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Edition 10  
Semester 2



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## UL Bridge Battle intensifies

UL Environmental society last week stood its ground against UL planning officials at an oral hearing of An Bórd Pleannála in the city on March 13th. Contesting the development by UL of a bridge, that will connect the present campus to a fourth student village on the north bank of the river Shannon, this is the first time that the university has come up against formal opposition from a student society.

Speaking prior to the hearing Nancy L. Serrano, spokesperson for the society told An Focal that the society is "not opposed to the sustainable development of the campus" but believes "it is not good enough for UL to take the easiest solution". The society voiced major concerns regarding the adverse environmental impact of the project as well as what they see as an inadequate attitude by UL development planners in researching the development, its environmental impact, choice of site and construction design.

The society who have concentrated massive efforts on raising awareness about the campaign are making the primary objection that the site, situated adjacent to Drumroe Student village is currently a Dúchas pSAC



(proposed Special Area of Conservation). This status indicates that under EU Habitat Directives the site is one of immense ecolog-

-Claire Shaughnessy

ical or historical importance that needs to be protected. For the proposed development to go ahead the site would need to be declassified which the society feels would be irresponsible and dishonest.

However Professor Michael Hillary does not uphold the objections of the Environmental Society. Dean of Engineering at the university he believes unequivocally that the project is a "marvellous development" which has been dealt with most sensitively by planning officials. Pointing out that UL is an "extremely well planned out campus" and the envy of many educational institutions Prof. Hillary believes that the Bridge size and structure is "certainly justified" and believes that it can be developed as a "fantastic amenity".

Other groups previously opposed to the project; the Shannon Fisheries Board and Mulcair District Anglers Association have come to agree- **contd on page 32**

## UL Hurlers take home the Fitzgibbon!

- Barry Duggan

After a long gap of 8 years, the Fitzgibbon cup is back on Shannonside after the University of Limerick (UL) splendidly saw off the challenge of Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). WIT played in a tremendous fashion and spirit, UL had to dig deep into their resources to claim the blue riband of colleges hurling. It was not until deep into injury-time, when UL substitute Mick O' Hara found the back of the net was the outcome clear. This game was a cracker from start to finish and enthralled the large crowd in Castlegar, Galway, from start to finish.

Kilkenny star, Henry Shefflin opened Waterford's account after 2 minutes with a fine point from an acute angle. UL quickly replied and a Conor Fitzgerald pointed free, followed by a fine point from David Donohue saw the Limerick side lead. Damien Murray found the target twice from frees as WIT regained the lead. However, the

classy Limerick forwards soon turned on the style. John Barron, Richie Murray, David Forde and a Fitzgerald free all in the space of 3 minutes saw UL race into a 3 point lead before the game's first goal arrived.



After an excellent pass from Shefflin, Damien Murray found the back of the net to the delight of the Waterford students after 15 minutes. The Limerick side refused to panic and Fitzgerald (UL) continued to show his composure with 2 further pointed frees. Alan Geoghan replied with a minor for WIT before Niall Moran set up Adare's Donnacha Sheehan for a crashing drive to the back of the net to put the Limerick students 4 points ahead. Fergus Flynn replied with a point for WIT to leave the half time score 1-8 to 1-5 in UL's favour.

WIT came out with all guns blazing upon the resumption and efforts from Murray and Flynn saw the bare minimum between the teams. Fitzgerald continued to be the bane of WIT and each pointed free he drove over the bar pierced Waterford's (Contd on page 29)

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



The ULSU General Meeting has been cancelled until Week 7 of Semester 2. Further Detail will be posted around the University

# Student Registration increase due to Referendum Frustration

Efforts by ULSU to facilitate student voter registration were renewed this semester in an intensive Week Four campaign. Welcomed by both students and various political parties on campus, over 140 people have already used the on-line facility to avail of their right to vote in the Limerick East Constituency. As the majority of students at the University live away from home it is most often unviable for them to travel long distances to vote mid-week. With the forthcoming General Election rumoured to be held on May 2nd or 9th, a Thursday, it is advised that people should register now rather than regret it later.

Highlighted in the recent Abortion referendum, many students feel cheated of their democratic right to vote. For many, the consequence of being unregistered only came to light due to the emotive nature of recent debate and controversy surrounding the Abortion Referendum. Frustration evoked by redundant voting cards has provoked many students into making the effort to get registered. Sorcha Mullin, a first year applied languages student commented that she feels compelled to be registered to vote on such issues as the abortion referendum, an aspect of central concern to Irish youth. However she also expressed that she would not have the same enthusiasm to register on

grounds of voting in the General Election. She believes that rather than an individual having to register and re-register every time they change address (a frequent experience for most students) all referenda and elections should be held at the weekend when it is more viable for people to travel home to vote.

Patrick Kennedy, Campaigns and Communications Officer at the University reiterated the fact that people are more comfortable with voting in their own constituency. "The majority of people seem more willing to register at their home address", he said. However the benefits of being registered in Limerick while studying here are innumerable, allowing students to have an impact on local and national government by using their vote to represent the issues that concern their daily lives, such as education, public transport, public amenities etc. Although you are automatically de-registered from your home address by registering in Castletroy / Limerick you can easily revert to your home constituency or an alternative address when the need arises.

Though pledging support for the SU campaign in the last edition of An Focal, Elaine Byrne of UL Young Fine Gael believes that people should also be encour-

aged to utilise a system of postal voting if they wish to vote in their home constituency rather than the constituency of Limerick East. Welcoming the offer of logistical support for such a campaign, Patrick Kennedy said he was "most thankful at the offer" but due to the campaign being planned some time ago it was impossible to change the format of the registration forms. Therefore at present people can be registered by the SU in the Limerick East Constituency only.

However asking for the same offer to be made to his successor, Kennedy suggested that a massive campaign should be planned for next October by ULSU, along with combined support from the on-campus political parties to get all students at UL registered to vote "either by postal vote or in the Limerick East Constituency".

With a major referendum being decided by just over 10, 000 votes it is interesting to consider the impact that void student-voting cards could have made...

-Claire Shaughnessy

# SU Determined To Keep Business FYP Compulsory

The Student's Union are going ahead with their demands for the FYP to remain compulsory for fourth year business students, despite opposition by the BBS. The College of Business have proposed to adapt the compulsory FYP, instead allowing it to be an option only for business students. However the SU disapprove of this proposal as they feel it will negatively affect the overall standard of the UL Business degree. They are determined to ensure that the FYP remains as a statutory element of all UL course.

Last year, independent surveyors, on behalf of the SU, carried out a survey on the issue. Both past and present UL students were questioned, as well as employers of UL graduates. The overall results indicated that the surveyed were in favour of the FYP.

However, the BBS felt that the survey often carried biased questions and decided it was not substantial enough to forego their decision to carry on with their proposal. Despite that, the SU are determined to continue opposing an optional FYP. Speaking to An Focal last Friday, the SU Education Officer, Tom O' Donovan, said that they would not allow an optional FYP to go ahead. He underlined the importance of the Fourth Year Project to all graduates after college. He said he had spoken to many ex-UL students who have only positive words for the FYP. Many spoke of its importance at interviews and he felt that this highlighted its recognition after college.

This is a major reason why ULSU are persisting with this campaign. Another factor is that obviously an optional FYP would dissuade most students from opting for it. Who, in their right mind, would go through all that stress and torture when they don't even have to?! But these students will be likely to regret this decision in the future on realising the significance of the FYP.

The Student's Union has taken a further step in the

campaign by indicating their position to the body that deals with course policies- the Academic Programme View Committee (APRC). They have seen the survey and it's results and they are in agreement. However, they are as yet, unable to give a recommendation to the BBS to maintain the FYP as a compulsory facet of the UL Business degree.

Tom O' Donovan also emphasised that this stand against the College of Business was on behalf of the students. "It's what the students want", he reiterated. The Class Reps Council also agree that it is worthwhile, and as they're representing the students, it has been decided to continue to put pressure on the College of Business until they re-think

the proposal.

So the question is, "Will the FYP remain for future business students?" Because however much of an aversion we may have for the FYP, we gotta remember we're here for a reason and that's to get the best possible degree. If the FYP becomes an option for business students, it will result in some doing more work than others. Will those who take the easier way out lose out in the end? Our Student's Union seem to think so....

-Edel Fitzgerald

# Education Committee to form policy on Co-op

-Sinead Kelleher

The issue of Co-op is a universal one throughout U.L in which all students must partake as part of their undergraduate studies, whether it is in Ireland, the U.S or a foreign country. Some of us had a great time on Co-op probably the best times of our life but others were not so lucky. For those whose Co-op was a bad experience Class Reps for Law and European studies Brendan McDonald and Claire McCarthy have decided to bring this issue to light.

At the 1st Class Reps meeting of this Semester week 2 Brendan McDonald gave a presentation on some of the problems he found students from his class had faced during Co-op which are relevant to all students. These included lack of information and timing of interviews, lack of understanding in a crisis situation, scare tactics used by Co-op office, working and especially living conditions, no follow up support system in place and mistreatment of students who took the initiative to organize their own Co-op. These issues were then addressed by Gerry Cronin and John McGinn in a meeting the following week as well as by the Education Committee.

Deirdre Quinn Chair of the Education Committee says what they hope to put in place is a policy similar to that of the library user service group. Hopefully this group will comprise of

representatives from the student body and the Co-op office and will meet regularly to iron out any problems between students and the Co-op office. She hopes this will be up and running by the end of this semester though there are still details to be sorted out. Brendan McDonald and Claire McCarthy are to meet with the Education committee this Thursday to discuss the issue. They also hope to meet with the accommodation office to try and improve housing conditions for Co-op students.

Co-op is obviously an important part of studying here in UL and an invaluable experience but it is an issue that needs to be addressed to ensure continuous improvement in the system and it is up to you the students to do this.

# Referendum Reaction

## The Abortion Referendum Conundrum

Confusion is one word that should never be associated with a referendum and if the political parties of this country have learned anything from the events of last weeks Abortion Referendum it is that they are dealing with an educated voting population that demands information before it will take a stand on any issue. The controversy over the lack of information with regard to the Referendum that took place on Wednesday last week has left many people questioning why the general public was not better informed about the proposed amendment to the constitution.

Both sides presented booklets on the issue but these were met with confusion and the feeling that lots of issues were left unanswered. Students in particular were left in voting limbo when the date for the referendum was announced when faced with the prospect of having to travel to their home constituencies in order to vote. True, it can be argued that a postal voting system is in use in this country but how many can it be said availed of this service? It is evident now that few students had the opportunity to vote and feel that the situation was unfair.

"I was confused as both sides did not put their arguments forward in a clear manner. I am still not sure what the outcome of this referendum means" said Richie Ryan of third year Mechanical



Engineering. Another student, Anne Dineen of fourth year Business and German, shared his sentiments. She said that she found the issue "very confusing. Both sides of the argument were not laid out clearly and hence it was hard to know which side to back."

The confusion over the referendum and its outcome seem to be the common sentiment held by students on this campus. I am sure though that the general public also can associate with this feeling. Earlier this week I discussed the issue with the ULSU Welfare Officer, Tara Curley. She expressed her satisfaction at the outcome of the issue. She said, "I am happy it was passed as the constitutional change was too severe. Four issues were



rolled into one and people were not given the opportunity to pick and choose. The Government did not allow enough time for people to understand the amendment and hence there was too much confusion over the issue".

This seems to be a common feeling amongst many. Due to the lack of time to understand the amendment people decided to vote no on the issue. This

perhaps will make this Government and future governments publicise future referendums a lot better and allow a better time frame for comprehension of all the issues involved. Perhaps too they should implement a better system for choosing referendum dates that will allow students to make the necessary arrangements and implement their constitutional right to vote.

I contacted Michael Noonan, T.D. for the Limerick East Constituency and Leader of the Fine Gael Party, and asked him to comment on the situation. "I welcome the result of the abortion referendum and believe the next Dail must deal with the issue through legislation". Commenting further he added "But public opinion is evenly balanced on the issue, so widespread, detailed consultation must take place on the law needed to reflect the X Case,

which provides for a termination when a pregnant woman is suicidal". With regard to the polling date he stated, "People were confused, angry and frustrated by the Governments referendum tactics. A Wednesday polling day and the opening and closing times of the pole made it difficult

for many to vote". In conclusion he had this to say on the issue of abortion, "This will not open the floodgate to abortion. There has been no legal abortion here since the X Case. What is important is that we come together as a nation to deliver care to women with crisis pregnancies".

Speaking on the issue also, Barry Cronin of second year Business and Japanese said, "I was annoyed that it was on a Wednesday and I could not go and

vote. The change in the constitution did not seem very well thought out at all!" Another UL student Padraig Devery of third year Computer Systems was a poll clerk for the Abortion Referendum, I asked him his opinion on the issue. "To be honest with you I think it



was a pointless referendum in the first place. Bertie Ahern was backed into a corner to "deal with the abortion issue". Instead of actually coming out with a referendum that would deal with the abortion issue, he brought out this quite useless referendum". Commenting further he added "I was a poll clerk at the referendum at home in Cappawhite and we had people coming in during the day asking us which way to vote if you were against abortion. We didn't really have an answer!"

It is obvious that confusion overruled everything else relating to this referendum. The issue of abortion will clearly be a contentious issue for some time to come. In my own personal opinion I believe that the question of abortion and all related issues will be one that will be often mentioned in the upcoming election. One can only question how the public will react in the build up to the election to political parties that were totally unsuccessful in giving information and successful in mass confusion. However, it will not be long until abortion is once again front-page news.

-Daniel Nagle

## Developing Countries Awareness Day

- Come along and see how you could make a difference
- **Main Canteen**



• **TODAY**

• **Tuesday, March 19th**

# Hello from your Sabbatical Officers

Aontas Na Mac Léinn  
  
 Ollscoil Luimnigh

## Mick Phelan - ULSU President



I hope all is going well for you all and you will enjoy the St Patrick's weekend, here are some of the areas that I have been working on over the last 2 week.

### PSA

Over the last 6 years there have been problems with the ULSU and the PSA. In an attempt to find a solution both sides sat down for a couple of lengthy meetings to discuss the future of the two bodies. In an attempt to solve the problems there were 3 options discussed.

Option 1 – There would be a fifth sabbatical officer of the ULSU – the Postgraduate officer only elected by the postgraduate community with a separate postgraduate council and extra funding would be put in place for Post grad issues.

Option 2 – A complete split, the PSA would receive the entire postgraduate capitation and there would be two separate unions on campus that could work together on common issues.

Option 3 – There would be two separate unions. The ULSU would represent all students on "generic issues" and the PSA would solely represent post grads on post grad issues. This would create a two-tier system and due to the fact that all students are treated equally by the ULSU, this system would need to be fleshed out more.

However unwillingness on the part of the PSA representatives to discuss these options through to some form of conclusion in their entirety was not forthcoming, so they will be placing this item on the agenda for the UGM on Wednesday night week 6.

If you have any interest in this issue, I would urge you to come along to the meeting in the Jean Monnet at 6pm.

### Stables / Scholars Prices

Similar to the above item, there was an

increase of € 0.10 - € 0.15 on the price of pints handed down from the vintners association to all pubs and clubs.

### USI / FUSU

Tom and myself went to a meeting about the future of 5 other Universities and their continued membership with USI – The Union of Students in Ireland. Apparently there are huge debts mounting within the USI organisation and also there is a lot of dissatisfaction with the current structure of USI, and there seems to be a lot of resistance from the USI Officer Board to change. The USI National Congress in being held next week in Ennis.

### Housing Estates

I have received a number of complaints from residents in relation to littering, rubbish in estates and ball playing at night. All of these are offences and could lead to a prosecution and a suspension – or in severe cases expulsion from the University. I particular there have been numerous incidents in Oak Lawns and Milford Grange. All I can say is that in the current climate, there will be severe action taken against students in relation to these offences, so please try to avoid this.

### Clubs & Societies Ball 2002

At the time of writing this I did not know the winners of the C&S awards 2002. But congratulation to all who were nominated and especially to those who won. I hope the night went well and a particular congrats to Paul Lee, Patricia Moriarty and Nessa Fahy O'Donnell for all their work in making the evening a success.

Mick

## Tom O'Donovan- ULSU Education Officer



Rechecks, appeals or just a break down of your module grade by piece of work.

Lately I have been getting a number of requests from students relating to their grades. These range from students being unhappy with the grade they received because they thought they should have done better or that something happened in or around the exam to make it unfair, e.g.; it wasn't the exam they were told they were going to have, no-one showed up in the exam hall to answer their questions about the paper or the marking scheme was changed, to just wanting to know what they got for their lab work, project and exam so that they can see where they need to improve.

There are a number of issues related to these requests and each of these are being brought forward by the SU for the attention of the University. Some we are getting movement on others are taking longer than expected. Depending on the issue in question there are different ways of taking them on. Unfortunately because of the present University regulations if you want to appeal any decision on your grades you must first initiate a grade recheck. This is the current scenario despite the fact that in many of the cases the grade itself isn't the issue but the exam itself.

In many instances students are just trying to establish were they fell down in an effort to do better for the next project / essay / exam, something that makes a lot of sense in a continuous assessment academic environment. Academically there is not much learning value for a student to receive feedback on a piece of work submitted during the semester until after the final exam. It is not uncommon for students in this institution to only receive a final grade with no breakdown of the component parts that made up that grade. The University is currently bringing on line a viewing day for exam

scripts. This day is being driven by the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) to the university sector late last year.

Under the FOI students are entitled to request and receive the information on their work.

The only gradable material you are not entitled to see are multiple choice questions. You are also entitled to the reasons for a decision. In this context this is very important to the student as it is not good enough under the law for you just to be shown what grade you got but also why you got for example only 10% for part one of question two. Log on to the UL Freedom of Information Unit website at [www.ul.ie/foi/](http://www.ul.ie/foi/) for more information on this. Alternatively you can email Susanne O'Mahony UL's Freedom of Information Officer or Bernadette Norris UL's Freedom of Information Admin Assistant at [foi@ul.ie](mailto:foi@ul.ie) or ring them at 061-202554.

### STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Will be held in the Students Centre every Monday (1-3pm) Tuesday (3-5pm) and Thursday (7-9pm) These workshops are of two hours duration and focus on Concentration, Motivation, Listening at lectures, Note-taking and general Study Habits. Students who could benefit from these should sign up for a workshop by emailing [Niamh.Bowen@ul.ie](mailto:Niamh.Bowen@ul.ie) or Call to/Phone the Centre for Teaching and Learning, E1009/ (061) 202034. Workshops focusing on Exam Preparation will commence in Week 10 and will continue in the same time slots.

Tom

## Patrick Kennedy- ULSU Communications and Campaigns Officer



Hi guys,

I hope you had an enjoyable two weeks and have settled into the semester as easily as possible. I'm considerably more calm this edition, it's Thursday and I have 20 pages+ done already!

Over the last two weeks I seem to have been trying to spread myself across three or four different projects to the best of my ability.

Here is a brief synopsis of the progress on each.

Programme of Work- Transportation Project. The big news here is that Michael Noonan has contacted Catherine Levis and Myself to offer full support on the need for bus and cycle lanes from the city to the University. We now need to plan exactly what we are going to do over the remainder of the the semester, but support like this makes it a bit easier.

### Voter Registration.

Having mailed the web form to everyone with an e-mail account at the University of Limerick there proved to be a few initial mistakes (dates, etc.). Following ironing out

these errors 153 people have opted to utilise the facility that we offered. I will be making a detailed report of the campaign and making recommendations for next year in the next few weeks..

### An Focal

The oxygen awards are now approaching and it is time to decide who will go forward from An Focal to be considered for the awards. if anyone has any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me, all suggestions will be considered.

### UGM

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE attend the Union General meeting in the Jean Monnet Lecture Hall next Wednesday at 6pm. There are a number of very serious issues that will affect the money available to Clubs and Societies among other things. Last semester we had a dismal turnout of roughly 34 people. 200 students is the necessary quorum to make any decision, please attend its your right as a student!!!!

Thats all from me for now, take care

Patrick

## Tara Curley- ULSU Welfare Officer Deputy President



How do all???

I hope this makes it in this week, Patrick made a boo boo last week, and I became mick!! Sorry about that, I have included the most important stuff again.

. As you all may have noticed the Medical Centre was closed last Friday, this was to facilitate moving into the new space, the new entrance to the medical center is around the corner from the old one, its well sign posted at the moment so go take a look just so you know how to get there before it's a medical emergency!!! And please if you make an appointment keep it, or else let the medical center know if you can't coz you are stopping someone else from seeing the doc..

