

Food

1 Somaliathon
A Day for Somalia-
Tuesday Week 5

2 The Great Race

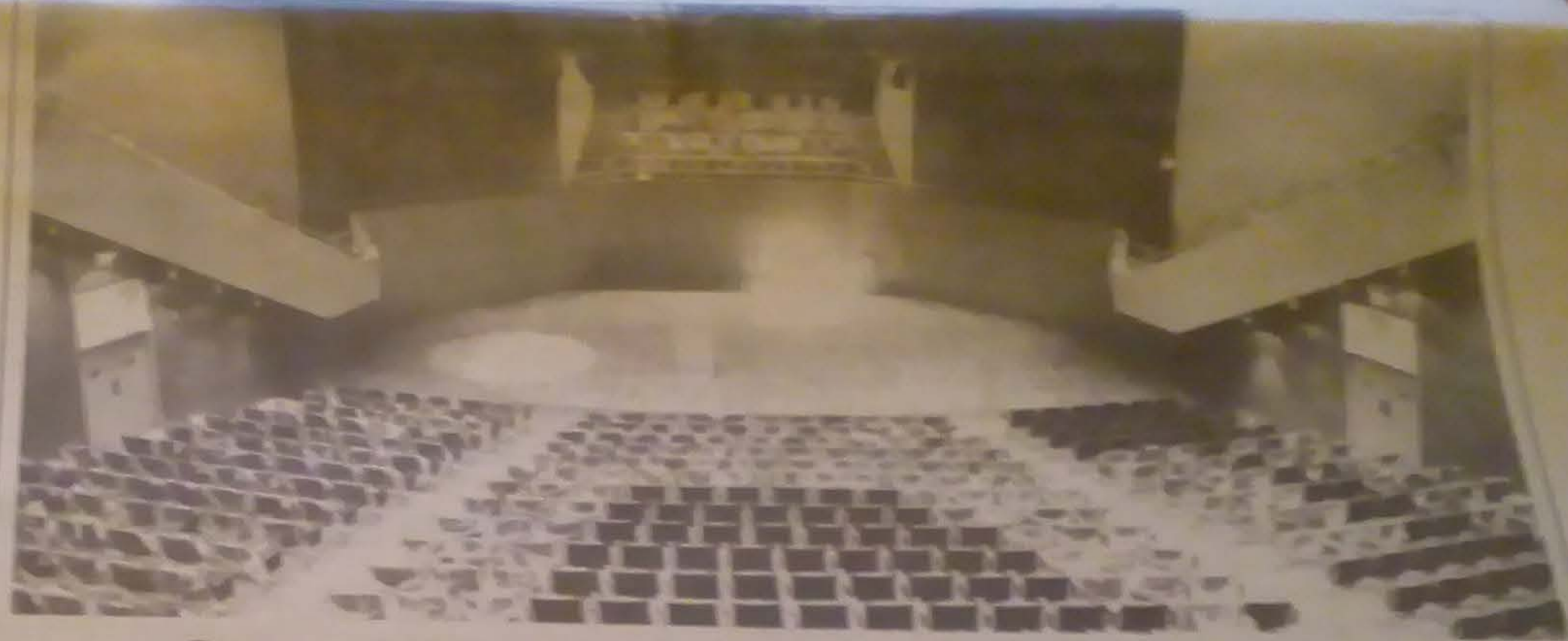
3 Somalia Drive



OVERCROWDING IN THEATRES*

un

University of Limerick
Students' Union
Newspaper



Concert/Lecture Hall - Foundation Building

Inside:

News
Ents Preview
Clubs and Societies
+ Lots More

Michaelmas Tuesday 22nd October 1992

Lecturer Appointed to Astronomy Committee

Mr Philip Samways, lecturer in the Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, has been appointed to the Royal Irish Academy National Committee for Astronomy.

Mr Samways is former chairman of the Limerick Astronomy Club, and has

lectured extensively on astronomy throughout Ireland. His specialist interest is in the physics of astronomy.

While an undergraduate student at Manchester University in the 1960s, Mr Samways was Warden of the university's observatory.

Students fainting in Jonathan Swift

by Maria Casey

Lecturers have expressed concern following instances of students fainting during lectures in the Jonathan Swift Theatre.

On 6 October a female student fainted during a Contract Law lecture. When asked to comment on the incident, Mr Eoin Quill who was giving the lecture at the time, said that the girl was tended to by her friends who took her from the theatre.

In a similar incident on the same day a girl complained of feeling faint and subsequently left the theatre. Mr Brian Faloon, who was the lecturer on this occasion said he was not aware of any of his students feeling faint during his lecture but did admit to feeling quite dizzy himself. He expressed concern at the level of heat in the Jonathan Swift theatre. Mr Fallon said he found the theatre particu-

larly hot at the beginning of term and said he could well understand how students could feel faint in such warm conditions.

An Focal knows of other classes where students have fainted during lectures in the Jonathan Swift since the start of term.

According to Students Services the capacity of the Jonathan Swift theatre is a maximum of 230, including the chairs placed at the back of the room. The John Holland and the Charles Parsons theatres have a capacity of 110, so all classes in excess of this size and under 230 are scheduled for lectures in the Jonathan Swift. The Contract Law class in question was a class of 120.

A spokesperson for the Buildings Office said that they had received no complaints of poor ventilation in the Jonathan Swift theatre.

UL students survive two disasters

by Cathal Kelly

Three UL students on co-op escaped uninjured from the earthquake which killed over 400 people in Cairo on Monday last week. A fourth UL student is still in a distressed state in Amsterdam following a close escape in the air crash which killed over 200 people on Sunday 4 October.

The three students in Cairo are Paul Moynihan, fourth Business, and Maureen Lane and Seamus Clarke, both fourth European Studies. They

are teaching English at the International British Institute.

When contacted by **an Focal**, Mr Moynihan said the three are uninjured and have not suffered as a result of the earthquake or its associated tremors. He said the Mr Gerry Cronin in the co-op office had contacted them three days after the earthquake to ensure they were uninjured. The phone call occurred after Mr Moynihan and Ms Lane were interviewed on RTE Radio's *Morning Ireland* programme on Thursday. Both Mr Moynihan and Ms Lane have been interviewed

by RTE, BBC, the Irish independent and **an Focal**.

In Amsterdam a fourth European Studies student is reported to be in a distressed state almost two weeks after the plane crash which killed over 200 people. According to reports received by **an Focal** the student, who does not wish to be named, was in the sitting room of her flat in one of the two apartment buildings when the Israeli jumbo crashed. The flat was next to one of the fire exits in the building, and the UL student escaped uninjured. However, it is reported that her belongings have been looted.

News

SU rape 'advice' draws angry response

by David Newport

The section in the Students' Union Handbook dealing with rape has drawn an angry response from women members of the campus community. A member of staff, who complained to the SU Deputy President Mr Enda Lonergan about the article, described it as offensive to women.

