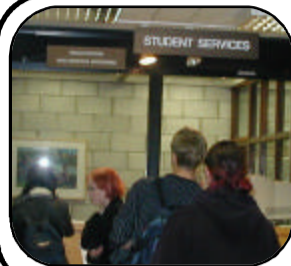




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## No confidence motion defeated at Stables EGM



The Stables and Scholars Club face an appeal on the 9th of April

by Bernadette Sexton

An Emergency Meeting of the Stables club was called last Thursday calling to censure the committee of the club and seeking their resignation en masse. The Club's Management Committee stood accused of knowingly breaking the law and doing nothing for over two years to counteract these failures. As a result of their supposed ineptitude, the Stables Club license was lost in early February, and it is only on appeal, which is to be held on the 9th of April

in the Circuit Court that this issue will be resolved one way or other.

The committee is comprised 10 individuals. Chaired by Brian Hand, Rose Merrigan, David Mahedy, Aileen McCarthy, and the four Students' Union Sabbatical officers make up the voting positions on the committee. The final two positions are non-voting and consist of Michael Fagan and Declan Collins of the Stables management. Two alumni members of the university - David Fleming and Muiris O'Sullivan, brought the motion of no confidence forward.

staff representatives on the other.

Indeed, in an attempt to implement the rules, the Students' Union produced identification cards for students. When the clubs would not support this venture however, the ULSU could not continue. The Students' Union (i.e. us, the students) lost between £3-4,000 in this venture. What Mr. Fleming was inherently arguing, was that if the rules had been implemented as advised by legal counsel the students would not be in this mess in the first instance.

*continued on backpage*

Having examined the minutes of the club's management committee meetings over the last two years, Mr. Fleming argued that the committee failed to act on legal advice concerning the issue of enrolling members. It was on this detail that the judge found the clubs to be in breach of the law of the land as laid down in the Clubs Act of 1904. The clubs did not nominate and second members in accordance with the regulations. Mr. Fleming emphasised that from the minute books it was evident that there was a different opinions within the committee meeting, with the student representatives on one side, and the

## Student Services Survey

The Student's Union is  
looking for feedback on  
the whole area of  
Student Services.

Please turn to Page 6  
and fill in the form  
inside

## ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

If you have not already  
applied for membership of  
the Stables & Scholars club,  
please visit  
[www.ulsu.ul.ie/clubs](http://www.ulsu.ul.ie/clubs)  
and do so as soon as  
possible.

## Win!! 50 Euro

An Focal is offering a 50 Euro prize for the best article in each edition. Email submissions to:

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## President - Eoin Ó Broin

Hey All,

Myself, Alan O'Sullivan President of LSAD students Union, and about 20 students went out to the South Court Hotel last Monday night to greet Minister for Education Noel Dempsey who was in town as part of his nationwide series of meetings with teachers about benchmarking and such issues. The plan was to meet him as his car arrived but alas we were too late and the Minister was already inside the hotel. So we went into the hotel and sought to enter the meeting to present the minister with a letter. However when word reached the Minister of our presence in the hotel he agreed to meet us en route to the conference room. I greeted him, thanked him for meeting us and told him what we wanted - grants up and fees down. "Who will pay for this?" the minister replied. The taxpayer I said. The Minister then stated that he had a certain amount of money that he wanted to use in the most equitable way. I asked him when the review of student supports being conducted by his department would be out so that we could look at his plans and discuss but he said he didn't know. He then departed saying that he would be back in Limerick in a few weeks and would like to have a more formal meeting with the students Unions here. I told him that with 4 colleges and 20'000 students in Limerick it was the least he could do. We left the hotel meeting a photographer from the evening echo on our way to the bus stop and pondered on what was certainly a productive meeting. Between the 4 colleges we are discussing another demo on Wednesday week 19th. If war starts it may be a bit pointless bit keep an eye on the posters to know the plans! Make sure to visit the "No fees" stand around the college, over the next few days to send a letter to

your government backbencher about the issue. They do respond! 500 letters have been posted so far.

I attended both Governing Authority & Academic Council in the last week. GA discussed the new Nursing Studies building and an induction session for all the new governors. I asked for presentations to be given at the next GA on UL'S PR Policy & UL's Policy and Vision with regard to the improvement of Student Support Services on campus. They agreed to the first though want me to meet Dr. Downer to discuss exactly where the SU are coming from with the second. GA will have a new chair at next meeting, Mr. Sean Donlon, former ambassador to the USA. The GA must decide next whether the role of chair and chancellor should be kept separate. If separate send on your suggestions to me! The chancellor of Queens is George Mitchell and the chancellor of Trinity is Mary Robinson. However neither of them attend degree Conferring ceremonies so one must consider what exactly we want from our chancellor. Academic Council discussed what QCA level a 2/2 honours degree should be awarded at plus what committee in the college should decide how many students are admitted to each course every year.

The Students Union exec has spent 4 nights over the last two weeks thrashing out priorities and engaging in team building exercises. Sure this should have happened 6 months ago but better late than never. The exec. is quite clear now about what has to be done over the next 4 months in relation to our two priorities - student services and the anti fees campaign - and the different things we can do to make it better Union. Congratulations too to the new members of exec:



Ciara Cloake (MA in International Studies) - Equality Officer, Seamus Ryan (1st Year Public Admin.) - Community Officer & Fintan Breen (4th Year Comp. Sys.) - Chair of Class Reps. The first year rep will be elected at CRC on 18th March. Thanks to outgoing members Marie Clare Butler, Patrick McHugh, Simon Renardson & Joey Enfield for their enormous contribution over their time on exec.

Class Reps was quite a productive affair last Tuesday with an excellent Q&A session with Mr. John Lancaster head of Library services on student issues with the library. Ask your rep for details!

SU Ents manager Dave O'Donovan gave a presentation on the timetable for Kolledge Week which included an explanation as to where Kolledge Week got its name. Some ideas as regards the charity dimension to Kolledge week were also outlined including flag days in the city with

colourfully dressed students collecting money and a satirical comic style magazine for sale in shops around the city. Any other ideas welcome!

Slán go fóil,

Eoin

PS: If you are bored and want to see something completely different go to Limerick Art Gallery in Pery Square and start the EVA+ tour of Limerick. EVA+ is Irelands only International Art Exhibition and its here in Limerick for the next 3 months. Believe me this is a bit more than just paintings. Lights coming up from manholes, statues of the Virgin Mary made from laundry soap(guess what that's about) and plenty of video work. If you don't believe me go down to the Bourn Vincent Gallery in the Foundation Building before 5pm any day to see a sample.

## Welfare/Deputy President - Gráinne Heffron

Dia Dhiabh

This week I will reflect on some of my experiences as Welfare Officer for the last 8 months. It really has been a short time and in a way I came into the job eminently unqualified for some of the things I would deal with. Deal with them I have tried to do, sometimes with more success than other times. It has been enjoyable, tiring, frustrating and heartbreaking. I have to say that this year I have met a far more varied range of students than throughout my four years in UL and I have learned a lot about the hardships that people endure and most of all about the strength of human spirit and determination. Often the people that come to my door are at their wits end and have nowhere else to turn. You can tell genuine people because they are nearly loath to tell you their story and sometimes it takes quite some time to find out exactly why someone is in the situation they are. Most of the people coming in to me have financial reasons, for information on

grants or for financial assistance. It is when you delve deeper that it reveals the every day struggles that are going on in people's lives, the single parent who still manages to get top marks while living hundreds of miles from home and being the sole carer of her child, the refugee who has overcome so much simply to be allowed to remain in this country, who embarks on another undergraduate course because his qualification from his home is not recognised, the teenage student who is estranged from their parents and trying to survive all on their own with none of the usual supports. These people have really uplifted my spirit when I was sick of the bureaucracy and wondering what the point was. It brings you back to earth with a bang and make you realise what you are fighting for. So I'd like to thank all those people who I have helped throughout the last year. The giving wasn't all in one direction.

This sounds like an end of term piece but really I was thinking about these



things over the last few weeks and wondering if I had been any of these people would I have managed to get my degree. They are an inspiration to us all and the next time you moan about having too much work to do or having no money to go out to the pub

remember that things can always be worse and I am always here to help anyone in need big or small.

Slán

Gráinne

# Education - Margaret Ryan


Mags was feeling poorly this week and was too sick to submit an article



## WANNA WRITE?

Articles, Questions, Comments, Queries & Theories to

[sucommunication@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunication@ul.ie)



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**SCHOLARS CLUB ENTERTAINMENTS WEEK 5**

**MON PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL**

**TUES DJ CONOR CRONIN 8PM**  
 HIP HOP, R & B AND REGGAE!!  
**DOT COMEDY CLUB, DOORS 9PM**  
 WITH DAVE DOHERTY  
 WINNER NEW COMEDY AWARD EDINBURGH 2000

**WEDS DJ JAMES KAVANAGH**  
 HOUSE MUSIC FROM 8PM  
 ESN STUDENT PARTY IN AN PHLUAIS

**THURS "THE LOLLYGAGGERS"**  
 LIVE IN THE MAIN BAR

**FRI DJ KEITH PIGOTT, 7PM**  
 INDIE & STUDENT ANTHEMS !!  
 COMPLIMENTARY FINGER FOOD  
 HAPPY HOUR 5-7PM

**SUN BREAKFAST BRUNCH 12 - 4PM**  
CHILL OUT WITH COMFY COUCHES, CANDLE, FREE SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS !!

**ENTERTAINMENTS WEEK 6**

**TUES DJ CONOR CRONIN 8PM**  
 HIP HOP, R & B AND REGGAE!!


**WEDS DJ JAMES KAVANAGH**  
 HOUSE MUSIC FROM 8PM  
 ESN STUDENT PARTY IN AN PHLUAIS

**THURS "THE LOLLYGAGGERS"**  
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**SUN BREAKFAST BRUNCH 12 - 4PM**  
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## Communications - Paddy Buckley

Another fortnight down, and two weeks closer to the end of the semester. The last two weeks I've been involved in a lot of Clubs & Soc's stuff, mostly helping out Paul. If you want to know what he thinks, then turn to page 13 for his yearly report. However, I personally have been very impressed with a lot of what I've seen in the last few weeks. The Sailing Club are recently after financing 6 new boats, without any help from the College. These boats are going to allow them to move onto the next level of competitive sailing. Not only that, but this week, they are after organising one of the largest sailing intervarsities in the country.

The Rowing club, Kayak Club, Sub-Aqua Club and the Mountain Biking Club are currently finalizing plans for a new boathouse. You will be hearing a lot about that over the next few weeks, but suffice it to say that at least some of the Clubs and Societies on campus are so strong that they are actively planning for 3, 5 and even 10 years into the future.

I could go on and on, the Debating Union held their intervarsity in UL this

weekend, and so did the Archery Club. Throughout the year, week in and week out, the Clubs and Societies on campus do absolutely incredible things on minuscule budgets. In an era where a lot of people in the College are seriously worried about the future of UL due to the possibility of declining enrolments (in the short term due to the bad publicity Limerick has received of late, and in the long term due to simple demographics), the question has to be asked why is it that Clubs and Societies on campus don't receive the funding they need? In Trinity College, the Societies on campus alone receive twice as much as the Clubs and Societies in UL.

Clubs and Societies represent one of the best ways of attracting new students to UL. It shows prospective students what is available to them in terms of recreational activities, it gives them a chance to (at the risk of sounding American) explore new talents, and try new sports and activities. Clubs and Societies should be at the heart of any drive to increase the attractiveness of UL as a college to come to. But before that



can happen, the level of funding for Clubs and Societies needs to improve so they have the financial ability to cope with increased membership, so they can afford to buy the equipment like boats and jerseys and helmets that they need to function.

Clubs and Soc's like Rowing, Sailing, Debatng, Drama and Irish Peaces have proven over a period of years that they can do extraordinary things. The commitment and drive that exists in Clubs and Soc's is extraordinary.

As such, they represent one of the best tools UL has for promoting itself to prospective students. But while they are of massive benefit to the College, in terms of PR, in terms of attracting students, in terms of contributing to the campus in general, sometimes it seems they don't get the support they need and deserve. And while that continues, while Clubs and Socs are forced to continue operating on inadequate funding, there will always be the risk that penny-pinching will kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

## Your Letters

### Feminism gone too far

How many of us feel that feminism has gone too far?

How many of us are tired of women getting served before us in bars?

How many of us are tired of women thinking they have a birthright to skip queues, not make their own tea and even refuse to walk across the room to get their own ashtray? Only this week I waited patiently for 15 minutes at an ATM while the girl in front of me fixed her make-up in her reflection all the time wondering why the machine wasn't accepting her i.d card. I'm not implying that women should lose their rights to ATM's, I'm just saying that male and female ATM's might be something worth looking into.

Join me in the revolution to reclaim our equal rights. Equal rights are important because after all, neither a male or female dominated society can truly be complete. But also I think that if it were always a female dominated society we'd still be trying to figure out what colour the wheel should be. One is not complete without the other. Without the female touch imagine what wonderful inventions we would be without, cushions, for example (though I'm yet to figure out exactly what they're for), toilet seat covers (though I'm yet to figure out exactly what they're for), doilies (though I'm yet to figure out exactly what they're for), the list is endless.

I should point out that I'm not referring to all women, indeed some can seem almost human. That is until you get them knee pads for their birthday. Honestly it's a thoughtful present! Some guys would never have even thought of it!

Also I'm not saying that this revolution should apply to all men. I'm sure that there's at least one in a basement somewhere reading this, probably wearing an "I shot JR" t-shirt, thinking "so dead girls are the way to go then you reckon". That's not what I'm saying at all, where it is true that dead girls don't say no, they also tend not to do the washing up and getting head before rigour mortise sets in is a highly risky business indeed. Besides, if everyone thought like that, we could be in trouble as my biology lecturer assures me that they are necessary.

So go on, push those girls out of the way to get to the bar. You're stronger than they are!! Join me in the fight to reclaim our civil liberties, that is if I make it through the week without being stabbed in my bed. Make Castletroy a Dawson's Creek and Westlife free zone. Don't go jumping in front of racehorses yet, but join in the struggle. We can make a difference!!

Thomas King

### Hail of a Time

"A little low-key hiking might be nice. I haven't been hiking in ages and the weather is grand." Taking on the Galtee Mountain hill walking expedition this past Sunday proved quite a bit more than low-key. Consulting my Let's Go Ireland travel guide did not serve me well.

"South of Tipperary are the splendid Slievenamuck Hills and Galtee Mountains...between Tipperary and Cahir is Bansha, at the eastern end of the Glen of Aherlow...The village...is a wonderful area for low-key hiking..." read the description of the surrounding areas I explored with the Outdoor Pursuits Club. Upon beginning the trip up the side of the hills, the amount of information I and some fellow American study abroad students knew included only the price of the trip, what time we departed campus and to bring a change of clothes. Other than that, I went on my assumption that it would be a lovely day of hiking the Irish countryside. Now I know exactly what hill walking means, to the extreme.

The bottom of the hills felt warm, the sun shone and I knew once I got moving, the sweat would pour. All things considered, I left my rainslicker on the bus, not realizing until much later how much of a mistake I had made. Beginning at a relatively quick pace, I started up the gravel road to the bottom of the hills with high spirits and abundant energy. Taking in all I saw, the green of the grassy land struck me as especially vibrant that day. Smells of dead and dying sheep did not dampen my mood. My flower child roommate Liz flitted around taking pictures of the native flora and the distant hills ahead. And then we reached the start of what we later learned is the most difficult climb up to the peaks of the towering hills. Please understand that I am originally from Houston, the fourth largest city in the states, where the only hills are parking garage ramps. In this concrete jungle I have delightfully escaped from, the closest non-manmade hill is 3 hours away by car.

Easy going at first, the land increases in steepness gradually, then dramatically. Taking frequent breaks, our group thins out between each one.

Remaining comfortably in the middle of the mass of people, I tried to pace myself. Although I hadn't physically exerted myself in this manner for ages, my lungs didn't cry out with pain and I could feel my leg muscles building strength. Even though this wasn't the hardest effort I have put forth physically, it definitely ranks in the top ten. Each time I paused for a bit of rest, I would glance back on the ground we had covered thus far, careful not to fall backwards in the process to undo all my hard work. The climb had obviously gotten harder and the hill was as unending as a bottomless pit.

"We've come so far; see how much land lies behind us," I thought to myself, "and it will feel so good once I get to the top and know my great accomplishment".