The Student Parent and toddler group is back, we are meeting every Saturday morning from 11am-1pm in the Students union building, so call in for a chat.

The ESF/Access grant is still available to those of you who haven't quite made it down to apply for it yet..if you are worried about the criteria and aren't too sure if you qualify, there is no harm in trying. Just call into Paula in the access office ( its in the basement of the White house) are ask her for a form, or you can e-mail her on [paula.fitzell@ul.ie](mailto:paula.fitzell@ul.ie)

The Outreach society has just gone completely mad this year, all resulting in a trek in the jun-

gles of Thailand, which I'll fill you in on next week!! If you are interested in finding our more or just want to do something really worthwhile for an or so a week come just us. We meet every Wednesday night at 7.30pm in Room 4, there are many projects you could get involved in from, Homework clubs, Enable Ireland, SouthHill junior school etc etc Take a look at the website for more info [www.csn.ul.ie/~outreach](http://www.csn.ul.ie/~outreach).

The UGM is on Wednesday night, if you want to know whats going on, come and have your say and see what the student's union have been doing for the year  
Congrats to the whole team who worked on Seachtain Na Gaeilge, it was a brilliant week

Finally , this week is Sexual Health Awareness week, check out the other pages in An Focal, I know we would all like to think we are experts on the subject of sex, however there is a lot we all could do with brushing up on!!!!!! Make sure you get your SEX PACK, and the date rape card, its really handy and will fit in your wallet and has all the important phone numbers and stuff.

Tara

# So you want to become a Sabbatical Officer (whats all that about then?)

Just Imagine you can be writing the lovely reports on the opposite page next year! All you have to do is run for Sabbatical Office. Louise Neville outlines the various roles and duties that each office undertake for their term of Office



Where do they come from? What do they look like? Do they drive fancy cars and hang out in sushi bars? Who are these mysterious folk? When my esteemed editor (earning brownie points) asked me to do a piece on the upcoming Sabbatical elections, my first response was "wha?????" What jobs do these people do and why do we need to be involved in their election? The mind boggled and so I began to do a little research. The Sabbatical Officers seem to be the folk who wander around in lovely purple t-shirts with a navy jumper on over these t-shirts when we get the odd drop of rain. They shall also be sporting a smile. These friendly fellows seem to be ruled by Mr. Mick Phelan. His job is to represent all of us students in any matter regarding life here in U.L. His six major areas of responsibility are services, representation, organisation, co-ordination, and initiation of policy and last but not least, finance. The President also has the pleasure of sitting on numerous committees. Where does he get his energy? There are Building Committees, Equal Opportunities Committees, Faculty Boards, Academic Councils, The Stables Management Committee and the Discipline Committee. Phew!!!!

The next three Sabbatical Officers, I will deal with alphabetically so I cannot therefore be accused of favouritism!!! The lovely Tara Curley is next on the list and she is the Welfare Officer. If you have a problem, be it major or

minor, you should pop along to see Tara. Minor ailments, accommodation, insurance, alcohol, STD's, stress and pregnancy are but a few of the issues that this lady will chat to you about if you so wish. She also has time to sit on such committees as the Governing Authority and the Assessment committee.

The next Sabbatical officer is a Mr. Patrick Kennedy. He is the Communications Officer this year. He edits and generally organises the weekly newspaper "An Focal" as well as taking an active interest in the radio station "wired FM". This Officer is normally responsible for the development and implementation of Union Communication Policy. As well as making sure that all publications relating to the college are impeccably produced, the Officer is in charge of campaigns and information drives both internally and externally. If he wants ye to know about something, ye'll definitely know by the time he's finished with ye!!! More importantly he sits on the management committees of both the Stables and Scholars Clubs.

The final Officer is a man by the name of Tom O Donovan. He is the Sabbatical Officer in charge of Education. Any problems you have regarding the splendid level of education that you are receiving at this wonderful establishment will be best dealt with if you go and visit Tom. He also has a hand in the Student Affairs Committee, the

Discipline Committee and the Academic Council. He works with the class reps and also with a Co-op Focus Group. He is certainly the man to pay a quick visit to if you are having academic trouble.

So now we are aware of the existence of four Sabbatical Officers. So how did these people get the job in the first place? In order for you to be in with a chance, you must be nominated by fifteen members and the nomination must be seconded by a further thirty members. This year the nomination process will take place before week 9 with all nominations to be received by 5pm. on Thursday April 4th. The elections will more than likely take place the following week. The nomination form is to have the full name of the candidate, their ID number, the course that they are doing and finally that name of their Agent or Campaigns Manager. That's right folks, you get to have somebody else do all the hard work, making posters, getting your face out there and in general making you look pretty darn funky, while you swan about the college meeting and greeting. So if you think that you would like to be one of the four Sabbatical Officers of the college - get out there and start getting nominations!!!

**-Louise Neville**

**nomination forms will be available from the student centre reception  
during week 8. to find out more call in and ask your officers**

# Sexual Health Awareness week - week 6

## Lets talk about sex

So what's all this stuff about sex about.....reckon you pretty much have it sorted out at this stage!! Well let me tell you that there is a lot we all don't know about the complicated world of sex. So heres an extra bit of reading for this weeks study, I can't stress how important it is. The small bits of info that you might be a bit dodgy on, could be the most important. For the whole of this week, we will be re-education you all on sex and all that comes with it, the messy bits aswell as the good bits.

So how much do you know about sex

How many of the following questions can you answer without hesitating.....

1. For how long after sex can you take the morning after pill?
2. Can Rohypnol be seen in most drinks?
3. How long should you be with someone before you have to have sex with them?
4. Can you get pregnant while taking the pill?
5. Can you name two of the symptoms of Syphilis?
6. Can you name two other STI's?
7. Can condoms prevent STI's?
8. Do you have to have sex to get pregnant?
9. Do you think there is a problem with AIDS/ STD's/ unwanted pregnancies on campus?
10. Roughly how many people do you think have travelled to England for abortions since September?
- 11.

The list is endless and unfortunately we Irish are great believers in we don't need to know these things until the problem

arises, however sometimes its too late then.

The services and information is all over the campus, its up to you to make sure you know the facts, you can call to the medical center, or to my office at any stage and arm yourself with hundreds of leaflets and become an expert over coffee.

I'm not preaching guys, this is a growing concern on our campus and it affects us all. I got stung and as a result had to finish the last two years of my degree as a mum. Don't get me wrong I wouldn't swop her for all the money in the world, but its not easy, to be honest its damn hard at times. So be careful and if you are having sex be responsible about it, you look me like a fool at this stage if you don't carry a condom. And now you have no excuse get your Sex Pack....on campus this week.

Also beware here are some of the sad excuses that can surface from time to time.....

- If you love me you wouldn't make me wear it....
- It doesn't fit, I'm too big.....(deflate his ego immediately)
- You don't need a condom, I'm on the pill
- I'll pull out before I come...
- I'll only put it in a little bit..
- Sex hurts with them on

I know everyone has heard at least one of these or something similar at some stage, just tell the person to get a life and have

more respect for yourself.

Ok I've had my rant for now, hopefully some of it will be of benefit and please please don't hesitate

to look for the support....its there for you.

All the phone numbers are there, take them down, tear it out of the paper and stick it up in the kitchen in the house just have them close, you never know when you may need them.

So its official sex is the topic of the conversation for the week, you are free to have as many interesting conversations with everyone.....sex is not something which should be hush hush, we are all adults if there is something you want to know just talk about it.

Have fun, enjoy it, but just always be safe about it..

Tara



## Condoms, Condoms....

### So whats the story??

Condoms are made out of latex (rubber), plastic or animal tissue. If possible you should use a latex condom as these are the most effective against viruses such as HIV, and in most countries they are the type most readily available.

Condoms come in a variety of shapes. Most have a reservoir tip although some do have a plain tip. Condoms may be regular shaped (with straight sides), form fit (indented just below the glans or "head" of the penis), or they may be flared (wider over the glans). In addition some condoms are textured with ribs or bumps. Condoms also come in a variety of colours.

The lubrication on condoms also varies. Some condoms are not lubricated at all, some are lubricated with a silicone substance, and some condoms have a water-based lubricant. Many lubricated condoms are also now available with a spermicide( stuff which kills off the sperm) added.

The lubrication on condoms aims to make the condom easier to put on and more comfortable to use. A spermicidal lubricant also aims to provide an additional level of protection should leakage occur.

Shape, colour, ribbed or not??

It's up to you which to choose. All of the differences in shape are designed to suit different personal preferences and enhance pleasure. It is important to communicate with your partner to be sure that you are using condoms that satisfy both of you.

Some condoms are flavoured to make oral sex more enjoyable.

What about the condom size?

There are generally only three sizes made, and the standard size fits most men. Despite what some may claim!!!!

There is just one standard length for condoms, and condoms made from natural rubber will in addition always stretch if necessary to fit the length of the man's erect penis.

The only place where there is a size difference at all, is in the width of the condom. Some condoms have a slightly smaller width to give a "closer" fit. There is also a slightly larger condom, but this is usually just 2 mm larger than the standard size.

The brand names will be different in each country, so you



will need to do your own investigation of different names. There is no particular best brand of condom.

So when do you use a condom?

You need to use a new condom every time you have sex. Never use the same condom twice. Put the condom on after the penis is erect and before any contact is made between the penis and any part of the partner's body.

How do you use a condom?

Open the condom package at one corner being careful not to tear the condom with your fingernails, your teeth, or through being too rough. Make sure the package and condom appear to be in good condition, and check that if there is an expiry date that the date has not passed.

Condoms can deteriorate if not stored properly. They can be affected by both heat and light. So it is best not to use a condom that has been stored in your back pocket, your wallet, or the glove compartment of your car.

Place the rolled condom over the tip of the hard penis, and if the condom does not have a reservoir top, pinch the tip of the condom enough to leave a half inch space for semen to collect. If the man is not circumcised, then pull back the foreskin before rolling on the condom.

Pinch the air out of the condom tip with one hand and unroll the condom over the penis with the other hand. Roll the condom all the way down to the base of the penis, and smooth out any air bubbles. (Air bubbles can cause a condom to break).

If you want to use some extra lubrication, put it on the outside of the condom. But always use a water-based lubricant (such as KY Jelly) as an oil-based lubricant will cause the latex to break.

What do you do if the condom won't unroll?

The condom should unroll smoothly and easily from the rim on the outside. If you have to struggle or if it takes more than a few seconds, it probably means that you are trying to put the condom on upside down. To take off the condom, don't try to roll it back up. Hold it near the rim and slide it off. Then start again with a new condom.

When do you take off the condom?

## SEX!

Sex sex sex. We love it, if we're not doing it we're thinking about it, talking about it, wondering about it, marvelling at it, planning it, hoping for it or, on the saddest of occasions, begging for it in the most undignified manner. Sex is in our music, our books, our films, it is generally in one form or another, unavoidable. Sex is an expression of love, a moment of relief, a way of reproducing. It can be beautiful, frightening, exciting, dangerous, gentle, painful, tender, meaningful or casual. It's versatile too: kissing, stroking, squeezing, touching, holding, caressing or just plain old fashioned intercourse. At best, it's all of these and whatever else you can dream up.

Sex should be fun, lots of fun, but it must be approached in a responsible, mature way and it is important that partners in a sexual relationship be fully aware of what they are undertaking, and what the consequences may be. Let's start at the beginning

Pull out before the penis softens, and hold the condom against the base of the penis while you pull out, so that the semen doesn't spill. Then tie a knot in the condom and throw it away.

What do you do if a condom breaks?

If a condom breaks during sex, then pull out quickly and replace the condom. Whilst you are having sex, check the condom from time to time, to make sure it hasn't split or slipped off.

What condoms should you use for anal

intercourse?

With anal intercourse more strain can be placed on the condom. So it is sensible to use stronger condoms and plenty of lubricant.

Is using a condom effective?

If used properly, a condom is very effective at reducing the risk of being infected with HIV during sexual intercourse. Using a condom also provides protection against other sexually transmitted diseases, and protection against pregnancy. In the laboratory, latex condoms are very effective at blocking transmission of HIV because the pores in latex condoms are too small to allow the virus to pass through. However, outside of the laboratory condoms are less effective because people do not always use condoms properly. Just this once???????

It can be difficult to talk about using condoms. But you shouldn't let embarrassment become a health risk. The person you are thinking about having sex with may not agree at first when you say that you want to use a condom when you have sex.

# Sexual Health Awareness week - week 6

## Contraception – Sex safe is good sex!!!!!!

When you play with fire your going to get burnt at some stage...the same applies to sex, if you are having sex you have to be responsible and prepared to deal with the consequences. None of the following forms of contraception are 100%, so the only one certainty is not to have sex at all!!!! However, if you are going to have sex at least be responsible about it, all it takes is a trip to the doc, all forms of contraceptives are easily accessible and are relatively cheap, especially when you weight up the consequences..... The trick is to find one which suits you.

### The Combined Pill ( 99% effective):

How it works: It contains two hormones, oestrogen and progesterone. Taken daily as prescribed, the pill stops ovulation (the release of the woman's egg each month).  
Main advantages: It is easy and convenient to use. It gives regular monthly cycle, often-reduced amount of bleeding, period pain and P.M.T. It does not interfere with sex. All the risks with oral contraception are less than the risks associated with pregnancy.  
Disadvantages: Minor side effects usually pass in a few months. May not suit diabetic's women with high blood pressure or those with close family members with a history of heart disease and/or thrombosis at an early age.  
Comments: It does not work if taken over 12 hours late, or if there is sickness or severe diarrhoea, when extra precautions must be used. Some drugs will top the pill working especially antibiotics, a doctor will advice. The pill is prescribed by a doctor. Pill users should try not to smoke.

### Progesterone only pill (98% effective)

How it works: The hormone progesterone taken regularly (same time every day) cause changes making it difficult for the sperm to enter the womb or for the womb to accept a fertilised egg.  
Main advantages: Useful for older women as there is less risk of blood clotting and blood pressure problems. It is easy and convenient to use and is suitable for use when breastfeeding. It does not interfere with sex.  
Disadvantages: Monthly period may be irregular with breakthrough bleeding or 'spotting'. Minor side effects usually last for two to three months. Sometimes periods are missed  
Comments: Must be taken at the same time every day or no

more than 3 hours late. Sickness, severe diarrhoea and some drugs may stop it working and extra precautions must be used. Pill users should try not to smoke.

### Condom( 85%- 95% effective):

How it works: Made of thin rubber and worn over an erect penis, a condom prevents sperm entering the woman. Most condoms are lubricated with spermicide.  
Main advantages: Condoms are both easy to obtain and use. Can help protect both partners from STI's. It may protect the woman against cancer of the cervix.  
Disadvantages: Condoms may slip off or burst. Both partners may find some loss of sensitivity during sex. Needs care to ensure no sperm are spilt after ejaculation.  
Comments; It must be put on before the penis touches any part of the woman's vaginal area and held in place when the penis is withdrawing. Do not use after the sell by date.

### Diaphragm or Cap (85%-97% effective)

How it works.  
Soft rubber device inserted into vagina before sex to cover the cervix, forming a barrier which preventing sperm and egg meeting. It must be used with a spermicide jelly and left in place for 6 hours after intercourse  
Main advantages: The cap and spermicide may be put in at any convenient time before sex so it need not interfere with spontaneity (more than 3 hours between insertion and sex just means inserting more jelly. It may prevent against cancer of the cervix.  
Disadvantages: Need to plan ahead so that the cap/ spermicide are in place before sex. Must check every six months that the cap is the right size. Also check after childbirth, vaginal operations, and weight gain of more than 3 kilograms as the size of the vagina may change.  
Comments: A spermicide cream, foam, jelly or pessary must be used with the diaphragm.

### Intra Uterine Device (IUD) (96%-99% effective)

How it works: A small plastic device with rubber is fitted in to the womb by a doctor. It works by preventing the egg and the sperm meeting.  
Main advantages: It is effective immediately after fitting. It particularly suitable for women who want to space out their pregnancies or for hose who have completed their family. It does not interfere with sex.  
Disadvantages: Periods are heavy at first. Sometimes the IUD

may come out. Some women develop infection, more likely in younger women who have several sexual partners. Not ideal for a younger woman who has never been pregnant.  
Comments: IUD's are replaced every 3-5 years. Tampons may be used. Must be fitted by doctor.

### Injectable contraception ( 99% effective)

How it works: These act in a similar way to the progesterone only pill and also stop ovulation. A hormone progesterone is injected in to a muscle and released very slowly into the system.  
Advantages: One injection gives protection against pregnancy for 8-12 weeks. It does not interfere with sex. Injectables reduce the incidence of accidents and are used in the treatment of pelvic inflammatory disease of cancer and cancer of the ovary. You don't have to worry about contraception for the period of the injection.  
Disadvantages: Periods usually become irregular and as a result of this return of regular periods and fertility may be delayed for up to one year. It is non-reversible during the period when the injection is active.  
Comments: Depo-Provera should only be used when no other methods are suitable. It is also prescribed by a doctor.

### Emergency Contraception (96% effective) - The morning after pill

How it works: The pill contains oestrogen and progesterone at higher doses than the ordinary contraceptive pill. They work by stopping implantation of a fertilised ovum (egg). You take two pills and two more 12 hours later.  
Advantages: If you act quickly you can prevent an unplanned pregnancy. It may be effective up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. However research shows that it is more effective if taken within the first 12 hours.  
Disadvantages: The morning after pill can make you sick. If you vomit you must take two more pills to replace the two you have thrown up.  
Comments: This method of contraception is really only for use in the case of an emergency i.e unprotected sex or a split or burst condom. It should not be used as a regular method of birth control. It is available only by prescription by a doctor. Contact your GP or the Medical Centre.

## Pregnancy – The Brief Outline

Could I be pregnant????

If your period is late and you have reason to believe you might be pregnant the first step is to get a pregnancy test. Pregnancy tests are available in the chemist across from the student centre, the three most popular are: Confirm/Clear Blue/First Response

These home pregnancy tests are:

- Accurate:99% accurate
- Simple: Can be used at any time of the day (although it is recommended that it be done first thing in the morning)
- Fast: The results take just between 1-3 minutes
- Cheap: The prices range from £6.76 - £9.18

If you find a positive result, you should have this confirmed by a doctor. The Medical centre can do this and the nurses are brilliant. Once the pregnancy is confirmed, you are now in a position to consider the options open to you.....

### Keeping the baby

If you decide to keep the baby there is many aspects to consider such as the financial aspect and childcare

### Abortion

Many girls find the decision to have an abortion very difficult to make, even when they decide it is the only logical choice for them. The time available to make the decision is limited and extremely isolating due to the traditional beliefs of many people. Many woman's fears about abortion are made worse by the fact that they receive little of no information about the actual procedures, after-effects or amount of pain they are

likely to experience. Please don't let this be the case; I have the information in my office, just ask. It is advisable to give this a lot of consideration and to talk it over with me, your GP, a counsellor or someone you feel comfortable with. Check out the list of useful phone numbers.

### Adoption

If you are considering this option it is important to talk to a social worker about it early in the pregnancy. If you take this choice, a permanent legal relationship is created between the adoptive parents and the child. After the baby is born you will be asked to sign a consent form. Sometime after the baby is placed the adoptive couple will apply for an Adoption Order. After that you will be asked to sign the final consent to the Adoption order. You will be in contact with a social worker whose job it is to make sure you are placing your

child for adoption of your own free will. Once you have signed the order, all your duties and rights cease with respect to the child.

There are many organisations which will help you and point you in the right direction, if this is the best option for you. Just call into me in the Welfare Office or check the list on the Useful phone numbers section.

Useful phone numbers

- Welfare Office: Tara 061-202519
- Medical Centre: 061-202131/202132
- Student Counsellor: 061-202332
- Pregnancy: Cura – 061-318207
- Limerick Family Planning Clinic, 27 Mallow St, Limerick. 061-312026

## STI's

### – Sexually transmitted Infections ( the hidden reality)

STI's are infections and diseases which can be passed on from one person to another during sex or oral sex. They are caused by bacteria, viruses and other organisms which are present in the blood, semen, sperm, body fluids or the pubic area of an infected person. Most STI's ( with the exception of AIDS) once diagnosed can be cured with treatment. It is important to get treatment as early as possible as if they go undiagnosed they can cause serious and permanent damage.