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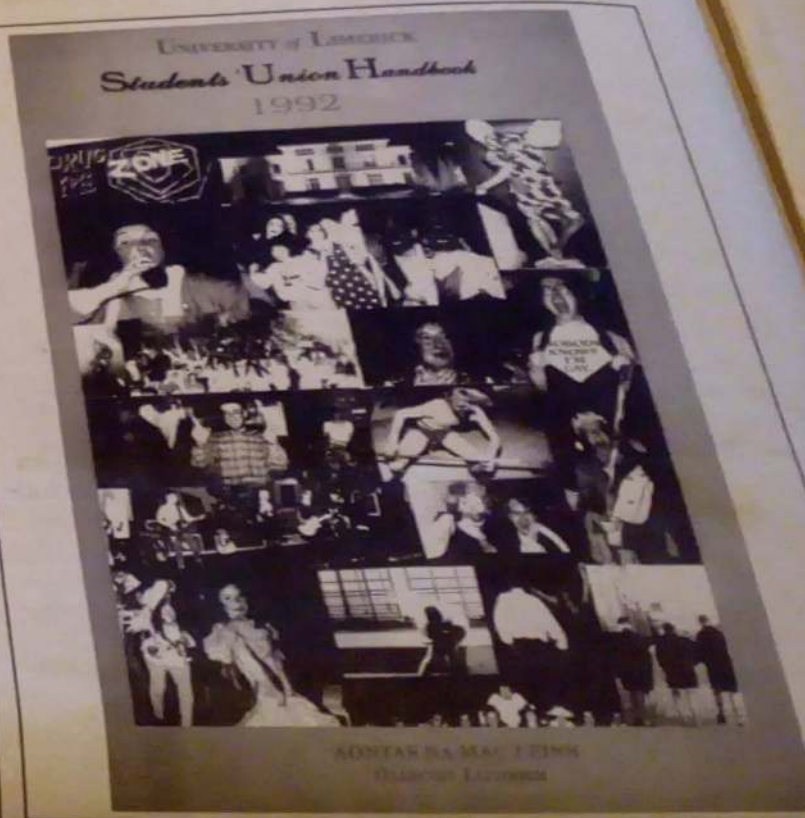
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lecture which was particularly hot at the beginning of term and said he could well understand how students could feel faint in such warm conditions.

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The article advised students to "Try to avoid situations with people you don't know, or can't trust, especially if you are a little bit tipsy" and "it's easier said than done but you can usually avoid situations like that". One angry student described the advice as "Flippant".

Ms Ingrid Wallace, of the Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, said the centre was not consulted prior to the publication of the article. Ms Wallace said this was highly irregular



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Ms Ingrid Wallace, of the Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, said the centre was not consulted prior to the publication of the article. Ms Wallace said this was highly irregular and that they would normally be consulted before such articles are published.

Commenting on the contents of the article, Ms. Wallace said "Responsibility is being put back to the woman rather than to the rapist, where the real responsibility lies". Ms Wallace also stated that the article "presumes you can identify a rape situation,



AGONTAS NA MAC LEINN
GLASGOW LEINNE

whereas in eighty per cent of all reported rape cases the rapist is a person known to the victim - be they a boyfriend, relation or personal friend". Ms Wallace said the article was restrictive and that placing the blame on the shoulders of the victim was "something which no-one has the right to do".

The staff member who complained to the Students' Union about the article said the article addressed rape as

"something like the measles" and that it failed to project rape as the hideous crime that it is.

Mr Lonergan, who was responsible for the Welfare Section of the Handbook in which the article appeared, said that "it was never intended that the article be offensive, it was purely intended as a prethought to highlight the threat and reality of rape".

Give UL graduates Seanad vote - TD

by Cathal Kelly

A Dublin based TD has called for the expansion of the Seanad electorate to include graduates of the University of Limerick and Dublin City University. Ms Nuala Fennell (FG, Dublin South) was speaking on the second stage of the Electoral Amendment (No 2) Bill in the Dail on Tuesday last week.

When contacted by an **Focal**, Ms Fennell said her comments were made as a criticism of the bill. Ms Fennell said the bill presented an opportunity to extend the franchise in the university seats in the Seanad.

At present six of the sixty senators are elected by graduates of Trinity College Dublin and the National University of Ireland.

Ms Fennell told an **Focal** that she raised the issue because she felt the present system is unfair and unjust. The University constituencies should be expanded to include graduates from all third level colleges in the country and not just those from the universities, Ms Fennell said. She went on to say that the present system of giving votes to graduates of just two of the country's universities was elitist.

The National University includes UCD, UCG, UCC, St Patricks College Maynooth and a number of other recognised colleges around the country. Students who graduated from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick up to last year are also eligible to vote in the NUI constituency. Graduates of Mary Immaculate College this year will not get Seanad votes as their degrees are awarded by UL under an arrangement made last November.

The bill deals with procedures regarding polling stations, the register of electors and deposits by candidates. Neither DCU nor any of the country's Regional Technical Colleges is in Ms Fennell's constituency.

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College Changes

by David Newport

Major restructuring in the academic departments in the College of Business has occurred. The Department of Business Studies has been divided into two departments. These are the Department of Business and the Department of Management.

Professor Donal Dineen, who was head of the Department of Business Studies continues as head of the new Department of Business, while Mr Patrick Gunnigle has been appointed head of the Department of Management.

In addition to the formation of the new departments, Dr Patrick Flood has been appointed Assistant Dean (Research) to replace Mr Stephen Dewar. Professor Dineen has been appointed to the newly created post of Associate Dean (Business Studies)

NEWS

The New Department of Business includes the faculty groups in Accounting and Finance, Economics, Communications, Tourism, and Insurance. The faculty members in Insurance had previously been attached to the College of Humanities. The new department of Management consists of the faculty groups in Human Resource Management, Management, and Marketing and Entrepreneurship.

"I will be fair" - Scully

by Maria Casey

SU President, Diarmuid Scully, says he will be impartial in his dealings with all clubs and societies when funds are being distributed.

Concern had been expressed at Mr Scully's impartiality following his close involvement with both Young Fine Gael and the Parliamentary Debating Society. Mr Scully assisted both organisations at their stands during Orientation Week, and chaired the first session of the Parliamentary Debating Society this term during week one.

Mr Scully explained that as outgoing Speaker of the Parliamentary Debating Society it was his duty to chair meetings until a successor had been elected. He went on to say that he will abstain in the SU Executive vote on the budgetary allocation for the society.



**SU President -
Diarmuid Scully**

Mr Scully also said that he had distanced YFG from his election campaign last year, and will keep them separate from his duties as President of UL Students' Union. He pointed out that no political party receives funding from the Students' Union.

Mr Scully said he rejected comments made by the Auditor of the Literary and Philosophical Society about his impartiality, and said his involvement in society activities was a question of ethics rather than a constitutional matter.

Alarm vandalised

A fire alarm unit in the Schuman Building was vandalised on Tuesday night, week 3. According to a member of the security staff, a young man - believed to be a student - who broke the glass in one of the alarm buttons was seen running from the building. The man was not caught.

