


**STUDENT'S WALK**  
**10K**  
 Do the 10K Walk  
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Clubs and Socs Reports  
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Fun, Frolics and Blue-Painted People were all part of Greek Week. See Report on page 4

**EGM checklist**

**accounts**

view accounts in SU from tuesday nov 11th ask at reception for details

**motions**

submit motions to CCO before 5pm on friday, november 14th. forms are available at SU reception

**agenda**

the agenda will be ratified at an emergency class reps meeting on monday nov 17th agenda will then be made public all class reps must attend meeting

**meeting**

fg042, 6pm wed, week 9 BE THERE!

**What's News?**

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**ULSU €80,000 overspent**

**BY ALAN HIGGINS**  
 An Emergency General Meeting, will be convened on the Wednesday of Week 9 at 6 pm in FG-042. The meeting has been principally called to examine the Audited Accounts of the Students' Union. The Audited accounts can be viewed in the Students' Union; anyone wishing to view these accounts can make enquiries at reception. It was recognised that motions could also be presented including those presented for the AGM, which would have to be resubmitted. The Communications and Campaigns officer will accept applications of such motions until this Friday at 5pm. These motions will then be sent to an Emergency Session of the Class Reps Council on Monday for their approval, the time and location to be announced. The major issue to arise from the AGM was that of the poor state of the Student Union Accounts, which took up the majority of the meeting. The Executive informed the meeting that they had not received the Accounts in time to view them and ensure they were in order. This was later done at an SU Executive meeting. At the AGM the Executive informed the meeting that the accounts had only been received that evening and as such the Executive had not viewed them and would be unable to comment. The

accounts were then presented by the Union Auditor, Mr. Pat Lavin for O'Donovan, Caulfield, Lavin Auditors. The Accounts presented indicated at the end of the financial year the Union was in debt to a figure of approximately €80,000. This revelation caused strong responses from members present. Questions were raised regarding the availability of a breakdown of accounts, budgetary practices of the Union, the Executive's knowledge of the financial situation and the position of the Students' Union Shop. While the Executive were restricted by what they could say, by the fact that they had not viewed the audited accounts before the meeting, they attempted to answer these question as best they could. It can be assumed that a number of these issues will be raised again at the EGM. Ms. Jenny Hannon, 1st Year HPSS, commented, "I thought it brave of the Exec, that they were willing to discuss them in an open forum and take questions on the accounts considering they had not been given the opportunity to sign off on them. It showed they were not hiding anything. But saying this it was a disgrace that the accounts were not in at the right time and I would encourage all students' to come to the next EGM, as it is a matter of grave importance."

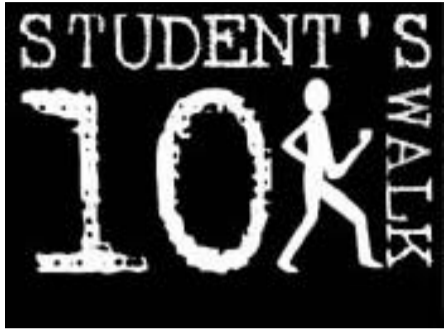
For more on last week's AGM see page 2



## News

## Why Should you do the 10K Walk?

Here are 10 good reasons!



1. You will be helping the poorest of the poor in Belarus, one of the poorest former Soviet regions. Here average income is about \$30 a month. Those who are left behind, whether they be in orphanages or institutions suffer greatly due to this.

2. This region suffered one of humanity's greatest tragedies - In April 1986, No. 4 Reactor exploded at the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant in neighbouring Ukraine. Over 70% of the radioactive fallout landed on Belarus. Radiation levels were 90 times that of the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb. Radiation does not go away. It will last for 40,000 years.

3. Children are suffering because of an accident that happened years before they were born. For example there are 50,000 blind children for a population of 10M. There are 1,000 blind children on the island of Ireland with half that population. The risk that the child will be born with a defect is 10-15 times higher than in Ireland.

4. The orphanages are so under-funded and the defects in the children so severe that some children

have never been outside their beds/cots since the day they arrived - imagine never seeing the sky...

5. The smallest amount can help. For example the biggest disease faced by children in this region Chernobyl is AIDS; the name given to the breakdown of the immune system. 7 Euro can buy a six month supply of multi-vitamins to boost the immune system.

6. Your contributions in the past have made a huge difference. Over EUR750,000 has been raised by colleges in Ireland to help those people worst affected by the disaster. This has meant that orphanages such as Novinki which was described in last week's article are now up to the basic standard of other orphanages in developed countries.

7. Peter Clohessy will be leading the walk on Thursday and a massive party is promised in the Sin Bin afterwards!

8. It's so so easy to register to do the 10K, all you have to do is text student [space] your name [space] ul to 53071. Instructions will return to you by text as to how to get people to sponsor you. All those who sponsor give EUR2.50 from their phones.

9. If you prefer you can also get a sponsorship card from the stand in the Student's Union or from the Welfare Office.

10. Over 1,000 students will be doing the walk in Limerick alone and over 20,000 around the country....so get involved!!!

## Interesting Policies, But No Interested Students

### ULSU AGM does not reach quorum

BY ALAN HIGGINS

Approximately sixty students attended last Wednesday's Students' Union AGM. With a required quorum (amount required to hold the meeting) of two hundred, the Chair, Mr. Brian Stokes declared that the minutes, motions and votes could not be conducted. When questioned about the effect of the low turnout, Ms. Sarah Ryan (Communications and Campaigns Officer) replied, "Basically, nothing could be voted on, it was disheartening for those who did turn up."

The meeting proceeded with the presentation of the Officers reports, each outlining their responsibilities as Officers of the Union and in what areas they represent students and the issues that they face. While also describing their specific aims for the coming year, they also outlined to the General Meeting, ongoing projects and issues; what had been achieved to date. Members of the Executive also received specific questions fielded by the floor, in particular about unresolved issues and information about specific policy areas, including the Arena, the status of the Service operated by the Union and the Bologna Agreement on the standardisation of third level qualifications.

After the AGM, the sabbatical officers were

asked about their main policy issues. The President, Eoin O'Broin wishes to examine the organisation in the Union, in its organisational and physical structure and especially financially. David Garrahy, Welfare Officer noted the many campus issues and services he must deal with as Welfare Officer, he wish feed back on the work he does. The Communications and Campaigns Officer, Sarah Ryan says she wishes to have a paper that students' are proud of begin the development of a student radio and generally make people aware of the "myriad" of events on campus. While Madeline Molyneaux, the Education Officer aims, "To ensure that all students' rights are recognised and respected, in that respect I suppose the Education Officer is Academic alarm system, there to for the SU to alert students to the issues and vice versa."

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with the issue of the Audited accounts and the Union's poor financial status, which will have to be dealt with at an EGM scheduled for week 9. General reaction to the meeting was poor, with one student noting, "that the lack of quorum in the past few years requires drastic measures to be taken by the Students' Union, in order to convince students of how important it is to attend such meetings."

## Meet Community GARDA

Student Union Waiting Room  
Every Tuesday 7pm - 8pm  
Call in or ring 061 202324

- Voter Registration
- Driving Licence Stamp
- Passport Stamp
- Report Theft
- Take Advice



An Garda Síochána  
Ireland's National Police Service

## LIT Students' Union votes to stay in L.A.S.U.

On the 6th November Limerick Institute of Technology Students' Union put the issue of LASU membership to its members. By an overwhelming 92.5% majority the students voted to involved with LASU in the main aim of further co-operation with the other main colleges in the city.

Limerick Association of Students' Unions (LASU) is an organisation which was founded to foster and further co-operation and communication between the Students' Unions of the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Institute of Technology and Limerick School of Art and Design. The co-operation is not subscription based, and any costs incurred by the association are shared by the member Unions. LASU were behind this year's Hallowe'en ball, as well as the successful anti-registration fees march in Limerick earlier this semester. They meet regularly to discuss issues affecting students in Limerick.

"The ideology behind LASU is brilliant.", said LIT SU President, Kevin McAllen. "This partnership of the four colleges is something that is long overdue. The true potential of LASU will not be realised for a few more years, it needs time to get over all the small hurdles that will be before it in its early

days. The LIT SU executive are behind LASU all the way and will be actively involved in LASU initiatives."

ULSU President Eoin O'Broin said, "It's really good that LIT students have endorsed LASU, it shows that the LIT students support the spirit of co-operation that has begun at a student level between the four institutions."

Up to now, there has been no mention of a referendum on LASU here in UL. ULSU's Communications and Campaigns Office, Sarah Ryan said "The Student's Unions of the Limerick colleges have been meeting up to work together on issues for over a year now. LASU is just an official spin on this. If any student feels that the issue needs further ratification beyond Class Reps Council, then their best plan would be to formulate a motion for the EGM to that effect." Eoin O'Broin said "If class reps council endorse LASU in its present format, I wouldn't see the need for a referendum. However, in the interests of democracy, if anyone called for one, I wouldn't stand in their way."

The next meeting of LASU is due to take place during week 8.

News

# Clubs And Societies Behind The Fast



BY ALAN HIGGINS

Students are being invited to take part in the Concern Fast, organised by ULSU Clubs and Societies, with support from the ULSU Welfare Office.

Students are encouraged to take part, in this well-established annual charity event. If you're interested in getting involved, contact a committee member of a club or society you're involved in or you can contact Alan Higgins or a member of Clubs and Societies Exec. Sponsorship forms are available through the Welfare Officer and also in the Clubs and Societies Office.

To coincide with the Fast, Julie Harris, School Fundraiser and Dominic Crowley, a member for the Emergency Response Unit, who will focus especially on Liberia, Iraq and Afghanistan, will be making a presentation on the work of Concern and the benefits that the Fast will bring to the people of South America, Africa and Asia. This is due to take place in Room 4 of the Students Union at 6pm on Thursday the 20th November (Week 9). You can make donations by sponsoring a faster, logging on to [www.concernfast.org](http://www.concernfast.org), ringing 1550 50 50 55 or sponsoring the amount you wish to donate, followed by fast and our faster number D2268956 (e.g 2fastD2268956). Donations to this number will be collected in the name of UL Clubs and Societies! So get texting! If you would like further information you can contact Alan Higgins at 0242241@student.ul.ie or log onto [www.concernfast.org](http://www.concernfast.org)

**Monday • Manic Monday's**  
Monday is the New Saturday with the tackiest most singalong anthems this side of Tom Jones record collection !!!!  
Free Admission to emergency services, bar, restaurant and hotel staff, hospital staff and with valid college id.  
Everyone Else: €5

**Tuesday • Indie Nation**  
in association with Mary I SU  
Mary I Students host a massive Tuesday night with the ladies getting it down to a cutting edge soundtrack of r'n'b and rock while the boys struggle to catch their eye!  
€6 all night long

**Wednesday • Student Central**  
in association with UL SU  
The biggest college, the best lookers and the most up for a party? They certainly like to think so and it's the biggest student party of the week!  
€7 from ULSU and on the door.

**Thursdays • Access All Areas**  
Soul Clinic is in the Red Room & Courtyard with Stevie G, Noel Phelan and Bass Odyssey among the residents and guest slots from Nightmares on Wax to Stereo MC's!  
In the main room, it's big dancefloor anthems all the way!  
€7 gets you all in all over!

**Fridays & Saturdays • Trinity Rooms**  
3 rooms, 2 courtyards, 1 ultimate venue!  
Our showcase nights when we throw all the doors open!  
Aiden Kelly's in the courtyard, Paul Webb's in the main room, Johnny & Mark are in Quarter Club and every week is full of surprises!  
€10 all night long

**Sundays • Trinity Classics**  
Guaranteed Thrillers, no Fillers! €10 all night long.

Doors to the Main Room open at 11.30pm each night, if you're in the Redroom early enough you might just get in free  
Party's of all sizes catered for!

