



AN FOCAL

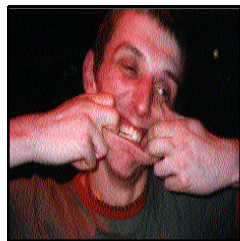


THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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TERM 2 WEEK 13



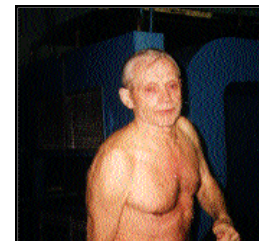
pre-exam party

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Library Strike Averted At Last Minute

UL Students were breathing a sigh of relief this week as a library strike due to take place a week before the exams commenced was narrowly averted.

Staff who had been promised a pay rise, eventually learned on Monday that they were to receive it, and the strike was to be averted.

The strike was also due to extend to some of the laboratory staff in the college.

The threatened strike was over an issue of a pay increase due to the staff members, but which had not yet been paid. The increase had been agreed by the Labour Relations Commission back in September 1999, but other increases had been promised as far back as 1997.

Dermot Mahon, the Manufacturing, Science, Finance union regional officer was quoted as saying in regard to the agreement,

“since that time, the Department of Education has just sat on it. We have carried out the correct industrial relations procedures but we just cannot get the agreement implemented.”

News of the strike came to many through an article on the front of last Tuesday’s Limerick Chronicle, under the headline, ‘Exam Chaos Looms At UL’. Although the situation was not as bad as portrayed in the Chronicle, with the impression given that if the strike was to go ahead, there would be no library or computer facilities available to students, it was a very uncomfortable time for such action to happen.

In a meeting with the Students’ Union, the representatives of the library staff felt that they had no other option than to threaten a strike although they said they had refused this many times when suggested by their union. They new how a difficult a time it was for students, and hoped that the issue would be resolved before the deadline.



ULSU president, Pat McCarthy, leaving a meeting with library and lab staff

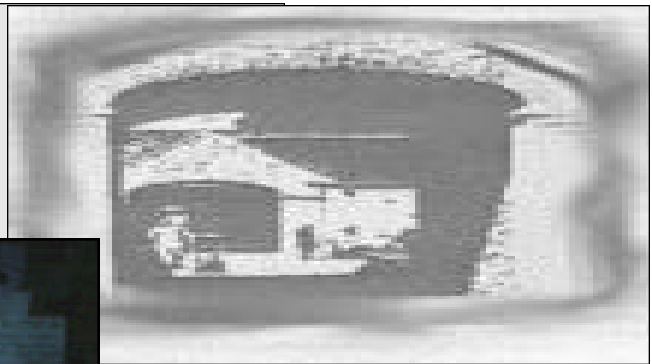
Summer Ball

**get your tickets for the last party of the year
from the students’ union main reception in the new student centre
tickets priced
£20
includes buses, meal, potbelly and superstar dj**

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

we're going to say goodbye this issue, but before we do, here's a real brief run down of what we've been up to for the year



Well, the last ever issue of an Focal - sob - so I'm going to take this opportunity to let you know what's due to happen after we've left you all.

A working group in the University is currently preparing a brief for a building to provide a Faculty/Staff Club/Common Room. In this building there is to be an undergraduate/public dining area with 160 seats and also a postgraduate common room - size 80m2. The actual completion of this building will be a few years down the line since it is only currently in the concept stage. In the meantime, the old Students' Union offices are due to be converted into a postgraduate common room. Work on the conversion of this is due to start in the next few weeks

The old story of the medical centre being cramped and under resourced looks like it could be getting a new chapter with plans over the summer to expand the centre giving it more doctors' rooms and a bigger waiting room which is something that everyone will welcome.

They're just a few of the changes that are due after we leave, along with the continued construction of the new sports building and 50M swimming pool and the third on campus student village.

During the year there were many

challenges that faced us that at times made the job that bit more interesting.

The first thing that we were faced with was the whole situation with the new bar and the selection process for that - interesting to say the least. The second semester saw the proposals for big constitutional changes to create a new sabbatical position and to make changes within Clubs and Societies come about. After a disappointing first general meeting, it was held again and this time the changes were put through. Between and around these things were finance meetings, campus development meetings, Governing Authority, Academic Council, etc. etc., students calling in, residents calling in, etc. etc. which made it a very busy, hectic, but very fun and worth while year.

So the end of the year is upon us and for some it's another 4 months off working abroad and for others it's the end of their college life and the start of a career (scary word). For me, fingers crossed, it will be starting a career with Aer Lingus as one of those pilot things. Anyway...it was a good year, well worth doing and I hope that Dave, DeeDee and I did something to make your life in UL that little bit better. So for those of you doing exams next week, best of luck and have a great summer.

Pat

good luck and thanks for having us

relax and enjoy the sun because as we all know Irish sun never stays with us for too long.

Over the past year I have learnt more than I have done in my life. I can't begin to thank the number of people who have helped me enormously. The staff of the Medical Centre who were always on call for advice and information. Fr P.J Sommers, Mary Costello and all in Student Personnel who provided endless amounts of help and reassurance. Members of Faculty and Staff who never cease to amaze me with their interest in students and the work that we do.

The job as Welfare Officer is as I have seen a wide and varied one - I'm not sure if I did it right or wrong but I hope that I was of some help to those who came to me. Student life is not always a bed of roses and it is good to know that there was, is and will always be, students working for students within the Students' Union. The issues that arose during the year included housing difficulties, exam worries and a variety of emotional upheavals of which many students encounter. For me, the year provided me with an insight into many different issues and experiences that students meet. My admiration for those around me grew, as I slowly realised how difficult it is for us to succeed in College and indeed life, but succeed we do.

One of the best things about this year was those I worked with - Louise, Rebecca, Aisling, Caroline, Dermot and Stan I thank for being great friends and great colleagues. To the staff of the SU Shop, USIT, O'Mahoneys, the Stables and Scholars thank you also. To Dave and Pat - for being my own Welfare Officers and for the best year yet I bid ye farewell - Good luck. Hasta la Vista baby!!!!!!!!!!

DeeDee xxxxxxxxx



So there it is, end of story, next book and all that kind of talk.

I can't believe that i'm doing my last issue of An Focal. I can't believe i've done 12 of

them, along with a first year handbook, a clubs and socs rule book, a clubs and socs yearbook, an ents preview and a kollege week preview. i'm knackered to be honest with you.

Just looking back over the year, it's hard to believe how quick it went, how busy it was, and, at times, how much fun it was.

We had our big issues, like they do every year. Pat's mentioned them above.

Campus wide issues like the new bar and changing the constitution to split the CEO job and improve Clubs and Socs. We reckon we got good results on all those things.

My biggest thing was trying to improve the paper. I think it has improved over the year, and i hope i'm leaving a good standard and a good group of writers for Fergal to improve on it further next year. You're always welcome to start writing by the way, at any level you want.

There was also a lot of things that i had hoped to do with Wired FM over the year. Unfortunately, they all got put on the back burner, because the most important thing was trying to sort out the transmission. That has been sorted out now, and you can hear the station all over Castletroy on 106.8FM. Again, it hopefully leaves Ferg with a good group of people and a good basis to work from next year.

With the job being split, there'll also be more time to run campaigns and get you involved in them. Hopefully we'll see the fruits of that next year too.

Education wise, we came up against 101 problems during the year. i never

realised how many students would be calling into me on a day to day basis. We were able to sort a lot of them out, but again, with a little more time on his hands next year, Tom will hopefully be able to sort 'em all out. He can also take up the appeals and repeats issue, which i addressed at meetings in the college, but with no success to date. Again, working with a fulltime campaigns officer on this might bring up some new initiatives and a new enthusiasm.

All the avenues were explored on the Teaching Practice issues, from meeting with all the students to meeting with all the heads of the department, to representation at the level of Government Expert Advisory Boards. There are plans afoot there to restructure the courses in such a way that students aren't at such a loss. That will be implemented further down the line. Unfortunately, they wouldn't budge on it this year.

I'm trying to think what else there was, apart from Academic Council, Faculty Boards, ARC, APRC, Discipline Committee, Stables and Scholars Committees, Campus Watch, Class Reps,

Clubs and Socs, SU Exec. etc, etc, etc. busy times.

It'll all be over in a month or two though. Still some stuff to look after. I'm sure there'll be plenty of education problems to handle around the time of exams, like there was last term. And then we've got to train in the lads, so they can take up from where we're leaving off, and finish off and continue some of the things that Pat and Dee Dee were talking about above.

So, all that's left to say is thanks for having us, i hope ye feel we did ye some good, i know we worked hard enough at trying to. Good luck to the lads coming in, Mick, Siobhan, Tom and Fergal, next year. Ye've a hard act to follow. Only messin!!! Relax.

To everyone i worked with this year, thanks a million To Pat and Dee Dee, i love yis, yis are legends. Ye made the year what it was.

Enjoy the summer. All of yis.

dayvoh

UL to introduce wheel clamping and student parking fees

By Ron Byrne

Work has now begun on a new car park opposite the Student Centre, which will provide 380 additional parking spaces.

The car park is to be open for use by the middle of September. However, the University

has decided that, in order to pay for the construction of the car park, there will be a charge on entry. The charge will be .2, and £1 until the introduction of the euro. The other car parks on campus will remain free of charge, but more spaces will be allocated for staff only.

UL Socialist Party

spokesperson Alan Lee condemned this decision: "This is an outrageous situation. The University is using students as a means of financing an essential service, which should be provided free to all campus users.

"Though the Socialist Party believes that commuters should use public transport, or

other environmentally friendly means of transport, the reality is that a certain percentage of students commute to college by car. In order to encourage people to use public transport, a massive injection of government funding is needed to provide a reliable service, both in the area of buying more buses and

tackling the increasing traffic chaos on the roads."

Wheel clamping is also to be introduced from the beginning of May for cars parked outside of designated areas. There will be a £20 removal fee. This "necessary measure" is being implemented "for the safety of all", according

to the Buildings Department.

"This move by the University is a direct discrimination against the students of UL, those who make the university a university!" added Mr Lee.



Voluntary Service Abroad, This Summer!

Who's interested?

I know I am. I'm a normal student, (okay, maybe that one can be debated), who searched without joy to find voluntary work schemes; until I came across an initiative of Opus Dei, called Glenard.

This is different, because with Opus Dei, if you're interested and motivated, you're welcome! There's none of this "What sort of big wide world qualifications have you got?" or "You'd better be over 21".

Glenard runs the programmes for women, and Cleraun runs the ones for men.

So, the story is, I am now flying off to Palestine for a short period in the middle of the summer. As a team of women, we will be teaching English to children and mothers in a refugee camp, called "Deheisheh". Their only language is Arabic, which cuts them off from everything in

Israel. It will certainly be a challenging and worthwhile experience.

Now, over to the lads. Don't feel left out, because there is also an exciting project organised for you!

Volunteers from a variety of countries will work together in Uganda with CODEP, to promote Uganda from community-based initiatives. This will involve manual labour. For example, in the past, they have done useful construction work, such as erecting classroom shelters, and building a zero-grazing unit to generate income for the surrounding community.

So, if you think you could make the time this summer to make a difference, why not take part?

To find out more, come along to a presentation, in the Jean Monnet Theatre this Thursday (11 May) at 5.30pm

submitted by
Jeannine O'Kane

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UL Student Nurses in One-Day Strike

By Ron Byrne

Over 2,000 Student Nurses all over Ireland staged protests in their hospitals and colleges on Wednesday 22nd March.

They were protesting against the fact that they are currently the only full-time undergraduate students in state-funded colleges who must pay tuition fees.

UL's Student Nurses were also

involved in this day of action, when they withdrew their services from wards and placed protest pickets on the Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle, St Joseph's Hospital, Mulgrave Street, and Lysnagry.

The campaign for the abolition of fees for Student Nurses has been co-ordinated on a nationwide basis by USI, in conjunction with the main nurses' unions.

UL's Student Nurses have been partici-

pating in this campaign, despite the fact that ULSU is not affiliated to USI. The vast majority of them are, however, members of the INO (Irish Nurses' Organisation), who have been helping them in their campaign.

Currently, Nurses are qualified after completing a three-year diploma course.

However, from September 2002 students will directly enter a Nursing Degree programme. Student Nurses

see that they will be competing for jobs with these better qualified nurses in the very near future. Also, they feel that those who only hold the Diploma are currently being discriminated against when applying for jobs alongside those who hold Degrees. They do not want to have to take a break from their studies in order to wait until 2005 for free fees, as they are fully aware how difficult it is to return to studying after a

long break from the books!

While on work placement, which is spread throughout the duration of the course, Student Nurses receive £270 per month, while they must work 35 hours per week. While in college they have 30 hours of timetabled classes per week.

On the day of the protest, a petition of 1,331 names was collected from people who walked by the hospital

alone!

Speaking outside the Regional Hospital in Dooradoyle, where 140 Student Nurses protested, Fiona McNamara, vice-chair of the Students' Section of the INO, and a 3rd Year student in UL, said the aim of the protest was to heighten public awareness and increase pressure on the Minister for Education to end this "obvious inequity in third level education".

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Where to get the cans from?

People should understand that they don't have to use 100 cans - one would be enough.

Why do competitors need to sign the competition rules sheet?

Because otherwise we as Red Bull Comp. Ltd. would not be allowed to take pictures or exhibit the objects in public places. We need to own the art pieces - if someone wants the object back it isn't a problem at all.

What does Red Bull do after the exhibition with all the entries?

We hand them out to "friends of the Bull" as POS-materials and we'll also exhibit a few pieces in our new office at Soho Square.

How many objects are going to be exhibited?

As many as possible - it really depends on the amount and size of pieces we'll get. We try to exhibit approx. 250 artworks in the RCA.

Why does Red Bull enter the artworld now?

We don't take ourselves too serious and this competition is more like the Flugtag than like a serious art competition. We could receive stunning art pieces but it also could happen that many people just enter with witty, funny, can objects because they like Red Bull and simply love the idea of the Creative Contest.

The 1st Red Bull creative contest competition rules.....

"Each participant agrees that all rights in any creation, artwork, designs and entries submitted for "The 1st Red Bull Creative Contest Competition and Exhibition", including without limitation any rights in property, copyrights, design rights and other intellectual property rights are transferred and belong solely to Red Bull Company Limited, and the participant will execute any necessary document to effect such transfer.

The participant further confirms that he waives any moral rights that he may have and that Red Bull Company Limited shall have the exclusive right to use, display, modify and otherwise do all such things as it wishes to such creation, artwork, design and entry at its sole discretion.

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The Voice Of Nationalism

Francie Molloy (Sinn Fein) MLA, Mid Ulster, was recently invited to speak in the University by UL Sinn Fein. Ger Gill was there to listen to him, and ask him some questions after his lecture.

Mr. Molloy gave a speech in the new student centre on the present state of the peace Process, in an event organised by the Sean Sabhat Sinn Fein cumann, in Week 11.

As a follow on from my interview with Gregory Campbell of the DUP, I decided to interview Mr. Molloy to allow him to clarify some points he made in his lecture and in the subsequent question session. It is not my role to pass judgement on what Mr. Molloy said but rather to report his answers accurately and dispassionately. There were certain questions, I felt I had to ask in order to have an informative interview. It is up to the reader to make their mind up and what was said in the interview.

During the open question session, I asked Mr. Molloy, if Sinn Fein knew the identity of the Omagh bombers, did he think they should co-operate with the Gardai and RUC, to bring the bombers to justice. Mr. Molloy said that he would have "great difficulty in co-operating with any of the British forces". Mr. Molloy further stated that some nationalists believed that the bombing could have been undertaken by the British security forces, as no member of the security forces was injured or killed.

One could have pointed out to Mr. Molloy, that he had earlier stated that "the justification for the Omagh bombing, wasn't there" because it was "designed as an attack on non-combatants". One could say that, that could be a reason why no member of the security forces was killed, as there were not in the vicinity of the area. Mr. Molloy said he would also have a problem in dealing with the Gardai, as he believed that there was collusion between the Gardai and loyalist paramilitaries.

Hypothetically speaking, I asked Mr. Molloy how he would see the Unionists integrating into an united Ireland. Molloy replied that he saw the re-alignment of Unionist parties into coalitions with southern parties like Fine Gael in a united Ireland. Mr. Molloy said that Unionist parties could gain in

this scenario as they would have more power in an Irish parliament than they would have in Westminster. He believes that the "Unionist type of conservative politics has a role to play in Irish politics" and that the Unionists may come to realise that "the broad republican labour politics also represents a section of their people". I asked him did he believe that the working class Protestant people were not adequately represented by the more conservative Unionist party. Mr. Molloy said that some Protestant working class people were used "as cannon fodder for manipulation" by the Unionists. Mr. Molloy also mentioned that if politics was changed from a nationalist-unionist split, to a Conservative - Social democratic cleavage, it would be a major change around and a positive step.

In Mr. Molloy's opinion the Good Friday agreement is in serious danger due to a lack of leadership from the Unionist side. He also believes that Trimble was concerned that the Institutions set up under the agreement were working too well, and if he left them operate until May, people would be enthusiastic about them and so he wanted an opportunity to suspend the executive as soon as possible. According to Mr. Molloy, the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly was a grave error by the British and a further sign of poor faith they had shown since the Good Friday agreement was signed.

I then proceeded to enquire of Mr. Molloy, did he recognise that Mr. Trimble had a difficult job in attempting to make the political culture of the Unionist party more amenable to dealing with the Irish government and Sinn Fein. Mr. Molloy answered that he recognised that Trimble had problems "in modernising the party that never had to negotiate its position". He felt that Mr. Trimble was guilty of "naïve political thinking" and "weak leadership". Mr. Trimble often unnecessarily put his leadership in danger by offering to resign, he said.

I quizzed Mr. Molloy on whether he thought

Sinn Fein were treated unfairly by the authorities, quoting the controversy surrounding UL Sinn Fein members outside the High Court (with their Cumann flag adorned with ULcrest). Sinn Fein members in UL, felt they were unfairly criticised for their actions outside the Court. Sinn Fein were criticised for having a flag with the ULcrest on it and for getting involved with scuffles with police, which was later recorded in 'The Irish Times.' Mr. Molloy said that university campuses should be an "open forum for parties to operate and to make parties operate under different rules (to other rules) is completely discriminatory and that the harassment of Sinn Fein members should be ended."

Sinn Fein, recognise that they have an uneasy relationship with the security forces in this state, I asked Mr. Molloy, should Sinn Fein come into government in Ireland, how would they work with the security forces. Francie said that he has learnt from his work in the Assembly that "new situations, lead to new responses and that if repressive legislation was removed, there would not be half the hassle there is with the guards at the present time". I asked him did he think the guards would have difficulty dealing with Sinn Fein, as members of the guards have been murdered by the IRA, Mr. Molloy did not give a satisfactory response to this question.

Finally I asked Mr. Molloy did he believe that the shortage of Protestants living in South Armagh and West Belfast, was down to intimidation by nationalists. Mr. Molloy said he believed that there were Socio-Economic reasons, for the Protestants moving out of Catholic areas. When Industry, suffered a decline in these areas, "the Protestants moved on to better jobs and on to better houses and sold their houses to Catholics" according to Mr. Molloy.

Gerard Gill.

Book On Violence Against Women To Be Launched Today

The Limerick Centre for Peace and Development Studies is to launch a new book on Tuesday the 9th, Week 13, in Plassey House.

The book is called '*Private Pain, Public Action; Violence Against Women in War and Peace.*'

The study, which was undertaken within the Centre for Peace and Development Studies at the University of Limerick, explores a number of facets of violence against women and presents evidence that this highly complex social problem is widespread, extremely serious in nature and generally underreported. The report concentrates on the help-seeking process, the needs of women survivors of violence and the formulation of strategies for

change.

The report focuses in particular on the role and development of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in relation to violence against women in Croatia, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Through comparative research, it presents an analysis of the development of different services to women experiencing violence in the three regions and of the gradual movement towards integrated models of service provision. It also focuses on barriers to inter-agency co-operation and on methods of overcoming them.

In the process of understanding the causes of violence against women, the experiences of women subjected to violence in post war situations and of

the NGOs who work with them are explored. The report also contains a fascinating insight into the differing social perceptions of violence against women and the relationship between wartime violence and violence against women by men known to them. This analysis will also have significance for countries which are at war or are in the process of post war reconstruction.

The report concludes with a number of recommendations which are directed towards national state bodies, international structures and NGOs working both locally and internationally.

Copies are available from Victoria Firmo-Fontan, Centre for Peace and Development Studies, University of Limerick.



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Protestants Unwelcome

Dear Ed.,

It is with disappointment that I learn of the Orange Order's decision to abandon their plans to have a march through Dublin city on the 28th of May. According to Ian Cox, spokesperson for the Order in Dublin, lack of political support and intimidation were the reasons for the cancellation.

I fail to see how the opponents of this march can view their activities as a step forward for the Peace process in this country. I feel the message that is being sent out to members of the Orange Order in Ireland is that they are not welcome to profess an aspect of their culture in Dublin City. The question I wish to put to students of U.L. is do they support such an intolerant view of minority activities as articulated by, what I believe to be, an unrepresentative section of Irish society?