Everyone stopped for a bit of food at the top of the first mountainous hill, so I ate also even though I was not hungry. Something about the bitter wind flying up my nostrils with no tissues or handkerchief made me lose my appetite completely until we had finished the trek. However, our journey was not yet finished; we were hardly halfway. The adjacent hill reached an even higher elevation. Several kilometres of mud and marsh later the wind picked up and I began to feel the sting of hail. Incredibly unprepared, I braved the extreme weather conditions with thermals, a fleece and trail runners. The unexpected conditions took me completely by surprise. Luckily, some fellow Outdoor Pursuits members provided me with spare clothing they had brought. Huddled behind a pile of rocks to block the wind, I must have looked pitiful. The one symbol of hope I recognized from the top of the mountain was a magnificent rainbow, a fleck of heaven in that temporary hell storm.

After several group photos and seemingly ages later, we began our descent down the mountain. The wind gradually decreased and the sun occasionally peeked out from behind the clouds. The amount of mud increased as we went down, but I didn't care about my shoes even though they felt as if they would be sucked right off. Too engrossed in the landscape, I hopped and even ran down that side of the hill.

Coming to the steepest part of the hillside, we were told to lean back on our heels so we would fall backwards into the soft grass and not onto our heads. Surprisingly enough, I made it to the bottom without twisting my ankle or tumbling forward into a rock or pile of sheep shit. Once everyone joined up at the base of the mountains, we all made our way across the marshy grass and several small creek beds to the gate where we began our journey upwards.

Hours later, we reached the end of the gravel road where our bus waited patiently. We had spent the majority of the day conquering the towering Galtee mountains; we began at half past ten and headed home at 16:00. Knowing I would be unbelievably sore the next day, I made sure to stretch a while before collapsing on the bus. Shoving a few pieces of wheat bread down my throat, I felt an indescribable feeling as I thought back on the day's events. I can only compare that feeling to one of relief and joy combined. Sometimes unexpected trips are the best of one's journeys in life.

Michell Koewn

### Response to Lorcan MacCurtains Article of Last Week

Dear Editor,

I wish to write in response to Lorcan MacCurtain's article of the last edition. A lot of the points he raises are quite valid, but I feel he misses the core issue of this debate.

Firstly, he seems to agree with me on the point that there is a lot of hypocrisy over this whole issue and whilst it is important to remember all facets of the past, some things will be noted more than others. His comments on the IRFU and the FAI are valid, and in fact the FAI played a match against Yugoslavia, in spite of both the State and John Charles McQuaid some years back! However, the GAA is most readily associated with what was discussed in the previous two articles. How many people would be able to tell you about the soccer or rugby team's questionable actions? And how many would know that the GAA banned RUC players etc.? and this shows the point I'm making. This and the fact that I was responding to an article proposing the opening up of Croke Park account for the content of my article, but also because the fundamental point of my article was that the government should build the national stadium. And while it was argued that the government's magnanimous attitude to refugees, although I don't agree, was a negative factor for building a stadium representative of all, is it plausible not to be building a stadium for all, representative of all, because society has been somewhat xenophobic? In fact, the converse is true, in that the building of a national stadium would represent the way forward, and be symbolical of the multicultural and multifaceted Ireland we now live in, not the harbouring of such racial dispositions in the history and tone that emanates from within the confines of Croke Park.

No matter what the government invests money in, there will always be a better and more efficient way, unless there is universal approval, which I've never known to occur. Building a stadium in Abottstown would force public transport to be developed there because of demand. Investing in public transport won't necessarily precipitate a national stadium, and considering the number of promises broken, necessity rather the implementation of a plan is more likely to get the job done. Anyway, such is the nature of planning in Ireland, that infrastructure invariably follows the capital project, as we see in Maynooth, where a university hasn't even spawned a cinema, and only saw a nightclub arrive four or five years ago!

At the same time, there is a measurable return on the building of a national stadium, and whilst a long-term financial return isn't desirable given the current economic climate, most capital projects are long term are they not? We have to be affirmative in the future and invest, instead of pig-in-a-poke

jobs that have resulted in many of the current crises in the public resources. Sport has achieved more for this country than any country with a similar population could ever dream of achieving. A national stadium would provide us with a focal point in Irish sport that has been sorely missed and give us something to be proud of as a nation, when we have seen such abysmal failure in buses, trains and hospitals.

Investment in sport is also an investment in health, in tourism and in the nation's psyche. The stadium would take a huge financial burden away from Irish sporting organisations, which could then devote more time to the grassroots of their games. Not everything can be addressed fully in this letter, and it is not my intention to do so, but it would be nice to see an end to the hypocrisy and the beginning of a new dawn in Irish sport and the support we give it.

Brendan Coffey

### Explosives for every day use

When people think of explosives they normally think of bringers of war, death and destruction or perhaps the odd special effect simulating war, death and destruction. What many people don't consider however, are the potential uses for them in every day life.

The general misconception is that an explosion is a random and purely negative occurrence. In actual fact they are calculable and controllable chemical events, additionally with the development of modern shaped charges, super accurate fuses and triggers; accuracy is increased greatly. Lets take some examples shall we?

A lot of problems with public transport today could be solved with controlled explosions. Imagine an armoured cage sitting on the pavement. All you have to do is walk up, strap your self in with the rest of the passengers and wait as a shaped charge dispensed from a subterranean magazine launches you gracefully at over 300mph over houses and traffic alike. Destination is defined by trajectory and a series of thin, breakable catcher membranes (possibly made out of spider silk...hmm) bring the cage to a gentle landing with a minimum of personal injury. Of course, for the safety conscious traveller; helmets, safety goggles, flack jackets, ear protection, first aid kits, depleted uranium shields, oxygen masks, fire extinguishers, parachutes, inflatable rafts, air bags, survival knives, emergency rations, burn kits and drinks holders (why not) will be provided.

In surgery a primary incision could be made with a thin strip of plastic explosives. It would not only cut but also cauterise and sterilise the incision at the same time. Plus it would keep old shaky handed surgeons suffering from morphine psychosis, safely at the sidelines. Of course the rest of the surgery could be done with explosives as well, minimising risk of infection. Who would you rather be messing with your innards? A surgeon with his fancy prancy 'medical degree' from a 'recognised university' or a pyrotechnics engineer who learned the trade in the Vietnam war were he made bombs out of powdered milk to destroy orphanages. I for one would pick the latter.

Your eating dinner at a restaurant when suddenly, you chock on a walnut from your €50 ceaser salad. You try to cough but it won't come out. Looking around you see an ex Mexican wrestler weighing over a metric tonne preparing to inflict the Heimlich manoeuvre (and squeeze out your lungs in the process) on you, and a crazy old weekend M.D. with only half his vision and a quarter of his fingers wielding a scalpel with the intent of cutting a hole in your neck. Just then you remember your trusty 'C4 pill'. You simply pop it down your throat and it explodes (set off by moisture) and dislodges the murderous nut. The butcher trade is a particularly unpleasant one why not replace it entirely? All we have to do is genetically engineer livestock to secrete a layer of semtex along the butcher's usual carving lines. When the animals get to a certain age they explode into neatly carved chops, rumps etc. The only thing it wouldn't do in this method are sausages, but how hard could it be to explode a pig through it's own stomach?

Fields of cereals could be planted along side explosives, so that they can be exploded into containers come harvest time. Eliminating the need for costly and polluting combine harvesters, and ploughing the field for the next crop at the same time. S.A.D.Ms (special atomic demolition munitions) can revolutionise the whaling industry. A small incendiary cartridge attached to the bottom of a slice of bread and a network of tubes can deliver hot toast in seconds to any part of a large building. Today a special German power plant generates electricity through the controlled detonation of unused World War 2 explosives. I think we should follow their example and find more peaceful uses for our weapons. For example, turning land mines into toys for children and rocket propelled grenade powered swings.

David Smart

# Noel Dempsey wants to put a HECS on you

by Eoin O'Broin

The latest leak from government sources on how Minister for Education Noel Dempsey is going to address the inequities in the Irish Education System proposes a student loan scheme akin to the Australian Higher Education Contribution Scheme or HECS which was introduced in Australia by a Labour government in 1989.

The idea being flouted by the Minister, and in the media, is that a student is loaned the cost of their college fees which they must repay sometime after graduation when they reach a certain level of income. The repayments are between 3% and 6% of income depending again on salary level achieved. In theory the loans can be repaid in less than 10 years and thus remove another barrier to students from disadvantaged backgrounds entering & completing third level education and herald the equitable system that the Minister craves.

Or do they? HECS offers no help to the cost of living throughout college. Accommodation costs, food costs, healthcare costs and the whole gamut of costs associated with student life are still borne by the student. Thus the difference between the current Irish system and one where HECS were in operation is simply that one would have to pay

the exact same costs plus have a deferred debt of a couple of thousand euros to repay.

Under HECS students that can afford to make the contribution up front are given a discount. Is this equitable? The latest anti fees slogan from the National Union of Students in the UK "What if you've inherited brains not money?" sums up the problem here.

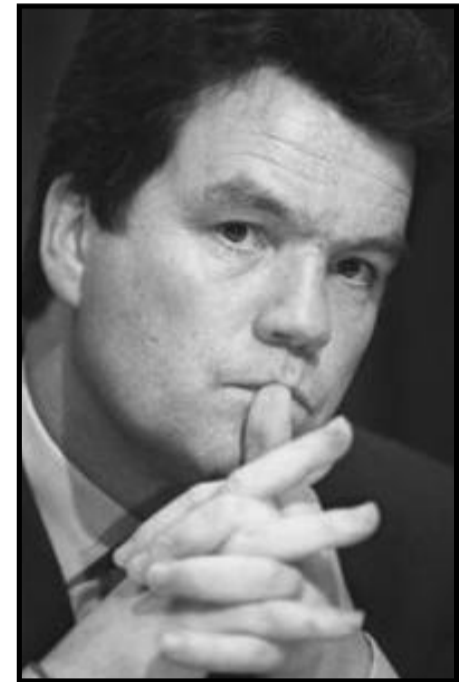
One has to ask about the what encouragement HECS will offer to those wishing to study nursing and such vocations that will never achieve the "mega salaries" of those working in the financial services or engineering sectors? Women are also disadvantaged with HECS. If they take time out from their jobs on maternity leave the contribution is deferred even longer which can lead to them still paying the HECS at 40.

The government under Premier Bob Hawke that introduced HECS in Australia took the view that it was the best way to allow access for all, while providing the funding the third level sector needed. However HECS may be a trojan horse in that it has been used by the government there to increase the funding contribution from the student and decrease their own state contribution. One wonders if the architects of HECS under Labour envisaged this. Surely they did? 10 years ago, the Australian government used to provide 95 percent of university budgets; now,

the figure is about 37 percent, with 23 percent coming from Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) fees paid by students and 40 percent coming from full-fee paying students and research funds. In addition to this successive centre right governments have brought in a three tier HECS system where Humanities courses cost around €2'000 per year, Engineering €4'000 per year and medicine €6'000 per year. The levels of these contributions is related to the course one is studying, and are based on the level of potential earning a graduate of the course could earn and not the actual cost of running the course. For example law is an inexpensive course to run but has a higher contribution than humanities. Thus at this point in time HECS are not loans at all but a contribution based on future salaries. A graduate tax? The salary level at which contributions must begin has also been lowered to €14'000. Hardly mega bucks!

What of grants in Australia? An allowance of €100 a week is given to all students over the age of 25 and to all students under 25 who can prove that they are not dependant on their parents for support. The level of this allowance is excellent and something the Irish State could aim for. However having to have the apron strings cut in order to qualify has led to some parents writing letters to state that they have kicked their children out of home to enable them to avail of the

grant. Hardly a course of action that should be encouraged?



The Minister for Education, Noel Dempsey

Back here students are still in the dark as to what precisely the Dept. of Education has in store as the review of student support services being undertaken by officials there has not been released. Noel Hogan deputy president of USI say that fees will definitely not be returning this September as the department has left it too late to organise the administrative side of things necessary to implement them. The fuss has worked? However we can't be complacent just yet. Taoiseach Bertie Ahern announced at last weekends Ógra Fianna Fáil conference that he was full square behind Minister Dempseys plans for reform. This is a change of tune from what Bertie was saying last summer which may indicate something is in the offing. Hogans rival for the presidency of USI for 2003/2004 Will Priestly Student Union President of Trinity College said that the current debate is not about the essence of third level education at all but about money as the cost of the government jet can be prioritised while funding for education is found wanting. Will is right. The Celtic Tiger has been built on the basis of a solid education which the government seem to have forgotten. Lets hope that for now that Noel is right too. Minister we are waiting for your review and we have all the arguments! You won't be putting a hex on us!

### Student Services Survey

We the Students' Union are looking for feedback on the whole area of Student Services:

- The New Student Records System (Your Results Transcript)
- Quality of Service at the Student Services Desk
- Grant Processing
- Response time for emails and requests
- Student Services Website
- Any other area you consider relevant

Please fill in the coupon below and return to the box at reception in the Students' Union  
Or email your thoughts to [grainne.heffron@ul.ie](mailto:grainne.heffron@ul.ie)  
Your feedback will strengthen our case for change in Student Service.

My thoughts on Student Services:

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## Clubs & Societies Awards

by Eliz abeth Healy

After a long day in college and working in the Union, probably the last thing I wanted to do on Thursday night was sit through another meeting and write an article for An Focall. However, the clubs and societies nominations meeting was an informal affair and despite the excessive heat in Room 5, was quite an enjoyable meeting with a lot of comic relief and excellent presentations on show by many of the nominees.

Being honest, the threat of a 5% fine in the annual budget probably did help the attendance to reach almost a full house, however, for some members the promise of food afterwards was more of an incentive to sit through this 2-hour meeting.

When the presentations finally began, the first nominees elected to strut their stuff were fighting for the title of best new or improved club. Tom Cooper represented the Chess club, the UL Judo club put together an excellent presentation which highlighted the dramatic transformation the club has undergone in the last 2 years. The kickboxing club was the final nominee for this category. The presentation was conducted by Debra Donovan (Chief Instructor) and began with a kickboxing demonstration by two of its members. The club was set up in October of last year and now has a membership of 136 people.

The next set of presentations was for the best new or improved society. First up was the drama society, who put together an impressively colourful and creative presentation. Ella Daly put forward a number of convincing arguments on why dramasoc should win this award, it was a pity that they ran out of time to finish the presentation because it was pretty good. The Games society was also nominated and their presentation, despite being quite short, was both creative and funny. The society has certainly improved tremendously and has increased its membership from 28 members in 2001 to 85+ in 2002. With regular paintballing trips and national LAN parties, this society sounded both unique and fun.

Finally the Traditional Irish Music Society kicked off their presentation with a brilliant piece of traditional music on the fiddle. Paddy Mc Hugh explained the various achievements of the society's members including the fact that they have attended over 20 events since their existence was noted last semester and have over 62 All Ireland titles as well as 242 provincial titles. Excellent stuff!!

Next election was for the best club event. Ross from the Kayak club gave a powerpoint presentation on the Kayak intervarsity which took place in February 2003.

Frank Cox gave the presentation for OPC's expedition to Aconcagua. Frank certainly made the event sound like the event of the century as an incredible amount of work went into organizing the event, namely two and a half years of planning for a four and a half week expedition. The photographs on powerpoint were phenomenal as well as the statistics, including the fact that the club had to raise 20,000 euros by itself to fund the trip as well as all 7 members who set out on the expedition reaching the 6000 m mark during the climb. The Sailing Club's successful intervarsity, which took place in October 2002 was also up for nomination.

The next set of presentations were for the best society event of the year. Bernadette Sexton

representing the Irish Peace society gave council an idea of the preparations and fundraising that took place before the trip to the Lebanon became a reality. The society raised over ten and a half thousand euros through fundraising - all of which went to charity.

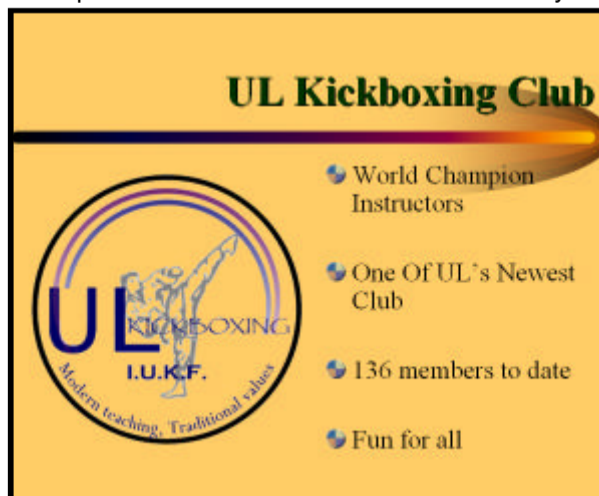
Grainne Heffron gave an excellent presentation on the Outreach society's biggest event of the year - the Outreach meningitis challenge, where members of the Outreach society raised funds for meningitis. The amount of dedication and effort Outreach society members put into raising the money for the trip to Thailand and the meningitis charity was incredible. Overall the society raised over 8236 euros from sponsorship alone and raised 14,000 euros for meningitis.