**The Trinity Rooms FREE Disco Bus**  
running from 10.30pm every half hour rotating routes each run in and out of town 'til 4am

**Route 1 - Running from 10.30pm**  
Curragh Birin - College Court - Elm Park - Hurler's - Main Road  
bus stops a) Monaleen turn  
b) Golf Links Road turn

**Route 2 - Running from 11pm**  
Drumroe Student Village - Stables & Scholars - University Arena - Oaklawns - Kilmurry bus stop - Briarfield bus stop - Rhebogogue bus stop

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## News

## Greek Week Review



Paddy Healy protesting his elimination during 'The Weakest Link'

BY KEITH WHELAN

Greek week is not an ancient homage to all that was good about Plato or Socrates. When asked, the Greek student in the ESN society knew nothing of this localised study of her nationality. She did comment though, about the amount of cultural and arts activities that have been taking place throughout the campus during the week.

This writer feels it is unique in that much diversity is provided, mostly for free, in the arts and culture for students. To attend such an event like it would no doubt cost you otherwise and be labelled an arts festival.

While the weather did dampen the efforts of certain activities, it did not dampen the spirit of clubs and societies in providing a showcase for their activities. The bump described it as "a week of activities celebrating the cultural life of UL and offering just a small sample of what's available to amuse. Educate, stimulate, invigorate, infuriate, entrance,

excite and unite us" Phew! Did it do as promised?

Follow me through the magic door to a review of the great things you may have enjoyed or missed!

It all started with the Monday night madness with Divine Intervention been shown in the Jean Monet. Disappointing for a movie that promised so much but, for those who stayed on when it was the UL version of The Weakest Link run by the Irish peace Society, which was the gladiatorial battle of the academics!

Moving swiftly along to Tuesday, one could have indulged themselves in theatre with the opening night of "Jump Off", run by the Drama Society in the Jonathon Swift theatre. An enjoyable production to which those who saw it gave favourable reviews.

Wednesday had enough to keep you occupied to cause indecision in whether to attend lectures or indulge in the delectable delights of the Green Fair in the Stables courtyard run by the Green Society. Never have I smelt such pleasant

aromas wafting through the air! Not only that but, one could purchase anything from a Harry Potter poster to a Che Guevara t-shirt at the stalls in the mini-market. Notable mention goes out to Nora, the 4th year student who was happily making her own jewellery at her own stand. That's the spirit girl!

Disappointment of the day had to be the cancellation of the Bouncy Castle due to strong winds but, consolation was at hand where one could get away from the winds and immerse themselves in the world of cinema in the Cinemobile in the Foundation car park, presented by the UL arts office. With a choice from Amelie and Cinema Paradiso, one could wile away the hours away from reality in the back of an articulated truck!

Could you handle much more? Thursday brought us the drama production of Paris, Texas in An Phluais with limited numbers allowed for every showing. This intimate theatre presentation, along with a wonderful set allows the theatre goer to become a participant. If you were hungry for more, The Food Fair in the canteen run by the ESN society allowed you to indulge your palate in a range of cuisines from around the world. All good things must come to an end, and Friday brought us the flight simulator/wind tunnel by the aeronautical society. To cap the evening and week off, the French blazed a trail to Dolan's Warehouse where Yann Tierson of Amelie soundtrack fame played a blistering set. The week did exactly what it said on the tin - "We don't promise a life changing experience but, we certainly guarantee a life enhancing one!"

## Car Parking crisis reaches epidemic proportions

BY ANTHONY KILPATRICK

Car Parking has become a matter of concern for students once again. Where once student drivers were at least assured of a space in the pay car park, now it is a struggle to get anywhere to park on campus at all. According to UL's buildings dept. the main reason is that the pay car park has recently been re-sized downwards to compensate for the loss of spaces in the Foundation Building Car Park which were given over to builders working on the new engineering research and Millstream courtyard buildings. Things could be further exasperated by the outlandish claim heard around campus that people working in the city were availing of cheap car parking in UL and taking the bus into the city.

Supposedly, when this particular Car Park is at its capacity, no further vehicles can enter. ULSU President Eoin O' Broin asked Buildings Dept "Do drivers have to pay €2 to find out that the Car Park is full?" In their defence, the Buildings dept. outlined how security officials monitor the Car Park on a regular basis. They stated that when the Car-Park is full, these security officials place a 'Car-Park Full' sign on front of the barriers to indicate to drivers to look elsewhere. Buildings continued that if the sign is not visible at the entrance, it is possible to gain entry to

the Car Park and be forced to pay €2 for the pleasure of finding a full car park. However if this happens security located in the visitors car park behind the Paddocks are obliged to refund the drivers €2. It sounds as if a relatively stable system is in place. But the truth is, after numerous complaints, this is not quite the way the service is being run.

Several people have found that on more than one occasion, they have driven into the specific Car Park in question with no 'Car-Park Full' sign on show, and still they have not been able to find a parking space. This results in paying for a service that is of no use to the driver whatsoever: And therefore means needing even more time to find another parking spot at some location in the college.

This topic continues to arise every year without a successful conclusion. Those of you are in fourth year may remember a Students' Union-organised blockade of the two gates of the University to protest at the opening of the pay car park in the first place. The Students' Union in cooperation with the Staff union AMICUS fought valiantly to block this facility to little avail. According to the University, the pay car park was introduced to ease pressure on car parking, and the two euro levy was to pay for the land bought for the purpose and the construction costs.

The issue then is the same as the issue now.

Equality for student drivers. University Staff have the right to park anywhere they like (besides the visitors' car park beside the stables) once their cars display the staff sticker.

The Revenue Commissioners may have the last say in the matter though. In the last budget Finance Minister Charlie McCreavy did not include free car parking as a benefit in kind which would have to be taxed though may do soon. This would mean an end to free car parking for staff in UL. Moreover as students don't pay tax there would be no need to charge them for parking here whether they had just driven in from Elm Park or Ennis. Minister McCreavy might be levying a further tax on drivers, if he responds to pressure from the environmental lobby, namely Carbon Taxes. Vehicular transport now contributes upwards of 30% of Ireland's Greenhouse gases. Thus the imminent carbon taxes could put the brakes on the numbers of people driving to college at all.

It is blatantly obvious that there is a major crisis as regards car parking on campus, but perhaps if there were better infrastructure in place to encourage alternatives, people would leave their cars at home. Walking, cycling, carpooling and buses should all be viable methods of getting to UL. In the meantime, UL is getting more and more choked by cars, in every sense of the word.

## Two Free Bus Services Available to Students

BY NIAMH CLOWRY

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!

Here at An Focal it has come to our attention that the students of U.L. are not taking full advantage of the free, that's right Free services available to ye.

First of all there's the Nitelink which leaves from the Stables arch every half hour between 7pm and 11pm to bring all you hard working students home and save you the hassle of having to walk!

But wait there's more.... The Nitelink will also pick you up from your estate and bring you to the college between 7 and 11 also! All you guys have to do is ring 087 2205509 and tell the nice driver which estate your in! It really is that simple so stop wasting your money on taxis and avoid getting soaked to the bone in the rain by taking advantage of the FREE bus. David Garrahy, ULSU's Welfare Officer encouraged students to use the free service. "It's a handy, safe and free alternative to walking home. You're there quicker, warmer, drier and safer! What do you have to lose?"

Secondly there's the Trinity Rooms FREE Disco Bus which runs from 10:30 every half hour on two different routes in and out of town until 4 am.

Route one is Curragh Birin, College Court, Elm Park, Hurler's, Monaleen turn and Golf Links Road turn.

Route Two is Drumroe Student village, Stables and Scholars, University Arena, Oaklawns, Kilmurry bus stop, Briarfield bus stop and Rhebogue bus stop.

From personal experience both these services are excellent especially the Nitelink and as there are provided free it's amazing that they are not availed of more frequently. We are constantly hearing about how poor students are, so if that's truly the case isn't it time to take full advantage of something FREE!!!



The nitelink is a free bus service which leaves the stables archway every half hour from 7pm to 11pm from Monday to Thursday. It serves the following estates.

Kilmurry Village	Annacotty(request)
Oaklawns	Spar
Elm Park	Castletroy Heights
Orchards	Kilbane
Esso	Curragh Birin
SuperQuinn	Brú na Gruadán
Briarfield	Brookfield Hall
Hawthorns	Park Lodge
Woodhaven	College Court
Hazel Hall	Plassey Village
Oakfield	Milford Grange
Ashleigh Woods	Drumroe Village
Monaleen Heights	

087-2205509

# UL Access Office Orientation Programme In progress!

BY MARK MANTEY

The second level Access coordinator for UL Access office John McDermott welcomed 15-transition year students from Hazelwood College to UL as they began their first orientation group programme on 7th October 2003. This was in line with the UL Access Office initiative to create awareness among second level students regarding third level education. The programme aims to introduce students to the type of courses offered by University of Limerick. In addition, it enables students to get some insight and be aware of the opportunities in the work environments. Some postgraduate students and staff



Students from CBS Sexton Street

volunteers took alternative slots with the students in explaining their respective programmes of study.

Daniel Boyd a PhD postgraduate students from the Material/Science and Technology Department did a presentation on Bio Medical-Material Science. Aidan Hehir a Public Administration student gave the transition year students some insight about different course within the college of humanities. Elaine Doyle a staff of the Accounting and Finance department presentation was focused on the different programme of her department. She also gave the students a general over view of University of Limerick.

The first shadowing programme in the autumn semester for the UL Access office took place on 9th October 2003. Two third year business studies students Julie-Anne Deere, Aisling O'Neill, Liam Quinn, Law and European Studies, Bernadette Delahunty Sciences and Education students volunteered for the day shadowing programme. Eight second level students from presentation school; Sexton Street took part in the first shadowing programme for 2003/2004 academic year.

The second Shadowing took place on 16th October, 2003. Five fifth year students from CBS attended their



Secondary Students at Shadowing Orientation

first shadowing programme. This became possible as five UL students volunteered for the days shadowing programme.

Two Science Education students, Tara Maloney, Mark Keating were responsible for the Science Education candidate, whereas Julie-Anne Deere and Aisling O'Neill took care of the Business studies candidate. Jennifer Hannon's shadowed the History, Politics, Sociology and Social Studies candidate. The programme for shadowing days are designed to give second level students an idea and experience of the courses offered at the University. This entails transition year students from Limerick schools accompanying a UL student around campus attending lectures, labs, and tutorials. Shadowing Days are offered to students, who because of their social/economic circumstances are traditionally under-represented in the UL student population.

### Students views about Shadowing From Tara Moloney 2ND year science Education

I think the shadowing programme is an excellent opportunity for second level students to get a taste of college

life. It gives a realistic view on lectures, labs etc. Unlike open days, the shadowing programme allows second level students to experience first hand what it is like to be a typical college student. They partake in lectures obvious to others that they are from a secondary school, and seem to get a real kick out of it. The last students who showed me felt they had gained a vast experience of college and the course. We firstly gave them a tour of the village showing them different buildings such as the library, students Union, computer labs etc. When the students attend the lectures with us they get a real feel for the different modules and the majority of them love partaking in different discussions etc also we tell them our experiences of starting college and how it has changed as whether for the better or worse. I think the Access office have help a large number of secondary students put their minds at rest about the transition to college, for which they deserve medals!

### From Mark Keating 2ND year science Education

I first volunteered for the shadowing

programme last semester. I immediately realized how beneficial it would have been to me and I liked the idea of giving this chance to other secondary school students. I usually start off by giving the students a tour of the college first so they can find their bearings and appreciate how much bigger it is compared with their own schools. They also attend all my lectures and labs etc. and the last student I had with me even got the chance to part take in a practical session.

As I said earlier, I think the shadowing programme is extremely valuable to secondary school students as it gives them a hands on experience and a more in depth insight than that which is offered at open days. It is one of the many constructive projects undertaken by the access office and think the people in the access office deserve ample praise for the work they do.

