

STUDENTS' UNION



University of Limerick

an Focal

University of Limerick Students' Union

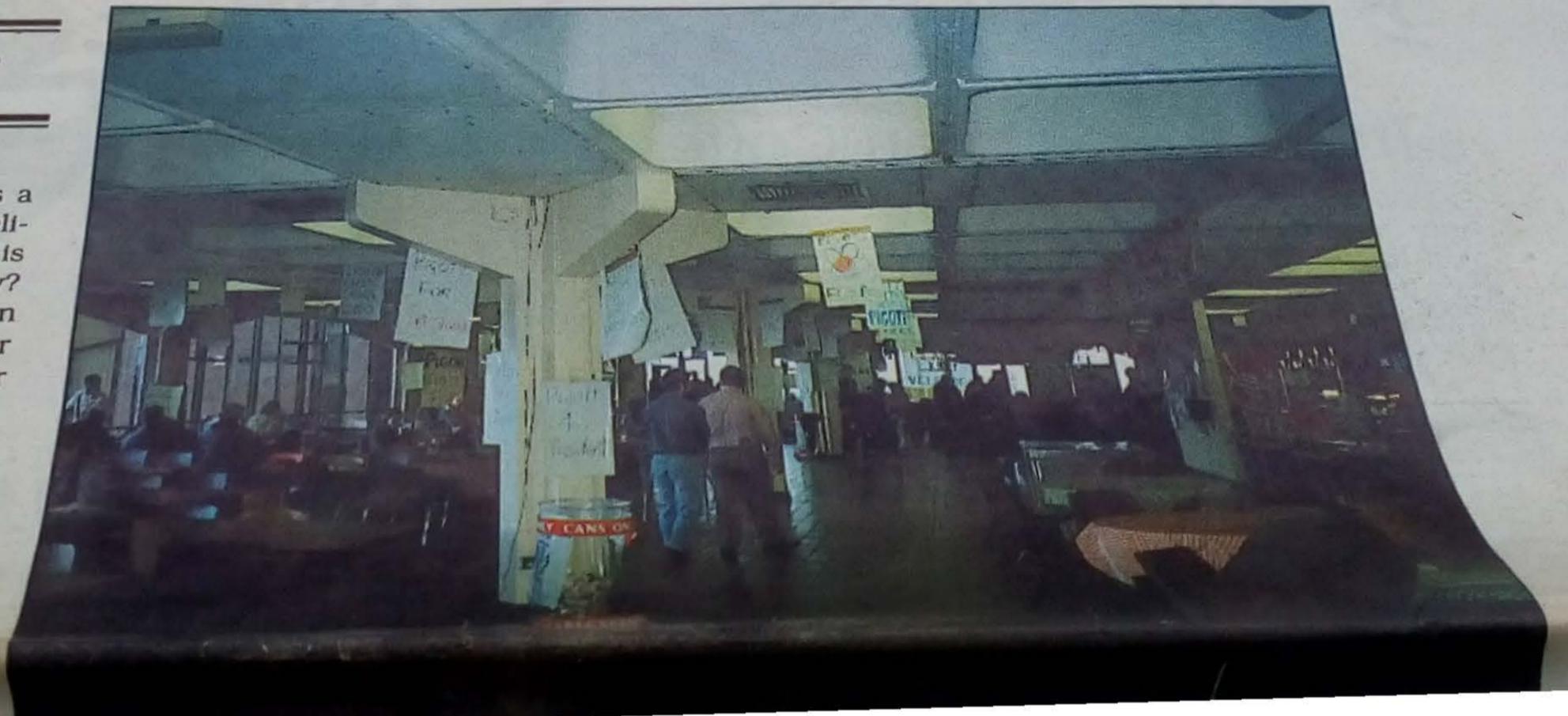
ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

Sabbatical Elections on Thursday 25th April
- Use your vote -

Duncan O'Toole

Compared by some as a circus and others as a religion, election time in UL is here. So what's the story? with Hustings on Wednesday who's going for what and what's going for the candidates involved,

Thursday night should tell who next year's sabbatical officers will be. This year seems the biggest number of candidates running for the position of president with only two candidates each going for the position of Deputy President and CEO. Cleaning ladies



