

# an Focal



University of Limerick  
Students' Union  
Newspaper

## Standing Up For Your Safety

**Inside:**

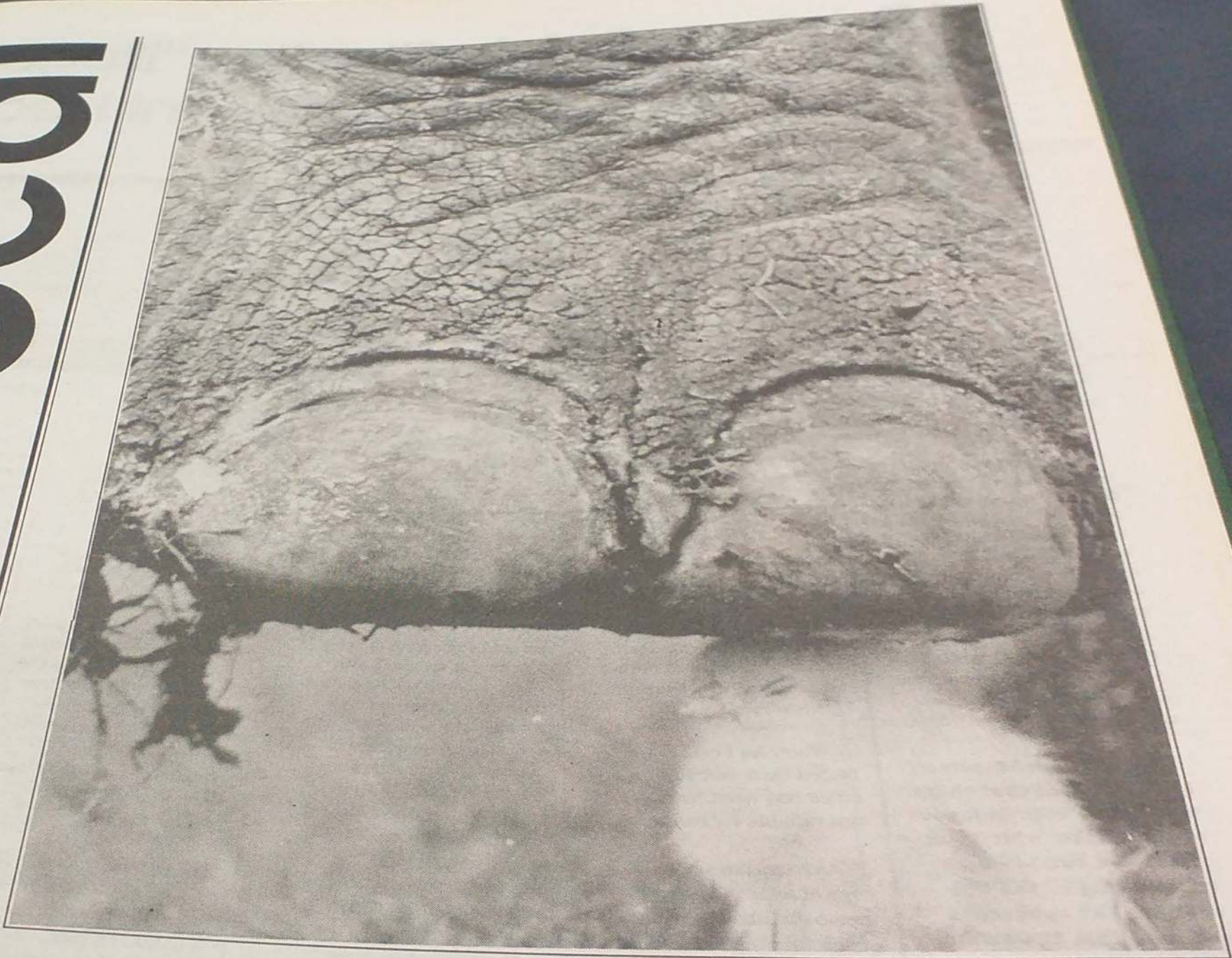
Safety on Campus  
Clubs and Societies  
20 pages of Fun

Michaelmas 4 1991 Monday 18th November



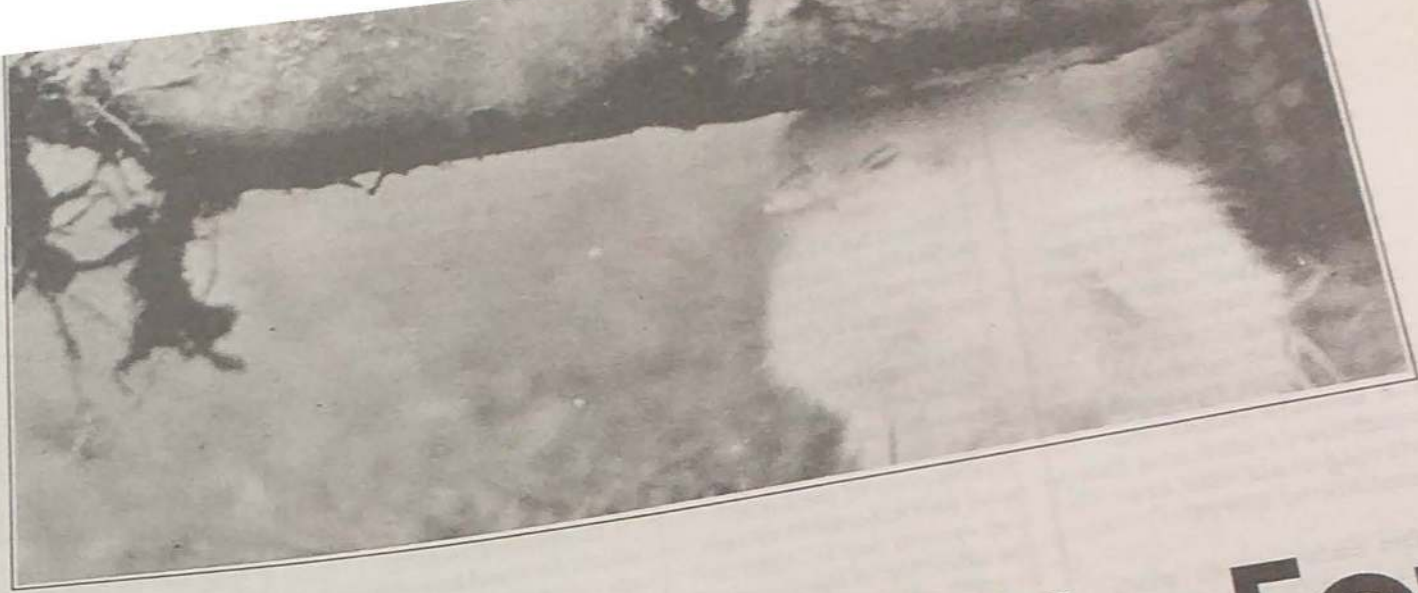
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# Standing Up For Your Safety

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Safety on Campus  
Clubs and Societies  
+ 20 pages of Fun

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# News

## Staff Vote to Strike

by Justin Crosbie

Staff at the University have voted overwhelmingly in a secret ballot to strike. In a statement to *An Focal* the staff union MSF said that the strike was "precipitated by management's non-implementation of an

A Head of the Department in the University has complained about an aspect of safety in the University, and said that "the current situation is highly illegal". The claim was made in an internal memo dated 8 November 1991, and concerns the lack of action in improving the extraction of fumes in chemistry laboratories.

The memo was one of three documents *An Focal* obtained from a number of sources following the Students' Union Safety Day on Thursday of week 7. The documents show that aspects of safety have been the subject of debate between management and members of the University staff for over ten years.

The memo, from Professor Ross, head, Dept. Chemistry and Life Sciences, says "we cannot be responsible for the health

## Students' Union to Consider Legal Action

When contacted by *An Focal*, Union Deputy President/Education and Welfare Officer, Mr Donal Waide said that he will be making a proposal to the next SU Council meeting as a result of the disclosures. He said some form of action will have to be taken. Mr

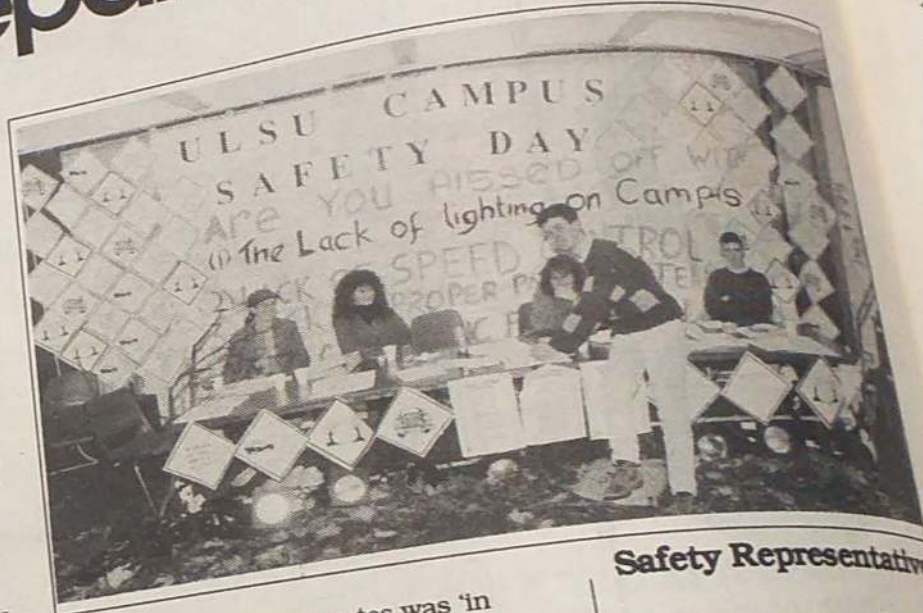
of escape routes was 'in hand' in 1979, and over ten years later - in January of this year - "was still 'in hand'". It is stated that no record of fire drills is maintained and that no evacuation drills are planned.

The issue of fire drills and evacuation procedures was one of the key points raised by the Students' Union during the campaign in week 7. Students' Union President

## Safety Representative

When contacted by *An Focal*, the Staff Safety Representative, Mr David Tocher, lecturer in Dept. of Applied Mathematics, said he is in continuing negotiation with the University authorities as was his responsibility in law. He refused to comment on any of the specific points raised in the documents *An Focal* has obtained.

# Safety Situation "Illegal" says Department Head





union MSF said that the strike was "precipitated by management's non-implementation of an agreed grading structure". The union also said that management had refused to go to conciliation.

A union spokesperson told *An Focal* that there was a 97% vote in favour of the strike, which will affect the complete functioning of the University. The spokesperson said that the strike will include almost all members of MSF and the catering staff who are members of SIPTU.

The union must 'work out' a legally required ten days period before the strike can commence, the union spokesperson said.

In a brief statement the University said that negotiations are ongoing. As of Thursday last they had not been formally notified of the outcome of the vote. The University spokesperson declined to make any further comment.

The union spokesperson was unable to say when picketing would begin.

The memo, from Professor Ross, head, Dept. Chemistry and Life Sciences, says "we cannot be responsible for the health and safety of users of the laboratories if we continue to operate".

When *An Focal* contacted Professor Ross's office last week he was unavailable for comment.

*An Focal* has obtained a copy of a second internal memo on this topic which states that the standard performance of the fume-hood and associated extraction system was brought to the attention of management in 1987. The memo states that the system was surveyed in the last academic year and that recommendations made then have not been acted on. The memo also claims that staff will be unable to facilitate undergraduate laboratories in block B of the main building from January next unless the situation is redressed.

One of the technicians working in the labs told *An Focal* that the situation is "intolerable, and bearing in mind my own safety and that of the students for whom I am responsible I will find it impossible to continue working in the laboratories under such conditions".

Waide said he was making a proposal to the next SU Council meeting as a result of the disclosures. He said some form of action will have to be taken. Mr Waide said he will be asking Council for a mandate to consult with a barrister with a view to taking a case if necessary. Speaking about the deadlines for adequate action by the University, Mr Waide said "the deadline I will be asking for is the start of Hilary term - something must be done by then".

The other document which *An Focal* has obtained are the draft minutes of a meeting between the Staff Safety Representative and the University's Personnel Manager.

The draft minutes state that no codes of practice have been adopted for delivery, storage and use of toxic chemicals, gases in high pressure containers, and radioactive substances. The draft minutes are dated 3/2/1991, and a copy of the minutes was sent to the staff Union, MSF.

### Document Supports Union Claim on Evacuation

In this document it is also claimed that the signposting

by the Students' Union during the campaign in week 7. Students' Union President Mr Colm Croffy said that the student body had no option but to publicly petition for the safety measures, which he described as basic. He also claimed that safety has been shoved under the carpet for too long.

The petition was signed by over 1,600 students, more than half the student population on campus during Safety Day. Mr Croffy stated "it has an even larger mandate than I have. I received the support of 1,200 students. The petition has the support of over 1,600".

The Students' Union petition was delivered to the University President Dr Walsh on Tuesday of last week. The petition called for five areas to be urgently addressed. In addition to evacuation drills these are lack of adequate lighting, lack of speed control, lack of proper path maintenance, and lack of traffic flow co-ordination.

The petition claims that in keeping the campus "aesthetically perfect ... basic safety measures have been circumvented".

has obtained.

### Safety Statement

However Mr Tocher did say he has been told that a 'Safety Statement', which is required by law, is being prepared but that he has not yet seen a copy of it.

According to the minutes *An Focal* obtained it was stated that the Safety Statement would be signed in February 1991. When *An Focal* contacted the Personnel Office last week we were told that copies of the statement were unavailable because a new member of staff is taking over responsibility for safety, and the office had no copy of the most recent version of the Safety Statement.

In the University's Annual Report, Mr Dermot Coughlan, said that much work has been done on the production of a safety statement which is "to issue shortly".

He also said that a committee has also been inaugurated and will be fully operational for the coming academic year. Mr Tocher told *An Focal* that no meeting of the committee had yet taken place.



# NEWS

## Move to Censor *An Focal*

An attempt was made at the last SU Council to restrict the information *An Focal* may publish about proceedings at the Council meetings. The move follows the publication of the names of contributors to the debate on the funding for the Cork Society at the preceding meeting of the Council. That meeting decided to allocate the Cork Society a grant from the SU of £1, a decision which has since been appealed.

The motion proposes to disallow *An Focal* from printing the names of those who contribute to debates or discussions at meetings of the Council. According to information *An Focal* received, the motion was not properly seconded, and no debate occurred.

One of those named in the article said that he had come under attack from the President of the Cork Society. *An Focal* has been told that at least one member of the Council was called a "wanker" arising from the report. Members of the Editorial Team will be writing

to the Council objecting to the decision. According to the person who proposed the motion the purpose was to prevent members of the Council from coming under attack or verbal abuse because of what they say at Council meetings.

The Council consists of the class representatives elected by the student body, and meets fortnightly during term. They direct the Executive of the SU on matters of policy between General Meetings of the Union.

See page 6 for Editorial Comment

## Annual Report Critical of Funding

The Chairman of the Governing Body of the University, Mr Jack Daly, has criticised the level of State funding the University. His statement in the Annual Report of the

## Posters Draw Angry Response

by Finola Bradley

A number of complaints have been lodged with the Students' Union with regard to posters used to advertise the recent Windsurfing Club disco.

The posters concerned contained drawings of naked female bodies and bore captions such as "if it swells ride it" and "bring your pussy".

One official Letter of Complaint was received from Mr. Cathal Kelly objecting to the use of the SU authorisation stamp. He called for a decision to be made on "the issue of postering and the balance between matters of taste on one hand and censorship on the other".

In response to this, Transition Officer Mr. Billy Kirwin said that the stamp had been taken from the SU office and used without proper authorisation. In an attempt to standardise posters he said that in future the stamp could only be given by the person in the shop.

Class Representative for 2nd Humanities Mary Ellen Greene told *An Focal* that she thought the posters "sexist and offensive". She felt they "emphasised the cattle mart ethos of discos" and saw no point to them.

In their defence, one member of the club said the posters "were not meant to offend" and "regretted they did". At the same time he found the situation "a bit petty".

The Vice Commodore for the Club stated that they "were just out for a laugh".

The Clubs and Societies Council discussed the matter at their meeting on Thursday of week 7. They decided to monitor the situation between now and their next meeting and asked clubs and societies to be reasonable in the use and contents of their posters. The situation will be reviewed in Hilary term 1992.

## TD Says Ed's Call for Reform is "Deluded"

A call by the President of the University, Dr Edward Walsh for single seat constituencies has been described as "deluded" by Limerick Fianna Fail, TD Willie O'Dea.

In a speech to the Limerick Chamber of Commerce Dr Walsh called for the replacement of multi-seat constituencies which he said

to devote to legislation as is popularly believed.

In a follow-up interview to his speech Dr Walsh said on RTE radio's Pat Kenny Show that single seat constituencies would allow politicians to "concentrate on the management of our affairs more effectively".

In a statement to *An Focal* Deputy O'Dea said that

## Chemical Separation

by Justin Crosbie

The Department of Materials and Industrial Chemistry has been divided into two new departments as a result of the intake of new courses arising from the merger with Thomond College.

Dr Martin Buggy told *An Focal* that the new departments will be called "Chemistry and Life Sciences" and "Material Science and Technology". The Chemistry and Life Sciences Department will include Rural Science, Equestrian Studies, and Industrial Chemistry. The Department will be headed by Prof. Julian Ross.

