

AN FOCAL

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FREE

Don't be limited by your imagination

By Aoife Ní Raghallaigh – News Editor

“DON'T be limited by your imagination”. Such was the advice given by University of Limerick Students' Union President Ruán Dillon McLoughlin at the Official Opening of the Boathouse on Wednesday of Week 4 (30 September).

The Boathouse, which has been in development for the past 12 years, was officially opened by UL President Don Barry, ULSU President Ruán Dillon McLoughlin, Olympic athlete and former UL student Cathal Moynihan and TD Peter Power.

Speaking at the opening President Don Barry acknowledged that those present were celebrating “the latest step in this University's delivery on the important national role that we have been asked to fulfil in the development of sport”. He paid special tribute to the pioneering members of the Rowing Club who identified the need for a facility like the Boathouse “and engaged in extensive planning in partnership with the Kayak Club, the Sub Aqua Club and the Mountain Bike Club”.

Mr Barry also explained that he had particular affection for the project on account of the fact that the students voted in “overwhelming majority” to pay for the project through the student levy.

Mr Barry also said he believes that the completion of the project shows “tremendous unity and spirit” from all members of the UL community and that such a project would be a daunting undertaking for anybody, but not for UL students. He also stated that the project shows that the “UL spirit is alive and well amongst students”.

Cathal Moynihan also spoke at the ceremony. Mr Moynihan is a former UL student and member of the UL Rowing Club who represented Ireland in Rowing at the 2008 Olympic Games. Mr Moynihan said that the opening was a special day for all those involved and gave thanks to the Students' Union, the UL Sports Department, the Kayak Club, Sub Aqua Club and Mountain Bike UL. He gave particular acknowledgement to the

Rowing Club for all their work over the past 12 years. Mr Moynihan also stated that it was “the students' duty to keep thinking big as gratitude to those who worked so tirelessly on the project.”

Students' Union President Ruán Dillon McLoughlin also spoke at the opening. He stated that the Boathouse “sets [UL] apart as it houses Ireland's only indoor rowing machine and this will make it Ireland's finest rowing facility.”

Mr Dillon McLoughlin gave a special to Clubs and Societies Development Officer Paul Lee, explaining that Mr Lee “has given students belief and selfconfidence – the secret ingredient to empower success.”

Mr Dillon McLoughlin is already looking to the future of the Boathouse. He stated that there are plans to install a Pumptrack for Mountain Bike UL as well as synthetic pitches in the new sports pavilion. He also stated that the Boathouse site has scope for a driving range as well as an Olympic standard white water course.

Finally TD Peter Power spoke. Mr Power said he feels like he has come full circle on this project as he sat on Governing Authority when the project was first mooted there.

He also explained that the project should not be viewed in isolation but as part of the wider campus and its excellent sports facilities. Mr Power also stated that UL has now placed itself at the forefront in terms of campuses who have dedicated themselves to sport and that the contribution of students to this cannot be underestimated.

Before officially opening the Boathouse Mr Power said that he hopes the facility will produce a graduate from UL who will one day win an Olympic Medal.

The opening of the Boathouse concluded with a gig performed by Delorentos and The Blizzards.

The gig came after a day of Club and Societies exhibitions were members of different Clubs and Societies, including Kayak Club, Sub Aqua Club, Games Soc and Music Soc, demonstrated their specific activity.



Peter Power TD opening the Boathouse with President Don Barry

Pulse reduced to three editions

By An Focal Reporter

COMMUNICATIONS Officer Aoife Ní Raghallaigh has announced that there will only be two additional issues of the Students' Union monthly lifestyle magazine, Pulse, following a decrease in interest and funding. The magazine, which was previously printed once a month, should have had an additional five issues.

Ms Ní Raghallaigh explained that two issues of the magazine will be printed next semester and will be printed for special occasions. “There will be a RAG week issue in March and a Year Review in April but unfortunately I will not be compiling any additional issues.”

Ms Ní Raghallaigh explained that there were a number of factors which led to this decision. “It's something that I had been thinking about all summer and it was not a decision I took lightly. Ideally I would love to continue with all six editions of Pulse, and had planned to, but after the first edition I realised it wasn't a viable project anymore”.

Ms Ní Raghallaigh also explained: “The cost of graphic design and printing of Pulse comes to nearly €2000 per issue. The Students' Union isn't immune to the Recession and we're all looking to cut costs. Financially Pulse didn't make sense anymore.”

Finances were not the only reason behind the reduction according to Ms Ní Raghallaigh. “I

had to move the deadline for submissions for the October issue three times before I finally made this decision. Students just didn't want to write for Pulse as much anymore. A number of people suggested finding incentives to encourage people to write but I feel incentives cost money and time, both of which I am lacking at the moment. That said, I don't hold this against the students. I know how hard it can be to juggle writing with academic work and socialising and so I understand that they don't always have time to write”.

In addition Ms Ní Raghallaigh also pointed to the amount of Pulse which was leftover after the first edition for Freshers' Week. “There are boxes and boxes of the first edition of Pulse sitting in the Students' Union but An Focal is completely gone. I printed the same amount of each publication and An Focal is just more popular. There is no point spending money on something that the students don't want”.

Finally Ms Ní Raghallaigh assured students that the content from Pulse would be accommodated in An Focal with the introduction of a new Arts section.

Students are welcome to submit any Arts style articles from inclusion by emailing sucommunications@ul.ie. She also invited any student who believes Pulse should continue as a monthly publication to get in touch. “It is a shame to see it reduced and if there was some way to keep it going, I would.”

An Focal Digest

In Brief

UL Greens Swap Shop

Want a change? Don't want to spend money? UL Greens Swap Shop is for you! Come along and bring any unwanted items that you want to shop and get yourself a item in return of your choice. Items can range from books to clothes, games to dvds...basically anything goes, within reasons of course!

Date: Wednesday 7th September 2009,
Week 5

Location: Courtyard
Time: 2pm – 5pm

For more information: <http://greensul.pbwiki.com> or email ulgreens@gmail.com

UL Vikings Raise €5000 for Charity

The UL Vikings have successfully raised over €5000 for the Midwest Cancer Centre. The money was raised through sales of a naked calendar which the players happily posed for. The calendar was sold during the last academic year to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

Young Entrepreneur Programme Expands to Limerick

The Young Entrepreneur Programme (YEP), developed by the Institute of Technology, Tralee, Shannon Development and Jerry Kennelly, is now in its third year and has become a standard on the curriculum of secondary schools and for third level students in the region.

This year the programme has expanded to take in the University of Limerick and a number of pilot Limerick Secondary Schools including Coláiste Iosaf in Kilmallock, Coláiste Chiaráin in Croom and John The Baptist Community School, Hospital.

Teachers, lecturers and mentors, supported by the Institute of Technology, Tralee and Shannon Development, will be involved at every stage to ensure students are given the best possible induction to the skills of starting a business. As part of teacher training, teachers have had the opportunity to work on taking their own business idea from concept to business plan.

The 600 students from over 21 schools, along with the Institute of Technology, Tralee and University of Limerick, will also be mentored by top business people from businesses in the region, adding the critical reality check to the different business ideas and support to the educator and school.

This year there are three category winners: Second Level, Third Level and Best School. Second level winner will receive a trip to Silicon Valley. Third level winner will receive €5,000 seed capital. Best school will receive an IT package to the value of €5,000.

The shortlisted finalists will receive a 2 week apprenticeship with mentor companies.

Students aren't the worst...

I HAVE never felt so proud to be a student or a Sabbatical Officer as I did at the official opening of the Boathouse last week. If you don't know by now, the Boathouse is a state of the art building located on the banks of the Shannon. It is home to the Rowing Club, the Kayak Club, UL Sub Aqua and UL Mountain Bike. For me it epitomises all the good that students can do and all the hard work students are capable of.

In general people can be very quick to stereotype students in a very negative light. I think the general public believe that students are just lazy wasters who spend all their time drinking and kicking over rubbish bins without contributing a single thing to society. With

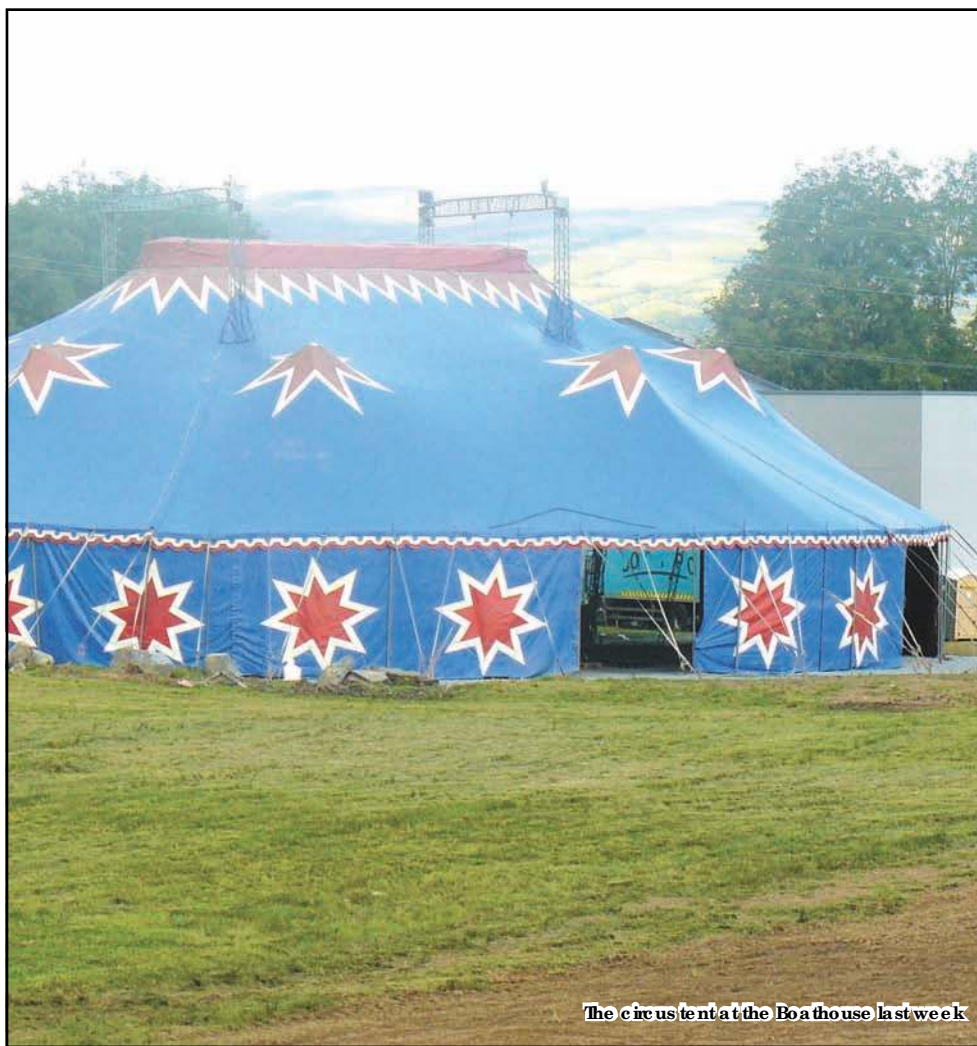
regards to the Students' Union it is a commonly held belief amongst its members, the students, that the Sabbatical Officers don't do anything all day either.

The Boathouse smashes both of these misconceptions into oblivion. The Boathouse project started 12 years ago when the clubs mentioned above expressed a need for purpose built storage and training facilities. Since then the Students' Union has campaigned endlessly and worked tirelessly on the project. Paul Lee, Clubs and Societies Development Officer, has worked on the project from the start but the Officers who went through this building on a yearly basis have always stood behind him with full support. That's the Students'

Union in a nutshell; when they truly believe in something they will support it and fight for it no matter what.

And then the students. Those lazy students who do nothing came out in force in 2002 and voted in favour of a referendum which would see the student levy increased to help pay for the construction of the project. The students who supposedly contribute nothing to society and just sit around all day are the same students who willingly took money from their own pockets to pay for the Boathouse. If that doesn't make you feel proud to be a student, nothing will.

- Aoife



The circus tent at the Boathouse last week

And thanks to...

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Jennifer Powell Fiona Reidy

Emma Hayward Tommy Crean

Lorcan O'Neill Stephen Kelly

...and anyone else I've forgotten

Next An Focal deadline is Friday, October 9 for Opinion/Features/Columns/Arts/C&S and Sport.

News deadline is Monday,

October 21. Email submissions to sucommunications@ul.ie

Quotes of the Fortnight

"They're like eye magnets" – Nicki Nesbitt, 2nd year Health and Safety in reference to Education Officer Aoife Finnerty's breasts.

"I was really sick last week and agreed to a lot of things that I can't remember"
– Communications Officer Aoife Ní Raghallaigh on why she had 400 boxes of Pringles in her office.

"Postgrads have no rights!"
– An unidentified Class Rep after Postgrads were told, yet again, that they couldn't vote in a non-Sabbat election.

"There is no such thing as strawberry flavoured condoms. They don't taste like strawberries!" – Welfare Officer Derek Daly at Class Reps Trainings

"It's true. I did lengthy tests in Derek's office over the summer!"
– Education Officer Aoife Finnerty in response to Derek above.

"There's an Equality Policy?"
– Equality Officer Gina O'Brien

"I need to go get some wood for the Blizzards" – We're heard of bands making outrageous demands but that's just strange.

Barroso congratulates UL's "open" commitment to Europe

By Finn Mc Duffie - News Editor

OUR University is seldom host to international, political figureheads. But Saturday 19 September saw the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, mark our campus as part of an official visit to the Limerick region.

Canvassing for the Lisbon Treaty, Mr. Barroso visited Limerick's Milk Market and later met laid-off Dell worker representatives before making his way to UL. An entourage of stately vehicles carried the Commissioner around the city where he urged Irish voters to reflect upon the benefits they have gained as citizens of the EU. "We can do much better together than alone," he said.

Barroso's message to UL was similar, but allowed a lengthy and transparent questions and answers session. Professor Edward Moxon-Browne opened Barroso's address. Commenting on UL, he said the University was "established to equip young people to carry their skills across an evolving EU."

Mr. Barroso, who mentioned his "warm welcome", did not miss this point. He congratulated the University on its "very good record in European studies and exchanges" and talked of the opportunities he had gained

as a student "to go abroad and experience new environments and cultures." UL's "open" attitude to Europe was commended. "There are many Universities in Europe that are completely closed.

That's why we're developing [...] the freedom of knowledge and information. Within this initiative, we are trying to open these Universities and this will be a post-Lisbon strategy." Barroso noted the importance of innovation in economic expansion, growth and success.

Amid endorsements of the Treaty and the EU, the Commissioner commented on some of Ireland's "No" posters as "completely false." He also recalled the €120 billion Ireland has received from the European Central Bank and noted Limerick's most recent financial benefit. "Just this morning, €14.8 million has been granted by the Commission to help those made redundant by Dell in Limerick," he said. "I was happy to be able to announce this to Ireland here in the area affected."

Answering a question on why the EU needs to change, Mr. Barroso gave a tailored explanation of the need for a High Representative. "Currently, there are too many presidents," he said. "A University could not run with four Presidents a year. Or a rugby club or a students'

association. Nor can the EU."

Pointing to Ireland's gains as a member of the Euro, Mr. Barroso looked to Iceland. "People were going to the ATMs and there was no money," he said. "Iceland went bankrupt because they were not in the Euro. [...] The Euro was a shield for your country."

"What will happen if Ireland does not ratify Lisbon? Is there a plan 'B'?", asked a brave audience member. Mr. Barroso shrugged. "There is no plan 'B'," he said. "We will not have the Lisbon Treaty." He urged voters not to gamble.

Closing the address, UL President Don Barry thanked Mr. Barroso for a "fascinating hour". He presented the Commissioner with a bowl made from the wood of UL's cedar tree, which had to be felled for safety reasons some time ago. "We leave you with a little piece of the heart and soul of this University," said Professor Barry, after inviting Mr. Barroso to the UL faculty at the end of his second term as President of the Commission.

Commenting after the event, Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar of UL said, "[the address] was excellent. I was really impressed by him. Students can only benefit from something like that."



Barroso speaking in UL

UL Campus Faced with Traffic Congestion

By Jason Kennedy - Chief News Correspondent

LEVELS of traffic on the roads of the UL campus have increased over the past few weeks, leaving many people in jams of over an hour. Students and staff that use the car park by the Health Science Building claim they are the worst off, as they have to wait for four other car parks to empty.

Administrative Worker in the Health Science Building, Ann Marie Kennedy structured a petition to bring to problem to light and to look for a solution. In the petition, Ms Kennedy stated that the main causes of the problem were the Car Parks in the Boathouse, Foundation Building, and Kemmy Business School, as well the fact that the majority of students and staff leave the campus at 5pm.

Ms Kennedy also says the traffic lights outside the main gate may be a problem. "I have been working here for 23 years and I have never seen anything like it. A lot of people couldn't even get out of the car park in the North Campus because the traffic was so busy." Ms Kennedy also told of how the traffic affected a lot of people personally. "I know of a few people who saw the traffic and decided to stay in their office and work. One member of staff broke down because the traffic was so bad."

Since the petition went online, over 433 people have signed it, yet Ms Kennedy claims the petition was needed to start the discussion. "The petition sparked a huge debate that was long overdue. I'm not a planner, I'm a woman that wants to do my job and go home. If people went out for half an hour and directed the traffic it would make an absolutely huge difference." In the petition, Ms Kennedy states that alternatives to driving could not be used, claiming: [the] suggestions of cycling to work

[could not work] as many of us have to travel long distance, and there is no suitable public transport. Also some have children/partners to pick up. Officials from the University have stated that they are working with Limerick County Council. They will also look into the timings or the traffic leaving the Main Gate and East Gate. There have been suggestions that the exit on the North Side of the campus be used by staff and students, however, Clare County Council have decided that that road is not capable of holding that large quantity of traffic that it would attract.

Students' Union Communications Officer, Aoife Ni Raghallaigh states that there are suitable alternatives to driving. "I know once you get a car it's easy to rely on it but realistically anyone living in the immediate Castletroy area should have to drive into college. Students in Brookfield and Courtyard can get the shuttle bus and the Students' Union has a bike shop where they can get bikes and accessories for a reasonable price. The Nitelink goes all around the Castletroy area from 7pm each night and it's free. I know when it's raining it's different but invest in a good pair of shoes and a rain jacket and you should be fine."

Ms Ni Raghallaigh also said that having a car can have its disadvantages. "Students will drive into college and spend twenty minutes driving around and around looking for a space, only to miss their lecture and go home again. In the same time they could have walked and would have saved their petrol."

Traffic coming into UL from the city can be just as bad. Students' Union Community Relations Officer, Larissa Mirtschink says. "It depends on the time of day, but often it can take 45 minutes to get in on a bus, which is unacceptable."

Analog Devices Ireland pledges €125,000 grant

By Nicole Ní Ríordáin

A NEW scholarship programme has been announced by the University of Limerick engineering faculty and Analog Devices Ireland. The programme, which has been valued at over €125,000, will run for the next four years.

Analog Limerick is the hub of Analog Devices Inc. in Ireland and currently employs an estimated 1,200 workers, many of whom are graduates of the University of Limerick. The company, which employs 8,500 workers worldwide, manufactures circuits for use in analog and digital

signal processing applications. Co-founder and chairman of Analog Devices, Ray Stata, commented that "it is very important to play our part in encouraging young people to select engineering as an exciting and rewarding career choice."

The scholarship has been set up in memory of the former Managing Director of Analog Devices Ireland, German-born Hank Krabbe, who died in his home in Los Angeles last summer.

Mr Krabbe was persuaded to start an Analog branch in Limerick in 1976 when then President of UL, Dr Ed Walsh, made changes to two degree courses in order to produce

graduates with the skills needed to work with the firm. Mr Krabbe was later awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University due to his relentless commitment to education and services to Limerick.

Mr Stata explained that "At Analog Devices, we are committed to promoting and supporting the study of engineering...we believe that this Scholarship programme will act as an incentive to young people to consider studying engineering and also hope that the possibility of securing the Hank Krabbe medal will help set new standards in academic excellence". "Our new partnership with UL builds on our existing commitment to the

BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition and on the Eamon Dillon bursary that is up and running with CBS here in Limerick. We strongly believe that a sufficient pool of talented graduates in the areas of science and engineering is vital if Ireland is to truly become a Smart Economy."

The scholarship will be awarded to the top student in Electronic Engineering on completion of first year.

This student will receive a Hank Krabbe medal and a cheque for €5,000. The student will also receive three payments of €7,000 before 2nd, 3rd and 4th year. Four students

in total will be honoured with the Analog Devices Scholarship in the next four years. UL president, Professor Don Barry, said of the scholarship, "We are delighted that Analog Devices has chosen to mark Hank Krabbe's memory and indeed Analog Devices' legacy in Limerick in this way. At the University of Limerick we continually strive to improve and enhance the education that our students can achieve here. Scholarships of this nature can have a significant impact on the student body and we are very grateful for ADI's continued support and long-term friendship and association with our institution."

80 employers at decade-strengthening careers fair

By Finn McDuffie - News Editor

UL's COOPERATIVE Education and Careers Division will run its 10th careers fair on October 15. The event, which has always been run on campus, will offer employers and future graduates the chance to meet and discuss possible employment options.

Speaking on the fair, head of careers, Mary Sweeney said, "We have always wanted employers to come here. It's home ground for the students, it's no cost to them and there's no need to take a day out travelling." Employers also get a chance to see the campus and fair feedback is reportedly "always positive".

This year's fair will host 80 employers. But some sectors will be poorly represented. "The financial sector has given little response this year," said Ms. Sweeney. Companies such as AIB, Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank, Anglo Irish Bank and Bank of Scotland Ireland will not offer employer stands at the fair. "We expected that," said Ms. Sweeney. But Northern Trust, based in Limerick, will attend the event. "They

already employ about 40 UL graduates," she said. Other sectors are well represented.

The big four accountancy firms will attend as well as a number of major Irish law firms including Arthur Cox. Analogue, Intel, Dell and Microsoft will be among the IT sector employers attending. From the food sector students can meet representatives from Kerry Group and Glanbia among others. The biomedical sector will offer people from Abbott, Medtronic and Boston Scientific.

There will be a stronger emphasis on volunteering this year and a postgraduate zone just for UL courses. A full postgraduate fair, featuring courses available in other Universities, will take place in UL in February 2010.

The careers fair will be at the Arena between 12pm and 4pm. A week four publication from the careers service, "Careers by Degrees", is available at the careers office.