I would also like to question the courage of our political leaders who at first supported this idea and then backed down in the face of criticism from what I thought to be old-school Irish society, (or is it such an unrepresentative group?). I deplore the spinelessness of our politicians who acted in such a cowardly, reactionary manner.

Does present Irish society feel threatened by a group of protestant men, most of whom are Irish citizens, walking down a street in our capital city? I fail to see how Ireland can claim to be a pluralist and secular society and yet let a minority group be intimidated out of practicing an aspect of their culture. Let us not forget that these Orangemen are also citizens of Dublin and in effect they have been told that they are not welcome to express themselves in their own city.

I acknowledge that many people in the North of this country are intimidated by Orange marches through their areas, but I still fail to see how an Orange march in Dublin can be viewed as intimidation of Catholics in Ireland. Suggestions that such a march is analogous to letting the Klu Klux Klan march through Harlem are erroneous in my view. The Orange order is anti-Catholicism, not anti-Catholic (although I will admit that if you are a Catholic in Portadown at the moment it is hard to see this distinction). As far as I am aware the Orange Order does not preach that Protestants are superior to Catholics. Added to this is the assertion that maybe Dublin isn't as Catholic as it used to be. If Irish society does indeed wish to make clear that Protestants are not welcome to march on our streets, then I wish to state publicly that I do not belong to such a society.

With all the furore over refugees, I suggest that just as charity begins at home, so too should tolerance.

**Yours Sincerely,
Tadhg O Shea.**

Letter of the week

Hailing From Clogheen

Dear Ed.,

I hail from that now infamous village know as Clogheen, which for many has become the focal point of the asylum seekerdebate in this country. Having lived in any place for 20 years you'd think you know the people. But I have been very surprised at the attitudes and ideas I have heard from educated, seemingly open minded people.

Thankfully there are others, willing to help and assist asylum seekers, but we have all been tarred with the racist brush. I can understand fear of the unknown, but what I can not understand is refusal to confront that fear. Refusal to seek out information ,to grab the bull by the horns and confront those fears head on.

Unfortunately this is what has happened in Clogheen. People have taken their fear and run with it. I have witnessed ignorance and bigotry in my own town and it has shocked me. But Clogheen is not alone. It is one of many areas in the country where a group within the area are refusing to give help to those in need. Ireland is supposed to be a Christian country, but this Christianity is sadly lacking at the moment. The Irish have traveled all over the world and now, when we have a chance to repay the hospitality of others, we refuse to take it.

The arrival of asylum seekers in Ireland is not the dawn of the anti-christ. Nor is it the arrival of plagues and disease, as many seem to think. It is the arrival of people who can no longer remain in their own country. They have to leave, for whatever reason and we refuse to welcome them in.

I implore all students in UL to examine their own attitudes. This is an opportunity to make a difference. We have a voice and we need to use it to help others. Do you think these people really want to leave their own country ,flee their family and friends and arrive in a country where they face ignorance, misinformation and often hatred.

Does anyone remember a family who fled to Egypt in fear of their young son's life? Is there no room in Ireland's inn?

Yours,

**Jennifer O'Brien
9724214 Third Year HPSS**

Final Word from the Community Officer

Dear Ed.,

In the last week I received some irate messages from residents annoyed at damage caused to their garden fences. This kind of activity is low and disgraceful. I realise that the majority of students can wander home from the Lodge, the Hurlers and even the two pub haven of this campus without causing any noise or damage, but a small number and it is only a small number are giving the students of ULa bad name.

People have to be up for work and lectures early in the morning, so can I ask these people who walk through estates at night shouting and causing damage, to think about your actions. Fences cost money, and could cost you a trip to the disciplinary committee if caught causing this damage.

Finally as this is my last article as Community Officer, can I just say that the last year was great. I enjoyed meeting residents and students through the job, and generally the year was quite, in fact I believe there was an actual reduction in complaints. For example Kollege Week went well and passed off without any major incidents. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank to the team of Student Liaison Officers, for their work this year.

As ever if you ever need to contact

me or next year's Community Officer on any issues relating to the Castletroy community, you can ring the Community Helpline on (061) 202977 and leave a message or send an e-mail to community_ulsu@hotmail.com <mailto:community_ulsu@hotmail.com>

All the best in the exams and enjoy the summer.

**Alan Ryder
Community Officer ULSU**

Refugees in Rosslare?

Dear Ed.

While at home for the weekend, I was entertained by the developments of late in the local village of Rosslare Harbour.

The recent sale of the popular hotel, Devereux's, to the OPW for use as a centre for housing and processing refugees has caused huge controversy, both at a local and national level.

Of course, I can completely appreciate the arguments made against the so-called "racist residents of Rosslare Harbour", who have been picketing against the decision since it was announced. But at the same time, I feel compelled to give a slightly subjective insight into the general feeling among those who live in Rosslare

Harbour.

Devereux's is the first hotel one encounters on arrival into Rosslare Port and it is difficult to imagine why this location has been chosen for the centre. Of course, its convenience for the intended purpose is a major contributing factor, but its value as one of the most important tourist amenities in the area must also surely be considered.

The hotel's significance as a source of jobs has naturally also been influential in the region's general opposition to the proposals. Employment in the "Sunny South-East" is fairly seasonal at the best of times and, as it is, there are enough people unemployed during the winter months. Therefore, from that point of view, the closure of the hotel has struck a very personal chord with many.

With the next argument, I completely empathise! Dev's, as it was more familiarly termed, was where our social lives happened, during holidays and weekends home. Incorporated in the hotel was a disco bar, which was renowned in the surrounding area for the bands, both good and bad, that played there. But whether great bands were playing, or appalling bands were trying to play, it was where you were guaranteed to be served drink well into the wee hours. I'm already suffering from serious bouts of nostalgia for the memorable...and not so memorable days and nights spent in Dev's. Happy days! Sob, sob, sob.....

On a more serious note, I do not dispute that there have been rash, racist statements made by some, which have been regretted. But it must be accepted that they were and are rooted in anger and fear. Anger.....at the incompetent and inefficient manner in which this sensitive issue has been handled by the government. The lack of consultation with the community into which these asylum-seekers will be integrated has been outrageous and was bound to incense the fury that has been vented in recent weeks.

Fear.....of the unknown really. These people are from very different cultures and backgrounds and just like the boys in Wayne's World, many Irish fear change and the disruptions that will inevitably occur to village life. At home, the local residents have repeatedly requested information concerning the numbers and nationalities of those who will be arriving to commence their new life in Rosslare Harbour. But the authorities have been continually elusive about disclosing essential facts and figures. Rosslare Harbour is not a big place and does not have the facilities to cope with such a huge influx of refugees.

As I have been un-involved in the opposing stance taken by many of my neighbours and friends, I take no personal offence to the negative name-calling that has occurred on a national level towards those from Rosslare Harbour. But nevertheless, I feel the obligation to defend those involved. It is all too easy to make such sweeping statements as "their xenophobia stems from their ignorance", without taking a closer examination of the facts. It is not racial prejudices that have been incited in

Rosslare Harbour but anger at the authorities, which did not consider the local people worthy of consultation about this decision, the consequences of which will be far-reaching. With serious dialogue and compromise on both sides, I am confident that this controversial issue can be resolved. The sooner the better because presently the atmosphere there almost resembles that of "ALove Divided".

Emma Murphy

Another Voice In Support

Dear Ed.

Much coverage of late has been given across the country and indeed internationally to the refugee crisis in Ireland.

Our so called island of 'saints and scholars' is facing an epidemic. Foreign 'aliens' of all sorts of class and creed, carrying god knows what type of deadly diseases are invading good old Catholic Ireland.

Growing up everybody repeatedly hears of the Ireland of a thousand welcomes. How many Albanians, Libyans etc. have received this welcome? Is it time to question this belief we are renowned and famous for. Or should a different angle be taken - perhaps one not as pretty. Racism, for a while bubbling below the surface, is all across the country steering its ugly head.

The fact is that we are predominantly white, and up to now have had little to no experience with foreign cultures, save the yanks, who come over raving about our accent, and various other holiday makers. We are an educated nation, yet why do these tendencies occur? The problem is not just a rural problem, although emphasis has been placed on the small village of Clogheen in Co. Tipperary, but is evenly dispersed throughout the island. Concern, Trocaire, the Irish Red Cross and several other charities receive millions in donations from generous Irish people each year towards the development of third world countries and the 'save the black babies' campaign. Yet why not accept these people into Irish society. Change can be and is good.

Do people realise what the term 'refugee' actually means. These people aren't here for a holiday or because they got bored with their own country. Circumstances of tremendous proportions forced them out, and as a result we find them on the doorstep of one of the developed countries of the world. The argument doesn't stand up that they'll take our jobs from us. We're experiencing an economic boom, the Celtic Tiger is at our feet, businesses are crying out for employees.

From my point of view, what I find hardest to understand is that the very fact that we ourselves are a race with history steeped in emigration due to economic hardship. Every family has members living all over the globe. Should this not make us more open regards the hardships faced by these people. Instead of placing the blame solidly at the feet of the refugees, we, the people of Ireland, should be placing pressure on our government to speed up the asylum seeking process. At the moment, this takes up to two years. During this time refugees are living off the government, cannot work and are given £15 per week pocket money by the government. How long

could anyone of us last with this amount of money.

A legitimate source of contention has been regards the fact there are homeless people sleeping on the streets every night across the country, yet refugees are put up in hostels and bed and breakfasts at taxpayers cost. While it is terrible that this does occur, do people not realise that this is not the fault of the refugees but is an issue to be taken with government regards their social policy. Hopefully the government will not be held to ransom by the likes of Jackie Healy Rae and his cronies.

At the moment, I would argue that the government has not played its role substantially in the assimilation process of refugees and locals. Once again taking the example of Clogheen. An increase of 10% in the villages population was cited as a valid reason for why it wouldn't be viable for refugees to stay there. A 10% increase to Dublin's population would be around 175,000 refugees being placed in the city. The same type of arguments would occur.

Where the government has been strongly at fault is in the dispersal of information of where refugees are to be located. Done in a secretive, piecemeal manner it has obviously aroused locals suspicion and this can also be seen in evidence in Corofin, Co. Clare.

Man's inhumanity to man has been in existence for a long time. We consider ourselves an advanced society. Let's act like one. While it is the refugees who will suffer at the moment, the tide may turn on us. International media have been attracted to the unrest. Tourism is a major force in our economy vital to several regions of the country. It is not foolish to suggest that bad media will have a spin-off effect. There's every reason we should be proud of our country. Like any other nation we are not without fault. It is up to each of us of keep it great.

Bernadette Sexton

UL Student Elected to Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle

Dear Ed.

I would like to congratulate UL student, Muiris O'Sullivan, on his recent election to the Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle, Sinn Féin's national executive body.

Muiris was elected at a meeting of the Munster Comhairle Cúige in Cork the weekend before last, and will now take on the vital role of organiser for the Limerick-Clare-North Tipperary region, a region which has been badly underrepresented over the past few years.

The end of the semester and Muiris's imminent departure from UL may well see him move to Cumann Clancy-O'Callaghan in town, recently relaunched following the visit to Limerick by fellow Ard Comhairle member Francie Molloy.

While Muiris's outstanding work and commitment to developing ULSinn Féin over the past two years has come to fruition in his election to his new post, it has also laid solid foundations on which the future of Sinn Féin in UL will undoubtedly be built.

With his political acumen and vision, Muiris led UL Sinn Féin's rise to become the most active political party on campus in only two short years. There is no doubt he will bring the same integrity and leadership

to his new role in the party.

Arís, agus ar son Cumann Seán Sabhat, comhairdeachas leat a chomraide. Tiochfaidh ár lá.

Marcus Breathnach
PRO

A Closing Note

Dear Ed.

It's week twelve now as I write this. I should be studying, according to my house mates. "Yeah right" is the only suitable reply I can give that, as I casually roll my eyes towards the sky in a thoroughly "I'm better than that" gesture.

I didn't come to college to doss but equally I didn't come to college to bust my balls working, although the former has certainly been high on my agenda since at least SoUL week. At the moment all that's important to me is how much longer I'm going to be typing this so I can get back out into the sunshine as soon as possible, which is exactly the way it should be in my opinion. My heart goes out to all of those stuck indoors studying (losers). I don't really mean that, college work is important and I admire the people who do manage to work on days like these despite the easy option of just copping out. I'm just not one of those people and it doesn't bother me either in the slightest, (you might want to come back to me on that one when my Q.C.A. comes out)

As the semester is drawing to a close I feel it is appropriate that I should bid you all farewell considering I won't be here next year (I can hear your sympathy cries already, thank you). Next year I shall be in Dublin, commencing the concluding part of my course, Industrial Design. My year here in U.L. has been different to say the least, memorable; if you will allow me to use such a cliched expression and has certainly changed my life for ever.

Some of you will know me, others will inevitably not. I'm not going to explain who I am or what I've done because a lot of you won't be interested and those of you that know me.....well, you know all that, I don't particularly feel like glorifying myself. (At this point I can feel my head beginning to swell slightly). Because of my involvement with U.L., both in and behind the scenes, the college will always remain with me. When I'm up in Dublin next year, slogging my way through some shoddy part time job to cough up enough money to pay my lodgings not to mention (more importantly) my favourite indulgences, I will cast an eye back over easier days on the Castletroy campus and sigh with regret.

Although, maybe I shouldn't be putting my eggs in the one basket and counting my chickens before they've hatched. My typically lax attitude towards college could find me back here next year, repeating the semester, and if that happens you all have permission to laugh, just know that I won't be particularly bothered, in fact I'll probably enjoy it all the more. When it does come time for me to grace the library with my presence and take out some books, you may find me with a concentrated expression on my face as I peruse intently through the manuscripts, but before you exclaim "He's seen sense at last", just remember that I am most likely at that moment figuring out the best way to get high off the glue used to bind said book.

So on that note I shall bid you all adieu and please excuse my use of another much maligned and over used expression, Boyakasha!

By Bren
(keepin it real)

The Future Of Wired FM

Dear Ed.

I wish to bring to the attention of the incoming Communicaton and Campiagns Officer the importance of the role he plays next year in the promotion of Wired FM, the student radio station.

Having been involved in the UL Radio Soc. this year, I know that the station was not promoted because of the problem with the transmission. The station manager along with the radio soc. and the current CEO felt that it would harm the station to promote it strongly, when there was a risk that people wouldn't be able to hear it properly. It was felt that if people tuned in and the reception was bad, then they wouldn't tune in again.

The transmission has now been repaired, and the time is right for the promotional push on the station to start in earnest.

Although it has been promised to broadcast Wired FM in all public areas on campus, such as the Student Centre and the canteen, I feel that this is not sufficient. This idea merely forces the station on students.

With the intention of making students 'want' to listen to Wired, I feel that advertising Wired's broadcasting hours in the college newspaper, along with a guide of what shows are on and when, could entice students to lend their ears to Wired when something suitable to their taste is on air.

Before the current CEO, Dave O'Donovan started the job, he wrote a weekly article about Wired, printing articles and interviews that had been broadcast on the station, as well as doing interviews with ULstudents who did shows on the station. This helped to increase the awareness and the profile of the station, and let people know that it was ULstudents that were on it, and anyone interested could do it. Although no-one kept this going this year when Dave moved up to edit the paper, I intend to start it again next year, to try and increase interest on campus in Wired FM.

A further suggestion that should be seriously considered is that Wired FM be broadcast in both the Scholars bar and the Stables, at least when ULstudents are on air.

I feel if the suggestions that I have given here are followed up by both the ULRadio Soc. and next years C.C.O., Wired's currently poor audience in Castletroy could be increased. It would also mean that this increased listenership would come about through people being encouraged and helped to listen, rather than forced to listen.

In doing so, more students could benefit from the great thing that is a college radio station, and the time and effort of those involved in the ststion would be acknowledged and appreciated.

Eimear Griffen



American Diaries

there's going to be a pile of people heading off to the states for the summer or on co-op. so, we've extended the real world section to let you know what you're in for, according to ian and margaret, co-op students on the rampage.

MARGARET RYAN IN CHICAGO

Hi Everybody.

Well, I went to the Cubs game Friday evening, with a few people from work, and had a ball. The weather was beautiful, the beer was cold (oops, did I say beer? I meant to say the Diet Coke...) and the Cubs lost. (Not that that was any great surprise...)

Wrigley field is really something else. The external walls are covered in Ivy, and so are the walls around the actual playing field. Therefore if a batter hits the ball and it gets stuck in the Ivy, the team that hit it gets a double, but if it rebounds out of the ivy, it is considered to be in play. We were in the bleacher seats, which is apparently the best place to be, because it is right in front of the batters cage. So we got there a bit early, about an hour early actually, and watched the teams warming up. We heckled the opposition, who were the Florida Marlins, and we cheered the Cubs. It's a tradition at the Friendly Confines to throw back any balls that someone from the opposing team hit, and there

was plenty of that going on. They lost something like 9 to 4, and it was a disaster. The bleachers are where the real die-hard supporters usually sit. Strangely enough there is no standing room, but for a game that averages out at about 3 _ hours, that's no great surprise. They are very vocal and have a tendency to get thrown out. Luckily enough that didn't happen to me, but there were about 15 people in front of me who were.

The following weekend I went to a Sox Game. The two sets of fans are sworn enemies, so at Comiskey Park, any player not giving it his best was told to "Go play with the Cubs!" The sox won by something like 14-8, which is a big enough margin for these games. Three separate fights broke out between the teams, even the subs were running in from the bull-cage to get stuck in! When the Sox get a home run, fireworks are let off, and the same performance again when they win a game. The new Comiskey Park was built in 1990 or thereabouts, and it is one ugly behemoth. It looks like an architect's worst nightmare. It's a big poured concrete bowl, and it is absolutely soul-less. I much prefer Wrigley Field, but don't let my cousins hear me say that!

Work is busy enough. I'm not doing too much programming thank god, and we are all gearing up to the big office move on Friday. I'm not changing my job, but I am getting a new office. Well, I think it's going to be more of a cube than an office, but it's the same difference really. Either way, I will no longer be at 230 W Monroe at 8.10 every morning for work, but rather at 123 N Wacker.

Well, it's official, there's no way in hell that I will survive the summer here. Last night going home on the bus I thought I was going to pass peacefully out. The heat on that thing is something else. And it's only April. I will probably melt in a puddle in June and July. It's only about 65 degrees here at the moment (18 degrees Centigrade) so when it gets to be about 95 degrees (35 degrees Centigrade) in the summer, I am dead. It gets too hot to move at that point. But if I managed the freezing cold, I will manage the roasting heat as well.

As far as I know this is the last week of the paper, so have a great summer, don't panic about the exams, and remember there's always the repeats. Hope the summer is long and hot, and you all have a great time. Don't work too hard, play very hard and don't get caught!

Margaret

Ha ha, its exam time! I hope ye are all busily breaking yer arses trying to finish those last projects and eating into photocopied notes... ahhh the stress. Well don't worry I've been doing my utmost to break my arse too, literally!!

A couple of weeks ago I went to roller coaster park called Six Flags down in New Jersey where I tasted some of the most knuckle whitening rides I was ever to subject my body to. There was loop the loops, twists, turns, spins, free falls and ridiculous speeds but at the end of the day I was still left wanting more... so we went and did a bungee jump. In fairness it did do a good job at scaring the life and a couple of other things out of me, I suppose a one hundred and fifty foot free fall drop would do that to a guy. But afterwards I still felt there was more to do, higher to go. Then last weekend along with a few other hardy adrenaline seeking gurus, James Leyden, Martin MacMillan, John O'Sullivan, Mike Canny, Des Field-Corbett and the organiser Ronan Gilmore, with whetted appetites went seeking the ultimate in thrill. A thirteen thousand foot skydive.

Early on Saturday morning the six excited/nervous/tired heads set out to Pepperell airport for the experience of their lives! Once we got there and after forking out two hundred and fifteen bucks we were introduced to the disclaimer. Oh my

god. I have never in twenty years signed away my life so completely! If you mess up, if they mess up, if mother nature messes up, if a third nuclear war breaks out famines plague the earth and psycho aliens come down to beat us all up, its all your fault. Seriously. Once that was over with we were informed that that was the scariest part of the experience, no @#%\$!!! Next it was off to meet the krusty die-hards that everyone imagines supports this sport, and well yes they do, who would be our tandem instructors. Ronnie, Mike and Des headed up first and we watched from the ground as they went from being tiny pin pricks thousands of feet above us to landing on the ground again safely. Then it was our go. We hoped on the plane, nervously looking around as we climbed for thirty minutes... Once the doors opened the sound of thunder filled the cabin and people started jumping out!!! I was last and as I stood on the edge of the plane looking down on the earth I couldn't believe what I was about to do. Then I was out in the air! Oh jaysus it was U N B E L I E V A B L E. It is absolutely like nothing else I've done before. The closest I could come to describing it is like flying. There is no G forces or a sense of falling, you just seriously feel like you are flying. I fell for about ten thousand feet and for about forty five seconds, hitting speeds of over one hundred and twenty miles an hour! You actually go so fast that when I opened my mouth scream my head off, I couldn't hear with the thunder in my ears

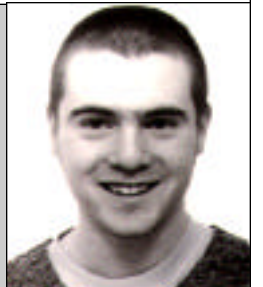
IAN DEMPSEY IN BOSTON

and my mouth actually dried out with the air rushing in so fast! Once the parachute opened the whole world went absolutely quiet and I tried to take in what had happened. This part of the journey back to the ground was also amazing, just hanging in the air and pulling off these crazy spins and finally we had to land. Wow. If you ever get the chance to do this make sure you do it, it was amazing!

