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# GRANT APPLICATIONS AT RECORD LEVELS

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald,**  
News Editor

MORE than 70,000 students received a higher education grant in 2009. This represents an increase of 21% compared to last year's figure. The increase has been caused by a rise in parent unemployment. Parents have traditionally provided financial support for their children, attending third level institutions.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) has suggested this number could reach more than 80,000 this year, or one in two students receiving some

form of grant assistance. USI President, Gary Redmond commented that the projection was based on enrolments and the economic downturn.

He has hit out at the current system, claiming that it is "not capable of meeting today's demands." "Students and families across the country are being forced to suffer because of the lack of a modern grants system," he said. The system has been branded "grossly inefficient", with only 16 out of 66 granting authorities making

payments so far this year. In 2009, a large majority of students were forced to wait until the end of the academic year for the money to be paid to them. SU Welfare Officer, Derek Daly has said, "The grants system is entirely ineffective and needs to be centralised with earlier deadlines to allow for quick payment when the academic year starts."

It has been suggested that a new system would cut red tape and inefficiencies, yield savings to the state and not cause

students and families to suffer and wallow in debt for the academic year.

Generally a family with less than four children must have an income of €41,110 in order to qualify for the lowest level of assistance, while those earning under €22,700 qualify for a special "top up" grant on top of this. It has been suggested that the grant will be affected by the harsh budget cuts this December. One of the biggest problems in processing grant applications is incomplete application forms",

according to VEC CEO, Peter Kierans. "Two thirds of the forms we receive are either incomplete or come without accompanying documentation," he said. Despite the huge increase in applications, the VEC has not received any extra personnel to deal with the increased volume and it has, in fact, lost staff as a result of the moratorium on recruitment in the public service.

## CHIEF JUSTICE LAUNCHES STUDENT COURTROOM

Written by **Darragh Roche,**  
Deputy Editor

CHIEF Justice of the Supreme Court, John Murray officially opened UL's new student courtroom and launched the UL Law Society's new constitution in Week 5.

The courtroom in the Main Building is the first student courtroom in Ireland and is modelled on American law schools. Law students will conduct their moot trials and practice their advocacy skills in the courtroom.

"It will be the envy of other universities," Chief Justice Murray said. "It will be copied by others, perhaps even the Law Society of Ireland and King's Inns," he added. "The key to the future

success of a lawyer is to successfully marry the abstractions of the law to real life. Courtroom experience is essential. It might even be useful in training judges," the Chief Justice said. The courtroom has cameras that record proceedings from five different angles and has a multi-screen facility so that moot trials can be observed. The idea for the courtroom was conceived by Prof Raymond Friel, former head of the Law School. The new head, Ms Sinead Eaton, praised Prof Friel and thanked the Strategic Innovation Fund, which provided the money for the project. "The courtroom is an ideal

setting," Ms Eaton said. Justice Murray also praised co-operative education, interdisciplinary law degrees and the University's focus on alternative dispute resolution. Justice Murray was born and raised in Limerick and has become the first ever honorary member of UL's Law Society, which launched its new constitution to coincide with the opening of the courtroom. "Our new constitution is like a re-birth," Law Soc President Adam Moursy said. Mr Moursy and Law Soc Treasurer Cathal Daly presented Justice Murray with a UL tie and cufflinks. "I'll wear them in court!" the Chief Justice joked.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION QUESTIONS PRESIDENTIAL PAY

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald,**  
News Editor

OFFICIALS at the Department of Education and Skills have expressed concern that three presidential salaries paid in 2007 and 2008 were not approved by the department. Fine Gael TD Fergus O'Dowd claims that UL is "getting away with murder" and is insisting that the money should be paid back. UL President Prof Don Barry has insisted that these were "unique, exceptional and very challenging circumstances". This is one of many allegations made by the Department of Education, which has suggested several institutions have paid salaries and pension increases illegally.

Prof Don Barry defended the salary payments at the Dáil Public Accounts Committee meeting in Dublin on 23 September. He and previous presidents Roger Downer and John O'Connor were paid the president's rate of almost €230,000 at the same time. The three concurrent payments came to light following the release of a special report on Irish universities' resource management and performance by John

Buckley, the Irish Comptroller and Auditor General, in mid-September.

UCD has been criticised for adding 4.2 years on average to the pensions of several retiring staff. While the Comptroller and Auditor General claims that measures are being taken to end such payments and prevent them from occurring in future, nothing has yet been done to recover the money.

Salaries for Irish university staff cost the taxpayer €1bn in 2008.



Left to Right: President of the UL Law Society, Adam Moursey, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Murray and Head of the UL School of Law, Sinead Eaton. Image Credit: Finn McDuffie



UL President, Professor Don Barry

## News

MEN NARROW  
THE COLLEGE  
GENDER GAP

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald**,  
News Editor

RECENT figures released by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) reveal the numbers of men attending college have peaked to an all-time high. In previous years, women outnumbered men by 59% to 41%. Today's figures show more than 43% of men now attend university. HEA CEO Tom Boland believes that this is a very positive development.

"The figures show that the economic downturn has acted as a disincentive for young males to leave education early," Mr Boland said. "In the medium to long term it is good for both young people and that country that they have now availed of education opportunities," he added. It is still believed that women outperform men in educational circumstances. Seventy-eight per cent of student teachers are women, while 65% of those scoring over 550 points in the Leaving Cert are girls. Observations made during this year's orientation week revealed some interesting statistics, with courses such as Voice and Dance attracting only a single male student.

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Finn McDuffie, Editor

## EDITORIAL

IT seemed, for a while, you couldn't open a newspaper without finding the rotten remains of another poisoned golden eagle, sea eagle or red kite, discovered by some hapless passer-by. These majestic creatures are protected in Ireland.

But in the last three years, despite strong reintroduction and conservation efforts, 19 protected birds of prey have been killed, largely due to farmers' use of banned toxin.

The last three to have died were discovered within a kilometre of each other. Post-mortems revealed the birds had eaten an animal carcass laced with illegal pesticide and poison carbofuran.

National efforts to reintroduce the birds started in 2007 and this year has been the rockiest. Following the latest reported poisoning in May, Dr Mee of The Golden Eagle Trust called for the Government to act to ban the use of poisons and threaten the withdrawal of grants for non-compliant farmers.

Six days later, Minister Gormley reacted with 32 signed Orders, protecting 20,000 hectares of natural diversity and a Biodiversity Week.

He made an accompanying speech in which mentioned natterjack toads, partridges and relocated red squirrels. Even bats were in "good status." This was all very well and good and

represented a step in the right direction. But it wasn't what the experts asked for. Despite Gormley's somewhat inane response, things have been going well for the birds lately.

At the end of May, after nine breeding attempts, five red kites hatched in Ireland for the first time in 200 years. In August, a further nine Norwegian sea eagle chicks took to the skies in Kerry. And this month, three golden eagles hatched in Glenveagh National Park, Co. Donegal. It's a lucky conclusion for the time being, but Gormley's response could be better.



The first miner to emerge from the underground chamber where he and 32 colleagues had been trapped for more than two months was Florencio Avalos. As his family looked on, the first to embrace his was the Chilean President Sebastian Pinera. Image Credit: The Chilean Embassy, Dublin.

## DEVELOPMENT SOC HOSTS TALKS ON PALESTINE

Written by **Lina Mickel**

HUMAN Rights, Fair trade and micro-financing are only a few issues the Development Society is tackling in its second year of existence. Aiming to increase awareness at UL, the first event hosted by Dev Soc this semester was held in Week 5.

Three guest speakers spoke about their experience of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Zoe Lawlor and Caroline

McLaughlin, active members of the Irish-Palestine Solidarity Campaign, have visited conflict areas such as Gaza and Hebron. Video journalist Tommy Donnellan, who flies regularly to Israel, captured the issue in short films as well as interviews and supports protests on Youtube.

The goals of all three are clear and ambitious: improving living

conditions for the Palestinian society and breaking the siege on Gaza. Ms McLaughlin called on people to take a hand in this long lasting conflict: "Individual initiative is needed more than media attention. For example, you could start with boycotting Israeli goods."

Ms Lawlor and Ms McLaughlin will both join the second Freedom Flotilla

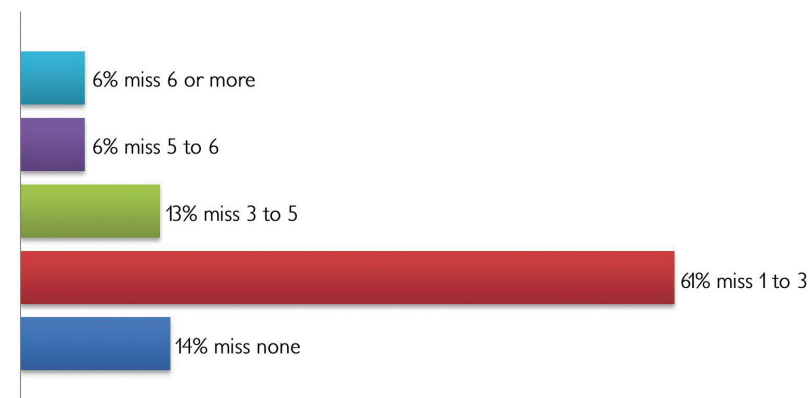
to Israel in November this year.

About thirty students attended and partook in a lively discussion afterwards. Dev Soc meets on Mondays at 6pm in C1060 and says it will organise further interesting talks and events during the term. On 20 October at 8pm, Dev Soc and UL Debating Union will host a table quiz in the Sports Bar.

## An Focal Poll

How many lectures do you miss per week, on average?

\*Results obtained from a sample of 70 students from numerous disciplines.



News

# MINISTER CLAIMS HSE IS INEFFICIENT

Written by **Finn McDuffie**,  
Editor

MINISTER for Social Protection Mr Éamon O’Cuív has claimed “mistakes were made” by the Government during Ireland’s economic boom, citing the HSE as “an inefficient organisation.” Speaking in the Jonathon Swift Theatre last week at a UL Debating Union debate, Mr Ó Cuív opposed the motion “This House has no confidence in the Government”.

He defended his Government’s achievements through Ireland’s boom era but also noted the HSE had received a lot of money and the organisation has obvious issues that need to be worked on. He later outlined the decisions his Government has taken to tackle the current economic crisis, which he said were the “only rational decisions”.

“I am not saying every decision was right but I think all the major

decisions were right. We’ve had to be very courageous in what we’ve done.” He insisted the Government was focused on creating employment and rebuilding the country.

He said the Government had to introduce the bank guarantee scheme to save the depositors. “I believe when history comes to be written in 20 years, Brian Cowen and his Government will be seen as a courageous Government who took the right decisions,” he said.

Arguing for the proposition, Debating Union External Convenor Darragh Roche said “We live in a different society and people want change. We have no confidence in the Government because they give us no reason to believe in them.”



Left to Right: DebU Auditor, Mairead Defaoite, Minister for Social Protection, Éamon O Cuív with DebU speakers Stephen Byrne, Kieran Murphy and Darragh Roche.

## MIXED REACTION TO BONUS POINTS FOR MATHS

Written by **Michael Reid**

IRISH universities have approved a plan to award 25 extra CAO points to Leaving Certificate students who take higher level maths. The extra points will be given to students who gain a D3 grade or higher.

UL has reduced the number of bonus points it gives for higher level maths from 40 to come in line with the other six Irish universities. The system will be piloted over the next four years.

The UCD Students’ Union (UCDSU) has reacted angrily to the decision,

claiming it is merely a stop gap measure that does not solve real issues. The UCDSU also claimed the bonus point system will make it easier for some students to access courses where maths is irrelevant and prevents other students from winning places.

UCC and NUI Galway were initially reluctant to accept the bonus point system but a decision was reached at a meeting of the Irish Universities Association (IUA). Both UCC and NUIG are traditionally focused on

arts and law. The Government has launched a new Leaving Cert maths curriculum called “Project Maths”, which is intended to make maths more accessible than the traditional syllabus. Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Science, Mary Coughlan, hopes the new maths curriculum combined with the bonus points will encourage more secondary school students to study higher level maths.

## IWA HOSTS FIRST SOUTHERN BRIGADE

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald**,  
News Editor

THE Irish World Academy hosted its inaugural concert in Week 5. The First Southern Brigade, native of Dublin, featured as part of a free lunchtime concert series hosted by the faculty.

Commenting on the occasion, Director of the IWA, Professor Micheál Ó Súilleabháin, said “the ritual of army bands is a global one.

In times of peace, such ensembles turn to the wider community to serve the needs of education, festive gatherings,

broadcasting, and celebration.

The IWA’s programme in Community Music especially extends a warm hand of welcome to this first visit by the Band of the 1st Southern Brigade and we look building on this relationship for years to come.” The band, which has 25 members, was formed in 1925 in Dublin.

## JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO LIMERICK

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald**,  
News Editor

AFTER an unprecedented performance last year, the Japanese Film Festival will return to Limerick on 1 November.

Co-organised by the UL Arts Office and The Embassy of Japan, the event will feature high quality film screenings in Limerick, Cork, Galway and Dublin. The event aims to promote a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and society among the Irish population.