Week 11
Semester 2 '96

Rag
Review

Sabbatical
Elections

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Semester 2 '96

Rag
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Letters to
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Opinion

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dates each going for the position of Deputy President and CEO. Cleaning ladies have been advised to avoid the canteen for the good of their health and canteen staff have been put on sedatives as they come to terms with what was once a canteen. The canteen is true to election form converted into a jungle of election posters and is prowled by the beasts of that jungle, the election candidates who to continue this line of thinking travels in packs known as the campaign team, to whom you have most probably already fallen prey. This is a week that is as important as anything that has happened in the SU at all this year, it to decide who's going to continue (or begin depending on your viewpoint) to repre-

sent students in UL. If you are not going to be here next year then you owe it to incoming students to use your knowledge of UL, the SU and candidates in the past to vote in who you feel will be best for each job. You may also (as bad as it may seem) end up here next year anyhow!

It is vital that each student use his or her vote, a high turnout reflects an interested, motivated student body who no election candidate could view as easy prey. The only way to build a better

union is to increase the effectiveness of the selection or election procedure for the Unions representatives. The best way to do this is for everyone to vote. This will ensure the person best suited to the job will get it, it will also send signals to people who deal with the SU that the representatives of the Union are just that. When they say or do something it is representative of students and is something that deserves attention.

Over the coming days you'll be approached endlessly by candidates for each

position, do them and yourself the favour of listening to them, question them, shout them out of it if you want but at least give them the courtesy of listening to them, it is after all in the interest of yourself. The candidates for each of the jobs have put in a lot of time and effort into their campaigns and if at the end of the day they're not going for the job for the crazy hours and the crap pay then why are they going for it...find out this week



A decorated canteen in the run up to elections this week.

TELETHON 1996 - PEOPLE IN NEED

Elections

Séamus Doran - President

Séamus Doran is a 4th year Business Studies student from Wexford and he asks you for your support this Thursday for President of the Students' Union.

His main aims for YOU:

A Staff Development Officer to train lecturers and improve lecture standards. This is already working well in UCD.

Séamus will lobby with S.U.'s of other colleges for a fairer and more realistic grant system.

YOUR student services and YOUR co-op office are only open for a few hours a day. This is in stark contrast to the situation in other colleges. Séamus will work to extend opening hours for YOUR.

The S.U. shop has got some of the highest prices in Castletroy and closes at 6.45 pm. Séamus will work to reduce prices and extend the hours of the SU shop.

Séamus feels that computer, printing and photocopying facilities are inadequate for the size of the student population. This is a long standing problem in the college. Better access, better facilities and more of them with Séamus Doran as President.

Post-graduate students need to be included in the "free fees" scheme and need their research payments re-assessed for the first time in 5 years. Séamus feels this should be a top priority for the Students Union in the coming year.

2 hour queues to get your exam results is crazy. Sums is the ideal access point for exam results and Séamus will introduce this if elected, so that all you need is a computer to get at them.

On Thursday 25th of April make the right choice,
Vote Séamus Doran No. 1 President.

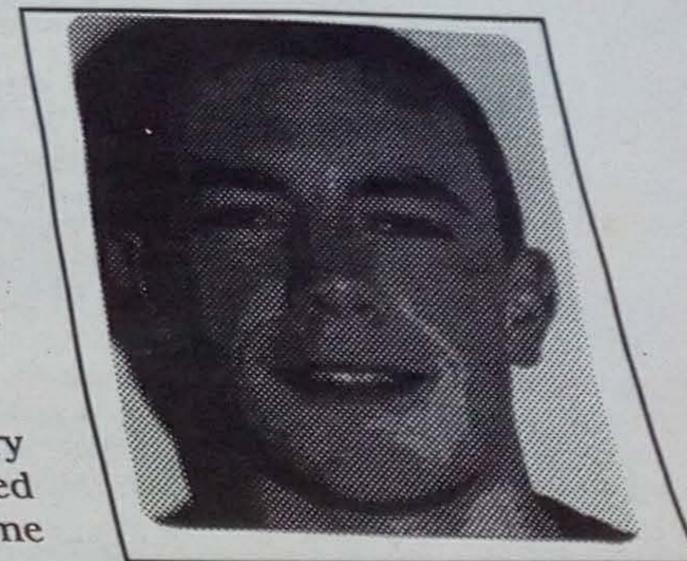


Joe Enright - President

Hi there, my name is Joe Enright, I hail from the mighty County Clare, I am a 2nd year man tecker.

