



An Focal



The Official ULSU Newspaper

union.communication@student.ul.ie

www.ulsu.ul.ie

Week Six
Edition 3
Semester 1



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Clubs and Societies Budgets leave many dismayed

by Judith Roche

"Go out and get sponsorship!" were the words of Mark Breen of the life-saving club and Clubs and Societies Exec. Committee member in response to the grievances of clubs and societies following the final budget draft. These sentiments were voiced at a meeting last Tuesday 23rd October where the question of budget allocation was a main topic of discussion.

According to Paul Lee (Clubs and Societies Development Officer), UL currently employs a most revolutionary method of deciding to which clubs and societies the larger percentages of the capital deserve to be allocated. This system has been backed by the founding of a financial committee only three years ago, in response to questions raised regarding the allocation of moneys in previous years.



Paul Lee

Last year saw the transfer of this points system method to disk, the brainchild of ULSU Pres. Mick Phelan. This transfer has suffered initial teething problems that resulted in the total capital available falling short by £3,500. The temporary solution to recover the deficit was to inject funds from various other resources, with the total amount allocated resting at £157,146. In the long term, the solution has yet to be teased out, but the official statement is that there is to be a comprehensive investigation into the budget system.

Notably, this figure represents a 34% increase on last years, with total

allocation to clubs and societies rising to £105,941 and £44,605 respectively. The significant difference in these two figures has prompted questions of discrimination against societies. However the figures themselves disprove any allegations forwarded, in that the stronger societies received similar allocations to the weaker of the clubs. Paul Lee further remarked that no fault could be found with the system if smaller clubs and societies have not been competitive enough in fulfilling prescribed criteria to earn more points, resulting in greater windfalls come budget D-Day.

The points system's final tallies highlight the strength and enterprise of each club and society. It is necessary to encourage this development of strong networks and structures within clubs and societies because of the rate of student turnover, for example every four years. There is a need for stability to ensure smooth transition and succession. However, there is an inherent weakness that needs to be addressed before next years budget campaign begins. It has occurred that certain clubs and societies have inflated pro-

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Bridge Development at Plassey causes concern

Debate over the proposed bridge to be constructed across the River Shannon at Plassey increased in intensity this week as concerned parties made final efforts to raise public awareness about the project.

With deadlines looming for the submittal of objections key players, such as the UL Environmental Society, rallied for public support in opposing the development. Almost 200 signatures were collected for the campaign over the past week,

the petition will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála this week along with a formal objection to the project.

The controversial bridge and development of a fourth student village at Clonlara aims to alleviate the current problems with traffic congestion in the vicinity of the University of Limerick, while simultaneously relieving stress in demand for student accommodation on campus. The development once completed will house 503 residents ranging

from undergraduates to faculty staff in a campus village of six, five, four, two and one-bedroom units. Development officers at the college believe this project is essential to the healthy expansion of the college and promise that the environmental impact on the region will be kept to the minimum.

However the project has been met with much cynicism from both individuals and organisations involved the environmental and recreational activities of the region.

Eamon Cusack, Chief Executive Officer for the Shannon Fisheries believes that the construction of the bridge at Plassey will have an irreversible adverse effect on the fish population of the Shannon. Experts are investigating a

cont. on page 40

AGM in the Jean
Monnet Lecture
Theatre-
Wednesday 31st
October at 6pm

Changes to Bus Schedule come into play by Claire Roche Kelly

How many times have we been stuck waiting in the pouring rain for a bus that was supposed to arrive half an hour ago? And how many times have we ended up standing for the bus journey to town for over an hour, when the trip from Castletroy should take no more than fifteen minutes? Sound familiar? Well for people such as myself, who live in town, this is a daily torture.

But finally it appears that Bus Eireann are taking steps to improve their service. Their proposal to operate the number 308 bus to the city centre only, as opposed to Raheen, has been generally welcomed and hopes are high that we will eventually have a reliable and regular bus service to and from the city centre.

This is just the first of many steps which are in the pipeline. Bus Eireann have for some time, been working on getting a bus lane in operation.



This would be the ideal plan since it is the traffic that delays the buses. Castletroy traffic has a reputation

for being quite brutal at most times of the day, but Raheen traffic is often no better. With the buses run-

ning a round trip from UL to Raheen, they encounter several traffic jams and are delayed in each section of the journey. Although running the bus directly from the city centre to the University does not magically eradicate traffic delays, it certainly does alleviate them considerably. And if that means less time standing in the rain, I'm all for the project.

Ideally, we would like to see a more frequent bus service from the city centre, with a bus lane to help avoid the traffic, but beggars can't be choosers. Thinking in terms of quick solutions, this is perhaps the best option available to us. It is, however, just the first step towards an improved bus service.

Is alainn an teanga Ì an Gaeilge - Bain usaid aisti!

Patrick Muldoon
Irish Language Correspondent

Is mÙr an trua È nach gcloistear nÌos mÙ Gaeilge timpeall Ollscoil LuimnÌ. Is Ì an Gaeilge -r dteanga dh'chais agus ba cheart go mbeadh bÈim uirthi Ì gconal, san ollscoil ach go h-irithe. Cloistear go leor teangacha Èags'la timpeall na h-ollscoile. T-scol-irì ag staidÈar anseo Ù gach cearn dÈn domhain. Sa chomhthÈacs seo, is Ì an Gaeilge -r teanga n-isi'nta; ach is cos'ìl nach fÈidir nÙ nach mian leis an mÙrchuid de scol-irì na hollscoile Ì a us-id. Is EirÈannaigh muid agus ba cheart d'inn a bheith brod'ìl as -r teanga. Nuair a thÈann daoine thar lear, cloistear go leor teangacha nua-aimseartha. Is iontach an rud È a bheith in ann labhairt le hÈirÈannaigh timpeall na cruinne 'as Gaeilge'. D'fhÈadfainn a r- go cinnte dearfa n-r chuala mè -r dteanga dh'chais, ach c'pla uair Ù th-inig mè chuig na h-ollscoile dh- bhlian Ù shin. T- s'ìl agam gur athrÙidh sÈ sin sna blianta at-amach romhainn.

Ar chuala t' Gaeilge - labhairt sa Stables nÙ sa Scholars nÙ Ì gclub AirÈana na hOllscoille le dÈana? CÈn f-th nach bhfuil nÌos mÙ Gaeilge san -it seo? Is iomaì c'iseanna at- ann, is dÙigh. PÈ scÈal È, an rud is t-bhachtaì, dar liom, n- gur fÈidir le gach Èinne, idir scol-irì agus lÈachtoirì

cur leis an mèid Gaeilge at- - labhairt faoi l-thair. Nì mÙr duit a dhÈanamh n- c'pla focail a labhairt chuille seachtaine. Mo thosaìonn t', is Èasca an rud È leanacht ar aghaidh. Mar sin dÈan iarracht. O th's na bliana t- sti'rthÙir don Gaeilge ceaptha ag an Ollscoil. Deidre Nì Loinsigh is ainm dÌ. Is lÈir gur athnaìonn an Ollscoil cÈ chomh t-bhacht-ch is at- an Gaeilge sa tsochal sa l- at- inniu ann.

T- go leor bealaì gur fÈidir leat feabhas a chur ar do chuid Gaeilge. Bain us-id as Roinn na Teangacha agus Cult'ir Ì OL; lÈigh Foinse; fÈach ar TG4; nÙ eist le Raidio na Gaeltachta. Bìonn cl-racha Gaeilge ar Wired FM chomh maith. Mar fhocail scoir, coinnigh È seo Ì d'intinn: Is al-inn an teanga Ì an Gaeilge - Bain us-id aisti!

Gluias

bÈim = emphasis
sa chomhthÈacs seo = in this context
brod'ìl = proud
teangacha nua-aimseartha = modern languages
D'fhÈadfainn a r- go cinnte dearfa = I could most certainly say
T- s'ìl agam gur athrÙidh sÈ sin = I hope that, that

will change
pÈ scÈal È = however
dar liom = according to me/in my opinion
c'iseanna = reasons
idir scol-irì agus lÈachtoirì = between students and lecturer
Nì mÙr duit a dhÈanamh ach c'pla focail a labhairt = All you have to do is speak a few words
Sti'rthÙir don Gaeilge = Director of Irish
athnaìonn an Ollscoil = the university recognises
t-bhacht-ch = important
sa tsochal sa l- at- inniu ann = in today's society
feabhas a chur ar do chuid Gaeilge = to improve your Irish
bealaì = ways/means
Bain us-id as Roinn na Teangacha agus Cult'ir = Make use of the Department of Language and Cultural Studies
Mar fhocail scoir = As a final word/finally
coinnigh È seo Ì d'intinn = keep this in mind
is al-inn an teanga Ì an Gaeilge - bain us-id aisti! = Irish is a lovely language - use it!

UL students raise money for Afghan Refugees

IR£1500 raised in Afghanistan Aid Appeal amongst students of UL

Wednesday of Week Four saw the students of UL put their hands in their pockets to help raise funds for Concern's Afghanistan Aid Appeal. The volunteers helped to raise approximately IR£1500 in total.

The Appeal was initiated by Concern on a nationwide level. University of Limerick students joined in the cause and showed the nation our own interest in world events. The money was collected by way of a campus collection by students and amongst the students as well as contributions made by Docs night-club from their proceeds of the same night. For each ticket sold that night IR£1 was donated towards the cause. The money will be donated on our behalf by the Students' Union to Concern. It will then be used to aid the millions of famine victims and refugees in Afghanistan.

ULSU Welfare Officer, Tara Curley spoke highly of the Appeal and the volunteers who helped to raise the funds. She stated that the IR£1500 raised would be greatly appreciated by the Students' Union and would like to personally thank everyone that helped with the

action on campus. She said that it is important for students to be aware of world issues and to play their part.

According to its website (www.concern.ie), Concern launched the nationwide appeal on September 24th and two weeks later had raised IR£1 million in public donations. The money will be used for the voluntary organisation's emergency relief work in Afghanistan. Mr Dominic McSorley, an international aid worker with Concern, stresses that the country's situation is worse than most believe. Temperatures are dropping to minus 20 degrees there is an extreme struggle for survival amongst the Afghan nation. A survey carried out by Concern prior to the September 11th attacks in New York revealed a serious threat of famine to the land of Afghanistan. He stated that, "if humanitarian agencies do not take immediate action there will be substantial loss of life during the coming winter." Concern's main aim is to the obtaining and distributing of food to over 170,000 people in the area. The organisation is also involved in the setting up of refugee camps along the Afghan/Pakistan border, and they continue with their appeal for donations from the public.

The money raised by the students of the University of Limerick will indeed help with the suffering and dep-

riation amongst the people of Afghanistan. Let's just hope that we can always be this generous.

- by Mairead Moriarty



New Retail Outlets open on campus by Sinead Kelleher

This year has seen five retail outlets open to cater for all your student needs. The new additions being the pharmacy and PC shop.

The three previously occupied retail outlets are O'Mahonys bookshop who extended their premises there in 1999 to cater for all your book and stationary requirements, a new and modern usit office which was previously situated in the Stables mall for all your travel needs and Interpoint an Internet café, which offers cut-price international calls and high-speed printing at 60 sheets a minute. There is also a contemplation room amongst these to escape from the pressures of everyday life in UL.

Now we also have a long awaited pharmacy Medicare who were finally granted their license to trade here from the Health board in June 2001. There were some delays with this due to building problems. It is owned by Rachel Gobbins who also owns the Castletroy pharmacy by Spar. Naomi shouldice manager of Medicare feels that an outlet on campus is of benefit to all and eliminates the need for students to travel for their pharmaceutical needs. In their new and spacious surroundings they cater for all your prescriptions and will order any special requests you may have. It also provides a full photo development service. It is open from 9-6 Monday to Friday.

The new PC shop occupies the fifth outlet and provides students with all their computer requirements. It is owned Disc Mate and is the only one in Limerick it stocks computer components, discs etc. and has special offers on PCs and laptops for all students. Margaret Kett an employee of PC shop says that they have been

very busy since opening and have had a number of computer enquires. It is open 9.30-5.30 Monday to Friday.



The new Pharmacy and PC shop are located in the courtyard opposite to The Student Centre

10K walk for Charity will be held on November 15th

by Gearoid Holland

The Students' 10K Walk, a charity event in aid of the Chernobyl Children's Project, is due to be held again this year in Week 8, on Thursday November 15th. Last year was the event's first outing, which was organised by USI and sponsored by the Bank of Ireland. Over 10,000 students from almost every college and university took part in the fund-raising effort to raise awareness and financial aid for the victims of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. Many of those who walked the ten kilometres were themselves only six or seven years old when the explosion occurred, which added to the success of the event.

Each student was given a sponsorship card and asked to aim for a target of £75 sponsorship per card. A final total of £180,000 was raised by the 10,000 students last year, which supported the claim of the event being the largest charity event in student history.

The money raised went straight to those who needed it, in Belarus, the Ukraine and Western Russia. This took place on April 1 2001, when a convoy of 20 ambulances and six 40-foot trucks left Ireland, heading for Belarus, bearing human-

itarian aid. This aid included, among other things, badly needed medical supplies, as well as food, clothes and blankets donated by ordinary people.



Last year's event was backed by many celebrities, both Irish and foreign, including Manchester United, Bono, Luca Bloom, Dave Fanning and Ken Doherty. Musical artists, such as Kila, Juliet Turner, Dara and Picturehouse, also supported the event by contributing their musical talents to a charity CD for the event. The promotional CD was given free to every person who took part in

the walk.

Last year, it was mostly first year college students who were encouraged to take part in the walk, and it proved very successful. As the national event consisted of a number of local walks in various areas, including Dublin, Cork and Limerick, the UL students last year united with LIT and Mary Immaculate College to circle the Castletroy area, in what was termed the Plassey 10K Walk. This year however, it is hoped to build even further on such an achievement by encouraging students from all years to participate, and provide an even bigger turnout for the ten-kilometre walk.

The UL Students' Union will be actively participating, and are encouraging every UL student, not just first years, to do the same. Sponsorship cards for the 10K Walk will be distributed closer to the appointed date of November 15th 2001. Further details on how to get involved will appear in An Focal, as well as from the Outreach Society, who will also be involved in the organising of the event.

Superquinn opens in Castletroy

by Marian Roche

Senator Fergal Quinn was in Limerick Tuesday 16th October to open his £16m Superquinn outlet in the new Castletroy Shopping Centre. Among the others in attendance were Senator Mary Jackman, and Fine Gael leader Michael Noonan and his wife. This is the first Superquinn outlet to open in this part of the country but with it's strong focus on Quality and Customer service it is sure to be a success and if the last week is anything to go by this will definitely be the case.

Superquinn has a reputation for top of the range produce including its organic section many of which are sourced from Irish Suppliers. In their brochure they even point out that if there's any product in particular that you are looking for that you should mention it to your Superquinn manager. The students' favorite seems to be their own brand sausages which are made to a traditional Irish recipe each day in the shop. Superquinn also make pizzas in store to customers' specifications. Another topic of discussion among students is all

the "free stuff" that was obviously gone by the time I got there on Thursday!! But they did have those free samples of mini donuts which come highly recommended.

Superquinn are the only supermarket in the world to trace back all their beef to the animal of origin using the unique DNA based Traceback system. Basically they can ensure that all their beef comes from quality assured farms. They are at the forefront in technology also. There is a system in place where customers can scan their own shopping as they put it into the trolley. The handheld scanner also gives you a running total of their bill so you know how much you are spending at all times.

The new development will also contain a MacDonald's outlet which is not completed yet. The shopping centre as a whole is bound to do some damage to local business particularly Dunne's in the Parkway and Tesco on town. Zac's and Superdine in Castletroy will almost certainly lose some custom as well as soon as MacDonald's

opens its doors.

When I visited the Supermarket on the Thursday after it opened I thought the hype would have died



down but it was a s

absolutely jam packed even at 5.30 in the afternoon. Whether this surge in business will continue or not remains to be seen. All I can say about Superquinn was that it was more like a social event than any shopping trip has ever been. I met more people there than I had all day in college! In fact one student commented that "it might become the new Lodge!!"

Hello from your Sabbatical Officers



Mick Phelan- ULSU President

How's it goin. Another edition already, the last 2 months has been a complete blur. Hope everything is going well for you all and that there are not too many problems. After 4 weeks of Clubs & Societies budgets, they have been finalised. This year saw a 34.31% increase in the actual amount of money that could be attributed to the budget process. And there is a further £18,000 in the Special Applications Fund. The Nitelink should be up and running this week. There will also be an extended service coming up to exam time and during the exams. - www.ulsu.ul.ie/nitelink. The issue of security on campus appears to be making a comeback again. On Sunday 21st October I was walking home and there was a heavy fog out and also all

the lights on the way to the East Gate were out. No incidents were reported, and I hope that there were none, but if there are any incidents to report, attack, stolen property, please bring it to the attention of the Students' Union, the Security on campus and also the Gardai - if there is no record of any incidents, nothing can be done. In the coming weeks I will be meeting with the Security firm on campus to discuss the situation. PLEASE Keep all doors & Windows in your house or apartment closed. Last week I went to the Mary Immaculate Conferring ceremonies in town. Its great to see that many happy people in one room and by the look on their faces, all the hassle endured trying to get the degree or masters was worth every minute of it! Well that's all for this edition, I have included my AGM - officers

report in this edition of An Focal. If you have any queries or would like to see the Students' Union Accounts for the last academic year, you should go along to the AGM on at 6pm, Wednesday Night Week 6.

Mick

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Tara Curley- ULSU Welfare Officer

Well hello all!!!!!!

I have good news and good news for ye all!! Firstly the Nite link is back up and running. I have to apologise on the delay, which was due to unforeseen circumstances, but either way none of that is important now, tis back and here to stay for the year. The timetable will be up all around the college, its also lurking on one of the other pages in An Focal. Please use the service its for your benefit, unfortunately the campus is not as safe as we would like it to be, so why walk when you can avail of this free service!!

Next up, Greek week is well on its way (to be honest it

seems I'm eating, breathing and sleeping Greek Week at the moment), check out the supplement on the middle pages. Greek week is about showing the world the strengths of the students of UL, proving campus life does not centre around alcohol!! Come down and support it in any way you can, get a team together for the table quiz or the Olympics, go see the comedy, join a club or Soc and most of all make sure you don't miss the carnival!! There will be a lot happening so don't just ignore it, this week is the time to prove you are more than an ID number in UL.

Due to the increasing numbers of broke students (an occupational hazard as we all know), I have opened a time slot on Mondays between 11am-1pm, if ye have any questions, queries or just want to pay some money back please call then.

I would like to apologise to those of you who have been looking for me over the last few weeks and have been

unable to find me, I'm not avoiding ye trust me! But as Deputy President and Welfare officer, I seem to sit on nearly every committee in the college(well not quite but close). If I'm not in my office, please leave a message at reception or mail me, its a lot quicker and your guaranteed I'll get it.

That's me done for this week..... just remember if there is anything bothering you, finding things rough going, anything really just give me a shout and I'll do everything I can to help

Tara

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Patrick Kennedy- ULSU Communications and Campaigns Officer

Hi everyone,

it seems to me like I'm going to be doing this column at the las tminute every week. My deadline was brought forward due to the Bank Holiday Weekend and at this stage I'm already looking forward to the next edition when I can use the relative safety net of a Friday in case anything goes badly wrong.

So what have I been up to, for a start theres this fine publication in your lucky hands, I hope you'll agree that it's after improving slightly again, long may the evolution of An Focal continue.

The Radio Society will begin Internet Broadcasting soon, we'll have the full details when all services are up and ready to go.

The ULSU AGM is on next Wednesday at 6 pm in the Jean Monnet Lecture Hall. Probably not the perfect prelude to the Halloween Ball but a very important night and I want to encourage everyone to come and represent thier views to the officers that are representing you.

Enjoy Greek Week Everyone and for first years make sure you check out the Frame in the Monnett, you'll never know



what hit you!

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ps. Has anyone seen Barry Cronins Cactus?

Tom O'Donovan ULSU Education Officer

What do you say when you are told that the funding isn't there to do what you need done? In the normal run of day-to-day life you accept it and get on with it. We are all used to being told that the money just isn't there to do certain things. Students of all people know what it is to live off a budget; most of us only have IR£35 or IR£40 for the week and are able to stretch it.

What do you say when you are asked to be practical and work towards what can be done given the constraints. You won't change the world but you will get some things done. That sounds reasonable doesn't it? Why push for going to New York when you know you only have the money to get as far as Dingle? We all know we can't change the world anyway, don't we?

Living to budget is not the issue here. How that budget is apportioned and where it comes out of in the first place is. The University of Limerick's operating budget is largely made up of an unrealistic block grant from the government and student fees, other funds, smaller amounts, come from various schemes and some self raised money. In all this would be in the region of IR£35 to IR£40 million. The University also receives money for specific projects, primarily to do with the building of new buildings and developing the campus.

This may seem like an awful lot of money but in fact it isn't. Last week a four month freeze on filling certain posts was announced in an effort to decrease this years budget deficit to the tune of IR£500,000.

We are told that Student Services can't be improved, as the resources aren't there. We are told that the shortfall of books in the Library can't be addressed because the funding isn't

Individual and Class Cases.

This area is by far the most demanding of my time, at least 60% following up on issues students bring directly to my attention. There seems to be a huge need for students to be better informed of their rights in the system. There also seems to be a general lack of awareness on most topics. This is something that hopefully the Class Rep system might address.

Class Representatives.

Following on from the steps taken last year in reforming the Class Rep structure a fulltime Class Representative Development Officer, Joanne McCormack, has been hired by the Students' Union. She will oversee the running of Class Reps providing support, training and information to help them perform their duties.

In line with these developments the second edition of the Class Representative Handbook has been brought out this year. It is a much more comprehensive ver-

sion of last years first edition outlining roles and functions while including much more useful information for the development of the skills necessary for the role.

It can be very difficult then to take that on board when we see all the buildings going up around campus with millions of punts being spent on penalties because of overruns. Since I came to UL in 1997 there have been a total of seven new buildings (including the one I'm writing this from and a whole student village) built or in the process of being finished. Why then isn't the funding available for the other really necessary items?

When we point out the development and the fact that there is no shortage of funding for that we are told that those who donate the money do it for specific projects and not to supplement the operating budget of the institution.

The University is caught in a never ending circle of its own making we can't do anything because there is no funding yet it is growing and expanding to fill all the buildings it is putting up. We need to break the circle, to change the way we do things here. We need to start looking firstly at what we need to do and where we need to increase the resources, a wish list of what this institution needs to address the needs of its customers - the students and its employees so as to have a better University.

We need to attempt to change the world. If we don't start out from that position we will be compromising from a compro-

mission of last years first edition outlining roles and functions while including much more useful information for the development of the skills necessary for the role.

New procedures for dealing with complaints have been introduced through an online complaints process. This is intended for use in conjunction with the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act, which came into affect on October 22nd last. Up to this point there has been no official complaints procedure for dealing with student complaints within the University. The objective here is in the absence of a University policy a student driven initiative should at minimum get issues heard.

Academic Regulations Committee and Quality Steering Committee.

Following on from above and with the resolution of longstanding student issues in mind both the Academic Regulations Committee and the Quality

Steering Committee are seriously addressing the need for better regulations and a fair impartial policing system to oversee them. To this end anonymous marking, 'T' graded 4th years, and a student ombudsman are all high on this years agenda. Incorporating the Class Rep system into the University structure is also high on this list. This year for the first time all active registered Class Reps from last year will be presented with a certificate of recognition, already agreed, by the University President Dr. Rodger Downer at a ceremony in the White House.

Tom

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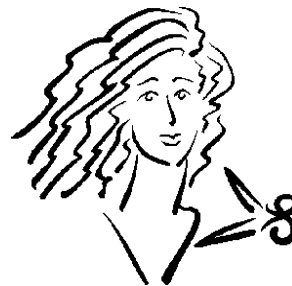
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Casablanca Hair Studio

Castletroy
(off Castletroy Roundabout)

061-339855

Prop. Ena McGrath



'Begin a new college year by having your hair problems cared for by our welcoming and talented staff, at a student discount. Students- always welcome at Casablanca Hair Studio!'

Officers Reports for the upcoming ULSU AGM

Presidents Report

The idea of having the officer's report in this edition of An Focal, is in the hope of making the AGM in week 6 a more productive meeting. I have only briefly mentioned the topics and a few words on them. If you have any questions regarding the report, please contact me via email

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I would like to point out that in achieving the successes illustrated below, I have the fortune of working with an extremely talented & enthusiastic team of people (past & Present) and these results are the product of a team effort. At this time I would like to acknowledge the Students' Union staff, Students' Union Executive, Class Reps Council, Clubs & Societies, past & Present and also my colleagues in the various parts of the University.

Clubs & Societies

Funding – Secured an extra £40,000 from the University budget.

Mini Bus – Secured £20,000 from the University & £10,000 from the Students' Union Shop to purchase a 15 seater Mini-Bus

Sponsorship – Actively perusing sponsorship for the C&S office and have unofficially secured an undisclosed amount.

Budgets 01 / 02 – Developed a new PC based budget for the C&S which saw a 34.31% increase in actual funding for the individual C&S. This process will have to be re-examined again this year.

Wednesday Afternoons – Lobbied the University to implement their Half Day on a Wednesday Policy. To date have achieved a good measure of success – no lectures scheduled for the most part after 2pm on a Wednesday afternoon, with the view to tutorials and labs not being scheduled.

Boathouse Proposal – I have brought it to the attention (with the aid of a proposal document) of the Governing Authority, University Management and the PCC (Plassey Campus Centre) Board of Directors that there are numerous Clubs on campus that are in danger of extinction if they are not provided with the necessary storage facilities. The two main clubs are the Rowing and Kayak Clubs.

Class Reps

This is an area that needs ongoing attention for the future development of the Students' Union.

Continuity – The continuity of the SU has always been its biggest downfall and will continue to be unless the issue is dealt with. That was the primary factor in Tom & myself running for a second term of office. The ideal situation would be: A student becomes a Class Rep in first year, and because he / she may get extra credits for their role as Class Rep, the class will make them work in their role as a Class Rep. This student would continue to represent his / her class for 4 years, or however long they are in college, ensuring that the SU Executive is steered in the right direction. It would also hopefully bring the best candidates for sabbatical office to the fore.

New Committee Structure – A set of 6 committees were set

up to investigate and examine the various facets of the Unions role on campus and also make the Union more accountable to its members.