#### Common Symptoms

- Unfortunately many of these STI's have no signs or symptoms. People who are infected may look perfectly healthy.
- However is you are having regular sex and notice any of the following symptoms you should go to a doctor immediately.
- Unusual discharge from penis or vagina
- Pain when passing urine
- Unusual sores or blisters in the genital area
- Itching or irritation in the genital area

- Painful sex
- Bleeding during or after sex

Who???

Anyone who is sexually active and not in a faithful one partner relationship, is at risk of being infected. There is no natural immunity to STI's.....so everyone is at risk.  
Avoiding STI's  
Unfortunately the only definite means of avoiding infection is by not having sex  
Limit the number of people you sleep with, the more people you have sex with the greater the chances  
There is only one real means of prevention.....CONDOMS (don't leave home without one)  
If in doubt.....  
If you are worried about any of the above, don't hesitate to see a doctor. Don't let embarrassment be the cause of something serious.

# Sexual Health Awareness week - week 6

## Rohypnol

Rohypnol – ruffies – what ever you want to call it.....is one of the biggest dangers on campus

In the first eight months of 2001 at least thirty women reported rape by men using date rape drugs, according to the Rape Crisis Centre. The estimated unofficial figures are much higher. However, so far there has been no prosecution for drug rape in this country. The reason? Quite simply, the victims realise the difficulty of obtaining solid proof and are reluctant to come forward.

This controversial drug, Rohypnol, is already a controlled substance in the United States and there have been calls for the criminalisation of unauthorised possession of the drug in Ireland. And although there has been no legal action on this matter so far, hopefully it is only a matter of time.

So what exactly is this date rape drug and what are its effects?

Marketed as Rohypnol, it is known on the streets as 'roofies', 'ruffies', 'rib', 'R-2', 'rope', 'the forget pill' and 'roach'. Legally available in more than 60 countries - apart from the USA - it is most often prescribed for severe insomnia. This odourless, colourless and tasteless drug is a sedative similar to Valium but 10 to 20 times stronger. So powerful, in fact, that it can impair motor skills, cause muscle relaxation and be responsible for blackouts and memory loss. What's more, it also intensifies the effects of alcohol and other drugs.

Within the first few hours after ingestion of the drug, the victim can experience a temporary amnesia that can last up to one and a half days. Sedation occurs 20 - 30 minutes after its administration with the peak effect at one to two hours and lasting up to eight hours.

"Last year, on the UL campus, there were two suspected cases which got reported, but that is not at all a reliable yardstick to measure the number of cases there have actually been.

The critical problem with this drug is the difficulty of proving it has been used. By the time the victim's memory gradually returns and she is able to piece together the events of the previous evening, the drug has already had time to work its way out of her system. Sometimes people don't completely realise the extreme nature of the ordeal they have endured until days or even weeks later and it is therefore extremely difficult to obtain physical evidence."

The fact that the drug cannot be detected in breath tests after it has been consumed, and can only be detected in very complex urine testing of samples taken very soon after the drug has been administered, reinforces the virtual impossibility of obtaining hard evidence of its abuse.

Victims realise this and are understandably reluctant to come forward and put themselves through the harrowing procedure of reliving the event without the guarantee of satisfactory retribution. And rohypnol is not the only drug which we suspect is being used in this way. One of the most important warnings we give to everyone is to always watch your drinks. So how should you protect yourself from falling prey to this invisible demon?

The basic ground rule is to protect your own drinks. You are strongly advised never under any circumstances to accept any opened drink, regardless of how safe or attractive the benefactor may appear. Rohypnol dissolves very easily and the amnesiac state can begin within ten minutes.

Also remember that men as well as women have been victims. And never ask someone to watch your drink for you; the person might simply be distracted or might not be as trustworthy as you like to think. Many documented cases of Rohypnol-related date rape in America have involved friends doctoring their so-called friends' drinks. The only solution is to buy your own and guard it like your wallet or mobile phone.

## Two Women's Stories about Life with HIV

### Sara's Story

Hello, I have had H.I.V for five years, I'm 23 and I find it really hard sometimes to carry on but like so many of us we feel this way and just can't give up on life! I'm not on any medication, I'm actually quite scared of them! I also know that I will have to take them someday. What I'm trying to say is that we will all come across a lot of hard situations in our life and have to deal with them, like the saying goes what ever doesn't kill you makes you stronger!!

I haven't had any symptoms yet and I try to live my life as happily as I can. I'm also quite new at accepting my virus. Like a lot of people I have found I really isolated myself from the world I felt everyone knew! My friends couldn't accept the virus so I learnt the hard way who my real friends were! So for everyone who ever felt or feels alone with this, Please don't! Just know who you are and don't let anyone hurt you because of this virus! I'm gonna end this with love and please take care.

### Tina's Story

Hi, my name is Tina. I'm 18 and I found out that I am HIV positive in June 2001. It was like the world had collapsed. I found out because I had donated blood in school. I received a letter saying that my blood had reacted to one of the tests. I went to see the doctor. They brought me to this office and I talked to the doctor for a while before she told me I was HIV positive and that there was no mistaking it. She took out a box of tissues. I guess she thought I was going to

cry. I didn't. I don't know why. I was in shock. But in a way I knew. I had been with 4 sexual partners. And I had been with two of them at the same time using no protection. We have another friend who is HIV positive-but she was born with it. Later on I told my sister. She is older than me, and she has been very supportive of me. I had told my other best friend and she has been supportive of me too. Some other family members have also been supportive of me. I have been so lucky to have people who love me so much that they stood by me. I haven't told my parents yet. That I don't think I could bear. I know they are going to be disappointed, but I know they will love me no matter what. I also told all my sexual partners. They are also supportive of me. I mean, they are like my friends. One of which is my shoulder to cry on.

I'm not on any medication. And my viral load is undetectable as of now. My doctor says I'm doing great and that I'm healthy. I go for counselling once a week with my social worker. She is the best. And I also go to an HIV positive group once a week. I found it to be very helpful. Don't get me wrong, my world has been turned upside down because I didn't use my head. I wish I wasn't living like this. But I'm making the best of it. I'm still alive and I still do the things I always did. I still have sex, but this time I use protection and I let my partners know. And I don't mind guys asking me questions about me being HIV positive. I want them to be educated and know that no one is safe from it.

### What is HIV?

## HIV

HIV stands for the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus. This is a virus that people can become infected with and that they can then pass on to other people.

### How is a person affected by HIV infection and when does it become AIDS?

When someone becomes infected with HIV it begins to attack their immune system which is the body's defence against illness. This process is not visible.

A person infected with HIV may look and feel perfectly well for many years and they may not know that they are infected. Then as the person's immune system weakens they become vulnerable to illnesses, many of which they would normally fight off.

When a person is infected with HIV they are likely as time goes by to be ill more and more often. A person is said to have AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) when, usually several years after first becoming infected with HIV, they have developed one of a number of particularly severe illnesses.

### How exactly is HIV passed on?

#### What is a 'risky activity'?

HIV is present in the sexual fluids and blood of infected people. It can also be in the breastmilk of infected women.

A risky activity is anything that makes it possible for the virus to pass from one person to another. This is why sexual intercourse without a condom is risky, because the virus, which is present in an infected person's sexual fluids, can pass directly into the body of their partner. Using a condom properly is a very effective way of preventing transmission of HIV during sexual intercourse.

Contact with an infected person's blood is risky if it allows the virus to pass into another person's body through cuts or grazes in their skin. This is why it can be risky being pricked by, or injecting with, a needle or syringe already used by someone else.

It is also possible for an infected woman to pass the virus on to her unborn baby either before or during birth. HIV can also be passed on through breast-feeding.

It is not possible to become infected with HIV through:

- sharing crockery and cutlery
- insect/animal bites
- touching, hugging or shaking hands
- eating food prepared by someone with HIV.

### What is Safe Sex?

Safe sex refers to sexual activities which do not involve any sexual fluid from one person getting into another person's body. If two people are having safe sex then even if one person is infected there is no possibility of the other person becoming infected.

Safe sex activities include hugging, touching, caressing and mutual masturbation.

### What about kissing?

Can you become infected by kissing someone who has HIV?

Kissing someone on the cheek, also known as social kissing, does not pose any risk of HIV transmission.

Deep or open mouthed kissing is considered a very low risk activity for transmission of HIV. This is because HIV is present in saliva but only in very minute quantities, insufficient to lead to HIV infection alone.

There has only been one instance of HIV infection as a result of kissing. This was as a result of infected blood getting into the mouth of the other person during open mouthed kissing. If you or your partner have blood in your mouth, you should avoid kissing until the bleeding stops.

### What is safer sex?

Safer sex is used to refer to a range of sexual activities that hold little risk of HIV infection or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Safer sex is often taken to mean using a condom for sexual intercourse. Using a condom makes it very hard for the virus to pass between people when they are having sexual intercourse. A condom, when used properly, acts as a physical barrier that prevents infected fluid getting into the other person's bloodstream.

Is there a cure for AIDS?

There is currently no cure for AIDS although in many countries greatly improved medical treatments are now available.

## Spiked with Danger!

(Names and specific details have been changed – story as told to the welfare officer)

Niamh woke up with a throbbing headache. Switching on her bedside light, she saw her clothes strewn around the four corners of her bedsit. With absolutely no memory of the previous night and a sense of horror, she slowly sat up and looked around. There, beside one of her shoes and a pair of torn tights, lay two used condoms. Niamh's nightmare was just beginning.

There had been an official introductory night out, the night before for first year students. Living away from home and being a social girl, Niamh had been keen to be part of the buzz in this new city.

"The event was organised by one of the societies and was held in a pub on campus. I went with a friend whom I had known from back home and when we arrived, fashionably late, the party was already in full swing with about a hundred people enjoying the free wine and beer. My friend and I were handed drinks and were quickly engulfed in the crowd."

That's the last thing Niamh could remember when she woke up the next morning. She spent the following 48 hours steeped in paranoia, desperately trying to establish what had happened to her. It subsequently emerged that she was one of the growing number of young people who have fallen prey to the date rape

drug Rohypnol.

"My friend could only tell me that I had drunk half of a second glass of wine and then disappeared. I kept having disjointed flashbacks. I couldn't escape certain haunting images which I didn't want to relate to myself. I felt like a spectator in a waking nightmare. By the time I fully understood the truth of the night, a day and a half had passed and I didn't think anyone would believe me. I couldn't even tell my sister until a week later as I felt so ashamed, like it was all my fault. The only good part is that I realised early enough to take the morning after pill."

Soon afterwards Niamh left college and moved home. She couldn't face seeing the boy responsible, who was in her year, with the knowledge that she could do nothing. "In the end he came out the victor, but what else could I do? He's a good-looking popular guy - who would have believed I hadn't wanted it?"

In some ways Niamh was lucky strange as it sounds, but there was two used condoms, at least she didn't have to contend with STI's and maybe pregnancy as well. However you might not be, it could happen to anyone.

Be careful.



# Campus News

## GARDAÍ RECOMMEND CAUTION OVER "DAYTIME TV" DRUG\*

Limerick Gardaí have alerted students to be particularly vigilant as a new "daytime TV" drug takes hold of the U.L. population. The deadly drug, believed to come in an assortment of forms, can cause disorientation, drowsiness, and extreme lethargy in its victims.

"We're concerned that the dilemma could get out of hand," disclosed a local Garda spokesman. "Investigations are continuing, but daytime TV is so readily available and so appealing to the average student, that we're struggling to deal with the situation."

First year, Dougal Mc Nougall was found overdosed on daytime TV just over a week ago. He was discovered in the sitting room of his Oaklawns house by fellow housemate, Jemima Wallace who described him as "a completely inert vegetable". "It was fairly scary," she explained. "He was just slumped there with his mouth hanging open staring at a celebrity cooking programme." Mr. McNougall's condition is now believed to be improving, although doctors are adamant that he remains at risk.

Experts have advised students to be conscious of the dangers and to pay attention to any signs of symptoms in their friends or housemates. "A



lazy, apathetic approach could spell danger," warned drug researcher Philippe Murphy. "Other symptoms include a fascination with poorly produced 80's detective shows and an increasingly improving ability to resolve 9-letter anagrams."

Reported cases of students stricken by the drug are on the increase. "If you discover someone in

danger from daytime TV, lie them down in the nearest library and sing opera to them," advises an information leaflet from the Medical Centre.

"Daytime TV can provide a very alluring escape

to students", said Dr Murphy. "It offers a mundane and dreary world free from the pressures of real life. But what people need to realise is

that this drug is dangerous and can take huge chunks out of someone's life. Throw away that remote! Choose life!"



O'Shaughnessy reminisced, wincing slightly, "then it hit me, I had no idea which option to go for. They say looks aren't everything but frankly I don't believe a word of it."

Mystified and panicking Miss O'Shaughnessy has been "pulling all-nighters" in the library in an effort to research the best form of presentation.

She is expected to have a major crisis about which font size and type to use for her main text

at some point on the next few days

## FYP CRISIS: STUDENT UNSURE WHICH BINDING OPTION TO SELECT \*

The rapidly approaching FYP deadline has sent fourth year student, Fidelma O'Shaughnessy, into a state of "absolute panic" as she has realised she has just days remaining to select the form of binding in which her completed work will be submitted. Despite finishing her ninth and final draught almost two months ago, the student had left her final decisions as to presentation to the last minute, resulting in severe stress.

Miss O'Shaughnessy puts her dilemma down to poor planning. "I had it finished nearly two months ago", she admitted, "but didn't get my act together about how the finished article should look." "Now I'm totally f\*cked," she declared.

The extent of the situation dawned on Fidelma while visiting the print room recently. "I saw a sign with binding options and prices," Miss



Terry Miller is writing a book entitled "The Four Provinces". He is in search of stories of famous individuals throughout the 32 counties of Ireland. Terry is also looking for individuals to write a brief history of the 32 counties. If you would be interested in writing either a story or a brief history about one of the county's in Ireland you will receive recognition in this book. For any inquiries please contact MDJ64@JUNO.com or by mail to 46 Aisling Heights, Raheen, Limerick.

# I Am Jack's Wonderwall

You've probably noticed the two tall wooden flagpoles at the university entrance. They've been here forever, right? Deposited by glaciers at the exact spot where U.L.'s main entrance would be in millions of year's time. It is inconceivable to think of a time when those flagpoles weren't there. Right? Wrong.

Way back in the days of yore, the U.L. board of management held a competition for architects/designers/artists to design an entrance to our beloved university. The winning entry was a design consisting of two flagpoles on one side of the entrance, and a huge wall on the other. The wall will be made of 460 blocks, and assembled in a checkerboard style with black and white blocks measuring three square feet. That's the construction that you can see under way outside.

Last week, an e-mail was circulated to U.L. staff, asking which type of stone should be used for the project. The choices include Chinese basalt and Kashmir Granite, and other types of stone from exotic, far-flung corners of the globe. Why is it important to have exotic stone in the wall? What difference will it make? The wall will still be a wall, and it will still look like the gaudiest thing since Fashion Victim Barbie. The only possible advantage it poses is that we can gesture at it and tell visiting dignitaries, "That stone came from China, you know." What has been looked over here, as far as I can see, is that any visiting dignitary with his head screwed on proper-

ly will take one look at the wall, nod politely, and ask himself, "Why did these muppets import stone all the way from China, when there are perfectly good quarries all over the shop here in Ireland?" It's a vast amount of effort to go to for a maximum twenty seconds of feigned interest. Give it six months, and I guarantee you that all that lovely exotic stone will be



smothered in graffiti, and thus will resemble any other wall in Limerick, expensive or not.

The whole enterprise will cost somewhere in the ballpark of a quarter of a million. That is an obscene amount of money to spend on anything, never mind a wall which will almost certainly prove to be an eyesore. That money could go towards payments to student lecturers, or student services, or even charity. Food and drink are swiftly becoming ridiculously expensive on campus, which

is something of a paradox considering the financial situation of most students. Do they mean to tell us that the surplus we're being charged for on-campus living is going towards the construction of a white, sorry, checkerboard elephant?

Why not just leave the flagpoles the way they are? I think they're quite nice by themselves, and they fit in well with the trees along the entry road. When I think of this projected wall, all I can picture is a black and white lump, the black fading to grey and the white covered in green scum and ingrained muck and rain. When I'm driving through the area with relations or friends from out of town, and they ask me where U.L. is, I point towards the flagpoles and say, "There." When the slightly awed "Oh" comes back at me, I feel a tiny flush of pride. Yeah, that's right. I'm attending the place with the massive, feck-off cool wooden flagpoles. I'm part of something bigger than any of us.

I just cannot imagine doing that when this bloody wall goes up. "Where is your college, Jack?" "Errr... d'ya see the black-and-white checkerboard wall down there?" "Oh."

I don't think I'm being sentimental, or anti-progress. But I cannot see anything of artistic merit in a checkerboard wall. Maybe I'm just not cultured enough, but I think it would be a shame to plonk this wall next to our two lovely flagpoles.



## Your choice of 4 quality programs



# CCUSA

**Camp Counselors USA** – open to anyone aged 18-30 interested in spending 9 weeks in a US summer camp. Flights, insurance, orientations, J-1 visa, travel to camp, guaranteed placement, room + board all included. Just €450.

**Work Experience USA** – open to all full time students aged 18 – 30. Package includes flights, J-1 visa, insurance, orientation and job search assistance. Work and travel anywhere you wish for up to 4 months in the summer.

**Work Experience Down Under** – open to all 18-30's wishing to spend up to one year in either Australia and/or New Zealand. Visas, arrival orientations, flight assistance, job and housing assistance, and full support throughout your trip.

**Camp Counselors Russia** – are you aged 18+ with a desire to learn Russian? Spend 4 OR 8 weeks at a Russian summer camp. Flights, insurance, orientations, visa, travel to camp, room + board all included.

## WWW.CCUSA.COM

Contact – 41 Wellington Quay Dublin 2 Tel – (01) 679 3735 Email – ireland@ccusa.com

# Murphys DOTCOMedy

By 8:30 on Tuesday night a large crowd of humour-hungry students has assembled in the Scholars to secure their place in the audience of this weeks Murphy's DOT Comedy show, which proved to be worth every second of the wait. This week saw Dara O'Briain and Michael Downey getting the red carpet treatment in the Scholars function room.

The excited atmosphere in the scholars before the show, the crowded function room, and the people who gathered in the courtyard peering through the windows trying to be part of the comic spectacular that was about to take place, showed how anticipated this weeks DOT Comedy show was.

MC for the night was Keith Piggott. He warmed up the crowd before each act, and from the reaction he received from the audience he could have turned it into his own show.

The first act of the evening was Michael Downey. This man, his Cavan accent and his hair... what more can I say. His quick comments, and his true to life examples

walked on stage. Early in his act he asked the audience what they would do if they caught their partner in bed with their best friend, the answer he received from one female member of the audience provided him, Mr. O'Briain and Mr. Piggott, with much comic material for the remainder of the night.

And if the excellent Michael Downey was only the opening act, one could only begin to imagine how funny Dara O'Briain would be.



Dara O'Briain appeared on stage in a sombre long black coat and dark clothes, looking more like someone bringing you bad news, than the man who would have you laughing for the next 45 minutes. However, appearances can be deceiving!! From the moment he walked on stage the audience were at his mercy.

Best known to people from his appearance on Network 2's "Don't feed the Gondolas", and remembered by more from his early life as a TV presenter on "Echo Island", you would have to agree that his talents were wasted on both shows. On stage, Dara O'Briain magnificently displays his talents and abilities as a stand up comedian.

Mr. O'Briain based his jokes on the important

things in the lives of students. The experiences one has while traveling with the J1 visa was the foundation for a large section of his show. To the delight of



the audience, Seachtain na Gaeilge, and Hector from TG4, bared the brunt of much of Dara's jokes! The audience were also treated to a few comic words "as Gaeilge" from Dara.

Both acts interacted brilliantly with the audience, causing some members of the audience to be the focus of much of the laughter throughout the night.

So here I give a piece of advice to all readers of An Focal, if

you wish to be ridiculed for a couple of hours of your life, then get secure yourself a front row seat at the next Dara O'Briain or Michael Downey show!!

My sincere condolences go out to all students who didn't make it to the week 5 Murphy's DOT Comedy show; you missed a great show.