Over the past few months I have become increasingly disillusioned with various aspects of the college. Why is there a shortage of computers and lab space? Why are tickets so expensive for Ents gigs when they were cheaper last year. Why aren't student teachers paid when they have to uproot themselves from college for 6 - 8 weeks to go and gain experience in their chosen careers. Are these just other ways of keeping the student down, it seems like there is a war going on with the college authorities. The students' union won the battle when gaining repeats but the war still goes on with the university exploiting us in many other ways.

I have been to see the hierarchy in almost every area of the college, Student services, Campbell's catering, SPS, the library and they have each voiced their satisfaction at someone calling to them before they had been elected. They are as concerned as I am about the alleged lack of resources we all encounter. So on election day, take a long hard look at each candidate. Some people just want to be president, I want to be YOUR president.



Carl Mulligan - President

Name : Karl Mulligan
Class : Entrepreneurship Post Grad.
Position Running for : President

It is hoped that the Students Union 'Clique' will finally be broken. This candidate will bring fresh policies and a new perspective to the race for S.U. president. Without the baggage of a reputation and preconceived notions, this dark horse candidate will inevitably appeal to all frustrated with tired current union policies. Nothing will change unless YOU the voter are willing to change it.
Have you ever heard before the following.....?

'More library seats' - Funny! I thought that they were already building a library.

'Less queues'-Do you see them getting shorter?

'Better health care'-How do you feel now!

Does anything change from year to year? Do the candidates even look or sound different?

Things can change. This candidate wishes genuinely to select and target a number of realistic issues which will actually benefit the student.

1. Cut price coffee vending machines- 20p per cup!
2. Availability of lecture overheads through SUMS for those who occasionally struggle with mornings.
3. Transparency of student union affairs- after all, its your money.
4. Creation of cleaner college surroundings eg. through graffiti removal.

Furthermore, no attempt will be made to second guess student opinion. Weekly clinics will be held, either in person or confidentially by phone in order to keep abreast of the real issues. This candidate will not be anonymous after the first week of term.
Keep this candidate's name in mind. There is no intention to bombard you with wasteful literature. This is a policy candidate - not a moving circus.

VOTE- KARL MULLIGAN, NO.1 FOR PRESIDENT.



Keith Pigott - President

Keith Pigott is running for the position of President. Keith has gotten involved in various aspects of college life, he has a strong Clubs and Societies background. In the past year he has been Chairman of Class Reps, played a major role in the organisation of Orientation week and was joint co-ordinator of Rag Week '96.

Over the last year the SU has advanced greatly, repeats have been secured, funding is now available for a state of the art student centre and the financial outlook of the SU has improved dramatically. It is with these circumstances in mind that he has decided to run for the position of President. Many of the old, long debated issues are now dead. It is time for new issues and new direction for the SU.

Keith Pigott is presenting you with the new issues.

1. Student Centre.
Without student input it's not a Student Centre Your input is vital to ensure that your money is spent properly. £ 3,500,000 is a tidy sum of money we should plan now and plan properly.
2. Medical Centre.
Bloody appalling is one way of describing the resource shortage in the medical centre. Keith believes that the MC crisis should be the main campaign of the SU in 1996 just as repeats was in 1995.
3. Education
Education problems such as TP payment, Co-op difficulties, inadequate photocopying and printing facilities have to be addressed.

Keith Pigott is bringing you new issues and giving the Union a new direction. If elected he brings with him good organisation abilities, a commitment to work hard, experience and trust. Next Thursday remember to vote

Pigott No. 1 for president.



Elections

Michael Hennessy - Deputy President / Welfare

Michael is a lifer! Well that's what it seems, he's been around UL for six years now. After his first degree he stayed on to do a Masters in Healthcare reform!