ULartsoffice™

MOVIE	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Fish Story	1 November	18:30	Jonathan Swift (B1023)
The Sky Crawlers	1 November	21:00	Jonathan Swift (B1023)
The Place Promised in Our Early Days	2 November	19:15	Jonathan Swift (B1023)
The Ping Pong	2 November	21:00	Jonathan Swift (B1023)



The First Southern Brigade



## FIGHT LIKE APES PLAY THE STABLES

Written by **Darragh Gleeson**

ALTERNATIVE, Irish rock band Fight Like Apes will play in the Stables Courtyard in Week 7. The event, which takes place on Thursday 21 October, will see performances from enigmatic front-woman MayKay Geraghty, Jamie “Pockets” Fox on keys, bassist Tom Ryan and drummer Lee Boylan.

Fight Like Apes were formed in Dublin in 2006. Their vocalist, MayKay, has been described by UL’s Music Society and others as one of Ireland’s “most mesmerising front women”. Today FM presenter Alison Curtis has given further critical acclaim, describing the

group as “extremely watchable, almost going into Debbie Harry territory”.

The band has toured the UK with The Ting Tings, The Prodigy and Kasabian. Their debut EP, How Am I Supposed to Kill You If You Have All the Guns?, which was released in 2007, gathered huge media attention, with hit single “Lend Me Your Face” reaching the top 10. Their debut album Fight Like Apes and the Mystery of the Golden Medallion reached the top five in the Irish album charts.

The group is the first alternative, Irish band to achieve this in several years.

Their most recent album, The Body of Christ and the Legs of Tina Turner has currently hit #1 on the Irish album charts and will feature in their Stables performance.

The gig is organised by the UL Music Society and tickets cost €5.

## News

NEWS  
IN BRIEFSU EQUALITY  
OFFICER ELECTED

SECOND year Niall Curry was elected Equality Officer in Week 5. The results were:

Niall Curry	111 votes
Sean Carroll	37 votes
Spoiled votes	4 votes

UL GRADUATES  
SHINE AT THEATRE  
FESTIVAL

DIRECTOR Helen Varden and Producer Shauna McDaniel, who each graduated with a B.A. in Language & Cultural Studies from UL in 2007, will present Sarah Kane's controversial and provocative 'Blasted' at this year's Galway Theatre Festival. The play performs at Druid Lane Theatre, Galway, on 27 and 28 October at 10pm and 6pm. Tickets are €10 to €12 and more details can be found at [www.galwaytheatrefestival.com](http://www.galwaytheatrefestival.com)



UL Graduate Shauna McDaniel

STREAKER IN  
DROMROE

A MAN has been spotted indecently exposing himself and publicly masturbating in Dromroe Village. He is about six feet tall and blonde.

Campus Security and Gardai are treating the matter very seriously. Students have been advised not to walk alone at night.

PROTEST OVER  
CITY BOUNDARY  
CONTINUES

THOUSANDS of local residents have taken part in a protest march against a controversial city boundary extension. The Brosnan Report recommended moving Westbury, Shannon Banks and the North Campus of UL into Limerick City. More protests are expected.

LIMERICK'S GOT  
TALENT

LIMERICK'S Live 95 FM and HD Events will give a €5000 prize to the winner of Limerick's Got Talent. There is a special category for Limerick's Third Level Institutions. Auditions will take place in the Carlton Castletroy Hotel on 13, 14, 20 and 21 November. Entry forms must be submitted by 5 November and can be found at [www.live95.ie](http://www.live95.ie) or [www.hdevents.ie](http://www.hdevents.ie).

GOOGLE  
STREETVIEW OMITTS  
MOYROSS

GOOGLE has launched its streetview facility in Ireland. The controversial tool allows users to view buildings and streets nationwide. Local politicians have noted both Moyross and Ballynanty have been excluded. Google claim this is due to "technical reasons".

BRITISH GOVERNMENT MAY  
INCREASE TUITION FEES

Written by **Annie Dillon**

THE British Government may increase university fees to £12,000 (€13,700) a year as part of new budget cuts.

There is currently a cap on tuition fees of £3,290 (€3,762) in Britain but the government is making big spending cuts and may remove the cap to allow universities to charge their students

more. British students pay fees by a graduate loan system, repaying the cost of university education after they have graduated and begun earning.

Most British university courses last three years and this would mean graduates would leave college with a debt of about £36,000 (€41,174). The coalition government may have

trouble getting the measure approved by the House of Commons, with Lib Dem backbench MPs threatening to vote against it at the time of going to print.

The introduction of higher third level fees will make Britain a less attractive place for Irish students to pursue postgraduate courses. Masters degrees

in Britain and Ireland currently cost about the same but if the coalition government's plans are implemented, the cost of postgraduate courses in Ireland will be substantially lower. This may lead more Irish students to continue their education in Ireland.

LANGUAGES WEEK ENCOURAGES  
CULTURAL DIALOGUE

Written by **David Coughlan**,  
Junior Lecturer in English

UL's new Languages Building provided a vibrant focal point for the learning and teaching of languages in Week 5. Japanese Ambassador to Ireland, Toshinao Urabe, launched Languages Week's imaginative programme.

As the Japanese students chatted with the Ambassador, they were also celebrating 20 years of Japanese at

UL. To mark the occasion, the Kemmy Business School hosted a talk by Anne Lanigan, former Director of Enterprise Ireland in Japan, who emphasised the growing need for communication and language skills if Ireland is to maximise existing business opportunities in Japan and elsewhere. A common theme in the film screenings and the photography exhibition, in the careers

talk and the teaching workshops, was language as a gateway to a wider world of experience, in terms of career prospects, travel opportunities, and cultural exchange.

Language is at the heart of the expression, translation, and communication of culture, so those who attended the week's very popular Language Taster Classes might have

found themselves singing or even dancing in class. UL Languages Week was co-organised by the School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication, Aonad na Gaeilge, University of Limerick Language Centre, Language Resource Area, and Language Support Unit.

KRAV MAGA  
MASTER TRAINS  
UL STUDENTS

Written by **Michael Reid**

EXPERT Krav Maga instructor Ze'ev Cohen taught a workshop in knife defence techniques to members of the Krav Maga Club on 10 October.

Krav Maga is an Israeli self-defence technique and martial art and was invented by the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad. It is widely used by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and Israeli police. Mr Cohen served in the Israeli army and teaches Krav Maga to Israel's soldiers and police officers. He is a level four expert in the martial art. He has travelled extensively in Europe and elsewhere to teach. Mr Cohen taught more than 50 students in the

University's PESS building. Students from Krav Maga clubs throughout Ireland attended the seminar. The workshop focused on methods of defending oneself from knife attacks and lasted three hours.

The students impressed Mr Cohen with their aptitude for the specialised martial art and he graded many of them on their abilities.

"It was a pleasure to do the course with Mr. Cohen, and to meet him in person," Krav Maga Club President Srdan Kovacevic said. "It was nice to see so many familiar faces and few new ones too."



Renowned Krav Maga expert, Ze'ev Cohen, instructs students.

PSYCHIC SHOW ENRAGES  
UNIVERSITY STAFF

Written by **Darragh Roche**,  
Deputy Editor

ACADEMICS in UL have condemned the University Concert Hall (UCH) for hosting a medium who claims to have psychic abilities and speak to the dead.

The event entitled "An evening of clairvoyance with Joe Power", which took place on Tuesday Week 6, outraged some lecturers, who claimed the show harmed the University's reputation for excellence in teaching and science.

Posting on the University's "Opinions" thread, the lecturers also accused Mr Power of exploiting the unhappiness of vulnerable and bereaved people through cold reading and foreknowledge of their situation. "This does UL's reputation no good at all," said Dr John Kinsella of the Mathematics and Statistics Department. "UCH doesn't seem to realise that this performance exploits the unhappiness of people who have been bereaved. Not to mention [its] being at variance with our mission as a university," he added.

Some lecturers defended UCH and argued that it faces commercial and financial pressures, which mean that it cannot pick and choose what acts it hosts but most staff found the show inexcusable.



The controversial Joe Power



Dancer and Irish World Academy artist-in-residence Jean Butler will perform extracts from her current performance project, a solo entitled 'DAY' in The World Academy on 27 October at 2:30pm.

Admission is free.  
T: 061 202917 or  
E: [ellen.byrne@ul.ie](mailto:ellen.byrne@ul.ie)

## Features

# WHERE ARE THE BLACK BOXES?

Written by **Jill Franz**

## 9/11 REVISITED

ELVIS is alive, Kurt Cobain was murdered and, apparently, The Bush Administration is to blame for the demolition of the twin towers. Diehard conspiracy theorists believe that the good old USA carried out a controlled explosion to topple the towers in an effort to justify the invasion of The Middle East.

A group consisting of 75 US Professors has been established. They call themselves the '9/11 Scholars of Truth'. Their aim is to prove that 9/11 was a entire cover-up orchestrated by The Bush Administration. Some former members of the group believe that Flight 93 never crashed at all but landed safely in Cleveland. Apparently the phone calls to loved ones were a hoax that originated in a lab in California.

Though some theories can be described, at best, as dubious, there are some truly convincing testimonials made by respected professionals. Prominent Physicist Steven Jones, for example, claims to have found evidence in the dust of The World Trade Centre proving that explosives had been used. He also argues that the aircraft impacts and resulting fires could not have

weakened the buildings sufficiently enough to initiate a complete collapse of the structure. He states that the building would not have collapsed completely, especially not at the rate that it did, without additional energy used to weaken the structure.

Whether or not the USA orchestrated the attack as an excuse to lay down an oil pipeline in The Middle East (where, by the way, no weapons of mass destruction were found) is debatable. The increasingly popular theory of a US cover-up, however, has such a mass of evidence behind it that it is difficult to ignore. Debris from Ground Zero, for example, was removed without proper forensic investigation. Also, according to the 9/11 Commission Report, the "black boxes" from Flights 11 and 175 were not recovered, though two men who worked extensively in the WTC wreckage later stated that they helped federal agents find three out of four "black boxes" from the jetliners.

If you Google '9/11 conspiracy theories', you can rule most of them out. But there are some that lead me to believe we haven't heard the last on conspiracy revelations from America. Not by a long shot.



The World Trade Centre was destroyed ten years ago

## DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES



## KEMMY BUSINESS SCHOOL OFFICIAL OPENING

The Kemmy Business School will be officially opened on Friday, 5 November by Mr Tony Killeen, TD, Minister for Defence. To mark the Opening of the School, Mr Peter Sutherland, SC, a former EU Commissioner, will deliver the KBS Distinguished Lecture on "Ireland's Economic Condition" on the same date. Further details may be obtained from the Dean's Office, Kemmy Business School.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The number of submissions for Departmental Notices has been low. This free form of communication to the campus community will be cut from An Focal if there is no appetite for it. The next deadline for submissions is Friday, 22 October for publication on Tuesday, 2 November.

If you would like to use An Focal to communicate your Department's message to the campus community, please contact [sucommunications@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunications@ul.ie) or telephone extension 2363.

# FIGHTING FOR FUTURE EDUCATION

Written by **Cian Prendiville**

IRELAND aims "to develop a smart economy and become known as the innovation island" according to Brian Cowen, the esteemed authority on all things 'smart'. In a speech in 2008 on 'Building Ireland's Smart Economy' the word 'smart' appears countless times. The word 'education', though, is notably absent.

This isn't just an oversight, but an indication of the Government's view towards education. Thousands want to develop themselves by completing third level education in the hope of avoiding the worst of the capitalist crisis, and the government's response? Increase the fees, cut the teaching staff and make it increasingly difficult to obtain grants.

This year has seen a large increase in CAO applicants. Particularly noticeable is the 26% increase in mature students. Twenty thousand applicants will not get a place in college, not because they aren't intelligent enough, or willing to put in the work, but because the Government won't invest the money. In terms of those applying for a place in the PLC's the situation is even worse with 37,000 applying for 13,000 places.

This isn't the only roadblock erected by the Government. The seemingly unending hikes in registration fees, undoubtedly push many away from third level education.

Funding of college services has been slashed by 5%, and on top of this, staff levels have fallen by 6% due to the recruitment embargo, resulting in cuts

in tutorials, a reduction in support for students and overall damage to the student experience.

There is nowhere we can hide from the crisis. We can't run; this crisis is international. Our only hope is to stand and fight for well-funded education, a

guaranteed college place for all and for the right to a decent, well paid job that actually uses our talents.

This is a fight not only against the Government, but the entire system. And I believe we can win.



UL Students protest against Education Cuts in Week 3

# CAN FINE GAEL'S NEW PLAN SAVE THE ECONOMY?

Written by **Seamus Kearney**,  
FG Organiser

Ireland consistently lacks the infrastructure for industry. We are currently ranked second worst in Europe for broadband connectivity. Fifty per cent of water produced is wasted through leaking pipes and we are wasting billions on energy.

Fine Gael (FG) wishes to introduce 'NewERA', an €18bn stimulus package to invest in our industry and infrastructure.

This plan would last four years and help get up to 100,000 people back to work by re-tooling our economy. NewERA has three key areas: water distribution, energy usage and broadband. Ninety per cent of our energy comes from oil. FG envisages that by 2020, 50% of our energy needs should be produced by renewable resources. This would help insulate us from rising oil prices, to which we extremely vulnerable.

By 2025, 50% of all cars will be electric, which would reduce or carbon footprint.