A number of evening classes were disrupted when a partial evacuation occurred because of the false alarm.

Extra Security at Village

Plassey Campus Centre Ltd, the landlord of Plassey Village, have responded to the recent report of a burglary in the Village. In a statement issued to **an Focal** last week, the company said they have hired extra security for five nights during the week.

In addition, the company says it has advised students on steps they should take to avoid any further break-ins.

Student Pleads Guilty

A third year student in the College of Engineering and Science was sentenced to 100 hours community service at Limerick court last week.

The student had pleaded guilty to an offence following an incident the previous night in which a glass of beer was thrown at a Garda.

Although the trial was heard in open court, **an Focal** has been prevented from naming the student on the instructions of a sabbatical officer of the Students' union.

Correction

It has been drawn to attention that an article in the news pages of the issue of **an Focal** inadvertently gave the impression that the university's accommodation told new students that Rhebogue is five minutes walk from the campus. This is not the case. Students seeking accommodation were incorrectly informed about the location from the campus bogue by land. The accommodation. An **Focal** spokesperson have caused a great deal of embarrassment. Shanley.

help!



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help!



RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

17 Upper Mallow Street, Limerick
Monday to Friday 10am - 4.30pm

Saturday 2pm - 4pm

Confidential

Counselling

Service

Tel: 061-311511





We are the double decker gang

IT SAYS HERE....

GROUND-BREAKING
REPORTAGE
BLUE-RINCE INDIGNANCE
& DRINKING THE DOLE
QUEUES AWAY

This column salutes you. Student items were thin on the

This column salutes you. Student items were thin on the ground this. The fear was tangible as the days dragged on and it looked like we might have to run with stories like the Cork Examiner's (14th Oct) report on Waterford GAA county board calling for a blanket ban on Stadium concerts and The Irish Press (16th Oct) tale of the I.F.A. calling on its members to leave the sheep at home for the next protest.

You did not let us down. Within minutes of the Calro earthquake, Maureen Lane and Paul Minihan were giving on the spot reports to the media. The Post and The Leader carried their stories and Seamus Clarke even went as far as to provide The Leader with its tally of the dead and injured (361 and 14,000 as of Wednesday).

That's not the only coverage we got in The Leader. Patricia Feehily was good enough to feature us in a rant which touched on subjects as diverse as Christmas goodies being on sale already and a dream she had of captaining a ship. How did we get up her nose? Well, it appears that our Students Union Welfare Guide offended her sensibilities.

Its frank and informative format apparently "outraged several

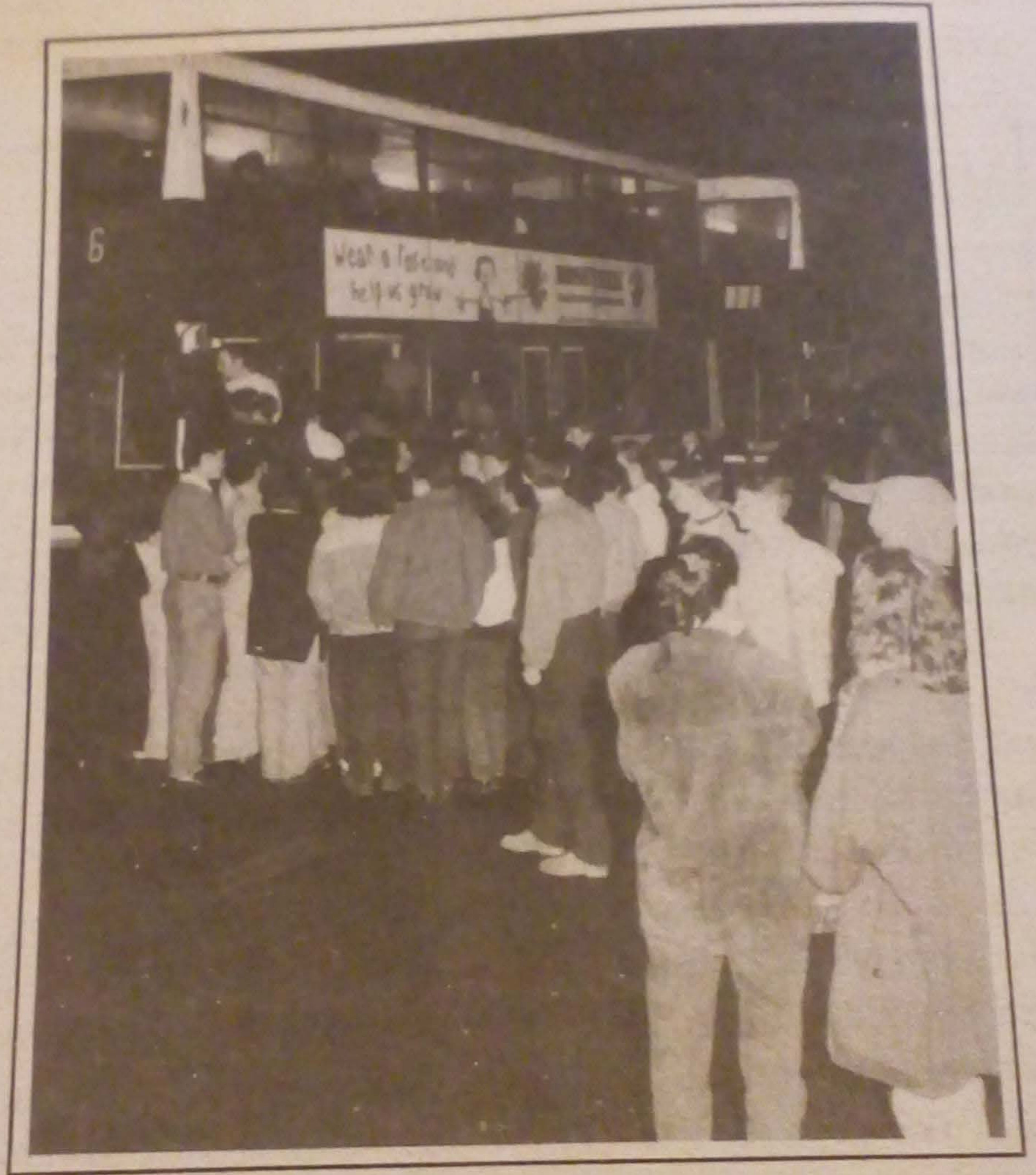
of the righteous among us at any rate". She reckons that students Trojan efforts to copulate at every opportunity "upstage the Roman Emperors". (This column apologises to any Italian readers, but those were not our words).

Emperors". (This column apologises to any Italian readers, but those were not our words).

While generously acknowledging the threat of HIV and AIDS, Ms Feehily goes on to ask "someone to ask the privileged students of U.L. to spare our blushes". This column wonders why Ms. Feehily read the hand book if it so embarrassed her. We thought it was aimed at our students. Anyhow, perhaps she has learned her lesson and will not upset herself by reading any further issues of the Welfare Guide.