The Dept of Material Science and Technology will



article said that he had come under attack from the President of the Cork Society. **An Focal** has been told that at least one member of the Council was called a "wanker" arising from the report. Members of the Editorial Team will be writing

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See page 6 for Editorial Comment

## Annual Report Critical of Funding

The Chairman of the Governing Body of the University, Mr Jack Daly, has criticised the level of State funding the University receives. In his statement in the Annual Report of the University Mr Daly said "I must draw attention to the disparity between the grant-in-aid given to our students and that of other universities".

In the carefully worded attack he says that he cannot accept that the present system is or was ever equitable, and he says he looks forward to a fairer distribution of state resources.

The University President, Dr Walsh, echoes the criticism in his section of the report where he says "the University continues to be concerned that the State Grant in aid per student provided by the Higher Education Authority is low in comparison with other universities"

The financial statement in the Annual Report, which was issued to staff in week 7, shows that in the year ending 31 December 1989 the University received a grant of £5.7M for current expenditure from the Higher Education Authority while over £3.9M was raised in Fee Income. The accounts show a deficit for the year of £128,000 for the year on a total current expenditure of just over £10M.

Please sir can I have some more!



BENZO

Elsewhere in the report Dr Edward Walsh, recognises the role of the Students' Union in the campus. He says "a total of 73 clubs and societies are now operated under the auspices of the University of Limerick Students' Union and many have represented the University nationally and internationally with distinction"

standardise posters he said that in future the stamp could only be given by the person in the shop.

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In a speech to the Limerick Chamber of Commerce Dr Walsh called for the replacement of multi-seat constituencies which he said diverts the energies of politicians towards clientism and petty local issues.

Deputy O'Dea told **An Focal** that he wondered if those who propose single seat constituencies are fully aware of what they are calling for. He claimed that the problems of clientism would not be eliminated and that a change to single seat constituencies would not lead to TDs having more time

to devote to legislation as is popularly believed.

In a follow-up interview to his speech Dr Walsh said on RTE radio's Pat Kenny Show that single seat constituencies would allow politicians to "concentrate on the management of our affairs more effectively".

In a statement to **An Focal** Deputy O'Dea said that "people who think the introduction of single-seat constituencies will suddenly magically change the a system which has existed since the foundation of the State are sadly deluded". He said that the effect would be to replace competition between TD's with competition between TD's and local councillors, who would not have to travel to Dublin for Dail sessions.

Responding to Dr Walsh's comments SU Transition Officer said "He has overlooked more important things that the students' Union does.

He's omitted the welfare services we provide, the entertainment services we provide for the campus, and a whole range of other aspects of the Unions work". The Report also lists over 200 research projects conducted in the University during the year 1990-1991. A full list of over 250 publications, papers and seminars by University researchers is also included in the report.

## Kings Inns Recognise UL Law Degrees by Paul Williams

It has been confirmed that European Studies (Law Option) and the degree in Law and Accounting have been accepted by Kings Inns as fulfilling the requirements for entry onto the course leading to a qualification as a barrister.

Professor Henry Ellis, Head Dept. European Integration and Administration, told **An Focal** that both courses now have the necessary content to satisfy the Kings Inns require-

into two new departments as a result of the intake of new courses arising from the merger with Thomond College.

Dr Martin Buggy told **An Focal** that the new departments will be called "Chemistry and Life Sciences" and "Material Science and Technology". The Chemistry and Life Sciences Department will include Rural Science, Equestrian Studies, and Industrial Chemistry. The Department will be headed by Prof. Julian Ross.

The Dept of Material Science and Technology will cover the courses dealing with Materials, Wood and Building Technology. The Head of Department is Dr Martin Buggy.

The changes are principally administrative in nature, and from a student point of view much will remain the same as before the division.

There was no (er) reaction from the SU on the news of the split!

ments. Professor Ellis, clearly delighted with the new developments said that it was natural that the Law option in European Studies should evolve to gain such status, as it was in keeping with the aims of the University in linking courses with commerce, business and industry.

Antoin Mac Manusa, Auditor of the Law Society, said it would enable those on the courses to fulfill all ambitions in the legal field.



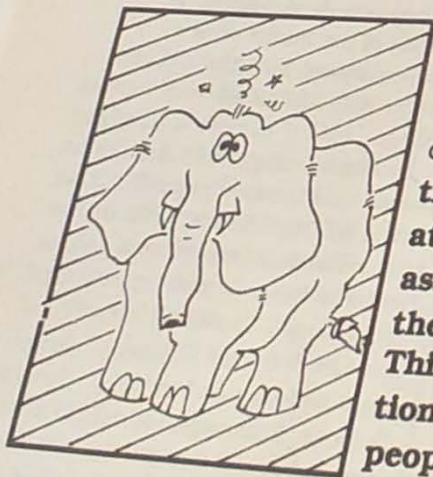
# Editorial

*This safety awareness lark leaves me cold. How can we be so self absorbed as to nag the authorities to squander precious funds on lighting and speed ramps when there are important machines to be bought, posh computers that count down to 1992 in seconds (imagine wanting to buy THAT), new fountains that spray grotty students clean, new seats especially reconditioned to accomodate the visits of an executive posterior.*

*Our objections are also quite philistine in character. Why buy lights that actually illuminate the front roadway when you can create a midnight haze to soothe the motorist before he/she happens on the resplendent vision of our University. Yes, under current conditions the approach route to U.L. is a delightful drive. Ah me, the feeble blips in the trees (i.e. the lights), the gentle "oops" on a speed ramp, the occasional body across the windscreen etc.*

*These weak bulbs that dot our pathways have a PR function. Why shine lights on the objectionable practices that take place in the unlit corners of our beautiful campus garden. Our future employers need not have their flying visits marred by such sights!*

*an Focal is now prohibited from reporting the names of class reps who table motions at class reps council, lest names become associated with unpopular decisions and their proposers become unpopular also. This novel "I-Soc" approach to representation seems a tad undemocratic. Surely people elected to Class Rep council should*



an Focal

## Credits

Editors: Kevin Brew  
Billy Kirwan

Design: Kevin Messere.

News: Cathal Kelly

Arts: John Maguire

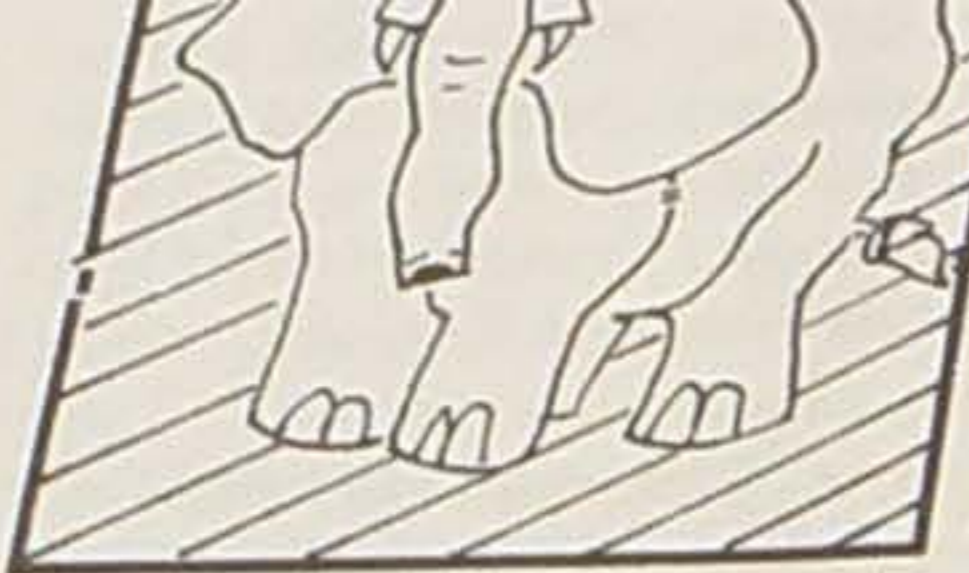
Layout/Graphics: John and  
Maud

Thanks for Contributions From  
Everyone who Helped Out  
Printed by the Meath Chronicle

**be answerable for what they decide or propose at council. If one of these individuals decides to run for an Exec position - or even a sabbatical post - you, the electorate, will not be in a position to know how they have stood during the year. If you can't pin a name on a motion, you cannot sit its proposer down for a chat and convince them of the error of their ways. Just as all of you cannot defend your favourite newspaper's freedom to report, to the unfancied individual on class rep council who fancied himself/herself as a censor!**

**Keep your wits aboutchya, tout le monde**





at class rep  
 associated with unpopular  
 their proposers become unpopular  
 This novel "T-Soc" approach to representa  
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Keep you

## Right of Reply

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

## A Tribute

"Death, where is your victory, death where is your sting". The Church traditionally asks us to think about our departed loved ones during the month of November. Death does not discriminate; it can strike at any age. I am sure like myself you were shocked and saddened at the recent tragic death of 1st year student David O'Brien.

As I journeyed down to David's funeral accompanied by S.U. President Colm Croffy, he said, "What does a priest say at a time like this?"

I have thought about that question a lot since. I still come up with the same answer. First, I believe when death strikes in a family the tradition of relatives and friends arriving to support and sympathise with the bereaved is very important. When my own father died suddenly last year the fact that people were their present for us meant so much to me and my family. For the Christian life is changed, not ended in death. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God. That by his death and resurrection he has freed us from sin and death. Hence we should take him at his word when he says "he who believes in Me will never die".

I know that when death came to my own family that faith and hope in God's promise was our only consolation.

Finally, it is a good thing to pray for our departed loved ones. Many times we have regrets



about things left unsaid or expressed to departed loved ones. So maybe during the month of November we can put that right. Again for the Christian, the celebration of the Eucharist is the gathering of the living and the dead in praising God. We believe mass is a special time to be in communion with our loved ones. During the month of November, mass will be celebrated every day in the Meditation Room, top of Kate O'Brien tower at 1.05 p.m.

On Monday and Thursday from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacra-

## "TEENAGE WEEKEND" By David O'Brien

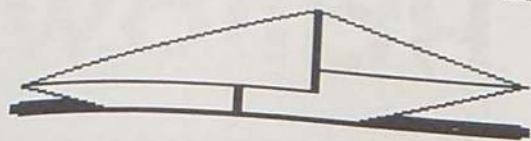
Corner seats and friends of friends,  
 Hurried drinks and cigarette ends,  
 One slow dance and talk of school,  
 Holding hands because it's cool,  
 Sitting down with a couple of jokes,  
 Getting comfortable and finishing cokes,  
 Buttonless tops and low skirts,  
 Every girl says she hates flirts,  
 Lips, eyes, ears and neck,  
 you're not going to hit the deck,  
 Wishes for nights not to be over,  
 Are really a wish to run for cover,  
 Sweaty hands and sticking pants,  
 The disco's over and your last chance,  
 See you next week and phone you tomorrow  
 Buy your chips and swallow your sorrow.

ment in the meditation room to facilitate private prayer especially for our departed loved ones.

You would all be most welcome to attend. Also special prayers for David in the Meditation Room on Thursday November 24th at 1.05 p.m.



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



# The world according to you

## SEMESTERISATION

Dear Editor,

I am writing in reply to a letter by a "Mr/Ms Name & Address with Editor", (personally it's not the kind of letter I'd particularly wish to have my name associated with either), featured in the Michaelmas 3, Nov. 4th edition of An Focal.

Mr/Ms Name & Address with Editor proposes that:

- (i) Semesterisation is an issue we have already voted and spoken upon 2 years ago.
- (ii) It's a non-starter anyway.
- (iii) It has been supported by lecturers and Student Services to reduce **their** workload.
- (iv) In the absence of, and I quote, "a royal decree" from Dr. Edward Walsh, it's, "naive to suggest to students that we have the power to change this system".

I would like to opine, at this point, that if every student were as brain-washed by the system as this individual apparently is, we wouldn't have the power to change nappies, not to mention providing initiatives on various otherwise domestic concerns such as, "speed ramps, telephones and paths", which he/she suggests our Union representatives should be doing.

Don't get me wrong, it's not as if I don't respect Dr. Edward Walsh and what he has achieved for this University; particularly all credit for this institution's having obtained University status. But what I also respect Dr. Walsh for is

(iii) A repeat procedure whereby students could resit failed exams at the end of the year they might have failed, rather than having to repeat the full year without ever having that one last extra chance to avoid extra fees, extra hassle and extra stress.

(iv) A studied revision of course content and course structure in order, in the first place, to facilitate the 3 aforementioned features; and in the second place, to provide a more solid initial foundation of learning on which all further course-related acquisition of knowledge would be based; thus circumventing the greatest flaw of the present tri-modular system which leads itself very nicely to cramming, all shades of exam technique, but alas too little of the kind of learning that is retained in such a way that it stands the test of time.

Semesterisation is not simply a development that should benefit any single interested party alone; it should if implemented responsibly and consideredly, benefit us all: academic staff, administrative staff, and without a shadow of a doubt, students aswell. Moreover, it should if done right, reduce everyone's workload, but at the same time raise the level of learning and education, both curricular and ex-curricular. It would give a major boost to organisers and general members of Clubs and Societies in this college, because under the present system, no matter what we do, we're at a disadvantage when it comes to competing at Intervarsity level with

# Letters

## Stab City?

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to condemn the perpetuation, by An Focal and Andrea Heckleberk, of the notion that Limerick is a violent city.

In the last edition Andrea Heckleberk introduced her article on unemployment in Limerick by stating "STAB CITY IS FIGHTING BACK". Any praise that she had for the attempts of Limerick people to solve the unemployment crises for



Edward... to change this system".

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Don't get me wrong, it's not as if I don't respect Dr. Edward Walsh and what he has achieved for this University; particularly all credit for this institution's having obtained University status is due to him. But what I also respect Dr. Walsh for, is his ability to see the need for change and not only that but then to do something about it, while other members of his generation have chosen to sit back, live off the system and vegetate.

Never was there greater need for change of the present academic assessment system than there is now. The harmonisation of previously independent and autonomous institutions such as Thomond College of Education and Mary Immaculate College of Education with our own would be facilitated greatly, I believe, by the phased introduction of a new Academic Assessment system, incorporating such features as:

- (i) A shorter academic year
- (ii) 2 sets of exams instead of 3

**We are still looking for a Sports and Societies editor. We also seek two news journalists for our news team. Please come along to our weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 1.00pm in the Deputy President's Office. All individuals, classes, Clubs & Societies, who are interested in writing for An Focal should submit their copy to the Student Union Office. Please send all letters and articles to Editor, An Focal, c/o Students Union, by Monday Week 9**

...the greatest law of the present... system which leads itself very nicely to cramming, all shades of exam technique, but alas too little of the kind of learning that is retained in such a way that it stands the test of time.

Semesterisation is not simply a development that should benefit any single interested party alone; it should if implemented responsibly and considered, benefit us all: academic staff, administrative staff, and without a shadow of a doubt, students as well. Moreover, it should if done right, reduce everyone's workload, but at the same time raise the level of learning and education, both curricular and ex-curricular. It would give a major boost to organisers and general members of Clubs and Societies in this college, because under the present system, no matter what we do, we're at a disadvantage when it comes to competing at Interschool level with colleges under much more flexible academic systems.

And finally, it's not just academic and administrative staff who are in favour of this change, (which I must stress would very probably take a year or two to fully implement), it's the vast majority of students in this college when they're informed of the full facts, and not when they are misinformed by shamefully shallow and narrow-minded letters such as this anonymous and vacuous pencilled contribution that I have felt obliged to respond to.

Yours sincerely,  
**James Hurley**  
**4th Year Electronic Engineering.**



tion, by An Focal and Andrea Heckleberk, of the notion that Limerick is a violent city.

In the last edition Andrea Heckleberk introduced her article on unemployment in Limerick by stating "STAB CITY IS FIGHTING BACK". Any praise that she had for the attempts of Limerick people to solve the unemployment crises for themselves rings false when preceded by a caption such as this. Captions like this must be condemned in the strongest terms possible as it bears no relationship whatsoever with the contents of her article. One can only assume that Andrea Heckleberk has not been in Limerick for any great length of time.

Limerick is as safe as any other city in Ireland and judging by the Union's Safety Awareness Campaign as safe as the college environs.