### A message from the second level Access Coordinator

The UL Access Office Shadowing initiative began in October 2002. Since then Shadowing has become very popular among Linked Schools in the Limerick area. Without student volunteers from UL, Shadowing days would not be able to take place. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and faculty staff who have given some of their valuable time to the shadowing Programme over the last twelve months. I always welcome new volunteers, so if you are interested I would be delighted to hear from you. For further information please contact John McDermott Second-Level Access Co-ordinator 061-234122 or e-mail john.mcdermott@ul.ie

University of Limerick Access Office

SHADOWING



for futher information:061 - 234122

## Features &amp; Opinions

## What is UL still missing?

BY DAMIEN CONROY

Like many young lads in this country I went to a secondary school run by a religious order. I can still remember scooting out to the bike shed after morning prayer for a quick cigarette before classes. It was a bit of a social event where you could show off skills like making rings of smoke and doing a double inhale back through the nose. Classic stuff, I thought I was the coolest thing since James Dean.

After the Leaving Cert I made my way to UL where I discovered some new-found freedoms. New distractions like girls and alcohol appeared on the horizon and I began to forget some of the things that had served me well in secondary school. I encountered people with liberal attitudes and little by little without realising it I slipped into their way of thinking, "living for the now", as it were. When I graduated from college the world was an exciting place. I moved to a good job in an exciting city. Sharing a house with another UL graduate we partied from one end of the week to the other. It wasn't "cool" to get up on a Sunday



morning, far better to sleep off your hangover. My job was going well but the void in my life that I had been feeling in college was still there, gnawing at me inside.

A few years later and I'm now back in UL as a postgrad. The novelty of returning to college was brilliant. With new friends, old haunts and free from the shackles of the working world you would think that I'd be the happiest man on earth, but no.

One day, after I arrived into college, as I locked my motorcycle, the rain was running down inside the collar of my

jacket onto my back. I was feeling a bit glum. Not far away I could hear a car radio, the bells ringing out on Radio one at midday. It brought me back to my secondary school days and the things I had left behind. Gradually it dawned on me that what I was missing from my life since my early days in UL was something that I had taken for granted for years before. A bicycle shed.

In the wettest place this side of Loop Head we have a giant chess board at the main entrance, flag poles that must be causing an air traffic hazard in the next galaxy and a fifty metre swimming pool, but we can't manage a shaggin' bike shed. What gives? "Out into the rain with you, you pauper, the students from proper families drive cars", I hear you cry.

However, the next time you feel that there is something missing in your life, a void that you cannot seem to fill think back to that indispensable facility that every secondary school relied upon for sex education, illicit smoking and bare fist fighting, the bicycle shed. Hey, it even kept the rain off the odd bicycle.

## Graduates Done Good - Colm O'Brien

Every fortnight, we talk to a UL graduate who is working in an area which isn't your typical 9-5 job. This fortnight, meet Green Party candidate and environmental activist, Colm O'Brien. Colm is a Computers Systems Graduate who was in UL from 1989-1993.

**How did you find the degree's relevance to you?**

It was the only thing I was interested in when I was in secondary school. That's what I wanted to do. It was my first choice on the CAO. I was never that taken by book-work and I always preferred projects. It was a bit of a struggle to get through the last year, but I go through nonetheless. I certainly didn't want to proceed on to further studies.

**What were the best things about your college years?**

I suppose it would be the friends I made there in my college years. In my class especially.

**Were you involved in any extra-**

**curricular activities, like clubs and societies?**

I was involved in the Environmental Society, I happened to be chairperson by default for a while. I enjoyed that. We got the first bottle bank on campus and things like that. I did that instead of studying.

**What were the worst?**

Well, there were some activities I would have like to have done when I was there, but that weren't available. There were a lot of field and water sports but they weren't my cup of tea. If I was back in college now I'd join the Mountain Bike Club.

**So, what did you do when you left college?**

First, I got a job with a small Irish software company in Portlaoise. I spent about a year and a half there. Then I got a job with an American computer company in Dublin. Their intention was to train up a load of us and pack us off to work in California. I was looking

forward to that, because it would mean lots of money and benefits. But I ended up in Brussels instead, working for the same company. Then I finished my contract there and headed off to Ottawa, in Ontario, Canada. I loved it there. It was the nicest place I worked or lived. The people there were very friendly. It was kind of like Ireland, except we played curling instead of hurling.

**What are you doing nowadays?**

Well, I packed in the day job, because I lost interest in IT. I felt my calling was at home, on the environmental front. So I came home to the family farm and planted about half of its 200 acres in traditional species of trees like oak and Scots pine. I'm also renovating the old family farmhouse, making it greener. We're putting in water-solar panels and a geothermic heating system.

I've also been getting involved in some other environmental activities. I launched a Light Pollution Awareness campaign back in September. I've been involved in getting the Stop Esso campaign going. I've been promoting the Fair Trade campaign in schools and local shops and to the public and so on. I've been fairly busy too with the Green Party too. I'm going to stand in the local elections as a Green Party candidate. I suppose you could call me an environmental activist. Voluntary at the moment, but maybe in the future it will pay.

**Any advice you could give to students in UL?**

Get as good a grade as you can. Go out and earn lots of money for a few years. That way, if you do decide that it's not what you want to do, you have the money to change your life and do something a little off the beaten path.

An Focal is going Interactive!

My Lecturer eats Cats...

The stoner Baby is coming to eat us all.  
\*Aheh\*

I woke up this morning in a ditch with no pants on. Damn you Dutch.

All you have to do is text your crazy/drunken thoughts to

086 - 8641193

and they'll appear in the next issue!

So go on, save it now and text us!

**M<sup>I</sup> Mathematics Innovation**

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Website: www.mathsinnovation.com

## Features &amp; Opinions

## Sex and the Country

**So you're going out with a farmer, could there be 'more than this' asks Anne Sheridan?**

Summertime and the living is easy. It's hot, too damn hot. She strips down to the bare essentials and throws herself back down on the rug; cigarette in one hand, frosted margarita in the other. But she isn't lying on a hot white sandy beach in Ayia Napa, instead she has the lush green grass of Kerry gently tickling her stomach. Suddenly, her evergreen peace has evaporated just as quickly as her drink. They are circling around her like flies. Great big flies. The sound becomes unbearable. She gets up to look and there in the field across from her are a dozen tractors. How could she forget? Bloody silage!

But then he appears, like a vision from a Diet Coke ad. Palpitating heart rates, sweaty palms, butterflies, nervous twitches, snorting laughs all follow. She wipes the steam from her wrap-around J-Lo sunglasses, as her mind drifts back to an episode of Sex and The City, only this time in the country, as Samantha spots her object of lust and whispers "ye I ye I ooohh". Just for once, a summer spent under the southwest sun doesn't seem like such a bad idea after all.

Farmers do not immediately spring to mind as sex objects, but it has to be said, no kidding, that they do ooze an abundance of sex appeal. All girls want a great big slab of man, someone that, when he wraps his arms around you makes you feel as tiny and thin as a whip, not a great big two tonne tессie. Someone who knows just enough about art, history, culture etc., but doesn't make

you look as if you've spent all your time in college in the pub. Farmers generally encapsulate all of the above. Calling them thick culchies will make you look ignorant and not them, because if you've ever had a proper conversation with one, you'll know they'll probably be more clued into to current affairs than the whole Department of Government and Society put together.

Farmers, you could say, have an, er, Gandhi like aura, as if far clued in to the grander and greater scheme of things than the rest of us mere cityslickers. They know what the non-farming world has to offer and it doesn't interest them. But does anyone whipping up a storm on Fleet St. know how different their lives and indeed, themselves, could be if they swapped urban for rural? That's what makes farmers so attractive. Why would you want to be a small cog in a very big wheel when you can quite happily rule over your own roost? Thus, happy working life = less stress + country air = increased libido ~ everyone's a winner!

Candace Bushnell, author of Sex and the City, took this theory a step further and argued that city men (primarily) are so busy, that they can't find the time to get into the neurosis in somebody else's head. Thus, sex in the city is all about detachment - you meet, have sex, he promises to call, he doesn't call, you bump into each other in a bar, have sex, etc. etc. you know the procedure. It's void, meaningless and purely functional. But you have a choice: you can bang your head off a wall or say 'screw this' and go out and have sex like a man. But if you're really serious about getting 'attached', then honey you leave town.

Sex in the country is different. As love needs space to flourish and blossom, the prerequisites of city life; traffic congestion, stress and lack of space are hardly highly conducive potions for romance. Sex in the country is the real juicy tomato because not only are there acres of space but country people are, for the most part, not filled with the cynicism and narcissistic tendencies of urbanites. Generation X or Y, or whatever era the postmodernists believe us to be in, has thankfully forgotten these people. Most importantly they are free from the dogged disbelief in love that often haunts the lives of city dwellers.

The catch is that although you both have different lifestyles, there is inevitably going to be some kind of overlap. And believe you me, the farmer won't be the one that has their life altered in any way. You will not spend your night waiting for the phone to ring, but gazing wistfully out the window at tractors, harvesters and mowers passing up and down, wondering when in God's name are they going to pack it in for the night.

Prepare yourself for incessant talk of silage, cows calving and machinery, grinders for some reason seems to be the favourite. Or how many acres the new Lamborghini will cut in one hour. Farming, you see, is bound up in the very fabric of their being. Pub time will be passed talking to other farmers about, guess what, farming and not how cute your new pink kitten heel sandals are. You may spend your time with him always on the back burner, because unlike you he does not have a cushy 9-5 office job. He also does not have what could be classified as free time and thus

any time that is spent with you is very much on the ST (short-term notice).

As it is heart-breakingly difficult for any girl to come to terms with the shocking realisation that she is not the centre of the universe in her love's world, here are your options:

Option A: A 'man' sitting in The Waterloo, liasing with his associates from Coyle & Hamilton; a dozen girls flocking after his Westlife coiff and Hugo Boss suit; who hasn't the foggiest why he is there or even who he wants. You might as well be waiting for the Man from Del Monte to arrive on your doorstep.

Option B: A man in a pair of oil soaked old Levi jeans, muscles a-rippling, the smell of sweat and Jean Paul Gaultier L'homme (yes, farmers do wear designer aftershave) lingering together, intoxicating your senses. Then again maybe that's just the wrench of 60 Major that's making you feel a bit wobbly? A man who knows what he wants . . . and what he wants is you! Who won't drop you like a hot scone when the next sexiest thing in Wellingtons appears. Just think of all those romantic nights you could be spending under the stars, albeit on a bed of hay!

But before you sign your life away as the long suffering farmer's wife bear in mind two things: (i) might be best to have a wee word in his ear about the matter of Y-Fronts before it's too late and (ii) just when you think you've passed the make or break period of your relationship (silage), think again because once silage finishes, slurry begins!

# wanted

## Student Liaison Officers

### What are the student liaison officers?

These are union representatives who live in the estates in the immediate surrounds of the university, i.e. Milford Grange, College Court, Elm Park and Curagh Brín. They are residents of these estates and work in a monitoring capacity giving a report to the community relations committee once monthly.

### Why do we need these people?

It is important that we the students' union know what is going on in these communities to get a true and accurate picture of the overall area.

### What do they do?

The position requires that a report be given once monthly by the liaison officer on their estate and that one of the liaison officers represent the liaison officers on the community relations committee which will meet every two weeks. Other duties may come up as the year progresses.

### One or two more things:

Firstly this is a paid part-time job. Secondly all those interested please call into the Student Union reception and leave your name, ID number, and phone number so you can be contacted.

Seamus Ryan Community Relations Officer.

# AN FOCAL

## needs you

how are we doing so far?

what can we do better?

what do you love? what do you hate?

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

and let us know what you want!