General Affairs Committee
Finance Committee
Education Committee
Welfare Committee
Communications Committee
Entertainments Committee

Class Reps Development Officer – we secured the funding for the first Class Reps Development officer in the country to develop the Class Reps and ensure continuity within the Union policy structure

Improved Administration Day – This year a much more professional attitude was taken in relation to the Admin day. The day proved to be a success with full participation from those in attendance and provided some extremely positive feedback

Certificate of Recognition – In recognition of the work done by many of last years Class Reps, we are arranging for Certificates signed by the President of the University.

QCA Accreditation – In an aim to reward and entice students for involvement in the Class Reps structure, we are actively perusing the idea of QCA credits for those Class Reps that fulfil their role and provide something extra for the campus community.

Complaints System – An online complaints system is being developed to track complaints and ensure that there is always an outcome or at least an explanation reached. This will be of particular importance with the Freedom of Information coming online.

Policies – Last Semester the Class Reps Council passed various policies to give the Students' Union a stronger mandate than it had in previous years. These policies have to be constantly monitored and new ones added to ensure that the Executive of the SU are perusing the issues that concern students the most.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is constantly expanding to deal with the volume of meetings that the SU currently has. There has been a full time person employed to deal with the area of Union minutes, agendas etc.

We have also had all the files of the Union catalogued and the hope would be to computerise these over the coming months. This is also vital in the area of continuity of the Union, as all these minutes are keys to the past.

Graphics Department

This semester the SU will be providing a PC with printing capabilities in the photocopying room, so exam papers can be printed off straight from the website.

Laser Printing – The cost of Laser printing has been slashed from 15p to 5p with this new system of printing directly from the photocopying room.

New Photocopiers – Last year the SU purchased 10 new digital quality photocopiers.

Information Technology – On arriving in the Students Union, I realised the need for an improved IT structure. Now all staff have networked computer accounts, email, Internet and the most up to date software packages to aid them in their duties and also adds an increased degree of professionalism in the Union.

Website – I designed the current SU website which has all the Union information online. Areas of particular interest:

An Focal
All Union Publications
Exam Papers
Online Booksale
Accommodation finder
Welfare Section

All Minutes of Council meetings

Lost & Found
More Services on the way

As of Tuesday 22nd October, the website has had 11365 Total Visits

Marketing the Union

As well as creating the website, which has proven to be extremely useful in terms of marketing, the following areas have been tackled or are in the process of being addressed.

Prospectus – The new UL prospectus has a new section from the Students' Union in an aim to show the non-academic side of University life.

Orientation Week – This year, a more professional attitude was taken in relation to orientation. The aim was to get new students familiar with the faces of the sabbatical officers and also to become familiar with the Student Centre.

Entertainments – As some of you veterans may have noticed the weeknight outings have resumed in town with Docs and the Gallery proving to be extremely popular. There are also a host of gigs organised for the remainder of this semester and for semester 2 by the Ents Manager – Davoh

New Signage – In the next few months there will be new Signage placed in the Union building to hopefully brighten up the place some more and also place some of the back issues of An Focal on the walls – similar to the HQ Hot Press Hall of Fame

Campaigns

Register to Vote – Since last semester we have been actively promoting the idea of registering to vote in the Castletroy area, where you will be mostly living for the duration of your course.

Rant about the Grant – We hit the streets of Limerick last year and joined in the USI national protest about the Grant, which is shamefully low and inadequate.

Medical Centre

We secured the first improvement in the Medical Centre in the last 7-8 years, which was meant to be finished by September. This as we all know is not the case and is unacceptable. This concern has been brought up at the Governing Authority.

Stables / Scholars

The application for renewal of licence for both clubs will be heard in the District Court on Friday November 2nd. I will talk more on this issue in the next edition of An Focal

First Year representative

How's it going?

My name's Simon Renardson and I'm the First Year Representative for this academic year. I'm here to make sure that the Student's Union take note of the views of the University of Limerick's first year students. Hopefully I can make this first year as harmless as possible. I'll be contacting your class reps with upcoming agenda items which concern ye first years and they'll be getting back to me with your opinions (Hopefully). If you don't have a class rep...get one!!! We only have 22 first year reps so far. Let me know what we can do to make your life easier as a first year student...and, unfortunately, free beer is not on the agenda!
See you later,
Simon (Totalfaith@hotmail.com)

Communication and Campaigns

Officer

Hi, My names Patrick Kennedy and I'm your CCO for the current academic year.

To let you know what I've at heres a very short piece (length has been determined by my attempts to get this edition of An Focal printed on time.

An Focal: I have concentrated on improving the quality of the articles and layout of An Focal, so far I feel that this has been very successful and hope to continue the constant evolution of the newspaper.

Other Communications: I've been helping the Radio Society to get off the ground as regards their Internet Broadcasting project (which you'll be hearing very

soon.

Campaigns: So far we've conducted the Class reps campaign, the USA appeal, the ASfghan Appeal, conducted the Exec elections and have the ongoing voter registration campaign. I've got a couple of people assigned to various parts of the campus, each one is assigned the task of putting up posters and dropping An Focals. This is still in it's initial stages and hopefully will prove very successful.

Over the coming months I hope I will be able to sort out ULSU's future in Wired FM, increase the distribution of An Focal around Limerick City and improve the standard of ULSU campaigns.

I hope to see everyone at the AGM next Wednes at ^pm in the Jean Monnet, talk to you later
Patrick

Report of Equality Officer for the AGM

I was elected to this position three weeks ago and since then I have been carefully examining the issues that I have been told about and which were included in my Manifesto. After careful deliberation and bring all the issues to the Students Union executive body, I feel that the main issue that I will concentrate on at the moment is the status of the Irish language on Campus. I feel that it has long been ignored here in UL and it is time to change all that.

My aims would be

- a) To get An Cumann Gaelach up and functioning properly this year. It hasn't succeeded well as a continuous society on Campus due to the lack of contact between the clubs and societies office and the students willing to set up the society. This is no-ones fault but a link must be established between the two groups.
- b) Promotion of the Irish language in the Students Union and then on Campus through working with the Aonad na Gaeilge official employed by the college.

c) To investigate the possibility of having an Irish language non-sabbatical officer in the Students Union as I feel that there is sufficient need for such a person.

Another big problem that I have come across with a lot of people is lack of ability to read overheads. I feel that lecturers should be lobbied to increase overhead sized and make them more readable as many people have visual impairments but are not registered as disabled.

I have gotten involved with the Outreach society for the first time and think that it such a worthwhile society and that more people should get involved with it.

I have not forgotten the other issues and will work on them as time allows plus record them as being necessary to be looked at by the Students Union Executive body.

Caroline Walters.
walterscaroline@yahoo.com.

Officers Report – Deputy President/ Welfare Officer

Just so everyone know what I have been up to for the last few months.

During the summer, there was a lot of work done on updating the welfare pages of the ULSU website. A lot of the ground work was done for the coming months. Orientation week was a success; unfortunately I was unable to travel home from the States in time. This is also why the freshers pack were available from week 1 onwards. The diary is another result of the summer work.

Ok since the start of semester:

Wednesday Wk2 – American Aid Appeal, and Flag Day was organised to help support the families of the victims and the fire-fighters. The appeal raised about £1500; a £1 was donated from all the tickets sold for Docs on the same night.

Wednesday Wk4 - Afghanistan Refugee was organised in association with Concern. The appeal raised about £1,500 All proceeds from Doc's Wednesday night went also go towards the appeal.

Week 5, October 22nd, sees the launch of the first National Alcohol Awareness Week across all the Universities in Ireland. I am currently working with Ciaran O harnain in organising this week, which will involve, the production of literature and some activity to heighten Alcohol Awareness. Hopefully there will be soft drink promotions and a focus on student activity during the week.

Outreach is really starting to pick up momentum, the Outreach meetings will be every Tuesday night for the semester at 7.30pm in the Students' Union. The Outreach society was created 3 years ago and is really only finding its feet. It has an extensive list of projects, which it is undertaking for the year. The Outreach Society have four initial projects for this semester, the Enable Ireland Project, The Homework Clubs, the South hill junior school Project and the initial fundraising project which will be for Ronan O'Keefe (who is a 3rd year Environmental Science student who has been left paralysed after a bad car crash). We will be having numerous fund-raising events over the coming weeks, to help his parents fund his needs. Volunteers for any of the Outreach projects would be greatly appreciated.

Greek Week is a project that I have been working on since the start of the summer, along with the Clubs and Societies Development Officer, Paul Lee. Welfare week and SOUL week were starting to lose their momentum and needed a revamp and that's exactly what Greek Week is. This week is about student activity, all the good things we do on campus that fail to be recognised. There are a lot of issues which are ignored, such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse, discrimination, security and safety etc the list is endless. This week will aim to highlight a lot of these.

Safety on campus has always been an issue, and unfortunately seems to be of growing concern. At present we have some measures available to ease the worry. There are personal alarms for sale in the SU for £2. The Nitelink will be returning in Week 6. This is a free service provided for students, so they don't have to walk home at night from college. The issue of lighting around campus has been brought to the college, we are trying to increase the number of lights on campus.

One or two other projects:

Student Teacher Officer

Hi I'm Catherine Levis and I'll be your Student Teachers Officer for the coming year.

I never knew much about our S.U., like nearly every other student, but am now journeying through 3rd year and am this year's S.T.O. (Student Teacher Officer, which I never knew existed before). The swift reality of ignorance shocked the system. Some issues I hope to deal with are:

1. Getting compulsory first aid for student teachers before they go out on teaching practice, so that they can save a little on the blood bath of those brat children who dare to push their elbow into the electric saw.

2 Try to re-arrange when 2nd yrs go out on T.P. so that they aren't forking out an average of £400 to our landlords for a room in cardboard city and so that they'll have somewhere to stay again for 3weeks on return. As T.P. funding doesn't exist yet, £400 for re-investment sounds great.

3 Teaching Practice funding issue.-To continue the 'getting up the snot' of the government, to remind them that after the few years lapse, that we haven't just forgotten about our slave labour, no pay on T.P.

This also involves getting onboard with other teaching colleges for any needed support.

4 Re-establish the Student Teacher Society.

This is to provide a 'Hands on!!' interaction with the S.T.O. for all years and courses of student teachers and not just the few that I know. So you get to tell me some of your issues, or help to give me solutions, or even go ahead and solve some for me, I really won't mind.

5 Anything else that should arise this year that may be important and needs attention.

Catherine

The new medical centre should be opened in a matter of weeks; there will be more space available in the waiting room and the consultancy room. This will make the medical centre more user friendly. We were promised that the centre would be opened for the start of semester, however there has been the usual delays.

This year we have a Personal Health Insurance scheme for all students, all students can avail of Personal health cover at a discount rate. This is in association with VHI healthcare.

There is a new Parents and Toddlers group which has been set up to provide support for the growing numbers of student parents on campus. Up to now there was no sort of support of this kind provided, hopefully this will make college less stressful for all.

This is a rough outline of what I have been up to, along with representing students on numerous committees within and outside the college

Tara

Community Officer Officers Report

Students' Union AGM '01/'02

Items which I attempt to address this year
Improve relations between residents and students through:

- Re-establishing the message line through which students and residents can contact me with complaints.
- The hiring of Student Liaison Officers
- Ensuring that all queries and complaints are responded to as soon as possible within 24 hours.
- Creating a logging system through which all complaints made to me will be kept on file.

Continue the implementation of the SU Environmental Policy.

Introduce more community-based policies within the SU.

Work with the CCO and the Class Reps

Communication Committee to improve the image of students and the Castletroy community in the media, through promoting all that is good in the area.

Attempt to improve safety and security on campus, working with the General Affairs Committee, the Welfare Officer, and the CCO, through:

- Lobbying the university to increase the number of lights and security cameras on campus, and also to increase the security presence on campus at night.
- Run a campaign to highlight how students can help improve security, i.e. by not kicking out the lights.
- Lobby the County Council and individual estate developers to increase the lights and security cameras around the estates and many 'shortcuts' in Castletroy.
- Lobby the garda to increase garda patrols around Castletroy.

John Mulcahy
Community Officer

Clubs Officer Report by Mr. Declan Burke

I was elected to the position at the Clubs and Societies administration day 5 weeks ago. To date I have been mainly involved in the granting of the SU budgets to Clubs as is set down in the SU Constitution and liaising with all members of the SU Exec and the C&S Exec with regard to various diverse issues too numerous mention.

My main roles for the year are:

- 1) To liaise between the students Union, the Sports Department and all clubs on campus.
- 2) To help new clubs get off the ground and to facilitate the growth of present clubs.
- 3) Member of C&S Exec, which is the thinking ground for clubs & Societies within the SU
- 4) Member of the SU Exec (To help bring issues relating to all clubs on campus to the knowledge of the SU thus bringing important items one step closer to being fulfilled)
- 5) To be an integral part of class reps and thus having a link between clubs and the entire student population of the University

My main aims for the year are:

- 1) To fulfil a 3-year plan for C&S by getting a Boathouse for both the Kayak & Rowing Clubs
 - 2) Facilitate in the fair running of the New C&S Minibus
 - 3) To introduce a petty cash system for C&S for urgent needs
- If you have any queries or ideas that you think are any way relevant I am here to help in whatever way I can or if you think you can help out in any way it would be greatly appreciated. C ye round, Decky

The People of UL

Luke Ashworth...infinitely interesting ... obviously intelligent ...utterly dedicated ...and with a fuller head of jet-black hair than most men even dream about!! Leaning back, at ease in his office ...even under the steely stare of an unsettling black and white Franz Kafka poster (who incidentally strikes a disturbingly similar pose to that of one of the last of the Romanovs), Luke anticipates the interview as something fun, an exercise in mirth provocation even! Little does he know.

Dr. Ashworth is stumped on question no.1! "What's your most outstanding memory of U.L.?" I venture. I say it engagingly. Hoping to provoke a good response. He looks confused. Then laughs. I know what he's thinking! Should he tell the truth? Or should he mumble something about the wisdom abound in the words of the president's speech at Graduation 2001? A momentary pause...! Good old Luke decides to make my article (and himself) more interesting!

"Getting applause for an "Arthur and Denis" sketch from "Monty Python" in a lecture once!" Relaying the story he becomes more animated. Claims Luke; "one student told me that it was the nearest thing to a standing ovation that he ever saw." I giggle to myself, in an attempt to imagine laughter or even anyone cracking a smile in someplace like the Jean Monet. Awesome! He must be good!!

Collecting myself, I recall that Luke Ashworth is not only an unpaid comedian on the University accounts, but also a politics lecturer. I come out with a gem that even the researchers for "Prime Time" would be proud of.

"If you were to run the country from U.L., what government system would you employ and why?" Another hearty chuckle as if to say; "that's easy"(it made me think he'd answered that

very question before).

"Going on the advice of Denis from "Monty Python's" "The Holy Grail", it would have to be an autonomous collective. I don't trust myself to stay in power for a long time. I'd be the new Milosevic!!!"(Joke or no??)

However, getting more serious on the subject of U.L., I decide that it's time for Luke and I to dive into the nitty gritty. I ask him what the essence of U.L. is for him thinking maybe he'd say Brown Thomas the Rusty Man or something to that effect. However Luke states that it is bureaucracy. Not necessarily always in a negative sense but it's there nonetheless. Too many committees. Too much paper. It's all a bit too concrete for Luke. In spite of this, he insists that the bureaucracy that exists today is much friendlier than when he started in U.L. 6 years ago. In fact, a lot has changed, according to Luke Ashworth. These changes have been for the best. The teaching and research resources have improved and the students are apparently much more engaging and willing to talk. As a new student, I clap myself mentally on the back for the pleasantness of my generation!! Yeah me!!!

In addition Luke makes the point that if he were to make changes to U.L., he would begin with the library. In his opinion, and I know for a fact that many share it, the library resources just don't come on par with the needs of the students. Books and articles are just too limited. He would also advise a more "bottoms-up" approach to administration (as he so eloquently put it!) He believes that there should be decision-making at all levels, as those at the top can't be expected to know what's going on at grass roots.

As Luke was saying this, I decided that students everywhere could benefit from a quote from Dr. Luke!! He obliged.

"The secret of a stable and democratic society

Throughout the year An Focal will be bringing you interviews with the people who live and work in the University Environment, giving everyone a bigger picture of what being around UL actually involves.

is good education, and the best kind of education is the kind that teaches you to think". Well said, I thought, all the while thinking that seeing as he was on a roll, I may as well ask him for his life's motto. Another chuckle. This guy laughs a lot!

"What we do in life echoes through eternity." Quite a motto! Then he admitted that it wasn't actually his, but that of Maximus from "The Gladiator".

Still, I was most definitely impressed.

Standing up to leave, I shook his hand. Several thoughts ran through my head. Luke Ashworth...infinitely interesting...obviously intelligent...utterly dedicated...and with more information on and quotes from Monty Python than most men even dream about.



Pity I'm not in his lectures or tutorials, I'd be a definite A!!!

Diary of a First Year

by Edel Fitzgerald

Went out. Got drunk. Came home.

That's basically been my UL experience so far. However there were a couple of hazy moments along the way which I should be mentioning.....

My first week here was pretty amazing. Being a Euro Stud (and proud of it!), I found myself with eight hours of lectures; no tutorials, no labs. In other words, total bliss!! Now you can see me running around the college (looking very fresher-like) trying in vain to find buildings like the Schrodinger.....I know that building was hidden away purposely to confuse us poor first years!!

I heard so many horror stories about student accommodation, I expected mine to be a box-room and a toilet, if I was lucky. Thankfully, it's not quite like that. I've got everything: double-bed, dishwasher, the works!! My housemates are pretty cool too. For some strange reason, they have yet to complain about my habit of leaving every room in total chaos! And I must give a special mention to Kieran, the only male in the house. Well done for surviving five weeks with us mad women!!

That must be a world record.....

I was told the strangest thing last week. Apparently, now this is only speculation, but I have been informed that there are some freshers amongst us who are STUDYING!! Madness! First years studying-that has to be illegal.....

I received a bit of advice from a fourth year recently on how to avoid the whole study

thing. All I've got to do is join a load of clubs, and persuade my parents that these are character building, and way more important than a silly letter from the president! Yeah, like they're really going to believe that one.....but I thought it was

worth a shot. So I did. And I am now am a proud member of the dance club, the trampolining club, and basically way too many societies.....not that I ever show up or anything.....but we won't go into that! And still, there's more! I've still got to go to the formidable Mundy next week, call into the Comedy club on Tuesday and do the whole Mystery tour thingy on Thursday-it's such a pain having an active social life. I've still got to do some sporty stuff, like going to the gym or something. Who am I kidding??! That's never going to happen.....

So.....yeah, UL is class...pity about the whole studying thing. I knew it was too good to be true!!

"I received a bit of advice from a fourth year recently on how to avoid the whole study thing. All I've got to do is join a load of clubs, and persuade my parents that these are character building, and way more important than a silly letter from the president!"

New Bar on Campus by Claire Roche Kelly

All the way over there in the new, and impressively intimidating, sports building, lies a bar. Often forgotten, it sits in all its stately grandeur, the haunt of official types and sports stars wannabes. The rest of the student body should get a proverbial slap on the wrist for their negligence of the area. For shame!

Long as the journey may be, the sports bar is well worth a visit. The décor is welcoming and comfortable - no neon or tackiness in sight. There are plenty of seats and tables, but they are well spaced, so it doesn't appear to be cramped. While its layout may not be conducive to a party atmosphere, it certainly is a great place to go to for a drink or two. If you're looking for somewhere to have a bit of a laugh with friends without being deafened by the crowd or the music, this is the place to go.

I made the effort to check the place out, with the intention of going in and glancing around. Instead of a quick browse and a swifter exit, I

stayed for a spot of lunch, so impressed was I by the menu. And a nice lunch it was too. Generous helpings, smiling staff, comfortable seats, a great view of the running track and the hurling team and background music that actually fulfilled its mission - it stayed in the background.

However, I don't think I'll be making the trip everyday. I am, after all, a student. And that means I'm living on a student's budget. The food may have been great and plentiful, but it was pricey. Not ridiculously so, mind you, and for a once-a-week treat, it wouldn't break the bank, but for a bar on a university campus, they're not really catering for students in the way they could. This is, perhaps, further backed up by the fact that there seemed to be

more suits and briefcases in the joint than there were baggy trousers and hoodies. But don't let this frighten you away!

"no neon or tackiness in sight. There are plenty of seats and tables, but they are well spaced, so it doesn't appear to be cramped"

For those of you who have not yet entered the realms of the sports bar, I would recommend you to take a sneak peek. And then

maybe sit down for a drink or a bite to eat. I guarantee you won't be rushing to get out.

The Stables Club

Week 6

Mon.29th "Live Wired"

Tue.30th: "Ten Forward+Radio Soc", Tables Quiz" 7.30pm to 9pm,After "Moldy Oldies" (D.J. Aidan)

Wed.31st "Shantytown" Sing along to the classic songs

Thurs.1st The Stables Club **HALLOWEEN PARTY**, fancy dress, (£100 prize for best-dressed group 10 or more.

Fri.2nd @ 5.30pm "Noel Mc Loughlin" followed by Party Disco Night.

Sat.3rd from 9pm "Video Box" The best music videos, with special intro. By U.L. students, also Video on Kollege Week etc.

Greek Week

Mon.5th Nov. 12-5pm Green Fair Courtyard
8pm to 9.30pm "Table Quiz"
9.30pm "Live Wired"

Tue.6th Karaoke+ D.J.

Wed.7th 4pm "Noel Mc Loughlin"
6pm to 9pm Video Box With some of the best Irish Music Videos
9pm "Clare Celts"

Thurs.8th, "Reggie, Salsa, Carrabeen D.J." And Videos (7pm-9pm)
9pm "Live Carrabeen Act" (T.B.C)

Fri.9th "Noel McLoughlin (@5.30pm, and Party Disco Night

Sat.10th "Video Box"

More Info: www.stablesclub.com

HURLER OFF THE DITCH



by Ger Downes

In these heady days of decommissioning and the imminent demise of the Paisleyite strand of loyalism, it would be less than magnanimous of this column to not pause for praise of the man Pat Rabbite once referred to as 'the Gandhi of the Northside', and who was once casted as 'the most cunning, the most devious, the most ruthless of them all', by no less a Taoiseach than Charles J. Haughey. For not being John Bruton, and for working assiduously for peace in the North (but latterly helping the 'war effort' in Afghanistan), we salute the efforts of Drumcondra's favourite Taoiseach. The kudos of having helped engineer an unlikely disarmament by the IRA and demilitarisation by the British government, will surely resonate at next year's general election - unless Fianna Fail is foiled by a Sinn Féin pincer movement in legitimately targeted constituencies. It is unlikely that the election will be fought on an issue which may, in recession-biting times, be seen as an onerous burden on the national coffers.

The 'Bertie Bowl', aka Stadium Ireland, has been portrayed in two ways. One camp asserts that it will be fitting testimony to our status as a sports-mad country and an appropriately ample arena capable of holding more than the paltry 33 thousand who were permitted to witness the Irish soccer team's coruscating victory over the Netherlands last September. Another viewpoint portrays Stadium Ireland as a monument to the Taoiseach's ego, a virility symbol comparable with former French president Mitterand's building of La Defense in Paris. A more suitable analogy may be with London's Millennium Dome, that monument to myopia and incompetent management not seen in fact or fiction since the era of Basil Fawley.

What the project illustrates most succinctly of all, is the attempt to use sport as the basis on which to court popularity. As a device, this is as original as a 'dog bites postman' headline. In the days of the Roman Empire the satirist Juvenal made the suggestion that 'panis et circenses' ('bread and circuses', i.e. food and sport) would prevent the masses from revolting against the emperor. In recent times luminaries such as Nicolae Ceaucesu in Romania, Silvio Berlusconi in Italy and General Belgrano in Argentina

What is the story with the computers this year?! It appears to me that you can't check your e-mail at any time between the hours of 10a.m. and 7p.m., unless you've brought a packed lunch and a good book. So unless, you're prepared to trek down after dinner, or (shudder, shudder) early in the morning, you can forget about staying in touch your friends, not to mention getting urgent messages from the Co-Op office. Things have changed over the years. U.L. never exactly had an abundance of computers, as far as I can recall, but the situation this year is absolutely ridiculous!

You know how it is - you go to the Venus lab and immediately turn back because it looks like they're selling concert tickets. You try the Fishtank, and there's an annoying pink sign saying, "Go away - this is for the privileged people - that excludes you!" or something to that effect. You absently think about walking to the Schumann or (God forbid) the Schrodinger, but lets face it - there is an absolutely putrid smell in the Schumann, (did something die in there?) and the Schrodinger is practically in another time zone, so your desire to check your e-mail floats away. Even in the evening, the Fishtank is taken over by labs and AM061 has a sign saying "For engineering students only". E1022 is strictly a business lab, yet you don't see us restricting other students from using it. Sharing is caring, after all.

The worst thing about queuing in the Venus lab during the day, I find, is that it brings out my truly heinous qualities. Does anyone else look at people

are among the multitude of politicians that have used unashamedly used sport for political means. Once upon a time - usually before a rugby tour to or from apartheid South Africa - a contention was made, sometimes quite vociferously, that there was no link between politics and sport. This was akin to saying that there is not much of a connection between breathing and being alive.

The announcement two weeks ago by the insurance group Axa that it wishes to negotiate a much higher premium for its coverage of next year's World Cup has put the staging of the tournament in Japan and South Korea into doubt. Assuming that the tournament goes ahead, any team that has reached the finals will be required to travel to the Orient in two separate planes. This is a concept which may be amenable to the monastic Roy Keane, but is causing apoplexy among the various footballing federations whose windfall gains from reaching the tournament are under threat of obliteration by insurance corporations. It is another salutary reminder of how altered everyday existence has become since the attacks of September 11th on the United States. It also serves to reinforce the impact of political actions on the sometimes insular world of sport.

Three days before the attacks, our intrepid Taoiseach appeared on the RTE programme 'The Premiership' to offer what the station called 'expert analysis' (which transpired to be far from 'expert' and a long way from 'analysis') on the Chelsea-Arsenal and Manchester United-Everton matches that day. While no one doubts the Taoiseach's attachment to and love of the game, it was irresponsible of the national broadcaster to allow the Taoiseach free access to the airwaves and later claim that this act from which no political favour would ensue. Much as the Taoiseach has sought to assure us that the £50 million pounds donation to Stadium Ireland by J.P. McManus will not be reciprocated with any political gesture to benefit McManus and those so-called 'tax exiles' which one British newspaper this summer referred to as 'the unofficial government of Ireland'.