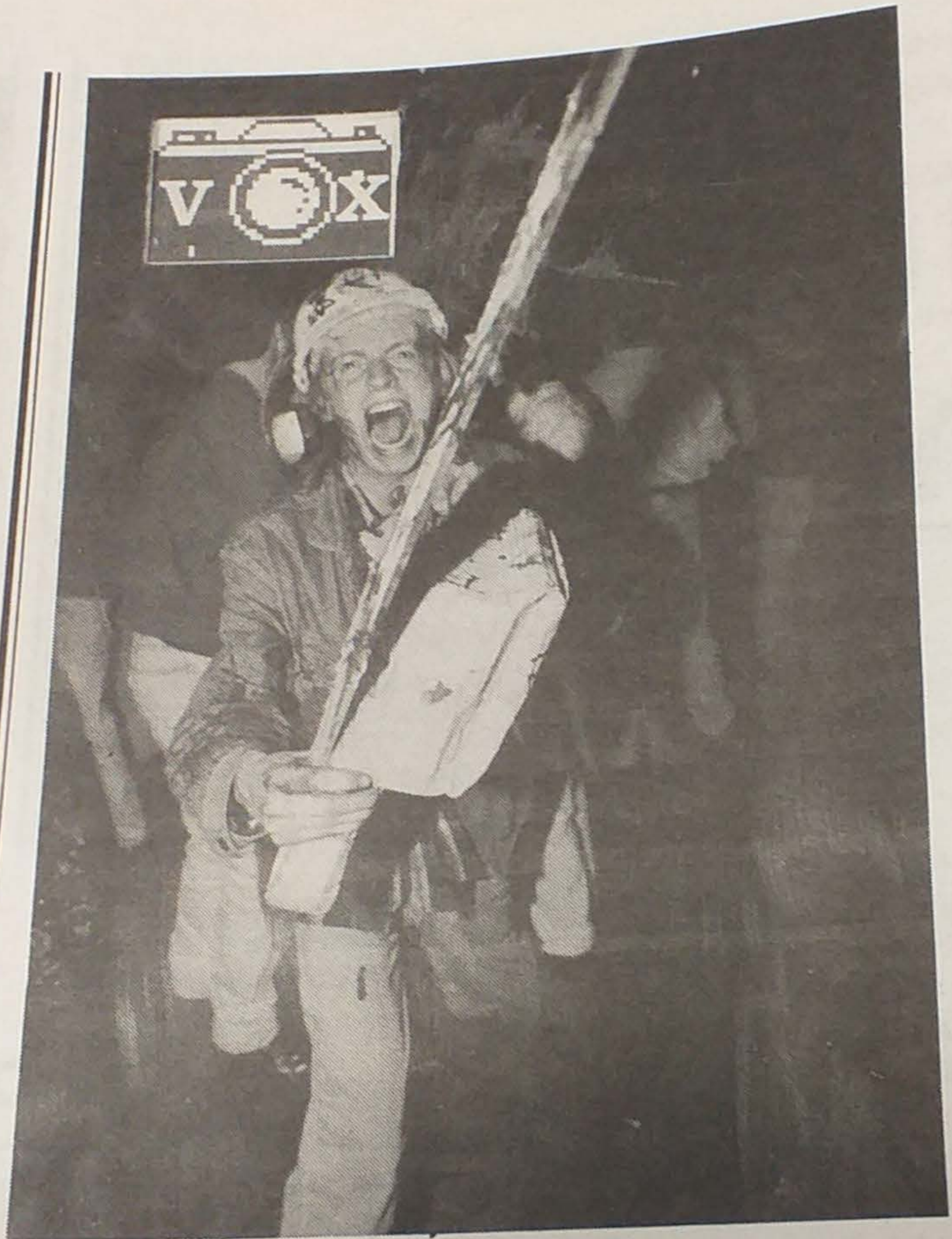
I urge the editorial staff to exercise some judgement and prevent contributors foisting their own ill conceived ideas about Limerick on others.

Yours Faithfully,

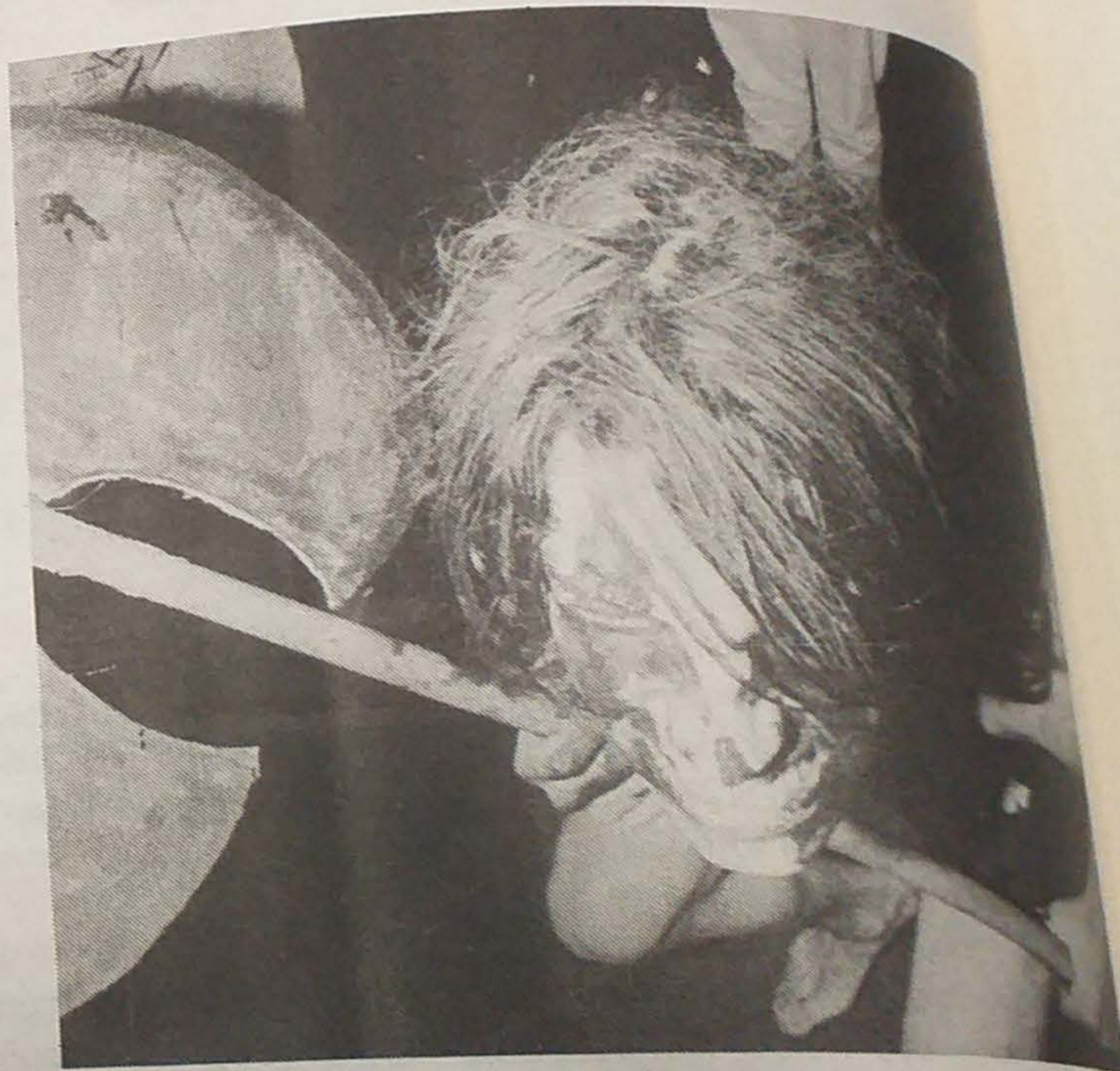
**Diarmaid O'Hanlon,**  
3rd Business.



# Features



# Halloween





## Les Aventures des Etudiants Erasmus

### La Vache Qui Rit

Il etait une fois une journee en solee...ca ne nous interesse pas. Ce qui nous interesse, c'est la vie nocturne! La vie qui met en scene un melange sociale de rugby et de musique. Je parle bien evidemment de la derniere partie des etudiants de troisieme annee Business.

C'etait un spectacle violent auquel je n'ai pu resister. Je me suis sauvagement jete sur les autres. J'ai vu un de nos camarades de la classe qui dans son attitude ressemblait un sperme qui fertilisait de tous les cotes. Il a passe la nuit a s'attaquer a de pauvres victimes sans defense et a les lancer contre les murs sans en mesurer les consequences. Il se fait beaucoup remarquer - vous savez c'etait le Pmec avec la cravate! Je vous jure il est tres sympa.

Apres avoir bu un peu (la phrase irlandaise qui veut dire "boire beaucoup") les difficultes pour danser au milieu de cette partie de rugby se sont faites moindres. J'ai decouvert dans mon nouvel etat mental la joie de lancer mes camarades contre les murs, par la fenetre, dans la cuvette des toilettes. En somme, j'ai decouvert une nouvelle facon typiquement irlandaise d'exprimer ma gentillesse.

La force destructrice presente dans la salle correspondait exactement a l'amour qui y regnait ce soir la. C'etait une mauvaise disco et par consequent logiquement une bonne partie!

# STABLES CLUB



## SPONSORSHIP

Congratulations to James Cooney, Willy Halley, Dermot Tuohy, Dave Slattery and John-Paul Moriarty, winners of the Stables sponsored Postgrad Table Quiz. Each of the lads picked up a bottle of vodka for their efforts while the winners of each round won a round of drinks for their table.

Congratulations also to the Volleyball Club on the success of their Stables sponsored Volleyball tournament where the men's team took the plate and the womens' team made it to the semi-finals.

Anybody else seeking sponsorship for events to be held in the academic year 1991/92 should collect an application form from either Colm Croffy (S.U.) or Michele O'Dwyer (Stables 1-2 Wednesday and Friday).

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SPONSORSHIP **THIS YEAR PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION FORM THIS TERM**, otherwise monies may be fully allocated leaving the late bird wormless.

## STABLES CLUB PROPERTY

Property of the Stables Club is for your use, not abuse. Anybody found maliciously damaging Club property will be brought before the Disciplinary Committee, something we'd like to avoid. So, if you feel like bashing something, find a demolition site please.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

NEW YEAR'S EVE will be celebrated (as usual!) with great style (?) and crack in the Stables. Advance tickets can be bought in the Stables Club from the end of term right up to 6:00p.m. on the big night.

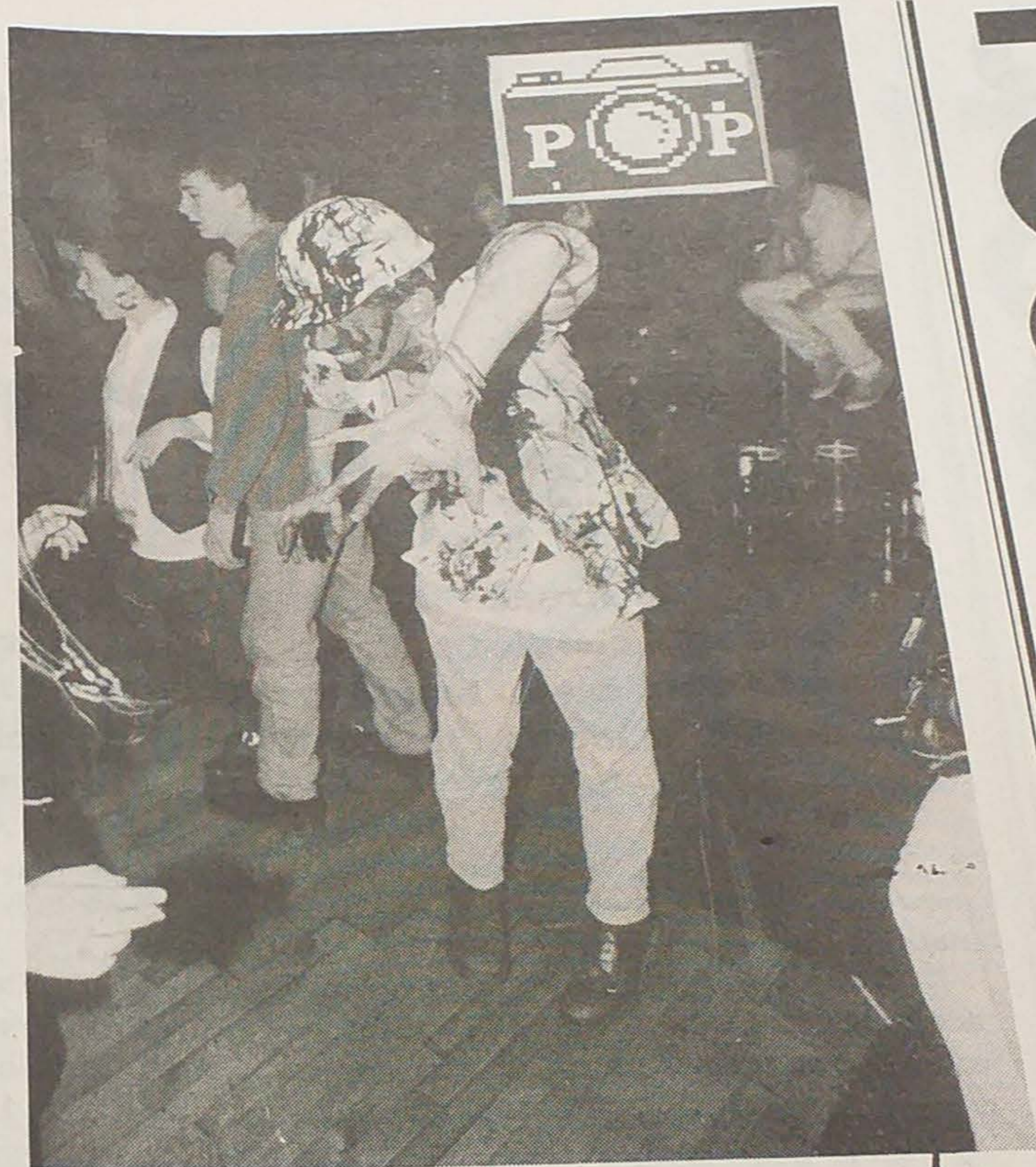
Tickets are £6 in advance for U.L. students, £8 on the door for U.L. students, £10 on the door for non-U.L. students.

The ticket price includes a hot supper and live band. All profits made on the door on New Year's Eve will be held in a special fund until the Stables Club Management Committee decides how they can be best used. Last year a profit of £1,500 was put into the Stables sponsorship fund, hopefully this year an even bigger profit can be equally useful.

Finally, if you have any hints/suggestions for improving Stables Club food, or a favorite recipe you'd like us to try, then contact Donal, Declan or Michele!



# en Ball



# Features

## A Day in the

## The Claytons

It has been ten years since we last met the





## A Day in the Life

In this our third article of "a day in the life" I visited Tim Crowe the Services Supervisor to find out exactly what those "Green Men" who are constantly roaming the college actually do!

From light in the morning till five in the evening these galant men spend their time involved in a range of tasks, from looking out for lost property, to opening locked doors, to ensuring classrooms and theatres are prepared for lectures and tutorials.

They seem to carry out all those unseen but yet vital functions, without which the organised chaos of the college could not exist. Sticking those blatant no parking signs on abandoned cars, thus ensuring cars parked correctly can leave; escorting guests around the maze of corridors and ensuring their safe and punctual arrival to their destination.

Upon hearing all these tasks I was surprised to hear that there are only five porters in the college and one in the Schuman and even further suprised at the lack of provison of outside security by day to vet incoming traffic.

It seems there is definate need for a security box at one of if not both of the gates to ensure the security of all our property (especially the large volume of bikes parked on Campus) which presents a vulnerable target, especially those locked behind the Courtyard.

The porters fulfil numerous roles within the College, more than I ever thought existed. These few unseen people maintain all those tasks which when placed together result in the efficient running of the College.

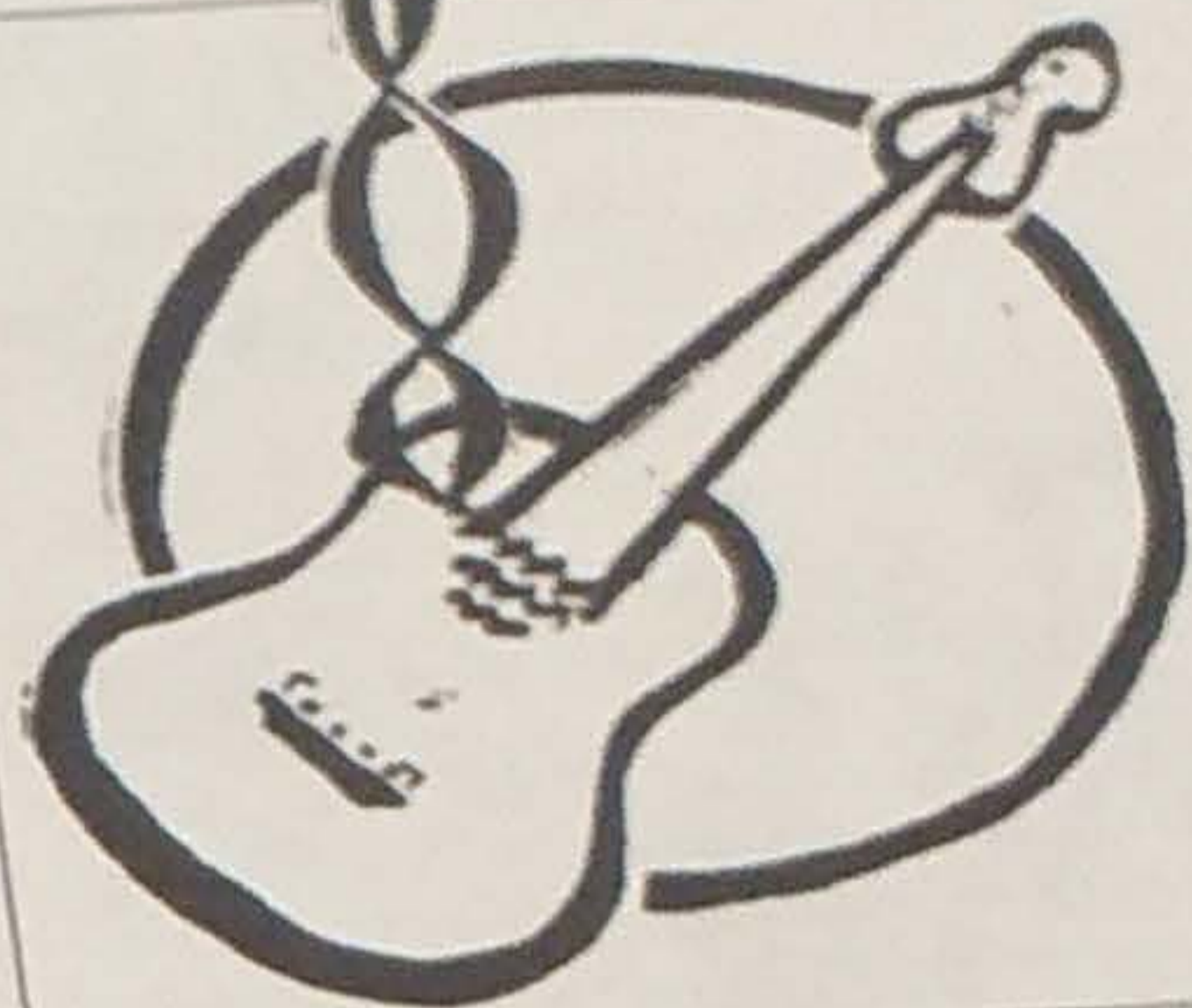
Andrea Heckleberk.

