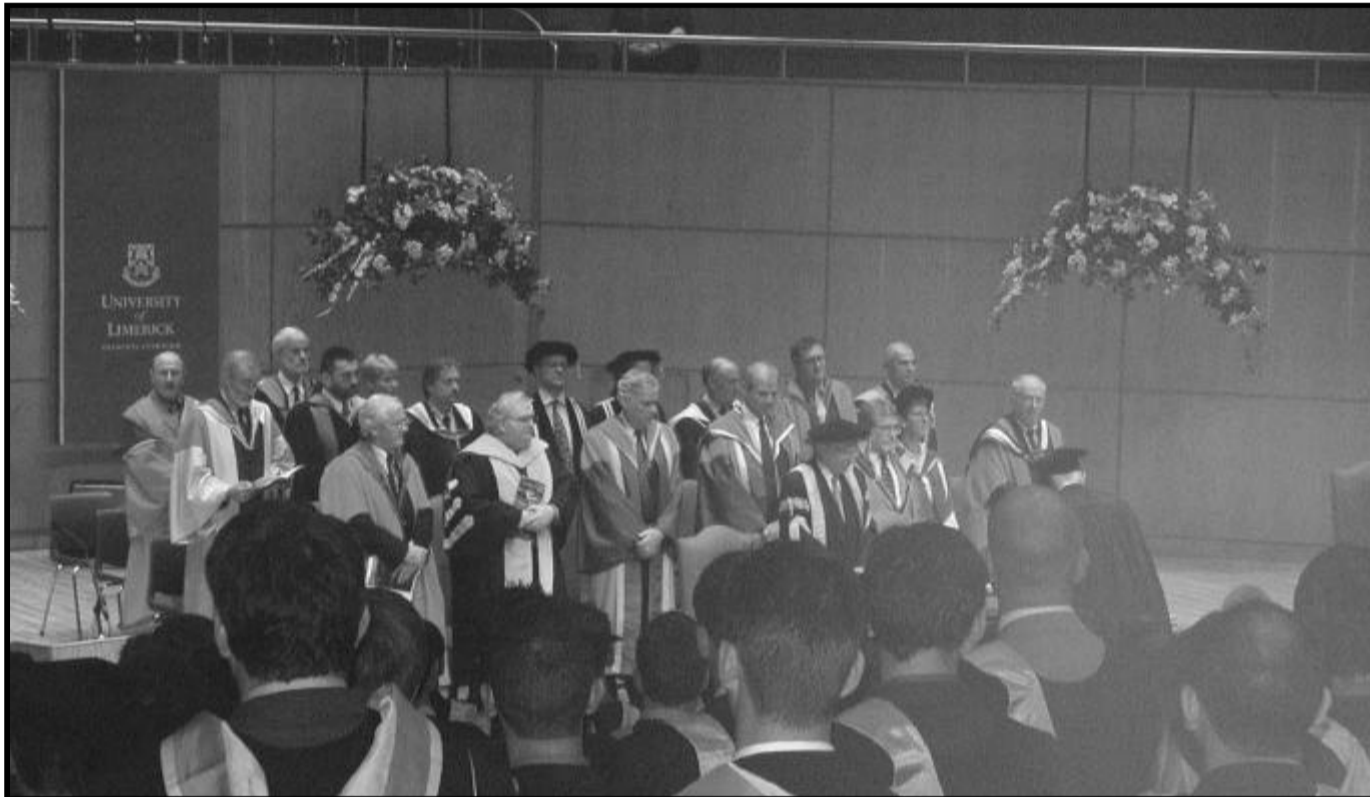
by Peter Burrows

**Autumn conferring on campus: 2500 UL graduands** finally become UL graduates and receive the piece of parchment, which symbolises their academic achievement.

Funnily it began on a day not unlike yesterday. The campus was bathed in the same warm mid September sunshine and resonated the same sense of occasion from its proud but somewhat nervous inhabitants. Was it not for the robe on my shoulders, the wisened glint in my eye and the slightly self-indulgent swagger to my stride, one could be forgiven for thinking I was beginning rather than ending my degree studies.

Has it really been four years I ask myself? Looking back at the four years as a whole it seemed to be over so quickly; in fact I doubt that Michael Schumacher could have gotten from first year to fourth year quicker. However when I start to focus on the individual memories: that first lecture; sweating over exams; finishing the FYP, it is only then that I begin to realise how much time has elapsed and how much I have changed since that September day four years ago. Thus it is only fitting that our achievements both personal and academic should be marked with a ceremony as special as graduation.

Having never seen the ceremony before I was a little unsure as to what to expect. In fact I was anticipating lots of pomp with very little substance. I was pleasantly



The conferring board before the presentation of degrees

surprised to witness a triumph for both organisation and occasion. The ceremony begins with a parade of all the graduates into the concert hall followed by an academic procession and the entrance of the President Dr. Rodger Downer. Once Dr. Downer declares the meeting in session he deems all candidates as worthy of their awards and confers all non-attending graduates in absentia. The graduates are then called by name to receive their diplomas or degrees as the case may be. This involves quite a lot of clapping as each person gets an individual round of applause. PhD students receive a special honour in recognition of their achievements; each is presented

with their hood and cap by their internal examiner before receiving their parchment from the president. The presentations concluded with the awarding of the gold medal for first place in the Informatics Department, which this year was presented to Lorna Brodwin, with the silver medal awarded to Eimear Crampton. Congratulations to both on their wonderful success.

The presentation of awards was followed by speeches from Professor Cyril Burkley: Dean, College of Informatics and Electronics and then by President Dr. Rodger Downer. Professor Burkley first congratulated all the graduates on their achievements, before commenting on the downturn in the Information Communication Technology sector. In 1998, Professor Burkley explained, industry analysts were predicting massive shortfalls in the number of ICT graduates compared with industry requirements in this country and indeed worldwide. These figures, he said, were based on levels of unsustainable growth and inevitably the industry had to experience a re-alignment. In spite of this, he remains hopeful for the future stressing that technology was here to stay and growth in the sector would continue in the future.

Dr. Downer's speech again dealt in the most part with the ICT sector and the current slow-down in growth. While again commending all the graduates in their achievements, he remarked on the sense of excitement graduation generates within the college. Making the point that no student could graduate without the help of others, he thanked parents,

family, friends and all who had provided assistance and support to the graduates along the way. He reiterated the pride we should feel in ourselves, especially because U.L degrees are not "conferred lightly". He stressed that the degrees we received held both national and international currency and U.L graduates were recognised worldwide for their skills, commitment and dedication. Commenting on the ICT sector,

Dr Downer warned that the "unbridled optimism" of recent years should not be replaced with "unwarranted pessimism". He stressed that the future of ICT in this country was indigenous talent providing entrepreneurship, which could only be borne from research. In this vain, he expressed delight at the number of graduates from the 2002 class who were choosing to further their studies. Finally Dr. Downer encouraged all graduates to keep in contact with the university wherever their respective career paths may take them and said that as alumni members U.L would always be a welcoming place us. The ceremony ended as it began with all graduates processing out of the concert hall behind the academic dignitaries.

Thus four years in U.L ended. I will take with me many memories and like all nostalgia it is bitter sweet. I had grown comfortable here and many faces I have grown to know and respect might never be seen again. That said I look forward to the future, sure in the knowledge that I will draw on my U.L experience and that I am a better person for it.



Students enter the concert hall to receive their degrees

## Plassey Bridge

by Patrick Kennedy

**The story just won't seem to go away.** Last March at an oral hearing by An Bord Pleanála the Environmental Societies argument against the bridge through the UL Campus were defeated. However the society has now appealed to the High Court and a formal complaint has been sent to the European Commission, despite the fact that construction on the bridge has now commenced.

In order to let everyone get a firm grasp of where the University and the Environmental Society both stand on the issue we interviewed Mark O'Connor (UL Alumnus and member

of the Environmental Society) and John O'Connor (UL Vice President Administration).

Below is the detail of the separate conversations that were held with both.

An Focal would like to thank both Mark O'Connor and John O'Connor for their time and willingness to conduct the interviews



The Shannon River

## Mark O'Connor - UL Environmental Society

**Mark O'Connor (UL Alumnus and member of the Environmental Society)**

Having first attended the University of Limerick in 1991 as a Mechanical Engineering student Mark has been around to see a large amount of the development of the University of Limerick. He has now gone on record to say that he is disgusted with the manner in which the University, his *alma mater*, are treating the environment in their constant search for further development. It emerged at the oral hearing in March that the area that Drumroe Village is built on is actually a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). "to work in a special area of conservation you have to seek permission from the European Commission." However the only time that this is generally granted is when there will be no irreparable damage done to the surrounding area, "Bord Pleanála decided a road through a special area of conservation isn't a significant impact" something that the Environmental Society strongly disputes.

A complaint over the construction taking place within the SAC has been submitted to the European Commission. Mark said that he was extremely unhappy at the outcome of the Bord Pleanála hearing as the Environmental Society had a very strong case. Also he stated that the area that the University are planning to develop on the North side of the

campus is actually a flood plain and by building here the University could be doing untold damage to the surrounding areas. When asked what consequences could be expected he said, "nature isn't an exact science and it's arrogant of anyone to presume that there will be no affect. Additionally at the hearing the developers tried to claim that the area of construction was a semi-urban environment, despite the fact that prior to construction there was not a road to be seen from the actual site of development.

Mark claims that as a graduate of the University of Limerick he is "ashamed of my University for doing this, they are proceeding on a romantic idea of the Shannon flowing through the centre of the campus but the reality of them having to trample over their environmental obligations in getting to that desirable campus is" in his own opinion "not the direction they should be going."

Over the summer the 'Protect Plassey' campaign has sought to make the wider Limerick Community aware of the amenity that may be affected by the construction of the Bridge over the river Shannon at the University of Limerick. These Events included The Plassey Picnic and the Parade in the City centre. Additionally a petition has been commenced and so far over one thousand signatures have been collected.

Mark says that their campaign has boiled down to three key points, no building in a SAC, no building on a flood plain and protecting the fishing heritage.

He suggested possible alternatives to building the bridge and developing the campus on the north side of the

river Shannon. These included using the land in Clare to accommodate facilities like an equestrian centre or a similar structure that would not affect the flood plain. Also there is the possibility of developing playing fields on the other side of the river and building new developments on the current playing fields.