It offers information on employers attending the fair. Soon-to-be graduating students are urged to pick-up a copy prior to the event.

New Promotion Crew Organised

By Emma Hayward

THE Campaigns and Services Office have taken a new step in promoting relations between the Students' Union and the student body.

Eight representatives, both male and female, from all different courses and programmes will form a Promotions Crew which will work out of the Campaigns and Services Office.

The members of the Promotions Crew range from students in first year all the way up to students doing their masters. The aim of the Promotions Crew is to publicise the Union throughout the campus and to create a better rapport between students and their Union. Campaigns and Services Officer Fergal Dempsey explained the concept of the Promotions Crew, "The idea is to get feedback from students because the Union has never really had the opportunity to do this before. Some people have felt that there

has been a clique about the Union and we want to change that." Mr Dempsey also describes the Promotions Crew as "The Union's ears and the Union's voice. These representatives will be the main point of contact with the Union."

The Crew will be going around campus to student accommodation in order to promote the Union to students and to gather information, opinions and suggestions as well as keeping students up to date with events, gigs etc. "Expect them to be calling around to your house at some point", said Mr Dempsey.

The crew will have T-Shirts and hoodies to make them easy to spot around campus and students are welcome to approach them with any queries, suggestions or complaints.

The Students' Union has high hopes for this new project in branching out and reaching out to all students in UL, "We are looking forward to working with new people", Mr Dempsey concluded.

Reps trained for year ahead

Aoife Ní Raghallaigh - Editor

Some 44 newly elected Class Reps were treated to a combination of fun and training on the Class Reps Training Weekend which took place in Limerick at the end of Week 3. The weekend is held each semester and aims to help Class Reps get to know and bond with each while other while training them in skills that will be useful for their position.

The weekend started on Friday evening in the Common Room of the Students' Union. The Class Reps were encouraged to get to know each before they took part in some games. Later that evening they also took part in a Communications Workshop which will aid them in speaking to classes and lecturers. The evening concluded with a social event.

On Saturday morning the Class Reps came back in to take part in a number of workshops, all of which will provide them with valuable information for the year ahead. Education

Officer Aoife Finnerty, who organised the weekend, explained: "The reps took part in public speaking, negotiations and confrontation & conflict workshops. After this we did a run through of Class Reps Council so the new Reps know how Council works." After all the hard work the Reps went out together for another social event.

Ms Finnerty stated that the weekend "was really successful and you can see the people who went have already bonded and are already getting along really well."

When asked why the Training Weekend was held in Limerick rather than Cork or Galway as it had in previous years Ms Finnerty explained: "with less funding throughout the Union I needed to training to be more cost effective, and I think it was".

Ms Finnerty would like to thank everyone who came and hopes everyone had a great time. A second Class Reps Training Weekend will take place in Semester 2.



UL graduate employment figures high, despite decrease

By Finn McDuffie

UL HAS experienced a significant drop in graduate employment, according to a recent survey. After years of “practically full” UL graduate employment, this year’s rate has fallen 13% from 2007, reflecting the downturn in the economy. But UL employment rates are still “comparatively higher than the national average”.

The survey, which is conducted by the UL Careers Service, collects information about the “First Destinations” of UL graduates of primary degree programmes. It reports 61% of 2008 graduates went directly into employment, 4% of those overseas. The survey response rate was a “high” 80%, with over 2,300 graduates responding. Successive graduate employment surveys show UL has had a consistent track

record of above average employment rates. But the recent drop in employment was expected. Ms. Mary Sweeney, head of Careers, attributes the fall to a number of factors, primarily the global recession. “It’s the most difficult employment situation I’ve seen since the 80s,” she said. “There are three reasons.”

Firstly, after years of sustained growth, the sudden downturn came as “quite a surprise” to graduates. Secondly, previous recessions had an “escape valve”; the option to emigrate. That does not exist to the same extent in the current global recession.

Finally, the financial services sector has been hit hard. This sector “had become one of the most predominant” in offering UL graduates employment.

The most recent comparable data relates to 2007, when UL graduates experienced the highest level of employment since 1995.

The 2007 figures show the UL graduate employment rate at 74%, with the remainder following further study or unavailable for comment. This figure was 18% higher than the national average rate of employment of Irish honours degree graduates, according to official figures from the Higher Education Authority. The shift from such high employment figures to those collected during global recession may also explain this year’s employment rate decrease.

National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) has released the only comparable data on 2008 graduate employment. According to a report published in early August 2009, 40% of NUIG graduates went directly into employment, with 51% opting for further study.

“We’re now looking towards what happens next year,” said Ms. Sweeney. “What I’ve seen amongst employers is uncertainty. A lot of

employers are waiting to see the outcome of NAMA, Lisbon, the budget etc. Employment will have to pick up. But the uncertainty makes things very difficult to predict,” she said.

The Careers Service has advised students to be “very proactive” in seeking employment. “This generations needs to be prepared for a high level of competition. They need to be very professional in their approach to employers,” she said. “UL has a very clear advantage, but there’s still no room for complacency.”

Students have been referred to the Careers Service website which features the award-winning Destinations website. The site was compiled by the University of Redding, UK and customized to suit Irish graduates seeking employment. The UL Careers Service was behind the customisation and has already licensed the version to nearly all of the country’s Universities.

Kidney receives Honorary Doctorate

By Jason Kennedy - Chief News Correspondent

FORMER Munster rugby coach, Declan Kidney, has been rewarded with an honorary doctorate in Science from the University of Limerick. The event took place on September 22nd in the University Concert Hall, with an estimated 400 people in attendance.

At the event, Dr Kidney paid tribute to all the people he had worked with over the years. “It’s a bit overpowering really. Rugby is the ultimate team game and to be picked out from all the players who have done all the work on the pitch and from all those in the background it is just a little bit overpowering. I am really grateful to the University of Limerick in giving me this honour because it is a huge award for any university to bestow and I will just give it my best. But it is, as I said, on behalf of all the players and the teams that I work with and the

management that I work with that I am only too glad to accept it.”

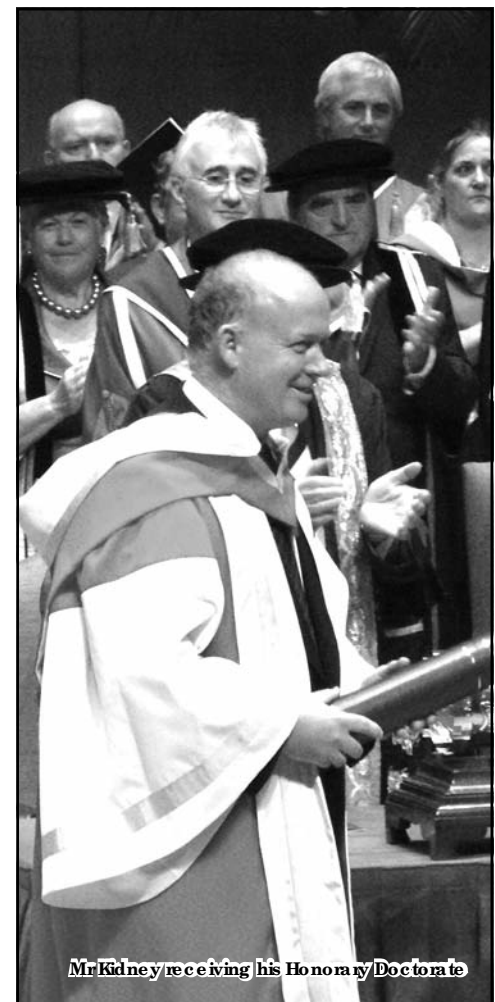
Dr Kidney also paid tribute to the University’s Campus. “You opened your door to Munster. You have good people and great facilities. Thank you for your generous and unending support. We will never be able to repay you.”

In a speech at the ceremony, Professor of Applied Mathematics, Stephen O’Brien said that Dr Kidney’s qualities were to be admired. “It takes a special kind of person to withstand the frustrations and pressures of constant review, and it takes a truly remarkable individual to emerge from many years of intense public scrutiny as a widely acknowledged, highly successful coach who enjoys the respect of players, officials, fans and the media. Our honouree, Declan Kidney, is such a man. Declan would be anxious to state that many people, including players, staff and volunteers, contributed to the success of

Munster. However, just as he would have taken the criticism if Munster had been unsuccessful, he should be credited with the outstanding successes achieved when he was coach. These successes include four Heineken Cup finals, two Heineken Cup championships and recognition as the top-ranked side in Europe. These achievements would, by themselves, have warranted the award of an honorary degree.”

The Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council and member of the University’s Governing Body, David Naughton told An Focal that it was an honour for UL to present the doctorate to DR Kidney. “It was an excellent event and a wonderful occasion for the University.”

President of the Students’ Union, Ruán Dillon-McLoughlin also paid tribute to Dr Kidney. “I was a privilege for the university to give such an award to someone who has done so much for rugby and for Limerick.”



Mr Kidney receiving his Honorary Doctorate

Out in UL help make pride a success

By Jason Kennedy - Chief News Correspondent

THE Limerick Pride parade, which took place on Saturday, 19th June, was called a complete success by many of its organisers. Out in UL were among the groups praised for the success of the event. Co-presidents Dan Comerford and David ‘Jaffa’ Jaffray said that the festival was as much for the city of Limerick as it was for the LGBT community. “The parade itself is a celebration of the diverse. Everyone is welcome there and we

hope it caters for everyone’s tastes.” The parade started at 2pm beside People’s Park in the city. A samba band and a procession of drag queens led the parade.

Anti-gay rights protestors from an evangelical church gathered near the end of the parade with religious banners. One of the protestors stood on a wooden box and read passages from the bible.

UL student and member of the Gay Christian Network, Breandán Ó Héamhaigh claims the opinions of these protestors do not

match the opinions of most Christians. “The commandments left to us by Jesus told us to love thy neighbour as thyself. Preaching a gospel against gay people is not showing true Christian teachings. I would advise these people to follow the true Christian word and not their hateful one.”

UL was well represented at the parade, as the Students’ Union, the Postgraduate Students’ Association and Out in UL all had banners for the parade.

“The amount of members from UL is always getting bigger and we always like to see new faces at our meetings.” After the parade, a

barbeque and tea dance was held in Leamy House, hosted by well known Limerick character, Myles Breen.

Drag Queen, Madonna Lucia, claimed that Out in UL played a pivotal role in the running of Pride. “Without [Out in UL] we would have never gotten off the ground.”

Limerick Pride, now in its third year, will return earlier next year, according to Sheila FitsPatrick.

“We’re starting in November. Next year’s pride is going to be bigger and better.”

To read Jason’s feature on pride, turn to page 22.

Annual General Meeting to be held in Week 7

By Aoife Ní Raghallaigh – Editor

THE Students' Union Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be Week 7 and all students are urged to attend. The meeting, which is open to all members of the Students' Union, i.e., all registered students is an important date in the Academic Calendar.

According to the ULSU Constitution there must be at least one General Meeting per semester and the AGM must not be held later than Week 7 of the autumn semester. Communications Officer Aoife Ní Raghallaigh, who is responsible for publicising each General Meeting explained: "We had wanted to hold the meeting in Week 6 but the Open Days interfered with this. As such we had no option to hold it in Week 7 as per the Constitution. We are hoping to hold it at 3pm as we feel this will give students ample time to finish their lunch or anything else that might stop them from attending."

The AGM is extremely important as every registered student who attends has the opportunity to ask the Sabbatical Officers questions about Union activities, but also to vote on motions which are brought forward at the General Meeting. Ms Ní Raghallaigh said: "Any student can bring forward a motion on any topic. If we have quorum and it is passed then the Students' Union is mandated by this motion. It's a great opportunity to have your voice heard and your vote counted. If you

aren't there you have no voice at all." Students' Union President Ruán Dillon McLoughlin also urged students to attend the AGM, explaining that it is "the means by which students can have a strong and powerful voice within their Union. They also have a chance to propose and vote on motions which will have a lasting impact on how the Union works."

A General Meeting is the second highest decision making body in the Union, second only to a Referendum. The Constitution states that 200 members, i.e. registered student, must be in attendance at the AGM for there to be quorate. If quorum is not present no motions can be passed. Ms Ní Raghallaigh stated: "Quorum is always an issue at the AGM as it's very difficult to get 200 students in the one room. This is a real shame as every student has the chance to make a lasting difference and they're passing it up. They have a powerful voice and vote that they just won't use."

The Students' Union AGM will take place on Wednesday of Week 7 (October 21st). The venue is yet to be confirmed. All motions to be considered at the General Meeting must be submitted to the Communications Officer at least five University days before the General Meeting, i.e., Monday Week 6 (October 19th). The University Open Days do not count as a worked University Day. Motions can be submitted by emailing sucommunications@ul.ie or by calling into the Students' Union.

Students' Union General Meeting Wednesday, Week 7

All motions for consideration to be submitted to Communications Officer by Monday, Week 6, October 12th.

Make a difference -

**Use your voice
and your vote!**

ULSU

Bike Scheme rolling from strength to strength

By Emma Hayward

THE Students' Union Bike Scheme is now established as a designated Bike Shop, located beside the Paddocks Restaurant in the Student Centre. The scheme has grown considerably since it first began three years ago with the Union trading bicycles in the courtyard. The bikes were mostly sold to Erasmus students and first

years. Both students and members of staff can avail of this service. The opening hours are 12-4 on Tuesday and Thursday.

"It's a non-profit shop and it's run by volunteers." CSO Fergal Dempsey explained. "It's providing a massive service to UL and not only UL but also to Castletroy. You can buy a brand new bike at the start of the year for around cost price and sell it back, at the end of your time



here, for whatever it's worth. If it's in good condition we'll give you a good price for it."

Mr Dempsey maintained that the bike scheme would be an advantage to all students, even reducing the competition for parking spaces on campus: "the more bikes that are sold, the more bike stands that there will be and this will reduce the number of cars in the car parks."

Mr Dempsey acknowledged those

already involved with the bike shop, "There's a great team of volunteers running the shop at the moment. They're always flat out busy in there." The Bike Shop is currently looking for more volunteers to get involved so that it can, in time, extend its opening hours and become a full time service, "If there's any mechanics out there who want to volunteer that would be great." Mr Dempsey explained. Anybody who

wishes to get involved can email subikeshop@ul.ie or sucso@ul.ie

The bikes are sourced locally from O'Regan Tony Wholesale in Annacotty but there is a good stock of second hand bicycles still available from the Student's Union for those who can't afford a brand new bike.

For more information you can email subikeshop@ul.ie or visit the SU homepage at www.ulsu.ie.

Fairshare Fest

First ever Fairshare Fest to take place in Week 5

The first every Fairshare Fest will take place around the UL campus throughout Week 5. The week, which was organised by 4th year students, is aiming to raise money for two African Charities; Ducuum Education Project Sudan and the Ghana Ireland Friendship Trust (Gift).

David Kennedy, 4th year English and History, explained that the students involved are not organising the week through a Club or Society or as an academic project. "Some of us had been on Co-Op in Ghana and others are friends with a lady who works with charities in Sudan. We felt that while a lot of money is raised for worthwhile local charities, we needed to fill a void for the charities in Africa." Mr Kennedy also explained that the

group wish to raise awareness about the issues and problems facing the developing world.

The group have organised a number of events which will take place across the UL campus during Week 5. Tuesday kicks off the festival with a second hand book sale in the SU Courtyard followed by a debate in the Jonathon Swift at 7.30pm. Colonel Colin Doyle, former Chief of Staff with the UN Peacekeeping Force, will speak at the debate, as well as members of DebU and Trocaire.

On Wednesday the group will team up with Music Soc for a Buskathon around campus. Mr Kennedy explained that it is hoped that a number of street performers will also take part in

the Buskathon. Thursday will begin with a Coffee Morning in Teach Fáilte, located in the SU Courtyard, from 10am to 2pm. The group have obtained a bar extension in the Stables Club for their Late Night Party on Thursday evening which will feature African music, raffles and more. The night runs from 9am – 1.30am and it free before 10pm.

Mr Kennedy stated the group hopes Fairshare Fest will raise awareness and funds for the developing world and the charities involved. Students are reminded that all money raised during the week will be donated to Ducuum Education Project of Gift. As such students are asked to donate generously throughout the week.

Fairshare Fest '09 – Week 5 Supporting Education in Africa

Events

Tuesday

- Book sale at the Farmers' Market in the SU Courtyard.
- Debate - "Developmental Aid Does More Harm Than Good".
 - 7.30pm, Jonathan Swift featuring Trocaire, UN Peace Keeping and DebU speakers

Wednesday

- Buskathon & Information Fair
 - 12 - 4pm in the SU Courtyard and around campus.

Thursday

- Coffee morning in Teach Fáilte
 - 10am – 2pm.
- Late night part in The Stables with African Music, raffles and more!
 - 9pm – 1.30am, €3 entry after 10pm.

All proceeds will go to charity!

Ghana Ireland Friendship Trust

Ghana Ireland Friendship Trust (Gift) is a registered charity which was set up in 2008 formalising a link between the diocese of the Cape Coast of Ghana and the Limerick Diocese. The Gift Trust was established by Gerard and Rachel Maher from Castleconnell after their visit to Ghana in January 2008 with friends including Denis Hanly of BDO Simpson Xavier, Aidan O'Driscoll an accountant, Father Pat Seaver, Canon Michael Liston, Louis Keegan, Jerry Cronin of University of Limerick, and many other supporters and friends who have an interest in helping or have visited Ghana.

The mission of the trust is to improve the health and life expectancy of the people in the Cape Coast region of Ghana. The first project we selected is to build accommodation for

doctors and nurses attached to the Maternity Hospital at Mankessim.

The provision of this accommodation wing has been the catalyst for the opening of the hospital in February 2009 and guarantees that staff will remain at the hospital improving the health and life expectancy of children and mothers in the region.

To date they have sent €40,000 to the region and the accommodation wing is in the final stages. They need an additional €35,000 to finish the bloc.

All work is carried out by local labour and designers so the money raised goes directly into the local economy and has circa 10 times the spending power it would have in Ireland.

Please give what you can to help our friends in Ghana.

Ducuum – Sudan

The word "Ducuum" in Dinka language, refers to a sower of seeds and the Ducuum charity aims to sow the seeds of education in the minds of girls and young adults in Southern and Western Sudan.

The education of girls is a major challenge in Southern and Western Sudan where only less than 10% complete primary school.

The Majority of rural communities in Southern and Western Sudan believe that educating girls will encourage them to discard traditional practices which will undermine society as a whole.

However, a large proportion of educated Sudanese women and men support the education of all girls.

These women and men recognise that educating girls will reduce infant mortality rates, increase life expectancy rates, improve the local economy, make communities more self-sufficient and boost the country's economy.

Mission

Ducuum's mission is to create, support and encourage education projects in areas most affected by high illiteracy among girls, parents and other adults who missed out on their education; and to help economically disadvantaged students (girls and Boys) access tertiary level.

Objectives

Ducuum seeks to raise awareness about the value of education among the local communities in Southern and Western Sudan. At present, only less than 10% of girls complete primary school in Southern and Western Sudan; a figure Ducuum aims to increase to 50% by the year 2015 and to 80% by 2025. Initially Ducuum intends increase the numbers completing primary education, thereby increasing access to intermediate and secondary school education and with the eventual aim for continuance to tertiary level as well. Ducuum intends to advance

vocational training as much as academic education and by focussing also on areas of agriculture, health awareness, business/self-employment, employment orientations and other life skills.

Ducuum seeks to promote and support educational projects that enable self-sufficiency.

Who we are

Founding members of the Ducuum Educational Project for Southern and Western Sudan are from all over the world.

Some members have either worked or lived in Sudan and others have a strong connection with, or have a will to support, education of girls and young adults in Sudan.

A high proportion of educated Southern Sudanese men also support Ducuum initiatives.

Progress to date

Ducuum has built simple mud huts to accommodate teachers; soap, bed sheets and dresses for school uniform and underwear for children with no clothes have been supplied. Ducuum buys supplies from Uganda and distributes them to schools in Sudan.

A new school has begun in Bor. A new building is almost complete and houses 80 students. Numbers of students are well in excess of those proposed.

This shows a positive step in that education is seen as useful and valuable. However, the small supplies of uniforms, teaching materials and most of all the few qualified teachers on the payroll, means that the project relies entirely on supplementary aid to offer education, a basic right, to these people who have spent most of their lives in civil unrest, food shortages and ongoing terror.

Contact persons:

Nyiel Kuol / Wynette Redington

Mobile: 083 3059816

E-mail: ducuumeducation@gmail.com

Union Debrief

Your Students' Union

Executive 2009/10

President – Ruán Dillon McLoughlin

What does he do? Ruán looks after the day to day running of the Students' Union as well as looking after the Union finances with the Secretary General. He also sits on hundreds (literally) of Committees to make sure students are being represented at every single level within the University.

How was he elected? Ruán was elected by the student body in the second semester of the last academic year.

Contact – Email supresident@ul.ie or call 0860435300

**Vice President/ Campaigns and Services Officer – Fergal Dempsey**

What does he do? Fergal's job does exactly what it says on the tin; he looks after Campaigns and also any Services, such as the Bike Shop, that the Students' Union runs. He also works closely with the Ents team to make sure you're getting great gigs at cheap prices.

How was he elected? Fergal was elected by the student body in the second semester of the last academic year.

Contact – Email sucso@ul.ie or call 0860435303

**Deputy President/ Welfare Officer – Derek Daly**

What does he do? Derek looks after the Welfare of all students so he will deal with any student who has an issue with mental health, sexual health and physical health as well as helping with accommodation and financial issues.

He also stands in for Ruán when Ruán isn't around!

How was he elected? Derek was elected by the student body in the second semester of the last academic year.

Contact – Email suwelfare@ul.ie or call 0860435301

**Vice President/ Communications Officer – Aoife Ní Raghallaigh**

What does she do? Aoife looks after all the publications that come out of the Union, such as An Focal. She is also in charge of publicising events and meetings and she also manages the website and all the other online stuff.

How was she elected? Aoife was elected by the student body in the second semester of the last academic year.

Contact – Email sucommunications@ul.ie or call 0860435304

**Vice President/ Education Officer – Aoife Finneerty**

What does she do? Aoife deals with any education issues or queries you may have such as a problem with a lecturer or your course.

She also runs the Class Reps system and sits on dozens of very boring committees so you don't have to. **How was she elected?** Aoife was elected by the student body in the second semester of the last academic year.