## The Claytons

It has been ten years since we last met the Claytons. In that time little has changed for the family except that Constance is still in the chipper and Clay has won awards for growing giant marrows, also the lotto has not been won since the last time someone got six numbers and is now the size of a middle-eastern nation's national debt.

Things are about to change. Diarmaid set up LPA (Lotto Players Annonymous) for people addicted to playing lotto. This was because of her horrible addiction that wrecked her marriage to Chuck Falmont, but luckily they helped each other and are now living blissfully, helping the other misfortunates of Ireland. On this eventful wee night, Diarmaid won the lotto and solved all the family problems.

"The House" was reclaimed, but still there was no sign of Buck who had been living under the stairs, the gardener said he had to be moved into a shed, but still he could not be found. Gerard the Butler was delighted to have the house back, so happy in fact, he fell down with an awful pain in his big toe. He knew he was about to fall off the twig, so he called the family around him and made a startling confession. "Buck was dead". It happened when they were babies. He had taken the boys out for a walk by the pond when Buck fell in and dissappeared. Gerard didn't wish to upset Constance so he told Adam not to say anything to his Mammy and together they could pull off this most daring stunt. Pull it off they did. The whole family was shocked at the revelations, everyone except Kate, that is. She drew in her breath and made her announcement. She had been walking by the pond one day - the very day Gerard had been walking by the pond, and she saw 2 feet sticking out of the water. Grabbing the 2 feet and hauling them out of the water, she was amazed to find a body attached to the legs. Shaking the goldfish out of the child, she took him home and gave him chicken soup. Having no child of her own,



she kept the child and stole away on a world tour so she could bring the child back as her own. "Goeff was Buck".

Geoff gave a knowing smile and launched into his story. "Remember the day the school bus crashed and I was lost out in the woods for a week. Well, what happened was, I stayed with a wood cutter and his son and was having such a good time they swapped places. So the wood cutter's son came back pretending to be Goeff, and Kate didn't notice it wasn't the child she found in the pond".

Gerard, now that he had cleared his conscience, made a full recovery.

A knock, knock, knock and a thud, thud, thud was heard on the door. Constance rushed to open it, tripping over Gerard who was still on the hall floor. A huge hulk of a man in a lumberjack shirt stood at the door yielding an awesome axe. Constance screamed and the rest of the family fainted, crushing Gerard as they fell on him.

Next issue: Who is the axeman?  
Is the story about Buck true?  
Does anyone care anymore?



# Features

**Introduction by Eamonn O' Ciardha  
(P.R.O. Outdoor Pursuits Club)**

On Thursday night, week 5, Mairead Carey, freelance journalist and Carol Lee, photographer, presented a lecture in the Sir Charles Parsons theatre. The topic, "The People and Culture of Ethiopia", not surprising then that the discussion

## The Silent Famine

When famine struck Ethiopia in 1974, they said it would never happen again. In 1984, when famine claimed over a million lives in the East African country, they said it should never happen again. In 1991, eight million lives are once more threatened by starvation, but the world look on as if nothing is happening. Mairead Carey and Carol Lee, who visited Ethiopia on behalf of Trocaire, report from the region of Eastern Hararge.

The world seems to be blind and disinterested to the disaster that is now facing the Continent of Africa. Thirty million people in half a dozen nations are facing starvation.

"Africa is starving while the world community is looking the other way," according to the Director of Trocaire, Brian Mc Keown. "There is only a certain amount that an agency like Trocaire can do to respond to such a crisis. The scale of the famine in Africa demands a concerted response

centred firmly around a political environment which prevailed for over 30 years, a civil war which lasted about 2 decades, and of course the recurring famine.

All of us I am sure remember with horror, the film footage that sent us reaching into our pockets, when Sir Bob and Band Aid sang their way to collecting millions of our pounds in 1984. How we sighed with relieved conscience; "Thank

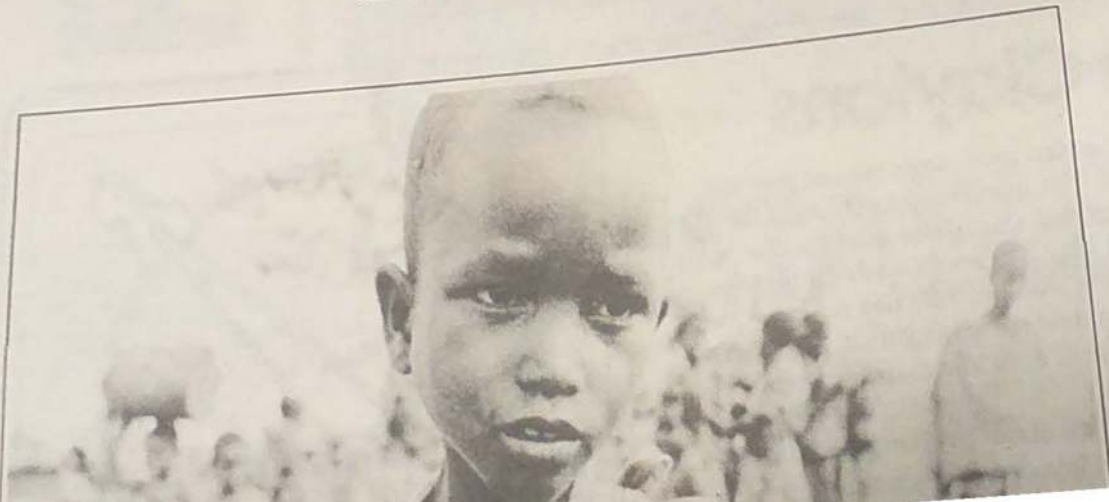
from the governments of the world community. Unfortunately governments do not seem interested in this silent famine."

### Waiting

That "silent famine" is apparent in places like Arba village in Eastern Ethiopia. Those who were able to move gathered by the roadside. They heard that there were foreigners in the area and that there was a chance of getting food. Most, however, are not fit to walk the short distance.

Crops have failed for the fourth consecutive year in the province of Eastern Hararge. What cattle they had have been sold to buy food, or have been sold during the drought. Cobwebs fill the hollowed out tree trunks where they used to pound grain. For months they have survived on weeds.

Arba village once boasted a population of over a thousand people. Those who were able, left the village when famine threatened. Women and children, the elderly and the sick are now left



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## Malaria

Zeyneba Ali's twenty year old daughter was among them. It was the fifth child she had lost in the last year through hunger.

Her young son, wrapped in a blanket, lies on the ground beside her. He has malaria, she explains, pointing to the festering sores on his stomach, where a local medicine man has tried to cure the illness by burning it out. "I don't think he will live for much longer. He can't walk any more," she says quietly.

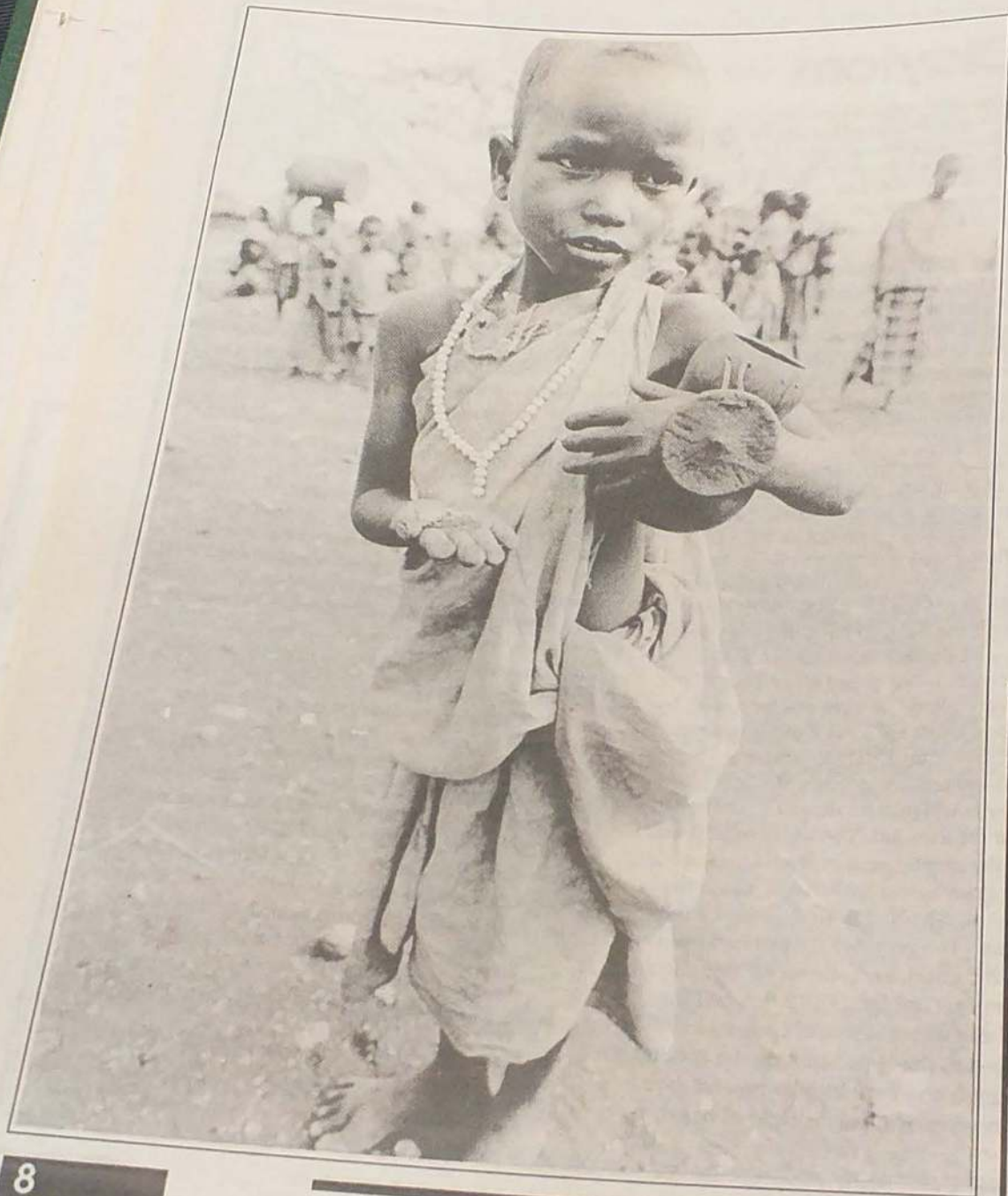
Her youngest child, a ten year old boy, is lying in their home. He is too ill to be moved. "Two more of my children will die soon," she cries. "Two more have just one son left."

There is a trance expression on her face. She doesn't complain. It seems too late for that. Grief and starvation are slowly killing her too. "I'm waiting for my God," seems all she can say.

The family have seven hectares of land on which they grew sorghum and maize but for the last three years they have not had a harvest.

Her husband, who is stretched out on the ground near the roadside, tells of selling their cattle to buy food and later searching for hours to find wood in a nearby town. But like most of the other villagers he no longer has the strength to work. "I'm waiting for my day," he says, resigned to the fact that he too is going to die.

People are dying due to lack of food





God that it is all over", just months later when the pictures of starved, skeletal children no longer invaded our living rooms.

In June of this year, Trocaire commissioned Malread and Carol to travel to Ethiopia to travel a vast country which no-one knows the population of, and where no-one will hazard a guess at the numbers of people who have died of starvation this year alone. What is even more worrying is that no-

one gives a shit - or so it appears! The famine which has been sweeping through Ethiopia since Spring has gone unnoticed by the media, the politicians and the people of the west.

Malread and Carol were invited to speak here by the U.L. Outdoor Pursuits Club and Amnesty International. The articles and photographs are published here by kind permission of Malread Carey, Carol Lee and Trocaire.

# in ARBA Village



Ethiopian Border queue for food

# Features

roud people

There are rumours that the rations may have to be cut - a 50 kg bag of grain and two litres of cooking oil per family per month - so that more people can get out

or six people die in a day they are buried together in the same plot.

For the last ten years the country has been trying to



## Proud people

A Muslim community, the people of Arba were once very private and proud. Now from the roadside they shout at the peasant association leader to show the foreigners their hut or their child. They don't have the energy to show us the tragedy that sadly thrives in their village just a few metres away.

Outside the entrance to each hut a different colour soil pinpoints the ground pit where food used to be stored. They have been empty for the last three years, according to the local sheik.

Inside each home empty gourds hang from the walls, a grim reminder of the days when farmers had cattle and when milk was plentiful. Stones used for grinding flour have been cast aside.

The people of Arba have not had any grain to use on them for over six months.

A soiled blanket enshrouds a body in one of the huts. There is no light to make out the features of the thirteen year old boy underneath but an old man wants someone to take a picture of his emaciated son Mume "so that it might bring food."

The boy is lifted out into the evening sun and held up delicately by his father. His mother died earlier in August. Nobody speaks. There is nothing to say. Even if food does come it will be too late for Mume but there aren't any plans to distribute food in the village, there isn't any food to give them.

## Food rations

The local Catholic Secretariat, supported by Trocaire, are giving rations to 47,000 people in the area but there resources are already stretched and thousands more are in equally desperate need of relief aid.

There are rumours that the rations may have to be cut - a 50 kg bag of grain and two litres of cooking oil per family per month - so that more people can get aid.

On a hillside just outside the village heaps of rubble mark the burial places of those that have already died. At one time their names were carved in stone at the head of each grave, but there is nobody there to do the work anymore.

Their dead were traditionally buried in white cloth as a mark of respect, but there's no money for shrouds. Now they are buried in whatever clothes they have left.

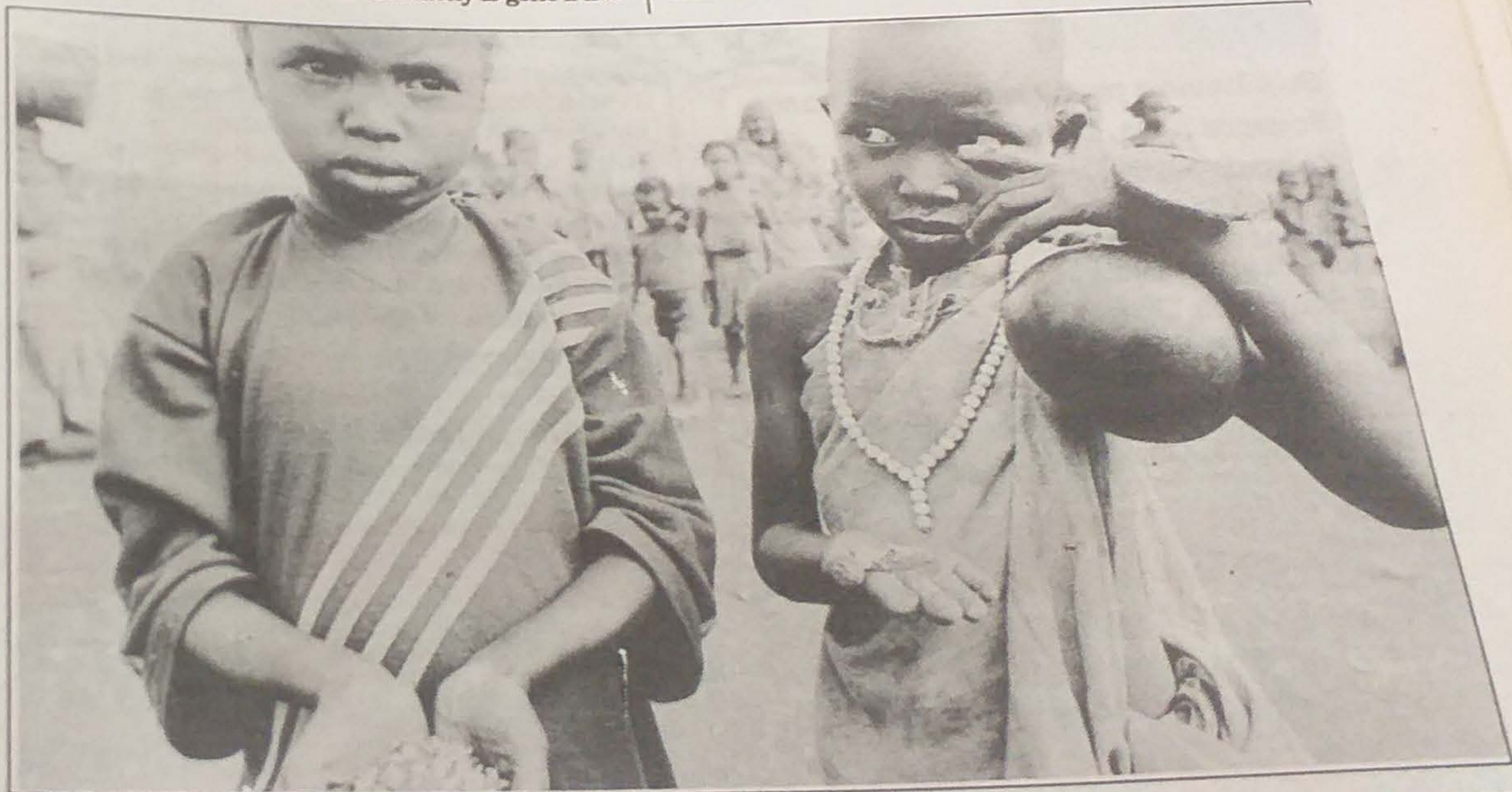
There was a time when they were buried in individual graves but there aren't enough people alive with the strength to dig them. Now all ceremony is gone if five

or six people die in a day they are buried together in the same plot.