A new company, Irish Water, will be established to manage our water needs. Today, 34 local authorities share that responsibility and water purification

costs €700m a year. FG would initiate Broadband 21 to develop a network of high speed fibre-optic cables throughout the country. Even though some areas in the country are covered by broadband, the bandwidth is so low it will not be able to support new technology. Ireland has the potential to be at the forefront of the IT sector. The country has become a successful central European business hub, with Google setting up their European headquarters in Dublin. Ireland has to capacity to lead the way in the IT sector and ensure more university graduates gain highly skilled positions in this country. The NewERA plan is necessary for industry to grow in modern Ireland. It is essential to overcome the years of neglect under the present government.

"FG envisages that by 2020, 50% of our energy needs should be produced by renewable resources."

## Features

## 24 HOURS IN LONDON

Written by Paul Carty

## Get There

Ryanair and Aer Lingus fly from Shannon to London. Ryanair will take you to Gatwick and Stansted whilst Aer Lingus will whisk you into Heathrow. Book in advance and you'll likely get your return fare for around €40 with Ryanair.

## Stay

It's not cheap to stay in London so be prepared to part with upwards of €100 a night for decent accommodation.

The London Bridge Hotel comes highly recommended and can be

booked quite cheaply. For budget travellers, try the Generator Hostel.

## Do

Walk past but take in the London Eye. And don't forget to ignore the bus tours. The best attractions in London are free.

The Imperial War Museum is absolutely fantastic, not to mention the Tate and Piccadilly Circus by night. The Tower of London is well worth the entrance fee though be prepared for queues to see the Crown Jewels. If you have time to catch a West End show, do that too!

## Eat

London is notoriously expensive for eating out. Avoid the chain restaurants and head off the beaten track for value. The Stockpot Restaurant near Leicester Square offers great food at great prices. For lunch on the go, look no further than Pret à Manger, a mainstay of London's office workforce.

## Tip

Save yourself £20 on the bus tour and do it yourself for £5.60 – that's the price of an off peak travel card

which allows you full access to the tube and buses after 9.30am. Print off a map of the tube and use it to see London!

## Drink

A short walk from London Bridge tube station is a fantastic little pub called The Hornyman.

Aside from the funny name, it offers great views of the HMS Belfast from its perch on the banks of the Thames.

## GOT SUMMER PLANS? TAKE SOME J1 ADVICE!

Written by Kate Doyle

It's that time of year again.

GRAB your applications and let's get cracking on your J1 summer of fun 2011! "Already" I hear you say? Yes! These things can go disastrously wrong. Take it from someone who knows.

Find your own job! Simple as. These "helpful" organisations that find you one are basically conning you out of your well deserved wages.

You could be losing out on a huge percentage. When I worked in New York last summer, another J1 applicant at the same level as me was earning 56 per cent less just because of the organisation she went through.

You need to bear in mind that the organisation you go to depends on the job you do. For example, if you are thinking about working at a summer camp the YMCA International ICCP programme is perfect but if you are happy working in a shop or bar-tending etc., USIT on campus is ready and waiting.

Finding the right visa is hugely important, so do your own research. Applying for a J1 Work and Travel Visa is as quick and easy to do as Visas go. On the other hand a J1 Camp Counsellor Visa is a whole different kettle of fish.

I am talking Garda Certificates and seriously detailed medical forms. You do not want to be reapplying a month before you leave during exams and crying down the phone to get things done quicker.

Trust yourself and book your own flights. Don't trust agencies. Shop around well in advance and you will find some really cheap flights.

Let Google become your best friend and get your ass in gear. Give yourself something to look forward to after all those dreaded assignments!



The London Eye by winter night, is a crisp, thrill to behold

## ERASMUS DIARY

Written by Emma Hayward

THIS week I began learning Greek. I really like it and though it is difficult, I'm enjoying the challenge. After class I have to walk home. The buses stop really early in Cyprus which is really frustrating for students like me who don't have a car.

It seems like everybody in Cyprus drives which is why the public transport system isn't the most efficient. On the bright side, when you do catch a bus it's very cheap. I pay 50 cent to go into town which is the equivalent of going from UL into Limerick.

Buses here won't break the bank but they might break your heart when you realise you're relying on timetables from 2007. I'll never complain about Bus Eireann again. Public transport aside, life as an Erasmus student

couldn't be better. There's an eternal party atmosphere and everybody just wants to have a good time. Last weekend the European club organised a beach party for the Erasmus students. For a measly €3 we got the bus to the beach and back, a DJ, free food and drink. Two busloads of us landed at Faros beach where everything was already set up for us.

There was only one hour of sunlight left but that didn't stop us from jumping in the sea and making an underwater dance floor.

Cyprus is known as the Island of Aphrodite, but I think they should have named it the Island of Ants instead. They're everywhere! They get into my food cupboard even when everything is wrapped in plastic, they

emerge from behind the sink and scour the counter top when I'm trying to cook my dinner and if I take off my shoes they scurry over to pick at the squished berries that I've stepped in on the way home. I think I even ate one in my dinner the other day, but I'd rather not think about it. On the other hand, if battling ants is my biggest problem here, I think I'll be doing just fine.

I can't believe that my first month has passed already. Only three months left until Christmas! Time is trickling away much faster than I thought it would so I had better go and make the most of it!



## Halloween Portraits, UL



The University of Limerick's Photographic Society are organising Halloween themed family photo shoot.

## Halloween Special

Book a slot and bring along your little monsters, witches, pirates and spooks in their Halloween costumes to a themed shoot in UL. Balloons, sweets and lots of fun to be had! Highly professional service by experienced creative photographers.

## Halloween Prices

- €15 A4 Portrait Unframed
- €50 A4 Portrait Framed
- Contact us for venue and times.



FOR BOOKINGS  
FURTHER INFORMATION  
[photoul@gmail.com](mailto:photoul@gmail.com)

## Features

# BAD ETHICS OR JUST ANOTHER VATICAN EDDY?

# LONG LIVE JEDMANIA

Written by **Roisin Peddle**

“I doubt the eggs take it personally.”

PROFESSOR Edwards was born in Manchester in 1925. A biology graduate, he began to research human reproduction while at Cambridge and by 1968, he had successfully fertilised a human egg in a lab. In July 1978, Prof Edwards had his first major success with the birth of the first test-tube baby, Louise Brown.

Thirty-two years and four million IVF babies later, Prof Edwards has finally been honoured with the Nobel Prize in medicine. But someone's unhappy about this honourable recognition. A

Vatican spokesman, Monsignor Ignacio Carrasco de Paula, called Prof Edwards' honour “completely out of order”. We all know that the Catholic Church is an easy target for anyone whose personal morality is even vaguely left of centre. But comments like that beg criticism.

I imagine it's hard for a single, celibate man to empathise fully with a childless couple trying desperately to conceive, but surely he can appreciate how difficult it is for such people. I know a couple who had beautiful twin boys by IVF and to see the happiness it brought them would break even the toughest of hearts.

Monsignor Carrasco states that without IVF “there would be no marketplace for eggs” and in most cases these eggs “end up abandoned or dead”. These

eggs are unfertilised and are not exactly sentient enough to know that they are being “abandoned”. Besides, women shed an egg every month and no-one calls that abortion.

So what if it takes several attempts to become pregnant through IVF? This doesn't make it immoral. I don't want to trivialise miscarriage but the Vatican has never condemned that for being a waste of good eggs. Sometimes these things happen and I doubt the eggs take it personally. It is unfortunate but it seems like the Vatican is too busy being stuck in the 14th century to see the benefits of IVF.

Written by **Sinead Keane**

JEDWARD. The name evokes either total disgust or great excitement depending on who hears it. The Dublin lads have burst onto the Irish music and television scene with total lack of shame. First seen on The X Factor stage, John and Edward Grimes rose to fame because of their ridiculous routines and cheeky attitude. Now, a year later, their popularity is still soaring.

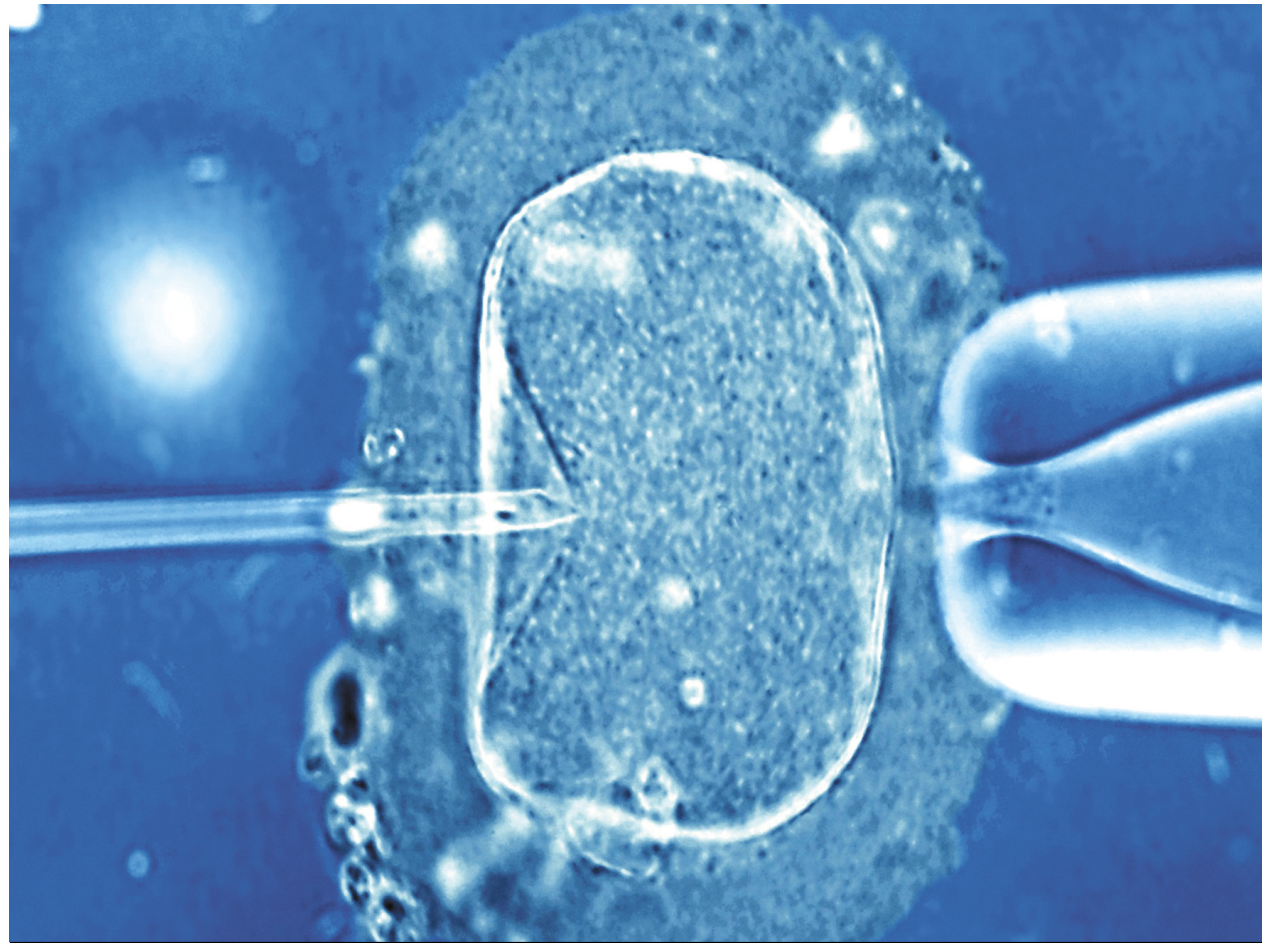
What is it about these loud, undignified boys that cause such hysteria among teens? Well for starters, watching their new show on TV3, I can't help but giggle a little at their behaviour. Silly, cheeky, fake, stupid, and childish are only a few of the words that pop into my head as I watch the twins make fooling around in front of the nation. Though Jedward's stupidity makes any Irish adult cringe with embarrassment, I can certainly see how appealing they are to teenage girls.

I have never disliked Jedward. In fact, I have always found them a fascinating duo. Despite their ability to annoy any person they come in contact with, there is certainly something about them that makes them very unique. I like their humour, their quirky arguments

and stupid questions. They make me laugh. It's nice to see a little silliness, especially nowadays. Why should we shun a couple of young lads who are making the most of their lives? Jedward are ignoring the recession and making their youth extremely memorable. While most of us might think Jedward the most embarrassing thing to come out of Ireland since Bewitched, I would rather see them on Jay Leno than a sauced up Taoiseach.

If these two amadáins can put a smile on young Irish faces when the future seems so dim, then long live the Jedward phenomenon.

“They make me laugh. It's nice to see a little silliness, especially nowadays.”



## FARAOR NÁR FHAN MÉ SA BHAILE?

Scríobhta ag **Féilim Ó Flatharta**

TÁ an pháirt deacair thart anois. Sé an ardteist an scrúdú is deacra a dhéanfaidh tú i do shaol.” Shúil mé isteach san ollscoil ar an gcéad lá agus mé ag ceapadh gur dodda a bheadh ann ach nach mé a bhí mi-cheart.

