



AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

e-mail union.communication@student.ul.ie

www.ulsu.ul.ie

TERM 1 WEEK 4



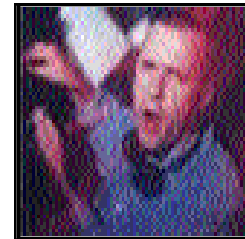
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UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK IN CONTENTION TO HOST THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN 2003.

By Michelle Daly.

An Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern visited the University of Limerick on Friday of week two in a lightening fast visit to the city and County, which covered over thirty venues in two days. Speaking exclusively to An Focal after visiting the site of the almost completed 'Arena' sports building here in UL the taoiseach proclaimed the facilities and the arena magnificent. The state of the art new arena provided the kind of sports infrastructure that is as good as any to be found anywhere in the world in either Olympic and International standard competitions. He felt that the fact that the whole community could be involved in enjoying these cutting edge facilities whether the sportsperson is in the community locally, in the University or among the elite sportspersons that represent Ireland nationally.



An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, with Mayor of Limerick, John Ryan

When asked by An Focal whether UL could be in the running to host the special Olympics in 2003 that are incidentally sponsored by 'The Bank Of Ireland' and will be held in Ireland. An Taoiseach did say that the event would be involving the whole country and obviously the best facilities would be in use and that the University have in world

terms as good a facility as anywhere. Mr Ahern was effervescent about the complete structure now almost complete in the university of Limerick where all possible sports teaching and training facilities were as far advanced as technologically possible.

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Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date

we're looking for opinions, comments, ideas etc

Monday Wk 5
5.00pm

new student centre,
SU - 023
all are welcome

Controversy over Taoiseach's Visit.

By Michelle Daly

The visit of An Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern though un-publicised did not go unattended by controversy in the University of Limerick. Though only informed through 'the grapevine' as one member of Young Fine Gael in UL put it, the party here in the College staged a daring protest during the visit of the Premier last weekend.

Having received some very critical reaction from students as having 'embarrassed the college' a view held by the Fianna Fail

party in particular here in UL the Young Fine Gael party here were adamant that they meant no disrespect to the 'role of An Taoiseach' and were merely targeting the Fianna fail party by their poster campaign and protest.

The Young Fine Gael party representative Mr David Garraghy speaking to An Focal this week spoke of their shock at the reaction of some students

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Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

Each issue, we'll give you a quick dose of what we're up to.



It's that time again, when Fergal is calling on me for my little contribution to An Focal. Well over the last two weeks I have been a busy little boy (or not so little as the case may be), attending Academic Council, where the Academics meet to discuss issued pertaining to? ...That's right Academic life. Also I was at my first Campus Development committee meeting, where the committee was given a presentation of the proposed development of our fair campus at UL. To be honest I can't wait to see the finished product. In a couple of years UL will have possibly the best campus in the country, and its nice to be a part of it. However as optimistic as I am about the future progress of the UL campus, I cant but wonder if some of the money coming into the coffers of the University for sculptures and other projects could be channelled into improving Student Services, the Medical

Centre and other areas that fulfil students' every day needs! Maybe that's me being too narrow minded and short sighted, but if you have any comments, why not email the Students Union comment line at ulsu@csn.ul.ie.

I would also like to congratulate the members of Clubs & Societies who were elected to the Clubs & Societies executive, they will have a challenging year ahead, but it's worth it. Also I would appeal to anyone who has any interest in any of the activities our Clubs & Societies provide to get involved, its very rewarding and also a great laugh! For those of you who would like to be a part of change within the Students Union and ultimately within the college, The all-new Class Reps might just be what you are looking for, so don't be afraid, get involved and together we'll make a difference and have some fun along the way. Last but not least, it was Dermot, our Accountants 50th birthday last week, but you wouldn't think it to watch him go. Happy Birthday Slick.

Well that's all for now, hope you are enjoying life on campus to date, till the next time.

Later
Mick

First, I want to say thanks to everyone who came to the Outreach Meeting last week. For anyone who hasn't heard of the Outreach Society yet, it is a society set up for students to do a bit of voluntary work while they're here....so if your looking to 'do your good deed' you might be interested in coming along on Monday evening – it will be a quick meeting – half an hour or so...

Outreach Society Meeting – Monday Week 4 Room 4 (beside the pool room) at 6.00

Don't forget that The Nitelink leaves from the arch near the Scholars – its running very efficiently so make use of it! And just to let you know - there's still plenty of personal alarms for sale in the shop if anyone needs one.

Accommodation – I just want to say if you have had no hassle this year with your house – please just realise how lucky you are! And everyone else hopefully its all smoothed out by now, so you can just relax and enjoy the rest of term – who needs it, like..

Oh yeah, the other thing I want to mention is Financial Aid – It operates on



Tuesday's only between 11.30 – 1.00 in the Welfare Office. So if you're struggling a bit – you know the when and the where..

Hope everything is going well for everyone – Week Four already, god...anyway, have a good week – if you're not for any reason, you know where I am...

It's probably the best to e-mail me and make an appointment to avoid missing me (meetings etc..) or having to wait in queues outside the office for me..

Union.welfare@student.ul.ie



Well (Waterford phrase); hope you all enjoyed your first three weeks back, and also the first edition of the paper. I'm slowly but surely getting the hang being editor but I would still love any comments or suggestions for improving the look and content of the paper. So if you have ideas, please come along to the meeting in my office, Monday WK 4, at 5pm.

So what have I been up to over last two weeks; well, the main thing I was doing was to sort out a layout for the web-version of An Focal, which will be available soon, just simply follow the link from the Students Union website. Hopefully over the next couple of months I will be putting up archives of the

last few years editions of An Focal, so if you get bored or if your doing some research on the history of the SU, you'll have somewhere to go.

In future editions I hope to include a funnies section so if you're a budding artist whose only outlet to doodle is in the Johnny Monnits then give us a shout.

I'm also looking for language students who want to write articles in a language your studying, or if you're an Erasmus student you can submit articles as well.

The paper will now be available late Tuesday evenings of every Even week, and will be in full circulation by Wednesday morning. If you can't get a copy then call into the SU and there should be a few copies lining around.

Don't forget if you want to write an article, then write it and send it into me, or if you fell strongly about any of the other articles then write a letter to An Focal and you may get £15 for your troubles. Enjoy,

Fergal

Well folks my first order of business today is an apology. Due to a mix up between my self and Fergal (all of my doing) I sent the wrong piece to him for the opening page, the 'greetings page' as I call it, and then I never submitted the other articles. Remember your deadlines folks get things in on time or suffer the consequences. (I'll probably do something on that closer to week 8 when most of your essays etc will start to be due in. That is for those of you who have essays as course work rather than labs and other such like.) Anyway I'm rambling, is this where I'm supposed to say something profound? Well I can guarantee you that won't happen. – Back to the apology, the article you read on these pages last edition was part of a column I was writing for the Education Pages Section of the paper, for those of you who are interested, the four missing paragraphs will be included in this edition. To get a complete version you will have to have copies of both editions of An Focal, or catch the web edition, just to keeps things interesting.

Now to what I should have been saying last edition. - Hi and welcome back to all of you! You are all another



year along, and another year closer to getting that parchment. I'm Tom O'Donovan and I'm your new Education Officer. At the moment I'm based in the Student Centre Administrator's Office SU-006, until the Education Office is ready. (Alice the Student Centre Administrator left, she got a better job and all that so has moved on). Hopefully most of you will have no reason to see me, some of you have already, but whichever the case, if you do, - don't hesitate I'm always available just call in and see me and we will see what can be done!

Tom

Education Diary Week 4

As promised in the Orientation Week edition of this publication, and thanks to Nora Lawton's campaign on information and accountability, here is the first printing of what is hopefully to be a feature of the Education Pages of *An Focal* – The Education Diary. (It should have come out last edition, see apology on 'greetings page').

So what's going on this year in the education area? Well, (I love this answering my own questions – by the way if any of you have Education Questions you would like to ask me or Education issues you would like to raise, just put them in the letters box at the SU reception in the foyer of the Students' Centre Building!), We are seriously looking at shaking up Class Reps and, as it happens, that is going to tie in with what the various Colleges, Departments and Lecturers want in the University. More on that as we go along. **Check out the Class Rep Class list and see if your Class has its class Rep!**

We are also in the process of writing an Education Programme this would be a basic policy document outlining the areas, which need to be addressed by the University for the student population. This would focus on what students want to see happening from an academic point of view in this University but would have wider implications. We are looking at such things as; Past Exam Papers on the web, Organised Student

Representation at the various focus groups of the University, Resources for the support departments of the University, (such as Student Personal Services, Student Services the Medical Centre and the Library among others), ? days on Wednesday for Clubs and Society activity, the entitlement of a student to bring support to a Student Status review meeting and the introduction of a grievance procedure for students to have issues addressed in a structured fashion and allowing for the recording of findings.

We also are seriously looking at the problems of the Students' Union, what it means for the student population, how it affects you the student and how it is perceived out in the campus. We believe there is a great difference in perception between what is done, what is seen to be done, and what should be done. It is hard sometimes, in fact most of the time, to be aware of what is happening on the ground on campus when we are locked away in our offices or running from this meeting to that one and it is easy to lose sight of what is going on.

Part of this is down to the sheer workload of the Students' Union, it is not a job for loafers, well not if you want to make a go of it. Your regular day is a minimum of ten hours and that will only see you through the basic stuff. If you want to get ahead and actually change anything you are talking at least three twelve-hour days in a week.

Another major problem is communication, both from the SU and to

it. It is in this area that Class Reps can have the most affect. If we in here are not being informed of the issues then how can anything be done about them? And on the other hand if problems are being resolved and you are not hearing about that and how to operate the new system then what good is there in having the situation resolved?

We have been attending a number of different Committees and Sub-committees as part of our role as the Student Representation within the University. In that capacity we have commented on a number of issues always trying to put the student perspective across. For example the implications for students progressing or graduating when result deadlines are not met. Recognition for extra curricular work such as involvement in Class Reps, Clubs and Societies and also Community Work has also been raised. At the moment we are looking into what is being done in the United States, the U.K. and on the continent in relation to some form of acknowledgement. Research was started early in the summer on this area.

There are other aspects such

as "I" grade repeats and repeats in general being allowed to graduate with their class, grievance procedures and Student Status which still need to be brought up. Anonymous marking, lab, library and teaching practice resources are also high on the agenda but we will probably wait to push these issues until after the proposed new Education Committee of the Class Reps Council convenes. This will give us more student input for whatever course of action we decide to follow.

I was going to put in a little here on what the job entails with relation to what is going on in the University, but to do that I need first to give you a little background on what the various Committees within the University do (that is, the ones related to Education). I am therefore going to wait until I get actual Terms of Reference from the various committees before I impart that to you – don't worry I'm going to paraphrase. I know there aren't too many of you out there who want to read about all that stuff. In fact I'd hazard a guess that there aren't too many of you reading this either! But more on that next edition.

Continued. from last week as I promised in my apology

We are your representatives in the University; we are the people you should be coming to when you have problems. If we don't have the answer then we will point you in the direction of the person who does.

Traditionally the SU hasn't been the first place that students come with their issues. This has allowed, over the years a situation to develop whereby students are encouraged to go individually to lecturers and other members of staff to sort out problems. This has cut us out of the loop and meant that many of the same problems are occurring year in year out.

This year we really want to

impress on you the importance of using the Union so we can finally start addressing these issues. By coming to us you are making sure you are not going to be fobbed off and that there is accountability in any process that ensues. We have the professional help that is needed to deal with most issues and where we don't have the people required then we can get them or get you to them.

Over the years successive Union representatives have developed the contacts, the skills and the information needed to handle almost any issue in the University. Get the benefit of this experience by coming to us when you need help. The earlier the better, because if you come to us for advice in the first place then maybe you won't have the problem at all. The SU should always be

Class Reps Lists.

As of Friday 13th October 2000. These are the Classes which have Class Reps. If your class is not on this list then you do **NOT** have a Class Rep. If that is the case come to the Student Centre Reception and ask for a nomination form for your Class Rep.

1st Year.

Business & French – 1 Rep.
Computer Systems – 1 Rep.
Equine Science – 1 Rep.
History Politics & Social Studies – 1 Rep.
Industrial Chemistry – 1 Rep.
Law & Accounting – 1 Rep.
Maths Science – 1 Rep.
Public Administration – 2 Reps.

2nd Year.

Business Studies – 2 Reps.
Computer Engineering – 1 Rep.
European Studies – 2 Reps.
Food Technology – 1 Rep.
Information Technology &

Telecommunications – 2 Reps.
Law & Accounting – 2 Reps.
Languages & Computing – 1 Rep.
Public Administration – 1 Rep.
Sports Science – 2 Reps.
Wood Science – 1 Rep.

3rd Year.

Applied Physics – 1 Rep.
Biological Science – 1 Rep.
Computer Systems – 1 Rep.
Education - Materials & Construction Technology – 1 Rep.
Sports Science – 1 Rep.

4th Year.

Business Studies & German – 1 Rep.
Computer Systems – 2 Reps.
Electronic Manufacturing – 1 Rep.
Languages with Computing – 1 Rep.
History Politics & Social Studies – 2 Reps.

Post-Grad Classes.

MA in Interactive Media – 1 Rep.

Class Reps Council

The First Meeting of Class Reps. Council will take place in the SU Conference Room (Meeting Room 5) on Tuesday evening the 17th of October at 6pm. That is Tuesday of Week 4. All Class Reps are requested to attend.

Class Rep Council Schedule for Semester 1 of Academic Year 2000-2001 is as follows:

- Meeting 1. Tuesday Oct. 17 Week 4.**
- Meeting 2. Tuesday Oct. 31 Week 6.**
- Meeting 3. Tuesday Nov. 14 Week 8.**
- Meeting 4. Tuesday Nov. 28 Week 10.**
- Meeting 5. Tuesday Dec. 12 Week 12.**
- Meeting 6. Tuesday Jan. 9 Week 14.**

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK IN CONTENTION TO HOST THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN 2003.

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He reiterated that it was not just the new Olympic size swimming pool, or the cutting edge Gymnasium facilities but rather the entire sports campus, village and department with some of the premier staff in the world that really put the university of Limerick on the map in world terms.

The Taoiseach speaking out about the fact that UL has the country's first Olympic size pool said that the thing he liked about the UL facility was the fact that it would be in use by the maximum number of people for the maximum amount of time each day. It being open to the public, open to students of the college and also being a place where international sports people could access the best facilities available.

He stated to this reporter that the thing about UL's new 'arena' that truly impressed him about the way that it was funded with help from government tax breaks on private donations and also some government funding. He said that the whole country should be proud of the facilities now in university not just as an important and excellent seat of learning but as a jewel in the crown of cutting edge sports facilities in this country.

Mr Ahern's visit to the University was not affected by the decision of the Young Fine Gael party here to protest with a poster campaign showing a picture of Mr Ahern with disgraced former Taoiseach Mr Charles Haughey and the caption "Continuity Fianna Fail" as well as onsite protesters.

The College authorities were less than pleased by the protesters' presence and security was employed more than once to hamper their protest. The party have since made a statement to An Focal saying they were targeting the party and not the office of An Taoiseach.

Controversy over Taoiseach's Visit.

Continued from Page 1

The Young Fine Gael party representative Mr David Garraghy speaking to An Focal this week spoke of their shock at the reaction of some students and the college authorities to their 'peaceful' protest at the ambiguity of Fianna Fail's role in politics at the moment. The party felt it was an ideal and little offered opportunity to make a point about the current atmosphere in Irish politics and was not a study in one-upmanship over the Cumann Con Colbert in the University of Limerick.

Having received some slating by the college authorities and also seemingly some aggressiveness from security surrounding the Taoiseach on the day, the Young Fine Gael party in the University were this week trying to explain their position on the visit and why they felt a protest 'targeting the

party and not the Taoiseach' was necessary.

In a statement to An Focal this week, Cumann Fianna Fail's Aiden O'Gorman described the protest by Young Fine Gael as 'childish and pointless'. Mr O'Gorman speaking this week stated 'The fact that Young Fine Gael had to resort to anti Fianna Fail tactics rather than to promote their own beliefs and ideals shows how little they value their own identity'. Fianna Fail stated that 'Most of the political societies on campus work hard to encourage young people to look on politics in positive light and to express their own views and beliefs on important issues, Fianna Fail in particular try to ensure that students are listened to and respected by those in authority, the actions and behaviour like that exhibited by YFG has no place in this university.'

DOUBLE STANDARDS ON CLAMPING

By Patrick Kennedy

Whereas it is never uncommon to observe any of the students of the University of Limerick criticising the internal running of this institute, it becomes more worrying when the critics are those who work on the staff of the University. Indeed An Focal has just been the recipient of one such complaint within the last couple of days. Unsurprisingly the subject of the letter received was the current clamping of inappropriately parked cars within the university car parks.

The letter was written by an anonymous source and details the double standards of the University regarding the clamping. As opposed to ruling with an iron fist and clamping every car which is seen to offend certain individuals within the University have been seen to advising the clamping company to waive the parking fine. The individual in question is Mr John O'Connor, Finance department. Apparently a visitor to Mr O'Connor had parked his car in a space reserved for handicapped persons only. The clamping company was advised by the buildings department not to

clamp the car in question. Due to a lack of communication this order was not obeyed, however, on return to the car the said visitor found that the buildings department had already paid the fine.

To discover this now is quite shocking as we can see, on a daily basis, scores of students returning to their cars to find the hideous piece of yellow metal attached to their cars. The university seem better prepared to fine the students that pay to attend the University than to ask those they pay thousands of pounds to pick up a minute twenty pound fine. With the costs of capital rising each year it seems almost impossible to believe that the university is unable to allocate free parking spaces for students, parking spaces within a ten minute walk of the university.

Also mentioned within the letter is the fact the former President of the University of Limerick Ed Walsh found himself in a similar situation recently. Upon returning to his car he found that he had been clamped for abandoning his car in a space for handicapped persons only. However, rather than using his name to try and escape the fine Mr Walsh is said to have contributed forty

pounds, twice the normal amount.

An Focal is much indebted to our anonymous friend and wishes to pass on the thanks of the students of the University of Limerick. The fact that a member of staff was willing to convey such information to us only highlights the fact the University is being seen to bully the people that enhance its reputation and put money in the coffers, the students. With no end in sight to the current clamping situation it seems as though this will become a very important issue at the upcoming UGM of the Students Union. Additionally the University must also understand that the students of the University of Limerick will not be happy to settle for twenty free spaces at the back of the Schumann building or in Kilmurry village. The students who choose to drive to University have every right to park alongside the lecturers and office administration.

If there are others with similar stories we would urge you to send them to An Focal. With no end in sight to the current double standards and injustices it is hoped the University administration will again find its heart and stop discriminating against those who keep it alive.

Whatever Happened to Free Education - What is your Capitation Fee For?

By Jennifer O' Brien

Capitation. It sounds like a torture method from the French revolution and in the sense that it concerns a specific group getting penalised for something they usually know nothing about, students and the victims of the revolution have something in common. The majority of students don't know what capitation is or what it is for, their only contact with it being a letter in August asking for almost £300 before they return to college. Once this money is paid the average student forgets entirely about the fee and its purpose and gets back to the important business of trying to earn a few quid to allow a diet of beans, bread and the occasional pint in the coming year.

But it is through this fee that the university gets money from the students and it is a matter of importance for everyone to know exactly where this money is going and what it is being used for. You wouldn't hand over £300 to a stranger and presume they'll put it to "good use", but every year, we hand over our cash and are never told what happens to it or how it is used. When the then Minister for Education, Niamh Bhreatnach, introduced the capitation fee it was envisioned as a charge to help the running of different aspects of the university. It was termed a non-tuition fee, as it was introduced after the abolishment of third level fees and its purpose, according to the minister was to provide a fund for Clubs and Societies and to contribute to administration costs.

This, of course appears to be a marvellous idea; students contributing to the costs associated with registration and exams and providing a fund for their own clubs and societies. A portion of the fee would be given to the university to pay, in part, for admin costs and the university would pay for the remainder of these charges. The majority of the money would go to Students Union, Clubs and Societies etc. But the universities of the country appear to have misunderstood the concept of "a contribution". Defined by Cambridge dictionaries as giving "towards a particular aim or purpose" and Webster's as lending portion to a common pur-

pose, one can see that part of our money is fulfilling these criteria.

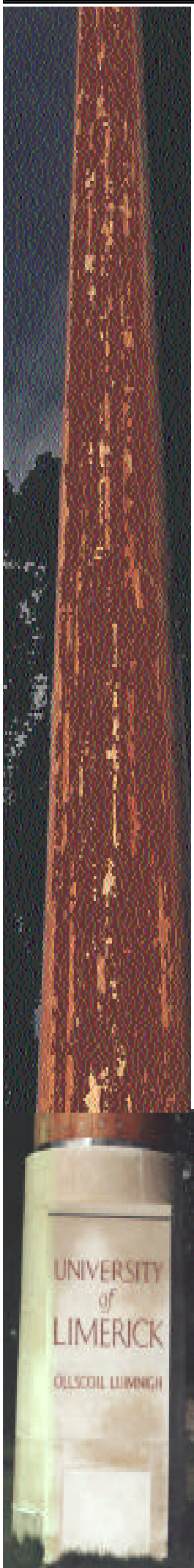
Where we are being let down is in the "portion". Portion does not usually mean more than half, but it would appear that universities in Ireland, UL included, have chosen to see it this way. Instead of a portion being taken, over half the fee paid by the students has gone on paying for services that the college has to provide to us anyway. For the sake of university authorities, it is vital to register all students and despite the necessity of this service, we are paying for it as if it were a useful luxury for students to have around. Attempting to deal with college authorities is rarely useful and never luxurious.

The Higher Education Authority's definition of capitation, backs up the idea that this fee should be for the purpose of funding clubs and societies. "The capitation fee is a fixed sum that all students must pay to become members of the students union and other student societies at their institution." One must ascertain from this that the purpose of the fee is undoubtedly to fund clubs and socs, not to pay for administration. Yet in 1998 54% of capitation paid by students of UL went towards administration costs and not to the students union or to clubs and socs. Over half of a fee intended for clubs and socs went to covering the costs of exams, registration and administration. In UL in 99/00, 7,541 students were enrolled full time, all paying £278 for the year. This gives a grand total of £2,096,398, of which £397,000 went towards the students union etc. Out of a sum of £278, only £52.65 of each student's capitation money went toward its original intended purpose.

Another portion of this fee went toward the new sports building, but that still leaves over half of each fee. Where is all this money going? How much of our money is subsidising UL administration when it should be going toward the development of clubs and societies? Of course trying to find these exact figures and the destination of the money that goes to the university is like trying to find the end of the rainbow. You know it's there somewhere and every time you think you have it, it disappears. Is it not bad enough that our money is not

being used for its intended purpose, without increasing the charge every year? USI has repeatedly called on the government to freeze the capitation fee, ensuring that it remains at the same level year after year. So far nothing has happened. The only headway being made is a capitation committee, an idea coming from the 1998 "A Framework for Good Practice". This document was drawn up by the HEA and USI and proposed a committee be set up with student members to discuss and try and solve this problem. But like so many good ideas, it has yet to be put into practice. There are committees with similar briefs, but none with student representatives.

Capitation is a necessary charge. Students should make a contribution to Clubs and Societies in their university, but we should not have to pay for basic administration. The university should be made answerable for its use of these funds. Why is over half of this fee going into administration? It is our money; we should know where it is going. Students need to be aware of what is happening to their funds. It is your clubs and societies that are suffering because the university takes the majority of the capitation funding. It is your prerogative to ensure that your money is going where it is supposed. You wouldn't spend £300 on a bike and never get use out of it because you are allowing others to take it. Why should you view the money you give the university any differently. It is money we pay for the benefit of our clubs, societies and students union, not to buy staplers for the registration office. It is student money. Students should use it.



A Word In Everyone's Ear

Get everything off your chest!!!!

The best letter each week will receive an amazing £15, up £5 due to inflation

Dear editor,

I think the reporter writing on the end of free parking for students missed out on a salient point. A car is a privilege, not a right. At the risk of sounding like a tree-hugging, unwashed hippie (apologies to the Enviro Soc.), cars are a major source of air and noise pollution. If this fee discourages students from driving to college then it is to be welcomed. Not all students who drive to college do so out of necessity. There are some cars parked outside student houses in estates in Castletroy, and it would seem to me that these drivers could easily walk or cycle to college and thus should not be encouraged to drive to college.

The reporter states that "The University needs car parks and students need car parks" However if you build more car parks, all you get is more cars, as you incentivise people to drive to college. This will in turn lead to more congestion on the way to and from college and further hamper the public transport system, thus incentivising driving even more. The reporter also bemoans the fact that the free car parks are inconvenient, but it's a fact of life that you pay for convenience.