Yet back in an era when many 'An Focal' readers were

who are typing about ten words a minute, and wish their hands would fall off? And as for the people who are doing absolutely nothing constructive, (how important can a car website be?) I go a little further and wish curses on their unborn children! It's not like I'm any better when I'm on the other side. I have no problems with sitting smugly in front of my computer while the person at the front of the queue, stands there, privately fuming and throwing hateful glances my way as I take yet another delightful (but utterly pointless) test on thespark.com. Oh it's all so funny when you're on the other side. The people who are especially evil are the ones who make a big fuss over getting up to go to the printer - even taking the trouble to push in their chairs. You see the face of the poor unfortunate at the top of the queue lift with hope and miserably fall again, as they realise that there is yet more waiting in store.

I have a theory, which offers an explanation as to why there are such ludicrous queues this year. It's the first years' fault! This theory is founded (albeit roughly) in the fact that every time I log on to a computer these days, it has previously been used by an individual with a 01 I.D. number. I support the theory by the fact that people are becoming more and more computer literate so the present generation of first years are all extremely comfortable with the Internet and e-mail. Not a technophobe amongst them, bless their little hearts. Furthermore, they have loads more free time than the rest of us. First years are also still finding their feet so to speak, so some may not know that there are computers else-

barely into their tenth summer. McManus was involved in a transaction from which the owner of Istabraq made a profit of half-a-million pounds. Half a million pounds, that is, of your parents' money. Another stunning coup for the man known as the 'Sundance Kid'? Not according to Inspector John Glackin who investigated the purchase by Telecom Éireann of the old Johnston, Mooney and O'Brien site in Ballsbridge in 1991. The site was sold to Telecom, an entity then owned and funded by an overburdened public, for £9.4 million less than a year after it had been bought for £4 million. As well as McManus, the chief beneficiary of what was effectively an act of public larceny, was Dermot Desmond.

McManus is now a freeman of Limerick and venerated as a dispenser of charity while Desmond is today the chief shareholder in Glasgow Celtic plc. Not only did both gentlemen benefit from the dubious use of public money; they also benefit from Ireland's residency laws, which are among the most liberal in the world. Under the legislation, people resident outside the state for 'tax purposes', i.e. those who are too rich to pay any taxes, may spend up to 180 days and nights within the confines of the state. The other days of the year may be spent within the state provided that our intrepid, tax-avoiding Cinderellas step outside the state before midnight. Most of Ireland's mega-rich therefore do not officially reside within the state but live in 'tax exile' in places such as Barbados, Geneva and Monte Carlo.

Last May, Senator Joe O'Toole called for the residency laws to be amended. He is one of the very few voices to publicly oppose the use of different rules for the very rich but he is wasting his breath. No political party has echoed his sentiments and if, as seems likely, that the Stadium Ireland project comes to pass, then we will be forever reminded how indebted we are to J.P. McManus and the other corporate sponsors of a project which will absorb at the very least £525 million of the tax-paying public's money. 'The most cunning, the most devious, the most ruthless of them all'? It's an accolade for which the current Taoiseach has much competition.

where, besides the Vacs, the Fishtank, and the library. The First years who originally thought the Fishtank was actually an aquarium are generally the guilty culprits. (You know who you are!)

So I have included a couple of tips to make life easier for everyone and they're not only for the First years. To give credit where it's due, some first years are already strutting around like they own the place, and it's only Week 5! And good for them, I say! They're also for other students that have been 'less than involved' with academic life since their arrival in U.L.

1 Take a day to explore the university and discover all its' labs - it's really good fun - you'll learn lots of things - like how to get from the Foundation building to the Lonsdale without going outside at all! (Those tunnels are really useful in the rain!)

2 Don't be fooled by those pink signs. Often the lecturer just forgets to take them down.

3 The queues move faster after half past the hour because people have to leave to go to their next lecture.

If anyone else has any ideas, or even some clinically sane methods of amusing oneself while queuing, let us know! We could all use them...

and now for something a little bit different....

The Fantastic Quartet

Not so long ago, in a place not so very far away.

The harsh gaze of the unforgiving sun glistened off the immaculate bonnet of Ernest McCloud's Flower Power Pajero, as he screeched from the driveway of his D4 apartment/secret HQ of the Fantastic Quartet which he had Mommy and Daddy hell-lift down to the harsh tattooed ghetto of The 'Troy. Riding Shotgun was Captain Boombastic, by day mild mannered Comp. Sys. nerdlet, but by night, driven crazy by the strenuous workload of his course, he became Superhero Supreme (of Diana Ross and the Supremes) and erotic lothario champion of the masses. Capt. Boombastic sat with a Marvel comic in his lap, one hand stuck out the window, testing the winds of evil.

His cohorts, in the back seat, stared ahead, fully focused on the business at hand. Justice was written all over their stoned jaws, revenge engraved on their clenched fists, because somebody had brought a ball point pen and it was a long journey. Behind Ernest McCloud sat a pale skinned, spider-haired, Smoke-enshrouded Sligo man, Judge Dreadlocks, the Rastafarian Clown-Prince of Connaught. The Judge, driven to the very razor edge of sanity, sought revenge against those who claimed that the body of sacred godhead Yeats' was in fact the rancid frog-legged bones of an anonymous Frenchman.

Beside the Judge sat Chrys D'Brg. "Hurdy Gurdy Mort mort mort!" Swore the half Swedish, half Namibian Circus trained Cat Strangler and children's entertainer. The parting in his manly hair defied his Anglophilic persuasions.

"I couldn't put it better myself, Chrys, man. dude. man." said Ernest earnestly, who saw now more than ever that only violence could realise his peaceful utopian chemically enhanced fantasy. It had only been five minutes since the Big red phun phone summoned them to action, but it seemed like a larger amount of time than five minutes but not quite hours yet, though it was only a matter of time.

"I still can't believe that Solomon Rusty Man has stolen all the 'Troy's Pot noodle supply, thus threatening life, liberty and student cuisine as we know it, and we have been called by our worthy mentor and trainer Mr. T.A. to solve this heinous crime" said Captain Boombastic, stating the obvious for the purposes of plot explanation.

"Why are you stating the obvious? This isn't some crappy story written by three doped up students man,

this is real life, dude, and we can't waste time with excessively verbacious dialogue, dude. Man. Dude. Old skool." ranted Ernest. The tires squealed to a halt outside the 'Troy's Spore shop, but unfortunately not the rest of the car. The jingle jangle of cheap Dunnes Stores Jewellery signalled the presence of their mentor, Mr. T.A....

"Hey Fools! Quit yo' Jibba jabba," said Mr. T.A. thrusting his Mohawked gold-chain bedecked dandruff free Head and Shoulders through the errant window, sluttily sending broken glass all over Capt. Boombastic's lap. "Get yo' fool ass out! Not like that... and solve me some crimes, Suckas! I'd solve it mah-self, but ah've gotta help some damn fool kids play basketball and drink milk at the Youth Centre... I ain't gettin' on no plane Hannibal." He said, flashing back to 'Nam.

"There he goes again, with that youth centre crap, this is serious superhero stuff, not nonsense written by three doped up students dammit." said the Judge.

"Quick! Pass the super serum," demanded Ernest. "No! To the left-hand side!"

"Let's take some ass and kick some names!" said Chrys D'Byrg utilising his only English phrase, which he had already used to bed some of the world's most attractive women.

"To the Rusty Man's secret Hideout, in the middle of the U.L. Plaza, Diddle diddle dee!" bellowed Boombastic boastfully.

Boombastic leapt heroically out of the Pajero, and lifted his seat so those in the back could leap out too, though not quite as heroically as the Judge had not unfastened his seatbelt, and had left his super anorak in the boot.

They paid the £1 parking fee and ran to save the student's pot... noodles. The 4 heroes burst away from the car like... a burst pipe of heroism rushing towards their impending mortal battle, but all were stopped in their respective tracks, noticing simultaneously both the toilet-paper trip-wire and Rusty man, standing cold and uncaring, almost statue-like. you could say, at the centre of the Plaza. They made to attack on all fronts, but a wave from Boombastic stopped them dead in their tracks.

"This one's mine!" spat Boombastic, his mysterious history with Rusty Man making this a most personal and mysterious battle.

As Boombastic tensed for battle, His Loyal sidekick, and multi-million selling R 'n' B artist,

Shaggy leapt from the bushes with a boom-box of infinite justice, and began to sing Captain Boombastic's War anthem, the "Boombastic Bop"

The Captain squared up to Rusty man, his eyes narrowing, and attempted to stare him down.

"Show me the Pot Noodles, Corrosion Head!" challenged Boombastic.

"Or I'll Hammerite your ass!"

Rusty Man Stared on, impassively hiding all emotion, with an empty Pot Noodle tin balanced on his head to demonstrate his awesome powers of lady-like balance.

"Boombastic man.... Eh, You gonna be here long. Man. Dude. Man?" asked Ernest, cutting the tension earnestly, "cos... eh, Chrys here was saying that we should to the secret pub of Scholarly Justice." "Ecky Ecky Ecky P'ting" agreed Chrys sagely, (but not openly).

Boombastic did not reply, locked in a mortal staring match with his Arch-nemesis, so the lads shagged off and let him get on with it, in a platonic way.

Precisely 38 Super hours later, which are exactly equal to human hours, they returned to the scene of impending carnage, only to find Boombastic still locked in his epic battle... of doom.

"Ehh.... Boombastic, I think it's a decoy... or something," said Judge, judgementally, "But on the Plus side, we found all the Pot Noodles in an Old crate marked "Evil Nescafe... of infinite doom."

"Sod it then, let's go!" said Boombastic, and picked up the unconscious Shaggy and his beatbox, a mysterious casualty of the battle that had just concluded... and with eyes narrowing ominously promised "But some day Rusty Man will get his come-uppance!"

"He just said come-uppance teehee" whispered the Judge to Chrys, and passed the Super serum to the left hand side.

"Some day..."

Fin.

(As in the French for "end." It's a frog thing not a fish thing.)

Till next week, drink yo milk and stay in school, sucka.

By

Seamie Kennedy, Nick O' Brien and Gar Morley.

Sightsavers say thanks!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the help and support of our sponsors and volunteers in organising a Table Quiz for Sightsavers International in UL over the Summer.

£170 was raised and Russel Richards (Sight Savers Int - 60303617) has written to thank everyone involved in the fundraising evening.

In particular I would like to thank the Scholars pub for allowing us to use their venue and also the prize sponsors (Bank of Ireland, Campbell Catering, O'Mahoneys, University Concert Hall and USIT Travel).

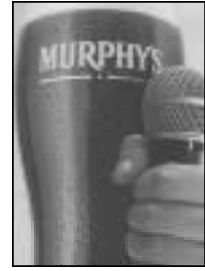
There are about 1.5 million blind children in the world. Half of child blindness is unnecessary, as it could be prevented or cured. Over 40% of childhood blindness is caused by Vitamin A deficiency. Trachoma, cataract and river blindness are other major causes of unnecessary blindness and Sight Savers International is working to prevent blindness through all of these causes.

Thanks also goes to those who took part in the event.

Derek O'Keeffe
Kevin Johnson
Michael Johnson

Due to space restrictions certain articles and features were ommitted this week but will return in the next edition of An Focal. Apologies are extedned to anyone who had their submission excluded.

Why aren't you laughing? It says "comedy" on the door!!!!



Setting: The Scholars Function Room, UL
Occasion: Murphys DOT COMedy Club
Date: Tuesday, Week 4 & Tuesday, Week 5

UL students were treated with some of the best comedians over the past two Tuesday nights in the Scholars Function Room. Murphys DOT COMedy Club distressed us while entertaining us after a long day at lectures! After such a good show in Week 3, we were expecting louder and funnier things to come - but did they?

Week 4 saw the great Adam Hills headlining with support from Michael Downey. MC for the night was John Henderson. The evening was to be enjoyed by all - and jokes were to be laughed at - some laughing more than others. We were certainly in for a treat with the inclusion on the bill of Melbourne comic Adam Hills. John Henderson kept us all entertained between acts and intervals with his constant witty comments and antics. There was one girl, unfortunate enough to be sitting on the floor at the front, who was ridiculed by each act - "yeah you can see down her top!" said one as he jumped on top of the steps to get a better look.



Next up was Monaghan born (but we won't hold that against him) Michael Downey. The second he stepped on stage I could tell that his material would be testing. His accent was, to be honest, about the funniest thing about him. His gags were funny, but I had the feeling that I had heard them somewhere before. Having said that however, he did manage a fair amount of laughs and claps from the audience when he spoke of his girlfriend. His main topic for the evening was sex, which he played around with a lot. He did nonetheless let go of a few witty gags - after all didn't he get a great big cheer from the audience as he left the stage?!

The main act for the evening was Adam Hills who won the hearty laughs of everyone in the room. He got a great response to his gags about the nations of the world, including the ever-popular slagging off the Americans! His comparisons between Ireland, America and Australia were hilarious - the naming of your children after what you'd like them to be when they grow up - in America names such as Faith,

Hope and Charity provided for much laughter from the audience. In Australia however, they just name them Nicearse, Bigtits and other outrageous names.

Adam's jokes were original and witty. He managed to grasp every prying ear in the place with his tales of Unionists in bus crash and other such hilarities! He was on top of the show the whole time and made use of the ever useful 'slag the ones at the front' ploy! He received tremendous laughter and applause throughout the show, and the audience were enthusiastic to hear more! And so he delighted us with his re-appearance on stage. MC John Henderson took over again and started a story about a gag Adam did at a festival and Adam volunteered to demonstrate it himself!

And so he took to the stage again and did a Terminator 2 impersonation. For those of ye who didn't realize - Adam is actually missing one of his legs - which made for an excellent self-inflicted joke earlier in the show! Anyway - he did the Terminator 2 walk and halfway across the stage left his leg, behind him! The room erupted!

Week 5 plated host to Paddy Courtney and Karl Spain. John Henderson was the MC again. The night was amazing - with a wide variety of subjects to be ridiculed by all three acts. Although John Henderson warmed up the crowd and keep us laughing, it felt as though detached from the whole thing - as if he did not want to be there! He was reading a newspaper during Paddy's sketch - but who's to say that he wasn't trying to find inspiration for his next jokes?! He entertained the crowd with his wonderings of gay sex and again made use of the front row people. There was a Clare girl at the front who made such a fool out of herself - she tried to be funny and smart with all the acts, but fell flat on her face every time! She did not liked being picked on at all - I thought she was going to cry at one stage!

Karl Spain, formerly of Limerick's very own CBS School took to the stage next. He went to school

with the SU's Keith Piggott, the promoter of the Comedy Club - can you imagine what the two of them were like in a Maths class?! One of the first things I noticed about Karl was the scattered scribbling on his arms - he later told me that he has to write reminders on his arms as he completely blanked out on stage before! His jokes varied from school-related to being stopped by the Gardai for speeding. 'I spell my name with a capital K and a capital Madrid!' He slagged Mary I students for all being named Carmel! His stories and observations about Jesus were hilarious - Joseph was annoyed with 'Jessie' because he was still living at home, and his mother thought he was 'God's Gift'!! I had the opportunity to talk to Karl after the show, and I was left with the impression that he uses some of his better material off stage.

Paddy Courtney further entertained the crowd with his reminiscing of Gaeltacht days with special and intimate memories of the Bean an Tí! He told us how his mother used to put everything said in the house into a song - sing a few lines and then hide under the table! He had a friend with a stammer/stutter, whose name was Sylvester Smith, who lived at 66 Sycamore Street.

The 'Camera Girl' (Grace - you know who you are!) was legendary! She was taking a photo of Paddy on stage and he asked her if she's like to come on stage to take a better one! She did - and she rocked! He took the camera (An Focal camera, by the way!) and told her to stand in front of the crowd with the microphone in her hands - she really blew him away when she let her hair down and posed rather seductively for the camera! She was only lovin' it! I bet her hang-over was bad the next



morning!

So the night of Week 5 at the Comedy Club was a complete success. Joking and laughter were the ingredients - which made a great recipe for a great night out! If you haven't been already - give it a go! Once you go DOT COM, you'll never turn back!!

- By Mairead Moriarty

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U.L. vs. The World!

Stop in your tracks! Throw away that voting card, and that tin of Nescafe, for I am about to take you on a whistle-stop tour of the world, in a way more scintillating than has ever been done before, through the mystical rites of the student newspaper.

That's right! In every issue of An Focal from now on, I will tell you just how great those newspapers that you will never read and have no interest in actually are! So stay tuned for this gripping social bisection, where we cast away niceties and bring you the throbbing rancid core of Newspapering at the infant level.

In the cut-throat world of Student journalism, where the battlegrounds are strewn with chewed pencils and broken dreams, no name strikes fear into the heart of an undergraduate reporter more than that of the University of Toronto's own "Independent Weekly." I have done extensive research on the University of Toronto and have found out everything you need to know about it. i.e. it is in Canada. Canada is on top of America, and is in fact a country all to itself.

Many people have questioned my decision to start with Canada. "It's not even a real country" they have slandered. "It's like a little U.S.A. except colder, and with worse music." "All those weird bouncy-headed flatulent little Canadians are up to something..." they say. But Canada, this disputed country, is where I myself was born, and so I am sworn to defend it from all knockers. In the immortal words of our National Anthem "I am a Lumberjack, and I'm O.K."

Indeed, Canada's Okayness spreads to the very foundations on which society was built. Bryan Adams, Celine Dion, The cast of "Degrassi Junior High", Terence and Phillip, Lumberjacks, Alanis Morissette. These people are icons, role models without which we would have to ask, "What is life about at all?" Face it. Jack Kerouac is Canadian, I am Canadian, William Shatner is Canadian, Canada is cool. And you really are just jealous.

So now that you've gotten into the spirit of Canada by settling down with your grilled cheese drenched in Maple Syrup, and your girlfriend is down at the local topless bar, your Alanis Morissette C.D. is on in the background, and, like most Canadians, you have climbed into the Fridge to keep warm, we will now get to the newspaper itself. An Focal is often unfairly criticized for not having any real news, but in Toronto, news is DEMANDED. If there is no news

they make some themselves... In times of lean canteen gossip, lecturers have disappeared, and buildings have been blown up. There may be right now crack squads of Canadian Journalistic Paratroops working undercover waiting to start a Trans-Atlantic, inter-Varsity war, just for ratings on their paper. I told you they're clever. We're not talking "Clapping System" here people... this is serious

In the world of College Publications, Toronto's Independent is a Picasso. They use a broadsheet form, as opposed to a tabloid, too good to be used in toilet paper emergencies and no mistake. They use big words. "Independent, Diversity, University" So you can see why I had a Dictionary in my hand as I trawled my way through.

At first glance, their grasp of English grammar is strained... but their system is simple. The last letter of every headline must be in Capitals, but never the first. Their pub is called the "hangaR" for God's sake. These people are making a simple newspaper into some kind of Surrealist Art-form. They wear loud neckties, and the University itself can boast an extremely diverse culture of Canadians... and Americans, and that vast cultural backdrop is reflected in this delightful newspaper. From the first line, to the last, it is ten pages packed with delight. This paper is full of useful information. I found out that one of the most frequently asked questions to the Canadian Tourist Board's Website is how to get in contact with the Prime Minister of Canada, though I am intrigued as to the type of tourist who actually feels the necessity of writing to the premier of every country he visits... And surely, "Who is the Prime Minister of Canada" is asked even more frequently. (The Prime Minister also has a website... with a kiddies section, featuring an online colouring book... They take their politics seriously...) Choc a block with useful tidbits like these you can become an expert on Canadian culture. Then maybe you will see that College Newspapers are the same the world over. Their priorities may be a little off, but their heart is in the right place. For example, the news that the University of Toronto's college pub is to re-open after a lengthy closure due to under-age drinking (ominous signs ahead) dominates the paper as the main Headline in Huge 72 Railroad Gothic print, while the story of the investigation into the murder of a lecturer gets jammed into a minor side bar 15 line mini-story with no heading.

A focus group's dream, their first page manages to look like it's on the side of every minority they could think of that might actually read the paper, (the homosexual and lesbian community, the Asian and African community, the part-time student community, the fulltime Students Unionites, a heading proclaiming "U of T celebrates diversity") and, the most important thing to a student at the University of Toronto, how to fool Napster.

Within the paper is the standard fare... news expansion, music reviews, theatre, movies and features. But something about it's layout is seductive, the writing style is slick, this is indeed a sexy paper. I now find myself praying towards Toronto on a daily basis. Those Canadians are magic. They can turn lesser metals into gold. Worship them for they are at the epicenter of society's development. No, really.

by
Nick O'Brien

In Defense Of War

In recent weeks, I have heard considerable criticism of the military action taken by Britain and the U.S.A. in Afghanistan. People have many concerns, ranging from worries about civilians in Afghanistan, to believing the American aircraft refueling at Shannon put them on Bin Laden's hit list. My personal belief is that the war is both just and necessary, and I have good reasons for my opinions.

First of all, some suggest that the terrorist should be pursued purely through legal action: unfortunately, this is not feasible. That part of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban does not have a legal system as such - the hierarchy of courts that forms a legal system in almost every other land on earth does not exist. Instead, the region is ruled in feudal style by local warlords. Thus, with no courts and no real police service, the legal option is simply a non-starter. Another point to remember is that the Taliban do not merely shelter Bin Laden and his followers: Bin Laden provides considerable support, both financial and military, to the Taliban. So, each is dependant on the other for survival.

Next, the human cost of attacking Afghanistan: civilians are dying along with Taliban soldiers and Al-Qaeda terrorists - exact numbers are not known, but casualty figures are probably in three digits. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as bloodless

war. When thousands of tons of explosives are delivered all over a country, it would be extraordinary if no one were killed. By my own calculation, about one civilian is currently dying for every couple of tons of explosives dropped - I believe this demonstrates the efforts made to preserve life by Allied forces.

Of course, even one civilian death is too many: but how many more people will die if the Taliban and Bin Laden are not destroyed? And here is the centre of my argument: it has been made abundantly clear to the world that Bin Laden and his like will slaughter man, woman and child alike, that they will use any means at their disposal to achieve such slaughter. If they are not stopped, be in no doubt that they will kill again and again, by any means available. What do you think Bin Laden would do to your world, if he had at his disposal the resources that America has?

It is also clear that an Afghanistan ruled by the Taliban is a hellish place: nothing to eat, no schooling but the Qu'ran (and that only for the boys), no infrastructure, an economy based on the cultivation of drugs, "justice" that kills and maims with no appeal. It is a society without a future. The destruction of the Taliban will be a blessing for ordinary people there, particularly women.

Finally: the 5,000 murders in New York and

Washington are an act of war - perpetrated by Bin Laden, with the support of the Taleban, against people of all nationalities and creeds. It is only the latest and worst in a series of attacks. Surrender to these evil men is unthinkable: the only realistic alternative is to wage war upon them, by every means at our disposal, but taking all possible steps to protect innocent lives. Ireland has no better friend than America, and to obstruct America's forces now would be treachery and cowardice of the lowest kind. Unfortunately, there ARE times when only physical force can put the world right: remember 1939, and support this war.





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ULSU Entertainments



The Frames

Call it the miracle of evolution if you want. By accident or design, the Frames have always done whatever the hell they wanted, led by their noses through a funhouse of big label hoopla and indie intrigues. Frequently without a pot to piss in, they are nevertheless the envy of any band tethered to the industry treadmill, a maverick lot more at home in the ditch than the middle of the road.

The band's forthcoming fourth album *For The Birds* is the latest in a series of beautiful mistakes. If 1999's lauded *Dance The Devil* album recast the band from a superacoustic rock monster into a quirky and crafty entity on a par with soulmates like *dEUS* and *The Dirty Three*, then *For The Birds* is the baptismal rite after that rebirth.

"It was the first record that we sat down and really talked about," frontman Glen Hansard explains. "We decided to go make it in two weeks in a house in Kerry, lash out all these songs that didn't get recorded on our last record. Also, it was the first album we recorded while writing, because we were tired of songs being played and played live, and by the time we got to record them, they were dead. It was basically just an honest recording of where we were right then, not tailor-made for anybody but ourselves."

In keeping with that spirit, the band enlisted the production skills of not just old friend and ex-*dEUS* man Craig Ward, but also legendary *Pixies*/*Nirvana* producer Steve Albini. "The guys the only real socialist I've ever met in music," Glen enthuses. "Steve's a complete engineer; he doesn't produce. The idea of a producer is to make something easier to listen to, and Steve is the opposite, he's like, 'Fuck the timing or tuning, it's great.' He's very honest, and he's a hardcore man, the only person I've come across in music ever who's been straight with us and not pulled any punches. He's a thinker, and if he wasn't a recording engineer he'd have to be a writer or some kind of philosopher, because he's just constantly talking about the idea of art."

For The Birds bears witness to the band's coming of age as an instinctive and integrated playing ensemble, working in service of Glen Hansard's open-heart-surgery songwriting. The record veers from the warm melancholia of a Will Oldham or Nick Cave (*Lay Me Down*), 'When The Heart Just Stops', inspired avant-guitarde in the tradition of acts like *Granddaddy* and *Mercury Rev* (*Early Bird*), weird alt-country (*Mighty Sword*) plus other tunes which don't sound like anything except The Frames hitting a particularly deep seam (*In The Deep Shade*), the fractious dynamics of *'Santa Maria'*. The new music is conceived of timeless elements, distinguished by Hansard's bare-all vocals, Dave Odium's always unobvious guitar, Colm Mac An Iomaire's grainy violin and perhaps the subtlest of Irish rhythm sections.



Of course, it's taken Glen Hansard and co. a while to get here, from the Nick Drake-meets-The-Pixies joyous noise of their 1992 debut *Another Love Song*, through the almost Zeppelin-esque plains of *Fitzcarraldo* three years later to the

Pavement/*Royal Trux*-like brinkmanship of 1999's the *I Am The Magic Hand EP* and *Dance The Devil* album.

This evolutionary process began almost a decade ago, in Dublin at the end of the 1980s, when Glen Hansard secured a deal with Island Records, recruited the cream of local musicians, and The Frames made their inaugural live appearance at a festival in the west of Ireland in September 1990.

By Spring of '92, the band had become one of the most talked-about live draws in Dublin. The first single "The Dancer" cemented their reputation as young guns with attitude, and ex-*Thin Lizzy* road manager and *Pogues* manager Frank Murray was so impressed by the record - likening its hormonal rush to the *Undertones* "Teenage Kicks"- that he decided get involved.