For the last ten years the country has been trying to build up a food bank capable of storing 200,000 tonnes. It has never received adequate support and now that death is imminent for thousands of people, there is only 12,000 tonnes of food in the reserve.

Long term development aid - best antidote to famine, has never been high on the priority list of the world community. Of the aid that is given annually to the country less than ten percent is spent on agriculture on which 90% of the country depend.

In villages like Arba in a remote area of eastern Ethiopia the effects of years of apathy and indifference from the West, coupled with years of bad government and war at home, cannot be hidden.





# EVENTS

## the fat lady sings - THE INTERVIEW

: with Uncle Jack Crochet.

**1:Q: Jack: Looking forward to a Limerick audience tonight?**

A: Nick: Oh yeah. We've played here before at the Glentworth on Christmas Eve a while back. The reaction was great then. Even now on this tour it's been quite interesting considering we haven't toured here in 18 months since the album. It's been a real warm welcome.

**2:Q: It's been a long tour schedule for this album and even before it. Has this steady build up finally paid off for you?**

A: Yeah. It's always been important for the band to keep building up all the time. This, for me, is the root of a bands success. The essential thing is achieving a little of the understated, something that disputes the black and white. It's an artistic thing but the only true way of building up a hit album and it's slow.

**3:Q: Have the advantages always more than covered the drawbacks for you as a band member?**

A: We're used to it now. It's good fun! of course the hours are tiring, anti-social in a sense that relationships require constant watering for survival. But the reward is just being in a good Rock band, being taken serious for your artistic position and taking a shot at expressing yourself that's the privilege we have and yeah, it does counteract any negatives strongly.

**4:Q: The album "Twist" had a strong number of singles as line up. Do you see the fat lady sings as a band of that genre or a more album band?**

A: It was song oriented with the sole view of making it all hang together as an album. Our job as I can see, is to make a song stand up and run around a room to kiss you on the cheek! That's what any album should do an hopefully we've managed to get somewhere near that with "Twist". For me the act of writing songs is a sort of exorcism - just picking at scabs, getting things out of me.



**5:Q: As principal songwriter how do you interact with with the rest of the band as the songs come together?**

A: I write all the songs, then the band takes hold of them and we literally kick the hell out of them. We use twelve different instruments to various degrees depending on what fits the part. This way, in the end you get a better result for the song, it's versatile and that's why "Arclight" is totally different to "Deborah". But I guess we do complement each other reasonably well. We all have to share the back of the bus together. Yeah, it's good. There's a good mixture of talents and personalities.

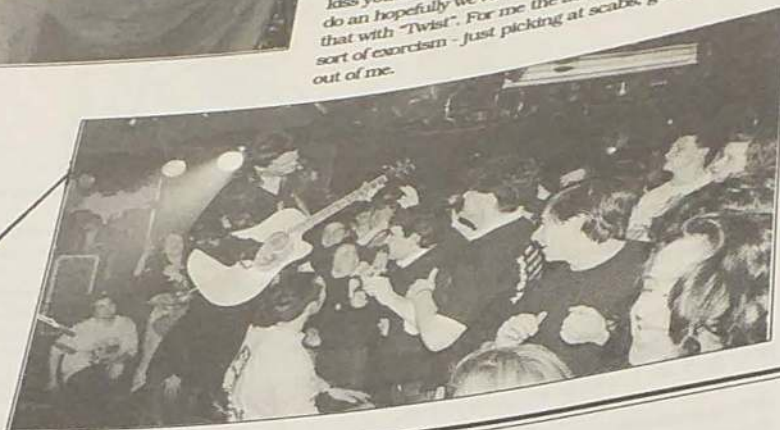
**6:Q: How do you see the band in the context of being an Irish four-piece in the 90's. How do you see the "Dublin" scene and has London helped your**

A: I see no interest in being the "best" Irish band. I have no problem with An Emotional Fish, U2 or The Four of Us doing well, fair play to them! However, there does seem to be a very strange media/business circle in Dublin and it makes you understand the whole stress on band contracts. Bands - especially in Ireland - seem to forget that whatever they do, they're there to make records, the contract should only be the beginning. T.F.L.S. are not of that atmospheric Irish rock style. London has been great in the sense that we could be small fish in a big pond y'know. We also had three independent deals, not a major label and then extinct after the first album! Also Irish bands tend to accept the positive declarations of themselves much more than the negative ones, which is a pity.

**7:Q: How has America been?**

A: It's going well so far. "Man Scared" reached 17 in the alternative radio charts. We played at C.B.G.P. New York and that was fun. Since then...





covered the drawbacks.  
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 4: The album "Twist" had a strong number of singles as line up. Do you see the role of making band of that genre or a more album band?  
 A: It was song oriented with the sole view of making it all hang together as an album. Our job as I can see, is to make a song stand up and run around a room to kiss you on the cheek! That's what any album should do an hopefully we've managed to get somewhere near that with "Twist". For me the act of writing songs is a sort of exorcism - just picking at scabs, getting things out of me.

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7: How has America been?  
 A: It's going well so far. "Man Scared" reached 17 in the alternative radio charts. We played at C.B.G.B.'s in New York and that was fun. Since then we've toured Canada for three and a half weeks which was an experience (grins).  
 8: And in Britain?  
 A: We've never been playlisted on Radio 1 except for "Deborah". In a sense, we're swimming against the tide. Radio seems so exact for a certain youth culture and the stations are scared of anything which isn't 'hip'. We don't fit in with dance music as it is. We'd like a hit but still we feel no pressure to do so. If it happens, it happens. It's far more important to release great records. We've got a large following built up in the U.K. over the years and 6,000 fans in our club. Hopefully, we look after them well. But that's where we're at.

## Update

**Still having problems with all these licences? So, here's the plan:**

### Thursday 5th December.

Massive 3 End-of-Term discos at the Parkway, featuring chart music, oldie music, and indie music. Advance tickets are £3, (£3.50 at the door).

### Friday, 6th December.

We feature a Caribbean Tango Artist - Manu - (i.e., a one-man K.L.F. with South American percussion) alongside 2 discos in the Parkway. Tickets are £3 in advance and £4 at the door.

### Saturday, 7th December.

We feature one of the hits at the Halloween Ball, "The Beatles" along with 2 discos in the Parkway. Tickets are £3 and £4 on the door if available. Tickets will be sold in advance on Monday, 2nd December in the canteen between exam times. As this is normally the biggest end-of-term period, it is advisable to buy tickets in advance, as they may not be available at the door, if they sell out. As was the case for a number of gigs already this term.

### The Co-op Ball.

The Co-op Ball takes place on Sunday, 8th of December at 8pm in the Limerick Inn for all those going on Co-op in January. The dress is formal, and you

normally invite someone. (If you are having a problem with this, Ber will help). But many normally go just with a group of friends). So just don the monkey suits and Debb's dresses for what promises to be an excellent night. There will be a full 4-course meal and a disco and band "One September". Tickets will be on sale shortly in the Union shop at £15 each.

### Tuesday, December 10th

Softball/Postgrad disco in Costellos. Admission: £2.

### Thursday, December 12th,

"The Commitments Gig" featuring Andrew Strong and the Sax Player from the film band, and a full session band who will play the songs from the film. Most places in town are far too expensive on that night.

**SUPPORT YOUR OWN ENTS !!!**



# CLASS PARTIES.

To date we have run a number of successful class parties. The first one to happen was 1st Business, on week 4. As there were no class reps elected at the time some 4 students volunteered to organize it. It was decided that the party would go into 2 nights, one being the Disco and the other being, going to see The Commitments the night after. It was £4 for a combined Disco and Commitments ticket, including all buses, (the film being subsidised by the Disco). The Disco itself was by far the best yet in Arthur's, with the dance floor absolutely jam packed all night.

The night after, it was to the cinema for the 1st Business. (The shifting couples from the night before made full use of the double seats. After the cinema believe it or not, a queue was formed by one of the volunteers for the bus. Overall it was one of the best run parties. A big thanks to the volunteers.

After paying bus bills, the bank balance should be over £200. So we look forward to the next 1st Business party on Monday, 3rd February, (week 5).

The next party to get off that week was 1st Humanities. This was arranged similar to the 1st Business with voluntary party organisers. This time on Wednesday, week 4, some 400 people attended the Savoy, for what was again a great night. The bank balance after that party will be over £300, which can be used for a trip or whatever the class decides. Again, a big thanks for the party organizers.

It was on Tuesday 29th that three smaller classes organized their parties, the three being 1st Biochemistry, 2nd Public Administration, and 1st

Production Engineering (correct me if I am wrong). Firstly, the three classes separately went bowling at the same time in the Savoy then 2 classes hit a designated pub (No. 15 and Nancy's) and the others hit a number of non-designated pubs. All 3 classes then hit the excellent Campus T.V. disco in Cheers. It worked out at £3 per person for bowling and the disco. It was an excellent opportunity for everyone to get to know one another. (Some got to know each other too well).

It was on Tuesday 21st that the Computers Systems 1st and 2nd years, got together for their class party. And they became the first students users of the very plush Hanratty's, a party full of fun and frolics with some class members, doing things on the dance floor that

the bishop wouldn't like. (John Burke has captured all with his evil-eye camera).

It was a really brilliant night with a real party atmosphere.

A small profit was made by both classes. (Approximately £70).

We will have in the next issue reports on both 3rd Business and Humanities class parties.

So class reps, please book with me now for your party next term.

# Preview



## Theme Discos live on for ever !

### 3rd Business class Party Report.

... party in Costelloes on Monday

decided to run a MR. UNIVERS(E)ITY  
... and from the accounts of a



# Theme Discos live on for ever!

## 3rd Business class Party Report.

We had our Class party in Costelloes on Monday of week 7. Costelloes was not the original venue but due to the unavailability of extensions in Limerick at present it had to be staged there. Class reps apologise about the size of the venue but it as the best we could do at such short notice. Anyway from all accounts a great night was had by all and when 3rd Business got out we really go OUT. The theme for our disco was sixties and everybody was shocked to the extent of delight at the number of people who dressed up for the night.

### Scandal!

First things first lets get our teeth into the juicy bits as someone we all know got her "Gums" locked into a certain Mr Spanky. That must have been fairly common on the night as a certain Giles was, for some inexplicable reason, wearing a high polo-neck all day Tuesday and some people were heard to utter the word "Popeye" as he strolled past in the canteen.

The repeat 3rd years showed their "form" as Chops was on the look-out for a new fillie despite the ex-jockey of his present nag serving behind the bar. Looking to set up a full stable or just window shopping?.....John I think it's about time you went out to stud. The big S.k let the side down as he made no "head-way" despite the new crew cut. "Deco" was on the door that night and was given a hand by Dan who in his intoxicated state decided it would be a good idea to throw people out so that more could be let in. Speaking of intoxication, some of the Lads in the class (Cathal, Sean, Denis, Tom & Co. we will not mention your names)

decided to run a MR. UNIVERS(E)ITY competition, and from the accounts of a few attentive women, they proceeded to remove their shirts and MORE. Speaking of clothing what happened to Aoife and Sinead at the party, was it just a broken zip girls? Giggely did not find anything to bang but the wall that night, what a pity for the wall.

Some people really got into the spirit and dressed up. Erika and Co. looked hot to trot in their slinky numbers.....H..H..H..HOT! Meanwhile Sully and Reggy dressed very appropriately for the sixties, assisted in forming a very effective Rugby Scrum for our Australian counterparts, while Ronan was busy looking after the Yanks.....Hope it was a good investment Mr. Treasurer. Speaking f Yanks the New York contingent spared no effort in dressing themselves to do Woodstock proud (or shame), Well done Spud, Boss, Mush etc.

To cap off the evening and to really put the boot in it for Charlie a certain Mr. Scully (who will again remain nameless) was actually seen by this reporter to utter the words F.F. and neither was the 4 letter word, he actually nearly said something nice about DEVS boys.

P.S made profit of about 190 for the class account.





# EVENTS

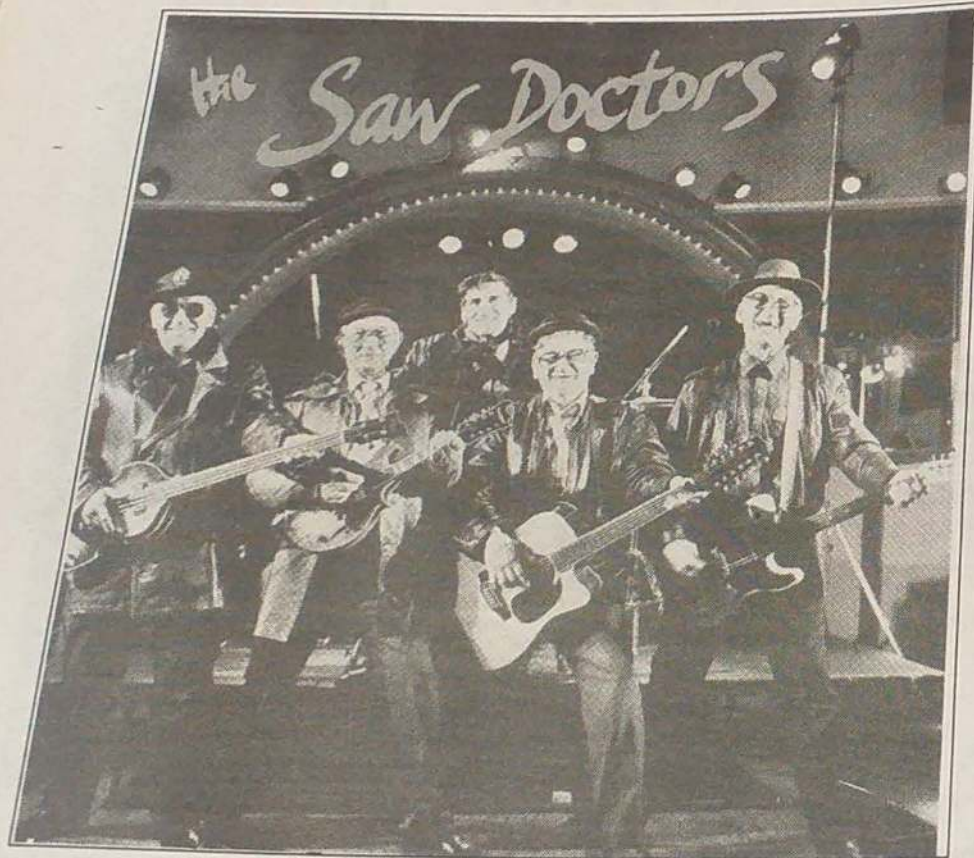
## New Saw Doctor's Album

Long a hit with Engineering faculties countrywide, the men who put "Tuam" in tumor have honoured me with a sneak preview of their new album, "The Dirty Dying Bollocks".

The "Banshee Ate my Greyhound" is a monument to Sean nos singing and occupies much of side one.

It begins with the haunting lilt of the famished white haired old woman keening on a Galway beach. Her crying wanes when the heady scent of the unwashed dog reaches her sensitive nostrils; tantalised, her quest for flesh begins. We are mesmerised by the primeval beating of bodhrans as she sweeps through the valley and then "the hungry

ghoul came over the 'mounting' ". We are chilled by the howling of the uilleann pipes as the animal meets with its violent end. On the discovery of the dog's absence no one is above suspicion. Itinerants, Jehovah's witnesses, Sinn Fein, even the alcoholic parish priest who may have devoured the canine during a ravenous binge after a feed of drink. We are exhilarated by the raw angry cry "I vow vengeance on the duty dying dying bollix that ate my Murty" ( the line from which the album name is derived). The following evening Murty's collar is found in a pool of purple vomit only three fields away To the plaintive sounds of uilleann pipes the tearful owner, collar in hand, faces the sun setting over the Galway



bay. "Murty died as he lived - a disagreeable mangy bastard".

"Aul Guinness Shite", a song about the trials of a "morning after the night before".

"I Got My Hole off Margie Grue" is possibly the most stirring track on this unparalleled album.

It's an ethnic lovesong that celebrates the intimacy shared between two young people and how the affair ends in tragedy when the young man, in an inebriated state, professes his relationship unashamedly on top of the bar counter before the young lady's entire family and the bishop who had been in the locality for the confirmations. A scene that some of us may even recognise from our own lives.