Finally, just in case we hadn't enough sound thinkers castigating us, paddy Cosgrove of Mayo County Council throws in his tuppenceworth. The Press of the 14th of October mentions that he targets students in his current Buy Irish crusade. He suggests that it would be a good way for us to repay grants (This column didn't realise that grants had to be repaid). Is it the vast amounts of cash spent on imported text books that perturbs the valiant Councillor Cosgrove? Perhaps it is the imported lab equipment? No. The worrying thing is the "trend towards foreign beers from Germany, France, America and Mexico". One wonders what's available in the Dail bars?

(Note: No Una Claffey joke!)



Queuing for double decker bus number 1 ?!



We are the toilet gang



Yet more queues !!

Disciplinary Board Shows Its Teeth

On Thursday morning the 8th of October the first hearing of the Disciplinary Board took place for the new academic year 92 / 93.

One student was up in front of the board (which includes both Diarmuid and myself) for removing an avenue sign in Milford-Grange, this students

punishment was to be put on academic probation, £50 fine to Residence Ass. along with 20hrs local community service.

The second student was appearing before the board for removing a library book from short loans, again the student was put on academic probation, £25 donation to charity of their choice and 10hrs library service.

It's unfortunate that anyone should have their

academic record blemished as a result of appearing before the disciplinary board, but if you try to bend the rules to the point of breaking them then you run the risk of being punished accordingly.

Both of these students got off lightly, but the word on the ground for the future is that the board are going to get much tougher, so you've been warned.

Hardship
Update

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Sliotars Out - Tennis Balls In

Over the last two weeks two incidents which occurred while a group of lads were out pucking a ball around have been brought to my attention by very concerned and indeed distressed local residents.

On both occasions a sliotar came crashing through the windows of their respective

houses. In one of the houses a two year old toddler narrowly escaped serious facial damage due to the breaking glass. This incident could have been quite tragic and as long as people continue to use a sliotar while out for a puck, the danger to both residents and fellow students is very high. I would thus encourage any would be

hurlers to use a Tennis Ball when playing on the greens as well as a great deal of care, it would be appreciated by the local residents, your fellow students and your S.U.

on the legal side it is not against the law for anyone to play on the greens, be it hurling, football or whatever: it is however illegal to play on the footpaths and avenues around these greens, don't forget this because the Gardai won't.

Class Rep

**RENT YOUR T.V AND
VIDEO FROM**

£1.99 PER WEEK EACH

IT'S THE BEST VALUE AROUND IN TV'S AND VIDEOS!

As it stands
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Hardship Fund Update

In the last two weeks I've had to regrettably inform many a needy student that there is no financial assistance available at the moment and sadly this will remain the case until those of you who have outstanding loans make some effort to begin repaying them, if it were only £5 or £10 per week at least it would be a positive start.

As it stands at the moment the amount allocated for Sept. 25th to Oct. 25th is all used up. The next allocation period is Oct. 26th to Nov. 25th. Also, if you have an outstanding loan of more than £100 it will not be possible for you to receive another loan until this is repaid in full.

A further update will be given in the next issue of *An Focal*.

Class Rep Elections

Well by now you should all know who your class reps are for the coming year and it's up to you to make sure that they represent your best interests and also voice any complaints or queries that you might have of your sabbatical officers on Class Reps Council.

The first meeting of class reps council will take place on the Tuesday of week 5 in the student centre at 7.30pm.

I would appreciate it if those classes which carried out their own elections would forward the names of those elected to either myself, Diarmuid or Billy, thanks a mill'.



Congratulations to Tony O' Donnell our main man in the Union after recieving a B. Tech in Trolliology at the recient University of Limerick Graduation

University of Limerick Students' Union Executive Elections

In accordance with Articles 8.1; 8.12; 8.13; 8.14; 8.17 and 8.18 of the Students Union Constitution:

- 8.1 - "There shall be an **Executive** elected by the members of this Union and other bodies subject to Articles 11 of this Constitution.
- 8.12 - "The **Secretary** shall be responsible for the taking and publishing of minutes of all Union meetings.....".
- 8.13 - "The **Welfare Officer** shall represent the interests of the members in matters relating to their welfare."
- 8.14 - "The **Treasurer** shall oversee the keeping of accounts and budgeting alongside the Administrative Officer and he/she shall present financial reports.
- 8.17 - "The **Equal Rights Officer** shall represent the interests of the members in matters relating to equal rights."
- 8.18 - "The **Information Officer** shall represent the interests of the members in matters relating to Information and Communication."

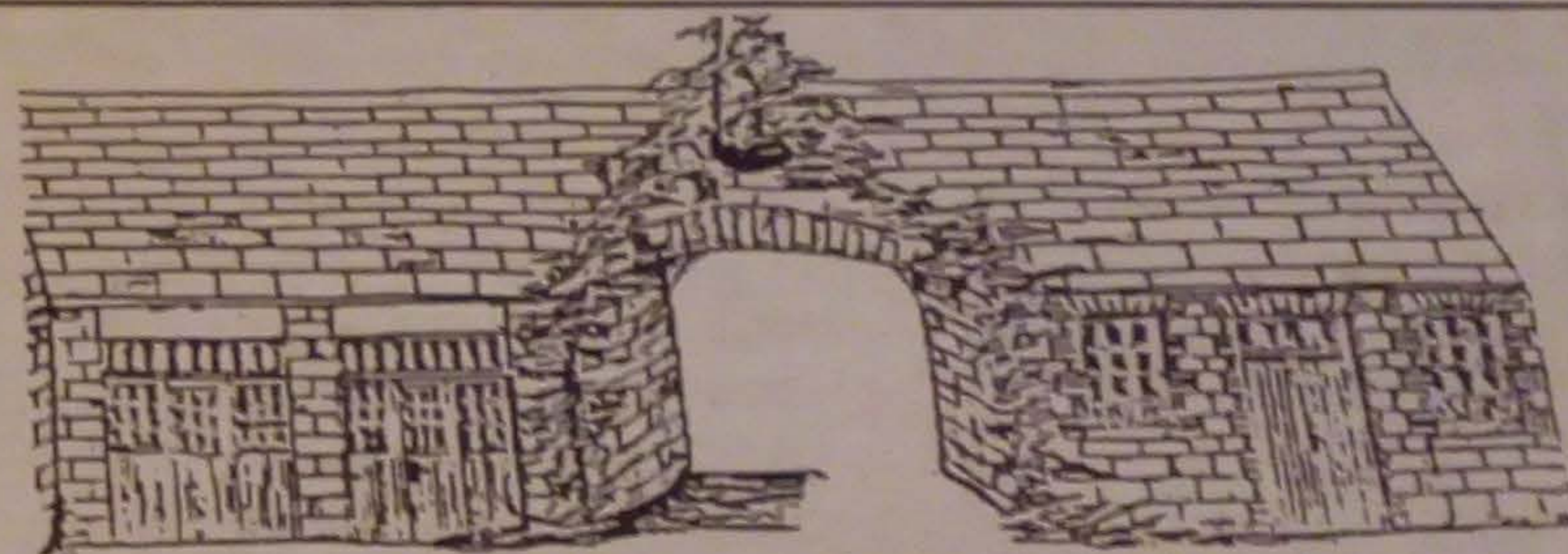
Elections for **Non-Sabbatical Executive Posts** will be held on:

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22ND 10.30-5.00pm.