Well did any of ye manage to get to the Homelands gig last Saturday? I wouldn't have minded going to that having been to the one in September but I cant really complain after doing the skydive on Saturday instead! The clubbing scene isn't nearly as developed over here as it is back home. They've got the cool clubs allright, I was at one last weekend, The Roxy. It was very classy (it would want to have been after paying twenty bucks at the door!!) with marble staircases, sculptures, huge couches, balconies and even the flakey dancers on little stages around the place! But they don't really know what to do with the clubs! The music really is not great at all. But some of the big European DJs do make it over here from time to time and get to charge absolutely astronomical amounts for the pleasure.

The weather, thanks be to god has finally decided to cop onto itself and get warmer. I'd say I've finally seen the last of bloody sleet, snow and icy winds for a while. Even though I've been told that I'll

be wishing for it back in a few weeks, personally I don't think I'll be sorry. Role on the sunny beaches and Montreal Grand Prix which I got tickets for last week, oh yes!



I'd say this is probably going to be the last An Focal of the semester so if I was to sum up my experience over here so far I'd say its been "Awesome"(I had to pay the U.S. government so that I could use that word without breaking the Americans global copyright on the term)! This country really never does cease to surprise and gives you opportunities to do things you would never have thought of doing back home. If you are thinking about coming over here on coop or on a J1 for the summer don't hesitate, its well worth. And seeing as this the last article I have to say thanks to all the people who have been emailing me the whole time and keeping in touch. I wont name names because guaranteed I'll leave some one out and all the emails will stop!!

So bye bye, I've enjoyed writing this article and I might see some of ye over here or back in UL... enjoy the exams, heheheheee..., and good luck

Ian Dempsey

and seeing as it's the last issue, we're going to extend our american diaries to help those off to New York or Canada

Biting The Big Apple



Well, hello there folks!!!

Us UL heads up here in NYC are getting an ickle bit sick of reading about all the goings on in Boston & Chicago, so I have taken it upon myself to give ye just a taste of life in THE BIG APPLE (Isn't that right Dempsey, eh???)

Sorry that it has taken so long to get this written – we have been here 3 months now, but busy, busy busy – dontchaknow??????

Life here over the past three months has been one big PARTY– Crazy shit man, crazy!!!

Everyone here will tell you that they are having the time of their lives. There are about 30 of us here in NY - not including Long Island or New Jersey – mostly 3rd year Business with one or two Comp Sys arounds, a Maths & Computing and 4 Law &

Accounting (just to enhance the quality of the whole group!!!)

Most of us all live near each other in a little suburb in the north of the Bronx called Ahaskraw – oops, sorry, I mean Woodlawn. We have made Woodlawn our own & are thinking of renaming the Main Street O'Connell Street (the petitions are out at the mo!!). Woodlawn is the real Irish area in New York and literally every Tom, Dick & Harry is Irish – feels like home!!!!

BTW – if any of ye have the pleasure of being in the vicinity of Woodlawn over the next few months, call to Behan's pub on Katonah Avenue (soon to be O'Connell St.) and you will be sure to find some of us in there – anytime of day or night – just ask Brendan or Conor (the barmen!!!!)

We have done so much & seen so much already since we first arrived & we aren't even half way there

yet – There is no end to the partying in sight – YAB-BADABBADOO!!!!

Most of us have had a BASH at ice-skating – in Central Park, if you don't mind (isn't that right Nigel??) and skiing – You should see the photos!!! Getting to see some of the American sports has been a priority too – Baseball & Ice hockey already, hopefully the US Open Tennis out on Flushing too – fingers crossed!!!!

Broadway shows have been a favourite too – I've seen 'CATS' and 'Rent' – and that is only to whet the appetite.

Since we have arrived we have become avid concert goers - already taking in David Gray (aka the ride), Stereophonics, The Charlatans, Tina Turner (esp. for Kieran) and Lionel Richie !! Next Friday sees the arrival of Supergrass.

Last weekend, myself & Dan (aka John Higgins) headed to Boston for Easter and a great weekend was had by all (Thank you – Ian, Tracey & Michelle) – despite the fact that it flogged rain all weekend and the pubs close around One (very upset-

ting considering the fact they are open 'til four here – but sure we have to cope !!!)

The last 2 weeks here have been crazy mad altogether with 5 birthdays (incl. three 21sts) to celebrate (August must have been a busy month, eh??) Happy 21st Kate, Pauline and Bla / Cara – you and me babe - we still babbies - aaaawwwwww)

We decided to celebrate in style and we jetted off (well in a bus) to 6 Flags Great Adventure Park in

New Jersey for the day. It is basically a Rollercoaster park and boy did we exploit the facilities to the hilt. We were turned upside down, inside out, drowned wet, scared s**tless and screaming like babies – but we got out alive – just about.

We tried a dare devildive as well – similar to a bungee jump – but 3 of us were harnessed together and suspended 150 feet, above ground. We were released & rocketed down eventually coming to a standstill – oh my GAAWWWWWWWD-DDDDDDDDDD – what can I say – exhilaration at it's best [eh, well almost anyway ;)] – the adrenaline is pumping in my veins just thinking about it. AAAAAAAGHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

Our next major excursion is for the memorial Day Weekend (May 29) – MONTREAL here we come – Montreal beware – UL is heading there (wow I am such a talented poet!!)

We have hired a 36 seater bus to take us on the trip, back to a country where the drinking age (well the legal one anyway) is 18!!!!

Well peeps I'm going to call it a day, my arm is killing me & I still have a full day's work to do yet – another stressful day at the office (looking out over the Statue of Liberty) – oh life is tough!!!

Best of luck with the exams And we'll be thinking of ye (NOT!!!)

Grace Arthur
25/04/00

+ a word from the rockies

Ah! - finished my exams! - Roll on the 5 month summer holiday. Hey, it's a UL student calling from way, way away in Victoria, British Columbia, out on the west of Canada.

When I arrived out here in January I pictured myself coming to this quaint little island off Vancouver, however it turns out it's actually bigger than the isle of Eire itself.

I'm out here studying at the University of Victoria, through a new exchange established between the law faculties. I've got to say it's been a bit of a shocker on the academic side. Thing is, all the law students in my class have previously completed a degree and are on their way out into the real world to practice in law firms dur-

ing the coming months. Seriously clued in to their work. Both Madeleine and I spent the first month gazing around in lectures as students tapped furiously on their laptops in an effort to capture every gospel word their Professors uttered. Felt like it was a bit of a step into the future as those of us that resorted to the primitive tools of pen and paper were in a minority.

Nonetheless, less of the academic side - more about life out here in the wild west! Actually it's quite the contrary... it must be one of the most laid back places. (apart from the law faculty that is) Hippies breaking into song under trees on campus, students having smoking parties by the fountains...I think everybody sports the aroma of ' Eau to Weed' over here, which I have observed to be an integral part of peo-

ples' lives.

You know, I find myself walking around campus thinking I'm in an episode of Beverley Hills 90210. Check shirted dudes skate boarding by, as short skirted girls from the cheer leading squad roller blade to class. Just waiting for Brandon to come up and ask me out on a date...

Victoria, British Columbia - a rather English ring to it all! Supposedly Americans have been known to venture north to visit this 'little colony' of England and offer English pounds as tender. I've been warned of the pending onslaught of tourists that take trips to visit the little London of the north. Sounds a bit on the commercial side, however this cannot take away from the amazing environment that surrounds the city. Sitting here in the garden with the blazing sun above me, yet could be skiing if I headed just two hours up island. Ok, now that I've

adopted the tour guide role, I'll proceed.

Have to say I landed the jammiest deal regarding accommodation. Moved into this wonderful house overlooking the beach with 5 other Canadians. I no longer go by my christian name over here, it's a mere 'Ireland', or IRA, when they're not in the best of form.

Things have got out of hand lately in the house; new roommate that not only has a hedgehog in her room but also a little dinosaur...Iguana, or something of the likes.

Next big plan is to go down to New York next week to visit the mafia of UL students that are threatening to take over both Queens and the Bronx.

**Yours in grizzly bears
and maple syrup,
Keira-Eva Mooney
3rd yr. Law & Euro.**

Diary Of A First Year

At the end of the year, Mairead Moriarty gives us the low down on what it was like to be walking round this place for the first time.



It's hard to believe that this is my final contribution to "An Focal" as a first year. There's so much to tell,

but not enough space or time to here to recall it all!

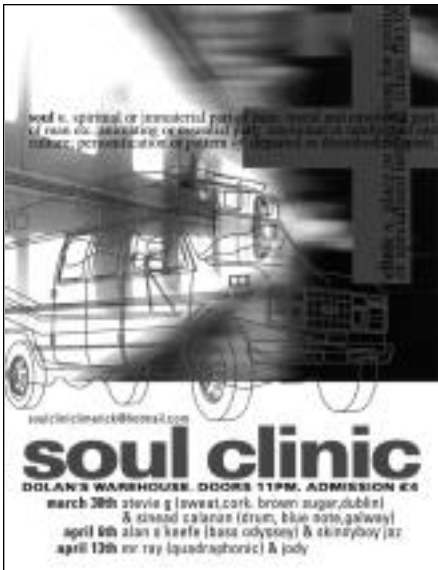
Basically, it's been one hell of a year - better than I ever could have expected this time last year when I had just finished filling out my CAO form!

It's a fab sunny May afternoon here in the Students' Union courtyard and so many events come to mind. I think back to Orientation Week. My first day here in UL! I couldn't sleep with both the anticipation and fear of what I was letting myself in for. I literally didn't know what to expect. Two of the girls from home met me and we walked the long main entrance into college, past the 'two pricks'. (Later discovered the short-cut by the church!-innocent naïve little first year!)

I have to admit, I felt very small and partly immature that cold morning way back in September. I didn't really deserve to be here. Little did I know, but that was all to change. We followed the crowd to the Concert Hall, where we listened to, what seemed, endless speeches from people I haven't even seen since. We went our separate ways as were divided into course groups. (Incidentally, the aforementioned 'we' could now be classed in a different light.)

Orientation Week got off to a fairly bad start, however. My first night here in Limerick resulted in Yours Truly getting lost. Let's just say that I nearly ended up walking all the way to Dublin!!! As a result, my dear da had the mobile phone on the ready for me the first weekend I was home. And the thrill of the mobile remains to this day! There were often times that I tormented E with my constant texting! It turned bad at some stages! Anyway, the Freshers Ball was a bit of a fiasco. Just a tad! My first venture to the Lodge didn't impress me at all! Still has no appeal to me!

So that was the beginning - everything was to change after that. As a result of that week, I now have new (some might even say better) friends. I grew up, following my endeavor into this big bad world of ULand College Life. I was in for an excellent year!



the famous flyer

Then I discovered "An Focal". Didn't know what to expect before I read it - but I have to say - it did impress me, to say the least. Although it has to be said that it has improved somewhat since I read it that chilly October afternoon in the Stables courtyard. When I actually started writing for it - well - I made my contribution to society! Let's just leave it at that!

Then there was the big one - the first missed lecture! I thought it was the end of the world - but then I realized that I wasn't the first student in the history of Third Level Education to miss lectures, and I certainly wasn't going to be the last!!!!

The whole e-mailing thing sort of scared me for a while but Babs helped me out on that one! Cheers hon. So my college life turned out to include e-mailing everyone I could think of, along with the endless afternoons of coffee-drinking in the Stables. And I think I praised men at some stage too, getting some heat from the gals for a while!

Number 24 played host to some Mad Sessions in the first semester, one of which resulted in the infamous Jonnie on the Buckle! Ask no questions!!!! But it was all good! Never-ending Lauryn Hill blasting on the stereo. Cheese and ham sandwiches at two o'clock in the morning. And there was actually our very own Beatles Night at Eimear's! (I'll be killed if I don't mention this - John Lennon - Legend!)

We discovered the meaning of All-Nighters, but we had our fun nights out as well. As long as I live, I will never forget David Kitt, The Jubilee Allstars and of course, The Legendary Frames rockin' on in the Jean Monnet in December. And one of the funniest nights ever also took place there, when the Carroll's Comedy Club gave us some laughs, which also reminds me of Dara O'Brian in the Concert Hall! Garvs - where are you now?!

Some of the events were all a bit hectic - but all the stress was relieved on the Friday afternoon on the bus back home - with David Gray on the walkman to soothe and comfort my tired and weary body! David, you'll always put the Silver Lining on my bad days!

There was an "An Focal" night out too. A good laugh had by all, but with constant commentary from a squeak in the corner - something about a mini-bus or something, was it?! Easy tiger - it didn't kill us to walk!!! The exams were a 'minor' obstacle to overcome, although there was much trouble in the process! But it was all worth it, when we celebrated like mad on the last night of term - the New Bar had opened its doors to the students of UL a few days beforehand and we partied hard that night! There are still some untold stories! But not here!

The three weeks off were well deserved. I worked at home - money was earned and sleep was necessary by that stage! So I was wide - awake by the start of the second semester, ready for action again!

At this stage, I felt that I mattered somehow, that I made a difference - now I'm not saying that I felt like I could run the college or anything! But it's just that people started to click onto the fact that it I was the frustrated little first year who wrote about the joys and trivialities of being a first year! People started recognizing me from my contribution to "An Focal". The whole Mystic thing was beginning to catch on - by the way - cheers Dave! Nice one!!!!

All-nighters were still on the go and the number of nights out were increasing and increasing! Although it has to be said - the workload was getting heavier and heavier and the nights out were well earned! In fairness, you can't go forever without heading out on the beer for the night! It just doesn't work like that - we're students, for chrissake!!!!



me and g

The start of the second term seems hazy, for some reason?! There were late-night sessions with bottles of vodka and the Scholars Crew at 641, one of which gave me some Spanish entertainment for a good while! But we won't go there - for fear of revealing too much - privacy has to be respected!

E knows what I'm on about when I mention the appearance of the Scary Girls! Man, if looks could kill?! There was more talk of men - more like - the bad side this time! Odd visits to the lecturers! I wonder why?!

Then it happened! Soul Clinic in Dolans' Warehouse. Ye all know the story behind that one all too well - so - I won't bore ye with the gory details! Following my printed opinion on the night, I was accused of trying to 'destroy' the work of art that is "An Focal". But soon realized that sarcasm was wide-spread both in the University as a whole and amongst the writers of the paper! But it has to be said, of course, that I later wrote a retraction, of sort, to prove that I actually do have good taste in music! Plus it was the truth! Honest! Besides, can sleeping dogs not lie?! It has all been cleared up now though. However, there was even gossip circulating the campus regarding an unproven relationship between ye all know who and Mystic!!!! No comment!!!!

Getting back to the Soul Clinic deal, the second time it turned out to be one of the best nights I've had here so far! And on the Saturday night end-of-term, ULstudents can appreciate the wonder of it all here on campus! So that's gonna be another mind-blowing night, yeah?! And we also have another "An Focal" night to look forward to over the next while! The excitement! Who knows who might be there?!?!!

There was actually a whole week dedicated to socializing - Week 8 - Rag Week - Kollege Week - whatever! It was excellent, to say the least! The Frames rocked the Marquee even more than they did way back in December in the Jonnie Monnie! The Beatles Tribute was not to be missed. Strawberry Fields Forever! Wednesday and Thursday nights were dance events, which meant that the atmosphere was pretty hectic and energetic. Friday night was the funniest! The Beach Party - and it was freezing?! I actually had the displeasure of seeing certain nameless individuals in their shorts and t-shirts! My eyes!

Other activities took place in the Stables courtyard during the day, which raised plenty of cash for charity - and gave plenty of laughs to the gathered audiences. From the ever-famous Nigel, who, incidentally, has now shaved his head, for fear of being recognized by everyone, to Dave kissing Nigel and Cormac! I'll never forget that one Dave! Not to mention the lesbian-type escapades! Fi - I'll never be able to look straight at you again! Only messing!

But the best night was had by an elite few. The Crew piss-up in the Gallery on the Saturday night. No - I don't need to be reminded of the events. Let's just say that everyone, and I mean everyone, was kissing! But we all make mistakes, ok?!?!?!!

And that was Rag Week - my first one! Just realized it now though - I won't be around for the next one! Co-op calls! But I'm sure next year's will be as good, if not even better!

The following week was the Elections. Mick Phelan has the Boy McCarthy to follow on from. Dayvoh is doing a job that two people will do next year! Tom O'Donovan (is he related to Dave?!) will hopefully make our educational needs met. Fergal is set to develop the paper even further and to promote Wired FM so that there are more students actually listening to it! But, Fergal - remember - I still want my column next year! And DeeDee will be sadly missed, but Siobhán will hopefully make us laugh even half as much!

It's gonna be weird not having Dave, DeeDee and Pat around next year. Ye probably don't understand where I'm coming from. It's just that this is my first year in college and I really can't imagine anyone else doing as great a job as they have done. I'm always gonna compare their predecessors to them. When I think of years ahead when everything and everyone has gone from the college grounds - well - it pains me to think that nothing will be as it was when I first arrived here! But, I suppose life must go on!

All in all, the year has been eventful, to say the least. But there was one thing that cannot remain unsaid. Now for the really soppy bit - sorry! But I think I've learned to appreciate my friends and what they do for me. Some just don't fit that criteria in my books! I refuse to settle for second best any longer!

For instance, before I came to UL, there was one person in my class that I simply didn't hang out with, out of choice. I don't know why. Probably just being immature. I often think about this but I still can't figure it out. I cringed when I heard that she was going to be doing the same course as me and I honestly didn't expect things to turn out the way they did! I was a 'snob', apparently! She was the same, if not worse, in my books! Now she is a great pal - we've been through a lot together - she knows all the crap I'm on about. Now - if you had told me this time last year that I would even be hanging out with her - I think I would've hit you for taking the piss! But it's true! I can't even understand it myself! Eimear G! Now, Eimear, you and I both know that neither of us is perfect but the main thing is that there is respect between us. Without that, I seriously don't think the friendship would last! I really don't think I would've gotten through first year without you! But you still can't sing - d'ya hear me?! And I'm never getting into a conversation about John Lennon with you ever again!

Now that all that was finally said - I think I'll get back to the task at hand! First Year in UL was great! Had a blast! Lots of people to mention, or I might lose my life. Hi to Audrey in Tralee! Claire - thanks for listening to stories about people you never even met! Eugene - for being George! Dave - for being Dayvoh! Big Tom - for the all the Tralee gags! DeeDee for your listening shoulder! Pat - for the printing! Tommy - for being his handsome and witty self! Ma & da - for everything! Zippy - for not killing me when I take the piss!

There you go - that's it - the last installment of Diary of a First Year. I've enjoyed it - hope ye have. Watch out for mystical invasions next year! Keep listening to David Gray - he rocks! Talk soon - enjoythe Summer!!!!

mystic

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.

In this , the last issue, were going to have one more go at getting you rolling on your barstools with 'Quotes from the Montreal comedy festival'

- (On going to war over religion:)
"You're basically killing each other to see who's got the better imaginary friend."

Rich Jeni

- "I found my wife in bed naked one day next to a Vietnamese guy and a black guy. I took a picture and sent it to Benetton. You never know."

Franck Dubosc

- "I got kicked out of Riverdance for using my arms."

Gary Valentine

- (On the difference between men and women:)

"On the one hand, we'll never experience childbirth. On the other hand, we can open all our own jars."

Jeff Green

- "And God said: 'Let there be Satan, so people don't blame everything on Me. And let there be lawyers. so people don't blame everything on Satan'."

John Wing

- "What are the three words guaranteed to humiliate men everywhere? 'Hold my purse.'"

Francois Morency

- "The Web brings people together because no matter what kind of a twisted sexual mutant you happen to be, you've got millions of pals out there. Type in 'Find people that have sex with goats that are on fire' and the computer will say, 'Specify type of goat.'"

Rich Jeni

- "Luge strategy? Lie flat and try not to die."

Tim Steeves

- "Women might be able to fake orgasms. But men can fake whole relationships."

Jimmy Shubert

- "There are only two reasons to sit in the back row of an airplane : Either you have diarrhoea, or you're anxious to meet people who do."

Rich Jeni

- "My girlfriend always laughs during sex--no matter what she's reading."

Emo Philips

- "What's with squeegee kids? I mean, they don't really wash the wind-

shield do they? They simply redistribute the dirt."

Ken Scott

- "Clinton lied. A man might forget where he parks or where he lives, but he never forgets (oral sex) no matter how bad it is."