## Comedy View

**"THE GIG THAT NEVER ENDS"  
DES BISHOP  
JEAN MONNET NOV 5TH**

"The gig that never ends"...that was the title given to this gig by the man himself (Des) as a concluding note to a side - splitting two hours. The gig ended well, with Bishop making a mockery out of his own inability to shut up. But it began disappointingly, with a poor turn - out and a less than hilarious opening act in the shape of Carl Spain, also known as "Fitzy". No more than a one - trick side - kick.

With only the centre row of the Jean Monnet fully seated, we awaited the influx of the remaining ticket holders that would never come. In fairness to "Fitzy", he did get a few laughs, but his act was unquestionably one dimensional, with an unfortunate Cork lady in the front row being the butt of far too many of his jokes. Funny the first time, tired the tenth. The emptiness of the theatre was resonant for the twenty minutes of his performance.

Thankfully, Bishop was anything but dissuaded by its emptiness. Rather he embraced the opportunity it presented for potential laughs, playing with the awkwardness of the "lecture - like" atmosphere presented by the Jean Monnet. It was all new material from there on out, all original and all hilarious. It was based on Bishop's experiences in the last six months, during which time he lived off the dole, and the wages of Abrakebabra in Waterford and The Aqua Dome in Tralee respectively. His revelations of minimum wage living were sharp and truthful, yet funny simply because the man appears to see the humour in any situation. The "late - shift" in Abrakebabra presents multiple opportunities for giggles, with the obvious drunken hungry clubber situation taking centre stage. Much of his more hilarious moments sprang from his complete disregard of the "politically - correct". His shenanigans with his colleagues in Abrekebabra, those of shall we say, non - Irish descent, were executed perfectly. His imitations and accents were spot - on (he does a better North Dublin accent than many a southsider).

Eventually and unavoidably, the never - ending issues of Iraq and anti - Americanism came into play. This was when Bishop was really tested, as he made the somewhat unexpected blunder of asking the opinion of an American audience member, who lo and behold turned out to be none other than a U.S Marine. Bishop could not have invented a funnier coincidence if he had tried. Reeling backwards in mock -



horror he stumbled over a microphone stand, inadvertently swinging it around so that for all the world, it closely (yet accidentally) resembled a propped up machine gun. This wasn't the comedians only spontaneous prop usage. His attention was drawn to the entrance of a photographer early on in the show, whose untimely entrance was supremely taken advantage of. Without hesitation, Bishop grabbed the camera from the photographer and began taking suggestive photograph after photograph of two ladies in the front row (yes you guessed it, "Fitzy's" unfortunate cork lady again). His spontaneity and ability to make fun of unprecedented situations gives him so much extra mileage, as well as ensuring his reputation as a natural.

Looking at his watch Bishop declared that the night was young and suggested that we stay a little longer. Venturing up the slope of the theatre aisles, carrying a microphone and trailing a cord that really wasn't designed for "trailing", he took a seat towards the back of the theatre, forcing us all to turn in our seats and look up at him. This was the set up for the closing twenty minutes of the gig, where Bishop really came into his own. Hesitant to let us go, he began telling spur of the moment stories, off the cuff so to speak. This was where his extra mileage came into play again. The point came when we (the audience) didn't want to leave, Bishop didn't want to leave, so he just said, "please leave or I wont stop talking", followed by a rapturous round of applause, and then...at last...it was over.

No doubt the brilliant Bishop will be back again and again to grace our stages. The last word: a laugh a minute interactive act. And best of all for all of you who have already experienced the Des Bishop show, it's all new material!! So next time don't miss out. S'OC

## Slogan Competition

Write a slogan signifying  
**Healthy Living**  
and you could win one of 3  
great prizes.

### 1st Prize:

**One Semester Membership of the  
Arena**

(worth €80 and valid for either first or  
second semester)  
courtesy of the Arena

### 2nd Prize:

**Cash Prize to the value of €65**  
Courtesy of the Health Promoting  
Colleges Initiative

### 3rd Prize:

**O'Mahoney's Gift Token (value €50)**  
Courtesy of O'Mahoney's Bookshop

### What do you have to do?

Simply come up with a catchy slogan that evokes the following:  
Healthy Living, Responsible use  
of alcohol and a balanced  
approach to University life.

**THE SLOGAN MUST BE LESS THAN FIFTEEN  
WORDS LONG.**

Email your entries to:  
sucommunication@ul.ie  
with 'Slogan' in the subject line.  
Please include your name, mobile  
number and UL ID number.

Closing date for entries is  
Thursday November 20th

### Rules

Only one entry per person.  
Competition is open to all UL students.  
Winners will be notified by phone.  
The Judges' decision is final.

### What's the competition in aid of?

The winning slogan will be used to  
spearhead a Healthy Living Campaign  
on campus, and to assist in sourcing an  
alternative to alcohol sponsorship for  
clubs and societies.

# ULartsoffice

*In Association with Ten Forward*

**Autumn Film Season**

**Venue: Jean Monnet Theatre**

**Time: 6:30pm**

**Monday Nov 10th**

**Monday Nov 17th**



> **CROUPIER**  
Director : Mike Hodges  
Uk / 1998 / 94 mins  
> **\*NARC**  
Director : Joe Carnahan  
USA / 2002 / 102 mins

You have to make a choice in life: Be a gambler or a croupier. So believes Jack Manfred, the hero of 'Croupier,' whose casino job places him halfway between the bosses and the bettors, so he can keep an eye on both. He is a cold, controlled man, at pains to tell us, "I do not gamble." True enough, he does not gamble at casino games of chance, but in his personal life he places appalling bets, and by the end of the film is involved with three women and a scheme to defraud the casino.

Manfred wants to be a writer and narrates his own story in the third person as if he's writing it. With his slicked-back black hair, symmetrical good looks and cold detachment, he's a reminder of Alain Delon's professional killer in "Le Samourai"--a man who wants to stay aloof and calculate the odds, but finds himself up to his neck in trouble, anyway...  
Roger Ebert  
Chicago Sun-Times



> **TALK TO HER**  
Director : Pedro Almodovar  
Spain / 2002 / 102 mins  
> **\*CHASING AMY**  
Director : Kevin Smith  
USA / 1997 / 111 mins

The first time Benigno talks to Alicia, filing her nails for her as he gossips cheerfully, you think he's a manicurist. Or maybe a super-attentive hairdresser. But Benigno is a nurse. And Alicia is a young patient who has been in a coma for years. The way he speaks to her -- so loving, so understanding -- it's as if she's fully conscious and aware.

The film, which plays with time and emotion, concerns a friendship between two very different men who turn out to have several things in common.

The second man is Marco a journalist trying to bounce back from a severely broken heart. Marco happens to see a young woman interviewed on television about her career -- she is a bullfighter -- and he determines to interview her and write about her himself. Very quickly, he and she fall in love. Sort of. Their relationship is at a crucial crossroads when tragedy dictates that she, too, end up at 'El Bosque', the private clinic where we have already met the comatose Alicia...

Liz Braun  
Toronto Sun



# USIT GETAWAY



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KOREA, NEW ZEALAND



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6.30pm

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<b>Beijing</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Johannesburg</b>	<b>539</b>
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<b>Tokyo</b>	<b>634</b>

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# Upcomings

Here are some acts, shows and sundry interesting things that are happening around and about over the next fortnight. If you've got something going on that should be included, email [sucommunication@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunication@ul.ie)

## ACT

## VENUE

### NOVEMBER

11	Freddie White	Dolan's
11	Etre et Avoir (To Be and To Have)	Belltable
12	Reuben & Support & Karl Spain	Dolan's
13	The Riffs	Highstool
14	Reach 2003 guests Turn (Karma Productions)	Dolan's
16	Ocean Colour Scene Unplugged	Dolan's
18	Mostly Martha plus Irish Short - The Last Time	Belltable
19	Des Bishop & Support & Karl Spain	Dolan's
20	The Bull Islanders (Comedy Show)	Dolan's
21	Simple Kid Alphastates Mike Glennon	Highstool
21	Gorkys Zygotic Mynci	Dolan's
22	Raul	Highstool
22	Maiden England (Iron Maiden Tribute)	Dolan's

For further info, check out [www.theamc.net](http://www.theamc.net), [www.dolans.ie](http://www.dolans.ie), [www.uch.ie](http://www.uch.ie), [www.belltable.ie](http://www.belltable.ie) or visit the city and check out the posters!

# Where's Ben?

Getting some culture in France



12th Century Monastery

Since it was Greek Week last week Ben decided to get a bit of culture while he was in France. What better than an 800 year old Ruin!

# Nersh



**ARE YOU A COYOTE UGLY OR JUST PLAIN**

**STRUT YOUR STUFF**

**WEDNESDAY  
WEEK 8**

**ONLY AT  
THE SCHOLARS**

do you dare?



**The Scholars Club**

Weekly Food Specials

Early Bird breakfast menu  
before 9:30 that's a  
a mini breakfast for only €2.50

**Tea and Coffee for only 50c**  
before 11:30.

Any dinner from the **Lunch Special** menu and a mineral can of your choice for only €5

Choose from our  
**Full Fresh Salad bar**

**Fresh Evening Menu from 4 pm**

## Music View

## Live Previews

**U.L. MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS**  
**RACHEL LOSHAK**  
**SCHOLARS BAR**  
**WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER**



Her newly released album "Mint" hasn't begun gathering dust on the shelves of record stores, but Rachel Loshak is back in Ireland for the second time this year. Based in New York, but of English background, the singer/songwriter is quickly attaining Norah Jones - like status in her adopted country. She was established on the New York music scene with the release of her earlier records "Here I Am" and "Firefly", but is now escalating to higher international acclaim. Rachel was brought up in the tranquil surroundings of Suffolk, England, but moved, on her own, to New York at the young age of only seventeen to pursue a dream. While there, she embedded herself among the musicians of the New York scene, and quickly began

experimenting with her voice and recordings. Almost by accident, she discovered that she was a natural bass player, and hence began trying to match her voice with the bass sound. As she became a familiar face of the New York City club scene, fellow musicians of more famous stature began to take an interest in her unique sound. She recently featured on a "Best of the Living Room" compilation alongside Jesse Harris and others. Shortly afterwards, she was noticed by Norah Jones who invited her to be one of her backing singers for the Grammy's in Madison Square Gardens.

Hot on the heels of this performance, Loshak has released her third collection "Mint". The new album has really brought Rachel into her own. Now more than ever, her sound is unique and can be recognised only as Rachel Loshak.

Go along to the Scholars Bar Wednesday 19th November, for a taste of symphonic vocals and haunting melodies. Tickets are available from the Students Union Reception, or you can get them on the night at the door. For further information call 086 8653892 or check out [www.rachelloshak.com](http://www.rachelloshak.com). *S'OC* Tickets: €6.50

Music Society Members: €5

**OCEAN COLOUR SCENE**

**DOLAN'S WAREHOUSE, NOV 16TH**

Based in Birmingham, it is still hard to fathom that Ocean Colour Scene are enjoying over twelve years in the music industry (and no, not just because they're based in Birmingham). Though not the music capital of the world, Birmingham has been the home of this diverse Indie band since 1989. Fronted by Simon



Fowler (lead vocals) and supported by the likes of Steve Cradock (lead guitar), Damon Minchella on bass and Oscar Harrison on drums, OCS offer us a diverse, emotional roller coaster ride of music bringing us through the extreme highs and lows of life.

With as many as six albums under their belt, OCS still reign in the top ten Indie bands of the latest musical era. Their mere thoughts and ethos have given them a somewhat untouchable quality and status in a music industry where diversity is the key. They are mainly recognised for their upbeat songs such as "The Riverboat Song" and "The day we caught the train", yet due to the universal appeal of their albums and the different themes dealt within, many disagree on favourite songs or albums, such is the variety and appeal.