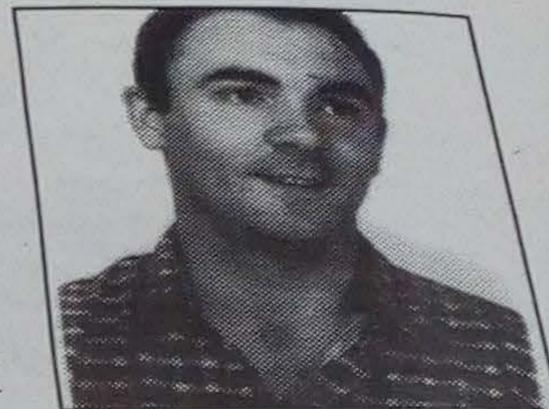
Two years research into healthcare and a lengthy stint in community work hasn't left him totally cynical, but has left him with the ability to deal with committee culture, wider health and welfare issues, project planning, team work and generally getting to the heart of the matter.

In six years at UL Michael has got to know the place, the system and what's wrong with it. Michael doesn't promise instant fixes or immediate solutions, but he does have some fresh ideas on your welfare needs. He's also a hard worker and a fighter, which is essential for the job.

He is strong on reform of the system from within and sees the students needs as paramount and wants to tackle accommodation, the medical centre, financial aid and also security on campus.

Michael feels that the welfare role of the office needs to be expanded to be in keeping with the changing situations that students continually face over their time here in UL. Besides giving information advice reassurance and support as Welfare Officer, he is also committed to fulfilling the important duties of Deputy President, through support of the President and active participation on governing body and other associated committees.

Come to the hustings and please use the vote as the greater the turn out the more leverage the President, DP and CEO have with the university when fighting for YOU !!!



Elaine Kiely - Deputy President / Welfare

Elaine Kiely is a Welfare / Deputy President candidate with a difference. She is REALISTIC. Elaine knows that the perfect student world cannot be created in 7 days. She doesn't make this promise with her campaign. Big changes take time and they spring from small ones. When Elaine is elected she will see to it that the seemingly small pervasive issues are dealt with, once and for all. "Queue Hell in UL", as she so aptly describes it, will end because it causes YOU hassle everyday. She will put pressure in the right places for more photocopiers, more ATM machines, more pay phones and an improved Print Room. The issue of eternal queuing may seem petty but it is liable, in the not too distant future, to do some permanent damage to the mental health of some punters pottering around UL.

Campus Safety is also a priority. The donation of a few decent light bulbs by the proverbial powers that be, obviously wouldn't go astray. However, Elaine also seeks the involvement and empowerment of the students themselves. She hopes to accomplish this by her simple but ingenious 'Whistle Plan'. Each student will be issued with an emergency whistle, only to be blown if in severe difficulty. Any other student hearing such a whistle would go to their aid, or urgently contact security. The whereabouts of security, day and night, would be well publicised. Elaine believes this simple plan can and will work. Its beauty, lies in its low cost and reliance on student solidarity.

Upon election, Elaine also envisages a major overhaul of the Medical Centre and the Accommodation Office. She genuinely wants to improve YOUR welfare. Come and discuss her plans and your concerns at her 'Clinic' on Wednesday, 10.00 - 11.00 (Room C1 060). Whatever you do remember to vote in the elections on Thursday. Make your opinion known. Oh, and vote Elaine Kiely for Welfare / DP.

Issued by Campaign Manager Maeve Power



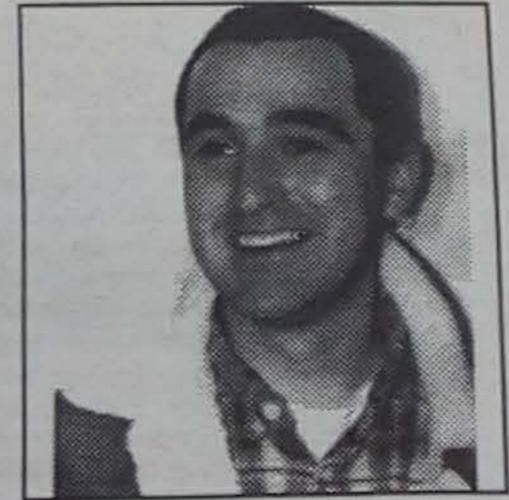
Conor Cronin - Communications & Education Officer