Nominations close:

TUESDAY OCTOBER 20TH 7.00pm.

Nomination Forms from S.U. Office.



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
Students Union

'Don't let it always be
the same clique
New Faces always welcome'
Ed.



An Focal needs people who are interested in all aspects of journalism. As you can see from the paper there are a number of sections open for your interest. We would encourage The Campus Community & Mary I to get involved. This is a student publication run by students for the students. All queries may be directed to the S.U. Print shop in the shopping mall or by contacting me Billy Kirwan at the students union. All submission may be addresses to me C/O students union or handed into the Print shop in the shopping mall.

An Focal team meet every Wednesday @ 3.00pm
Thanks a million

EDITORIAL

DIAL 'S' FOR SUN

You may note, my dear brothers and sisters in debt, that the Century Steel Band (picture left/right/above/below) could not, in the good ol' days when sheep were sheep and not frozen in intervention (?), tell time. Well, you see, no Sundial. This genuflection to technological history is somewhat marred by illiteracy - have a close look at the quotation writ thereon: " passed " is misspelt (misspelled ?) as " past ".

The point - if indeed there is a point, is we don't know whether we're coming or going. I'd prefer a new library to a new monument: time will tell.

Maybe what we need here is a wee bit of policy. Policy in place of procrastination; action in place of antics.

Where hides our architects of the future?
Let there be light soon.



Dr Walsh's Controversial Statements

Kieth Begg

Once again Dr Ed Walsh has come to the forefront of our national newspapers with his controversial statements.

However, his recent statements with regards to the Shannon status and transportation plans in the West, as reported by the Irish Times on Friday 18 September, have struck a more personal note when one considers the importance of Shannon for jobs in industry and tourism, and of the absurdity of the transportation plans which Dr. Walsh has approved.

Dr. Walsh has taken a very laid back "let them eat cake" view of the Shannon status and the importance of it to the thousands of people who depend on it for their livelihoods. He quotes Ireland as being left behind in the communication race as we "dither over Shannon". This distasteful statement implies Shannon to be just a mere problem to be left on the shelf and be dusted off at a later date while Ireland resumes her triumphant march to catch up with the big boys in the economic race of Europe, when there are 300,000 unemployed people in this country needing immediate attention.

Dr. Walsh also suggests a £700m motorway system of international standard from Rosslare towards Limerick, Galway and northwards, with

links to Cork as "part" of a solution towards tackling the country's transport crisis. I ask you! Are we talking pipe dreams here! Do we really expect the EC to hand over £700m to the West of Ireland to achieve this goal? Maybe in 2800 A.D.

The people of the mid-west and western areas of Ireland have suffered the most in terms of unemployment and allocation of money. What good are £700m worth of roads, when there are no factories there to attract work? The Maire Geoghegan-Quinns and Dr. Walshs of this world need to come down off cloud nine and really look at what is important in Ireland. The Shannon region is the economic lifeline of the mid-west. It stands for hope in the unemployed west and it could do without these damaging and controversial statements made by Dr. Walsh.

He also quotes that Dublin should not be denied links with North America and then goes on to say that "Shannon which was once served by four North American scheduled carriers is now served by one". Does he propose that we further divide the crumbs of the cake? If this happens, for one sure thing, Shannon if it loses its status will become the next Titanic and will sound the death knell for the people of the Mid-west.

RAPE

David Newport.

Anger, dismay and downright disgust are just some of the emotions evoked throughout the female population of the University this week, due to an article in this year's Student Union Handbook. The controversial article dealt with the topic of Rape.

The article contained such (as one student put it) "Flip-pant" statements as : 'Try to avoid situations with people you don't know, or can't trust, especially if you are a little bit tipsy' and 'it's easier said than done but you can usually avoid situations like that'.

"Responsibility", said Ingrid Wallace of the Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, "is being put back to the woman rather than to the rapist, where the real responsibility lies". Ingrid also

stated that the article "presumes you can identify a rape situation, whereas in eighty per cent of all reported rape cases the rapist is a person known to the victim - be they a boyfriend, relation of personal friend". Ingrid added that it was a rather restrictive article and that placing the blame on the shoulders of the victim was "something which no-one has the right to do".

One particular female member of the University stated (in her own words) that the "tortuous article" was "offensive to women" and addressed rape as "something like the measles", thereby failing to project it as the hideous crime with catastrophic psychological effects that rape is. She also found the statement in the article "it's an experience that can scar you for the rest of your life

so if you can avoid it you'll be doing yourself a big favour", repugnant and added "How dare someone write an article like that!".

However, nobody spoken to displayed much surprise when it was disclosed that the Rape Crises Centre was not consulted for advice and help prior to the publishing of the article. Ingrid Wallace of the Rape Crises Centre conceded that this was highly irregular - "Normally we are consulted as

regards such articles", she said.

Enda Lonergan of the Students Union, responsible for the Welfare Section of the Handbook (Under which the article appeared) stated that

"It was never intended that the article be offensive, it was purely intended as a pre-thought to highlight the threat and reality of rape".

"You have to watch yourself these days", he said, "Nobody's safe".

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links to Cork as "part" of solution towards tackling country's transport crisis ask you! Are we talking dreams here! Do we expect the EC to hand £700m to the West of

Where is Pro-Choice in Limerick?

Sarah McCurtain.

The abortion debate is one of the most vicious and divisive debates ever to hit Ireland. The approaching referendum is going to bring with it harsh words, bitter division and violent recrimination. It is going to be greeted in some quarters with a sense of apathy, people have grown tired of hearing the word "abortion" - there is a general air of indifference prevailing.

Nowhere can this be seen more clearly than in our own college - the absence of any debate is startling. It is disheartening to see the pro-choice groups having such a low profile while the so called "pro-life" groups and their

propaganda are dominant. It is necessary to counteract the pro-life group's perversion of the truth concerning this issue.

Abortion is a very delicate issue - it is not as black and white as Dr. Mary Lucey and S.P.U.C would have one believe. No moral issue ever is. People are confused and scared and will continue to be until the veil of secrecy that surrounds abortion lifted and sexual guilt and ignorance are eliminated. One must question a society that makes motherhood, at times, socially and economically a trap.

The pro-life groups wish to increase this level of ignorance and guilt. They seem to care

more for the unborn than the born, imposing guilt on women who have had an abortion (read any "Women hurt by Abortion" leaflet). They intimidate those who do not hold the same political ideology... as they do (see their nast like treatment of Nuala Ferris), they physically attack pro-choice group members on the street. Do they have any right whatsoever to claim they are "pro-life"??. I agree there is violence on both sides - there always will be when concerned

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with emotive issues such as this one. What angers me is the hypocrisy of many pro-life groups - their "holier than thou" attitude when, in reality, they lack compassion and understanding of a women's dilemma in such a position. Their refusal to accept that abortion will always take place in a society where sexual ignorance, domestic violence, rape, incest and poverty are all prevalent is dangerous in its naivety (tough in my opinion, naivety is to kind a word for it). These groups are based on the fallacy that foetal rights can be separated from women's rights. This is simply not true, nor will it ever be. To

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say that abortion is murder without ever looking at the reasons why women have abortions is to be dangerously simplistic and black and white.