Perhaps the only blemish on an otherwise impeccable album, is the puerile "Bacon and Cabbage".

It is but a ten minute repetition of "Bacon and Cabbage, bacon and cabbage is the staple diet of every muck savage". However its strength lies in its simplicity and is destined to become the quintessential pub sing-song of the nineties. Rumour has it that in times of spiritual exhaustion, the "Tuamers" sit in a circle in a darkened room, inhaling the smoke of a smouldering turf fire while chanting this line to reach what they call a "Conemara Mantra", a state of mind that reinforces their own unique cultural roots, thus preventing them from being swayed by their phenomenal "U2" - like success.

"The Roscommon Cup" is another prize slob- in -the-gutter sing-song.

We experience the class hostility ingrained in provincial Irish society in "Zetor Gentry".

Poverty, rage and a litany of fierce bad language are the ingredients of the powerful outcry on rural depreviation. "Will you look at my cunt on the tractor" shouts a disgruntled young man to his weary grandmother who





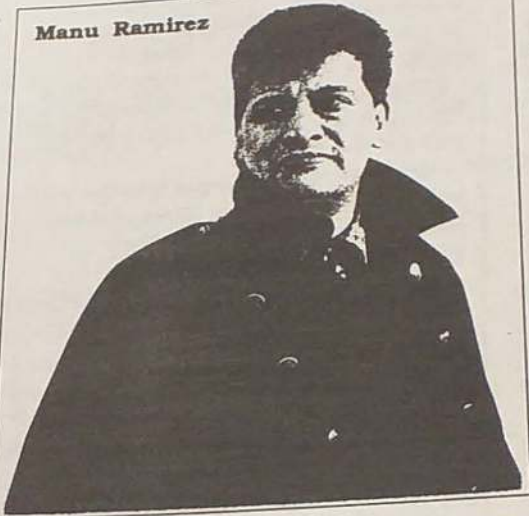
Murty" (the name which the album name is derived). The following evening Murty's collar is found in a pool of purple vomit only three fields away. To the plaintive sounds of uilleann pipes the tearful owner, collar in hand, faces the sun setting over the Galway

## Manu Ramirez

Manu Ramirez, a musician from Guatemala, is an original performer using midi sequencing, live keyboards and percussion to create an exciting solo act. Having had televised and live performance plus airplay in North and Central America, and Ireland, his original music has proved to be a well received and refreshing experience. Most recently, Manu has played Native Peoples Benefits in San Francisco with Floyd ("Dances with Wolves") Westerman, and Pete Seeger, and has just returned from performing in front of the National Palace in his own country. His music has enabled him to represent Guatemala, evoking visions of its mysterious and exotic beauty, its volcanic and rhythmic sensuality along with the struggle of its people and their love of life expressed through music. After playing for various rock/jazz/new wave groups in the S.F. Bay area Club Scene, he has returned to his Latin roots while using his Euro-American influences to create International music with an ethnic flavour - a mix of modern and primitive which is the reflection of Guatemala today. His music has been described as World Jazz Beat/Casa Latino/Mayan techno-salsa. His influences are Miles Davis, Depeche Mode, Pet Shop Boys, Peter Gabriel, Prince, Tito Puente, Eddy Palmieri, Quadrophenia.

Manu Ramirez is playing on "Night Hawks" on the 5th December.  
He plays the End of Term Gig in the Parkway Friday 6th December.

Manu Ramirez



**Fosters rep Jo awards prize to winning band : "the Tubes" in the UL talent competition**

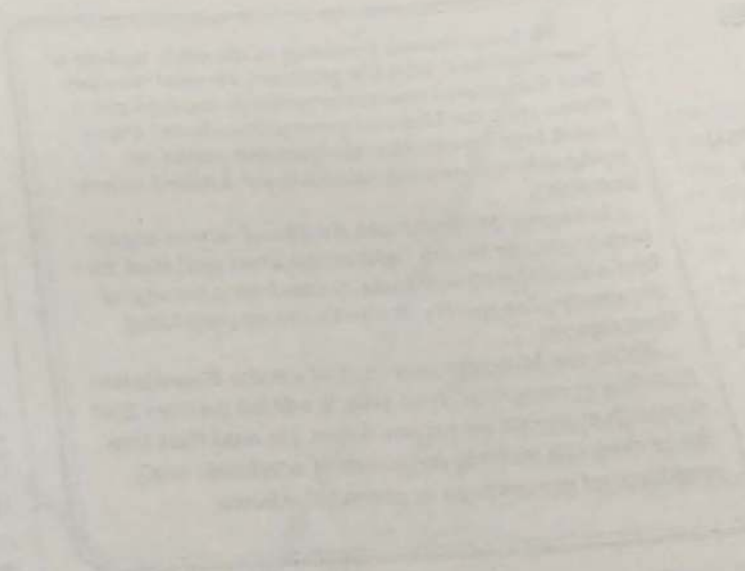
"U2" - like  
- The Roscommon Cup" is another prize slob- in -the-gutter sing-song.  
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Poverty, rage and a litany of fierce bad language are the ingredients of the powerful outcry on rural deprivation. "Will you look at my cunt on the tractor" shouts a disgruntled young man to his weary grandmother who stops pulling her horse plough momentarily to observe the bourgeoisie passing by. Take heed the peasants are beginning to revolt.  
"You Don't Need No Butter with the White Bread" is a thrilling account of the sensual pleasure of eating a loaf of bread through the paper wrapping.  
"The Child Who Clogged Up The Combine" Madcap caper about kids, kites and combine harvesters. Country and Western classic.  
A poignant folk song is "I Pimped In Clifden For My Sisters". Destitute and thirsty a Mayo man persuades his sisters to turn tricks to pay for stout. "Five pounds for the good looking one, three pounds for the other one". "Have you got your student card?"  
The album ends with "My Bowlegged Bonny Boy" which delicately explores the incest problem so prevalent in the farming community in the West. "Can I get up on top daddy? I swear I'll be careful". Touching so touching.  
"The Dirty Dying Bollocks" is a marvellous cultural experience that transcends the boundaries of good taste and "white collar social esteem", unique in that the ear for music, or for that matter a good ear at all, is not a prerequisite to its enjoyment and will extend the band's appeal far beyond their raggle-taggle following of drunken teenage rednecks. With an album of this standard the Daw Doctors will undeniably have the same effect on Ireland's musical reputation as Roxette has had on Sweden's.  
**John The Baptist.**



Advertisement

# MIDSUM

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WELCOME

THE MID-SUM



*We will meet, and there we may rehearse most  
obscenely and courageously.  
Take pains, be perfect: adieu!*

*A Midsummer Night's Dream I.2.85*





# Opinion



By Rachel Coleman.

## Can Billy come out to play?

**Well, Billy may want to come out to play but thanks to a cut in the available hours of facilities and a growing competition within sports groups he might not be able to.**

After fighting and scratching for points in the Leaving Cert students may think they can now relax and enjoy college life. After all they have won their place in college and deserve a reward. But that's not the case. Despite the advocacy of certain college dignitaries at orientation, getting socially involved in college life is not as easy as it sounds. Competition is very much a part of the hectic schedule, whether it be in studies, co-op placements or in the sporting arena.

"Freshers" are advised that sports are an integral part of college life and that "all" are welcome. Yet people have to fight for a place on the team. If you're not good at sports and are only looking for new experiences, "tough luck" is a familiar phrase. The idea of having fun is practically impossible here at U.L., unless of course you consider 8 - 12 hours of hockey training a week for a place on the team "good crack".

The priorities of the college are totally out of order. Swimming hours have been cut back for commercial gain. The public now seem to have greater importance than U.L. students. Or maybe it's just the fattening of wallets which tempts the bureaucrats to sell hours. In any case, it's the students that are suffering. It's next to impossible to reserve time for a friendly kick-around. The only sports that seem to have a degree of fun are softball, tennis, squash and badminton. Tough luck if they're not your cup of tea.

The college may complain that they need the public's money to maintain the sports services provided for students. You may ask yourselves, what services? And yet they are now undertaking the million pound project of building a concert hall for classical music! Clearly, there is something wrong here. The blame must lie squarely at the feet of the heads of this college. It's time they got their act together and provided the leisure time they offer at orientation. And while they're doing that, what are the students left with? Better luck next time!

### Postgrads Welcome Consultation

The Postgraduate Students' Association (PSA) has welcomed the decision of the University to consult with them over design and layout of work spaces for research postgraduate students in the Foundation Building.

The University, under the direction of the Dean Research, Prof Noel Mulcahy, have employed two senior Industrial Design students to prepare a desk to meet the needs of the research students in the new building. At present Mr Diarmuid Bradley is completing the design and has prepared a prototype for inspection.

Mr Liam Brown, President of the PSA, said he is "very satisfied" with the progress. He said "the fact that this project was undertaken in the first place shows that the University recognises how important it is to ensure that the genuine needs of postgraduate research students are fulfilled where possible".

Professor Mulcahy told *An Focal* it was important to get the basics right at the start and that he had asked the ID students to conduct a survey of the needs of research students before preparing their designs.

Professor Mulcahy said that when the Foundation Building is completed next year it will house over 250 research students over three floors. He said that this figure does not include members of academic staff, postdoctoral researchers or research fellows.



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Building is completed... research students over three floors. The figure does not include members of academic staff, postdoctoral researchers or research fellows.

that, next time!  
G R A S S

# S I M O N S N O D

## THE LISP AND PISS SOCIETY!

Lets be frank, the average Lit & Phil debate is a shambles! A rambunctious, uproarious shambles. Though it occasionally throws sparks of brilliance too often it languishes in a messy mediocrity of cheap jibes and slagging and spectacularly uninspired motions for debates.

The main difficulty, as I see it, is that two very diverse strata exist within the society and these 2 streams are too often mish-mashed together with a vitiating effect. Thus the society is left unfocused and rudderless. The division in the society which I allude to is between on the one hand the "serious" debaters e.g. Mr Mc Elligott and Mr Hamilton and the "stand up comedians" epitomised by Mr Hurley. At a recent debate, for example Mr Hamilton put forward his arguments on a motion in a systematic and logical manner. He was opposed by Mr Hurley who bantered in a very witty fashion but with no relevance to the motion on hand. It was a failure in the extreme, as the arguements from both sides completely failed to "gel". At the end the house was asked to vote, when in the strict sense of the word we hadn't heard a debate at all.

A possible solution to this problem is, that seeing as the Lit & Phil operates two debates weekly, one debate be held on "serious topics" and that one be left open for

"lighter" issues. When I say "serious" I do not mean they must become extremely solemn and sober events with someone having to leave the podium if they construe a witticism - What I do mean is that for this debate, deviation and digression from the motion merely for humour's sake should not be tolerated. In the second debate however more leeway should be allowed to the speakers, this would give speakers like Mr Hurley a stage for their effusive talents to be expressed.

This whole message may seem dry or perhaps excessive but it should be remembered the Lit & Phil has designs on entering National and International competitions. With its present emaciated, pernicious structure, the Lit & Phil would not stand much chance, which is regretable because of the rich talent contained therein.

I realise that certain elements of the audience would resist strongly my recommendations. Those who weekly expect a sort of three ring circus performance but these should bear in mind it is a Literary & Philosophical Society they are attending not the randy, rowdy slagging society (though I concede there is a considerable market for a society of that sort). However I am quite sure the speakers of the society would prefer this new arrangement. It would be remembered, it is the speakers who



put in the work week after week. Any organisation which rewards the drones and not the workers is farcical and bound for ignominious defeat.

I will conclude with the hope that the committee will consider the advice I have offered and, even if they choose to disregard it, they will try to arrest the Society's descent into the first ever "Lisp & Piss Society".



# I am Bisexual

by Claran M\*

In September last year a friend mentioned a bulletinboard (computer 'notice-board' on which people around the world can place messages) by the strange name of 'soc.motss', discussed aspects of homosexuality. I decided to check it out and was immediately hooked. Although it was fascinating, I had difficulty comprehending some of the views expressed on it so I went to a local bookshop and bought two pro-gay books, hoping that these would help me more fully understand the messages on soc.motss. I took these on holidays with me.

While relaxing on a beach with 'The New Loving Someone Gay' by Don Clark, I was reading a paragraph which explained that sexuality isn't boolean. Some people are 100% straight, others are 100% gay, and in between are loads of people who are X% straight and (100-X)% gay, for all values of X. Suddenly I remembered times when I had admired the look of another man but had always denied these thoughts or somehow 'explained' them away. Now this book was telling me that I was not 100% straight. I was amazed because I had never even considered the possibility of being anything other than totally straight.

While I was able to admit it myself that I might be 'just one or two percent gay' I still self-identified as straight. Another book I read on *... Ourselves: The Lives of Irish*

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from others who  
also read it, all of  
which educated me  
beyond belief and  
helped me be more gay  
supportive.

Through computer e-mail I got to know somebody in UL. He invited me to UL for a lesbian and disco. The sense of celebration there was amazing. I was stunned that one or two people could have so much fun

one point during the weekend I was in conversation with a bisexual man (I'll call him Fred) who was a few years older than me. He said "only two of my straight friends know I'm gay." I couldn't resist the witty reply "Now there's three". This led to an interesting conversation about sexuality. When he had been my age he thought he was straight (I was surprised at this: imagine not knowing your own sexuality at 23 years of age!) but eventually realised he was bisexual and is now blissfully happy with his boyfriend of several years. Throughout the weekend Fred would pass comments like "he's a hunk" or "she's really cute looking" but I always refrained from making such comments since I didn't really notice the 'hunky' fellas and I didn't want to make comments about the women for fear of people accusing me of flaunting my straightness.

On the return trip, a few of us were sitting talking about favourite films. I was slightly drunk. "Has anyone seen the film 'Jesus of Montreal'? It's a re-

Opinion



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While I was able to admit it myself that I might be 'just one or two percent gay' I still self-identified as straight. Another book I read on holidays, 'Out For Ourselves: The Lives of Irish Lesbians and Gay Men', opened my eyes to the horrific oppression which gay people face in Ireland. Having read about this suffering I could not ignore it any longer and on my return to Ireland I joined the Lesgay Society at college.

I was shaking with nervousness when I went to the Lesgay Society for the first time. As I arrived a woman, who appeared to be in charge, was talking to other members. When she finished, the kettle was put on and people started drinking tea and coffee. After what seemed like an eternity, she came over to welcome me to the club. I was shaking like a leaf as I quietly explained to her that I was straight and wanted to offer my support but would understand if the society didn't want straight members. She let me join.

I went to the Society regularly and began to feel more relaxed there, though dreaded when another member there would ask me 'Are you out to your classmates?' since I'd then have to confess to being (basically) straight. Every time that happened I risked alienation from the people in the society.

Having read the pro-gay books, I found that I could understand much more of what was being discussed on soc.motss. I was getting mind-blowing

food for thought both from participating in it and through computer e-mail from others who also read it, all of which educated me beyond belief and helped me be more gay supportive.

Through computer e-mail I got to know somebody in UL. He invited me to UL for a lesbian and disco. The sense of celebration there was amazing. I was stunned that one or two hundred people could have so much fun. In fact, the sense of celebration was so powerful that I decided, no matter what, I was going to Manchester with the Lesgay Society after Christmas, a trip that was in the early stages of planning.

Back on soc.motss a guy called Paul started contributing. He was straight but gay supportive; he and I seemed to share many of the same thoughts, misconceptions and fears. Some of his postings asked questions that I didn't realise I wanted to ask until I read them. He seemed very much like me. Then at the start of February he came out to himself and soc.motss as bisexual. I was delighted and shocked. Here was my counterpart - and he wasn't straight anymore. Over the last few months I had become more open to the idea that perhaps I wasn't just one or two percent gay; perhaps I was more gay than I had first thought. Paul's coming out was enough of a shock to make me reconsider my sexuality yet again.

Just two weeks later I went to Manchester with the Lesgay Society. A gay magazine called 'Scene Out' and the Universities in Manchester had sponsored the weekend and invited us over. Ever since the disco in Limerick I knew I had to go on this trip. The travelling was a pain; but once we arrived there everybody had an unbelievably good time. At

one point during the weekend I was in conversation with a bisexual man (I'll call him Fred) who was a few years older than me. He said "only two of my straight friends know I'm gay." I couldn't resist the witty reply "Now there's three". This led to an interesting conversation about sexuality. When he had been my age he thought he was straight (I was surprised at this: imagine not knowing your own sexuality at 23 years of age!) but eventually realised he was bisexual and is now blissfully happy with his boyfriend of several years. Throughout the weekend Fred would pass comments like "he's a hunk" or "she's really cute looking" but I always refrained from making such comments since I didn't really notice the 'hunky' fellas and I didn't want to make comments about the women for fear of people accusing me of flaunting my straightness.

On the return trip, a few of us were sitting talking about favourite films. I was slightly drunk. "Has anyone seen the film 'Jesus of Montreal'? It's a really great film." Somebody replied "Oh the lead guy is gorgeous." Without hesitation, I voiced my approval. Fred suddenly cracked up laughing and commented "That's the first time this weekend you've said anything like that." I quickly sobered up and thought back to the time when I had seen the film. Yes, I could be extremely attracted to the actor but, had partially 'explained' away the attraction; what I couldn't explain away I had blocked out. I thought to myself "Yes he was a hunk. Incredibly cute looking." And with that thought I realised I was out to myself. I still found women more attractive than men, but I was now able to admit to myself that I was capable of having a crush on a guy.