For those who were fortunate enough to see them at Slane 2002 (where they kicked 'Phonics to the kerb) their upcoming performance in Dolan's is set to be a stormer, promising old favourites and plenty off the more recent "Moseley Shoals" and "Marchin' Already". For any Indie lover, OCS are a must see as they are a rare band who actually sound like their album when live. *MM*

## Live Reviews

**MOLOKO ROCK TRINITY ROOMS**  
**TRINITY ROOMS, NOV 6TH**



For Irish songstress Roisín Murphy, it was a sort of coming home. And with a vast array of props along with a fantastic song list, Moloko really took it to the crowd at Trinity Rooms. The band confidently kicked off the gig with Familiar Feeling, the first single off their new album, Statues. Sexily strutting on stage wearing a black eye mask and clutching a Steven Tyler-esque pink scarfed microphone, Roisín's energy was infectious. She wasn't afraid to get down and dirty with the audience either, leaning over and talking to the fans, even letting them sing the rollicking "Ramses! Collosus!" chorus into the microphone for Indigo.

It is often said that you can tell how good a band's new material by how many old songs they play. By that maxim, Moloko's new material must be gold. Looking back into their past catalogue, they performed a mix of trip hop tracks like Where Is The What If The What Is In Why? from Do You Like My Tight Sweater? as well as the best floor fillers on Things To Make And Do. Roisín demonstrated the range of her voice between haunting title track Statues and the rip-roaringly seductive Pure Pleasure Seeker. Constant costume changes were commonplace during the night, and the audience was treated to Roisín changing into leather knee high boots, as well as donning a wide variety of weird and wonderful accessories such as a giant feather boa and a tube of pulsating lights!

The atmosphere was great, and although it seemed that some of the audience wasn't familiar with their music, they got into it straight away. There was a fantastic reaction to one of the highlights of the night, a wonderful rendition of The Time is Now. But nothing can compare to the crowd frenzy that accompanied Moloko's best known song, Sing It Back. It started off with a slow beat, but the other beats soon chimed in and Trinity Rooms was alive.

All and all, Murphy, Brydon and company put on a memorable and electric show that delighted old fans and impressed new ones. *BC*

**MELT BANANA, GIVEAMANAKICK, HATCH-77**  
**DOLAN'S WAREHOUSE, NOV 3RD**



Dolan's warehouse on a Monday night and the ever helpful AMC people are preparing for one of the best live acts to ever grace a Limerick stage. Melt Banana are an amazing live act and personal favourite of the praised American producer Steve Albini. First up however are Hatch77 a four piece band who, facing a small and disinterested crowd do their best to look as active as possible while maintaining their serious musicianship. The vocals are quite good; they intertwine with the catchy pop-rock riffs but on a whole the band just aren't connecting with the crowd. They play well together and the introduction of new material with a riff-solo-riff-solo basis is amazing, but overall the band just can't seem to work the crowd. They play their set and leave the stage to Limerick band Giveamanakick. This two-piece band have been on a musical high in recent months.

Having released their ten-track album, 'Is It Ok To Be Loud Jesus,' the band is definitely in a unique musical place right now and it shows on-stage tonight. With Keith on drums/backing vocals and Steve on guitar/ lead vocals the band are a very strange set-up but this does not in anyway degrade their sound. The venue is beginning to fill up during the set and the guys are enjoying every second of their time in front of the crowd.

They have a ferocious energy and on-stage they seem possessed as the music overtakes them and they live within the sound of crunching guitars, screaming vocals and fast-paced trance like drumming. This band have been caught off-guard by their sudden rise in popularity lately with Steve contending, " The reviews of our album are overwhelming, I

didn't expect that." The interplay between drums and guitar is amazing with stop-start play, intersecting vocals and distorted riffs screeching and grinding their way from the stage to the audience who love every minute of it. Asked how they see their music progressing Steve replies, " Well there are always going to be two of us, so it's always a nice challenge to see what you can do with just the two people." With high hopes for the future and dreams of playing with the Pixies these guys are definitely and firmly set on their music. Ah the end of their set, Steve and Keith leave a large and satisfied crowd waiting in hopeful expectation for Melt Banana.

This Tokyo based four piece are seen as one of the best live acts in the world. It's a claim I can't contest as they pick up their instruments and start into a powerful and amazingly complex series of guitar screeches, heavy pounding drums, catchy bass riffs and the moving vocals of Yasuko Onuki aided by the sometimes disturbingly surreal sound effects piped onstage. With the voice of Yasuko mirroring the guitar sounds of Agata this is a truly exceptional gig, complex and enticing. Asked about her hopes for the future Yasuko simply replies, " I want to fill the world with Melt Banana music." When asked about her favourite Melt Banana gig of all time Yasuko said, " We played in Manchester a few days ago and it was good." In 1991 Yasuko and Agata founded a band named MIZU, which in November '92 became known as Melt Banana. Yasuko believes the direction of the band changed and with new musical direction came a new name.

Melt Banana late in '97 started A-Zap records, which Yasuko is happy to be involved with. The band feel lucky to be able to tour Europe and the U.S., which they feel, is a definite plus of being in the band. Asked about her impression of Irish people, Yasuko replied, " They like drinking and singing." The band are amazing live, their sound is perfect, they play hard, rehearse hard and write songs constantly. The crowd are entranced; they listen to and love the music on offer tonight. People crowd around the stage hoping to get one of the band members to autograph their album. The band are loved, that's for certain. The venue is electric and it's only a Monday night. d beer." They are one of those amazing bands who can no matter what sound great on-stage. They are definitely worth seeing if only for the unique chaos of the music, which can at times be very strange and dramatic. Melt Banana is a heavy sound weaving in and out of insane noise, bordering on genius. The band have an unbelievable aura, an energy which connects them to the crowd, they interact with one another and with those who are overtaken by the sheer power of the moving Melt Banana sound. From the wisdom of Yasuko, "Do what you want and don't waste your life." *DO'G*

Photo View



St.John enjoying the Green Fair



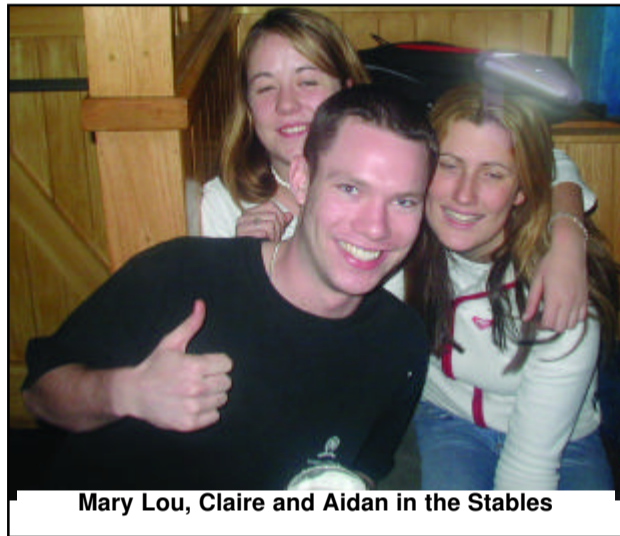
Scary Sabbats!



Body Painting during the Greek Week Green Fair



Carol Doyle at Open Mic



Mary Lou, Claire and Aidan in the Stables



Smurf-Girl feels the chill

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Duibhir! Yeah!



Michelle, Gabrielle, Natasha and Rachel in the Scholars

Photo View



More Hallowe'en Madness



Niall and Diane at Hallowe'en Party



Scary Pimp Daddy



Star of the Hallowe'en Ball

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## TV View

## LATER...WITH JOOLS HOLLAND

BBC2 FRIDAY NIGHT 11:35PM

On a spooky Halloween Night it's not too hard to get sick of TV when its various shows are trying, but not succeeding, to add their own individual scary element to the evening. This results in many presenters looking, and sounding, very stupid! With this kind of viewing its no wonder the youth go out throwing eggs, fireworks, performing exorcisms and the usual Oct 31st antics. So, it was with great relief, that Jools Holland made no attempt to add a festive element to his show...that is apart from the talcum powered face of Perry Farrell and the freaky black and white close-ups on John Cale!

As usual Mr. Holland opened up the show with his stylistic sounds on the piano, accompanied by "Radio Streets" Julian Joseph. This duet preformed again later on the show, this time doing an amazing vocal-less rendition of Stevie Wonders "Isn't she lovely".

First band up were the main band of the show, "Janes Addiction" who opened with "True Nature" and later went on to play "Just Because" and their oldie "Been Caught Stealing". "Janes Addiction" has recently reformed after 13 years apart and has a Muse/Placebo sound but with a touch of teen-pop-rock. However, their front man, Perry Farrell, seems to have forgotten to adjust his image for 13 years later!

Next on the bill was "Keane," with a voice that belonged on an 80's cult classic track, who preformed "This is the last time" and "Cant stop now". John Cale with his song "Things", which had a Damien Dempsey/Paul Brady quality to it, then followed this. However, the style of his following two tracks changed completely and left us all a bit puzzled...and to be honest kinda scared!!

Other acts on the night included the jazzy keyboard sounds of "Nitin Sawhney" and solo artist "Simple Kid", whose lyrics made him resemble a male version of Sheryl Crowe.

Jools also had two very comical interviews on the show. Firstly, he had the "motherfunkin" antics of Lenny Henry, and secondly, Al Murray, whose bar landlord character has earned him fame throughout Britain.

Jools Holland always provides top class entertainment with his show and whether the bands performing are well known or not, all music lovers are guaranteed. **TL**

## OZ

TG4, THURSDAY 23:25



Tucked away late on Thursday on TG4, the most psychotic TV drama on our screens hides away. Set in the fictional Oswald prison, it tells the story of the gangs, vendettas and gore of men pent up and in each other's faces. The series is unique from other series; few are as violent, as tension-filled and crazy as this one. Ernie Hudson (from Ghostbusters, remember?) and his staff of wardens, guards, doctors, priests and nuns have to contend with the foul world of "Em City", the most violent part of the prison, where the maximum-security facilities do little to deter the gangs. Aryans, Muslims, Blacks, Hispanics, Italians, even the Irish (!) band together and try to bust the heads of the other guys; and in Oz, there is no simple get-out. If you're in for life, then you stay until you die. Which usually takes only a few episodes. Rarely does an episode go by without some character biting it. Real pathos can be found in this otherwise cold series, and some valid points are made, not just about the prison system, but about society and the nature of humans in general. Must-see viewing for those who can stomach it.

## JOE MILLIONAIRE

Hi kids, my name is Joe. A few years ago, for a laugh I headed to this chateau with 20 beautiful women. They all thought I was loaded (\$50 million or thereabouts), but of course I'm not. I was, in fact, a construction worker and hadn't pocket change to give these "ladies". But I had a blast while the programme was being made; I got to go on dates with chicks who never normally went near me, and man, how they threw themselves at me. I had several encounters with a number of the girls, all on national television. Y'see, the reason for the lying was reality TV, and I just wanted to feel special for one time. I'm not a bad guy, but I didn't realise that the girls I humiliated by lying to them and a sending home would be waiting for me when I got back to the good ol' US of A. With baseball bats. And irate fathers. So now I'm lying in this hospital bed, possibly for the rest of my life, and only one piece of advise; never ever do reality TV. But I don't think people listen; they've already started a second series of the show here in the States. I wonder if they'll do an update, showing how I'm getting on? **NM**

## TAKESHI'S CASTLE

CHALLENGE TV (ABOUT FIVE OR SIX TIMES A DAY)



So, you're sitting up in the middle of the night worrying about whether you're ever going to succeed, if you're

going to get the girl, win the match, get the job, whatever. You're so keyed up and worried about the results of your efforts that you're unable to enjoy the process of actually attempting something.