Young Fine Gael was the last nominee for the best society event award, as a result of the YFG sleepout which took place before Christmas and resulted in the society raising over 3345 euros for charity!! Perhaps the most prestigious of all the awards is for best club/society individual. The nominations for best club individual were Frank Cox from Outdoor Pursuits (whose photograph on display during the presentation provoked a few wolf-whistles), TJ Davitt from the Judo club and Paul Ruddy from the Sailing club. I'm glad that I didn't have to vote in this election in particular as it was always going to be a tough decision to make. It was obvious after the presentations that all three of the nominees deserved the award, it will certainly be interesting to see who is the ultimate winner next Wednesday night at the ball.

Next set of presentations were for the Society Individual of the year. Cian Davis gave an excellent presentation on behalf of the first nominee-Mel Gorman from ComputerSoc. The presentation focused on Mel's immense commitment and contribution to the society and to clubs and societies in general. It was clear from Cian's speech that Mel is a very popular guy in clubs and societies in UL.

Ella Daly from the Drama society was also up for nomination. Without a doubt, this talented lady is a deserving contender for the award, Keith Piggott gave the presentation on her behalf and lucky for her-didn't slag her off too much, she mustn't be a law and accounting student. The final nominee was Conor O' Brien from the Racing society who, unfortunately, couldn't attend the meeting as he has already commenced his work-placement on Coop.

The presentations for Best Club of the year



The Kickboxing Clubs presentation at the Clubs & Socs Hustung

### List of Nominations

#### Best Club of the Year

1. Kayak Club
2. Outdoor Pursuits
3. Sailing

#### Best New OR Improved Club

1. Chess
2. Judo
3. Kickboxing

#### Best Club Event of the Year

1. Kayak Intersivity ( Feb 03 )
2. Outdoor Pursuits Trip to Aconcagua
3. Sailing Intersivity (Oct 02)

#### Best Club Individual of the Year

1. Frank Cox - Outdoor Pursuits Club
2. TJ Davitt - Judo Club
3. Paul Ruddy - Sailing Club

#### Best Society of the Year

1. Irish Peace Society
2. Ten Forward
3. Young Fine Gael

#### Best New OR Improved Society

1. Drama
2. G.Soc
3. Traditional Music Society - "Gan Ainim"

#### Best Society Event of the Year

1. Irish Peace Society - Trip to the Lebanon
2. Outreach - Trip to Thailand
3. Young Fine Gael - "Sleepout"

#### Best Society Individual of the Year

1. Mel Gorman - Computer Society
2. Ella Daly - Drama Society
3. Conor O'Brien - Racing Society

nominations were up next. The nominees were the Sailing club, the Kayak club and of course the OPC. All the presentations were good quality, the Kayak club in particular put together a mini photo album during their presentation which ranged from impressive shots of the Kayak club in action in the water to hilarious photographs detailing the "social aspect" of kayaking.

The final set of presentations was for the best society of the year award. The nominees were the Irish Peace society, a society whose budget increased from 166.34 euros in 2001 to 8000 euros in 2002!, Ten Forward, who succeeded in showing 22 films during Greek Week last year and YFG society. Barry, the PRO for YFG, gave the presentation and highlighted many of the society's previous events and achievements including the society's Q&A session with Michael Noonan and other exciting stuff like that.

The meeting was indeed long but also an enjoyable and at times hilarious one. Most of the presentations were excellent and it was clear that clubs and societies can only go from strength to strength if it continues to encourage the participation of dedicated, hard-working and talented individuals as the people who are presently involved in Clubs and societies in UL. Best of luck to all the nominees and hope ye enjoy the Clubs and Societies Ball on Thursday night!!

# Seachtain na Gaeilge

## Seachtain na Gaeilge 10-17 Márta

### Clár Ama.

Beidh seastán eolais sa cheaintín ar feadh an lae gach lá. Timetable for the Celebration Of Irish National Language Week! There will be an information Stand in the canteen every day next week. More Info: Michelle Ní Ghaboid 0228184@student.ul.ie

### Dé Luain, 10 Márta

13.00  
20.30



Oscailt Oifigiúil le ceol traidisiúnta. Suíomh: Ceaintín, leibhéal 1, príomhfhoirgneamh  
Díospóireacht: "Tá saol níos éasca ag na fir"  
Pléite ag lucht an Tí Ghaeilge i "Drag" sa Jean Monnet



### Dé Mairt, 11 Márta

10.30  
12.00  
15.00-17.00  
19.30

Cuairt dhaltaí na hIdirbhliana ó Phobalscoil Neasáin go OL  
Léamh Gearrscéalaíochta ag Pádraic Breatnach. Suíomh: Halla Sráidbhaile Chill Mhuire.  
Aoiléacht: A century of change: breathing life back into Manx Gaelic, Dr. Breesha Maddrell, Laare-studeyrays Manninagh / Centre for Manx Studies University of Liverpool. Suíomh: EM010  
Tráthnóna spóirt. Suíomh: An "Astroturf"  
"Oíche le Hector" -Oíche ag breathnú ar chláiracha Hector ó Meiriceá Theas. Dips agus Salsa do gach duine! Suíomh: Seomra na nIarchéimithe, Clós na Stáblaí.

### Dé Céadaoin, 12 Márta

12.00-13.00:  
13.00  
19.30

Cuairt dhaltaí Ghaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh go OL. Siamsaíocht le "Spraoi", An Cumann Gaelach. Fáilte roimh thuismitheoirí. Suíomh: Halla Sráidbhaile Chill Mhuire.  
Lón le ceol traidisiúnta. Suíomh: Seomra na nIarchéimithe.  
Tráth na gCeist leis an gClub "Pool+ Darts". Duaiseanna Iontacha! Suíomh: An Phluais sa Scholars.



### Déardaoin, 13 Márta

13.00

Bord Bia do Ghaeilgeoirí sa cheaintín

### Oíche Mhór na seachtaine:

SOUL CLINIC i Tí Dolan Cian ó Cíobháin, DJ ón gclár "An Taobh Tuathail", Raidió na Gaeltachta. Euro5 do Mhic Léinn!!!

## Spóirt le haigh an Seachtain

by Gearóid Mac Gearailt

Muna bhfuil a fhios agat cheanna féin tá cumann na spraoi/an cumann gaelach san ollscoil ag eagrú na h-imeachtaí lé haghaidh seachtain na gaeilge atá ar síúl an tseachtain seo ó Dé Luain an 9ú lá de mhí Márta go dtí an Aoine and 13ú lá. Is cinnte go mbeidh gáire agus craic i rith na seachtaine uilig agus ba cheart daoibh ar fad iarracht a dhéanamh páirt a ghlacadh in imeach éigin. Tá an seachtain plódaithe le imeachtaí agus níl aon dabht faoi ach gurb í seo seachtain na gaeilge is fearr a bhi sa colaíste riamh.

Dé Máirt beidh tráthnóna spóirt againn ar an astroturf ó 3-5. Beidh sraith sacair ar síúl, cluiche tip rubaí agus comórtas poc fhada do fir agus mná.

Séard áta i gceist leis an sraith ná foirne de cúigear ag imirt in aghaidh a chéile agus ag braith ar an slua a bheidheas ann feicimid cé mhéad cluiche a imreoidh muid. Féadfaidh leaids agus cailíní a bheadh ar na fóirne agus if féidir na fóirne a bheadh piocaithe agaibh sula dtiocfaidh sibh nó tar leat féin agus cuirfidh muid ar foireann tú!! Mar gheall gur seachtain na gaeilge atá ann beidh an réiteoir ag labhairt gaeilge agus ba mhaith linn dá ndéanfadh sibh ar fad iarracht roinnt gaeilge a labhairt ach muna bhfuil gaeilge agaibh féadfaidh sibh a bheidh fíor díograsach agus an cluiche a imirt go maith gan a bheadh ag caint! Ach i rith na cluichí go léir ná dean dearmad gur cluiche agus rúinne spraoi atá ann agus ba cheart go mbeadh craic ag chuile dhuine atá páirteach ann.

Cosúil leis an sacair beidh an rugbaí

beagnach mar a chéile. Cluiche ceart a bheidheas anseo lé thart ar 15 duine ar na fóirne. Arís beidh buachailli agus cailíní ar na fóirne. Gan dabht "tip" rugbaí a bheidheas ann ar fhaitíos go ngortódh aon duine iad féin ag imirt rugbaí ceart!!

Is é an imeach aonar atá againn ná an poc fada do na h-iománaithe agus na h-imreoirí camógaí ar fad agus aon duine eile a dteastaíonn uathu buille a thógáil an comórtas seo. Beidh na camáin agus na sliotair againne ag an Astroturf so na bíodh imní oraibh faoi sin!

Má tá muid in ann beidh duaiseanna againn do na buaiteoirí ar fad, ach níl chuile rud socraithe fós. Ba cheart daoibh ar fad teach síos ag an Astroturf lé tacaíocht a thabhairt do sheachtain na Gaeilge san ollscoil agus do theanga na tíre.

Bígí ann!





## Interview with Student Services

by Simon Renardson

We all came back at the start of this year with new student records system in place, Sigma, replacing the old SRAS system that seemed like it was here since the dawn of time (Well, from a second year's point of view at least). The system had been in discussion with Student Services for the past number of years, finally coming on-line in September 2002, in time for this academic year. After a few teething problems, like students putting www in front of the usual sigma.ul.ie/si (The Business Studies students know what I'm talking about), most students got to grips with the system fairly easily.

I spoke to Nuala Guinane earlier in the week to discuss the new system. Ms. Guinane freely admitted that there were a few start-up problems, which is to be expected with such a large system. The biggest worry for students concerning the new system was the tardiness of exam results. Many rumours started flying regarding Student Service, many of which seemed to culminate with the thought "Student Services were late inputting the data, and many of the results were wrong", total nonsense. The exam results were late, according to Ms. Guinane, due to the fact that many academics couldn't access the reports that were available to them on the SRAS records system. The academics seemed to take this to mean that the data was input erroneously, so, Student Services began the time-

consuming task of scrolling through the approximately 58,000 exam results and physically checking them all. It is no small feat that they achieved this in just two days. Out of the 58,000 results, there were 303 errors, 97 of which were academic errors. That give a percentage error of approximately 0.0035% due to the system. Minuscule.

On to the issue of incorrect grades being released, as I said earlier there were 303 errors. The 97 academic errors were caused by the sorting system installed on the system, the way the class lists were inputted and the method that the system employs to sort the names are different, an error now corrected. For example, if there was another student with the surname Renardson (What are the chances?), I could end up with their results and they could end up with mine, due to the fact that the system did not sort by first name.

Students who got NG's wrongly did so due to the fact that, if there were suspected errors, NG's were given to make people sit up and take notice. Ultimately this prompted them to get on to Student Services and question the mark, thus obtaining the correct result. A sort of reverse psychology according to Ms. Guinane.

Ms. Guinane is adamant that the errors will go down as more mistakes in the system programming come to light. Student Services were effectively "playing catch-up" when the system first came to them. The staff in the Student Services Offices

are now trained in the use of the Sigma system, and all the data from the old SRAS system is now entered on to the new system. Students can expect that margin of error to decrease to practically zero.

here in this fabulous institution we like to call the University of Limerick. This also added to some of the "Teething problems" experienced by the staff. Comparing the two systems it is clearly a better system, a username, PIN number and date of



**Sigma should reduce queues at Student Services**

The main reason for changing to the Sigma system was that it now enables students to register their elective choices online, previously only possible by filling out a form in Student Services. The system was designed by SITS:Vision, a Yorkshire company who design various programmes for a number of businesses. The fact that the system was made by an outside company is a change from the old SRAS records system, which was designed right

birth will grant you access to your advisor, module registration, progress and a useful Student CV, among other things.

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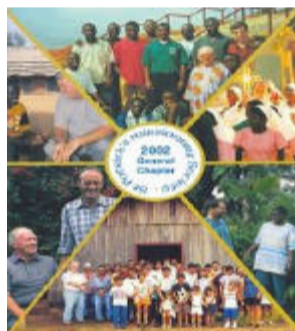
\* Subject to terms and conditions.



# Developing Countries Awareness Day



**BOTHAR**



**ST PATRICKS  
MISSIONARY  
SOCIETY**



**MEDICAL MISSIONARIES OF MARY**



**OUTREACH SOCIETY**



**ST VINCENT DE  
PAUL**



**GOAL**

The day is giving the following voluntary organisations an opportunity to speak with students and staff about the work they do to make our world a better place. We hope that the information will give you all some more insight into what the day is about and that you will all show up and show your support to the people who make a difference to many different areas in our own country and many others. Take some time out on the day to gain some knowledge about the different circumstances that face many people, by becoming more aware of the different situations will be the beginning of what support you can give, and you never know what you might be able to do to make someone's worlds a better place!

This awareness day is run every year by Fr PJ Somers with the help of Marion Kinsella, this year he has gained the support in organising the event from Reverent Patricia Hanna, and Annmarie Murphy. The more support given to this day will be greatly appreciated by all. Give a little time to help others and see just how much of a difference it can make.

The following organisations are some of who you can expect to see on the Thursday 27th March in the main canteen.

## The Game of Politics

by Donal O Driscoll

I was going to write a critique of Kylie Minogue's status as super babe, but then it dawned on me, that is not the type of journalist I would want to become, so I will instead look at the less sensationalist story of the "Politics Game". Politics is very much a game, one where the strong survive, even if they bend the rules.

The Game of politics is not one for the faint hearted! It is rough and sometimes it can be downright dirty, but from a personal point of view I could never accuse it of being boring.(though I'm sure many will) Sometimes it involves the foregoing of principles, a lot of the time it involves the re-definition of them. It involves realism, however, what is realistic is not always right and arguably, it is better to be unrealistic and just, rather than implementing a political reality which is far removed from what is right.

The game of Politics is being played quite significantly at the moment regarding Iraq. The American stance is deeply political, based on old animosities, that is not to question the evilness of Saddam Hussein, but merely to state facts. Whether you believe it is about "getting even for daddy", oil or whatever, the current American position is one to serve the needs of the administration, not necessarily, the American people. This is where the game of politics really comes into play. Britain have always been a close ally of the US, they feel the need to back America up, to maintain this relationship, for times when Britain may be the principal protagonist of a war, or attempted war and need American support. France and Germany, and particularly France, have a long history of conflicts of interest, with both Britain and America, so they feel no such constraint upon them in relation to the Anglo-American agenda. Belgium, comes into the mix largely because they are in many ways the 'groupies' of the EU project

and its chief proponent, they wouldn't go against mainstream EU policy. Ireland, which, being neutral does not have a significant role to play in the larger scheme of things, nonetheless finds itself in a dilemma. Do they back the Anglo-American line? fearing that we will lose US investment, or that the British Government would say feck the peace process and not co-operate on it. On the other hand there is the fear that the EU will start screaming and roaring us, just as they did when we were brainwashed into voting yes to the Nice Treaty, Chiraq has already vowed to not play ball with applicant countries that back the American position. Now personally I think this war is a load of cac, and has no sound basis at all, but the power and politics game has to be taken into account in analysing why the current 'crisis' is happening.

The current Northern Ireland talks is another issue

*continued on next page*



## Passion and The Premiership

by Anthony Kilpatrick

As the Premiership enters one of its most crucial stages in the battle for domestic glory and survival, I endeavour to ask the question: Is this the best league in the world?

Personally, I think yes, the Premiership is in fact the best and most enjoyable league to follow in the world at the moment. Money might at the end of the day be behind this reason, as you have many foreigners coming to play in England, but I like to believe it is the passionate and adoring fans contributing to this. Fans who encapsulate such a remarkable and astounding atmosphere at each and every match, be it Arsenal V Manchester United, or Bolton V West Bromwich Albion, these fans are the ones attracting the top names to play on our side of the world.

Major, and if you will, cultural differences in the way that the game is played between England and the remainder of the world creates a

substantial divide in styles. In England, the game of football is played at an often frantic and high temped pace. Teams are ordered to never give up, never to cease trying, regardless of the odds laid against them. This attitude is forever present in the English game, more noticeably in the F.A Cup, where upsets continually occur as lower league opposition dismiss the more superior teams. This year Newcastle United fell foul to Wolves, and Liverpool were conquered by Crystal Palace. In Leagues such as the Spanish 'La Liga' however, matches are played extremely cautiously and slower than in the Premiership, and can be at times tiring to watch. But this does makes interesting viewing in the Uefa Champions league though: as teams from either league do battle, we get a first-hand glance at the extreme differences in style throughout the continent.