Tá gach ghné de shaol na hollscoile go hiomlán difriúil de shaol na meánscoile. Beidh tú ag suigh istigh i seomra ranga sa scoil le b'fhéidir tríocha scoláire ar a mhéid. Bíonn tú istigh ag léacht san ollscoil leis na céadta duine eile. Sa meánscoil, cuireann na múinteoirí brú ort do chuid obair bhaile a dhéanamh chuile

oíche, cuireann siad suim éagsúla i do dul chun cinn. Níl na deiseanna céanna agat san ollscoil ceist a fhíorú, níl aon duine ann chun brú a chuir ort chun nótaí a thógáil síos agus bíonn tú i do shuigh in aice le duine difriúil gach lá. Níl dada éasca faoin taobh acadúil den ollscoil. Ach tá gach rud eile de shaol na hollscoile go hiontach ar fad. Is aoibhinn liom saol sóisialta na hollscoile. Bíonn rud éigin le déanamh i gcónaí. Tá go leor cumainn ann agus tugtar deis duit a bheith i do bhall daoibh sin. Ní raibh an chúlúir sin ann agus tú ag freastal ar

an meánscoil, áit a rachfaidh tú chuig dioscó uair sa mhí má bhíonn an t-ádh ort. Tá sé cosúil le bheith caite isteach i domhain eile le cúlúir agus oidhreacht go hiomlán difriúil. Ach sílim féin gurb é an difríocht is mó idir saol na meánscoile agus saol na hollscoile ná go bhfuil tú imithe ón baile. Níl na ‘home comforts’ agat níos mó. Bíonn an-chraic sa teach againn agus bíonn muid ag gáire an t-am ar fad ach beidh tú ag tnúth go mór le tráthnóna Dé hAoine go rachfaidh tú abhaile. Mar a deireann an seanfhocal “ Níl aon thinteann mar do thinteann féin”.



The Dublin duo are still popular, despite being ever so annoying

## Lifestyle

## A SWAGGER TOO FAR

Written by **Sinead Keane**

“Wearing nothing but a pair of leggings just feels wrong.”

ACCORDING to Wikipedia, the word ‘leggings’ describes a ‘tight, form-fitting trousers that extends from waist to ankle.

The most fitting word in this definition, excuse the pun, is ‘tight’. Since the re-emergence of leggings and subsequently ‘jeggings’,

I have seen more detailed bums than I can care to remember. Skin-tight trousers designed to show off curves in all the right places, in my opinion, seem to do exactly the opposite.

In no way am I “dissing” leggings completely. They are extremely useful when putting together an outfit. They are warmer than tights and sometimes more fashionable. The vast range of patterns and colours can

jazz up any plain dress or skirt. But while leggings can sometimes be the ultimate accessory, that is all they are; an accessory. This new idea of wearing leggings by themselves, with just a shirt or a top, is completely insane.

I tried on a pair once, by themselves, and I felt terribly naked. Wearing nothing but a pair of leggings just feels wrong.

I honestly can’t understand how it has become so popular. Leggings are not trousers and should not be categorized as such.

I can only hope that either this cringe-worthy fad fades out, or the infamous Irish winter makes us all crawl back into our Levis.

I’m sure most lads love the craze. But for me, it’s an eyesore of epic proportions.



Leggings have become popular. But why?

## STYLE ON A SHOESTRING

Written by **Roisin Healy**

EVERYONE knows that girl. The girl who makes you green with envy and always looks stylish and in fashion. You ask her where she got her “to-die-for” Mulberry-esque satchel, and she simply says “Oh, this? Penney’s!”

Being in a college free from uniforms and where the Living Bridge is our catwalk, means clothes become so much more than something to cover what God gave you. But being penniless students living on baked beans, we must remember to be resourceful, creative, and one step ahead of the game when it comes to style on a budget.

1. You have to be quick to get the good stuff, especially in Penney’s. There’s no

shame in flicking furiously through the clothes racks.

2. Make a list of what you need for the season ahead and stick to it. You’re less likely to overspend if you buy what you need rather than buying impulsively.

3. Don’t get pre-occupied with labels! If you find an item you like that goes with your existing wardrobe, the designer is irrelevant. There’s a reason the label is inside your clothes. Only you have to know where it comes from.

4. Be imaginative!

Dresses can become tops, a maxi skirt hoisted up and cinched at the waist makes an empire dress. Just mess

around and see what works. Tights and leggings make summer dresses cosier for winter and ankle boots are great all-weather shoes.

Above all, if someone compliments your style, be proud and simply say “thank you!” Putting yourself down is so last generation. I want you all to be confident enough to shop in the sale section without glancing over your shoulder worrying who might see. Follow these top tips and enjoy being a savvy, stylish student.



## THE BEAUTY COLUMN

## PROTECT AND PERFECT YOUR ‘CRAICEANN’

Written by **Meghann Scully**

FOR those of you who aren’t familiar with the native tongue, I’m talking about skin. This week I’m talking face creams!

For those of you who are in first year, you will be depending on pocket money to cover drinks, take-away, taxis and books. Bearing this in mind, I have found you some reasonable yet effective moisturizers. You will soon find that all the make-up, late nights and stressful college days means your skin will be drying out for some TLC. “Tender loving cream”.

The first gem is the botanic range available in Boots. With prices starting at €10 this blend of natural extracts doesn’t smell particularly edible but does offer natural fresh softness.

Aveeno dermexa, a favorite of mine, is available in most pharmacies with prices starting at €11. This triple oat mix tackles dry, itchy skin and shouldn’t be mistaken for muesli. A must have for all you ladies is tinted moisturizer. Nivea do a super reasonable cream from only €5. This tinted moisturizer is perfect if you’re running late for a lecture. It’s so good you can sleep with it on!

The ever amazing Bobbi Brown has released a tinted moisturizer with SPF



The benefits of moisturizing are obvious.

15. While a bit of a stretch at €40, this slightly thicker moisturizer protects and perfects. It will leave you flawless and with a noticeable glow will make heads turn as you enter Angel Lane.

A few final tips gals. Cleanse tone and moisturize every couple of days and use an SPF if your moisturizer doesn’t contain one. The stunning Cheryl Cole-Tweedy swears by it and the results speak for themselves.

## MUSHROOM RISOTTO

Written by **Elizabeth Neylon**

Ingredients  
(serves two):

1 Cup Arborio (Risotto) rice  
½ onion - chopped  
1pt vegetable stock  
Handful of mushrooms-sliced  
Parmesan Cheese  
White wine (optional)  
Olive oil  
Butter  
Salt and pepper

Method:

Put the stock in a pot and leave to simmer, with a ladle ready for when it’s needed. Melt a knob of butter and a dash of olive oil and add the onion, cook on a low heat until translucent but do not brown. Add the rice and coat well with the oil and butter.

You can now add a small ladleful of stock and stir well. The most important thing when making a risotto is to keep stirring. Once the first ladle is absorbed into the rice add another and

continue until the rice is soft but has a slight bite. Take off the heat and add a dash of white wine to the rice with a pinch of parmesan and mix well, check seasoning.

Quickly pan-fry the mushrooms in a little butter.

Serve the risotto with the mushrooms on top and a sprinkle of parmesan!





Student Speak

# BOO! Are you in this issue of Student Speak?

An Focal Photographer Keith Beegan and Reporter Mikey O'Connell were snooping around last week in search of your fancy dress plans.

## So people, what's your costume this Halloween?



Stevie Nolan, Andrew Park, Ultan O'Connell  
*"The human centipede."*



Sonia Peret Del Ublino  
*"Yeti all the way baby!"*



Eoin Lees *"Michelangelo from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."*



Damien Meere  
*"The Joker as the nurse, from The Dark Knight."*



Lorna O'Connell  
*"A gypsy. Watch my belly dance!"*



Jason Williams  
*"I'm going as Jesus! Amen."*



Monika Schneider  
*"A Care Bear."*



Sean Collins  
*"Daniel Meade from Ugly Betty."*



Edel McCarthy  
*"French maid. Sweeepy, sweeepy."*



Shielleagh Wrenn  
*"Lara Croft."*

## Letters

## AN FOCAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, UL Students' Union, Castletroy, Limerick. T: 0860435304 E: sucommunications@ul.ie W: www.ulsu.ie  
An Focal endeavours to accommodate all letters as far as legally possible. All parties have the right of reply to letters printed herein.

Sir, - I first must commend you and your fellow sabbatical officers for the work you do on mental health in particular, on raising awareness of it. However I must take issue with some of your poster with the slogan "Stop Being Sad. Be Awesome Instead". Most people like 'How I Met Your Mother' and quotes from Barney can be very funny when repeated at the appropriate time.

This time though is not one of these times. The poster and slogan is for one, incredibly patronising and also quite offensive. Trying to claim one can get over depression by just "being awesome" is not taking the issue seriously and makes a mockery of all the work that is being done by your organisation and others too. So next time, please think twice about slogans and use some common sense.

- Le meas, etc,

STEPHEN CARMODY

A response to Stephen Carmody's letter.

Stephen, - Firstly, thank you for commending all the work which has gone into Mental Health Week. Secondly, the poster in question "Don't Be Sad, Be Awesome Instead" was used to draw people in and grab their attention. The idea for the slogan was discussed both with Derek, SU Welfare Officer and Mike O'Mahoney, who has been a councillor in UL for years.

Both decided it was a good slogan. Mike has years of experience dealing with people with Mental Health problems and I strongly respect his opinion.

The slogan was used to try and draw in and relate with those who have a stigma about Metal Health problems. All the necessary information was located on the bottom of the poster. It was not our wish to offend or patronise. Quite the opposite is true in fact. I will take your views on board and seek to improve our service for the future.

- Yours, etc,

VIVION GRISEWOOD  
Campaigns and Services Officer,  
ULSU

Sir, - I thought I should inform the SU that I was spiked [in Week 5] in the Lodge. I'm a second year. I went out with half a naggin in me.

I wasn't even tipsy. I remember being at the bar with my housemate and asking her "what do you think i should get?" I didn't buy anything myself. I know this because I came home with the same amount of money as going out.

But I have a funny feeling that someone said to me, "well, what I'm drinking is really nice, you should get this. Try some of mine first to see do you like it!" This could be where it happened as I can't remember what happened for about two hours after this.

I've heard that I did lots of things that I can't remember doing. I rang a friend from home. I begged lots of people I know to bring me home. I begged them to ring my boyfriend.

I have no recollection of this whatsoever. My housemates found me hyperventilating in the Lodge. They brought me home, tried to make me get sick and then brought me to hospital. The hospital let me home very quickly and said to sleep it off.

I got worse after getting home (eyes rolling in back of head, hyperventilating, freaking if the light went out, kicking). I just thought I'd let the SU know so that people can be aware of this. I'm so lucky my housemates were out with me because if they weren't I don't know where I could have ended up that night.

- Yours, etc,

ANONYMOUS

The following letter is one of two parts. The second part will appear in a later issue.

Sir, - We all live in a society obsessed with drink and living as a student in the campus environment is arguably the most extreme end of the spectrum in terms of attitudes and practices around alcohol.

So when I decided at the beginning of the summer to try to remove alcohol from my life completely, I knew it wasn't going to be easy. But four months on I understand that it is other people's attitudes to alcohol, not mine, which would make this decision one of the hardest to follow through in my life.

To give you some background, I began drinking at a young age in fields with friends whenever we could persuade someone to buy us some in the off licence. As I progressed in secondary school, I began to socialise more and more in pubs and clubs with my friends, frequenting those bars which turned a blind eye to our lack of proof of age. But it wasn't until I came to UL that I really jumped on the alcohol band wagon. The start of this story is probably not unlike that of many of you reading this.

I enjoyed many, probably hundreds of drunken college nights out over my first few years here, drinking whatever was cheapest with my friends at home before stumbling into whichever nightclub was the most convenient or desired for that night.

The return home with take away in hand (or stomach) often saw another round or more of beer into the early hours of the morning, with many incoherent discussions being had, trying to solve the world's problems or more local affairs. The solutions which seemed so clear that night always looked very different in the morning and were generally discarded.

I ask myself now: what did I like about this never ending cycle? Same as everyone else, I would imagine. The alcohol loosened my inhibitions, gave me the courage to chat up members of the opposite sex and I felt it made me more fun, outgoing, etc.

Having a drink symbolised relaxing, celebration and a break from the stress and pressure of academic life. It was a social outlet; a way to meet people. If you ask any expert in the field they will tell you there are many deep, intrinsic psychological and social roots to the question, why do we drink?

But from my perspective, it was more about not questioning it. Though drinking had many negative effects on my life, I never really questioned whether I should stop or not. It was normal, I was going with the flow and everyone was acting the same as me so why would I question my own actions?

In retrospect however when I question the effects alcohol had on my life, I see that many were very negative and probably will be all too familiar for you reading this. I have done things while drunk that I would never contemplate

while sober, and though being under influence may explain these actions it certainly doesn't justify them.

For example, I have vomited in public. I have soiled my home with vomit. I have urinated in public. I would never steal five euro from someone's wallet but I have stolen drinks in excess of this value from people. I have stolen other items of value. I have seriously vandalised both my own property and others'.

I have created noise which disrupted neighbours who have young children with no consideration for them. I have been unduly rude, abusive and hurtful to my friends and strangers alike on occasions. I have hurt people by leading them to believe I cared for them more than I really did in order to serve my own intentions.

I have told barefaced lies, endangered my life and others' by driving my car intoxicated. Unfortunately this list could continue for quite some time. Think about it logically; if something like eating burgers made you do these terrible things, you would stop eating burgers wouldn't you? So why do we keep drinking? Do the positives really exceed the negatives?