The Protect Plassey barbeque

## John O'Connor - UL Vice President

### John O'Connor (UL Vice President Administration).

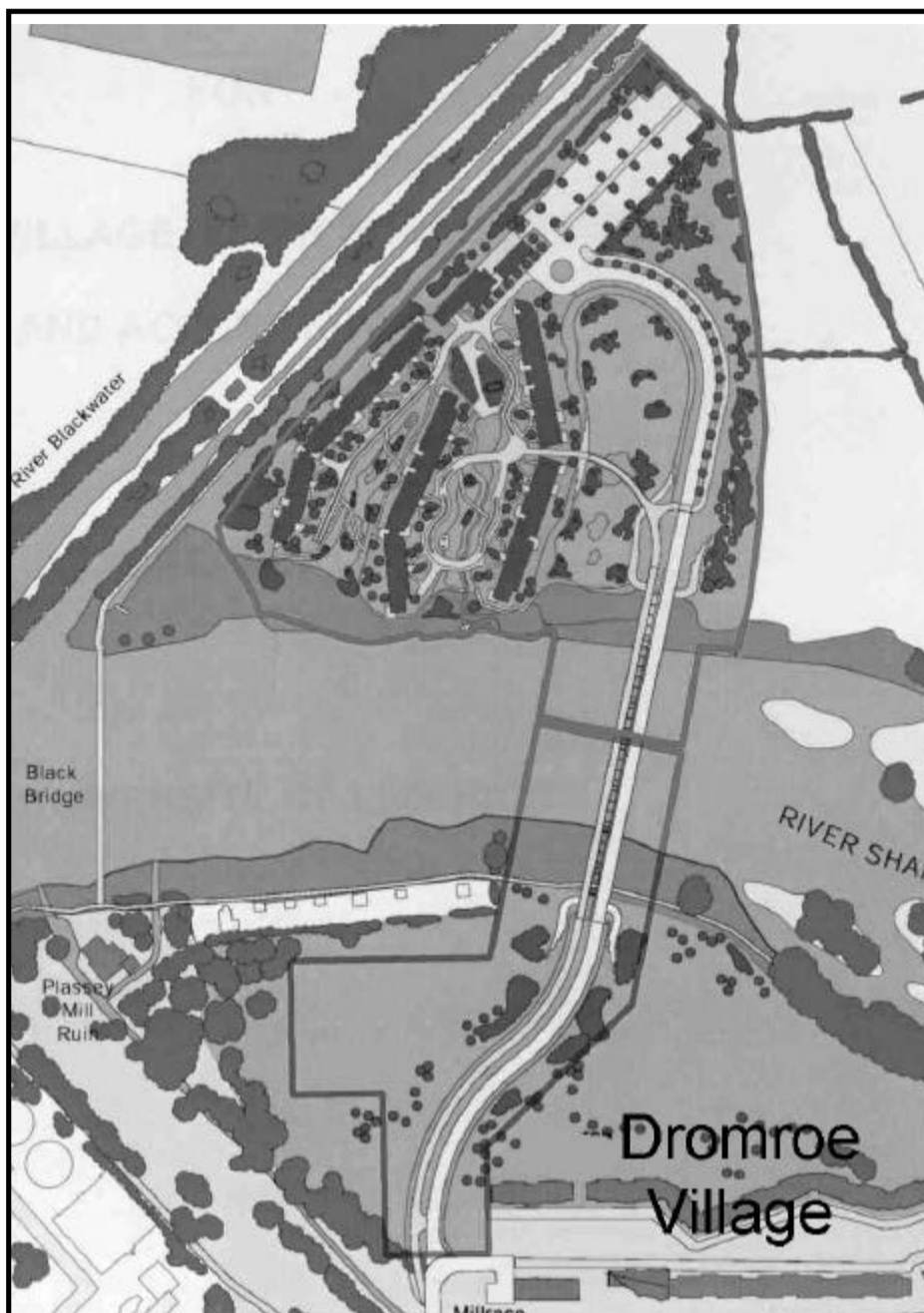
Mr. O'Connor firstly went through a brief history of the development of the University of Limerick so as to give a better understanding of how the possibility of developing on the North side of the campus came about. In 1970 the target was to develop a campus on the land at Plassey that could accommodate roughly eight thousand students. The University then worked out a plan to develop the campus while maintaining the existing woodlands and also developing new woodlands.

By 1995 the development had reached the original goal of accommodating eight thousand students and now had to consider where its future development would lie. He says that all possibilities were explored and the Co. Clare side of the River Shannon was deemed to be the most desirable site. This was for a number of reasons but mainly because they were unable to develop in an alternative direction. The technological park lies to the east, residential housing and Milford house to the south and wetlands and a treatment plant to the west. Furthermore the University authorities wished to develop an integrated campus with good access. 125 acres of land were acquired to the north of the campus to meet the long-term development of the University, according to Mr. O'Connor.

In response to criticism in relation to the floodplains issue raised by the University of Limerick Environmental Society, Mr. O'Connor states that "lands on the North Campus are actually higher than the lands here on the current campus" by and large the new development are above any wetlands or lane that will ever flood. The University has employed independent agencies to carry out environmental surveys, surveys that claim that these new developments will have no impact whatsoever.

When asked if other alternatives were considered, Mr O'Connor said that yes, there were other considerations. Possibilities such as a tunnel and other locations for a bridge were considered. However it proved that the current area of construction was the best-suited area for such a development, and would cause the least amount of disruption to the environment surrounding it. Indeed the area of the river where the bridge is to be built actually has the lowest rate of fish spawning along this particular stretch of river.

When asked what his response was to Mark O'Connor's claim that he is ashamed of his University's supposed scant regard for the Environment he says that he is surprised as "this University has done more than any other in this country to actually develop its environment, respect the natural environment it inherited and enhance it.



Map showing site of the Plassey Bridge



### The next Blood Donor Clinic in your area:

**Venue:** The Kilmurry Lodge, Castletroy  
**Time:** 6:00 - 9:00pm

**Date:** Thursday, 26th September 2002

Blood donations are completely voluntary

### You may donate if:

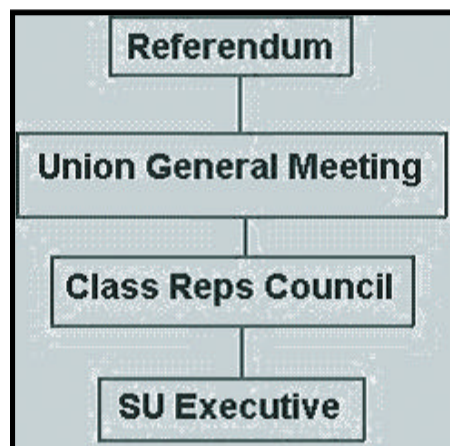
You are aged between 18 and 65 years. (First time donors 18 - 59 years).  
 Have not donated within the last 90 days.  
 You are fit and healthy

For more information, please contact our Limerick Office on 061-415392 or visit our website [www.ibts.ie](http://www.ibts.ie)

# The Class Representative system

by Gemma Nolan

**The Class Representative Council determines Students' Union** policy and is subject only to the student body itself. There are seven standing committees of Council in order to increase efficiency eg.: Welfare Committee. The Class Representative Council is the third most powerful body of the Students' Union after referenda and Union General Meetings.



SU building. The majority of the work done by the Class Reps involve s going to the meetings, where it is their responsibility to speak on behalf of their class in any debates or discussions that take place, and vote on the proposals. There are also certain rules and orders that must be adhered to, these are the "Standing Rules". At the end of Council business every week workshops will be held. These workshops are smaller groups of reps put together for discussion on certain issues. The groups will be well mixed to include 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and postgraduate students and an Executive member in each group and will be rotated every two weeks. A note taker or facilitator should be appointed for each group and all documented feedback should be given to the Development Officer at the end of each workshop. The workshops will rotate between training and issue based discussion. Feedback from workshops will be discussed and possibly could be implemented at council.

The most important thing to remember about the Class Representative system and how it works is that your participation is vital. If you do not participate then the system will inevitably break down. The Officers of the Students' Union are here to be told by you the

The Class Rep Council consists of all class reps and members of the SU Executive Council. The Council meetings are held every two weeks starting in Week 2 in Room 5 of the

students' what exactly it is you want done. By becoming a Class Rep you effectively become "The Class Voice" as you are responsible for the communication of information between your class and the Students' Union. The Class Rep represents his/her class, makes representation to the Students' Union and also to the lecturers and academia.

What are the benefits of becoming a Class Representative?

- Participation - Getting involved to the fullest extent in college life.

- Problem solving skills

- Team Building - You will learn to be part of a team.

- Learning how to navigate the SRAS system.

- Public speaking.

- Communication skills - Within the classes, with the other reps' ,the ULSU and with the University.

- Class Reps' learn how to have a "Hands On" approach in certain areas e.g.: when dealing with your class grievances.

- Workshops - Workshops are held after the Class Reps Council are finished with council business.



- Admin Weekend - Here you will receive training for the year ahead.

- Class Reps' Certs - All Class Reps' who have fulfilled their duty as reps' for the year shall be rewarded with Certs signed by the Students' Union and the President of the University.

So if you are interested in participating contact the Class Representative Development Officer in the Students' Union upstairs in Room 117 or via email at [gemma.nolan@ul.ie](mailto:gemma.nolan@ul.ie).



## University of Limerick Students' Union Executive Elections

Nominations are requested for the following positions on the Students' Union executive.

- 1) Student Teacher Officer
- 2) Community Relations Officer
- 3) Equality Officer

Nomination papers are available from the returning officer and the Students' Union reception.

Nominations opens at 10:00am, Monday Week 1 (23rd of September) and must be returned no later than the 5:00pm, Friday of Week 1 (27th of September).

Any nominated candidate who is unopposed at 5:00pm on Friday the 27th of September is deemed elected subject to approval by the next Students' Union general meeting.

An election for any contested position will be held on the Thursday of Week 2 (3rd of October) 2002, and will be held in the main canteen from 10:00am to 6:30pm.



ulsu ents

pay attention

damien rice & tommy tiernan @ the monnet

# The best of last year



# The best of last year





## The Stables Club

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

[www.stablesclub.com](http://www.stablesclub.com)



The Stables Club are pleased to welcome all students back to the University of Limerick, and would like to extend a special welcome to all new students at the University. We look forward to seeing you!

We've had a busy summer! Check updates in each edition of 'An Focal' as well as on our website [ [www.stablesclub.com](http://www.stablesclub.com) ] for details of our extensive entertainment schedule and special events and competitions.