Another demonstration of the passion within the Premiership is ever-present at the infamous Derby games. Already this season, we have had several fantastic derbies. Both



**Arsenal lifting the trophy last season**

Manchester derbies were special to the entire world, as the red-devils could only manage one point from a possible six against their city counterparts. How pathetic!! But the best derby game witnessed this season was without a doubt last week in Birmingham, as Aston Villa squared up to archrivals Birmingham City. In the first meeting between the two sides this season at St. Andrew's, Birmingham surprisingly snatched a 3-0 victory, and made a complete fool of Villa keeper Peter Enckleman in the process, as he somehow managed to allow a throw in to whisk past him and into the net!!

The stage was set at Villa Park for certain revenge from that particular defeat. Tempers were above boiling point throughout the game, which witnessed Villa minimised to just nine players. With one of these dismissals courtesy of a Dion Dublin head butt on that loveable and innocent Robbie Savage. Birmingham City ran out the eventual 2-0 winners in an enthralling spectacle of football.

Another aspect of the passion included within the game in England is the closeness of the player-fan relationship. Players realise, especially within derby games, that their results achieve both happiness and dire humiliation amongst their

fans, and this is another reason for the audience of the Premiership witnessing its constituent teams giving the entire 100%. With most teams, regular conferences are held between the officials, players, and fans over the events occurring both on and off the field at their clubs. This has recently occurred at Leeds United, where chairman Peter Ridsdale has met with concerned fans regarding the poor performance of the team this season. This demonstrates that the gap between the stereotypical rich snobbish footballer and the average person on the street is at a minimal, and leaves the fans feeling more involved with their club.

This year, as usual, the Premiership is shaping up to be quite an encapsulating one. Arsenal, as usual, is leading the way over Manchester United and Newcastle in the hunt for the championship. Arsenal at time of going to press, have an eight-point lead over the teams named above. And personally, they have far too much class and finesse to be caught this season. It is looking exceedingly more likely that they shall retain both the Premiership and the F.A Cup in which they won last season. Winning in Europe is the next step for the Gunners, and I believe the time has come for the European crown to make its way home to North London.

Soccer reaches out to those of us that are passionate about it. It has the ability to grant us joy and despair together in not only 90 minutes, but also over an entire season. The English Premiership achieves this passion every week amongst us all, and this is why I consider the league that invented the game to be justifiably the best, throughout both Europe and the world.



**Sylvain Wiltord scores for Arsenal**

## The Game of Politics

*continued from previous page*

where the Politics game is important. What I love about the anti-Republican media both in this country and in Britain, is that they seem to think IRA disbandment can just happen over night. like it or not, there is a huge number of people in the Northern part of our country (and a handy number in the southern part as well), who have a deep emotional attachment to the IRA, be it because of losing loved ones in the armed struggle, or just through being involved in the organisation. There has to be a large, consultative process, before disbandment can be achieved. People have to be brought to terms that the IRA "May go away you know". This will be a long road and it is best, we leave it take its course. Real dialogue among the Republican movement is what is needed, some whingy yuppy shouting at the 'boys' from his high horse isn't going to do the job. What we also have to realise is that the Republican movement are not stupid! Talk of disbandment and decommissioning

and indeed the war being over is based on a ludicrous assumption, that the Provos will restart the armed struggle.

There was a campaign of violence for over 25 years, arguably the longest continuous campaign in Irish Republican history. If a united Ireland could not be achieved from that, then it is obviously not going to be achieved through armed struggle. Sinn Féin have a substantial electoral base now. They are the largest nationalist party in the North, the largest party in Belfast, have the fourth largest % of the vote in the south (despite winning less seats, they have more support than either the Greens or the PDs) and look set to overtake the Labour party in time to come. It would be political suicide to risk that position for a futile campaign, that will get the republican movement nothing but more prison sentences. It would be like saying "Hello Bus, I know I could have crossed the road 2 minutes ago, but I would really prefer if you knocked me down". Sinn Féin are not going to do that, they will play the

politics game and pursue their cause through this outlet. It is also an example of the Politics game, when they do not emphasise their links with the far left, when fundraising in America. Again I don't think misleading someone who likes giving money to an organisation, whose core principles he despises, just because of a superficial common interest (the auld sod) is the right way to go, but it keeps the coffers going.

If you are an honest man, the game of politics may not be for you. It is perfectly feasible for an honest man to play his part in the Politics game, but only if they realise that there may be slight inconsistencies in the road they take to fulfil their just objectives. On the other hand, if it comes to the stage where rules and morality are thrown out the window completely, it is better to resort to childlike assertions such as "this game is stupid, I'm not playing anymore"



## Aconcagua 2003

by Frank Cox

"There is still a hundred metres to go..."

"You have been waiting two and a half years to be in this position. You know that the summit is up there and all you have to do is move step by step".

"Step by step? You make it sound like it's easy. If only it was that easy. I just need to stop for a minute and then I will be off again".

"You know that one minute will be 5 minutes"

"But I feel so tired up here"

"Are you going to leave it at that? All these days on the mountain and you're thinking of giving up. You have one chance at this mountain so take it"

"I know. Step by step, as you said"

At 6,800m, I was in the open scree chute called the Canaleta. This was the last obstacle before the summit of Aconcagua. I felt that my thoughts were divided. One part was the motivation that accompanied me as I left Camp 2 that morning. It was the part that made me get out of my tent and stand into the cold air outside. This part was strong willed and knew that it wanted to get to the top.

The second part was a fatigued mind and body. The part that felt that it would be so much easier to just turn around now and walk back to Camp 2. As I climbed the last 200m to the summit, the constant conversation between each part continued. As I stood onto the summit, there was only one voice left and that was the strength inside my mind. This was the strength that had just got me to the summit of Aconcagua.

At 3.00pm on Monday the 10th of February



The expedition team at base camp

Darragh Dolan, Tom Earle and John Paul O'Gorman reached the summit of Aconcagua (6962m). At 3.15pm on Tuesday the 11th of February, Frank Cox also climbed to the summit of Aconcagua.

June 2000

Here is where it all started. Sitting around with a broken ankle asking myself questions. Let's organise an expedition. Where? Aconcagua sounds good. Nearly 7000m's and it is relatively developed regarding access. Aconcagua it is.

September 2001

Initially there were 22 people interested in going to Aconcagua. At this stage I was down to 16 people and we were all working together to start raising money for the expedition. We needed sponsors

and support to make it all possible. Constant meetings and arrangements were the order of the day.

September 2002

It was time to decide on the team so I rang all sixteen members to tell each member, who was going to be part of the final team. The final team consisted of seven members.

December/January 2003

The planning was happening so fast, that some days it was just too much. All the parts were starting to come together but nothing was finalised. Medical, finance, sponsors, equipment, travel, food, insurance and training. We needed to finish

*continued on next page*

## Sailing Club Intervarsity

by Laura Greer

University of Limerick played host to over 150 sailors at the weekend as it hosted the National Teamracing Intervarsities at Killaloe Activity Centre.

The event, in which 22 teams from colleges across the country as well as teams travelling from Cardiff University and the British University Sailing Association, was a huge success with a great amount of competitive spirit between the teams. It further gave ULSC a chance to put their six new firefly racing boats through their paces on the water.

Thursdays racing proved successful and despite changeable weather conditions Race Officer John Lefroy banged off seventy races. UL firsts intensive training over the past few months paid off as they easily sailed into the Gold fleet competition as first in their group. UL two had some tough matches in their group and were relegated to the bronze fleet which they are in contention to win, while UL Ladies team (aka Hoes) also made it into the gold fleet competition.

The social side of things was well looked after as the sailors shed their oilskins and headed to Navada Smiths and the Market. Friday



The Sailing Club, pictured with their six new boats

dawned too early for some but nevertheless sailing kicked off at nine thirty and a further twenty four races were sailed before the division of the fleets into gold, silver and bronze.

All three teams did well in their races on Friday despite blustery conditions. Afterwards while shivering they donned their shorts and Hawaiian shirts for the Beach party and band in An Phluais and the trek to the Lodge.

ULSC have hosted several successful intervarsity competitions before this one and the hard work and professionalism of the committee paid off as the event ran smoothly. Treasurer Richard Murphy said he was delighted with the event. "This event is a tribute to all the hard work from the committee over the past year and our new boats raised the standard of the competition considerably - it's great," he said.

A black tie ball was planned for the Radisson for after Saturdays finals. News from the ball and final results for the event will be in the next edition.

The Sailing Club Intervarsity also marked the first use of the Sailing Clubs new boats in competitive racing. Before being brought onto the water, the boats, which were financed entirely by the Sailing Club themselves were officially blessed.



# Aconcagua 2003

*continued from previous page*

each section one by one but each day they changed.

On the 24th January 2003, Tom Earle, Darragh Dolan, Liam Gahan and myself arrived in Mendoza, Argentina to buy all the food and supplies needed for the expedition. On the 27th of January, Ed Earle, Barry Watts and JP O'Gorman arrived in Mendoza. The team of seven was together and all the food and supplies were ready.

On the 30th of January we entered the Aconcagua National Park (2700m). For US\$200, we were permitted to climb in the park for a period of 20 days. With steady walking, we reached Base Camp in 3 days with a night spent at Pampa Las Lenas (2800m) and Casca de Piedra (3300m). As we trekked into Base Camp (4200m), our food and equipment was been transported with us by seven mules each carrying 60kg's.

We reached Base Camp on the 1st of February, which was to become our home for a period of five days. During these five days we rested to acclimatise to the altitude and also carried supplies to Camp 1 (5000m). On the 3rd of February the team of seven carried their first load to Camp 1 and descended again to BC. The next day we repeated this carry so that Camp 2 (5900m) could be successfully established.

On the 6th of February, all seven members moved the Camp 1 leaving the relatively rich air of Base Camp behind. The following day, Darragh, Ed, Tom and JP carried loads to Camp 2 at 5900m. Myself, Liam and Barry were a day behind with respect to acclimatisation so we used this day as a rest day in Camp 1. The next day we carried our loads to Camp 2 while the others had their rest day in Camp 1.

At this stage of the expedition, Darragh, Ed, Tom



**Just below Canaletto**

and JP were a day ahead, so were planning to summit a day before Barry, Liam and myself. They moved to Camp 2 on Sunday the 9th of February. The decision was made to spend as little time as possible at Camp 2 due to altitude so Darragh, Ed, Tom and JP were to leave Camp 2 for the summit on the morning of the 10th of Feb.

At 6.30am Darragh, Tom and JP left Camp 2 for the summit via the Falso Traverse Route to the summit of Aconcagua. The original Polish Glacier route was not in condition for climbing due to recent storms and snowfall. Ed did not leave Camp 2 for the summit due to severe headaches. At 10am, we received radio contact to say that Darragh, Tom and JP were at 6400m and were all feeling strong. The next radio contact would be at the summit due to geographical features, which were blocking radio signal. By 2pm, Liam and myself reached Camp 2 for our summit attempt on the next day. Barry had decided to return to Camp 1 due to altitude headaches on the way to Camp 2.

At 3pm, we had radio contact with Darragh to say that himself, Tom and JP had reached the summit and that they were all feeling tired but in good form. Tom, Darragh and JP returned to Camp 2 at

approximately 7pm and rested there for the night, planning to descend to Base Camp the next day.

The following morning, I awoke at 4.30 to attempt the summit. Liam did not leave Camp 2 for the summit because of severe altitude headaches. At 5.30am, I left Camp 2 and started the ascent. By 9am, I was at 6400m and was feeling the strain of the altitude but still felt strong. The wind was cold but overall the weather was perfect. At 6400m, I made the last contact with the lads in Camp 2 and kept moving for the summit. Moving up steadily I reached the summit of Aconcagua at 3.15pm. The last 100m to the top had taken me around 2 hours to complete having to breath around 6 times for every step or two. I radioed to Camp 2 to say that I was on the summit and then started my descent. At around 7pm, I reached Camp 2 and then descend to Camp 1 with JP and Liam who had waited for me in Camp 2.

The day after we were all reunited in Base Camp with all the equipment retrieved from Camp 1 and 2. The next day we walked out the 42kms to the start of the National Park in 10 hours and where back in Mendoza for 11pm. The next few days we stayed in Mendoza resting and sampling Argentine life.

From all the team, and myself, I would like to thank you all our sponsors who without there help and support this expedition would not have been possible:

University of Limerick Students Union  
United Drug  
University of Limerick Sports Department  
Cascade Designs  
University of Limerick President's Fund  
Castle T Furniture  
Coca Cola  
Murray O'Laoire Architects  
Bausch and Lomb

## Clubs & Societies Report

by Paul Lee

It is the 25th February at the time of writing of this article, which is only Week 3 of Semester 2, and in almost 5 years working for Clubs and Societies on behalf of the University of Limerick Students Union it is by far the most memorable to date. A lot of student driven projects have more than proved the limitless capabilities of the students of this campus WHEN they decide to show a little SELF-BELIEF and APPLY themselves to their chosen projects. The Sailing Club, Outdoor Pursuits Club, Rowing and Kayak clubs more than bolster this statement.

The Sailing Club, after several months of negotiations, have managed to secure a fleet of 6 new "Fireflies" boats from the UK at 1/3 of their retail cost, which is set to enhance their reputation as one the premier student sailing clubs in Ireland. What makes this remarkable is that despite no financial support from the University, Paul Ruddy and his team refused to see the opportunity slip away and with a joint effort between the Club, Students Union and a little help from AIB the persistence of these students has been justly rewarded.

For many Clubs and Societies they are probably "blue in the face" from

yours truly "harping" on about the importance of continuity and setting themselves up beyond a semester or even an academic year, which to be fair is very difficult given the natural turnover of students every year. However the Outdoor Pursuits Club and Frank Cox's expedition team of seven members including 2 alumni members proved in convincing style that it can be done. Just this week the seven members have returned from 5 weeks in Argentina where they successfully traversed Mt. Aconcagua (the highest peak outside the Himalayas). This trip was again poorly supported from the powers that be but with belief and application in abundance this TWO-YEAR PROJECT came to fruition with the persistence of the Outdoor Pursuits and the Clubs and Societies Executive (a student dominated body).

The pièce-de-resistance in terms of student-power however will be if the Rowing Club and Kayak Club later this Semester manage to secure the Boathouse project which in association with the Students Union we have been chipping away at for the last 5 years. Currently both Clubs have in excess of €200,000 worth of equipment with no designated storage space. We are in tentative negotiations with Mr. John O'Connor the Vice President of Administration and Mr. Brian Hand the Buildings and

Estate Manager with regard to this project which initial conservative estimates indicate may cost in excess of €2,000,000!!!! Credit is due to the University in this instance for their support thus far.



**Paul Lee**

One could be forgiven for thinking it was all Clubs but not so, the Debating Union were in South Africa this year competing in the World Championships and even though they missed the cut off, we can be proud of the fact the best Irish Individual Speaker is none other than Paddy Buckley the editor in chief of this publication. The Irish Peace Society has also raised the Society stakes by travelling to the Lebanon

earlier this year for a 10-day mission to investigate the Palestinian refugees and its country's current condition. This included meeting renowned journalist Robert Fisk amongst other distinguished people.

Still on Societies I predict that this year's awards for the various "Best Of" categories which will be announced at the Clubs and Societies Ball in the South Court Hotel in a few weeks, will indicate a significant shift in the order of merit of Societies with the following Societies surging forward in their development Ten Forward, G.Soc, Aeronautical and the Drama Societies, dare I say it a political party as well... Young Fine Gael.

There is so much more going on but I cant possibly elaborate on all Clubs and Societies in this brief piece. At the present moment in time there is a huge national focus on the consumption of alcohol and the groups affected by this culture. Needless to say students are a soft "demographic" target but perhaps if more people take the initiative as those mentioned above then your time in College wont be wasted and we can work to dispel the stereotype that life in college revolves SOLELY around alcohol.