The band then recruited *Pixies* producer Gil Norton and began working on their debut album, and the result, *Another Love Song*, was released later that



year. It was a turbulent time for the band; bassist John Carney left the line-up to pursue a career in film (he was replaced by Graham Downey - son of *Thin Lizzy* drummer Brian), and violinist Colm Mac An Iomaire fell ill, resulting in the cancellation of crucial American dates. Then, in the great Island house-cleaning of the early 90s (which could count Tom Waits amongst its casualties) band and record company parted ways.

Nevertheless, The Frames were rapidly maturing, and amassed a fanatical following at a time when most rock acts could barely fill their own backyards. More to the point though, the musicians had written and arranged some stunning new material, including the epic "Fitzcarraldo" (after the Herzog movie), "Angel At My Table", and "Revelate", which still ranks as one of the classic Irish singles. Using money from hometown gigs, the band recorded all these tracks with former *Boomtown Rat* and *Tricky* collaborator Pete Briquette at the helm, and ZTT promptly snapped them up.

Fitzcarraldo was released in 1994, and while it wasn't the definitive Frames opus, it did mark them out as serious contenders. Also, they'd begun making serious inroads into America, establishing numerous pockets of support on the east coast. Indeed, in the wake of *Fitzcarraldo*, producer Steve Albini expressed desires to re-record some of the key tracks, and although the collaboration never came to anything at the time, their paths were destined to cross again some six years later.

But first, it was time for an overhaul: the band parted company with Frank Murray, Noreen left to pursue a career as an artist and bassist Graham was

replaced by Joe Doyle. And onstage, the band were mutating faster than audiences could follow, with violinist Colm coming into his own as a musical foil, experimenting with wheezy old harmoniums, samples, kid's toys, dictaphones and all manner of aural extraneousness, complimenting Dave Odium's angular guitar lines. The Frames DC were getting weird, and it suited them. This was a new, looser, but no less incendiary collective, and the songs reflected these changes, being at once emotionally direct but sonically skewed. Capitalising on this new buzz, the combo began recording *Dance The Devil* in France in 1998, hell-bent on creating a totally uncompromised piece of work.

The process was not without its casualties - drummer Paul Brennan departed two months into the sessions (he was replaced by Dave Hingerty), and the band's rhythm section developed into a more fluid beast, no less technically adept, but more sympathetic to the songs. "One very valuable thing we learned in the making of *Dance The Devil* is that you don't have to shout at people," Glen reflected at the time. "I think we've kinda learnt as a band how to play less."

The first fruits of the band's labours surfaced in the form of the *I Am The Magic Hand EP*, which turned heads both in the band's hometown and abroad. *Dance The Devil* sent those heads spinning right off their shoulders featuring very strongly in the Irish end of year polls. The kaleidoscopic swirl of "God Bless Mum", the infectious single "Pavement Tune" and the brooding title track captured a band who had at last harnessed the acclaimed kinetic energy of the live shows and converted it into recorded sound.

The Frames sped through 1999 with scores of UK and American gigs before returning to Ireland to pursue an equally relentless festival schedule. "Rent Day Blues" came out as a single in November, followed by a national tour with *Jubilee Allstars*, David Kitt and DJ Dave Cleary (which spanned the tour-only compilation mini-album *Come On Up To The House* featuring the band's sublime "Star Star" as the lead track). They rounded the year off with a special guest slot at David Gray's *Point Depot* show in December, and a *New Year's Eve* show at the *Tivoli Theatre* in Dublin.

Y2K year saw the band and ZTT part ways, and they were free to make the record they'd always wanted to make, not to mention fulfill that long overdue date with Albini in Chicago. Much of 2000 was spent writing and recording *For The Birds* in Kerry and Chicago. Now in Spring of 2001, The Frames are ready to take the new songs on the road with a huge Irish tour.

"When the band started it was me with a record deal and a bunch of songs and I needed someone to play on them," Glen says, "but that aesthetic is very different now. It's always been a long-term thing with us. We just wanna make 20 records, getting better as they go along."



Focal Elaine

-Patricia Moriarty

“It Just Came Out” to show in UL

“...It Just Came Out is a comedy about equality that begins when a liberal, middle class, young man calls a black woman a ‘nigger’ in a supermarket. He spends the rest of the play trying to figure out why he made such an outrageous comment and questioning his attitudes to race and equality. During the course of his quest, we meet his domineering wife and two black women from different backgrounds, whom he mistakes for each other.

In the play I was keen to hold up a mirror, not so much to the ‘obvious’ racists I enjoy feeling superior to, but to myself - a liberal, middle class man. I wanted to examine some of my own prejudices in the face of my determined belief in my own political correctness. Was I as liberal as I thought I was? Was I racist without knowing it? Is my kind of racism - liberal, well-meaning, yet misguided - more dangerous than more obvious kinds? I wanted to show that racism and equality are complex issues and that understanding - or owning up to - their complexity is a necessary step in the fight for an inclusive society.

I learnt about equality from working with people with disabilities. Our organisation was dedicated to the achievement of equality for disabled people and yet there were great inequalities within the organisation itself. As an idealist who believed in what we were doing, I was disillusioned to see that some people

really were more equal than others.

This made me see that the practice of equality is subtle and complex. The practice of equality is a question of how one behaves from moment to moment - how you conduct yourself in every day life. I may see myself as a believer in equality and I may rant about the racists ‘out there’, but how do I treat my girlfriend or my fellow employee? That behaviour is a much truer measure of equality than membership of any organisation is. Religion gives the same example - are those who attend Mass better Christians than the faithless who do good works? Do I practice what I preach?

It Just Came Out looks at racial equality and also at equality - or the lack of it - within a marriage. The marriage reveals a couple who see themselves as liberal and yet who do not treat each other as equals - how can one co-exist with the other?

Michael, the unfortunate ‘hero’ of the play, finds his political correctness tested by Ally, the black woman he mistakes for Jules, the woman he insulted. He mistakenly thinks that helping her is the same as treating her as an equal. He thinks that she, not him, is the one with problems - yet she is self-sufficient, independent and knows what she wants, while he is hen-pecked, stressed out and angst-ridden. In the

same way that non-disabled people often think that disabled people need charity, Michael thinks that black people need charity. It would never occur to him to ask ‘them’ what they need.

It Just Came Out is about a man who means well. His good intentions blow up in his face, but at least they bring him the insight he needs to renegotiate his marriage and his attitudes.

It Just Came Out is also a play that means well. My good intentions may well blow up in my face. But if they do, maybe I’ll learn something too. And maybe I won’t be the only one.

My hope is that the play will trigger a debate about the general issue of equality and the specific issue of race. Spotlight intend to hold discussions after each performance with this purpose in mind. I very much hope that you will see the play and participate in the debate...”

Christian O’Reilly, Author

UL Folk Group Report

“I can still remember how the Folk Group used to make me smile, and we knew if we had our chance, we could make the students dance and maybe they’d be happy for a while” So said Don McLean, or was it our resident postgrad Tom McLean?

Hello everyone, and a belated welcome (back) to another year in UL. This year is the beginning of a new and unusual departure for the Folk Group. This year we are going to do something big. WE ARE GOING TO WRITE ARTICLES THAT MAKE SENSE. This new and shocking behaviour has not come a moment too soon either, as you will know, from having read our previous articles. We are striving to be informative and entertaining - and to do justice to our society.

So let’s begin...

We are the Folk Group. No we do not sing “fiddle-diddle” music. We actually sing lots of new stuff, lots of old stuff, lots of Irish stuff, and we have been known to stoop to the lows of Oasis. We are mainly a social group, a bunch of mad people who like to sing, play music, listen to music, you know, that kind of thing.

The Folk Group has been very busy over the last few weeks with the news that RTE are coming to film us at the beginning of December. We have also participated in and won the preliminary round of the Kilmurphy “Search for a Star” competition held recently in aid of the Kilmurphy Church and Graveyard Restoration Fund. The final is taking place on the 13th of November, that’s next week, in the O’Brien Room of the Kilmurphy Lodge Hotel at 9pm, so come along and support us.

At the end of week 4, we ventured west of the

Shannon, to a little village in the west of Ireland, called Spanish Point, which we mostly have to ourselves with the exception of the odd local and a lot of sheep. Contrary to the widely held belief that it is in Spain - an opinion expressed by a number of visitors to our information stand in Orientation Week - the Point is actually in west Clare, just 15 miles south of the Cliffs of Moher. Despite thin soup, cold showers and Irish weather, the weekend was deemed by all concerned to be a roaring success: loads of music, two unusual Ceilí, and some touristy stuff combined to ensure a memorable weekend.

After a whole lot of strategic planning and the purchase of some requisitions, the time came to take the “last train to the coast.” Having arrived at the hostel, and eating the much needed soup and sandwiches, the group went off to the Crosses of Annagh, and a mighty session ensued. The old reliables produced their guitars and promptly began to drown out the music of a Ceilí which was happening next door. A lot of singing was done in different tongues: Czech, German, French, English, American and even Cork languages were all represented.

Somebody once said that “Hard work makes one hungry” so we used that excuse on our return in the wee hours to fire up the deep-fat fryer and cook some chips and sausages. However, in the interests of health, it was decided to hold a Ceilí to reduce any cholesterol gained. This turned out to be an unmitigated disaster, as the person who took it upon himself to teach people how to dance, couldn’t dance himself!

The early birds among us, arose about 1pm and decided to go to the beach to have a look at the sea. Some of the foreigners forgot where they were and

decided to go for a swim. Little did they realise that the Atlantic Ocean in October is very, very cold. But they soon learned. To make a long story short, all in all, much fun was had, and a lot of tired bodies struggled back to Limerick late on Sunday evening.

The Folk Group meets on Thursdays in the Salesian Hostel - the big white building that you can see from the bus stop by the Lonsdale Building when you look towards the East Gate (the one without the flag poles.) You know, the building with the church joined onto it. We are there from 8 o’clock onwards (signs are sometimes provided so you can’t get lost) and we usually go on some sort of musical session afterwards.

We sing at the 7.30pm mass in the Salesian Church on Sunday evenings, but this is not obligatory for people who would not feel comfortable - it mainly gives us a focus, something that we can actually practise for.

If you are a talented musician/singer, a not-so-talented musician/singer or a not-at-all talented musician/singer but you like the idea of music, singing, and getting involved in sessions and stuff, you can contact us.....

You can e-mail us at: folk@csn.ul.ie
Our webpage is: <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~folk>

You can drop by our practice as well, the more the merrier!

Well, that’s it!
Mark, Maria and a bit of Tom



Welcome to Greek Week!!!!

So, what is all the hullabaloo about? Well, in two words, getting involved. University is about first and foremost about getting a degree. But campus life has so much more to offer. University life is about getting out; meeting and getting to know those people you see every-day. College is not college, if you literally go to college; we have an extensive campus that has so much to offer and a mountain of extra-curricular activities. One of the best ways of getting out and meeting people is to join a club or society on campus. There are over 70 clubs and societies in UL, so no matter what your interests, there's bound to be one that appeals to you, if not start your own Greek Week is the perfect opportunity to check all clubs and societies on campus, see what they are up to and they can offer you. Another, equally important part of Greek Week is to highlight some of the important welfare issues on campus, things like drug and alcohol abuse, discrimination, security on campus. Greek Week is more than anything else meant to be a celebration of student life and the strength of student spirit.

So, why Greek Week? And what happened to Welfare and SOUL week??? Greek Week is both of these a so much more. When we were looking for a name to encapsulate the central ideas behind Greek Week, it occurred to us that most

of the things we are trying to promote originate in Ancient Greece.

For example, the Olympics were first held in Ancient Greece. The idea that physical health was a necessary pre-requisite for a fulfilling life also originated in Ancient Greece. Out modern day equivalent of the Ancient Greeks training camps is our clubs on campus. We have some of the most successful clubs in Ireland in UL, and we also have the finest sports facilities in the country in the new University Arena. All throughout Greek Week, the clubs of UL will be running events to promote themselves, and all of them are always looking for new members to join up. So, if you see something you like, from soccer to softball, don't be one bit afraid to join up there and then.

Ancient Greece wasn't all about physical exertion though. Athens was the home of the concept of democracy, and the Ancient Greeks also emphasised the arts and the education of the mind. These same concepts can be seen reflected in the societies on campus today. The arts, drama and public oration are all being practised week in and week out by societies on campus. Fancy learning how to salsa? Why not join the dance society. Fancy learning how to speak in public? Why not join the debating union.


Another thing that the Ancient Greeks emphasised was a sense of balance. A little of everything, but nothing to the extreme. Greek Week is also about promoting this idea, Healthy body healthy mind. Most students will pass through University no worse for wear, but there are some that will fall into the trap of alcohol or drug abuse, don't let it be you, take a look around this week there are so many alternatives to falling into this trap.

Greek Week is all about striking a balance. University offers you the chance to have a laugh, have a great social life and get a degree into the bargain. It's a great deal, and all you need to take full advantage of it is a little balance. It's easy to get caught up in the madness and fall into bad habits. Greek Week is about showing you the side of college life that some people miss out on. Join a club or society, go see a play, have a laugh watching comedy, get involved. The Ancient Greeks knew how to enjoy themselves, but they always balanced it with art, physical health and education. During Greek Week, just get out around campus and take a look at what's on offer to you. You never know what you might find!

Enjoy the week.



Official Endorsements



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
UNIBSÉIRIÉ LIMERICÉ

Roger Gill Davies (Ph.D., D.Sc., D.F.C.)
President


Message from the President

It is with much pleasure and pride that I congratulate the University of Limerick Student Union for their initiative in organising "Greek Week".


The promotion of the ancient concept of "Healthy body, Healthy mind" is eminently defensible and, indeed, supports splendidly an underlying theme of the University of Limerick strategic plan. We believe strongly that the University experience should provide students with more than an understanding of their chosen academic disciplines. In addition, it should help them to develop extra-curricular interests, life skills and a life style that encourages mental and physical well-being. The pastoral setting of the University of Limerick provides an environment that is conducive to mental wellness and the outstanding recreational facilities afford opportunity to maintain a healthy physical condition. I am hopeful that, as a result of "Greek Week", these goals and opportunities will be reinforced.

With further congratulations and best wishes for a successful, enjoyable festival.

Yours sincerely



Roger Gill Davies
President



EMBASSY OF GREECE TO IRELAND

University of Limerick
Students' Union

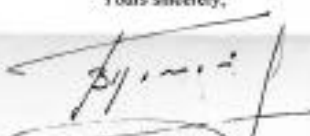
I would like to extend my warm greetings to all those involved in the University of Limerick Student Union's "Greek Week". It was with great pleasure for me to learn about the theme of the week, ' Mens sana in corpore sano' as this phrase, translated to healthy body healthy mind, is so intrinsically linked with the ideals of Ancient Greece.

The pursuit of physical and athletic excellence and noble competition were the essential elements of the Olympic Games of which Greece was the birthplace.

I note with particular interest that during "Greek Week" you plan to encourage participation in various societies through debate, discussion and drama. In this respect I would like to mention that in ancient times, the spirit of democracy was born from the value placed on participating fully and equally in a society and on the ability to express one's ideas and opinions with freedom.

I highly commend your decision to select and link your theme to these activities and would like to wish the organizers, students and participants of the event, a successful and rewarding festival.

Yours sincerely,



Vasilis Popinis
Ambassador of Greece



Óifig an Taoiseach
Office of the Taoiseach

**Message from the Taoiseach for the occasion of
The Greek Week Festival from 5 - 10 November, 2001
at the University of Limerick**

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to send my best wishes to the students of the University of Limerick on the occasion of the Greek Week Festival. The theme of the festival is "Healthy body, healthy mind". I understand that a whole host of events from a Foodfair, to quizzes, the UL sports day, health awareness courses and many more very enjoyable activities which will promote ways to improve the well being of third level students and of young people and to highlight that physical and mental health go hand in hand. I welcome this excellent initiative by the University of Limerick Students Union. I commend all of the people involved in organising this event for their vision and their commitment to highlighting an alternative and healthier lifestyle for young people.


The ancient Greeks had very compelling ideas about the pursuit of knowledge and of excellence. I hope this initiative highlights this important value.

I wish you all a very enjoyable and fun-packed Greek Week Festival.

Beir bua agus beannacht.



Bertie Ahern, T.D.,
Taoiseach



Uachtarán na SÉiríann
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MHALEISE

I am delighted to send warm greetings and good wishes to the Students Union and all the students of Limerick University involved in "Greek Week". This initiative provides an opportunity to educate young people on the importance of the mental and physical well being of the whole person.

Our young people are our greatest asset, and if we are serious about dealing with their important related issues, our reaction to them must be definite, focused, united and strong in nature. Through your endeavours, the student community today can benefit from the ideas and vision of the ancient Greek civilisation, who lived by the code "Mens sana in corpore sano," which translates as "healthy body healthy mind".

I commend you on your valuable work, and I would like to send my good wishes to everybody participating in this festival.

Mary M. Malaise

MARY MALEISE
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Monday 5th November

Time	Event	Location
10.00pm - late	Flag Day for Guide Dogs for the Blind (Outreach)	Everywhere
Members of the outreach society will be out and about on campus all day raising money for this worthy cause, so please give generously.		
10.30am -All day	Hunt the Pixies (Games Society)	Registration - Stables C'Yard
10.30am - All day	Campus orientation comp (Outdoor Pursuits Club)	Stables C'Yard
12.00pm - 5.00pm	Green Fair (Environmental Soc)	Stables C'Yard
Greek Week being kicked off in style with the Environmental Society Green Fair. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever. You can buy anything from organic vegetables to natural soaps, sample some reiki healing or shiatsu, or get a henna tattoo. And more such as a fortuneteller and entertainment ranging from jugglers to drummers and a drumming workshop.		
12.00pm - 12pm (Tues)	24 hr Swimaton (Waterpolo Club)	Sports Building
The members of the waterpolo club are setting up camp for the nite, sleeping bags and all and swimming though the nite, call down and swim a length or two, or just to show your support.		
1.15pm-2.00pm	Lunchtime concert - Ethnomusicology (PSA)	PSA Centre
12.00pm - 5.00pm	Blood Drive - Donations Needed (Welfare Office)	SU Centre
The Irish blood transfusion board will be set up in the Students' Union building. The goal is to collect 1000 units of blood during Greek week. Giving a pint of blood can save a persons life, including yours. So if you want to donate, this will be the best chance for a long time to come. We want your blood.....		
7.00pm - 9.00pm	"Nil by Mouth" Film directed by Gary Oldman (Arts Office)	SU, Room 5
7.00pm - 8ish	Suicide The Real truth - seminar (Young Fine Gael)	TBC
7.00pm/9.30pm	"It just came out" Spotlight Theatre Company	Jonathon Swift
In Association with the Arts Office		
Questions and Answers - Debating Union		
A controversial night of drama, debate and discussion centered on the issue of discrimination. The evenings entertainment will start with a 50 minute sketch which illustrates how discrimination affects and influences all of us, which will be followed by what promises to be a heated questions and answers debate on the topic.		
8.00pm/9.30pm	Celebrity Table Quiz (Welfare Office)	Scholars & Stables Club
The table quiz of all quizzes!!!!Test your knowledge of current affairs, sport, music, geography and more, but there's a twist the quizmasters include Mick Galway, Michael Noonan, Howard Marks, David Kitt and a few more surprises on the night.		
9.30pm till late	"Live wired" (Music Soc)	Stables
9.30pm till late	Request Nite with john	Scholars

Tuesday 6th November

10.00am – 5.00pm	Natural High - Bungee Jumping	East gate Carpark
<p>What goes up must come down, but hey that's the idea. Organized by the welfare office you can raise money for charity and cross "Do the Bungee Jump" off your to do list all in the one go. Not for the faint hearted, but definitely for those with a heart of gold. Watch out for those jumping for the Outreach society causes.</p>		
10.30am -Alday	Hunt the Pixies (Games Society)	Registration – Stables C'Yard
12.00pm – 2.00pm	Toga Tennis/Target Practice (Tennis club)	Main courtyard
1.00pm - 3.00pm	"Cocks in a box" (Badminton club)	Main Courtyard
12.00pm - 5.00pm	Retro Gaming (Computer Society)	Stables C'Yard
12.00pm - 5.00pm	University of Limericks (History Society) Guinness World record attempt	Stables C'Yard
12.00pm/5.00pm	Who wants to be an Engineer (Games Society)	Stables C'Yard
12.00pm/5.00pm	Blood Drive – Donations Needed (Welfare Office)	SU Centre
12.00pm/5.00pm	Info City - Welfare Promotions & Stands	Main Canteen
<p>Red Ribbon Project , Gardai, Family Planning Clinic, Citizens Info Bureau, Slainte, Enable Ireland, Cura, St. Vincent de Paul, Samaritians Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, Aware</p>		
6.00pm – 9pm	"Bonanza" Dungeons and Dragons etc (Games Soc)	EGO10
7.00pm – 9.00pm	"Grease" (Ten Forward) Followed by costume party	PSA Centre Scholars FR
9.00pm til late	50's Nite (Radio Soc)	Scholars FR
8.30pm – 10.00pm	Screen Writers Workshop – By Playwright Mike Finn Presented by Media Society	Rm 5, SU
7.30pm/9.00pm	"It just came out" Spotlight Theatre company	Jonathon Swift
9.00pm/11.00pm	Comedy Night – Jason Byrne and more.... In Association with DoT Comedy	Concert Hall
<p>A nite filled with laughter, featuring three well known comedians, doing what they do best, making us laugh til our sides hurt!!!</p>		

MEMPS

SAVO IN CORPORE

SAVO

Wednesday 7th November

10.30am	-All day Killer (Games Society)	Stables C'Yard
10.30am	-All day Hunt the Pixies (Games Society)	Stables C'Yard
11.00am	-All day "Pennies" - (Outreach Soc)	Main Courtyard
Spare change, want to help out in a small way, help the outreach society with a bit of spelling!!!		
12.00pm-3.00pm	"Black vs White" (Chess Club & Outreach Society) This one just has to be seen to be believed!!!	Stables C'Yard
12.00pm/5.00pm	Ents, comps and games (Welfare Office) Condoms, Dental Dams, sex ed, added with a few games and spot prizes....need I say more!! Charity head shave - Windsurfing club	Stables C'Yard
11.00pm - 1pm	"Kiddie Gallery" Photo Soc in association with Milford National School	Milford NS
12.00pm/7.00pm	Blood Drive - Donations Needed (Welfare Office)	SU Centre
6.00pm - 8.00pm	Guest Speaker - "A Rough Guide to Higher Degree Research at the University of Limerick" by Dr. D. Sutton	PSA Centre
9.00pm - 10.30pm	Film Nite - PSA	PSA Centre
8.00pm/10.00pm	"International Foodfair" (ESN Society)	Main Canteen
A culinary, cultural experience not to be missed, dine from the countries of the world all in one go. It involves people from over twenty different countries cooking food typical of their national culture. The countries range from close by European countries to as far away as Japan and Cuba. It promises to be a great night with live music as well as mountains of food! So if you fancy some Peruvian Rellena or some Spanish Tortilla Patatas be there!		
9.00pm til late	"Catch a Fire" Bob Marley Tribute Band	Scholars FR
9.00pm til late	"The Clare Celts" (Celtic Supports Club)	Stables
11.00pm till late	Welfare "Traffic Light" Ball	Docs Niteclub

Single and looking, taken (and looking) or just a bit confused!! We are going to help you out for the nite...prizes for most imaginative contraceptive costume!!

SAVO IN CORPORE

Thursday 8th November

10.00am - 11.00am	ULympics Registration	UL Arena
11.00am - 12ish	Combined rules (Camogie/Ladies GFC)	Pitches
10.30am - Alday	Killer (Games Society) Registration -	Stables C'Yard
12.00pm - 2.00pm	Toga Tennis/Target Practice (Tennis club)	Main courtyard
11.00pm- 4.00pm	ULympics	UL Arena

Ever sat and dreamed about winning an Olympic medal, well heres your chance, grab three friends and take part in the team events, if you not a team player chance your arm in the individual events!! You don't need to be superman; a good sense of humour will probably give you a better chance than lots of muscles!! This is one for everyone, the couch potatoes, the computer geek, the mad raver, the study freak...

Additional events:
"Bounce time" (Trampolining Club)
Soccer Blitz (Soccer Club)

1.00pm - 6.00pm	Sing-a-long (Music soc/ folk group)	Stables C'Yard
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Notorious for your rendition of the "Fields of Athenry" in the early hours of the morning, well heres your chance to show the world your talents. We'll even help you out on the words so ye have no excuses.

12.00pm/5.00pm	Info City - Welfare Promotions & Stands	Main Canteen
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Red Ribbon Project, Samaritians, Cura, Aware, Slainte, Enable Ireland, Victim Support, Irish Kidney Association, Limerick Rape Crisis Centre

12.30pm - 2.00pm	Enable Ireland - Sketches	Main Canteen
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4.00pm-5.00pm	"All Socs out" Parade	UL Campus
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Always wanted to join a society but never knew where to find them, well here's your chance, trust me you won't be able to miss them.

6.00pm - till late	Mardi Gras Carnival	Stables & Scholars
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All shall be revealed on the nite!!!

Friday 9th November

10.30am -All day	Killer (Games Society) Registration -	Stables C'Yard
8.00pm til late	Karaoke Nite (ESN Soc)	Scholars FR
8.00pm til late	Noel McLoughlin DJ Aidan	Stables

Saturday 9th November

9.00pm/5.00pm	UL Descent (Kayak Club)	Annacotty to Black Weir Bridge
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Not for the faint hearted or those prone to the cold!, watch our kayakers take to the cold November river, just for the thrill of the white water!!

Sunday 10th November

12.00pm - 3.00pm	Breakfast club	Scholars
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We want your blood.....

No the SU have not turned into blood sucking vampires....but there is people who do. How better prove that the students of UL can do something worthwhile than save a few hundred lives. Blood donation seems to have a fear or a worry attached to it, but just look at it this way, if it was your mum, dad, bro, sis, best friend, boyfriend, girlfriend child whose life was endangered wouldn't you do anything you could to help!! The whole point is it could be, someday!!

The demand for blood is constantly outstripping the supply, with many operations being cancelled daily due to the shortfall. Emergency operations involving road accident victims use up a large proportion of the blood presently in storage, and emergency cases add extra strain

on blood supplies that are already critically limited. Blood can only be stored for 35 days, so ye can see the urgent need for donors constantly.