I also feel that if this is such an important issue, the students' Union should organise a car pool which is not as hard as it seems. Simply organise a noticeboard so that people travelling in the same direction can contact each other, and as an incentive to car-pooling, free parking could be offered to those who do car-pool (subsidised by the union, or perhaps by the college)

Yours faithfully

Tadhg O Shea

Dear Sir,

While having a bit to eat (!) in The Stables at lunchtime on Friday last, I became aware of a commotion surrounding a group of well-dressed individuals near the door. Curiosity getting the better of me and subtlety not being my strongest point, I decided to see what all the fuss was about. I went towards the group and followed it outside into the courtyard. As I got closer, I

Letter of the week

Dear Sir,

The members of the UL Sinn Féin Society would like to convey our disappointment at the recent actions of a number of UL students, members of affiliated political societies here on campus, as well as the UL based *Irish Peace Institute* who attended an Orange March in Enniskillen during the summer break.

Our reaction may be seen as typical and one-sided, an unwillingness to facilitate change or to accept other cultures into a new society. This is not the case. The Orange Order is a blatantly sectarian organisation whose own unwillingness to accept change can still be seen on the hills of Drumcree, by the residents of the Garvaghy Road and by nationalists and republicans across the six counties.

The actions of these students can only be seen as an acceptance of the Orange Order, not just the lodges marching in Enniskillen but those laying siege in Portadown and those persecuting communities elsewhere.

The nature of the Irish Peace Institute also leaves a lot to be desired. Their motives are unclear, but their political outlook is not. By attending in Enniskillen they proved so much, yet achieved so little.

The institutes hi-jacking of the word peace is somewhat akin to the pro-life's hijacking of the word life. To use the word 'peace' in a title and to suggest that those who do not agree with your actions are obviously against peace is somewhat ironic.

The members of UL Sinn Féin also want peace on our island but we do not define peace as merely the absence of violence. A peaceful society can only exist if the all citizens can live free from sectarian harassment and violence. The very same sectarian harassment and violence the Orange Order perpetuates on a daily basis against the residents of the Garvaghy Road. For many in north the sash has come to symbolise hatred, bigotry, and fear, and to see a leading member of the Irish Peace Institute pictured on the front page of a local newspaper wearing the sash while sharing a joke with members of the order is sad, very sad indeed.

Ar son Cumann Seán Sabhat

realised that at the centre of all the hubbub was none other than the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern! Wanting to be able to say that I had shaken the hand of the Taoiseach, I waited around to try and meet him.

Just then I noticed that Bertie's "people" were beginning to get a bit anxious and as I followed their line of vision, I saw a group of students holding banners stating something about being sick of Fianna Fail and if so why not join Young Fine Gael! Intrigued I moved closer and watched in awe as one of the group (presumably members of Young Fine Gael), moved to shake Mr. Ahern's hand and welcome him to U.L! Mr Ahern smiled back and the Young Fine Gael stu-

dents looked very pleased with themselves, unlike Bertie's entourage!

Bertie was then swept away to another area of the college and the excitement was gone. When I returned to my sandwich, I chewed over in my mind what had happened and I began to think: fair play to Young Fine Gael to have the courage to be seen and to do so in a dignified (and peaceful) way. That is what politics needs: pro-action, stating the point in an understated way!

Your Faithfully

Jane Sheedy

Note From the Editor

I don't normally get involved in political debates, for reasons of my own, but I have to agree with UL Sinn Féin on this one.

It was one thing going to the march to observe the whole affair but by openly joking with members of the Orange Lodge in Orange attire namely the sash and then for it to be printed in a local newspaper, I feel that the "Irish Peace Institute" have insulted the people of the Garvaghy Road, who have genuine grievances with the march and the Orange Lodge and shows me that the Institute are not sensitive to the people of Northern Ireland. Therefore, as an organisation striving for peace, I feel they have lost credibility.

Fergal F.
Editor, An Focal

If you've got something to say, or even nothing to say but you can say it in a clever way, drop us a line in An Focal. You might get it printed, and you might just win yourself £15.

Either drop it in to Fergal in the office, the girls at reception, or e-mail it to

union.communication@student.ul.ie

But Please include your name & ID number, otherwise I can't print them

CULINARY GRACE -

a beginners guide to gourmet cooking

Here are some tasty dishes for all you veggies out there who complain that they are never catered for!!!

Stir-Fried Florets with Hazelnuts



Ingredients	Price
1 head of cauliflower	£0.70
1 large head of broccoli	£0.60
1/2 an onion	£0.08
1 tbsp sunflower oil	£0.02
50g/2oz/ 1/2 cup hazelnuts, finely chopped	£0.30
red chilli, finely chopped, or 1tsp chilli powder	£0.05
4tbsp crème fraîche or fromage frais	£0.40
salt and black pepper	£0.01
1tsp of mixed herbs	£0.03
Chopped red pepper to Garnish	<u>£0.10</u>
	£2.30

Serves: 4

Prep. Time: 10 mins.
Cooking Time: 10 mins.

Instructions

1. Cut the cauliflower and broccoli into even florets. Peel and chop onion.
2. Heat the oil in a saucepan and toss the florets and onions over a high heat for 1 min.
3. Reduce the heat and continue stir-frying for another 5 mins., add the hazelnuts, chilli and seasoning.

4. When the cauliflower is crisp and almost tender, stir in the crème fraîche or fromage frais and heat through. Serve at once, sprinkled with chopped pepper.

Baked Stuffed Aubergines

Ingredients	Price
2 Aubergines	£1.70
1 onion	£0.15
2 cloves of garlic	£0.10
1 tblsp of mixed herbs	£0.05
1 tsp of dried basil	£0.03
2 peppers, 1 red, yellow	£1.10
75g of grated cheese	£0.80
75g of breadcrumbs	£0.40
1 tin of chopped tomatoes	£0.40
salt and pepper	£0.02
3 tblsp of cooking oil	<u>£0.10</u>
	£3.85

Serves: 4

Prep. Time: 10mins.
Cooking Time: 60mins.

Instructions

1. Cut aubergines lengthways. Scoop out the middle, making sure you don't scoop the whole way through.
2. Chop the scooped out middle.
3. Peel and chop onion.
4. Chop peppers.
5. Crush and finely chop garlic.
6. Heat 2 tblsp of oil in a saucepan, add aubergine mixture, peppers, and onion. Sauté for 2 mins. Add in breadcrumbs, herbs, salt and pepper and sauté for a further 3-4 mins.
7. Add in chopped tomatoes and simmer for 10 mins.
8. Place aubergines in baking dish and drizzle with remaining cooking oil.
9. Add tomato mixture to the middle of the aubergines and sprinkle with grated cheese.
10. Place in hot oven at 250 degrees Celsius or gas mark 6 for 30 mins.
11. Serve with side salad.

Vegetable Dhansak

Ingredients	Price
2tsp vegetable oil	£0.03
2tsp of curry powder	£0.10

1 large onion- peeled and sliced	£0.15
1 large carrot- peeled and thinly sliced	£0.10
1 head of cauliflower cut into florets	£0.70
3 potatoes- peeled and diced	£0.40
1 tin of chopped tomatoes	£0.40
3oz/85g of split lentils	£0.40
1/4tsp salt	£0.01
1/2pint of vegetable stock	£0.15
1/2 pint of skimmed milk	£0.15
6oz/70g, frozen peas	£0.15
1tsp lemon juice	£0.05
1 tsp of garam masala	<u>£0.08</u>
	£1.77

Serves: 4

Prep. Time: 10 mins
Cooking Time: 30 mins

Instructions

1. Heat the oil in a large pan, add the curry powder and cook gently for 2mins.
2. Stir in the onions and cook for a further minute.
3. Add the carrots, cauliflower, potatoes, tomatoes, lentils, salt, stock and milk.
4. Bring to the boil, stirring occasionally.
5. Lower and simmer for 12-15mins.
6. Carefully stir in the peas, lemon juice and garam masala.
7. Return to the boil. Cover and simmer for 5-7 mins or until all the vegetables are tender.

May be frozen for up to 2 months



The Beaten Generation

By Nicholas O' Brien

Does anybody else really miss poetry? Or rather, malign the fact that modern verse is ignored? It's downfall is doubtless an uncatalogued one. This art, which rose Ireland to the Educational forefront worldwide, with Yeats, Kavanagh, Kinsella et al has evaporated quicker than Red Bull in Doc's on a Saturday night. Indeed, Heaney and his peers barely managed to drag poetry through the '80's and '90's doldrums, and now we are left without the iconic hero portrayal of modern disaffected youth that has defined poetic expression in Modern times.

The 21st century, it seems, has discarded poetry. The young public doesn't buy it, and publishers don't furnish shelves with it. But it is still being prolifically written.

Salmon, the soul workhorse of this dying art can testify to this. Bidy Jenkinson, another great modern Irish poet, now developing with Poetry Ireland, which, according to her publishes "Less than 1% of submissions." No surprise then that this information was given to me in a polite rejection letter...

To daydream frankly, I want to start a new Beat Generation. I want to be Allen Ginsberg, or Jack Cherouc (Check the 'net if you don't know, you might be surprised.) I want to provide realistic idealism for depressed teen syndrome. That is merely acerbic honesty, but it won't happen.

The Beatnik Generation that started a coffee-house era of modern expression in the '50's is now lost in the past, but that Jazz culture was defined by rebellion, differing from convention, expression and self-satisfaction, trying to love life, being a real

person, not just one in a group. The stereotype culture present now is hated by a significant enough minority to provide an alternative, a newer age, a newer message. That is for anybody who prays for anywhere to go other than Doc's or the Gallery to socialise. We can publish ourselves on the 'net, we can petition houses of education, publish collection of our best, or just organise somewhere we can get back to reading in coffee-houses, or wherever, just conveying to the world en masse that we are still here, we can hear the poetry of the voiceless, and explain the questioning voice of youth.

The flowing words, the political opinions, inner emotions, modern descriptions, social commentaries and flirtation with rhyme.

Poetry is still everywhere, can be anything, the path of a slug across a lawn, to the downfall of a government. Therein lies its beauty, anybody interested in trying to start something, any poems, anything, just mail me at 0021075@student.ul.ie or ask the editor

DEIREADH AN CHOISIR - GO FÓILL!!

by SEANAN O'COISTIN

Is é seo Seachtain a Ceathar. Cheana féin. Tá an bliain nua ag imeacht go tapaidh. Tá daoine tuirseach agus gan airgead tar éis na céad seachtain. Tá na laethanta is na oíche sna "Scholars" agus na "Stables" agus sa "Lodge" críochnaithe ar feadh tamaill. Chun an fóirna a ráibh tá siad cuireadh ar ceall ar seal. Tá na clár ama ag brú isteach inár shaoil. Caithimid dul go dtí na léachtanna is na ranganna. Caithimid aistí is tionscainm a tosú AGUS críochnú. Ní féidir lenár coirp an buile seo go léir a tógáil. Táimid go léir tuirseach. Níl an fuinnimh agam fiú éirí as an leaba fiú - ach ní rud nua é sin. Is d'fheoil liom go bhfuil an fadhb céanna ag an cuid is mó den ollscoil.

Ach bhí an scléip agus spraoi againn don na céad seachtain! Ní raibh mé anseo do Seachtain na Tosaitheoirí, ach chuala mé go raibh an-seachtain acu. Más cuimhin le gach duine a raibh sa céad bliain an bhliain seo chaite an seachtain úfásach a bhí againn. An cuimhin libh Damhsa na Tosaitheoirí Freshers Ball)? Ní damhsa a bhí ann ach cairn mór cáb! Thuas sa Canteen a bhí sé agus ní raibh cead ól ann. Cén aghas damhsa é sin? Agus ansin chun críoch a chur leis thosaigh an cluigín tine ag bualadh. Ar fheabhas

ar fad!

An bliain seo bhí an ollpuball sa clós taobh amuigh den "Scholars". Sár smaoineamh ar fad. Bhí sé seo i bhfad níos fearr ná damhsa thuas sa Canteen. Bhí gach duine inann súil amach as na dhá taibhairne agus díreach isteach ins an ollpuball. Bhí na DJanna iontach is bhí gach duine ar meisce is ag damhsa (nó ag titim) timpeall na h-áite. Bhí i bhfad níos mó daoine timpeall na ollscoile mar bhí siamsíocht ar fáil san áit. Mar sin bhí am iontach againn. D'imigh roinnt daoine go dtí lár an chathair ach bhí i bhfad níos mó spraoi againn san ollpuball. Deir duine de na feidhmeannaigh go bhfuil ann ollpuball chun a bheith ann go minic - gach dara mí nó mar sin.

Bhí mé ann do dhá oíche. Oíche Dé Céadaoin is Déardaoin i Seachtain a Dó. Bhí an am agam. D'imigh mé isteach ag deich tar éis a dó dhéag agus bhí dream beag ag damhsa. Bhí a lán daoine eile ag seasamh timpeall ag ól is ag caint. Bhí an inneall cúb tar éis tosnú agus bhí a lán daoine ag pleidhíocht faoi. Bhí a lán daoine fós sna "Scholars" ag ól, mar sin d'imigh mé isteach ag cuirdiú chairde. Buail mé le roinnt daoine. D'fhán mé isteach ansin ag caint le roinnt daoine go dtí gur chonaic mé go raibh an cúb

tosnaithe arís. D'imigh mé isteach ann. Bhí mé beagnach ag snámh sa cúb i gceann cúig nóiméid. Bhí an méad sin spraoi agam gur bheartaigh mé orm mo chairde a fháil agus iad a tarraingt isteach sa cúb. D'aimsigh mé bean áirithe - Toiréasa Ní Fhearaiosa - agus tharraing mé í isteach sa cúb. Ar dtús níor thaitin sé léi ach tar éis dí bheith brúite tríd roinnt uair tháinig meangadh ar a aghaidh. Agus bhí sí in ann mé a buaile san aghaidh lena bróg comh maith i rith an spraoi seo. Go raibh maith agat Toiréasa! Ach bhí sí fluich go craiceann nuair a bhíomar críochnaithe léi. Bhí a chuid éada fluich báite, go mór mhór a barr agus tuisc sin bhíomar go léir inann a chíocha cúb móra a fheiceáil tríd an barr. Bhí DJ iontach ag casadh ceoil an oíche ar fad. Bhí an cuid is mó de na daoine ag damhsa faoin [cúb] agus sult iontach a bhaint acu as. Nuair a chríochnaigh an ceoil is an cúb bhí an áit clúdaithe i cúb bán. Bhí sé cosúil leis an Geimhreadh agus sneachta gach áit. Bhí gach duine fluich báite agus préachta leis an bhfuacht. Bhí bróga bána orm is mé ag imeacht. Níl a fhios agam cén fáth nach fuair mé slaighdeáin nuair a bhí ag súil abhaile.

Níl a fhios agam cén fáth nach fuair cairde liom slaighdeáin (níl mé chun animeacha a liú, ach tá fhios agaibh cé sibh féin C & S) Shúil siad abhaile OCHTAITHE!!! Tar éis dóibh an ollphuball a fhágáil bhí siad comh fuar sin gur bain siad na éadaí díobh féin. Shúil siad go dtí Curragh Birín gan tada orthu!!!

Má chonaic sibh na fir seo ná bí buairthe níl aon contúirt ag baint leo. D'inis siad dom nach bhfuil siad chun an rud sin a déanamh arís ar feadh tamall. (Buíochas le Dia).

Bhí mé san ollphuball arís ar oíche Déardaoin. Ní raibh sé go maith, ach buail mé le mná ó Meiriceá agus bhí an am agam leo. D'imigh mé amach leo arís ar an Sathairn agus bhí oíche maith agam leo arís. Bhí comhrá suimúil againn faoi téarmaí gnéasa. Focail cosúil le "bealadh bod" agus "faighean" ach go h-áirithe "tarraingt cíocha". Comhrá an-suimúil ar fad!! Shúil mé isteach sa clós i Seachtain a Trí agus chonaic mé go raibh an ollpuball á tógáil síos acu. Ní beidh aon iamsíocht againn san ollscoil ar feadh tamall. Sea, bhí an chóisir críochnaithe. Bhí orainn dúisigh agus tosaigh ag obair sa ollscoil. D'fhéach mé sa scátháin roinnt lá ó shin is chonaic mé na málaí móra dubha faoi mo shúile. Bhí mé cosúil le duine marbh bhí mé comh tuirseach sin. Ach chonaic mé an rud céanna in adhaighanna mo cairde. Bo chuma liom, bhí mé fós beo.

Tá Seachtain a Ceathar shroiceadh againn. Tá an obair ag tosnú. Tá an aimsir fuar anseo. Níl aon airgid sa banc (níl a lán fágtha agam ar aon nós). Tá an ollpuball imithe. Sea, tá sos tagtha, ach cathain bhfuil an céad saoire mór eile? Christmas Dayz is d'fheoil liom. Seo chugainn an Nollaig!!! Ceart go leor a chairde, táim ag dul ar ais a chodladh.

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

What an interesting few weeks the world has experienced at the turn of the twentieth century, where current political events have overnight been headlined as historic and monumental, with the words 'change' and 'the power of the people' on every commentators lips. As we, the students of this current phase of modern society, are witnessing such events, it would be foolish of me not to present an overview, simplistic as it may be, as to the things which are shaping the way we study and live.

The Balkans, that area on the European map which has provided politicians with so much anxiety and comment for the past two centuries and beyond, has managed to assert itself again as the maker of history. They did in 1914 when a Serb shot the Austrian heir apparent – Archduke Franz Ferdinand – and sparked the First World War; they did again in the Cold War when they remained a communist state but non-aligned with the Warsaw Pact; and yet again in the 1990s when they invented a term called 'ethnic cleansing', and fought wars between themselves either for independence, aggression or some other variant of self-interest. And now, less than a year after the Nato bombings in Serbia (which forms a rump-Yugoslavia with Montenegro), they have yet again stirred the emotions of the world and have focused attention on their humble landscape.

But this time it was a little different, and therefore, we are told, a little special. For what happened in Serbia last week was a popular uprising of the people. A people who have been ruled for eighteen years under the control of 'the last dictator of

Europe' – Slobadan Milosevic – and his political administration. Does this finally mean that Serbia and the Balkans in general are taking the first steps towards what Western countries would term 'normalisation and democratisation'. It is a very difficult question to answer, knowing the Balkans' past. But at least there is hope now, where previously there wasn't. There is hope of a new beginning for the people themselves, to rule through their popularly and more importantly democratically elected representatives. Serbia has for the first time in its history a truly democratic person in the form of Kostunica, who coming from a legal and academic background should be able to piece democracy back in the correct order. But people must not forget that Serbia is still divided between the old and new, between the supporters of the former regime and those of the emerging regime. Ireland too was placed in a similar situation after the Civil War of 1922-3. We too had opposing camps, both nationalist in outlook, who after fighting a war were no less defeated in strength and ideology as when they had began. Ireland and its political forces eventually managed to establish the country that we have today, and built on the foundations of democracy and independence and which has once again been rewarded by a seat on the United Nations Security Council. So if we can do it, surely a country with an almost bloodless revolution can also raise themselves up as a European nation.

News too of another people trying to form a nation out of a complicated and perplexed situation also gleaned across the airwaves and news-bites, as

we watched and listened over the last two weeks. Israel and the soon to be declared Palestinian state were locked in a bitter battle over rights and opinions, each opinion adding to another death or act of violence. But didn't we have a peace process there only a few weeks ago? Wasn't the world told that Israel and the Palestinian Authority were coming to terms, slowly but nonetheless surely? Yes we were told, but nobody can ever predict an outcome in politics. All one can hope is that peace can be imposed and talking begin. But what role has Ireland played or will play in all these matters of world politics?

As we are now members of the UN Security Council, a position which can at times influence events, such as those in the Middle East and the Balkans, we in theory should have quite a bit to say about things like Serbian freedom and the blood being split in the streets of Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. But what power have we really got, with the world dominated by a hegemonic Western superpower supported in ideology by some European nations and only opposed by a defunct and bankrupt old Bear and a slowly awakening red dragon. Tiny independent Ireland, a part of an expanding European Union, with a heart of gold and a hundred-thousand welcomes, with lots of money, a corrupt political cast, an uneasy and troubled peace in the north-east, a growing public apathy, with a housing crisis, a transport crisis, a refugees crisis and racism problem ... the list goes on. OK so I have picked all the bad aspects of our nation, but we too might quietly need a popular revolution of sorts. We definitely need one if we are to have any sort of opinion in world politics. Bt it probably wont happen with the current generation of politicians, such politicians with the insight of knowledge and wisdom have yet to be born and probably will never be seen.

Swedish Porn and Romulan Ale

Diary of A First Year

Nicholas O'Brien shows us that men write diaries as well as the girls can!!!!!!

Societies, Like ugly drunk guys in nightclubs (Bitter experience) refuse to leave us First years alone. For every lecturer that was too drunk, stoned or Lazy to show up, there were at least six E-mails from misguided leaders hoping to recruit. I'll make things easy for you guys. I don't own a mountain bike, I'm not into fashion, I am not a fan of John Bruton's foreign policy, I thought a kayak is what happens after 18 pints 2 girls and a curry, I hate dance music, and I don't play rugby.

However, I sincerely promise, if I do meet a make-up clad male mountainbiker in a skirt, with strong fore-arms, a rugby shirt, a Creamfields hat and a Fine-Gael badge, I will point him your way.

I spent monday on www.oxygen.ie terrorising many students with freaky text messages, offering massage services to the general public. (Personal note for any professional masseus, it is surprising how many positive replies I got from Massage enthusiasts, particularly a Mr. Gordon Imp and a Lewis Eatherclad. (Incidentally, both are doing Applied Maths), just give me a call and I will forward any business.)

Tuesday saw me hearing tales of the Sci-Fi society's socials, and their love for Romulan Ale (Vodka with blue food colouring) You scary scary people, or, in your own language, Toch Madoch Snach Sphincter. (Please don't kick me out guys, Im only joking.)

Apparently the language classes can watch foreign films all day in the library. Perverts.

On a totally unrelated topic, I spent wednesday trying to transfer to a foreign language course. But fear not, for I have devised a foolproof plan for improving College life for all those on the verge of dropping out! Don't! There is a step by step process to survival...

1. Start listening to Eminem far more than is healthy.
2. Convince yourself that the Dean is in fact the new hope for rap music, and quite possibly, the other other white meat.
3. Change your name to Stan, or just as appropriate, Gordon Imp.
4. Stalk the Dean, Berate him with messages and E-mails proclaiming your forbidden love for him, your interest in livestock pornography, and Punk Folk rock music.
5. Manically depressed by a lack of response, a court order, or a sudden heart attack on his part, drive yourself and your girlfriend off a cliff after taking 1000 sleeping pills, while Singing VOGUE, by Madonna.

If college life is not improved, resuscitate yourself and re-enroll in a foreign language course.

The Gimps Column

Some of the most frightening evidence is contained in demeaning photographs which litter the report. Several of UL's formerly finest students appear in most compromising positions.



UL Survey shows sudden switch to paid employment may lead to ALCOHOLISM

This week the gimps have moved from examining the statistics for potential male UL sheep shaggers to the topic of Alcohol. We feel that the opening weeks of the college term are the appropriate weeks to bring up this interesting subject.

In typically ground-breaking fashion we decided that this year co-op was to act as a basis for a new scientific study. We wanted to find out if the sudden move from student life to paid employment could be the root of some social problems. In a document produced by the Gimps column we have come across the startling evidence that this sudden move to paid employment can lead to alcoholism.

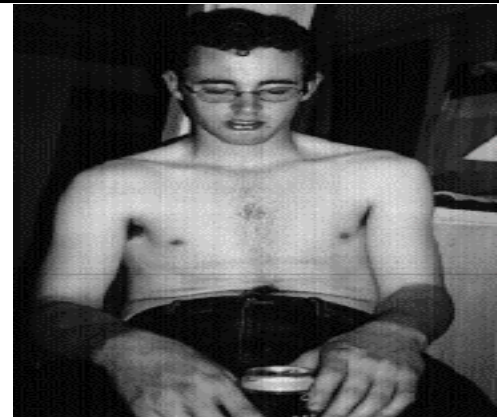
It appears in some cases that alcohol has taken over the lives of some of these formerly bright sparks. The Gimps column has taken the study further and journeyed into the traditional hot bed of the returning co-op student, the Stables.

We at the Gimps have uncovered the real truth. An investigation took place last Thursday night and Friday morning (5th and 6th October). On Thursday night between the hours of 9pm and Midnight we found that the entire UL populace was tightly packed into a tiny area. At first we assumed that this was some academic record breakers effort to emulate the population density of Tokyo. With more in depth investigation comprising of a journey behind the bar in the stables we found the root of this population flow. Alcohol. This general student addiction mentioned may not equate to full blown alcoholism. The Gimps feel that the problem in their test case was the general addicts sudden move to paid employment. We feel this could be a fatal trigger towards alcoholism.