The Club operates an extensive food service all day. We are open from early morning to evening time, serving a range of hot and cold foods and snacks to suit all tastes -

8AM-12 BREAKFAST | 12-3 LUNCH MENU | 3-7 EVENING SPECIALS

Please do visit our website [ [www.stablesclub.com](http://www.stablesclub.com) ] which is regularly updated with photos from in and around The Club as well as giving details of upcoming events and special competitions. We have dedicated a special section of the site to your comments - we welcome feedback from our members on all aspects of the service we provide - both positive and negative comments are equally welcomed. If you're not happy, we want to know why!

COMING UP THIS WEEK

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | Your Welcome Back Party<br>Party DJ with all the greatest hits! |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | DJ Aidan  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | Blue Monday   |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | Noel Mc Loughlin  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | 80's Night  |

[ [WWW.STABLESCLUB.COM](http://WWW.STABLESCLUB.COM) ]

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## Arena Sports Club

The Arena Sports Club - THE Sports Venue

The Club features a Plasma Screen TV, and Big screen showing many sporting events. Our function room, equipped with Audio-Visual facilities is also available for group bookings. We have plenty of entertainment lined up for the year - check notice boards & posters for details.



Drop into the **Arena Sports Club** - the newest club on campus at the University of Limerick. The Club offers an alternative to the bustle of student life, with a cosy, relaxed intimate atmosphere all day - every day!

The Club is the food operation of the adjacent *University Arena*, which boasts a 50m pool, gymnasium, sports hall and several courts for sports of all types.

Take a look at the **MAP BELOW**, as a guide to our convenient location.

COMPETITIONS AT [www.arenasportsclub.com](http://www.arenasportsclub.com)

Here at the Arena Sports Club, we offer a comprehensive selection of delicious food and snacks to cater for all - be you a sports enthusiast or a lover of good foods!

Our lunch menu is offered from 12pm to 3pm with our afternoon menu from 3pm to 7pm. Try our Cajun Chicken Baps or our Delicious Steak Bap. You won't be disappointed!

If your club is interested in fundraising, come along to the arena and talk to us...  
The Arena Sports Club is an excellent location for table quizzes, race nights etc.



T: (061) 332760 | F: (061) 339641 | E: info@arenasportsclub.com | W: www.arenasportsclub.com

**Tuesday Week 1****Jean Monnet****Tommy Tiernan****Doors @ 8pm****Tickets 10 euro****Gallery****F\*\*k School Freshers Ball****Doors @ 11pm****Tickets 7 euro****Wednesday Week 1****Jean Monnet****ULSU ents + UL Arts Office****The Heineken Midweekers****featuring****Damien Rice****+****Lisa Hannigan****+****support****Doors @ 8pm****Tickets 10euro****Upcoming Heineken Midweekers**

Every Second Wednesday in the Monnet

coming to UL.

wk 3,5,7,9

The Frank &amp; Walters

Josh Ritter

Mundy

The Frames+

(+ frames in concert hall, tickets on sale monday week 08)

**YOUR WEEKLY NIGHTS OUT**

wed @ Docs

thurs @ The Market

tickets 7/7.50 euro

including buses

UL arts office presents

**AUTUMN FILM SEASON**

free film in the Monnet

every Monday @ 6:30

23rd Sept - Man

30 Sept - Guy's Dog

**THE MURPHYS DOT COMEDY**

Scholars Function Room

Tues Wk. 2

Adam Hills

P.J. Gallagher

Bob Henehan

Doors @ 8pm

Price - Come and find out

**ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM STUDENTS'  
UNION RECEPTION FROM THE MONDAY OF  
EACH WEEK @ 9AM**



# Harder Generation

by Timmy Hennessy

**Welcome to what will hopefully become** THE guide to what's going on, both gig wise in limerick and tunes wise in hard house. It'll also be a preview of what to expect on my show on Wired Fm, which is on Wednesdays between 6:30 and 7 for the next week or so (then it'll be moved to a new timeslot).

If you are running any gig in the city, or you would like to review a night, contact me at [hardergeneration@eircom.net](mailto:hardergeneration@eircom.net) with the details and I'll include them here.

## Gig Guide

Next time round, I'll have a full round up of the new nights of interest in the city, but for the moment I don't have much info.

Costellos have two nights running, with Diverse on a Wednesday and Defunked on a Thursday, both doing a house thing, with Diverse being more deep house and Defunked providing some funky house for your listening pleasure.

Soul Clinic continues down in Dolans Warehouse, again with the deep house thing every thursday.

The Globe houses Audio on Friday nights.

Seems deep house heads are spoilt for choice in Limerick this year.

For anyone into their hard house I'm playing Outpost 23 in Scarrif every second Saturday, tune into the show for more details.

## Gig Review

Creamfields Ireland

It was on in June, then July, then not at all. And then it happened. 30,000



The 80's Night in the Gallery

nutcases packed into PuncHESTOWN racecourse for 13 hours of dance music heaven. With tents hosted by names like Bugged Out, Cream, Lush and limericks very own Lust, there was a range of dance music to keep every type of disco biscuit happy (well, most).

Seeing as I spent most of my day in the lust tent, I can't really say much about the other arenas or DJs, although I heard that Slam, Ferry

Corsten, Green Velvet, Justin Robertson (who is coming to limerick v. soon) and surprisingly enough Judge Jules rocked the gaff.

The lust tent was hopping from start to finish, with limericks Leoine helping to get the crowd fired up, and Ireland's top hard dance acts like Ken Tobin, Grit Greenglow and Jay Pidgeon providing some serious sounds. But for me the man of the night was Mark Kavanagh, dropping some crackers like the new release on babydoll, Dj Love - Who Do You Love, his mix of Frantic Theme (see review), BK - Wanna Ride, reminding everyone in the tent of why hard house is far from dead.

Overall one of the best days/nights I've ever had, although it's a good thing it's only once a year..... If you know what I mean.

## Top of The Box

Phlash! - Frantic Theme (Irish Mixes) [Tripoli]

The third remix disc of this classic to be released this year features the stunning Mark Kavanagh mix, with Steve Hill's mix on the flip (which I don't like).

Kavanagh's rework is my favourite mix of frantic theme, with a lovely old school feel to it. It builds nicely until the break, when the familiar piano riff kicks in, with a class trance sound going in the background. Will wreck any hard house dance floor.

Andy Farley & Paul Janes - I Can Feel It [Vicious Circle]

This is the new part of the circle of

friends ep, with both tracks are being hammered everywhere by the likes of Farley, Glazby, BK and Jay Pidgeon. Razors Edge is a pumpin hard trance/hard house cross over track; it builds like a ht track but breaks into a quite dark BK style tune.

I Can Feel It is a savage peak time record, with typical Glazby style all over it. Can be heard in all my sets the last few weeks, and doesn't look like being pushed back for some time.

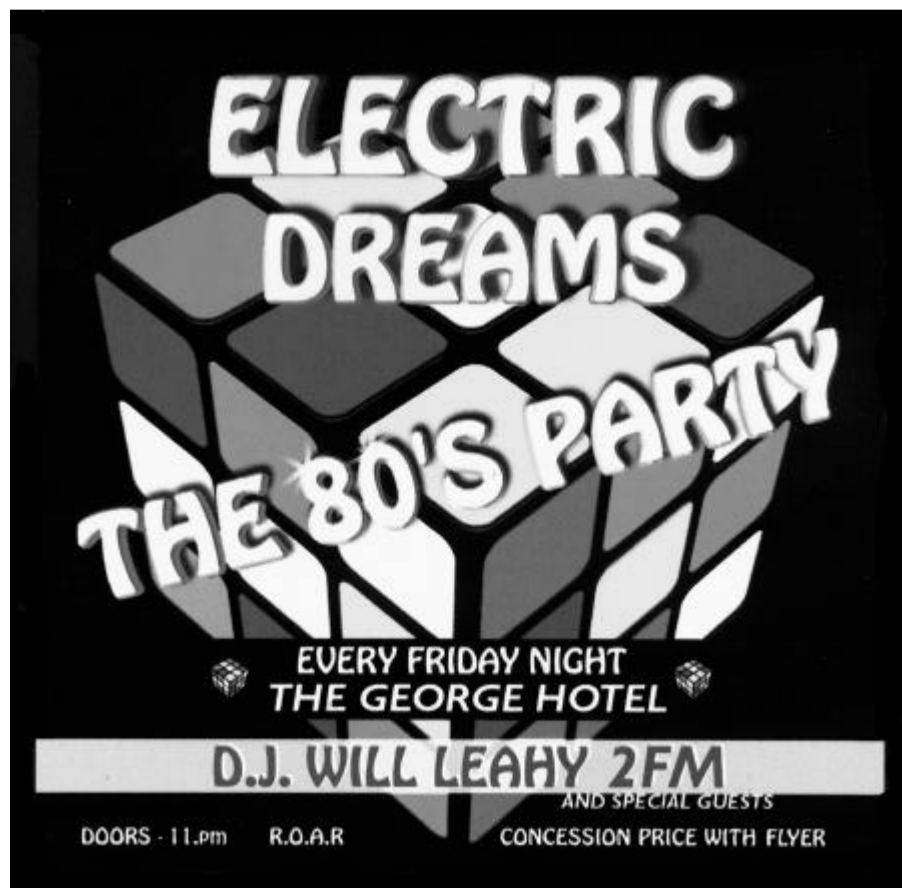
BK - Hardbeat 20 [Nukleuz]

This has been in my playlist for over a month and finally saw a full release last week on nukleuz. Before I try to describe the tracks I can save you a lot of time - if you like hard dance music and you see this in a shop, buy it. Wanna Ride is the main track, and is typical BK in style, building and breaking into a top hard house monster. P.O.S. 51 is on the flip, a thumping yet bouncy track, sampling the "20 years ago..." speech from the movie "The 51st State". More uplifting than wanna ride, it's a perfect floor filler.

Dreamcatcher - Twisted (Dubs) [Positiva]

Normally I'd pass anything on Positiva by, but when I heard Mark Kavanagh play this in south I just had to know what it was and get it.

The Sushi mix is the one that I love, it's one of the best uplifting trance records I have, when it breaks you can almost feel the dance floor rising.