£3,000 units are needed each week, the Irish Blood Transfusion Board are hoping to collect £1,000 units this week, which would be a new Irish record for the single biggest collection in one place!! Go UL....

All that's involved is one hour of your time, and a little generosity on your part!! Giving blood believe it or not is itself relatively painless and many people barely know its happening. At best, you get to chill out for a while, lie down and get a cup of tea/coffee and lots of chocky bics.

After 10 minutes, ye'll all be fight-

ing fit and ready to go again, and in the meantime, you have possibly saved up to 3 lives with one donation.



THE ULYMPICS

Those of us here in UL are lucky enough to have the finest sporting facilities in the country available to us. The new Sports Arena is quite simply the best building of its kind in the country at the moment, with the most modern equipment. It is designed to cope with peoples of all abilities, from those who just want to get in shape, to the most elite athletes in the country. The Arena regularly hosts the Irish rugby team for training sessions, and next summer, Tottenham Hotspur among other Premiership clubs are coming to Limerick to use the Arena for training off season.

The Ulympics is an event being run as part of Greek Week which is intended to showcase the Arena. Think back to you national or secondary schools sports day. Now, imagine that being run in a world class sporting facility. That, in a nutshell is what the Ulympics is all about.

There will be events running all day, catering for everybody. The Arena is a resource for everybody on campus, and everyone should take advantage of the facilities it offers. The Ulympics is designed to make sure that everyone who comes can get involved in some way.

Feel like coming down and taking a look around the Arena? Why not try competing in a penalty shoot out, or throwing a

few hoops while you're at it? There will be lots of fun events for everyone to take part in, and there'll be loads of spot prizes for everyone who takes part.

Many of the Clubs and Societies on campus are organizing events to coincide with the Ulympics. For example, the soccer club are running a Soccer Blitz during the day. The Matial Arts clubs on campus will be giving demonstrations throughout the day as well. The Tennis Club are running a toga tennis event, and the Ladies Football and Camoige Club are organising a combined rules game.

The showpiece of the day will be the team competition. The idea behind this is to run a number of competitive events in parallel throughout the day. These events will include a relay race, a time trial on the exercise bikes, and an obstacle course. This event is for teams of four, and is open to everyone, male and female. The grand prize will be a free semesters membership for the Arena, which can be redeemed whenever you want, along with the adulation you will receive from being crowned Ulympic champions! There'll be lots of prizes up for grabs as well, so even if you're only coming down for a laugh, you've as good a chance as any of winning as anybody.

When somebody walks into UL, the first building they are taken to is the Arena. It's the best facility of its kind in the country, and the Ulympics is your chance to see it at first hand for yourself. So, grab three of your friends, fill in the form below, and hand it into the Students Union. If you're not in, you can't win!



Mardi Gras Carnival

The courtyard will be awash with colour and spectacle - salsa, jazz, dance, music, drumming, mask making, hair braiding, body painting, fire eaters jugglers and fortune tellers, candy floss, coconuts.....Thursday 8th November!! Has to seen to be believed!!!!!!!

Greek Week Table Quiz



The table quiz to end all table quizzes!!

One of the traditional events that has always been associated with Welfare Week in the past has been the Welfare Table Quiz. This has always been run as a charity event, with all the proceeds of the quiz going to charity nominated by the Welfare Officer.

This year, Welfare Week has been amalgamated with SoUL week to give us Greek Week. As part of this new approach, the traditional Welfare table quiz has been completely overhauled. In association with Cellular World, the welfare office is proud to present the all new

Celebrity Table Quiz

So, what makes this table quiz different from any other table quiz? Well, for a start, this quiz will run simultaneously in both the Stables club and Scholars club. A number of well known Limerick and national personalities have agreed to be video taped asking a round of questions each, and on Monday Week 7, that video will be played



simultaneously in both pubs.

Some of the celebrities that have agreed to appear in the table quiz include

- Mick Galway
- Michael Noonan
- John Langford
- David Kitt
- Howard Marks



And there will be a few more surprises on the night!

There will be loads of prizes on offer on the night. The grand prize of four Nokia 3330's has been kindly donated by our sponsors Cellular World of Cruises Street, with plenty of other prizes for runner ups. But even if you're not a table quiz guru, come along because there'll be loads of spot prizes on the night, for things such as the funniest

answer etc.

So, grab three friends and come along to the Stables or Scholars on Monday of



week 7. The entry fee will be 10 a table, for a team of four, with all proceeds of the night going to charity. Great prizes, great craic and all for the price of a pint!



Rockahula – Shocking Folk Tales Revealed

Once again the Folk Group escaped the nuclear wasteland* of Limerick and found refuge at the peaceful seaside resort of Spanish Point in County Clare. This was good for the Folk Group and bad for the peaceful Seaside resort. Despite thin soup, cold showers and Irish weather the weekend was considered all in all a tremendous success: loads of music, two unusual ceilis, and some touristy stuff combined to ensure a memorable weekend.

Censorship limits the description of anything interesting that happened during the weekend so you'll just have to imagine. Anyway, here goes with the mind-numbing (printable) details.

After a whole lot of strategic planning and the acquisition of some supplies the time came to take 'the last train for the coast'. Even the Erasmus students survived the 'Irish Road Experience' having suffered only psychological damage and so the scene was set for another Rockahula.

Strengthened by soup and sandwiches the group then headed to the Crosses of Annagh and had a session – musical of course. The usual suspects produced their guitars and began to compete against the set dancing sounds coming from the nearby locals. A whole lot of singing was done in different tongues: Czech, French, Irish, American, English and Cork languages were all represented. Even the Germans made an effort to sing a few songs – the Wild Rover was apparently translated (very badly - they think it's a song about the seaside) into German and was a one hit wonder back in the eighties.

There's an expression that says 'Hard work makes a man hungry' – such is also true of a good session. A feast of the chips and sausages was fashioned to correct this situation. However, in the interest of health it was decided to have a Ceili in order to help reduce our cholesterol levels. This turned out to be a complete disaster so efforts were made to find other ways to keep us entertained. Much success was had at other people's expense. Eventually most people got off to sleep around 5:00am.

The early birds were up again around 1:00pm the next day and greeted the morning with a walk on the beach. In order to pass the time and bring the 'music of the night' closer a trip to the cliffs of Moher and the Aillwee caves was organised. This adventure was much enjoyed by all of the Erasmus students present. Both the caves and the cliffs remain mostly unchanged since our last visit.

Dinner was served to at around 7:57pm and after that things went along the same lines as the previous night except that a different location was frequented. The madness levels increased and a great night was had by all except possible the locals. Sunday was a day of rest. Some scandal may have occurred but then again I'm not allowed to mention it. In any case the weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a repeat performance is expected in the near future.

In related news, some ambassadors of the Folk Group qualified for the finals of the Kilmurry Search for a Star Competition singing 'Fever' and 'Summertime'. So well

done to Maria, Ger and the double base, without whom none of that would have been possible.

The Folk Group caters for the needs of those who enjoy music and having a bit of a laugh – about 0.005% of the UL population. Forty percent of us are foreign. Most of these come from overseas but there are a few who might be considered to originate from a different planet. Members of the group have been known on occasions to play musical instruments, sing, organise sessions and go on mad weekends trips away.

The Folk Group meets on Thursdays at 8pm in the hostel near the church to practice for the Sunday night live performances and usually ends up having a session afterwards. New members are and bad jokes are always welcome. Any queries to rover@csn.ul.ie. Also, you are allowed to visit the web page at www.csn.ul.ie/~folk.

*as described by a UL lecturer off record

MBUL NEWS- MOUNTAINBIKING

Report for Week 1

Treaty Stone, 12:30: Good fun, lots of trials, some standing around and a wee bit of trouble from some knackers who were trying their hardest to get their hands on our 'speedkilometers'. (That's a cycle computer to you and me) By 1 o'clock we've had three punctures and we haven't even left the Treaty Stone!

With a nice sized posse of 12 and repairs complete we were off. We quickly split into two groups with the front group composed of Donal, Eoin O'Shea, Dermot and myself leaving the single-speeds and full-sussers for dust. (Of course they were accompanied for Cormac, Gav and Marcus) Once assembled at the back entrance, we headed for the sandwall and first blood was claimed on the trail by one of the younger riders, Whisker on the BMX, who cut his finger on a branch!

The sandwall is, for those who don't know, a thirty foot wall of sand with various lines of increasing difficulty leading down. Here there were some amusing crashes from the two newboys to the sport, Marcus and Eoin O'Shea. Also a big spill from one of the club veterans Donal who cut his leg open pretty badly on account of some serious pedal bite. Back up the trail and at about the midway point I see some of the lads looking to the left and pointing with interest. A new trail is what they had found. There were shouts for Gavin the club daredevil, who promptly rode down and vanished around a left hander. We were standing for about for a good five minutes before we heard his trademark curse, marking the fact that he had crashed. He soon re-emerged muttering and telling whimsical tales of streams and fences.

Back to the fire roads! On the tarmac hairpin we stopped and debated the next move, realised that Darragh had gone missing and someone said he had climbed the Green Mile - the group split.

Six of us headed up "The Rock" and the rest went down the "Holly Trail" where Marcus had his first body-ground interaction of the day. At the top of the gruelling climb we arsed about for a good ten minutes before realising that Darragh had been and gone so we were off down the Brambly downhill as fast as our little bikes could carry us. Up to the jump spot our group of six made a three-way split with some doing the picnic table, others doing the kneebreaker and myself and Derek doing that gnarly fast section of the trim trail where it leads from the bottom of the Brambly, before joining up again for the descent to Rambo's and the shop, with a little bike-tag thrown in for good measure.

Other memorable moments were at the jumpspot after the shop stop - lots of airborne craziness with one two spills and a taco'd wheel as a result of Marcus's second crash of the day. After that it was back up the Rock with seven of us blasting the wild and wacky Green Mile descent to the back entrance of the forest. Yet another group split led to six of us attempting to break 10 minutes in the sprint back to LIT. I think that poor old Gavin will never forgive that woman in the car who messed up his chances of breaking it - he was gutted with his finish time - three seconds over, with the rest coming in within 11 minutes.

A well-deserved rest was had while waiting for the others to make an appearance roughly 15 minutes after us - not bad for BMX's and heavy full-sussers. Another sprint in traffic to St. Mary's church rounded off the day and left us all feeling utterly wrecked - oh, the joys of cycling after a Saturday night out!! Long live the jump spot - may it claim many more wheels in its effort to kill us all.

Awards and Figures:

Numbers: 12 total, 4 club members

Total Distance: Around 50km's

Best Crash: Marcus off the table-top or the Donal/Simon interaction on the footpath

Best Jump: Derek's huge one-handers

Best Quote: Gavin - "Paidraic's somewhere in Kerry, missing; presumed fed"

First Blood: Whisker - cut finger on a branch (just edged you out Donal!)

PQOW: (Paidraic's Question Of The Week) He wasn't here!!!

Stupidest Crash: Luke on the tabletop - "One more jump"

LIT Times: 10'03" - Gavin/ ~11'00" Sprint group/ ~25'00" BMX's and full-sussers

Best Injury: Donal's interesting pedal bite

Failures: 4 punctures, broken chain, taco'd wheel, saddles that kept loosening, broken noodle.

Written by Eoin Brazil, External Co-Ordinator, MBUL

Lights, Camera, Reaction!

The An Focal Movie Review

"The Reviewer Strikes Back"

In the world of movies the word sequel is usually greeted with a shudder and extreme caution. It's rare that a sequel provides the movie goer with the same feeling of excitement and anticipation as the original, and there are few movies that succeed in altering this precedent significantly. (I know your all racking your brains and screaming movie titles at each other right now and yes the Star Wars and Godfather sequels, Terminator 2, and the list goes on are arguable great movies perhaps on par with the originals, but are they better...? That's a debate for another edition). It was with this in mind that the last edition of An Focal did not witness a sequel to the highly acclaimed Lights Camera Reaction.

I wasn't sure if I could bring the readers of An Focal to the same dizzying heights as last time out when fast cars and fast women graced the pages of An Focal under the guise of 'The Fast and the Furious' and Edward Bums got his '15 Minutes' of fame alongside Robert De Niro. When you add this to the fact that the reviews of 'The Score' and 'Bridget Jones Diary' were consigned to history by a rampant virus (which by the way any biologist would have been proud of) I think I'll just take the T-Grade for the last edition of An Focal.

As you might have guessed by now I'm not a fan of sequels... I'll take the Star Wars trilogy as a given, but look what they did with 'The Phantom Menace' Yeah yeah prequel / sequel you know what I mean. So it's ironic that it's a sequel that takes centre stage in this the inevitable follow up to Lights Camera Reaction as American Pie 2 is served up at cinemas this month.

So the original left us gagging for it! Second helpings that is... come on everyone likes Pie! But how does the sequel fare. It had a lot to live up to and there was every chance that in this outing the surprising successful cast would be ruining their decision to return. (For all you budding comics and reviewers insert your own crap leaving them with Pie on their face' pun here!) So the gang's back, Jim, Jim's Dad, Stifler, Oz, Kevin, Nadia, Vicky, Michelle, Finch, Stifler's Mom, even the Sherminator keeps his word and is back for another instalment of one of Hollywood's classic sex comedies.

What's it all about? Well basically it comes to the end of the 'Freshman Year' and the four Casanova's of the original return home, a little older a little wiser, and yet with the exception of Stifler all still living off the memories of past glories and unable to move on from what was an epic night at the Prom. Oz has stayed with Heather though god knows why as she practically phones in her performance in this one, (but hey at least he's getting' some)

Kevin has suffered a year of 'lets be friends' (we all know how crap that feels!) at the hands of Vicky, and neither Finch nor Jim have come to terms with the way they were left by their respective women after Prom night.

Finch longs to be with Stifler's Mom, and Jim well, Jim's still Jim. Not only does he have to come to terms with his own 'questionable performance' with Michelle the 'Say my name bitch' flute wielding psycho he still dreams of having another chance with Nadia the Czech temptress whose unashamed example of DIY definitely brightened up Jim's room, not to mention brought a large smile to the face of every red blooded male who caught a piece of the original Pie. The phrase be

still my shorts' instantly comes to mind, and yet sadly Nadia doesn't give a repeat performance. By the way I've been to the Czech Republic on Erasmus, Czech women DO NOT look like Nadia... mores the pity.

So what do the guys do, well it's obvious really being young American males at the end of the college year they only have two choices, the first is to take a Road Trip, and the second is to rent a beach house for the summer. So as Stifler, working under an assumed name had already had a hilarious Road Trip' (great movie) the public were unlikely to pay to see that rehashed so it had to be the beach house option, the plan being to work hard and play hard, get drunk and ultimately get laid. Cue a stream of smutty jokes, gross scenes, a trip to Band Camp and a two absolutely side-splitting scenes, the first with a tube of super glue and the second with Stifler hoping to take one for the team to impress two lesbians and you've got the recipe for another generous and satisfying serving of Pie.

How good is it really? Well it's definitely on par with the original; in essence it's more of the same, but this time out it's left to Jim (Jason Biggs) and Stifler (Sean William Scott) to carry the

weight of the movie, a task which they have no trouble fulfilling, with Stifler in particular capturing the attention of the audience in every scene he's in, from his delivery of the gifts left by 'Santa Porn' to his unexpected shower, to his ongoing war with Finch over his Mom. The lines he delivers are priceless. And what can we say about Jim, the boy's a legend admittedly he needs to learn a little self control, but the guys got guts, humiliation after humiliation he still gets on with it, but hey he's got a pretty supportive Dad doesn't he!

Final Verdict, I could have gone on for pages about the inconsistencies of the story and the cameos of the girls of American Pie but that isn't important some movies are just there to be enjoyed, and American Pie 2 is certainly one of those movies. Sure it has lessons learned and a moral or two thrown in for good measure but none of this detracts from the fact that it starts with laughs a plenty and keeps you laughing until the end. Not only is this a must see movie, but like the original your going to want to watch this again and again.

There's nothing to touch American Pie 2 for title of Movie

of the Week this time around as there is a severe lack of anything decent to rent on video at the moment. Try Bridget Jones's Diary if you want to find out what the women of your house are banging on about, try Exit Wounds if your up for an all out action no-brainer to pass an hour or two but taking either is pretty risky as we remain trapped in a month of releases that you will either love or hate. Under the An Focal microscope in this editions movies to rent we've got Keanu Reeves playing a bad guy, (yeah that's right a bad guy!) a serial killer to be precise in 'The Watcher' and Keanu Reeves again playing a bad guy, this time in 'Is he really the bad guy' mode opposite Cate Blanchett in 'The Gift'.

So it's card board actor Keanu 'Whoa dude' Reeves by two this week, (we're really scrapping the barely for videos to review these days) and in a dramatic reversal of his typically heroic rolls of years gone by, the post 'Matrix' Keanu has a new found confidence to defy convention and portray a darker more sinister character than he had previously attempted. Now if he could only get rid of that look of constant amazement that he picked up at the 'Bill and Ted Acting Academy' he might be on to something. Is it me or does he or does he not look like he's going to start every sentence with something

like 'far out dude'.

Poor old Keanu, he's still a huge hit with the ladies and in this one might compare him to one David Beckham, especially as both individuals strike me as being particularly thick. But anyway what about the movies in question? Does Keanu Tm totally going to try and play a most excellent beach bum no matter what my character profile' Reeves make any difference to success or failures of both 'The Watcher' and 'The Gift'?

In 'The Watcher' we've got Keanu playing a serial killer David Griffin, who has eluded the FBI across America for over five years, and has recently begun taunting the police by offering clues to aid in his capture. A calculated killer Griffin has engaged in a battle of wits with Joel Campbell played by James Spader, a FBI agent who has become burn out in pursuit of a seemingly eternally elusive Reeves. With the loss of his lover to Griffin in a brutal murder Campbell is more of a liability to the FBI than an asset, but when Griffin starts to send photos of his prospective victims to Campbell he has little choice but to resume the mind games and attempt to stop Griffin once and for all. So how does it play out?

A movie that tried so hard to be overly clever portraying a somewhat symbiotic relationship between heroes and villains 'The Watcher' tries in vain to explore the communication between the two. Does it succeed? In truth no, primarily because it's too predictable. The game of Cat & Mouse which develops is all too cliché, Spader chases his shadow for most of the movie and could have done a better job, he lacked emotion and the sense of revenge which should have fuelled his search for his lover's murderer never erupted. Spader knew the script to well and he couldn't even pretend to be interested in the proceedings. In contrast Keanu may well have found a role as villain, he exuded coolness and always seemed to have the upper hand though ultimately he would have to get what was coming to him.

Final Verdict: It's predictable and it's cliché but yet you will sit through it to the end. I won't recommend you go out and rent it, but if it's in the house and there's no Champions League or whatever stick it on and if will pass an hour or two. I mean at least it's not a soap opera, I actually began watching an episode of Fair City before reviewing 'The Watcher', lucky I changed the channel, I thought my QCA was going to drop just for watching for 4-5 minutes. But hey, each to their own.

So that brings us to the final review for this edition, 'The Gift'. You may be asking yourself why I subjected myself to a double dose of Keanu, and hey I asked myself that too, the answer is quiet simple, 'The Gift' has got Katie Holmes, what more do I have to say. Well ok I can say that we get a half decent shot Katie semi-naked! (Cue a lot of breast puns and double entrées, omitted here for the sack of the female readers of An Focal) So what about the movie, is it any good?

Well I'm undecided on whether the film is pretty good or pretty bad. What I mean by this is that the storyline is good (though perhaps a bit too complicated to detail here) and the characters are strong, each actor including Keanu do

their best to make 'The Gift' as nerve jangling as possible but I think the villain is too easy to guess and the ending too convoluted to appeal to many people.

As I said early Katie Holmes has got a good part, (you could even say she's got two) as a beautiful upper class slut, while Keanu again as villain is surprisingly effective throughout. Penned by Angelina Jolie's better half Billy Bob Thornton it was never going to be to everyone's liking and so in saying this I think I'll leave this one up to you. Love it or Hate it I'm sure the male population of Castleroy will give it a try and some point over the next month or two, just bear in mind lads if your watching it on DVD hit 'print screen' for Katie's moments of glory, then set as Wallpaper for your viewing pleasure... I just wish I had thought of that will I was watching it and not while I was writing this.....

Until next time out, veg out, and watch a movie.

Alan Byrne.



The Music Review

by Adrian O'Connell

Phew! I've just had one of 'those days' - you know the type, you keep messing up even the simplest stuff, and helpful people ask: 'Whats wrong? Me: 'Nothing, I'm fine! Them: 'No, seriously, whats up? Me: 'Nothing, I'm *%&^ing fine!..' and there really is nothing in particular, you just want to be left alone. So I was feeling a little bit cheesed off and luckily enough, a friend of mine drops me in a copy of one of my favourite CD's Terror Twilight by Pavement. Its amazing, I used to listen to it when I was up the walls before exams and a couple of tracks (in particular Major Leagues and Anne, Don't You Cry) really hit the spot and helped me unwind - brilliant music, beautiful melodies and some very different moods make this a must-get album. Anyway, step forward in time a few hours, I've listened to the Pavement CD and I'm totally chilled out. Also, I've finally made it home to my bedroom, and I'm going to have my first listen to the new Cranberries album Wake up and Smell the Coffee. They never made much of an impact on me (except 'Ode to my Family' which I really liked) but in fairness I was never one of those who really disliked them either. I was pleasantly surprised by it, Dolores O'Riordan's singing on most of it, especially on slower tracks such as the opener 'Never Grow Old' and 'Pretty Eyes', is really beautiful, there are some cool vocal harmonies on some of the songs too. The singing, along with the album's overall production are, in my opinion the best parts. Some of the guitar parts on the first track reminded me of Coldplay which is ok by me. Of the faster songs 'This is the Day' is too much like 'Shea' from Scheer (remember them? Female singer?), 'I Really Hope' is a much better song. (Another step forward in time, and now its the next morning). I'm brushing my teeth and humming something. Hmm.. yep, its one of the new Cranberries tracks! Now I'm sure there'll be more than one



music hack criticising the lyrics (yawn!) which I think isn't fair. This album has some really cool songs on it and if you don't mind the couple of songs that are typical Cranberries-ish, and concentrate on the songs that they experiment a bit more on (like 'The Concept'), I'm fairly sure you will enjoy the album like I did. Who knows, you may even find yourself humming some of the tunes without even realising it. However, if you still feel you'd like to try something different, get the Pavement CD I mentioned before.

Next up is a four song demo from Limerick band Medic. The CD recorded in May of this year, and it starts off with a quite catchy song called 'Wireroses'. There are some nice drum changes in there and a guitar sound that reminds me a bit of the Edge, with the riff itself sounding more like early Whipping Boy - good stuff indeed! There's a really cool sample at the end of this song, I'm not sure where its from.

The next song, 'Eve, Lost Rib' is a slower, more laid-back affair. Its this song I reckon is my favourite on the CD, its got some of the strangest guitar sounds on it and some really lovely steel flute playing at the end of it (the flute part was too short - I wanted to hear more of it!) Next we hear another sample (a kinda chilling one about prisoners taking control of a cell block), before the third song 'Stencil' begins. There's some nice vocal melodies on this track (and a cornet!), so much so that I wish that they'd do more vocals like that cos when they do, it works well. The last song 'Everything Said in Silence' goes back to the laid back thing again, its another good tune. This CD has grown on me a lot over the last couple of days, but I get the feeling live would be the place to see these songs. The band have said they should be starting gigging fairly soon, so I look forward to that and I recommend you do too. Soon as I hear something, I'll let you know.

I started off this review mentioning Pavement and listening to the latest single from Jetplane Landing really reminds me of

the aforementioned group. The CD features two songs 'This is Not Revolution Rock' and 'Atoms Dream in Technicolour' and it starts off with one of the catchiest guitar riffs this side of Goodnameforaband. They played Limerick a couple of weeks ago and I managed to get to see them, and they were trés cool so they were, in fact I'm fairly sure I remember hearing the first song off this CD at the gig. (I'm running out of time here, just take a look at their website (www.jetplanelanding.com), they have some songs up there so you can decide for yourself if you like them or not.)

I also got to see Trans Am in the High Stool on the 21st of October. These guys sold out the Temple Bar Music Centre last time they were here and this time round they played Whelans (and either Cork or Belfast too). They have a new album out and the gig was amazing to put it mildly. I don't know what the name of the album is, but I'm sure if you tried something like www.transam.com you'll either get their site, or you'll end up looking at some dodgy American muscle cars..

Some up and coming gigs to look forward to...

Monday October 29th, The High Stool, £3.
Inside Conflict (Extreme Noise)
Freebase (UK hardcore)
Swarm (Heavy, from Limerick)

Monday's at Tim's #3, November 5th, £3.
Doug Hoekstra

Friday 9th of Nov., Throat (supported At the Drive in), Breed 77 (supported Black Sabbath), Calzino Fiasco (Limerick cool sugar puke vodka metal hugeness)
Rock Sound Magazine sponsored tour of UK and Ireland.
Goodie bags for first 50 in the door (or so they promise).

Saturday 10 of November - Feverdream (Holland infra shout pop genius girl and 2 boys band) - venue tbc

More at theamc.net. Look at the back of the paper you're holding - theres probably an ad for Dolans Warehouse if you look closely enough. (Well there was one on the last issue!)
Falling that, check up dolans-pub.ie for more gigs.

Thanks for reading,
A.

Hexstatic

When one thinks of global centres of cutting edge technology, chances are this place isn't high on anyone's list. When one hears the words "redefining the musical experience", chances are that West Clare isn't the first place you'd associate with it. In fact, the rules of probability are most definitely set against either of these scenarios, and more than likely outlawed a long time ago any such ideas being used in the same sentence as Vaughan's Barn, Kilfenora, Co. Clare! Hexstatic aren't big on rules. But then, chances are that most of us aren't really big on Hexstatic. So who are they, what do they do, and why in the name of all that's possible were they ever associated with a small, peace-loving Irish village?
For about 6 years now, Hexstatic have been quietly revolutionising that thang we call music. Initial recordings included works with Zentertainment grand-masters Coldcut, on the Natural Rhythms project. What this boiled down to in layman's terms is nuskool breakbeat funk built entirely from snarls, growls, tweets and clicks of endangered species captured from Greenpeace anti-deforestation footage. The audio is sequenced with the video, because, basically, the audio is the video. Check out the award winning Timber single for more.
More feats of technical wizardry were forthcoming, as the AV process was applied to more themes. From the deliciously silly, but downright funky Bass Invaders (built from your favourite 80s Atari titles), to the ludicrously complex and jaw-dropping Deadly Media (sourced from news-political tv the world over, and quite literally breath-taking) to the inspired Ninja Tune (check the Ninja Karate kick solo!), when these boys show their wares, it's truly astounding.
So what in probability's name has Kilfenora got to do

with any of this? To cut a long story short (and save the statisticians out there a lot of pain), one of the dynamic duo, Stuart Warren-Hill was staying with a friend in the area. Now the friend decided to have a party, allegedly begged Stuart to play a set, and the local concert hall (UCH, watch your backs!) was booked. Word got to your truly via a poster spotted one very hungover Sunday morning in Lahinch, and so, off we go.