The problem with leaving this student environment suddenly and moving to paid employment is the unusual "Money Factor". Kevin Healy (photographed with no top on) returning New York co-op student and 4th year Accounting and Finance Major described the issue to a tee: "I'll be perfectly honest with you, I was earning \$500 a week and 12 bottles of beer cost me \$10 it was about the cheapest thing I could do in New York". Pauline Burke former star Applied Maths and Computing student (photographed with microphone and pint) was heard saying "a sure you might as well drink over there". The New York test case was probably a worst case scenario as co-op students were paid twice as much as their Dublin counterparts.

Gimp Logic calls for reduction in tax on Alcohol

We at the gimps feel it is no longer acceptable to have our drink taxed at such a high level. Tom Conlon in his book – The Students Tax Handbook outlines the role of taxation in the Economy (page 2). The fourth role of taxation he says is that tax should be used for "Desirable Social Objectives". Under this heading he explains "Some taxes are imposed, at least partly, to discourage various activities for mainly non economic reasons e.g. the high taxation imposed on tobacco and alcohol."



1998 the British took in 32p in tax on every pint of beer drunk in Britain, compared to the 4p a pint take in Germany, 5p in France and Portugal, 6p in Italy, 7p in Belgium, 8p in Holland and wait for it 40p a pint in Ireland.

The Vintners Federation of Ireland in recent years have welcomed the decision not to impose any tax increase on drink. Mr Paul O'Grady, the federation president (98), said Ireland has the highest rate of tax on beer of all European countries and is second highest on spirits.

Why do we have the highest rate of tax on beer? By European standards, only Britain consumes less alcohol per person and Irish alcohol consumption per person is less than half that of France or Spain. The only conclusion the gimps can come to, is that we are taxed at the highest rate because the government want to make money out of alcohol. Economic discouragement on social grounds is only a disguise for this aim. There is no 'non-economic reason' for such high taxation.


It is clear from scenes in the Stables and Scholars bars on Thursday night that any objective to curtail drinking by high taxation is not working. We are drinking just as much as we were in 1980. If this high taxation policy is not working then the tax should be lowered to the gimps suggest a European Average (preferably something a kin to the Italians tax on beer). If there is no reason other than a money making involved in Ireland having the highest tax on beer we feel that we shouldn't have to pay extra money to the likes of Liam Lawlor, Charley Haughey, Ray Burke and the rest of them.

Gimps Alcohol Statistic

Did you know that Baileys is the biggest selling liqueur brand in the world? It uses 40 million gallons of milk a year which represents 33 per cent of total Irish liquid milk production. It employs 400 people and exports to 167 markets worldwide.



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For more information drop into Bank of Ireland, University College Limerick and speak to Grainne Shanahan, Student Officer (email: grainneshanahan@tinet.ie) or Gavin Russell (email: gavinrussell@tinet.ie) or phone 061 330600 today.

* Applies to 1st year only. ** Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply.

we go to extremes so you can too

Irish Men: in a league of their own

By Nicola C.

For all of you whose eyes begin to scant over the first few lines of this article it isn't a feminist criticism of masculinity or a male-bashing vendetta. Instead it is an observation and experience-related account of how an average Irish lad is prone to acting.

OK, so Irish guys are among the soundest guys I have ever met. They're great craic and make decent friends generally, but when it comes to the wooing of a woman it's a different story. Tact just evaporates and testosterone seems to take control of the steering wheel. Just picture the scene; I'm sure many of our female readers are quite regular victims. There you are on the dance floor with the girls strutting your stuff, the music is rockin', the atmosphere kickin', when suddenly it's all rudely interrupted. An unknown species of an octopus behind has managed to wrap its tentacles around you, and is all too ready to give you some of his lovin'. You swing around horrified at your violation, only to be met by some scrawny half-wit uttering the infamous line "would you like to dance" or loosely translated "d-you mind if I shove my tongue down your throat this minute?". Lads come on, unless she's a really desperate slapper or you've been mistaken for Brad Pitt recently, this ingenious method of picking up a woman des NOT work. (Well, it is hard to always be on our guard, and alcohol has got the better of us once or twice. But of course we were totally taken advantage of!)

Irish men's chat up lines, wherever they acquired such truly Shakespearean qualities can only be deemed original. The top three of the author includes:

"Drop your pants and I'll ride the arse off you". Charming or what.

"I'm all into saving dolphins. You've two fine dolphins there you might need

a hand with". An eloquent reference to my chest. Finally "What's wrong with me, I've a dairy herd ay home". Gee the prospect of milking those Friesian really excites me. Guys I'm sorry but you've got to vastly improve in this area. We're not expecting a Romeo or Yeats but please drop the corny crap. Here are a few little tips that might aid you in your quest.

Establish eye contact but make sure not to appear a deranged stalker. Approach the girl in a friendly, casual manner (try not to spill beer in her vicinity or you're a goner) and mostly importantly BE YOURSELF. You are not Casanova. Introduce yourself and ask a question that does not encroach on her personally e.g. "were you watching the match?" or "what do you think of the band?". Now for that killer necessity, make her laugh. There is not a girl I know who doesn't love a good sense of humour in a guy. A guy who's a good laugh can win over a dry six-packer any day. And once you've eased that tension and broken the ice with a good giggle, well you never know your luck....

There are just three other vital tips that I think the Irish single male population should be made aware of:

Do NOT be a Checkshirt or a Blueshirt. One went out of fashion in about 1996 and the other is just too common.

Do NOT dance at the edge of a group of girls for half an hour in vain hope you are going to get your leg over one of them. We all think you are a very sad individual.

Do NOT when a fine-looking female specimen is walking in your direction utter the fateful words "you're lookin' gorgeous tonight anyways" or "go on ya good thing". We are not in anyway flattered.

So now that I've taken you all to the cleaners with abuse, I have to say that there is a minor percentage, maybe 5-10% of Irish men, who are charming, considerate, thoughtful gentlemen. You have redeemed our faith in men when occasionally we grace your paths. To the others who weren't blessed with these ravishing traits, keep trying but please don't be so blunt and tactless. We will give you a chance if you can prove to us you're worth it and who knows soon we could be rounding up those dairy herds with you! (If of course widespread famine hits Ireland and we are doomed to starvation otherwise).

Marian's Voyeur Column

- A fortnightly look at what's hot or not in the world



Two words that baffle me are "Student Services". The Student bit I understand, after all we are students in a university, the services bit, I'm not so sure of. It wasn't too bad when all you had to go there for was to get your "children's allowance" form stamped, which is no longer a problem since the department seem to think that being an 19 year old student is so much different from being an 18 year old student that you don't need the money any more. How little they know about student life!! Anyway, that's a gripe for another time!

Back to "Student Services". Picture the scene, you go there to ask the simplest of questions, they tell you come back in three weeks and then when you go back you meet some one else and they tell you the deadline was two weeks ago. Sound familiar? Thought so!! The co-ordination between the staff is practically non-existent.

Ever notice that some of the staff look really stressed, as if their carrying the weight of every student's problems on their shoulders, well at least they get a decent (2 hours) lunch break to chill out and forget about the students who place their lives in "Student Services" hands every day. Who are we to think that they should answer our questions, and help us to get the most out of the opportunity we have been given. It's not as if some of our fees don't go towards it. For most of us it's

our parents are funding our education and if nothing else they deserve to know that they're getting their money's worth.

I know I'm not the first and I definitely won't be the last to bitch about Student Services, and yes I know that it must be annoying having to listen to hundreds of people ask the same questions everyday. And getting the blame when things go wrong can't be much fun, but it's not exactly a barrel of laughs, being sent to five different offices only to be told to go back to Student Services again. I know this from experience, I was barely in the college for a week last year when I got my personalised timetable, and surprise surprise there was a mistake. I went back to EG010 where I got the timetable, where I was told that Student Services were dealing with mistakes, so, being the naïve first year that I was I went back to SS, queued for about 15 minutes to be fobbed off and sent back to EG010. You can guess the rest of the story, after much running up and down the stairs I eventually got it sorted. I lost all confidence in SS after that. Considering the fact that they were nearly the cause of one of my friends immigrating to Australia, they're not exactly on their way to restoring any of that confidence.

Now that I've finally gotten that out of my system, I've ruined my chances of ever being served in SS again, and I definitely won't see any smiles while I'm there!! Anyway, we've

pretty much established that SS is NOT hot this week (or any week for that matter) so where is Hot this week? I'm guessing that a lot of students think the Lodge is, considering that the bouncers started turning people away at 9:30 on Tuesday night.

Everyone goes on about how "crap" the Lodge is and how terrible the music is and how many times have you heard people call it a "dive"? If it's so bad why do we have to queue to get in at 9:00 and why are students coming all the way to Castletroy from Mary I to go there? I'd be the first person to admit that it's not the trendiest place in the world, but trendy places require effort, effort to get there, effort to get dressed up, and effort to get a taxi home. Trendy places also require a very healthy bank balance. I don't like hassle; in fact I'd do anything to avoid hassle, that's why I love the Lodge.

I suppose even avid members of the Lodge fan club have to admit that the music is pretty bad; "Sweet Caroline" and "Daydream Believer"? They are so last generation!!! Looking on the bright side you have to concede that they play something for everyone maybe that's why people were being turned away at 9:30 on Tuesday night. For someplace so "crap" it's pretty popular...I'm just going to have to get there earlier next week!!!!

Gary Holland's Dummies Guide to the World-Wide Web



Just when you thought it was safe to read the newspaper.....Gaz returns!.....with a vengeance!

For those of you who have become bleary-eyed from trying to read the last installment of G-News, (as if you thought e-mails were long enough!), get out your prescription lenses! This stuff is "slightly" better -(according to an "independent" source)-but I'll let you judge for yourselves (that is, if your concentration span can last that long!)

Now those of you who actually managed to read most of the last issue should have an e-mail account with somewhere between 10 and 40 megs of space. Well done, but what are you going to DO with all that space? Better still, why not try to vary your outgoing e-mails with something unique, such as a pre-programmed sign-off (to make ending an e-mail easier)?

Signatures for e-mails is the subject of this article. Aware of the fact that many students set these up and then NEVER change them again, (they have NO respect for the rest of us!) I have endeavoured to give as wide a selection of type of signature, as well as subject matter and tone. Generally, they tend to fall into three main categories; ASCII drawings (designs made from outlines), so-called "bumper stickers", and the ubiquitous one-liners (which are either very good or very sad!)

A simple selection of each is to be found at <http://sarcastic.earthworms.homepage.com/sigfiles.htm>, where examples of all three feature. In itself, it's not the greatest of selections, but at least it gives you an idea of which type you'd prefer. It also explains how to click and drag everything you want, so you don't have to type out everything again. This is especially useful with the ASCII drawings- which could take hours to perfect!

ASCII Drawings

If you like gimmicks like the enclosed (hopefully!) smiley-face (presently starring in ALL of my outgoing mail), then pay attention! Here are my top 5!

5. www.math.fu-berlin.de/~gardens/afw/
4. www.zucchini.cs.adelaide.edu:2112/ic-1.htm
3. www.zyworld.com/blackbird998/index.htm
This isn't actually an ASCII site at all, but it does involve pictures, and since it doesn't fall into any other category, I slotted it in here!
Really though, there are only two decent sites that I've been able to track down!
2. <http://grid.let.rug.nl/~wellig/sigs.html>
Apart from most of the selection on offer, go straight to the THEMED LIST. This is the pick of the crop, and is well worth scrolling through to find the diamonds in the rough!

And of course NUMBER ONE!

www.cc.utah.edu/pdw9469/sigs.html Simply put, there IS no contest! It's where I got all the best stuff featured here, and it has the best variety too. I strongly recommend the following as phrase-based ones.

"Push to test, Release to Detonate"

"wake up NSA watchers with the following key-words inserted in your e-mail-KGB FBI CIA IRA ETA....."-you get the idea!

And don't forget the smiley face!

Bumper Stickers

This wasn't originally supposed to be a separate category, since most sites featured here also fall under the last category! Still though, some of these make better sign-off phrases than any quote!

www.geocities.com/colosseum/3505/inicio2.htm

This site features both bumper stickers and answering machine messages, (for those of you who are hooked on those mobile phones and need to change your message minder every week!) I HAVE to recommend as a bumper sticker: "Welcome to America-now f**k off!" (even if it doesn't get printed!)

www.quoteland.com Features a wide selection of bumper stickers, as well as a decent choice of famous mis-statements (which I highly recommend if only for reading value).

www.siglets.com A better selection, featuring both answering machine messages and bumper stickers. It even slags off the law profession (so it can't be that bad!), and comes a VERY close second!

www.coolsig.com If you've already been here, then I needn't say any more, the site speaks for itself! If you ARE interested in my verdict, look under the next heading!

One-liners

By far the most common, they are also the easiest to tire of, so I've compiled a larger list under this category

10. www.contrib.andrew.cmu.edu/~moose/sigs.html The main category is entitled "simply good quotes", but I didn't think so! Still, it may hold some merit

www.tankoinc.com/quotes.html Not the most user-friendly way to find sigs, but has links to better sites.

8. <http://members.futurecity.com/robstrand/sigs.html> This site is known under three different URLs (I won't bore you with the details) is not great, but at least the guy knows how to market his site on-line! PS I tried this again before publishing this article, but it seems to be temporarily off-line!

7. <http://home.pon.net/dougie/humor/onliner.htm> Fairly OK, useful for technology-based one-liners

6. www.internettrash.com/users/lafnlibn/lib-sigs.htm For closet librarians, this is like an oasis in the middle of a desert! For everyone else it's definitely worth a look! If you want proof: "this job would be great if it wasn't for the f**king customers"

5. www.fn.net/~degood/quotes.html I HAVE to recommend that you give the Alcohol section a

look, as this is by far one of the best part of the site.

4. www.tiac.net/users/pdragon/qbook.html

This I came across under a slightly easier-to-remember URL last year (but until I remember it, this will have to do!) "Apparently" it's full of speech errors taken from real-life conversations, but I remember them being better than they are, which is ok, but not great!

3. www.supersigs.com The main problem with supersigs is that it takes too long to navigate, so if you just want to window-shop for a free quote (mixing metaphors again!), try the next on the list! Otherwise, be prepared to scroll for a LONG time! (It's even longer than my last article, and that's saying something!) It gets the No. 3 slot for the sheer volume of its archives, but wins no points for presentation (or lack of it!)

2. www.siglets.com I may have already mentioned it and the next one already, but both deserve a second mention, for between them, they contain the crème-de-la-crème of all that I have been able to uncover so far. The rest are merely for those with specific interests. I recommend the categories on answering machines and lawyers in particular!

Undoubtedly, the reigning champion is www.coolsig.com and just by its design it's easy to see why it's the most popular and extensive list I've been able to find on-line. It's easy to use, it's got categorised lists, and looking for stuff is as easy as clicking copy and paste!

Note: the last two both have mailing lists, so you can get a daily update on any new sigs that people submit, without ever having to go to the website. Problem is, they clutter up your account, so you can't send any of them! Besides, the archives usually have better quality!

Items of literary quotes, visit

<http://scv.bu.edu/~aarondf/quotes.html>, where there is a nice variation of quotes from prominent figureheads of reform throughout history. It

includes the esteemed Plato, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Tolstoy and Dickens among others. It also contains excerpts from the most popular work of fiction in history-in terms of sales-, The Lord of the Rings (and if you've read it, you'll know why it is so popular!) Some of those included are American, but don't hold THAT against the site, there are some classic gems in there (somewhere!). Personally, my favourite has always been Gerry Adams' outburst during the Multi-Party Negotiations in 1999 "F**k off!", and it's not an excuse to curse—check the 1999 Almanac if you don't believe me, it's not the only classic (remember Big Ian calling the queen a parrot?)

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/quotes.html This site features many noble quotes, but hardly suitable for e-mails. I submit them here merely for inspirational value

For more bizarre taste-buds, try

www.netizen.com.au/~humor/quotes.txt. I'm not sure where the webmaster got some of this stuff, but if you can get into it, you're in for a treat!

Move that Butt!

By Nicola C.

Monday evenings are generally not that special. You've just recovered from the weekend, are too broke to do anything much and of course Limerick's own self-styled Niagara Falls has located itself just outside your humble abode.

On this day last week I decided to take on a whole new experience, dance classes. Before anymore dismisses this with a roll of the eyeballs I would like to state that over one hundred people attended. There were my three compatriots and I expecting to be shuffling around with about eight other when the dramatic sight of a room full of people (girls and guys) greeted our eyes. I was shocked to say the least, but though isn't it great how us UL students desire to acquire new skills that will surely all make us look Jennifer Lopez or Will Smith in action.

Then we met him. The God of Salsa that is. Tall, leanly built, dressed in black with brown eyes and curly hair. He had an aura of confidence that filtered through every particle of air in the room, and a style that won the hearts of many females that night! Yes, this was to be my instructor of Salsa for the next four weeks.

We were all divided into horizontal lines (because of the mass number of us) and hence our first steps were learned. People, you don't realise how easy this is. It was as straightforward as standing with your two feet slightly apart and at an angle and then

lifting each the tiniest amount. The move starts very slowly and then gathers pace until suddenly it looks like everyone's butt has taken on a life of its own. You wouldn't believe how such a simple step could make a rear end look so seductive!

We were all then split into one and two's and formed an inner and outer circle. One's were the guys (needless to say there was as lot of females who had to take up this role, myself included) and two's were the girls. All throughout the hour and a quarter the atmosphere was relaxed and easy-going and God's incessant humour entertained us all. As was stressed by our instructor the MAN always takes the lead in the Salsa and nobody ever dances the exact same Salsa twice. It's all about movement, eye contact and most importantly passion.

Everyone was soon spinning their partners with delight and then we were introduced to a move that our instructor guaranteed to all males would land them a lady. Quote: "Trust me, it works". After twisting your partner around and the two of you are facing each other with upper arms slightly linked, the guy widens his arm away from the girl's, thus creating a space, and slides his head through onto the shoulder of the girl. This has to be one of the coolest (and sure fire) ways I have ever seen of placing one's face in such a kissable position! My friends and I were all agreed that any guy that was that inventive was at least worthy of a juicy peck!

After performing our new moves to Enrique Angelaise (editor, haven't a clue if this is spelt right), Ricky and Mambo Italiano we felt we have actually achieved a decent way of dancing to these hip-shaking Latin-American vibes. In short we thought, "this rocks". That was until the God of Salsa stepped onto the floor with a partner to provide us with a performance. Salsa is known for its hot and spicy qualities and boy was this both! Forget about Dirty Dancing, I have never seen a floor set alight like as I did in that three minutes. This guy should be coaching Michael Flatley! He twirled and twisted, spun and sensualised with an amazing speed and art, creating not just a spectacle but also a whole body language that just oozed raw talent and sexiness. Everyone sat in breathless attention for the duration (hardly something to be witnessed down at your local club) and upon completion a thunderous applause resounded in the dance studio.

We emerged thrilled and promising ourselves that we would definitely be in the same venue the following week. Salsa classes are only among a various line-up that includes hip-hop, oriental belly dancing and of course Mambo. So to all you guys who secretly dream of sweeping a girl off her feet (it always works in films!), you have been presented with the perfect opportunity. Speaking on behalf of a lot of the females I know, there isn't a much better way to get a girl's attention or to increase levels of desire! Girls, it's time to quit the mirror in the bedroom and dreams of being Patrick Swayze's partner, here's your chance to become a real pro! Remember dancing is an expression of oneself so why not have fun and learn at the same time. You don't know what you're missing.

The Queen of Diaries

I feel like brewing up a storm or two. So our latest fresher, Nicholas O'Brien, reckons that "men write diaries as well as the girls can"?! We'll have to see about that one. Only time will tell. Just a thing or two to add to his piece – the UL lingo is certainly in a class of its own. But it must also be said that we are the proud users of an extensive abbreviation system. For example; LCS, Comp Sys, IT, Pub Admin, and not forgetting that our friendly Scholars barman is now a diligent Euro Stud (with a fab new hairdo to go with his new school jacket!). I reckon this whole system is yet another example to highlight the fact that UL students are bone idle lazy!! Basically, we just couldn't be arsed speaking properly! We sit around drinking coffee all day, and beer/lager/vodka/all of the above, all night. I'll just say this one thing though – to our new *An Focal* member – you certainly do have an extraordinary sense of humour. Fair play to ya! But there's just one thing missing from last year though – Up The Kingdom!!!

You see – in Kerry, we are gifted! We are the champions etc. etc. There's nothing better than a good auld celebration in the Kingdom. Kerry supporters are the best. (Needless to say – if we had lost the match – I'd be hiding my head under a paper bag in a hole in the ground somewhere!) I even went as far as to lead my very own celebrations in Cork at the weekend. I got some strange looks. But sure, how bad?!!

Being from Kerry is great. All those mountains and lakes and the isolation they offer gives you great time to appreciate the finer things in

life. It's just a pity that Elm Park isn't quite as peaceful. The past few weeks have been spent listening to legendary music and reading entertaining books. (No need to mention that we have no aerial for the TV yet!!!!) Bob

Dylan can be heard at any time of the day or night chez moi. (as well as John Lennon – have to mention that!) David Gray (of course), along with the Frames and U2 take prime place on the CD player.

The tape deck has recently been privileged to transmit the striking tunes of newcomers Plush. The UL outfit, who will be featured in next issue, have a fresh and exciting sound, with a lot of potential. Keep an eye out for them – they're playing in the Scholars in the next few weeks and they're gonna blow you away!!! As they say in the business – watch this space! (There! – that should earn me a pint, JM!!)

So what else has been happening?! Well – Soul Clinic is up and running again in Dolans. I went to see their 'regular' Skinny Boy Jazz last week, and as usual, I was impressed. And it was a major plus not to have to wait for two and a half hours for a friggin' taxi this time! Haven't made it to the Breakfast Club thingy yet. Planning to go home to see the dogs this weekend – so maybe next weekend! I'll tell ye all about it!

Nothing else really – except that our very own SU Education Officer, aka, Funny Man D'arcy insists on treating the entire Scholars population to his excellent D'Unbelievables impersonation. Be afraid, be very, very afraid!!! Tom – will you ever get back to your real job?!!! Are we right there folks?! Up the kingdom!

Mairead Moriarty

UL Students Protest Capitalism in Prague -



Police Tactics

Police were probably involved in looting in the centre of Prague on September 26. The Organisation of Citizens' Legal Observers (OPH) has filed a charge against alleged agents.

Using men in disguise during demonstrations is a common police practice. Policemen masked as anarchists walk in front of almost every mass action. However, it is illegal to use agents-provocateurs. But according to photographers and eyewitnesses OPH has at their disposal, this is exactly what happened on Tuesday. For example, observers have filmed a man smashing a McDonald's window and then walking away through a police cordon without any hassle.

"We have video footage, photographs and eyewitness accounts," said Dusan Stuchlik, one of the OPH observers. "At the same time, the police didn't even allow the press to get anywhere near the spot." The organisation will file a report in order to find out whether the agents were really police.

Even Lidove Noviny (a Czech Newspaper) reporters met policemen dressed up as demonstrators in black sweatshirts with black scarves or hoods over their faces. At Tylovo Namesti, reporters saw one of the masked policemen hit metal bars on a showcase window with a pole torn off a railing; later, he arrested activists.

Vaclav Vik, a lawyer, says, "Policemen in disguise have a right to arrest people. However, they have to present themselves with a police badge, an ID or at least something that says 'Police of the Czech Republic.'" According to Lidove Noviny reporters, police didn't even stick to that. They mostly said to the people being arrested, "Come on. Get over here."

But it seems that while police tactics on the street were unlawful the greatest human rights abuses went on in the jails, because for those who were arrested it seems that the worst was yet to come for them.

Many prisoners were denied use of toilets, and were also denied their legal right to a telephone call and a lawyer. Two seventeen year old girls were denied phone calls to their parents and another kept isolated so they could not let anyone know of their position. But these injus-

tices seem to be the least severe. Here is a list of some of the reported police justice dealt out in the Czech jails.

- Prisoners were left without jackets or blankets all night, some outside, others handcuffed to the bars to prevent them falling asleep, with reports of being kept awake for 30 hours.
- Epileptics denied medical attention, and one woman was even given pills that made her sick.
- Very severe beatings were also dealt out, with reports of having faces repeatedly bashed against walls, being punched in face and stomach, kicked and beaten while handcuffed on the floor, or being handcuffed and thrown down stairs as well as others beaten with truncheons and metal poles. Some beatings continued for more than half an hour at a time and other prisoners were forced to watch or listen.
- Many reports also came in of broken bones; arms, fingers, noses and ribs, mostly ignored and medical attention denied in many cases.
- Police beating handcuffed prisoners randomly in a bus. One prisoner who had been badly beaten was transported in the boot of the van.
- Report of being stripped, severely beaten, taken to an outside yard where there were people lying unconscious, and then told to dance to music. Also women prisoners were strip-searched by male officers (against Czech law) and made to perform exercises for the enjoyment of the officers.
- Skinheads were also brought into cells and allowed to beat the prisoners.

"You do not become a 'dissident' just because you decide one day to take up this most unusual career. You are thrown into it by your personal sense of responsibility, combined with a complex set of external circumstances. You are cast out of the existing structures and placed in a position of conflict with them. It begins as an attempt to do your work well, and ends with being branded an enemy of society."