There's only one cure for you, my friend. An episode, or six, of Takeshi's Castle. Filmed in Japan in the late 1980's and introduced to Challenge TV with a voiceover by Craig Charles, this is a gameshow with a difference. Every episode, 100 volunteers, led by General Lee, attempt to storm the castle of Count Takeshi by overcoming obstacles and playing games. These vary from being dressed up as massive pins in a bowling game and trying not to fall over when a huge ball is rolled at you, to making your way across a pond using stepping stones, some of which are solid, and some of which are fakes, without getting wet. Most of the games are purely physical and as the programme goes on, the number of contestants decreases rapidly. At the end of the programme, the small number of contestants who remain must try to storm the castle, which is defended by Count Takeshi's henchmen.

It all sounds fairly off the wall to begin with, but when you take into account the highly kitch and cheap-looking costumes and sets, the bewildering array of completely farcical games and Takeshi's henchmen attempting to knock contestants out at every turn, things start to get mental.

The 100 contestants, who get quite a battering over the course of the programme, throw themselves into every challenge wholeheartedly, and even if they are completely humiliated, battered or winded, they pick themselves, up, dust themselves off and keep smiling.

The most fascinating thing about Takeshi's castle is the fact that noone ever seems to win! In three series, the castle has been stormed about three times, and the winners got a cash prize rumoured to be in the region of 1,000,000 Japanese Yen (it may have been worth more in the 1980s, but today that's worth around EUR8,000). You see, children, the moral of Takeshi's Castle is that it's not about winning at all, it's about playing the game! And it's about getting as muddy, battered, beaten and bruised as you can, smiling all the while! **SR**

## Opinion - Oh The Horror

It's around this time of year we get the usual flood of Oscar hopefuls. The likes of "Sea biscuit", "In America" and " song for a raggy boy" capture audiences with their warm and touching morals. While sitting there watching Tobey McGuire and his horse, you hear the buzzing of a chainsaw, does anybody else notice it? Sitting there in want of excitement you think, "I wish Tobey had a chainsaw". Quietly you sneak next door and sit down, why has the chainsaw stopped? "Song for a raggy boy", they didn't have chainsaws back then did they? Is Aidan Quinn going to saw up these young lads? Surely reform schools weren't that bad. So you get up and you go into the next screen, straight away there are teenage girls running and screaming and you think, 'where has this been all my life'.

Why is it that teenagers flock to see this type of movie and why are they making millions at the box office? The answer is simply they love the shock value, the morbid humour and the extreme ridiculousness of them.

During the 70's a change came over the horror movie, no longer were they based on literature (Dracula and Frankenstein) but something to which people could relate more personally, Teenagers. In 1974 Tobe Hooper's "Texas chainsaw massacre" showed the world just how stupid teenagers could be and it all spawned from there.

Teenage life can sometimes produce a lot more trouble than some freak with a chainsaw as shown in Brian De Palma's adaptation of "Carrie". Bringing a bit of psychology to the horror genre it somewhat deepened their relationship with the audience. When Sam Raimi's "Evil dead" came about it brought with it humour and added the last ingredient to the melting pot stirred by Wes Craven. In 1984 He unleashed "A nightmare on

Elm street" The audiences loved the fear produced by the film and asked for more, but what they received was a still flagging chain of crap "Nightmare on Elm street" films aswell as the "Friday the 13th" series.

In 1996 a new wave of horror began again kick-started by Wes Craven "Scream" a self-referential teen 'Slasher' which took the piss out of horror movies past including "Nightmare on Elm Street". The tongue and cheek approach struck a chord with the audience as did the sequels and made a killing at the box office. Since then we've had countless teen horror movies thrown at us "I know what you did last summer" and its sequel, "Urban legends" and its sequel! There was also a whole host of forgettable ones, "Cherry Falls" anyone.

The most notable horror movie of the 90's was "The Blair Witch Project". This supposedly original movie, which was to take the genre in new direction, was an amalgamation of two shamefully little seen horror films, "Cannibal Holocaust" and "Last Broadcast".

This takes us up to date and what we are now getting are rehashes of the old formula, "Cabin Fever" and desperate franchise efforts "Freddy vs. Jason". The future doesn't look so bright either as the remake is all the rage we have witnessed the good but pointless remake of "Texas chainsaw massacre" and we are soon to see George A Romero's "Dawn of the dead" regurgitated.

It is possible that the idea behind sticking to the simple formula is that young people might not have seen these films. They remake the films for dirt-cheap and collect a fortune afterwards. This is why you have so many crappy horror films available to go see, because there is always one worse than the other, and if there isn't, well it will be out soon. **KC**

Movie View

IN AMERICA



Director Jim Sheridan ('In the Name of the Father', 'My Left Foot') draws on his own experiences as an Irishman struggling to follow his dream in what is his most personal film to date, "In America".

"In America" begins where many movies about grief end. The Irish family consist of four: Sarah, the mother, Johnny, the father and their two young daughters, Christy and Ariel. They have fled Ireland in order to start fresh in New York City. Johnny tries to make it as an actor while Sarah tries for a teaching job, but ends up a cashier. The older sister Christy records everything on a camcorder. The kids at school treat Christy and Ariel funny because of their Irish accents and homemade Halloween costumes.

That night, when trick-or-treating for the very first time, Christy and Ariel stumble onto Mateo, an angry, muscular and deeply troubled loner who paints abstract art in his apartment only to get angry with himself and destroy the painting. We eventually come to learn that Mateo has a very gentle soul. He takes an instant liking to the family and somehow manages to partially fill a void that they try to forget they have. Even Sarah being pregnant again cannot wipe away the profound sense of loss. The arrival of Mateo and the eventual birth bring about more unexpected sadness as the family attempts to fain optimism.

If all this sounds like too much of a downer, let me just say that "In America" has some of the most beautiful, hilarious and uplifting moments of any movie this year. Throughout "In America," Sheridan treads on that fine line between heartfelt sentiment and unbearable whimsy, miraculously never falling into the latter. "In America" does not come off as a syrupy love letter to America as its title or trailer might suggest. It is a truly great movie by a truly great Irish director, and we should applaud him for it. *NM*



INTOLERABLE CRUELTY



Human nature takes a beating and comes out kissing in this off-the-wall love story about two seemingly heartless people whose lives are turned upside down by love.

Miles Massey is a cynic when it comes to marriage, and well he should be. As the nation's leading divorce attorney, he's pretty much seen the institution in the worst possible light. He's even created the definitive prenuptial agreement, "the Massey Prenup," and it's so ironclad there's a course devoted to it at Harvard. He's also known in legal circles for his ability to convince juries to give his clients (often the guilty parties in break-ups) the lion's share of the settlement, despite

their obvious and documented marital misdeeds. But when he pulls his tricks on Marilyn Rexroth and takes away her chance at financial independence, the lovely lady vows revenge.

Strong lead characters are the heart of Intolerable Cruelty, and Clooney and Zeta-Jones are up to the task, seeming to recognize how easy it could be to slip into romantic comedy stereotypes. Through it all, she's bathed in a soft golden light, and she looks warm and beautiful and kind, even when she's being intolerably cruel. Clooney, on the other hand, is shot with a whiter light--probably to show off his character's gleaming teeth, which are as much the key to his personality as the hair was to Clooney's Everett Ulysses McGill in *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, also by the Coens. As in that film, Clooney here goes big with everything--his face is expressive and volatile, his voice is loud and his words come fast and hard. The opposing ways the two actors play their characters really works for the movie, leading to some good comic moments and some decent on-screen chemistry.

Intolerable Cruelty hearkens back to the good old days of filmmaking, when strong character motivations drove intricate plots and even light romantic comedies could teach audiences something about human nature without getting preachy. A clever romp with something to say about love and marriage, Intolerable Cruelty may not be the Coen brothers' best work, but it's still several steps above the other romantic comedies Hollywood's churned out in recent memory. *NM*



MATRIX REVOLUTIONS



The Matrix trilogy is so named for a reason: The most compelling aspect of the movies is what happens (or doesn't happen, or seems to happen) in that cool, computer-generated world. Unfortunately, in *Revolutions*, the characters spend even less time in the Matrix than they did in *Reloaded*, and the result is a far less interesting, less mind-bending movie than the original.

When *Revolutions* opens, Neo is in an unfamiliar train station, a sort of purgatory between the real world and the Matrix. This first act of *Revolutions* is every bit as good as *The Matrix*, perhaps because it makes so many allusions to that film, including a gunfight that's in the exact mould of the lobby scene in the original. We also revisit the Oracle's kitchen (albeit with a new Oracle), and she and Neo lay out the plot for the trilogy's conclusion as concisely as two people speaking in riddles can manage. The Architect is trying to "balance the equation" distorted by Neo. As a result, Agent Smith's power and number are growing rapidly, both within the Matrix and in the real world. To save Zion, some sacrifices will be necessary, and Neo will have to "return to the source", the Machine City, where it all began.

The trouble comes for *Revolutions* when Trinity and Morpheus pull Neo from the Matrix and return with him to Niobe's hovercraft. From there, the movie largely abandons the four main characters as Trinity and Neo leave in one ship for Machine City, while Morpheus and Niobe leave in another for Zion, where the last stand against the machines is beginning. There's more action than acting in these new CGI-laden battle scenes, and many of the new minor Zionists seem custom-created for heroic death scenes. And watching more swarming sentinels than you can shake a machine gun at leaves

you with a feeling of sensory overload.

By the time we finally make it back into the Matrix for the final duel between Agent Smith and Neo, the showdown that will decide the fate of both worlds, we've lost the gist. Why are we here again? Oh, right. Love. Yes, love. Neo so loved the world (so far so J.C.) ...and because "everything that has a beginning has an end." The question is, how does one end a trilogy when the whole thing's been based around the idea that nothing is what it seems? Audiences expect the kind of finale that lets you draw your own conclusions based on your experience of all that's gone before. Unfortunately, that's not what *Revolutions* delivers. Instead, what begins so well ends so predictably that it's hard to believe it came from the minds that created the Matrix franchise.

*Revolutions* is more action flick than either of its predecessors. While that may spell big box office, it doesn't spell classic, and of the three films in *The Matrix* trilogy, the final instalment may well go down as the biggest disappointment of them all. *NM*



THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE



This remake of the 1974 cult classic is a story of five 20-somethings whose free-spirited road trip across Texas runs headlong into madness when they encounter a bizarre family and a chainsaw-wielding man known as Leatherface.

This a horror movie bloodbath with jolting scares guaranteed to shock moviegoers out of their seats. Like the first, the remake is set in the early 1970s and follows five friends on their way to a Lynyrd Skynyrd concert in Dallas after making a drug buy in Mexico. Their fates are forever changed when they pick up a hitchhiker who commits suicide in the back of the van. In desperate need of a solution to the dead girl in the car, the quintet stumbles upon a dilapidated house in a rural Texas community inhabited by Thomas Hewitt and his strange extended family. Hewitt receives the group, led by Erin (Jessica Biel), revving a chainsaw, and suddenly their aspirations go from catching a performance of "Sweet Home Alabama" to leaving the house with their limbs intact. This is supposedly based on the true story of Plainfield, Wisconsin's, cannibalistic grave robber, Ed Gein, which is precisely what makes this film so entrancing. If horror movies are designed to brutally assault not only the victims on-screen but also its viewers, then TCM succeeds.

Music video director Marcus Nispel chose a tough film for his directorial debut. The 1974 slasher pic influenced a slew of contemporary horrors and it remains to this day a cult classic. The writers slip in a psychological explanation for Hewitt's wrath by giving him a skin condition that left him without a nose and ostracized as a child, which is why he collects body parts and makes masks out of his victims' faces (hence the nickname "Leatherface") but in the end it's just an entertaining slasher pic. Half storytelling, half mood, music intensive and richly atmospheric, TCM has great visual appeal, although some of it is undercut by some of producer Michael Bay's trademark bullet path shots. Get ready to be brutalized! For those looking for a heart-stopping horror flick, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* is well worth the price of admission. *NM*



## Clubs and Societies

## LawSoc Comedy Moot Trial

The Law Society last night held its "comedy" moot trial. The case of The State -V-Dick O'Toole began before anyone even realised, except perhaps Seamus Ryan, the judge for the evening.