Additions

Michael Downey "I'm a heroine addict, I'm attracted to extremely brave women"

Dara O Briain "Dutch comedy audiences are great, you can't get a bad reaction even when your shit, they're sitting in their seats laughing away to themselves thinking aloud (in that strange spanky spanky Dutch accent) he was shit but he did not infringe on any of my fundamental human rights, I really like that"

Next Show Tuesday 26th March (Week 7), Scholars Club Function Room, 9pm

-Mary Burke



## Nite-Link BUS

### New late hours

**Stables:** 7.00pm / 7.30pm / 8.00pm / 8.30pm / 9.00pm / 9.30pm / 10.00pm / 10.30pm

**Library:** 11.00pm / 11.30pm / 12.00am / 12.30am

## Free Service

# ALIAS

An Focal sent BETTY BOOB out on the streets to do some nancy drew work.

Everyones wants to know whats going on with their student newspaper and why its dominated by clubs&socs, is there a conspiracy or does the editor have a facination for bulletien boards? why isint there more articles on current affairs? well the answer is simple, you are all lazy b\*st\*rds &could manipulate this paper constructively to air your views. Look at life through a different perspective and educate other readers. until there is a positive change in the standard of reporting in An Focal, i take it upon myself to represent your greivences. Apologies for the raw presentation of this weeks ALIAS, due to poor technological understanding& lack of time.

SEX

Betty Boob met her buddie "Royal Trush"

outside the medical centre in a state of frustration. she was trying to get the morning after pill (M.A.P) but was too afraid of the Doctor. see, Royal Trush is an awful slut and had previously visited the doctor 3times in search of the same medication. Each time she approached the doctor she was met by a nasty judgement&a bolliking for her sinful behaviour and even asked if the accident was faithful, even though the basis of the shag was irrelevant.

On one ocassion the doctor refused to treat Royal Trush on the basis that she had a moral objection to the M.A.P. How shocking and unprofessional! Does this Abuse of power not just create agression, intimidation, and in the long run more pregnancies? Mistakes happen and at least Royal Trush had the maturity to try to reedeem her situation.

In another case while Royal trush was waiting for her pregnancy test results the doctor said;

"its girls like you that should be taken out and shot..."

Royal trush is wondering if the doctor is going to lighten up before enough complaints cause her early retirement?

On a serious note the medical centre is a free service &since its relocation is more approachable. A lot of patience must be summoned when such a small organisa-



tion is expected to handle over 10000students.

Alias. here is a little excersise to find out your psychological profile:

"IF ITS COLD NEXT WINTER GIVE RUDOLF& SANTA ESKIMO HOODIES."

If you were to design a hoodie for Santa, would it be:

- a)carhartt- you have a great taste in fashion
- b)Hillfiger-you are a pretentious jock
- c)Kappa- you are a scumbag.

Do you think Rudolf should be hunted for:

- a)Food-If u r a boy you have cannabilistic natures. if u r a girl you buy fur coats
- b)Sport- you enjoy outdoor pursuits, &slaves
- c)Sex- you are a horny virgin grisley bear who frequents

the lodge.

If you were to design a mode of transport for santa would it be

- a)Massey-Ferguson- You know your tractors.
- b)Lamborghini- you like your sport cars

c)David-browne- you are a farmer from galway who likes to chase raindeers for sex.

Who does santa sing like?

- a)Johnny cash- you are a whiskey drinking poker playing general bad-ass modda foka.
- b)BarryWhite- you are either a girl or a sleezy lodge Don Juan.
- c)TomJones- You are gay, or a granny banger.

What does Santa eat for breakfast?

- a)a big dirty fry- youre a big fat b\*st\*rds.
- b)Nesquik- you kill starving babies for fun.

c)Porridge- you are old cold and bold

If santa could live somewhere sunny, it would be:

- a) the canaries- you are a knacker/tosser or a parent.
- b)Ko phang nga- you play fire chains in Dance valley
- c)knock- ah listen now, would u take this seriously please....?

If santa could design the perfect toy would it be:

- a)a blow up hoover with teeth- you are an unsatisfied housewife or gay
- b)an 18inch gold vibrator with roatating tip- see a)

this questionnaire was compiled by;

Santas Little Sucker, King, Flood& Bucket man.

We heard the seagull was around so as atoken of acknowledgement here is photo of the week.

# Inspiration

O sister find the path, theres not much that you lack. What a show off of serentiy, my exhibitionist clarity. Soft step and ease of mind, so thoughtful, so kind, your love embraced, i shall always treasure my inspiration, emotional pleasure.

So many doors youve signposted, so much healing hosted, and donated without a thought, thank you for all youve taught me. Cultured and harmony, confidence overshadowing vanity, my equalised stabilizer, no situaton you cant with this Alwen!

I bow my respect to you, the kestral ambiguously flew each coincidence together, bound in gold spun feather linked with uncommon sense. Awake! to the world of brilliance.

Extra ordinary minds link in mystical twine. My sister surrogate soul, how can we understand so much yet to unfold. Our secrets go untold yet inside out we untangle each others jingle jangle rambles.

We thought paths seperated for just one bubble, and through muddles, sense made confusion. I could see my world, you could see yours and together these pictures became misty moors. And pain recedes, both cosmic souls bleed, why o why this mournful creed? Our predicted lament as hearts undent and introductons re-familiarise. More hellos and less goodbyes. Serial lovers grasp each passerby with rasping breaths and longing eyes.

"Love like youve never been hurt", yet how many more ironys to unfurl before stepping stones become obivous hurls. Look at us jump and leap each barrier as if it were transparent, this uphill climb is somewhat impaired. I am blind to insignificant rumbles, needless grumbles, I need

not fumble to remember you.

And tonight as I believe that you can hear what every skies may sparkle and peer. Close your eyes and open your smile to heavens magnificance behind closed lids. vivid sentiments and promised embrace, dreamed presence overwhelming all reality traced. See those forks lighten your night, tis but a wink as I think of our last words flight.

Wishes become butterflies and my parcel arrives, I sent you energy and fluttering smiles and a jitterbug band. Youre surprised your hand becomes pedestal for this pretty bug creature, t'was just a kiss I blew you in the wind.

Would you have as much patience wth a different bug, like a slug? for a catterpillar is but a hug and the fantabulous flutterby butterfly is all my sharing loves high. We can touch each other from miles away and my friend i promise, you'd be blown astray if you knew your honest significance.

We are more than any trance or glance or dance. We are those moments you cant remember, those sparks that mysteriously become embers. Those feelings you cant explain, a something that has no name. And everything in between, we are all that we saw and yet to be seen, we are cosmic positive amouretic queens.

I doubt anyone who has seen us could explain our minds as simple as a bus. No one has had an opinionless impression after witnessing our infatuating procession. Together angels soar higher and my dear you make me feel like a flier. I have no wings and yet we swoon from sun rays to beamed moons. We are every magic you see in dreams, eyes widen and smiles gleam. Congratulations we have

together seen fractured glitched that only wings auras could snatch. Somethings man cannot switch on or off.

Bubbles always looped our worlds could not unhoop. Our mischevious grins unspin the swirling chicken coops.

Silent night all corners light and shadows dance in bright smile. Rustled gusts of ease blow a breeze to my hot brow or saddened frown.

When all uphill cannot come down and in between we can clown around. Until escalating roles portray a new player in the game, never the same. Some masked some renamed, more tigers to tame, pointing out an untrodden lane. Another adventure to share and more time to care as one in same fairytale.

Again goodbye for long or short while. I express every expressionless gratitude to you, sister, I look forward to more distance, more rewards, our lives have yet to proclaim a justified ttle or name.

The biggest teddy you could believe is the hug I wish you to recieve. The widest ocean your back door, to the highest cloud may you soar. I wish you an infinity of love, the warmest softest glove.

May you always have a tomorrow to welcome your dreams, and a tonight to rest in peaceful ease. Always have a soul to miss, a soul to want and a soul to kiss. I turn my joy inside out to justify my appreciaton without any doubts that I have witnessed perfect love.

Alwen Flynn... a legend! a gem!

Aine\* 15/09/2001

# INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES FOR CAMPBELLS CATERING- INFO

## CUSTOMER INFORMATION RECENT ANNUAL PRICE INCREASE

In keeping with the Campbell Catering customer feedback programme we would like to take this opportunity to provide customer information on the background and reasons for the implementation of the recent annual price increase in our outlets on campus.

### General background information

The annual price increase is agreed and discussed by a users group called the catering committee. The catering committee is comprised of student Union and staff representatives and is chaired by a representative from the university. It works as a users group to provide feedback on catering services, comments on customer satisfaction, customer service and implementation of the survey results conducted four times annually by Campbell Catering on Campus.

A comprehensive research programme is conducted by Campbell Catering prior to the proposals implementation, where detailed comparisons are drawn on all food and beverage items for on campus locations, between operators, and for off campus locations, between neighbourhood retail catering and takeaway locations. In addition to this a comprehensive inter university price comparison is conducted to ensure that the product offer remains competitive. You will be delighted to know that Campbell Catering remain extremely competitive on core food items and in most cases remain cheaper than surveyed

locations.

The central statistics office provide us with useful information on the food inflation figures and the consumer price commodity group indices.

The annual price increase this year is required to cover the knock on effects of the following

### PRICING FOOD ITEMS

Inflation is currently running at 4% and year on year food prices have increased by 6.6%

Did you know????? These products have increased by the following amounts over the last year.

Fresh Vegetables	+15.8%
Cheese	+13%
Confectionary lines	+6.3%
Milk	+5.3%
Lamb pork and poultry	+10.8%
Bacon rashers	+8.9%
Minerals	+6%



Coffee and tea prices have increased last year due to a rise in the coffee commodities market. The raw material cost of coffee has remained but as coffee is traded in dollars and as the euro has been very weak this has resulted in an overall increase. Tea is traded on the sterling commodities market and this has resulted in a year on year increase of 10.9%.

Mineral and soft drinks have increased ref-euro versus sterling.

rise with increases in the last twelve months and further increases to follow this year in accordance with the programme for prosperity and fairness. Due to the high Labour requirements of our business labour increases have a high knock on effect to labour budgets and overall business performance.

As our top priority is safe food it is an ongoing requirement that we comply with the current HACCP regulations on food hygiene and the implementation of traceability systems on all food products, which involves investment in extensive training monitoring and operating systems. This also involves the regular upgrade of capital equipment.

Maintenance charges for the servicing of equipment have increased by 8.5%.

Waste charges from Clare County Council have already increased by 50% since the 1st January as the demand for landfill increases and the available space decreases. We are anticipating further increases to waste charges during this year.

Campbell Catering are committed to providing a quality service where the emphasis is based on offering quality, value for money, nutritious and innovative food offers, where only fresh food ingredients are used on a daily basis. Our menus are changed on a regular basis and we work hard at providing new product lines, choice for on-campus dining and service satisfaction

### CAMPBELL CATERING FOCUS ON FOOD COMMITMENTS

Our food philosophy is based on using only fresh food ingredients where a daily fresh menu schedule is prepared by our chef and catering assistant team, who have wide and varied culinary expertise.

Our focus on food provides the following to you on a daily basis.

#### DID YOU KNOW

-Student special prepared from fresh ingredients daily and menu varies on a daily basis.

-Food product menu offer never offered twice daily.

-Evening teas produced from fresh and served fresh daily.

-A fresh ingredient vegetarian meal available daily.

-Homemade stocks and sauces used with homemade soup prepared from the freshest vegetables of the season.

-Our scones are freshly baked each morning in all catering locations and offer varied and choice ranging from plain to our increasingly popular coconut and honey.

-Paninis, homemade chutneys and pickling are the order of the day at the Aroma and the Café Allegro and prepared on site from raw ingredient.

-In store express offer speciality breads with food ingredients such as Salami and ricotta, Caesar wraps and granary bread. All sandwiches are produced first thing in the morning, on the premises for your enjoyment by brunch time.

-Our pizza base is homemade and so is the topping. The accompanying salad prepared as part of an extensive salad bar menu selection of fresh ingredients is increasingly popular.

#### FOCUS ON SERVICE

You will be pleased to know that we are currently working on your comments from our most recent satisfaction survey.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working on continuous innovations on our food and our service options into the future.

As fish quotas have reduced over the last year this has seen ongoing supply and demand difficulties and has resulted in fish prices increasing up to 9%. Sterling versus euro has continued to be a problem for most dry goods driving them up by 6%. This also affects the price of sweets, chocolate and confectionary. Our purchasing policy is to buy through Irish Suppliers however many of the products that we all buy originate in the UK.

#### COSTS - NON-FOOD INCREASES

Wage rates for all employees continue to

## WANTED

## Citywise Summer Staff



- To teach introductory secondary school subjects
- To coach/supervise field sports
- To act as role models for youth

Citywise is a youth achievement initiative that started with a pilot summer programme 2 years ago in Southill. The course was an instant hit, and a winter and second summer programme soon followed. Parents were amazed by the sight of their 12-year-old son rising like clockwork every morning to go to 'school' for 10 a.m. in the middle of July.

The secret is enthusiastic young teachers who make learning fun by mixing classroom activities with sports and outdoor pursuits. These boys need leaders who will encourage them, act as role models for them and nurture a positive peer culture that helps them develop character, ambition and mutual respect. The results are very satisfying. Members of Opus Dei and their friends have been doing this worldwide for years (see the international web site [www.opusdei.org](http://www.opusdei.org)). Citywise boys activities are coordinated from Castleville Study Centre in Castletroy (Tel: 061-331 223)\*.

If you wish to apply or simply want to find out more, email  
[jameshurley@eircom.net](mailto:jameshurley@eircom.net)

\*To enquire about Citywise girls activities, contact Overdale Study Centre, Ennis Road. Tel: 061-326 219  
Email: [overdale@eircom.net](mailto:overdale@eircom.net)

# Movie Review - Gosford Park

Unable to stomach the thought of sitting through two hours of so-called patriotic bloodshed with a heartrending but empty moral at the end I chickened out of seeing *We Were Soldiers* (the fact that I was told that it was given one star in every review I had seen didn't influence me at all). Instead, I opted for the interesting English period drama *Gosford Park*. Directed by Robert Altman, who brought us such masterpieces as *Popeye* and the TV series *MASH*, and with a star list that reads like a *Who's Who* of Hollywood *Gosford Park* is without doubt a success.

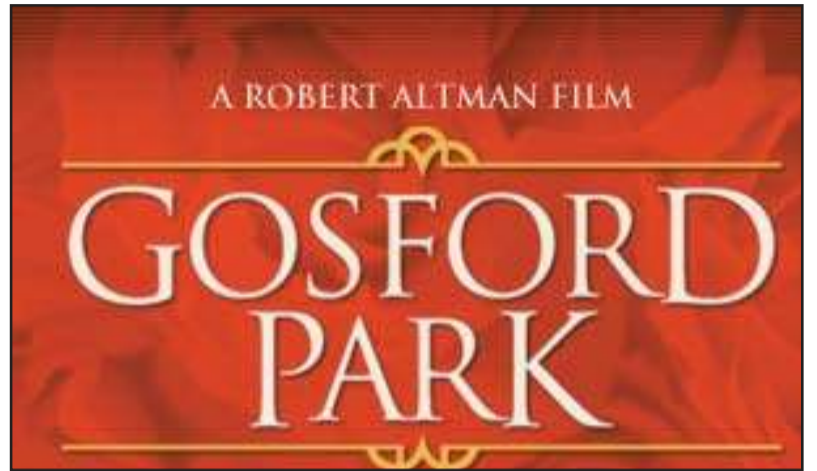
The scene is set at a shooting party in the English countryside in 1932. The hosts, Sir William and Lady Sylvia, are surrounded by their sycophantic, mooching relatives, who include Lady Sylvia's daughter, aunt and her sisters with their no-account husbands in tow. Thrown into the mix are two visitors from Hollywood, an actor and a director Morris Weisman. The sniping between Lady Sylvia and her husband, we soon discover, is a result of blue-blooded contempt Sir William being a rich industrialist who married (to improve his place in society) the much younger (but impoverished) Lady Sylvia. This sniping is also aimed towards Weisman but in his innocence at the machinations of English society he seems completely oblivious to the pointed barbs.



Below stairs is a hive of activity, the servants of the house mix with the valets and maids brought by the visiting gentry. There is Mary, the sweet Scottish lady's maid with the unpronounceable surname and the peculiar valet Henry who seems to be Scottish one minute and English/American the next. Social order also exists below stairs with the existing pecking order among the household servants being confused by the arrival of new servants. Mary, as the maid of a Duchess, being told to take the second best place at the table.

On the surface the aristocrats are wealthy layabouts with the servants supporting their lifestyle but as the film goes on one learns of the jealousies and rivalries, of loves lost in games of cards, of money problems, illegitimate pregnancies and ongoing affairs. And of course, everyone has secrets -- you just don't know at the beginning who's harbouring the biggest ones.

Two-thirds of the way through the film the murder occurs and the bumbling police inspector and his effi-

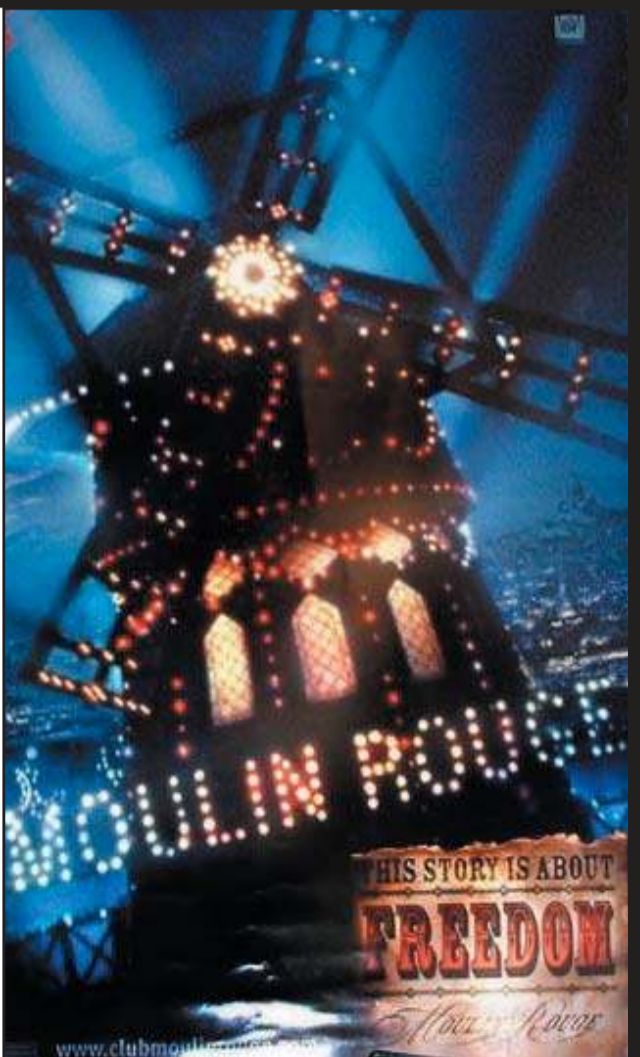


cient but un-listened to sidekick are brought in to investigate. The secrets then begin to unravel as decade-old facades fall away and the tragic consequences of old actions come to the fore. The whodunit mystery goes on, slightly subdued by the fact that no one seems to care who actually dunit least of all the victim's family.

In the end *Gosford Park* is less a murder story than a social picture of English life in a time of great change. There's the servants who wish for better things "why do we live our lives through them", the penniless relatives with nothing but a name who are a relic of the old days, the new class of film star and the servants who have unending loyalty to their employers, there's even a spot of *Remains of the Day* repressed romance thrown in for good measure. Viewing like an Agatha Christie murder mystery yet with sprinklings of Oscar Wildean humour *Gosford Park* is undoubtedly a triumph for Altman and a return to form after the flop that was *Prêt a Porter*. The characters are perfect, the witty acerbic aunt, the secretive housekeeper and the suave valet who has pretensions above his station, even Ryan Philippe manages to pull off his double or even triple act. "A good servant is one who can anticipate" says the housekeeper in the film, and Altman, being the excellent director he is has anticipated the audiences' needs in this film and fills them excellently.