- Written by the Czech president Vaclav Havel, many years ago...

From Peace Square to Police Scare

PRAGUE, Sept. 26 -a highly subjective and personalised timeline of S26, 10am-2pm:

10:30 a.m. All is quiet in Prague this morning. Just a few people are out on the street, and many of the shops are closed. It kind of feels like Christmas.

10:35 a.m. I arrive at Namesti Miru, site of today's S26 kick-off rally. Signs feature a myriad of anti-globalisation slogans: "Onz weeld is niet de Koop," "Our world is not for sale," "The IMF and World Bank are killers," "Shut the IMF."

10:45 a.m. A black INPEG balloon tells me, "Everything in life is connected." A much larger balloon, aqua with bright orange letters, says, "Balls to the IMF." Noisemakers made from water bottles filled with dry rice rattle in the background. Christmas has become Fat Tuesday.

10:50 a.m. Ya Basta, an impressive Italian group of hardcore civil dissidents, have set up a loud-speaker and intercom on a white van. "We arrived here on a train with new ideas for a new struggle," one of their ranks shouts, while ska

music booms. Ya Basta wear helmets and white overalls stuffed with foam to make charging police less painful. (Think of what the Michelin Man would look like if he had olive skin, a purposeful glint in his eye and some garbage can lids tied to his arms for protection against cops, and you've envisioned the definitive Ya Basta look). Alice and Viktor, two Czech activists and members of INPEG, stand near the van and dance a little. One of the Ya Basta men stands on top of the van and squirts the crowd with a water gun.

10:52 a.m. Inside a nearby bistro, people dressed in sport coats eat greasy food and look nonplussed. But the rally is jumping, with at least a dozen languages filling the air. I wonder what cliché the American media will use when they describe this rally in tomorrow's papers — "Tower of Babel?" "Mixed messages, many languages?" (Fast-forward to 9 p.m. The media probably won't talk about the rally, but will focus instead on the wild rioting going on all over Prague.)

11:10 a.m. Back to Namesti Miru (Peace Square). A group of Greek Telecom employees Federation members stand in solidarity, holding a banner that says, "Unemployment is the worst form of racism." They are a decade or two older than the rest of the crowd, and their maturity is quite welcome. There hasn't been enough involvement from the baby boomer generation here in Prague, where most activists seem to be about 21 years old. Where have all of those Charter 77 dissidents gone?

11:25 a.m. Camera crews stand on the roofs of tram shelters, hoping to catch that brilliant shot. Most of them are from the Independent Media Centre (IMC); I wish them well.

11:28 a.m. Thatcher, an IMC audio guy from the US, tells me about his morning escapades. "The police pulled over a delegate bus, and I got on," he says excitedly. "But an angry delegate told on me, and I had to get off."

11:35 a.m. I pass a guy dressed in a red jumpsuit. On the front he has written in black marker, "I am not violent." The crowd is thinning out quickly. I join the Yellow March.

11:39 a.m. A large puppet of an IMF delegate sits in a wheelchair just a few feet away from the IMC table. The puppet has a briefcase with a dollar sign written on it. He looks depressed; the other puppets meeting at the Congress Centre wouldn't let him in. Now he sits alone.

11:42 a.m. "Turn Prague into Seattle," a man's T-shirt commands. Okay!

11:45 a.m. People dance to techno music, lovingly provided by United Sound Systems, and have fun. A man with a pink Mohawk and matching tutu stands to the side, where he's joined by a group of young women also dressed in pink. They collect into an affinity group and move onwards.

Noon. I walk from Namesti Miru, up Legerova Street and straight towards the line of police guarding the Congress Centre (IMF/World Bank Delegate Central). Unsurprisingly, the police have donned riot gear

and scowls. Their shields are up, ready for a fight. Behind them flutter signs that say the march is "unlawful."

12:01 p.m. Behind me, billboards proclaim corporate names: Peugeot, Pyrocool, Ardo and IMF/World Bank Annual Summit.

12:30 p.m. Holding inner tubes Ya Basta form lines and prepare to push forward and through the police line. They are f***** intense. The bridge towards the Congress Centre is blocked, and armed cars stand at the ready. "We have to think about what we want to do," someone says over a bullhorn. "Do not push forward if you fear arrest. For us, it's not an important issue."

12:45 p.m. Assess the press. They wear silly vests - with strange numbers on the back.

12:46 p.m. Hey - we're ready to attack!

12:48 p.m. Not ready yet. A priest is holding a water gun, surrounded by an entire St. Peter's

Cathedral-full of folks wearing gas masks.

1 p.m. Is that a naked man running towards the police line?

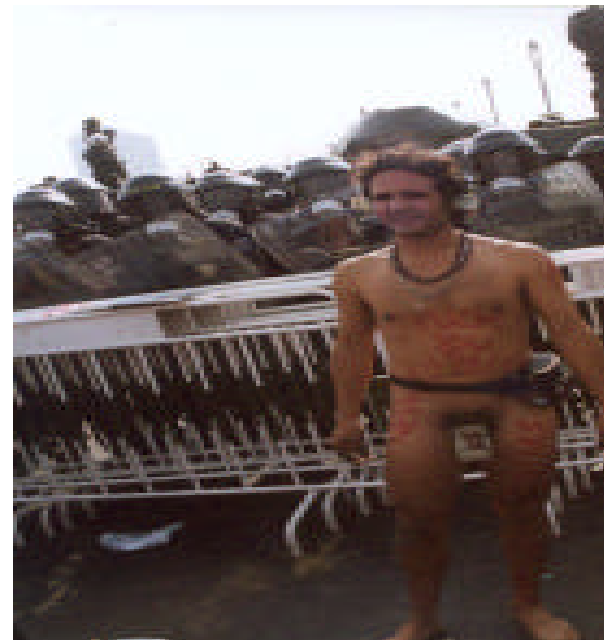
1:01 p.m. Yes, that is a naked man. His skin says, "F*** You Capitalism."

1:15 p.m. INPEG Alice shows up again. She looks calm and cool as always. Are you worried, Alice?

1:16 p.m. Alice doesn't answer my question, but says that police have water cannons. Uh-oh.

1:40 pm. The line creeps forward. An old, hunch-backed woman collects "Liquidate the World Bank" balloons. I wonder what she'll do with them.

2:20 p.m. After giving several deadlines to disperse, police give yet another. There's no end in sight, so I go to do work. Up ahead towards Vaclavske Namesti, the street is barren but for trashed signs and an abandoned puppet.



Keep on Rockin' in the Free world

First Seattle, then London, then Washington then Melbourne. Trouble on the Streets. People angry about Globalisation – what's that? Anarchists, Communists, Tear gas, riot Police, Old women calling for cancellation of World debt, Union Rally's, Shut down the World economic forum, smash the IMF. What was going on and what were these people talking about. Myself and Pádraig Myers wanted to find out. INPEG - The initiative against economic globalisation was taking place in Prague on 26 September. So we set out from Busáras on Friday the 22nd, reached London the next morning and then grabbed a Eurolines coach which left us in Praha at 8:30am Sunday morning. The Irish S26 collective were sending a group by plane on Monday afternoon. Maybe we would meet some of them.

Our first stop was the info centre followed by the convergence centre where all the organising was taking place. This was three massive hangers which had been given to INPEG by Praha city. There we found people from all over Europe milling around organising Samba band's, banners, affinity groups, autonomous actions away from the main protest, first aid, how to cope with tear gas, workshops on how World Bank/IMF policies affected the developing world and lots of people looking to be empowered!

An affinity group was a group of people who would stick together through thick and thin at the protest. Your crew. One member might be good at first aid, one would have passport details of all members in case anyone was arrested, another would carry food and someone else would have a mobile phone. The protest was organised to get everyone to assemble in Namesti Miru early on S26 for a rally and then to divided into 3 marches – the pink, yellow and blue marches which would approach the congress centre from 3 directions and then blockade it. The natural assembly point would have been in the old town square but this was full of Christmas trees and Christmas stalls - in September?

The One called the pink which was mostly made up of Socialist workers groups and was supposed to make for the west side of the congress. Then the Yellow which would be spear-headed by Ya Basta and would aim for the main entrance to the congress centre from the north.

This would not be easy as the main entrance was on the far side of a bridge identical to the west link bridge in west Dublin which would undoubtedly be packed with police. The third march was lead by the red/black group of anarchists and communists and was called the blue march. Which one would we join? Chris told us that we could join the affinity group made up of people in the apartment. Ya Basta were an Italian group of over 1000 people who dressed up in white overalls which were stuffed with cardboard and pillows. They also brought inflated tractor tire tubes to push against Police.

We stayed in a two bedroom apartment with 15 other's 1 Turkish, 1 Polish, 1 Australian, 4 Dutch, 1 Spanish, 2 Norwegian, 1 German, 1 English, 1 Welsh, and Chris from Belfast who I had met at Ekotopia in Finland the month before. That night we went to the art's of resistance festival whose motto was "no culture without sub-culture" a warehouse party with plenty of drumming, fireaters, rock bands and jugglers. Monday was spent organising for our affinity group. Were we willing to get arrested? Why were we here? And such questions came up during the day. The samba band had decided to be part of the pink/silver march a splinter march made up of Czech, Spanish and English Earth First anarchists who wanted to go to march to the south side of the Congress centre. We decided to join as Yehudi from Holland main organiser of the Samba band was part of our affinity group. As well as this the Samba band represented the opposite of the stereotype of protesters as violent. As for our colleagues from Earth First we did not know yet.

On the morning about 11,000 people gathered at Namesti Miru. The first march left at 11:00am. We were the last to leave the square at 12:30pm. Pádraig had joined the Samba band while I was at the back "dancing on the street" and blowing a whistle. Our route took about half an hour to complete. We saw nothing or heard nothing from the Police or other marches until reaching the south side. We stopped on Kverna the main dual carrigeway entrance to the congress centre from the south about 100 yards from a cordon of 3 rows of riot police, two army vehicles and a water cannon truck. The black block wanted to try and break through. After a

spokes council meeting though it was decided that it was futile as the march only numbered 400 people.

The best thing would be to walk to some other side entrances of the congress centre for a look. A spokes council meeting was where 1 rep. From each affinity group came together to form a consciencous decision on what to do. At another entrance the black block made an attempt to break through without the samba band or the "non-aligned" marchers. This was quickly repulsed by concussion grenades, teargas and water cannons. Concussion grenades made very loud noises but only gave out smoke. Needless to say anyone who had a gasmask put it on and anyone who didn't covered their mouth and nose with a wet bandana. The riot police then marched forward and divided the march. We regrouped at a crossroads back in the direction of Kverna. What to do now.

Cyclists came from other marches saying that the blue march had turned very bad(that's the one you saw on TV), Ya Basta had blocked the bridge but were getting tired pushing against half the Czech police force, and that delegates were now getting out from the south side. Back to Kverna. About 100 people sat on the ground there facing the riot police. We stayed there for some time and then continued to some smaller entrances on the route nearby. The pink/silver march was becoming increasingly fragmented. The black block still wanted to break through. Everyone else was dividing up between the different entrances to do sit ins. The Samba band continued circling the congress centre cordon. We stopped at a small side entrance where 30 people sat facing the riot Police. Some sat, others walked around. It was now around 4:00pm and the congress should be ending soon. We could see some delegates behind the Police who were being told that they could not exit by the road we were on.

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The Politics Behind The Protest

get out pretty quick), but some others

One factor that I did not expect to see when I went to Prague was the division that exists between different groups of protesters. Maybe this was naivety on my part but I think this is one of the weak-points of the direct action effort. When the march began on September 26th it was obvious very early on that those who had come to Prague to demonstrate could be divided into two different groups. Simply put one group were there to protest peacefully and the other group believed that violence was the only way to get results.

The girls in the flamboyant pink dresses (and guys!), the samba bands and the banner holders were there to try and contrast as much as possible with the black armour and helmets of the riot police. They brought a carnival atmosphere to the proceedings which the local townspeople enjoyed, and gave a different slant to the typical coverage that you see on TV, but unfortunately the colour, music and dance never makes it to the news.

The other side of S26 was the Black Block. The black block (so called because they all dress in black, with black scarf's covering all but their eyes) are groups of anarchists who are willing to use violence to achieve their goals.

Originally the main reason for black blocks was for protection. The idea was that each group of peaceful protesters would have a black block that would accompany them on their march. This black block would then use any means necessary to protect people like the samba drummers who are rendered relatively defenceless by having to cart around drums that are too heavy to run with.

This all sounds like the perfect situation, one group working with the other, but the problem is that some of the people in the black block forget their purpose and start to work to their own agenda and this can have very dangerous consequences. I had some first hand experience of what can result from the improper behaviour of a black block. I was part of the samba band on my march and I was playing a big bass drum. When our group got to the first line of police, instead of pushing forward or doing a standoff, the members of our black block threw stones at the police and then ran, leaving people like me and the other samba players, who could not run with the drums, to deal with the oncoming riot police. Luckily I did not sustain any injuries in the skirmish (due to the fact that I had a gas mask and managed to

were not so lucky and ended up getting tear gassed or hit with batons. This is the type of situation that must be avoided because it causes major divisions between activists and those divisions undermine our entire effort.

Also the kind of mindless violence that resulted in KFC and McDonalds getting smashed up achieves nothing, except to make the other demonstrators look bad. The people responsible for this are a tiny minority but unfortunately they get the vast majority of the TV coverage. There must be an effort made to weed out these instigators and to make a move towards the peaceful marches that everyone else is in favour of. Then maybe we can make the headlines because of the peacefulness of our march instead of the expected violence, headlines like "Riot Police Heavy Handed with Passive Protesters" instead of "Riot Police Justified with Pounding Provocateurs".

WHY PROTEST?

So what was it all about? Many Non governmental organisations (NGO's) have been voicing their opposition to World Bank/International Monetary Fund policies over the last number of years.

These policies are nearly all to do with the loans and subsequent debt's that developing countries get involved in. The gripe that the NGO's have with the WB/IMF is that when they impose structural adjustment programmes (SAP's) on the countries as a condition for loans, living standards invariably fall and the environment suffers. The SAP's work by privatising government-owned enterprises and government-provided services, slashing government spending, orienting economies to promote exports, trade and investment liberalisation, higher interest rates, eliminating subsidies on consumer items such as foods, fuel and medicines and tax increases.

One could say that the basic idea of these policies is to shrink the size and role of government, rely on market forces to distribute resources and services and integrate poor countries into the global economy. The nature of these policies leads to a widening of the gap between rich and poor. Some countries call for SAP's to be related to the establishment of democracy, or a commitment to devote resources to meeting the basic needs of the poorest segments of soci-

ety. In the case of the poorest countries it's arguable that the debt should be eliminated the loans are usually for infrastructure – water and sanitation, dam's, mines, oil pipelines, or are given to help countries service debt that they owe to other institutions besides the WB/IMF. The latest estimate for debt owed by developing countries is US\$2,553.9 billion. This is over 4 times larger than it was in 1980. The 40 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC's) owe a total of \$214 billion. Bilateral debt accounts for half of this.

This is money given as overseas development assistance, which are loans with low concessionary interest rates and from government export credit agency that guarantee's private company investments doing business with foreign countries. Thus it is bilateral debt that each lending country has direct control over. After the G8 summit in Cologne in 1998 the G7 leaders (without Russia) agreed to cancel \$100 billion of debt.

But the thing was that 75% of this had already been guaranteed under older debt relief programs. But as of yet none of this relief has come through. Another pledge to cancel 100% of HIPC debt from governments only actually accounts for an average of 50% of total debt per country. Multilateral debt

accounts for 34% of HIPC debt and is owed to the WB/IMF. These debts are considered to take precedence over other debts. Private debts account for the remaining 16%.

So why the procrastination on the part of the WB/IMF? Is it about the supply of labour? The ironic thing is that WB/IMF funds could pay off the \$214 million HIPC debt from their own reserves.

Prague and Seattle was a gathering of people who want to give a voice to the suffering that results from these debts. It is a grassroots movement who call for globalisation from below and a charter for accountable democracy. These people are saying that it doesn't have to be like this. Check out our links page for more in-depth factual analysis of the situation.

Mail us for publications on developing world debt from Jubilee 2000 and the World Development Movement.

envirosoc@csn.ul.ie

Sources:
<http://www.csn.ul.ie/~environ/wbimf.htm>

Keep on Rockin' in the Free world

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Our affinity group plan was to regroup at 8:00pm that evening near the Opera where the delegates were due to go. There was an eerie feeling looking at the riot Police who stood there emotionless and unblinking. Suddenly we saw the water cannon truck drive up behind the riot police and lots of orders being shouted in Czech. We were sure we would be soaked but what they actually wanted to do was to get

the water cannon truck out on the road possibly to chase the samba band. Hold on everyone screamed as we huddled together faces down in foetal positions.

From the corner of my eye I could see the riot police coming with batons drawn. They bet into us and then started dragging us apart screaming at us in Czech. UUUHHH! I could see the boot coming for my head but my hands were holding onto other people. After 5 minutes they had us dragged apart and got the truck out. Then they retreated. Most people resumed their sit in. I went to one side to get my head nursed. "Your going to have a black eye!" I heard. Soon after this the samba band came racing around the corner. They were being pursued by riot Police who were clearing the road of everyone. Everyone that was except the people sitting down who they just left behind them. We stopped on the road up ahead to see what unfolded. A police van drove up to the sit – downers and started taking them away. Sean from Australia and Nina from Holland from our group were with them. Our affinity group split. Some went back to the apartment to get Sean and Nina's details while myself and Linde from Holland went back to Kverna. We stayed there for some time. At about 7:00PM news started coming through that the delegates were getting out by metro.

People started negotiating with Police to then let us walk from the south side past the congress and into town with a Police escort. They would not be vio-

lent if we were not violent. Others said that this was ridiculous. We would go the long way around – unaccompanied. That was the consensus. About 500 people and the remnants of the samba band then marched into the city in the direction of Wensulous Square and the Opera. On our way we passed a bank which had had its windows smashed. Mayhem greeted us in the square. McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and other "symbols" of globalisation had been completely thrashed. The riot Police were now marching then charging up Mustek towards the square banging their shields and chanting a monosyllabic word. We made for the tram station. The metro had been closed and went to our apartment. Everyone was accounted for bar Seán and Nina.

There atmosphere was tense. Rumours said that the Czech Police had arrested everyone at the Convergence centre. Fascists had thrashed the info. Centre. A policy of zero tolerance was being adopted towards the activists whose apartments were being raided. Anyone on the street without a passport was being taken in. Undercover Czech Police had threw the first stones at Mc Donald's and then were seen returning to Police lines. 50% of the Czech police were members of Fascist groups. We sat, wondered and slept wondering what if anything would happen the next day.

Have You Nothing Better To Do?

You know those headwrecking e-mails that you get from people with nothing better to do. Now and again though, a good one turns up. We're going to see if we can find one a fortnight. Tough task.

Most Feared Questions & Answers By Men

The 5 questions most feared by men are:

1. What are you thinking about?
2. Do you love me?
3. Do I look fat?
4. Do you think she is prettier than me?
5. What would you do if I died?

What makes these questions so difficult is that every one is guaranteed to explode into a major argument if the man answers Incorrectly(i.e., tells the truth). Therefore, as a public service, each question is analysed below, along with possible responses.

Question 1: What are you thinking about?

The proper answer to this, of course, is: "I'm sorry if I've been pensive, dear. I was just reflecting on what a warm, wonderful, thoughtful, caring, intelligent woman you are, and how lucky I am to have met you."

This response obviously bears no resemblance to the true answer, which most likely is one of the following:

- a. Pussy.
- b. Football.
- c. How fat you are.
- d. How much prettier she is than you.
- e. How I would spend the insurance money if you died.

Perhaps the best response to this question was offered by Al Bundy, who once told Peg, "If I wanted you to know what I was thinking, I would be talking to you!"

Question 2: Do you love me?

The proper response is: "YES!" or, if you feel a more detailed answer is in order, "Yes, dear."

- Inappropriate responses include:
- a. Oh Yeah, shit-loads.

- b. Would it make you feel better if I said yes?
- c. That depends on what you mean by love
- d. Does it matter?
- e. Who, me?
- f. Course I do, didn't I buy you chips!

Question3: Do I look fat?

The correct answer is an emphatic: "Of course not!"

Among the incorrect answers are:

- a. Compared to what?
- b. I wouldn't call you fat, but you're not exactly thin.
- c. A little extra weight looks good on you.
- d. I've seen fatter.
- e. Could you repeat the question? I was just thinking about how I would spend the insurance money if you died.
- f. Fat does not fully describe the way you look.
- g. Strips suit you better than plain colours.

Question 4: Do you think she's prettier than me?

Once again, the proper response is an emphatic: "Of course not!"

Incorrect responses include:

- a. Yes, but you have a better personality
- b. Not prettier, but definitely thinner than you
- c. You were as pretty as her when you were her age
- d. What do you mean by pretty? Could you repeat the question?
- e. She's a absolute stunner, sorry - did I say something to upset you?

Question 5: What would you do if I died?

A definite no-win question. (The real answer, of course, is "Buy a Corvette and a Boat").

No matter how you answer this, be prepared for at least an hour of follow-up questions, usually along the these lines:

WOMAN: Would you get married again?

MAN: Definitely not!

WOMAN: Why not, don't you like being married?

MAN: Of course I do.

WOMAN: Then why wouldn't you remarry?

MAN: Okay, I'd get married again.

WOMAN: You would? (with a hurtful look on her face)

MAN: (makes audible groan)

WOMAN: Would you sleep with her in our bed?

MAN: Where else would we sleep?

WOMAN: Would you put away my pictures, and replace them with pictures of her?


MAN: That would seem like the proper thing to do.

WOMAN: And would you let her use my golf clubs?

MAN: She can't use them; she's left-handed.

WOMAN: - - - silence - - -

MAN: Shit.

LIMERICK 

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

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***We don't give any lectures,
but we do give good advice on
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WHAT IS THE AMC? - Aspersion Music Collective

Hi Kids

Do you Like Primus?

Like me to stick 9 inch nails in my eyelids,
I just found out my mother smokes more than
I do,

How you gonna breast feed me mom, you
ain't got no ****?

Hi

My name is

Who?

My name is

What ?

My name is

AMC

OK

With L'hommage au Eminem over, hopefully I
have cheaply won your attention

So here's the question?

'There's **** all going on in Limerick.' Yes /
No?

Those who said YES, you are WRONG!

Those who said NO, you are the greatest and
are one of the few.

I present the ASPERSION MUSIC COLLEC-
TIVE or AMC for short. A stupid name for the
coolest thing to happen in Limerick for fans of
actual music.

We humbly present our goals

We are in the business of bringing actual
music to Limerick. The deal is :

- We are 100% non profit organisation (i.e.
none of your money goes into our pockets)

- We are completely independent of any men
in suits telling us what to do

- We are committed to putting on gigs for less.
The idea being, more of you come to the gigs,
the bands play to a bigger audience, get
payed for their services, and a great night is
had by all.

- We want to encourage local bands as much
as possible. Look on the bands that come
through town, see the quality shows, get
inspired, go home and invent new music and
for chissakes turn the tide on covers
bands/karaoke/blatant cog bands. Look into
your own hearts, for they are unique and can
make unique new sounds.....

- Put Limerick on the map as the greatest
town in the world, and the birthplace of a
nation of new artists.....

Here are some of the gigs that we have put
on since our birth in last December of the last
millennium

6 October 2000 - Ensign(New Jersey, USA) +
Spindriff (Belfast) + Medic (Limerick)

19 September 2000 - Handsome Family
(Chicago gothic country) + Chris Mills(Chicago
singer) + bandog (Limerick)

12 September 2000 - Joe Pernice
(Massachusits) + Peter Bruntnell(USA) +

Derek Corr(Limerick) + Comacaine
Brand(Limerick) + Ger Lane (of Veneer)

2 September 2000- Raging Speedhorn

(England) + 22 (Limerick)

14 August - Tooth (Limerick CD Launch) +
Diphtheria (Galway metallers) + Position 52
(Limerick Skate punks)

Servo, Stoa, Position 52 -12th August '00
Stamping Ground & Unite -5th August '00
My Friend Judas, Lowend, Clearshot - July
2000

bandog, Veneer & Ludlow -15th June '00
The Redneck Manifesto & Stoa -29th April '00

Oi Polloi, Stress & Tooth - 22nd April '00
Wulf, 2000 Strong & Ditch - 25th March '00
Freebase, Labrat , D.S.F.A & 2000 Strong -
26th February '00

10pt Rule, Tooth & Minus Big Head -12th Feb
'00

Tooth, Barberskum, Bandog, Catcher & the
Rye, The Hitchers -11th Dec '99

Hopefully this list might make it clear to those
in doubt just how much activity there is on the
local scene and the amount of Limerick bands
playing at the moment.

The following is a brief run down on the latest
gigs confirmed for the rest of the year.