I was on a natural high for a few days after my return to Ireland. Everywhere I looked, sensuality was to be found afresh, both in women and men. I no longer think of myself as 'mostly straight' or 'not 100% straight'. Now I am simply 'not straight', 'bisexual' or 'gay': whichever term I feel most comfortable with. Instead of talking about gay people in third person, I now use 'us' and 'we'.

**\*The author is a student at Trinity College, Dublin**



# Arts

## "Druid", "Whale Nation" and "Baglady" at the Belltable

A very busy, mixed and interesting program at the Belltable next week with something to suit all tastes. Monday 18th November at 8pm (for one night only) sees the one man show "WHALE NATION and FALLING FOR A DOLPHIN. This multi award winning production features the highly acclaimed performance of English actor Roy Hutchins. In WHALE NATION the insignificance of men is pitted against the

# Genius Triumphs

## KEVIN MC ALEER.

Let it be written forever that on a cold, wet Saturday night, the best thing to do is snuggle in a soft chair, relax and laugh for two hours. And I mean Laugh. That's what 450 people did last Saturday when Kevin Mc Aleer gave us his stuttering genius, his surreal magnificence. It was an evening that I wish had gone on forever.

Any one who enjoys "Nighthawks" will have seen this man's face, with the crooked jobber's smile, offer thick slices of country life handmade in virtual reality. Mc Aleer has long since been disregarded as a comedian, his status now stands as God, with view to promotion. It's almost impossible to find words to review him, but I can only try.

The auditorium is dark, save 3 lights on the stage. The man Mc Aleer enters, stands embarrassed, and laughs at us for five minutes. It's a country laugh, rich with innuendo and you know yourself's. He starts a sentence only to have this thin staccato laugh return. The laugh is a vital part of his routine, and every time he uses it, the audience, hanging on his every word, erupts in gales of laughter. My picture of where he found this laugh, (for his act truly reflects life in Ireland, albeit through the satirists jaundiced eye) is a middle-aged farmer in a public house in the north-east, laughing slyly at sexist comments made by his companions towards a female on the other side of the counter, through the bottom of his pint. Mc Aleer can tell us this in a HEE HEE HEE. He has transcended the one-liner humour and become a noble commentator on the Irish. When we laugh at Mc Aleer (Loud & Often), we are laughing at ourselves.

One of the strangest things about the act is that it doesn't seem to be an act at all. It appears that the man is just talking to us, just filling us in. Of course this observation proves how polished and talented a performer Mc Aleer really is. When he launches himself into a monologue on his grandmother's capacity for L.S.D.

we wonder how much of it is spontaneous, how much of it just occurred to him, and then the laugh. Mc Aleer talks about the 1960's in Ireland, The drugs, the Long-Hair, the freedom. His grandfather was a hippie in the twenties, he tells us, and so taught "all seventeen of us" the real way to live. This way involved drugs, especially "Haaash", television, (Kojak) and brushes with the police, in the form of the sergeant, a "long legged hairy shite of a man". I won't turn this review into a repeat of his performance, but tell you that he said so many funny things that all I can remember is tears of laughter running down my face as he stood in the same position, with a wistful smile, splitting 450 sides. Much has been said about comic timing, but this man turns it all on it's head. Mc Aleer ends the first half of the performance with his borrowed cliché "and that's how it was for us in the good old days". I say borrowed because he is incapable of a rusty cliché where a slice of madness could suffice. Mc Aleer is fresh, invigorating, comic and totally, totally insane. He should be running the country.

The second half consists of a series of slides, reflecting the comedians family album. It's Dali's album, it's Flann O' Brein's Album. It's half-baked-fully-toked-media-assasi -Joe Dolanesque -certifiably-insane kitsch, delivered in his deadpan country jobber smile and innuendo. The first slide is of four pothead owls with mental grins and staring eyes. As you stare at it, transfixed, you see what Mc Aleer is telling you, yes, they do have their arms around each other, etc. and all with The Joker's laugh. The slides continue, and it's not my liberty to explain each one. Suffice to say that each one is crazed, crazed, crazed.

My favourite of them all, was an alien sitting in a car beside a man from the thirties, taken from an old film. Mc Aleer points his stick at the aliens face, twisted and grotesque and intones, deadpan into his mike, "My father was a great man for the physical punishment" Laugh? I wet myself.

Then all to soon it was over, the applause told it's own story.

He graced us with a five minute monologue encore, and disappeared into the night. "There goes god", someone said, imitating his voice. He didn't even come close.



## Baglady at the Belltable

A very busy, mixed and interesting program at the Belltable next week with something to suit all tastes. Monday 18th November at 8pm (for one night only) sees the one man show "WHALE NATION and FALLING FOR A DOLPHIN. This multi award winning production features the highly acclaimed performance of English actor Roy Hutchins. In WHALE NATION the insignificance of men is pitted against the majesty of the Whale Nation. FALLING FOR A DOLPHIN is the story of Heathcote Williams encounter with Fungie, the hermit dolphin of the Dingle Peninsula. This show should be seen by all!

From Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd November for four nights only, the prestigious Druid Theatre Company from Galway visit (as part of their Irish tour) with the classic Irish play SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE by Paul Vincent Carroll. A controversial play when first produced in 1937, SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE pits the personality of the puritanical Cannon Skeritt against that of embittered schoolmaster Dermot O Flingsley this award winning play is explosively dramatic while laced with irony, and humour

The laugh is a vital part of the act. He uses it, the audience, hanging on his every word erupts in gales of laughter. My picture of where he found this laugh, (for his act truly reflects life in Ireland, albeit through the satirists jaundiced eye) is a middle-aged farmer in a public house in the north-east, laughing slyly at sexist comments made by his companions towards a female on the other side of the counter, through the bottom of his pint. Mc Aleer can tell us this in a HEE HEE HEE. He has transcended the one-liner humour and become a noble commentator on the Irish. When we laugh at Mc Aleer (Loud & Often), we are laughing at ourselves.

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throughout. Druids production of SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE makes for an extremely good, funny and entertaining night-out. Directed by Macliosa Stafford, the excellent cast consisted of Barry Barnes, Niamh Lenehen (recently seen with island), Frankie McCafferty, Deidre Moley, Martin Murphy (last seen in Lady Windermere's fan), Ruth O Briain, Karl O Neill, P.G. Stevens and Bernard Walsh.

The bridge theatre company from London will present Frank McGuinness's excellent play BAGLADY as a lunch time on Thursday 21st November. Vanda Lorence gives a stunning performance as the unforgettable character, BAGLADY in this piece of rivetting drama. With a starting time of 1.15pm and running time of only 45min, why not come along, grab a sandwich and give yourself a theatrical lunchtime treat.



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# Crazy About Women

Paul Durcan in the Belltable

At a poetry reading, my companion asked, which is worse, the art-wank lipstick ladies who lunch, or the guys in the donkey jackets and shaved heads? I couldn't answer his question, and neither could Paul Durcan.

Paul Durcan, through his erotic and enlightening poetry, has become the darling of the Patron Set, that visible and perfumed crowd, who would attend the opening of a packet of peanuts, if there was some free wine going. However, I'm reviewing the performance and not the audience.

Durcan was invited a few months ago, to write a book of poetry about his favourite pieces of art in the National Gallery, "**Crazy about Women**". This performance in the Belltable was the reading in Durcan's particular style, of the pieces in the book. A tall edgy man takes the stage, seemingly a man of a neurosis and nervous tension. He stands for a second, staring into the lights and then the voice is in your ears. Durcan's voice in performance is quiet yet strong. He acts out his poetry with the voice, bringing the characters in his poetry to life with an accent or a nuance. This theatrical side to Durcan is apparent in his reading of the poem, "**The Levite and his concubine at Gebia**." Here Durcan adopts the persona of an outraged host complaining about Durcan's female friend, "in her loud spoken yellow dress", using his knees as a pillow. The whole act is hilarious, showing how astutely Durcan can inhabit the mind of one of his characters.

There is much humour in the poetry of Paul Durcan, and this is reflected in poems like "**Man walking the stairs**", "Lying at the foot of the stairs, I behold bills, gas bills, telephone bills", and "**Lady Mary Montague**", which opens with the lines, "I was thrown from a fast moving motor-car, it was a lovers falling out. This poem (one of the best in the night) was also very sexual, with imagery of procreation and fecundity abounding (Art-Wank). Words like trickle, tickle and cherry-red had the ladies (and the gents) squirming satisfactorily in their seats. Durcan can use a turn of phrase to have his

audience laugh or think, and usually at the same time. The poem "**Dawn, Connemara**", was a lyrical wordscape, bursting with imagery. It is however in the capturing of the obscure and surreal that Durcan excels, especially in the poem, "**In the Tram**". I am going crazy/ Crazy without Women".

One man, holding his own corner with his voice and his writing, is Durcan's show. He will make you laugh and send you into the night, pondering about your existence. One poem of this type is "**The Riding School**", which is strangely stirring, evoking pictures in the mind of memories we've never had and events we've never experienced.

"**Flower-girl, Dublin**", was a poem in the vein of "J. Alfred Prufrock", with loneliness and indecision the recurring themes. "I read all of Nietzsche when I was seventeen, and then I grew up". The poem outlines the poet's "timorousness" when faced with a "Mother of five". This was Durcan's best poem, giving us a man's mentality at the stroke of a pen. The last poem in the collection was "**Grief**", based on the painting by Jack B. Yeats. It was a surreal vision of hallucinations by a painting, full of life and raw humour. Scenes of pornographic violence placed by scenes of serene calm. The violence was of beauty, with brains dripping from hedges. Time leading nowhere and the tremendous weight of masculinity. "I am the men who sits under Grief, watching fleets of feet paddling towards me." "they stop and sniff the left hand corner".

Paul Durcan gave the culture-staved people of Limerick a night to cherish through the lean winter months ahead. Bravo.



# Arts

## artsnotes

And so we enter the last weeks of this term, and "the scene" as we know it goes into hibernation for the Christmas break. Exams have a lot to do with this, I imagine, but the true bohemians will not let this phase them in the slightest. So, let's have a look at what's on...

This week's diary has thrown up some very interesting highlights, such as the Limerick Jazz Society, who have an evening with Nuala Mulcahy & The Limerick Jazz Quartet in the Limerick Bar on the 18th. Excellent night out if you like that sort of thing.

A full calender of Visual Arts this week, with four different exhibitions in the City gallery in Pery square. One of particular note is The Human Landscape, 10 years of creative photography in Brittany. Across the City in the Belltable Arts Centre we can see the John O' Leary recent work exhibition, and Andrew Kearney's "New Work".

Take note..... This is positively the last mention for the Kings in Conflict exhibition in City Hall, Merchants Quay. Admission for students is a mere fifty pence, and everyone (interested in Arts or not) should see this.

One good play, definitely worth seeing is The Matchmaker, by John B. Keane. Presented by Gemini Productions, Dublin, this play is excellent. Actors include Frank Kelly and Anna Manahan. On from the 25th to the 30th, in the Belltable it's certainly one to put in the diary.

One also worth a few lines is Shadow and Substance, from the galway giants, Druik theatre company. More news on this Highlight as I get it.



One of the simplest of pleasures is fresh Art. The exhibition of Prints from the Art Dept. of Sligo R.T.C. in the Audio-Visual Gallery at the moment, gives us a unique opportunity to view the future of Irish art at one of its finer moments. It is, I believe, the best exhibition to hit this University in the last six months. It's interesting to note that the exhibition, "The class of '92", features work of alarming clarity and expression from artists that haven't even graduated yet. It's an exhibition of maturity and wisdom, of talent and experience.

On the night before this exhibition opened, the auction of the works was an immense success, with only four works remaining unsold. Speaking as a mercenary, that is the true measure of success, what people like, they will buy. This exhibition provokes thought, and provides a new insight into the

mind of the young artist. Of particular note are "Morning for a Fish", by Birgit Rascher and Christine Bowen's "Amadeus Bird". (the latter being the most exquisite monoprint that I have seen.)

It is important to note also that this group come with excellent credentials, having exhibited before, and won prizes. Punters at the Music and Drama festival in March will have seen this Talent before, (and yes, it does deserve the capital T.) Some of the group are at present exhibiting in Bath, in the exhibition of Emerging Western Artists. On November the 18th, one of these artists goes solo, with works based on Yeatsian imagery, also in Bath. This information should serve to convince the unimpressed of the worth and importance of this fine group. And it isn't even a degree

show. One can only imagine what that would be like.

The diversity of images and the concentration of media proves that these individuals have lots to donate to Irish art in the future

In conversation with some of the Sligo people at the opening, I discovered that academic tragedy has hit them hard. This year the Art course did not enrol first years. According to sources, I can find no plans to enrol in the future. The future of this emerging group of artists is in jeopardy because of academic doubt. I find it difficult to believe that a small department like Sligo's can reveal such talent, with or without the backing (financial or otherwise) of the "Higher Academics". I can clearly state that that I believe there is no limit to their potential.

## What Price Art?

### A Review of the "Class of '92"

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# Societies

## Amnesty

Thanks to everyone who signs our petitions and postcards at the Awareness stand Tuesday, week 7. We had over 900 signatures on the petitions and we posted over 200 postcards to different parts of the world.

At present we are campaigning against the death penalty in the U.S. This is just one example of what is happening over there:

### DALTON PREJEAN

Dalton Prejean, a black mentally retarded juvenile offender, was executed by electric chair in Louisiana on 18 May, 1990. The State Governor denied clemency despite a recommendation by the Louisiana Board of Pardons that the death sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment.

Dalton Prejean was convicted in May 1978 of the murder of a white police officer who was shot when he stopped a car in which Dalton Prejean and three others were present. Only 17 at the time of the crime, Dalton Prejean was under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

At his trial Dalton Prejean's mental abilities were questioned. He was reported to have a mental age of 13. However, his lawyer failed to tell the jurors at the sentencing hearing that Dalton Prejean had a documented history of mental illness, including a diagnosis of schizophrenia and a history of childhood neglect and abuse. Nor were

they told that medical specialists had previously recommended that he receive long term inpatient hospitalization when he had been convicted of a killing when he was only 14. Dalton Prejean never received that treatment because there was no official funding available at the time.

As of September 1989 there were 32 prisoners under sentence of death in Louisiana, 17 of whom were black. Nineteen, including eight who were black, have been executed in the state since 1977. Dalton Prejean was convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white jury after the judge had changed the trial venue to a predominantly white area and the prosecutor had excluded prospective black jurors.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to the Governor of Louisiana. Tell him that you have read of the case of Dalton Prejean. Tell him you are concerned about the use of the death penalty in general, including cases of people who are juveniles and/or mentally disabled at the time of their crimes.

### ADDRESS FOR LETTER WRITING

The Hon.  
Charles Roemer  
Governor of Louisiana  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge  
LA 70804 USA

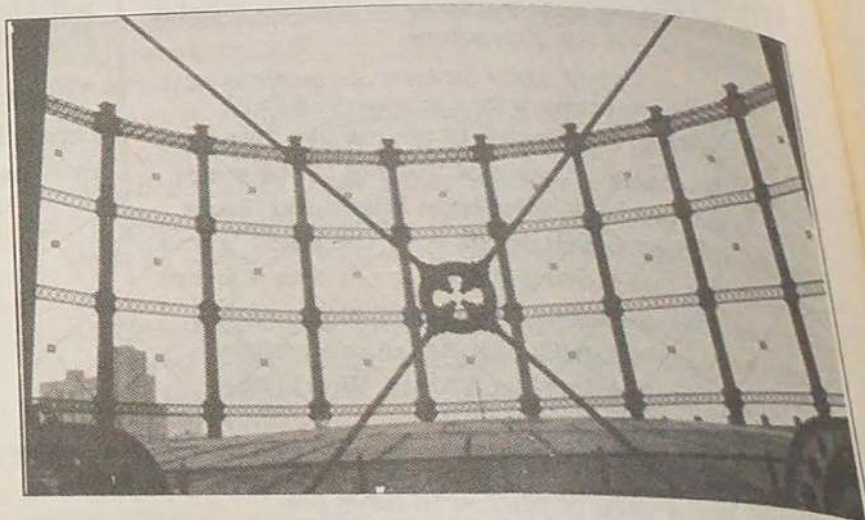
Telegrams: Ccov. Roemer,  
Baton Rouge  
LA 70804  
Tel: 504 342 7015  
Fax: 504 342 0909  
Telex: 51099332256



## PHOTOGRAPHIC

This shot of the Gasworks in Dublin was taken using "Kodak Tri-X Pan" film and was printed on Agfa paper. It was taken during the Summer by J.J. Murphy for the Photographic Society.

Many of our meetings concentrate on the development aspect of photography and new members who are willing to learn will always be most welcome. Our meetings will be held regularly next term (Hilary)



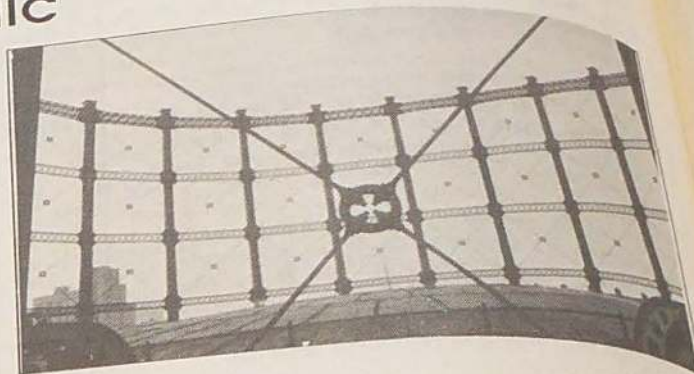




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## Overseas Students

The O.S.S.'s inaugural activity was Friday 1st November, week 6 "Limerick City Tour". We began with a reception with the 800th Mayor of Limerick Alderman Jim Kemmy in the Civic Centre. The Mayor spent an hour with the group, meeting each individually and then taking us on a tour of the exhibition on show at the centre.