The venue is best described as quaint, the title giving an adequate idea of what to expect. Bar one end, stage + screen the other, large open space in between. Nice. To some extent disappointingly the open space stayed exactly that, open. I suppose the locals made a worthy effort, and I've never seen that many people with cameras since that bus-load of Japanese tourists showed up in my bed-room one morning unannounced, but that, like a pint of Smithicks used to be, is a different story!

The few of us that did brave the wilds (and hibitions of a less than perfect public transport system) were damn well rewarded for the effort. The set started off with some funky AV effects interlaced with mighty fine mixing. Highlights included AV scratching of Stuart's baby into the Stone Roses (?), some "slightly manipulated" Morris Dancer footage to the sound of the House of Pain's Jump Around, and some more nifty AV scratching, this time the family dog providing the squeals.

After a brief intermission, and a quick interview with this reporter, SWH took the stage again, and preceded to wow, woo, bamboozle and flabbergast the audience with a devastating selection of pieces, including a fair few from the marvellous debut album, Rewind, plus some new material. Noteworthy from this (damn

impressive) bundle was a Lionel Richie-based mix, complete with sparkly 70s visuals, a craftily conceived remix of the B-Boy's Intergalactic (interlaced with 80s Eurovision glam and Sci Fi cult flick visuals. Marvellous stuff!), and a climax of something seemingly destined for release, based visually on the tv series of the Hitch-hikers Guide to the Galaxy. Damn impressive stuff all the way, and the crowd during the second half certainly got whipped up into a frenzy. As the set climaxed, and the atmosphere turned white-hot, ironically, the words Don't Panic flashed constantly on the screen (check the Ten Forward website if you don't get the ref!).

An BOOM, track finished, we looked sheepishly about ourselves, wandering what the hell we had just witnessed, lolling lazily in the post-climactic chill, and eventually wandering off into the night.

What summed it up for me though, was seeing the publicans, about halfway through the second half, standing behind the bar, beaming with pride. This was something damn special, the sort of thing you only get to see once. Hexstatic in West Clare?! If I hadn't seen it, I wouldn't've believed it. But it brings a whole new meaning to "There is a guy in the south village called Tony. He is a Ninja!!" déag.

Ps
More info @
www.ninjatune.net
www.hexstatic.co.uk
www.ntone.co.uk

UL Karate club gets a new sensei!

So what's your Name?

Steve Ash

And where were you Born?

Maidstone, Kent, England

Why are you in Limerick?

Currently one of the HR managers for Procter & Gamble in Nenagh, and I moved to Ireland two years ago when the Wakefield business relocated.

How and why did you start Karate?

I started Karate on a whim in my final year as a post-graduate at the University of York. I'd always avoided it in the past, believing the (false!) rumours of a crazy bunch of psychos in pyjamas, but figured that it was something I wanted to try, and there's no better place to try new things than at college. I chose Karate because of all of the martial arts clubs at York; it had the highest number of instructors with the most experience. I've been training now for five years, and that used to be at a level of four - five times a week (at one point it was two three hour sessions every day!)

Tell us a little something about your Training history I Began training with Sensei's "Tivvy" Gommersall (2nd Dan) and Mick Douglas (4th Dan) at York, and was fortunate enough to also train with a wide range of instructors from neighbouring clubs, one of whom, Sean Roberts (5th Dan), is the current British, European and United States champion and was a member of the British team which won the World Championships in 1991. I guess you can't help but be inspired when you're training with karate-ka of that standard. I Accompanied Sensei Roberts on his European training tour in 1997, training in Amsterdam, Prague, Bavaria, and Luxembourg. When I moved from York to Wakefield, I started training with Mike Burnand (6th Dan), chief instructor of the ZKGB (Zanshin Kai of Great Britain), under whose instruction I achieved my black belt.

Qualifications et al.

I'm a 1st Dan Black Belt (Shodan) and an EKGB (England Karate Governing Body) Instructor. I was in the York University squad, in which we came 3rd at the UK Student Nationals, and I recently came 1st in the 2001 ZKGB Kata competition, and 3rd in the Kumite.

What are your Thoughts on coaching?

Coaching is really as good as the class you're got, and we're lucky that we've got a really good class starting now, who have a lot of enthusiasm. That one of the

key points - if you've got that, we can teach you the rest. I just hope the level of commitment stays the same as we really get going in the term. Classes are on Tuesdays at 6:00 till 7:30 and on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 in the old sports building.

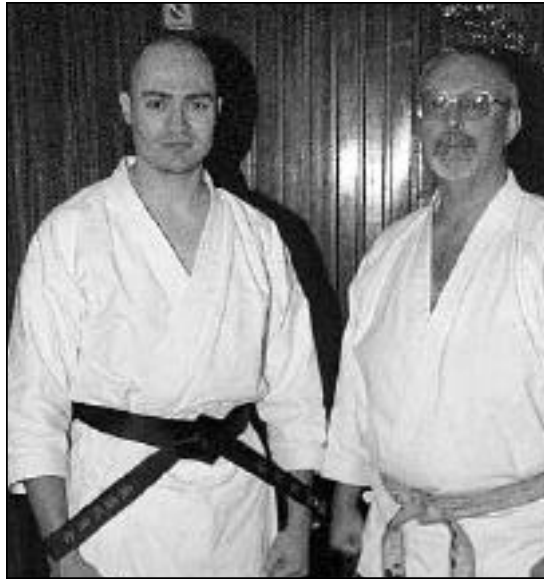
What would you like to see for the Future of the club? To keep variety and interest, I'd like to see us set ourselves up for success in a number of fields. It's important for our members to see them progressing through the grading structures, and that's a key motivator for training. On top of that, it's important to get exposure to different styles of teaching, so it would be great if we could organise for other Sensei's to visit and take courses here, as well as for us to go to their dojos. One thing we're working on at the moment is setting up inter-university competitions, and I'm looking into the possibility of a Limerick - York event.

What is the plus of the sport?

Karate gives you a full-body workout, so gives you all the benefits of exercise and sport in general. On top of that we start each session with an intensive warm-up to prevent injuries and increase flexibility. For me though, what sets Karate aside from other sports is the culture that is fostered within the dojo, of commitment, dedication and respect. We've all done the trust games where you fall backwards until someone catches you, but these pale into insignificance when you're regularly training with

people who you need to trust that they won't make contact if your block goes slightly wrong. And that's at all levels Successful Karate-ka take these lessons outside of the dojo, and build those levels of commitment, dedication and respect into their everyday lives. I've not yet met a serious Karate-ka who isn't highly ranked, rated or successful in their lives outside of the dojo. It's not many sports that influence your outlook on, and way of, life.

Sensei Steve Ash with his Sensei Mike Burnand



Labour Party host Michael D

Hello, and a belated welcome back to all students from your friends at Labour Youth. This is just a note to let the all ye folks know that we are here and a chance to catch up on what we have done in the first few weeks on campus.

It gave me great pleasure to see that we were first off the mark this year, by bringing one of Irelands most distinguished politicians, Michael D Higgins, on campus. He gave the crowded room an in-depth analysis of the party's view on globalisation and why it is wrong to let right wing economics to control the market. Michael D then went on to give an interview on our own student radio. Then off to the pub for a few swift pints, (that's where the real debate began!!!!). Also in attendance was our own local TD Jan O' Sullivan, who was very impressed with the students union building, and wished us well in our future endeavours on campus.



Week 4 saw us in the canteen collecting well in excess of 400 names on our petition against the war in Afghanistan. We believe that it is WRONG to bomb innocent people in a campaign against terrorism. A multi-lateral approach spear headed by the UN would be a better response. The petition is now on its way

to Bertie Ahern.

Next up is Greek Week, and we have all our members working frantically behind the scenes, to deliver an exciting and educating week so it does promise to be a good one. We intend over the course of the year to highlight the injustices and sufferings that many students have to endure during their college life. If there are any issues that you think need changing (the price of drink and world peace are out of the question...almost!!!), contact Labour Youth through Clubs and Societies office in Student Union buildings or at any of the following e-mails

0153818@student.ul.ie or 9650881@student.ul.ie

Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings and around campus, until next time comrades!!



Tales from beyond the edge – The U.L Games Society

Greetings one and all, 'tis I, the beloved Minister of War and propaganda here to Update you on our recent exploits
Although we may look like a bunch of lazy inefficient bastards who do very little, nothing could be further from the truth. Well many things actually are further, but we can't discuss them here, Censorship and all that.
Anyway so in addition to our current quota of four events a week we are looking to add a further two events to our roster
First up is Keith Nolan who plans to run a Cyberpunk campaign starting Tuesdays at around 7.30 pm. For the uninitiated Cyberpunk is a roll playing game set in the year 2020. Players find themselves battling huge corporation and vicious criminal organizations. Of course being the Year 2020 the Typical Swords and sorcery aspect of RPG's have been thrown out the window, and replaced by guns, lots of guns. Secondly Peter Slattery is starting a game of Shadowrun. Like Cyberpunk above Shadowrun is also set in the Future, the year 2061 to be exact. Shadowrun has a large selection of guns and explosives, but the mythical part of the world is also very much alive. Orcs with bazookas, elves with desert eagles and magic casting Gnomes battle it out amongst Huge Mechanical tanks and dragons. Shadowrun is the game for when you say "and now for something completely different"
Also expect the return of Killer for this year's Greek week. Students will be invited to kill your friends for fun and profit. We have other events lined up, but they will remain a secret, for now
Anyone wanting information or wishing to join one of our games please e-mail the address below

UL LIONS ARE BACK WITH A ROAR!

Since our foundings from humble origins way back n 1999, the UL Lions have grown to become one of the most exciting and extreme clubs on campus. Our mission is to give UL students (and some very privileged outside members) the chance of a lifetime, that is an opportunity to experience the superb sport of rollerhockey both competitively and simply for the craic. Last year you may have seen us in action, skating around the Salesian car park at night. Since playing outdoors meant battling Limerick's choice climate, we're delighted to finally have a slot in the Arena on Wednesdays plus a training session in our old haunt, St.Enda's on Fridays. We are also very lucky to have a few foreign players with us who have been playing for years and are more than willing to help teach and train our newcomers. The majority of our founder members graduated last month so we are eager to attract as many new players as possible. Even if you've never set feet in a pair of skates before don't worry. As long as you're enthusiastic and not afraid to fall you'll be fine. If the powers that be are willing too, we'll get a decent enough budget to be able to buy skates for the exclusive use of club members so definitely come along and give it a go!

Last year UL Lions made its debut in the Irish In Line Hockey League and despite being one of the newest teams in the competition, we won praise and admiration from all our rivals. This year we have the double challenge of improving our League standing and hosting the intersites next February. It has been overwhelmingly agreed that the trip to Belfast Giants should become an annual event so a hectic year ahead is promised. To see what we're about come to the Arena on Wednesdays between 5.30pm and 7pm. If that's too much bother simply check out our website at <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~ulls/>. Everyone is welcome and we guarantee a unique and adrenaline pumping experience.

T'AI CHI CH'UAN

T'ai Chi Ch'uan, or T'ai Chi for short, is an ancient form of meditative exercise, originating in China, used to improve and maintain good health and increase longevity. It is also used as a means of self-defence. It is practised by hundreds of millions of people around the world and can be recognised by its slow captivating movements. Its literal translation is "supreme ultimate boxing".

Although descriptions of individual postures and principles can be found in records over 3,500 years old, the exact origins of T'ai Chi are lost in time. Chang san Feng, a Chinese monk, is widely acknowledged as having created the first set of postures over 600 years ago. He observed that with time, that which remains soft and pliant endures while that which is hard and rigid withers. For example, a branch that yields to the wind does not break, unlike those that are not supple and are unable to bend. This resulted in a series of movements that follow natural principles and assist in the development of an "internal" understanding.

T'ai Chi offers many benefits. Most people who prac-

tise T'ai Chi do so to improve health, increase energy, promote a balanced lifestyle and for self-defence. T'ai Chi is an internal art since it focuses on the development of internal energy, or Chi, through movement and meditation. Practitioners learn the benefits of responding to an attack or event in a relaxed fashion and how the chances of success are increased.

It takes some time to learn and refine, but the benefits of T'ai Chi are almost immediate. It is an excellent means of dealing with the stresses of college life, working life and of life in general. It gets to the root of the problem, combats tiredness and other stress related symptoms and results in increased performance.

T'ai Chi is an extremely effective martial art. Initially, students learn the fundamental principles and concepts of T'ai Chi such as Chi Kung, Yin and Yang, Tan Tien, the Form, Grounding and Roundness. Each posture has many martial applications which are demonstrated to help remember the postures. When practising, the focus should always be on increasing sensitivity and internal understanding. Using inter-

nal energy as a martial art is the result of many years of dedicated practice. However, the use of its principles as a means of self-defence is immediate.

The principle style of T'ai Chi are Chen, Sun, Wu, Woo and Yang. Yang style is the most common and is taught at UL by Brian Mitchel. Brian is a qualified instructor and has been practising for over eight years. Anyone can do T'ai Chi. No special clothing is necessary, though loose clothing should be worn to aid relaxation and freedom of movement.

T'ai Chi classes are usually expensive but are free to staff and students at UL. Anyone interested in starting is more than welcome to come to our weekly sessions. There are three classes each Wednesday afternoon, 14.00 to 15.00, 15.00 to 16.00 and 16.00 to 17.00. They are held in the Dance Studio (Second Floor, Sports Arena).

Colin Doherty
Brian Mitchel

UL hold their own in Tae Kwon-Do

Sunday the 21st of October marked the start of the Leinster open of the Irish United Tae Kwon-Do Federation tournament. UL's finest attended the open of the competition. The group of Tae Kwon Do students was led by Mr. Philip Fox and included Iain Clarke, Edward Enright, John Greensmith, Gerard Hogan, Les Hutchinson, Mary Kilkenny, Siobhan NiCheidigh, Connor O'Neill, Oliver Ryan, and our pride and joy Fergal Deery.

The club, which is under the association A.I.M.A.A.,

has been preparing for the last few weeks for this event. The training has been tough for all involved, but all the hard work has paid off. The club claimed several titles while representing UL.

The competition began at half past ten in the morning after registration. The first part to the competition was the patterns section. In this section John Greensmith showed what skill and discipline can do by taking first place demonstrating the To-San pattern.

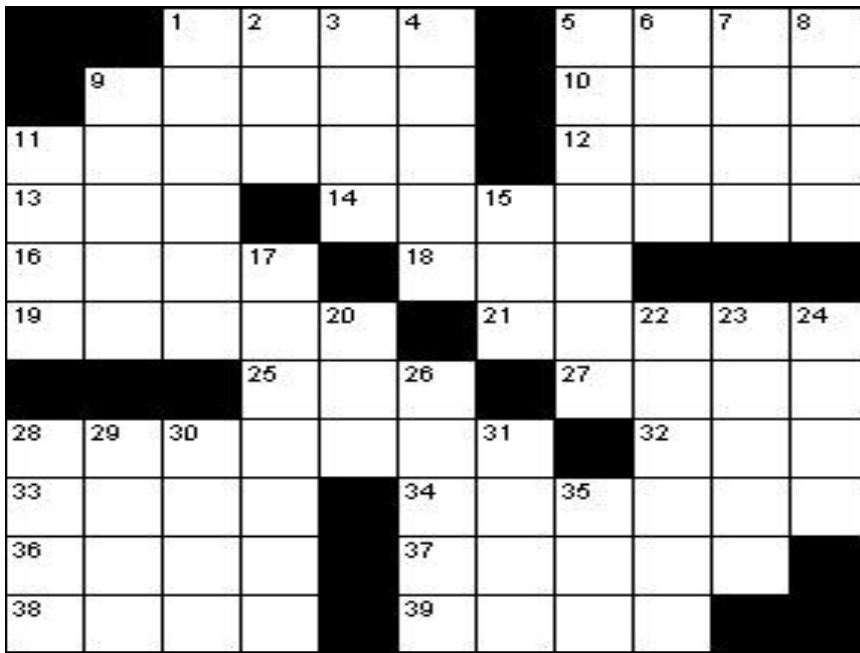
The next part of the competition was point sparring. In point sparring, the fighters spar for points, obviously. There is an allocated amount of time for each match in which the points must be scored. Point sparring for higher belts is semi-contact, where the fighter must hit the opponent without excessive force to a target area. It was in this division that Fergal Deery took third place in lightweight point sparring and Gerard Hogan took third place in heavyweight point sparring.

The final part of the competition was continuous sparring. This is the same as point sparring and is also semi-contact, and when the contestants score, they are not separated. In the women's division of continuous sparring Siobhan NiCheidigh took third place. We also had two white belts present, Mark

Kirwan and Alan Dolan, who assisted in warming up our contestants on the sideline.

The Tae Kwon Do club is currently training to represent UL in another competition in Cork in two weeks time. The club trains three times weekly; Monday nights, 8pm to 9pm, Wednesday nights, 9pm to 10:30pm, and Thursday nights 9pm to 10:30pm. All are welcome to attend.





Submit Correct answers to the the SU Reception for the attention of the Editor of An Focal. The first correct answer out of the hat will receive the CD of The Week Courtesy of Limerick 95FM. This weeks CD is Wildflowersby Relish

Across

1. Plant origination - 5. Election 2000 foe - 9. Big - 10. Older - 11. Sell to public - 12. Snow vehicle - 13. Mrs. Adam - 14. Grand, like a mansion - 16. Grant and Remmick - 18. Mr. Jordan's nickname - 19. Gossiping woman - 21. Slander - 25. Not even - 27. Sodapop - 28. Saloon - 32. Bo Derek's number - 33. Ammonia - 34. Vandalize - 36. Do this in harmony - 37. Sparkle - 38. Strong dislike - 39. Nervous .

Down

1. Shiny fabric - 2. Time period - 3. Shield - 4. Ms. Burke - 5. ____ Ulcer - 6. Leer - 7. Film wheel - 8. Mini-whirlpool - 9. Dam - 11. Count on - 15. To hurt - 17. Where stuff is kept - 20. Much ____ about nothing - 22. Study of plants - 23. To vote in - 24. Bowling alley - 26. Evade - 28. 5A's opponent - 29. Opera solo - 30. Apartment fee - 31. Merge - 35. Original Newton .

This Week I've Been Mostly Annoyed By...

This week I've been mostly annoyed by...well, the difficulty here lies in the fact that there are so many aspects of my daily life which annoy me, its far too problematic to isolate just one, so I'm going to summarise (or rant, perhaps, to put a finer point on it). Where to begin?

People who stop dead in a crowded corridor to indulge in an animated discussion on the startling events which occurred the night before in the Scholars/Stables etc., meanwhile the domino effect is created behind them, whereby ten people crash into the people in front, unaware of the fact that the stoppee has some vital information to impart.

The Student Union shop consistently running out of 10s in both Silk Cut Purple and Silk Cut Blue, causing you to leave shamefaced and beret of cigarette, clutching the exact change which you scrapped together from under the sofa cushion, realising that everyone in the queue behind you knows that you can't afford twenty. At this point there will be those of you who will put forward the argument that one should be smoking a "real" cigarette anyway or those of you who argue that one shouldn't be smoking at all (heaven forbid!!) but those people just annoy me.

People who find directly in front of the OPAC computers the ideal location to catch up on the week's gossip, oblivious to the fact that there is a queue forming behind them, owing to the fact that there is a grand total of eight such computers in the library-one of which is usually broken (as an aside, this also annoys me).

Network 2 constantly changing the broadcast time of Home and Away .One day its six, the next its six thirty, the next it fails to air at all. Now I make no apology for watching Home and Away, for night on 15 years now it has provided the staple diet of television

watching for tea eating (every pun intended). I don't like Network 2 messing with my schedule, I mean, really, how's a girl supposed to know at what time to have her dinner?

Christmas ads on television in October. October? I'm sorry, have I missed something here, as far as I'm aware we haven't even had Halloween yet. Perhaps I just didn't get the memo and we now have Halloween in May, leaving the decks clear for October to December to constitute Christmas time. It's the only logical explanation for this phenomenon as far as I can see. On this same note the fact that Todds (or Brown Thomas, or whatever they're calling it this week) has also got a Christmas display in their windows is really getting on my wick (for explanation, see above).

The Castletroy bus. 'nuff said, in fact has anybody seen it lately?

Traffic, why is there so bloody much of it? Did the government give everyone a free car while I was in the queue for student services? (Sorry, forgot the government never gives anyone anything for free). But really the traffic situation is getting worse and worse and it is becoming a personal issue for me, owing to its rearing its ugly head in Brierfield of late. The reason this is so is the squillions of eager shoppers bustling to spend their hard-earned cash in the new shopping center.

Gay Byrne: Why is someone so patronising, scornful and smug so beloved by the Irish nation? Is it a by-product of our colonial past that we as a nation are so used to being treated in this manner that we love Gay Byrne for laying it on us (a sort of masochism, if you will). Or, alternatively, is he just a jammy so and so, who hasn't been rumbled yet? Naturally I have issues with the Irish version of Who Wants to be a

Millionaire?, mostly owing to the fact that it features Uncle Gaybo but also the fact that the contestants' aspirations bug me, the most popular choice for their prize money being a holiday. You've just one a million pounds and you're going on holiday? I went on holiday last summer and I didn't even have a million

By Karen O'Donnell O'Connor



pounds in the bank to celebrate. Were I to win a million pounds I would set my sights a smidgen higher, possibly the moon.

For my own sanity and, obviously, yours, I am going to have to leave it at that for the moment as the topic could easily warrant a book rather than an article in An Focal. Bear in mind that I am not a particularly irritable person but these are the type of small niggling things which annoy us every day. Feel free to take issue with any of the aforementioned subjects but if you are moved to putting pen to paper, please, address your letter to the editor rather than me. I don't want to have to deal with it, it would only annoy me.

UL Badminton Club

The UL Badminton Club would like to begin by first of all welcoming everybody back for a new and exciting year. Hopefully over the course of the year, whether you're a total beginner or an experienced professional you'll find time to try out Badminton at during one of our three weekly training sessions.

This year the club plans to continue its outstanding progress by entering a new team, on top of the four teams we had last year. The teams will be as follows:

Grade 1 & 2

Grade 3 & 4

Grade 5

Haynes Cup

Intersarsity team

As well as all the running around the court after a 'shuttle cock' we'll be having numerous gatherings (always involving alcohol and scandal!!!), so I recommend you give the sport a try, you'll regret it otherwise.

Club trip to Norway

On August the 15th, the UL Badminton Club set out from Dublin Airport to Oslo, to represent UL and Ireland abroad in an International Student Badminton Tournament held in Tønsberg, Norway. Despite losing baggage along the way (which was thankfully later found), we all arrived in Oslo Airport safely. From the Airport, we got a train direct to Tønsberg in comfort and efficiency never quite seen before in Ireland! The weather was beautiful and very warm, contrary to our predictions. When we arrived in Tønsberg, we were quickly chauffeured to the sports arena in some style. It seems all the Taxi's over there are big beautiful Mercedes Estates, again, not what you'd see very often here.



On our first night of arriving we enjoyed watching the local flamboyant and talented girl's Olympic Handball team practice, while feasting upon pizza. We received a welcome speech by the organisers and prepared for the busy days ahead. We had to sleep on the floor of the hall, but this only added to the atmosphere and excitement in the camp. We all anxiously waited to see what our partners would be like for the three days of competition. Win, lose or draw, we all knew we would have a good time.

Each player was put in a group when they arrived, from groups A to D, according to their level of skill, group A being the top group consisting of many talented European internationals. In the doubles and mixed doubles, each player was paired off with another player from a different club. We had to stick with these partners for the three days of competition, so it was either a case of get used to them or lose! Fortunately all the players seemed to be quite well matched and everyone got on very well together. Thank the Lord.

The first day was tough, the hardest part was getting used to the intense heat and humidity in the hall. The sweat was pouring off us before we even started the first match! It didn't seem to bother our European friends though, but then again they're not used to playing in sub zero halls somewhere in the back and beyonds of County Limerick in mid January. Despite the heat, many of the Irish players were finding themselves on top of they're groups. We also took a trip to a near by beach during the lunch break. The water was beautiful and not the slightest bit cool. Very relaxing indeed, after a mornings hard work on the court.

By the second day the Irish were starting to get used to the hall, and performances improved all round, despite the antics of the night before. Eric Nelligan, Conor Flatley and Aisling McLoughlin at this stage were doing quite well in they're respective groups with many of the other Irish players following close behind.

The winning streak continued on the last day of competition with many of the Irish players topping their respective groups. Eric Nelligan took the Men's doubles title in Group B of the competition. This was an excellent result for Ireland considering the high level of com-

petition in this group. Gillian Holmes and her partner showed some great skill and determination to take the Ladies doubles title in Group B. In group C, the mixed doubles title was taken by Conor Flatley and his talented German partner Daniela Klopp. The pair were very dominant in that group, not once dropping a game.

Alan Nelligan showed some excellent form to come second in Group B in men's doubles. Likewise, Aisling McLoughlin also proved that power is the key to success by coming second in her Ladies doubles Group D. Conor Flatley, who played excellent all week, also went on to take third place in men's doubles Group C. Brid Walsh showed great character on the final day and eventually took third spot in her mixed doubles Group C. Fiona Farrell showed her class coming third in her women's doubles in Group B. Aisling also played excellent in her Ladies doubles Group D, taking third spot. Overall, Ireland did very well indeed with great performances all round from all the Irish players.

On the social side of things, a great time was had by all. Each night was planned meticulously by the organisers to ensure we could relax and recuperate fully after a tough day's competition. To help quench our thirsts, the organisers provided us with a local beer at a reduced price called Fatol-Aass, which we abbreviated appropriately! The beer was wasn't the best, but had the right effect.