Meet Conor Cronin from Nenagh. He's in fourth Business, a class rep in 93/94, and has been involved in all sorts of activities. Personal ones aside he has been a DJ for the SU for four years, manager of the radio stations - Rag Weeks '95 & '96 and SoUL Week '95 - as well as currently sitting on the Executive Board of WIRED 103fm and founder of the UL Radio Soc which he has chaired since its birth a year and a half ago.

He is a dedicated and hard-working person who wants nothing other than the advancement of the SU which PRIMARILY means YOU, the students. To this end he proposes introduction of a unit -cost system of finance for TP and fairer assessment, improvement of the co-op system, a student-messaging system to improve on the present one and improvement on the current state of WIRED 103fm. He will also fight for standard rates in postgrads' pay, address the problem of the failure official year orals. He will see more photocopiers are put in the Union keeping the price of copying consistently low and maintain An Focal in its second year ever of profitability.

Other issues that will be addressed when you come to the polls on Thursday and vote YES to Conor for CEO are: University office opening hours, adequacy in supply and demand in the journals room and the library, whilst all the time keeping the student informed.

Read the issues in his manifesto, talk to him about his solutions - they can and will work; come to the hustings and on Thursday vote Cronin no. 1



Piarais Ryan - Communications & Education Officer

Help YOUR Union

VOTE Piarais RYAN
Number 1 C.E.O.

Issues:

An Focal -

- Weekly edition
- Recycle it
- Emphasis on accountability to you of your Union - where your money is spent and by who. What your students Union Constitution states, why it is being ignored at present. More democracy is required.

I will change this

I will communicate to you through An Focal.

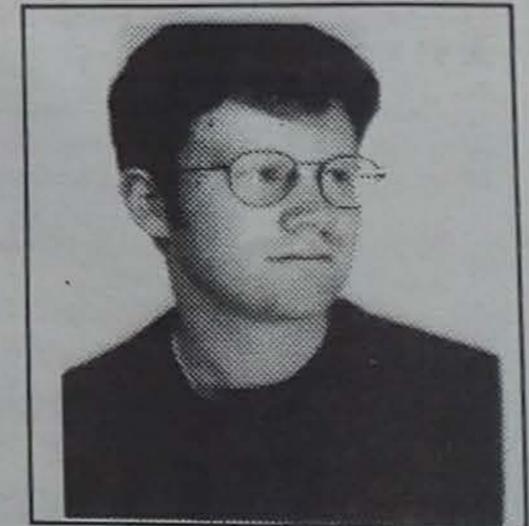
- Student notice board system, listings in each building on campus.
- Lost and Found : efficient centralised location.
- Wired 103 FM : a radio studio on campus.
- More public telephones, Phonocard vending machines.
- New student centre : referendum to students with alternative designs/features. Winning features implemented by democratic majority.

- E-Mail and Internet access:
- New Ideas such as student Buy & Sell noticeboard.
- The union provides photocopiers for 4p a sheet. This must be matched in the library.
- Print Room : Student union manage extra printers at peak times.
- Grants : demand a speedy implementation of a centralised grant payment authority.
- Exam papers : all on the network and you know how to get them.
- Exams : name and Id numbers not on exam script, exam number for each student.
- Represent students exploited on co-op
- Extended Library opening hours.
- Implement new ideas.

Remember: now fees are paid by the government. There is the possibility of colleges becoming puppets of the government. Student strength is in our unity. This is why I see the role of Communication and Education Officer the most pivotal post in UL.

Let me represent you.

Environmental Message: I have not wasted paper in putting junk flyers around the college and my posters are printed on part-recycled paper.