# Irish Classes / Ranganna Aonad Na Gaeilge

*"Rich in its complexity, soulful in its expression and resonantly inspirational, the Irish language, too often perceived as a burden, is as important to our identity as the very land upon which it is spoken. Life without it would seem empty and unfulfilled — with it we nurture our sense of place. Too often we hear the cries of regret in advanced years, as if a part of us is missing, and, to remedy this, our challenge is to pass it on to the next generation and to encourage them to do likewise, for the fact remains and always will, the Irish language, battered as it may be, is far too strong to just simply go away."*

— Fiachna Ó Braonáin ó THE HOTHOUSE FLOWERS

## AONAD NA GAEILGE IRISH CLASSES / RANGANNA AONAD NA GAEILGE

Would you like an opportunity to improve your Irish? Do you want to try a new approach to learning the language? Have you lost your fluency? Are you interested in a trip to An Ghaeltacht? Are you planning to do Law Society of Ireland exams? Ar mhaith leat freastal ar rang Gaeilge i rith an lae? Would you like to do Co-Op in an Irish medium environment? Teach in a Gaelscoil?

Have you checked out the Irish language resource material on the internet? Are you interested in using your Irish socially on campus?

Breathnaigh ar sceideal ranganna Aonad na Gaeilge thíos. See below for Autumn schedule of Aonad na Gaeilge Irish courses. All courses begin Week 3 of semester one and are 15 hours class contact over 10 weeks\* Description of course content in Gaeilge and in English below.

Dé Luain / Monday  
18.00 Ab Initio  
18.00 Meánrang / Intermediate 1

19.30 Gaeilge do thuismitheoirí / Irish for parents\* (8 week course)

Dé Máirt / Tuesday  
12.30 Bunrang / Elementary

Dé Céadaoin / Wednesday  
12.30 Ab Initio

Déardaoin / Thursday  
12.30 Meánrang / Intermediate 1  
18.00 Bunrang / Elementary  
18.00 Meánrang / Intermediate 2

TÁILLE / FEE  
Caitheann an táille a íoc roimh thús an chúrsa / fee must be paid before commencement of courses.  
Foireann / UL staff: EUR50 (Irish for parents EUR40).  
Mic léinn / UL students: EUR30 (Irish for parents EUR20).

### CLÁRÚ / REGISTRATION

Canteen, Level 1, Main Building:  
Tuesday 1 October 18.00-20.00 &  
Thursday 3 October 18.00-20.00 or  
through post to Deirdre Ní Loingsigh,  
Aonad na Gaeilge, Ollscoil Luimnigh  
before Thursday 3 October 2002 ( Thursday Week 2).

Application forms and further information from Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge, C1074, 061-213463 or deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie

### SYLLABUS DESIGN AT AONAD NA GAEILGE

Addressing the need for Irish language resource material for adults, Aonad na Gaeilge has been involved in syllabus design over the past few months. Two new courses have been designed for the Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 levels. ("Gaeilge agus Fáilte" and "Abair Leat" courses will be used for the beginner and elementary programmes). The schedule of classes is planned in such a way that participants who attend a class this semester may continue to the next level in the Spring Semester. Aonad na Gaeilge's ten week programme for the Ardrang (advanced level) will be launched in February 2003. A 10 week course in "Cruinneas sa Ghaeilge" is also planned for summer 2003.

### AB INITIO

This level is aimed at those who have no previous experience of the Irish language or who know only a few words and phrases. The class will not be suitable for anyone who has recently attended a course for beginners or for those who studied Irish in secondary school. The emphasis will be on developing speaking and listening skills. Grammar will be taught in context at all times. By the end of the course, participants will have learned how to engage in basic everyday communication, talk about themselves and their background, the work they do, etc. They will have acquired a basic knowledge of grammar. Regular social events will be organised to give participants an opportunity to use their Irish outside of the classroom. A trip to An Ghaeltacht will also be planned during the semester.

### ELEMENTARY

This level is intended for those who have an elementary knowledge of the language from previous study, those who attended a course for beginners / Ab Initio for example. Emphasis will be placed on developing oral and

listening skills but grammar will be taught throughout the course as the need arises. Instruction will begin with a revision of key basic elements of the language usually taught at beginners' level. A communicative approach to teaching will be used. Students will be given opportunities to practise what they have learned through the use of a wide variety of activities in groups and pairs. Course content will concentrate mainly on topics which are related to the participants' lives. Regular social events will be organised to give participants an opportunity to use their Irish outside of the classroom. A trip to An Ghaeltacht will also be planned during the semester.

### INTERMEDIATE 1 (new syllabus commissioned for Aonad na Gaeilge programme)

This level is suitable for those who have studied Irish at school, maybe many years ago. Participants may understand a great deal of the language but will have had little opportunity to use it. Some basic language will be taught initially but the class will then progress at a faster pace than either of the lower level classes. The emphasis will be on developing speaking and listening skills but students will also have some opportunities to read and to write the language. Grammar will be taught in context as it is required. Regular social events will be organised to give participants an opportunity to use their Irish outside of the classroom. A trip to An Ghaeltacht will also be planned during the semester.

### INTERMEDIATE 2 (new syllabus commissioned for Aonad na Gaeilge programme)

This level is aimed at those who are reasonably fluent in Irish and who use it socially from time to time. It is also suitable for those who attended the Lower Intermediate class in the first semester. Participants will have the opportunity to extend their vocabulary and to learn more about Irish grammar. The range of topics covered will be more extensive than those covered in the Lower Intermediate class. Regular social events will be organised to give participants an opportunity to use their Irish outside of the classroom. A trip to An Ghaeltacht will also be planned during the semester.

### IRISH FOR PARENTS

The course will be suitable for parents with children in primary school or in a Naíonra (Irish medium pre-school) or those interested in bilingualism. Unlike the other courses



offered by Aonad na Gaeilge this course is not suitable for those who wish to improve their competency in the language. A basic level of Irish is necessary though the lectures on bilingualism will be through the medium of English. The following topics will be covered over the 8 week course; Basic issues of bilingualism and bilingual education; Naionraí: methodology and sample materials; Irish in the primary school, Irish language readers, teaching methods etc. Use of Irish in the home, sample role-plays etc.

**ARDRANG** (siollabas nua-dheartha d'úsáid Aonad na Gaeilge amháin) Beidh an cúrsa seo ar fáil i Seimeastar an Earraigh 2003 Tá an leibhéal seo dírithe ar dhaoine a thuigeann roinnt mhaith den teanga agus atá abalta í a labhairt go réasúnta maith (i gcomhthéacs sóisialta, mar shampla). Beidh an bhéim sa rang seo ar an labhairt agus ar an éisteacht, ach beidh deis ag na rannpháirtithe roinnt scríbhneoireachta agus léitheoireachta (alt as nuachtáin agus irisí, mar shampla) a dhéanamh chomh maith. Déanfar toipicí suimiúla a phlé agus múinfear gramadach agus stór focal úsáideach. Arís, beidh an chuid is mó den obair ar siúl i ngrúpaí agus i bpéirí agus beidh réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí i gceist: cluichí líofachta agus gramadaí, rólghníomhaíochtaí, díospóireachtaí grúpa, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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#### AB INITIO

Beidh an cúrsa seo oiriúnach dóibh siúd nach bhfuil aon réamhthaithí acu sa Ghaeilge. Ní bheidh sé oiriúnach do dhaoine a rinne staidéar ar an nGaeilge ar scoil nó do dhaoine a d'fhreastail ar rang do thosaitheoirí cheana. Beidh an bhéim ar an labhairt agus ar scileanna éisteachta.

Múinfear an ghramadach i gcomhthéacs. Ag deireadh an chúrsa beidh na rannpháirtithe in ann páirt a ghlacadh i gcumarsáid bhunúsach laethúil. Beidh cur amach bunúsach acu ar an ngramadach. Eagrófar ócáidí sóisialta i rith an téarma sa chaoi is go bhfaighidh rannpháirtithe deis an Ghaeilge a úsáid lasmuigh den seomra ranga. Beidh turas Gaeltachta i gceist chomh maith.

#### BUNRANG

Oireann an léibhéal seo do dhaoine a d'fhreastail ar rang do thosaitheoirí cheana féin, rang Ab Initio Aonad na Gaeilge san áireamh. Cuirfear an bhéim ar scileanna labhartha agus éisteachta. Múinfear an ghramadach de réir mar is gá. Beidh dul siar ar ghnéithe bunúsacha den teanga i gceist sa chéad cúpla rang. Úsáidfear an cur chuige cumarsáideach. Beidh deis ag na rannpháirtithe struchtúir a chleachtadh i ngrúpaí agus in obair bheirte. Is ar thoipicí a bhaineann le saol laethúil na rannpháirtithe a bheidh ábhar an chúrsa bunaithe. Eagrófar ócáidí sóisialta i rith an téarma sa chaoi is go bhfaighidh rannpháirtithe deis an Ghaeilge a úsáid lasmuigh den seomra ranga. Beidh turas Gaeltachta i gceist chomh maith.

**MEÁNRRANG 1** (siollabas nua-dheartha d'úsáid Aonad na Gaeilge amháin)

Beidh an leibhéal seo oiriúnach do dhaoine a rinne staidéar ar an nGaeilge ar scoil. Beidh tuiscint mhaith ag rannpháirtithe ach beidh easpa deiseanna labhartha acu. Múinfear teanga bhunúsach i dtosach ach ansin leanfar ar aghaidh ar léibhéal níos airde ná na céimeanna eile. Beidh an bhéim ar an labhairt agus ar éisteacht ach tabharfar deis do na rannpháirtithe an teanga a léamh agus a scríobh



chomh maith. Múinfear an ghramadach i gcomhthéacs de réir mar a bheidh gá léi. Eagrófar ócáidí sóisialta i rith an téarma sa chaoi is go bhfaighidh rannpháirtithe deis an Ghaeilge a úsáid lasmuigh den seomra ranga. Beidh turas Gaeltachta i gceist chomh maith.

**MEÁNRRANG 2** (siollabas nua-dheartha d'úsáid Aonad na Gaeilge amháin)

Beidh an rang seo feiliúnach dóibh siúd a bhfuil Gaeilge líofa go leor acu agus a bhfuil cúpla cúrsa déanta acu cheana féin, b'fhéidir. Cé go gcuirfear an bhéim ar scileanna labhartha agus éisteachta, bainfear úsáid as téascanna agus as cleachtaí scríbhneoireachta a chuirfear in oiriúint do rannpháirtithe an ranga. Múinfear an ghramadach i gcomhthéacs, de réir mar is gá. Eagrófar ócáidí sóisialta i rith an téarma sa chaoi is go bhfaighidh rannpháirtithe deis an Ghaeilge a úsáid lasmuigh den seomra ranga. Beidh turas Gaeltachta i gceist chomh maith.