On the first night after competition, we feasted upon a local delicacy called Labskaus (a kind of stew), with plenty of helpings of bread and Fatol-Aass. Enda seemed to enjoy it more than most, but then again, he was hammered at that stage. That night we went into Tønsberg town to visit a popular pub by the waterfront. There was good music, good craic and good

beer, three of the factors needed for a good night out! While the rest of us were busy singing and dancing, Conor was busy "investing" his efforts in the lovely Nina. We then left the busy pub and into the cold Scandinavian night air. This had drastic effects on some, and even worse effects on others! Then came the "Cat" incident. Suffice to say that the Norwegian society for the prevention of cruelty to animals (NSPCA) targeted the youngest member of the UL group and watched his movements for the duration of the trip. God bless the poor soaked cat, who we hope was an able swimmer.

The second night brought similar joys as we indulged ourselves in every type of carcass available in Scandinavia. The meal was delicious, and quickly consumed by everybody. That night we were confined to the complex, as the organisers thought Tønsberg had seen enough of this merry group of foreigners. There was a disco in which we became acclimatised with the joys of 'Ra-ra Rasputin' and 'Yes sir, I can boogie'. We were also starting to attract some attention from interested foreigners. Aisling's mute partner Frankie was having the time of his life as he stalked his playing partner and motley crew. Also, Conor continued his efforts with the elusive Nina.

The last night lived up easily to its high reputation. It was a 70's theme night but as we quickly discovered, the Irish were the only ones to dress up. So there we all were- 7 afros and 5 hippie chicks and the whole place just staring at us!! Eventually though, the rest of the teams put on they're outfits. We all breathed a sigh of relief. Dinner commenced and we attempted to eat through the fake moustaches and without spilling on the hairy chests. Firstly there was a feast of shrimp. We were given pint glasses with which to fill with the pregnant shrimp bones and shells. Frankie boy, filled four pint glasses, God bless him. After the awards ceremony, we became accustomed with the practice of giving

the organisers a gift to show appreciation. We watched dumbstruck as each team presented the organisers with beautifully prepared gifts. We hadn't a thing to give so we assumed an air of innocence. Then Eric shook the building with an awesomely powerful speech. He presented a pair of 70's sunglasses as our expression of gratitude. The organisers were speechless. Eric wasn't though, as he half-invited, half-threatened the entire audience to come to Ireland for a tournament. Then all the competitors had to return to the hall for a while as the banquet was cleared for the disco. Instead of resting on our laurels however, games were organised by the Irish. Within minutes the Irish were running the place as Eric and Enda organised numerous races. The hippie chicks were tossed and thrown from one end of the hall to the other as they partook in the events. Each race was hotly contested and multiple bruising ensued. Then we proceeded to the dance floor. The 70's music was booming and the afros were taking to the floor. Also friendships were starting to blossom. Aisling, fed up with Frankie, decided to chase some young red-head English super star. Sadly t'was not to be. Meanwhile, Conor finally admitted defeat on the Nina front. Alan however, welcomed the Nina challenge and within five minutes of making her acquaintance, became her firm, lifelong friend! We endured our last Fattol-Aass and settled down for a good night's sleep.

With sadness, we departed from Tønsberg the next day, and with slugging rampant over the previous night's events, we headed for Oslo. We had only one night left to make our mark and so we hit the city of Oslo with some exuberance. Sadly we found the place to be dead beyond belief and became dumbstruck at the £5.20 asking price for a pint of beer. It had to be an early night unfortunately but we still enjoyed a night's stroll in Oslo. We had an early start the next morning and before we knew it we were in a plane back to the green fields of home.

In reflection, it was an absolutely brilliant trip and enjoyed by all. We'd like to thank the UL Students Union, Paul Lee, Neasa O'Donnell, 'Canada life', 'Guinness', the people of Ballymahon Co. Longford and all the other contributions and advice received. Also a special note of appreciation must be made to thank Enda and Brid for the great job they did in organising the whole trip. All involved now await eagerly next year's trip abroad as UL Badminton Club promotes Irish Badminton across the globe.

Training Times

Monday	9.15pm - 11.00pm
Wednesday	2.00pm - 4.00pm (Coaching for beginners and improvers)
Wednesday	9.15pm - 11.00pm

As mentioned above, the club has three specific training times which are open to all club members, however we'd like to mention that on Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 till 4.00 training will be provided catering mainly for beginner and improver members.

Club Committee

The Club AGM took place during week 3, the following is a list of the people elected to the various positions:

President:	Eric Nelligan
Chairperson:	Shane O'Sullivan
Treasurer:	Enda O'Connor
Secretary:	Brid Walsh
PRO:	Elaine McCormack
Lotto Secretary:	McLaughlin
Committee Members:	Avril Buckley Conor O'Brien Declan Bolger Conor Flatley Gillian Holmes Susan Gilmore

Club Captains:	Fiona Farrell & Alan Nelligan
Grade 1 & 2 Captain:	Eric Nelligan
Grade 3 & 4 Captain:	Brid Walsh
Grade 5 Captain:	Enda O'Connor

Murphy was a UL Student....

I read the article last week entitled "Condition of Pitches is Finally Improved" and although an informative article I feel that it missed the point when it came to the issue of the playing pitches here in UL. You see when it comes to the issue of pitches many of the clubs that use these pitches over the past few years feel as its Murphy's Law that governs these pitches, you know the one "anything that can go wrong will go wrong".

For several years the clubs using these pitches have had to endure some very poor standard pitches and there was even a meeting of several clubs last year to discuss this issue with the Sports Department and Students Union such was their feeling of growing desperation on the matter and the issue was brought to the attention of the relevant authorities within the University. Last year on the run up the Men's Gaelic Football teams qualifying match for the Siggerson Cup, the penultimate GAA football competition in third level football, UL faced UCC at home. Unfortunately for one student involved, Mike Fitzgerald, he was giving his all to the team as the chairperson, player and as a fourth year student, this took some commitment. However UL very nearly lost home advantage due to the condition of the pitch and Mike and several players in order to preserve home advantage had to turn their hand to "groundskeepers" as well, as they "forked" the pitch the day before the competition and spread sand to improve the surface of the pitch and hopefully reduce excess water. UL preserved home advantage but unfortunately UL lost the match. To hear the account and frustration from Mike at the time was depressing to say the least as students bursting a gut playing for the prestige of the University of Limerick prepared for their most important match by assuming the role in effect of a groundskeeper!

This was not the only factor though as the new Sports Arena took the space of the "mud-patch"- the training area for all clubs in winter

because of its proximity to the road and reasonable lighting which allowed students train during winter after college long after the sun had gone down. This was to be rectified also with the promise of lighting last year.. yet "Murphy" reared his head and the lights were delayed and the excuses poured forth. Eventually the lights finally arrived from Italy or wherever it was that they came from and at present time have finally managed to erect the poles but...without lights on the top of them they are not much good. One source reported that the reason given for this is that they cannot be finished while it is raining! I hope this comment was just sarcasm?

Every summer the pitches become a valuable commodity to UL because they can be hired to outside groups or used as a tool to entice teams to train on campus and avail of our state of the art facilities. This was the case this year with the Corporate Games amongst other events, and fair play that good business. However to get back to the issue of timing why is it that at the start of the student playing season that the pitch renovations begin with some pitches being put out of commission for more than 6 weeks with the remainder being renovated after Christmas? In effect interfering with the whole college calendar for field sports. So now we have increased usage on the remaining pitches so what happens when home advantage has to take place in Ahane or other neighbouring Limerick clubs? who pays the extra travel costs that the student clubs will incur?

Having been involved with the Clubs and Society budgets for the last few weeks it is a tense time trying to spread the resources fairly and still emphasise the need to fund raise in order to have a complete season of events. I have to say I am extremely concerned at the prospect of the potential increased cost to our field sports on campus for the privilege of representing UL. Despite Mick Phelan's successful appeal for extra funding for Clubs & Societies to the Finance Committee of the University to

whom we are extremely grateful I am concerned that what may have been received with one hand may inadvertently be taken by the other hand as a consequence of a poorly timed decision for much needed pitch renovation.

It's strange the way perception of the non-paying student apparently was not considered with the timing of these renovations! Are they not the more important customers on the grand scheme of things?

However let me just add a point of information the students through capitation ACTUALLY DO PAY to use the pitches you see it comes in the form of part of your capitation which according to an official document that resides in the SU, student capitation accounts for IN EXCESS OF THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION POUNDS for... "The upkeep of space".

Now I acknowledge that this University is vast and the responsibilities of maintaining it are huge and to be fair it is a fantastic University from that point of view but the time has come to have some consideration and common sense when it comes to maintaining pitches and having some consideration for the people paying for its upkeep. How can we promote extra curricular activities and support our teams in the conquest of fun and success if we don't provide the basic requirement...maintained pitches.

I know this has come too late for the likes of Mike Fitzgerald who was a credit to the Men's GAA club and has since graduated but here's hoping that "Murphy" has graduated too and has not decided to further his interest in UL's on-going pitch saga.

Regards,

Paul Lee
Clubs & Societies Development

UL Tennis Club

UL Tennis Club - The Tennis Club welcomes all its members back and is keen to welcome new members this year. Hope you all had a good summer and are rearing to go! Coaching has already started but it's never (ever!) too late to join in. Tennis coaching is available to all levels under the watchful eye of Turlough Flood ("He's very nice" - new member) every Wednesday at the following times:

Beginners	3pm		
	Intermediate	4pm	
	Advanced (Training)		5pm

So just come down at the time that suits you best, bring a racket if you have one and start playing. For those that mightn't be sure the tennis courts are between the hockey pitch and Kilmurry Village. This year the Tennis Club will again be competing in the 35's competition at DCU, which promises to be premium craic. We will be sending teams of all levels of tennis and drinking ability so be sure to sign up for it. And watch this space for details of other upcoming events! Tennis is always fun and always good for your beer belly so whether you are interested in learning, improving or mastering your tennis - we'll see you on court! If you have any other queries call 086 8723650

"University Of Limericks"

A WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT!!!!

After establishing the link between a limerick and Co. Limerick, UL History Society needs your help in creating the world's largest collection of limericks, "The University of Limericks".

PRIZES IN A NUMBER OF CATEGORIES!!

All we need you to do is compose a limerick and send it to us through one of the following lines:

Email to: ULHISTORYSOCIETY@HOTMAIL.COM

Drop in to Student Union Building (there will be a box at reception)

Post to: UL History Society,
Heineken Clubs & Society's Office,
Student Union Building,
University of Limerick,
Limerick.

Example of a limerick:

"Hickory dickory dock
The mouse ran up the clock,
The clock struck one,
The mouse was gone,
Hickory dickory dock."

In a limerick, the end of the first, second and fifth line must rhyme while the end of the third and fourth line must also rhyme

Complete collection will be displayed in The Stables courtyard on Tuesday 6 November during Greek Week (Week 7) and prizes will be handed out.

Ladies Hockey Club
In association with Deloitte & Touche

It's been a tough fortnight for the U.L. hockey team, as a new side coming up against teams that have played for years together.

On Saturday the 13th October we played newly promoted Waterford Hockey Club in Newtown College, Waterford. The Waterford side were physically strong and out for a good result to hang on to their position in the senior league. Conditions were also difficult, the pitch being a lot slower than we are used too, and this, along with the fact that the sun was beaming down on us, meant that it was a physically draining match.

Waterford was the stronger side in the first half and a couple of minutes before the end of the half they scored. At half time, coach Catherine Bird advised the team to forget about what had gone before and concentrate on winning the second half.

The second half was just as demanding as the first, with Waterford doing a lot of the attacking. Credit is due to the defence, of Sandra Hedigan, Fiona Murray (Capt), Kate Rushe and Muireann MacCarthy for keeping the Waterford attack at bay. U.L. never gave up the fight and a few minutes from the end they equalised. The goal eventually came from Claire Delaney, after there had been a couple shots on goal. The match end Waterford 1, U.L. 1.

Last Saturday the senior team was in action again

against Bandon, in U.L. Bandon, having lost their previous two matches, were hungry for a win.

Fifteen minutes into the game, Bandon scored from a reverse stick push into our goal by their centre forward. U.L., as always coming from behind, equalised a couple of minutes later from a short corner; Emily Fitzgibbon putting away a beautifully struck ball from the top of the circle.

Bandon were always dangerous on attacking short corners. In the last second before half time Bandon won a corner and, having brought up most of their players to attack the circle, their pressure paid off for them when they scored their second goal. The half time result was U.L. 1, Bandon 2.

Things did not improve for U.L. in the second half; Bandon always had the faster reactions. Bandon scored another goal and the final result was U.L. 1, Bandon 3.

UL Descent 2001

Date: Sat. November 10th (Week 7).

Start Time 1pm

Registration 11:30am -12:30pm

Long Start: The Waterworks (2 miles south of Castleconnell Village (10 miles).

Short Start: Black Bridge, University of Limerick (6 miles).

Finish: Sarsfield Bridge (River Shannon), Limerick City.

Grade: Mainly flat with a couple of (II-) bits and Curragower falls (III) will pose no problems for glass boats but it will be an interesting finish.

Classes: K1 and General Purpose. Open to Men, Ladies & Juniors.

Great Prizes for all categories.

Special team of 10 event, with great prizes sponsored by UL Activity Centre and River Deep Mountain High

Entry Fee: Adults £10 Juniors' £8 inclusive of Meal and night-time entertainment. Meal to take place in the "University Arena Sports Bar" between 5:30pm and 7pm

Check out www.uldescent.csn.ul.ie for a map of the river and race rules.

Get all your friends down and have a go at the Team Race ☺

Hope to see you there!!!!

Organised by University of Limerick Kayak Club and for any further queries
telephone Declan Harkin on (087) 2876371 after 6pm.

Equality for All?

I was a bit incredulous at first. I really could not believe what my friend was telling me. Having recently graduated, this friend decided to brave the working world and took up a job in a recruitment agency. Immediately on starting he was given a manual, which contained all the rules and procedures. Among those rules were some rather interesting and illegal codes of practice. Firstly, my friend informed me, that anyone from outside Europe and the USA would have great difficulty in getting a job from this recruitment agency. Any CVs or correspondence from outside Europe and the USA were to be binned. Then anyone from within the nations of Europe and the USA who sounded remotely black, Muslim or anyway different was not to be considered for interview. All this, he was told, was for the employers benefit, helping them avoid embarrassment and having to face up to the issue themselves. This of course is highly illegal and would never be admitted by the firm involved and which is why it is forbidden to remove the training manual from the premises. Not surprisingly under these circumstances this friend was a little apprehensive about his employers discovering that he is gay.

It was for exactly these situations that the Equality Act of 2000 came into effect. On October 25, 2000 the minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced the inception of the act. It was to complement the Employment Equality Act of 1998. Within these acts, the rights of individuals are protected against discrimination. Discrimination such as that displayed by the firm mentioned above can now be fought. There are nine grounds on which discrimination is unlawful; gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religious belief or membership of the Traveller Community. These acts cover all aspects of employment such as equal pay, access to employment, vocational training, and conditions of employment, work experience, promotion and dismissal, whether it is in the public or private sector, employment agencies vocational training bodies, the publication of advertisements trade

unions and professional bodies, full time or part time work and finally collective agreements. The legislation also covers the provision of services but this area has a lot of grey areas.

Unfortunately this law was enacted as the incidences of discrimination, still all too prominent in the Ireland of the 21st century, were going unpunished. It is likely, that on any of the nine grounds mentioned above, you might be discriminated against. Discrimination can be direct or indirect. Direct discrimination is defined under the act as less favourable treatment. A person is deemed to have been discriminated against if s/he is or has been or would be less favourably treated on any of the nine grounds. Indirect discrimination occurs when practices or policies have a discriminatory impact on a group without appearing to be discriminatory. A policy may be well intentioned but if it impacts adversely on one group more than another it is still discrimination.

Discrimination is still a feature of life in Ireland. It is not always as blatant as the racism and homophobia exhibited by the above mentioned recruitment agency. If an employer deems that certain types of work may only be done by one gender and the other gender therefore loses out on overtime, perks etc, this is gender discrimination. There are also cases of employers who give blatantly awkward hours to single parents because of their family status or the employer's religious beliefs, on which grounds discrimination claims are valid. The new law also protects people from being harassed on the nine grounds. If this happens in the work place or in the provision of services, an employer of anyone involved in such activity is liable to be sued if they do not seek to remedy the situation. It is also illegal for persons to specify that positions are only available to people of a certain age. Once a person is between the ages of 18-65 they are entitled to be considered for the position available. This law also applies in the provision of services. The Irish Times of 26 October 2000 pointed out that publicans and clubs are in breach of the law when they enforce a "house policy" of restricting admission to persons 'over 21' or 'over 23'. Once you are over eighteen you are entitled to be served alcohol. Before you go rushing off to Ted's for looking for a sugar daddy, the proprietors can refuse you entry

on the grounds that there is a substantial risk of criminal or disorderly conduct or damage to property. That basically gives the proprietor free reign. It does not matter that you would not be involved in such activity; it is the fact that your presence may cause others to become involved in criminal activity, disorderly conduct or the damage of property. This is the justification more often used to exclude members of the Traveller Community and those of a different race to Irish.

So what do you do if you feel that you have been discriminated against in the area of employment or the provision of services? Firstly speak to the employer. Be they yours, your prospective employer or the employer of the person who discriminated against you in the provision of services. If the situation remains unsatisfactory contact the Equality Authority, a trade union or a solicitor. The Equality Authority can help with a legal case for those who cannot afford a solicitor. In the situation where a case remains unresolved, it usually falls under the jurisdiction of the Office of Director of Equality Investigations. From here the course of the case will be decided. Any person found guilty of discrimination is liable to be fined and or jailed. In equal pay cases, which applies to all nine grounds, an award of equal pay and arrears in respect of a period not more than three years. In other cases equal treatment and compensation of up to a maximum of two years pay or £10,000 if the person was not an employee maybe awarded. There are time limits on complaints made under the Employment Equality Act 1998. A complaint must be brought within six months of the last act of discrimination. Different time limits apply to equal pay disputes.

Remember that it is unlawful for an employer to penalize an employee for taking action on grounds of discrimination or for giving evidence in proceedings under the equality legislation. This means that you should not be fearful of speaking up in such situations for yourself or on behalf of others. It is up to us as by-standers to ensure that discrimination is not tolerated in any form. Segregation of the work force and the provision of services mean the segregation of society as a whole, to the detriment of all.

by Alona Troy

UL Racing Society

We are now officially a recognised society on campus, having been set up last semester, after a few failed attempts in the past. Due to the threats of foot and mouth in Ireland earlier this year the Racing Society thought that it would be a non-runner, but due to the determination and optimism of our members we managed in making the most of a bad situation.

And as soon as racing resumed...We were off!!! Our first major obstacle as a new committee was how to raise funds?? This came about in the form of a very successful Race-night, which was ran in conjunction with the Equestrian Club and held in one of our campus bars, "The Stables", last April.

Ruby Walshe, NH Champion jockey was to be our star on the night, but unfortunately (for us) he had to travel to Ayr to ride in the Scottish Grand

National that very day and therefore could not attend. So, at a few moments notice we found celebrities of equally as high a status to come to our rescue, they included Paul Carberry, Barry Geraghty, Enda Bolger and Jason Titley!!! For those of you who were lucky enough to actually win a race, will know already, that the prizes were presented by the afore mentioned. This night could not have been a success without the support of local businesses that kindly attributed to our sponsorship on the night.

Now that we had money, we had to decide how to spend it! So off to the races we went. A familiar myth that many people believe is, that people who go racing do so to gamble and drink. This, although true for some folk, is not necessarily the case. Some go for love of the sport itself, others to socialise and meet friends. We managed to round up a 52-seater

bus of racing enthusiasts (who all went for their own personal reasons) to travel to the Tipperary Races at Limerick Junction. The highlight of the day was the presentation of the prizes to the winning connections of The UL Racing Society Race This £12,000 race was kindly given to us by Peter Roe, Manager of Tipperary Race course and a former student of UL himself.

The AGM of the Racing Society was held on the Thursday of week 2 in the Students Union Building. Our outgoing Chairman Robert Bourke kindly returned to UL to chair the meeting for us. As he is no longer a student here having graduated in September. Thanks again Robbie !!! Other out-going committee members who were unable to attend include Robert Downes and Roland Blenner-Hasset, good luck lads with your chosen careers, you will be sadly missed. A new committee was elected and outings for the coming year were discussed. A few familiar faces make up this years committee.

· Chairperson	Conor O'Brien
· Vice Chairperson	Thomas Sheerin
· Secretary	Julie-Anne Hannon
· PRO	Leah McNamara
· Treasurer	Aideen O'Dochartaigh

Also on the committee are the following:
Justine Clare

Louise Troddyn

Owen Finn

Ger Ryan

Plans for the year ahead include

· An evening at Cork Grey hound track which will have already occurred

at time of printing (I'll let you know how we got on)

· Attending the Opening meet at the new Limerick Race course in Patrickswell, which will also have occurred at time of printing

· A Table Quiz is scheduled for Monday 12th Nov in (week 8) in The Scholars

· Another race night is planned for Friday week 9 in The Scholars also.

· A student Race day at Limerick Race course, next semester February 20th

And several other days racing at tracks around the country. If anyone is interested in becoming a member or attending any of the above events please contact Conor, our Chairperson, @ 086-8420248 or alternatively his e-mail address is: 0023663@student.ul.ie

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the managers of both our local Race tracks: Angus Heuston (Limerick Racecourse) and Peter Roe (Tipperary Racecourse) for their generous sponsorship and kind support of

our society without your help we wouldn't be here Thank You!!!

U.L. Welcomes Michael Noonan, T.D.

The U.L. branch of Young Fine Gael held its Annual General Meeting on Monday night last, October 15th in the Jean Monnet lecture theatre. A large and enthusiastic crowd welcomed Fine Gael Leader and prospective Taoiseach, Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D. who kindly offered to be Guest Speaker on the night. Michael, being the down to earth, approachable man that he is, wanted to spend some time in the Stables prior to the meeting and with some of the YFG Committee members, he spent half an hour meeting and greeting the U1 student body on their own home turf.

He entered the meeting hall to rapturous applause and proceeded to address the appreciative crowd. Initially, the formalities of electing the new committee were dealt with and a presentation was made to outgoing Chairman, David Garrahy as a token of our appreciation for the Trojan work, which he did on behalf of the party over the last year. David then gracefully handed over all responsibilities to the new Chairman, John O' Grady.

John proceeded swiftly, to the eagerly awaited highlight of the evening and introduced Mr. Noonan asking him to address the crowd. Michael Noonan immediately built up a rapport with his audience, by introducing himself informally and letting us see what kind of a man he really is. He began by answering one of the most frequently asked questions in Irish politics today: how are Fine Gael different to Fianna F-íl? He stressed that the differences no longer lie in Civil War politics but in the parties respective methods of

cope with pregnancy.

He has tabled 34 D-íl questions to the Taoiseach regarding the issue, and will not be supporting the Bill unless he receives satisfactory replies.

- Regarding student funding, Deputy Noonan reiterated the Fine Gael stance on student grants, referring to the comprehensive policy document produced by Spokesperson for Education, Michael Creed, T.D. He also pledged increased monies for Research in Irish Universities.

- Mr. Noonan proffered unequivocally, his support for the Government's policy on Irish neutrality since the terrorist attacks on September 11th.

He described the attacks as horrendous, and as an attack on democracy. He believes that Osama bin Laden cannot and should not be negotiated with as he has no political demands, which can be met. The Fine Gael Leader asserted that Ireland must play her part in dealing with the threat of International Terrorism and allow US aircraft to refuel at Shannon and to use Irish airspace if necessary.

- Referring to the Government's proposal for a new National Stadium, Michael put on the record his complete disapproval of the policy. He said that we must try to encourage participation rather than spectatorship in sport. He advocated using the allocated funding to provide decent sporting facilities in every medium-sized town



Government. 'Fianna F-íl protect the rich and powerful, in the hope that the results of their actions will trickle down through the rest of society. Fine Gael will run the country in the interests of the generality', he promised. He addressed three major issues of concern, which will be top of the Fine Gael agenda, namely Health, Education and Care of the Elderly. He stated that he wanted the meeting to take whatever course the gathering wished, and opened the floor to questioners.

Mr. Noonan was faced with many diverse questions, ranging across a broad spectrum, from Irish neutrality, to the upcoming abortion referendum, to funding for students, to the crisis in Afghanistan, to Fine Gael's policy on the Irish language, to the Fine Gael view of the 'Bertie Bowl'!

-Michael dealt comprehensively with all the issues, expressing his admiration of Brian Cowen's handling of the Afghanistan crisis.

-On the abortion issue, he proposes the establishment of an agency with substantial funding to help women who feel unable to

cope with pregnancy in Ireland, so that communities might develop and to provide an alternative to the pub culture for young people. Fine Gael in government, he pledged, will put forward a more inclusive, alternative sporting policy.

The meeting concluded after a very interesting and lively Questions & Answers session and some lively debate. Mr. Noonan was presented with a commemorative gift from the U1 YFG branch and a congratulatory card, on his recent accession to the leadership of Fine Gael. Michael promised to return to the college before Christmas and the Chairman concluded the meeting amid deafening applause for the Leader.

For those of you unfamiliar with Fine Gael events in the college, an evening with Fine Gael is never complete without a social aspect to proceedings. We held our annual Cheese and Wine reception and chatted informally with Michael, Senator Mary Jackman and local Limerick County Councillors Maria Byrne and Diarmuid Scully, who were also present. The fun didn't end there and the Fine Gaelers painted the Stables and the town

blue, fresh from the highs of the success of the evening!

If you like what you've read here and would like to join this vibrant, dynamic and fun party, please look out for the posters around the college regarding upcoming events or email me at 9921583@student.ul.ie.

SinÉad Carey, P.R.O.

Upcoming events

-UL Young Fine Gael, as part of the Student's



Union Greek week, will be holding a seminar on suicide on Monday 5th of November 8pm. In attendance will be Deputy Dan Neville, Limerick West T.D. Deputy Neville is the Fine Gael frontbench spokesperson on mental health and is the President of the Irish Association of suicideology. A representative from the Limerick branch of the Samaritans will also attend.

While it is accepted that this is a sensitive topic, it is hoped to explore the issues surrounding suicide, such as causes and reasons for the high rates in the under 25 age group especially in the west of Ireland. All are welcome.

-UL Young Fine Gael will also be holding a Get Registered to Vote Campaign during Greek week. Since 1998, UL YFG have registered in excess of 1,000 students to vote. A stand will be held in the canteen where the relevant literature and advice on registering will be available. Within the academic year there will be a general election and a referendum on abortion. Thus it is more important than ever to get registered.