Literary Society Poetry Readings

As winter is behind us and the evenings lengthen, the literary society endeavours once more brave the elements and resume its very popular outdoor poetry readings. No longer shall you find us huddled around a joss stick on a floor in a tutorial room off EGO. The beautiful outdoors await us! The time and venue are the same as last summer. Midnight under the trees beside the AIB. All are welcome. Commencing this Tuesday. Feel free to read whatever you please. Poetry, prose, original writings or cover versions, poets living or long since dead.

Ents & Rag Week '96

Record attendance's were achieved this year, for the late night events.

BER ANGLE'S REPORT ON RAG '96

On Monday night some 3,500 people attended the gigs in the Stables area. Tuesday night 2,200 people attended the late night gigs. Wednesday night attendance where 3,100 people, Thursday night 3,250 people attended the late night venues. We could not have hoped for any better, and also in comparison to last year's, they were much more trouble free, with very little damage. At the moment all the bills relating to the night time events are being paid and

what's left will go into the Rage Week Charity Fund. But we have just received a direct donation from the **KILMURRY LODGE HOTEL** (who were very busy for Rag Week) of £ 1,000, split between People in Need and Millford Hospice. We would like to thank **PAT HOARE, AND KILMURRY LODGE HOTEL** for this kind donation.

Due to a mix up on the date, "Ultrasonic" who were booked for Wednesday night, with flights booked for the same day, failed to turn up at the airport, when I rang their office, they were under the impression that they were doing the gig on Thursday.

they quickly got the band together to get the next available flight, thanks to **GRAINNE IN USIT** for going to a lot of bother to finally get a flight from Glasgow at 8.20 when the band arrived in the airport they realised 2 members of the band where in Preswick (another airport in Glasgow) they managed to talk the pilot to stop the plane from taxiing to the take off point and wait for 15 minutes until the 2 members of the band arrived. The flight landed in Shannon at 10.40 and then it was a rush to get the Band's equipment on stage, we are deeply grateful to "Ultrasonic" to go to such bother to ensure the gig happened.

Before





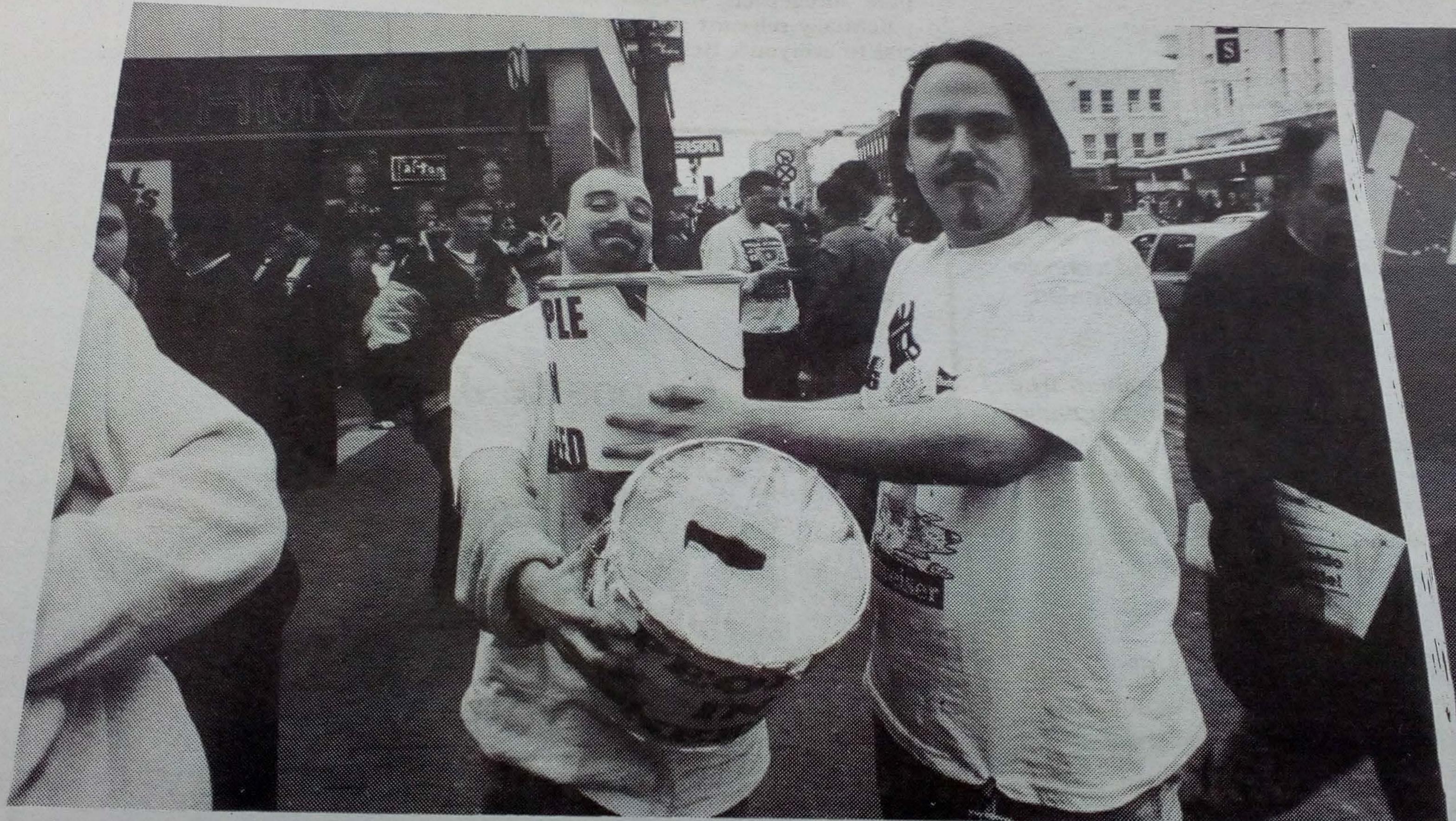
Go Go Reodeo !!!