Contact – Email sueducation@ul.ie or call 0860435302

**Postgraduate Students' Association President – Michael Bourke**

What does he do? Michael sits on exactly 163 committees to represent all the Postgraduate students. He also looks after the PSA website, www.postgrads.ie, as well as dealing with queries and organising social events.

How was he elected? Michael was elected by the student body in the second semester of the last academic year.

Contact – Email psapresident@ul.ie or call 0860435305

**Community Relations Officer – Larissa Mirtshink**

What does she do? Larissa researches and co-ordinates specific projects with a view to improving links and relations with all sectors of the community.

How was she elected? Larissa was elected by the student body in Week 3.

Contact – Email sucro@ul.ie

**Faculties Officer – Lorcan O'Neill**

What does he do? The Faculties Officer is a representative of the four Faculty Officers. They must bring issues from the Faculty Officers to the attention of the Executive.

How was he elected? The Faculties Officers decided on the Faculty Officer amongst themselves. The Faculty Officers were elected by Class Reps Council in Week 4. The Faculties Officer was then elected from the interested Faculty Officers.

**Equality Officer – Gina O'Brien**

What does she do? Gina aids in the development of the Union's Equality Policy and ensures that no student is being discriminated against.

How was she elected? Gina was elected by the student body in Week 3.

Contact – Email suequality@ul.ie

**Clubs Officer – Keith O'Neill**

What does he do? Keith deals with and helps with the organisation and development of Students' Union Clubs.

How was he elected? Keith was elected by Clubs and Societies Council.

**Chairperson of Council – Deirdre Wilson**

What does she do? Deirdre is the chair of Class Reps Council and also at General Meetings.

How was she elected? Deirdre was elected by Class Reps Council in Week 4.

**Societies Officer – Paddy English**

What does he do? Paddy deals with and helps with the organisation and development of Students' Union Clubs.

How was he elected? Paddy was elected by Clubs and Societies Council.

**Secretary General – Tomás Costello**

What does he do? Tomás looks after the finances of the Union with the help of the SU President. He also oversees the overall management of the Union. Employed by the Union.

Contact – Email tomas.costello@ul.ie or call 061202325.

**1st Year Representative – Ciara Halliday**

What does she do? Ciara ensures that the voice and opinions of 1st years are heard and also promotes their stance and beliefs.

How was she elected? Ciara was elected by the other 1st year Class Reps at Class Reps Council.



Union Debrief

Postgrad News

As Jim Morrison famously asked...
“Is everybody in...IS EVERYBODY IN?”
 Well if your reading this there is a good chance you are settling into Week 4. The first thing I want you all to know is simple.

The **PSA AGM** took place on the 1st of October 2009 in the PSA Common Room. Thanks to all who came along. It is the most important meeting of the year for us. So what was discussed? Well, the minimum wage didn't drop to €1.84 nor will you be forced to abort your children in the name of a PSA superstate but to remove any confusion here are some bullet points

- The removal of the Treasurer and all duties of the Treasurer will be integrated into the role of Deputy-President.
- The addition of the new role of Community Inclusion Officer. This will be a new role designed to aid the inclusion of some of the more marginalised groups of postgrads and it would be envisioned that the officer come from at least one of this groups. Namely mature students, students who are parents of young children, international students, research/PhD students.
- Amending Article (D) 5.1 so the AGM can be held earlier than the 1st of October to elect the Executive faster.
- The addition of Working Groups to work on specific tasks to improve postgrad life.
- All this is available in better detail on www.postgrads.ie

The coffee has been flowing with a cause in the PSA. The PSA took part in Ireland's biggest coffee morning in aid of Milford Hospice and raised over €60 – as Tesco say “every little helps”.

The PSA has also held the first Student Parent Coffee Morning. At this event a makeshift committee emerged and it has tasked itself with holding more events for the children of students on campus.

Up until now the only event of this type is the Student Parent Christmas Party which is held annually in conjunction with the SU and is a huge success. It was decided at relatively short notice that the S.P.C.M. should be open to all

students and not just postgrads and in future the Welfare Officer and I will be working closely on this. Also, childcare bursaries have now closed and as expected demand was far above supply.

Postgrad Careers Coffee Morning

The PSA held a Postgrad Careers Coffee Morning with the aid of Elaine Keily from the careers office on Tuesday the 29th of September. It will be the first of many successful events and I must thank Elaine again for all her hard work. Thanks to all who came along with any queries and I hope Elaine was able to help you in the relaxed atmosphere of the PSA Common Room while you rob a biscuit and have a cuppa.

Mature Student Coffee Morning

The PSA held a Mature Student Coffee Morning on the 1st of October (before the AGM) in the PSA to make contact with mature students and seek out their needs.

This will hopefully become a regular event so please come along and see what the PSA can do for you.

Well that's all for now, you know where I am if you need me and if you don't go to www.postgrads.ie to find out.

Michael



Michael, PSA President

Ruán's Rundown

Well! Another 2 weeks have passed...Every semester of college I always remember week 5...it's the week that you realise you actually gotta start doing something!

Projects are due, mid terms are coming up and ye start to think to yourself that ye really should have done something before now.

Well you will be glad to hear that it's not all work and no play! Our Ents program is in full swing.

We have a range of comedy gigs coming up just to lift your spirits in the long dark evenings!

- Wednesday Week 06 (Oct 07)
Colin Murphy
- Wednesday Week 10 (Nov 04)
PJ Gallagher
- Wednesday Week 11 (Nov 11)
Neil Delamere
- Wednesday Week 12 (Nov 18)
Jason Byrne

I would also like to thank all that were involved in the Boathouse Project. Whether you were involved in realization of the project or helped out with the opening ceremony your help was very much appreciated. The project is a flag ship for the SU and for Clubs and Societies. It shows the goals that can be achieved once your mind is set on it.

The Opening Ceremony was a fantastic day. All the Clubs and Societies put on a fantastic display showcasing their individual Clubs and Societies.

The Blizzards and Delorentos really rocked the Circus tent and topped off a fantastic day. Besides the boathouse a lot has been happening around the college:

- Artificial Playing Pitches – Very substantial plans are being progressed for pitches on the North Campus. The plans include changing rooms and facilities as well as a Pavilion bar.
- The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso was in UL talking about the Lisbon Treaty. It was a great honour for the University to have Mr. Barroso on campus.
- Library Extension – The Glucksman Library extension is back on the agenda. The extension will greatly increase the range of facilities the library can offer students. It is great to see that the concerns of students were listened to and the project hasn't been put on the long finger.
- Declan Kidney Honorary Doctorate – Our good friend Declan Kidney was presented with an Honorary Doctorate by UL on the 22nd of September.
- Wifi – The Library now has Wireless throughout the building!

The common room in the SU building has just been refurbished. We have installed 2 plasma T.V.'s that you can watch your Sky Sports or your Home and Away. There is a breakfast bar with power supply so you can use your Laptop. We will be changing the couches and seats soon enough as well. Let us know what you think and how we can improve it for you! Well as always we are looking for you feedback.

If you have any comments good or bad just throw them our way – supresident@ul.ie – and any problems ye have call in and we will see if we can help you. Also check out www.ulsu.ie for more info!!

THROUGHOUT the years a number of policies have been passed by the student body, particularly through Class Reps Council.

A policy motion can be brought to Class Reps Council and needs a proposer and seconder. A policy motion can propose a change to an old policy or the implementation of a new policy. A student can object to a policy, but a seconder is needed also. If there is an objection the policy goes to a vote. If there are no objections the policy is deemed passed by the Chair and this policy is then adopted by the Students' Union.

One such policy is the ULSU Alcohol Guidelines Policy which was brought before Class Reps Council on May 2, 2006. The policy noted the ULSU and University of Limerick Governing Authority Alcohol Policy at the time which resolved to reduce high-risk drinking on campus. ULSU has since withdrawn from that policy and developed its own policy on the matter. The new policy continued with the resolve to reduce high-risk drinking on campus

but also realised that need of guidance for some individuals on how to comply with the policy. The policy stated that the Students' Union building shall be an alcohol free area, with the exception of specific events at which food is being served. It also stated that alcohol should not be used as an incentive to promote events and that when drink vouchers are being provided they shall be redeemable for both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. The policy also asked that when possible food should also be provided to in addition to the alcohol.

This policy was officially passed by Class Reps Council in May 2006. Every policy must be renewed three years. If the policy is not renewed it shall be omitted. As such the policy was brought before Class Reps Council for a second time on April 21, 2009 where it was passed again by Class Reps Council.

A copy of all the ULSU policies is available on the website, www.ulsu.ie, or from the Communications Office.

Policy

Explained

Alcohol Guidelines Policy

Council Corner

Class Reps Council

The second Class Reps Council of the academic year took place on Tuesday of Week 5. After the Council Education Officer Aoife Finnerty acknowledged that the Council was particularly long and urged students not to be put off by this. A number of elections for non-Sabbatical positions had to take place at this Council which made it longer than usual. Future Councils will not take as long.

The first elections which took place were for Chair of Council and Deputy Chair of Council. Both candidates were unopposed and as such Deirdre Wilson, 2nd year Science Education, was deemed elected as Chair of Council and Jason Kennedy, 2nd year Journalism and New Media, was deemed elected as Deputy Chair of Council. Both students will hold their positions for one year.

Following this the election of Faculty Officers took place which each candidate also going unopposed. Mark Brennan, 3rd year Business Studies, was deemed elected as Business Faculty Officer, Gráinne Ní Hodhráin, 2nd year Law and Accounting, was deemed elected as Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Officer, Declan Cronin, 2nd year Science Education, was elected as Education and Health Sciences Faculty Officer and finally Lorcan O'Neill, 4th year Computer Engineering, was elected as Science and Engineering Faculty Officer.

The four newly elected Faculty Officers were then required to nominate one of the four to act as Faculties Officer. As both

Lorcan O'Neill and Gráinne Ní Hodhráin were interested in position they were given time to hust before Class Reps were asked to vote. After the vote Lorcan O'Neill was deemed elected as Faculties Officer.

The election also took place for First Year Representative. This was the most contested position with 10 Class Reps vying for the position. In the end Ciara Halliday, 1st year Business Studies with French, was deemed elected as First Year Rep by her fellow First Year Reps. Ms Halliday will join Mr O'Neill and Ms Wilson as members of the Executive.

Two more positions were also filled without contest. David McLoughlin, 2nd year Science Education was elected as the Student Teacher Officer for the academic year and Lare Girasole was elected as Health Science Officer.

The second last election sought two members to sit on the ULSU Services Board. Members of the ULSU Services Board will provide leadership and direction for the company, make suggestions, decisions and recommendations (on new commercial opportunities), represent the Shareholder aspect of the business and ensure best financial practices are followed. Three students went for the two available positions and as such another election was called. After a vote by Class Reps David James Collison-Ryan, MSc in International Management and Global Business, and Gráinne Ní Hodhráin, 2nd year Law and Accounting, were deemed elected.

The final position of the night was also contested by three

students. The students were seeking a place on the Electoral Referendum Board (ERB). The ERB oversees the running of Elections for Sabbatical (i.e. President) and non-Sabbatical (i.e. Equality Officer) positions. The board is responsible for implementing election rules and regulations and it has a range of disciplinary powers. After a vote Elenor Field, 2nd year Voice and Dance, was deemed elected.

In addition to the elections, students were also asked to approve the ULSU Budget for 2009/10 and the Financial Review to the end of August.

Secretary General, Tomás Costello, explained that the proposed Budget would see the Union breaking even at the end of the financial year. He also explained that the Financial Review was displaying a large loss as the Union had to change its Financial Year to be in line with the University Financial Year.

This meant the Financial Review was showing 15 months' expenditure on 12 months' income. He also explained that this was a one time hit and the Union reserve would cover the deficit. Class Reps approved both the Budget and Financial Review without objection.

The next Class Reps Council takes place on Tuesday of Week 6 (October 13th). Class Reps are reminded that any Rep who misses two consecutive Councils without apology will be struck off as a Class Rep. Apologies can be sent to lucy.walsh@ul.ie

ULSU Nite link

Time table for Academic Year 2009/10

Route A 19:00, 20:30, 22:00,

Stop 1: Dromroe Village
 Stop 2: Thomand Village
 Stop 3: Cappavilla Village
 Stop 4: Plassey Village
 Stop 5: College Court
 Stop 6: Groody Student Village
 Stop 7: Courtyard Student Village
 Stop 8: Brookfield Hall
 Stop 9: Parkview Hall
 Stop 10: Park Mews (Kie lys)

Returns to UL via Flag Pole Entrance

Route B 19:45, 21:15, 22:45,

Stop 1: Kilmurry Village
 Stop 2: Elm Park
 Stop 3: Oaklawn
 Stop 4: Kilmurry Lodge
 Stop 5: Brierfield (Back of the Estate)
 Stop 6: Woodhaven
 Stop 7: Annacotty (Synotts)
 Stop 8: Spar (Dublin Road Bus Stop)
 Stop 9: Courtyard/Brookfield
 Roundabout

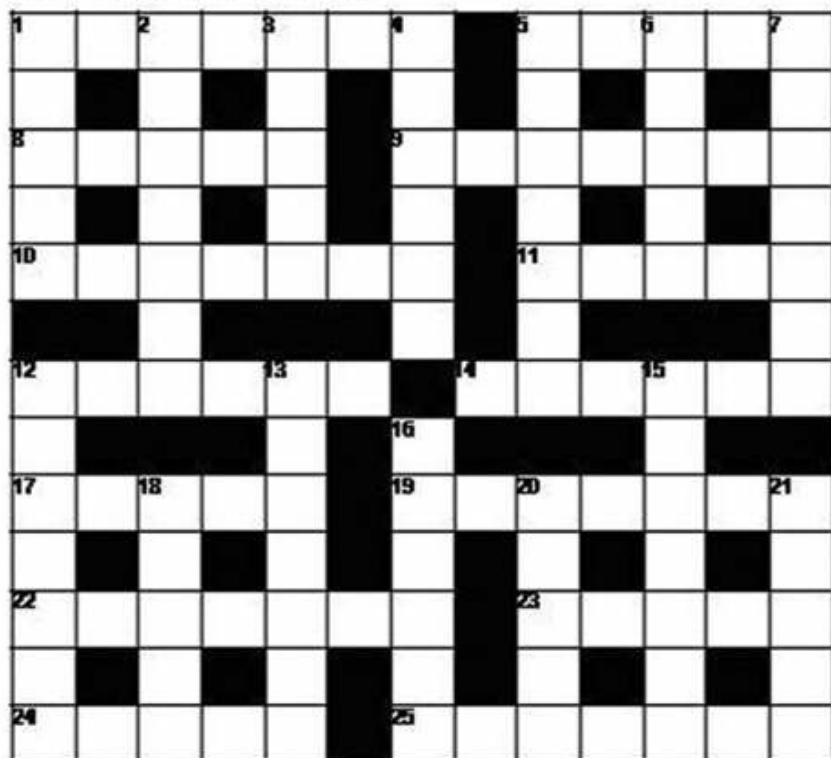
Returns to UL via East Gate entrance

Route C 23.30 Only

Route A+B Stops on Request
 Drop off only

Fun Page!

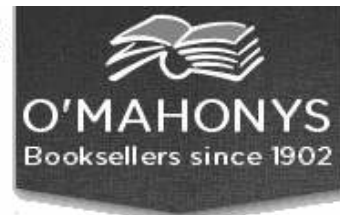
Crossword



Solutions to Tuesday, 22 September puzzle:

Across: 1. Rajas 4. Forescore 8. Wannabe 10. Let up 11. Latch 12. Keystroke 13. Feral 15. Examiners 18. Ether 20. Crusaders 22. Skied 24. Aging 25. Echidna 26. Tenacious 27. Basil
Down: 1. Rowel 2. Janitor 3. Stash 4. Freak 5. Solitaire 6. Outmode 7. Expresser 9. Waylaid 13. Flipchart 14. Lethargic 15. Entreat 17. Reunion 19. Hairdos 21. Sheds 22. Sahib 23. Drawl

Sponsored by:



Across

- 1. Amass, Atain
- 5. West African Country
- 8. Ready onself for impact
- 9. Nearest
- 10. Authorize, Permit
- 11. Moon of Saturn
- 12. Compare using "as" or "like"
- 14. Structure, Set-up
- 17. Rubber used for clothing
- 19. Blatant
- 22. Addition, Supplement
- 23. Permissible by Law
- 24. Home of Juventus F.C.
- 25. Tranquilized

Down

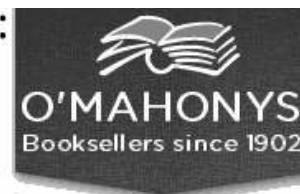
- 1. Saunter
- 2. Branch of Physics
- 3. Inactive Gases
- 4. Surpass
- 5. Eerie
- 6. Capable, Deft
- 7. Word with opposite meaning to another word
- 12. Sell like a lawyer
- 13. Fancy word for dictionary
- 15. Product of mental activity
- 16. Sings like Swiss
- 18. King Henry VIII was one
- 20. Logically Correct
- 21. Firm, Hard or Compact

The lucky winner will receive a €20 voucher to spend in
O'Mahony's Booksellers
 or online at
www.omahonys.ie
For all your college needs
 Submit entires with name & ID number to the entry box in SU reception by
 29th September 2009



Sudoku

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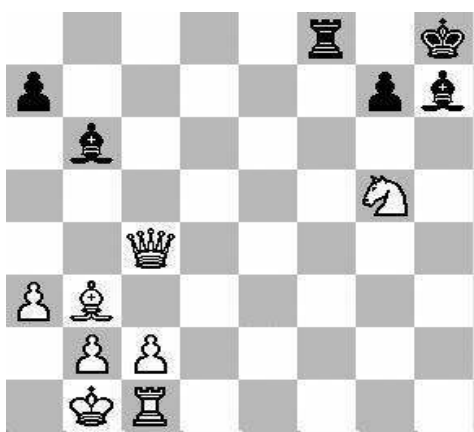


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Instructions:

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow in a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:
 * Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
 * Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
 * Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

The winner will receive a €20 voucher to spend in
O'Mahony's Booksellers
www.omahonys.ie
For all your college needs
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1. Qg8+BxQg8 2. Rh1+Bg7 3. RxBg7++

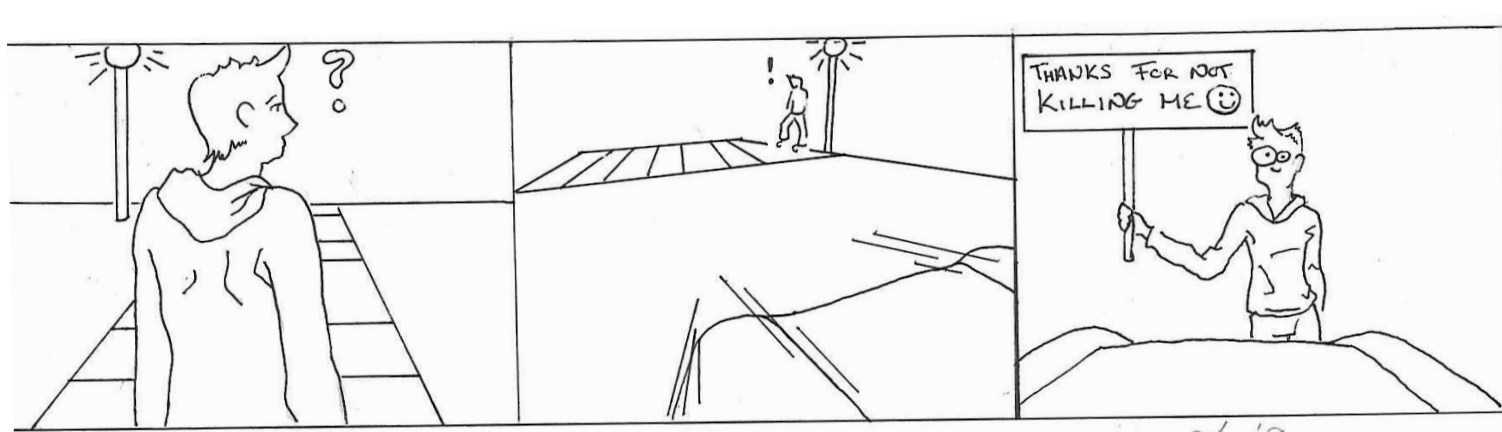


Illustration: Amy Moriarty

Graduate Article:

Nikoloz Gilauri

Nikoloz "Nika" Gilauri is a former University of Limerick student who graduated with a Bachelor in Business Studies with a Major in Economics and Finance in 1999. Mr Gilauri is the current Prime Minister of Georgia. Here he speak to An Focal about what life has been like since he graduated, his work and what he misses most about UL.

"Freedom". Such was Mr Gilauri's simple and succinct response to being asked what he missed most about UL and Limerick. When he began to elaborate on the topic it was clear that his answer was all encompassing.

"I missed the people, my classmates, making new friends and Friday nights in the Stables. When you are a student you think that you are very busy, that the program is too complicated, and that you don't have enough time to enjoy your life. However, it is the best time of your life."

Mr Gilauri continued: "The older you grow the more you realise [that it is the best time of your life] and the more you miss the time when you could miss a couple of lectures but still catch up with help of your classmate's notes, you could spend whole day out on a pitch sipping beer and warring about nothing or you could spend whole the evening pub crawling with your friends." Mr Gilauri was keen to discuss the ways in which UL was beneficial to his personal life and career. "Despite what I wrote about free time and pub crawls in UL, the University gave me a great sense of responsibility and discipline. Exams were tough and

it did require some hard work (starting three weeks before exams) to pass them. On top of everything English was not my native language and it was a bit harder for me."

He also commented on the valuable and functional life skills he learned while at UL. "UL also gave me great social skills and ability to analyze every problem from different angles; the program in UL is specially designed to give students ability for logical thinking, independent analyses and creativity, which does its job and gives an edge in this competitive world."

After graduating from UL Mr Gilauri went on to receive an MA in International Business Management from

Temple

University in Philadelphia. Following this he went on to work for Dublin International Financial Centre, fund management corporation Invesco, at the Philadelphia Small Business Development Centre, the Georgian telecommunication company Telecom Georgia, the Spanish corporation Iberdrola and the Georgian state electricity system management contractor, ESBI(Ireland).

Mr Gilauri explained that becoming Prime Minister of Georgia was not something he always wanted to do but the desire to combat corruption in the electrical supply sector pushed him towards the position.