**ARDRANG** (siollabas nua-dheartha d'úsáid Aonad na Gaeilge amháin) Tá an leibhéal seo dírithe ar dhaoine a thuigeann roinnt mhaith den teanga agus atá abalta í a labhairt go

réasúnta maith (i gcomhthéacs sóisialta, mar shampla). Beidh an bhéim sa rang seo ar an labhairt agus ar an éisteacht, ach beidh deis ag na rannpháirtithe roinnt scríbhneoireachta agus léitheoireachta (alt as nuachtáin agus irisí, mar shampla) a dhéanamh chomh maith. Déanfar toipicí suimiúla a phlé agus múinfear gramadach agus stór focal úsáideach. Arís, beidh an chuid is mó den obair ar siúl i ngrúpaí agus i bpéirí agus beidh réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí i gceist: cluichí líofachta agus gramadaí, rólghníomhaíochtaí, díospóireachtaí grúpa, etc.

#### GAELIGE DO THUISMITHEOIRÍ

Beidh an cúrsa seo oiriúnach do thuismitheoirí le páistí ag an mbunscoil nó i naionra (réamh scoil lán-Ghaelach) nó dóibh siúd le suim sa dátheangachas. Ní dhíreofar ar an teanga labhartha sa chúrsa seo. Beidh Gaeilge bhunúsach ag teastáil ach i mBéarla a bheidh an léacht ar an dátheangachas. Ar na toipicí a phléifear beidh; Gnéithe den dátheangachas; Naionraí; cur chuige na Stiúrthóirí agus ábhar samplach; An Ghaeilge sa bhunscoil, leabhair, modhanna múinte 7rl An Ghaeilge i saol laethúil an pháiste, rólghníomhaíochtaí.



# Introduction from the Arts Officer

by Patricia Moriarty

If you are interested in music, art, drama, film, dance, photography or even yodelling UL has plenty of opportunities for you to enjoy yourself. From small to large scale venues you can listen to your favourite band or discover that you really enjoy classical music but didn't know until now!

One of the most immediate ways of participating in the arts on campus is to buy a ticket for an event. The University Concert Hall in the Foundation Building has a varied programme throughout the year and offers student discounts - they also have competitions for their subscribers. The Ents Office runs regular concerts in the Jean Monnet Theatre and the Comedy Club is one

of the highlights of the week. The Arts Office runs a theatre programme in the Jonathan Swift Theatre and the Drama Society regularly runs productions at student rates. The contemporary dance company Daghdha Dance are based in Dromroe Village and this year are running discounted dance classes in a variety of forms.

If your budget doesn't stretch far, there are free events on campus on a regular basis. The Irish World Music Centre hold twice weekly lunchtime concerts in the Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building, featuring performances by visiting musicians and dancers. On Monday nights there is a film programme in the Jean Monnet which you as a UL student are entitled to attend free of charge. The Bourn Vincent Gallery in the Foundation Building has an



UL Arts Office Drama

exhibition programme and lunchtime lectures and there are artworks from the UL collection on display

throughout the campus - indoors and outdoors!!!!

## UL ARTS OFFICE AUTUMN FILM FESTIVAL

presents



Monday 23 September

> MAN

Director : Emer Reynolds

> MONSOON WEDDING

Director : Mira Nair  
USA/Italy/Germany/France /2001/ 113 mins

Returning to contemporary India for the first time since *Salaam Bombay!* acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair explores a contemporary, global India where the new dot.com society coexists with traditional values. The ensemble comedy celebrates the bringing together of members of a Punjabi family for the wedding of a young family member. The family travels from all over the world and descends on New Delhi for the joyous and festive wedding ceremony. Universal in theme, the film explores the bonds that unite families in a way that is both touching and comedic. Mira Nair, the director of *Salaam Bombay!*, returns home to India for her latest movie, the perceptive and enormously ingratiating comedy *Monsoon Wedding*. The family of a New Delhi businessman has come together over four days for the arranged marriage of his daughter and a successful engineer who works in Houston, Texas. This extended group is superficially secure and confident of its relationship with the outside world but underneath it is snobbish, self-conscious and ill-at-ease, a mood that is reflected in the imminent arrival of the unpredictable monsoon season and its potential for torrential downpours.

There are well over a dozen main characters in *Monsoon Wedding*, each with their own story, and each with their own individual relationship with the host and the young couple. Nair forgoes easy exposition in introducing these characters, taking her time to make them real and individual and enabling us to care what happens to them. There are skeletons in several cupboards and at least one major surprise as a number of threats to the wedding arise. *Monsoon Wedding* is a human comedy with a number of serious underlying themes such as the place of tradition in the consumer age, dislocation and the main theme of deracination.

© Irish Independent



Monday 30 September

> GUY'S DOG

Director : Rory Bresnihan

> AMORES PERROS

Director : Alejandro González Inárritu  
Mexico / 2000 / 153 mins

Drawn into the world of illegal dog-fighting, teenager Octavio dreams of using his champion dog Cofi's winnings to run off with his brother's young wife. Fleeing some rival dog owners, Octavio and his friend are involved in a road accident. Meanwhile, middle aged Daniel leaves his family for a beautiful model, Valeria, but their happiness is short lived as she is involved in the same car accident. Arriving on the scene, a homeless man rescues the injured dog from the back of Octavio's battered car, wheeling the wounded canine away on an old trolley.

Bar, we're right into the high-speed car chase, with jump cuts, in-yer face camera angles and lots of Tarantino tomato sauce. For the first forty minutes or so of this remarkable first feature by former DJ Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu, the pace hardly lets up, and neither does the packageable Mex-Rap soundtrack. Then we realise - with a sinking feeling - that the powerful story of teenage passion and malaise occupying centre stage is only one of three plots which overlap, like a Venn diagram, around the shared experience of a car crash ...

Dogs are a running symbol and binding force, followed closely by blood (often blood on dogs), holes (often holes in dogs or dogs in holes, with optional blood) and the colour turquoise. An idealistic young buck, Octavio (Gael Garcia Bernal, a young actor of some talent) is tormented by passion for his brother's girlfriend, and hopes to win her over with the help of the money he earns from illegal dogfights; Valeria, a famous model, confined to a wheelchair after that car crash, is tormented by the loss of her *raison d'être*, not to mention the disappearance of her pooch beneath a hole in the floorboards; El Chivo, a former terrorist turned tramp and contract killer, is tormented by his need to see the daughter he abandoned to fight capitalism.

Lee Marshall in Rome / Screen International 09 June 2000

The Arts Office collaborates with many groups to bring you a wide range of art activities. The Living Room project visits a student house - 3 musicians and 3 dancers perform for you and your guests in your front room; students from the art college work with French language students to produce a mural reflecting their daily journeys around Limerick; classical music students perform live in the college bars. The Arts Office also works closely with UL Societies developing events to showcase their talents and broaden our day to day experience. Events such as the International Foodfair, GreenFairs, Professions of the Past and the Ten Forward Film Festival are some of the highlights of the ULSocs calendar. A recent addition is Greek Week - a week long festival of sports and the arts - whose motto is a "Healthy Body and a Healthy Mind".

If you have any projects, special interests or ideas that you would like to see developed we would love to hear from you. This year's Living Room Project will take place on Tuesday, October 15 at lunchtime. If you are interested please contact at ext 2130. Details of past and upcoming arts events are available on the Arts Office webpage [www.ul.ie/artsoffice](http://www.ul.ie/artsoffice)

# Daghdha Dance Company

by Maighread Neligan

**Daghdha Dance Company, highlighted by the Irish Arts Council** as one of the most exciting, young dance companies in Ireland is in residence at the University of Limerick. A professional contemporary dance company Daghdha's primary focus is the creation and production of original choreographic works. The company has developed a strong national base over 15 years and since the award of multi-annual funding from the Arts Council/An Comhairle Ealaíon in 2000 and Yoshiko Chuma's appointment as Artistic Director in that same year, Daghdha has developed an extensive international programme.

Choreographer, Mary Nunan, founded Daghdha Dance Company when invited by Theresa Leahy, (Dance Lecturer at the Dept. of Physical Education and Social Sciences) to take up the position of artist-in-residence here at UL. Nunan developed this position to a full-time dance company and became Daghdha's first Artistic Director in 1988. Since its inception, the company has toured and presented new works in Ireland, the US and Europe. Daghdha presents a year-round programme of contemporary dance performances and educational projects.

#### YOSHIKO CHUMA

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Born in Osaka, Japan, Yoshiko Chuma has lived in the United States as a professional artist since 1978. Chuma has produced over 50 original works and collaborated with over 1000 international artists in performances, outdoor spectacles, and commissions. She is the founder and Artistic Director of The School of Hard Knocks, based in New York City. SOHK (founded in



Daghdha Dance Company in action

1980) is a collaborative effort of choreographers, dancers, actors, singers, musicians, designers, and visual artists working under the Artistic Direction of Yoshiko Chuma. When Yoshiko Chuma arrived in the US, it was her first trip outside Japan. Chuma remarks: "My native language was useless, I needed other skills to communicate. I began to discover my gift for processing and observing visual stimuli. I became interested in cinematic visual concepts, and was entranced by New York's chaotic energy, dangerous streets, subway graffiti, filth, crazy homeless people, etc - it was all theatre for me. The line between reality and performance blurred. I began to create art within a few months after arriving to New York." Under the Artistic Direction of Yoshiko Chuma, Daghdha launched the Living Room Project, the Reverse Psychology series and White Space - a series of ongoing workshops, which facilitate dancers having access to pioneers in the field of contemporary and post-modern dance. White Space is initiated by Daghdha and

the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance, at the Irish World Music Centre, UL.

#### THE YELLOW ROOM

The company annually commissions new choreographic works and in 2001, Daghdha ventured into an exciting collaboration with the Crash Ensemble, Ireland's most innovative and contemporary orchestra, and staged 5 choreographic dance pieces for 2x2x5. In November and December of this year, Yoshiko Chuma will develop a new production for Daghdha, which will be toured extensively throughout Ireland, during January and February 2003. Yoshiko Chuma and Artist-Photographer Robert Flynt will take three hundred slide images and turn them into animated moving pictures projected on three sides of THE YELLOW ROOM.