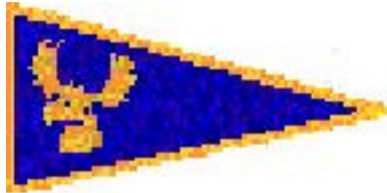
The connection of the gavel with a glass ashtray made him a tad anxious as he tried to call the court to some semblance of order. But many missed this due to the presence of the court jester/clown/juggler (a Miss Lily Pads) wandering around juggling, waltzing with the defence and skipping with an umbrella whilst singing "I'm singing in the rain".

The charges to be faced were indecency and criminal damage as Dick was accused of creating illicit substances whilst present at a biochemistry lab and "god forbid" he took it upon himself to deface the new rubix cube/chessboard/pile of rock at the entrance to the college.

He was found guilty although I remain puzzled as to how the charges were upheld, as the barrister for the prosecution, our society's president, during her closing statement decided to turn to the jury and ask them would they ever F\*\*K off?! It may have had something to do with the missiles being fired at her though!

To wrap this up-for more craic with the Law Society the Law Ball will be on in the South Court next Tuesday night, tickets for which are on sale in the main canteen until Monday Week 8.

## Beginners' Report - UL Sailing Club



The weather forecast said: "Bright and sunny with a light to moderate south to south-westerly breeze steady through Saturday and Sunday". Spirit-raising as this news was, it lent no relief as I stumbled into College at 10am on an icy Saturday morning!

As we rolled down the steep hill into Killaloe laden with gear, the lake opened out before us. To most this would seem a glorious sight: the spectacular Lough Derg, coated in a surface-mist without a puff of breeze. It evoked in me premonitions of drifting for hours in search of wind!

Luck was, however, on our side: before we had finished our usual preliminaries and Konner had given a spirit-raising and animated "Briefing" (using only 2 chairs, a marker, and a piece of string!) the sun had burned away the mist and a perfect "on-shore" breeze had started to fill in.

With 2 Beginners and 1 Instructor per boat, we launched four '420s' and a 'topaz'. The conditions were perfect and by lunchtime the Beginners' confidence had grown and their boat-handling had far exceeded my expectations.

As the afternoon progressed the wind picked up to a steady 'force 4'. A few



of the Beginners seemed a little daunted by the prospect of 'driving' at such speeds but, with a little training and coaxing, they were speeding around a triangular course having brilliant fun and getting a 'little' wet in the process!

A few hours later we were sitting around a long table in Molly's, enjoying a well-deserved meal. After a few drinks and conversations varying from "The Moon" (yes!) to College Fees (serious stuff!) to Al Pacino, we wandered across the river to Graces for a nightcap before making our way back to Killaloe's Scout Den, where we had arranged to stay the night.

Sunday morning saw us somewhat less

bright-eyes and more bushy-tailed as we arrived to our cold and wet wetsuits and unrigged boats! After a few cups of coffee however, we launched our boats in a steady 'force 3' - not unsuitable for the day that was in it. Once again it was a surprisingly productive morning and we sailed until everyone was too cold to care!

We had left the Center by 3pm and I think everyone went home to sleep for a few precious hours! All those who came to learn to sail got a good grip of the basics and everyone had good fun in the process.

Sailing = escape from books, concrete buildings, maths! Q.E.D.

## Subaqua Club trip to Fanore, Co Clare



Fanore is located on the extreme West Coast and is open in every direction to every swell and wind that the Atlantic has to offer. Consequently the dive site is only possible to dive when there has been settled weather for several days with an offshore breeze and high tides. With the bizarre Irish weather that was upon us, it seemed a shame to miss such a great opportunity and so the ULSAC headed to Fanore for an unforgettable days diving.

Being a new member to the club, I

tagged along to see what it was all about and to hopefully get some snorkelling or diving in, if the water was clear and calm enough. I met up with the others at 10:30am, and after packing up the cars we headed on our way. After finding the dive site, we surveyed the entrance that was through a gully and also took a look at the blowhole we had read about. As we were surveying the site we saw a dolphin in the water where we were about to get in.

When Bob said that the conditions were ideal for my first dive I couldn't believe it. The conditions of the sea were perfect to go diving and with the dolphin in the water it was an opportunity not to be missed! With help from the lads I put on the diving gear and clumsily made my way into the water. I had never realised how awkward the enormous amount of weight suddenly strapped to my back made walking! - They had all made it look so easy before!!! But I eventually made it and was ready to go diving for my first time. I went through the hand signals and some safety with Bob, then placed the regulator in my mouth, took a few breaths and put my head under the



water. It is an amazing feeling to be able to swim around under water without having to resurface for air. There is just so much life down there, that on the surface we are unaware of, and to be able to see this first hand was incredible. To make the whole experience completely surreal, the dolphin did not leave our side. She swam right beside me for a time, completely at ease with us being in

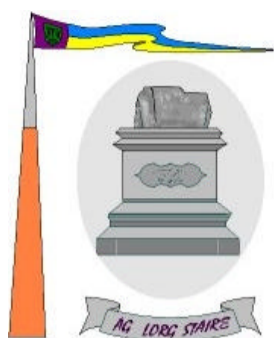
her territory. It was clear she just wanted some one to play with. We resurfaced and headed back to shore with my exit being about as graceful as my entrance!

I will never forget my first dive! It was the most amazing thing ever to be able to breath under water and see all the marine wildlife in its natural environment, especially the dolphin!



Clubs and Societies

UL History Soc get Medieval on your Ass



On Thursday, October 30th, the Society embarked on its annual visit to Bunratty castle to attend the world-renowned medieval banquet. This differs from your usual hotel or restaurant meal, the banquet is basically a four-course meal with one twist-everything is done medieval, from the mead that was served upon our arrival, to the eating of a full meal without the aid of a fork. The basic summary of what happens during the course of the night is that upon arrival one is presented with bread and a pinch of salt for luck, this is followed by music and singing during which one enjoys a nice glass of mead. You are then invited up to the main banqueting hall for the full show. After being seated, soup is served along with real brown bread (none of that supermarket white stuff!). This is followed by spare ribs then the main course of chicken, potatoes and vegetables and finishing it all off with a strawberry sorbe for desert (At this point I hope we are making your months water). Between each course there is music and much rejoicing. After the meal there was the singing of some old Irish songs and, again, there was much rejoicing! In short, all had a good time! The society will be returning to Bunratty



again. For History's Future (this not a contradiction in terms), November is War Month. We are showing three films; Michael Collins (Week 8), Schindler's List (Week 9) and Thirteen Days (Week 10) in conjunction with Tenforward. These will take place on Thursdays in Room 4 at 6:30pm. There will also be a peace and remembrance service on November 11th at 11:45 in the Contemplative Space, off the Scholars Courtyard. We also hope to have a number of guest speakers to discussion on various topics. If that's not enough for you, we're also launching the fourth edition of our nationally acclaimed History Journal-"History Studies" on the 26th of November at 4:00pm. Keep your eyes open, History is happening all around you and you may even see a History Soc poster or two regarding future events. For further information contact: history@skynet.ie Remember: The UL History Society-Who We Are, Why We Are.

Two nights out, an AGM and public pyjama wearing

The windy Thursday of Greek Week 3 saw UL Karate Club take part in UL Martial Arts Council's display in the Scholars Courtyard. If the clubs hadn't been kicking, punching, throwing and whatever it was that the kickboxing club did with three members sparring at one time, they might have felt the cold. It was quite a spectacle for lunchtime outside the Students' Union: mats on the ground, a stopwatch at the ready, and gloves and gum shields to minimise the damage that could be done by our enthusiastic members. Even the afternoon after a second successful night out in the Trinity Rooms to fundraise for the club, spirits were high, as was the kick that caught a white belt on the side of the head and knocked him to the ground. A great start to the first spar, or so we gathered from the noise the crowd made. Whoops. Another spar and a demonstration of some more techniques between a brown belt and an orange belt also got a good reception: you can't always get students to go to their lectures, but they'll pay to see three minutes of fighting! Donations were taken up in aid of the Students' 10K walk for Chernobyl (see David Garrahy,



Welfare Officer for more information on how to get involved), which amounted to approximately €54 and £1 sterling-thanks to everyone who emptied their pockets for that.

For anyone interested in joining the club, training is held twice a week in the old PESS building. Times are as follows: Tuesday 6.00-7.30 coached by Derek Desmond, Irish National Olympic Coach Thursday 8.15-9.45 coached by Aidan Rice or Manuel Desbonnet



Out in UL Movie Reviews

BOYS DON'T CRY

A dramatic and devastating drama, which will almost definitely leave you speechless and emotionally wiped out, could be the best way to describe Boys Don't Cry, a fascinating film based on a heartbreaking true story. The film centres around Teena Brandon a Nebraska girl confused about her sexual identity. Rather than accepting a life she doesn't want to lead i.e. that of a female, the courageous Brandon pretends to be a boy and while in the beginning, this decision results in the love and companionship Brandon had so desperately sought, it also leads to his shocking and tragic end. Hilary Swank, who delivers a phenomenal performance, plays Brandon. She inhabits Brandon's contradictions and passions with a natural vibrancy most actresses would refuse to give themselves over to. Swank is so convincingly masculine that if you walked in on the middle of the movie, you would never know you were watching an actress at all. Throughout the film we feel Brandon's confusion, uncertainty and alienation. When Brandon moves to Nebraska he finds love in the form of Lana and while there are touching moments of sweetness between the pair of them, overall the mood of the film is very sombre. The last part of the film, when Brandon's true identity is discovered, is almost unbearable and most definitely not for the faint hearted. Indeed if one is expecting a happy ending (as I was) it would perhaps be a good idea to leave early. The rape and murder scenes are shocking (don't watch this film on your own). They are conducted by Brandon's so called "friends", who are very disgusted by their own willingness to freely accept Brandon into their lives, and the harrowing images will almost certainly have you looking for your remote control. As the charismatic protagonist, Brandon embodies the ongoing dilemma of masculine identity. The film ends up posing precisely the questions that face Brandon. What does it mean to be a man? How is masculinity defined, and what must one do to live up to the prescribed role? How can violence become a thinkable response to the chaos and frustration of daily life? Above all, the film delivers a rather chilling and disturbing message, one that governs all of mankind: What human beings don't understand they destroy.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT

Another deeply moving film about bigotry, intolerance and hate, which again is based on a true story, is the Laramie Project. The film revolves around the events that occurred in October 1998 when Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old openly gay student was tied to a fence post and savagely beaten to death in Laramie, Wyoming. The awful truth about the film is that the motive behind the hideous crime was simply none other than hatred towards Shepard's homosexuality. The director, Moises Kaufmann, adopts a documentary style throughout the film and focuses largely on the interviews conducted by a New York theatre group with the local residents of Wyoming. Perhaps the most surprising element of the film is that we don't actually get a glimpse of Matthew. The only insight given to his life are the statements given by the townspeople who remembered him. Yet the numerous images of the fence to which he was tied to serve as a constant reminder of the suffering and pain Matthew endured. A superb cast play their roles to perfection, at moments you forget they are actors, their intensity is dialled up so high. The Laramie project has a remarkable emotional power. Dennis Shepard's speech, addressed to one of his son's killers in the courtroom is particularly gut wrenching. One's heart also genuinely aches at the harrowing image of a pair of headlights driving through the darkness and arriving at the scene of the murder. Credit must go to Kaufmann for resisting any effort to demonise small town communities who are often automatically stereotyped as homophobic. Instead the people of Wyoming are portrayed as ordinary people emphatically struggling with the knowledge of the physical agony that Shepard experienced, as well as the mixture of disgust, outrage and despair of knowing that two local men-Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson were responsible. This is a film that will leave you deeply shocked and troubled, it makes Matthew Shepard into a symbol of the damage caused by hatred and homophobia.