"When I came back to Georgia after doing the Undergrad in UL and the Masters in Philadelphia I took a job at Telecom

Georgia and then at Spanish company Iberdrola which was managing Georgian Wholesale

Electricity Market. It

was the most difficult time for Georgia in terms of electricity supply; there were blackouts everywhere, including in the capital city, Tbilisi, and corruption was the name of the game in this sector. I was very angry that in 21st century my country could not provide proper electricity supply to population."

In response to this issue Mr Gilauri began working on solutions to the

problem. "I independently (after working hours) started to write my ideas how to solve the problem. I also worked at Irish company ESBI, which took over Georgian high voltage line grid and dispatch centre as a management company. The "Rose Revolution" happened in Georgia in November 2003.

Even though I did not know anyone at that time from the team that ended up in government after the revolution I was called by then Prime Minister Zurab Jvania. Many international organisations knew about my independent work and they agreed on my approach. Some of them had advised the Prime Minister to meet me and hear me out."

"After two meetings with Zurab Jvania I was offered a job as Minister of Energy. I was 28 years old; I was young and ambitious and I took the job. It took me and my team at the Ministry of Energy three years of very hard work and in the end we ended up with one of the most energy secured and non-corrupt systems in the region. Since 2006 Georgia is an electricity exporter and one of the major energy hubs in the region.

In 2007 I became Minister of Finance of Georgia, in 2008 First Deputy Prime Minister and in January 2009 I was offered a job of Prime Minister by President Mikheil Saakashvili, which I took and was approved by Parliament of Georgia."

The UL Alumni Association will launch a new ULAA Alumni Lecture Series, the aim of which is to bring a graduate back to the campus each year to give a guest Lecture. ULAA is delighted to announce that Nika Gilauri BBS '99 will give the Inaugural Lecture in this series.

Nika's Lecture will take place on the afternoon of Friday, 27 November and all students are invited. For complimentary tickets, please Email: ulaa@ul.ie or Tel: 061 202475 or visit the ULAA office upstairs in the Student Centre.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am a third year business student at UL and, while I am enjoying the course, I find it very difficult to make new friends. The course lectures are very big, which makes it difficult to link in with people on a one to one.

I have tried a number of Socs, but the same story, grand in a group but I don't find myself making new friends out of it, as I clam up.

I wondered if you would think about having a type of "lonely hearts" column in your paper. Nothing too heavy, but maybe if people wanted a guy or girl to go with them to an 18th or 21st birthday party, just meet for coffee (on or off campus) or go to the pictures.

You might consider this even for a trial run, to help those of us who feel isolated and find it hard, especially when we see others linking up and making new mates.

Thanks

Anonymous.

College is such a big place that it can be hard to make friends, especially if you're shy. I don't know if you've ever heard of Connect but they pretty much do exactly what you suggested with the lonely hearts column. Connect is a peer support network which is run by students for students. It pairs up students who are shy, lonely or just want someone to talk to with another student.

The student will have similar interests or a similar background to you so you'll have something in common. What you get out of the student you're paired with is up to you; you can go for a coffee, to the cinema or to a gig or they'll accompany you to a Club or Soc meeting if you're shy. They'll talk to you about anything you like and it's completely confidential.

The service is completely free and definitely worthwhile. You can get more information from www.ul.ie/connect or call in to any of the Officers in the Union and ask about it. We were all part of it last year, and we would even be happy to sit down and have a coffee or support you if you want.

If Connect isn't for you I am more than happy to accommodate a Lonely Hearts column either on the website or in the newspaper. Email me at sucommunications@ul.ie if you'd be interested if you would like more information on Connect.

Aoife.



Our columnist, Andrea, is not a fan of prawns

By Andrea Gallagher

So after all my pre-Erasmus predicaments I've arrived safely in sunny Porto, to a few more predicaments but mostly to good times, good people and SUN! The first night was tough.

Finding my way out of my apartment to the Erasmus student residence was a challenge. After a lengthy discussion of directions with my Portuguese house mate I ended up just saying "listen, which way to do I go when I walk out the front door?"

I walked out into the city for the first time, taking it all in and trying to figure out practicalities like where my faculty was, where supermarkets were, etc. It got dark pretty soon though and I realised I was hopelessly and irrevocably lost!

I decided to get some food before I attempted to find home. Little did I know I was about to discover what many had warned me about: You

can't be a vegetarian in Porto (and trying to explain you're a vegetarian with no Portuguese in a country where vegetarianism is virtually unheard of is impossible!). I was greeted by a series of confused looks on smiling waiting staffs faces, who said things like "yes but it's just a little bacon!" and it soon became apparent that it was "carne" or starve! Porto has some of the best seafood in the world so one day when I was chowing down on the usual (plain omelette) my Erasmus "colleague" Kate suggested I try one of her prawns.

I had had a glass of wine and was in the Erasmus spirit of trying new things (food, drink, lifestyle, men!) so I carefully cut a tiny piece and tasted it. Funnily enough it was like Tofu with a fishy tang... and much to Kate's dismay, not for me! So I'm just going to have to keep it real and cook at home here, all though it's actually cheaper to eat out.

Once I got my internet sorted out I went immediately to my Facebook; only to discover

the whole thing polluted with talk of someone called Arthur. Arthur? To Arthur! Who the f*ck is Arthur? When I mentioned this phenomenon to my Irish Erasmus counterpart John, he shook his head in disbelief. "It's ARTHUR'S DAY; the 250th anniversary of Guinness!"

I've only been gone two weeks and a new national holiday has already been created?

So off my three Irish amigos and 10-15 odd Romanian friends went to Ryan's Irish bar, one of only two Irish bars in the whole of Porto, to buy into the expert marketing of the Guinness team.

The place was EMPTY! There stood one bored looking Portuguese barman who was nearly surprised to see us walk in, some old St. Patrick's Day decorations and a heartbroken gang of Erasmus students still chancing an order of a pint of Guinness.

I guess the Guinness team overlooked Northern Portugal! Still we struggled on and the Irish boys and Romanians ordered their

pints (watery at best!). As my tiny Romanian friend Christina raised her pint that was bigger than her head she grimaced and said "I didn't know the taste would be of stale iced coffee! I can't believe this was 3 Euro!"

It was grim. John looked a little embarrassed and as though he just found out Santa wasn't real. Not one to chance the black stuff, Kate and I ventured to order from the impressive cocktail list. A Mojito was 5 Euro! Being savvy recessionistas we knew we could get cheaper and opted for a Vodka and Cranberry. 10 Euro the barman said. DISGUSTED we handed over the extortionate sum.

This Irish bar had kept true to Irish prices! In the Portuguese Bar next door it was HALF the price! So being traitors to the money machine that is Guinness rather than our heritage we quickly left but I guess we know where to go if we ever get homesick and want a quick cure in the shape of being ripped off. Lie back and think of Ireland!

Looking for Leo

By Emma Hayward

An evening stroll at home led to a brief but rather special encounter with one of our more elusive birds. The long-eared owl, which is the most common species of owl in Ireland, is a truly nocturnal bird. It is a much more likely occurrence to hear one of these birds than to see one and, naturally, I was surprised to see this particular juvenile sitting upon a gatepost as cool as cucumber.

Leo, as we had christened this bird, was already well known to my family primarily as the mysterious voice in the night and an unidentified visitor who lurked in the woods making a hell of a lot of noise for such a small creature.

When I first heard Leo's sharp mew-like call in the distance I didn't know what to make of it. The only thing I could think to compare it with was the Sparrow Hawk. I have always thought that the Sparrow Hawk's call in the distance sounds like kittens mewling.

But Leo the Long-eared Owl has a sharper, more repetitive, structured sound to it and so I called in my parents for a second and third opinion.

So, the three of us stood out by the back door in reverent silence listening to the "pew" sound which came every 5-6 seconds until we got bored of listening. My father insisted that it was no such sort of indigenous creature he had ever heard of in all his life and decided it must be an escaped parakeet that was lost in our woods.

But, the next night, at around 9 or 10pm the odd creature kicked off again and we found ourselves back outside like an eager crowd drawn back by the mystery and the unknown. We resolved to find out exactly what it was that had us so transfixed.

What a blessing the internet can be! After

a tip from an expert in the field, we typed "Long-eared Owl" into Google and low and behold here popped up an informative website complete with audio samples of the bird's call.

The Long-eared Owl, as it turns out, has a diverse vocal range from its youngest stage when it emits a rasping squeak, to its fledgling stage when it gives a sharp "mew", described as a monotone squeaky gate, through to its adulthood where its voice becomes much lower and more like the hooting noise that is generally associated with owls. There is even a remarkable difference between the call of the adult male and the adult female. The male has a very low sounding grumbling hoot whereas the female sounded more like a cow mooing in the distance.

Now that we had identification for the noise, after those few days of suspense, our minds were put at ease. Walking through the fields at dusk one night I heard Leo, as we had named him or her, calling from quite nearby. It was surprising just how loud they can be for young birds.

They have left the nest and are almost adult sized but they have yet to learn the advantages of being discreet so as to not give away their position to hungry predators or curious humans.

I thought I had pinpointed the noise but when I got close enough it changed to somewhere behind me. At this point I was thinking of Nightcrawler from X-Men flying around the place before you had even realised he had moved.

However, my chance did arrive another time at dusk when I was walking towards a gate and wondering why there was a stick up on top of the gate post when I realised the stick had two big yellow eyes. Leo, we meet at last - if only for a moment.



Long eared Owl

Diary of a First Year

By Amy Murphy

Right, the bangers just exploded in the microwave. I don't think I'm ever going to try cooking with an oven. Student life has grabbed me by the ankles and swung me around - and do you know what, the past two weeks just fell out of my pockets. So while my health goes up in the yellow smoke proffered by our microwave; my sanity is slowly being buried under the work of co-ordinating the studies for four different subjects, not even the study, or the assignments but the trying to figure out who, what, why, how and when? By the way, if you want to live, don't mention Academic Literacy to me.

The other big news for the first years this week is tutorials. I can hear the lecturers going "muwahahaha-, silly first years, you thought you had time" and I have an awful feeling that tutorials are not going

to be as fun as I imagined. I'm having flash backs to the infamous "retreats" from secondary school.

Every single tutorial I've gone to there's been a huge "group hug" vibe. Lads, we're in third level, like. I'm just hoping things will calm down in a few weeks. The only subject that's not stressing me out is Japanese. Thank god for nihongo.

I don't want to spend the whole column on a rant because overall college has been fantastic.

The people are amazing - go say hi. The lecturers are amazing - go say hi. The Students' Union are amazing - go say hi. I've now made friends with too many to people to count, they're all fascinating. The opportunities and experiences available in college are inconceivable; but you do have to go say hi.

Postcard from Co-Op

By Kieran Phipps

So this Co-Op diary is being written some bit sober unlike the last one! These weeks are just passing by like crazy like a total blur.

The novelty of working in immersion camps definitely wore off after the last three days which resulted in me losing my voice and possibly introducing every swear word in the English language in the space of two minutes trying to get the kids to be quiet and pay attention.

To "calm the nerves" before the camp began on Friday morning, myself and a few others embarked on a fine Argentine nightclub where a college costume party took place in which we saw a 25 year old Columbian woman maul the face off an 18 year old guy, numerous groups wanting pictures with "los irlandeses", eight litre bottles of beer, four double vodkas, four bottles of wine, four glasses of Gancia, two cans of Brahma, random champagne shared between three of us along with a very sober Irish girl eating

the face off a drunk Argentine because "it'd been a while". Needless to say the thought of work in four or five hours didn't cross my mind as I was dragged onto a bus and put to bed, waking up two hours before their arrival to set everything up which was supposed to be done the night before.

Imagine a simple game of two people running in a circle being turned into over 30 kids chasing and fighting each other around a football field, a child throwing a tantrum because he was given a 100 word composition on wood because he managed to annoy every counsellor and speak only Spanish within his first hour at the camp, and a bunk bed being broken within the first five minutes and that's only a taste of the last weekend!

Hopefully I'll have my voice and mind back for the next Co-Op diary, as I start in my new school and continue to influence the children of Argentina to speak English with a Cork accent.

ULSU Ents presents.....



LAUGH PLEASE..

the cream of irish comedy in the jean monnet lecture theatre
in association with please talk.ie



Saw Doctors? Check. Fight Like Apes? Check. Blizzards? Check. Delorentos? Check. Wolfe Tones? Check. Ray Foley? Check. Right, enough of this drums, guitars, bass, singing malarkey, it's time to wet our pants.

Good thing then that we don't bleep around here in the ulsu ents office. In fact, bleepin around is the last thing we do, we do the bleepin opposite, and make very bleepin sure that we haul in only the best laugh-makers for them dark october november nights.

The Panel? Pah! The Byrne Identity! Bah!

Naked Camera? Nah! Tee Vee Shmee Vee. You ain't seen beep till you seen these beepers front & centre, in person & drowned in sweat, on a tiny stage from a cosy seat. So Colin Murphy, Neil Delamere, Jason Byrne & PJ Gallagher will, very soon, be plucked from the tele & dropped in the Jean Monnet, for the lucky lucky limited 300 heads who book a seat. So have a flick through the ins & outs below if needs be, though if you don't know these bodies by now, then you're probably more beast than human.

THE LINE UP

Wednesday Week 06 (Oct 07)
Colin Murphy

Wednesday Week 10 (Nov 04)
PJ Gallagher

Wednesday Week 11 (Nov 11)
Neil Delamere

Wednesday Week 12 (Nov 18)
Jason Byrne

All tickets from the Students' Union from Monday Week 06, priced 10 euro each, instead of 24 euro each like you'd pay in town for some of these heads. Argue with that bitches! And, AND, you'd be very smart to get yourself one of only 100 combo tickets for all four shows. You'll save yourself a tenner which you can then use to buy your ma something small but nice. Just ask for the 'COMEDY COMBO' when you're pickin up your ticket.

PJ Gallagher

Wednesday Week 10, November 4th

PJ Gallagher has become one of Ireland's best-loved comedians. Following the huge success of his role as Jake Stevens and many others in the hilarious and sometimes outrageous hit TV show Naked Camera, PJ rarely has time to be himself these days as he prepares for yet another TV series based in the USA.

PJ Gallagher is a Vicar Street regular, he has played the venue more than 10 times already this year. He has appeared at the Cat Laughs festival in Kilkenny. Electric Picnic. He is also a graduate of the Gaiety School of Acting, with appearances on The Late Late Show, The Miriam O Callaghan Show and Tubridy Tonight, building the name of this brilliant, energetic young comic.

Other people talking.....

"For a man who ambushes people as they go about their everyday business, makes them uncomfortable and mines their embarrassment for laughs, there is something strangely appropriate about PJ Gallagher's route into comedy."

"Gallagher's encounters with the unsuspecting public are not only hilarious but also crackle with and edgy energy."



PJ Gallagher



Colin Murphy

Colin Murphy

Wednesday Week 06, October 7th

Murphy in a hurry ... Went to art college, graduated in 1990 with BA in Design. Did various jobs; laboratory technician, door to door salesman, factory work, painter and decorator, labourer, window cleaner, dish washer then lectured part time for four years in graphic design and worked as an illustrator for magazines like Elle etc.

Filled in for a sick friend who was supposed to be doing improv at the Irish Student Drama Awards in 1991 and won. Fell into acting with Sightlines Theatre Company in Belfast. Performed in Edinburgh Fringe in 1994 where he played a dog in a ginger body wig, eating his own testicles on stage every night for three weeks. Started doing stand-up in 1992 in Belfast. Did first Edinburgh in 1995 with Alternative Ulster. Returned in 1997 to do Young Gifted and Green and then first solo show in 1999. Followed that with sell out runs in 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2005. Have played New York, Boston, Montreal, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Prague, Brussels, Antwerp, Singapore, Paris, Milan and Helsinki where

he performed the first ever English language comedy gig in Finland. Not many people can say that! Married with two children living in Belfast. And...breath

Other people talking.....

"He explains why wasps should be used in crowd control. He knows what goes through a sprinter's mind after six seconds. From Liverpool to Queensland, Murphy brings out the best in all of us."

"He is distinguishably good.. His delivery is immaculate, ultra-fast but never unintelligible. More infectiously, he has a knack of making each member of the audience feel like a friend, delivering pin-sharp observations in the form of shared confidences..Hilarious, although his mime piece illustrating an English person having sex could do untold damage to the nation's sexual health."

"Proving that swearing is both big and clever, Murphy paces the stage with great confidence in his material. With superb stage presence and upbeat enthusiasm, the show is a great presentation of all that is great and good in stand-up comedy."



Neil Delamere

Wednesday Week 11, November 11th

Neil Delamere is one of the top headline acts working in the Irish comedy scene today. Having performed on 5 continents, he staged his debut solo show in the Edinburgh festival in 2004. His latest show at the Edinburgh Fringe 2007, 'The Viking Show' attracted rave reviews.

His live stand-up set was then recorded for the BBC comedy series One Night Stand. Presently working on The Panel the RTE comedy news show alongside Ed Byrne and Colin Murphy, Neil is also a regular on the Blame Game, a topical television show for the BBC. Neil released his first ever DVD in October of last year 'No Message'. The unstoppable star of Irish comedy achieved platinum status with this DVD, a fantastic achievement for his first release! Hailed by the Irish Independent for his countless MC skills, Neil is the regular comper at several gigs round Dublin.

He has performed all over Ireland as well as at the prestigious Kilkenny Cat Laughs festival, the Montreal Just For Laughs Festival and the Adelaide Fringe Festival. He featured in both series of Liffey Laughs, RTE's stand-up show in 2005 and 2006 as well as The World Stands Up for Paramount. 2007 saw Neil return to Montreal to perform in Just for Laughs Festival while also presenting the RTE television series covering the festival, Just for Laughs, for the second year in a row.

Other people talking.....

"One of the funniest things you'll see at the Fringe this year."

"Neil Delamere is beginning to emerge as a contender, his sweet, faux-naive style a refreshing contrast.....the rising star of Irish comedy, a wryly brilliant live performer"

"No TV camera could accurately measure the lightning speed of Delamere's wit"

FACEBOOK US

We had a facebook page, and then the ghouls locked us out of it! so we bucked the system, went mental, and, wait till you here this, started A NEW ONE!!!

That's right bitches, we're modern, teched-up mothers & all our shit's on le net. So find us, make friends with us and we'll not just keep yis posted, but hit yis with free tickets, cheap tickets, special advance tickets and maybe even t-shirts. Search for ULSU Ents & you'll find us sneakin round there somewhere.

COMPETITION

Ah sure it's late, & we're feelin juicy, so let's hit yis with a competition.....we've got 3 'COMEDY COMBOS' to give away. That's a ticket for all four shows you see. Keep up now, that means you & a mate/your girl/your boy/your ma can go to all the shows for zip zero zilch. Good, isn't it, leaves you with 80 bucks in your pocket to buy beans with. just email your favourite joke to ents@ul.ie, and the top three will run with the swag. See how easy that is?

Jason Byrne

Wednesday Week 12, November 18th

One of the most exciting comedy performers and hailed by both the national press and public alike, Jason Byrne is the 'must see' comedian for the new Millennium.

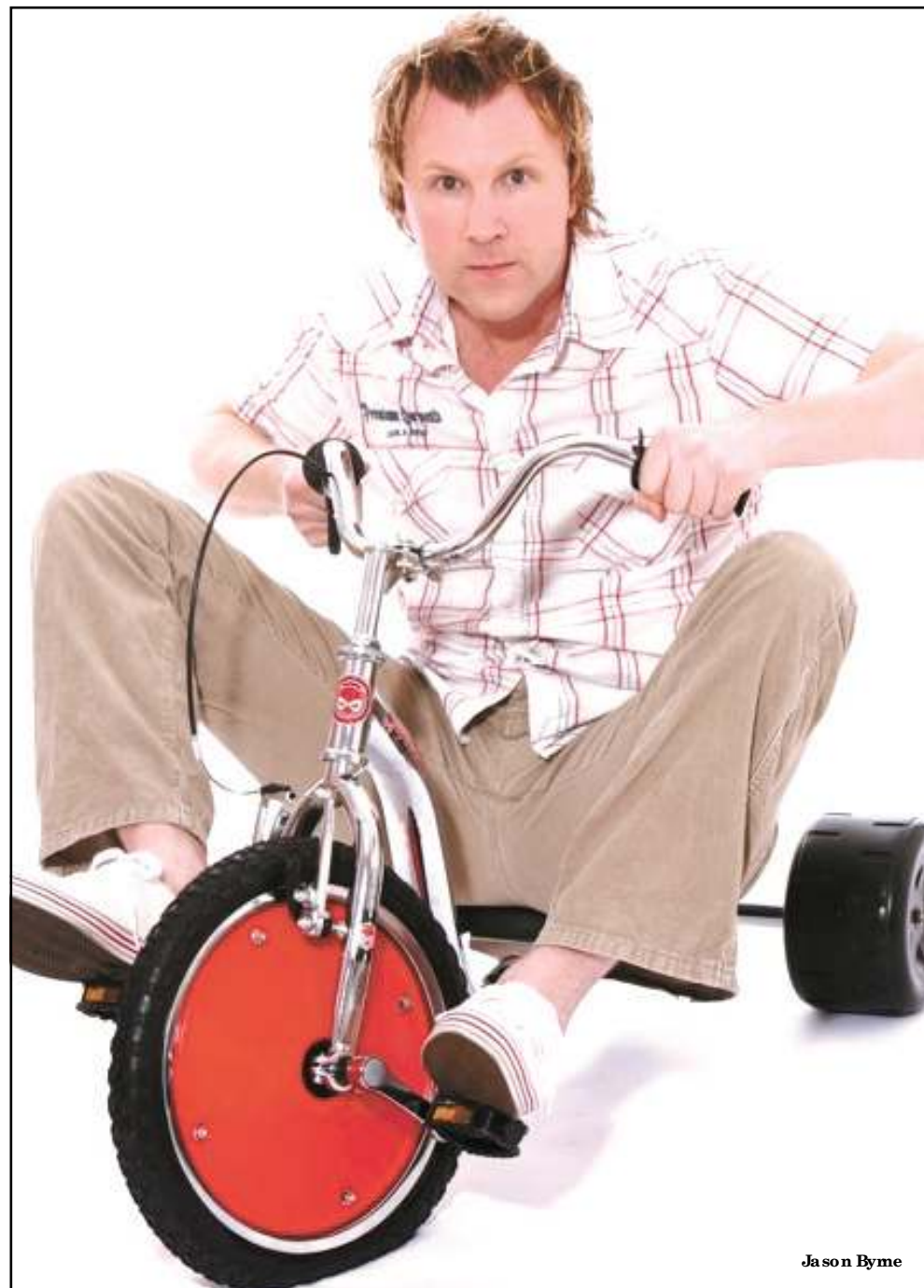
Jason's inspired, original brand of high-energy lunacy ensures that there is no other comedian presently like him. His fast, free-wheeling style, fused with an array of offbeat props, makes his act a helter-skelter of a show, where the audience are promised the ride of their lives. He has been one of the fastest selling performers at the last 11 Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, where his sell out shows have attracted Best Headliner Chortle Award in 2007, a nomination for 1998 Perrier Newcomer Award, and then a much revered Perrier Award Nomination for his outstanding 2001 show.