Lenny Clarke

- "My cousin just died. He was only 19. He got stung by a bee - the natural enemy of a tightrope walker."

Emo Philips

- "I saw a woman wearing a sweat-shirt with 'Guess' on it. I said, 'Thyroid problem?'"

Emo Philips

- "Honesty is the key to a relationship. If you can fake that, you're in."

Rich Jeni

- "Hockey is a sport for white men. Basketball is a sport for black men. Golf is a sport for white men dressed like black pimps."

Ren Hicks

- "Things you'll never hear a woman say : 'My, what an attractive scrotum!'"

Jeff Green

- "I read somewhere that 77 per cent of all the mentally ill live in poverty. Actually, I'm more intrigued by the 23 per cent who are apparently doing quite well for themselves."

Emo Philips

- "My parents saw the president they loved get shot in the head. I saw my president get head."

Elon Gold

- "I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a Great White or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot."

Kevin James

- "Capital punishment turns the state into a murderer. But imprisonment turns the state into a gay dungeon-master."

Emo Philips

- "My mother never saw the irony in calling me a son-of-a-bitch."

Rich Jeni

SUMMER WORK

Interested in Groupleader Work for the Introduction to University Programme on Campus during June 18th to June 30th 2000 ?

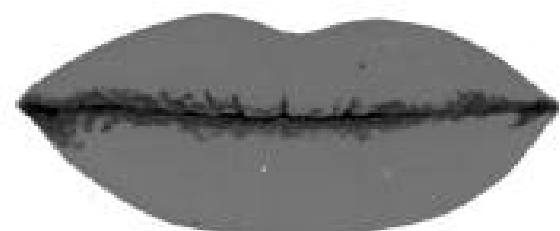
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It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Taurus 19 April – 19 May

With the recent burst of sunshine and good weather, your life is bright and sunny. Life is good and the love – life will flourish.

Gemini 20 May – 20 June

For the first time in your life, you are in control. You feel ready, willing and able to take the world on, and it looks like a love interest could develop.

Cancer 21 June – 21 July

Friendship is not one of your virtues. You need to enter the real world and realise that your friends aren't going to hang around forever.

Leo 22 July – 21 August

You are going to be lucky in love – and it's much needed. Stress has been a big part of your life recently, and a bit of lovin' will not go astray.

Virgo 22 August – 21 September

You have a lot more on your mind on exams this week. Family affairs need to be sorted fairly lively before all hell breaks lose.

Libra 22 September – 22 October

You are very quick to defend yourself this week, as the pressure of college sets in. Try to take it easy and relax. Understand that everyone is in the same boat.

Scorpio 23 October – 21 November

Your friendly nature changes over the next week, and you are beginning to stand up to those who walk all over you. Be assertive.

Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December

Relax and take it easy. Nothing in this life is worth that much worry. What you really need is a long, warm bubble bath – perhaps even with someone special!

Capricorn 21 December – 19 January

Your exterior is somewhat different to the interior you. What you really need to do is to decide whether you want the real you revealed or not.

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February

Love with a Scorpio seems likely. Both of you have similar characters, but not to worry, all will work out in the end.

Pisces 19 February – 19 March

Try not to get too stressed out over the next few weeks. All will be well at the end of it all, even if freaking out is one of your stepping stones along the way.

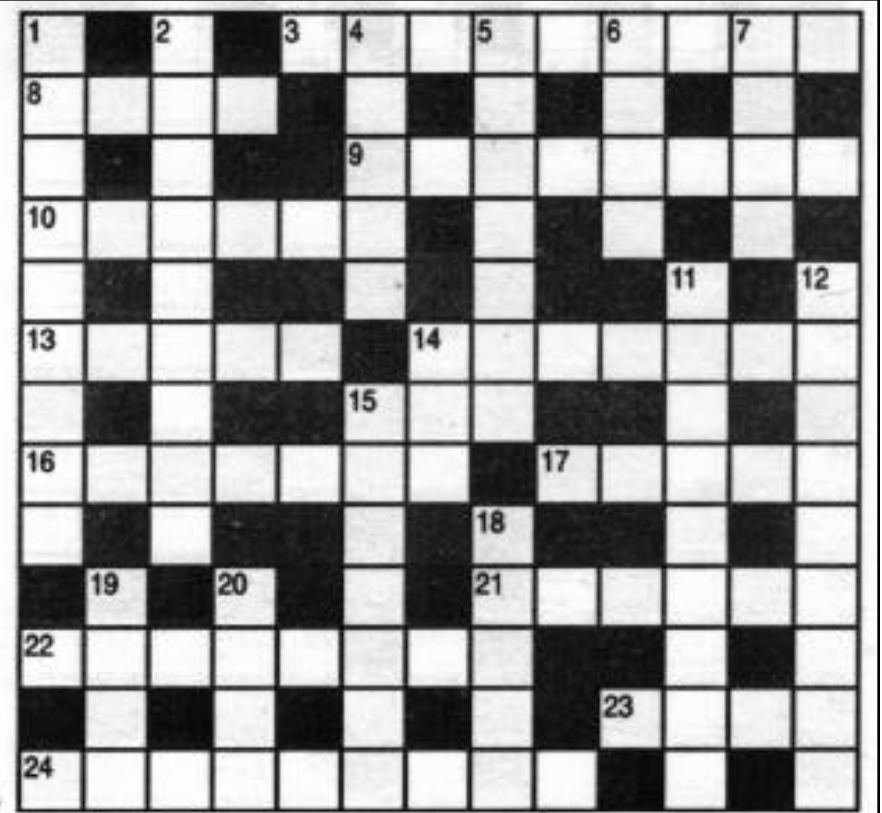
Aries 20 March – 18 April

It's all fun and games till someone loses an eye! A little hard work never killed anyone. But it'll all be worth it in the end. Just think of the celebrations at the end of the term!

The New 95FM Student Talkback Crossword

Student Talkback every Thursday 9pm

Fill 'em in, drop 'em in, + win yourself a couple of CDs



ACROSS

- 3. Killer snake (4,5)
- 8. Was deeply regretful about (4)
- 9. Tending to stray (8)
- 10. Malayan skirt (6)
- 13. Picture puzzle (5)
- 14. Celebrate (7)
- 15. Fighting between nations (3)
- 16. Russian soup (7)
- 17. Dance in a line (5)
- 21. Drive away (6)
- 22. Registered an invention (8)
- 23. Attendant (4)
- 24. Thwarted (9)

DOWN

- 1. Outlaw (9)
- 2. Acrid feeling in the chest (9)
- 4. Adult form of insect (5)
- 5. Less experienced (7)
- 6. Those we own (4)
- 7. Skating arena (4)
- 11. Taken, possibly for ransom (9)
- 12. Coming to pass (9)
- 14. Rodent (3)
- 15. — down, gradually diminish (7)
- 18. Muddle (5)
- 19. Repair by sewing (4)
- 20. Political rally (abbr.) (4)

le scribble box

Last weeks answers

ACROSS - 1. Phewer, 7. Doozall, 8. Orbis, 10. Treacherer, 12. Embedded, 14. Soap, 16. Macy, 17. String up, 20. Coarctated, 23. Debra, 24. Burialist, 25. Pious.
 DOWN - 3. People, 2. Wink, 5. Hour, 4. Gweed, 6. Backstage, 6. Slippy, 9. Tooty, 11. Obscenity, 13. Ben, 15. Wiped, 16. Record, 18. Proton, 19. Craft, 21. Soap, 22. Dull.

Well it is the end of the year, and the last State of the Nation for another few months, and for you who do actually read this political section of the paper, I thank you.

So for the last one I have decided to look at the actual set-up of some of the political parties in the country in the race that is about to begin for the next general election (maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow but soon or at the latest in two years), but we shall pretend that it will be held within the next three months.

I shall start with the largest – Fianna Fáil. A party of government which has been hit with the brunt of three tribunals of inquiry. By and large Fianna Fáil has come out bruised but still standing. Some of its parliamentary party members have been implicated in the scandals of corruption, but it would seem, going by the results of last year's Local Government elections, that the party still has the trust of a substantial portion of the people, albeit those people who actually came out and voted. Consistent opinion polls have placed the party in or around 48%, while its leader Bertie Ahern has one of the highest satisfactory ratings of any party leader, and that's not because he is on Today FM almost every morning. In any election the Fianna Fáil organisation manages to successfully reach the electorate and is rewarded. The last election saw them a few seats short of an overall majority and this, some commentators would say, was down to good election strategy management. It is likely, if an election was to be held in three months time, Fianna Fáil would come back into government and it is my humble opinion that the party will maintain all of its seats in the Dáil.

The other government party are the Progressive Democrats, a small party averaging around 4% in the polls and did woeful in the last general election. It is likely that the party's former leader Des O'Malley will resign his seat at the end of this Dáil, with the possibility that his daughter might run in his place. The PDs in Limerick East are strong and should possibly maintain its seat there, but nationally the PDs are in decline as can be seen from the local elections. The party has done well in government, but one could argue that the larger party has out-voiced them on

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

many issues. The party has been noted for its criticism of Fianna Fáil ministers during the government's term of office, especially on the immigration question with Liz O'Donnell coming out trumps on that occasion. The party, I think will loose some of its five seats, and it is only a matter of time before the party will eventually cease to exist if they do badly in the next election.

Fine Gael have done badly in opposition as has its leader John Bruton, who has never managed to capture the moment nor the energy that is needed in opposition to survive. The party has little to offer in terms of quality ministerial leadership, with some minor exceptions maybe. There are some youthful deputies in the parliamentary party but it will take time for them to make a name for themselves. The party is averaging around 28% in the polls and did have some small loses in the local elections. The party is capable of entering government again with the support of Labour, should that party do well which is likely.

Labour has not done well from its merger with Democratic Left with continuing friction at a grass roots level. The party has effective deputies such as Pat Rabbitte and its leader Ruairí Quinn and may increase its vote in the coming election and even hold a balance of power.

Sinn Féin is the party that most commentators are advising to watch. They have managed over the past two years to start building a coherent grass roots structure. However, the party's success is solely dependent on the situation in Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin will take some of the vote from Fianna Fáil, but not as significantly as people may imagine. The party itself hopes to achieve between three and five seats in the next Dáil, but this is imaginative thinking to say the least. Its sitting TD has been ineffective in the

Dáil, and has not managed to make his voice heard, as one would expect from a party like Sinn Féin. It is likely that the party will get two seats, maintaining its current one and possibly another in Dublin. Either way the party will continue in isolation for a good time yet.

The Green Party has traditionally done well in European elections, but the party is beginning to make an impact in the larger urban areas. It is likely that the party will keep its two seats and may bring another with them, which may be crucial in the forming of any coalition government. Green deputies are noted for their hard-work, especially on Dáil committees and for their deliveries in the Dáil.

The Socialist Party's only TD is Joe Higgins, an effective orator but ignored by many both within and outside of the Dáil chamber. He does however get a substantial vote in Dublin, but unfortunately for all the would be socialists, the vote does not leave the capital.

So if I was a betting man, which I am, I would say that if an election was called within three months, the current government would be returned. The many scandals that has befallen parties both in opposition and in government will not manifest itself in any major way, but will no doubt deter people from voting.

"If the voters are rational and if voting involves some cost (in the form of information gathering, decision-taking, shoe leather and general MENTAL DISTRESS during election campaigns) then a real benefit must accrue from the actual voting." (Anthony Downs in 1956)
'Doesn't always work that way Antho' (David Fleming in 2000)

The Diary of Doctor Zaius.

(The Return of Charlton Heston).

The Zaius Guide To Exams

After the last issue of An Focal I have to write this article from protective custody.

The world news today is that ABCnews suspect that the creator of the 'love bug virus' may be a woman. Well done, that's nearly fifty percent of the population of earth eliminated from inquiries, plus Mel C, no trouble now, just look for the genius wearing pantyhose in computer systems (don't they all).

Russia elected prince of darkness Vladimir 'Just call me Dracula' Putin, former head of the KGB and looks like Zorin from 'A View to a Kill'. he Americans must love him; it's a wonder they don't have special scary music to accompany his arrival from the bowels of hell. Come on people, with a name like Vladimir, he has to be evil, he's straight out of a hammer horror, all that's missing is a phone caller with a wheeze and a couple of teenagers making out by a lake in the woods at night, scary biscuits.

At last my cult followers, my reign of terror over the taboo subjects of society must come to an end. While I whittle away my time and money on strippers and narcotics all of you must face the most undesired circumstance of the end of year examinations, all my fans, you are in my thoughts and prayers, I shall sacrifice a virgin in the hope you do well. Spare a thought for the invigilators while you're in there. Remember you've got something to do, they're paid to perfect that vacant stare at the buxom blond in the dungarees.

A few tips for throwing the people correcting your work as well as you fellow students who are after all competitors in the jungle of academia.

One, order four times as much paper as you need, obviously this lets others think your clever as you can shuffle them loudly, write on one side only and perturb members of the environmental society as an added bonus.

Two, order graph paper when the exam doesn't require it. Invigilators are bound by some ancient tribal law to give it to you. Then actually draw a graph of

time versus your love for your pets, put a dip in the middle and label it, 'when fluffy stopped taking baths with me', the examiner will be more distressed that you named your pet fluffy, especially if it's a goldfish.

Three, a great trick is to find out the examiners address and draw a map on your rough work of how to get to his/her address, write their address down and title the whole thing, 'Plan B'.

Four, shhhhhhh really loudly at even the slightest noise, especially if an invigilator made it.

Five, write in you own blood.

Six, start all essay answers with 'It was a dark and stormy night...'

Seven, if you don't know an answer claim the Fifth Amendment, especially if it's a law paper.

Eight, in any computer programming exam write down all the sites worth visiting (especially if you have a credit card, you know what I mean) we know you know them all but the examiner wants to know.

Nine, ask to be moved to a better seat because you don't like the view from the one you are at.

Finally ten, write in 'accordance with Dr Zaius' at the end of each answer.

That's all.

dr_zaius_cosmic_love_monkey@yahoo.com

In just the last few years, a plethora of new recruitment agencies have set up offices here in Limerick. There are becoming highly visible and no new prestigious office development worth it's salt is going to do without one.

The use of recruitment agencies in Ireland differs from the Continent. In the rest of Europe, it is not unusual for students and graduates to go to agencies first before contacting employers directly. This went for summer jobs - where an agency could find you a job in a factory - as much as it went for long-term "career" jobs. But the situation in Ireland is changing. All the agencies are expanding, hence the new offices in town, and they may be the way of the future. More and more people are turning to them to help find a job.

Who are these agencies for?

Agencies look for graduates in business and IT in particular, but also recruit graduates in any discipline. It depends on the jobs they have on the books. There are some agencies that place people in factories and so on. For those jobs, you don't even necessarily need your Leaving but we'll focus on the graduate jobs in this article. There are students in their final year who've missed the Milk Round, when employers come looking to recruit in the Autumn, or just don't fancy starting work as soon as they finish their exams. If this is you, then an agency might be of service.

Who are they not for?

If you want to be a butcher, a baker, or indeed a candlestick maker, then chances are a recruitment agency is not for you. They will tend to specialise in specific kinds of office jobs. Also they rarely have part time jobs on their books and don't really recruit for summer jobs either. Employers usually recruit for those kinds of positions themselves.

How much do they charge?

The service is free to the job seeker. Agencies make their money by charging the company a commission. You don't have to pay a penny.

So what's their commission?

A recruitment agency that places somebody in a £20K job pockets, about three grand. Not bad, eh?

How long will it take to get a job?

It can be a month if you're not already working. If you need to give your existing employer a month's notice on top of that, then it's two months.

What is the procedure?

You contact the agency to arrange for a preliminary interview, show up in your suit and go through your CV with a recruitment consultant. The consultant will have a number of jobs on their books and he or she will try to match you up with one. The recruitment consultants themselves will tend to be quite young by the way, given that it is such a fast expanding industry. Also he or she will have a background in his or her area of specialisation. So, consultants who place people in IT jobs will typically have an IT degree. Once the consultant finds the right job for you might be placed in that job immediately or you will go through another interview with your potential new employer. The consultant will not go looking for a reference of your existing employer without your permission so the fact that you're looking for a new job remains confidential. Don't forget that the consultant gets a commission for placing you in a job so they will bend over backwards to help you get it. This will mean giving you background info on the firm, interview hints and so on. Generally, once you are placed with a firm, your ties are cut with the agency. You are now under contract to the firm and get paid by them

What kind of jobs are available?

This depends on the agency. Some specialise in a particular area, like say, accounting or information technology. Others are more general agencies, although they will have specialist recruitment consultants within the agency dealing with specific industries. Currently agencies are recruiting to fill techie positions in companies. These are not necessarily computer or software firms, as IT graduates are needed everywhere. Companies also fill positions in their accounting, marketing, and planning departments through recruitment agencies. There is a huge number of customer service jobs available



through agencies. Customer Service is not a term liked by recruitment consultants. The job has something of an image problem, given that it is seen a job where you're stuck to a telephone all day long like a customer-oriented battery chicken. So the agencies might use a euphemism like 'problem solver' or something. Nevertheless, the job is not as bad as many people think. It can allow you move sideways and upwards to a more prestigious job within a company once you have your foot in the door. Plus, if you stay at it, you can make good money as team leader down the line.

Who can I talk to if I'm unsatisfied with an agency?

The Irish Federation of Personnel Services (IFPS) was established in 1971 as a representative body for Irish Recruitment Agencies. Membership of the IFPS is granted only to organisations who meet certain standards and who agree to abide by their Code of Professional Conduct. There are 96 member agencies within the federation, including all the main ones. If you meet problems with a particular agency get on to them.

The agencies get a lot of bouquets of flowers from satisfied customers. One of the consultants that I spoke to received a few boxes of chocolates since starting in that job not long previously. Obviously there are people out there happy with what they do.

Websites

All the big agencies have impressive, expensive-looking websites and they are not hard to find on the web. Try also: www.fas.ie and www.ifps.ie.

The Night Is Young

An Focal spoke to Kate Butler about the campaign currently underway to extend nightclub opening hours. here's what she had to say

Has nightclubbing become a national pastime? Do thousands of people hit the dancefloors every week end? Does it have any relevance to our social lives or even society in general?

It depends on what angle you're coming from. If you're a shopkeeper, selling vinyl for a living, or a club promoter putting on gigs for a living, or a musician, producing records for a living, then the matter has great relevance. If you're a fifty year old TD then the chances are that you don't give a toss because the people who do care come within that age bracket which the government tidy away in a file called 'don't vote, don't care, don't change'. And that is, unfortunately, where most of us young 'uns fit in.

It's not apathy on our part alone that sets us up for defeat. There are a few hurdles. Public opinion is not pro clubbing. It's too closely linked with demon drugs. But the age old argument that more people die from alcoholism in this country than from overdosing on Ecstasy still rings true. Ultimately the opposition boils down to money. There's lots and lots of money to be made for the government from selling booze. I have yet to see a drug dealer paying taxes.

However, irregardless of the governments stance on clubbing, they have no reason to believe that people want otherwise. There's been little clamouring or shouting for a change in nightclub legislation. But the irony is, there is no legislation specific to nightclubs. It's unbelievable, but our laws relating to late night entertain-

ment were drawn up when your average night out was down at the town hall for a showband which stopped playing at one or two in the morning. It's a little archaic, in other words.

The Nightlife Campaign wants this to change. We want club hours and legislation to be brought into line with the rest of Europe. And we want young people to initiate the change. The fact of the matter is that not enough young people are getting in touch with their TD's to voice their opinions on this matter. We aim to make this process much easier by publicising whom to contact and how best to do it. We will also be mounting a voter registration campaign to show politicians how deeply we feel about this issue.

The Oireachtas Committee on Liquor Licensing recently compiled a report recommending common sense changes for nightclub legislation. This was ignored in May when the government passed a bill pertaining to Liquor Licensing. They extended club opening hours to 2.30, with a drink up time of half an hour. This effectively legalises current practises instead of addressing the issue properly. All that needs to be put in place is a Nightclub Permit, vetted by the local authorities and granted by the Circuit Court, which could decide how long each nightclub could stay open on an individual basis.

This campaign is about creating awareness about dance music culture and about the creativity and inclusion it has inspired amongst young people. After collecting over a thousand signatures over only a couple of hours at Homelands, we feel that the goodwill is there. We do need

more support and we will be spreading the word at as many dance festivals this summer as we can. We want the government to recognise that this is a part of our lives.

Kate Butler

if you're interested look it up at

<http://www.nightlifecampaign.com/>



Scholars CLUB

**The Management and Staff of the
Scholars Club would like to thank
everyone for their support and
custom during the last semester.**

We look forward to seeing you all over the summer and
in the new term

visit our website at www.scholarsclub.ie
we'd appreciate any suggestions

It's been a long year, one in which an awful lot of people wrote for an focal about an awful lot of things. In this, the last issue, we're going to take a look back over some of the things that featured in the paper over the last two terms.

Remember This.....