# The Stables Club

at The University of Limerick

[www.stablesclub.com](http://www.stablesclub.com)

**Week 5**  
**Monday**  
 Music Soc  
 UL Band / Open Mic  
**Tuesday**  
 Karaoke  
**Wednesday**  
 BAND: Free Beer  
**Thursday**  
 Noel McLoughlinDJ  
**Friday**  
 Party Night



FOOD COUNTER OPEN EACH DAY FROM 8AM!  
 BEGIN WITH A TOP-NOTCH BREAKFAST AND  
 CARRY THROUGH TO AN EVENING MEAL BEFORE  
 7PM.

| 8AM-12 BREAKFAST | 12-3 LUNCH MENU |  
 | 5-7 EVENING SPECIALS |



**Week 6**  
**Monday**  
 Open from 3pm  
 Trad Session  
**Tuesday**  
 Karaoke  
**Wednesday**  
 BAND: ShanksMare  
**Thursday**  
 Jukebox Heroes  
**Friday**  
 Party Night w DJ Aidan

T (061) 330139 - F (061) 330176  
 E [info@stablesclub.com](mailto:info@stablesclub.com)  
 W [www.stablesclub.com](http://www.stablesclub.com)

# Arena Sports Club

The Arena Sports Club - THE Sports Venue

The Club features a Plasma Screen TV, and Big screen showing many sporting events. Our function room, equipped with Audio-Visual facilities is also available for group bookings. We have plenty of entertainment lined up for the year - check notice boards & posters for details.

## NEW EVENING FOOD MENU!

CALL TO THE ARENA SPORTS CLUB,  
 AND TRY SOMETHING FROM OUR  
 DELECTABLY DELICIOUS NEW FOOD  
 MENU!

WE GUARANTEE SOMETHING TO SUIT  
 ALL TASTES - CALL DOWN FOR A LOOK,  
 YOU WON'T LEAVE ON AN EMPTY  
 STOMACH!



SEE OUR SITE AT [www.arenasportsclub.com](http://www.arenasportsclub.com)

## WEEK 5

**Monday**  
 Premiership Night  
**Tuesday**  
 Arsenal v Roma  
 Softball Table Quiz  
**Wednesday**  
 Man UTD v Basel  
 Junlour Soccer Club Table Quiz  
**Thursday**  
 Trad Session with the Folk Club

Open Sat & Sun

t: (061) 332780 | e: [info@arenasportsclub.com](mailto:info@arenasportsclub.com)

## WEEK 6

**Monday**  
 Closed  
**Tuesday**  
 Soccer Night  
**Wednesday**  
 Trampoline Club Table Quiz  
**Thursday**  
 Trad Night  
**Friday**  
 Music Night

f: (061) 339841 | w: [www.arenasportsclub.com](http://www.arenasportsclub.com)



YOUR WEEKLY NIGHT OUT

Wednesday Nite @ Docs

ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM STUDENTS' UNION  
RECEPTION FROM THE MONDAY OF EACH WEEK @9AM

Thursday Nite @ The MARKET

MURPHYS COMEDY NITE

Week 5: David O Doherty



DOORS OPEN 9:00 @ THE SCHOLARS FUNCTION ROOM  
TICKETS: 5 EUROS, FIRST 50 GET 1 FREE PINT OF MURPHYS

Week 7: Des Bishop



Tickets  
on sale at David O'Doherty  
show for 6 Euros,  
Normal Price 8 Euros

## UL ARTS OFFICE SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

presents

MONDAY 10 March

AGIN' THE WALL, Directed by Chris Hurley

GOSFORD PARK, Directed by Robert Altman



The time is November 1932. Sir William McCordle (Michael Gambon) and Lady Sylvia McCordle (Kristin Scott Thomas) have invited a houseful of guests for a shooting party. They include Sir William's sister Constance, the Countess of Trentham (Maggie Smith), who depends on an allowance he is constantly threatening to withdraw. And Lady Sylvia's sister Louisa (Geraldine Somerville), who like Sylvia had to marry for money (they cut cards to decide who would bag Sir William). And Louisa's husband, Commander Anthony Meredith (Tom Hollander). And their sister Lavinia (Natasha Wightman), married to Raymond, Lord Stockbridge (Charles Dance). And the Hollywood star Ivor Novello (Jeremy Northam). And Morris Weissman (Bob Balaban), a gay Hollywood producer who has brought along his "valet" Henry Denton (Ryan Phillippe). Below stairs we meet the butler Jennings (Alan Bates), the housekeeper Mrs. Wilson (Helen Mirren), the cook Mrs. Croft (Eileen Atkins), the footman George (Richard E. Grant) and assorted other valets, maids, grooms and servers. When the American Henry comes to take his place at the servant's table and says his name is Denton, Jennings sternly informs him that servants are addressed below stairs by the names of their masters, and he will be "Mr. Weissman" at their table--where, by the way, servants are seated according to the ranks of their employers. It has been said that the most enjoyable lifestyle in history was British country house life in the years between the wars. That is true for some of the people upstairs in this movie, less true of most of those downstairs. Altman observes exceptions: Some of the aristocrats, like Lady Constance, are threatened with financial ruin, and others, like Novello, have to sing for their supper; while below stairs, a man like Jennings is obviously supremely happy to head the staff of a great house. And as Mrs. Wilson the housekeeper says of herself, "I am the perfect servant. I have no life."

THE BOX, Directed by Brian Kelly  
MULHOLLAND DRIVE, Directed by Francois Ozon

Stepping out of a car on Mulholland Drive, gorgeous brunette Laura (Elena Haring) narrowly escapes being killed, twice. Firstly by her gangster companions and secondly by the joy-riding teenagers whose hot-rod smashes into the car and kills everyone inside. Meanwhile, perky, wide-eyed blonde Betty Elms (Naomi Watts) arrives in Hollywood from Deep River, Ontario with naïve dreams of making it big in the movies. Her actress aunt has lent her a flat in an old fashioned courtyard complex, presided over by the fussing, motherly Coco (Ann Miller). But as soon as she moves in, Betty finds a terrified naked woman in her shower, a traumatised amnesiac who cannot remember how she got there, or how she came by the blue key and wads of dollar bills in her handbag. She calls herself Rita (a name snatched from a poster for Gilda) and, in between auditions, the selfless Betty decides to help her find out who she is. As always, Lynch's film is not about plot or characters, but about surrendering oneself to a mood. An atmosphere of menace pervades the entire film. Smart-aleck director Adam (Justin Theroux) is pressured by a sharp-suited man played with tight-lipped menace by composer Angelo Badalamenti who insists that he re-cast the lead actress in his latest film. Adam receives gnomic advice from a leathery character called The Cowboy, who meets him in a corral at the top of Beachwood Canyon.

Two cops have a bizarre conversation over breakfast at a Winkie's diner. A dwarf in a wheelchair gives cryptic instructions over a mobile phone. Yet there are also episodes of swooning romanticism: Betty and Rita share a bed and enjoy a lesbian encounter which is all the more erotic for being so tentative and oblique. Later, they visit a strange after-hours joint called El Club Silencio, where a female performer performs a stunning, Spanish language a cappella version of Roy Orbison's 'Crying'. On a superficial level, Mulholland Drive is a generic tale of thwarted ambition and shattered dreams. But it is also a surreal exploration of Hollywood's false allure, which is based in no small part on the idea of being someone else. People become actors, actors become the characters they play. Actors become stars, audiences project identities on to the glamorous people they imagine them to be. Dreams are manufactured, nothing is real, even identity itself is fluid. If you can immerse yourself in Lynch's world of make-believe, perhaps you too will lose yourself.

MONDAY 24 March



with all films followed by

## THE DEBATING UNION WEEKLY DEBATE

WEEK 5 "THIS HOUSE WOULD PUT CORPORATE PROFITS BEFORE INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY."

WEEK 6 "THIS HOUSE WOULD ABOLISH IRISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS"



# Harder Generation

by Timmy Hennessy

Harder Generation 06/03/03

A pretty short section this time round, but I don't get paid so what ya expect. The introducing section will return next edition with a feature on Mark Kavanagh, as well some other stuff I didn't get round to this week. But I have been very good and blagged 2 free passes for Lisa Lashes at Doc's. :

### Streetlife Returns!

After almost wearing us out in February with no less than 3 sell out gigs, the Streetlife crew return to Dolan's on Sunday 16th march, presenting techno legend Trevor Rockliffe. Support on the night from Niall Bourke. Tickets 16euro from empire and on the door if available.

### More Lusting down at Doc's

Lust are set to continue their fine run down in Doc's on the 28th of this month with a visit from one of the superstars of dance music, Mauro Picotto. For anyone who hasn't heard of Picotto (where have you been?), He has been around and rocking clubs for years, has mixed countless compilation albums, owns the BXR label, and is the man responsible for chart topping tracks like Komodo.

As with the Lisa Lashes gig, this is sure to be a sell out night so either get your ticket in advance from empire music or get down to the venue early on the night. Support on the night comes from Lust resident and Gage regular Leoine.

### Competition

Those nice guys down at lust have donated 2 passes for the Lisa Lashes gig (14th march). This promises to be one of the biggest nights ever seen down at Doc's, which I explained in the last edition :

Anyways, to be in with a chance to win the passes all you have to do is email me with the answer to the



Babydoll @ Enigma

following question:

What was the name of the albums mixed by Lisa Lashes that sold nearly 500,000 copies last year? (hint: look at the last edition..)

Answers to hardergeneration@eircom.net

### Chart:

- Ilogik -My Life [Elasticman]
- Unknown - Arsonist [White]
- Sol Ray & Dynamic Intervention - World Of Sound [E-Traxx Ltd]
- F1 - Recoil (Paul Glazby's 2nd Mix) [Tripoli]
- Vinylgroover & The Red Head - Kokane (Olly P & Ashley Sinclair Mix) [Nukleuz]
- Karim - Don't Fuck With Me [DoNotBend]
- Testtube Babies vs Nik Denton - Feel The Friction [ToolBox]
- Edison Factor - Hallucination [Freezing Point]
- DMF & Marc Johnson - Jam Busta [Babydoll]
- The Mad Gay Mafia - War Of The Worlds [Ef.Adrine]

# Tommy Tiernan Review

by Cian O'Driscoll

Is there any cure for the February blues? February is a month of endless gray days filled with nothing but wind and rain. Laughter is nowhere to be found at this torrid time of year. Time to go see Tommy Tiernan then, methinks!

Winner of the Perrier Award and best stand-up at the British comedy awards in 1998, Tommy Tiernan was finishing off a weeklong stint in Dolan's Warehouse when a friend and I took an evening out to watch him perform. He was originally scheduled to perform for just two nights. Due to unprecedented demand however this was extended to a six-night run in Limerick. Along with the sell-out crowd, we laughed our way through the evening. Limerick's rain clouds and family feuds never seemed so far away.

Tommy Tiernan is an enthusiastic and



Tommy Tiernan

a likeable performer. An evening in his company is an energizing experience. His routine meanders from current affairs issues to schoolboy reminiscences and familial affairs. Tiernan devoted much of Tuesday's show, for example, to ridiculing his own family, with his infant daughter receiving most attention. Walking down Shop Street in Galway with Batman (his young son) at one side, and his son's imaginary friend on the other also drew the laughs.

Tiernan manages to approach all these subjects from a thoroughly Irish perspective that is both comforting and fresh. Never has County Monaghan seemed so close to me! The night was filled with memorable one-liners, amusing stories and colourful characters.

Tommy Tiernan is an engaging performer and a great storyteller. His job, he told us, was to make us laugh. He made me laugh on Tuesday night. A lot. Considering the still unsure future of the University pubs and clubs, the nasty weather and the general malaise that is February, this was no mean feat. Thank you Tommy Tiernan.

A chara,

An bhfuil tú ag iarraidh trealamh HiFi le luach €400 a bhuaicoint ó Cloney Audio?

Tá Seachtain na Gaeilge ag tabú le MEAS, agus tá muid ag iarraidh DO SMADINTE le haghaidh póstaer as Gaeilge (ar nós an phóstaer ar an taobh eile den litir seo).

Déanfaidh abairt amháin nó dhá abairt cúis - agus má tá siad maith ga leor beidh tú in ann Tivoli HiFi raidió le luach €400 a bhailiú ó Cloney Audio - an príomhsoláthar HiFi in Éirinn (Is féidir sonraí faoin Raidió Tivoli a fheiceáil ag: [www.tivoli.ie](http://www.tivoli.ie)).

Roghnaídh moltáirí an buaiceir agus beidh an cineadh deireanach acu (ní dhéanfaidh siad comhfhreagras le éinne faoi).

Tá an duais curtha ar fáil mar chuid d'fheachtas 'Bródh meos agat an ocló agus meos agat ar fhéin' atá ar siúl ag MEAS, le tacaíocht ó Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn. Is í aidiún an fheachtais seo ná na rioscaí a chur os comhair daoine óga maidir le an-iamarca a ól.

Ní gá ach an fhoirm thíos a líonadh agus a chur ar ais chuig:

An Bainisteoir Toighde agus Tionscnaimh,  
MEAS,  
Merriem House,  
1-3 Fitzwilliam St. Lower,  
Dublin 2.

Nó is féidir leat an teolas (le do sonraí fhéin) a chur chuig:  
[info@meas.ie](mailto:info@meas.ie)

----- Scrios Ánseo -----

Ainm: \_\_\_\_\_ (le BLO/LETREACHA LE DO THOIL)

Seoladh: \_\_\_\_\_


Uimhir Teagmhála: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following sentence with

**a HANGOVER**  
**b MY GIRLFRIEND**

'I woke up with a/b and John woke up with a/b.'

Respect alcohol. Respect yourself.




Complete the following sentence with

**a INHIBITIONS**  
**b HANGOVERS**

'I will overcome my a/b, but forever succumb to my a/b.'

Respect alcohol. Respect yourself.




Complete the following sentence with

**a THE PATTERN**  
**b PUKE**

'They thought it was a/b on my shirt, but it was actually a/b.'

Respect alcohol. Respect yourself.




Complete the following sentence with

**a SLASH**  
**b KEBAB**

'I remember going for a a/b and came round with a a/b across my face.'

Respect alcohol. Respect yourself.





## Film Review - 8 Mile



Perhaps a film based on the life of Slim Shady would have been more exciting and at least more interesting. As it stands, Eminem's debut feature is a curiously underwhelming and a bland affair, that never really kicks into gear, or gains momentum, or anything that you could call narrative drive. Scenes don't quite come to anything; they abort with a sometimes audible pop and you sit there wondering what nothing is going to happen next. The air of insubstantiality about the whole piece ultimately leaves you drowsy and rather indifferent.

We have seen it all before of course. From Rocky to Saturday Night Fever, the story of the poor white boy in the soul crushing dead-end job, determined to get out and make his mark in well-worn territory. The question is whether such a jaded and formulaic genre, can be recycled in an imaginative and meaningful way. The answer is not a resounding 'no', but a shrugged 'not really'. It is mediocre at best. Should we not have expected better from the combined effort of the director of much overlooked 'Wonder Boys' and the outstanding 'L.A Confidential', and the dynamic and witty performer who is Eminem? We will all come to this film with our different expectations of Eminem projected onto the screen, and for the most part, we are going to feel sorely let down.

Eminem plays Jimmy Smith Jnr. Aka 'B Rabbit', the poor white boy from the suburban trailer park, joined to Detroit by the eight mile road of the title, who just happens to be quite a fine rapper when he musters up the courage to perform. At the start of the film, we find him moving back in with his mother after falling out with his

girlfriend. The mother is portrayed as an irresponsible figure, lacking in any sort of dignity or self respect. All she seems to worry about is whom she will sleep with next. Jimmy is the noble prince who endures her antics while constantly looking out for his baby sister. He is like a half-baked cross between a Hip-Hop Holden Caulfield and a Mahatma Gandhi of the ghetto. When he explodes (if you could even call it that) it feels strained and contrived.

The character is grossly underwritten and Eminem's performance feels like an extended screen-test that seeks to gauge his presence. There is no doubt that he has presence, but what disappoints and frustrates is the almost incidental nature of the poorly drawn and flimsily-conceived character he plays. Eminem is given little to work with and is without the experience to transform what he has into something truly special. Having said that, he manages to infuse the part with a certain vulnerable quality you do feel that looking moody and brooding just isn't convincing enough. And what about Kim? Her character seems to have been



Eminem in "8 Mile"

plucked straight from central casting and then spoon-fed giblets of dialogue. Kim seems to think that by looking a little 'rough-and-ready' means you have a gritty and substantial character. (I don't think so some how.)