#### THE LIVING ROOM PROJECT

Having been initiated in Japan and New York over four years ago by Yoshiko Chuma and her New York

based company The School of Hard Knocks, The Living Room Project began in Limerick in February 2001, bringing contemporary dance and music into a variety of homes around Limerick. Aimed at de-mystifying art and bringing dance out of a formal setting of a theatre, the Living Room Project is now in its second Irish season. Daghdha are currently seeking invitations from interested student households to host one of these evenings during October. More details on the Living Room Project in next week's An Focal.

Daghdha's education programme embraces learning at many levels. At one time the main focus of the company, Daghdha now presents a range of activities and programmes for all members of the community. From September 2002, Daghdha will present creative movement classes for adults, teenagers, children, plus "Tea Dance" workshops with senior citizens.

#### ADULT CLASSES IN CONTEMPORARY DANCE & MOVEMENT

Daghdha's Adult Classes in Contemporary Dance & Movement commence Wednesday September 25th (5.30pm & 7.00pm), at Dromroe Village Hall. Classes are for anyone with an interest in dance and who like to develop his/her skills. Classes are suitable for beginners and course content will include warm up, an introduction to contemporary dance movement, toning and strengthening exercises, and an increase in body awareness and general well being. Special student rate of is available of €70.

Further details are available from Daghdha's website [www.daghdha.com](http://www.daghdha.com) or email [Maighread.Neligan@daghdha@ul.ie](mailto:Maighread.Neligan@daghdha@ul.ie)



UNIVERSITY  
CONCERT HALL  
Limerick

## UPCOMING EVENTS

■ American Hot

■ Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25 September @ 8 p.m.

■ ICO Gala Performance

■ Saturday 28 September @ 8 p.m.

■ AMERICAN WRESTLING

■ Sunday 29 September @ 3 p.m.

■ PAT SHORTT With Special Guest Joe Rooney

■ Monday 30 Sept, Tuesday 1 &

■ Wednesday 2 October @ 8 p.m.

# Apples in the Alps - The Outdoor Pursuit Club

by Paul Stephenson

**It took about six months of prudence, strong determination, stubbornness** and moments of self doubt to finance this trip, and within 4 weeks, I was broke.

Somewhere along the way someone said "C'mon let's become alpinists and do a few weeks in the French and Swiss Alps it should be a bit of craic it won't kill you". But it wasn't a few weeks, it was several and no, it didn't kill me but worse, I am in debt. I sank to an all time low; I rang home and asked a friend of mine to send on some money. Read on then you can judge me. 6 weeks of healthy living is very taxing on the body and the mind.

To see huge pillars of snow-covered rock towering over 4 k.m. high, really does show you how small and insignificant you really are (but im not saying that you cant make a difference, anyone can!) the sheer size and vastness of these giants is breathtaking and awe-inspiring, it has me writing this piece hasn't it!

The place is Europe, the people are Darragh Dolan, Liam Gahan, and Paul Stephenson, the mountains were high, but so too were our aspirations.

Our journey commenced with a short car ride to Shannon where Ryanair flight Fr-133 piloted by Cptn. Ray Malone, "with the drink problem" flew us majestically to Paris without a single hitch, well done Ray.

After the car and the plane, came the train. An eleven hour journey from Paris to Chamonix, in the south east of the Rhone-Alps region of France,



to be exact. Here, we set up base camp and got much needed gear (no, not that type) before getting our first nights sleep in the confined space of a three-man tent with a full quota of 3 people and several rucksacks full of our necessities. It had its moments, but I wouldn't do it again, no offence to the others-they feel the same way.

Our third day of the holiday was perhaps the most eventful of an epic season. It started with the first cable-car to 3800m. "If you want to walk it that's fine, see you in 2 days". Anywho, we saddled up and marched down to our new home for

the next 3 days, the Valeé Blanche. We pitched the tent in a pre-dug wind shelter at 3600m, we were satisfied with our work, and so set off to do the first mixed alpine route, with Mr. Dolan our guide. The Cosmiques Arête posed some challenges but we completed the PD+ route with relative comfort. A beautiful introductory route except we were thrown into the deep end by its finishing move, the crevasse descent. This part of the route was never attempted before and probably never again, due to its potential fatality, thus the increase in grade from PD+ to TD+. Our problem lay in the fact that a 40Km wind chose to ignore our wind-shelter, and turn our tent into a kite. After toying with the tent, the wind decided to deposit into a nice deep crevasse, how kind. Long story short, we got it back, hooray!

We stayed for the three days at the altitude to acclimatise but for me it didn't work as we found out half way up Mt. Maudit, when after the 15th stop in dangerous circumstances I said "There's no f\*\*king way I'm going any further, I'm b\*!\*oxed", to which the reply "Go f\*\*k yourself, if you f\*\*k up my climbing again then you can just p\*\*s off". After all that we never made it. But did do Mont Blanc du Tacual instead.

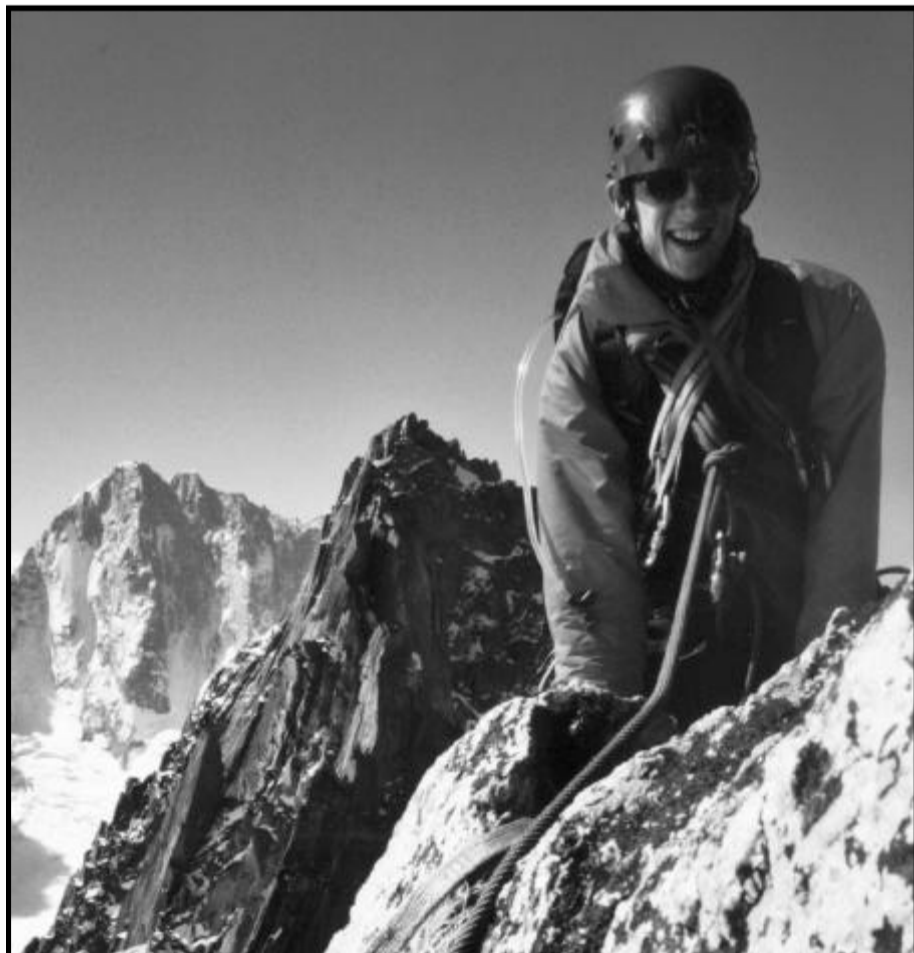
Looking back on the 3½ weeks in Chamonix I see that we didn't get a whole lot done, due to the intervention of University of Ulster, Jordanstown Mountaineering club and bad weather. However, we did Mont Blanc (4810m) twice, Frontier ridge on Mont Maudit (4465m), Mont Blanc Du Tacual (4248m) twice,

South Face of the Midi(3842m), Traverse of the Nun(3340m), Pointe Adolphe Ray(3536m), The Midi-plan traverse, and the Cosmiques Arête three times.

Tempers they began to rise, patience wearing thin, we decided to pack up and move abroad to Switzerland. We had a choice of the Eiger or the Matterhorn. Due to it being the 2nd most expensive train in the world we said: "F\*\*k the Eiger". Matterhorn it was. We arrived in Zermatt, Switzerland, to see and attempt this classic pyramidal peak that shadows the typical Swiss alpine town. After getting the feel of the town, we stocked up on provisions of the usual mars bars, pasta, rice, couscous and accompanying sauces.

Then came the walk-in for the Matterhorn, which is very reminiscent of the desert landscape of the Jordanian Wadi. When we reached our target of the Hornli hut, we chose our bivouac site, deposited our gear and walked to the first rock band that signalled the start of the ascent, to memorise the path which would bring us our success.

Before bedding down that night under the stars, we had a difficult choice to make; who would be attempting the mountain with Darragh, Liam or myself? A simple coin toss would decide, but for my decree. After seeing and hearing Liam's eagerness I decided that he should go. Early next morning at about 3:30 am both set off and were not seen again until 28 hours later. I had 28 hours of anxious waiting with the voices in my head deliberating on the worst case scenarios, but instead



of sighs of relief and tears of joy, were words of a condemning nature; "Ye f\*\*king c\*\*ts, ye had me S\*\*ting me pants". They did successfully summit the loose slopes of the Matterhorn and well done to them on that.

During my anxious wait I naturally had to find something to take my mind off the 'ifs and buts', so I planned our next route: the Breithorn-Monte Rose traverse, which would take in another five 4000m peaks in four days. Liam's words were not of a pleasant nature, understandably, but as usual, Darragh was enthusiastic. We returned to town together with me carrying most of their gear but I didn't mind, it was a kind of congratulations from me to them. They took a day's rest in which Darragh had a proper look at the route; he came back to me

with: "That route you want to do is doable but not the way you said" It was an ambitious task, five peaks in four days. Darragh's was slightly more ambitious, FOURTEEN 4000m peaks in THREE days.

"Yea we'll give it a go, nice way to finish the holiday", my response.

After all we were returning home in five days later. So after the usual preparations we headed off to do this very ambitious task. To cut a long story short, knackered, tired and ultimately shagged we arrived back in Zermatt triumphant we did it. What a way to finish probably the most amount of peaks done in that time, that season by any Irish Climbers.