...the ...



Oh God I'm Going to be Sick

Your Money or your head !!!



Rag

Great Beer Give-Away Raffle

The following is a list of winners in the Fine Wines "Great Beer Give-Away Raffle" held last Thursday. Countless others also won liquid prizes, caps tee shirts, basketballs, etc. on the day.

Raffle winners:

Ciaran Barrett
Simon McGuire
Brian Sheehan
John Burke
Brian Hussy
Claire Buckley
Richard Fahy
Mike Leahy
Nichola Hurley
Thomas Hehir
Eddie Wade
Elaine Doyle
Colm O'Grady
Mike Houlihan
Gary Brooks
Mike Ahern
Paul Murphy
Dawn Roberts
Maria Maher
Colin Thompson
Alan Mac.
Theresa O'Brien
Ross Buckley
Maeve Kelly
Ciara McKeamy
Ivan Hickey
Adrian Mangan
Colin Keane
Colin Hayes
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Ultrasonic in Phase 2
Thursday of Rag Week



FILM REVIEW: TOY STORY

Billy Madden reviews the latest Disney Animation to hit the screen.....

Hands up anybody out there, anybody who wouldn't go to see an animated Disney movie because they think "they're just for kids". Okay take your hands down, and while your at it take your head out of you ass. What we are looking at here is very possibly the future of cinema and I'm not so sure that it's something we should be looking forward to.

Many of the aspects of Toy Story are pretty standard Disney fare (if it's not broken don't fix it school of filmmaking). The plot and charcters are what one would expect. The ending is suitably wholesome (Oh sorry have I spoilt it for you. Come on what do you expect). What is different is the technology. For those of you who don't already know, Toy Story is the first feature length computer generated animation from uncle Walt, and man is it a first.

This is about as far removed from Mickey Mouse as Terminator is from the Lumiere brothers. The pace of the movie is frenetic. You leave the cinema feeling like you just came in only ten minutes earlier. And this is where I have my reservations about the film. It's not that it isn't an incredible movie. It is. It's not that it isn't entertaining. It is. While you are there. It's just that when you've left, you find it very difficult to recall what you've been watching for the previous ninety odd minutes. The point that I'm trying to make is that it is totally immediate. Nothing lodges. I know I shouldn't be expecting the meaning of life or searing insights into the human condition from a Disney movie. At the same time though neither do I expect voluntary amnesia.