The most vividly realized character in the film is arguably Detroit itself. As in his other films, Hanson has given his location an atmospheric quality that pervades through the course of the film. As Jimmy silently sits in the back of the bus scribbling away, the camera slowly surveys this mouldering post-industrial wasteland where everything seems to be either crumbling apart or peeling away. It is a grungy and tragic landscape that Hanson's camera evokes quite beautifully. You really do feel that this might be a grimly austere place to live in. In fairness to Hanson and his screenwriter the film never remotely feels like an add for Eminem the product. But for a film that claims to be somewhat autobiographical, why not draw more on the stars obvious talent? We got some clever wordplay and a little whiny staccato from Rabbit but very little of the melancholic hatred or confrontational edge that makes Eminem such a riveting performer. 'OK', I hear someone say, "but the film is about Rabbit, not Eminem". Fair enough, but when you've been told the film is partially based on the rapper's life, you expect a little more reflection of the guys awesome armoury. The much-praised rap contest scenes come across as formal taunting sessions between sixth-formers rather than gladiatorial verbal sparring you might have hoped for. The film energises slightly during these scenes, but only slightly. Trundling along from one confrontation to the next the rumbling tortoise-like pace quickly palls. The supposed love interest has a coquettish Courtney Love-like charm, which is never really developed, and (like so much else in the film) she is

ultimately rendered, redundant by the facile inconsequential script. Listening to "Lose Yourself", as the credits roll with Jimmy walking off into the nearest thing he'll ever get to: a sunset ( everybody go 'awwwh'), you wish that the nervous, jittery, energy inherent in that song could have been woven into the film. Wishful thinking, I suppose.

When I asked a friend of mine what he thought of the film, he pointedly remarked that it was "a bunch of stuff that happens". Therein lies the problem. Rocky repackaged as sentimental scrapyards realism, 8 Mile will surely pack them in, but it just left



Eminem

me cold. Good to his Mum and Kid sister, anti-gun and defender of gays (not even some knowing humour), its no surprise that the Bush administration is using Eminem to bolster support with Arab youth. Quite ironic coming from the same administration that felt he was even more dangerous than polio. After seeing 8 mile, you'd start to wonder. Maybe he'll even win an Oscar. Now that would be funny. Fingers crossed for that film on the life of Slim Shady!



## Clubs & Societies Events: Week 5

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
<b>Games Society</b> Role-Playing Games 7:45 - 12:30, EM019 7:00 EG006 <b>Music Society</b> Open Mic Stables, 9:30 <b>Drama Society</b> ISDA @ Trinity 5:30  <b>Enviromental Soc</b> Meeting, 7:00 Meeting Room 3 in the SU  <b>Debating Union</b> Weekly Debate 8:00, Jean Monnet  <b>Archery Club</b> Training 7-10 Old Sports Building  <b>Traditional Music</b> Music Session Castletroy Park Hotel 9:30  <b>Judo</b> Training Arena 8:00-10:00  <b>Fianna Fail</b> Meeting Room 4, 6:00 - 7:00	<b>Games Society</b> Role-Playing Games 7:30 - 12:30, EGO06 <b>UL Kickboxing</b> Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building <b>Dance Club</b> Salsa Dromroe Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 7:30 Advanced 7:30 - 8:30  <b>Tang Soo Do</b> 7:30 - 9:00 Training Gym in Old Sports Building  <b>Softball</b> Table Quiz 9:30, Sports Bar  <b>Athletics Club</b> Training 6 - 7:30 Middle Distance 5:30 - 7:00 Sprinters at the Running Track  <b>Kayak Club</b> Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool	<b>Games Society</b> Role-Playing Games 19:00, EG006 including Apocalypse <b>Kayak Club</b> River Trip 2:00 The Store  <b>Judo</b> Training PESS 6:00 - 7:30  <b>Drama Soc</b> Drama Workshop 7:30 B1023  <b>Ten Forward</b> "Braindead" 7:30 PSA Center  <b>Archery Club</b> Training 7-10 Old Sports Building  <b>Kayak Club</b> Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool  <b>Sailing Club</b> Sailing 2pm, Foundation Building	<b>Karate Club</b> 6:00 - 7:30 Training Gym in Old Sports Building <b>Traditional Music</b> Music Session Sports Bar 9:30 <b>Ten Forward</b> "Boondock Saints" 7:30 Meeting Room 5  <b>Dance Club</b> Irish Dancing Dromroe Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 8:00  <b>UL Kickboxing</b> Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building  <b>Kayak Club</b> Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool  <b>Games Society</b> Role-Playing Games 7:00, EGO06 LAN Gaming 6:00, Outside SU <b>Judo</b> Training Arena 8:00-10:00	<b>Softball Club</b> Training Pitch 1, 2:00  <b>History Society</b> IHSA Conference UCC  <b>Sailing Club</b> Team Racing Cork	<b>Tennis Club</b> Training/Practies All Levels Saturday 11-12:30  <b>Softball Club</b> Training Pitch 1, 2:00  <b>Athletics Club</b> Training (Saturday) 12 - 2 at the Running Track  <b>Mountain Biking</b> Sunday Cycle Start at PESS 11:00

## Clubs & Societies Events: Week 6

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
<b>Games Society</b> Role-Playing Games 7:45 - 12:30, EM019 7:00 EG006 <b>Music Society</b> Open Mic Stables, 9:30 <b>Drama Society</b> ISDA @ Trinity 5:30  <b>Enviromental Soc</b> Meeting, 7:00 Meeting Room 3 in the SU  <b>Debating Union</b> Weekly Debate 8:00, Jean Monnet  <b>Archery Club</b> Training 7-10 Old Sports Building  <b>Traditional Music</b> Music Session Castletroy Park Hotel 9:30  <b>Judo</b> Training Arena 8:00-10:00  <b>Fianna Fail</b> Meeting Room 4, 6:00 - 7:00	<b>Games Society</b> Role-Playing Games 7:30 - 12:30, EGO06 <b>UL Kickboxing</b> Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building <b>Dance Club</b> Salsa Dromroe Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 7:30 Advanced 7:30 - 8:30  <b>Tang Soo Do</b> 7:30 - 9:00 Training Gym in Old Sports Building  <b>History Soc</b> IHSA Presentation 7:30, Meeting Room 4  <b>Athletics Club</b> Training 6 - 7:30 Middle Distance 5:30 - 7:00 Sprinters at the Running Track  <b>Kayak Club</b> Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool	<b>Games Society</b> Role-Playing Games 19:00, EG006 including Apocalypse <b>Kayak Club</b> River Trip 2:00 The Store  <b>Judo</b> Training PESS 6:00 - 7:30  <b>Drama Soc</b> Drama Workshop 7:30 B1023  <b>Ten Forward</b> "I Went Down" 7:30 PSA Center  <b>Archery Club</b> Training 7-10 Old Sports Building  <b>Kayak Club</b> Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool  <b>Sailing Club</b> Sailing 2pm, Foundation Building  <b>Chess Club</b> Chess Playing 6-8, Main Canteen	<b>Karate Club</b> 6:00 - 7:30 Training Gym in Old Sports Building <b>Traditional Music</b> Music Session Sports Bar 9:30 <b>Ten Forward</b> "Red Dragon" 7:30 Meeting Room 5  <b>Dance Club</b> Irish Dancing Dromroe Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 8:00  <b>UL Kickboxing</b> Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building  <b>Kayak Club</b> Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool  <b>Games Society</b> Role-Playing Games 7:00, EGO06 LAN Gaming 6:00, Outside SU <b>Judo</b> Training Arena 8:00-10:00	<b>Softball Club</b> Training Pitch 1, 2:00  <b>History Society</b> IHSA Conference UCC  <b>Outdoor Pursuits</b> Weekend Trip to Wicklow Friday, 5 outside Stables	<b>Tennis Club</b> Training/Practies All Levels Saturday 11-12:30  <b>Softball Club</b> Training Pitch 1, 2:00  <b>Athletics Club</b> Training (Saturday) 12 - 2 at the Running Track  <b>Mountain Biking</b> Sunday Cycle Start at PESS 11:00

# Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlntysiligogoch

by *Damian Purcell*

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlntysiligogoch - That's Welch for "OPC trip to Wales"

The Outdoor Pursuits Club can now boast an extremely successful mountaineering winter trip to Wales. I was one of the lucky 18 students who began the legendary trip from Dublin port on the 27th of January. I evaded the 5am bus journey from Limerick by staying over in Dublin the night before. Having met up with the lads we all boarded our ferry at 9:30. Arriving at Hollyhead around one o'clock we hauled our gear from ferry to train. After a short train journey we arrived at Bangor.

Here we picked up some essentials that being food and a mode of transport (if ye could call it that!!). Next we hit the road in our rented van skilfully driven by Colm with the aid of pretty much everyone else shouting directions. Jesse James Bunkhouse was our destination and our humble home for the trip. It proved to be a very comfortable place to stay. Our first night together was spent settling in and preparing for the hike the following day.

Rising early the following morning we had high expectations of leaving the Bunkhouse by 8:30. However this was not to be and a late start was made even later by my failing to turn up with hiking shoes (sorry guys!). Finally a hectic morning we began up Snowdon which stands at 1,085 metres. It greeted us with a severe wind and a biting cold. On the summit we were denied the spectacular view of North Wales by a heavy fog. However spirits remained high and our descent via the famous railway track to Llanberis was marked with our chants of military songs.

Another day another mountain - Tryfan - which although not as high as Snowdon, is considered a much harder mountain to climb. Tryfan, helped by a heavy dumping of snow the night before brought with it my best day on the mountains. To summit this mountain on a good day requires a keen head for heights. We however clinched onto rocks covered with ice and snow and scrambled over some precarious routes which called for some rope work to come into play. While walking surrounded by cliff faces one tends to be mindful of every footstep. Our persistence paid off and it wasn't long before we made to Adam and Eve, the summit stones of Tryfan. We gave the famous jump across the stones a

miss because they were covered in a thick layer of ice.

After a quick bite to eat (and some Hot Stuff!) we made our descent under the guidance of Dave and Derek. The day was to hold another surprise for me, as we came to a steep descent, which required us to once again put our thrust in the ropes and abseil down. We muscled up a snowball fight at the base of the cliff, which turned out to be a great battle after which we made our easy descent back to the van.



**The OPC during their trip to Wales**

Our days off were spent on a local climbing wall, which everyone was pretty impressed with. So much so that every ounce of energy was spent solving climbing problems. It was time for the newcomers to the sport, such as myself, to learn skills such as belaying and leading. It wasn't long before we were showing up the British Defence Forces, who happened to be training at the same club, by doing routes that they couldn't.

The evening times on this trip allowed for some crazy antics to be carried out. When you place 20 college students under the same roof you only need imagine what went on. Among the challenges invented was table climbing and the chef with the most imagination (battered snickers was the one that did it for me!).

Events sticking out over the next few days on the mountains, had to be training with our ice axes. A handy bit of knowledge if one was to take an unintended nosedive down the side of the mountain. Another was

watching RAF fighter pilots dog fighting through the valley's beneath us. This was pretty impressive to say the least. We came across some amazing snow and ice features during our trip. My personal favourite had to be the waterfall that had frozen solid. I was told that some lunatics actually climb up such features using ice axes and crampons (the spikes for your feet). However, on this occasion we were happy enough to just pause for a moment and take in its beauty.

Snowdon was to be climbed twice

backtracking we would continue and drop down on the other side of the horseshoe and follow the valley back to the road. By this time we were a long way from the van but thanks to Alwyn's charm (or was it Colm's) who hitched to bring the van to us, we avoided a boring road walk.

The night hike presented something new to me for I had never hiked under the cover of darkness before. During a night hike a lot more concentration is spent on navigation and keeping the pack together. It was a welcomed experience. Our hike back to the van this time was all the sweeter because it wasn't only my dinner I was looking forward to, my bed was also calling out to me.

The following day was to be our last day. There was a mixed opinion in the group of just what to do with it. A few hardy souls decided to hit the mountains one last time after almost just arriving back from the night hike. The weather was the best yet and the clear skies allowed this lucky few to take in the beautiful scenery that the area has to offer. Others including myself felt it an obligation to conquer some of the routes that the local climbing wall had to offer.

On departure day, we all rushed around packing bags and so forth. The journey back home allowed us to reflect back on our trip. The trip brought with it some unique challenges which anyone with any sense of adventure should seek to achieve. At no point did anyone feel overcome with the challenges that faced them. Speaking for the group as a whole, I can say with confidence that it was an ultimate experience, one which I myself will seek again!

**For information on the Outdoor Pursuits Club's trip to Aconcagua, see the article on page 12**



**UL Outdoor Pursuits Club**  
*Rockclimbing, Hillwalking,  
 Mountaineering and Caving*

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## Pool & Darts Club Intervarsity

by Jack Judge

It was with a penny and a prayer that five members of the pool and darts club boarded the red setter of Bus Eireann on a frosty Friday morning. Destination? The quaint little town of Birr Co. Offaly. Reason? The single biggest event of its kind in the whole of the Emerald Isle. The largest clash of cue ball gladiators that would, in a cloud of chalk dust, set the green velvet alight with the smash of cold ivory. The I.P.A. Pool Intervarsity that's why, and we were going to be there!

So it began. Excitement and nervousness dominated the giddy chatter of the team as the wheels of the bus trundled their way through the countryside. With the club only in operation since last September it was to be our first competitive meeting with other institutions. And what a meeting it turned out to be. What we didn't know then we were soon to find out. To say that the countries third level institutions, as a whole, were well represented was like saying that Nelson Mandela done some time in the joint. The bus eventually found its way to Birr, by what seemed to be minor miracle through the myriad of small snaking country roads. With potholes at every twist and turn that could swallow a small child I was left with impression that our bus driver would be more at home behind the controls of a tank. Bouncing into Birr we came to a steady halt with the hiss of the brakes. A short walk brought us to our humble lodgings for the night. Well while they were cheap they couldn't really be called humble. On crossing the doorstep we were warmly greeted by our host Mrs Enright whilst simultaneously being transported into a time warp. The B+B resembled a snapshot the 1900's with high ceilings ornately ordained with painted frescos and cornices. On the walls hung many fragile looking pieces of history while the numerous cabinets dotted throughout the house displayed vast numbers of tiny precious looking ornaments, each polished to a shine. The kind of things you'd expect to see the Time Team digging a trench for. And when our host told us that the private bar would be open later one thought crossed our minds, "This will do nicely". That or "Beam me up Scotty". After settling into our rooms, not without some eyebrows raised by the team over the size of the committee member's room, we headed to the local pub for a few practice games. Many games of pool and suspicious looks of the nervous natives later it was time to head off to

the Castle Arms Hotel, the venue for the competition. The schedule read that we would be given free practice until after 1 in the morning; the competition itself began at 9 in the morning. Plenty of sleep then! Practice went well with the lads buckling down and concentrating hard on their playing. Each of us honing our game to a chisel edge. By 1 o'clock however it was time to retire back to the archaic delights of the Enrights.



Niall Bannon competing at the Pool Intervarsity in Birr

Sleeping off the pre-night tension we awoke the next morning fresh faced and focused. Some more so than others. The town didn't appear any brighter in the morning as it did the evening before, but hell, we weren't there to take snapshots. By 9 we were at the Castle arms. Overnight the tables had been fully levelled and the felt brushed. Some thirty teams were present in the hotel functions room and when all the final preparations were made the intervarsity swung into action with the resounding smash of breaks being made across the twenty tables in the hall. Game on!

Our group, group B, consisted of us, L.I.T., Queens Belfast A and Carlow I.T. Wouldn't you know our first match would be against L.I.T. The format was simple. Each member of the team would play two racks against a

member of the opposing team. So each match against a team in our group was worth a max of 10 points. The max number of points attainable for a team within a group being 30. The top two teams in the group would see the second round while the other two would be packing their bags. It was a pretty nervous start against L.I.T. What with it being our first intervarsity and all and the fact that we had to play local rivals L.I.T. first didn't help either. We thought we

nothing. One all out effort by the team could keep the dream alive. Our confidence was bolstered when just before the match one of the Carlow lads offered to sell me a watch and when I refused, a phone. Turkeys! Brilliantly we began to hammer them. Seeing them off rack by rack. The points were building fast but an excellent show of defiance by two of their players held us to a 5:5 draw. It wasn't enough. We finished fourth in our group. One point behind

would beat them, sure of it, we had to. The final score a disappointing 7:3 to L.I.T. Later we learned they had a few county champions on their team, hmmm. But like true professionals and helped by a pint or two the defeat was shook off and the nerves calmed.

Next up was Queens Belfast A. Queens for a number of years have been top seeds in the competition. Not much of a let up then. We didn't care and set about the Queens boys with the enthusiasm of a dog in heat. Both sides played some fantastic pool. The victories were close. But the Queens sides experience prevailed. Final score 8:2 Queens A. The chips were down, the spirits dampened but a check of the scoreboard showed that if we blitzed Carlow I.T. there was a chance of making it through to a play off for the second round. This was it. All or

Carlow. We were out of the team competition. Before we had too long to think about it the singles competition started. Mine, David Gallagher's and John Boyhans challenge was seen off in the first round but Niall Bannon and Joe Egan played great pool and easily made their way to the second round. Despite determined efforts they were to go no further. They had however been ranked among the top thirty student players in the country so well done to them.