-Aisling O'Connor

TENFORWARD



Tenforward – The Sci-Fi and Film Society are proud to present:

**Moulin Rouge** on Tuesday 19th of March at 7.00pm in the Postgraduate Center (next to the Stables)

**American Pie 2** will be on Tuesday 26th of March at 7.00pm in the Postgraduate Center

# Krusty The Clown

*Of all the great citizens of Springfield, there is one morally complex, unprincipled individual with which we all can empathise. Brendan Daly has more...*

After sample reasons that undermine his potential as a good father ("I curse, I gamble, I pick fights with homeless people...") fail to deter the daughter he has never seen from wanting to spend time with him, our hero finally agrees but forewarns her of his exceptionally laissez-faire approach to parenting: "Listen, kid, I'm not the kind of dad, who, y'know, does things, or says stuff, or looks at you - but the love is there!"

Such a lazy and selfish defence of the indefensible epitomises the spirit of reluctant father and key player in "The Simpsons" vast supporting cast, the inimitable and illiterate, ageing and gambling, binge-drinking and nicotine-addicted, tax-cheating and death-faking, mafia-friendly and pornography-hoarding, Krusty the Clown.

Born Herschel Schmoikel Krustofski, Krusty is the descendent of a proud rabbinical tradition ("my father was a rabbi. His father was a rabbi. His father's fath... Well, you get the idea."). This hallowed tradition includes Krusty's grandfather, Zev, who emigrated to the United States in 1902, and his father, a respected rabbi on Springfield's Lower East Side. Contrary to appearances, Krusty doesn't wear makeup, has undergone triple bypass surgery and has been the recipient of a successful boob job.

From humble beginnings as a mime artist in Tupelo, Mississippi, Krusty's rise to fame has been steady if unspectacular. Dubbed "the most promising newcomer of 1959" by Spencer Tracey, Krusty commands a devout following from legions of children ("I've based my whole life on his teachings", claims Bart), hosts his own afternoon show, founded an ill-fated clown college and even inspired the TV movie (starring Fyvush Finkel) "The Krusty the Clown Story: Booze, Drugs, Guns, Lies, Blackmail, and Laughter." While the set of the Krusty the Clown Show consists of a circus ring surrounded by a live studio audience (suggesting Krusty is loosely based on Bozo the Clown, host of a popular children's TV show in the United States in the 1950s/60s), Krusty's show also incorporates a Johnny Carson/David Letterman late night talk show-style format, indicating the real target audience for Krusty's controversial brand of humour. Critical to the success of the Krusty the Clown Show has been Krusty's diverse choice of sidekick. Apart from the notorious Sideshow Bob (who has variously tried to murder Bart, Selma and Krusty), these have included Mr. Teeny, a chain-smoking, dicky-bowed chimp on roller skates that Krusty frequently carries in his suitcase; the ever-faithful Sideshow Mel; the under-used Sideshow Luke Perry and, with responsibility for crowd control, the burly Corporal Punishment.

Much of Krusty's comedic value stems from his refreshing honesty regarding his involvement in children's television - Krusty's really only in it for the money. When an Itchy & Scratchy cartoonist, for example, cautions against the proposed introduction of a new character to boost flagging ratings (because Itchy & Scratchy "comprise a dramaturgical dyad"), Krusty is quick to insist "this ain't art - this is business. What (character) you got in mind? Sexy broad? Gangster octopus?" Similarly, Lisa's hopeful appeal to Krusty - explaining that his invitation to appear at her house was only a pawn in Bart's scheme to disrupt her babysitting efforts - is met with a terse "Well, I'm not leaving 'til I get paid. I get five hundred just for 'Hey, hey!'"

Indeed appeals to any but Krusty's most basic instincts seem condemned to certain failure. So overcome with rage at Roger Meyer Jr.'s suggestion that, despite low ratings, Itchy & Scratchy is "critically acclaimed", Krusty gasps in utter disbelief and promptly spits on the floor at the impli-

cation that accolades compensate for below average viewing figures. Further, after Bart inadvertently exposes Krusty as one of the biggest tax frauds in history, forcing the IRS to take control of his assets and significantly downgrade his flamboyant lifestyle, Bart sheepishly offers that Krusty's mere presence on TV guarantees him respect. Again, Krusty's exasperation renders him inarticulate: "Respect?! (spits) What good is respect without the moolah to back it up?"

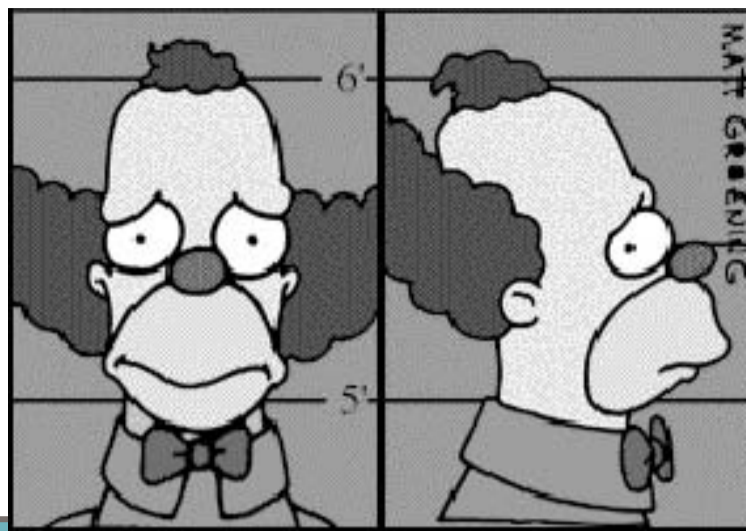
A passionate and, at times, amoral commitment to his extensive business interests and the dizzying array of merchandise that bear his name provide important clues in understanding Krusty the Clown. Entertaining U.S. troops during the Gulf War, Krusty sabotages a critical assassination mission: "You can't kill Saddam! He's half my act!" Weighing up the merits of Sideshow Bob, the Republican candidate for the Springfield mayoral election, Krusty concludes that Bob "framed me for armed robbery, but, man, I'm aching for that upper class tax cut."

While Krusty has happily endorsed sixty-plus products, ranging from the Lady Krusty Moustache Removal System to the Krusty Home Pregnancy Test ("Warning: May Cause Birth Defects"), Krustyburger (a ubiquitous fast-food chain) and Kamp Krusty (a squalid children's retreat) remain the most memorable. Built on an Indian burial site and advertised as "the Krustiest place on earth", Kamp Krusty aims to cater for all tastes: "And for you fat kids, my exclusive program of diet and ridicule will really get results!"

Krusty's unrelenting dedication to his flourishing business empire is rivalled only by his seemingly endemic corruptibility. Asked why he voted for Mr. Burns's high-budget, self-promoting epic at the inaugural Springfield film festival, Krusty replies "(quietly) Let's just say it moved me. (loudly) To a bigger house! (to self) Oops. I said the quiet part loud and the loud part quiet." Tellingly, after his short-lived attempts to abandon his merchandising days in favour of a stand-up, observational comedy routine ("the last angry clown") with a cult following collapse when he endorses the 4WD Canyonero truck ("unsafe for city and highway driving"), Krusty candidly admits to Bart: "I learned something about myself tonight, kid. It ain't comedy that's in my blood; it's selling out."

Similar instances of sardonic self-realisation illuminate the full extent of Krusty's comic potential. A damning review of one of his pre-observational humour performances as "embarrassingly dated" forces serious self-examination: "Look at my life: I'm talking to a monkey and (looking at Sideshow Mel) a... I don't even know what the hell you are!" (Sideshow Mel's typically restrained response - "You can be so cruel when you're sober" - only serves to illustrate the rich complexity of Krusty's character.)

In light of Krusty's links with the Greater Springfield Mafia - he plays cards with Fat Tony, he owes gambling debts to Don Vittorio - it seems significant that the language Krusty employs during moments of self-realisation echoes that of GoodFellas protagonist, Henry Hill. At the end of Scorsese's masterpiece, the mafia golden-boy-turned-informer bemoans life in the Federal Witness Program because "today everything is different... I have to wait around like everyone else... I'm an average nobody. I get to live the rest of my life like a schnook." Realising his previously extravagant ways are no longer possible after



being exposed as a huge tax fraud, Krusty views his fall from grace in similar terms: "I was a big cheese - a huge cheese! But now look at me: I gotta ride the bus like a schnook. I gotta live in an apartment like an idiot. I gotta wait in line with nobodies to buy groceries from a failure!"

Dominating practically all of Krusty's exchanges is a blatant misunderstanding of, and a staunch unwillingness to grapple with, the conventions of political correctness. From his frank description of how he met his daughter's mother during the Gulf War ("Maybe it was the anthrax in the air. Maybe it was the Arab women weren't biting...") to his heckling at Wimbledon ("Choke, Lendl, choke!"), this irredeemable feature provides "The Simpsons" writers with a blueprint with which to sketch the finer details of this outrageous clown.

Two incidents on the Krusty the Clown Show illustrate this succinctly. A Krusty TV Special finds Krusty talking directly to the camera: "Now for my favourite part of the show... (squinting to read the cue cards) What does that say? 'Talk to the audience!' Ughhhh, this is always death!" Equally, when the camera cuts back to Krusty quickly after a dismal episode of Itchy & Scratchy, he is heard mumbling "I can pull a better cartoon out of my aaaa-(acknowledging the camera) Hey, hey!" Elsewhere, when Sideshow Bob threatens to detonate a nuclear bomb unless all television is abolished in Springfield, Krusty urges caution: "Would it really be worth living in a world without television? I think the survivors would envy the dead."

Probably Krusty's most politically incorrect outburst occurs when he faces potential debts of \$44 million during the 1984 Olympics. As his Krusty Burger Olympic Sweepstakes rigged promotion - offering free burgers to customer who pick Olympic events won by the U.S. on their game cards but only including games traditionally won by the communists - is sensationally undone by the communist boycott of the games, a distraught Krusty publicly announces: "You people are pigs! I personally am going to spit in every fiftieth burger" (to which Homer responds: "I like those odds.").

Voiced by Dan Castellaneta, Krusty the Clown is the antithesis of the archetypal children's TV presenter. Brutally honest, repeatedly corrupt, invariably offensive and widely regarded as heir to the largest collection of pornography in all of Springfield, Krusty doesn't just challenge our received notion of a vapid, calculating children's TV presenter; he spectacularly destroys it with wicked delight. Despite his catalogue of shortcomings (Apu explains that Krusty's "lust for filthy magazines kept me in business during that first shaky year"; Chief Wiggum asks "Hey, Krusty, Krusty, remember the time we got loaded and set those beavers loose in that pine furniture store?"), Krusty is at least true to himself. More importantly, he takes his place among an assortment of fringe "The Simpsons" characters whose appearance may not necessarily drive the plot forward but who unfailingly enrich each episode.



# UL Outreach Society get out into the Community

Well lads it's a new semester and we're back again with some new projects and still carrying out some of the old. For those of you who have never heard of us, the Outreach society is a society where each member gives up about an hour of their time a week to help others. Our website is now up and running so for all of the information below checkout [www.csn.ul.ie/~outreach](http://www.csn.ul.ie/~outreach)

## Southill Junior School Project

Groups of four travel to the school on a Wednesday afternoon to help children with reading and writing skills. An hour is spent with the kids just helping them with simple and basic reading and writing which they find difficult. Because of travel this project will take up about an hour and a half to two hours a week, which is nothing really. The taxis to the school are paid for by the society so all it'll cost you is a little bit of your time.

**For more information contact Grainne at [grainneheffron@hotmail.com](mailto:grainneheffron@hotmail.com)**

## Enable Ireland Project

At present we have one student, Derek, on campus who has Cerebral Palsy for which he needs a wheelchair. Derek is a very independent person and doesn't need looking after more so company.

The outreach members assist Derek getting to and from class and help him interact in the broader campus community. Derek only has classes two mornings a week so

helping him would only take an hour or less a week to meet up for a cup of coffee and a chat.

**If you are interested in getting involved please contact Caroline at [9837264@student.ul.ie](mailto:9837264@student.ul.ie)**

Homework Clubs in association with the Access office In accordance with the Soccer for Success programme run within the University, to allow children from disadvantaged background a taste of university life, the outreach society aid by helping with homework.

Each day from 3-4pm, 7-8 members supervise and assist children on the programme with their homework. It's not hard and it's good fun to do, you just see if the kids need any help with their homework and if they don't you can just have a chat with them.

**Contact Tara at [tara.curley@ul.ie](mailto:tara.curley@ul.ie) for more info.**

## Book taping for visually impaired students

This is an ongoing project which can be done in your own time and in your own home. All it involves is reading passages from course notes or books onto a Dictaphone for visually impaired students. This is a very simple project which makes college life far easier for some students.

**Contact Tara at [tara.curley@ul.ie](mailto:tara.curley@ul.ie)**

## Outreach Meningitis Charity Challenge

Currently we are involved in raising money for the Meningitis Research Foundation. This is a very worthy cause as it affects many students. We will be doing a lot of fundraising throughout this semester for this cause. Thanks to everyone who went to Docs on Wednesday of week 2 and also to those who took part in the table quiz in the scholars on Tuesday last and to all those who attended the race night in the Southcourt hotel on Friday night last. Each night was a great success and we hope you will all continue to support this charity.

## Hoodies for sale

Outreach have now got some funky looking threads, perfect for all occasions, well ye can call them navy hoodies if ye want. They're available for only €15 for members and €25 for non-members. They're really warm and I've got one myself lads so they're obviously in style !!!

Meeting time: Every Wednesday at 7:30 in room 4 of the SU building.

**ALL NEW MEMBERS  
WELCOME :)**

# Rowing Club update

"Possibly one of the most demanding sports in the land", a quote from an interview with Sam Lynch, the Irish World Sculling Champion.

Having rowed with UL for more than five months now, it's a quote that I couldn't agree with more. But what exactly is it that drives us on? Surely it couldn't be the unpleasant sight of a peeling hand, a hand full of countless blisters and calluses, or the mind numbing training hours that are assigned to us. No, for me it was the knowledge that my crew depends on me just like I depend on them. For it is only recently that I have discovered how much a team sport rowing actually is.

I first took up rowing (along with about six other clubs) way back in the Autumn of "01", an innocent lad I was then, not knowing what tortures and hardship was in store for me. So I turned up for my first training session (CALs) and an hour later I was sweating and panting like a constipated pig on fire. Enough to put off the fittest of athletes, it was the way the club was run; the

organisation and commitment amongst the members impressed me the most. From that day onwards, I decided to take the sport seriously. Little did I realise that this meant sacrificing my weekends and a big chunk of my social life. But don't get me wrong; although rowing takes up a lot of time and commitment, there are many highs as well. You are rewarded with the feeling of fulfilment and self-



achievement, a feeling hard to find elsewhere.

Saturday 2nd of March saw UL Rowing Club participate down in what many consider to be the unofficial capital of Ireland i.e. Cork. There were 3 Heads throughout the day with UL Rowing club being entered in six events. The Men's Novice 4 (A) and (B), the Men's Novice 8, the women's Novice 4 and the single sculler, Ronan Egan. Again this was a reminder why I had committed myself for so long. I had been entered in the Novice 4 (B) and was rearing to go. Sitting in a four prior to a race is an experience hard to describe. The minute we passed the starting line, my mind went numb.



Concentration was vital. It was time for the crew to put past the months of sweat and agony, for now we had a chance to row as one, to put trust in one another, experience the pain together and more importantly, cross the finish line as winners...or in our case, 7th. Although the Novice 4

(B) felt they could have done better, the Novice 4 (A)

had a slightly better finishing position as they finished in a respectable 6th. But they too felt that there was much to be improved. With both Novice 4 underachieving, we combined together in the novice 8 and rowed a much-improved race. There was a lot to be admired as the eights really showed their potential and came in 4th. The women's novice crew had an excellent spin, finishing 1st in their category. This will put a smile on many people's faces as the women's 4 more or less destroyed both the Men's Novice 4 times. Just goes to

show that miracles can actually come true. Ronan Egan was equally impressive as he rowed two races in a single scull. Finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively, this lad deserves our utmost respect.

All had a great day and it was an ideal chance for new members to see what all the hype was about. Hopefully the women's novice 4 can continue their blinding season with Ronan Egan looking as sharp as ever. And with the novice men showing plenty of potential, there could just well be plenty of medals in store for a proud club with a proven track record, feared amongst others, we are; The UL Rowing Club!

"United we stand, divided we fall"

by Stephen Beech



# 180 Students Join UL Environmental Society in Sellafield!

So, it was our third attempt to save the world from a nuclear disaster and this was definitely the best ever! For the first trip, we had a small but very loud group of around 50 people. Then Sellafield was subjected to another 70 crazy people. By our third endeavour, we had rounded up around 200 mad Irish people to dance and chant outside the gates of Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant situated in Cumbria, England.



There were representatives from most of the main colleges around Ireland - Dundalk IT, Athlone IT, LIT, Mary I, UCC, NUIG, NCAD, UCD, Sligo IT and

of course, UL. Those who weren't students-teachers, Green party members, journalists and a lot of ordinary members of the public who just give a damn about another Chernobyl in- waiting also accompanied us.

About forty from Limerick met in front of the Stables at 6.00 am on a very dark

Wednesday morning-pretty early, I know but saving the world means sacrifices! We met the rest of the crew at Dun Laoghaire port, where we were also greeted by Labour Party mem-

bers - Michael D. Higgins, Joe Higgins and Joe Costello, who congratulated us for being mad enough to jump around in the cold all day!

But it was worth it! Most had never been to a protest before, so the atmosphere was one of trepidation and also excitement for the days ahead. Our own bus decided to stop off at Risley, where the BNFL headquarters were located. BNFL are the main guys who co-ordinate the Sellafield fiasco. It's these main offices where much of the decision-

making for Sellafield takes place so this stop-off was certainly worthwhile.

Although this protest in Risley was completely unplanned, it actually worked really well! There were the guys with the instruments, guys doing cartwheels, guys jiving and then there were the rest of us who joined together

to make one long human chain. It was class! Even the workers took a break from the glare of their computer screens

to enjoy the madness! Representatives from the main colleges decided to hand in some petitions and also discuss Sellafield with the BNFL employees, but as usual, they wouldn't listen to us. We then made some more noise and finally left, uplifted at the quick bond we as a group had made after only a few hours of being together.

That night we met up with another bus that travelled down from Scotland. They were 10 from UL who were giving it all at a protest in Faslane, where a nuclear submarine base is located. Don't know how they had the energy after days of no sleep, but they were willing to go for a few more days and make it a week of protesting against nuclear power. Well done, ye mad yokes! We all met up in Carlisle and stayed in this big house which happened to be a Methodist church! After a bit of grub, we all decided to go painting and mess around with some glitter in preparation for the next day. Some decided to get a few night's sleep, but some like myself, were way too excited to be thinking about sleeping, so we stayed up all



night drinking colossal amounts of tea and discussing plans for the next day.

Very early the next morning, four buses made their way to the gloomy plant that is Sellafield. We decided to split up the group into two, with one protesting at the main entrance and the other slowing down traffic at a n o t h e r entrance into the plant. Our protest was completely peaceful-we sang, danced to the beat of bongos and waved our banners to the cameras. The media atten-



tion was amazing-there were photographers from all the main national papers, as well as local Cumbrian papers. We got on the telly too (yahoo!)-we were on RTE six o' clock news ,as well as UTV and BBC. There were eleven arrested, but none were charged , and were only under police surveillance for a few hours. It was undoubtedly the most successful protest to date- we put our point across to BNFL that we were very unhappy with the safety precautions available, and

highlighted to their employees that we wanted safer jobs for them.

Future plans for another course of action against Sellafield area already being thought about.

Many bands have given their support to the cause, including Bellx1,Kila, The Revs and The Hothouse Flowers. Therefore, we were kinda thinking it'd be cool to get all these excellent bands together for a fundraising gig to raise money for the people of Cumbria. This is especially important as they depend on income from Sellafield. It would also raise more awareness of the dangers of the plant.

But at the mo, nothing is really sorted. So if you wanna help us get things done and hang out with other like-minded students from all around the country , then e-mail:

[environ@csn.ul.ie](mailto:environ@csn.ul.ie)

or

[gluaiseacht@topica.com](mailto:gluaiseacht@topica.com)

Also, if you have any suggestions on what else we can do to shut this monstrosity down, get in contact!  
Cheers!

-Edel

Fitzgerald

# History Society

## Catherine Lawless lecture a success

On the 12th of March the UL history society was delighted to welcome the colleges newest history professor Dr. Catherine Lawless to give a talk on the subject of Art and Design. Choosing from the broad range of topics available to her Dr. Lawless chose as the subject of her talk the representation of St. Anne in European Art during the 14th and 15th centuries.