Next Friday, 20 October in the Limerick Boat
Club (on Sarsfield street) we have UK excel-
lent insane correct full psychadelicate
GUAPO. It's pointless trying to describe their
music. We received a tape from their people
and it defies description but one could draw
references from late 70's new wavers 'Can' to
a lot of electronica music and also folk utter-
ances. A depressed laughing Beck meets the
angel of lost souls in the shower from
'Psycho'. Nope, that still doesn't describe 'em.
Oh well.

The opening act on the night are Limerick's
own creative mount Vesuvius, 22. They are
not to be believed but they are not lieing.

They are at times scything the world of hard-
core aside with their frenzy of drum
machine/guitar powered riff train. At other
times they out folk the folkier motherfolkers in
folkville. At other times they are tripping over
the gran's fire place which they borrowed for
the night as part of their set.

In short, am unmissable evening of worthwhile
sonic events is what's on offer.

Come along, if you like, experience the deal
and feel the love.

The following Monday 23 October, in
Dolan's Warehouse, sees Jason Ringenberg
take to the stage. Wanting "to create a music
built upon folk, traditional country and rockabil-
ly but driven by modern punk rock energy" is
how Jason Ringenberg describes his music.

With his earlier band 'Jason and the
Scorchers' their work in the 80's saw them on
the same bill as Carl Perkins and REM. Their
1983 album 'Fervour' featured in both Jimmy
Gutterman's Rolling Stone guide to the 100
greatest Rock and Roll Records and The
Country Music Associations 100 greatest
country records.

Michael Stipe of REM considers The
scorchers to be "The greatest Rock N Roll

band in the world" and regularly turn up at
their shows.

Doors are a 9PM and admission is a only £4.
Not to be missed.

Turning the volume up again the follow-
ing Friday 27th of October in the Limerick
Boatclub UK hardcore Ska band Capdown
touchdown on their current Irish tour to enter-
tain all. Quoting them from their own web-
page (check

<http://www.kafren.ukgateway.net/sitefr.html>)

"CapDown (or Capitalist Downfall to be pre-
cise) started out at 14 in Milton Keynes as
SOAP playing rushing buzzy Rancid inspired
anti-police punk rock. "

Think H2O, Bad Brains, Gorilla Biscuits, and
Madness. And they have a saxophone and
will use it.

Doors again at 8.30PM and admission is
£3.50. The value for money is unfathomable.
Quickly looking ahead to gigs confirmed for
the rest of 2000:

17/11/00 Cerberus Shoal (American 7 piece
instrumentalists with violins, guitar, drums and
brass)

28/11/00 - Feverdream (Holland ass kicking
punk)

7/12/00 - Willard Grant Conspiracy (country 9
piece band - read the reviews in Mojo and
Sunday Times for details)

Other notable matters

CAVITY SEARCH

This is the name of our 'enfant terrible' publi-
cation which appears at every gig and who's
sole purpose of existing is for kids to con-
tribute

Thoughts/philosophies/graffiti/poetry/blatant
advertising plugs of interest/criticism/ mus-
ings/etc. to share with all the gig going folk. It
has all the most up to date AMC moves. It is
written/edited by Fionn the friendly rocker, the
diplomatic face of otherwise alienating music
scene, the helpful hand in the moshpit, the
man with no journalism training and resulting
unprecedented freshness of phrase. Email him
in time for the next issue at
Fionnthefriendlyrocker@hotmail.com

WEBSITE

We have just recently launched our new web-
site. Check out
<http://theamc.homestead.com/homepage.html/>
(apologies for the address length, we'll have a
.org or .net address real soon). You can con-
tact the AMC through this website and pass on
your views of the work we do.

Keep your eyes peeled for the posters
around the campus for our posters, check An
Focal for our shouts every issue, stay Tuned
to Wired FM for details and when the gigs
happen, come along...

WE'RE AT IT, UP FOR IT, COULDN'T GIVE A
S***, AND WE LOVE EVERY LAST ONE OF
YOU DESPITE YOUR ALL YOUR *****!

Citywise Voluntary Service in Limerick



Are you young, generous and willing to give of your time to help disadvantaged kids? You are! Well, then, Citywise Southhill may be just the project for you.

Last July, Citywise, a youth achievement programme started 8 years ago in Dublin, ran a pilot summer programme in Limerick. 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 summer. What made twenty Southhill boys do just that for two 2-week courses during their summer holidays?

The secret is enthusiastic young teachers who made learning fun by mixing classroom activities with sports and outdoor pursuits. Morning classes at St Enda's Community School in English, French, Maths, Business or Technical Graphics were followed by afternoon sports. Every week there was an exciting day trip. None of the boys had ever been in Shannon's Air Traffic Control Tower before. When you're a twelve-year-old kid no adult in a work environment wants to know you—unless, that is, you've got some

responsible and mature friends who are willing to accompany you!

That's where the leaders come in. In the words of one of the participants who kept a diary of his first week at Citywise: "The leaders at first seemed to look like my ordinary teachers but with time they were much more friendly". At Citywise, developing a friendly rapport with the kids is key. Coming from an area of high unemployment and severe socio-economic disadvantage, these kids 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, as the diary writer's final remarks show: "We learned that we should have respect for others and that we should listen to each other. To finish up, I feel the course was worth my while attending and I would recommend it to anyone".

That was July. Now it's October and plans are afoot to operate an after-school homework support club for one afternoon a week together with weekend activities. This has already begun for Southhill girls and takes place every Friday at Southhill House, while the boys programme, due to start in November, will run on Wednesdays. Although being under-21 sometimes closes doors, at Citywise it's an advantage. We need young adults—no prior teaching experience required—who are prepared to help others to follow them on the path to educational and professional success. If you think you've got what it takes to be a Citywise leader or you're simply curious to find out more, **why not visit our stand in the Canteen on Thursday 26 October. Or simply email Citywise programme coordinators James or Jane at jameshurley@eircom.net or janekavanagh@eircom.net.**

UL CAREERS

FAIR -

November 1st, 2000

The Cooperative Education & Careers Division is organising a major on-campus Careers Fair on Wednesday, 1st November. This follows on from the success of a similar event which was held last year but the 2000 Fair will be much larger with over 65 companies already registered to participate. The Fair will take place in the Sports Halls in the Sports Building and will be open to students from 1.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. All sectors of employment will be represented so there should be something of interest to students of all disciplines.

What's it all about?

For those of you who have never attended a Careers Fair (or Recruitment Fair), this provides you with a unique opportunity to meet with a number of employers who plan to recruit graduates in computing disciplines in the year 2001. Some of these employers will also have immediate vacancies to fill. Representatives of these companies will describe their organisation and typical vacancies with a view to encouraging you to apply when vacancies arise.

What companies will attend?

We will have almost 70 companies participating in the Fair. This will include large and small companies, local, national and international companies,

across all disciplines. What they have in common is an interest in meeting students who may be potential employees in the year 2001. The list of participating companies is as follows:

A & L Goodbody
Abbott Ireland
Association of Chartered Certified Arthur Andersen
Bank of Ireland
Bank of Ireland Asset Management
Barclay Capital
Bertelsmann
British Telecom
Cambridge Technology Partners
Celestica Ireland
Civil Service Commission
CMG Telecommunications
Coyle Hamilton
Dillon Eustace
Eagle Star Life Assurance
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EMC
Enterprise Ireland
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Why should you attend?

The Careers Fair gives you the opportunity to
Make personal contact with leading graduate employers in many sectors of industry and commerce;
Get expert advice on what a career with a particular company might involve and how you can get the job you want;
Collect company literature and information to help you compare companies;
Determine which organisation you would like to join.

Be Prepared!

To make the best of this opportunity you will need to be prepared. Few employers will offer you a job on the spot but if you make the right impression this will be to your advantage at the interview stage. Here are some tips to help you on the day:
Do some research on companies you want to see. Read the company entries in this publication carefully and check the company websites.
For help in preparing a CV, attend the seminar on 'Making Effective Applications' on October 17th.
Have your CV checked at the **CV Clinic** on October 26th.
Take along several copies of your CV to leave with employers.
Make note of the names of any contacts you make on the day.
Think about your strengths and skills and be able to tell an employer what

you have to offer.
Think about what questions you want to ask them: What vacancies do they have? What are their requirements? What training opportunities do they offer?
Be sure to visit the less well-known organisations also as they often have very challenging opportunities to offer.

In summary:

The UL Careers Fair is an ideal opportunity to make contact with a significant number of employers who have real jobs to offer. By preparing for the event, you stand a better chance of using the time and opportunity effectively. Know what you want from the fair; know what you have to offer, and be prepared to consider everything. This is your chance to make some useful contacts and see what opportunities are out there.....SO DON'T MISS OUT!

Further Details

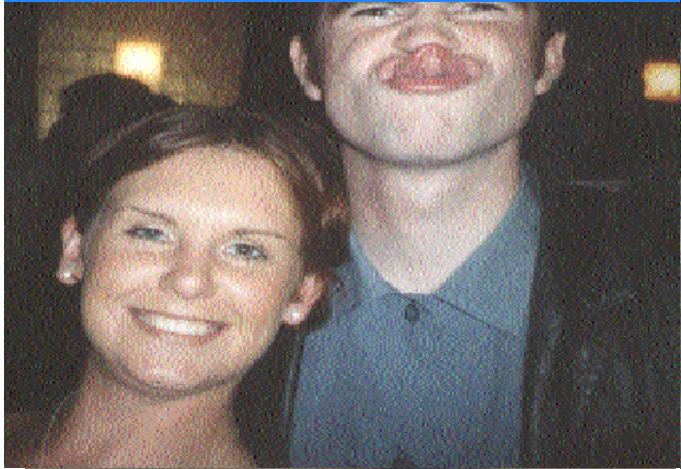
Details of the participating companies are included in *Careers by Degrees 2001* which will be available from the Careers Service before the end of October. In the meantime, this document can be downloaded from the Careers Website at: www.ul.ie/careers/students.html. Select the Jobs section, and then click on Graduate Opportunities 2001. The website addresses of individual companies are provided.

Any queries can be directed to Mary Sweeney, Head of Careers, Cooperative Education & Careers Division at: mary.sweeney@ul.ie.

Out & About - Watch out the Photo Soc's About



Don't Do anything We won't do.....



USA 2001

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FOCAIL EALAÍNE - Arts Section

Week 3 saw the Budget Interviews taking place for Clubs & Societies and by the time you read this provisional amounts will have been issued and the various groups will be putting their programmes for the year in place. Focail Ealaíne took note of the various art related activities that will be brought to you over the next two semesters and will bring you details of forthcoming events in future issues. The self review of Societies brought to light issues both positive and negative – increased sponsorship and attendances, successful events, venue difficulties, falling or rising membership figures, committee continuity difficulties – the list is familiar and endless. The new system for allocating monies to Clubs and Societies worked very well in maintaining an objective assessment of past and projected achievements. Some Societies continue to grow and develop while others are suffering from lack of personnel or development programmes. Clubs and Societies are directly funded by the Students' Union from a percentage of the capitation fee so all students are entitled to become members of any Club or Society (usually with a small membership fee). It is a great way to meet people, develop talents and interests that you already have or discover whole new areas that you didn't know you were good at. You can still join and Paul Lee, Ella Daly (your Societies Officer) or anyone in the Clubs and Societies Office will help you make contact. S.O.U.L will definitely take place in Week 8 so expect lots of events, some old, some new, but all for you. The Environmental Society and the International Society will

reprise the Food Fair, the Film Society have developed an exciting blend of old and new films (DVD) to be shown on a weekly basis in the Jean Monnet theatre (well done girls – great programme !). The History Society and the Drama Society are collaborating on a powerful dramatisation of the persecution of alleged witches, the Debating Union may be swapping togas for more fetching attire, and all kinds of weird, wacky, high and low brow events are coming atcha!!!!!!!

This issue Focail Ealaíne has a new regular slot **THE BACK ROW** so the next time you go to the cinema the person next to you might not just be eating popcorn or impressing that good looking first year with their in depth knowledge of 1950s Polish B movies !

In the next issue we hope to bring you a regular slot reviewing visual art and the theatre, with an occasional column on art around the campus. All contributions – book reviews, concert reviews, event listings should be sent to Room S1 – 22 , Schuman Building or patricia.moriarty@ul.ie. The newspaper comes out on a fortnightly basis and any reviews article etc should be forwarded by these dates – OCT 23, NOV 6, NOV 20, DEC 4.

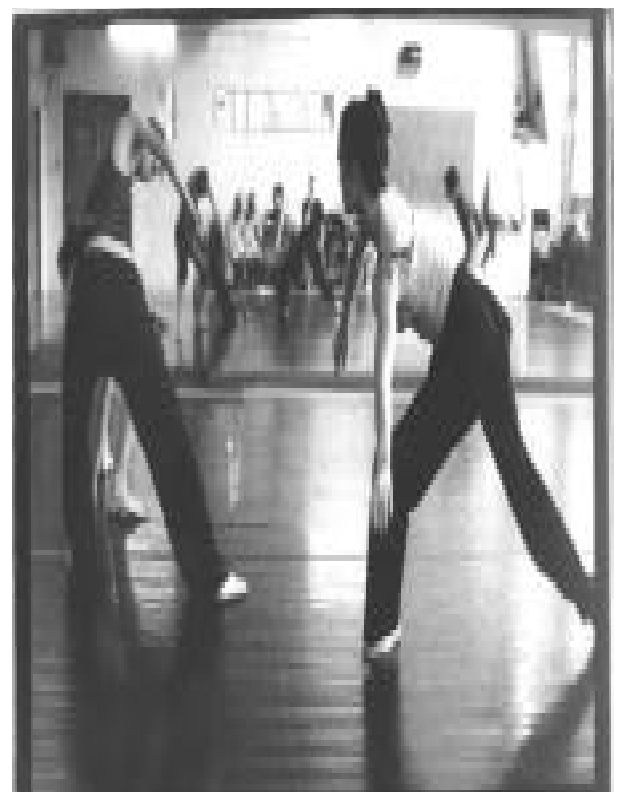
Focail Ealaíne **FREEBIES** Venues on and off the campus will give free passes to Focail Ealaíne in return for a review. If You are interested contact the above address, bearing in mind the copy deadlines above.

DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY

Following their highly acclaimed participation in the recent Dublin Theatre Festival with the piece Reverse Psychology: In Gear Daghdha have returned to the campus. They are about to embark on their White Space Project a new initiative by Yoshiko Chuma and Mary Nunan. It is an environment in which the tradition of dance making is honoured and supported and in which interaction with dancers, artists and other arts practitioners is actively encouraged and embraced. This interaction happens through a series of events in which prestigious guest choreographers are invited to Limerick to hold workshops, seminars and performances. Steve Paxton and Lisa Nelson, both established international artists, are featured guests in the forthcoming event from Oct 16 – 20. Paxton was one of the founders of the Judson Dance Theatre of the 1960s in New York. In 1972 he instigated Contact Improvisation, an approach to movement which continues to make a huge impact on the evolution of post-modern dance

practice. Nelson, choreographer, improvisation performer, videographer, has been exploring the role of the senses in relation to performance since 1969. Throughout the 70s she investigated diverse approaches to dance improvisation, exploring dramatic qualities of movement interaction. Steve Paxton and Lisa Nelson's performing partnership dates back to 1975. Together, their collaboration is choreographic, improvisational and theatrical, organising dances for performance. The participants for White Space events will include dancers and choreographers from Daghdha Dance Company, students and faculty of IWMC and a wider community of professional dancers, artists and scholars who have joined the project. Whilst the the majority of events are effectively Master Classes for professional dancers the seminar on Weds, OCT 18 (See FOCAL EILE) is open to all. There is also a performance preceding the seminar in the Dance Studio in the Sports Building. If you would like to attend the performance contact Triona at

Daghdha , ext 2804. If you want to participate in the seminar just turn up.....



LIMERICK CITY ART GALLERY



Focail Ealaíne took a trip into the city recently (its easy on the bus) to have a look at the 4 FREE exhibitions in the Limerick City Art Gallery. The Gallery is only a short walk away from the train station and the surrounding Peoples' Park is a great alternative for lunch (wrap up well). Focail Ealaíne was admiring the unusually bright blue sky on approaching the building and was again amused by the bronze figures quietly going about their business on the façade of the building. Co-incidentally these are the work of the newly appointed Director Mike Fitzpatrick. Focail Ealaíne hopes to bring you details of his new programme in the coming editions. The ground floor houses an exhibition of paintings on handmade Japanese washi paper by the Irish artist Richard Gorman. These works are not so much paintings on paper as paintings in paper. Gorman has a very distinctive, refined abstract style and on this occasion involved himself in the whole paper making process with Iwano Heyzaburo, a traditional Japanese washi paper maker.

The handmade paper pulp had various templates à la Gorman infused with pigment and then layered onto more koso washi paper. The result is a deep but translucent effect, giving the impression of extreme delicacy but in fact quite robust. In large, medium and small formats Gorman adapts his abstract shape-making from colour/paint to colour/dye embedded within the given washi paper medium in a switch from works on canvas support to works on paper as the support.

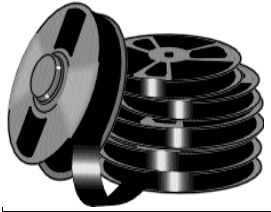
On the first floor of the Gallery 3 exhibitions can be viewed. The first is a detailed photographic account of the life, work and achievements of the the leading 20th century Austrian architect Alfred Loos. The Gallery to the left hand side of the stairwell hosts an exhibition of new work by the Dublin based artist Sarah Durcan. Winner of an EV+A award in 1995, Sarah was the recipient of the 1999 Solo Award. This exhibition is redolent of her characteristic style and preoccupations. The colour range, decor , and general lifestyle of the 40s and 50s are evoked by her choice of object and tone and she creates palimpsests of ordinary things that are made extraordinary by her treatment. " Mrs Beeton's Cookbook " is like a simplified, non specific cookery book illustration. A parade of green and brown floating shapes could be fabulous jellies or

joints of meat. In " Teapot " she presents us with layer upon layer of assorted tea service items that are rendered almost sacred or devotional – the altarpiece of the everyday. Focail Ealaíne's favourite was the series of sepia toned drawing called " Topaz " Immediately the title conjures up images of 50s and 60s low budget spy thrillers peopled with Bond girls and badly dubbed Eastern European Carlyle villains – The World is Not Enough meets Topkapi. The series begins with the exterior of a generic villa/Ambassador's residence and gradually hones in on close up images of tiles, balconies, maps of interiors or devices with accompanying text. The images become less associated with the ostensible narrative of the dialogue until soon there is no connection at all " There is something I have to tell you" enigmatically floats above some Hoover attachments.

Across the corridor Jeanette Doyle presents FULL OF IT an exhibition comprised of a number of different elements – still lifes modelled on 17th century Dutch paintings, drawings of interiors again with a 17th century reference, digitalised drawings processed from engravings dealing with the 5 senses warning against the dangers of sensual pleasure, photographs of the artist's " plastic " and a painting based on a Tesco bag! The show originated with a group of paintings from a series called TESCO CLUBCARD No 634000 000011327984. The objects in the paintings are products which at the time of purchase scored highly in terms of Clubcard points and the receipts are exhibited alongside in the manner of museum nameplates. Although she is very obviously using 17th century Dutch aesthetics as her stylistic base you do not have to be a student of Art History to get her homage to convenient consumerism. The architectural and digital prints are probably more esoteric in their referencing but the exhibition is accompanied by some very revealing gallery notes.

All of this for the price of the bus !!!!!!!!!





THE BACK ROW

(Now Showing at a Cinema Near You...)



Billy Elliot

In Billy Elliot, a loveable rascal escapes the drudgery of a depressed northern English town by forming a world-beating brass band and...no, I'm thinking of something else. Actually, the film tells the story of a loveable young rascal escaping the drudgery of a depressed northern English town by whipping his old chap out for the laddeez, and...f**k! The case for the prosecution of Billy Elliot as cynical attempt to emulate the success of Brassed Off and The Full Monty will be ticking off the following: the It's-grim-up-North setting; the cast of authentic, salt of the earth, fully patented Working Class Rogues' with, of course, Hearts of Gold; the against-all-odds development of Pluck to match said Hearts of Gold to rise above said Grim Setting. However, despite these similarities in plot and theme (especially with Brassed Off), Billy Elliot leaps from this sub-genre with a very distinct identity.

The plot: the titular 11-year old's mother has recently died; his father and

older brother struggle to make ends meet as striking miners in the '80s Thatcher-shafted town of Durham. Cue surrogate mother Julie Andrews who guides Billy's first steps through the distinctly un-cheeky Northern chappy world of ballet. How Billy came to be interested in ballet is for you to find out (and let me know: I spent the first ten minutes stuck to the carpet outside Screen 4 of the Crescent Centre Shopping Centre Omniplex. Omniplex people: SORT IT OUT).

Comparisons have been made between director Stephen Daldry and Sam American Beauty Mendes, both English theatre directors making their cinematic debuts. Equivalent acclaim is only just. The story could translate comfortably to the stage, but this is no filmed play. Here Daldry leaves his theatrical past behind and makes you glad you're watching his film. The scenes of orchestrated police brutality, for example, raging along to The Clash and The Jam, will call to mind the last rousing battle epic you've seen, making it seem at times like the bastard offspring of Braveheart and Byker Grove. Only good. The film also echoes Kes in plot and characterisation, but not that film's radically social realist feel – for example, Billy's emotional states are sometimes conveyed through his dance. Where Brassed Off struggled to blend its obvious social commentary with humour, Elliot manages a perfect balance through the subtlety of both. There is thankfully only a slight hint of the well-meaning anthropo-

logical feel that comes with films set in working class environments made by middle class filmmakers.

The story is perfectly paced to gather an increasing emotional sweep of considerable power. My viewing companion, gawd bless her, blubbed like a baby.

Coincidentally, your trusty hard-as-f**k reviewer felt a curious pressure behind the eyes during many of the latter stages of the film, but this obviously resulted from sitting too near the screen (bad for you, kids). Where Daldry's past work is more obvious is in the performances he coaxes from his cast, particularly Jamie Bell as Billy. When Billy is angry, Bell becomes the scariest pre-teen I've encountered since my last visit to Dublin. I am extremely impressed by an 11-year old as an authentically dashing hero who also managed to bring out the big brother in me throughout, complete with big girl's blouse.

If you want a McFilm, see Scary Movie. Billy Elliot has so much more to offer everyone. It helped my partner-in-viewing gain a radical insight into her relationship with her father; for your slightly more shallow reviewer, insights into the medium of dance and what it can mean to people not seen since Powell and Pressburger's amazing The Red Shoes. Then again, I haven't experienced the wonders of that mullet-on-the-dance-floor epic, Dirty Dancing. In other words, GO SEE: you'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll be glued to the screen, not to mention the carpet.



Oh Brother! Where Art Thou?

Oh Brother! Where Art Thou?, claim the opening credits, is 'Based on The Odyssey by Homer'. Its title was the also the title of a proposed film to be made by some struggling, frustrated, idealistic young filmmaker character in a Preston Sturges film of yesteryear whose name alludes me. Clever, eh? Wink. Nudge. Elbow prod and a dig in the shin under the table. Forestall the fear, however, for this is no mutual backslapping cinephile wank-fest.

The eyebrow behind the camera may be slightly raised in irony, but not at any unacceptable Roger Moore-esque angle. After all, this is the eyebrow of a Coen Brother, one of the duo who previously brought us six of the best American films of the last decade and a half. They haven't let us down yet and they're not about to do so now – not unless you're expecting more of the uproarious screwball hilarity of their

previous adventure, the bowling/film noir/nothing comedy epic, The Big Lebowski. This is another comedy, certainly, but of a much more gentle nature. And no, they haven't gone all earnest on our asses – (a little bird told me) it's 'Based on The Odyssey', not because they're inspired by (or have even read) the book, but purely because they wanted to make a film that had 'Based on The Odyssey' in the opening credits.

Nor does this mean, impetuous reader, that they have grown fat and feckless on us, for this is obviously the work of people in love with what they do. Maybe I should mention the plot at this stage, but it (the plot) doesn't matter too much. Everett Ulysses (wink, nudge) McGill (George Clooney) and two other less intelligent hillbillies (John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson) whose names I can't remember have escaped from a chain gang in Depression Era Missouri.

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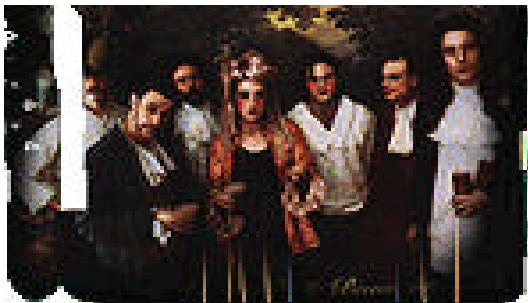
Still shackled, they begin an episodic series of adventures and encounters with such oddities as a Cyclops figure (more winkage) in the shape of an eye-patched John Goodman, and three Lovely Girls (the Sirens...you know the drill). Gracing Oh Brother! is the some of the most beautifully lush landscapes I've seen on film and the Coens' most effective use of scenery since Fargo. Much credit is due here to English cinematographer Roger Deakins, who Scorsese called on to embellish the beautiful Kundun to Oscar-winning effect. The Coens wanted a Depression Era look to the film, leaving Deakins with the problem of how to imbue some of the greenest scenery in the world with the dirty brown quality of 1930s photography. What results is ...oh go and see it! There's only so many times I can write 'beautiful' in the same paragraph.