As quickly as it began it was over. Having been relegated to spectators one by one we made our way back to the Enrights, collected our things and went our separate ways. But I believe we left with our heads held high and pride intact. We came, we saw and while we did not conquer, what we rather accomplished could not be overshadowed. With this intervarsity I hope the club has dispelled any ideas of it being a flash in the pan, a club that will soon burn out like so many before it. Make no mistake. The Pool and Darts Club is here and here to stay. Its big, its brash, it's a whole new game!!

### More Info?

For information on the Pool & Darts Club contact

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0134201@student.ul.ie poolanddartsclub@hotmail.com



# Chess Club Report

by Tom Cooper, Mariah Rand, Olivier Peres

It's been a busy first month for the UL Chess Club this semester! Chess Club members have already represented U.L. in three tournaments over the first 3 weekends of the semester. And with 3 more league games and 2 more tournaments over the rest of the semester, the Chess Club shows no signs of slowing down.

## GONZAGA CHESS CLASSIC

Olivier Peres and Diarmaid Mulvey played in the Gonzaga Chess Classic charity event which raised over 2,500 euro. This is the first year that UL players participated in the event, which proved well-run and will now annually be attended by UL players.

Olivier, seeded last place in his section, proved his rating wrong with several impressive games. He finished fifth place overall, with his only loss against the eventual winner, and his two draws against the second and third place finishers.

Diarmaid was less fortunate in his section, winning many of his games but losing 2 winning positions due to time trouble with his flag falling. Diarmaid's rating has been rising steadily over the last year and looks like it will continue to do so even after this minor setback.

## BUNRATTY CHESS FESTIVAL

This festival, the largest annual tournament in Ireland, celebrated its tenth anniversary this year and drew a record crowd of 316 players from 7 different countries, from New Zealand to Holland to America.

Nine UL Chess Club players rubbed elbows with such chess greats as Grand Masters (GM) Alex Baburin, Joel Benjamin and John Nunn. Alex Baburin, the current number-one-rated player in Ireland, led a stimulating question and answer session for all the participants, covering topics such as past greats compared with current players, and the influence of computer technology on chess. Dr. Joel Benjamin, an expert in this field, aided in the creation of Deep Blue, the first computer program to beat a current world champion (Kasparov in 1997). This program remains the only computer to beat a world champion in a series of games to date, with more recent programs able only to draw. Dr. John Nunn, one of the top-rated English players, went on to win the tournament in a blitz tie-break against Irish player Brian Kelly.

Tournaments generally run with one game on Friday night, three games on Saturday, and two games on Sunday. Depending on time controls

## More Info?

Chess games & training, Wednesday, 6-8  
in the main canteen  
[www.csn.ul.ie/~chess](http://www.csn.ul.ie/~chess)

games could be limited to 3 or 3.5 hours, meaning that on a given Saturday a player could spend over 10 hours on competitive games, not to mention the analysis time of each game which inevitably takes

place between members from the same team.

The weekend was a series of emotional ups and downs for our players. On Friday night, half of our players won while the other half were less fortunate. Following the first round, our players helped each other by running through each others' games giving advice on how best to deal with similar situations in the future.

On Saturday, as Ireland was beating Scotland in a match watched by players who ran to the lobby between each move, UL players continued to have mixed fortunes. With many interesting games by the UL players, we had much to discuss over Metallica during our annual Pizza Fest late into Saturday night.

Players of note included Mariah Rand who in this her first tournament scored 3 of 6 and Mike Sheehan who has continued to improve over the past year, scoring 3.5 of 6.

During the blitz tournament (a fast-paced chess match with 5 minutes on each side) on Sunday night, Bunratty participants were well-impressed by the display of blitz chess by one of the blind chess players, Chris Ross, who, without assistance and moving his own pieces around the board perfectly, beat his able-sighted opponents with much time remaining.

## UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2003

This tournament was last held in the 1970's, but was put back on the Irish Chess Calendar this year by Irish Youth Chess Association. Griffith College in Dublin hosted the event this year and each



**Declan Fish ponders his move**

participating team was composed of 4 players.

In order to arrive in time for the first Saturday game at 9:30 a.m., the UL team had been forced to leave Limerick at the unGodly hour of 5 a.m. Nevertheless, UL made an impressive start with a win against the UCC team with 3 wins and a draw. With results such as a 4-0 victory over Griffith College, UL qualified for the final against a strong DCU team.

In the final against DCU, things began well with a win for Diarmaid Mulvey, putting UL up 1-0. At this point in the match, UL seemed to have better positions in two of the games and a level position in the third. Tom Cooper eventually succumbed to a strong attack from the King's Gambit opening.



**UL Chess Team for the Championships**

Declan Fish managed to get to complex pawn endgame, in which each player had 7 pawns and a king. Declan was placed in a Zugswang (a German word meaning that the player's best option is to not move any piece), which left an easy pawn promotion for the opponent which duly ended the game.

After the third game, UL was left 2-1 down, which left Olivier Peres and Brian Fitzpatrick's game still going. A win by Olivier would have resulted in a Blitz play-off for the title, with any other result giving DCU the title. Olivier had a very strong kingside attack, but with the clock ticking away, leaving both players with less than 5 minutes, the result could have gone either way. Olivier declined a draw offer by his much more highly rated opponent, so as to try to get UL into a blitz play-off. The game was intensely watched by players from both sides, as well as by players from other universities in attendance. Under intense time pressure, Oliver could find no winning moves, and with the exchange of pieces in search of the win, Brian gained the advantage and the title for DCU, leaving UL with second place overall.

Each of the UL players won a board medal for his performance. Declan Fish performed to a very high standard to gain the gold medal for Board 3. This included a win against 2000+ rated Mr. Taffri of Pakistan

## UPCOMING EVENTS

In the upcoming weeks, the UL Chess Club is planning to attend the Cork Congress and the North Munster Championships. We also have 3 remaining games in the Munster League, where we hope to maintain our current first place position.

Also look for us on-campus having a life-size chess game in which 32 fun-loving pawn-pushers will dress up as their favourite pieces take place with our top-rated player taking on 20 or more opponents at the same time.

The entire Chess Club would like to thank Diarmaid Mulvey and Olivier Peres who saved the Club precious funds by driving players to all the tournaments.



## UL win Collingwood Plate

by Martin Hayes

Last week's Collingwood Cup competition left a bittersweet taste for the UL Senior Soccer Squad. Having defeated DCU (1-0) and St Patricks College (4-0), UL lost their third match v UCD to a last minute goal. Unfortunately UL went into this game with an inferior goal difference which forced them to chase the game against a defence minded UCD outfit. UL completely dominated large periods of this match but could not turn their excellent approach play into scores. As the final whistle approached UL were totally committed to attack and were caught by a UCD breakaway goal. Indeed, this was the only goal which they would concede in a week which saw them go on to win the Collingwood Plate comprehensively - beating University of Ulster Magee (2-0) in the semi final and outclassing University of Ulster Jordanstown (4-0) in the final.

Thus over the full week UL won four of their five games, scoring twelve goals with just one against. The week saw outstanding performances by a

number of players, particularly captain Scott Brady (Masters in Business Studies), Joe Normoyle (2nd Manufacturing Technology), John Meskell (4th Law & Accounting) and Stephen Enright (2nd Business).

The UCD loss was UL's only defeat in over a year of competitive University football where their record reads: won 8, drawn 1 and lost 1. The senior team will complete the competitive university programme on Wednesday March 5 when they play in the Irish Universities League Final against University of Ulster, Coleraine. The game will take place in College Park, Dublin. UL are the current holders.

Further recognition of an excellent season was provided by the selection of three players on the Irish Universities international team for 2003. Goalkeeper Ben Spicer (1st Business), Midfielder Eoghan Poil (4th Business) and Striker Oran Weldrick (4th Business) will have the honour of representing UL this year.

For the record, the UL results during Collingwood

week were as follows:

Monday: UL 1 (Colm Heffernan) DCU 0  
 Tuesday UL 4 (Scott Brady, Conor Molan, Eoghan Poil, Oran Weldrick), St Patricks College, Dublin 0  
 Wednesday UL 0, UCD 1  
 Thursday (Plate semi final) UL 2 (O. Weldrick, Danny Mullins), University of Ulster, Magee 0  
 Friday (Plate final) UL 4 (Pat Finucane, Eoghan Poil, Scott Brady, Colin McCarthy), University of Ulster, Jordanstown 0

The UL Collingwood panel 2003 was as follows:

Ben Spicer, Scott Brady (Captain), Grant Murtagh, Joe Normoyle, John Meskell, Stephen Enright, Mark Holland, Conor Molan, Colm Heffernan, Eoghan Poil, Eddie O'Brien, Tom Cooper, Colin McCarthy, Oran Weldrick, Bryan Donnellan, Brendan McDermott, Pat Finucane, Eoin Killackey, Dave McAuley, Danny Mullins

Many thanks to UL Students Union and Diageo Ireland. Their assistance is invaluable in making us competitive at a national level.

## UL Judo Club win at All Irelands

The UL Judo Club made the trip to the All-Irelands, hosted in NUIG knowing it was going to be tough but left more than satisfied with their success. The festivities kicked off on the Friday night when some accommodation changes needed to be made following a rather indecent (but very funny) comment made about John. John doesn't go in for these back door shenanigans so we took ourselves elsewhere.

Weigh-ins the following morning went well with everyone making their weights. The competition then commenced and within an hour UL had two National Champions with both Eilish McNulty and TJ Davitt winning their respective youth divisions. David Coleman followed up on his Munster Championship success by taking third place in his skill division and accomplishment then mirrored by both TJ and John Power. Ian Sherlock was unlucky not to bring home a trophy in his first competitive outing losing out in the third/fourth place play off. Ger Kelly also making his competitive debut fought his way to bronze in the Senior Mens under 73kg division.

The Star of the Day however was Eilish as she staked her claim as the best female fighter in the country. In her home county of Galway Eilish used her amazing skill and technique to not only win her senior weight division but also to win the womens open title. Simply put it was an amazing accomplishment!!

Coming home from the All-Irelands with four golds and four bronzes is quite the accomplishment and quite frankly after this we have a lot to live up to but with the amazing developing skills of club members I

have faith we can live up to our ever growing reputation.

### Intersivity Championships

After the great success the club enjoyed at the All-Irelands spirits were very high for the Intersivities which is considered by many to be the toughest event on the calendar. We made our way to our accommodation and everyone was treated to loads of tea and cake, except Ian because he wasn't sure if he'd make his weight. Much taunting ensued and culminated when an individual who shall remain nameless put butter in their tea. Word on the street is that butter and tea don't mix!

The competition started the next day in UCC's Mardyke Arena bright and early at about 11. The first competitions of the day were the team events where UL's womens team of Roisin and Eilish McNulty disposed of Roisins former college N.U.I.G. in the first round. They battled hard to arrive in the finals where they ended the championship reign of UCC.



UL Judo All Ireland team

When the smoke had cleared from the girls heroics in the team division it was onto singles competition. The University team put on a strong

showing with everyone in the club winning a couple of matches.

TJ Davitt dominated the mens Middle Kyu defeating two men who weigh in excess of 18 stone on his way to the gold. TJ was then unlucky to be eliminated in the semi finals of the under 90kg division going down to the eventual winner. He made up for this however with a great display in the 3rd/4th place playoff winning with an excellently executed foot sweep. Eilish McNulty kept up the stunning success of her All-Irelands by winning both the womens under 63kg division and the womens open weight division.

After the competition it was off to the reception ceremony held in the Commons Inn for a five-course dinner and to get our medals. It seems that a five-course dinner isn't enough for some people as TJ and an accomplice from Queens

McNulty had previously been awarded the trophy in 2001. To the best of my knowledge we are the only club to currently boast two Hegarty Award winners. The Charlie Hegarty trophy is considered as the highest accolade in University Judo and TJ was incredibly shocked at



T.J. Davitt securing victory at the All Ireland

## More Info?

### Training Times are as follows

Monday 8:00-1000 in the Arena  
 Wednesday 6:00-7:30 in the old sports building  
 Thursday 9:00-1000 in the Arena

or visit [www.csn.ul.ie/~judo](http://www.csn.ul.ie/~judo)

University hatched a plan to get another dinner by creating an imaginary friend called Jack. The plan worked to perfection but even with the two boys sharing Jacks meal they couldn't finish his cheesecake! After the medals for the competitions held on the day had been given out World Student Games winner Lisa Bradley awarded the highly prestigious Charlie Hegarty Perpetual Award for Best Judoka to our very own TJ Davitt. Roisin

receiving the award especially since Lisa had been talking away to him all night and never mentioned anything about it!

After all the shock and excitement it was then time to celebrate and the UL Judo Club danced the night away to such timeless classics as The Ketchup Song, The Macarena, Saturday Night and Rock the Boat.....a great night had by all.

## Rugby Club

by *Caroline Mahon*

The rugby club has been very busy in the past three weeks.

### The Day of Calamity

The Ladies senior team travelled to Cork on the 5th of February to play UCC in the third league fixture of the season, having won the previous two fixtures. As it was the second week of the holidays it was difficult enough to get numbers together to play the match but on the day, matters went from bad to worse. In the morning 11 players were due to meet for the encounter but before the bus even took off it became known to Fiona Coghlan that Rachel Tucker had torn a hamstring - the team was down to 10. In the womens league, tens rugby is what is played so the team were left with no substitutes. If that wasn't bad enough, we found out a little later on that two more players would be unable to play. Now we did have a problem. Not only had we no subs but we also were going to be disadvantaged by two players. Fiona also left her boots in Limerick and had to wear coach's boots for the game. Louise Beamish had a near miss on the way to the field when the car she was travelling in had two punctures. The spirited UL team did not let these set backs stop them. The team continued on there travels to The Farm and played what coach Rohan West has described as the most spirited display of team rugby by any team that he has ever coached. Unfortunately one does not get points for spirit and the result ended up: UL 19 - UCC 37. UL started very well with two early tries but eventually UCC took advantage of the natural overlap and ran in for some scores. The eight UL players that played included Fiona Coghlan, Emma Stanley, Anne O' Leary, Caroline Mahon, Kate Canty, Miriam Clegg, Louise Beamish and Lynne Cantwell.

### League Revenge

The next league game for the Ladies senior team was played at home to CIT on the 12th of February. Last year CIT defeated UL in the league final and despite getting some revenge by beating them in the Intervarsities in Trinity last year, UL were determined to set the record straight for definite. It was refreshing to see the numbers that were available to play the game following the piecing together of a team the previous week. The game kicked off at 2:30pm on the sunny Wednesday afternoon and UL played very well under the strong pressure that CIT



Lynne Cantwell

produced. The UL team consisted of a mixture of more experienced players along with freshers who are playing the game for the first time. A special mention must be given to Anne O' Leary, the 4th Year PE student who took up rugby this year and has had two very fine displays to date for the college. UL played an open running game where possible and spread the ball wide to the

capable hands of Lynne Cantwell joining the line from the full back position. On more than one occasion, Lynne ran over 50 metres to score a try and CIT found it very hard to defend this threat on the wing. Fellow sports science student Edwina Mc Carthy also got a try after the ball got passed from almost every player on the team. The final score was 24 points to 5 in favour of UL. The UL panel was: Anne O' Leary, Rachel Tucker, Emma Stanley, Laura Real,

Caroline Mahon, Deirdre O' Brien, Kate Canty, Valerie Ní Artaigh, Edwina Mc Carthy, Mairéad Kelly, Lynne Cantwell, Fiona, Amy Burns, Sinéad Glackin and Emma Carroll.



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## GENERAL MEETING

Next **Monday** 4<sup>th</sup> of March

At the Sports Club 6-8pm

**GROUP DISCUSSIONS.**

**BRING WITH YOU  
SOME PHOTOS OF  
PEOPLE!**

## Young Fine Gael

by *Barry Walsh*

The University of Limerick Branch of Young Fine Gael recently embarked on a trip to Dáil Éireann, to view the centre of government in Ireland.

After an early start, we decided to spend the morning in Dublin Castle, watching crooks of the bygone Haughey era getting a good pasting by top Barristers at the Flood and Moriarty Tribunals. It was an interesting experience for all who attended!

We then visited the European Commission's Dublin HQ, and the European Movement, where we were told of the important changes taking place in the EU at the moment, such as Enlargement and the European Convention. This visit took us up to date with the goings-on in Europe, ahead of the visit of the National Forum on Europe to UL in a

fortnight.



Young Fine Gael with Pat Breen, T.D.

We then went to Leinster House, where we got a guided tour of the Dáil and Seanad.