Further to my actions while drunk, it has been a massive financial drain on my life and I'm sure I would be utterly disgusted to know how much money I have spent on drink to date.

How much I paid for the privilege of not being able to remember what I did the night before and feel horrendous for the duration of the day. Yet this is the compass that many of us use to gauge 'a good night'. Hangovers from alcohol also caused issues for me.

Apart from the obvious endurance required to see them through they have also really negatively affected my academic performance. In a situation where the jobs market is so competitive, this could have a massive impact on the rest of my life.

Alcohol has played a part in destroying some of my friendship and romantic relationships and strained others to near breaking point too. I believe that the list of residual effects such as these could continue much further.

It is only now, in retrospect, that I can see all of these things in line and realise that drinking was such a destructive influence in my life and the minor positives it elicited were eclipsed by the negatives. It just doesn't make sense to drink. Unfortunately, it was not a random sudden parting of the clouds which caused me to question my actions forcing me to attempt to stop for good but a tragic occurrence in my life.

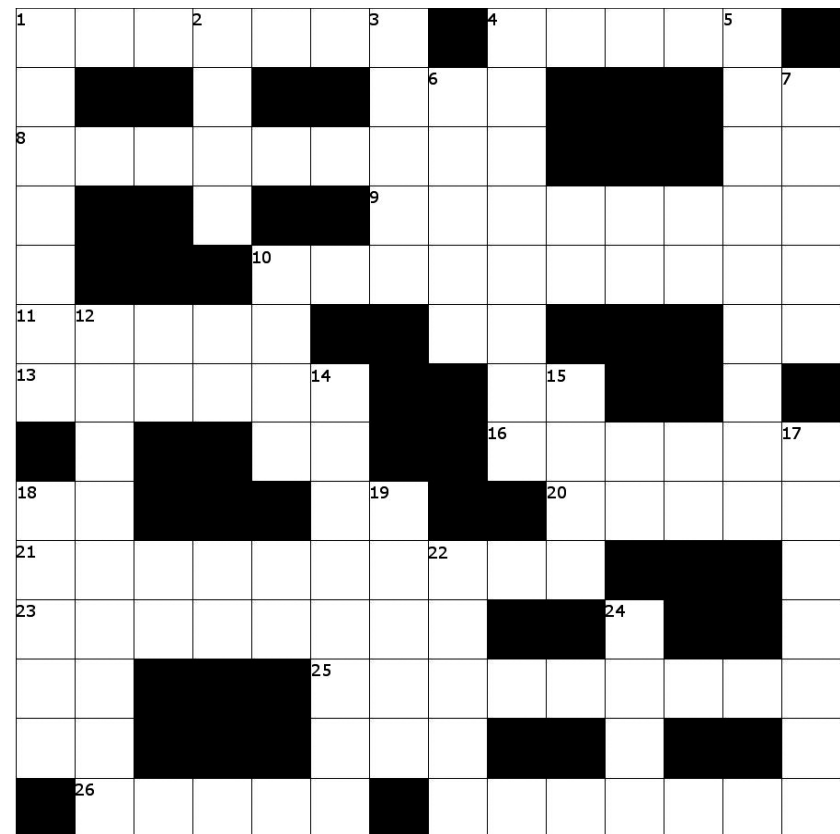
Someone who was very close to me suffered from depression and used alcohol to escape their problems. While under the influence of alcohol, they ended their life at the beginning of the summer.

This tragedy caused me to see everything I have outlined in this article in perspective and to make the decision to eliminate alcohol from my life completely.

Four months have passed and despite having the best reasons to stop, it has been incredibly tough. As I said already, it is other people's attitudes to alcohol, not my own, which made this decision one of the hardest to follow through in my life and most likely will continue to do so.

- Yours, etc,

ANONYMOUS



Clues:

Down:

- 1 - Everton F.C. (7)
- 2 - Bang Who Sung Africa (4)
- 3 - Under 18 (5)
- 4 - Fundraiser (8)
- 5 - Overtaken (9)
- 6 - Scholars' Previous Name(5)
- 7 - Exoskeleton (5)
- 10 - Unit of Length (4)
- 12 - Track & Field Sports (9)
- 14 - Radioactivity Lifespan Measurement (8)
- 17 - Place Where a Core is Likely to explode (7)
- 18 - Agreement between Friends (5)
- 19 - Sad, Unsettled (5)
- 22 - Venue (5)
- 24 - Strangely (4)

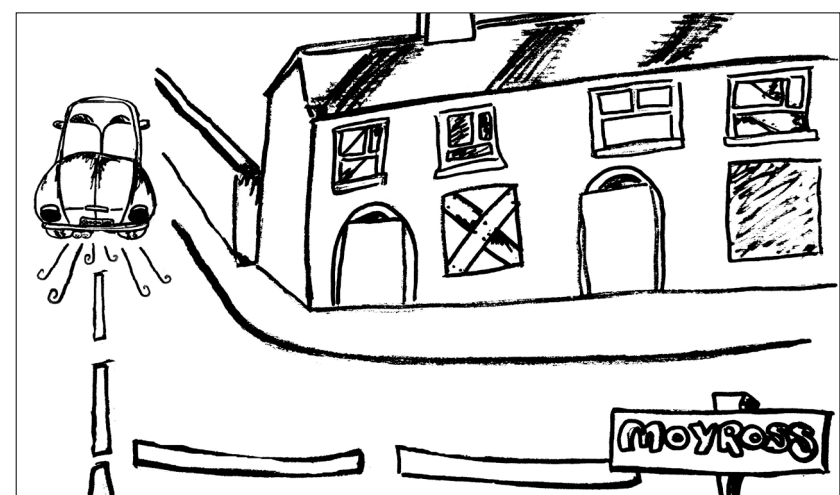
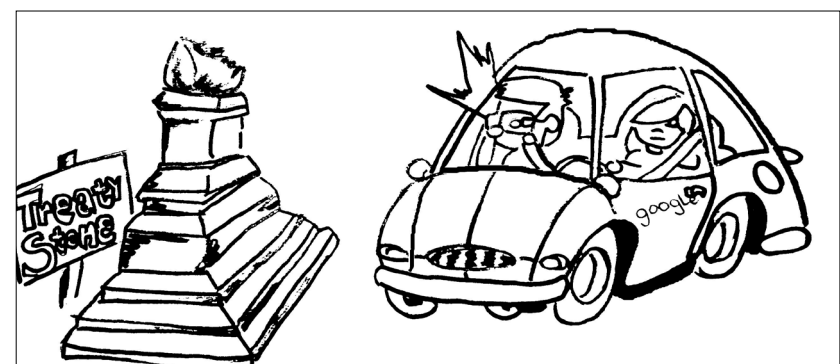
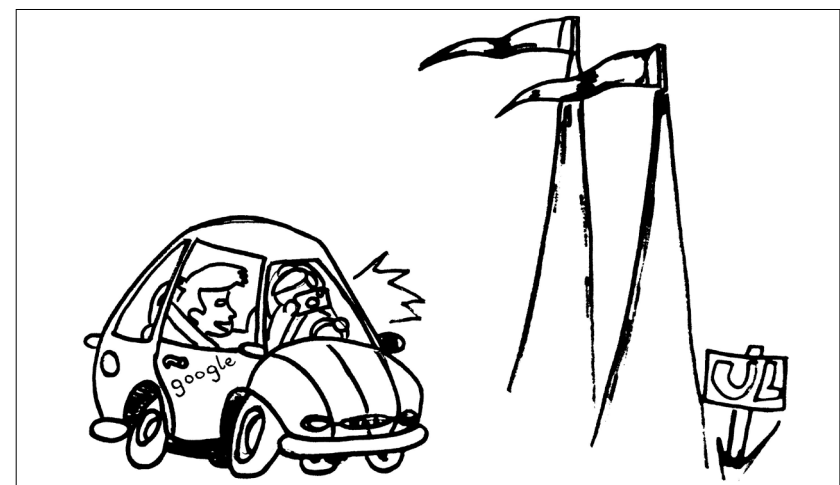
Across:

- 1 - Isotope of Hydrogen (7)

- 4 - Work Laboriously (5)
- 8 - Not Real (9)
- 9 - Grown for Too Long (4,4)
- 10 - Without Reason or Logic (10)
- 11 - Digested (5)
- 13 - Bad Smell (6)
- 16 - People Who Annoy You (6)
- 20 - Unsavoury, Lacking Subtlety (5)
- 21 - Perennially Frozen Sub-Soil (10)
- 23 - Walked Leisurely (8)
- 25 - Annoying (9)
- 26 - The Final Frontier (5)
- 27 - Junior (7)

Last Issue's Answers:

Down: Glacier; AWOL; Skull; Tasteful; Conductor; Italy; Theme; Myth; Nostalgic; Envious; Mage; Pesters; Scare; Itchy; Isuzu; Undo  
Across: Greaves; Toxic; Aeronauts; Latitude; Millennium; Enjoy; Rotate; Laptop; Glare; Capacitive; Almanacs; Bhutanese; Cache; Utmost



No sign of Moyross on Google Streetview. We smell a rat.  
Credit: Brige Newman

## Union

THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
COLUMNWritten by **Ruán Dillon-McLoughlin**, ULSU President

AS the weeks pass on by, we wonder where the time goes. Its Week 7 now, nearly Week 8 and it only feels like we are just back. The rush of the first few weeks is beginning to slow, thankfully. Here in the Students' Union things have never been busier.

I am delighted to report one of the most successful terms yet for the SU. There has never been so many of you through the doors. The dedicated team here have been working constantly to provide you with the best level of service.

We will be carrying out a student survey in the next couple of weeks to get your views on what we have been doing. This will be your chance for you to have your say.

We have loads of new services available online. We have a Grinds Register, so you can offer or receive grinds easily, Bed for a Semester – this is for people on Co-op can offer their room to someone else while they are away, Job Section – this is a place for employers to post jobs they have for students. Good luck with mid-term exams.

WELFARE  
WATCHWritten by **Derek Daly**, Welfare Officer

IT'S 12:30am on Tuesday morning and I'm sitting in the office trying to make 26 nominations for Charity Week funds into a shortlist of eight for Exec on Monday.

It's one of the most painful things to do. Do you put forward charities on the frontline of suicide prevention, or those working with families bereaved as a result of infant mortality? Where do you strike the balance between animal shelters and sport for disadvantaged kids? Looking at the list, I'm glad that some of them are automatically disqualified due to the Raising and Giving Policy.

It's not because they're not worthy but because it makes the number of charities that I have to exclude smaller. I don't feel so bad. I've taken some out, put them back in, taken others out, put them back in and come back to square one.

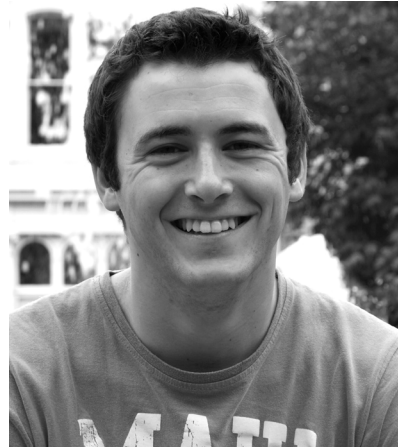
This week's lesson: Don't think that taking holidays is a good idea because your work is stressing you out. It will be there waiting when you come back but if being at work is stressing you, the break will do you the world of good.

ENLIVENING  
EDUCATIONWritten by **Aoife Finnerty**, Education Officer

WELCOME to Week 7! This time of year is essay writing time. Below are my "Top Five Tips for Essay Writing".

1. Choose your topic early. For many, it's pretty unrealistic to start early. But nail down your topic early, so you're better prepared and less stressed as you approach your deadline.
2. Write the middle before the introduction and conclusion. It might sound odd, but there are few things worse than an essay that promises x, y and z but then only manages to deliver x.
3. Be a language wizard. It is amazing how two pieces that communicate the same information can look so different. My advice? The simpler the communication, the better.
4. Reference properly. Plagiarism is a serious offence which can lead to disciplinary action, intentional or otherwise. See the library's Cite it Right Guide if in doubt.
5. Never reference Wikipedia. It might be a good place to get an idea about a topic of which you have absolutely no knowledge. Aside from that, stay far, far away!

Final tip! Make sure you've a friend to read over it for you for all those little mistakes your tired eyes might have missed!

CAMPAIGNS  
BRIEFWritten by **Vivion Grisewood**, Campaigns and Services Officer

HEY everyone! Mental Health Week was a great success! (See photos on pages 14 and 15). I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who got involved. This week, Week 7, is Community Week. In the SU, we are organising and taking part in Community Clean-ups, all week. We need volunteers. So if you would like to get involved, feel free to email me at [sucso@ul.ie](mailto:sucso@ul.ie).

Another thing that's coming up soon is the Halloween Ball. It's on Thursday night of Week 8, in the Stables. There is going to be a late bar, a band, DJs and prizes for best fancy dress! Tickets are only €5 and are available in the SU Reception.

I'm also working on getting the SU cinema up and going again before the weather gets too bad! There are two showings coming up hopefully before the exams. So keep an eye out on [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie).

November is set to kick off soon and we are looking for Mo bros and sistas to grow a moustache to raise money and awareness for cancers that affect men. See UL Movember Campaign 2010 on Facebook.