-UL Young Fine Gael will also be participating in the Peace Society's seminar on the issues surrounding the Shannon stopover and the bombing of Afghanistan. A local Fine Gael representative will attend the meeting to be held on the Thursday of Greek week.

All are welcome to attend events whether you are of different political persuasion or none at all. For more information please contact ulyfg@hotmail.com. Thank you.

UL Volleyball Take Victory in League Thriller

Sunday Oct 14th - It was the day 'a team' became 'THE TEAM' -or maybe that's blowing things out of proportions. Either way the UL Mens Volleyball team took their first victory of the new league campaign in a very entertaining game. Following the previous Sunday's defeat in their first league game of the season the team met for the game against DCU keen to get some points on the board. The starting 6 remained unchanged from the first game and a nice troop of supporters turned up to cheer UL on. The first set didn't start very well for UL and there was some nervousness which produced various errors. The team from DCU played a nice variety of volleyball which UL found difficult to handle in the first set. DCU took the first set and started well in the second set also. However half-way through the second set UL began to take over, things were starting to click. With UL's improved blocking, the DCU hits which got by in the first half were not being allowed to cross over the

net. UL went from strength to strength and took the second and third set to lead 2-1. The 4th set brought a DCU fightback and despite good UL play, DCU levelled the match 2-2. In Volleyball the final and 5th set is played to 15 points. DCU won the toss to serve and the teams got in position for the final set. The DCU serve came over and UL set the attack well and took the point. UL then went on a great run which saw them lead 12-0 in the final set -surely they could not relinquish this lead!! Despite DCU winning two points, UL regained momentum again to put the score at 14-2, match point. Tension was high but there were huge cheers and celebration as UL's Shane O Sullivan, spiked the ball to the floor on the oppositions side.

This game was a terrific team effort with each player playing their own essential parts. Well done lads. The next game is on Nov 4th at 3pm in the UL Arena against Newbridge. Your support would be

warmly appreciated!

SQUAD: Gerard Conway, Donncha Daly, Jonathon Collins, Linx Govender, Shane O' Sullivan, Michael Hanlon, Mike Carey, Niklas Karlsson

Anyone interested in playing volleyball at UL, both male and female, should come along to training and you can sign up as a new member. Players of all standards are welcome.

Training times: Tuesday 9:15pm-11:00pm (Courts 3&4 The Arena)

Thursday 5pm-7pm

(Courts 3&4 The Arena)

Looking for information on training or match times then email Mike at 9850805@student.ul.ie

UL Soccer Club News

Eircom U21 National League Match Report

Cobh Ramblers 1 University of Limerick 0

UL travelled to St Colmans Park on Friday 19th of October to play Section leaders Cobh Ramblers under floodlights in an evening game. Cobh began the game well and in the very first minute could have scored when their right winger got to the by-line but saw his cross cut out by the UL keeper, who incidentally badly sprained his finger in this act. UL settled and although yielding a lot of possession to Cobh looked comfortable with whatever the home team could throw at them. On 25 minutes Cobh created a good opportunity when their left-winger crossed for Shane Brennan to head straight at the visitors keeper. UL got their best chance of the half when Paul Crowley narrowly missed the target from a corner by Martin McGourty. With two minutes left in the half disaster struck for UL when they gave away possession in midfield and Cobh attacked down the left flank, the ball was crossed and Shane Brennan made no mistake with his back post header. The second half began brightly with some quality football on show but goal scoring chances were at a premium. Stout defending from UL players Padraig Brody and Grant Murtagh kept the home team at bay. On 75 minutes a quality move started by the visitors Keeper resulted in Jason Hannam being put through with the close attentions of a Cobh defender who appeared to drag the UL player down and amazingly the referee waved play on. In the closing minutes UL pushed forward in search of that elusive equaliser, this left gaps in the defence and UL keeper McMahon had to make a couple of saves to keep the score line as it was. Considering Cobh had beaten us 4-1 in UL just one short month ago, the management were pleased with a very combative and progressive performance from all the players.

UL Defeat Peake Villa in Eircom U21 League.

UL 2 Peake Villa 1

UL recorded their second victory of the season in the Eircom League of Ireland U21 division with a hard fought 2-1 victory over a battling Peake Villa (Thurles) side on Saturday afternoon last. Played in ideal conditions at Plassey both sides played their part in a fine attacking game, which could easily have yielded more than three goals.

Villa were first to settle and were unfortunate not to be in front at half time. The Crossbar and some fine goalkeeping from ex-Geraldine's player Darragh McMahon ensured that the game remained scoreless after 45 minutes.

A change of formation at the break which brought an extra player into the UL midfield seemed to pose Villa some problems as UL began to dominate the game early in the second half. UL duly went in front when

Jason Hannam coolly slotted the ball past the Villa keeper on 55 minutes after being played in by Mark Holland. Almost immediately UL were two up as the Villa keeper took down Hannam in the box. Kevin Murphy calmly placed the resulting penalty low to the left hand corner giving the goalkeeper no chance to atone for his error.

To their credit Villa battled hard to get back into the game and were rewarded on 75 minutes when Padraig Fogarty made a great run from the midfield to slip in between two defenders and tuck a cross away on the half volley from about 12 yards out. This ensured a tense last quarter of an hour. UL had to battle hard to keep their lead but excellent displays from ex-Aisling Annacotty defender Mark Reidy, Grant

Murtagh (who ironically played a lot of his youth football for the Thurles Side), and McMahon who produced an outstanding reaction save in the dying moments of the game ensured there was no further addition to the score.

This result means that UL now have 6 points from a possible 15 in the LOI U21 division. This season they have defeated Limerick FC and have also been beaten by Waterford Utd., Cork City and Cobh Ramblers. This Friday night they again take on Cobh in St. Colman's Park.

UL (4-4-2). McMahon, Crowley, Murtagh, Reidy, Stapleton (Landers 45), R Dunne, Holland, Murphy, J Dunne (Blake 45), Hannam, Connolly (Gartland 70).

ULFC are kindly sponsored this year by Kostal Ireland, based in Abbeyfeale.

Other Notes...

Training continues every Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm in Maguires. Our next fixture is away to Salthill Devons in the U21 National Cup on November 4th.

Junior League Match Report

Mungret (c) 3 UL(b) 4

An improving UL side beat Mungret in the first round of the Eamon Quinian cup on Saturday. Despite the bad weather, the pitch was in excellent condition and both sides used the good surface to play some excellent attacking football. UL settled first, and began to play some great flowing football with both wingers in inspirational form. UL went ahead after 5 minutes, when some great work in midfield by Brendan Lynch was finished smartly by John Morris. UL continued to create chances but could not add to their lead. Mungret equalised midway through the second half when a corner was scrambled home from close range. UL continued to work hard with Jason Begley and

Damian Treacy dominating midfield. They deservedly went back into the lead when Martin Power scored with a great chip. However Mungret equalised moments later when they were awarded a penalty. UL continued to play good football in the second half. They scored two goals in quick succession, both coming from the excellent Martin Power. The first was a fine volley and the second was a cracking 25-yard free kick. To their credit, Mungret never gave up and with ten minutes left they scored a great goal from a 20-yard drive. Mungret drove forward looking for an equaliser. However the UL defence stood firm with Robbie Downes and John Clifford in great form. This was a solid team performance from a hardworking UL side.

Training continues every Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm in Maguires.

Ladies Soccer News.

Training continues on Mondays at 5pm on the Astro turf Pitch and Wednesdays at 5pm, also on the Astro, but moving onto the Grass Pitches at 6pm, straight after the 5pm Astro session. Our first Senior Squad Premier League Match will take place the weekend of Nov.4th in an away fixture against CIT, the winners of last seasons First Division. We expect this to be a tough game. A squad of 15 will travel to the game, and this Squad will be announced at the Wednesday Session before the game. It has been decided that UL will host this years Freshers Tournament. This is a major achievement for us, as we haven't entered a Freshers team in a number of years. It also shows that the powers that be were happy with our level of competence in hosting last seasons Senior Intervarsitys Tournament. The Freshers Tournament will be played on a "Half Pitch" and will be 7-a-Side. We are currently searching for sponsors for these events. All Ladies Soccer enquiries should be sent to ladies_soccer @ hotmail.com .

National Universities Cup First Leg

U.L. Chess Club

It has happened again! Last week I received a letter from the library requesting that I return a book that was borrowed six weeks ago. I wouldn't mind so much, but I haven't even opened it. Instead, Tom, John, Lee and I have been working outright to bring you the following . . .

Our team captain, Tom Cooper, is all psyched up as we have secured our entry to this year's Munster League. Details will be made available when the organizers finalize game times in a few weeks. For the moment, we can expect to play half our games away and half here in U.L. We'll let you know. It time to practice though!

The Website! Our website developer Lee Smith (a second year Comp. Sys. Student naturally) has informed me that the website is ready. By the time you are reading this it might even be up on the web. We'll have an exciting launch though (I'm thinking a lot about it). I saw the prototype of the main page a couple of weeks ago and it looks truly amazing. I would

also like to publicly apologize to Lee now as I left him do it without any help whatsoever. I can't believe it looks so professional and still was completed in such a short amount of time. His work is fantastic! (Comp. Sys. People are so brilliant. . .). The link is <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~chess/>.

Limerick is once again hosting one of the most popular international chess events in the world- the Limerick Open. Tom Cooper was unable to attend last year, but in '99 was ranked at position 44 amongst hundreds of top class international players. We are representing U.L. in the event this weekend (27th - 30th October), so our meeting on Wednesday should be 'tense' as the teams get in some practice before their games.

Internet Chess Competition! Tom has just sent out details to members on how his internet chess competition works. How will you hack it against over 20,000 chess players? Read your mail and talk to Tom.

Greek Week! There have been murmurs around the college lately about this new gizmo called Greek Week. I don't want to say much now, but just to set your mouth watering I'll say this: The soldier looked frantically through his visor for enemy, or even friendly,

troops. Hearing something break underfoot, he crouches down under cover from a fallen tree trunk, draws his weapon and takes aim as a group of five enemy troops approach.' Yep, it's the strategic art of Paintballing.

Introduction of Draughts! John Daly Bsc. Charmer, has become particularly interested in this area. The university of Limerick chess club now officially plays draughts. "The chess club will not take any responsibility for any injury or death resulting from bad draughts playing" -Article 1.5. Come to the meetings and see our new website for more details. I think we should run with this, so draughts players at all levels are very welcome. Should we change the name of the club? I think U.L.C.A.D.C would be a bit too long . . .

That's all I have time for now.

We meet:
Wednesday nights, 7pm, in the Main Canteen.

Contact me if you've any trouble
- T.J. Sheehy 0046388@student.ul.ie

Set Dancing classes continue each week at 7.00 in the Scholars Function Room. All are welcome (Students & Staff alike). Class attendance was excellent last week and we hope it continues to be as successful throughout the year. This week we will be doing the final figure of the Kerry Set. For all those who haven't a clue or who can't dance - don't worry about it, under the guidance of Pat you'll all be "twinkle toed leprechauns" in no time!

So hope to see a few more faces in the coming week!

Irish Set Dancing
With
Pat O'Connell
Every
WEDNESDAY
From 7.00 - 8.30
Scholars Function Room

Outreach Society News

Hello from Outreach! For those of you who still don't know what the outreach society is we're just a group of your average students who get together every so often organising various projects to help people in need. We meet every Tuesday night at 7.30 in room 4 of the students union and would love some more new members. Next week would be a good week to join cause we are going on the beer afterwards!!!!

This year we have about six projects taking place on campus and across Limerick. First of all, closer to home, we have the Enable Ireland project. At the moment we have one student, Derek, on campus who has cerebral palsy for which he needs a wheelchair. Outreach members assist Derek in getting to and from class. He's very independent and doesn't need looking after, more so company.

Each day from 3 to 4 in the afternoon members of outreach help national school children from disadvantaged areas with their homework. It's great for the kids because they get their lessons done and then get to go play soccer or go swimming. It encourages them to go on to secondary school and maybe even college one day. If anyone has an hour free from their hectic schedule some day feel free to offer your services!!

Thanks a million to everybody who went to Docs and got pissed as a fart last Wednesday night. The pain you all felt the next morning was not in vain as you were helping out a fellow UL student. £1 of every ticket sold went



towards a fund for Ronan O'Keefe. Ronan is a third year Environmental Science student who was left paralysed after a serious car accident during the summer. Outreach along with his classmates is hoping to raise money to assist with the cost of a wheelchair and necessary adjustments to his home.

Keep your diary free for Monday the 19th of November as Soul Clinic are playing in the Scholars function room and all proceeds will go to Ronan. Our aim is to have £5000 raised by Christmas. This would be a

nice Christmas present for him and his family. This time around outreach is producing a calendar for the year 2002. Some very helpful clubs and societies are going to pose semi naked (All the essentials shall not be for your viewing!!!). The calendar will be sold on campus so please splash out for Christmas as all the proceeds are going to Charity. This would be the perfect Christmas present for a loved one. I'm sure they would appreciate it!!! Outreach will also be involved in Greek Week. This takes place week 7 and we shall be partaking in many crazy events such as bungee jumping. Monday of this week there will be a flag day for guide dogs for the blind. We'll be out and about with our buckets and a cute dog or two so give all you can. To find out more about the week keep your eyes and ears open or just pop along to a meeting and we'll tell all. Last but not least we have the South hill project. Once a week members travel to South hill Junior School to help national school children with reading and writing.

These kids appreciate the help and love the bit of company. It only takes an hour a week of your time to put a smile on the face of a young child. Our society is all about helping others. As well as that we get to know new people and even have a laugh over a pint or five! It's something different to do and it beats sitting on your butt at home in front of the telly. Our website will be up and running soon so keep an eye out for that and we'll keep ya posted from An Focal. So do come along to our meetings and we'll see ya there!!
Catch ya later....

Earthquake Warning !

UL Dance Society sets off a tremulous vibe!

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

End the Struggle, Dance with Life!

SUCK MY DECK!

DOC'S STUDENT DJ COMPETITION

EVERY FRIDAY @ THE AWARD WINNING LUST!

Each week two Limerick student dance dj's will play in Doc's Club from 11pm-12.30am allowing them to showcase their deck skills before talent like Justin Robertson, Dj Heaven and John Power.

Each student will be notified 2 weeks before hand and will receive 4 comps and 30 cut price concessions for the night to bring their mates along to see them play in one of Irelands premier clubs.

ENTRY FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

MOBILE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

STYLE OF MUSIC PLAYED:

COLLEGE ATTENDING:

STUDENT NUMBER:

(ALL DJ'S MUST BRING THEIR OWN SLIPMATS)

Fianna Fail AGM

The annual Fianna Fáil AGM was held on Tuesday the 22nd of October. Aidan O'Gorman who represents all of the 3rd level college Cumainn on the Fianna Fáil Ard Comhairle chaired the meeting which drew a much bigger attendance than expected clearly indicating the interest in politics in general and in Fianna Fáil in particular within the university. The meeting got under way with a report of the Ard Fheis which was attended by delegates of Con Colbert Cumann UL who proposed the following motions:

- Σ Calling for the Minister of Public Enterprise to proceed towards the deregulation of the bus service and open it up to competition
- Σ For a centralised authority to oversee the distribution of maintenance grants the third level students
- Σ Seeking a new Referendum on the Treaty of Nice.

Although the motions were greeted with healthy debate all of the above motions were passed. Next on the agenda was a discussion on the forth coming

National Youth Conference which is well regarded as the best political forum on youth interests and concerns in the country. The Youth conference is scheduled to take place on the 23rd /24th November in Kinsale Co. Cork and as Fianna Fáil celebrates its 75th anniversary this year I have no doubt that will be a memorable one as usual, anyone wishing to travel can contact me through my e-mail below. An entirely new committee was elected for the forthcoming year as follows:

Chairperson
Vice Chair
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer 1
Treasurer 2
Membership Officer
Communication Officer

Sarah Devitte
Liam Morris
Peadar Lawlee
Jody Clark
Ciaran Fox
Catriona Daly
Michael Quirk
Donal McCarty and
Eoin McGuire

Events Officer

Cahill Crowe

The meeting was addressed by Willie O'Dea Minister of State at the Department of Education who was very well received and a lively question and answers session followed where Willie dealt with questions dealing with the northern situation, education, Europe and so on. Also discussed in the meeting was the outline of main events for the coming year which promises to be very lively with the forthcoming Ard Fheis, general election, referendum and not at all least the National Youth Conference.

Fianna Fáil will be holding meetings every Monday night at 6.00pm in A1053 and all are welcome. Anyone wishing to join Fianna Fáil, to make comments or looking for information can contact me, Peadar, at the following address.
peterlawlee@yahoo.com
Peadar

Got Problems? - Barry and Karen can help!

Dear Karen and Barry

I am an amazingly powered super-hero, who, by day works as a mild-mannered reporter for a newspaper in Metropolis. Unfortunately, I forgot to wear my glasses at work last Tuesday, and now all my colleagues have realised who I am, and are threatening to reveal my identity to the world, thus ending my crime-fighting career. How can I maintain my anonymity, while still fighting for truth, justice, and the American way?

C. Kent... No wait, that's too obvious... Clark K.

Barry: I've always found this secret identity thing a bit ridiculous. Let's be honest, you are and I quote, "an amazingly powered superhero". Why waste your time poncing about in Lycra like a reject from WWF? Get a bit of ambition and take over the world or something. Your work colleagues will be falling over themselves to do what you say after that!

Karen: Darling, Lycra is so 1978. Try something new and slightly more flattering from the wardrobes of Calvin Klein or, if you still lean towards something fruitier, Gautier. As for the identity "problem" Lois (and the rest of Metropolis) appear to be rather intellectually challenged. Try some hair dye, or maybe a new pair of tights next time you crime fight.

Dear Baron and Carrie,

My name is Kent, Kent Gedditup, and I am writing to you on behalf of my brother, Ken. His problem is one in the marital organ area, or perhaps lack of the aforementioned. There's no motion in the ocean, if you know what I mean. I don't mind this at all, being the sibling of the person with the problem and definitely not him, but my, I mean HIS girlfriend has numerous troubles, often involving power drills in foreplay. The side effects of this lack of testosterone expungement result in his increasing need for physical affection. This has spiralled to the point where he goes to work naked except for a bowtie, and can now be found spending his time dancing the night away swinging his brightly coloured nipples and genitals in a sensual manner to the tune of

"Duelling Banjoes." He also has no teeth and smells of coyote on occasion, but am told by his girlfriend he is quite personable when standing upwind of him on a dark night. If anybody wants to get in touch with him he can be seen at "Deliverance Appreciation night" every Thursday in the Scholars. He is looking for friendly people to swap body paint and recipes, and who knows, maybe even take you for a trip on his waterbed, where mirrored ceilings have been sympathetically broken. Thank you for your time, and if you could tell him how to solve the erection problem I would be very glad. I know it's a hard one, but I have already tried spitting on it.

Yours sincerely,
Kent Gedditup

Barry: Well Kent, I'm not going to lie to you. All the signs, (Deliverance especially) point to the fact that you, I mean your brother, should be enjoying a more alternative lifestyle. Just have him shack up with a possum or some other redneck animal and I guarantee that your, I mean his, problem will straighten itself out.

Karen: Power tools are dangerous; especially in the hands (or anything else for that matter) of the unskilled. As you appear to be unable to flex your mojo, perhaps a trip to Anne Summers is in order. Failing that, try Dublin Zoo (but please remember that you are not allowed to "feed" the animals).

Dear Barry n' Karen

i've been dating my boyfriend for a while but about 6 weeks ago me n my best friend Pat got drunk and ended kissing now i really like Pat but still like my boyfriend i've talked 2 Pat and he told me to do wot i feel is right but i dont no what that is i no i've been off with my boy friend and hes noticed. i'm so confused and dont want any body to get hurt. i am so depressed but i cant talk to any one. i just dont no wot to do.

Cutey_99

Barry: As easy as it would be to take the piss here, I'm not going to. You can't have your cake and eat it! You're being really selfish, especially to your boyfriend. If you didn't want to hurt anyone, you shouldn't have been so

thoughtless in the first place. I recommend you cop yourself on a bit and make up your mind which one you want and sort it out. The longer it goes on, the worse it'll be for all concerned.

Karen: Draw up a list of their pros and cons. While making your decision, take at least a week to decide, while continuing to shag them both (for comparative purposes obviously). At the end of the week let them know your decision. If they fail to respect it, hit the Globe on a Monday night where everyone's a winner!

Dear Karen and Barry,

I'm a lonely cactus who recently left my owner to explore the really real world. I felt hemmed in by the edges of the cistern and longed for brighter, sandier horizons. I thought I was being considerate by leaving a farewell note, but it seems that my tyrannical owner has set a bounty on my head and now I'm being hunted like a criminal!! What should I do? If I return, I will surely go back to the toilet and if I keep running some evil tequila distiller may extract my agave!!

José Punto

Barry: You evil people. I see through this thinly veiled piss take of me and my missing cactus situation. I hope you get eaten by worms while you burn in hell.

Karen: Run little cactus, run!! Your owner is obviously unworthy of your fabulous, spikey self. It was evil and wrong of him to consign you to the toilet, as if you were nothing more than a common geranium. Viva la Résistance!!

If you have a problem be it big, small or furry, contact Barry and Karen at adviceanfocal@hotmail.com



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Club and Societies Budgets (Contd. from pg1.)

jected budgets considerably in an effort to gain a greater percentage of the total. Some budgets had been so far removed from their previous years records, that they had increased by 240%. Barry Cronin of "Ten Forward" commented, "Under the current budgetary system, clubs and societies are being forced to inflate their budgets so that when they are allocated their figures they'll be left with just enough to cover basic costs." Independent assessors were introduced in an attempt to differentiate between faulty figures and genuine requests for basic cost coverage. This precaution, in conjunction with the club/society's past records and current point system, are all reflected in the final allocation. The logistics of this system point out that it is highly unlikely there will ever be sufficient funds to meet demand. According to Paul Lee, it is at this juncture that clubs and societies must sell themselves i.e. employ other viable means to raise surplus funds required. Worthwhile ways to do this include fundraising and sponsorship. Already there have been generous donations injected into the fund with the College Finance Committee being the most recent patron.

Last years budgets highlighted expenditure on travel costs with a massive £18,000 spent on private bus hire. With the advent of the new mini-bus to be at the disposal of clubs and societies, it is hoped that this year's budget will reflect

a significant decrease in travel costs.

The Appeals process saw a total of seven clubs and societies successful in their applications. The grievance here was the presumption that the amount secured by the successful applicants would be divided evenly amongst the number of existing clubs and societies. Instead however, the amount was to be distributed on a percentage basis i.e. the smaller the club, the smaller the percentage loss, and vice versa.

Another valid point raised at the meeting was the question of discrimination within the system against clubs/societies who have neither the need nor the capacity to organise elaborate events outside the parameters of the college. The suggestion was made that there should be budgetary provisions made for any club/society who operates solely on campus.

All in all it promises to be both a challenging and rewarding year for UL clubs and societies, with the student body now holding its breath in anticipation.

Concerns over new bridge (continues from page 1)

cern, the spawning grounds of Atlantic salmon situated along the river. It is feared that this renowned fishery, which is said to be one of the finest angling sections of the river will be destroyed by the development. Mr. Cusack told An Focal that although his organisation "welcomes development at the University" he believes "an alternative site, in a less contentious area could have alleviated the problem."

Anxiety for the flora and fauna of the region was echoed by Nancy Serrano; an active member of the UL Environmental Society and campaigner against the proposed development. The society feel that the Environmental Impact


Study carried out by ARUP Consulting engineers on behalf of UL "inadequately covers the actual environmental implications of the project". Commenting that the planning developers should address this problem at once Ms Serrano also outlined her concern that no independent environmental monitor has been appointed to the project.

Senior management at UL will instead control the environmental management of the large-scale development. University officials have implemented an Environmental Management Programme to ensure efficient management of the project by staff. It will be their responsibility to ensure that planners and developers

adhere to strict planning laws and environmental regulations. However the Environmental Society feel that this should be the post of a body of "independent experts, local residents and river bank users".

With planning permission for the project already granted by both Clare and Limerick County Councils it is unclear whether the appeals made will be considered substantial enough to revoke the original decision of the planning authorities involved... in any case it is certainly a bridge over troubled waters.

Claire Shaughnessy



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WEB: www.scholarsclub.ie

Breakfasts 9am to 11.30am
Lunches 12 noon to 4pm
Evening Meals 5pm to 7pm

WEEK 6

MON Smirnoff Ice Request Night
- **John Frawley**

TUES DJ Eric Fitz in the Bar plus
Murphys Comedy Club
- **Adam Hills**

WED Halloween Fancy Dress Party
- **The Alvin Purple Experience**

THUR Student Party Night
- **DJ John Kelly**

FRI Party Night - Comp Finger Food
Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm

SUN Heineken Breakfast Club

WEEK 7

MON Table Quiz in the Bar
Smirnoff Ice Request Night
- **John Frawley**

TUES DJ Eric Fitz in the Bar plus
Murphys Comedy Club

WED Heineken College Energy Live
"Catch a Fire"

THUR Student Party Night
- **DJ John Kelly**

FRI Party Night - Comp Finger
Food Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm

SUN Heineken Breakfast Club
Happy Hour 9pm-10pm

Champions League Listings etc. on
www.scholarsclub.ie



DOLAN'S WAREHOUSE

Wed nov 5th
The Handsome Family
doors: 9pm tickets: €7

Sat nov 8th
The Devlins
doors: 9pm tickets: €10 students: €5

Wed nov 7th
Hamed on Trial
doors: 9pm tickets: €8

Thurs nov 8th
Bell x 1
doors: 9pm tickets: €7 (incl. Entry to Soul Clinic)

Sun nov 11th
Jonathan Brooke
doors: 9pm tickets: €7 Students: €3

Tuesday nights: **Stations Only**
Live Band followed by club doors: 9pm students: €3

Thursday nights: **Soul Clinic** doors: 12am tickets: €7 students: €8

Friday nights: **Comedy Club** doors: 9pm tickets: €8
AvNo doors: 12am tickets: €8

Coming in November: **The Walls, The Saw Doctors, The Proclaimers, Ron Sexsmith** and much more...

Tickets available in advance from: **Dolan's Pub, 34 Dock Rd, Limerick**
061-314483 / info@dolanpub.com / www.dolanpub.com