He was also winner for the 2004 Forth One Fringe Award and continues to play to packed houses through Ireland & the UK. At this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Jason became the top selling comic ever in the history of the Festival. With a strong international profile, Jason has performed in New York, Boston, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brussels, Milan and Paris and is currently preparing for more national tours around the UK and Ireland.

As well as his debut live DVD Jason Byrne – Out Of The Box (filmed in late 2006 in Vicar Street to a sell out crowd), Jason is about to begin recording the fourth series of his hit television series Anonymous(RTE2).

Other people talking.....

"If ever a show deserved more than 5 stars it is this one. Not only is it the funniest show on the Fringe, it's the funniest show I've ever seen."



Jason Byrne

Student Speak

Ailbhe Kirwan takes to the streets of UL to demand of the populace their highlights of the first month (back) in college.



Thea Baynes
2nd Year English
(American Student)

“Hearing all these Irish phrases like when people say “Yer man”, who does that even mean? Also the Munster Rugby game, That night in Mollys... and the SU shop, where I got the milk!”



Emma Kate Langford
1st Year Voice & Dance

“Chasing the moon outside the lodge, actually; where is that goddamn moon?”

“Screw the drink, Screw the partying. I enjoyed the food”



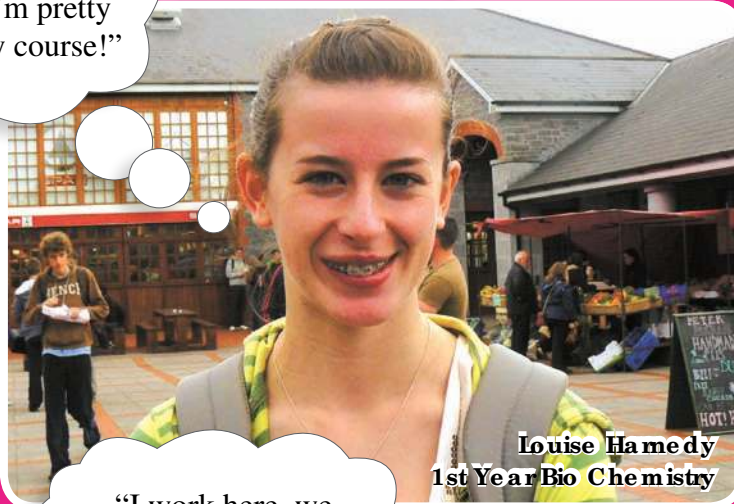
Fearghal Fitzgibbon
1st Year Business and German

“Being too drunk to notice the month passing.... and losing my shoes”

“The whole meeting new people thing, and at the risk of sounding nerdy, I’m pretty much in love with my course!”



Lewis Green
1st Year Computer Games Development



Louise Hamedy
1st Year Bio Chemistry

“I work here, we don’t have highlights”



“Having to reintroduce myself to people constantly. It’s like ‘Who? HUGH!’”

Hugh Adams
1st Year HPSS



Kevin O'Brien
Postgrad Maths

The Guinness World Scheme

By Eoghan Cannon

I WOULD describe it as “the record setting competition for weird people with a bit too much free time on their hands”. Yes, that’s right, the Guinness World Records. The records of the black stuff have been around for many, many years with each New Year bringing new contenders who try to beat a previous record of something daft like holding as many snakes in your mouth as possible.

Indeed, some of the records are amazing accomplishments which are indeed worthy of the title, with people putting their blood, sweat and tears into achieving their goal. Others, not so much. The records themselves are spread across eight different categories, including among others: the human body, science and technology, and incredibly mind-blowing feats preformed by people. One of the most incredible achievements out there would have to be the youngest person to complete a marathon in all seven continents. It was set by Timothy Harris when he was 23 years old back in 2007. This man definitely deserves recognition and he is a well deserved holder of the record in my

opinion. Now compare Timothy’s achievement to, let’s say, Anthony Victor, the holder of the longest recorded ear hair. Yes, you heard right, ear hair. With 18.1 cm of lovely luscious hair sprouting from each ear, this man clearly has nothing better to do than measure the length of the hair that comes out of his ears.

I really don’t see the point of these World Records sometimes. Some people set record titles just to be famous for a day I think, or to just let people know that they have a few screws loose up top. Nobody really cares that you can lift a 73 kg weight from your right ear or that you have a collection of 5,468 aeroplane sick bags. What made a man discover that he could eat 36 cockroaches in one minute? I wouldn’t even like to see a cockroach scurrying towards me, never mind picking it up and putting it in my mouth. These people are just plain strange, dedicating their lives to nothing else than trying to be as nauseating as possible. Ladies, this is a question for you; would you marry -or even kiss- a man who ate cockroaches for breakfast? I’ve a feeling you might pass on the offer.

The records have definitely become more disgusting and ludicrously out of control in recent years. Take, for example, the man who

just decided one day on the spur of the moment to cover himself 100% in black ink tattoos. That includes everything; from the insides of his ears, to the skin between his toes, to his gums. Now this guy really must not have anything better to do, and buckets loads of cash. Do we have any more takers for him, Ladies?

However, what is good about these World Records is that genuine people worthy of a world record do get the recognition that they deserve. It also creates the chance for people to work together and make a world record happen, such as when 637 participants gathered all dressed up as gorillas in London. It would be fun to get involved, and you might just make that world record you deserved for being that bit mad. I much prefer the group efforts to the individual attempt, as it normally doesn’t involve Mr Arrogant talking into the news camera for half an hour saying how great he is and that he’s been practicing the art of holding ten rattlesnakes in his mouth for years. An assembly of people mean it’s a group effort and everyone feels that they have contributed to something, even if the record is not achieved.

Now don’t get me wrong, I do love these World Records, but some people deserve them

much more than others. Who truly deserves these awards are the people who have been born a particular way, or are naturally gifted. I’ll give you a few examples. The fastest rap MC is set by a man from Spain, who rapped 921 syllables in one minute, that’s pretty cool. Another amazing feat would be heading a football for 8 hrs 32 min 3 sec, amazing. Or take the tallest man who measured 8 ft 11 in way back in 1940. All these people deserve to be down in history for accomplishing these brilliant achievements.

Well reader, now that you have read this article, are you enticed to go down in history? Have I whetted your appetite? We could all join together as a University and maybe make The Lodge the smallest club in Ireland with the most students packed into it. Guys, why not try bench-pressing some more weights, pretty soon it could be you pulling that 187 tonne aeroplane. Or Ladies, don’t shave your lags or armpits, let them grow au natural for a couple of years, give them a measure and call the Record people when you get sick of looking like a she-man. And all you sixty-six-year-old male strippers out there, please pack it in, or keep it in your pants at least.

The New Internet Addiction

By Jason Kennedy

A TYPICAL day for me involves ordering a hit on a public official, visiting my friends’ online houses and throwing water balloons at them, as well as harvesting rice. Yes, Facebook games have become the hit of the year. If you’re not on someone’s mafia or neighbours with your buddies on Farmville you’re nobody. But, if you’re still living in cyber-ignorance, don’t worry. It looks like these games won’t be diminishing in popularity for quite some time.

It started last January, when Mafia Wars became one of the most played games on the internet, let alone Facebook. The premise is simple. Do gang related jobs to build your ranking. To lessen the anti-social connotations with online games, you can add your friends to your mafia, so you can compete for the best score, but also help them by giving them items that will improve their score. Many times on my rare visits to the library last year, it was common to see a handful of people playing Mafia Wars, even when there was a queue for computers. It was an addiction. I know many people who tried to escape, but few managed to go against the lure of the game. As of June,

more than 2,500,000 people have succumbed to the game’s charm. The game was such a hit that the Chinese Government worried that many of their versions of the game would corrupt their youth. Websites were banned from featuring similar gang-related games and threatened with “severe punishment” if they ran such games. Games called Godfather, Gangster Community and Young and Dangerous Guys were given the boot from China’s already heavily censored web.

Mafia Wars also managed to have a lawsuit made against it, by rival games developer Psycho Monkey. They claim that Zynga, the creators of Mafia Wars, have created a game that is too similar to their original creation, Mob Wars. The two games launched at around the same time with very similar names, graphics and gameplay. The lawsuit is not settled yet, but more war-style games have been released on Facebook since, including Fashion Wars and Vampire Wars. It took five months for the novelty of the game to begin to wear off. It was replaced, shortly, by the online version of the classic board game, Scrabble.

Gamers can pit their vocabulary and wit against punters from around the world, or just play for bragging rights against friends.



Scrabble is nowhere near as long-term or popular as Mafia Wars, and is more of a way to kill a few minutes each day, rather than a compulsion.

In the middle of the summer, Zynga were onto another winner, with the game Farmville, which allowed Townies and Culchies alike to grow crops and cater for animals. Gamers can also earn extra points for adding friends as neighbours and helping them on their farms. Occasionally, players win ribbons for their farms too. Unfortunately, this is as far as this game seems to go.

In August, Facebook homepages of University students were flooded with Farmville updates, which, understandably, frustrated people who had no interest in the game. Some Facebook games, however, are not so fun. Games like

Friend Quiz allow people to give their honest opinion on their friends, without thinking whether or not their friends will find the truth.

Questions like ‘Does Christine have a face only a mother could love?’ and ‘Is Liam selfish?’ can never have good results.

Most people who use these applications are sensible enough to know that if you say something bad about a friend, they will be able to find out easily.

It would be interesting to find out how many friendships were broken because of applications like these.

Anyway, must go now. The cows need milking and there’s a District Judge that needs to be blackmailed.

Happy Gaming.

UL based writer published again

By John Rainsford

A NEW book about the life of Irish explorer Conor O'Brien is the latest in a long line of successes by University of Limerick based writer and architect Judith Hill.

The history, which is currently in bookstores nationally, chronicles the adventures of the Foynes born navigator who circumnavigated the globe in 1925. Rare photographs and illustrations from the private collections of yachting enthusiasts Gary MacMahon, Murrugh O'Brien and Susan Ruck adorn the work.

Judith Hill said; "Gary is renovating Conor's boat the 'Ilen' after it served as a transporter in the Falkland Islands from 1920 to 1970. He brought it to Ireland in the mid-1990s as an example of one of the last timber boats built in this country."

Conor O'Brien was a remarkable adventurer and the first person to round all three capes in his tiny yacht "Saoirse". He was a climbing colleague of Mallory, Young and Robert

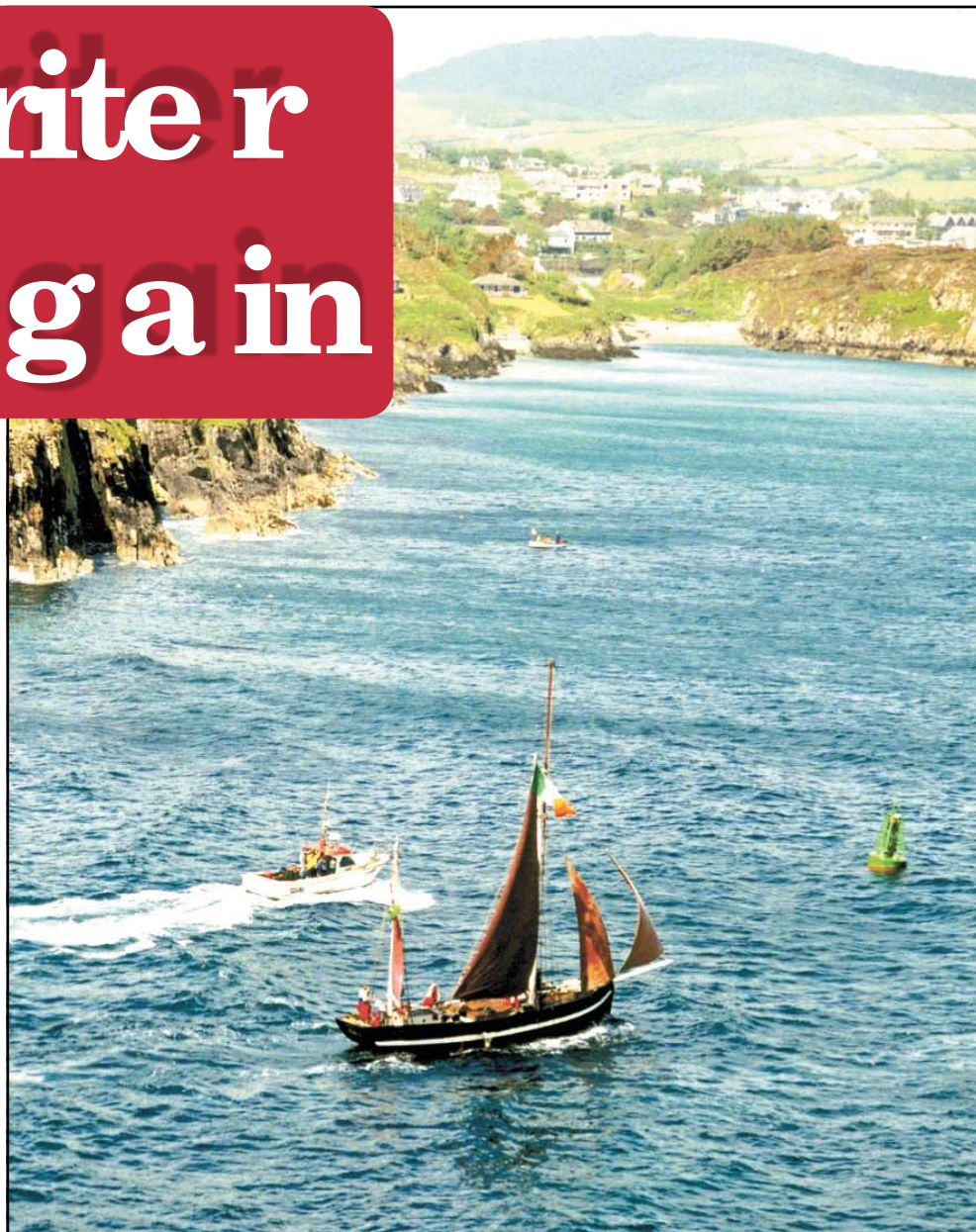
Graves and mixed with Irish socialites such as Countess Markievicz, William Orpen, Lady Gregory and W. B. Yeats.

He joined the Irish Volunteers in 1914 and together with Erskine Childers shipped guns to Ireland on board the "Kelpie". Paradoxically he also served in the Royal Naval Reserve during the First World War. He married Kitty Clausen, a painter, in 1927 and the family lived in Limerick and Foynes Island in the Shannon Estuary until his death in 1952.

Graphic designer Gary McMahon inspired Judith Hill to write the story as he knew the O'Brien family well.

Conor's elderly nephew was also available for interview and had an extensive archive of images many of which are published in the book.

Conor O'Brien, coincidentally an architect himself, spent two years sailing around the globe in the small yacht "Saoirse" with numerous adventures along the way.



IN SEARCH OF ISLANDS
A Life of Conor O'Brien

JUDITH HILL

At one time his crew absconded and he was left broke in South Africa. He later had to work in New Zealand to raise funds to sail on. Gillian Hennessy, Public Relations Officer for publisher Collins Press, said: "Conor O'Brien was a modest man who achieved so much during his lifetime and we are delighted to be part of bringing him to the attention of a modern audience. We hope that they will enjoy his story as much as we have."

Judith Hill has a strong historical pedigree and spent 10 years writing and researching her previous book - a biography of Lady Gregory. It was a work which was extremely well received although undertaken without a formal commission.

Lady Gregory kept a series of important diaries and wrote a number of plays for the Abbey Theatre. She was married to Unionist diplomat Sir William Gregory but later fell under the influence of cultural nationalism.

She had a lifelong interest in Irish folklore. Her meetings with W. B. Yeats led to the establishment of the Irish Literary Theatre later called the Abbey and ushered in the dawn of the Celtic Twilight. Yeats visited her in the last years of her terminal cancer and admired her greatly.

Lady Gregory became more radical following her husband's death and she knew many of those killed in the Easter Rising of 1916.

In the War of Independence and Civil War she supported the IRA and wrote extensively of Black and Tan atrocities.

Sadly her son Robert was killed on the Italian front in January 1918 in friendly fire incident and Gregory asked Yeats to write a commemorative poem. In the end he wrote

three. Judith's biography of Gregory was a largely sympathetic portrayal but recently she has turned her gaze to controversial ideologues like Countess Markievicz. The feminist founder of Cumann na mBan offered women of the time an opportunity to transcend the societal roles assigned to them by Catholic Ireland. Indeed some of their closest relatives were surprised years later to see them decorated by the Republican Government posthumously. Their deeds had until then been largely forgotten.

Judith Hill is the author of two notable books on architectural and art history, *The Building of Limerick* (1991), and *Irish Public Sculpture: A History* (1998), and a biography of Lady Gregory, *Lady Gregory - An Irish Life* (2005). A contributor to the *Irish Arts Review*, *The Irish Times* and *Times Literary Supplement*, she has featured on RTÉ television and radio.

Throughout her career she has combined a deep knowledge of architecture with an abiding love of history.

She is also a Londoner who has lived in Limerick with her husband for nearly 20 years.

Her latest work is further evidence that one can follow a life's ambition and be successful and happy pursuing it. She is currently researching the architectural history of the University of Limerick.

In Search of Islands - A Life of Conor O'Brien by Judith Hill is published by The Collins Press. It is available in all good bookshops, price €29.99, and online from www.collinspress.ie

Anyone interested in the restoration of the Ilen can go to <http://www.ilen.ie/> for further information.

I Love my Shishi

By Amy Murphy

...Your what? Ok, so maybe not the most normal conversation starter, but it's one of those things that has to be said and is funny because it's true. Let me explain.

My shishi is a little Japanese bead of a lion/dog type creature that I wear around my neck constantly - and yes they genuinely are called shishi.

The shishi have mixed origins. Some believe its alternative name, koma-inu, denotes a Korean influence, while others note it's resemblance to the Chinese lion, or fu dog.

However, they now have a prominent place in Japan's Shinto religion and can be found in front of a lot of traditional shrines, second only to oinari - the Japanese fox deity of rice and messenger to the gods.

They may occasionally be found outside Buddhist temples and are typically depicted in pairs. It is thought that one is male and one is female. Interestingly, one will have their

mouth open and the other's will be shut. This represents the "ah" and "un" sounds which are the beginning and end sounds, respectively, of the Japanese alphabet. Like the idea of "alpha through to omega" these sounds represent life and death, beginnings and endings, as well as everything that may occur between life's beginning and ending. More pragmatically it has been inferred that the opened mouth is to scare off demons and the closed to shelter and keep in the good spirits. My own shishi is constantly yawning - so there have not been any bumps in the night as of late.

The shishi is not as obscured from western culture as we may think. Remember Growlithe? Yup, that orangey, black, lion, doggy creature you won't admit you remember. Well, he's based on the shishi.

In fact the shishi are considered to be particularly protective of children - even if they are reputed to throw their own cubs off cliffs to test their strength.

There is known to be a practice of pregnant

women tattooing shishi's image on their tummies to protect the unborn child and sometimes the female of the pair outside the temples is portrayed playing with a cub. The males are often found playing with a rather large ball, supposedly the Tama.

The Tama is a Buddhist jewel that represents wisdom, light in darkness and has the ability to grant wishes. Speaking of play - "Shakkyo" is the play from which many of the "lion dances" or shishi-mai are derived.

The shishi-mai is a ritual where the dancers visit homes to give charms against evil. A special carved headdress of the lion's head must be worn, and the ritual is usually performed around New Year's.

So why did something so foreign to me come to have such a special personal significance? Simply put, he's my surrogate dog.

When I miss my own dogs, who do enough to keep the bad spirits I encounter in my life away, he reminds me of my five wonderful dogs, who protect my home.

Bring back: Ponchos

By Rachael O'Brien

I AM at a complete loss to try and understand why these little treasures seem to have disappeared from people's wardrobes. Where have they gone? Are they being used to lull small children into a pleasant sleep? Are they providing boiler insulation?

My first encounter with the poncho was not in fact a little Peruvian shepherd, but a Girl Guide Leader, keeping warm as we toasted marshmallows and sang campfire songs at the great International guiding event that was Ballyfin '96. What an event, and what a poncho. Carefully embroidered with badges of all kinds; orienteering, adventure, charity, old lady crossing the road, saving a puppy dog from rail tracks, or "the big 5", as they are known in guiding circles. In this poncho, our leader "Tawny Owl" comfortably housed a troop of 14 girl guides, food supplies for a week, and a large collection of kindling. We sat in awe, protected from the elements by our fearless leader, who kept watch on the outside world by poking her head through her purpose built skylight.

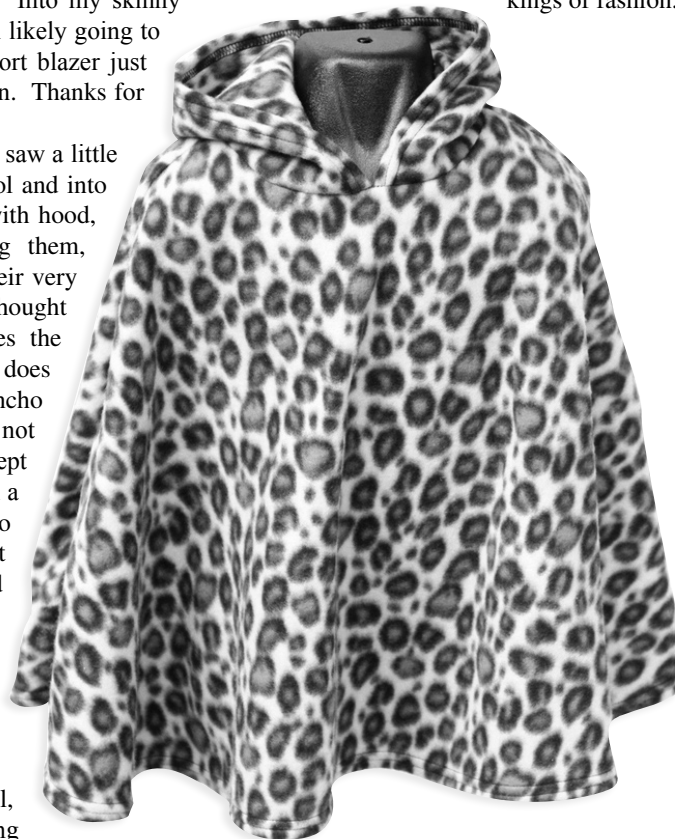
With ponchos, the possibilities are limitless. Not only does it make an otherwise ordinary, though admittedly stylish, person look like some kind of mythical wizard any time they extend their arms, it can also conceal any multitude of sins within the generous folds. Alas, somewhere along the way, an ungrateful fashionista stopped believing in the gift of

the poncho and deemed it to be "soooooo 2003". Little did that fascist know that in the harsh winter of 2009 - I'm not the weather correspondent, but let's face it, it'll probably be a harsh winter - the author of this piece would have a nice little Co-Op induced food/beer belly to cover up. Where does she think I'm going to tuck that, eh? Into my skinny jeans? As if! It's more than likely going to peak out from under my short blazer just in time to scare little children. Thanks for that, fashion gurus.