Also lending the film a '30s feel is George Clooney: for instant '30s Douglas Fairbanks-style matinee idol, just add moustache. Initially, I was slightly concerned about Clooney's presence. Oh Brother! boasts such Coen regulars as Goodman, Turturro and Holly Hunter, but there was a risk with their choice of lead. In ER Clooney competently rattled through his lines in episode after episode, doing that head-down, shaking-left-to-right thing of his. Suddenly, there he was on our big screens in From Dusk Till Dawn, wobbling the head, rattling through the lines. He continued to rattle and wobble through some multiplex fodder (The Peacemaker and the evil that was B****n & R****n). Then came Out Of Sight and a chance to work with real talent.

Director Steven Soderbergh reportedly sat George down for The Chat: "George...cut out that thing with the head" (I'm paraphrasing). With a great script, a three-dimensional character and the tutelage of a great director, George sparked. There's something touching about a seemingly moderate talent making the leap to semi-greatness. Next came Three Kings, another fine choice: a genuinely subversive script (by Hollywood standards (although the American popcorn-munching audience I saw it with entirely missed the point, cheering when 'Eye-rajis' were offed)) and another director of talent and promise, David O. Russell (creator of the winning low budget oedipal love/w**king saga Spanking The Monkey and the uproarious search-for-identity/arm-pit-licking road movie Flirting With Disaster). However, due in part to the character development-unfriendly pace of this (very fine) film and, more importantly, the breakdown in his relationship with Russell, George failed to equal his previous best. So here he is again, delighted to be working with such legends-in-the-making, and it looks like he's enjoying it. He plays a vain, foolish scoundrel-with-a-heart, obsessed with his hair, and he does so with some gusto. During his first scenes, my lovely assistant and I thought: "it's George, acting", but this is soon forgotten. Essentially, he makes the film his own – this is a warmly beautiful film, and Clooney is a warmly beautiful man.

Stay away if you're feeling dark – this is not for the cynical or cruel. It doesn't take us anywhere the Coens haven't been before. Rather, it is a consolidation, a testament to their consistency, and a tribute to brotherly love and friendship, on-screen and off.

Music is the Answer - Reviews & Interviews



Kila "Lemonade & Buns"

Occasionally, an album is released with a sense of excitement and vigour. In Kila's case, their new album "Lemonade & Buns" has that spark. A band that are quite happy to limit their experimentation within a threshold Kila still manages to unearth excitement whilst keeping more than an element of originality.

Unlike its predecessor, "Lemonade & Buns" is more of a music lover's album than a traditional album. Combining the haunting sounds of the flute with a magnificent introduction, the opening track is the perfect mood setter for what lies ahead. "Tine Lasta" follows with almost African style singing in our native tongue.

"In Tiománaí" doesn't differ greatly whilst "Rachel's Reel" takes the music back to its more conventional source. The title track pans from left to right speaker as it opens and then races ahead in thrilling style. Once again keeping the music firmly footed, the album finishes with the eerie ballad "Ce tú fein".

"Lemonade & Buns" may not be everyone's Walkman favourite. However, with this album Kila have produced a work of musical beauty. Never before has Irish traditional music sounded so admirable whilst been so accessible to music lovers.

Both By Tommy Finneran

Gomez "Abandoned Shopping Trolley Hotline"



This shouldn't work but it does. After their well-documented success with the Mercury prize winning "Bring it on", the delightful "Liquid Skin" and lengthy EP which followed, this collection of the bit's and bobs that any "Proper" band should have lying around their kitchen succeeds handsomely.

While "Abandoned Shopping Trolley hotline" is not as radio friendly as it's predecessors, it's not supposed to be. This is Gomez on a break and in the meantime releasing a seemingly unrelated collection of 15 songs and yet, the complete work fits together credibly. 8 previously unreleased tracks and a mix of B-sides, remixes, radio sessions and alternative A-sides; it's one full shopping trolley!

Most listeners will be drawn immediately to the concluding track. The Stockport lads cover the Beatles' "Getting better" wonderfully. Other highlights include "78 Stone Shuffle" and "Flavors" which are fine re-workings. "We haven't turned around (X-Ray)" uses a mellotron to present a "Strawberry Fields" styled creation. "Buena Vista" is an echo-like sounding lullaby and "The Cowboy Song" is a short happy preface to the finale cover.

"Abandoned Shopping Trolley Hotline" will never exhaust the listener and although the previous albums are gems that are almost impossible to follow, Gomez's latest offering is the one of the best not-a-proper-album albums out there!



Music is the Answer - Reviews & Interviews



Radiohead - Kid A

Kid A is the fourth album from the five-headed misery machine that is Radiohead. As the band grew more and more precious about this record the predicted date for its unleashing on the public was pushed further and further back, leaving many people wondering whether it was worth investing in on reflection though, we really shouldn't have expected a follow up to the excellence that was O.K Computer without some nervous breakdown prolonged wait.

On first listening the album proves to be little more than bizarre organ music, interrupted occasionally by the distorted voice of Thom Yorke accompanied by vague guitar sounds. This just serves to fortify the statement made by Thom in which heavy emphasis was placed on the words "abandon" and "melody". This was definitely a deterrent and riddled with reluctance I decided to have another listen. It would have been a little unfair of me to dismiss an album by any band whose three previous recordings were virtually flawless.

Sure enough buried deep within all the confusion of noise is a definite contender for my album of the year. Stand out songs include the title track, Kid A, which deviates from guitar driven num-

bers such as "airbag", "my iron lung" and of course "creep". This deviation is not a bad thing and the compulsion to wail along, despite the instrumental nature of some of the songs, is overpowering. Radiohead have, however, managed to retain those characteristics to which the philistines cling in a desperate effort to define their music e.g. soft wailing and haunting riffs. Victims of this include "how to disappear completely" and "motion picture soundtrack". My personal favourites are "optimistic", which isn't really, and "idiotique"-an upbeat track, which I have heard being described as "dancy"(perhaps along the same vein as "apples and oranges" by the Smashing Pumpkins). Several gems, "you and whose army" and "cuttooth", that the band showcased earlier this year failed to make it to the album despite appearing in bootleg form on many mp3 sites. A song that took over three hundred days to write was also incomplete (!?!) at the time of recording.

The album is a grower so don't feel less of a music fan for not acquiring a taste for it immediately, even the most die hard Radiohead fans seemed bewildered by its performance at Punchestown last weekend. I actually saw people stand with their arms folded- an uncommon practice in any mosh pit! It almost seems that Radiohead have gone full circle and are starting afresh with a sound that, when finely tuned could provide us with further master pieces comparative to "the bends" and "ok computer". Definitely worth a small portion of grant money and perhaps even a missed tutorial or two is required to give this album the exploration it deserves.

by JK

Radiohead Live at Punchestown Racecourse - by Nicolas O'Brien

Everybody should know now that I adore Radiohead, so this is definitely a biased bad review. A simple review of this concert is to say that the tickets I paid £30 for only really cost £15 because of the money I will save from not buying the new album. KID A is Radiohead's 4th and worst, most awful album to date by far. After the shining stars that were OK Computer, The Bends, and Pablo Honey, it is fair to say I expected more from KID A. Like its precedents, I hoped it would change the charts, bring rock back to the forefront it deserves in terms of Radio Play and charts.

Every live song from KID A saw the audience in shock at the "Experimental" Radiohead. We begged for it to be over. We begged for our Radiohead, that had marshalled a generation, that gave us hope for modern music. I wanted to tell you that Radiohead were the next PinkFloyd, but after Kid A, maybe they're just the next Beatles. The cruellest thing I can say is it deserves its place on No. 1 in the charts with all the pop crap that helped breed it. I will stick to ROck charts and the first 3 albums.

Radiohead nursed me through 3 breakups, 2 state exams, 6million spots, teen angst at its worst, unrequited love, everything. OK Computer was the first CD I

ever bought.

The setting for the concert was perfect, Punchestown Race course, a focal point in the wilderness, like Radiohead really, a Blue tent inviting us to disturb as many neighbours as we could. Now I will forget and ignore the new album, as music history will, and pretend it didn't happen on stage. Clinic warmed us up, in the cold saturday night air, a warm-up band is all they were, and I fear all they will be. Imagine Vanilla Ice opening for Korn and you have the combination.

Our beloved Thom strolled out on stage, with a swagger reminiscent of Johnny Rotten at his best, Head swinging back and forth in a frenzy, and we sang him "Happy Birthday" hoping this would be something special for us. And in many ways it was. This concert was broadcast on the 'net, and we got a longer than two hours set. It sometimes seemed, however so much longer, as they trawled through new song after new song, all grouped together, 3, 4 in a row, and that wasn't exactly a crowd pleaser. At times I wanted to punch Thom Yorke and at times I wanted to kiss him, all was forgiven again. After all, I saw RAdiohead live, and half the songs weren't from Kid A, so all was good.

The track list, excluding Kid A, aka Torture With a Record Label, was glorious.



Airbag, Karma Police, No Surprises, Lucky, Just, My Iron Lung, Paranoid Android, Exit Music. No less than 5 encores. It seemed like the Kid A stuff made the old stuff seem better. The guy next to me Rang a friend on a mobile during No Surprises, just held it up, because the friend couldn't get a ticket... That is the effect they have on people.

Every time I hear Radiohead from now on, I will have that "I saw them live" glow. Every time, however, I hear the words KID A, Experimentation, or No. 1 in the charts, I will throw another dart at a Britney Spears poster, or the next 12 year old boyband, until music (Probably Radiohead) soothes me.

See Radiohead live, but don't cheer during Kid A songs, it only encourages them. It was a great concert experience, doubtless, but it could have been a life-changing one. Just wait for the next album, and until then, listen to "Muse" so you always remember what the real Radiohead sound like.

A Interview with Mundy



On Thursday of week two, Offaly's most famous son, Mundy, rocked the Scholars before his gig in Dolan's warehouse, in support of his new EP 'the moon is a bullet hole'. Des Dockery was there and managed to smuggle him up to the Wired FM studios for a chat, a smoke and a few tunes, here's what happened:

DES: OK Mundy, first off how did you enjoy the gig in the Scholars?

Mundy: I thought it was...amazing.

You've achieved a lot for a twenty five year old, are you happy with the way things are going for yourself at the moment?

Mostly yeah, mmmm, I suppose it's been up and down, but that's to be expected. Yeah you know, I'm happy. I'm on my own now at the moment and I'm trying to pave a way for myself. It's a lot slower but a lot more gratifying in a lot of ways.

You've just released a new EP 'the moon is a bullet hole', are you happy with the way its been received by the Irish media and public?

Mmmm... yeah, I don't know, all the reviews of it have been pretty..., I don't really know what people are thinking of it. The radio really liked 'Mayday', but that's up to them to think that, you know (laughs).

You've also recorded a new album, to be released next spring, can you tell us a bit about it and its influences?

Ahhh... now there's a question, mmm, well I did this album last year so like its nearly a year and a half old at this stage. , But I'm hoping to get the master tapes of it and I can't get them until February 2001, which is only around the corner. I'm hoping to change it around a bit; I think the songs are great. Tommy D. who's well known for doing Catatonias two big albums aswel as working with Finley Quaye and Shack and other stuff like that. As regards influence I suppose it's influenced by different situations I suppose that I went through, like, between travelling and ups and downs and highs and lows. Musically its not really influenced by much, I suppose rock and roll here and there and then there's bits of programming on it and whatever, I don't know (laughs).

Ok you parted with Sony music earlier in the year, supposedly because they only wanted to push one Irish singer songwriter, namely Paddy Casey, were you pissed off with Sony and even a little with Paddy, even though he's one of you're best mates?

That's a shocking question.

Sorry, am I pushing it a bit?

No not at all...mmm. What was I going to say, yeah somebody wrote into Hot Press saying that the reason that Mundy got dropped was because Sony had three Irish Songwriters, Dara was another one as well, and they couldn't push three or something like that but I don't think it was about that because... Ok Sony own Epic and S2 and they own Colombia and loads others, but I think it came down to the type of stuff I was writing and it wasn't commercial enough for them and it wasn't... boy bandy enough for them and it wasn't... I only got one reason when I got dropped and I was told that there wasn't a top ten hit on the album. As regards Paddy, we're in contact all the time, we're good friends. That's nothing got to do with any thing.

You got friendly with Paddy from busking on Grafton Street, is that true?

Yeah from busking and playing in the International bar and just arseing around the town basically.

Were you friends with newcomer David Kitt back in those days?

No...not really, although he did give me a lift back up from Cork about four years ago and I've known him around town to have a chat and a few pints with but I wouldn't be as close to him as I would have been to Paddy cos we literally hung out of each other

Since you've decide to set up your own label, 'Camcor-recordings' do you feel a lot freer now to experiment with new things or is the pressure of running a label yourself a bit more than you thought?

Yeah it definitely is. You have to make sure there's posters out there and make sure you're getting interviews, you know you have to make sure you're doing all this and if you have a company you usually have a few people who are running around and doing all these bits for ye. I suppose running your own label isn't easy but it's definitely better. It's like just planting a seed and watching it grow I guess. I'm not going to get all flowery about it but that's the way it's been for me. I got dropped and its either give it all up and forget about it and try something else, but music is too special to me to be able to do that so I just wanted to make a record as quick as possible and give back to the fans what they deserve. On the Internet loads of people are writing in and they're saying when's you're next this that and the other and its just a chance for me to give something back to them.

Have you got any plans of signing up new bands to the label or are you just going to stick on your own for the time been?

There's a guy I'm talking to at the moment and I'm going to go into the studio with him before Christmas and do two songs. He reckons I could produce his record and put it out with a good engineer on Camcor, just in Ireland. We're just going to give it shot and see if I'm good for him and if he's good for me... you know.

A few months back you toured the UK with David Gray, how did that go and did you

learn much from him?

It was really good fun. David obviously had a really hard time in England with his first three albums. When I toured with him he was just beginning to tour the bigger venues, like 800 to 1000 capacity, but it was great to watch that all blooming, you know what I mean. I had a few drinks with him and we had good chats here and there. He was very encouraging and he just said keep rocking at it. He's had the legs taken from under him a million times so it was good to hear that. He was really supportive in the fact the he knew that I just got dropped and he said well come on and tour with us.... Kind of like a they won't break us kind of buzz so yeah it was great that's what I learned.

Do you want to follow in his footsteps with the electronic influence that's now in his music?

Yeah sure electronics, but I think we all have our own different styles but I'd say out of all of them I'd be the rockier in that... I mean David Gray has got a lot of balls to it and that but don't know but a it's all different music. My EP is all programmed, that's probably the only similarity.

How have the Irish gigs been going for you so far?

I'm playing in Whelan's next Wednesday. I'm playing all around the country till then. The tour only really started last Tuesday down in Cork in the Lobby .I'm excited. The crowd that were distributing it and doing the PR were like ' are you going to try and chart it?' and its not, for me the greatest thing about having my own little label is that, it's not about that pressure, I'm away from it all and I don't give a damn. It's just about people who want to come and listen to my music and the whole race thing and the game of it is all a bit too much. You start forgetting about the music.

Are you not in it for the money?

No I hate money, actually I love money. But what I'm talking about is the charts and that stuff; I'm not talking about

True you don't want to change your music just to please everyone....

No and I had that for five years been signed with Sony. Just the whole pressure with trying to write good stuff. The whole thing about music is that you'll never know until it's put out on the radio what way people are going to receive it. A good song always wins at the end of the day and if it's no good people won't listen to it.

Are you concerned with cracking the UK and are you anxious about the EP's release over there?

I don't really care about the UK. I don't care where I crack. Whoever is genuinely into my music is welcome to listen to it. Territories.... I just don't understand all that. I don't care. If I was big in China I wouldn't care, you know what I mean.....

Listen to 'Pop is dead' on Wired FM' for live Mundy tracks recorded for the show . It's on every Thursday from 7 to 8..

Focal Eile - Arts Event Guide

Any information on forthcoming activities of Societies and Clubs should be sent to Room S1 – 22, Schuman Building or patricia.moriarty@ul.ie

UL DRAMA SOCIETY & History Society

Present A trial like no other, sex, sedition and belly rubbing treats for all. OCT 25, 8.00 pm, Jonathan Swift Theatre. Contact starlet@dramaqueen.co.uk for details.

DANCE CLUB

host Salsa Classes with a professional teacher every Mon in the Games Room, Student Centre. 2 classes 6.00 – 7.00 pm and 7.00 – 8.00 pm. Beginners and experienced Salsa fiends catered for.

UL DEBATING UNION

meet every Mon in the Function Room of Scholars for a lively debate on topical issues with a cross section of UL Students. Debate and discursion are promised, resolution is hoped for, lollipops are guaranteed.

HISPANIC SOCIETY

meet every Mon at 6.30 pm in the Language Resource Area for the screening of Irish and Spanish based films.

UL PHOTO SOCIETY

will photograph your event, Club activity. Contact 9937285. Minimum 1 week notice period desirable – these are busy guys.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK CHOIR

rehearse every Weds from 6 – 8 pm in the Music Rooms of Block C. Regularly performing in venues on and off the campus the student/staff choir always welcome new members.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK TRIBAL SPIRIT DRUMMING CLASSES

with John Bowker – Absolute beginners are absolutely welcome to join in these weekly sessions in the Students' Union on Weds from 7 – 10 pm. A small fee of

£5 (or less), student rate of £3 (or less) ensures an evening of rhythm and celebration.

FOLK GROUP

meet every Thurs at the Salesian Hostel at 8 pm. New members are welcome. The group also perform at the 7.30 pm Sunday Mass in the Salesian Church.

IRISH WORLD MUSIC CENTRE

OCT 17 Patsy Broderick (piano)

Patsy is a member of the well known musical Broderick dynasty from east Galway. She is one of the pioneers of performing traditional Irish melodies on the piano and a former member of Arcady.

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building

OCT 18 Contemporary Dance -

Free seminar chaired by Mary Nunan with internationally acclaimed dancers/choreographers Steve Paxton and Lisa Nelson Time 2.30 – 5.00 pm Music Room B, Lower Ground Floor, Foundation Building.

OCT 19 Sonny Condell Songwriter

and driving force behind legendary groups Tír na nÓg and Scullion, Sonny recently appeared in UL as a solo performer. On this occasion he is joined by bass guitarist Garvan Gallagher and percussionist Eddie McGinn.

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

OCT 19 Lá na nAmhrán/Tráth na gCos

Day long event including morning and afternoon workshops with a special concert in LIMERICK CITY ART GALLERY, PERY SQUARE at 8.00 pm. Details from the Irish World Music Centre, Lower Ground Floor, Foundation Building.

OCT 24 artist to be confirmed

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

OCT 26 Opus Pocus.

This group was formed in 1999 by violinist Anne Harte, cellist Niall O'Loughlin and pianist Gabriela Mayer to bring live chamber music to a variety of audiences.

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building

OCT 31 John Spillane (voice, guitar)

Originally a member of the Cork based traditional band Nomos John's release " The Wells of the World " is one of the most remarkable albums from an Irish artist in recent years. His songs are contemporary yet in the timeless style of the traditional san nós singer.

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

NOV 2 Students of the IWMC's MA in Classical String Performance.

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL

OCT 18 TOSCA by Puccini.

This most popular opera is a heady mixture of true love, torture and treachery. Presented by the Chisinau National Opera in Italian with English subtitles. Tickets £17, £25, £27 Time 8.00 pm

OCT 20 THE MAGIC OF BALLET

Ballet Ireland was founded in 1998 and has enjoyed meteoric success and acclaim. Their Autumn 2000 season includes the premiere of " Irish Rhapsody " by Sir Charles Villiers Standorod, the grand pas de deux from " Swan Lake ", extracts from " Les Sylphides ", " Nutcracker ", " Sleeping Beauty " and Ballet Ireland's own spectacular neo – classical works. Tickets £12, £10, concessions £8 Time 8.00 pm

OCT 21 THE MORRISSEYS

Billy, Norman & Louise Morrissey with Special guests. Performing a repertoire of Irish ballads and folk songs from traditional to contemporary. Tickets £12, £10 Time 8.00 pm

OCT 25 THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO PINK FLOYD – PULSE

Like the original Pink Floyd this group gives their audience a musical and visual experience which should not be missed. An amazing light show, projections, lasers makes this show the best scaled version of the group available –

not to be missed.

Tickets £12.50, students £10 Time 8.00 pm

OCT 26 JOHN PRINE

A performance of beautiful classic country songs about love, small town gossip and cheating by this giant of country music. This Nashville based musician vividly celebrates loves many flavours and desire's varied consequences.

Tickets £23, £21 Time 8.00 pm

HUNT MUSEUM (Rutland Street)

2,000 original works of art and antiquity. Admission £3.20 Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 5.00 pm, Sun 2.00 – 5.00 pm

OCT 16 –23 Lundbeck Art Initiative. An exhibition of outsider art. FREE

LIMERICK CITY ART GALLERY (Pery Square)

OCT 6 – 28 4 exhibitions by Alfred Loos, Jeanette Doyle, Sarah Durcan and Richard Gorman. (REVIEWED)

FREE Mon – Fri 10.00 am – 6.00 pm, Thurs 10.00 am – 7.00 pm, Sat 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE (69 O'Connell Street)

OCT 19 An evening with Phil Jupitus (Never Mind the Buzzcocks)

Special guest Richard Martin "... big man, big laughs..."