We were shown around by Pat Breen TD, and listened to debates on War in Iraq, and the new Criminal Insanity Bill. Following a bite to eat, we retired to the famed Dáil Bar, where we met with many FG public reps including Michael Ring, Jim Higgins, Simon Coveney and Denis Naughten. We also met up with a group of YFGers from UCC, visiting the Dáil on the same day. The highlight of the day was when the group met with FG Leader Enda Kenny, who was in lively form as always, and stayed to chat for a while.

No political society is complete without a trip to the Dáil, and we look forward to going again next year.



## St Vincent De Paul

by *Tadgh O'Haonghusa*

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, University of Limerick have been operating on campus since 2001 and this year has been our most active yet!! We are a society of volunteers who try to help the marginalised of Limerick. We always need new volunteers and we are involved in many activities.

- ¢ Soup Run
- ¢ Drop-in centre for the homeless
- ¢ Flat clean up and decoration
- ¢ Homework club
- ¢ Swimming and youth club
- ¢ Hospice visitation
- ¢ Home visitation
- ¢ Prison visitation
- ¢ Church gate collections
- ¢ Fundraising

### TRIP TO HAITI

This summer we are organising to send ten members of the SVP UL to the Caribbean country of Haiti to help with street children and to build a school. It is a real chance to make a real difference, you need to be committed, balanced and have a since of social justice. If you think you have what it takes to go then please contact us.

### A LOT GOING ON

We are involved in many more activities than those above; we are a great society with a great


atmosphere. We were recently in Athlone IT for their rag week fundraising event. We were represented at the Saint Vincent de Paul intervarsity by nine members of our soc. We are also hosting our own Intersvarsity in a month's time and we intend to travel to the national young adult conference at the end of this month. At Christmas we had a 24-hour food appeal in Super Quinn, which raised €2000, and we took 40 kids to the aqua dome in Tralee as a Christmas present! We cleaned up a house to make it habitable for Christmas so as to fulfil the dieing wish of a lady who lived in a nursing home who wanted to return to her family home for Christmas and we did lots more


### HELP NEEDED!!!!

All our activities have a full training programme. So don't be afraid to get involved. This is a chance to meet new and great friends and to make a real difference in the lives of those people our state has chosen to forget.


Go on take the leap become a volunteer and help someone in need.


Email us at [svp\\_ul@hotmail.com](mailto:svp_ul@hotmail.com) or Ring 085-7297850 or take a glance at our web site: [www.csn.ul.ie/~svp/](http://www.csn.ul.ie/~svp/) There is a meeting next Wednesday at 8 in the students union and all people who think they might like to volunteer are welcome, it won't hurt to come and take a look!!!









# YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU!


## COUNTY COLOURS BALL


**WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> March,**  
Week 5

**VENUE: DOC'S**  
€7

**BUS'S WILL DEPART UL, LIT AND MARY I**  
Prizes for best dressed county mascots

Tickets on sale in students union





## Environmental Society

by *St. John O Donovan*

Enviro Soc has been very busy, since we got back from the break. We've been all over the country lately, from the streets of Dublin to Allihies in West Cork, and quite a few places in between! But before that I'd just like to say thanks and good luck to the brilliant Enviro Soc members who have just left. Sorcha, Lucy, Denise, Edel and Fiachra; we miss ye loads!. But time moves on and we've regrouped, recruited some great new people (you know who you are!) and we're flying again.

So, what have we been up to? Well, during the break Shane, Denise (before her departure) and I attended the Gluaiseacht (Irish for "movement", an organisation for environmental and social justice) meeting in Kilkenny. Chris put us up in the Scout's Den, and laid on the whole weekend. We (incredibly!) got through the agenda relatively close to time. Some of the issues discussed were the War in Iraq, the Sellafield campaign and The Irish Bet. We also attended a talk on Palestine by Mike McGrath,. Will St. Ledger, co-ordinator of StopE\$\$o Ireland came down as well and gave a talk and a non-violent direct action workshop. A good weekend was had by all, and we finished it off on Sunday with a big clean-up of the area around the Den, before some drum playing in the town hall and a nice quiet pint to top it all off!

Upon our return to Lady Limerick we were off again straight away, for the first weekend of semester 2 saw the International Day of Protest take place all around the globe, and Enviro Soc attended the Dublin march. I'm sure everyone knows this but here goes anyway: somewhere

between 100-150,000 people turned out on the streets of Dublin to show their opposition to the totally unjust war that is currently intended for Iraq. Anyway, the protest was quite incredible, far beyond anything I could have imagined. There was a wonderful atmosphere, and of the many original posters and slogans seen and heard, my personal favourite would have to be the poster which, beside a picture of a toothbrush, bore the legend: Fight Plaque, Not Iraq!!!

The following Saturday, the 22nd of March, we organised a StopE\$\$O demonstration outside the



### Environmental Society protest at Esso

Esso service station beside the Hurlers, on the Dublin Road.. The reason we target Esso is because of their attempts to undermine the science of global climate change, and refusal to spend any money on renewable energy, and that's only the beginning. This campaign will run and run. The demonstration was a resounding success, with educational leaflets handed out, beeps of support from passing motorists and a considerable drop in custom visiting the garage.

While some of our number were in Allihies last weekend, Stephen and I, along with many other locals such as Eoin and Barry went to the protest in Shannon. Despite media scaremongering, the protest passed off peacefully, bar a few minor scuffles. The Gardaí and riot police were out in force, and marched with us in solidarity (or something like that!!!).

After that I went down to Future Forests, near Kealkil in West Cork with a few friends, to go a meeting about the 'Tree Peace Walk,' which will take place in April. The purpose of this walk is to educate schoolchildren on environmental issues in their schools, and to plant trees all around the country. And to have fun while we're doing it! Also, there was a fantastic reggae party on the Saturday night, while we planted some beautiful trees on Sunday afternoon, before embarking on the journey back home.

There's all the events done, but as well as all that, in the pipeline are: the Green Guide, a magazine to promote environmentally responsible lifestyles in Limerick; the Irish Bet, an environmental education pack for secondary schools; the Grassroots Gathering in Limerick, a loose group of anarchists, libertarians and the like, coming together to learn and teach; more demonstrations; more talks; an Enviro Soc library, a sharing community and much, much more!

So get active, get involved and you can make a very real difference. Come along to a meeting and see what you can do.

*"The world is too round to sit quietly in the corner"*



# FINISHING YOUR DEGREE?

Check out Your Opportunities at the  
**NUI Maynooth**  
 Postgraduate and Research Open Day 28<sup>TH</sup> March 2003

## Interested in a Research Career in one of the following subject areas?

### Classical & Medieval Studies

Classics; Medieval Irish

### Education

Adult & Community Education; Education

### Humanities

English; Modern History; Music; Philosophy

### Modern Languages

French; German; Nua-Ghaeilge; Spanish

### Science and Technology

Computer Science; Electronic Engineering

### Social Sciences

Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Economics; Geography; Psychology; Regional and Spatial Analysis; Sociology

### Biological Sciences

Agroecology; Bioengineering; Biotechnology; Immunology

### Chemical and Physical Sciences

Chemistry; Experimental Physics

### Maths Sciences

Mathematical Physics; Mathematics; Theoretical Physics

## If so:

**VISIT** our Unique Research Facilities: including our new Biosciences and Electronic Engineering Building

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**SEE** the wide range of research carried out at NUI Maynooth by our own students at the Annual Colloquium

**LISTEN** to Presentations by world-class speakers from research and industry

## Or Interested in a Postgraduate Taught Degree/Diploma?

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#### Classical & Medieval Studies

Greek; Latin; Greek & Roman Civilization; Old & Middle Irish; Comparative Celtic Linguistics; Early Medieval Irish History & Sources

#### Social Science

Economics & Finance; Geographical Analysis; Sociology; European Social Policy Analysis; Applied Social Studies; Community Work; Anthropology of Ireland in European and Global Context

#### Education

Education; Education (School Leadership); Civic, Social and Political Education; Application of Information and Communication Technology in Education

#### Humanities

English (Narrative, Modernity, Ireland); History; Irish History; Local History; Music (Historical Studies); Music (Composition); Music (Performance & Musicology); Computer Music; Music Technology; Philosophy; Culture, Religion and Society in Modern Ireland; Dramatherapy

#### Modern Language

French; German; Nua Ghaeilge

#### Science and Technology

Applied Physics; Computer Science; Information Technology; Software Engineering; Mathematics; Mathematical Science; Statistics



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**MEET** with NUI Maynooth postgraduate course coordinators in their individual departments.

**TRANSPORT** is available **FREE** Lunch

Find out more details and register for this exciting event at [www.may.ie/research](http://www.may.ie/research)



## An Bainisteoir

Firstly, this week, an Bainisteoir has been instructed to issue a health warning by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has discovered lethal carcinogens contaminating the water supply in Offaly, effecting twelve wells in total. The following warning is directed mainly at all those living in the border counties of Offaly. Seal off all entries and exits to Biffoland, and do not attempt, under any circumstances to accept any refugees from the county. The EPA warns that these carcinogens can be extremely dangerous on their own, but when mixed with Biffo's own distinctive smell and defective mental capacity can lead to disastrous consequences, and here is a brief illustration of some of the effects.

An Bainisteoir has been shocked to hear that the Minister for Justice, Michael McDowell is to introduce legislation requiring all persons aged 18 to 25 to produce ID when entering licensed premises. However, the real reason for this move, exclusively revealed by An Bainisteoir, is that that Gardaí want more people to buy their ID's. The uptake has been very poor in relation to youngsters obtaining the Age Cards, and with the Gards on a tight budget of only one dinner per day, the cards are seen as a vital source of income. One garda told an Bainisteoir that he has to sneak off home from speed checks to get his second dinner each day. "It's crazy. How am I supposed to get promoted to Sergeant on one dinner a day? There's just no way I could possibly meet the stringent 15-stone weight requirement. And as for Chief Super, I'd want to be taking a year off just to eat, if I'm to meet the weight requirements for that", said the clearly distraught young Gard.

It has been a bad week for the press, and the hacks here at An Focal have been equally dismayed by the Government's decision to change the Freedom of Information Act, so as to make it more difficult for us ordinary punters to retrieve information on what exactly is going on up in Dublin. Apparently the Act is part of the sweet deal offered to backbenchers in Fianna Fáil to accede to the dual mandate bill. The purchase of the government jet is also seen as part of the cynical attempts of the party to encourage backbenchers to forget about local councils, and that the real rewards are to be had at ministerial level. Apparently TD's have been told that if the government is capable of buying a luxury jet in such a tight budgetary climate, then there will be all sorts of presents to be had when things pick up again. "I've already written my list of toys for Santa McCreevy, but the word around the party is that we'll be able to have anything from the Argos catalogue", said one TD.

TD's have also been sweetened by the news that any written present lists submitted to McCreevy will now be protected by the ten-year rule to be introduced soon. Backbenchers have also been told that the new EUR20 charge for making claims under the new act will be used towards the Fianna Fáil tab at the Dáil bar. Although some TD's were still somewhat reluctant about accepting the dual mandate, the news that ministers will be allowed to break the speed limits, announced by Commissioner Pat Byrne last week, is said to have brought on board the most reluctant party members, and the competition is said to be rife for future ministerial posts.

And finally this week, a strange but true story from Manchester, where it is planned to introduce cameras in the classrooms of primary schools, so as to monitor the bad behaviour of children. The authorities plan to show the footage to parents to highlight the growing discipline problems. The Manchester organisers of the scheme would want to be weary of where they place the cameras, after the Dublin primary schools' experience. In a similar scheme introduced there, all the cameras had been nicked by lunchtime of the first day's trial.

## Your Stars

by Mystic Meg

### Aries: (March 21—April 19)

You are excited to learn about the bank machines that hand out money. But, like most things in the big city, it's not as great as it sounds.

### Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)

Your name will soon be used as a stirring rallying cry for the installation of airbags on brick walls.

### Gemini: (May 21—June 21)

You'll be excited to learn that you will be one of the items included in the gift bags at this year's Oscars.

### Cancer: (June 22—July 22)

You will be honored but embarrassed when Nobel Peace Prize winner Jimmy Carter visits you to "see if further trouble can be avoided."

### Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)

It's time to admit that you would be far better off living in a reputable rest home, despite being a healthy 20-year-old.

### Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)

They think they've won, but take heart: Only you know that they haven't found all the nurses yet.

### Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)

The pain of your loss will fade with time, but every now and then you'll swear you can still feel it itching..

### Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)

Though you never intended to be a role model for children, you must admit that your grindingly dull life makes you a pretty decent one.

### Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)

In spite of the praise, accolades, and awards, you can't shake the suspicion that they paid the caterer more.

### Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)

Sure, life may seem pretty dark, but wonderful things are going to happen any minute now. Any minute now. Any minute now. Any minute now.

### Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)

Accept it: She's dead, and nothing you can do will ever bring her back. Except, of course, for the Lazarus serum--but you promised her you wouldn't...

### Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)

You will spend three frustrating weeks trying to incorporate the word "evanescent" into a sentence.

## An Focal Contributors

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Paddy Buckley

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*continued from frontpage*

To counter objections of the granting of the clubs licenses, the rules had to be implemented according to the law of the land was how Mr. Fleming articulated the views expressed by former Education Officer Tom O'Donovan in the minutes of the meetings. This would prevent any loophole in those seeking the removal of the licenses. Mr. Fleming argued that in censuring the current committee, a caretaker committee would be set up. This would offer a clear indication to the circuit court that the students were intent on 'getting their house in order', and that they felt strongly that it is unacceptable that such incompetence has been carrying on for over two years. It has only been in the last four weeks that realistic attempts to address this problem have been introduced. This is too little too late when one considers the effect the failure to win the appeal will have on the members.

In his capacity as Campaigns and Communications Officers and on behalf of the management committee, Paddy Buckley argued against the motion. He called on those present to move on from the past, and to take a look at the present work of the committee. Since the judgement the committee have

worked diligently in rectifying all ambiguities that previously existed. All students are at present being registered as members in accordance with the law. The law itself he argued is an archaic one designed in 1904 for gentleman's clubs. A proposal has been submitted to the Labour Licensing Commission to change the law to accommodate modern membership numbers. They are currently reviewing licensing laws. In this venture, other universities around the country who could face the same problems we are currently dealing with support them.

At the same time they are tightening up any existing loopholes, in effect shutting off any avenue for those who wish to close the clubs. A caretaker committee, lacking experience will be a greater risk to the possibility of regaining the licenses. If an experienced management committee goes before the circuit court on April 7th, having complied with all the rules and regulations, it will show respect for the court, and show therefore how serious the committee are in addressing previous faults. This was what Mr. Buckley was intrinsically arguing. Therefore those present must be aware of the serious ramifications of the decision made at the meeting.

When the issue went to a vote, an

overwhelming majority of those present voted against the motion, ensuring the continuity of the current committee structure. In an issue as serious as this then, it was disappointing that the quorum required of 60 members was just about reached. When one considers that over half this figure included the management committee members, Students' Union representatives, the few proposing the motion, and some workers from the clubs, this is a paltry reflection of student involvement in a matter that in a couple of weeks could have great significance for the entire campus population.

Michael Fagan pointed out the success of the Stables Club since its inception in 1987. This, he put down to two factors - the success of the management committee, and the operations of the team working inside the Stables itself. The second factor that Mr. Fagan argued cannot be questioned. Those who work in the Stables have an excellent reputation of being courteous, friendly and fun, running one of the busiest bars and restaurants in the country and giving the club a deservedly popular reputation. Their professionalism however is contradicted by the operation of the management committee of the Stables Club, who over the past two years failed to

implement their own rules, jeopardising the jobs of those people whose livelihoods are dependent on the clubs.

In at least six occasions the minutes indicate that the committee were told to get their act in order. This came on both legal counsel and indeed from the student representatives within the committee. The management committee, in its wisdom chose to flout the laws of the land. It was only when they were held account for their actions by a judge who revoked the clubs licenses that the committee realised the severity of their inaction. In all probability, had the judge given the license on February 6th, the law would still be ignored today and would be a time bomb waiting for another academic year. This fault lies with the management committee, yet once again it is the students who receive the bad press in the media. Of course when the students themselves don't seem to have an interest in what's going on, what does one expect?

# THE MARKET

## U.L. Semester 2

**Wednesdays:** FREE ENTRY B4 12am

Karaoke in Bar @ 10pm

**Thursdays:** Official U.L. Party Night

Dance/Chart Main Room

Disco Inferno Upstairs

- Tickets from SU, Buses from 11pm

**Fridays:** Bump'n'Grind R'n'B/HipHop

**Saturdays:** Dance/R'n'B/HipHop

Disco Inferno Upstairs

Doors open @ 10pm

**Promotions Every Night : Pre-Club Party in McDaid's**