When was the last time you saw a little toddler hopping out of a pool and into a towel poncho, complete with hood, with their mother warming them, like they were the star of their very own Lenor ad, and not thought "jealous"? The hood raises the inevitable question, when does a poncho cease to be a poncho and start to be a cloak? I'm not a poncho dictator, so I'll accept either; after all, I don't think a girl bringing a food basket to her granny is any less sweet if you call her Little Red Riding Poncho. I believe that in Peru, home of the poncho, there was never a hood to begin with. This was merely a western world assumption.

They say that it is all cyclical, but I think we've waited long

enough for the poncho to return on the conveyor belt of fashion. It's time to make a stand and reclaim the discretion that is rightfully ours. Rip the poncho from the clutches of the screaming child, or strip your boiler if you must, but the time of the poncho has again arrived, be glad little Peruvian shepherds; you are the rightful kings of fashion.



Recipe of the fortnight

www.gingergirl.ie

Roast Butternut Squash Soup

Autumn brings the best vegetables for wholesome soup and butternut squash is my favourite at this time of year.

You'll be amazed at just how simple this soup is to make and surprised at the few ingredients required. Feel free to play about with this recipe; I like to add some toasted sunflower seeds, bacon lardons or homemade croutons depending on what's in my fridge. Butternut squash creates a velvety, creamy texture, rich in wholesome goodness. This really is autumn in a bowl!

- 1 medium to large butternut squash
- 2 red onions
- Olive oil
- 2 vegetable stock cubes - I use Kallo organic, low salt vegetable stock cubes
- Salt and fresh black pepper
- 1 teaspoon of fresh thyme

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Peel the butternut squash, cut in half lengthways and scoop out the seeds using a large spoon. Cut the squash into large chunks and place on a baking tray. Peel the red onions and chop into quarters before placing on the same baking tray. Drizzle the vegetables with a little olive oil and season with salt. Roast, uncovered, in the oven for thirty minutes or until the vegetables are soft and caramelised. Meanwhile make the stock using 600ml of boiling water and two vegetable stock cubes. Once the vegetables are cooked, place in the saucepan on a medium heat with the fresh thyme and add the stock. Bring the soup to the boil then simmer for thirty minutes. Remove the soup from the heat and gently blend using a hand blender, blend until smooth and check the seasoning. Enjoy a smug smile and some crusty bread!

About gingergirl:

Helen Keown aka gingergirl, trades every Tuesday at the Farmer's Market in the Student's Union Courtyard, from 12noon to 5.30pm. The gingergirl range includes her famous chocolate brownies, cupcakes, breads, biscuits, jams, preserves and chutneys.

Helen is also a food writer with a weekly food column in both the Limerick Leader and the Limerick Chronicle and is a guest writer for Food and Wine Magazine. You can follow gingergirl's tweets on Twitter - under gingergirlfood.

Advice Bureau



Welfare Corner

So, you might notice people with Please Talk written on their t-shirt floating around over the next while; what does it mean? Please Talk is an innovative idea brought about following a spate of suicides in UCD a number of years ago.

Please Talk is a campaign that encourages students to talk to each other if they are under stress or if something is bothering them. The prime message of Please talk is that Talking is a sign of strength, not of weakness. It may be something you have noticed in your SU as you go up the main stairs (it was the only place big enough to fit the banner.)

If anyone wants to know more about Please Talk, let me know at SUWelfare@ul.ie or go to pleasetalk.ie. There are a number of local services you can avail of listed under UL on the website. For other tips on minding your mental health you can visit headsup.ie which has an excellent text service, or spunout.ie which is a space to find out general information on things you can do to relax. Alternatively pop in to the guys in Student Counselling during drop in hours 11-12 and

Our physical and mental wellbeing are so often interlinked. Worrying about what ****might**** be wrong with us often causes stress, anxiety and can leave us feeling a little down. Keeping yourself well and seeing a doctor if you are ill is a must.

Apply for a medical card!! For those of you between 16 and 25 ordinarily resident in Ireland, you are entitled to apply independent of your parents' means in many cases, meaning you can in most cases qualify for a medical card. This can save a lot of money over the course of your studies if you are prone to infection or injury, it'll ease your mind.

Again for anyone wanting to get involved with Welfare, just giving a hand doing whatever for an hour every few weeks or so, email me -> SUWelfareCrew@ul.ie. You may have all noticed that Walk for Heart wasn't such a spectacular campaign, that's because as sabbatical officers, we spend a lot of time representing you on committees, so we need YOU to help us out with leaflets, wearing t-shirts and talking to people. Get involved! I've said it before and here I go again: those who don't get involved haven't been to college, they've just been to class! So come on UL Students' Union, make it happen!

To find out what I've been up to recently and check out my office hours visit my blog ulsudpandwelfare.blogspot.com.

Cya

D

Ed's Education



It's now Week 5 and that means one thing – deadlines are looming. Whether your deadlines are essays, projects, reports or reviews, they are starting to loom and Week 8 that seemed so far away, now seems a lot closer.

When I think back on my early days in college I realise that I didn't know how to navigate around the library until I hit around 4th year... ok maybe 3rd year. That's why I thought that I should dedicate one of the many education articles to the library.

I bet the majority of you don't know that you have a faculty librarian. He or she is charged with helping you in your studies in many ways; for example, your faculty librarian can help you with specialist subjects, he or she can help you navigate through the library with library tours in the early days*, he or she can help with research for essays and projects during your study. If I was going back again, I don't think I'd leave my Faculty Librarian's office!

(* Faculty dependent)

Aside from the Faculty Librarians, another valuable source of information is the main Information Desk. Whether it's a journal that you can't find or a book that the library doesn't have, they can advise you on the best course of action. They are there to help you, so instead of wandering around for 45 minutes looking for the book, head up and ask them a question.

What you may also realise, is that once a book is on the reading list for a module all copies rapidly disappear out of the library. It is important for you to realise at this stage that you can contact your lecturer to request that a book be placed in the short loan section. This will ensure that students can only take the book out for a brief period of time, making it more accessible to more students.

The library is there to be used, so use it!

Campaigns and Services

Well lads another week has flown by, hopefully everyone is well settled in at this stage. I hope people are figuring out about the services we're providing here in the union and what we might be able to do for ye.

We just hired our new Ents and Promotions Crew for the coming year. These new batch will hopefully bring a bit of life to the Union and show us some new things to be doing for our students. The interviews were fairly tough and fair play to those who got the jobs and commiserations to those that didn't.

I'm sorry about the absence of campaigns up to now. We got fairly swamped in the first few weeks but we're getting on top of things now so hopefully we'll be getting some good stuff together for everyone. Inside in the CSO office we have two working groups, one is for Ents and one is for Campaigns so if anyone has any interest in joining up with any of that please give us a shout on sucso@ul.ie

Complaints are definitely going down from residents so thanks for all that. There were some great parties though.

I'll leave ye to it. Keep it country!

Ferg.

LET'S TALK SEX

Things Men Hate in Bed

FOR years we have all heard of what women don't like in bed but what about our men? Isn't it about time they got the same respect? Here are the top five things men hate:

1. Sometimes men feel that during sex some women don't do anything. They just lie down and expect him to do all the work and give her all pleasure. This is just about the worst thing you can do. Move your hips in time with him or use your hands to pull him closer to you. Show your partners that you want to have sex with him as well as he does with you, otherwise neither of you can enjoy the experience. He wants to have sex with you, not with the body.

2. We all know women love to be kissed but the same goes for men. They also love when women are kissing all of their bodies.

This drives them crazy. If you want to satisfy your men in bed, kiss him, especially around the erogenous zones (the most sensitive areas of the body).

Some of the male erogenous zones include the stomach and navel, nipples and also his ears and neck.

3. Some women still think that the man has to take all the control in bed while having sex but that is absolutely wrong. Women also need to take control in bed. Tell your man that you want to have sex right now and tell him exactly what he has to do because now you are the one who is dictating the rules. I can assure you your man will driven wild by this.

"Women also need to take control in bed"

4. Be very sensitive to your partner. Women like to have a sensitive man next to her who is tuned into her needs and desires, so try doing the same to your man. Men's bodies are sensitive too and women should do their best to make him feel as good as he makes her feel.

5. Sex is a two-way thing. If you want to get pleasure you'll need to give it to your partner too. Men sometimes think that women don't care at all what is he feeling and are only interested in themselves. Women should always remember to ask questions such as "how do

you like that?", "how does that feel?" Let him know that you care what he feels and if he likes that or not. They love to have your attention.

6. Don't confuse your partner. Some women don't show their emotions which means men do not understand whether you like his technique or not. Don't feel shy to scream when you feel like screaming from pleasure or breathe a bit harder.

Making some noise is the best way to inform your partner about your feelings at that moment. Your man will know what you like best and you will be rewarded.

7. If you feel like your sex life is getting a bit boring take some action and keep it new. Don't be afraid to surprise your partner with a new sexy outfit. Simply wearing it or dancing for him will drive him crazy.

They love being teased with sexy clothes and it's guaranteed to get them excited. If you don't feel confident enough to dress up check out the Durex Play range. They have a variety of different flavoured and textured lubes and they can be picked up in any chemist.

Gay Pride

Pride and Prejudice

By Jason Kennedy

WALKING down the streets of Limerick with a guy dressed as a ballerina, pushing a girl in a trolley isn't normally how I spend my Saturday afternoons. But this Saturday was different. On this Saturday, anything goes. That day was the Limerick Pride Parade.

The day before the parade, I met up with Out in UL Co-Presidents, Dan Comerford and David "Jaffa" Jaffray, to see how prepared they were for the big day. "We can't wait. We have a lot of members from the society coming, especially first years. We had a huge number of first years come over for the AGM. They seem really interested and eager to take part." They also advised LGBT students to join the society. "Come to a meeting, whether you're out or not. It's a great way to make friends that are in the same circumstance as you."

Twenty-four hours later and People's Park - where the parade kicks off - is packed with colourful clothes, rainbow flags and banners. A samba band was also in tow as the gay parade took to the streets. But not everyone that arrived in Limerick today is there to promote gay rights. A small group from an Evangelical Church made base on O'Connell Street, with placards preaching the word of God. The chose to set up on the parade route, so when the revellers were passing by, they could hold up their banners.

However, when I talked to them just before the parade, they claimed to be oblivious of

what was going on. "We didn't hear of any parade today. We come here every Sunday to preach the word of God. It just so happens we decided to come this Saturday. God works in mysterious ways."

In a brilliant sense of timing, the main man that was giving a speech from a pedestal started to talk about a certain parade that they, apparently, didn't know anything about. "There's an immoral parade going on today. I wonder, if there were a parade of murderers or a parade of adulterers, would the people of Limerick be so quick to show their support for them."

Member of the Gay Christian Network, Breandán Ó hÉamhaigh organised a mass before the parade, and told me what he thought of the protestors. "They are entitled to their express their own opinions, but we don't have to agree with their truly unchristian methods. I would advise these people to follow the true Christian word and not their own, hateful one."

Protestors aside, the parade kicked off with style, led by the Samba Band, ShOUT and a procession of Limerick's finest Drag Queens. Somewhere in the middle was Tighearnan Noonan, a metal-head Dubliner dressed in a pride flag and a tutu, Larissa Mirtschink, a pint-sized German, dressed as a fallen angel, who fitted perfectly in our pirate themed Tesco trolley, and me.

I held one side of the trolley as Tighearnan pushed it with Larissa perched inside, rather content with herself. I was very cynical going

into this parade. I thought it would be all arseless chaps and ditzy folk chanting: "we're here, we're queer, get used to it", but it wasn't like that at all. In fact, after only a few minutes, I started to get quite into it myself.

There was nothing forceful about the parade. It was just a bit of fun. The people on the sidelines seemed to have fun as well. They all clapped and cheered as the parade went by. The only inkling of homophobia came from the stoney-faced, placard-carrying Evangelical folk and the odd pre-pubescent little shite, that would take a picture of the parade.

Also present at the parade was Bradley Wade. Two years ago, Bradley was a closeted secondary school student from Tipperary. Presently, Bradley is engaged to his boyfriend, Sean. Bradley found it very difficult coming out, as one of his brothers was very homophobic. "It was very hard to come out completely. I told a few friends while I was in secondary school though. Eventually, I had to force myself to tell everyone. I'm completely out now and it feels good." Although Bradley wasn't completely out this time last year, he still decided to attend Limerick Pride Parade. "This year was unreal. It was much better than last year and, to be honest, the protestors made me laugh."

I asked Bradley if he could take a hormone to make him heterosexual for the rest of his life, would he take it. "Two years ago I would have, but now I'm just so happy. I'm living away from home, I'm engaged to a great guy and everything is good." Bradley and his friend

came with us during the parade and I never imagined that a shopping trolley with a pirate flag draped around it would attract so much attention. There were strangers taking pictures of us, as well as proper photographers. You're A Star Winner, Leanne Moore came up to us at one point to give a little interview with us for ilovelimerick.com.

The parade finished up outside Leamy House, where I spoke to some of the organisers of the event. It was a bit strange for me. When I began my research for this feature, I was certain I would call the drag queens 'he' and not 'she'. After all, underneath those platinum wigs and sparkled frocks they still have a man's body. But during the parade, I couldn't help indulge in the theatricality of it all.

First off, I spoke to Drag Queen extraordinaire, Sheila FitsPatrick (get it?), who said that the success was a tribute to the people of Limerick. "The parade was absolutely fabulous and great for the LGBT community as well as Limerick itself." Next up was Madonna Lucia, who told me that UL students helped enormously. "Today was a fantastic success and without Out in UL it would have never gotten off the ground."

So Limerick Pride is done and dusted for another year. This weeklong cavalcade of colour and diversity ended in a bang.

I prepared myself to be surrounded by 100 different stereotypes, but instead I was greeted by truly lovely people. I hope that next year, more people are as pleasantly surprised as I was today.



Students taking part in the Mr Gay Stud. Competition during Limerick Pride 2009

Fashion

How to dress for wet weather

By Hannah Winter

I HATE to be the bearer of bad news, but the hard times are here once more. Yep, the summer-that-never-was is officially over and it's time to start preparing for the onslaught of rainy, windy and cold weather. While getting wet is unavoidable during the winter in UL (why does it always seem to rain on the hour, when everyone must walk to lectures?!), hopefully these tips will help make it a little more bearable.

Shoes

Good footwear is essential in bad weather. There's nothing worse than water soaking into through your shoes on a wet day, and having to sit through lecture after lecture with wet feet. Not only is it uncomfortable, it's a sure-fire way of getting a nasty cold. My advice is to wear proper shoes or boots on the really wet days, and always have an extra pair of socks in your bag in case of emergencies. Your winter shoes need to be watertight, durable and comfortable. Leather or faux-leather boots are ideal- stylish and sensible; it's a good idea to splash out on a pair of leather boots you love, because you'll find yourself living in them during the winter.

They look great with colourful tights and a skirt, or with jeans tucked in on colder days. Doc Martens are currently enjoying a revival, being seen in all colours of the rainbow in a range of fashion spreads for the last few seasons.

Great with jeans, there's a reason this brand has been popular since it first emerged in the 50s. Those Ugg/woolly boot things that everyone seems to wear are completely useless on wet days, due to having no sole to speak of and being made of absorbent material- you might as well walk around with sponges tied to the bottom of your feet. The same goes for Converse.

Raincoat

While the word "anorak" hardly screams style, there are currently some very cute parka-style raincoats in the shops (New Look has a good selection) ranging from around €12 - €25. Available in patterned or block colours, the great thing about these is that they fold up teensy-tiny and can be stowed in your bag when the sun is out. Alternatively, brands such as the North Face are always a good bet, with terrific quality, durable gear.

Jacket

If anoraks aren't your thing, there are several alternatives. My favourite has to be the classic trench coat. Beige and belted at the waist, it's easy to look chic with a timeless trench. Another option is the "Pac-a-Poncho" from Topshop, which I know sounds ridiculous but unbelievably looks ok on and will keep you 100% dry.

Umbrella

Umbrellas are a must have in college during the winter. It always seems to start lashing, out of nowhere, just as you have to walk to the Schuman, so it's handy to have one in your bag from when you get caught out in the rain. I would advise not to bother with a fancy, expensive one, as it's very easy to forget them after you in lectures; on the other hand, the cheap and cheerful ones break pretty easily.

Bright Colours

Brighten up your day by wearing something colourful, even if the weather is shite. When the heavy rain sets in, it's easy to reflect your mood in what you wear and go for dull, dowdy colours. A vibrant umbrella or scarf will make you feel better, I promise!



Why I love ... Charity Shops

By Emma Hayward

MAINSTREAM shopping can be a huge drain on our income (or our parents' income) as we all know. Places like Penney's and Dunne's have cheap, mass produced clothing which doesn't always fit quite right and there's a good chance that half the people in the lecture hall will be wearing the exact same T-shirt as you.

But, Penney's is still a hot favourite because of its bargain prices and who cares if other people are buying the same clothes? You can always personalise anything you buy with a bit of mix and match.

This is why I love putting together remarkably low cost outfits from a combination of Penney's and Dunne's with rare beauties that I find in charity shops. Yes, charity shops. They are seriously great places to find clothes. Firstly, your money goes towards a

good cause and it's dead cheap, even cheaper than Penney's on sale! The thing that I love the most though is that you're guaranteed nobody will have the same dress, shirt, jacket or pants as you. My favourite place to go charity shopping is in Cork city where a good few charity shops, including Barnardos and Irish Cancer Society, can be found in the area of North Main Street. Charity shops, like these, rake in a load of second hand items and the clothes are particularly interesting. You can find an amazing princess dress that could pass for a Debs dress for €12, like I did, albeit that was after I had forked out for my actual Debs dress. I also found a sweet pair of fitted pinstriped trousers for €7 that look great with heels.

Very comfy, very classy and no-one knows where the hell I got them! Until now, that is. Charity shops aren't as messy and confusing as they used to be either. Nowadays the clothes

section looks like your regular civilized clothes shop, with everything on hangers! No more piles of tangled up mess to contend with. If you're into vintage clothing then you will probably be in heaven in one of these shops because there are a lot of clothes that have been in somebody's closet for a couple of decades and have been newly set free, just waiting for some young blood to give it another lease of life off the rail.

What I love about the clothes you find in charity shops is that they are unique and that's a great advantage to anyone's wardrobe. There's so much variety in the style that there is something for everyone, men and women of all ages. Not to mention that a good number of the clothes are good brands like Tommy Hilfiger or Ralph Lauren and are very good value.

You can easily find something that was in Brown Thomas a few years ago and is now

going for a price you would be delighted with. You can pick up a nice shirt for €4 or a jacket for €10. The bags and belts are great buys too, most of them going between €1 and €4.

Some people might be of the opinion that the clothes are smelly, mouldy, ragged and moth-eaten and they might scoff at buying anything that is so last century.

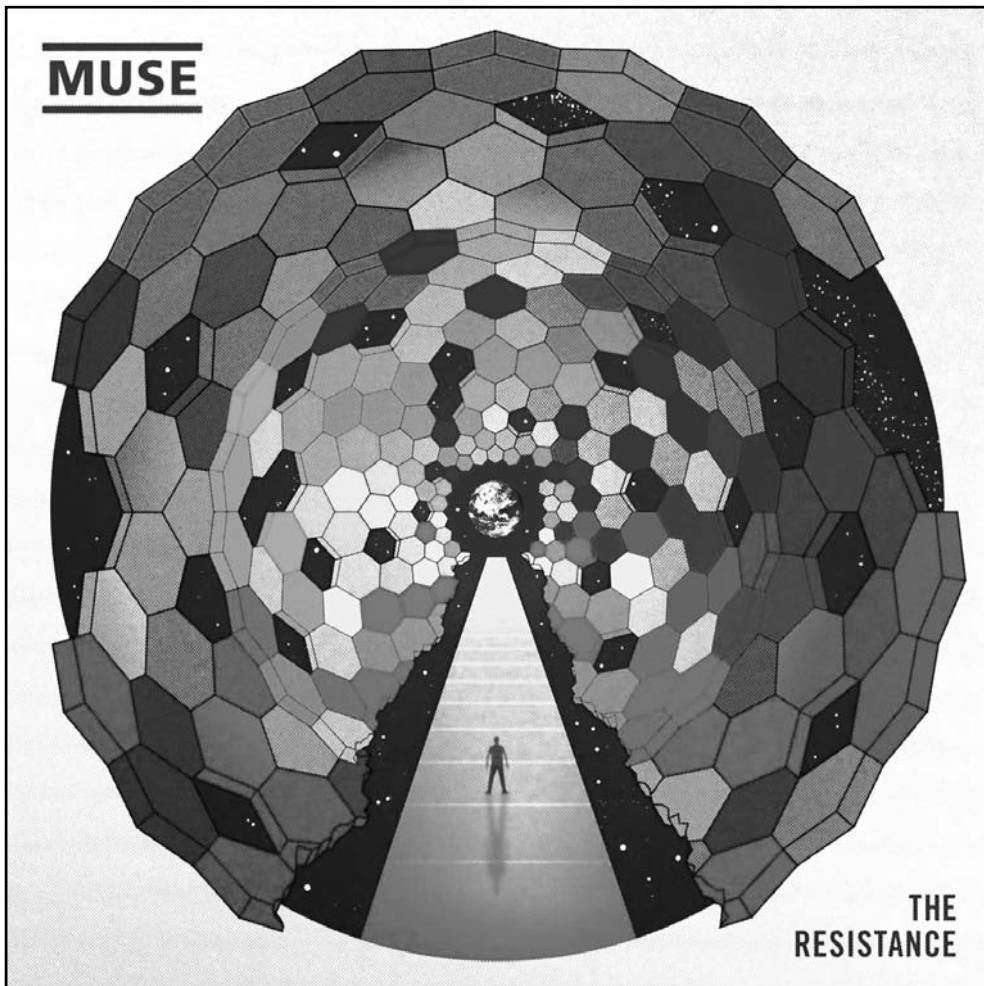
Au contraire, mes amis, most of the clothes have only been worn once or twice and are like brand new, except they don't cost a tenth as much.