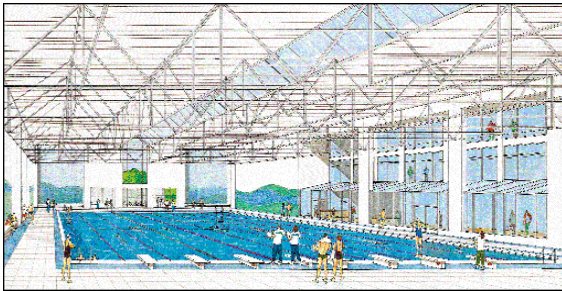
From news stories, to features, ents and clubs and socs, we've a fair bit to get through over the next four pages. first up.....

UL Gets The Country's First 50m Pool.

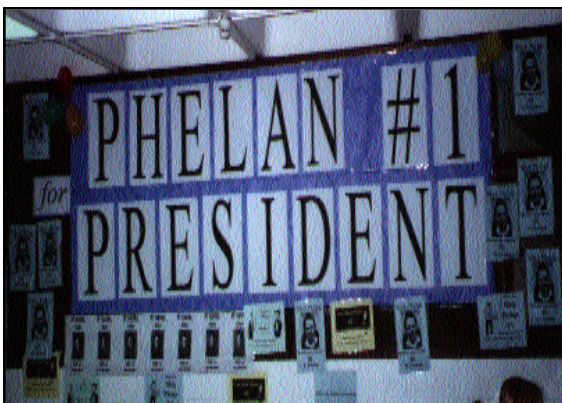
.....This pool shall be Phase 2 of the £11 million Sports Centre already under construction. A unique feature to be incorporated into the new pool will be a raisable base. This allows the pool to have a shallow end when it is in general student/staff/public use, and a uniform depth throughout the pool when elite swimmers are training in it.

This new sports arena area will be up to six times bigger than the current sports hall in the sports building.

The dry sports phase should be open for use in February/March 2000 with the pool coming online in September 2000.....



New Students' Union Elected



Tragic Death Of Student At University Basketball Tournament.

The University of Limerick is still reeling this week after the tragic death of first year student Ross Cooney at a basketball tournament representing UL in the national basketball arena in Tallaght .

Ross was pronounced dead by paramedics on the spot following unsuccessful attempts to resuscitate him after he suffered a massive coronary episode.

The first year student was an avid athlete and had proudly represented Limerick at an intervarsity and at county level.

some of the years news stories

EGM Votes In Favour Of Fourth SU Sabbatical

A big step forward was achieved on Thursday of Week 7, when almost 300 students voted in favour of a proposal to split the job of Communications and Education Officer within the Students' Union.

Following the inquorate UGM held the previous Tuesday, the Students' Union decided to have another go, and the increased publicity, including more comprehensive postering and flyering, flyers in An Focal and in houses and visits to lectures, ensured that the quorum of 200 students, the number needed to make decisions binding, was reached.

Student Centre to open on Oct 18th.

The new Student Centre is due to open on the 18th October and is currently getting the finishing touches applied. In just over a week, students will be able to avail of the many facilities that lie within this magnificent building. There are new clubs and societies meeting rooms and office, a fantastic new radio station, a large common room, games room, function room, new bar, Students' Union and Alumni offices, and retail units, all facing out onto a great new courtyard. This centre was conceived almost four years ago by the Students' Union 95/96 and students agreed to pay £30 each year to 50% finance the construction of the building. Since then, it has been designed, laid out, and constructed into what you see today...The Student Centre.

Students Voice Their Opinion On New Bar At Heated EGM

LAST TUESDAY night saw the second Union meeting in a week, where the new Student Centre bar was the topic of discussion.

A sizeable number of UL students deemed themselves interested and turned up in a large enough number (in or around 270 - 300) to deem the meeting quorate.

All of the publicity for the meeting centered around the fact that it would decide what approach be taken as regards finding an operator for the new Student Centre bar.



Students Well Catered For By Newly Opened Retail Outlets.

The retail outlets in the new Student Centre have begun to open their doors to the students, with some new and some improved facilities available.

There are five retail outlets in the new centre, three of which have been occupied, the fourth, a pharmacy, is awaiting confirmation from the Health Board that it can take up the unit and the fifth is yet to be filled. There is also a contemplation space in the centre, positioned between USIT and Interpoint, two of the retailers.



Wired FM On The Air Loud and Clear In Castletroy



Clubs And Societies Lose Their Hair For The Childrens Hour Appeal



UL Lecturer At The Center Of Garda Enquiry

UL's PE Department were at the eye of a storm on Thursday, the 3rd of February, as the Examiner broke the story of a UL lecturer who was placed on special leave before Christmas.

The Examiner stated that "gardaí are investigating claims that one of the country's leading sports scientists photographed some of his students naked and gave others prescription drugs without consulting a medical doctor."

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

some of the years features

the real world

Each issue, we'll have a look at the life of some UL students who've finished college, and are now living and working abroad.

Meet Nicola (America), John + Tara (Europe) and Denise in Australia

American Diaries

there's going to be a pile of people heading off to the states for the summer or on co-op. so, we've extended the real world section to let you know what you're in for, according to ian and margaret, co-op students on the rampage.

Connections A fortnightly look at the Internet with Fergus Keely

Welfare Days 1999

Bullying

Definition of Bullying:

One of the basic human rights of an individual is the right to be treated with dignity and respect. When a person behaves in a manner that is likely to deny this right to another individual this right, their behaviour could be termed 'Bullying'.

Bullying behaviour is offensive, abusive, intimidating, malicious or insulting and is likely to be persistent. It may involve the abuse of power by those in authority.

Bullying is the persecution of one individual towards another.

Different forms of Bullying:

The Bully:

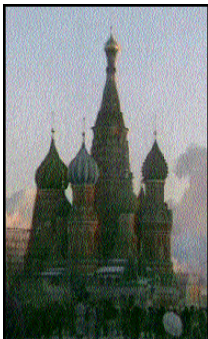
The Bullied Person:

Bullying Environment:

Questionnaire on Bullying

Ireland Through Russian Eyes

anastassia issiouk throws an eye over the similarities between her country and ours.



"The question is - why the two initially opposite vectors of 'private property' in Ireland Vs. 'public property' in Russia, at the end of the day, look so much alike?"

Isla's Eye.....

Brightening up our back page, Isla's going to take it over for the rest of the year, and let us know how she sees things



Trinity News

Student newspapers don't always get the credit they deserve.

The Best In Student Journalism?

Michelle Daly takes look at Trinity's independent newspaper, Trinity News, after their nominations at the Gaurdian Media Awards.

hen is a student paper not a student paper?

When it's Trinity News. This broadsheet form, college paper has been in existence since 1967. This year the paper was nominated for no less than three Guardian media awards. This was an honour for any paper, but for a college medium, an astounding achievement.

In the 27 colleges and universities in this country, only a select few can claim to have truly classy outputs such as our An Focal. Some of the larger more well established colleges have even got two papers such as UCG's, with 'Coolchaint' and the more recently established 'University Independent'. However few of even these smooth and sassy publications can claim to be on a par with Trinity's 'Trinity News'.

On a last word, let such great an award inspire all of us at An Focal to work harder on bringing UL's students their very best information.

Who knows next year it could be An Focals turn?

This Party's Over, I'm Going Home

This summer, Mosney hosted the first major Irish dance music festival. An Focal was there to see some of the best DJs in the world

Dance music in Ireland has been a little hard to come by, for a variety of reasons

Without whinging about the Gardai, and there lovely yellow jackets and clever undercover baseball caps, it has to be said that they've played a large part, along with our ancient laws, in the fact that Homelands was Ireland's first festival devoted completely to dance music.

The music was great, the decorations were great, the mud was great, the lollipops were great. The day was great.

RIGHT FROM IT'S SEX PISTOLS-ESQUE HEADER, YOU CAN SEE THAT UL HAS A MORE IRREVERANT PAPER AT ITS FINGERTIPS.....



Michelle Daly checks out 'scaoil an focal amach' at <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~colm/safa/>

next time you're on the net, take a look at the more alternate view of our antics in print.

Diary Of A First Year

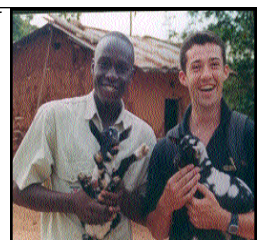
Mairead Moriarty gives us the low down on what it's like to be walking round this place for the first time. (ps go on the Kingdom!)

The Diary of Doctor Zaius.

It's in the Stars so it must be true

VOLUNTARY WORK IN AFRICA

When Trevor, Colm and James volunteered to work in Africa they never expected the reception they got.



Imagine the effect of a welcoming party of two hundred singing and dancing African schoolchildren on a group of travel-weary Europeans!

To say we were overwhelmed would be a rather mild way of describing our feelings. We had just reached our destination, Kasana, a poor town in the heart of the Luwero district of Uganda. What, you might ask, were three ULstudents doing in this remote Third World town during our summer break? Why were these children and community leaders giving us such a heart-warming welcome?

Well, strangely enough, what brought us to Uganda last August was voluntary work. We were among a group of 25 university students and young professionals from Ireland, England, Spain, Kenya and Uganda who were taking part in a Third World rural development project. These projects are run each summer by CODEP(Cleraun Overseas Development Projects). The 1999 project involved the building of a 'zero-grazing unit' in an effort to generate income to care for a great number of orphans in the local area.



some of the years entertainments

BE THERE!

JEAN MONNET THEATRE, WEDNESDAY WEEK 11, 8PM
TICKETS €5, NEW STUDENT CENTER

The Frames

Jubilee Allstars
David Kitt
Dave Cleary

'The Stars Are Underground'(Film)
Irish Tour December 1999



K-Class Rock The Gallery

On Wednesday last, 29th of September, ULSU Ents presented the first night of its dance club, VIVID @ the Gallery + the first night of the Ents Card. Tom Keenan + Edel Gallagher were there to do some groovy dancing, talk to the DJ and get the views of the punters.

the frames have a bit of a reputation down these parts. after their amazing student center gigs, and then their storming rag week gig, they've chosen our very own college to kick off their new and very different tour.



You Had To Be There.

Last week was welfare week, and as always, when your worried about someone-s welfare, you straight away think of bringing down three of Ireland' top comedians

It was all Tomas Finneran could do to stay sitting upright.



James Brown Tribute @ Dolan's

Mr. Dynamite meets his match

New Dawn For Drum And Bass In Limerick

What Lavelle Sir?

If you weren't in the Gallery last Wednesday night, then you missed one of the gigs of the year. James Lavelle stormed the crowd. Tomas Finneran was there to dance, and report back, in that order



Loads of great gigs coming up over Christmas, but the highlight has to be The Hartnoll Brothers at the Point

EVIL SANTA ; Orbital at the Point

"I feel like a progressive rock band". Orbital's hairy Hartnoll, Paul, strikes up a Regal and meets Jim Carroll in "The Middle Of Nowhere".

Heineken

SOCIETIES OF DIVERSITY

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E-MAIL: soul2000@ulj.net.ie

Monday the frames
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abbaesque
pothelly
fire walking

Tuesday beatles tribute
blink
pimps & prostitutes

Wednesday shine
alan simms
bellfast
liquid wheel
back to skool party

Thursday matt hardwick (gatecrasher)
back alley
bungee jump

Friday beach party
night fever

kollege week

3-7 april 2000

UL Clubs Move Into The National And Local Leagues

Recently, UL Clubs have started to expand and join the local leagues in a search for more games and tougher competition.

The week after the UL Ladies Basketball Club announced their merger with the Limerick National League Ladies Basketball team, **Mick Touhy** takes a look at the reasons why they and other clubs have done so.

The '98/'99 Collingwood panel that competed in the Munster Cup and the FAI Junior Cup



some of the years clubs & socs

Eclipse Takes UL Physics Society All The Way To France

Wednesday, July 11th was the last eclipse on mainland Europe until the year 2081. Not many of us will be around for

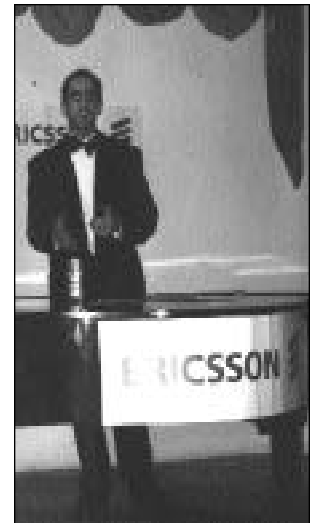
the next one, so the UL Physics Soc took the opportunity to go and have a look at an incredible phenomenon, as well as visit a local hostelry or two.



Clubs and Societies 'bond' during weekend in Kilkee

UL Debating Union Give War A Chance

UL Athletes Take All At The I.U.A.A. Athletics Intervarsities



Allez Les Bleues

The UL Hockey Clubs Take Belfast By Storm

Winning Start To Irish Senior Cup For UL Ladies Hockey Team UL 4 : 0 Muckross



UL Mens And Ladies Basketball Clubs Go All The Way To The Intervarsity Finals. Ladies Bring Home



Clubs and Societies Council – the road to professionalism

The Clubs and Societies Council is a forum for all registered clubs and societies on campus, where problems and general matters relating to clubs and societies are discussed.

It meets for a minimum of four times in a semester, for one hour. As we end this first semester of the academic year 1999/2000, we look at what this body has achieved, in this short time.

Last year, under the proposed constitutional changes to the ULSU Constitution, the Council was to be given mandating powers, which would give its decisions a legal basis for implementation. However, these constitutional changes did not come up for discussion at a Union General Meeting due to an absence of the necessary 200 quorum to change the constitution. However, the council has been acting as it has these powers with the open consent of both the Students' Union executive and the Clubs and Societies executive committees. It was proposed in this semester that council prepare a new attempt to change the constitution early in the next semester. These changes will be the final stage in the process of making the council a more professional and efficient body.

UL Rowing Club On The Way To Boston



UL BAND, POTBELLY, SET TO TAKE AMERICA BY STORM

UL Band, Potbelly, who supported the Frames during Kollege Week, are due to tour the States this summer.

The band, who also played the Stables during Kollege Week and SoUL Week, and featured in last years 'Great Gig in the Sky' organised by the UL Music Soc., as well as on the UL unplugged CD, leave for America in June with high hopes and expectations. Here's what they had to say.

This is it, the moment you'll be telling your grandchildren about in years to come, the day you read Potbelly were going to America to conquer it for all things good and Irish. As of June 2000, Potbelly will be relocating themselves in New York State, Why? Simple, to become the biggest band to ever leave these green shores and get a global recording contract.

Having begun in April '96 with William Halliden on lead guitar, combined with Tim Mullane and his talent for song-writing and on guitar, later joined by Diarmuid O'Keeffe on drums and Colin Calnan on bass, Potbelly have to date, become one of the most talented and unique musical bands in Ireland. Their song writing talents have exceeded even their initial expectations. It would be fair to say that there are about three albums worth of material that are ready to be recorded and one of the aims of the band is to demo as many as they can, so when it comes time to approach record companies they will have a huge source of material of different "colours" to choose from to put across their viewpoint.

Potbelly have kept themselves under exposed for quite a while for one solid reason. Their prior commitments in UL have withheld them from going for a real bite of the cherry. What makes them so good I hear you ask?

Number one, and more evident than anything else from each member is their sheer determination and desire to succeed in what they do best; perform live. Determination is everything in the music industry, and possessing it almost ensures success. These guys have had their low moments, sure, hasn't every band, but in the past few months their popularity has grown enormously due to persistence in getting gigs and promoting themselves at every opportunity.

Secondly, their musical talent. Here you have four extremely talented musicians. Each of them has the potential to be the best at what they do.

Tim Mullane

The man with the golden voice described recently by an American Music Promoter, as a "world class singer" fronts the band with his melodic mixture of Neil Finn and Michael Stipe. A voice that has grown incredibly stronger since the first UL gig, way back in Rag Week 1996. His stage presence is still being developed and the first month of solid gigging in America

should develop that to its full potential, he is young yet and has the world as his feet.

Diarmuid O'Keeffe

An astounding, serious, powerful drummer, determined to better the best in Irish drumming, Larry Mullen. O'Keeffe puts the pounding rhythm in to songs such as Porn Star, Punk Guy and Drag Queen but also the complexity and subtleness in some other material such as No Distance to Run and Evermay. He holds the whole band together and keeps the momentum at full speed ahead, all the time. He lives for performing and it shows in the evident passion with which he plays.

William Halliden

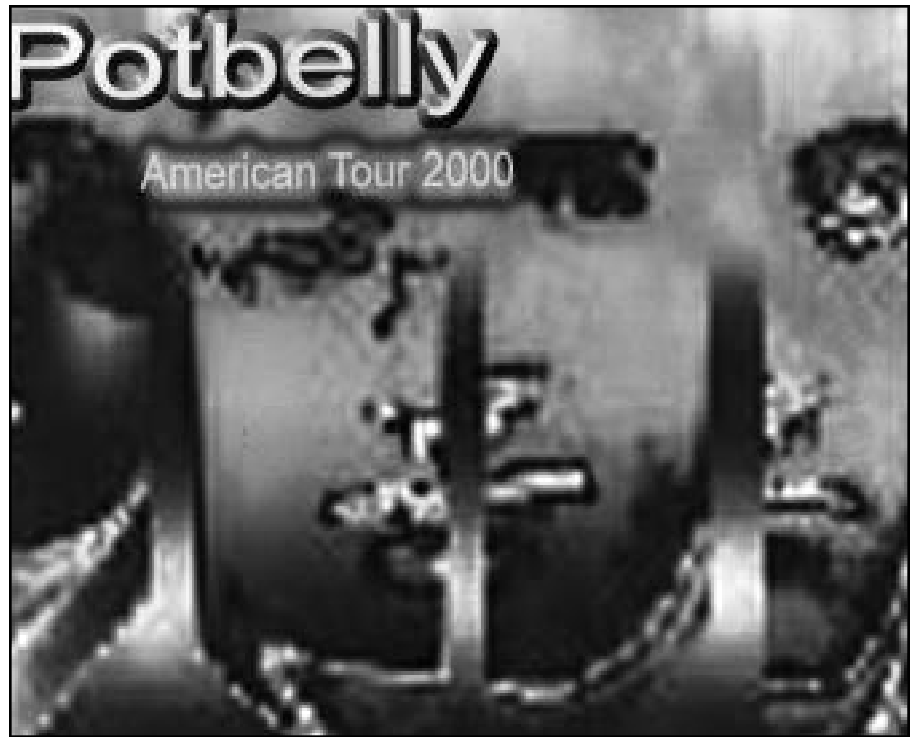
What can you say about this guy? He was born with delay built into his head. His astounding riffs with some beautiful dotted quavers and hypnotic plucking send all songs soaring. Although a total rocker at heart, with some powerful guitar, his ability to mix both heavy rock and ambient pop is a pleasure to the ear and an extreme breath of fresh air. In comparison to some of the heavy guitar, 3-chord rubbish that's in the charts today, this guy wipes the floor with them.

Colin Calnan

Described by William Halliden, in a recent radio interview, as a "melodic bass player", much to his offence, is quite that. Having just recently re-joined the band following a 3-year absence he has taken things to a new level. Bringing funk, soul, and even some showband antics to the band. A great stage presence, along with William, the two always seem to enjoy themselves immensely when they perform. His ability to develop new ways of playing bass is unnatural and unbelievable considering he is not even a bass player, having played lead guitar for the last 6 years. He breaks the typical bass player image, the stereotypical quiet one in the corner or the least noticeable member.

This tour will incorporate most of New York State and Boston for the duration of the summer. Playing at festivals such as MusicStock, Lullabazooka and The Burning Man festival to crowds exceeding 5000 in capacity. While also including residencies in several Boston and New York bars. Once the universities recommence in August, they hope to conquer the much respected university circuit and travel the length and breadth of the country playing to ecstatic fans. Eventually they hope to take the tour to Japan and finally Australia, but in order to do this they need money. And where do they get this money? Simple, from playing lots of gigs and selling as many CD's as possible.

I know how many of you will be in America for the summer on the J1 and having a great time, so why not catch these guys when they play a venue near you, believe me it would be worth your while. You can catch them closer to home on May



13th in the Glen Theatre in Banteer and they play the UL Summer Ball on 30th May.

If you want information on where they will be playing during their forthcoming US tour you can request an itinerary from their website or send an e-mail to evermay@hotmail.com. Tour information

will be updated regularly on their website <http://www.angelfire.com/music/Potbelly> and coming soon <http://www.potbelly.ie> where you can listen to some songs and see pictures of the band. So support these guys and help them to be the greatest Irish Rock group of all time, it is evident they possess the potential to do it.

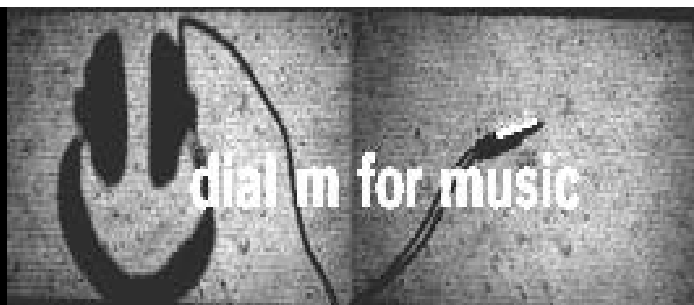
WANTED

TEACHERS AND SPORTS INSTRUCTORS FOR KIDS SUMMER CAMP THIS JULY

CONTACT: James at 061 331223 or email; jameshurley@eircom.net

Now Hear This.....