The issue is clearly not either. Abortion occurs because of many reasons - ignorance, rape, financial difficulties, health problems, and yes, sadly, abortion is used in some countries as a means of contraception. It is necessary to examine these causes because without ever asking why a

woman has an abortion, we will never be able to resolve the problem. The answer is more education - not the sex = guilt equation being taught in many schools today, but rather practical advice on safe sex, widespread availability of condoms

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and open discussion both at home and at schools. It is a fallacy that widespread availability of contraception encourages widespread promiscuity, rather it helps prevent the spread of aids and other sexually transmitted diseases, just as it reduces the risk of teenage pregnancy and abortion. Not providing contraception will not prevent people having sex, rather it will force them into having unsafe sex. The 'prolife groups' denouncement of contraception contradicts their stance on abortion just as many of their actions ironically contradict their name "Pro-life".

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Dr. Walsh has taken a very laid back "let them eat cake" view of the Shannon status and the importance of it to the thousands of people who depend on it for their livelihoods. He quotes Ireland as being left behind in the communication race as we "dither over Shannon". This distasteful statement implies Shannon to be just a mere problem to be left on the shelf and be dusted off at a later date while Ireland resumes her triumphant march to catch up with the big boys in the economic race of Europe, when there are 300,000 unemployed people in this country needing immediate attention.

Dr. Walsh also suggests a £700m motorway system of international standard from Rosslare towards Limerick, Galway and northwards, with

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Abortion is the sad consequence of an ailing society. The danger is to treat it as an isolated issue, it is not. To try and eliminate abortion, we must first try to eliminate the injustices of our society. Instead of ending the oppressions that drive many women

Dr Walsh's Controversial Statements

Kieth Begg

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However, his recent statements with regards to the Shannon status and transportation plans in the West, as reported by the Irish Times on Friday 18 September, have struck a more personal note when one considers the importance of Shannon for jobs in industry and tourism, and of the absurdity of the transportation plans which Dr. Walsh has approved.

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Dr. Walsh also suggests a £700m motorway system of international standard from Rosslare towards Limerick, Galway and northwards, with

links to Cork as "part" of a solution towards tackling the country's transport crisis. I ask you! Are we talking pipe dreams here! Do we really expect the EC to hand over £700m to the West of Ireland to achieve this goal? Maybe in 2800 A.D.

The people of the mid-west and western areas of Ireland have suffered the most in terms of unemployment and allocation of money. What good are £700m worth of roads, when there are no factories there to attract work? The Maire Geoghegan-Quinn and Dr. Walshs of this world need to come down off cloud nine and really look at what is important in Ireland. The Shannon region is the economic lifeline of the mid-west. It stands for hope in the unemployed west and it could do without these damaging and controversial statements made by Dr. Walsh.

He also quotes that Dublin should not be denied links with North America and then goes on to say that "Shannon which was once served by four North American scheduled carriers is now served by one". Does he propose that we further divide the crumbs of the cake? If this happens, for one sure thing, Shannon if it loses its status will become the next Titanic and will sound the death knell for the people of the Mid-west.

Abortion is the sad consequence of an ailing society. The danger is to treat it as an isolated issue, it is not. To try and eliminate abortion, we must first try to eliminate the injustices of our society. Instead of ending the oppressions that drive many women

to abortion, however, the prolife group often seem to wish to increase them. I, for one, look forward to hearing a louder pro-choice in the college and would welcome a more interested and involved debate than the deafening silence that monopolises U.L at present.



Nevan.

'It's been nominated for the Hooker Prize.'

Arts

BOOKER REVIEWS

JOHN MAGUIRE

The Nazi-regime and the remembrance of the Facist holocaust echo throughout four of the six novels short-listed for this years Booker Prize . Although I think one of the others, Patrick McCabes (The "Irish One " for 1992), "The Butcher Boy", with a mix

of horror and comedy and autobiography that I liked most. Sadly it didn't win, as this years prize was shared between Barry Unsworth for "The Sacred Hunger" and Michael Ondaatje for "The English Patient". The following is a short review of each of the six books, with recommendations for which to spend your money on.

"The English Patient" - Michael Ondaatje

This novel tells the story of four people trapped in a destroyed villa in Florence in 1945, at the end of the Second World War. It's a haunting story of fear and paranoia, full of literary and classical allusions. Very wettschmertz, for Ondaatje is one of those writers who find it very hard to write anything good about anything. Still, a fine novel,

and deservedly shared first prize. In the story, the patient is tended by a Canadian nurse, Hanna, for his dreadful injuries. They are joined by Caravaggio and Kip. The four individuals don't actually do anything and on the whole the novel is humourless and very dry. However, if you like what they now call 'literary fiction', then you will like this.