St. Anne was the mother of the Virgin Mary and therefore the grandmother of Jesus and was also the patron saint of Florence made so because the victory of the Florentines over their tyrannical leader the Duke of Athens was attributed to her.

The talk, accompanied by slides focused on the different representations of women in European Art by different artists from different countries, particularly between Western

European and Italian artists. St. Anne was very popular as a subject for wood carvings and paintings, particularly in art scenes from Northern Europe where her following was particularly strong.

Dr. Lawless is the teacher of a new postgraduate degree course in the college, the History of Art and Design, and details of the course are available from the admissions office.

# Letter to the Editor

4 March 2002

Dear Editor

This Government has played with the democratic rights of students by cynically holding the Abortion Referendum on March 6th- a Wednesday. This decision was made for two reasons- the first being the Fianna Fail Ard Feis, scheduled for the following Friday and the second to ensure that many young people, opposed to the Government's proposals, would not be able to exercise their franchise due to college commitments.

I believe it is time to call halt on the setting of poll dates for party political purposes. The upcoming election is the most important vote facing the Irish people for many years. For students, the choice is between a Government of high rents, low grants and failing public services or a Fine Gael alternative committed to doubling the maintenance grant, addressing the accommodation crisis and providing free GP services to all in full-time education under the age of 21.

I am calling on the Taoiseach to hold May's General Election on a Friday or Saturday to enable students from throughout the country return home and vote. For too long, politicians have spoken of the need to re-engage with young people while simultaneously alienating them through self-serving decisions such as those made by Fianna Fail and the PDs regarding election dates.

Everyone deserves to have their voice heard. The silence from the Government on this issue is deafening.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

**MICHAEL NOONAN T.D.**

LEADER  
FINE GAEL

## UL Ladies lead the way in University Rugby

University of Limericks Ladies Rugby team have once again reached the final of the Higher Education League having beaten rivals UCC in the semi-finals played in Carlow Rugby Club on Tuesday the 2nd of March.

The semi-final proved a difficult match for UL with many key players injured or on Co-operative education. UL found it hard to settle and UCC took advantage to score two tries and convert one.

In the face of tough competition from UCC UL Captain Patrique Kelly scored an amazing try and boosted the spirits of the team. Full back, Deirdre Gallagher also scored a superb try as she escaped the heels of a chasing UCC player to place the ball over the line. UCC led at half time 12-10.

In the second half UL, played as they usually do and proved themselves deserved winners with a great display of skill and teamwork. Kelly went on to score two more tries as UL dominated the UCC half and put them under pressure. The final score was 20 -14 to UL.

Player of the match went to Rachel Tucker, an Irish player, and daughter of Colm Tucker who played with the Lyons. As a reward Rachel was presented with a fluffy pink tiara by New Zealand coach Rowan Young, which she was forced to wear for the day.

Also worthy of mention was Ireland A player Fiona Coughlan who gave a determined display and of course Captain and Irish player Patrique Kelly for her skill and leadership.

UL will now meet CIT in the Final of the Higher Education League in Tralee on the 22nd of March. CIT beat Carlow IT in Carlow on the 2nd 20-15 in the semi-final and UL look forward to a good match.

In other college matches, the Ladies Rugby Intervarsities are being hosted by Trinity College this year on Wednesday the 20th of March. UL are unbeaten holders of the title. A number of teams are expected to compete in the Intervarsities and as always fun and good competition is a foregone conclusion.

UL plans to send a team to a sevens competition in Paris later this semester, to compete at International standard with teams from all over Europe. This will be UL's third year in the competition in which UL have been beaten only by champions Renne.

UL Ladies Rugby Club welcome all new members and encourage anyone thinking of joining to come along to the astroturf at 7.30 on Mondays to have a chat or join in the fun.

### HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS TIMETABLE



Come join in the fun...

WEEK 6 Paintballing

WEEK 7 Easter Rising Lecture

Weekend away to Newgrange and area

WEEK 8 Charity duck race, put your bets on!

WEEK 9 Walking tour of the medieval walls of limerick

WEEK 10 Launch of our journal History studies

Other events are also in the pipeline including day and half-day trips to places of historical interest.

If you would like to take part in any of these activities you are more than welcome, just confirm by emailing  
[ulhistorysociety@hotmail.com](mailto:ulhistorysociety@hotmail.com)



# Seachtain na Gaeilge

muintir Chorcaí agus muintir na Gaillimhe le haghaidh an deireadh seachtaine. Béimid le chéile arís ag an gcéad teacht le chéile ar an 12ú Aibreán i nGaillimh!! Bígí ann.

## Ar ais go O.L.

Bhí an oscailt oifigiúil do S na G ar an gcampas in O.L. ar an Luan ag meánlae. Bhí alán daoine i láthair. D'oscail an Leas-Uachtarán Acadúil, an tOllamh Caoimhín Ó Riain an tseachtain go hoifigiúil. Bhí an spiorad agus an t-atmaisféar thar barr. Bhí beagnach chuile dhuine sa choláiste ag caitheamh na

ngreaimitheoirí 'Is breá liom an Ghaeilge'. Bhí fhios ag gach duine go raibh S na G ar siúl. Tar éis na hoscailte chuaigh slua mór

daoine go dtí an príomhbhialann le haghaidh lóin. Bhí guth láidir na Gaeilge le cloisteáil go hárd ansin. Oíche Dé Luain thosaigh an spraoi le céilí mór sa Phluais tar éis ceachtanna le fear an tí, Pat O'Connell. Bhí slua mór de dhaoine ann agus oíche lán de chraic ab ea í. Dé Máirt bhí feachtas mór thar timpeall an choláiste chun daoine a mhealladh chuig na himeachtaí. Bhí an-chuid de na mic léann ag breathnú ar 'Cheltenham' ar an dteilifís ach chuir muintir 'Spraoi' ina gcumhne dóibh go raibh an Ghaeilge beo ar an gcampas agus go raibh S na G ar siúl agus an madman mar a dearfá Hector ó TG4 ag teacht.

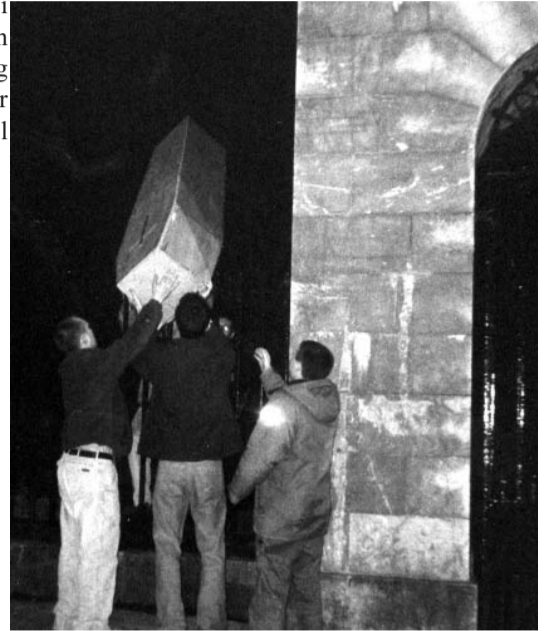
## Amú le Hector in O.L.

Bhuel, THÁINIG SÉ, AGUS TÁ SÉ AG TEACHT, AGUS TIOCFADH SÉ ARÍS go háirithe nuair a chonaic sé an slua mór de chailíní ón bhfoireann sacair agus iad ag bouncáil timpeall na háite. Rinne Hector leagan iontach den 'Weakest Link' agus 'Blind Date' freisin. Bhí an-craic aige le hEidín an cailín bocht as Chiarraí ag pleacaíocht faoi chursaí peile. Bhí cúpla duine fliuch báite tar éis an chomórtais. 'Horty' an leasainm a chuir Hector ar an bhfear bocht Donncha as Baile Bhuirne. Luaigh Hector an taisteal atá déanta aige, an Soul Solid Crew, weightlifting sa tSeapáin!! agus a leithéid. Ansin lean an carachtar ceart ar aghaidh go dtí na Stáblaí chun an Karaoke a chur i láthair. Bhí na hamhráin i mBéarla ach an craic trí Ghaeilge. Chuir Hector íomha difriúil don Ghaeilge os ár gcomhair anseo in O.L. Tá áthas an domhain orainn a rá go raibh an-suim ag daoine. Bhí "cúpla focal" ag gach duine. Bhí siad go léir ábalta í a thuiscint. Bhain gach éinne taitneamh as agus ní dhéanfar dearmad air go deo. Chuaigh alán daoine suas ar an ardán ag canadh, fiú lucht an allais ag canadh "An poc ar buile" lena véarsaí fhéin sa deireadh. Bhí an t-atmaisféar go maith agus chuile dhuine ag úsáid na Gaeilge acu. Léan an amhránaíocht agus an phleidhíocht ar aghaidh le Hector agus chuile dhuine sna tríthí ag gáire. An-oíche a bhí inti i ndairíre.

Oíche Dé Ceadaoine

Tháinig na dearthaireacha Neff chugainn Dé Ceadaoine.

Bhí a n g i g a r s ú i l i



seomra na nIarchéimithe agus sár act a bhí iontu gan dabht. Tá an-chur amach acu ar na huirlisí agus bhain gach aon duine sult as.

Inniu an Déardaoin, tá an tseachtain beagnach críochnaithe ach caithfidh mé a rá gur seachtain mhaith a bhí inti. Cuireann sé gliondar croí orainn daoine a chloisteáil ag labhairt focal Gaeilge fiú. Níl an teanga marbh agus mairfidh sí agus muidne anseo chun léanúint ar aghaidh léi. Bígí linn an Cumann Spraoi, gach Máirt i seomra a 4 san Aontas (6.00in) agus sna Stablaí Déardaoin ag a seacht chun cómhra a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge. Fáilte roimh chách.

Regina N Rian agus Caroline Walters

Buíochas

Bá mhaith liom buíochas a gabháil do

Spraoi Soc go háirithe Regina as ucht na tacaíochta agus an chúnaimh a thug sí dom

Deirdre, Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge le haghaidh chuile rud, bhí tú ann i gconáil linn, go raibh míle maith agat.



Mick ón Aontas as ucht an suim idirlín iontach agus an tam ar chaith sé leis an bhfogaíocht

Dermot le haghaidh an printer!!!

Na daoine go léir a thug tacaíocht dúinn chun imeachtaí na seachtaine a chur ar siúl. Fuaireamar urraíocht ó Uachtarán, Ollscoil Luimnigh, Aonad na Gaeilge, Ollscoil Luimnigh, Aontas na Mac Léinn, Ollscoil Luimnigh, Oifig an Leas-Uachtaráin Acadúil, Ollscoil Luimnigh agus Údarás na Gaeltachta, Foras na Gaeilge agus Conradh na Gaeilge.

## Turas go Corcaigh.

Bhuel, tá an Ghaeilge lag sa choláiste ach cinnte níl sí marbh. Bhí S na G go hiontach. Thosaíomar leis an dturas IDIR SÚGRADH AGUS DÁIRÍRE go dtí Ollscoil na hÉireann, Corcaigh chun bheith i láthair don oscailt oifigiúil do Sheachtain na Gaeilge na mac léinn. Bhí trí ollscoil páirteach sa deireadh seachtaine. Chuaigh naonúr ón O.L. Ba dheis mhaith í don Cumann 'Spraoi' as O.L. muintir ón gCumann bualadh leis na cumainn



Ghaeilge ó na hollscoileanna eile; 'Comhlacht' ó Ollscoil na hÉireann, Corcaigh agus 'Cumann Craic' ó Choláiste na hOllscoille, Gaillimh. Chuir an mock sochraid agus tórramh traidisiúnta tús iontach leis an deireadh seachtaine. Bhain chuile dhuine an taitneamh as an bpleacaíocht leis an gcónra. Bhí céilí mór tar éis sin. Féach ar an ngriangraf

thíos. Ar an Satharn agus muidne tinn den óil, chuamar ag ramhaíocht i naomhogaí ar an Laoi. Ba é sin an chéad uair do a lán den ngrúpa bheith páirteach i ngníomh mar sin. Ní raibh chuile dhuine ábalta snámh ach bhí an misneach againne dul amach ar aon nós.

Oíche Dé Sathairn bhí díospóireacht Gael Linn ar siúl agus ghlac O.L. páirt inti. An rún a bhí á phlé ná, "Tá an ghloine leathfolamh." Bhíomar i gcoinne an rúin agus phléamar cursaí laethúil agus cursaí ón dtimpeallacht chun ár gcás a chur in iúl. Chailleamar tar éis iaracht mhaith ó gach duine, áfach. Leanamar ar aghaidh ansin go dtí an club oíche Half Moon chun an banna ceol "Yup!" le Mairéad Nesbitt a chloisteáil. Bhí siad-san go hiontach, an-chosúil le Kíla le funky trad. Ansin bhí DJs ann agus d'oscail Tomás Mac Ruairí, Úachtarán Chonradh na Gaeilge an tseachtain go hoifigiúil. Lean an oíche ar aghaidh go dtí na huaireanta luaithe sa mhaidín le séisiún ceoil trad i mBrú ina Laoi. An tráthnóna tar éis, bhí caint agus cumarsáid sa Spailpín Fánach. Caithfear buíochas mór a ghabháil le Niall Ó hÉanacháin (Oifigeach na Gaeilge le AMLÉ),



# The Irish Student Drama Awards in U.L

ISDA stands for Irish student drama awards. These awards are the climatic conclusion to the ISDA festival, an annual event currently in its 54th year. The festival is an opportunity for drama societies from Ireland's universities and colleges to perform their most accomplished plays. This year, for the first time ever, the event was held in Limerick. It was hosted by the University of Limerick and Mary Immaculate College in a variety of locations around the city. The festival is a chance for every student in Ireland to participate and compete in drama. Its founding members NUI Galway, NUI Cork, University College Dublin, Queens University Belfast, and Trinity College Dublin normally host the ISDA in rotation.

From 10-16 March 23 shows were shown, four shows a day over six days in UL, Dolan's, MIC, and the Belltable. ISDA was supported by the Limerick Co-ordination office. There was a workshop open to everyone who was interested which was held at MI every evening at 6p.m. The workshops taught dramatic skills including costume making, lighting and set making.

On Monday, I went along to Sacred in Kilmurry village hall to speak to the director, Sean Donegan and the UL festival director Ella Daly. Sacred is a devised piece on the theme "Loss of Innocence" based loosely on the ancient Greek myth of Medea. In summary, the piece is a moving depiction of the lost innocence of a child after he witnesses his mother murdering his two siblings. The production is an impressive display of dra-

matic costumes and make-up. A strong cast included Richard McFerran, Siobhan O'Leary, Donal J.Sage, and Bethany Jean Urban.

The director used an idea from Deaf Man's Glance as a starting point for the piece. This is also a devised piece, which was very successful in New York. The idea came from a scene depicting two children and their mother. The mother stabs her son without provocation. However, the murder is not violent, it is calm, gentle, tender. This is the concept which Sacred evolved from. It is a modern and provoking piece of drama.

Tuesday's show continued this high standard of drama.



**Irish  
Student  
Drama  
Awards  
2002  
Limerick**

This offering was from UCD and was entitled Blue Remembered Hills. It followed the lives of seven 7-year-olds during World War II. One boy in particular has lost his father to the war, his mother is beating him and the other boys prey on this weakness. During these times he retreats to an old coal shed. In the coal shed one day he starts playing with matches and it's not long before the shed goes up in flames, trapping him inside. The other boys find him but cannot help. He dies and, in fear, the boys lie and say they were not there. The boys are played by adult men, at the writer's wish, to emphasise their childish movements and habits. Again, an impressively talented cast lent their talents to this interesting piece of work.

Another successful year was had by the ISDA with young Irish actors and directors showing great talent and potential. The ISDA festival is a unique opportunity to see the future talents of stage and screen and for both actors and enthusiasts alike, to experience the best of Irish Amateur Drama.

**By Aoife Helly**

## Student Persecution in the Congo

We roll out of bed in the morning. Groaning because we have a 9 o' clock. We wonder whether to eat the leftovers of the spaghetti Bolognese for breakfast. We pull on some clothes and fall out the door and it's raining AGAIN. Running the five minutes to the college, do we ever stop to think how we take our lives (simple as they are) for granted? Until I met Maurice Kikangala and Donat Mabana yesterday, I don't think I did. And I know for sure that Seamus and Ciaran in Nessa's house in 'Lios na Sidhe' (sorry not Nessa's house, the boys got there first) never did either. They'd get stuck into the leftovers, say it's raining and we won't bother going down. Compared to the students in the Congo, cold spaghetti and a bit of rain are the least of our problems.

When the Irish are asked for help, we are proud of the fact that we usually do our best to give it. Well here is a cry! It comes from the largest country in central Africa...the "Democratic" Republic of Congo, formerly known as Zaire. It is a country that has been ravaged by a war between the Congolese leaders and six different African armies that have lead to the death of more than 3 million people. The socio-economic fabric of the country has collapsed, giving rise to intense problems for the inhabitants of this developing country.

Girls as young as 8 are already involved in lives of drugs and prostitution, a situation that is aggravating an already growing AIDS problem. Hospitals have become, in a way, like the workhouses of the Irish famine in the 19th century. There are no medicines, no mattresses and doctors who remain unpaid for months. The country's civil servants have to travel over thirty km per day to a job where the wages are a pitiful 15 dollars a month and even at that, payments made are extremely irregular. This is a situation that has got to be

resolved. It is a situation where, if we Irish have any decency, we will do our utmost to help!!

The troubles in the Congo are all based on the massive and ongoing violation of human rights. I interviewed members of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), Maurice Kikangala (co-founder of the UDPS) and Donat Mabana in the Student's Union



building and they informed me of the real problems on the ground. Their aim is to highlight the persecution that has been unleashed on students in the Congo as a result of their protests against relatively exorbitant fees of 150 dollars a year (10 times the amount earned by most of their parents in a month, provided that they are lucky enough to actually be employed). As a result of student riots, over 1000 were imprisoned and retained in horrific and inhumane conditions, such as 15 students to a 2m squared room with one toothbrush between a hundred. Most of the thousand were released with nine retained as supposed leaders of the coup.

One of these, Lumumba, was held in secrecy but due to international pressure from Amnesty in Limerick and London, Lumumba was placed in an official prison and was finally released last week. As it stands, problems

are now arising on campus forcing the students to travel between 20 and 40 miles a day to get to college as it is unsafe to remain on location. Labs, books and computers have been confiscated. Students and professors are living in misery and poverty with no state intervention to improve the situation as of yet. Kidnapping of young people involved in the UDPS continues in the universities of the countries. The arrested persons are detained in secret places and undergo atrocious torture with no right to legal assistance or visits. They've been deprived of food and health care.

On February 25th 2002 peace talks began in Sun City in South Africa and the 10 Congolese delegates to the talks, as experts on the crisis, are currently in Ireland under invitation by senator David Norris. This delegation was composed by M. Leon K. Kadima Mutuntu, pioneer and co-founding member of the UDPS and M. Raymond Mbemba Kahungu co-founding member and honorary National Secretary in the Youth of the UDPS.

The talks in Sun City are under the authority of the EU, the UN and the African Union as part of the peace agreements of Lusaka. This dialogue should enable the country to set up institutions and appoint delegates by common consensus. An institutional body will also be set up to manage the transitional period and organise free and democratic elections. Maurice Kikangala and Donat Mabana ask that Ireland be involved in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo so that the holding of weapons and movement of armies cease to be the norm in the Congo.

So when we start giving out about college again, do what Seamus and Ciaran do, eat the spaghetti, go or don't go to college and be happy with your lot. Watch this space for more news from the Congo.

**by Marianne Blackwell and G**

# Chess Club Report

The Bunratty open was on recently, so a group from the chess club headed out to it. We had a driver this year, which was brilliant and the fact he got us there and back with no fatalities was even better.

The open itself was superb. This, the ninth Bunratty Open is again the largest open in Ireland with over 300 players this year.

The winner of the masters section was Brian Kelly's IM. He played Dr. John Nunn GM in the final game where he drew. Lorin D'Costa and Jonathan Parker GM came in third and fourth on 4.5 each. Brian Kelly only an IM (one step below GM) finished ahead of four Grand Masters in this tournament.

The club did fairly well, with one member coming in with 5 in the minors, finishing just behind the winners

who were all on 5.5

Playing in a tournament is a completely different experience to playing a friendly or a game on the Internet.