In case you think that my 'Brave New World' suggestion at the start is a bit strong, well think again. If Disney is doing it, at the very least it's the future of animation, and I don't think that it will require very much technological advancement to bring the images up to lifelike standard. Imagine the possibilities. Who needs to pay actors obscene amounts of money, when you can just generate them off your CD-ROM. Of course you could point out that Toy Story uses the voices of such big name stars as Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, etc. However we all know that's just the market requirement today. You've got to have a Robin Williams or a Hanks on the bill purely for box office purposes. Their actual contribution to Toy Story is minimal. Once this thing takes off they can be easily be dropped and no one will even miss poor Forest (maybe it's not such a bad thing after all)

Why waste money on film crews and expensive sets and location shoots, when you can create them in an office. I could go on, but I think I've made my point by now and to be honest, thinking about it is starting to piss me off. The whole situation reminds me of a quote I once heard. It was by a very famous English cinematographer form the silent era. After watching 'The Jazz Singer, for the first time, he turned to his wife in the seat beside him and said "My dear. We've just witnessed the death of cinema'.

Old Fart At Play

After being here for more years than I would care to remember, for once I feel moved to write an opinionated piece with a difference. Yes rather than the usual cynical knocking exercise (a line I usually find all too easy to write about the inhabitants of this great establishment), for once I shall actually write something positive about the students of this university.

For years I have sat through inquorate AGM after inquorate AGM and watched well meaning and indeed committed and capable individuals attempt to institute some lasting change for the benefit of the greater student body. For years I've watched people lobby and fight for our rights, only to be rebuffed by the powers that be for no other reason that they knew they could get away with it. Secure in the knowledge that at the end of the day your average Joe student couldn't give a damn for his fellow brothers and sisters along as he came out of here with his degree and a "good job" on the horizon.

For years I've watched UL students live down to their reputation as self-centred narrow-minded little shits, interested only in their own little selves

and totally oblivious to the fact that such an attitude only serves to make things worse for everyone, themselves included (hey I just can't resist knocking can I?)

But enough I come to praise Caesar not to bury him. Events this year have caused me to revise my opinions. First of all the whole repeats issue was a breath of fresh air. This has been on the agenda for so many years. It's been won before (on a temporary basis) only to be lost again. It's been drawn (the referee was a bastard) and now it has finally been laid to rest. The holy grail of consecutive quorate AGMs was realised. A referendum resulted in a landslide yes. Our representatives could go to the various committees and boards on which they represent us secure in the knowledge that that is what they were doing had the full backing of the student body. Believe it or not that actually counts for a lot. Obviously there are other factors which can't be discounted, such as that the faculty have been moving in this direction over the last few years, etc., but that's not what I want to talk about here. The bottom line was we all pulled together and it worked.

But okay I hear you say that's old news. True but its worth recalling. What really shocked me out of my negative mindset though was the more recent referendum on the new student centre. I thought now this is a different perculator of pike altogether. Repeats are potentially relevant and beneficial to everyone. Hell it was no

skin off anyones nose to support that. A flash in the pan, never to be repeated. You think people are actually going to vote yes for a proposal that will see them out of pocket to build something that won't be finished until most of them have left? Get real.

We all know what happened. I was never so happy to be proved wrong. The foresight and intellegence shown by all those people who came out and voted yes is admirable in the extreme. It kicks seven different shades of shite out of the old stereotype of UL students I referred to earlier. As I face into the final strait of a lengthy college experience (cue violins) I'm happy to leave with a better opinion of my fellow students and an optimism for the future of this union.

Of course I have gone so totally rose-tinted as not to realise that what brought this about was a lot of hard work, and it's going to take just as much hard graft to maintain. It would be unfair not to acknowledge the vision and the work put in by certain people, particularly the union sabbaticals and assorted "Shinys". However we've had that before many times, without the same results. At the end of the day it's down to you. And likewise that's were the *credit should go*. So if you've managed to read this far, raise your right hand, put in over your left shoulder and give yourself a pat on the back. Well done.

Billy Madden

STORY

on to hit the

animated Disney movie
and while your at it take your
future of cinema and I'm not so