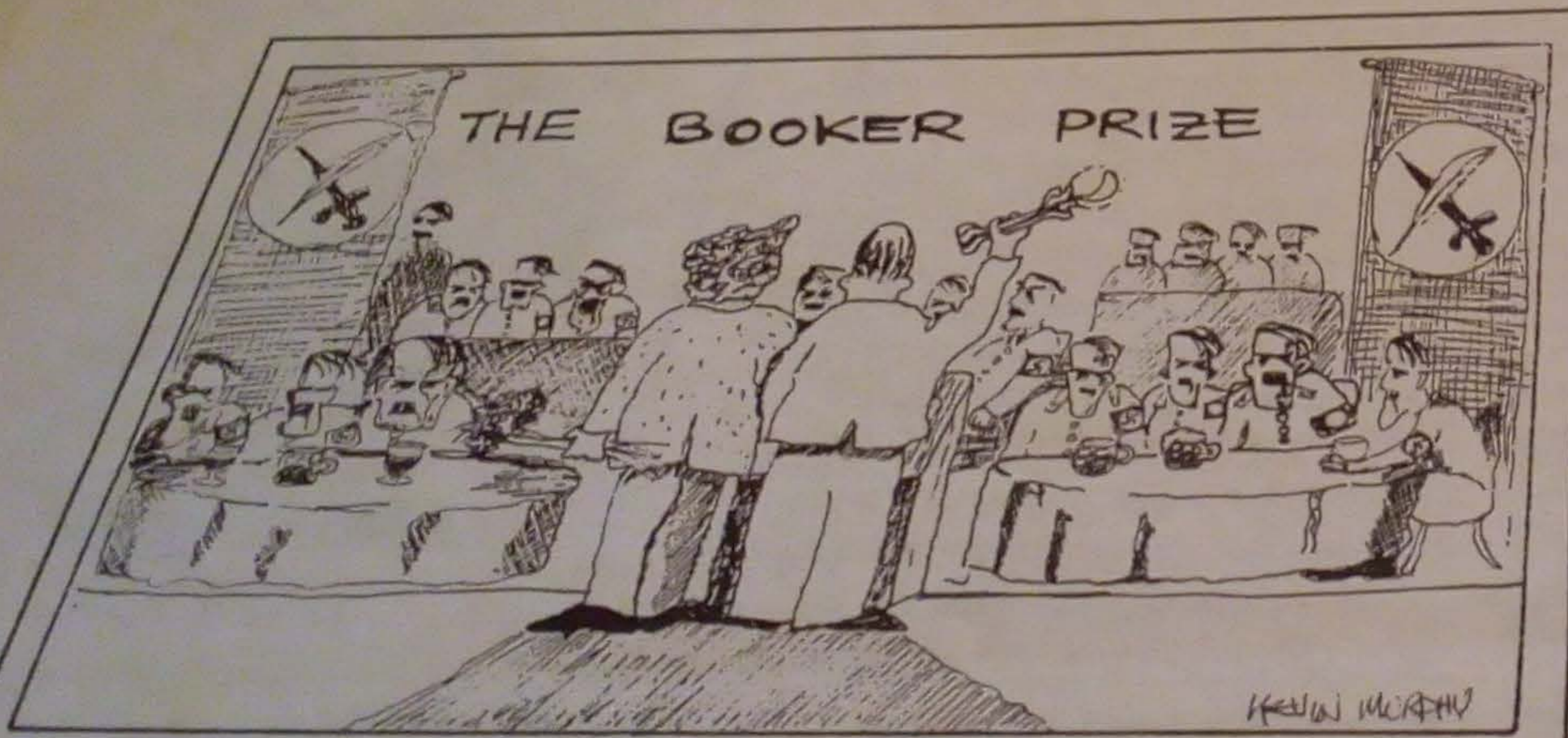
"Serenity House" - Christopher Hope - MacMillian

Also one of the nazi ones, this has a retired gentleman named Max Montgalcon(who was, or rather is a nazi physician) reviewing his life from a windowseat in an old folks home(The Serenity House). Lots of horrific tales included as the old fart enjoys his memories. Clever and witty, but it doesn't really work. Thumbs down I'm afraid.

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**"The Butcher Boy" -
Patrick McCabe -
Picador**

This is the latest novel from the Monaghan author, McCabe, who has a terrific gift for description, but usually rather cliched plots. Not so for

"The Butcher Boy" which is a masterpiece of Irish Gothic, filled with madness and psychosis. Sadly, not a winner, but still a novel of note for those looking for something different, but chillingly familiar.

female sexuality and food and daily boredom with extraordinary events. Surprisingly, ignored, this book is "nice" but not great. I found it honest, to be completely slits (I with more of the trendy bastards ignore.

**"Black Dogs" - Ian
McEwan -
Johnathon Cape,**

Ian McEwan is a fine writer, with more ideas and versatility than any other British author at the moment. Melvyn Bragg and Ian McEwan are spearheading the British Novel Renaissance. This book is concerned with the conflict between religious faith and horrendous evil. Thus the "Black Dogs", a product of some heinous Nazi-experiment. This is a great book for anyone interested in the cutting edge of the Modern Novel. Ian McEwan is a beacon shining for the fin-de-siecle (That's the second time in as many weeks I've used that phrase) Contemporary England. And it has a great cover. Read This.

**"Sacred Hunger" -
Barry Unsworth -
Hamish Hamilton.**

Finally, to the other winner, Barry Unsworth's story of 18th century British slave ships, and their trips to Africa to steal black slaves. On the ship is a kind of mish mash of society, and nephew of the owner and

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"Daughters of the House:" - Michele Roberts - Virago

A story of two cousins, Leonie and Theresa, and their childhood in Brittany, and later adulthood. Dealing with

McEwan -
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Finally, to the other winner, Barry Unsworth's story of 18th century British slave ships, and their trips to Africa to steal black slaves. On the ship is a kind of mish mash of society, and nephew of the owner and a young doctor. The book was researched impeccably, with full and torturing accounts of slave dealing and the hardship placed upon the slaves. Having read this during the summer along with the others, it was the one that stayed in my mind most clearly afterwards. A great novel, and a worthy winner.

...the "aftermath" of the event. national print coverage
Want to do something about Somalia but don't know what?
Then take part in ...

THE GREAT RACE 1992

The Great Race '92

Provisinal Itinerary Tuesday 24 November

- 07.15 Stewards asseble at Dun laoghaire ferryport
- 07.30 Arrival of students and bands
- 07.40 Stewards board boat
- 08.00 Speeches by politicians dignitaries and prominent personalities and the official launch of "THE GREAT RACE '92"
- 08.10 Doors open
- 08.40 Doors close (Anybody with the travelling party who is not on the boat by this time will not traval.)
- 09.00 Ship sales
- 12.15 Arrive in Hollyhead

NOTE: All times quoted from here on in this itinerary are very approximate and are very much subject to change. More precise details regarding times will be distributed to all participating colleges closer to the day.

13.00 Board trains for London

17.00 Arrive London . Race begins

LATER: Arrive at final destination for all night party

09.00 (WED) Boardtrain and head home.

Again more exact details will be available closer to the day.

Important: British C.I.D. have informed us that no student will be admitted to the country without some form of "photo I.D." (i.e. College card, ISIC card, Driving Lience, passport etc.). Please be advised that any student who fails to adhere to this criterion will not be permitted to board the ship.

Please encourage moderation in alcohol consumption on the voyage over as staggering inebriates will not be addmitted onto British soil.

**For Details, contact Billy Kirwan at the
information stand, Thursday 22nd 12-2pm.**

Clubs & SOCS

CAMPUS T.V.

Campus T.V. is back on the road again for another year. We will be pushing out lots of old material on the T.V.s in the Canteen. So watch out for Rag Week, Freshers Disco & Celli, etc. Campus T.V. will also be doing the T.V. coverage for Somalia on Thurs 29th.

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Parliamentary debating society

"Whether the University of Limerick Parliamentary debating society can survive without money support(sic) of the students union and just a hand full of members is open to debate".

The word of an unknown An focal reporter week 1 Hilary '92, we are please to say that the Parl. deb. soc. has outlasted the fame of that optimistic An Focal reporter. The first meeting of the societies 2nd session took place in a very full John Holland Theatre on Tuesday of Week 1.

The first speaker to propose the motion "that Irish Life is the acceptance of apathy and insularity" was "red" Sarah Hartnett. Sarah in her first speech in the parl. deb. soc. defended the motion at the objection of John Mc Elligott who accused the honourable lady of spewing "left wing dogma".

He is one to talk about "left wing dogma" !!

Opposing the Motion was Derek Sheahan, who seems to have come back from Paris, a new man, or maybe just a man. Nevertheless his

opposition to the motion was just as sophisticated as his sophistry.