This is real chess as played by professionals. So the pressure is on and the stakes are high, not only the prize but also your honour is at stake here. Who wishes to

remember that game you knew you could have won? The ecstasy of that unexpected win, the agony of that missed move. Anyone who believes chess is a nice quiet game has never really played the tension of the tournament game.

What was even more enjoyable than the Open was the Blitz tournament on the Sunday night. Blitz is basically speed chess, the games here were 5 minutes long, which was rather slow for speed chess, but since we had the chance to play GMs, IM, FM's and other people rated over 2000, who cares?

In International news Ruslan Ponomarev has won the FIDE World Championship final by 4-2, played in Moscow in January, and has become, at 18, the youngest world chess champion in history,

## Young Fine Gael attend Ard Fheis

UL Young Fine Gael have been noticeable by their absence from Futureline but that is not to say that they are in the doldrums. In fact it's the opposite as John O'Grady leads the branch into a general election, a hotbed of activity (Mark Gallagher is very absent though, lost an ocean of love).

Even the new semester has seen a lot of events already. The highlight was the Ard Fheis held in Citywest Hotel, Saggart. A large number of delegates from UL attended putting forward motions on national international and most importantly student issues. The weekend was a fabulous success and very successful for Young Fine Gael.



Leaflet dropping and canvassing has begun in earnest to get the T.D.s who will decide the next government into office, regardless of some media interests. Recent efforts have focussed on Senator Mary Jackman in this very constituency and our near neighbours in Tipperary, Cork and Clare. As well as improving the candidates' chances it allows the members to see parts of the country and meet people from all areas, something they mightn't have done themselves.

The weekend after Week 3 is a prime example. The crew travelled through Portlaoise, Edenderry, Tullamore, Fermoy, Birr, Thurles, Roscrea and many others with students from UCC, NUIG, TCD, DCU etc. etc., the list goes on and on. The candidates themselves, Noel Coonan and Olwyn Enright were very appreciative of the help and their hospitality was overwhelming. The group was especially pleased to meet FF Minister for Defense and local TD, Michael Smith, while wearing bright blue T-shirts supporting his opponent.



ULYFG hosted YFG president elect, Gerry O'Connell, at their meeting on Feb. 21st. His mission was to boost the energy of the branch with the rising of Ogra from the depths of the campus and the vital effort needed to secure votes for Mary Jackman. He also gave a review of nation YFG efforts and accomplishments, including 1200 new members, new branches across the country, success in securing medical cards for students and higher grants for more students as an election promise. UL took the

opportunity to highlight the excessive cost of car insurance and more local issues such as bus lanes and crime.

A committee meeting of YFG was held the following Sunday and plans are well advanced for a group of students, including many UL members, to visit the European Parliament and other institutions in Brussels this week. Closer to home YFG are taking part in a trip to Northern Assembly at Stormont and Belfast itself. And if that wasn't enough, there is also an intersociety paintballing event. The Peace and History societies have joined forces with YFG to present "An Alternative To War" or perhaps target practice for May.



However all this comes at a price and YFG needs to raise their own cash. Money doesn't grow on trees or come from parties in an election year. So last

Monday the Stables was painted blue and the Young Fine Gael table quiz commenced. The questions were tricky at times, the scores very high but there were lots of winners, ranging from cash prizes (no envelopes), vouchers, and Tipperary and Waterford Crystal. Congratulations to all the organisers, supporters and it was terrific to see a total of 27 teams on

the night.

YFG have also had a recent success in the Abortion Referendum, posing difficult questions to Willie O'Dea T.D. and highlighting the dangerous nature of the proposal.

## UL Ladies Hockey performs well

It has been a challenging year for the U.L. senior ladies hockey team but the U.L. side has weathered the storm after gaining five points from their last two matches.

The match against Church of Ireland (Cork) was an important game for both sides. The Cork side are bottom of the table and desperately needed a win while the U.L side wanted to keep C of I in their current position.

It took U.L. awhile to get into the game and C of I scored after an early break. U.L. upped their performance as the match progressed and had most of the chances. Despite this, it wasn't until the second half that Eimear Cregan scored by flicking the ball over the C of I goalie. The match finished 1-1, neither side getting their desired result.



On the 24th February U.L. played Waterford at home. U.L. took control of the match from the star and approximately twenty minutes into the first half, after a lovely passage of play between the forwards and mid-field, Emily FitzGibbon scored. Eimear Cregan subsequently showed excellent skill weaving through the Waterford defence and reverse stick hitting the ball towards the goal only to have it stopped on the line by a Waterford foot. This meant an instant penalty stroke, which Eimear converted into a goal.

Waterford got into the match a bit more in the second half and scored but the match ended 2-1 in favour of U.L. This was an important win for U.L. and almost certainly secures their position in the senior league next year.

sponsored by Deloitte & Touche

# Obituary

Johnny McNamara passed away on March 7, 2002 as a result of a short illness.

He was well known to all students and staff of the CSIS department as "the one with the moustache". Always willing to lend a hand and to give any information you needed, he will be sorely missed.

Johnny passed away at the young age of 49, and left a wife and two children.

Ar a dheis De go raibh a h-anam Dilis.

I can't come up with any more. Brain not working.

Talk to the porters I suppose I should have done that though.

## University of Limerick Football Club

### Annual 11-a-Side Competition

**Team Name :**

**Team Contacts :**

**Times Unavailable :**  
( eg. Wednesday Afternoon)



### Team Details

Name	ID	Name	ID

### Rules:

1. Competition begins **Mon Wk 7**. Draw for 1<sup>st</sup> Round in Stables on Weds. Wk6
2. Cost of entry is **€50**, squad of 16 players.
3. No postponements, so fill in **Times Unavailable** carefully.
4. Match details in Main Canteen, Website and An Focail.
5. Matches refereed by **ULFC Players**.
6. Limit of **2 Collingwood Players** in each Squad.
7. Minimum 24 notice given for any fixture.
8. Matches to be of **25 mins** per half.
9. All money must be paid before a team can officially enter the competition.

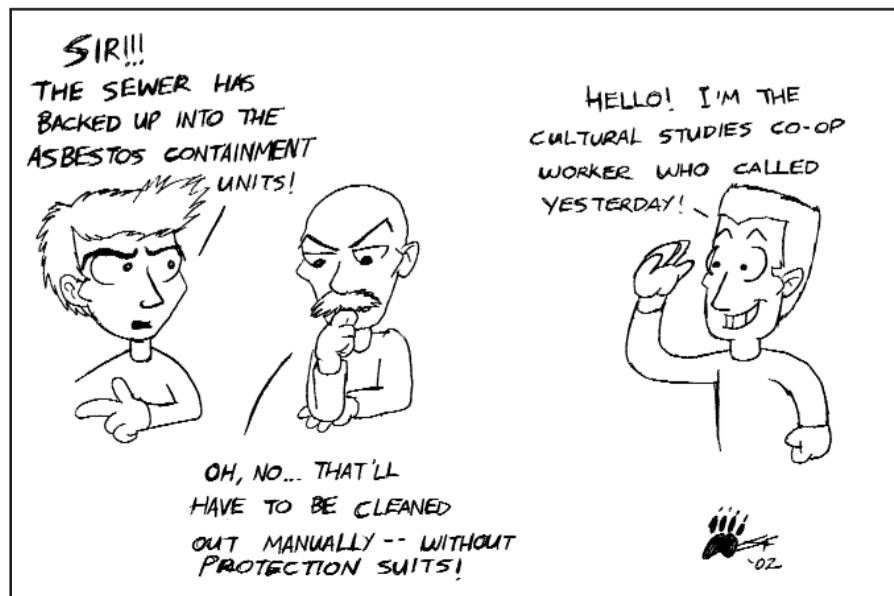
# New Non-Alcoholic Drink on sale

In conjunction with the new alcohol policy on campus which in case you didn't know is to try and reduce alcohol consumption on campus and to create an environment for students where alcohol isn't the only source of entertainment the Scholars now have a new source of drink for us students SoBE. SoBe is a new healthy refreshment drink which energizes the body and uplifts

the spirit made from exotic teas and delicious juices. SoBe first began in 1996 by 4 part-ners interested in health and fitness. The first product that was introduced was black tea Ginseng, Ginkgo and Guarano and was so popular that it was immediately followed by SoBE Oolong tea, SoBE orange and SoBe cranberry and grapefruit elixir energy drink.



lean product line for those of you watching your weight and is also suitable for diabetics. It even has a special healthy chocolate drink made from Dutch chocolate and it also has vitamins and herbs. There is something for everyone and whats more there're good for you so what are waiting for. They are available in the scholars in orange and carrot, orange and mango, cranberry and grapefruit and strawberry and banana at 2.75 a pint bottle not bad. Next time you're in the Scholars try them they're worth it and not only that but each SoBe cap carries a message to represent the brands unique quality that can be collected to get free stuff at promotions.



Its range now includes exotic blends such as SoBe green and lemon tea a healthier option than Lyons tea, 3c Elixirs such as orange and carrot Elixir, a special power line and adrenaline line and a

**-Sinead Kelleher**

# UL Debating Union News Computer Society Report

Well, as ever the Debating Union has been working hard, organising some of the best society entertainment in the leafy suburb of Castletroy. On the first weekend of March we held our annual Debating Intersarsity, which proved an enormous success. Debaters, knowing it by reputation, came from as far a field as California and France (not to mention Scotland & Wales) along with speakers from all the major Irish universities for what was a well organised competition and one hell of a party afterwards. Though we couldn't participate ourselves (seeing as we are adjudicating the debating rounds) it was still a great weekend, with varying motions from; the plight of Zimbabwe to whether the morning after pill should be legalised to whether soccer players be allowed play, while on trial. The highlight of the weekend were the Californian girls by far who, living up to the American cheerleader stereotype, had a particular fondness for saying "hugs and kisses" and "love" and "sweetheart" (about ten or fifteen times) in every speech. Priceless, and it was sad (particularly for all the men) to see them go. Especially after they told us that Irish men were sooo sexy. At least there's still some people left who love us! UL DebU also sent one team to the Strathclyde University IV in Glasgow where Eoin O'Culain and Jody Clarke performed strongly, and while not reaching the semis' (it'll be a while yet before that happens) certainly did not put UL to shame. The rest of the first day was spent trying to track down the "Glaswegian speciality" of deep fried Mars Bars, to be told that that fad died out ages ago. Messes up the fryer apparently...damn them.

Anyway, the Grand final was followed by a buffet and free bar, which turned the Students' Union bar into something resembling a battlefield, as hoards of

thirsty, tired debaters swamped the bar to avail of the only free bar they're likely to get during all of college. Our two debaters, somewhat intoxicated, successfully navigated the streets of Glasgow and managed to find a bus at 6:30am to bring them back to the airport, now twenty hours without sleep. How they managed this, god only knows.

More trips are already planned, with two teams heading off to the European Debating Championship, which, subscribing to the Eurovision Song Contest's definition of 'Europe', will be held in Haifa, Israel. We have high hopes that they'll do well when it takes place in the third week of March. They've been advised to bring flak jackets and helmets along with their luggage. Lets hope they get back in one piece!

Furthermore, demonstrating our zeal for getting maiden speakers involved, four first years will be heading to a university in Paris for a week on a debating exchange to take part in debates with English speaking debaters there, for what will be a fantastic experience in the 'city of light'.

Don't forget to come along to our weekly Tuesday meetings at 19:30 in the Scholars' Function Room (or 'An Phluais' as it's now known) to let your voice be heard, or just to watch. Fresher workshops are still running on Mondays and are a great way to improve public speaking, with others at your own level. New members are always welcome.

Before I sign off, if anybody wants to be put on the mailing list for the DebU, to be informed of the week's Motion, and other events, send an email to 0034487@student.ul.ie. Till week six. PRO

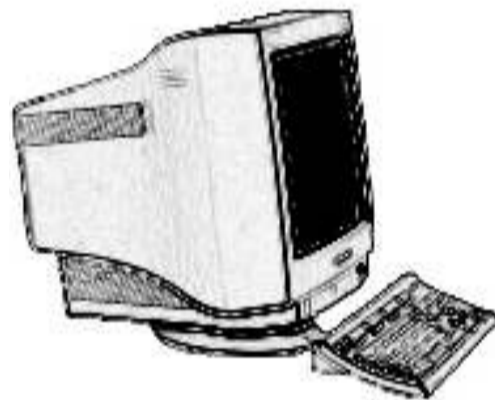
On Monday night, 25th February, two HEAnet representatives came down to talk to us about HEAnet. HEAnet is the Higher Education Authority Network, the people who provide me, you and everybody else in the university Internet access. HEAnet is the biggest ISP in the country, providing high speed Internet access to nearly every university and IT in the country.

About 40 people turned up, the committee was pleased to note should a good turnout. Many people were expecting the talk to be quite technical [and admittedly some parts were...], but in reality it turned out to be a lively and informative discussion on not only the technical side of HEAnet, but on the logistics and history of the service provider as well. Among the topics discussed were the physical networking side of HEAnet, plans for the future, their philosophy, their current research priorities, and that people from

many different disciplines work for them - from physics graduates to computer science post graduates. The talk lasted from around 5:45 until 7:00 - afterwards we all went to the Scholars for some free food and a bit of craic. What time said "après presentation" actually finished is still a matter for discussion.

In conclusion, we would like to extend our gratitude to HEAnet for providing an informative presentation on HEAnet's operations both social and technical. It was highly enjoyable to both the guru's and the new people in the society. We hope to have future correspondence with them.

Thanks also to the Scholars for use, albeit very brief use, of their Function Room for the reception.



## UL Tae Kwon Do excels in Galway

**On Sunday, March third last, UL Tae Kwon Do travelled to Galway to take part in the Galway International Senior Open 2002 at the University Sports hall. Around 300 attended the competition from around the country and included participants from England and Wales.**

Mr Philip Fox, Third Dan Black belt and UL school instructor, lead by example with victory in both the black belt heavyweight point-sparring and continuous sparring, and second place in black belt patterns. Brian Barrett came first in the patterns (white-green belt) while John Greensmith won again in the lightweight sparring (white-green) competition. Mike Johnson finished a very creditable second in the hard fought blue-red heavyweight continuous sparring. Jim Murphy came third in the blue-red heavyweight point-sparring section, while Conor Culleton and Gerard Hogan were third in lightweight and heavyweight points sparring (white-blue) respectively. Well done to all who took part. All the UL students have been training very hard the last few months and their dedication to train has paid off for them in the tournament.

The next couple of weeks will be very busy as we have the privilege to host a seminar on May 4th by the World Leading Martial Artist Grandmaster Hee Il Cho, 9th Dan black belt and founder of AIMAA (Action International Martial Arts Association).

It will be held in the state of the art University Arena and the event will be massive, with over 550 people from different martial arts around the country and abroad expected to attend.

This is the first time Grandmaster Cho has run a seminar in this country outside Dublin, under the AIMAA banner, which is an acknowledgement of Mr. Fox's hard work and dedication to Tae Kwon Do and

AIMAA. Also in attendance will be Master Philip Ameris, (Technical Director of AIMAA) who is the Worlds most knowledgeable fighter today and Master John Darcy, (European Director of AIMAA), both 6th Degree Black belts, as well as other high ranking martial artists from many organisations. All Martial artists in UL are welcome to attend the seminar and learn from the leading voice in martial arts today. People can also come and watch the seminar and see what Tae Kwon-Do and martial arts has to offer young and old, male and female.

Tae Kwon-Do training here in UL is on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30 pm till 10:00 pm in the gym of the old sports building and newcomers are always welcome. Anyone who wants to find out more about AIMAA, Grandmaster Cho, Mr. Fox or UL Tae Kwon Do can go to our web site at <http://tkd.csn.ul.ie>.



# The Irish Peace Society

## Israeli Ambassador visits UL

On 4th March the Irish Peace Society hosted a visit to UL by the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland, Mark Sofer. Before delivering a one-hour long talk Ambassador Sofer explained his desire to hold an informal discussion with the group of approximately eighty students. His intention was to engage in dialogue with the students rather than to regurgitate his government's official stance.

Part of the reason for continued conflict between Palestine and Israel results from differing interpretations of history. While Ambassador Sofer acknowledged that, 'we won't agree on history,' he made clear that Israelis tend to claim there is anti-Jewish sentiment in the region, while Palestinians concentrate on their expulsion from their homes in what is now Israel. Another point underpinning regional conflict is that the two sides operate on differing belief systems, something which is difficult to solve diplomatically.

As a way of moving towards peace, Ambassador Sofer insisted that rather than viewing Israel as part of the problem it might be more productive to avoid blame and to include Israel as part of the solution.

Looking to recent history, the election of Barak in 1999 was seen by many as a move within Israeli society towards conservatism. However, over the next year

and a half the peace process between the two sides accelerated tremendously. In fact this process moved so far forward that nobody saw it going back.

Then came Camp David. Ambassador Sofer claims that the biggest hurdle was the issue of Jerusalem and that it was an impossible hurdle to overcome as attitudes on both sides were, and still remain, too immature to solve the issue. As Ambassador Sofer explains it, "Barak was ready to split Jerusalem but luckily for the Israeli right Arafat said no to Clinton's proposal." From the Palestinian perspective, the Israeli's continued to break the UN Resolution on the Right to Return by refusing Palestinian's right to return to their former homes in Israel. This is when the peace process broke down.



Mark Sofer

The round of violence that ensued was different from that of the 1980s. When Barak failed to deliver peace, Israelis became disillusioned and voted in a more right wing leader, Ariel Sharon. There was a total breakdown of trust between Israelis and Palestinians. Ambassador Sofer claims that at that time, the peace camp in Israel disappeared, culminating in a tragedy for both sides.

The Ambassador insists that following the past eighteen months of escalation in conflict both sides need to reassess the situation. He then went on to highlight the point that President Bush has visited every fourth level

Sheikh in the Middle East but has not yet met Arafat. He then talked about media coverage of the region, expressing his opinion that the European Press is more balanced than the American press, but that in order to facilitate peace, European and US opinion need to come together. It was noteworthy that the Ambassador did not even mention Arab opinion in this scenario.

Ultimately, peace between the two sides appears to be far away. While recent newscasts show Sharon's declining support at home, there is also scepticism about Arafat's political support. Perhaps not coincidentally both the Israeli Ambassador and the Palestinian Delegate General to Ireland are in agreement that there is no military solution to the Middle East peace process. Surely if both sides agree upon this, then there is hope for future peace.

Ambassador Sofer completed by commenting that he is pessimistic in the short run and predicts continued violence. However, he is more optimistic for the long run potential for an end to the conflict. He was adamant that when the conflict finally ends both sides would be accepting the same terms that they rejected at Camp David. However, if the Palestinians have lost trust in what the Israelis view as the US's neutral role of mediator, then perhaps another third party could fill this role.



## Outdoor Pursuits Club

### Trip to Co. Kerry 17th February

Another 9am start from outside the Stables. This time our destination was Mangerton Mountain in Co. Kerry, which stands at 843 meters high and is located in the Magillicuddy Reeks.

After a short stop in Castleisland to stock up the rucksacks we arrived at the drop off point around 11:30. The mountain itself isn't too difficult to climb so it gave the Erasmus students, many of whom were on their first trip, a nice introduction to hillwalking in Ireland. We experienced sun, wind, snow, hail, bog, muck and of course the compulsory heavy rain-in other words typical Irish weather.

The trip also gave a chance to more experienced members of the club to pass on their leadership and navigation skills to up and coming leaders. Learning skills such as map reading, compass work and leading are highly valuable as it means younger members will be fully capable of leading groups when the older members leave the club (sniff sniff).

With loads of time to spare we arrived back to bus owner Pat "Your not getting on my bus with them boots" Curtin. Because of his protectiveness of his "baby" some members resorted

to changing in a nearby forest (some traumatised wildlife are currently undergoing counselling). After another short stop in Killarney for some fine traditional Irish food (chips, burgers, chicken nuggets etc) we arrived back to base.

38 got on the bus that morning and 38 got off that evening. (For those of you with non-mathematical minds, that means we lost no one during the day.)