And trends that are in fashion now happen to be those of last century. So for these reasons, who could not love charity shops?

I, for one, am hooked. The only bad thing that I will say about shopping for clothes in charity shops is that there will only be one size available and this can be disappointing. However, it does make finding something you really love that fits extra special.

Reviews

Musing the Resistance



By Lore an O'Neill

MUSE has always been known for embracing the grandiose and it's been possible to follow their development from their relatively straightforward debut "Showbiz" all the way through to the 2006 release of "Black Holes And Revelations", a rather more eclectic soundscape which showed influences of electronica and funk.

However, one constant that has remained throughout their career has been an air of paranoia and fear which has been evident in songs such as "New Born", "Time Is Running Out" and "Take A Bow". With their latest release, it's clear that some things haven't changed in their somewhat dystopian view. Even the title is indicative of the repression and malaise that is propagated by the Devon natives.

"The Resistance" is, to a certain extent, more of the same, while still embracing elements of change within their style. The lead single, "Uprising", opens with an industrial bass riff that is nonetheless wonderfully poppy while Matt Bellamy croons vagaries like how they will try to "keep us all dumbed down" and "we will be victorious". There's a rebellion against an authority that's not even specified, but when it's this funky, it's easy to grant them this ambiguity. There are flashes of the sheer talent of this trio throughout, which is something sometimes overlooked by the somewhat constrained nature of the studio atmosphere (as anyone who has seen their live show will testify). The title track is a great example of this, with Chris Wolstenholme's delicate bass guitar neatly accentuating Bellamy's arpeggio piano riff while he sings that "love will be our resistance". This is one of the nice changes in their work – there's more of an emphasis in some tracks on love and affection, which can be seen in tracks like

"Undisclosed Desires" and "I Belong To You", particularly the latter, which breaks off mid-song to Bellamy singing in French "reponds a ma tendresse" which matches perfectly the slightly kitsch vibe given off by the organ and the glam-style soft-electric piano.

However, the real gems of the album are vintage Muse, tinged with elements of music which seems to have caught their eye over the last few years. "Unnatural Selection" opens with gothic church organ before morphing into something like a cross between the Strokes and Queens of The Stone Age. It sounds glorious and there are moments in it which stretch Bellamy's vocals to new levels. It wanders off into a closing riff which wouldn't shame Black Sabbath.

"MK Ultra" is a blasting paranoid tirade which hops from riff to riff before settling on something equally as headbanging as "Stockholm Syndrome". One of the earliest tracks leaked from the album, "United States of Eurasia", contains elements of Queen mixed with Lawrence of Arabia and once again paints a picture of ambiguous rebellion: "Must we do what we're told?"

The album closes on what is easily their most ambitious work: a three part symphony entitled Exogenesis, which contains some glorious string-work while piano crescendos echo sporadically over Bellamy's falsetto.

It's difficult to even make out what he's singing but it's a beautiful meld of sound which shows that their vision is extending even further than we may have previously thought.

"The Resistance" isn't as fulsome a development as some fans may have hoped for, but it certainly shows that Muse have not been resting on their laurels for the last 3 years.

District 9 a breath of fresh air

By Ruairi Moore

District 9 is the greasy fry to my hangover. That is, complete and utter relief. Amid the wreckage of this year's over-budgeted, badly-written and laughably directed summer blockbusters, Neil Blomkamp's directorial debut has restored my faith in science fiction that can both inform and entertain.

After the cringe worthy one-liners of Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen and random chaos of X-Men Origins: Wolverine, I needed it. The place is Johannesburg, where a giant alien ship looms over the city. You've seen this before, right? The sinister hovering mothership is in every typical alien film. Except District 9 is a nice change of pace from your typical alien film. The extraterrestrials are not here to invade. They are not here to occupy. They are not here to make "first

contact" with Earth. Instead, for the last twenty years, Johannesburg has played host to these visitors, referred to as "prawns", and their hospitality is wearing thin. Victims to some unknown disaster aboard their ship, the aliens were left leaderless and dying, and were brought down into housing camps outside the city until their fate could be decided. However, twenty years later, they are still there, and District 9 has become a breeding ground for crime, extortion, and shady experiments. It us up to self-satisfied Wikus, middle manager of the enigmatic corporation MNU, to move the visitors to their new accommodation further from the city. He experiences life from their point of view a little more intimately than he'd like.

This film is technically brilliant, and though the documentary style shooting is a gimmick which has been done to death, never has it seemed so harsh,

gritty, and real as it does in District 9. Even when the documentary style continues later in the film when there is no cameraman in evidence, it is forgivable for the sake of good storytelling. The editing is superb, and the story is interspersed with interviews and fake news footage that only add to its atmosphere.

The cast, entirely made up of unknowns are another great success. Sharlto Copley is outstanding as Wikus, managing to be arrogant and pathetic yet still redeemable all at once, a feat.

Even the "prawns" themselves never seem less than human, tugging on heartstrings which would usually be impossible for such ugly beings. Finally, District 9 is both a political commentary and a poignant story of compassion and greed, with an action-packed conclusion that loses none of its resonance for it. I hope to see quite a few prawns this Hallowe'en.



Ultimate Frisbee Friendly

By Pat Hayden

So after two and a half weeks of learning the sport UL's beginner ultimate Frisbee players got their first taste of Intersivity competition in a friendly weekend hosted by UCD. There was huge interest from the beginners as 22 of them along with 9 senior players travelled for the games.

On Friday night the beginners got an easy warm up to Frisbee night life with a trip to a night club followed by sleeping on a very kind UCD player's floor. A sleepy UL team got to the pitches to find no opposition except for the captain of NCI and UCD.

Thankfully some opposition did show up and games got underway.

UL's players were split into two even teams and some joined NCI to make up numbers. UL 1 played NCI while UL A played UCD. Both had competitive games where the beginners got used to playing full sided games where rules would be fully in force. Both teams got well deserved victories and had a short rest before the second round of games.


This was the big one with UL playing UL, and so it was never going to be mistaken for a friendly match as both teams fought tooth and nail for

every point with UL 1 eventually coming out on top.

Another short rest was followed by the last round of games. UL A suffered a loss to an NCI team who had three very promising UL beginners on their team. UL 1 however secured a good victory to win the tournament. Now it was the turn of the senior players. UL played UCD in a very healthy warm up game for the rest of the season. UL went into an early lead and looked good to dominate the rest of the match, but fatigue struck many of UL's players and UCD clawed their way back into the game before taking the lead at 6 - 4, there was very little time left but UL dug deep and evened the game at 6 all.

Unfortunately we had over extended our time on the pitch and had to vacate for a soccer team. Still a satisfactory result against one of Ireland's oldest college teams. It's looking like a great season for UL ultimate.

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Open Mic Night Rocks Our Music So c s Off!

EVERY Monday night, Music Society has an open mic night in the stables, where very talented musicians get a chance to get on stage, to sing and play instruments to the great entertainment of their audience. From guitar to keyboard, from young and old, open mic night promises to supply plenty of fantastic fun and entertainment. With covers from artists such as The Saw Doctors, Kings Of Leon and Flashdance, open mic night aims to cater for all tastes in music.

With the drink flowing, good music, great talent and a wonderful atmosphere open mic night promises to be nothing short of a fantastic night out. It starts every Monday night in the stables at nine o' clock. Instruments are provided by the Music Society or you can bring your own along. So if you feel like belting out an old tune come along for the craic and great time.

For more information you can get in touch with Liam McCormack, President of Music Society, email us at ulmusicsoc@gmail.com or just show up on the night and volunteer. Or even if you're looking for a night full of entertainment, come along to support the great talent and sing along with all the gifted musicians.



Do the D.A.N.C.E.

SO WE'RE back to Semester 1 and how great has it been so far? Lectures are as boring as ever and that hangover from the night before really didn't help the time pass! But there's more to college life than boring lectures and hangovers, yes sireee there's the wonderful world of Clubs and Societies and what better way to add another activity to your schedule for a good time than with your buddies from one of these clubs or societies!

So we all go to clubs most nights of the week right? And ten points goes to who can tell me one of the main things people do at a club? That's right, DANCE! So why not join a club that dances?! You could be able to head to the Lodge and throw a few more shapes other than "big fish, little fish, cardboard box" amongst other well known moves seen frequently around the Lodge.

Learn how to hip-hop or breakdance like they do on the streets. Learn a bit of "tappa, tappa, tappa...tap dance," you never know who'd join in with their hidden talent! Or even show your true colours and poise with a bit of what we in Dance UL call, "bip-bop," ballet done to hip-hip music. Then head back to the Lodge and bust out with you new skills, see what happens!

If you feel confident enough audition for one of our dance squads and take part in the Dance Intervarsities. We're current reigning champions as of last year and we're always looking for new recruits. Men in general are very, VERY welcome and don't worry if you guys think you can't dance. I have three words for you, lift and walk! Note: you will be lifting possibly semi-naked girls as dance costume material is a scarcity...recession and all. Interested?

So now that I have your attention here's the important stuff you need to know. We recently

held our AGM and received a massive turnout meaning we now have close to the astounding 300 members we had at the end of last year. This is also due to the great response showed at the Clubs and Societies night held previously in the Sports Arena.

Ever heard of the All-Ireland Talent Show? Well you might want to keep an eye out in the coming weeks because we have sent a squad made up of some of last year's Intervarsity champions and they seem to be flying through each round! Watch this space and best of luck you guys we'll be rootin' for you!

Fundraising will be a big thing this year and hopefully there will be one around Halloween/November. We're thinking dance mats, PS2 style! I know, I know, ingenious right? Other ideas floating around are yet to be confirmed but no doubt we'll have you up on your feet dancing your little cotton socks off.

If you are interested in joining Dance UL don't hesitate to pop down to one classes. Sign up for membership is €5 and classes are €2 each. A little cost for a lot of happy dancing people and we aim to please. Classes are as follows: Mondays; Hip-hop 6-7pm, Breakdance 7-8pm and Jazz/Tap 8-9pm. Tuesdays: Ballet 6.30-7.30pm. (Some classes will be split due to large numbers.)

All classes are held in Dromroe Village Hall. Remember, no membership, no dancing for you! Insurance reasons...sorry! Remember if you feel like you want to be even more involved with Dance UL feel free to come to our group auditions for intervarsities in a few weeks time. These auditions will be held in Dromroe Hall on a date yet to be confirmed but keep an eye out for posters around campus.

"In the mean time let me watch you break it down and dance, gonna be ok, da-da-doo-doo-mmm, Just dance, spin that record babe, da-da-doo-doo-mmm, just dance!"(Lady GaGa)



Windsurfers take to the west; the Trip to Castlegregory

This weekend saw our first trip of the semester and we had record number of new recruits on the trip. Not only that, the variety of Nationalities also added to the banter of the weekend with countries such as America, Austria, Germany, France, Spain, Canada and of course Ireland on the trip. Having put the new members through their paces in the Arena on Wednesday everyone was ready for weekend ahead.

Friday in Castlegregory was the second time everyone had met so the festivities kicked off straight away in the hostel and lasted until the wee hours. The following morning was Windsurfing 101 for our new recruits. With four newly trained instructors there was a total on six instructors who

were able to take the beginners on their first lesson. Also three more members had just completed a Powerboat Level 2 course which brought the total to nine trained operators in the club. With all our bases covered lessons started straight away that morning.

Initially everyone found it tough, though there were certain members that picked up the technique for windsurfing quicker than others. By the end of the day everyone was up sailing around Scraggan Bay. Later that day the whole group sat down to a meal prepared by one or two members. With hunger satisfied it was time to get ready for the night's festivities. With it being the Women of Windsurfing weekend there was a themed costume party down at Spillane's

bar. The theme was to dress up as something beginning with "W". The costumes had a wide range, from "Where's Wally", workers and warriors to wagons in their wagon, everyone had a great time. Even our Captain Ronan the window cleaner won third prize.

The following day everyone woke up in a somewhat subdued nature but as soon as we hit the water the windsurfing seemed to bring back most people's vitality. With the weekend drawing to a close it was time to pack up. It was safe to say that everyone did their part, whether it was teaching some soon to be pro-windsurfers how to plain across the water, or making the dinner.

E-mail us at: ulwc.committee@gmail.com, website: www.ul.ie/winds, or google "ulwc facebook" to find out more.



Will Ireland reach the 2010 World Cup?

Yes! *To mmy Crean outlines his case*

Giovanni Trapattoni

This man has done it all. There are very few out there who have the experience as he does in football. Yes, a lot of us are moaning about our lack of creativity in the middle of the park, voids that many believe Andy Reid or Stephen Ireland could fill. Gibson, Andrews and Whelan aren't exactly world beaters but look at the position we are in, on the verge of qualifying for the playoffs with two games to go? We would have cried out for this situation a year ago. Perhaps Mr. Trapattoni realises we are not exactly rich in the Ronaldo or Kaka categories and so is trying to get us to play in the best manner that suits our typical style of player. Who cares whether it is easy on the eye or not, as long as we triumph!

Experience

Many of our old "reliables" are roughly around the prime of their careers, examples being Dunne (30), Keane (29), Duff (30), Given (33) and Doyle (26). They all have considerable Premier League and European experience to top their adventures with Ireland and this may be their best opportunity to deliver for our nation. In particular, the world class Shay Given has given us unbelievable service over the years and few would begrudge him another trip to the World's premier football competition.

Stephen Ireland saga over?

This will he/won't he play nonsense is sickening. If he wanted to play he should make the approach himself, not be begged by the manager as it appears has taken place on numerous occasions. He is an accomplished footballer, but not to the extent that the Irish press have built him up to be. Following his recent comment where he stated that leaving the international set up was "the best decision I ever made", hopefully this will allow the players and management to focus on the remaining two qualifiers ahead.

Italy are a shambles

Italy may have the official tag of "World Champions" but that is the only way they are anymore. When we think of their international team, we consider them to be one of the best on the planet. How times have changed. Ireland really should have beaten them in Bari, and I am probably one of the few that genuinely believes that we can pinch all three points in Croker on the 10th October. Italians traditionally don't travel well, so pray that this tradition lives on...

12 Reasons why GAA is better than soccer

1. The GAA player who played in front of 80,000 at the weekend will be teaching your children, selling you meat or fixing your drains on Monday morning. The soccer player who plays in front of 80,000 will be moaning about playing too many games and will be trying to sell you his personalised brand of leisure wear.
2. GAA nicknames are better. Soccer players just add a Y to their surnames
3. Dublin vs Meath is a real derby. What does Utd. Vs City mean to Berbatov or Robinho?
4. How many soccer players does it take to screw in a light bulb? Answer: Eleven; one to stick it in and ten to surround and kiss him after he does it.
5. Soccer players go to the papers after a game. GAA players go to the pub.
6. John Terry would run a mile if he came up against Francie Bellew!
7. GAA teams are numbered 1-15. A soccer team reads like the lottery results.
8. All soccer players wear shin pads. Some hurlers wear helmets.
9. Television runs soccer. Schoolteachers run the GAA.
10. The GAA is about where you're from. Soccer is about who you like.
11. No segregation at GAA games.
12. A scoreless draw in the GAA would be quite a novelty.

No! *To más Mc Carthy is not a happy man*

As Irish people we all want to cheers on the side in South Africa next summer. So far the Trapattoni experiment is producing results but are they convincing enough? This Irish outfit must face some harsh realities.

Midfield

The question to be asked is whether Andrews or Gibson or Whelan are worthy midfield players for a World Cup. It is very difficult for any knowledgeable football fan to answer that one in a positive way. If our current midfield lined out in South Africa the probable result would be elimination at the group stage. What bugs many of us though is the reluctance of the Italian to look elsewhere. Leaving Stephen Ireland aside (for once!), look at Andy Reid, Keith Fahey or Lee Carsley. They haven't even featured in recent squads. Any of those players have justifiable claims ahead of the current trio. An injury prone Stephen Reid looks to be the only solution.

Trapattoni's system

The brilliance of Given, Dunne, Duff and Keane in this campaign has maintained Trapattoni's negative system of play. Even against the likes of Cyprus and Georgia we seemed content to go a goal up and then hold on and defend for dear life. Instead of playing positively and keeping possession we go into our shell. Players are not being allowed to express themselves and that comes back to the philosophy of the manager. Why else did we hoof long balls all night long in Nicosia?

Play-offs

The only time Ireland qualified for a major tournament through a play-off was 2001 against Iran. This time around the play-off route is one that could be shark infested with some of Europe's finest. Croatia, France, Portugal and Russia are all likely opponents the way the groups are working out. Facing the likes of Henry, Arshavin, Modric or Ronaldo there will surely be only one winner.

No one can deny that Giovanni Trapattoni's results in this qualifying group have been up to standard. The manner of the football we are playing and also the way Trapattoni conducts the team are warning signs however. Whatever the result in the upcoming game against Italy is there is a feeling that this team will be found out sooner or later.



Giovanni Trapattoni

The Optimum Point

By Liam Toghner

If you wrote out a wish list for your team on the eve of the season I'd put a nice few quid on the Carling Cup featuring nowhere near the top. Managers make no secret of their disdain for the competition by utilising the depth of their first-team squad and it's no longer just Alex Ferguson and Rafael Benitez undertaking this practice.

A look at the line-ups from the third round of this year's Carling Cup will tell you that nearly every Premier League manager, as well as one

or two from the Championship, now treats the competition with worrying indifference.

One of the most frequent complaints in the game over the last few years is the exorbitant number of matches that players face. Any Premier League team involved in European competition will play in excess of 50 games over a 40-week period, and many people don't fully realise how draining travel to and from matches can be for players who are expected to perform at a superhuman level every time they lace up their boots. Putting counter-arguments of six-figure weekly wages aside, the pressures

of contemporary football will get to the most talented and resilient of players and managers. Actually, did I mention internationals yet? That adds to the workload.

Here's a good place to alleviate the problem some bit; offer those teams in UEFA tournaments an exemption from the now-discredited Carling Cup. As there is a place in Europe for the winners of the competition, this will guarantee at least one different team in continental action every year. There are already dates in the calendar for the tournament, so a clash with midweek Champions League games

won't be a problem.

At this point the traditionalists among us are probably baying for my blood. My response to the nay-sayers is it's merely an idea I think is worthy of consideration. I doubt Ferguson and Benitez will ever read this, but if it did find its way to them I'm confident that they would nod their heads in agreement. After all, if the president of FIFA suggests in earnest that shorter, um, shorts should be brought into women's soccer, surely my proposed Carling Cup makeover is worth more than instant relegation to the nearest dustbin.



Major intervarsity action set for UL

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

IT HAS BEEN announced in the past week that UL will be hosting two big intervarsity competitions in 2010. The Colleges and Universities Sports Association of Ireland revealed that both the IUSWA Waterpolo Intersities and the Women's Rugby Intersities are fixed for UL. The news comes in the wake of UL also being picked for the Fresher Basketball tournament and the International Student Badminton Competition.

The UL Waterpolo Club have received the nod to host this year's event after NUIG staged it last time out. There is no fixed date yet for the competition but it is expected to go ahead in late January 2010. The 50 metre pool at the Arena provides the ideal venue for this event. The club itself have already resumed training for the new college year. There is both a men's and women's team. Both of these teams compete in the national league, the Munster league as well

as the intersities. For the UL ladies rugby team to host the intersities is a more than merited honour considering their achievements in recent times. UL will be defending their crown on home turf after lifting the trophy at UCC earlier this year. They conceded no try over the course of the tournament which was a remarkable feat. Spearheaded by the likes of Jo O'Meara, Anna Caplice, Ashling Hutchings and Fiona Reidy UL defeated Garda 14-3 in the final. The team also claimed league honours to complete the double. Garda will be eager to ruin the UL party as will UCC. The competition takes place on April 14 and April 15 2010.

The fact that the University is hosting all of these events is a major boost in terms of displaying the array of sporting facilities at the UL Arena and in the surrounding area. What it also reflects though is how UL clubs are more than capable of pulling off and staging intersities in a proper and organised fashion.



New season, new players for soccer club

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

AHEAD of the kick off to the brand new season the UL soccer club have been eager to try out players to freshen up both ladies' and men's squads. Students of all years and abilities

were given the opportunity of a few games to show their worth. In Week 2 and 3 a men's seven-a-side tournament as well as a ladies' five-a-side competition was held. Week 3 also saw the fresher trials take place. The men's senior side opened their campaign in Week 4 with a friendly

game. St Michael's were the opposition under lights at Cooke Park in Tipperary. It afforded the management a chance to see what the new players at their disposal could produce.

The serious action is set to begin in the middle of October. Martin Hayes of the UL soccer club confirmed that the club will be entering Senior, Fresher and Intermediate sides in the Premier as well as First and Second divisions respectively of the CUFL (Colleges & Universities Football League) this year. It will be difficult to replicate the silverware of last term. The ladies' team were treble winners in an incredible season for

a very talented team. The Indoor Intersities, the Ladies' Premier League and the Senior Intersity Title were all attained. The men went very close to matching them. A CUFL Premier League was secured along with the Farquhar Cup and the Crowley Plate.

It is certainly a good time and also a busy time to be involved with the UL Soccer Club.

Both the ladies' and men's teams will undoubtedly be pushing for honours once again. Their respective campaigns get underway shortly and new heroes will be ready to re-write the script and make their own headlines.

Sigerson final decision is a Croke Park joke

By Liam Toighe

TWO weeks ago, GAA president Christy Cooney announced that Croke Park would be the venue for the Sigerson Cup final in 2011 to mark the competition's 100th year. Cooney broke the news at the AGM of Comhairle Ardoideachais, the Third Level GAA body, and the shock decision has certainly provoked a reaction across the country.