Ms. Sheila O'keefe, a Long time debating adversary of Derek Sheahan, could not accept dear argument Dereks, lack of shall we say, any insight to the argument. Needless to say Derek got very angry indeed at this. However before things started to look as if the ladies, cut of all points made by Messrs Sheahan and Mc Elligott, something the entire crowd was waiting for happened.

John Mc Elligott, darling of the crowd and master debater par excellence stood up to speak, damning the proposition for naivety and incompetence he masterfully cut through any arguement put before him, even challenging the bold Sheila O'Keefe that he would "take her later"?! Needless to say the motion was carried by a very large majority, against the best wishes of Mr. McElligott.

Before the debate Mr. Scully (U.L. S.U. President) welcomed the audience and

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broadly set out the societies aims, which are broadly speaking "To debate and not prevaricate". This term we have an incredibly packed schedule.

John McElligott
Outgoing Secretary

Activities Forthcoming:

DEBATE : "That this house regrets the influence of America as the Worlds leading democratic power"

WEEK 3 : Freshers
debate - FIRST PRIZE £50
sponsored by - Bank of
Ireland

Week 6: Intervarsity -V-
U.C.D. including guest
speakers

Don't forget the Parl.
Deb. Soc. are holding a
disco on Wed. Week 3 in
Costelloes, Admission £2.

MEETING : Every Tues-
day 7.30 p.m. John
Holland

OUTDOOR PURSUITS IN ACTION!

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They have conquered the Thomas McLaughlin Tower

Winners of Bus Elr-eann Draw of tickets purchased in the canteen during Friday of week 1 are as follows:

(1) Emily Ward (Wexford) - wins a Walkman

(2) Tracy Kearns (Dublin) - wins a weekly commuter ticket

(3) Katrina Murphy (Charleville) - wins a return ticket home

All prizes can be collected at the Bus Desk next Friday (week 2) between 10.30am and 3.00pm.

U.L. DRIVE/POC FOR SOMALIA.

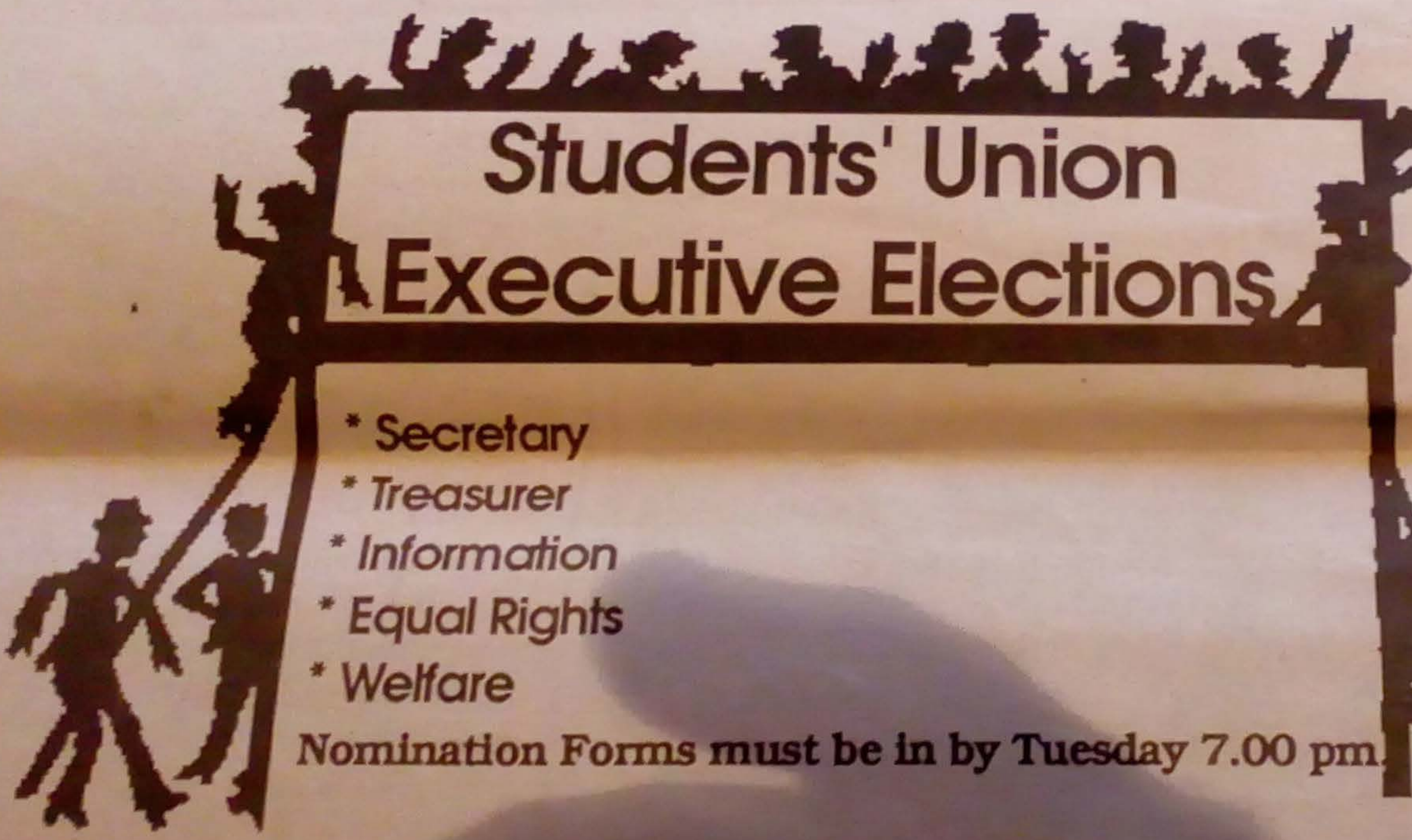
This competition is in aid of Somalia Relief. By buying a competitors ticket at £5.00 or £2.00 from the S.U. Shop you may enter your name on any Tuesday during October/November at Plassey House, University of Limerick. 12.45 to 14.15.

The winner on each Tuesday will be the longest average distance of a Golfing Drive plus a Poc Fada (Hurling). Competition takes place in front of Plassey House and will be overseen by a steward.

when the eight heat winners are known, the final will be played off under similar rules. The outright winner will be presented with a Crystal trophy.

All proceeds will be forwarded to John O'Shea of GOAL.

Rules of the competition are available at entry desk.



Students' Union Executive Elections

- * Secretary
- * Treasurer
- * Information
- * Equal Rights
- * Welfare

Nomination Forms must be in by Tuesday 7.00 pm.

Credits

Editor: Billy Kirwan
Design: Kevin Messere
Arts: John Hargaden,
John Maguire, Elaine
Vaughan,
Owen O' Sullivan
News: Cathal Kelly,
Maria Casey
Welfare: Enda Lonergan

Opinion: Fergal
Societies: Mark Dowling
Ents: Ber A.
Paste-up : Niamh O'
Mara

Thanks for Contribu-
tions From Everyone
who Helped Out
Printed by the Limerick
Leader

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270

160

430