He then showed us the Council Chambers and invited us to sit and feel the atmosphere of a meeting in this bright and airy room overlooking the Shannon. He gave us a very interesting and detailed account of the History of Limerick and invited questions from the group.

On our departure the Mayor presented the Chairperson Lisa Lefler with a book on Limerick. The entire group thoroughly

enjoyed the visit and Lisa warmly thanked the Mayor. We then continued via St. Mary's Cathedral to St. John's Castle. Despite the weather the visit to the castle was a great success.

After the Castle Tour the group dispanded to go shopping and meet again in the evening for the "Son et Lumiere" show at St. Mary's Cathedral. This sound and light show is a dramatic expression of the history of Ireland, Limerick and the Cathedral.

The group retired to the Olde Tom to discuss the history of Limerick among other things over a few pints and some sambos, and folowed this with a disco. All who attended enjoyed the afternoon, evening and night.

Our next outing will be a day trip to the United States on Saturday week 8 for a football game.

**Carmel Ryan - O.S.S. Committee**

## Music

Hi there Siblings. Little reminder of what the situation is. The guitar lessons are continuing and anyone who is interested and hasn't yet got involved, you are welcome in term 2.

Any classical people who want to get involved please contact Paul Sweeney, 2nd Electronics.

Also, please bear in mind our all inclusive super-gig during Plassey Arts Week, term 2, week 3.

And that's basically it, anyone not yet involved please get into it.

See you later,

Hadden von Wadder Bladder.

People interested in tape swapping please keep an eye on the notice board.





Our first team are unbeaten in the Budweiser League and need to take a point off Maynooth next week to progress to the semi-final stages. Our best result was in Galway where goals from John Sheahan and Conor Boyle earned us two good points. The following week U.C.C. were victors to Plassey and we were lucky to go home with a point. Best for us were Gilbert Ratchet (who never burys the hatchet), Sean Williams and Eulich Magee. Against D.C.U. we were reduced to ten men after just five minutes but still battled on to get a draw. Trevor Lavell scored with a superb volley, the first "golly volley" of the season and Joe Boyle headed home the second.

Our second string drew with U.C.G. in Galway with Paul Johnson and the diminutive striker Ken Kelly scoring the all important goals. They then lost to D.C.U and new manager Micky Hart could not have been pleased with this result. Kevin Leahy and Alain Gresse grabbed the goals. Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate Donal Mulcahy of Nancy Blakes and "The Outback" who has agreed to sponsor us this season. Well done Donal!

### E.T.T.S.

The society has been both busy and successful, so far! Within it's new confines of the UL union. The highlights so far without doubt have been our trip to Carlow and participation in the E.T.T.A. conference held in Limerick.

The trip to Carlow was the first of our trips for the year and although a few people who had planed to travel could not make it, a good day's entertainment was

experienced by those who got on Conway's Coach and hit for Carlow.

Finally, a word of congratulations to the successful entrant in our competition (i.e. to design a new logo for E.T.T.S.) which was adjudicated by Mr. C. Molomphy and Mr. A. Rhyme. The final winner was Kieran Loughlin of Fourth year Metalwork.

P.S. Look out for our newsletter which should be in circulation shortly.

K.Layton

## Windsurfing

### U.L. Wipes UCD Out Off The Water

On Saturday 9th November, U.L. Windsurfing Club hosted a challenge v UCD at Dromineer. U.L. came out tops on all accounts, with Antony Quarry winning both races and the long distance event.

U.L.W.C. hopes that this will become an annual event, as a super day was had by all (both competitively and sociably!!!!)

Credit and thanks are due to Peter Keogh for coordinating the event.



# Sports

## Mixed Blessings at UCG

### A great day was to be had when UL Footballers set out to conquer U.C.G. on Wednesday of Week 5.

In the freshers game, U.C.G. got the better of the first half exchanges and after twenty minutes of play, U.L. had conceded 1-3. Whatever "Jack Griffin" had to say at half time seemed to spur on the players, because in the second half they really took the game to U.C.G. In the end, lack of match fitness and familiarity with each other told and U.L. conceded another goal and went on to lose the game by two points.

The seniors then took to the field. U.L. totally dominated first half exchanges with Odhran O'Mahony brilliant in goal, Neil Murphy excelling at centre back, Tom Harris in flying form and Donie Mulligan showing us some fancy footwork (some more of which we were to see later on in the night). At half time U.L. were leading 2-5 to 0-4. The second half began with various changes and U.L. were in flying form but fatigue was showing and

contact someone on the team, as Mick has been in hiding since last year.

After a few hiccups, we finally reached the Curragh, 15 lads, great in 'size' and 'stature'. The cadets were of average height and size compared to us. The first half went the cadets' way with them scoring 6 points in succession without reply. The defence bore up well under this pressure, with Costello, McGovern and Flynn clearing the full back line and O'Sullivan, MacCarthaigh and Collins manning the half-line successfully. Our forwards seemed to get it together towards the end of the first half and we eventually got a score. We missed a penalty chance created by Michael Murphy rugby style (looking at too much of the World Cup).

In the second half, the forwards took over and with the half backs and centre field Reagan

## GOLF

The final outing of the

## Hurling

The Fresher's Hurlers play their second game of the



# GOLF

The final outing of the year was held at Castletroy Golf Club on Wednesday last, with 20 students taking part. Despite adverse weather conditions, the scoring was quite respectable with John Reidy (16) returning 37 pts., closely followed by Chris Willetts (9) with 35 pts., and Paul Walsh (13) with 34 pts.

Six members of the Ladies Intervarsity team played in the outing in preparatio for their upcoming trip to Rosslare for the Ladies Intervarsities. Pride of place goes to Sandra Keane returning 31 pts. playing off a handicap 2. Any girls interested in playing golf should contact Sandra Keane as detailed later.

Meanwhile on the scholarship front, the two scholarships granted to the club by Castletroy Golf Club have been awarded to Grellan Dunne (6) and Eoin Lynch (5), while the two scholarships on offer at Limerick Golf Club have been awarded to Kevin Martin (8) and Niall Rock (9).

# Hurling

The Fresher's Hurlers play their second game of the season at home to CoACT after losing the first game against U.C.G. by two points. They need to win this game to have a chance of qualifying from the group. The first half was rather tame by hurling standards with both teams exchanging a couple of points, then U.L. got the break they needed with a goal from Shane O'Neill which left them 4 points ahead at half time; 1-3 to 0-3. In the second half U.L. took control and scored a further 3 goals and 4 points to leave the final score 4-7 to 0-4.

Best for U.L. were Willie Burke, Shane O'Neill, David Quarke and John O'Halloran.  
**Denis Reidy, P.R.O.**

The seniors then took to the field. U.L. totally dominated first half exchanges with Odhran O'Mahony brilliant in goal, Neil Murphy excelling at centre back, Tom Harris in flying form and Donie Mulligan showing us some fancy footwork (some more of which we were to see later on in the night). At half time U.L. were leading 2-5 to 0-4. The second half began with various changes and U.L. were in flying form but fatigue was showing and Galway were pressing more and more, eventually the score came for U.C.G. and but for "Mick" in goal things may have been a lot different. The game ended in a draw (2-7 to 1-10) which, on reflection, was a fair result.

On Saturday of Week 6, the intermediates set off to the Curragh under the astute leadership of Paddy O'Donnell. Somebody said that Mick Frain was also there, if this is true, would he please

# Judo

The Irish Open was held in Belfield, Dublin on Saturday October 26th. It is recognised as a highly prestigious international competition at which a very high standard of international Judo is on display. This year was no exception with squads

participating from Germany, France, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as Ireland itself.

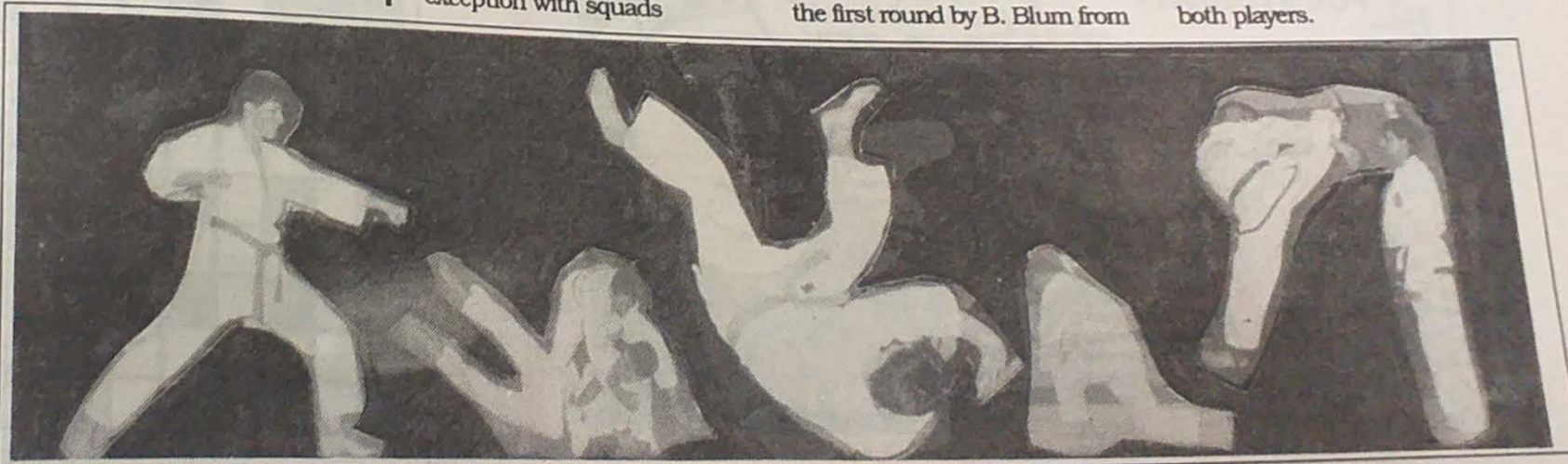
For the first time this year we had two players participating in the competition, however both were eliminated in the first round.

Triona O'Neill was beaten in the first round by B. Blum from

Germany and in the repechage by T. Carton of Ireland. Donie O'Sullivan was defeated in the first round by J. Cabanne of France and in the repechage by M. Kennedy of Northern Ireland. The standard of Judo was very high and the competition proved a valuable experience for both players.

reply. The defence bore up well under this pressure, with Costello, McGovern and Flynn clearing the full back line and O'Sullivan, MacCarthaigh and Collins manning the half-line successfully. Our forwards seemed to get it together towards the end of the first half and we eventually got a score. We missed a penalty chance created by Michael Murphy rugby style (looking at too much of the World Cup).

**John Collins, P.R.O.,**





## Blood Bank

The Blood Bank wishes to thank the 220 donors (students and staff) who willingly gave blood to the Irish Blood Transfusion Board on Monday last. Unfortunately the Clinic couldn't cope with the volume of donors that wished to donate but will hopefully open another clinic on Campus in the next year.

The Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland is organising a "Cystic Fibrosis Week" from December 6th to 13th. This will involve the sale of Poinsettias, Cards and Candles. Anybody willing to help (even for an hour or two) should call Mr. Denis Halpin at (061)412141.

**CF** **SAVE**  
*Young*  
**LIVES**  
HELP FIGHT  
**CYSTIC FIBROSIS**  
*A Children's Disease*

Want to share a problem?

The Welfare Officer, Maigs Fleming sits in the Deputy Presidents office on Thursdays from 2-5pm. Call in for a chat, if you have a problem or just for a glass of carrot juice and cucumber sandwich. Take Care!

## THE 6 HOURS OF COMEDY

On Saturday 23rd Nov. (week 9). The S.U. Ents will be presenting six hours of T.V. comedy in the student centre. The basic idea is to encourage people to study on campus (where one can help each other and exchange ideas), and then take a break by going down to the student centre and watching a twenty five minute comedy program (we will provide free tea and coffee). Each episode will be posted on the student centre doors, starting with Faulty Towers (2-4pm) then Black Adder (4-6pm) then only fools and horses (6-8pm). The late films will follow at 11pm. This is a free service BUT PLEASE put your rubbish in the bins.



# Notice

University of Limerick Students' Union is about to appoint Two Co-ops.

They will be responsible for helping in the main office as well as working with clubs and societies.

"the best experience of my life", said Kevin Brew but he has to leave at Christmas.

For further details contact Carmel Ryan

Anybody who needs help (even for an hour or two) should call Mr. Denis Halpin at (061)412141.

HELP FIGHT CYSTIC FIBROSIS  
A Children's Disease

and how...  
11pm. This is...  
your rubbish in the bins.

## S.U. ENTS & CABELLS & STABLES CLUB PRESENT U.L. CAMPUS CHRISTMAS

11.30-2.30pm Xmas Dinner Canteen & Restaurant  
03.00-05.00pm Drink Promotions Stables  
08.00-09.30pm Pints £1.30  
09.00-11.00pm Karaoke prizes  
4 \* £25 Bar state  
2 \* £20 Bar slate  
2 \* £10 Bar slate  
11.30-01.30am Xmas Disco with Dr. John

Also included £500 members lotto

All prizes sponsored by stables  
All Ents. on the night sponsored by U.L. S.U. Ents.

## Crossword Competition

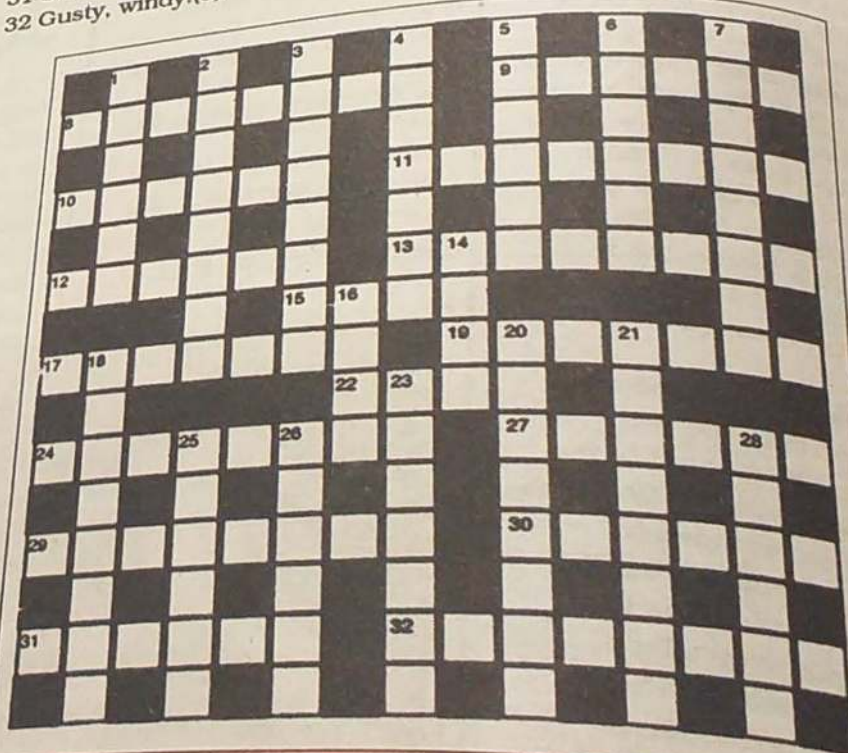
All submissions to S.U. Office before 26th November

### ACROSS

- 8 Practise before performance.(8)
- 9 Female sovereigns.(6)
- 10 Moral goodness.(6)
- 11 Light comic opera.(8)
- 12 Large tropical reed.(6)
- 13 Inhabitant of 30 across.(8)
- 15 Repeat.(4)
- 17 Universal remedy.(7)
- 19 Cushioned backless seat, from Turkey?(7)
- 22 Speed of the tear.(4)
- 24 Clinging curling stems.(8)
- 27 Withstand, oppose.(6)
- 29 Threatening, evil-looking.(8)
- 30 It's surrounded by water.(6)
- 31 Small stringed instrument.(6)
- 32 Gusty, windy.(8)

### DOWN

- 1 Inter a part of the eye.(6)
- 2 Section of the back bone.(8)
- 3 Grisly, revolting.(8)
- 4 The flower is a big one.(7)
- 5 Long piercing squeak.(6)
- 6 Degrade, lower.(6)
- 7 Aha, meant to be hateful.(8)
- 14 Slit, for coins maybe.(4)
- 16 British nobleman.(4)
- 18 Alcoholic appetiser.(8)
- 20 The end of the line.(8)
- 21 Disused, out of date.(8)
- 23 Braces I attribute.(7)
- 25 Furrows, for potatoes maybe.(6)
- 26 Preoccupied, absorbed.(6)
- 28 She's married in Spain.(6)



PRICES SLASHED FOR STUDENTS

## Spiders Hair Centre

John's St. Limerick  
Tel: 061-412271



WITH ID

SCOCUS