# ULSU CLUBS & SOCIETIES FRESHERS VILLAGE

**Main Canteen**

**Tuesday & Wednesday Week 1**

**Over 70 Clubs & Societies**

**Take the time to complete your college life**



# University of Limerick Tennis Club

## UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK TENNIS CLUB

All the information you want and questions answered about the University of Limerick Tennis Club can be found right here. How old is the club? How many active members are there? What activities are run? What's on the ULTC calendar for the upcoming year? And so on.

Well from its beginning four years ago ULTC has been participating in the Munster leagues, varsities and 35's tournaments, and admittedly at the beginning we were one of the most unsuccessful clubs out there. But now we've turned the corner thanks to our large membership base, roughly 100 students, and the hard work that the committee members have put in over the past year.

One of the main features of the ULTC, and one which attracts the most attention, is the free weekly coaching sessions which are provided for members of all standard, whether you are a complete beginner or slightly more advanced. Coaching is provided by a fully qualified Tennis Ireland coach and is free of charge to all members. Coaching takes place every Wednesday evening normally beginning in week 2 and running right up to exams, for times keep an eye out on the club notice board, (which can be found in the canteen, B-Block) and posters which will go up throughout the college.

Last year the club was unlucky not to progress to the Munster league semi-finals, falling just one point short to local rivals Limerick Lawn TC. However they did enjoy victories over UCC, Nenagh and Sunday's Well among others. Other events/activities completed were the 35's trophy against DCU, Greek Week target practice and the Club

Championships.

ULTC also enjoys a very healthy social life with the vast majority of members joining just because they like to play a little bit, maybe get a bit better and have the craic at the social events and fun tournaments which are organised throughout both semesters, for example target practice during Greek week and tipsy tennis during Rag Week, intrigued? ...Well why not join up and see for yourself the fun that can be had in the ULTC!

### PLANNED EVENTS FOR UPCOMING YEAR

Semester 1:

Week 1 - Recruitment of new members, stand in main canteen, (B-Block) Tuesday, 24th & Wednesday, 25th

Week 2 - 12 - Free coaching for members commencing on Wednesday, for times keep an eye out for notices throughout the college

October Bank - Trip to Galway Open Tennis championships for top 5 males & Holiday Wkend females on club ladder

Annual 35's - UL take on DCU in 35 different events, a chance for ULTC Trophy v.'s DCU to get revenge for last year!!!

Greek Week - A fun week organised by the Students Union for the first time last year. A chance for students to enjoy a fun-filled week of activities, try some target practice with the ULTC!!!



Yes, you too can be Anna Kournakova

Semester 2:

Week 2 - 12 - Free coaching for members commencing on Wednesday, for times keep an eye out for notices throughout the college

Intervarsities - The competition of all competitions for all colleges in the country. It's time to put ULTC on the map as a force to be reckoned with!!!

Rag Week - Why not try your hand at some tipsy tennis?? You never know you might find some hidden talent you never knew existed!

European - ULTC have once again been invited to participate in this

Invitational exclusive event. It is held each year just outside of Amsterdam, Holland and always proves to be a memorable occasion.

Club - A chance for all members of ULTC to show how much Championships they have improved with all the coaching they have been getting!!

All year long: Munster League Matches, more details available at coaching/training. Teams will be picked from Club Ladder.

## NEW FOR 2002

# THE CARDGAMING SOCIETY

- Poker
- Magic the Gathering
- Bridge
- LO5R-CCG
- Hearts/Spades
- Foreign Card Games
- Brisca/Briscola
- Scopa/Escoba

If you're interested in playing some cards and would like to see the establishment of the Cardgames Society Please attend the feasibility meeting on:

**Thursday 26th September**  
**Time- 8pm**  
**Venue- Student's Centre Room 4**

GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS WILL BE RUN REGULARLY BASED ON DEMAND.



## Tang Soo Do Korean Karate

After watching films like "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "The Matrix" you may have been impressed by the martial arts techniques performed. Did it get you thinking about taking martial arts up yourself or returning to them after an absence? If you did UL's Korean Karate Club has a lot to offer.

The origin and history of martial arts include signs of Martial Arts in Greek, Egyptian, African, Japanese, Chinese, Thai, as well as other cultures. There is however a clear trail leading from the Southern China-regions up to Korea, Okinawa and Japan. The style of Korean Karate that is in UL is Tang Soo Do. This style combines aspects of Chinese, Japanese and Korean martial arts that can be traced back over 2000 years.

There are lots of different martial arts styles and no doubt you may have never even heard of Tang Soo Do. Aspects of the art include very practical self-defense techniques, development of kicking technique as well as the more traditional characteristics of martial arts. It's methods of instruction are designed to help an individual develop character, integrity, self-confidence, and concentration.

Established only a year and a half ago the club has grown from humble beginnings and now has a strong membership with members taking part in regular events as well as the usual weekly classes. Last semester some of our members competed in a competition where over a hundred competitors from

several clubs entered. The club was very well represented and the members did the club and University proud.

Members also graded under Master Galligan, chief Irish representative of the World Moo Duk Kwan Tang Soo Do Federation with which the club is affiliated. The association is run by Grand Master Jae Joon Kim (10th Dan Black Belt). Grand Master Kim instructed 7 times World Karate Champion and famous actor Chuck Norris. Grand Master Kim is due to visit Ireland in 2002 and will be holding a seminar which will be open to members of the UL club.

The instructor for the UL Club is Mr Pat Forde. Mr Forde was graded for his black belt by



**Grandmaster Kim**

Grandmaster Kim and was one of the first Tang Soo Do black belts graded in Ireland. Mr. Forde has over 12 years of experience and has been instructing for a number of years.

Benefits to members of the club will include the opportunity to enter regular competitions and the chance to grade under Master Galligan. Classes will also be given by Master Galligan on a regular basis for members. Taking part in karate classes is also a great way to improve your fitness and flexibility. Classes are open to everybody with safety a key aspect in how they are run. All classes are enjoyable while being very controlled. Coming along to a class does not mean that you are going to leave bloody and bruised - a perception many people have of martial arts classes. You don't even have to be very fit starting off. Classes are an excellent form of exercise and more importantly you are learning something that could become a key part of your life. If you are interested in joining the club or are curious about martial arts, why not come along.

Classes are on every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the gym in the Old Sports Building.

For more information email [tangsoodo@csn.ul.ie](mailto:tangsoodo@csn.ul.ie)



web: <http://photosoc.csn.ul.ie>  
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**AGM**

**Monday Week 2 (30<sup>th</sup>) 18:00**

**SU Meeting Room 5**

(Behind the games room)

**All Welcome!!!!**

# Uncle Travelling Matt

*Editors Note: This is the diary of an ex UL student who has recently embarked on a round the world trip*

Phnom Penh:  
Arrived in P.P. after coming up the Mekong to the Vietnam border from Chau Doc. Crossed the border and got a speedboat/bus combo to get us to P.P. proper. P.P. is a dirty grubby city with no street lighting and open sewer smells but it is relatively safe in that you are more likely to get robbed at gunpoint than pickpocketed.

Close to P.P. are the infamous Killing Fields where around 8000 bodies were unearthed after the Pol Pot/Khmer Rouge regime. A stupa containing 8000 categorised skulls is pretty much the centre piece of the fields. On the following day, we visited the S21 or Tong Sleng Museum. This was originally a school converted to a prison by the KR, and a lot of the bodies in the Killing Fields started off as prisoners in this place. Pictures on the wall show what was found in the cells after the KR left the place, pretty gross. A short movie also talks about the life of a prisoner and how they ended up in the prison along with a very weird piece with an artist who painted some pictures of what he thought had been some of the tortures and a guard who worked there confirming it.

After that myself, Darryl and Emilie went to the shooting range. You sit down at the Army range, the soldiers make money from tourists, and they hand you a menu. A rather unique menu with a selection of weaponry on it. I first chose the AK-47 30 rounds for 20 dollars, and I got quite a few on target. Switching to automatic means you hit the target once and then the next few bullets go all over the place. I also fired a Colt - 45 (7 bullets \$13) hitting a target on my first shot. There was a rocket launcher for \$200 and I think maybe a cow for \$100 more but that was a bit much.

Watched Ireland vs Saudi Arabia in the local Irish Bar, belonging to Tom who is permanently drunk by the looks of it .. sampled the local Heart of Darkness night club.. good laugh..

The following day was the flooding of P.P., after watching Sweden match four of us (myself, Darryl, Helena, Anna) went to the Internet Cafe across the road from our hotel. One hour later we came back out to find the whole road under water from the rain. It just kept coming down. The two girls had found ice cream in the local Lucky Burger (like a McDonalds of Phnom Penh), so the four of us went off after the rain in knee deep water. It was all interesting and cool until we spotted a dead floating rat then it you started thinking what you were walking in.

So I left P.P. the following day on the boat for Siam Reap and Angkor, departing from Darryl who had decided to go pickup trucking to S.R. with Emilie.

Siam Reap:  
Got the boat with a Dutch girl Claudia, and sat on the roof of the boat for seven hours. Too noisy to listen to a walkman and just about able to read. The boat also got stuck in some mud flats and they wanted everyone inside, but there was no way it was a death trap in there. Got a moto for 30mins on a really bad road to Siam Reap, and shared a room in a really cool guesthouse with hammocks outside.

Next day, met up with Anna and



Helena and bought a three day pass for Angkor, and took an A.C. car for the day, (just a bit more expensive than bikes), Angkor is really impressive collection of temples centered around Angkor Wat the biggest one which appears in Tomb Raider. The first day we walked around a collection of temples called Angkor Thom, some restored some under restoration and some with trees growing out of them. We then visited Angkor Wat itself and walked around its galleries of Bas-reliefs, some really impressive carvings of stories. With the book in hand it was quite interesting to find figures in the carvings of Hindu gods and demons. Climbed a hill to a temple for the sunset where everyone goes, met Kathy and Andrea again (Irish girls) at the sunset.

Day two in Angkor we decided to rent out motobikes, two between the three of us. I was tired, they drive on the wrong side of the road and had never been on a motorbike, so I had to passenger until we could find somewhere to practice where I couldn't kill people. The locals did find it funny for a man to be on the back of a bike with a woman driving. So we headed off and visited a few temples beyond Angkor Thom some interesting ones still nearly covered in jungle and one where a tree had grown around the entrance. We then drove to a temple nearly 20km away, Bantrey Srai which was raved about in the books but which I found too restored for my liking. So after that I took a bike on a quiet road and learned how to drive one and I drove back to the guesthouse on my own bike.