Tickets £10 Time 8.00 pm

OCT 5 – 28 Graduate 2000 exhibition by 9 Limerick School of Art and Design graduates. FREE Mon – Sat 9.00 am – 6.00 pm

OCT 23 Hopeless Games

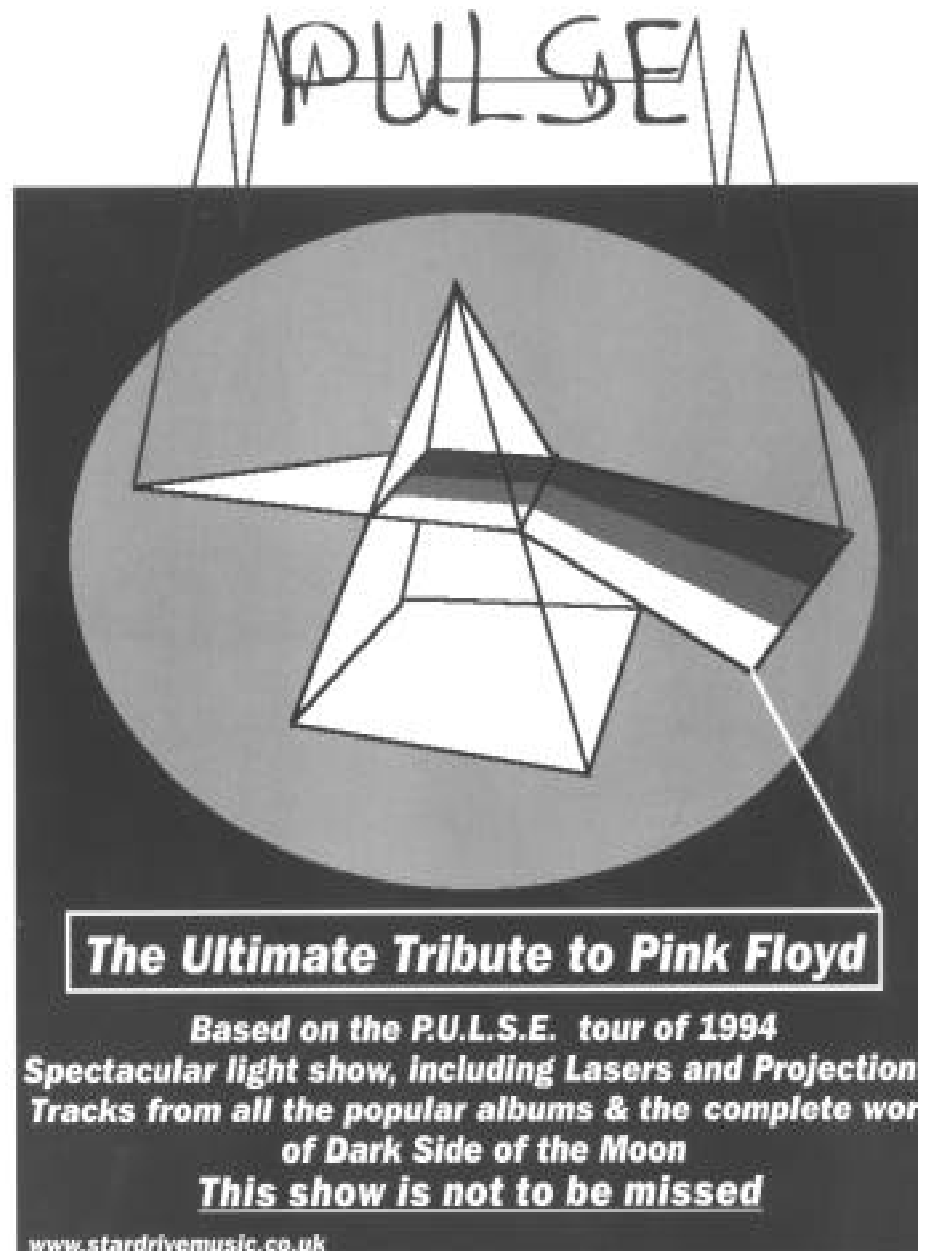
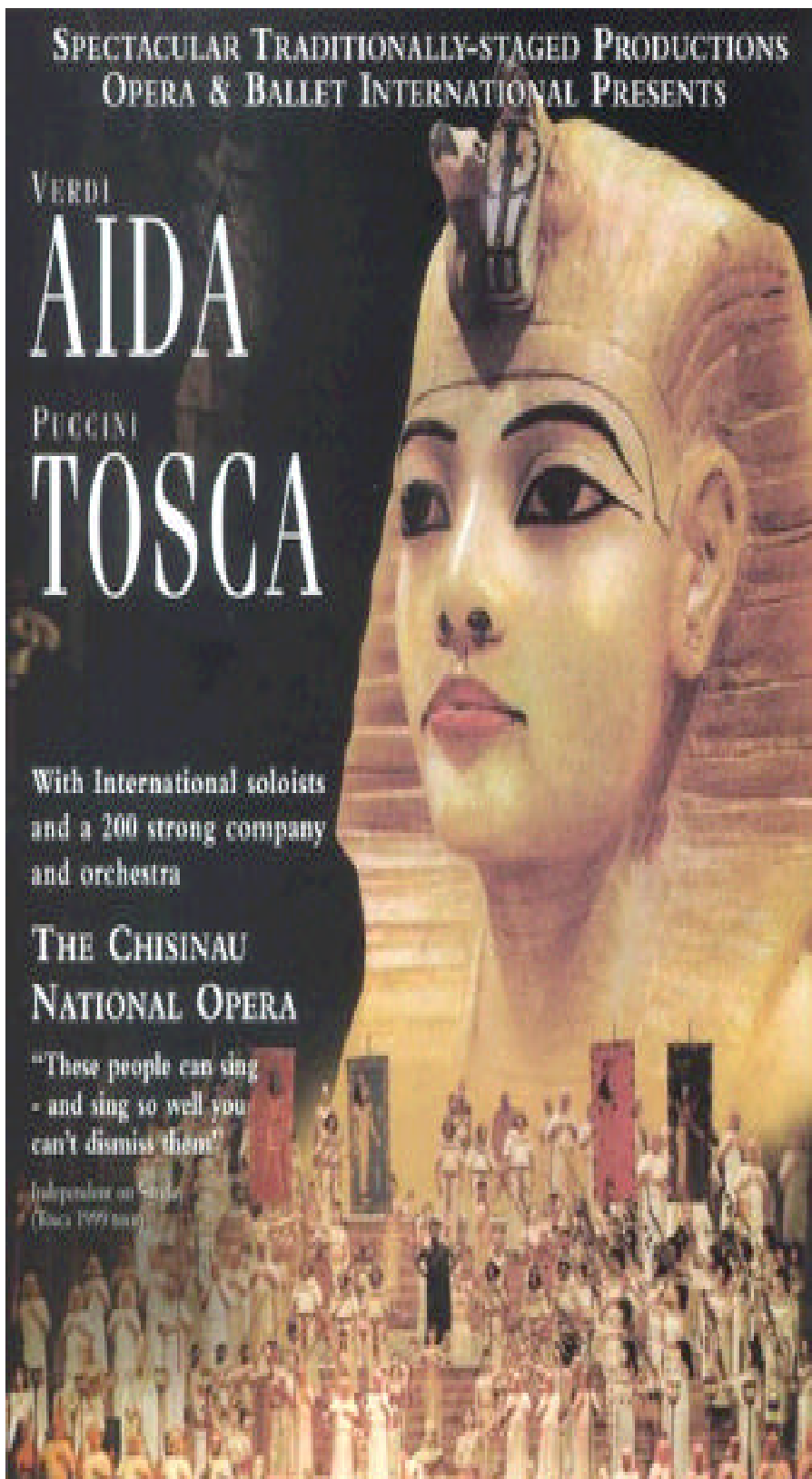
Presented by Do Theatre St. Peterburg and Fabrik Potsdam. A fusion of different theatrical and dance forms it combines elements from the long established Theatre of the Absurd with those of contemporary dance.

Tickets £10, £8 Time 8.00 pm

OCT 25, 26 Silent Scream

Presented by Class Act. A one person play exploring the horrors of bullying and victimisation.

Tickets £5 Time 12.00 – 2.30 pm



Appearing at University Concert Hall, Limerick on Wednesday 25th October 2000 at 8pm
 Tickets priced £12.50 or £10 for Students



Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Societies on campus. Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Centre, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

UL Tae Kwon Do compete in 1st AImAA open martial arts world championships and win



Some of the UL Tae Kwon Do Team that won medals at the 1st AImAA world championships in Dublin

UL WIN 16 MEDALS AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last month saw the hosting, in Dublin, of the 1st Open Martial Arts World Championships. This was hosted by the Action International Martial Arts Association (AIMAA), and was the first world championship open to all styles of martial arts.

The event was superbly run with over 1300 competitors coming from countries such as, Germany, America, Canada, Argentina, Nepal, India, England, Scotland, New Jersey, and of course Ireland. The tournament featured sparring, patterns, weapons patterns, breaking, grappling and demonstrations, notably from AIMAA's Technical Director Master Philip Ameris 6th degree blackbelt.

UL was well represented and did exceptionally well to bring back 16 medals in total. In the white to orange belt continuous sparring category, Keith Houston won bronze in the lightweight division, Alan O' Donnell won silver in the heavy-middle weight category and Mark Holland won silver in the light-middle weight category. Gerard Hogan won bronze in the light-heavy weight category and also won silver in the patterns (hyung) competition, whilst Leonard O' Sullivan won bronze in the heavy weight continuous sparing division.

In the points sparring, Gary Gallagher won bronze in the light-heavyweight division. Siobhán Ní Chéidigh won bronze in her middleweight points sparring and silver in the continuous sparring division. In the green to purple belt division, Maeve O' Grady won gold in the middleweight continuous and points sparring competitions. In the breaking competition for red and blackbelts, Eric Dalton won gold in the hand breaking section and silver in the technical break.

UL's instructor, Mr. Philip Fox 2nd degree blackbelt (who also graded for his 3rd Dan black week the previous week) won bronze in the blackbelt patterns and gold in the heavyweight points sparing. Mr. Fox captained the Irish AIMAA team to win gold in the main event of the weekend, the open weight team continuous sparring. This was a thrilling final with AIMAA Ireland winning gold on the last

fight. The other members of the team were Darragh Bolton, 2nd degree blackbelt, and Jimmy Courtney, also 2nd degree blackbelt.

This was an excellent performance by the whole UL team in a championship of very high standards with competitors from Tae Kwon Do, Karate, Jujitsu, Tang Su Do and kickboxing backgrounds. We were also delighted to welcome to the event AIMAA's founder and president, Grandmaster Hee Il Cho 9th degree blackbelt, and AIMAA's European Director and Ireland's highest ranked member, Master John Darcy 5th degree blackbelt. The success of the UL team at this exceptional tournament reflects the overall standard of UL Tae Kwon Do School, which has gone from strength to strength under AIMAA and head instructor Philip Fox. We would like to congratulate everyone who took part and we look forward to further success in the coming year.

Up coming events

Self defence seminar for Females: 25th of November (available to everybody, staff and non-members especially). Proceeds Grading for all members, new and old 9th of December

Contact us

For more information contact tkd@csn.ul.ie or visit <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~tkd> (the website can also be found in the Clubs and Socs website).

Training times

Monday	6:45 – 7.15
Wednesdays	9:00-10:30
Thursdays (optional)	9-10.30

Beginners always welcome.

Join and benefit from the many benefits of Tae Kwon Do taught by an enthusiastic highly qualified instructor.

UL Men's Volleyball Team Makes Winning Start

In its first year entered in the National League, last Sunday UL made a winning start with two wins from two matches.

The University College Dublin Sports Centre was the venue and meant an early rise for the UL Players. The first match was scheduled for 11.30am and the UL players were anxious to make a good start to the campaign. UCD were to offer the opposition and as the home team they were not to be underestimated. The UL starting line-up took the court with Gerard Conway (captain) starting as setter. Playing centre were Donncha Daly and Mike Hanlon while Jonathon Collins and Carl Grapenfelt took up the wing positions. The starting line-up were completed by Olivier Mellin who played as opposite setter. The 6 were backed up on the bench by Rohan West, Gerry Reynolds and Niklas Karlsson. UL started confidently and took the first 2 sets with some excellent serving from Olivier and Ger and good blocking from the two centre players. Substitutions were made for the final set as Gerry and Niklas came on but the team kept its strength and went on to take a 3 sets to 0 win. It was time for food and the Sunday paper. But Naas awaited in the second league game at 3pm.

The Squad regrouped at UCD in anticipation of their second league game against Naas. Naas are definitely a team to watch out for in the next few years but Sunday was not to be their day as UL ran out 3-0 winners with some very good wing hitting and retrieving. And so after a very successful first outing in the league for UL it was time to hit the road back to Limerick.

The strong team turnout on Sunday last was the fruits of several years of hard work to build a stable volleyball team at UL with a good group of Irish based players. Last year the decision was made, after years of just playing intervarsity volleyball, to enter a

team into the national league in an effort to get more games and thus build a stronger panel that could challenge for more competitions. UL's ambition is to keep playing well and hopefully win their division, thus putting them into the National League Men's First Division next year.

The Squad trains each Tuesday at 9:00pm and Thursday at 7:30pm in the UL Sports Building but will soon be moving over to the fantastic new Sports Building which is to be opened in about two weeks time. All support would be welcome at UL's next game which is at home to Trinity College Dublin Saturday 14th Oct in the Main Sports Hall at UL.

One of UL Volleyball Club's finest female players from the last few years, Siobhán Cotter was also in action at the weekend for Santry in the Women's Premier Division of the National League.

Fixture List for Men's League Team:

Date	Venue	Time			
14-Oct-00	UL	13.00	UL	vs	TCD
05-Nov-00	Clare	15.15	UL	vs	UCD
17-Dec-00	ESB	10.30	Naas	vs	UL
17-Dec-00	ESB	12.15	ESB	vs	UL
06-Jan-01	UL	13.00	UL	vs	UCD
21-Jan-01	ESB	12.15	ESB	vs	UL
21-Jan-01	ESB	14.00	TCD	vs	UL
27-Jan-01	UL	13.00	UL	vs	Naas
25-Feb-01	UL	13.00	UL	vs	TCD
31-Mar-01	UL	13.00	UL	vs	ESB

UL Soccer Club Get Off to Great Start in the Junior League

It's been a bright start to the current campaign for the Sunday League side with a record of five wins in seven games in the Harp Lager Division 2A. After narrowly missing out on promotion last season, largely due to a slow start, the team is hoping to sustain this good opening run. Recent victories include those over Kiltteely and St Patricks Well but UL still have some work to do if they hope to catch Abbey Rovers who have a 100% record.

Training takes place on the Astroturf at 6.45pm on Wednesdays and 4pm on Fridays and new players are always welcome. Home matches kick-off at 11am on Maguires and your support is welcome and greatly appreciated.

UL now also have a second team competing in weekend football. The team is still getting to know one another and despite some disappointing results are hoping to turn things around as the season progresses. Recent performances show that improvements are already being made and again new players are always welcome. Any enquiries about training times should be made to Jason Begley via email.

Apologies must be made to first years for the slow start in organising trial games. Unfortunately the college email was offline for the first week and this meant we could not organise player lists for the games and Maguires pitches have also been closed for a number of days already. The trials have started though and will continue to take place in week 4 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Players should meet at 4pm around the sports building/astroturf and bring boots and astro trainers in case the pitches are closed. The Fresher League will also be commencing within a few weeks so keep an eye on your emails.

UL Camogie Club Up & Running

On behalf of the Camogie club I would like to welcome all members, new and old, back to college after the summer. The club would especially like to welcome our first year members. The annual "freshers" tournament will take place in University College Dublin during the first weekend of November. This weekend is always great craic, and this year we are hoping to improve on our placing of second, losing out to UCD in the final.

This year we would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new president elect, Neasa Fahy-O'Donnell, who is also undertaking the job of training the freshers' team. Ger Cunningham and Dave Mahedy are staying involved with the club again this year, training the seniors and intermediates, and for this we are very grateful. The senior team have been drawn against Mary I in the Ashbourne Cup qualifier, and the intermediate league fixtures have been decided. The Ashbourne Cup is to be hosted by Athlone Institute of technology this year.

Training for all takes place on Tuesday from 5-6pm on the Astroturf or the Maguires pitches, weather pending, Wednesday from 3-4pm on the Maguires, again weather pending and from 7.45-8.45AM (yes, in the morning!) on the Astroturf..

The club is looking forward to a successful year ahead, with plenty of nights out in the lodge and victory in the Ashbourne Cup a major goal! We look forward to seeing all members out at training as a good start to the year ahead.

**Yours in sport,
Sharon Carty**

UL Ladies Basketball Club put up a Brave Display Against the Superleague Champs

University of Limerick played their first game in this year's Superleague on Sunday last in Tolka Rovers sports complex in Dublin.

Having to take on last year's league winners in the first game was never going to be easy, but with four of the panel not playing it was going to be very difficult to get anything from the game.

Limerick have a new look side this year with the introduction of some very exciting new players. Sinead Leahy, who joined this year from Blarney, combined very well on her debut with old hands Eimear Kyne, Nicola Farrell and Marie Moriarty. Newcomers Dearbhla Breen, Carol Fennell, Maire Guiney and Michelle Hynes also impressed with the latter doing an excellent job on Angie McNally of Tolka who is probably one of the top point guards in the country.

Limerick girls had an excellent first half and lead Tolka at half time. The main features of the first half for Limerick were the excellent shooting of Dearbhla Breen and Carol Fennell and the excellent defensive work of Sinead Leahy and Eimear Kyne, although the latter did get into foul trouble late in the first half. The score at half time was UL 35 - Tolka 31

It was in the third quarter that Limerick lost this game - the fast passing game of the first half was replaced by a slower game with too much emphasis on carrying the ball instead of passing. Consequently Limerick had too many turnovers and Tolka hit 15

points without reply. Limerick ran out of steam as well and questions have to be asked about the overall fitness of some of the players. The final score was Tolka 68 UL 53. Top scorers were Tolka - Rachel Kelly, 19 points and UL Dearbhla Breen, 12 points.

Overall, it was a very encouraging start to the season and I am sure that the question mark over the fitness of some of the players will be addressed. On the day Irish international players Gillian Ahern and Juliet Murphy and one of last year's stars Nollag Cleary were all missing from the starting line up and the thought of these players joining what is shaping up to be a very impressive side augurs well for the season. We also look forward to the return of another new signing Michelle Aspel, who transferred from Wildcats at the start of the season. Michelle has been one of the best players in the country now for a number of years and will add a new dimension to this team.

University of Limerick take on Wildcats next Saturday night in the University of Limerick Sports Hall at 7pm, in what promises to be another very exciting game and will shortly be moving to the new University of Limerick Sports Arena - the fantastic new multi-million pound arena on campus.

So with a new fast exciting team, one which will I'm sure be in the hunt for glory at the end of the season and the excellent new facilities of the Arena, we look forward to getting the support of the local sport enthusiast.

UL Aikido fights back



Last year's course with John Rogers sensei from left to right Gerry Begley (Instructor), John Rogers Sensei, Olivia Donnelly, and Ian Kendall (Instructor)

First things first. A lot of you may want to know what aikido is. Here's the short version: [Ken Stanton] aikido was created in Japan by a man named Morihei Ueshiba known as O Sensei or great teacher to aikidoists around the middle of the last century. Aikido is not primarily a system of combat, but rather a means of self-cultivation and improvement although one has only to watch a Steven Seagal film to appreciate the combat elements of aikido. Aikido has no tournaments, competitions, contests, or "sparring." Instead, all aikido techniques are learned cooperatively at a pace commensurate with the abilities of each trainee.

To start off the new college semester with a bang we have organised a weekend seminar with John Rogers (5th Dan). He has given courses in our college before now and we look forward to this one with great pleasure. Anyone with any interest in Aikido is wel-

Minor A - Ladies Hockey Win 10 - 0 against Fermoy

On Saturday last the Minor A team kicked off their season with a match against Fermoy. After finishing second in the league last year we were all very determined to get a good start in the hope of finishing one better at the end of this season. It didn't take long for the team to settle into the game and by half time we had a five goal advantage. The second half was no different. The team passing and individual skills were too much for the Fermoy team, who continued to try hard to put a stop to our dominance. At the final whistle the score was 10-0 thanks to goals from Kate, Ciara(2), Claire D, Darina(5) and Sharon.

Our next outing is this Saturday against Church of Ireland in Cork. Certainly this game will be more of a challenge, but hopefully once again we can come out on top with another victory.

come to come along and watch or even to join in. Even complete beginners will be catered for on the mat. Sometimes it seems that the only way to learn is by baptism of fire!! The course will take place on the 20th and 21st of October on the Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

To those of you who do not know what Aikido is you might benefit from coming to one of our classes which run three times a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings in the small gym in the sports halls...for times and any further information visit our website at

<http://www.csn.ul.ie/~aikido> <<http://www.csn.ul.ie/~aikido>>

Environmental Society Announcements

Green Fair in Stables

Courtyard Week5:

Organic Food, Alternative Medicine, Crafts And Action Groups including Afri ,Amnesty, Baby Milk Action , Birdwatch Ireland , Children's Chernobyl Project, CIWF, Con. Volunteers Ireland, Earthwatch, Hunt Saboteurs, Irish Fair Trade Network Irish Seed Savers Capparoe, Jubilee 2000, Limerick against Waste Charges plus loads of drumming!!!

Open Mike Lunchtime – beside sundial!

Hear the people – you give short talks on local and Global issues. Keep your ears open

Trip to COP 6 the Climate Change Conference in Holland

End of November where the Kyoto protocols will be ratified. This should complete the framework of the work on combating climate change which began in Rio ten

years ago. We hope to have observer passes and also to join in NGO workshops and demonstrations against emissions trading. All Welcome. Details to follow.

A "Cloth bag" in time saves nine

As you all know incoming first years to UL and every other 3rd level institution the country are treated to a bag or two of goodies during orientation week. These bags usually contain a newspaper, banking details, snacks, soft drinks and sometimes even pot noodles. And the bags are plastic. This is normal given that most newsagents and our two leading supermarket chains dispense thousands of plastic bags each day to their customers. But where does this plastic go? Its not bio – degradable. In continental Europe people must pay for brown paper bags or get none at all. Anybody who has been to Sweden, Germany or Switzerland knows this. Why can't we do the same?

With this in mind the Environmental

Society decided to buck the trend by distributing Cloth bags to all first years this year. We got sponsorship from Indigeno Designs the South American Clothes shop in the Milk Market, UL Edge and the Students Union shop to buy the bags. Special thanks to Elaine McKeogh from Indigeno, John Coughlan from the Edge and our own P.J. Holmes from the SU shop. Klee Paper in Dublin supplied the bags. We got 1500 in total. But the best thing is that the Irish Times and AIB have decided to do the same thing next year. In September 2001 every first year student in the country will receive a cloth bag with a copy of the Irish Times and AIB banking information inside. Fair play to Caitriona from the Enviro. Soc. and AN OTHER from The Irish Times for organising this.

More cloth bags will be distributed in the coming weeks. Bring them to the Parkway, into town, to the SU shop. Leave one in your school bag. Take 3 or 4 with you if needed. Refuse plastic bags in the shops. Take responsibility for the waste you help to create that you can take responsibility for!



Con Colbert Cumann
UL Fianna Fáil
Annual General Meeting.
Tuesday Week 5 (24th October)
@ 7.30pm
Students Centre Room 4

National Youth Conference
Westport Co. Mayo 10th –12 November.
If you would like to go please e-mail
biffo@skynet.csn.ul.ie

"Are you talkin' to me?"

The U.L. Film society is twenty-five years old.

We will celebrate, oh yes we will celebrate. This year we plan to show a wide range of films from such classics as "Casablanca" and "Taxi Driver" to the more recent "L.A. Confidential" and "American History X". All of our films will be screened in the Jean Monet theatre on DVD. A timetable of our films will be made available on the network, as soon as they are confirmed.

To become a member of the Film Soc. You can pay £1.50 per screening at the door, or £5 per semester. Our aim is to provide you with different genres of film in a comfortable cinema atmosphere, for a price that you can afford. Our first film will be "The Exorcist" on Monday of week five- look out for the posters!

For further information contact Karen O'Sullivan – 9922415@student.ul.ie or Breda Kiely – 9923667@student.ul.ie .



Music Soc. - Heineken Live Wired Up and Running

The Music Society have started the popular open mic music sessions in the Stables on Monday nights. We will be down at the stage from ten o'clock every Monday. Heineken sponsored the event last year and hopefully will continue their support for this semester. All you need to do is play guitar and sing and you will receive a free pint of Heineken. You can even get your friend to play guitar and take the mic yourself.

Monday 9th October was a great success. Some great performances were put in, Phil got the crowd really moving when he played and sung "The Pianoman" also performing was Chema the Spaniard who drove the Spanish chicks crazy with some Mediterranean songs. Congrats to Pat Hayes who celebrated his 21st on stage playing Mr. Jones by Counting Crows. Joe Coonan played three or four songs especially good was "The rattlin bog". Thanks to Karol Costello also who helped with settings and played a few great songs.

If you want to sign up for Music Society membership, this can be done on Mondays as well. You don't have to be a member to play on Mondays though. All are welcome and we hope to see even more students with musical skills down to the stables to entertain the pint sinking masses.

Any questions re: the Music Society can be directed to John Stokes by email.

UL Fine Gael Officer Board Elected at AGM

If last Thursday's AGM of the UL branch of Young Fine Gael is anything to go by, it promises to be a hectic year for the organisation. The branch organised a Cheese and Wine reception to coincide with their AGM and it was very well attended and very well received.

The organisation firstly elected its new Officer Board, which is as follows:

Chairperson, David Garrahy, Secretary, Catherine O'Keefe, Treasurer, Barry McCarthy and joint PRO's Michael Deering and Sinead Carey. The new Chairperson, David Garrahy gave his inaugural speech and set out a very comprehensive and ambitious plan for the year ahead. The organisation has many exciting events lined-up including a European enlargement debate, their annual trip to the Dáil on November 8th, a debate on the current state of Northern Ireland Peace Process, which will be held in December or early in the New Year and a Seminar to discuss the current refugee situation in Ireland.

The refugee forum is the first major event on the calendar and will take place on October 24th (more details will be posted up nearer the date). There will be many high-profile speakers present at this event including representatives from the Refugee Council of Ireland, the refugee community and from anti-immigration groups. It promises to be an intriguing occasion so please do come along.

Members present at the AGM were addressed by Senator Mary Jackman, Limerick East Constituency, who complimented the organisation for its energy and ambition and wished them well in their endeavours for the year ahead.

Anybody who would like to join Young Fine Gael should contact the chairperson, David Garrahy, at 9938568@student.ul.ie or check out the Young Fine Gael website at www.youngfinegael.ie.

POSTGRAD AGM

The AGM of the Postgraduate Students' Association [Cumann na nIarchemithé] is to be held on Wednesday 18 Oct at 7.00 in the Student Centre Conference Room.

The meeting shall elect the Executive Officers and shall receive the annual reports of incumbent Executive Officers. The following positions* are available, nominations will be taken on the night.....

- **Deputy-President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Publicity Officer**
- **Events Officer**

*The incoming President having been elected in May as per the constitution and the Mary I representative to be nominated by MIC Postgrads

College Representatives shall also be elected on the evening for the following colleges: Business, Education, Engineering, Informatics & Electronics and Science. As the incoming President; Mr. Marcus Lynch is from the college of Humanities he shall carry out the duties of college rep within that college.

The method of election shall be PR/STV in accordance with Schedule I of the PSA constitution, the Returning Officer for the elections shall be appointed by the Association Council and shall not be a student of the University of Limerick.

A reception shall be held after the Meeting.