WORDS  
FROM THE  
PSAWritten by **Dan Comerford**, PSA President

WE'RE half way through the first semester. Help is at hand in the University. If you are experiencing difficulties, let me, your lecturer or course director know. That's why we're here.

The PSA AGM occurred on the 5 October. We have elected our four faculty officers and Exec. Check out our new team on the website. What we need now are ideas and suggestions of what you want to see happen within the Association this year. Please email me with your ideas

I am still looking for people to get involved in working groups. The working groups are: events, class reps, research students and student parents working groups. If you wish to get involved in any of these, please let me know.

I paid a trip to NUIG to look at events that they carry out for students. I also wanted the PSA and their Postgrad Officer work on an agreement about the UL-NUIG alliance and how it will impact on postgraduate students.

As the first semester crosses over into the second half I'd like to remind everyone to contact me if they are having any problems or need support.

WEEK 5  
C&S LOTTO

THERE was no winner of the Jackpot and it now stands at €5400.

The winners of our four Lucky Dip spot prizes this week are:

1. Phillip Mc Hugh - Limerick
2. Richard O Hara - Kilkenny
3. Kati Kemba - Limerick
4. Jasper Young - Cork

See [www.registercs.ul.ie](http://www.registercs.ul.ie) the lotto link can be found on the "Just Look Around Section"

powered by   
localotto.ie  
EVERYONE'S A WINNER

C&S, CONCERN  
AND HAITIWritten by **Paul Lee**, Clubs and Societies Development Officer

TUESDAY, 5 October was our second council meeting of the term. "Concern" made a presentation to around 100 people.

This was off the back of 10 C&S making a €3500 contribution to the Haitian appeal last March after only two days of fundraising.

I believe there is a strong UL and Limerick link with Haiti and of course I know there has long been a tradition of C&S fundraising for charity.

As such we hope to encourage any C&Ss not necessarily engaged in charity work, to put their shoulder to the wheel for the people of Haiti once a year. Ms. Roisin Gallagher, the Desk Officer made the presentation last night and when you consider how privileged a UL student is, we saw on

Tuesday once again how education as one facet of Haitian life has been decimated.

In Port Au Prince more than 1500 teachers have been killed and over 4000 schools destroyed. Now the appeal has been made to C&S altruistic motivations to help their fellow man.

I am confident C&S will accept this challenge and I will be working to put the wheels in motion. If there is anyone out there who wishes to help, feel free to drop me an email at [paul.lee@ul.ie](mailto:paul.lee@ul.ie)



UL'S  
HALLOWEEN BALL

THE STABLES  
THURSDAY WEEK 8  
LATE BAR UNTIL 2.30

TICKETS 5 BEANS  
FROM THE STUDENTS UNION

CHECK OUT [ULSU.IE](http://ULSU.IE) FOR MORE INFO!

EVENTS

## Entertainment

## ANOTHER WALL STREET CRASH

Written by **Tricia Purcell**

QUOTED once, twice, definitely more than three times, the repetition of "Greed is Good" in the film *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, reflects the overall duplication of plot and script that stems from the original *Wall Street*, directed by Oliver Stone in 1987. Greed is the only reason Stone decided to make this movie 23 years after the original.

Gordon Gekko, played by Michael Douglas, makes a return to the screen, after 15 years in jail. The film opens with Gekko leaving prison in 2001, and then skips seven years to 2008. The film never explains what Gekko

was up to in this seven year gap, but rather we are left to fill in the blanks. However we move on to the current hot shot of Wall Street, one Jacob Moore, played by Shia LaBeouf, who is seeing Gekko's daughter Winnie, played by a very convincing Cary Mulligan.

Betrayal, redemption, revenge are the main themes of the movie, with the usual cringe-worthy money-related metaphors. Don't expect much more from this movie which quotes lines like "Money is a bitch that never sleeps!" or "It's not about the money. It's about the game". The predictable plot of strained father/daughter relationship

is tired and ultimately disappointing. Mediocrity even trickles down to the supporting roles of Josh Brolin and Susan Sarandon. An original member of the 1987 film, Charlie Sheen makes a completely unnecessary cameo in the new movie with two pretty ladies at his side. He may as well have been playing Charlie Harper from *Two and a Half Men*, for all he contributed. Overall, I think this movie is another unwarranted sequel and clearly Oliver is finding it hard to get back to his old self since the Alexander disaster.



## THE FACEBOOK STORY

Written by **Brian Anglim**

FOR many, hardly a day passes without a poke or a post on a friend's wall. The social network site Facebook has become part and parcel of many people's daily routine.

David Fincher's film *The Social Network* focuses on the path to creation and subsequent lawsuits taken against the mastermind behind the website, Mark Zuckerberg played by Jesse Eisenberg.

In the course of a preface set seven years ago, when Facebook was only a gleam in Zuckerberg's eye, a young woman tells him that dating him is as exhausting as "dating a Stairmaster".

So it comes as little surprise that Zuckerberg has distanced himself from the film. And that's understandable. It portrays him in a bad light.

Aaron Sorkin's script may have taken small liberties to sex up the story, but the script is so sharp and brilliantly written that you will leave all pre-conceptions of truth at the theatre door.

Jesse Eisenberg is faultless as the ruthless Zuckerberg and he is backed up by a half dozen other sharp performances, including the acting talents of Justin Timberlake as Shaun Parker, founder of Napster and eventual stake holder in Facebook.

*The Social Network* takes little time to get you hooked into the story and keeps a hold until the climax. Fincher's sleek and polished direction doesn't give the viewer time to catch breath and is matched by brilliant acting and a clean crisp script.

But the most amazing thing about the film is that it really shouldn't be as good as it is. The birth of a website wouldn't seem to be an exciting subject for a film, even if it is used by over 4% of the world's population.

*The Social Network* packs a punch without ever having to throw one and is a must see for the 500million of us joined together because of its subject matter.



This film is a must see for the 500million of us joined together because of its subject matter.  
Image Courtesy: Columbia Pictures

## THE HURLERS Bar

Castletroy, Limerick

Monday's **MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS!!!**

FANTASTIC student promotional deals  
Free entry and DJ from 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday's **COMEDY NIGHT/TRAD NIGHT**

Comedy night with live performances on stage in back bar area  
Live Trad music in front bar area from 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's **Wednesday Night ACOUSTIC MUSIC Sessions**

Live music sessions, in the front bar area from 9:30 p.m.

Thursday's **BEAT THE RECESSION MONSTER**

Amazing student promotional deals offered in back bar area from 9:00 p.m. for the night

**We now do promotional deals and events for class parties and birthdays, just contact us via our facebook page**

To find out all about our student special offers each week, check out or join our facebook page 'Hurlers Limerick' where we advertise weekly all upcoming events, bands and special offers

dolans warehouse  
dock road

wed 20th	De Danann	8pm €15/12
thurs 21st	Rich Hall	8pm €16/13
fri 22nd	Lloyd Cole & The Small Ensemble	8pm €20
fri 22nd	FIACH & Colm Lynch	9pm €10
sat 23rd	O Emperor + The Ambience Affair	9pm €11
sat 23rd	Micronite Presents Exium	10pm €10
sun 24th	DISCONAUTS LIVE!	9pm €13
thurs 28th	Beoga	8pm €18/15
fri 29th	Seneca	8pm €8
sun 31st	Protobaby & Secret Police	8.30pm €8/5

www.dolanspub.com

061 314483

Entertainment

# MADNESS AND MURDER IN THE UCH

Written by **Barbara Ross**

THE Circus of Horrors celebrates its fifteenth, blood drenched year by gracing the University Concert Hall on Tuesday, 8 November at 8pm.

Since their success with *The Asylum* and *The Day of The Dead*, the Circus is back and revamped with a new show performed by a cast of 26 of the wildest, weirdest and greatest contemporary circus artistes and musicians this side of the flaming abyss!

*The Four Chapters from Hell* takes you on a journey through all four of *The Circus of Horrors* incarnations in a musical masterpiece with the pulsating devil-driven rock 'n' roll of *Dr Haze* and *The Interceptors From Hell*.

The story begins in a French asylum where the liberated inmates become the performers. Filled with remorse after killing their leader, they go to Mexico to try and revive him in the *Day of the Dead* celebrations.

The show then moves to late 1890's Victorian London where a young girl's life is in danger. Regan was born in *The Asylum* and woken from her deep sleep she joins the circus before she is sacrificed and fed to the vampires.

The final twist to the story takes us into the future, and into 2020, into a futuristic civilization inhabited by vampires, zombies and the undead. Regan now also undead seeks revenge on her evil slayer, all of course to disastrous consequences. The show

contains some of the greatest, most bizarre and beautiful circus acts on earth. From a daredevil flying trapeze artist to a vampire crow woman suspended only by her hair, from whirlwind roller skaters to sword swallowers.

Tickets cost €29 or €25 for students. Early bird tickets are also available and a booking fee applies. To book ring 061 331549 or you can book online at [www.uch.ie](http://www.uch.ie).



# WARM SHOWS ON COLD NIGHTS

Declan O'Rourke launches autumn/winter line up

Written by **Kelly O'Brien**

TO introduce Eightball Promotions' Autumn/Winter collection (a series of intimate gigs), Irish singer/songwriter Declan O'Rourke played St John's Church on 25 September. Being a Saturday night, the crowd was slightly older.

The atmosphere was calm and quiet expectation. The simplistic backdrop of St John's Church, with its bare stone walls and wooden floors played a big part in the night ambience. All voices were hushed and reverent as most in attendance had been brought up to respect the peaceful sanctity of the church and only to whisper within its holy walls.

But this changed when Declan's support act (the immensely talented Fiach) exploded onto the stage. After a set and a few more beers, the crowd was sufficiently warmed up and gave thunderous applause as Declan ran up the aisle, guitar in hand.

I've had the pleasure of seeing O'Rourke perform five times. Each time is better than the last. He refuses to do the same show twice. In between songs, most of them from the fresh, upcoming album, the performer likes to talk to his audience.

He tells stories about his life and the

ideas behind some of his songs and title choices. A man of many talents, he is just as much an Irish storyteller and comedian as he is singer/songwriter and somehow manages to draw out tears and laughter simultaneously.

Accompanied by a violin and a cello, Declan's set was both soulful and sorrowful with some truly heartrending moments thrown in for good measure.



# FIGHT LIKE APES

+LATE BAR

## Stables (courtyard)

### 21/oct (Thursday Week 7)

# 5euro!

## UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL

THE Entertainment Venue on Campus

STARRING SOUL LEGEND SHEILA FERGUSON (THE THREE DEGREES) & WINNERS OF HIT TV SHOW JESSICA CERVI & BEN MORRIS

# EAME THE MUSICAL

TUE. 26TH - SUN. 31ST OCT

"STUNNING CHOREOGRAPHY...EXCELLENT PRODUCTION" IRISH TIMES  
"A CROSS BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL, STEP UP AND RENT" METRO

The first and biggest tribute to TAKE THAT! In aid of Milford Hospice

# FAKE THAT

THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE SHOW

Special UL Student Price €15 (per show)

TUESDAY 2nd NOV  
The four chapters from Hell

THURSDAY 4th NOV

"IF QUENTIN TARANTINO DIRECTED CIRQUE DU SOLEIL THIS WOULD BE IT!"

BOOKING: 061 331549 / WWW.UCH.IE (BOOKING FEES APPLY). BECOME A FAN ON [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/uch.ie)

CAMPUS LISTINGS	DAY	WHAT'S ON	WHERE	TIME	TICKETS
WEEK 7	Monday	Open Mic Night and DJ	Stables	7pm	Free
	Tuesday	UL's got talent	Stables	8pm	Free
	Wednesday	Karaoke Heat 5	Stables	8pm	Free
	Wednesday	Trad Session	The Scholars	9.30pm	Free
	Thursday	FIGHT LIKE APES Music Soc	Stables	9pm	€ 5
WEEK 8	Monday	Open Mic Night and DJ	Stables	7pm	Free
	Tuesday	UL's got talent	Stables	8pm	Free
	Wednesday	Karaoke Heat 6	Stables	8pm	Free
	Wednesday	Trad Session	The Scholars	9.30pm	Free
	Ents Recommends	Thursday	Halloween Ball	Stables	8pm

Check out [www.UCH.ie](http://www.UCH.ie) to see what's going on at the University Concert Hall

## Mental Health Week



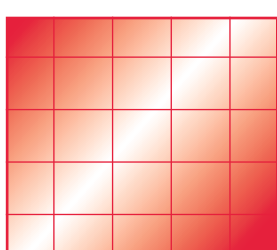
# Mental Health Week, In Focus

From beat boxing to flash dancing and hot tea to a large, cold dunk-tank; lots of you enjoyed the events in the SU Courtyard in Week 5. Pictured are some of the scenes you might have noticed around the Courtyard.



# Mental Health Week





# The Grid

## Exclusive communication for Clubs and Societies.

Attention C&S PROs! Send content for The Grid to [sucommunications@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunications@ul.ie) before Friday, 22 October to benefit from your space in the next issue.