Day three, just involved the morning due to World Cup matches, we visited Angkor Wat again and this time climbed to the top of it and investigated the central portion. For the Ireland vs Spain match we started in one bar and moved to a more exciting one for the second half. There was one Spanish supporter about 30 Irish. About 5-10 mins into extra time the electricity went off the in the whole town. This meant people running out on the street looking for lights and stuff. We heard a generator across the road and the whole pub piled out and over the road to their TV. When the power returned we went back. And then just as Robbie went to take the first penalty in the shootout, the power went again. So all charge back over to the place with the generator. Pity we went out. Donated my Irish flag to the two girls as they were heading off the next day and I was staying in Cambodia.

Spent two days in a hammock recovering before heading to Battambang for a break.

*Next Week: Battambang*

## Your Stars

*by Mystic Meg*

### Aries: (March 21—April 19)

Your desire for a belt of human nipples wanes, when you are told where human nipples come from.

### Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)

He's behind you..... No seriously, he is..... Ooops, too late

### Gemini: (May 21—June 21)

Your attempts to become an international media celebrity will backfire badly when the dog bites back.

### Cancer: (June 22—July 22)

The age-old war between the sexes will come to an end next week when you unleash your nuclear sex bomb.

### Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)

An unexpected career change will give you cause to look back fondly on the days when you had no idea who made fat-granny pornography.

### Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)

You will devise a scheme that guarantees worldwide peace and prosperity, but it turns out to be unmarketable.

### Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)

Much is explained when it is revealed that the aliens forgot to remove your anal probe.

### Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)

Any connection between your reality and everybody elses is purely coincidental.

### Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)

Your prayers will finally be answered. Unfortunately, they're your prayers from 20 years ago. Start looking for a place to put all the ponies.

### Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)

Awesome forces beyond your control will continue to cause pictures and sounds to emanate from your TV.

### Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)

Advocates for the homeless will soon make you a very tempting membership offer.

### Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)

The stars foresee profound changes ahead for you, but they insist on describing them in vague, non-specific terms.

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## A letter from Kerry

*Editors Note. This is an actual email I received over the summer. All names in the piece have been changed. The opinion contained within (especially about Kerry) do not reflect the positions of the Students' Union.*

Hi all,  
First of all, apologies for not getting in touch sooner and for taking the Henry Ford approach to friendship maintenance. Unfortunately there's not enough news to go around for one big email let alone lots of little ones. As will become apparent soon enough.

Anyhow, greetings from The Magic Kingdom. I told the co-op office I'd like a job in the UK or America. So I suppose Tralee is a fair compromise there, geographically speaking. I'm working for a company called HeartLearning who make eLearning software. Well actually we provide tailor-made eLearning solutions. My job is in Quality Assurance which involves looking at our products and finding mistakes in them or ways they could be improved. In the interview they said, jokingly, "Yeah, everyone in the office will hate you, nobody likes QA people". Then about three more people made the same "joke" which was a little worrying. As it turns out, they're a really nice bunch and the office is good to work in as well. It's a nice, bright open-plan type thing. Speaking of bright, it's actually got this Newgrange-style problem towards the start and end of the day when the sun shines in and lights the whole place up so brightly that nobody can see their monitors. Everyone bitches about this and lately some of them have started to put cardboard boxes on top of furniture to try and block the sun. Then they have to get up every 10 minutes or so to adjust them as the sun moves across the sky. It's really funny.

My job is quite like Dictionary Corner on Countdown except without the glamour of working with Richard and Carol. The whole office does pause twice a day though for me to tell an amusing grammar related anecdote. No, just kidding. I do get to act smug and nitpicky though, which is nice. I also get to look things up on the computer and pretend I came up with them myself...so I have got that much in common with Dictionary Corner. I suppose it's not the most exciting job in the world and it's got sod all to do with IT and telecommunications, but at least I do seem to have a good bit of responsibility so they know I'm not a



The Kilarney lakes

complete muppet. Plus I figure all this is bringing me one step closer to my dream job [\*] and that can't be bad.

I'm living in Tralee town which is about two miles or so from where I work in the technology park. It's a Collegesque house (in the sense that it's got a coloured bathroom suite, wooden windows, loads of chipboard veneer and other such nasty 70s s\*\*t) My bedroom overlooks a graveyard, lovely. There's a church and a greyhound stadium just across the road, in case I ever take up, uh, that sort of thing. There's also some rather f\*\*ked-up looking artwork in the kitchen, such as a map of the world with strange writing and diagrams scrawled all over it, stuff that could only have been written by someone deeply pretentious or clinically insane. This being Kerry, I know what my money's on.

I'm living with three guys and one girl. I know this is rich coming from me but to be frank, they're a bit weird. The weirdness hasn't manifested itself in any particular way with the first three, it's just a general weird person vibe they're giving off. I could be wrong, it could just be down to the Kerry/entire-rest-of-world culture clash. The third one, who moved in last week, or rather moved back in last week, is another story. I'll come back to him.

The girl is afflicted with a terrible disease that allows her to communicate only through sarcasm. It's no ordinary sarcasm either, it's that kind of really obvious sarcasm that they had back when sarcasm was first invented (in the 1980s), for example:

Really obvious sarcasm

"Yeah, it's great"

Translation

It's not great at all"

Really obvious sarcasm

"Yeah, I just love pasta"

Translation

"I don't like pasta at all"

There's also the most amazing acoustics between my room and my housemate's room downstairs. "Amazing acoustics" as in "can hear every goddamn thing he puts on his stereo" rather than "Oh, isn't Vicar St. a very good venue, hasn't it got amazing acoustics?" At least he's got pretty good taste in music for a Kerry person, last night we had the new Pulp album and what sounds like some Cure best-of. Just to explain my slur on the musical taste of the good people of Kerry: judging by most of the people I met, you can either like DJ Otzi or the Wolfe Tones but not a whole lot in between. I'm sure there are exceptions. Ian Brown's playing in Killarney in March after all. Which reminds me, we have Today FM on in the office all the time and over the last two weeks I've listened to more s\*\*t music than in the entire rest of my life, including the 80s. Go on, ask me my opinions about "Wherever, Whenever" by Shakira. I have opinions about music like this nowadays. Kylie, Julio Iglesias, Westlife, I hear them all five or six times a day. It can actually be very distracting when you're meant to be reading complicated things with mistakes in them though.

Oh yeah, my new housemate. He actually moved in before I did but was in hospital for a little while - involuntarily, it would seem. His name's Paul and when I met him he was shaking like a recovering alcoholic. Luckily enough he's not a recovering alcoholic, he's a current alcoholic and a recovering heroin addict. The only problem is he's not really into the whole "recovery" thing and is looking to better his life by going back on heroin. Does anyone know if you can buy heroin in Tralee? I wouldn't have thought so but hey, I suppose we'll find out soon enough. He insisted on showing me the needle marks just in case I didn't believe him. I wouldn't mind if he didn't look like your average heroin addict, but he really does. Paul is in Ireland to avoid a few outstanding

warrants in his name back in England. He spends most of his time lying on the couch drinking the finest wines known to humanity (from the bottle), smoking and shouting at the radio, e.g.: Radio: "We're going to take a short commercial break" Paul: "Commerical break, bollocks!" Radio: "Here's the new one from Shakira!" Paul: "F\*\*k off Shakira you f\*\*king c\*\*t" It's a good thing we don't have a TV, that'd probably get him even more excited. For a guy who has threatened to kill himself about twenty times in the space of four days, he's actually quite funny. He's also disarmingly honest and claims to have no ego whatsoever. If I remember correctly not having any ego is the whole objective of some religion, Buddhism I think. Anyhow, our Paul has done it. He's also had plastic surgery (I'm not sure why and I didn't want to ask). Oh, and he's met Jesus. It was actually an Iranian bloke he met in a correctional centre in Australia. He didn't speak any English or perform any miracles but Paul could just tell it was the big man himself.

I'm also learning fun drug facts every day. Who knew that speed in its purest form comes in a small grey lump with the texture of plasticine? None of you, I bet. That's because you don't live with a junkie. I'd really better get the lock on my door fixed.

Anyhow, I'd better go and do some work. Those ambiguously-worded phrases ain't gonna clarify themselves. Take care of yourselves

PS. Notice the way Tralee telephone numbers have seven digits, the same as the county of Dublin or an entire mobile phone network. Kerry seems to have aspirations towards being some kind of Irish centre of industry. As things stand, they could give every pothole, knacker and sheep its own phone number and still have plenty to spare.

[\*] Dawson's Creek Scriptwriter

There has been a large outcry by student groups against the increase. Eoin Ó Broin, President of ULSU, said he was appalled at the lack of consultation between the Department of Education and students, prior to the decision. He believes that it does not auger well for future relations with the Minister on the issues of grants and fees.

It now costs an average of €2000 for Limerick students to survive in the month of September alone, between college charges, rent and general survival. ULSU believe students who barely miss qualifying for the grant will now be forced to work longer hours throughout the twelve months of the year. This will eventually force people out of higher education altogether. Mr. Ó Broin believes that the effect of this will have serious long-term implications for the health of the Irish economy, which has successfully been based around a pool of highly educated workforce.

The Union of Students' of Ireland have also come out strongly against the increased registration fees. They have attacked the Minister over his refusal to meet with them on the matter, and again on his lack of consultation with students and their representatives. Since the announcement they have held two

protests on the matter. At the first of which, on 30 July, 69 rubber ducks were released into the river Liffey to symbolise each percentage increase. More recently, on 27 August, members of USI chained themselves to the Department of Education, the Department of Finance, and Fianna Fail party headquarters for 274 minutes, a minute for every Euro that the fees were increased by. USI feel that the increases in fees will force students, who had not expected them, to borrow more money from either their parents or the bank.

Paddy Buckley, Communication and Campaigns Officer of ULSU, believes that in the light of the recent announcement the re-introduction of third level fees is imminent. He believes that this will cause havoc for students currently going through third level institutions, who would have budgeted for four years on the assumption that they would not have to pay such fees. He therefore urges all students to come out on Thursday night and mandate the officers of the Students' Union as to how this issue should be dealt with.

With thousands of students left wondering if they can afford to attend college at all, it is assumed that the Minister's next step will be the full re-introduction of third level fees. If this is the case it does not bode well for



**Students protest the fees increase in Dublin**

the future of the Irish Economy, and those who can afford to pay for four years in university may find themselves without any jobs. It is the duty of students to come out against

this to ensure that third level education remains an accessible option for everybody.

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