Niall Dunphy.
President

Solved & Unsolved

The Law Society presents "My Cleft Ass"

On the night in question, Joe, a fifty year old builder left his mother's house at 69 Furryville, to visit his 19 year old girlfriend Jane, an "exotic dancer" Being a tight arsed b*****d he stopped on the way to pick flowers from a neighbours garden. Bending over he revealed the cleft in his ass, as large as the Grand Canyon, much to the horror of his silver-bearded neighbour Mrs Smyth. Reaching his girlfriend's house he rang the doorbell and receiving no reply peered in the kitchen window. Appaled at so sordid a scene and blatant display of promiscuity, Joe proceeded to the local pub, "The Slag's Head", to drown his sorrows (and to check out Jane's younger sister). Refused entry at the front door due to his practically pornographic, tight fitting Spice Girls crop top, he broke down the cellar door with his trusty axe, cunningly concealed in his ass cleft (never leave home without

one!). Having licked the remaining alcohol from the cellar floor he staggered home. Just as he was passing the canal Joe spotted Jane, walking rather strangely. Obviously pleased to see her, he stumbled towards her. However, tripping and falling headfirst he sends the axe shooting from his ass, straight towards the unsuspecting Jane. Stricken, Jane tumbles backwards to her watery death. Joe rushes to the bank, reaches out, grabs his axe and strolls home whistling.

1. *Of what offences (if any) is Joe guilty of?*
2. *What is the moral of the story?*

Answers to solvedandunsolved@ulstudent.com

Most entertaining answers will be included in the next issue (if they allow us to write again that is!)

Ten Forward & UL Softball Club Present PUBGOLF 2000 in aid of Milford Hospice

Wednesday 18th October 2000

Next Wednesday, all students in U.L. are invited to take part in the largest pubcrawl of the year. Five hearty fella's from Ten Forward will take on five from the Softball Club in a session of pubgolf. 18 pubs, 18 drinks, and then free admission to Baker Place! All in six hours; are you up for it!?

Starting Point: The Scholars, 5.30p.m.
Promotion: The Usual

Then, into Town!

Mc Gregor's, Ellen St.
Promotion: Vodka & Red Bull - £2.00

Quinn's, Ellen St.

The Old Quarter, Little Ellen St.
Promotion: Carling – buy 1 get 1 free

Nancy Blakes, St. Michael's St.

Molly Malone's, Thomas St.
Promotion: Jaegermeister shots £1.00

Michael Martin's, Thomas St.

Nestor's, O' Connell St.
Promotion: Assorted

Nevada Smith's, Bedford Row
Promotion: Assorted

Riddlers, Sarsfield St.
Promotion: Becks - £2.00 a bottle

The George Bar, O' Connell St.
Promotion: Miller - £1.50 / Student Night in the Gallery £3.00

The Brazenhead, O' Connell St.
The Whitehouse, Glentworth St.

The Globe, Mallow St.
Promotion: All Shots £1.00

Wicked Chicken, Baker Place
Promotion: Heineken - £2:00/Jaegermeister, Aftershock & Goldschlager - £1:50

Baker Place Club *Free Admission*
Promotion Heineken -£2:00/ Vodka & Red Bull - £2:00

The UL History Society Table Quiz

Held On the 11th October in the scholars function room

A great evening was had by all, far more exciting and memorable than watching Ireland win against Estonia!! And what a turn out -fair play to you all. After a hard days studying, you kept the brain in gear answering tricky questions, though sometimes not so conventionally...

Firstly, table 11 Monica Lwinsky was not the opposition to Hilary Clinton in the New York elections. Secondly "platesmashers" was not the term George W. Bush used to describe Greek people (the offending team would like to apologize for any offence caused) but didn't we reward you well for your wit?

Just to let the Photographic Soc know Jennifer is tired of flicking her hair and will be changing her name. Whoever the team in the corner by the bar were, lighten up lads, it was only a bit if fun –quibbling over a point! You weren't going to win or even come 2nd and 3rd anyway!!

These honors were left to table 6 in 1st place (obviously professional table quiz contestants.) they got a staggering 49 out of 60. Congratulations, this team led all night, no one else had a hope! Next were table 2 with 44 points, how are the heads after all those cans?? They were followed by table 10 into 3rd place with 42 points, a great effort.

To the "non committed" committee members, who enjoyed the night leisurely supping pints (you know who you are), you can do all the work next time!!

And to all the teams, remember... it's not the winning (although it helps) but the taking part that counts. So listen up people, watch out for up and coming History Soc events which just get bigger, brighter and better!!

Cheers again to everyone who turned out, making the table quiz one to remember.

Ella's Really Thin Gossip Column

Howdy folks! Here's all the goss you've been dying to hear since the last issue.

First off I'm going to clarify a rumour (I know that it's strange for me to be clearing up a rumour as opposed to muddying the waters a bit more). The rumour regards my good self and one Fergal Noone of the History Society. We are indeed deeply in love. He brings out the colour in my eyes. I accentuate the fluff on his jumper. The few who know of our illicit love agree its a match made in the History Department. The wedding is set for November. I'll wear white He'll be in Speedos. An Focal has exclusive rights to the photos. Just like Posh Spice and Becks. For more info log on to www.icantbelieveyoufellforthis.com.

Moving on, is it just me or are freshers getting more and more clueless? First there was the one who SHOT at Big Tim McAuliffe and Keith Pigott and more to the point MISSED. Now I have been hearing tales of some poor sodd who approached Dave O' Donovan, Rob Hickey and another, who shall remain nameless, wanting to know where he could find some tabs because two off-duty Ents crew and the former Vice President of the Student's Union ARE the ones to approach with illegal demands! Honestly kids these days!

The History Society AGM proved to be particularly illuminating with my my all time favourite Dave Fleming finally coming clean on his Bondage fetish "yes you are all welcome to submit....." and my beloved Fragle who's only request was "would anybody like a bit of vice". Drinks in the Scholars afterwards were equally illuminating what with our new Education Officer Tom O' Donovan looking to know where he'd find a pair of blue snakeskin trousers in his size.

So more on that Drama Soc Pres/Society officer scandal its turned into a lesbian threesome with the outgoing secretary of the history society.....tune in next week same bat time same, bat channel.

ULKC's Night Out

Last Wednesday was the clubs annual night out in Bakers Place. This is a chance for everyone in the club to get to know each other in a social setting. Bakers Place gave us lots of promotions, so people didn't have to spend too much money to get drunk. We met up in the stables and after a few quiet drinks we made our way into town by bus. We sang a few quiet songs on the bus so as the journey into town would not seem as long. From the bus stop we headed straight for bakers place bar and later on in the night we went into the nightclub down stairs, which we got into at a discount. This was the point where peoples memories are a small bit vague or else they just don't want to remember what happened, because of this there where a lot of things that happened but unfortunately the paper just isn't big enough to tell everything. However you now yourselves what you did or else you've been told by a friend so you don't need me to mention it. All in all everyone enjoyed themselves and the night was a big success.

At the end of week 4 we are going on our annual surfing trip to Lahinch for the weekend. The trip costs £30. This includes everything except drinking money i.e. bus, hostel, food and gear for kayaking. The deposit is £15 and should be paid as soon as possible. The plan for the trip is to meet at the bus at 5pm (more than likely the bus will be at the east gate) from there head to Lahinch with a few stops along the way such as the offie. Once we get there you claim your bed and from there you just enjoy yourselves.

Notices:

For anyone who would like to try kayaking and are not members just come down to the pool sessions. These are on every Tuesday from 9:45pm to 11:00pm and Thursday from 6:45pm to 8:15pm.

We also go on river trips every Wednesday from 2pm to 5pm.

Canoe polo is also starting on Friday (13th of October) nights from 9pm to 11pm. All are welcome to attend. This will be the setting for the Munster cup, which is being run this year.

Earthquake Warning ! UL Dance Club sets off a tremulous vibe!

Monday 9th of October in the dance studio set the scene for a most auspicious beginning to UL Dance Club. Members of the dance committee, looked on in bewilderment as over 150 eager souls ready to give it up, thronged the confined space of the dance floor. Somehow Harry Sealy, the Salsa instructor / magician, was able to invoke the latin spirit and transform this multitude into swirls of Salsa intoxicated zealots. A fire has been lit and we don't intend stopping or controlling it, just cultivating it. So UL Dance Club offers classes in Salsa, Ballroom dancing, Disco fox, Jazz / Hip Hop, Bellydancing. All classes cater for beginners to advanced, so don't worry if you've never done dance before. Show us you're bode and we'll show you how to shake it. Once you learn the moves, party nights will be set up so you can take it to the dance floor "where it all matters". If you haven't registered yet, don't sweat just contact Ralph at 9945849@student.ul.ie for more information.

End the Struggle, Dance with Life!

LGB Awareness Day

Thursday 12 October

Tea & Talk
3pm
Room SU103

Coming Out Chat!
Video!

Weekend Away Arrangements!
Email: heaven_ul@hotmail.com

Mature Students Society

Meeting

Every Thursday - 8pm

Meeting Room 5,
Students Union

ULSU Announcements

There is an ONLINE BOOKSALE, where everyone can buy and sell text-books the address is

www.ulsu.ul.ie/booksale

Congratulations to the following students who were elected during the recent SU Executive Board Elections:

Clubs Officer: Stephen Driver

Societies Officer: Ella Daly

Community Relations Officer: Eamonn O'Flynn

Equality Officer: Angus O'Mally

The first meeting of Class Reps is Tuesday Week 4 at 6pm in the SU Conference room.

The An Focal team

editor

Fergal F.

assistant editor

Michelle D.

news collectors/gossipers

Jennier, Paddy,
Michelle, Ella

Focal Ealiane

Patrica Moriarty

features

Mystic, Sinead,
Nicholas, Grace,
Seanan, Marion,
Dave Flem, Nicola. C

show me the money

Becky

c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.)

Paul & CO.

phancy photo's

Fergal F. & Photo Soc.

Gig goers

tommy f.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meeting of
Alcoholics Anonymous
every Thursday
in room E0019
at 6.30p.m

If you want to drink that's your business, if you want to stop that's ours.

Has your life been affected by
Alcoholism
Violence
Gambling
Or

Any other addiction or dysfunctional behaviour.

If so
You are welcome to meetings of Adult Children of Alcoholics and
Dysfunctional Families.

When: every Friday Night

Where: Bishops Place,
Nicholas Street, Limerick.

Time: 8.30p.m

The Frames Nation Prayer Breakfast Steve Fanagan

Jonathon Swift, Thursday Week 4,
8pm
Admission £5 or £7 Frames +
Soul Clinic (Dolans)

The Frames: what can we say that haven't been said before. We just Love'em and we know you love'em and if don't love'em, come along and you'll leave lovin'em.

National Prayer Breakfast released their debut album *The Sociables Prefer Pop* on their own *Catchy Go Go Records* in July of this year.

Full of melodic pop, quirky rock and looping chicanes, the album includes previously released singles "Sadder Day Blues" and "Feeding Frenzy" as well as a bagful of live favourites.

Favourite comparison:

"There's a scene in 'Wild at Heart' where Nick Cage goes into a nightclub and there's a Country'n'Industrial band playing (was it Dirty Three? I dunno, enlighten me please). This is who The National Prayer Breakfast remind me of. A band from a movie rather than a real band. Low-slung months in Death Valley lonely cowpoke mutants living off mescal and hanging with Al Jourgensen" - Claus

Steve Fanagan - is a Dublin based musician who is releasing his debut mini-album, 'by way of' this month on his own label, mango music. Over the past few months Steve has begun to build a solid following both here in Ireland and on the east coast of America, where he is currently finishing a month long tour. His music has been described as 'both beautiful & fragile... with a voice that is both haunting and intense'.



The Comedy Cellar

Dublins Finest Comedy Club
Coming on Campus soon
Watch these pages for details



Amstel Champions League Competition

Win yourself a Party Pack
of Amstel to get you
through the next Champions
League game.

1. Who scored for Real Madrid in Last Year's Final?
2. How many times have Real Madrid won the European Cup?
3. Who was the top goal scorer in last year's Champion League?

Drop your answers into the main reception in the Students' Union, in the new Centre, along with your name, ID number and a contact number.

Hit the ground running with The Marlborough Group

The Marlborough Group, Ireland's largest recruitment consultancy, have an expert team of dedicated consultants ready to help you achieve your career objectives.



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Email: limerick@marlborough.ie
or simply call into our offices at
6/7 Steamboat Quay, Limerick.



It's in the Stars

so it must be true

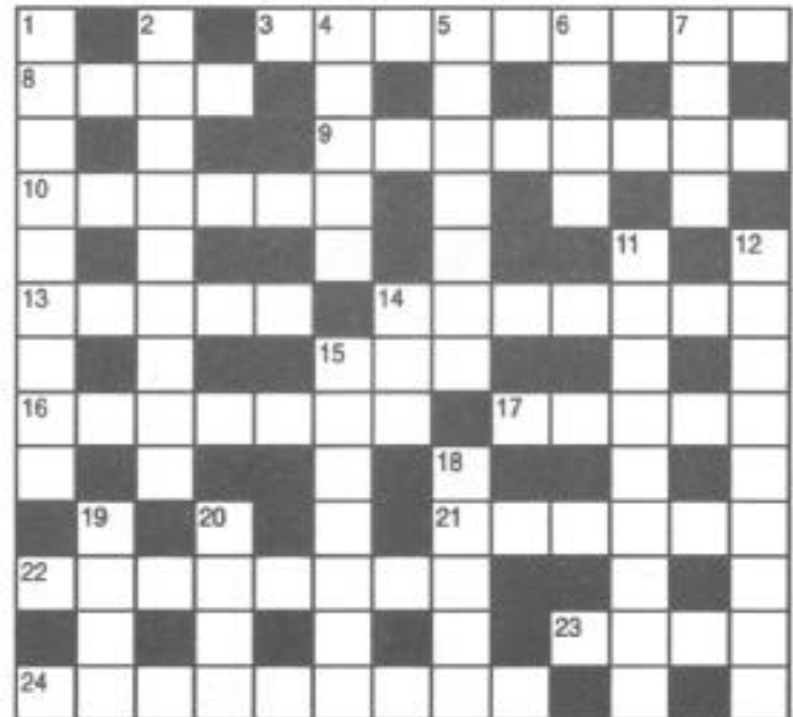
Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



- Libra** 22 September – 22 October
A new acquaintance makes an impression on you. You are definitely up for a new and exciting challenge in the week ahead.
- Scorpio** 23 October – 21 November
Common sense seems to overtake your wild streak this week. The partying and celebrating fades over the next while.
- Sagittarius** 22 November – 20 December
The love life is still good. But remember that variety is the spice of life – try to tantalise your partner.
- Capricorn** 21 December – 19 January
A family member is having difficulties at the moment. But not to worry – you are there to help sort out things.
- Aquarius** 20 January – 18 February
A new path in life turns out to be one of your best decisions. Past turmoil can still rear its ugly head however.
- Pisces** 19 February - 19 March
You are not your generous self at the moment. Remember that the more you give, the more you get.
- Aries** 20 March – 18 April
A certain friend seems to be suffocating you at the moment. Avoidance is the best way to deal with annoyances.
- Taurus** 19 April – 19 May
Your concentration levels are low recently. Stop daydreaming about things that are never gonna happen.
- Gemini** 20 May – 20 June
Get off your ass and do something. Motivation doesn't seem to be your strong point at the moment. Realise what needs to be done, and do it!
- Cancer** 21 June – 21 July
New relationships are always fun. Enjoy life to the full and live one day to the next, free of worry or upset.
- Leo** 22 July – 21 August
Romance looks good – as always! But try not to let minor things upset you. In the long run – it's worth it.
- Virgo** 22 August – 21 September
Your innocent streak is re-emerging. But is it all an act?!? Make room for the Oscar on the fireplace!!



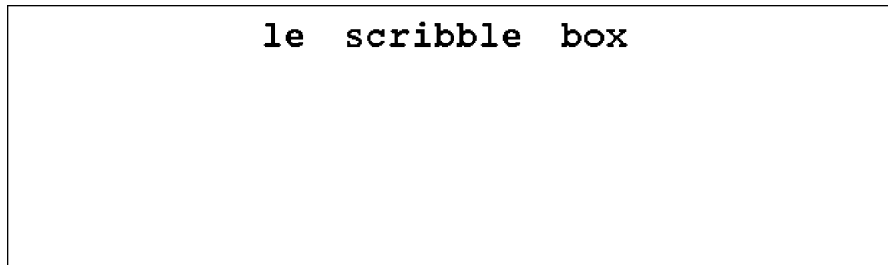
Drop the correct answers into the New 95 Fm & Win yourself a few CD's



ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3. Remarried person's offspring (9) | 1. Constant (9) |
| 8. Gaelic (4) | 2. Skeletal therapist (9) |
| 9. Woman's name (Chase) (8) | 4. Correspond (5) |
| 10. Fascinating sight (sl.) (6) | 5. Blocked a blow (7) |
| 13. Tiny tot's garment (5) | 6. High temperature (4) |
| 14. When children go to sleep (7) | 7. Alleyway (4) |
| 15. Joined as man and wife (3) | 11. "Make — of," beat soundly (9) |
| 16. Junior diplomat (7) | 12. Way of thinking (9) |
| 17. Implicitly understood (5) | 14. Four-winged insect (3) |
| 21. Warm-blooded creature (6) | 15. Persuade with guile (7) |
| 22. Overdressed (6,2) | 18. Abundant (5) |
| 23. Thing known (4) | 19. Material from animal hair (4) |
| 24. Slept (9) | 20. Fruit (4) |



Last weeks answers

ACROSS:- 6. Aim at the moon. 8. Vetting. 9. Evoke. 10. Ness. 12. Harlot. 14. Laces. 15. Unseen. 16. Tube. 19. Evade. 21. Terrace. 22. Water biscuit.
DOWN:- 1. Imitates. 2. Stair. 3. Whigs. 4. Amoebas. 5. Mono. 6. Adventurer. 7. Settlement. 11. Pan. 12. Hep. 13. Laudanum. 14. Leveret. 17. Stubs. 18. Press. 20. Alas.

Life through a Lens

- Sinead's view of Life



Well lads wait til I tell ye...wasn't I down in the Stables Thursday night last and didn't I spot the entire Romanian football team and them all still sporting the infamous hair-don'ts.

You remember, the nasty bleached-head look that they wore AS A JOKE, at the 1994 World Cup in the US. Maybe the heat got to them, or as one conspiracy theory goes they did it to confuse the opposition. Whatever the reason we all had a great giggle at them – their hair clashed with their jerseys. Tee- hee-hee. But on further inspection I realised that it was actually just a few of our number trying their almighty best to *look* like Petrescu and the boys. Maybe they thought that Mick would spot them and they'd get to make the big elusive First International Cap against Portugal. Apparently bleach is back, and God save us all, in a big way. Being the sweet young thing that I am, I can only just recall the last time that peroxide was this popular, the dreaded Eighties, fashion faux pas of the century. A generation hangs its head in shame, responsible for flash in the pan pop-stars with bleached to breaking locks and dark eyebrows. Can somebody please enlighten me (and I don't mean with platinum hi-lites) as to why we are so keen to revisit this really ought to be forgotten epoch?

Now I've been through quite a few shades, tints and even hint of a tints, and the trick is – are you listening boys – NEVER stray too far from your natural colour. There are winter people and summer people and there are cool complexions and warm complexions. It is *not* wise to mix. Besides, platinum hair and dark roots are scary. Think Bette Middler in Hocus Pocus and it all becomes self-explanatory. You see God has taste to die for and if you'd been intended to have yellow hair and black eyebrows you'd have them, you'd have been one of the Simpsons. There are those who can pull it off - Johnny Lee-Miller as Sickboy in Trainspotting, oh and all you young fellas look like him. Maybe its not the appearance that gets to me as much as the people it brings to mind. Such mingers as Eminem – will the real slim shady please piss off? And then off course there was Billy (RIP) in *Ally McBeal*, his drastic change in hair colour coincided with his mesogynistic eruption, will we ever forget the Billy Girls? A few others spring to mind: Boy George, Ru-Paul, David Beckham, one or two of those yokes from Boyzone, miscellaneous trailer trash from Jerry Springer, even Limerick's own Dolly'O from the Cranberries had a brief flirtation with the bleached barnet look, and the list goes on and on ad infinitum. Who in full possession of their mental faculties would want fashion advice from any of the above mis-

fortunates? I suppose you're probably wondering who the hell I am to tell you what to do with your hair, but it works like this: The deadline has been brought forward and I have to produce enough mindless babble to fill this page.

Enough about that, and onto the real issue. I am an enthusiastic shopper – belonging to the if the shoe fits buy it brigade - and now much of my retail therapy pleasure has been spoiled by the realisation that I can no longer buy something that my mother didn't at some stage own. It seems that history is in fact repeating itself –fashion history that is. Duh! You will all say. Can I not see the flares and people tripping over each other as they rush to buy stilettos? I can but people it gets worse, much worse in fact, the decade that fashion forgot and that style took a rain check on is en route to the year 2000 and should be arriving at your doorsteps in time for the Spring Collection. We won't even have time for a "Pray For Us" Paul Costello or a Coco Chanel come to our aid. Before you know it we'll all be snug and warm under shoulder pads as thick as lagging jackets and stripy pink and orange leg-warmers (who remembers those?). Our schkanky stone washed jeans will be cutting off circulation to our ankles and sitting down for the length of a lecture will mean near amputation. Those enormous earrings like life belts will be weighing us and Dear God we'll be perming our hair trying to get it as BIG as we can. I could cry. I am, I think justifiably scared, so in an effort to ease my pains I have gone in search of a style security blanket. I have trawled the shopping emporiums of this saturated city, surfed almost every fashion web site in the English language and flicked through numerous glossies, to see if in fact the clothing industry has lost the run of its measuring tape. The results of my search were inconclusive, but I copped on to one thing - what makes it big on the catwalk will almost never see the light of high street day wear, as it's all unspeakable tack.

Before any of you reach for the Prozac, it's not all bad. It won't all be gaudy Glam there is some antique mould as well. Along with the re-emergence of 1980's fashion -if indeed it is worthy of such a title – we are once again embracing the elegance of the 40's and are fortunately reluctant to let go of the casual laid-back style genre of our parents youth, so don't throw away your mothers love beads just yet. In fact go for a rummage through Grandmother's attic as she will most likely be in possession of the ultimate in this years must haves (and no I don't mean her First Holy Communion Rosary Beads or that manky moth-eaten tam'o shanter). Yes people tweed is back. Your ancient relatives wore it when they were out dipping sheep up on top of some mountain and now you're going to. Imagine the clothes your Primary School Principal wore (minus the slip that hung below the level of decency, naturally) will be sashayed up and down Parisian and Milanese catwalks. While you're up in the attic have a look for those velvet-collared jackets, as it too is making a return. This is definitely the season for all you gals who like to get all glammed-up, girlie-girls stay at home. Tack is back. Fur and mad ani-

mal prints are more of the season's *essentials*, but again like the velvet wear only as a trim, nobody wants to look like Tarzan's surrogate mother, and in the name of all that's holy make sure it's faux-fur, because these are animal friendly times. Plaid and tartan are also in, which is wonderful, as you can give the old school uniform skirt an airing for occasions other than the Rag Week Back to School Party. As much as I hate to admit it Hit Me Britney was ahead of her time when she donned the pleated blue plaid skirt for *that* video.

Now clothes covered the next most important thing is to accessorise *properly*. Beads are BIG, big and chunky (and I think horrible, but who am I to argue with Ck, TOMMY&co). Tack is the way to go. Gilt belts are the only things to have around your waist, make sure they are shiny and sparkly and thinner than Jody Kidd's fingers. Now the best bit – handbags, its literally a case of anything goes. Fake skins, real skins, and faux-fur, fluffy and feathery, diamante-studded, tartan covered, see-through. Polystyrene, plastic and bin-liner will probably get a look-in too at some stage. For make-up all I can say is think Indian war paint. Slap on lots. For that just been kicked in the head 80's appeal make those lips scarlet and then look for any clashing coloured eye-shadow, and let's not forget oodles of thick black mascara.

As you may have noticed I'm not embracing that whole 1980's look (like s****). The reason is as follows: if one has a good gawk at any of our IT girls (society not technology) one may observe that none of them save TPT are kitted out in bin-liner fillers. Who would rush out to purchase such ungodly garments on the endorsement of l'enfant terrible? The reason so many designer dresses are heralded as one-offs is that they are too unsightly to reproduce. So I have also devised a method by which we may all look achieve the classic chic look. And typical of my generous nature I will share it with you all. It's sooo simple... In the event of not being able to choose between the red wellies and the blue ones think what would Mrs Becks wear. Posh Spice, another songstress who knows how to dress for the occasion picked up the **ELLE UK** Most Stylish Look of the Year, so who better to turn to in the event of a fashion emergency. I don't need to say that you boys cannot do likewise with Mr Posh Spice, but then lots of you saw fit to copy that hairdo, so just in case any of you ever do feel like wrapping a sarong around your waists – don't, please.

Getting back to my original theme and ending here, after all my scanning and surveying I couldn't find any fashionable justification for the rush to the peroxide pot, but methinks that it's all a bit too complicated anyway, maybe it is in there somewhere in the middle of the fashion mire. If it was this girl couldn't find it. Finally, a word to all you Eminem wannabes: Go back to your natural colours they couldn't have been *that* bad.