Clubs	<b>Handball</b> Training in the PESS building from 7pm, Mondays and 8.15pm, Thursdays. E: <a href="mailto:ulhandball@gmail.com">ulhandball@gmail.com</a> or Facebook "University of Limerick Handball Club".	<b>Rowing</b> See page 19 (right) for latest news.	Societies	<b>History</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>American Football</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a> .	<b>Judo</b> Meetings: Monday 7:30pm to 9pm at Claughan Club, Childers Rd, and Thursday 8:15pm to 9:45pm in the PESS.	<b>Sailing</b> See page 17 (right) for news.	<b>Anime and Manga</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>International</b> Friday Week 4, 1 October: Film Night: Intermission, Venue: Jean Monnet (tbc), Time: 7:30pm (tbc). Friday Week 5, 8 October: Event: Guitar Hero, Venue: Stables, Time: tbc
<b>Archery</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://www.ulac.tk">www.ulac.tk</a> or email <a href="mailto:ularchery@gmail.com">ularchery@gmail.com</a> .	<b>Karate Shotokan</b> Training Times: Tuesdays 6:15pm to 8:15pm and Thursdays 8:15 to 10.15 "Putting a Little Ying in Your Yang"	<b>Skydive</b> Jump solo for the amazing, new, low price of €120! For information on courses email <a href="mailto:info@skydiveul.org">info@skydiveul.org</a> or see Facebook - SkydiveUL - for regular updates. Blue Skies!	<b>Architecture</b> Don't forget the next 20x20 night on 1 November! Facebook, Twitter or <a href="http://societyofarchitecture.blogspot.com">societyofarchitecture.blogspot.com</a>	<b>Law</b> See news section for report on constitution launch.
<b>Athletics</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a> .	<b>Kayak</b> Check out <a href="http://www.ulkayak.com">www.ulkayak.com</a> for the latest info on trips, pool and outback river sessions!	<b>Soccer</b> Training Monday to Wednesday. Info on training, matches and reports is available online. Club gear available to purchase. See <a href="http://ulsoccerclub.webs.com/apps/blog/">http://ulsoccerclub.webs.com/apps/blog/</a> or email <a href="mailto:ulsoccerclub.mail@gmail.com">ulsoccerclub.mail@gmail.com</a>	<b>Christian Union</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Medical</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Badminton</b> The Irish International Student Badminton Tournament takes place in the Arena on bank holiday weekend 22 October to 26 October. 25 UL entries will compete. All welcome to come and show support.	<b>Krav Maga</b> Training on Mondays from 6:30pm until 8pm in the PESS Main Hall. Wednesdays from 7pm until 9pm in the PESS Small Hall.	<b>Softball</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Computer</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Music</b> Mondays: Open Mics in the Stables. Tuesdays: UL Live with Fight Like Apes headlining the final on 21 October. Wednesday: lessons followed by Meeting at 8pm. <a href="http://www.facebook.com/ulmusicoc">www.facebook.com/ulmusicoc</a>
<b>Basketball</b> Senior Women's training Mon and Wed 21:30 – 23:00. Senior Men's Training Tues 20:00 – 21:30 and Thurs 21:30 – 23:00. Fresher Women Thurs 07:15 – 08:30, Fresher Men 07:15 – 08:30. For more see <a href="http://www.ulbasketball.skynet.ie/">http://www.ulbasketball.skynet.ie/</a>	<b>Ladies Hockey</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Sub Aqua</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Cumann Gaeilge</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Nature Society</b> Meetings every Wednesday at 6pm in the Jonathon Swift theatre.
<b>Boarders</b> Look out for the Halloween Surf Trip, 31 October to 1 November. Visit <a href="http://ulboarders.com">ulboarders.com</a>	<b>Ladies Rugby</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Tae Kwon Do</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Debating Union</b> Death Penalty Debate Thursday, Week 7 at 7pm in the Jonathon Swift Theatre. UCD Novice IV and Vice President's Cup 28 October to 30 October.	<b>Out in UL</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Capoeira</b> Classes at 6pm on Tuesdays in the PESS Building Dance Studio and at 7pm on Wednesdays in the PESS Building Hall. Visit <a href="http://ulcapa.webs.com">ulcapa.webs.com</a> for more.	<b>Men's Rugby</b> Training Monday & Wednesday 6:00pm on Maguire's. See sports pages (18 and 19) for report.	<b>Tennis</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Development</b> Concerned about global issues, Human Rights, Fair-trade? Meeting every Monday at 6pm. E: <a href="mailto:uldevsoc@gmail.com">uldevsoc@gmail.com</a>	<b>Photographic</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Chess</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Mountain Bike</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Trampoline</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>DJ</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Poker</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Dance UL</b> Meetings: Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays in Dromroe Village Hall. Ballet starts Week 6 and we've also got Hip-Hop, Jazz, Ladies Hip-Hop and Yogaletes. Visit <a href="http://www.uldance.ie">www.uldance.ie</a> or search "Dance UL" on Facebook	<b>Outdoor Pursuits (OPC)</b> Caving, Climbing, Hill Walking, Mountaineering and Orienteering. Keep up to date with our activities by joining us and checking the club message board regularly <a href="http://www.ulopc.com">www.ulopc.com</a> . E: <a href="mailto:Info@ulopc.com">Info@ulopc.com</a>	<b>Ultimate Frisbee</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Drama</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Socialist Youth</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Fencing</b> Meetings: Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm (practice), Fridays from 6pm to 7pm and 7pm to 8pm (coached training). Main Hall, PESS Email <a href="mailto:ulfencing@gmail.com">ulfencing@gmail.com</a>	<b>Parkour</b> Comedy Night in the Hurler's with Father Ted/Killinaskully's Joe Rooney on Tuesday, 26 October. Training on Monday 9pm to 10:30pm in the PESS Gym and Thursday 7pm to 8:30pm in the PESS Hall.	<b>Water Polo</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Enterprise &amp; Finance</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>ULTV</b> Weekly meetings every Monday at 6.30pm in SU Room 3. Weekly meetings to arrange Dublin studio show trip every Wednesday at 6pm in C1058.
<b>GAA</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a> .	<b>Pool &amp; Darts</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Windsurfing</b> With two awesome trips down, there are still plenty more planned for this semester. These include our Beach Party and More Windsurfing Trips.	<b>Games</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Young Fine Gael</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registercs.ul.ie">registercs.ul.ie</a>



# KAYAK CLUB FRESHERS HONE THEIR SKILLS IN LAHINCH

Written by **Kayak Club PRO**

THE Kayak Club enjoyed its annual Lahinch Freshers' trip in the first weekend of October.

Almost 50 Freshers joined professionals for surf kayaking in one of Ireland's best surf towns. Many of the old school kayakers attended for the annual party. After arriving in Lahinch on Friday night, they quickly checked into the hostel, grabbed a bite to eat and headed to the Claremont nightclub where they displayed some photos of

the club kayaking around the world on the club's many screens

Soon after breakfast the next morning, when surf suited, the kayakers made their way to the prom, where they spent a few hours teaching the new members how to kayak surf and showing them a few tricks of the trade. Then came the fancy dress on Saturday night. The theme for the night was "Blast from the Past" so down in O' Looney's surf bar arrived Marilyn Monroe, Where's

Wally and several others. Next up is Killarney. The dates are yet to be confirmed. Check out the message board at [www.ulkayak.com](http://www.ulkayak.com) for more details or email [ulkayak@gmail.com](mailto:ulkayak@gmail.com). Pool sessions are every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights from 9:45pm. The outback sessions are also on every Wednesday from 3pm to 5pm and again from 5pm to 7pm.



The Kayakers having fun in Lahinch

# SAILING CLUB REPRESENTS IRELAND AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Written by **Cian Gallagher**

THE UL Sailing Club has qualified to become Team Ireland and compete in the Student Yachting World Cup (SYWoC). The club is heading to La Rochelle in France. The team consists of a joint effort between three Munster colleges; UL, UCC and LIT.

A year ago, after months of fundraising and hard work, nine UL Students packed their bags and flew out to Marseille on the south coast of France to compete with the best college teams in the world.

This year, with yet another Varsities title under their belt, the sailors are ready to take on the world once again. Teams from around the globe including Japan, Canada and the USA will travel thousands of miles to compete for the title of world champions.

SYWoC is the only internationally recognised competition in student sailing and is now in its 30th year. It

is organised annually by the École Polytechnique, a technical college on the outskirts of Paris, and is held in different locations around the country each October. Team Ireland has won the event twice.

The team will travel to France on Thursday, 21 October and will have time to get used to the boats before the event begins. The 'Grand Surprise', a 32-foot yacht is the boat the sailors will use. Racing begins on Sunday morning, with between two and three races per day, including a race through the night. A change of scenery this year will certainly bring a change in the weather. Last year, light winds prevailed during the week thanks to the warm Mediterranean sunshine. La Rochelle is in the notorious Bay of Biscay, so much tougher weather conditions are expected this year.



The UL Sailors competing in Marseille last year

# SKYDIVERS ON THE RISE

Written by **Rory Tyrrell**

18 new members of the UL Skydivers Club have completed their training courses. The group took their first dive in Birr, Co. Offaly. One of the jumpers, Eoin O'Brien, noted the large number of safety checks and procedures before jumping but said it was all worth it for that moment where "your heart was in your mouth" as you departed the safety of the aircraft. After an adrenaline packed day some of the newly appointed skydivers went back

to the pub for a social. Prices for this course have come down from the usual price of €320 to €120. The courses run on Tuesday afternoons and all-day on Wednesdays. Skydiver meetings take place in the C&S Office in the SU on Thursdays between 6pm and 8pm. Club trips take place every year and everybody is guaranteed to have the time of their lives.



The Freshers who jumped out of a plane

# UL DANCE CLUB ROUND-UP

Written by **Emily Maree**

THE last weeks have been hectic but we hope you've enjoyed every minute. We've recommenced most of our classes and the turnout has been brilliant.

From Hip-Hop to Jazz we've got a wide variety of classes and you're sure to find something you'll enjoy. From Week 6, we'll offer ballet classes in Drumroe Village.

You don't have to be an avid dancer or even particularly good to get involved. All our classes are run for people who want to have fun whilst getting fit and learning a few simple routines.

We hosted a 'Beat It' class in the SU Courtyard in Week 5. Some of the winners from the Intersvarsity squad performed the winning dance from the Intersvarsity competition in Carlow and got a great response, showing tricks like the human bicycle and more.

To see our videos, visit Youtube! See our Grid submission (left) for contact details and our website.

# ARCHERY CLUB WILL LEAD NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Written by **Niall Boland**

THE Irish Amateur Archery Association (IAAA), which deals mainly with the running of archery in Ireland, has just elected a new committee. The UL Archery Club has taken three seats and will lead the way forward into another exciting year.

Macdara Glynn has become president and Margaret Carey has become vice-president and is in charge of the day to day running of archery throughout Munster. Cian O'Sullivan, the man famous for holding nearly all positions on the committee at sometime or other and a founding member, has taken up an important role as College Representative. This entails making sure that the voices of all colleges are heard by the committee, which is his most important role to date considering the majority of archers in Ireland and many National Champions are students. The UL Archery Club has set its sights on high targets this year and seems to be hitting every one of them. This year has brought huge success with the three National Champions and finishing in the top three of the Intersvarsity League.

# SUB AQUA CLUB HONOURS 'TRUE TEACHER'

Written by **Paddy Finn & Leah O'Brien Bernini**

DURING Week 2, the Sub Aqua Club was delighted to honour club associate and consultant, Dave Parks. Throughout the process of purchasing our new RHIB, Plassey Bird, Dave was a devoted and invaluable friend, teacher, and consultant. On behalf of the entire membership of ULSAC, the committee presented Dave with two signed Munster jerseys (for him and his son) and gifts for his wife and baby daughter.

The Sub Aqua Club three new diver coxswains (powerboat handlers) have emphasised that the informal coxswain training they received from Dave before their formal instruction was unparalleled.

As an instructor, Dave was never overbearing, and his complete confidence in their abilities was encouraging.

A true teacher, Dave could kindly point out mistakes and helped them master anything with which that they had initially struggled. His selfless involvement has been priceless and the whole club is truly indebted. With sincere thanks, ULSAC.

## Sport

# FORGOTTEN FOOTBALLER, ROQUE JUNIOR

Written by **Robert McNamara**

“Before he could gather the contents of his desk, he accidentally reversed his car into the manager’s press conference.”

FROM World Cup winner to Leeds United, José Vitor Roque Jr. knows the highs and lows of professional football more than most. After making his name in Brazil with Palmeiras, the central defender found his way to AC Milan

where he spent three years in and out of the team but showed enough form to make the victorious 2002 Brazilian World Cup squad.

He played six games en route to the final and his performance against Germany was enough to keep Miraslov Klose quiet and ensure Brazil claimed their fifth World Cup trophy with a 2-0 victory. Leeds United manager Peter Reid must have been rubbing his hands with glee when he landed Roque Junior on a season long loan from the San Siro in 2003 with the club in the midst of a financial crisis. But Roque Junior was unable to fix the leaky defence of the pennine club as 20 goals hit the Leeds

net in five games and Reid was shown the door. Before he could gather the contents of his office desk however, Roque Junior accidentally reversed his car into the manager’s last press conference.

The highlight of Roque Junior’s short Leeds career came with two goals in a Worthington Cup defeat to Manchester United. Moves to Italy, Germany and Qatar followed before his return to boyhood club Palmeiras. There too, he failed to make an impact and now plies his trade in relative obscurity at Ituano of Sao Paolo.