We'll review the albums + singles that you might like to spend your grant on



Homelands Ireland The Album

Mayday weekend, starring Homelands, in the great Irish day out.

If this was 1950, you'd be bringing home a stick o' rock with "rave on" threaded

through in red, sticky letters. Now you can bring home a CD. We're ever so sophisticated in the year 2000. It's a nice idea, get a bag of banging dance tunes by artists who've played at Homelands, mix Oem up, throw in a few dodgy photos of people dancing about from last year and bob's your uncle. There are some classics ("Little Fluffy Clouds" by The Orb, "No Good" by The Prodigy, "Belfast" by Orbital). There are some rocking newbies ("Aisha" by Death In Vegas, "Jump and Shout" by Basement Jaxx, "Swastika Eyes" by Primal Scream). There's some lowest common denominator stuff ("Out of Control" by The Chemical Brothers, "Everybody Loves A Carnival" by Fatboy Slim, "Cowgirl" by Underworld). And there's some trance ("Avenue" by Paul Van Dyk, "El Nino" by Agnelli and Nelson, "Belfunk" by Sasha). It's an upbeat mix of things and with 21 tracks. At least this won't get your hands all sticky.

- Kate Butler

Whipping Boy Whipping Boy

If nothing else, Whipping Boy have carved themselves out a notorious chapter in Irish rock history.

They left the competition for dead over a decade ago, when they were spraying a cacophony of blistering MBV-inspired guitar death over Dublin's headless U2 clones. The pressure of their profile and the fact that smothered pop songs could be heard wheezing for breath beneath the tumultuous din saw Whipping Boy teased into the major label corridors. Their embracing of a shiny pop studio sound seemed too sudden or incongruous to really inspire. And by this, their third album, long after the adventure appears to have disintegrated with Shakespearean poignancy, that sugary sound is rotting the core of Whipping Boy.

There's no questioning the sophistication of the writing, the sculpture of the swooping string arrangement that careens into the slow-burn fireworks of "Fly". There's no doubting Fearghal McKee has things to sing, demons to exorcise and regrets to sigh. And every now and again, a pop beauty comes spinning off-kilter, such as the shimmying Aztec Camera/Go Betweens swing of "Mutton". But there is a blandness in sound where a sharp edge once gleamed with a venomous twinkle. And there's a contentment in Fearghal's songs, as if he's resting back on those sugary indiepop noise suites, reeling off pathological pop poems about local characters like "Pat The Almighty" (partly to the tune of the Velvet's "Here It Comes Now"). There are so many musical terrains out there for Whipping Boy. You'd think they'd go exploring a bit more.

- Leagues



Psst.....
Party on
@



OPEN THURS-SUN

OR WITH STUDENT I.D.
THE MARKET

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE IN MCDAIDS AND WONKAS
TERM NEARLY OVER BUT WE WILL STILL BE HERE

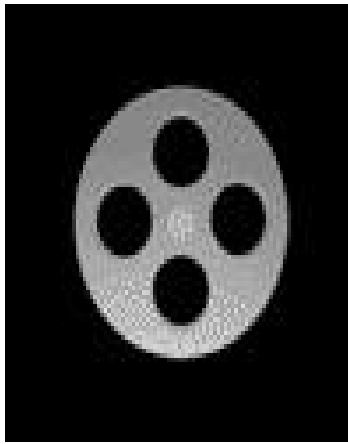
Mike O'Connell's

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also DRESS HIRE



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The Reel Thing

Each issue, we'll take a look at some of the films available on both the big and little screen, to make sure that you're not wasting valuable time watching films like 'the Avengers'

Unmissable *****
Excellent ****
Watchable ***
Below Average **
No Thank You *



Man On The Moon****
 directed by Milos Forman
 starring Jim Carrey, Courtney Love, Danny DeVito, Paul Giamatti

Andy Kaufman is dead. Long live Andy Kaufman. To those who can remember, he's Latka the wacky car mechanic from Taxi.

To a generation of US comedians, he was the boldest, most daring gagster of an age, with a style best described as Dada meets Ha-ha. To Milos Forman, he's a great American maverick, an iconoclastic anti-hero to top the subject of his last bio-pic, Larry Flint.

To Jim Carrey, it's the breakthrough role to top The Truman Show, and his road to Oscar glory. Whoops. Man On The Moon (yes, titled after the R.E.M. song that name-checks Kaufman - they provide the score here) tanked Stateside, topping even The Cable Guy as the Carrey movie no-one really wanted to see. Lots of people these days rate that particular floperoo as an under-valued classic-in-the-making. Looks like we might just have another one ready to go.

Director Forman - along with People Versus Larry Flint/Ed Wood scribes Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski - have crafted a loving portrait of a comedic anarchist, a stand-up cum performance artist cum entertainment terrorist who challenged audiences with his own unique take on funny. He scored massive sitcom success then willingly alienated millions by wrestling woman live on TV to become self-proclaimed Inter-gender Wrestling Champ Of The World. Hey - he thought it was funny.

At the height of his success, he double-jobbed as a bus boy in a Hollywood diner. His life was a series of elaborate put-ons and pranks. What about his death - from cancer in 1984 at the age of 35 - then? There's no answers offered to Kaufman's life here - what you get (after a surreal opening sequence, anyhow) is a relatively straightforward portrait of a resolutely unstraightforward enigma, given centre stage once more by Carrey's stunning turn.

Last laugh to Andy, folks...

Derek O'Connor

Circus*
 directed by Rob Walker
 starring John Hannah, Franke Janssen, Peter Stormare, Eddie Izzard, Fred Ward

Circus sucks. And sucks in so many ways that to participate in the process of actually reviewing the movie feels like an excessively cruel gesture.

Because it's so misfired, so lame and so completely unengaging on so many levels... accentuating the positive is not an option. Erm, the opening credit's music is quite good - how 'bout that?

There's no joy in seeing a thoroughly talented cast embarrass themselves in a tenth-rate alleged 'black' 'comedy' 'thriller', one that manages to completely waste the time and energies of fine character actors like Stormare, the great Fred Ward and Tiny Lister (Brit movies with international casts aimed at broadening box-office appeal - ever a good idea?), not to mention highlighting the fact that (a) John Hannah is a seriously bad idea as a romantic lead and (b) that Eddie Izzard really, really can't act. Really. And, if possible, shouldn't get his tackle out for our cinematic delight in any of his further big screen outings.

The plot? Don't ask. Criminally inclined couple (Hannah and Janssen) get mixed up in murder, double-crosses, triple-crosses, quadruple crosses, quintuple crosses and... just go see something else, OK? Writer/director Walker's



highly touted script might have made for quirky reading - The Coen Brothers hit Brighton beach - but it makes for seriously excruciating viewing.

'Knowing' film references are irritating, attempts at surreal flourishes resolutely unsuccessful and nods to Tarantino-esque cool, well, just plain embarrassing. There's even a 'comedy' sex scene. Great.

At present, the British Film Industry is plain confused; they know there's an audience - hits like East Is East and Lock, Stock... prove that - they just don't know what to give 'em. Right now, the winner/complete drivel ratio's running at roughly 10:1. And rising.

Still - at least Rhys Ifans wasn't in it, eh?

Derek O'Connor

reviews courtesy of www.muse.ie, www.doras.ie/movies

Cradle Will Rock**
 directed by Tim Robbins
 starring Hank Azaria, Angus MacFadyen, John Turturro, Bill Murray, Cherry Jones, Susan Sarandon, John Cusack, Joan Cusack, Ruben Blades, Jack Black, Vanessa Redgrave...

Directorially, Tim Robbins hit the ground running in 1992 with Bob Roberts, scoring acclaim and awards with his follow-up, Dead Man Walking.

Now he's back in the driving seat for the third time; Cradle Will Rock (a mostly true story) turns the spotlight on hitherto unknown composer Marc Blitzstein and the

tale of the 1936 Federal Theater production of his eponymous 'play with music', directed by the then 22 year old Orson Welles (MacFadyen) and suppressed on the eve of its premiere.

The complex background to this blustering film is mass unemployment, Labour strikes, anti-Communist committees, the struggle for free speech and - phew - the power of drama. Olive Stanton (the ghastly, reedy-voiced Emily Watson) is starving before she begs for a job as a stagehand at the Theater; Nelson Rockefeller (Cusack) commissions Diego Rivera (Blades) to create a mural for his skyscraper; Mussolini envoy Margherita Sarfati (Sarandon) trades great paintings to America's industrialists for favours to Italy; the Federal Theatre's founders are brought before a Senatorial Committee, accused of communism sympathies; anti-commie ventriloquist Tommy Crickshaw (the brilliant

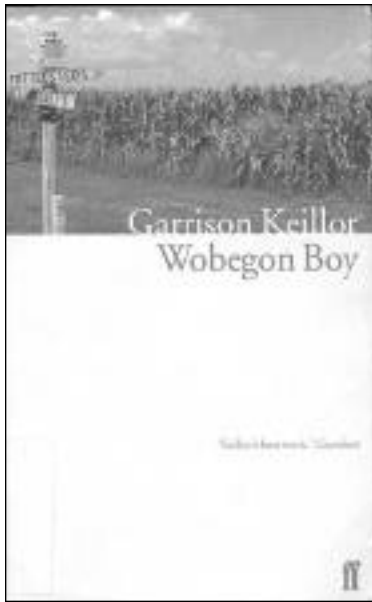
Bill Murray) believes he's found a kindred spirit in Federal Theater employee Hazel (Joan Cusack, in a strange echo of her role in last year's Arlington Road, also starring Robbins); the nutty Countess La Grange (Redgrave) unnerves her billionaire husband Gray Mathers (Baker Hall) when she hooks up with the local bohemians... Keeping up? All the while, producer John Houseman (Elwes) and director Welles, are being exceedingly theatrical, living it up prior to opening night. Not to Blitzstein (Azaria) haunted by the spectres of his late wife and Bertholt Brecht (who in fact lived another twenty years!). Yes folks, this is all happening in the same film.

Robbins' script is like a runaway train, one that doesn't end - it rather crashes to a halt. Indeed, this is a film that is very hard to like, much less love; the performances are madly out of sync - from MacFadyen and Elwes' luvved-up antics to the restrained ironic humour implicit in Murray and (Joan) Cusack's scenes. 'Nothing in art is inappropriate,' points out Blades' Rivera, grumbling as Rockefeller's stooges destroy his picture for the people. He's probably right: Robbins has created his own intractable mural, and he's clearly having a whale of a time. You might just get a headache. Deeply strange and very worthy.

Elaine Lennon

Very Well Read.

Darragh O'Donoghue reviews the books that you should be reading



Wobegon Boy Garrison Keillor

Picked up this book in the popular reading section of the library the other day.

You might have to wait hours to get on to a computer in there but at least you can while away the time reading funny little books like *Wobegon Boy* by Garrison Keillor.

It's about John Tollefson, a radio director from the

small town Minnesota who moves to upstate New York to manage a college radio station. His listeners are none too bright since this is a college which caters to no hoper kids with wealthy parents. (Thankfully there is no Dead Poets Society-style attempt made to edify them. Till the end they remain a bunch of dodos.) Tollefson settles in, falls in love with the sophisticated Alida, and invests a pot of money in a doomed restaurant. Then his father dies and his PC-crazed bosses at the station fire him from his job. He realises his life lacks nobility and grace so he moves to New York with Alida.

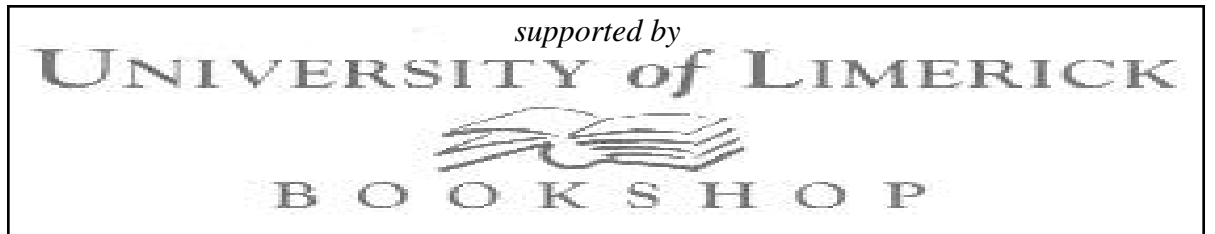
And that is pretty much it. I hope Keillor is making money from the book sales because there is going to be none rushing up to him to buy the film rights. As mid-life crises go, the one described here is pretty tame. But it is still a decent read. Might sound like a bit of a yawn but the novel is filled with funny little anecdotes about Tollefson's small hometown, with all its characters. A place where everybody is of Lutheran Norwegian stock. There is something slightly odd about the place in a way not easy to define. Imagine *Fargo* without the kidnapping and grisly murders. This book would be what you're left with.

The Beach Alex Garland

There are so many books about mid-life crises, though, wouldn't a novel about the younger generation be refreshing?

Sure I can understand why someone hurtling towards middle age would think 'Fuck! What have I done with my life?' and want to write about it, but this theme really doesn't have that much relevance for me. Luckily, 'The Beach' by Alex Garland has come along. It's about a guy born the same year as myself and inspired a movie featuring Leonardo DiCaprio: also the same age. (Granted Lenny D looks substantially younger and would have fierce trouble getting into Doc's. But still.)

This book is about backpacker called Richard who is



bumping around Thailand in search of the exotic and some seclusion. The thing about backpacking around the world's wilder spots: Goa, Lhasa, maybe Nenagh, is that you're going to spend most of your time bumping into other backpackers.

In Bangkok, the couple in the hotel room next door are making so much nookie he can't sleep. Meanwhile the Scottish guy in the opposite room is muttering darkly about beaches and that doesn't help either. So much for seclusion. But the Scot gets Richard's interest by telling him of the Beach, a secret island paradise where a select community lives in blissful isolation.

Next day the Scottish guy is found with his wrists slashed after leaving Richard a map to this Beach. You'd think the wrist slashing would put young Richard off. Certainly it's not a marketing ploy Budget Travel will be using. Undaunted though, he's off like a shot but he's going to learn that paradise must come at a price. There will be tears. There will be blood. Not everybody is going to make out alive, and, for a finish, Richard might be wondering why he didn't just stay at home and take that lucrative job flipping burgers in a Huddersfield Burger King instead. The moral here: Never Leave the Country! The Beach has the vital criteria of a cult classic: lots of young people running about, (cult classics rarely feature old ladies knitting winter woollies), and a movie starring a trendy actor. (Notice how quick the book disappeared from the bestseller list once the movie left the cinemas.)

The Iron Giant Ted Hughes

Finally another movie tie-in: the Iron Giant. This book first came out in

1968 when it was titled the Iron Man: a Story in Five Nights.

Last year, it inspired a moderately successful Warner Bros animated film. (The name change for the movie might have been to avoid confusion with the Man in the Iron Mask. Or else they just thought the new name sounded cooler.)

Ted Hughes originally wrote it for his children after wife, the poet Sylvia Plath, committed suicide. The bumbling giant robot in the book might be a metaphor for the grieving Hughes. The book and the film are quite different plot-wise. The film is a lot like *ET*: a fatherless American boy befriends a creature from space that the government wants destroyed. The pair go off flying together, bond, and eventually the boy saves the alien's life. 'The Iron Man' of the book actually lives in the sea, doesn't get to know the boy so well (no Hollywood style bonding here), and is eventually called upon to save the world from a massive



space-bat-angel-dragon who wants to eat the world. I'm thinking, ever eat in Superdine, space-bat-angel-dragon guy? That would put you off Earth food for good.

The sun is splitting the rocks and I'm off to enjoy it. Have a good summer and do make it back alive next autumn. For summer reading, why not *The Beach*? Your fellow sun bathers will dig your sense of irony. In the meantime take care of yourselves. And each other.

O'Mahony's Bestseller List

Paperback Fiction

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. <i>Never Look Back</i>
(Penguin) | Lesley Pearse |
| 2. <i>Man & Boy</i>
(HarperCollins) | Tony Parsons |
| 3. <i>The Testament</i>
(Arrow) | John Grisham |
| 4. <i>The End of the Affair</i>
(Penguin) | Graham Greene |
| 5. <i>The Beach</i>
(Penguin) | Alex Garland |

Paperback Non-Fiction

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. <i>Cooked in a Flash</i>
(Appletree) | Jeremy Bristow |
| 2. <i>Angela's Ashes</i>
(Flamingo) | Frank McCourt |
| 3. <i>This Great Little Nation</i>
(Gill & Macmillan) | Gene Kerrigan |
| 4. <i>Easy Way to Stop Smoking</i> Alan Carr
(Penguin) | |
| 5. <i>2000-2001 Money Pension and Tax Guide</i>
(Tab) | |

Original Fiction

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. <i>The Brethren</i>
(Century) | John Grisham |
| 2. <i>Something for the Weekend</i> Pauline McLynn
(Headline) | |
| 3. <i>Fortune Rocks</i>
(Abacus) | Anita Schreve |
| 4. <i>Monster</i>
(Little, Brown) | Jonathan Kellerman |
| 5. <i>Last Chance Saloon</i>
(Poolbeg) | Marian Keyes |





Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Socs 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 Center, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

Clubs & Societies Year in Review

Well, at last we have come to the end of another hectic year in the life of Clubs & Society administration and development here on campus. This article for the last issue of An Focal is specifically to convey a year in review to all the Clubs & Society members and the wider community in terms of what I believe are real signs of progress in the on going development of Clubs and Society activity on campus.

Administration Weekend

This weekend is designed to prepare and advise Clubs and Society administrators on what is expected of them in the course of the year and provide useful hints and tips for a more productive term of office as a committee member for their particular Club or Society. This Administration weekend is a constitutional requirement for any Club or Society under the auspices of the "Union" to attend in order to qualify for a budget- (non-attendance means no budget). The other key function of this forum is to elect the Clubs & Societies Executive, which is comprised of no less than 8 democratically elected representatives. (See Executive Below).

This was the first time that this was organised for an overnight stay off campus and Kilkee was the destination with the venue's being Kilkees' Marine Hotel and the Ocean Cove respectively. Workshops were set up to cover various topics such as sponsorship and event management amongst others. The idea was generally well received and the craic afterwards in Miles Creek pub by the Alvin Purple experience enhanced the whole weekend away.

Next Year the venue will be the Limerick Inn and this will not include an overnight stay (naturally enough) because many of the Clubs found it inconvenient to stay overnight because of club commitments so therefore it has been brought closer to home. This will include a meal for all involved to avoid the hassle that arose with a buffet in the Ocean Cove and entertainment will be provided afterwards as always.

Executive Meetings (Weekly)

These representatives are responsible for the administering of Clubs and Society finances, liaising with the Students Union and its subsidiary bodies i.e. Class Reps and SU Exec' the Development Officer and the Sports Administrator, and all the time working to promote as well as offering advice in the on-going development of Clubs and society issues. The vote to determine this body was in stark contrast to last year as all 8 positions were "husted" for, this to my mind was a very positive indicator in

terms of students taking an interest in promoting an developing their own extra curricular activities.

The Clubs & Societies Executive decided that if the progress of Clubs & Societies was to build upon last years developments that the executive would have to meet more regularly, so it was decided to meet each Friday where possible for 1 hour. The objective being to deal with the pertinent issues that arose from Council and to try and deal with them as expediently as possible so that there were not too many issues left lingering week after week and to implement any and all requests mandated upon the Executive by the Clubs & Societies Council (See Clubs & Societies Council below). This was an extremely useful set-up this year that saw the Clubs & Societies Executive meet on no less than 16 occasions. It is a forum that will be more streamlined next year once the three year plan (See below) is implemented which sets specific briefs for each of the elected positions which should contribute to further developments within the Clubs & Societies of the University of Limerick. Great credit is due to those people who gave their time to enhancing student activities and offer more to the college experience than just the environment of the Classroom.

As a result of the Clubs & Societies Executive idea's and innovations the following is a list of the achievements and projects that they were involved in:

Memorial Wall

This is on display in the Clubs & Societies main office as a tribute to those deceased Clubs & Societies members past and present. The memorial wall was launched in a small ceremony of approximately 80 people, which included Clubs, & Societies representatives and members of the Sadleir, O'Brien, Driscoll and Cooney families. Mrs Frances Sadleir re-dedicated the room to her son Mike and each of the families was presented with a copy of the new Clubs & Societies yearbook which contained pictures and tributes of their loved ones. Unfortunately due to the incomplete records at our disposal it has meant that many members who would have died are unknown to us but will be added in due course as we are made aware of their details and specific Club or Society involvement. Our sincere thanks to the families, Clubs & Societies, Students Union, Fr. P.J Sommers, John Hickey of "Himar Memorials" for his swift service given such short notice, Fergal Cunningham of the Student Teachers Society for his workmanship in the mounting and presentation of the plaques and finally the Scholars Club for the excellent Cheese and Wine reception.