Indeed there is something special about adorning the turf of the majestic 82,300 stadium which inspires every GAA player from Colm Cooper to a happy-go-lucky Under-8 corner-back from a rural backwater club. However, romance must sadly be ditched if it stands in the way of logic. I, among many others in colleges around the country, take a

keen interest in the Sigerson Cup but its status in the bigger GAA picture needs to be realised. Aside from those who are involved in third level Gaelic games, the college competitions attract very little interest. Even a bog standard county venue such as Cusack Park in Ennis would comfortably cope with the attendances usually seen at the finals of the Fitzgibbon and Sigerson.

In February 2008 UL played GMIT in a Sigerson quarter-final at the Gaelic Grounds, a stadium capable of holding 48,000 people. I estimate the attendance on the day to be 100.

It was easily the most surreal atmosphere I have experienced at a GAA match. Although the final would attract more than 100 spectators, the pocket of fans would still seem a bit lost in the gargantuan Croke Park. The only remotely logical conclusion for staging the Sigerson

showpiece at headquarters is if it acted as the curtain raiser to a triple bill – perhaps, given that the final usually takes place in March, it could be played prior to the club finals on St. Patrick's Day.

I apologise for puncturing your enthusiasm if you got swept away with the gleeful giddiness of a big college day out at Croke Park, but Cooney's decision was made with the heart ruling the head. When one thinks of the cost of opening the Drumcondra venue for a match day, the pittance of a revenue the Sigerson final is likely to generate would fall way short of making up the balance.

You wouldn't buy size 12 runners for a six-year-old, so why use an 82,300-capacity stadium where somewhere such as CIT or Belfield would suffice?

UL Sports Round-Up

Hockey

The ladies hockey team opened their Munster league Division 1 campaign with a big defeat away to Catholic Institute. The final score of 6-0 was resounding and is hopefully not a sign of a tough season to come.

UL Bohs

UL Bohemians lost a thrilling Munster Senior Cup quarter final to UCC on September 20. Bohs lost 29-28 in a game played at the Mardyke in Cork.

Fantasy Football

Our UL fantasy football league is on premierleague.com and currently has 27 members. The code to join the league is 361507-163498.

Comments?

At the sports department we value your opinion so leave any comments to mossy. mccarthy@gmail.com or check out our bebo on www.bebo.com/anfocalsport

An Focal Sport Football All-Stars 2009

By Daniel Bridge

1. Diarmuid Murphy (Kerry)

The only real contender this year. Made crucial stops in the All-Ireland Final and Kerry wouldn't have survived the qualifiers if it wasn't for his penalty save against Sligo.

2. Karl Lacey (Donegal)

Despite playing in a below par Donegal side Lacey still shone. He kept the likes of Michael Meehan and Daniel Goulding quiet, which is a tough task in anyone's book. A fantastic man-marker and was outstanding all year.

3. Tom O'Sullivan (Kerry)

A wonderful year culminating with a great performance in the final. The job he did on Bernard Brogan in the quarters was sublime restricting him to one point from play.

4. Marc O'Sé (Kerry)

Did his job on Daniel Goulding in the final and was consistent all the way through

the season. Honourable mention to Corks Anthony Lynch who was front runner until the performance of O'Sé in the final.

5. Tomás O'Sé (Kerry)

Equally good going forward as doing his bit in defence. Has been truly outstanding all year. His point taking is an obvious highlight but the work he puts in at the back is courageous to say the least.

6. Graham Canty (Cork)

Despite putting in less than roof-raising performances, Canty's leadership and influence really drove Cork on this year. A real fan favourite and very much deserving of his place on the team.

7. John Miskella (Cork)

Consistently excelled for Cork this season. Solid at the back and supreme going forward. One of the best wing backs in the country.

8. Dermot Earley (Kildare)

Hands down Earley was this seasons best midfielder by a long shot. He proved that under a new manager a player's form can pick up radically.

9. Kevin Hughes (Tyrone)

Was outstanding for his county in every game this year. Earley may have got the better of him in the quarters but he still showed his class.

10. Paul Galvin (Kerry)

Stopped the niggling stuff previously connected to his game to really highlight his brilliance. One of the Kerry men that kept his form through those close qualifiers.

11. Tadhg Kennelly (Kerry)

Got what he came back for - a medal. He was immense in the semi against Meath. Even more credit must go his way for his readjustment to the game since moving home.

12. Declan O'Sullivan (Kerry)

Could play him anywhere across the front six. Took advantage of Ray Carey's absence in the final to full effect.

13. Paddy Bradley (Derry)

His form meant Derry was being talked of as All Ireland contenders. Fantastic against Monaghan and a great point scorer. Bernard Brogan and Cian Ward pushed him close though.

14. Michael Murphy (Donegal)

At 19, a prestigious talent. Scored 36 points this year. A terrific haul for a man playing in a poor Donegal side. Honourable mention to Tommy Walsh who showed his class in the semi and final.

15. Daniel Goulding (Cork)

Goulding has compiled some excellent tallies this season and has taken scores at crucial times for Cork.



Declan O'Sullivan

Play it again, Sam

By Liam Toghher

I'M NOT sure who exactly coined the phrase "the more things change, the more they stay the same", but if it's a 10-word summary of the 2009 senior football championship you want, there you go. There are some long-standing myths in Gaelic football and a number of these came to fruition over the summer.

We saw Kerry in the final for the sixth year in a row and, as we all know, they further cemented their status as the undisputed lords of the game by winning their 36th All-Ireland title.

Not for the first time, they came a cropper against eternal foes Cork in the June sunshine of the Munster championship before gaining their revenge at Croke Park when the days get shorter and the school holidays are at the wrong end from a child's perspective.

What other time-worn stereotypes were on show in 2009? Dublin claimed their fifth consecutive Leinster final in impressive fashion but Groundhog Day XIV was screened on the August Bank Holiday when they realised, once again, that they had swallowed the appetising hype and this would not be their year.

Limerick surprisingly got to the last 12 and both of their defeats were by a solitary point. Once more they let glory slip through their grasp in a manner reminiscent of a

hopeful 25-yard shot aimed at former Man Utd keeper Massimo Taibi.

Oh, and we simply couldn't forget Mayo, who would wear a shirt made of barbed wire more comfortably than the tag of favourites. Their winter training will consist of continuing to kick themselves over letting Meath off the hook.

I'll take a break from defamatory criticism, though, to highlight Mick O'Dwyer's undying success in the game. The legendary manager brought Wicklow to the best championship finish in their history and nobody in a luminous Bainisteoir bib deserves it more than perhaps the greatest character the GAA has ever known.

All the same, just to prove that RTE and TV3 weren't trying to con us all by following TG4's lead and screening GAA Gold, some trends were bucked in 2009.

Tyrone saved their best form for the Ulster championship before fading out in August. Armagh's dismal year now rubber-stamps the Joe Kernan era as a fleeting period of unprecedented greatness for a second-tier football county.

Staying up north, the biggest bombshell of the year was Antrim's amazing run to the Ulster final, while the performances in the qualifiers of Longford and Sligo offer hope for subsequent campaigns.

Old habits die hard, though, especially when it involves Kerry on All-Ireland final day. Plus ca change.



Demot Earley

Who Are Ya?

Compiled by Tomás McCarthy & Fiona Reidy

The Basics

Name: Anna Caplice

Age: 20

Course: Applied Languages

Club: UL Ladies Rugby

Position: Out half but I'm a flanker at heart!

What's the best thing about UL ladies rugby? The laughing that goes on.

And the worst? Training in the snow.

Favourites

Favourite food: Chicken Korma

Favourite song: Christy Moore

Delirium Tremens

Favourite movie: In Brugges

Favourite Jersey: New Munster jersey

Favourite drink: Brugal

(it's a Dominican rum!)

Favourite chocolate: Galaxy

Take Your Pick

The Lodge or Trinity Rooms?

Trinity Rooms. The Lodge was way too packed last night.

Dunphy or Giles? Neither!

Simpsons or Family Guy? Simpsons

Cup o tay or cappuccino?

I don't drink caffeine.

Chips or mash? Depends what the main course is!!

Hurling or Football? Hurling

Five To Finish

Describe yourself in three words?

I don't know I fit into most categories!

Will Ireland qualify for the World Cup?

Not a chance!

Lisbon Treaty, Yes or No?

Yes all the way.

Who is the best singer on the UL Ladies rugby team? Definitely me!

What are you going to be when you grow up? A very good teacher.



Anna Caplice

Sports Writers Diary

By Tomás McCarthy, Sports Editor

12 September

One of the big news stories to emerge from this part of the world (Waterford!) this month was the sending off of John Mullane in a county quarter final. And yes he deserved it. It was a sad way to finish a great season for the De La Salle man.

13 September

An Focal sports reporter Liam Togher leads the Clare pitch invasion after their under 21 win over Kilkenny. Plan A, B or C wouldn't have stopped any of those fans!

14 September

The number of Clare jerseys spotted around campus is up about two hundred per cent! Amazing what one triumph can do to raise pride in a county.

15 September

The tragic news emerges about the death of boxer Darren Sutherland. A major loss to Irish sport.

16 September

Dunphy and Giles are in full flow on the Champions League panel talking about their favourite player Lucas! Ronnie Whelan looks a bit out of place I miss grumpy Liam Brady.

17 September

If anyone was wondering where I was this past week I fell foul to a bad dose of the flu. It's tough at the top but my return wouldn't be too far away!
Despite rumours of a cancellation, Thursday night Lodging did go ahead in my absence.

18 September

Jeff Kenna leaves St Pats who just couldn't replicate their European form in the league. Any chance he would write for An Focal? Talks are ongoing...!

19 September

Waterford United down to nine men from the 27th minute onwards remarkably beat Athlone Town 2-1 away from home!

20 September

There are three certainties in life: death, paying taxes and Kerry winning All Irelands. This one will hurt on Leaside.

21 September

A Kerry fan sent me this text: "The times are great the monsoon of red retreated once it saw the green and gold hills of the kingdom". How true.

22 September

Brian Cody appears at the Ploughing Championships to promote his new autobiography. You will have to shell out 20 euros for it as well!

23 September

An Focal unearths some new writers at the big annual writer's meeting. Can they produce it on the big day though?

24 September

Watching the Gaelic football trials in the evening proves too cold for An Focal sports writer Eoin King. He is forced to borrow the sport editor's Waterford jacket for a bit of heat.

25 September

It's deadline day and it's mad as usual. The phone and the email inbox go mad around this time for good measure. I somehow fit in tutorials as well. We don't do medals at An Focal but if we did...

Forgotten Footballer - Patrick Berger

By Stephen Kelly

It's hard to believe that Patrick Berger is only 35, especially when you consider his international record boasts 44 caps for Czechoslovakia.

With his powerful left foot and striking good looks (come on, admit it) he first came to international prominence in the Czech Republic side that reached the final of Euro 96. Berger featured in all 6 matches and scored a penalty in their 2-1 final defeat to Germany. A £3.25 million move to Liverpool followed. Berger spent 7 seasons at Anfield scoring 35 goals in 196 appearances. In 2001 he won his first silverware at the club and played in the finals of both the FA and UEFA cups. Injuries meant that he rarely featured in the following two seasons and in 2003 he moved to newly-promoted Portsmouth on a free transfer.

Two years later Berger was on the move again, this time to Aston Villa where he again endured a torrid time with injuries. He started just 10 matches in 3 seasons and his days at the club were truly numbered when he publicly encouraged captain Gareth Barry to join Liverpool in the summer of 2008. His career then went full circle as he rejoined Sparta Prague, the club where he spent his youth career.

Though he never quite fulfilled his huge potential, English football is a duller place without the man who only ever scored spectacular goals.



The Rumour Mill

By Conor McGrath

JACK Nicholson once told a courtroom that one can't really handle the truth and many of the thinking people say that the truth is stranger than fiction, so where does this leave the UL rumourmongers?

The Basketball club have been jumping right into the controversy these days as their squad has had an epidemic of its own amidst preparation for the upcoming intervarsities. Word on the court has it that a few promising freshers have been suffering from all too susceptible growing pains. "We've been feeding them well before bed" was the response from one motherly figure of a club rep last week. Calpol could be as important as the magic sponge in this situation.

One could not feel a tad harsh for Shane Lowry in the Lodge last week after he was given the "thanks, but no thanks" glare from a potential conquest. Lowry broke down and was heard to say "I should go back to where I feel comfortable" while being treated to chants of "Amateur, Amateur" from a few outspoken students. Does this mean Lowry will go back to the amateur ranks or just stick to socialising in the rearward towns of Offaly?

On a slightly lighter side, the university's proposed plan to stage a leg of Bernard Dunne's nationwide bus tour was sent sprawling after he was pretty much sent sprawling in his defence of the world title last week. One university official called it "a crying shame, but at least I'm not him". Could Bernard be on top of the bus again with another belt or just end up living in one? We'll be waiting a while on that one. Finally, Davy Fitz was, apparently, in the Medical centre last Wednesday on an 'official visit'. It seems September 2008 isn't going anywhere from his mind yet, especially as the ordinary Waterford native still wants the truth on that debacle. Well at least the gossipers can rejoice in the fact that there is a hint of truth in every rumour...

Quotes of the Edition

By Liam Togher

"Most great partnerships are formed with somebody else."
This was definitely not a 'quality' moment for Pat Morley on MNS when discussing Shamrock Rovers' prolific striking duo Gary Twigg and Dessie Baker.

"Ha ha, offside!"

Three Wolves fans in the Stables taunt Man Utd winger Nani for straying too soon during the teams' Carling Cup tie.

"Ha ha, you support Wolves!"

Man U supporter Alan O'Sullivan's instant response.

"It makes good copy and gives us something to talk about."

Speaking on Newstalk show Off the Ball, Johnny Giles gives his verdict on the volcanic scenes after the Manchester derby. Honesty doesn't do any harm, I suppose.

"This ball has 'GO HEAD ME' written all over it!"

Andy Gray gets typically hyperbolic when commenting on David Nugent's first goal for Burnley in the 3-1 win over Sunderland. Well it's a bit more interesting than simply writing the club initials on the ball so that nobody else runs off with it.

"Charlie Nicholas, none; Paul Merson, none; Alan McAnally, one; Phil Thompson, two! He wins it by a nose."

It could only be Jeff Stelling having a friendly dig at 'Pinocchio' when calling out the Super 6 results from the previous week.

Give It A Lash Quiz

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

- Who scored the only goal of this year's All Ireland football final?
- Irish striker Anthony Stokes now plays for which Scottish club?
- Pat Smullen is associated with which sport?
- What company are displayed on the kit of Blackburn Rovers this season?
- Simon Danielli plays as a winger for which Magners League side?
- Golfer Camillo Villegas hails from which country?
- In what year did Cork last win the All Ireland hurling title?
- What squad number does Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina have?
- Who did Australia beat in the final of the 1999 Rugby World Cup?
- What club does Tipperary hurler Lar Corbett play for?

1. Colm O'Neill
2. Hamilton
3. Horse racing
4. Crown Paints
5. Ulster
6. Colombia
7. 2005
8. 25
9. France
10. Thurles Sarshelds

Quiz Answers

AN FOCAL SPORT

Sigerson journey starts here

By Eoin King

AND SO the season begins again as well as the quest for Sigerson success. At the helm once more this year is Cian O'Neill, a key figure in UL GAA. In charge of the footballers this year, he was very happy with the first week of trials.

Overseeing 36 players running and hustling for recognition his hope is "we could have six or seven lads here who are really pushing and could knock some fellas off their perch from last year."

Not quite Alex Ferguson, but the sense that nothing is entitled and guys must earn their place is always good to hear. After last year's near miss, when UL lost by a point in triple overtime to UCD, he is looking at "around a figure of 18 from last year's Sigerson panel." And while he acknowledges: "we've lost some serious players" such as Fiachra Lynch (last year's captain and a member of this year's Cork senior football team), Kenneth O'Malley and Sean McKeown there is no sense of brooding on what they don't have. "I'd much rather talk about the guys we still have. David Moran, Enda Varley, Stephen Lonergan, Seamus O'Shea, Fintan Coffey and Colin O'Mahony." Enough fine footballers to inspire confidence. There is also the pleasure

of knowing lads are returning from last year on postgraduate courses. Each new season is freighted with hope and the promise of going that extra step or two from last year.

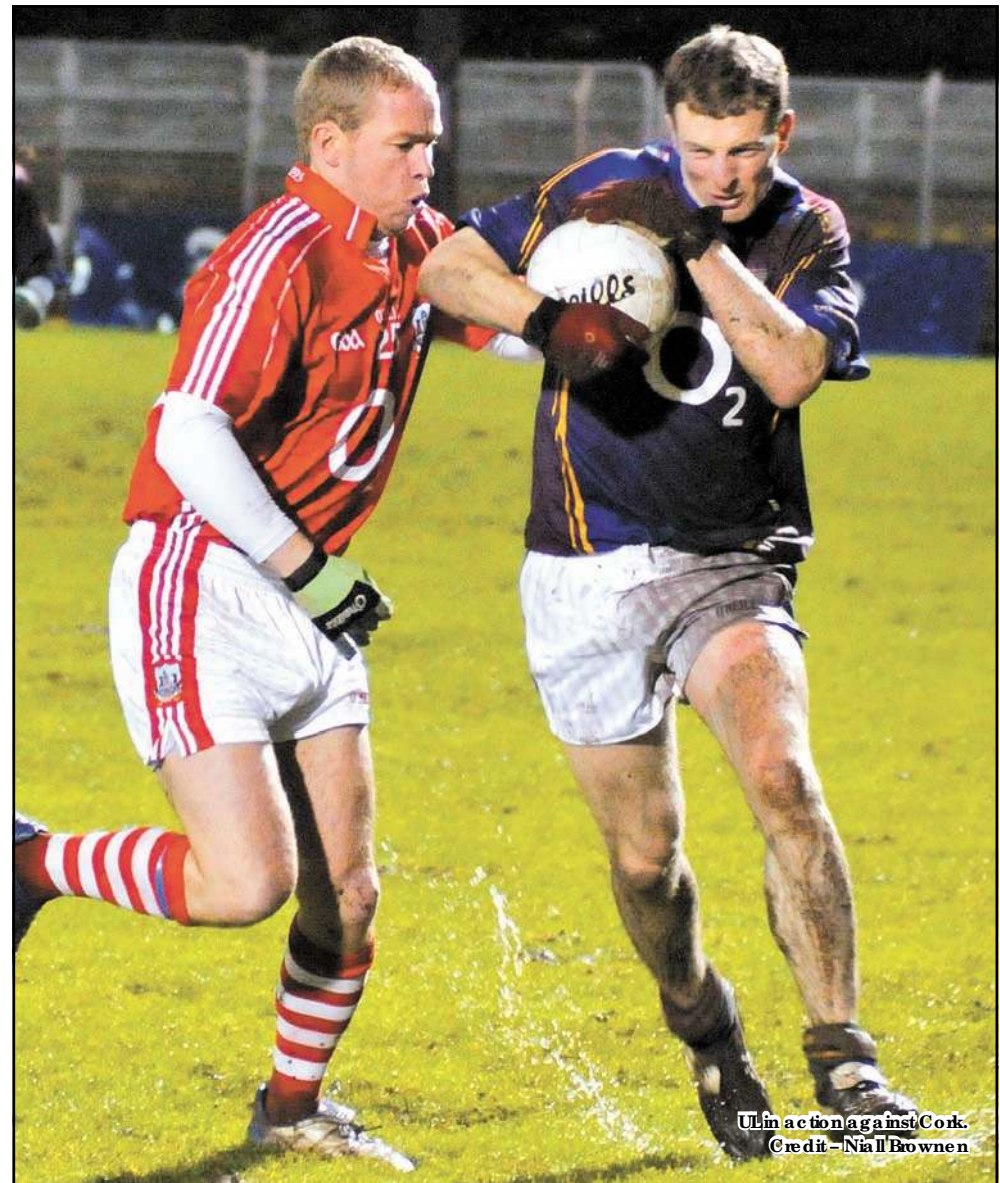
However, talk also returned to that depressing issue of facilities. "We're the only campus in the country that doesn't have a floodlit facility. It's a significant limitation. We can't train mornings all the time."

So already our footballers are at a loss and O'Neill estimates that his players will only get "thirty percent of the quality training that other institutions will get with floodlit facilities. [We] can't even use the Astroturf down below because it's not even synthetic grass.

Not even remotely close to what is happening on a pitch situation." Not good to hear and with the first game this week against UCC this year's squad are thrown "straight from the frying pan into the fire."

Despite the alarming arithmetic of there being "sixteen teams, two pitches and only four days you can train" O'Neill's commitment to the cause won't waver.

A key figure in getting this year's Tipperary senior hurlers fine tuned and programmed to contest in this year's All Ireland final, O'Neill would appear the right man to overcome any limitations Ireland's supposed sporting campus would restrict on this year's squad.



UL in action against Cork.
Credit - Niall Browne



UL Basketball all look to the future

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

COLLEGE teams can rarely stand still. To do so would see the competition surge ahead. That's why investing in fresh talent while still striving for high standards, like the UL basketball club are doing, can be no bad thing.

In a conversation with the president of the club Noreen O'Connell we looked forward to what promises to be another busy year. The women's superleague begins in mid-October with a visit to newly promoted Sligo Allstars. This season the women have changed their name from UL Aughnish to UL Basketball Club. O'Connell explained that this was due to Aughnish not sponsoring the team this time around. The team, who will this year be coached by James Weldon, features some alterations from last season. Jillian Aherne and Maire Guiney are

among the absentees but there is promising talent to replace them.

Lorraine Scanlon, who is only in Transition Year, is one to watch. Joining her will be Fiona Lynch, Rachel Vanderal and Tara Brosnan. The UL college team has suffered a major turn over of players. Out of the squad of 12 that lined out last term seven are missing. This means freshers will get their chance to blossom. O'Connell picked out Danielle McLoughlin and Aoife McDermott as two players to look out for.

On the men's side of things there has also been a name change. The superleague team are now called UL Eagles instead of Limerick Lions. This is simply for marketing reasons, O'Connell said. They open their campaign with a home game against Dublin outfit Hoops on October 10. The college team has seen numbers increase this term with the Club and

Socs sign up night translating into people turning up for training.

The fresher basketball tournament which will take place on November 28 and November 29 in UL will be a big event for the club. O'Connell expects around 16 to 20 teams in total to be taking part. Two men's and two women's teams will line out for UL. Both are expected to do well and O'Connell suggested that success in both is a realistic goal.

The president was also not afraid to make further predictions for the future. In 2012 UL are hosting the intervarsities. By that stage she hopes that UL can produce winning teams in both men's and women's. This is a feat that has never been achieved before.

So whether it be 2009 or 2012 the people who run basketball in UL are looking for new talent but also for trophies. And there's nothing wrong with that.