For more information about what we do, trips etc visit <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~opc> Any inquiries can be directed to [opc@csn.ul.ie](mailto:opc@csn.ul.ie)



## Life on the Ladies Irish Canoe Polo Team

In October 2000, I joined the Irish canoe polo ladies through the persuasion of my kayak club buddies and while on co-op, my interest grew in the sport along with my training time! The national training location was close by so I was deeply immersed in the polo scene and was asked as part of the B squad to take part in a competition in Charleroi in North France. After a few hiccups, and help from the students union and ESB, who sponsored my boat, it was a lot easier to get organised and maximise this experience. Playing at such a high level brought a whole new outlook for me as a kayaker and all the different areas involved under the one heading! During the summer I was

part of the B squad that travelled to Carrick-on-Shannon, Mechelen, Charleroi, Wales and two Irish competitions held in Kilcock and two competitions in Liverpool. This year the team have a new coach, Dave Brown, a former coach in Britain who has brought a whole new drive for professionalism to the team. The three teams all meet up once a month in Kilcock, Co. Kildare for a weekend of intense training in any weather conditions! Selections took place in January in the fog and ice where eight of us were selected to play in the A squad for the World Championships in Germany from September 9th to

September 14th, with the resultant desire for a podium finish. Georgina Quain, a fellow ULKC paddler has joined us for training and is hoping to move up the rankings. And as most of the team are from Dublin, we have someone to train with throughout the hectic summer season planned ahead.

Edel Quinn (in fourth year studying Production Management).

Edel is also a member of the intervarsities kayak polo team who reached the final in Galway two weeks ago.





# UL Take the Fitzgibbon

(contd. from page 1)

resolve greatly. However in typical fashion, WIT continued to fight back and were rewarded when substitute Stephen Browne set up Murray for his second goal of the game mid way through the second half. A minute later a great point from Shefflin drew the sides level for the 5th time.



The game was in the melting pot and in the heat of the battle, man of the match, Richie Murray took the game by the scruff of the neck. Two inspirational long range points from the Galway man saw UL lead by 2 points with 10 minutes remaining. Jacob (WIT) and Fitzgerald (UL) exchanged points as the tension grew. With 2 minutes remaining Murray put a solitary score between the teams with a pointed free. Then Mick O'Hara struck to the back of the net after a scramble in the box to finish the challenge of WIT off. Brian Geary, Brian

Mahony and Niall Moran were all in splendid form among an excellent team display from the Limerick students under the guidance of Ollie Moran.

UL: T Houlihan, B Mahony, J Devane, D Gleeson, C Forde, B Geary, C Earley, R Murray (0-3), J Barron (0-1), C Fitzgerald (0-7 6f), N Moran, E Fitzgerald, D Donohue (0-1), D Forde (0-2), D Sheehan (1-0). Subs used: P O'Reilly, M O'Hara(1-0)

WIT: D Young, D Joyce, P Curran, J.J Delaney, M Fitzgerald (0-1), J Brady, J O'Neill, A Geoghegan (0-1), G Coleman, M Jacob (0-1), F Flynn (0-2), H Shefflin (0-2), B Dowling, S O'Alpin, D Murray(2-4). Subs used: S Browne, N

Murphy.

-Barry Duggan



## Fitzgibbon Weekend Overview

University of Limerick are the Fitzgibbon Cup champions for 2002. After a long and hard campaign, the ultimate success was achieved in Galway over the weekend of the 2nd/3rd of March. Victories over UCC in the semi-final and WIT in the final ensured this year's hurlers inscribed their names into UL folklore. This competition is the definitive accolade in third level hurling and UL fully deserved their success after an extensive and enduring campaign.



The smile etched across Ollie Moran's face at the final whistle said it all. University of Limerick had captured the Fitzgibbon Cup in his first year in charge. Moran's delight was obvious to all after the game.

Moran expressed his thoughts to An Focal after the game .“This is absolutely brilliant, we've had to work so hard to

achieve this, but it was worth it in the end. I'm delighted for all the players. There is great self-belief in this panel; it is the hallmark of this squad. At the start of the year we had to convince the panel of players that they were good enough to win it and they have responded magnificently whenever asked to do so.”

“The nature of the Fitzgibbon is that it is a fierce strong competition. Perhaps Waterford were at a disadvantage after Saturday's semi-final when they were not really tested. We might have been stronger in that department, but they tested us all the way. When the game was in the melting pot, the players really dug deep, that could be seen in the last 5 minutes. They pulled out some excellent scores, but that is the character of this side. I'm especially delighted for my younger brother Niall, who gave a big performance out there today. Today was a great team performance.”

UL captain Eoin Fitzgerald was equally as joyful. It's

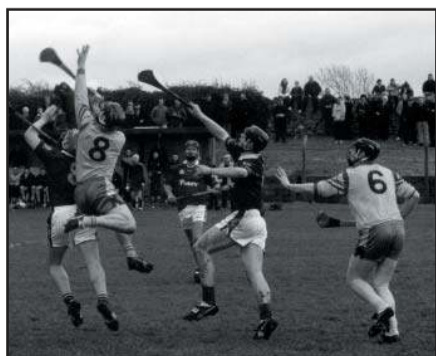
phenomenal what we went through this year. We had a really tough campaign. We beat Trinity, the Guards, NUI Galway, UCC and now Waterford. We really had to work hard to deserve this honour. The players owe it all to our mentors Ollie Moran and Eamonn Meskill. What they have done in such a short space of time is incredible and they deserve this equally as much as the players” concluded Fitzgerald.



## UCC slayed in the Semi-Final

UL 2-11  
UCC 0-9

Traditionally UCC are strong contenders for the Fitzgibbon Cup, but in a windy and rain soaked pitch in Daingean, Galway, UL promptly ended UCC's interest in this year's colleges hurling competition. UL began the match like a cyclone and UCC never recovered to pose a serious challenge as the form-book was thrown out the window.



Goals were to decide this match and UL found the net to devastating effect in the opening 4 minutes. In an incredible start, David Forde kicked the ball to the back upon receiving Conor Fitzgerald's lofty pass after only 15 seconds. Three

minutes later Forde set up David Donohue for a low drive to the back of the Cork net to leave the Cork side stunned. Conor Fitzgerald scored UL's first point after 7 minutes.

Michael Bevan's was unlucky not to pull a goal back for UCC, but his shot came off the post to the relief of Timmy Houlihan after 7 minutes. Eamonn Collins scored UCC's first point after 8 minutes. However, the Limerick forwards continued to set a blistering pace and further points from John Barron, David Forde, David Donohue and Conor Fitzgerald (2) saw UL lead by 2-7 to 0-2 after only 20 minutes. Collins and Cashman pulled 2 points back for UCC before the break.

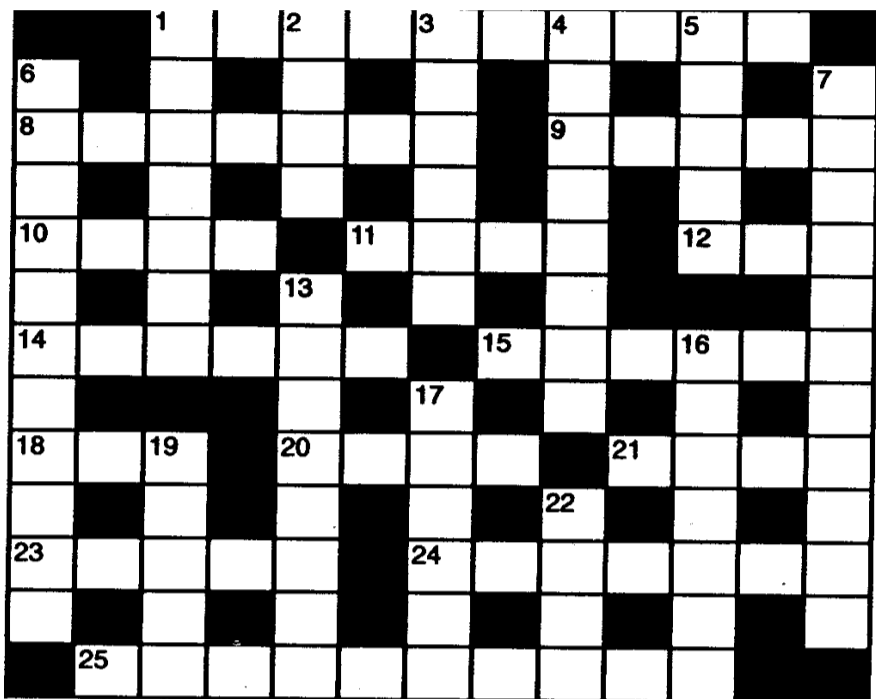
UCC came out in a more

determined fashion upon the resumption and whittled UL's lead down to 5 points after minors from Bevans, Colin Morrissey, Collins (2) and Cashman. However UL remained defiant and resilient. A pointed free from Conor Fitzgerald and a splendid effort from substitute Eoghan Dunne saw UL out of sight. Dermot Gleeson and Donnacha Sheehan performed admirably for the Limerick students while UCC can be proud of the displays of Michael Bevans, Tom Kenny and Alan Kirwan.

-Barry Duggan



# LIMERICK'S LIVE 95FM Weekly Crossword



**ACROSS**

- 1. Evildoer (10)
- 8. Small passenger vehicle (7)
- 9. Tenth (archaic) (5)
- 10. Tasting like venison etc. (4)
- 11. Inclination (4)
- 12. For each (3)
- 14. (Land) left unseeded (6)
- 15. Genocide (6)
- 18. Type (3)
- 20. Orderly (4)
- 21. Look at all parts of (4)
- 23. Retch (5)
- 24. Vessel for holding coal (7)
- 25. Dangerous bacteria (10)

**DOWN**

- 1. Of the highest value (7)
- 2. Narrow arm of sea (4)
- 3. Lied (6)
- 4. Official summons (8)
- 5. Dominant (2,3)
- 6. Nervousness before an audience (5-6)
- 7. Manipulate voting districts (11)
- 13. Lunar ray (8)
- 16. Soft Italian cheese (7)
- 17. Dried fruit (6)
- 19. Aussie "bear" (5)
- 22. Kill certain numbers of animals (4)

## Last Weeks Solution

ACROSS:- 1. Spade. 7. Bulls-eye. 8. Water. 10. Declaiming. 12. Genocide. 14. Hike. 16. Jump. 17. Membrane. 20. Roustabout. 23. Thine. 24. Overawed. 25. Admit. DOWN 1. Sewing. 2. Dyed. 3. Hull. 4. Plait. 5. Medicinal. 6. Reggae. 9. Reach. 11. Enamoured. 13. Doe. 15. About. 16. Jargon. 18. Extent. 19. Strap. 21. Beet. 22. Thud.

Submit correct entries to the Editor (him being Patrick) before 5pm Friday Week 8 and you could win the CD of the week courtesy of Limericks Live 95FM

FIRST A DESTINY'S CHILD REMIX OF 'SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT', AND NOW A NON-ALCOHOLIC FRUIT DRINK IN THE STUDENT BARS???

THE WORLD'S GONE MAD!!!

MAD, I TELL YOU!

SHIT HAPPENS, PART 2

## ULSU Graphics Department

Remember the Students Union are still the cheapest in the university for photocopying and also provide a wide range of other services including binding, typing, faxing, ticket layout and printing. Call today to Aisling, Patricia or Mary at the reception desk in the Students Union.

**diverse** PRESENTS...

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Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> (Wk 5) killian O'Neachtain & brian phelan  
 March 21<sup>st</sup> (Wk 6) brian phelan & marc O'Neill  
 March 28<sup>th</sup> (Wk 7) killian O'Neachtain & eoin gaughran  
 April 4<sup>th</sup> (Wk 8) eoin gaughran & Marc O'Neill

# Got Problems? - Barry can help, (and his mate Dave)

Guest starring in the column this week is my mate Dave, and he will be bringing his own brand of "advice" to help me solve your ever so interesting problems.

Dear Barry,

My housemates and I have a problem of a very serious nature, we are extremely unfortunate to be sharing a house with a guy who prides himself in leaving a trail of skid marks on the poor misfortunate toilet bowl, each and every time the urge takes him, which is at least twice daily. It has gotten to the stage where upon his departure from the bathroom, it is only safe to enter it again after a recovery period of 3-4 hours has elapsed, even then special masks and airtight suits have to be donned as a necessary precaution. And who could blame us, as this guy specialises in the brown stuff!!!

This is a very true picture I am painting for you here, Barry, (sad and all as it is), and my housemates and I beg you to print our letter as our 'friend' is apparently allergic to the toilet brush and impervious to our not so subtle hints.  
Yours, bearing air freshener,  
ANONYMOUS

**Dave: Domestos should do the trick, in his eyes I mean.**

**Barry: I suggest finding some way to light a small fire under the toilet bowl. When he goes to the bathroom, the gas he releases while squatting will ignite, burning the skid marks off the toilet and singeing his arse hairs. This way, you get revenge AND keep the toilet clean!**

Dear Barry (and to a lesser extent Karen "your she male alter ego", to whom we never hear any sarky remarks from),

We, and by we I mean myself and a friend, have noticed your page probably attracts the most attention in An Focal as it is considered to be most

humorous. People write in telling the most unbelievable stories to which we reply "bull\*\*\*\*"! We are at present holding your cactus "Spikey Joe" hostage; we are just informing you that he has come to no harm as yet. As this recent photo shows, he is being kept in the best of health and is being well entertained. You must be beside yourself with worry and so you should be for you will never see him again unless our simple demands are met. All we ask is that you give up your part-time job (cause lets



face it you're only an amateur) as a "problem guru" and rid the world of your terrible advice. If you do not comply with our demands you can kiss your cactus goodbye (not literally of course) as we will be forced to castrate your beloved cactus (which I'm sure Karen would be to happy about as we all know she is just you in a dress) and send him to the big compost heap in the sky. Print this letter or "Spikey Joe" gets the axe. You have 24 hours.

The Cactus Nappers

**Barry: Why ask me to print this letter when you want me to stop being an Agony Uncle? You people are no doubt more glory hunters looking to me to make you famous by**

**printing your tripe in the hallowed pages of An Focal. You obviously hadn't the balls to kidnap my cactus, seeing as you aren't brave enough to spell "bullshit" without the \*\*\*\*. And Barry is really Karen wearing pants.**

**Dave: Well you've already made your first mistake me bucko, a compost heap in the sky wouldn't make good fertilizer, now would it? And Dave is just Barry after liposuction.**

Hello  
I'm 32 and split recently from a long-term partner but even after 5 months of therapy I'm still in-love with her. Everyday I think about her for several hours. Its not getting any easier even

though I have dated other people I still want my ex back, but know there is no chance of this, she has moved on. How do I start to get over this?

**Barry: Don't bother getting over her and simply stalk her instead. Your ex will find this incredibly seductive and will come running back to you.**

**Dave: How do you expect to get your ex back if you keep dating other people? As for getting over it, stalking is good but knives are shiny, and you're to bloody old.**

Dear Advice,

I am getting a fixation on fat women!! This is because my boyfriend left me 5 months ago to live with a 15 stone size 18 Roseanne Barr look-alike.

The thing is that he had always said that if I got fat he would dump me. I am 5' 1 and size 12 and weighed 9st. 7 (I used to be 8st. 7 so I had put on some weight I but didn't look fat).

I don't have anything against big women but I now find myself looking at them and thinking that's the kind of person he is with. I know that I am being obsessive now and I am having counselling but it is not helping me. I even went to see a hypnotherapist but she didn't make me feel good about myself.

I am told that I am attractive and a have a lot to offer someone else who deserves the love I can give - but I can't get over losing the man I believed was my soul mate. But my biggest problem is looking at fat women and feeling bitter towards them when it should be my boyfriend for what he has done to me. He also had a fetish I had accepted, which was a compulsion to wear nappies. Is there hope for me???

Margaret

**Dave: Fat people should stay were they belong, in Indian cinema. The only advantage they have over you is that they can take more bullets in the torso.**

**Barry: Wake up sister. Your ex didn't leave you because you weren't fat; he left you because he is an absolute retard. He wore nappies for God's sake. Get over it and look for a real man.**

That's it for this edition. If you want Dave to keep appearing in this column, email us at [adviceanfocal@hotmail.com](mailto:adviceanfocal@hotmail.com). And send in problems as well.

# An Focal

Brought to you by.....

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# Student's Union General Meeting next Wednesday

What is the Students Union General Meeting all about?????

Far, far away, in galaxy a zillion and one miles from here an enormous, gigantic and colossal event is about to take place and when it does so, it will change the lives of those who attend it forever!!! However, since we have not yet discovered how the time - space continuum works or how indeed we can actually travel to this distant planet using the Nite-Link, we will have to be satisfied with attending a huge event of our own - The Students Union General Meeting.

This little affair will take place in week six and all students are encouraged to attend. Oh yes, speaking of attendance, this has proved in the past to be a minute problem. There is a student population of 9,000 or so in this college, give or take a few Erasmus individuals and the odd dossier or 2 (hundred). Yet the number of folk who could be bothered to turn up to the last summit would not confirm this figure to a non-U.L. student who had happened to wander into the last convention. Thirty-four, yes that number again for all those who missed it was thirty-four, people turned up!! I actually went away and rooted out my good old calculator and following a lot of tapping I discovered that those thirty-four folk were just .377777 percent of the population. Sad.

Now you may be reading this piece because you are dying to find out more about the upcoming shindig or you may be using the very page that this article is written on to soak up a spillage but either way I encourage you to keep reading and you will soon see why a large audience at the meeting is essential. Union meetings are generally called to deal with majorly, large and tremendously important issues such as the initiation of

a major campaign or just to have a peep at events going on in and around the college that need to be brought to the attention of the unassuming student.

Every member of the union is entitled to attend, vote or speak at these meetings and if they are feeling very energetic they can do all three! The gathering will generally be called by Council, SU Executive, the President of the SU (all bow before him), or indeed by a student. Yes folks, if you have a grievance that you want dealt with you can hunt down 300 Union members and get them to sign your bit of paper and the force will be with you to unload your problems onto others. One week's notice must be given to the council if you do request a meeting.

A vital piece of information is that the quorum (the what, I hear you ask), that is the minimum number of people who must be present at the meeting in order for decisions to be valid and binding, is two hundred members of the Union. That means that because of the last

turnout of thirty-four, no decisions made could be binding. The next meeting of the Union will take place in week six. The executive council will be there in force so I hope that you will be too. We can make a difference. Anything that you want to discuss, be it Rag Week, a matter of extreme urgency regarding your course or the fact that you believe the Union should do more to make your life more pleasant and fantastic experience, you should come along to the meeting and participate. Remember your Union needs you. It is your chance to find out about the running of the University, what's in store for the student population for the year and how you can make a difference. So, come along to the meeting, you never know what you might find out !!!

**-Louise Neville**

## Bridge Battle goes to court

contd. from page 1

ment with the university and have hence withdrawn their own objections. Despite these fallout the UL Environmental Society's campaign has not been deterred and has instead intensified, rallying support from fellow students and residents opposed to the project.

In a document submitted to the Environmental society on the day previous to the hearing UL planners outlined the provisions made for the anglers including "a framework towards the establishment of the Plassey Fishery as a showcase angling ground". Addressing environ-

mental concerns in the letter the University also outlined their commitment to "securing the most relevant advice and inputs in all future projects to ensure that the high standard of environmental protection and enhancement is maintained"

It is uncertain when the final decision by An Bórd Pleannála to revoke or uphold planning permission will be made. However it is possible that a compromise outside formal proceedings can yet be made. Deliberation continues.



**Scholars CLUB**

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**WEEK 6**

<b>TUES</b>	<b>DJ Eric Fitz</b>
<b>WED</b>	Heineken Kollege Energy Live 'Alvin Purple Experience' -DJ John Kelly
	Champions League
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>DJ John Kelly</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>DJ Keith Piggott</b>
	Complimentary Finger Food
<b>SAT</b>	Six Nations Rugby -Ireland Vs Italy
<b>SUN</b>	Premiership-Liverpool VsChelsea Brunch 12pm-4pm

**WEEK 7**

<b>Mon</b>	Kayak Club Table Quiz
<b>TUES</b>	<b>DJ Eric Fitz</b>
	Murphys Comedy Club
<b>WED</b>	Heineken Kollege Energy Live 'Free Beer' DJ John Kelly
<b>THUR</b>	<b>DJ John Kelly</b>
	<b>DJ Keith Piggott</b>
<b>FRI</b>	Complimentary Finger Food
<b>Sat</b>	Leeds Vs Man UTD 12pm
<b>SUN</b>	Brunch 12pm-4pm

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

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

Note,

**The ULSU  
Union General  
Meeting has  
been changed  
to Wednesday  
Week 7.**

Venue details will be posted soon