Yearbook

This was not a new idea by any means but nonetheless an idea that had fallen by the wayside over the last few years and that was resurrected this year to catalogue the on going

achievements of the Clubs and Societies of ULin the course of the year. The main feature in this publication was the "Out of Sight but not out of Mind" tribute to the former Clubs & Society members listed above including photograph and tribute in the opening pages. 50 of the 60 or so clubs and Societies were involved and credit due to all for being organised enough to provide the necessary information before the deadline had expired (ahem ahem). Credit is due to this years outstanding CEO Mr. Dave O Donavan for putting this publication together given the constant "An Focal" deadlines, amongst the squillions of other duties that were part of Dave's brief. (Very easy to see from my involvement with Dave in this publication as to why his job had to split).

Children's Hour

Going back to the time that Eamonn Sayers, Colin Byrne et al were involved in the initial stages of a budgetary review (3years ago), they had included as part of their criteria for Clubs and Societies to be awarded budgetary points, a section referred to as "non-member event participation" which was effectively charity work. From speaking with Colin earlier in the year he explained that students have a responsibility as part of the wider community to contribute to that community in which they find themselves. This I felt was a very valid point and too often people are far to quick to point out the negative publicity heaped upon the students of this college and this was a chance for Clubs and Societies as an organised body to present the students in a more positive light and contribute to the national campaign that was the Children's hour. This innovation saw each Clubs and Society request a £1 donation off members, the minimum membership is 25 therefore a contribution of £25 was requested.

Many individual embraced this charity appeal with bizarre leg waxing rituals being performed, sponsored fasts, and head shaving with the Outreach Society under the auspices of our own Welfare Officer (Ms. Dee Dee Hosty) throw their weight behind the fund raising appeal. When all was said and done £2001.00 pounds was raised.

Our thanks to all involved and to Mr. Niall Donegan Bank Manager of the AIB for taking time out to accept the cheque being presented by the Executive.

Clubs & Society Ball

This was a vast improvement on last year as we learned from our mistakes and Keith Piggott actually got to enjoy this ball and not have to DJ for free because the numbers were so small (sorry about that Keith), the end result was a formal Clubs and Society Ball of 250 people in the West County Hotel in Ennis and a complimentary pint for all who attended. Already plans are afoot for next year as I will be liaising with Neasa Fahy-O'Donnell (Sports Administrator) to work on improving and increasing the numbers.

Also under review will be the manner in which clubs and Societies vote for their various categories, to encourage greater Club and Society involvement and education on the achievements of prospective nominee's. Finally we would also seek to re-introduce the idea of parchments to acknowledge the achievements of various competent individuals.

Creation of a Clubs and Societies Secretariat

This was an innovation brought forward to us by our ever bureaucratic Dave Flemming who rightfully pointed out that the job of minute keeping and general record keeping had evolved to such an extent that it could no longer be properly administered in a voluntary capacity and suggested paying a casual wage (nice one Dave..brown envelope's etc etc). To which the Clubs and Societies Executive readily welcomed and approved of, this eventually evolved to hiring Deirdre O Connor to also aid in the role of Secretariat. Clubs and Societies owe a huge debt of gratitude to both secretariat's as it has been the main influence in the efficiency and expediency of all Clubs and Society matters. Clubs and Society Council meetings have become more productive as have the Clubs and Society Executive meetings due to the prompt provision of all pertinent information/documents. Thanks a million lads much appreciated by myself especially as it frees up more of my time to concentrate on the actual development of clubs and Societies as opposed to purely administration.

Testament to the work of our secretariat is the 25+ minuted meetings (via Dictaphone) and the following documents

1. Standing Orders

For those not in know these are a set of rules and regulations on how our meetings should or should not be conducted to allow for a more informative and productive meeting within a strict time frame. This document was first drafted by the secretariat and adopted by Council

2. Three Year Plan

This too was part of our secretariat's brief to print up (when agreed upon by council) and distribution to the relevant Clubs & Society committee. This plan will consist of the following:

- Clubs & Societies Lotto - Semester 1, 2000.
- Sponsorship Database
- Lobby the University for Increased Funding
- Purchase of 2 mini-buses
- Storage Space

- Structural Framework for the Executive i.e. (Specific Roles & Responsibilities)

- Orientation Week "Village"
- Clubs & Societies Network
- Clubs & Societies web-page with web administrator
- Campaign for the Re- Introduction of Wednesday afternoons for Sport/Activities
- Market Clubs & Societies Rooms to outside groups during the summer for a fee (which will go into clubs & Societies coffers)

3. Finance Committee Recommendations

This was a substantial document when it was eventually drafted by our secretariat but not enough credit can be lauded upon the secretariat during this time for their prompt service as it greatly speeded up the effectiveness of such a crucial time-framed forum.

4. Minutes for the year 1999/2000 printed and bound

5. Constitutional Changes- the secretariat were also responsible for drafting the changes agreed upon by the Executive/Council and ratified at the last quorate EGM. This was probably the single most important event this year as a lot of essential changes were adopted that finally allow clubs and Societies determine their own affairs.

Clubs & Societies Council

For the non-Clubs & Societies person this is the forum by which all Clubs and Societies are requested to attend to highlight as wide a variety of problems as is possible and the executive work to resolve these issues and contribute to a more efficient structure. (In some cases the Clubs and Societies officer may be mandated to bring specific Clubs and Society issues to the Student Union Executive to effect change). An example of the continuing effectiveness of this process was its ability to kick-start the Capital intensive Club fund which had lapsed with the continuous change over of committee's and subsequent breakdown of communication. The trail was tracked back to Plassey Campus Centre and the funds being accrued over the last few years were re-activated and re-directed back towards the Sailing, Rowing, Kayak, Outdoor Pursuits and Windsurfing Clubs respectively which amounted to a pretty penny...£16,000.

This forum has a 5% fine attached for each meeting missed without apology as it is felt that being mandated to be present is the only path open to inform all Clubs and Societies of new innovations, rules, regulations, penalties and general exchange of information and opinions. All the information contained in this report would not be possible if it was not for this forum and in tandem with the improvements built upon since last year is the following attendance record comparison which to my mind directly correlates to this years improvements;

Clubs & Societies Council Meetings Attendance Semester One 1998/1999			
# 1	#2	#3	#4
43%	55%	61%	50%

Clubs & Societies Council Meetings Attendance Semester One 1999/2000			
# 1	#2	#3	#4
80%	84%	81%	80%

Financial Review Committee

This was as a result of the confusion that arose out of the budget allocations and subsequent appeals process this year, which saw an Independent Finance Committee, elected by the Clubs & Societies Council. This body met on at least 12 occasions and put many recommendations forward on a more equitable financial structure and the recommended criteria necessary to ensure an unbiased budgetary system. This was a vital improvement towards the development of Clubs and Societies which saw representatives from the Sports Dept', PESS, Students Union, Postgraduate Students and the individual Clubs and Societies contribute to the final draft which was adopted by the Council. the criteria decided upon by Clubs and Socs Council can be viewed in the Clubs and Socs Office in the new Student Centre.

Hosting the Board Of Irish Colleges (BICS) National Society of the Year Award's

This was the first year that the University of Limerick hosted these award's and there were no less than 13 other third level institutes represented at these awards not to mention the AIB representatives, independent adjudicators, Mr. Patrick Sutton of the Arts Council and Dr. Roger Downer. The event ran very smoothly which is a credit first of all to the facilities that we now have at our disposal to enable Clubs & Societies

run a national event of this size. The 120 representatives were comfortably entertained with interviews conducted in 4 rooms in the new Student Centre (our thanks to the CO-OP office for the use of one on their rooms), cheese and wine reception in the common room and a 3-course meal in the Scholars club function room. The tributes that were paid to UL for the facilities on offer were numerous which is a credit to the Students Union's past and present in securing such an excellent facility for the students of UL. The eventual winners were as follows, Best Society - Music Society, NUI Galway Best New Improved - Sign Language Society, Trinity College Dublin Best Individual - Jarlath Molloy, Dublin Institute of Technology Best Society Event - Simon Society Slave Auction, NUI Galway

Also there was a special "Highly Commended" award made to the Music Society in Waterford Institute of Technology.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our adjudicators especially our staff members for their contribution to the enhancement of student life via societal activities. On behalf of all the societies of UL thanks very much to Dr Maura Adshead, Mr Gordon Lessells, Dr Eoin Devereux and Ms Majella O Malley.

The final note with regards to the Board of Irish Colleges is that there is a part time position available annually for the position of BICS Administrator. This person would be responsible for the following:

1. To establish a weekly column/listing in a national newspaper, advertising society events throughout the Irish Colleges both North and South of the border
2. To establish a BICS Website
3. To raise the profile and awareness of the work and events of college societies amongst the general public, through the local and national media
4. To compile a database of societies throughout the country together with names and addresses, e-mail etc
5. Monthly Newsletter for distribution in all colleges
6. Facilitate smaller colleges in getting better speakers - i.e. if a major speaker is visiting one college to encourage that major speaker to visit other colleges in the area to reduce societal costs.
7. Establish links with companies, theatres, newspapers, politicians, etc with a view to offering society individual an opportunity to continue working in their chosen field on leaving college.
8. The administrator must also organise the National Society of the Year Awards. This involves sponsorship and publicity as well as managing the event itself.
9. Part of their brief will be to organise a

November Conference for all society personnel in all affiliated colleges.

The administrator works approximately 15 hours a week @ £7.50 per hour. Closing Date Friday 26th May

All queries/applications to be addressed to:

Vanessa Berman,
C/O CSC,
House Six,
Trinity College,
Dublin 2
Phone - 01-6081887
Fax - 01-6778996
E-Mail - bics@csc.tcd.ie

I hope this article does justice to all those who strive towards enhancing student life. Apart from the above mentioned collective achievements of the Clubs and Societies there are those who lead by example as individual's such as,

- Ⓢ The Debating Union who successfully sent representatives to Sydney (Australia), Glasgow (Scotland) and Oxford (England).
- Ⓢ The Physics Society who travelled to Rheims (France) to view the Solar eclipse.
- Ⓢ The Ladies Rugby team just back from European competition in Paris (France).
- Ⓢ The Rowing club who competed in the Head of the Charles in Boston (USA) for the second year running.
- Ⓢ The Kayak Club who were in Wales and in the Alps (France/Italy) "padding"

Ⓢ The Celtic Supporters Club who were in Scotland regularly throughout the last few years.

So I guess for those who choose to study and drink beer... WAKE UP and make more of college life through Clubs & Societies.



Finally if you have managed to read all the above and successfully make it to the end of this article with your sanity in check you won't mind if I take time to thank the following for their contributions throughout the year,

Mr Stan Blennerhassett, Mr Dermot Hartigan, Ms Caroline Kelly, Mr Pat Mc Carthy, Mr David O' Donavan, Ms Dee Dee Hosty (for being so sexual!), Mr Muiris O Sullivan, Mr Michael Phelan, Mr Eoin Brazil, Ms Claire Cox, Mr Martin Donlon, Mr Aenghus O Malley, Mr Declan Bourke, Mr Stephen Driver, Mr Fergal Fennessey, Mr Garvan Barry, Mr Paul Ruddy, Mr Robert Hickey, Mr David Flemming, Ms Deirdre O Connor, Mr Michael Hourigan, Ms Neasa Fahy-O Donnell, Mr Keith Piggott and at this stage I know I am going to leave people out but thanks to all who have contributed no matter how large or small a part you played.

See you all next Semester best of luck in the up-coming exams.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Lee

Clubs & Societies Development Officer

children's hour
Give an hour, change the millennium

24 January 2000


To: UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK STUDENTS UNIONS.
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

RECEIPT

Children's Hour would like to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your kind donation of £ 2,001. 00. Your donation will go a long way towards benefiting disadvantaged children in Ireland in the next millennium.

Thanking you once again.

Best Wishes



Children's Hour

Committee Members: Bill Cullen (Chairman), John Hynes (Deputy Chairman), Peter Cassells, Steve Costelloe, Bernie Gallagher, Deirdre Kelly, Paul Keogh, Tom Mitchell, Sean Mulryan, Maurice Pratt, John Saunders, Ian Young.

Children's Hour is a millennium initiative of The Irish Youth Foundation - a global fundraising campaign in association with The International Youth Foundation, Baltimore, USA.

26-27 Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 6787366 Fax: 01 6787365
Email: info@childrenhour.com

UL Sailing Club Do A Lot More Than Sail On The Spring Cruise 2000

Bus strikes, shortages of sailors, shortages of money etc. etc. eh. John maybe this cruise wasn't such a good idea after all

...

Whats that I hear, Eoin Leahy has an exam on Friday and can't come back to skipper one of the boats ..oh no .. this is awful, what the f**k are we going to do Wednesday morning came one day before D-day and Paul was loosing hair with stress, John Fitz would have been too but he is already bald What were we going to do the idea of going on a cruise without the infamous Smeo was incomprehensible what on Earth would we do the weekend would almost certainly be a disaster.

With the bus sorted the money decided on and our shortage of sailors alleviated we were left facing only one problem, who could fill Eoin Leahy's shoes, is there another man alive of

such calibre, quality, experience, and filthy perverse humour. Then it occurred to us in a wave of magnificent inspiration, it had to be and it was the mighty Harper Jon. Problem solved bring on the UL spring cruise 2000.

On Thursday night we arrived in Kinsale and boarded our mighty vessels which would be our homes, our friends, our nightclub, our pub and our transport for the next three days.

Thursday night and the calling of the open sea was not quite as strong as the calling of the nightlife in Kinsale so we hit a pub and a nightclub and woke up the next morning with tender heads but huge enthusiasm.

By two O'clock both Rory and Jon's boats had hit the high seas, one going East and one going West for a picturesque day sail around Kinsale harbour. Back to Kinsale and down to the real tasks of cooking and planning the next two days sailing.

Darkness fell and Rolo and Jon decided to may headway down the South West coast with our destination Baltimore. Seven hours at sea and ahead loomed Baltimore harbour. With Rose and Laura on board Jessica Jane deciding to ignore the Cruising guide and taking the lives of their crew members into their own hands. After some frantic VHF work "Ror get up you ejiot" the problem was quickly rectified and we both moored in Baltimore and caught up on some badly needed kip. No scandal so far except for Martina and Ronan who mysteriously seemed to spend a lot of time in their double bed

Saturday afternoon and a quick dash to Glandore to see the match. But first a more pressing engagement... the matter of boat rivalry after mooring in Glandore the fantastic crew of Absolutly Anne with pride and passion belted out the challenge to Rolo a song

worthy of the highest critical acclaim. Rory looked down and out how (short of violence) couldn't imagine how to drag himself from the depths on despair and indeed he never did.

At this stage of course a ridiculous amount of alcohol had been consumed by various members of both boats and we boarded our rubber dinghy and hit Glandore's thriving night life with a bang. I don't remember anything after three o'clock that day so Don't know, all I do know is that Martina disappeared with John Fitz and Laura and Daragh..... I won't even speculate

Saturday and Absolutly Anne secured themselves as the better boat by leagues sailing all the way back while Rory had to power back and I won't even disgrace him further by inofming one and all of his revenge... OK I will IT WAS A BIG GAY PEOM

UL Kayak Club Take Advantage Of The Good Weather

These past few weeks saw have been eventful as ever, as you would expect from ULKC.

Since this fabulous weather has started we had many a member venturing out into the Shannon to shed the worries of exams and study, with almost everyone getting wet. Paul and Shane even had the brilliant idea of paddling up to Annacotty for a pint.

Some of the club members, Cathal, Andy, Mick and Nester, decided to go out to Lahinch on Tuesday to see what the surf was like on that glorious day. Apparently the surf was excellent but it was smashing up on to the rocks (ouch!!!), where apparently Cathal almost killed Nester. They both caught a nice wave and once they realized they were 20 feet from the rocks they began to panic! But in a sudden moment of wisdom (a very rare occurrence) they both headed for the slip.

Unfortunately for poor old Nester, he was not able to accomplish this task. Instead he turned over and landed on the rocks upside-down and as if that wasn't bad enough, Cathal succeeded in landing on top of him with his boat! Luckily a local fisherman came to the rescue, but to Darren's despair he wasn't going to get the kiss-of-life, not that day anyway. A good but sore day was had by all, plus they all came back with a nice color (bright red).

There was a polo competition last weekend (29th-1st) in Cork where Claire, Seanie, Helen and JP were the only ULKC paddlers to compete. Seanie got to go back home and have a taste of Cork hospitality once again, only winning 3 matches and loosing 4 but

a small dampener on things, but they still managed to have a brilliant weekend.

Thursday the 4th was the kayaking night out in the Lodge. There where a few members missing due to study, projects etc. So after the pool session and a quick change we started the night out in the Scholars Bar. From there we made our way to the Lodge.

Once in the Lodge, the drinking resumed and everyone began strutting their stuff on the dance floor, with the fresher members taking the initiative, unfortunately we were not successful in taking over the dance floor as was done on other occasions. By the end of the night everyone was in fairly high spirits and, as always, hoping they wouldn't have to pay for it the next morning.

This year is coming to an end, but for us its just beginning. This June, we are heading off to France for a couple of weeks to see how the rivers over there compare to here. Many of us are looking forward to sample some reel white water. It will also be a nice change not to be freezing cold while on a river. Our x-captain Liz, who we will miss dearly, is heading off to the Zambeze for the summer, so anyone who would like to see that part of the world, Im sure she wouldnt mind putting you up for a while. Mike, Paul, Jimmy, Mat, Jaz and a few others are staying around



for the first month off to show some kiddies how to paddle, good look lads.

Scandal

Our Louise seems to be working her way through the club with Seanie being her latest conquest.

Georgina and John claim to be just good friends but they seemed to be a bit more the other night in the Lodge, when they were caught in the act. This seems to occur every semester as this also happened last semester before we all got to know John. So lads, tell us next time so we can get a picture for the paper.

JP had a small accident with his car once again which isn't surprising, the way he drives. Paul also went down on Edel and Georgina in the pool on Thursday. Well done my son, but try to do it in a private place next time.

New UL Peace Society Meets To Try To Bring People Together With A New Approach

The first meeting of the proposed peace and reconciliation society will take place in the new student centre at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Week 13.

This new society is a non-political, non-protest organisation, which aims to foster

closer links between young people in the North and South of this island through social, sporting and cultural interaction.

The society hopes to partake in cultural exchanges with University students and other young people from the North, from all politi-

cal backgrounds in the next academic year. It is envisioned that the society will engage in a range of social, sporting and cultural activities with their compatriots in the north. Many events will be held on campus throughout the year.

The society will not attempt to influence

government policy by protests or by any other similar method. It is not another anti-war organisation. The society aims to find a non-political solution to the distrust and division amongst young people, inherent North and South of the border.

The society wel-

comes people from all political ideologies and with no particular ideology; but who all share a common belief that the way forward for the North is through dialogue with young people and gaining an understanding of each other's values, beliefs and heritage.

In summary, many piss-ups are planned north and south of the border.

If you are interested in joining or in finding out more about the society, please come along to the **new student centre on Tuesday, 9/05/00 at 6pm.**

Young Fine Gael Take A Trip To Brussels

UL's Young Fine Gael, in conjunction with the International Committee of Young Fine Gael, brought two of its members on a Study trip to Brussels on Wednesday 29th of April last. The programme was varied and always full.

After finally arriving at the airport amidst the national bus and train strikes, we got the 6.55am flight. Upon arrival it was straight to the hostel accommodation and then onto the NATO Headquarters. Although we had to give our passport numbers weeks in advance in order to gain a security clearance, the YFG team managed to walk causally past NATO security and around the hospitably area within the NATO building. Eventually we were 'discovered' and the staff were slightly amused at our progression into the NATO buildings.

For the next few hours we were briefed on current NATO political issues which concentrated on Kosovo. It was an interesting meeting as our speaker was blunt and very often critical of NATO's actions. YFG asked him several questions, some which were answered, some which were not. We received several books and material on NATO and its operations, which we have given to the UL library.

For those interested, YFG policy on neutrality is that, 'neutrality should not be allowed to contain the advance of Irish foreign policy.' YFG also believe in Ireland's participation in Partner for Peace (PfP). From the 28 countries which are members of PfP, only three have joined NATO, namely, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic who reasons for joining were coloured by their status as transition countries in a new Europe. Switzerland, Sweden and Austria as the neutral countries of Europe, joined before Ireland.

Thursday, we visited the European Parliament and were lucky enough to be there on the day when there was a plenary session. It was interesting to note the different ways in which the MEP's communicated throughout the vote from the visitors gallery. Fine Gael are part of the European People's Party (EPP) which are the largest group in parliament. We also met with our sister youth parties of the Netherlands, Flemish Belgium and French Belgium. As small countries like Ireland, their views on internal reform within the European Union Institutions were very similar. We want to keep our Commissioner! However this is not feasible and the view now is that we would have a shared rotating system where there would be Junior and Senior Commissioners.

Anyway it was not always work and no play, we watched Orange Men of a different sort marching to the Holland V Belgium 'friendly' soccer match. We also had the opportunity to 'test' out the many many many...Belgium beers, which to our delight are available in Fine Wines.