Roque Junior in play

# SPORTS QUIZ

Written by **David Prendergast**

1. Graeme McDowell won his first major, the US Open, this summer on which golf course?
2. Which stadium is home to the baseball team the Boston Red Sox?
3. What years did Brazilian soccer player Ronaldo win back to back FIFA World Player of the Year Awards?
4. How many caps did the late rugby player Moss Keane win for Ireland?
5. The ice hockey team, The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim were formed in 1993 by which company?
6. What was the nickname of two time World snooker champion Alex Higgins?
7. How many Tipperary players were nominated for 2010 hurling All Stars?
8. After which round did Joe Frazier throw in the towel against Muhammad Ali in the famous boxing fight, ‘The Thrilla in Manila’?
9. HG Bissingers 1990 nonfiction novel ‘Friday Night Lights’, which was turned into a film in 2004 starring Billy Bob Thornton, immortalises which high school American football team from Texas?
10. Wexford beat Galway to win the 2010 All Ireland Senior Camogie championship. How many times have the ‘Model County’ now won the competition?

Answers  
1: Pebblebeach  
2: Fenway Park  
3: 1996 and 1997  
4: 51  
5: Disney  
6: Round 14  
7: 14  
8: Permian Panthers  
9: Five  
10: Hurricane

## SOCCER CLUB HAS MIXED SUCCESS

Written by **Cian Healy**

THE UL Soccer Club’s first week back was hit and miss, with some good performances that would warrant better results for the club.

First at home, the club had the Men’s Seniors and Men’s Freshers playing the CIT A and B teams, with the seniors going down 2-0 and the Freshers narrowly beaten 3-2 after an exciting game. The next competitors were the Men’s Intermediates, who travelled to Cork College of Commerce and lost 2-1 following a close game. The club’s final game of the week saw the Ladies’ Senior team travel up to Dublin to take on UCD in the first game of the season. UL did a professional and efficient job and saw off UCD by 2-1. The next line of fixtures are as follows :

### Week 7 Soccer Club Fixtures

Men’s Intermediates v. WIT B  
IT Sligo v. Ladies’ Senior  
Men’s Freshers v. Tipperary Institute  
Men’s Seniors v. WIT  
Ladies’ B Waiting on  
Challenge Cup Draw

All details are on the club website at <http://ulsoccerclub.webs.com/apps/blog/>

## MEN’S RUGBY STARTS SEASON AT LIT TOURNAMENT

Written by **John Scully**

THE UL Men’s Rugby team had their first competitive outing of the season at the Munster Colleges’ sevens tournament held in LIT. The Rugby Club fielded two teams in what proved to be a very tough pre-season test for them.

UL Two was the first team to be put to the sword by a very strong LIT first team, who were the eventual winners of the tournament. UL One eased past a spirited LIT second team on a score line of 19-10. UL One was then beaten

17-12 in a tight game against CIT.

Both UL teams were also beaten by a strong IT Tralee team, who ended up being tournament runners-up. Both UL teams were then pitted against each other in what proved to be their final game of the tournament.

Bragging rights were at stake and UL One proved to be too strong for their fellow club mates winning by 35 points. On a tough day for both teams there were some notable performances by Mossie Sheahan, Sean Sweeney, Adam

Petrone and James Quigley. UL Men’s Rugby also wishes back row stalwart Paddy Molloy a speedy recovery from a hip injury he received on the day.

Training for both Senior and Fresher teams continues every Monday and Wednesday at 6pm on Maguire’s pitches in preparation for the club’s first league game against NUI Maynooth on the 20 October.

## Sport

## SPORTS EDITORIAL

Written by **Mark Connelly**,  
Sports Editor

## “The Premiership model is destroying English Football”

FOLLOWING the mountain of criticism that has been quite correctly levelled against outgoing Liverpool owners, Tom Hicks and George Gillette, it is now appropriate to attack the scourge of foreign ownership on English Premiership clubs more generally and examine the nature of the very serious threat to the sport that they constitute. It is clear the foreign

money that Chelsea and Manchester City enjoy, is linked with the multitude of foreign players in their ranks. This wreaks enormous damage on the English national team.

Following their mass arrival, the very concept of nurturing home grown talent is now about as foreign as Sheikh Mansour. Although the media will continue to parrot the illusion of a team laden with talent but sadly afflicted by a psychological weakness that dooms them on the biggest stage, the harsh reality is that England is crap and has been so for many years. Remember, the England side that ‘imploded’ in South Africa was largely the same group of

players that failed to qualify for Euro 2008. Indeed, except for Euro 2004, they were outperformed by Germany in every major tournament of the previous decade. German football is now governed on a level as far superior to the Premiership as German beer is to its English equivalent.

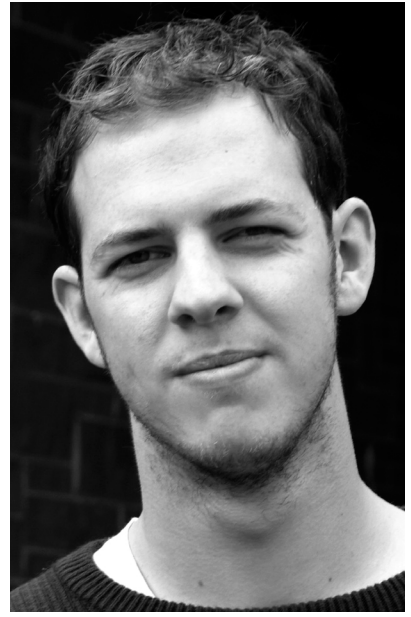
There, fans don’t pay outrageous ticket prices to finance the fetishes of owners who banish young talent to the reserves. Rather, they continue to fill stadia of sides that may even struggle like VfB Stuttgart.

They can do so, because these players command reasonable and unthreatening salaries. The absence of

foreign owners also explains why the Bundesliga is a more evenly contested and therefore more interesting league. Midway through last year’s edition, newly promoted Hoffenheim were top of the table.

Such an exciting development is unfortunately impossible in the Premiership due to the financial imbalances between the ‘competing’ sides. I firmly believe that the German model represents the way football should be run.

It cherishes the development of young players, access affordability for fans and financial sustainability of clubs as core values which also



make it more entertaining than the drearily predictable Premiership. The Premiership must urgently adapt these principles as the only way to save itself and its national side from eternal disappointment and eventual ruin.

## DAVY LIVES TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

Written by **David Prendergast**

AS Tony Montana said in Brian de Palma’s legendary Scarface, “Every day above ground is a good day.” Davy Fitzgerald can surely relate to the sentiment, after he was reinstated for another year as Waterford hurling manager.

Despite a recent Munster Express poll, indicating 78% of the Waterford populace favoured the Clareman’s leadership, Fitzgerald faced criticism after the Deise’s exit to eventual champions Tipperary at the semi-final stage of this year’s championship.

The Waterford hurling revolution has been raging since the summer of 1998 with the county winning four Munster titles, reaching eight All-Ireland semi-finals and of course that infamous loss in the 2008 Grand. That was the year Davy took charge after the players coup d’état against Justin McCarthy.

Although Fitzgerald managed to break Waterford’s semi-final hoodoo and take the county to their first All-Ireland final appearance since 1963, he attracted criticism for the way some of the Waterford players conducted themselves in the opening exchanges. Wearing Hurleys off Tommy Walsh and company is like smacking a hungry Rottweiler across the head with a prime steak. The result on the

day showed how Kilkenny reacted to Waterford’s unusually physical approach.

Now Fitzgerald stands charged with attempting to drive the beauty out of Waterford hurling. Since 1998, Waterford has attracted many admirers throughout the country for its fluent and expressive style of free flowing hurling. Indeed, the past ten years have seen Waterford involved in some of the most engrossing hurling contests ever.

The heartbreak and stainless steel tags of nearly men only added to the depiction of Waterford as every other county’s second favourite team. But now, Fitzgerald has shackled the creative strokes and installed a defensive system that rarely excites and was easily dismantled by Tipperary. For a team so concentrated on defence, it reflected badly on Davy’s part.

While his commitment and desire to bring the Liam McCarthy cup back to Waterford is not doubttable, one wonders if Davy can prolong the Waterford hurling revolution any longer. “I don’t hold grudges and I never will” Fitzgerald said after his reappointment. Let’s hope that trait remains intact at the end of the 2011 season.



Davy Fitz at work.

## IS INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL SLOWLY BECOMING REDUNDANT?



Berbatov, who learned English by watching the Godfather films.

Written by **Robert McNamara**

DIMITAR Berbatov has flourished for Manchester United since taking early retirement from international football. Paul Scholes has prolonged his career by numerous seasons since dropping the three lions from his shirt and more footballers are putting club before country.

On the back of the recent Euro 2012 qualifiers we must ask how the international calendar can be improved to maintain its relevance and integrity. It is after all the clubs that pay the players’ wages and with only ten to 15 years in the game if you’re lucky,

most will want to continue for as long as possible. The international calendar has been a mess since the European Cup was re-branded as the Champions league in 1992 for commercial reasons. As evidenced in South Africa during an extremely tedious World Cup, UEFA’s premier club competition has now overtaken FIFA’s showpiece in terms of quality competition and entertainment.

International squads meet sporadically throughout the season often for meaningless friendlies that interrupt the domestic calendar. Some players

hold back to avoid injury lest it affect their club. This disjointed involvement leads to nervous and pedestrian play.

A solution might be to move the qualifiers into a block tournament played at the start or beginning of the domestic season, allowing minimal interruption and an earlier end to club football each season. This would oblige international managers to gather their squads. FIFA will have to do something to stop the global yawning.

## Interview

# REBELS' NEWEST INCARNATION IS WISE BEYOND YEARS

Cork midfield sensation Aidan Walsh talks to An Focal



In his debut season on the Cork fifteen Aidan Walsh won a NFL Division 1 title, an All-Ireland title and Player of the Month award for September. At the time of writing he is currently nominated for an All-Star and is hotly tipped to win the Young Player of the Year award

“Being greeted beside the Sam Maguire with such a display of pride and appreciation by your own friends and neighbours was an experience to behold.”

Written by **David Prendergast**

AIDAN Walsh's full championship debut was one every Corkman must have dreamed of as a child. On 6 June 2010, he lined out in Fitzgerald Stadium to take on Cork's biggest rivals and reigning All-Ireland champions Kerry in Killarney.

It was an abrupt transition against such intimidating opposition and ultimately the beginning of the journey which has transformed the youngster into a “youngstar”. He describes his first full taste of championship action as his “toughest game all year.”

He described being thrown in the deep end in Kerry's back yard as “an unreal experience” adding, “the intensity of the game was a big help to me when it came to the All-Ireland final.” As Cork stuttered to the final with Down, opinions about their performances were rife. Walsh didn't escape the summer unscathed. His inexperience was targeted but Conor Cunnihan kept faith in the Kanturk clubman. Walsh has nothing but respect for his manager. “He doesn't talk too much, but when he does his words mean a lot. He puts a pure drive into you.

He stuck with me all year and I hope he stays on next year as manager.” Whereas a lot of Cork's play was as interesting as translating hieroglyphics, it was Walsh's unchallengeable dominance at midfield in the second half of the final which finally began to rewrite their illiterate play. Walsh furiously bailed the water over the side of Cork's sinking ship and for his efforts was awarded the Vodafone September Player of the Month award.

Reflecting on the moment the final whistle sounded, Walsh modestly deflects from his own individual performance by focusing on what victory meant to the likes of Graham Canty, Nicholas Murphy and John Miskella. “The older lads had gone through so much. Winning was just pure relief more than anything. You couldn't imagine what it meant to the older lads. This was their fourth final. It was just a relief that they had finally got what they deserved.”

While Walsh may not linger on his own personal achievements others have fully recognised his quality. Comparisons have been plentiful, most notably former Kerry player Eamonn Fitzmaurice, who has claimed that he is

more developed at his age than Darragh O' Sé was. While few might disagree, Walsh doesn't let the compliments shatter his concentration. “You're only as good as your last game,” he says. “You never know what could happen. You could get injured and your career could be over so I don't take too much notice of what people say, good or bad.” Walsh will not be showcasing his skills to Australia in the upcoming International Rules Series due to commitments.

The weekend of the trials he was playing his part in Kanturk's 3-6 to 1-8 semi-final victory over Dromtariffe in the Duhallow Junior championship. After the game, over 1,500 people lined the streets of Kanturk in a victory parade to officially welcome home Walsh as an All-Ireland champion. Being greeted beside the Sam Maguire with such a display of pride and appreciation by your own friends and neighbours was an experience to behold for the twenty year old. “The parade was a nice feeling. Unreal to be honest. There was such a turn out you could really see what the All-Ireland meant to so many people, especially the young children from the club.” The ‘Green & White’ of Kanturk clearly means a lot to Walsh. “Obviously the International Rules would be great but at the moment the club is more important. I wouldn't be where I am today without them.

We're still in championship so it wouldn't be fair to opt for Ireland after all Kanturk has done for me.’ The implication is clear.

Last year Kanturk won their fourth Duhallow Junior championship and it was an achievement in somewhat different light to All-Ireland success with Cork. Their 2009 escapades ended a forty seven year famine and this year they hope to win back to back.

Walsh rates Kanturk's first title since 1962 as one of his highlights of 2009 which is really saying something considering he was Cork 96 & 103fm's Supreme Sportstar of the Year for his numerous achievements in both codes of the GAA. The grassroots of the association is clearly rooted close to his heart.

Would you like to write news for An Focal?

We'd love to hear from you.

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