If you are interested in the Young Fine Gael International Committee (IC), the website is <http://www.youngfinegael.ie/>. The IC is entirely voluntary and hopes to give members of Young Fine Gael an opportunity to become more active in issues of European and foreign affairs. If you want to contact UL Young Fine Gael, watch out for our posters or email us at Joanne@finegael.com.

We look forward to hearing from you, we are putting together our programme for the following year at the moment and hope to see you at some of our events next year!!

UL Chess Club Returns.

The University of Limerick Chess Club continued on its march to world domination at the national championship held in the splendid surroundings of Ahane GAA Club.

Numerous members of the ever expanding and popular club participated, from the experienced to the novice player.

Success on the ground was limited to a grading prize for his magnificence, The Autarch. Moral victories, however, abounded.

Special mention must be made of el presidente Tom Cooper, who made a determined effort to unseat German Grandmaster Herman Hecht from the top of the rankings.

Simon Vaut, a promising ERAS-MUS student dazzled competitors with

his stunning piece sacrifices, while Miguel Nicolau also displayed a formidable talent for bamboozling the Irish chess community - including young prodigy Jamie Flynn, the runner up in the Irish Under 10 category- winning a tight match.

This excellently organised tournament witnessed UL's return to competitive chess after a three year hiatus, and with two UL students finishing in the top six, hopes are high that next year the club will be participating more regularly in the Irish Chess Union's competitions, especially the Munster League.

Interested parties should contact el presidente Tom Cooper @ 9848142@student.ul.ie.

Istabraaq Murdered

Just kidding!!!

Racing Society founders & members wanted for next year.

A very short meeting on Thursday 11th in Meeting Room no.4 at 6.00 sharp.

All welcome to attend.

UL Judo Club Do The College Proud

On Saturday the 15th of April 2000, the Waterford Open Judo Championships were held at the Waterford Institute of Technology.

Limerick University had three representatives at the event. Patrick Hennessy entered in the youth under 81Kg, the +81Kg, The Middle Kyu (Orange & Green Belt) and the senior under 81Kg. Benn Reynolds entered in the Lower Kyu (White & Yellow Belt). Caroline Cannon entered in the Women's Open Event.

Patrick stepped onto the mat at 2-10. He scored a Koka (3 Points) after 15 Seconds. He then attempted a pick-up throw after 20 seconds into the contest. He then applied a Tai-Otoshi throw and scored Ippon (10 points). The contest was over in 30 seconds with a win for Patrick. Patrick's second contest was over in 25 seconds with a loss from Patrick. He was thrown onto his back for Ippon (10 pts) with a pick up technique. His third contest lasted 20 seconds with Ippon, a win for Patrick. Patrick's fourth and final contest in the Round Robin Competition was over in 50 seconds. After some attacking moves Patrick set up his opponent for a wonderful Ko-Uchi-Gari (inside Reaping) technique, which ended up in an ippon score. This gave Patrick the Gold medal.

Patrick then entered the youth's +81Kg open event. He had another four contests in this competition. In the first contest his opponent scored a yuko (5 pts). Then Patrick scored a Koka (3 pts) for holding down his opponent for 14 seconds on his back. Patrick then scored ippon to win. He continued by winning the next two contests, booking his place in the final. This contest was over in 10 seconds with Patrick loosing. However he still won the silver medal for this event. At this stage Patrick had fought in 8 contests and had won a gold and silver medal.

He then participated in the men's middle Kyu (orange/green belt) competition. Patrick won the first contest scoring a yuko (5 pts) after 2 minutes and an ippon half a minute

later. He lost his next contest when he was thrown with Ko-Uchi-Gari as he was walking back from a foot sweep. He then proceeded to lose the next 2 contests inside 3 minutes.

Patrick also entered the senior men's under 81kg. He lost his first two contests to two very good opponents, both of which are on the National squad. In total Patrick had 14 contests within 3 hours. He competed very well.

Benn Reynolds competed in the men's lower kyu (white/yellow belt) competition. Benn had four contests. He won the first one scoring a yuko (5 pts) and also ippon. The contest was over in 2 minutes. Benn lost the second contest in 10 seconds. He was thrown for ippon. Benn lost the third contest. He received a penalty of shido (3 pts against) for pulling down his opponent directly to the ground. He then received a further penalty for not attacking which brought the previous shido to yuko (5 pts against). His opponent also received a shido for not attacking (3 pts). Benn then threw for ippon winning the contest. Benn's 4th contest did not last very long as he was quickly thrown for ippon by his opponent. Benn did very well for his first competition in Judo and he is only doing judo about 8 weeks.

Caroline Cannon competed in the Ladies Open event. Caroline's first contest was over in 5 seconds when Caroline threw her opponent with O-Soto-Gari (outside reaping) technique. Caroline's second contest lasted much longer. Caroline attempted a takedown after 5 seconds and came close to scoring. She scored a Yuko (5 pts) after 80 seconds. Caroline finally scored ippon (10 pts) after a contest that lasted about 2 minutes. Caroline's third contest was the final. Caroline scored a Yuko after 25 seconds. She stumbled to the ground and her opponent followed her down and applied an arm lock, Caroline tapped out giving her opponent an ippon and the gold medal, however Caroline did receive the silver medal.

The three competitors Caroline, Patrick and Benn did very well. It was a very good competition. They did the university proud.

- Kieran (Judo Coach)

3 UL Students At Celtic Nations

The Celtic Nations is a prestigious Waterpolo and Swimming competition between Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is held annually and the hosting of the competition is rotated between Belfast, Glasgow and Swansea. Representatives from the various colleges in Ireland are selected for the teams at the intervarsity held each year. This year the Celtic Nations were held in Glasgow in bonny Scotland on the weekend of the 8th of April (end of RAG WEEK poor us eh!)

At this year's intermarries during the awards, UL Waterpolo were shocked and delighted to hear that for the first time ever - we not only had one member selected for the Celtic Nations but three! Mike McNieve and Geraldine Thornton for waterpolo and Georgina Quain for swimming. Due to unforeseen circumstances Geraldine was unable to go to Glasgow. Now down to two it was up to Mike and I to uphold the proud tradition that is UL Waterpolo!! (This does not involve alcohol in any way!)

Due to lack of organisation on behalf of IUSWA, we didn't get full details on costs etc until the Tuesday week before we left. We had little money left in our budget and only a week to organise some form of sponsorship. Luckily the with the help of Paul Lee (thanks Paul!) and the generous people at the Irish Times we managed to raise the money the day before we left. So Thursday of rag week we set off to Dublin as the bus to Belfast left at 7.30am on Friday morning.

Bright and early Friday Morning, with the help of friendly natives (one Dub I asked for directions actually escorted me to Nassau Street), we hopped on the bus to Belfast. The trip up was long but the 'two Brians', a comedy duo who kept us entertained for the whole weekend, shortened the journey by amusing us. Even Saturday morning, suffering from exhaustion complete with hangovers, they were still cracking jokes! They insisted everyone went to the top of the bus, introduced themselves and then they asked us all about ourselves. By the time we reached Belfast we knew more about some people than I think we really wanted to!! After a pit stop at Queens University to collect the Northern gang, it was off to Glasgow.

We arrived in Glasgow around six and were given our rooms in the university halls. After that it was out on the town for the night. A group from the Scottish team brought us to a local pub to get food (and beverages). However, Mike and Hugh (from Queens) decided to take a tour of the town themselves and promptly got lost - finding us 2 hours later.

After the pub it was straight to the Student bar, which is like a mixture of the Lodge and the old Stables. Seems like some things don't change. However, the pints were only £1.60 and the native Glasgoviens are very friendly walking up to us on the street and advising us to 'take it easy'. This same friendliness was not displayed in the local taxi driver who informed us 'it's customary to tip in this country' and proceeded to argue with us until we did.

The next morning we were competing at 9.00am in the pool. Ireland did well in the swimming, winning a few events however it became plainly obvious as the morning wore on that the Scottish dominated that arena. We swam our hearts out, with everyone competing in at least three events which was tough going (especially at that hour of the morning). During the swimming, the waterpolo players caught some 40 winks in anticipation of what was ahead of them later in the day. Ireland finished up a disappointing third, but the waterpolo was yet to come.

The first men's match was very exciting with Ireland thrashing Wales. The women did not fare as well drawing after a tough game with Scotland. The next women's match was better with Ireland beating Wales to finish second to Scotland just by goal difference. The Irish men's team won out rightly by narrowly beating Scotland in a tough match, our own Mike McNieve getting sent off !! It was time to return to the halls, grab some sleep and prepare ourselves for the night ahead.

The function was held in the Forte Porthouse in Glasgow. After the meal and presentation of prizes, the band got underway with the ceili music. It was brilliant fun with the Scottish winning hands down in the dancing department. They were all dressed to impress with their traditional kilts and were non too shy it proving the well-known fact that they wear nothing underneath. After a disastrous attempt at the two step, the UL congregation decided to stick to the swinging side of ceile dancing.

It was now time to sample a different part of the Scottish Culture - the drink. With the bar people recommending Chartouse, we decided (unfortunately) to take their advice and try the green stuff! An experience never to be forgotten or repeated (in more ways that one!) After that every other shot was like water. After the function, a party got under way in the student halls, followed by a rugby match outside at 4 in the morning!

The following morning at 8 the cleaners woke us up, and finally, at 9.30, we had to get up and leave. The journey back was quieter as everyone was exhausted and many were 'travel sick'. Gossip, however, was flying around. Another stop at Queen's, where we visited the student bar (for a few hours) and sampled the team drink - Aftershock. Arriving back in Dublin at 11.30pm some of us ran to get the last bus to where we were staying and others stayed with Norwegian girls on the bus! (What ever happened there Mike??).

All in all a good weekend was had and many friends made and we look forward to possibly having the chance to go again.

A New Society with an African Flavour

The 26th of April saw the launch of a new society at UL; the African/Irish Society.

Many students have already expressed their deep interest in this society further to Wilberfor Owusu-Ansah's appeal via An Focal. This society aims to touch many aspects of African culture and place emphasis on African/Irish interaction. Awareness is a key issue here and probably many of the upcoming activities will focus on cultural exchange and sharing. The richness of the society is the 'briani' of people from different countries and culture. It is a good opportunity to eliminate cultural barriers, misunderstanding and especially prejudices.

At present the society is still in an embryonic stage, but the dynamism expressed by all the members of the executive committee will surely help to forge a strong base for the society.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has expressed an interest in the society and also invite everyone to join in.

'Being different is no Weakness, it is your strength and Richness'.

We meet on Thursdays at 4.00pm in SU-109. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

African/Irish Committee

£1,000 Raised By Sports Dept. and UL Water Sports Clubs in 24 hour Dive-athon

The University of Limerick Sports Department, in conjunction with all the water sports clubs in UL, organised a 24 hour dive-athon over the weekend of week 12.

We had members from the Waterpolo Club, the Kayak Club, the Windsurfing Club, the Rowing Club and the Life Saving Club coming down to help us achieve the 20,000 dives (the target we had set for ourselves).

It began at 1PM on Friday the 5th May and finished on Saturday the 6th May at 1PM. An enthusiastic committee spent all morning on Friday blowing up balloons, sticking them up around the place and making sure that people knew what was going on by putting big signs up around the place. No one could enter the sports building without knowing what was going on.

One of the organisers (Joe Laffan) spent all morning with his ear glued to the phone, ringing thousands of companies to try and organise things to keep us going during the night. The man is a legend! At the time we hit the water, we had around £1000 worth of sponsorship in kind (including the thousand apples, 100 cans of Red Bull, hundreds of cans of Coke as well as bottles upon bottles of water).

The biggest test came at 12:30 when we realised that we hadn't got a counter and that no one would be able to stay awake to count to 20,000. This problem involved myself and Joe running around Elm Park at 12:40 looking for a certain Crew Chief (Mr Mc Auliffe). It transpired that after talking to all the members of the SU, that Tim was the only person in the SU with a counter. But Mr Mc Auliffe was nowhere to be found. We arrived back at the pool to find that a counter had been found and that all our running around had been needless.

At 10 seconds to 1, the first dive was counted down. The first dive of the event went to Des Murray, and he was swiftly followed by the rest of the diving committee. After the first 10 minutes or so, everyone left the pool except Group 1. We had decided to organise it so that everyone would be diving for an hour and then have 3 hours to rest. Those people who were qualified lifeguards also worked for an hour on the pool deck as we had to have at least 2 lifeguards on at all times.

We settled down into a routine with a few breaks at times for people to try to get some sleep. All through the night there were people diving in and out of the pool. At this stage it was mechanical rather than fun but they struggled on. There had to be 850 dives done every hour to keep us on target. At 11PM we were 2 hours ahead of target but all the extra people who had given our divers a rest during the day all headed home and it was up to the 17 people who spent the night (Liz, Tracy, Debbie, Darren, Michael, Aonghus, Eamonn S, Georgina, Edel, Mark, David,



some of the divers that took part in the event over the weekend

Kevin, Eamonn, Jimmy, Paul, Des and Joe). Eamonn decided to act security for the night so a gas burner was set up outside and soup and tea and coffee were kept going all night.

At 9AM on Saturday morning we were 2,000 dives behind schedule but all was not lost. At 11:30 after a sudden energy boost, everyone hit the pool and with help in the form of 30 unexpected people who turned up we hit 19,950 dives at 12:25. We had done 2,000 dives in an hour! It was decided that at this stage everyone would clear the pool and the organisers would get the last 49 dives which were jumped in groups of 10. And the last dive of the event went to Des Murray, without whom the Sports Building will not be the same next year.

For the last half hour of our 24 hours we decided to stop counting as we had reached our target and everyone spent the last 30 minutes having fun! After finally getting kicked out of the pool we went home and some of us got a few hours sleep before the festivities began in earnest. Everyone trooped down to Jimmy and Eamonn's house where a barbeque was finally started and thanks to Becky who was secretly cooking food inside, everyone was fed and thanks to some of our sponsors being beer companies, everyone had drink as well. We had a fire going and couches and benches from almost every house in the area were secreted away in the back garden. Everyone collapsed and the night was spent like that!

Thank You's

Thanks for all those that came down to dive for us. Whether you did 1 dive or 100, it all counted. If I have left out anyone's names above I apologise and you are included here!

I must say thank you to all the lads who gave up their rest time to lifeguard, as they were totally unpaid for it (Shocking behaviour that)!!!! Thanks Lads!

I want to also thank Alan and Ita for allowing us to overrun their offices, Derek for being such a good sport about being thrown into the pool and thanks to Neasa and Therese for coming into the pit at 4AM on their way home from the dinner dance. Their

energy and fresh legs were much needed!

And thanks to the lads for having us all back at their house. Hope the grass isn't too burnt!

I want to also thank anyone who donated stuff to us. There are too many of you to mention but we really appreciate all your help.

Injuries

Unfortunately we did have one serious injury. Someone dived in on top of Joe and he tore all the ligaments in his knee. We're sorry Joe. Thank god none of the lifeguards had to do any rescuing at all but they somehow managed to be wet in the end anyway!

Scandal

(well there has to be some, doesn't there?)

There was an unexpected union between a member of the Sports Department personnel (Liz R. Hogan) and a Kayaker (Paul S. Garrahy). Well we believe ye when ye say that ye were so tired that your mouths just fell together!

And the other bit! Well I'm already in the paper this week so I might as well put it in! For some strange reason the lads decided that it would be fun for yours truly to be tied up. So I found myself strapped up in a duvet, wrists tied together and hoisted up on the lads shoulders and carried out the front. As all the people stood and watched I was tied onto the top of Seanie's car and the engine was started. But lads, next time remember that if you tie someone up make sure the knots are tight or they might unexpectedly escape.

Amount Raised!!!!

Well at the moment we think we have £1000 pounds raised but we're not sure cos we were too busy sleeping and having fun (see above!) to count it. But I'm sure it will be counted at some stage and then we'll let you know how we got on!

RYANAIR

**Ella Daly's
Really Thin
Gossip
Column**

Hello luvvies how's it goin? I hope you are all studying hard, but as usual I know of a couple of people who are far do busy doing naughty things to study.

The first item for discussion HAS to be the secret plans of fresher Meave Eason (folk group and Celtic studies) and old timer Seamie (comp sys and Ten forward) who it would appear to have fallen so deeply in love they are going to abandon their respective studies and move to Peru where they will raise llamas and knit furry slippers for the local tourist industry. How cute!

On the subject of Ten Forward, news is just seeping through to me of shenanigans way back in rag week. From what I can tell the prestigious Aidan O' Gorman CHIKENED OUT of a three legged race with ten forward PRO Deaglan O' Meaghair. Mr O'Gorman had originally agreed to defend his honour but pulled out at the last minute pleading extreme inebriation (well it was the night of the beach party)

Any one in the Su this Tuesday would have seen the "Gone fishing" sign on the door of the Clubs and Socs. office. My sources tell me differently, however. They claim that P. Lee was spotted down south in the Caribbean with an oversized Clubs and Societies cheque. That sunburn looks a little too severe to have been gotten in the cold and Siberian climes of Mayo.

A little birdie tells me that Ms Katriona Jackman of Enviro. Soc. spends her spare time collecting plastic packaging and having small under-privileged children making it into cute fashionable clothes for herself! Some environmentalist!

YOU & THE NEW NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION

On the first of April this year the government introduced a national minimum wage of £4.40 per hour, which is now payable to all "experienced adult workers". Most students, however, will not be entitled to this amount!

- If you are under 18 years of age you are only entitled to £3.08 per hour.
- If you are 18, or are older but in your first year of employment, you are entitled to just £3.52 per hour.
- If you are 19, or are older but in your second year of employment, you are entitled to just £3.96 per hour.

Also, if you are in "structured training" while at work, you are entitled to just £3.30 for the first term of the training, £3.52 per hour during the second term and £3.96 for the last term. Each term may last for up to 12 months. After 12 months you automatically become entitled to the next rate, even if the training lasts for longer than this.

The rate to which you are entitled is calculated as an average over a pay reference period (either a week, fortnight or month, depending on your contract), and can include payments other than your basic wage, such as shift premium or late night premium, as well as meal or accommodation allowances.

An employer can apply to the Labour Court for an exemption from paying the minimum rate on grounds of "inability to pay", and may be exempt for up to one year.

If you want more information on your entitlements, want to join the End Low Pay Campaign, or want to expose your scrooge boss, contact the Socialist Party on **086-8108690**, or **sp@csn.ul.ie**, **http://socialist.csn.ul.ie**

The An Focal team

- editor and late night stayer-upper** *dayvob*
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- musos** *des the dock, bren g.,*
- film freaks** *kp, aodain*
- book worm** *daragh*
- features** *daragh, mags, ian, ferg dave, mystic, mcgell*
- show me the money** *becky*
- c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.)** *p lee, + mates*
- phancy photo's** *willie + co.*
- poets** *pinky*
- gig goers** *tommy f.*

**£242 Raised for Charity
As Students Lose Their
Leg Hair. Again**



the hairless ones, conor nolan, mick o'dinnin, tim mccaulliffe (master of ceremonies), aenghus o'malley, dermot brody (rep, james o'connor fund)

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

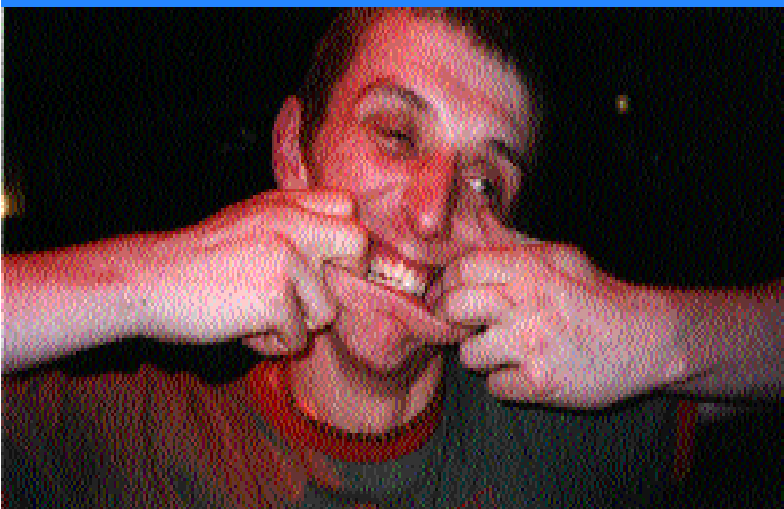
Looking For A Last Night Out Before The Exams



aidan kelly, set to do his thing in the new courtyard on friday week 13

SU Ents and the Scholars Bar are going to give it to you
Friday Week 13, in the new courtyard.

Line up. AIDAN KELLY, skinnyboy jaz, jody, potbelly, bouncy castle, bar extension and whatever you're having yourself



skinnyboy. looking good

Soul Clinic has become one of the most popular nights in limerick over the last few months. one of the best clubs in dublin at the moment, it started in limerick last february, and has played to full houses ever since. before everyone heads into exams, SU ents brings in one of the dublin residents, aidan kelly, along with the two limerick residents, skinnyboy jaz and jody, for one last throw of the dice before we fall head first into those two weeks. make an appointment.



jody