UL Equestrian Club  
AGM

Thursday, Week 8  
SU room 4

Look out for us in the canteen  
Wednesday of week 8!

## Clubs and Societies

## Irish Peace Society - The Weakest Link

The Irish Peace Society at the University of Limerick put on the event of the year last Monday night, when they organised their own version of *The Weakest Link*. This sell-out event had a twist to it however, with all the contestants being lecturers from departments within the college. Students turned out in their droves to see the possibility of their lecturers being humiliated by MC for the night Keith Piggott.

In the process of ritual mortification however, over €1,000 was raised for two charities – Limerick based *Bothar*, and the international education project, *Global Learning*. To the surprise of everyone, besides the engineers in the audience, the overall winner transpired to be Colin Fitzpatrick of the Electronic and Computer Engineering Department. Colin went head to head in the final round with Maura Adshead, of the Politics department, when they were faced with the confounding task of answering questions like 'who's taking the horse to France?', and 'how do they get the figs into the fig rolls?'. With no definitive answer to the final round questions, the audience decided which answer was the best. The questions that have perplexed us for years have finally been answered; eliminated Finance lecturer, Fergal O'Brien, was deemed to



Where exactly are your hands Fergal? Michael Jackson and Bubbles get jiggy!

be the man taking the horse to France, whilst magic is how they get the figs into the fig roll.

Strategy played an enormous part in the game, with lecturers ganging up on their colleagues to eliminate the statistically strongest link on a number of occasions, initially with ECE representative Martin Hayes, and then with Economics lecturer Eoin Reeves. Early contestants to don the dunces' hat, and bravely face into the walk of shame were Norah Power and Paddy Healy of the Computer Science and Information Systems department. Whilst no negative marking was

involved Paddy was resolute in his belief that there was a conspiracy against him. Micheál O'Suilleabháin's knowledge of music could not save him the ceremonial shame of defeat. Nor for that matter could Naomi Birdthistle's knowledge of Marketing/Entrepreneurship save her from elimination. Despite an abrasive display of confidence on entering the hall, Politics Luke Ashworth was sent home early to his stamp collection, dismissed by his colleagues for answering the question 'what month was President Kennedy shot?' with Dallas!

The elimination of Martin Hayes, statistically the strongest throughout the game, indicated that the daggers were out and that contestants would sell their own mother in order to win the game. An earlier strategy between Fergal O'Brien and Eoin Reeves, unravelled beautifully, as O'Brien double-crossed his supposed friend to see Reeves eliminated. Revenge of course is a dish best served cold and O'Brien himself could not make it to the final two. What was most disconcerting was his knowledge of Michael Jackson's chimpanzee Bubbles, much to the amusement of the audience. At the end of the night, the question on most peoples lips was – how did these people become lecturers in the first place – banking just a miserable €116 throughout the entire



I may be wearing a dunce's cap, but that's Dr. Dunce to you!

evening! For his success, Colin received the Annual Irish Peace Society Perpetual Dunces Cap, a treasured possession that so many strive for but so few attain. Special thanks to everyone in the Peace Society who put enormous effort into organising the event, MC Keith Piggott, Sound Engineer Paul Boland, Banker Peter Burrows, O'Mahony's Bookshop, the Scholars Club, Cameramen Brian Collins and Dave Corley, all those who provided questions, the audience who contributed so generously, but most of all to the contestants who made the event such a colourful occasion, and a first for the University. Bernadette Sexton

## Outdoor Pursuits Club

## ORIENTEERING -

## THE SPORT OF A LIFETIME

By Sharon Lucey

Orienteering is the sport of navigation with map and compass. It's easy to learn, but always challenging. The object is to run or walk to a series of points shown on the map, choosing routes-both on and off trail-that will help you find all the points and get back to the finish in the shortest amount of time. The points on the course are marked with orange and white flags and punches, so you can prove you've been there. Each "control" marker is located on a distinct feature, such as a stream junction or the top of a knoll.

Orienteering is often called the "thinking sport" because it involves map reading and decision-making in addition to a great workout. Any kind of map may be used for orienteering (even a street map), but the best ones are detailed five-colour topographic maps developed especially for the sport.

Orienteering is a sport for everyone, regardless of age or experience. The competitive athlete can experience the exhilaration of running through the woods at top speed, while the non-competitive orienteer can enjoy the forest at a more leisurely pace. Most events provide courses for all levels-from beginner to advanced -and the sport has been adapted for small children and people in wheelchairs.

If you love maps, exploring, or the great outdoors, try orienteering. You'll be hooked for life! The Outdoor Pursuits Club is now running Orienteering trips, is interested please email Sharon at 0228001@student.ul.ie

## GALTEES

At 9'o clock Sunday morning 30 sleepy looking people gathered outside the stables arch for a nice hike. We boarded the bus & we were off. At Tipp town everyone got breakfast & lunch for the hike. Back on the bus & on our way again we arrived at the hill in no time at all. We toggged out & off we went. Once we got off the roadway we headed for the mountain called Galtee Beág the small sister of Galtee Mór. The climb was tough for some because of the steep gradient, the slippery ground didn't help either but we marched on.

On top of Galtee Beág we had a rest & had our lunch under the shelter of large rocks. When we were full we continued the climb across a boggy ridge to Galtee Mór, which seemed an easier climb. Every way we looked the view was spectacular with mountains, lakes and views of field after field spanning several counties. At 920 metres we had reached the summit. Mountaintops are a good place to meet a variety of people like the group of pagan Tipperary hill walkers that lit a fire at the top to celebrate the festival of Samhain. After a brief chat we quickly descended before they performed the virgin sacrifice.

We went a different way down the mountain, which included steep slopes & slippery ground. Under the guidance of our club president we got "a-little-off-course-but-not-lost" in a wood but luckily we found the road & got to the bus alive. The bus brought us to the Glen of Aherlow hotel where we ate & drank. When everyone was ready we departed for home & arrived back at the stables nice and early.

## Importing Beauty into UL DebU

Tuesday November 5th saw a range of emotions in the Scholar's function room. There was longing, desire, wishful thinking, green eyes and high heels and this was all before the debate itself. Thankfully the stiletto's weren't called into play as the action unfolded! The former Miss Ireland, Ms Louise Doheny graced us all with her presence in presenting the debate of the evening aptly chosen "That this house believes Beauty Contests are demeaning to Women." Speaking from a woman's point of view I admired her good dress sense and wondered where she shopped...I did attempt to get a male point of view but unfortunately they all seemed to be rendered (for once) speechless. Perhaps next week they may have picked their jaws up off the floor! The debate itself was most entertaining. Mr. Paddy Buckley quickly regained his tongue, and tactful and considerate as ever, commenced with an analogy. He compared Beauty Pageants to cattle marts where the Kerry Farmer proclaimed "My! Hasn't she wonderful udders...I think I'll buy her!" The debate also saw his partner in crime Mr Eamon O'Flynn attempt to justify demeaning women with the belief that this produced "the net benefit of having my dinner cooked, my socks washed, and my bed made." He also produced a pearl of wisdom "Ugly women have ugly boyfriends who don't perform in bed" - Believe it or not he's single!

Fortunately we also had the opposition side, which consisted of Eoin Gubbins and Jen O'Carroll who kindly pointed out that Beauty does indeed come from within and that Paddy would always see

someone on tv who's better looking than him.

The debate when opened up to the floor resulted in a statement that "Beauty comes from the Inside" as can be seen with reference to the UL building itself. We were also treated to an impromptu story relating to Eamon, two girls, and a cigar holder...I'll gracefully spare you the details. Following this was a belief that flat shoes should be banned thus fuelling the economy and increasing the workload of chiropractors worldwide. There are apparently also benefits of stiletto security from attackers i.e. rude chauvinistic male debaters. John Fitzgibbon entered the fray believing the entire patriarchal society was demeaning to women and managed to comprise his speech of praise and admiration for Ms Doheny who, in the heat of battle had been vaguely forgotten.

The motion defeated, the debate was then nicely rounded up, in keeping with tradition, a drink in the Scholars. (Many people headed off to the Trinity Rooms afterwards, stories of which shall not be disclosed here! But probably in further meetings!!)

If anyone is interested, the Debating society meets every Monday in the Scholars function room at seven o'clock. Also worth looking into are the debating workshops held by the aforementioned Paddy Buckley and Eamon O'Flynn on Mondays at 6pm and every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Students Union. These are very valuable for anyone wishing to learn the art of Public Speaking and Debate, or How to win your next argument. Everyone is welcome!

## Clubs and Societies

## Hundreds of trad musicians set to flock to UL for "Campus Trad"

Friday the 14th of November will be a date that anyone interested in traditional Irish music should mark down in their diary. Why? Because the inaugural "Campus Trad" Festival is set to hit Castletroy this weekend. It is being organised by the UL traditional Irish music Society, aptly named "Gan Ainm", which aims to bring the best musicians from traditional music societies in third level institutions all over Ireland together for one massive concert in the Castletroy Park Hotel and a Convention for all trad societies the following morning.

The idea had been the brainchild of the UL traditional Irish music Society here in UL for the past couple of months. A couple of months of preparation have gone into staging this weekend and the organisers are hoping that it will be a huge success.

"Campus Trad", will be the Friday night headline concert of the annual "Sionna Festival", organised by the Irish World Music Centre, UL and we have had considerable outside interest in the event in the past few weeks. Already confirmed to play at the concert are, UL Trad Soc, NUI Galway, UCC, "St Patrick's, Drumcondra", Queens University Belfast, and Trinity College. "Gan Ainm" will be represented by a mighty 4 groups, namely the 1st Yr BA, 2nd Yr BA class, MA's in Trad Music Performance and the trad musicians in UL who don't study music (of which there are a considerable amount) The Concert will also feature a Headline Act,



Details of the Campus Trad are as follows:

Friday 14th November

5.30pm Registration of all musicians at the Sports Bar, UL.

6.30pm Sound Check in the Castletroy Park Hotel with Dave Carugo.

8.00pm Campus Trad Main Concert in the Main Function Room, Castletroy Park Hotel at 8.00pm sharp. Tickets available at the door.

11.00pm Session afterwards in the Conservatory Area of the hotel featuring all the musicians on the night.

"The Dave Munnely Band", from Mayo which also features the eclectic young Dublin duo of Daire Bracken (Fiddle) and Gavin Ralston (Guitar). Dave's

younger brother Kieran, himself a 1st Yr BA Irish Music student here, will join the band on Flute and Bodhran.

This Festival is the first Intersociety Trad

Festival of its kind in Ireland, and has become possible through the hard hours of voluntary labour that has gone into hosting the event and covering every aspect from Sound and Stage Lighting to booking Accommodation for visiting musicians. We are also lucky to have the backing of Michael O'Suilleabhain and all the staff in the Irish World Music Centre.

Other people, whom I would like to think for their vital input into this Festival are, Eoin O Suilleabhain, Michael McCabe, John Mackey in Brookfield Hall, and Donal Fagan in the UL Sports Bar, all of whom have contributed immensely to preparations.

The "Campus Trad" Intersociety concert will be held on the 14th November, at 8pm in the Castletroy Park Hotel. Tickets are only €5 for students (with a valid ID) and €8 and are available at the door.

It promises to be a mad night of music and will be followed by a session in the Bar afterwards till all hours of the morning. Please come along and support the UL Traditional Irish music society this Friday night and enjoy a quality night of entertainment for less than the Admission price of the Lodge Nightclub. "Gan Ainm", The UL Traditional Irish Music Society presents their biggest event to date and we hope you come along and support this event.

All trad soc members are also available to sign autographs so come early to avoid disappointment. Slan leat

## UL Green Fair



5th November 2003

People, where were you? The absence of students was evident, but was a small detail in what was, overall, a very enjoyable day. It was a blustery morning as the stallholders arrived, Gradually, piece by piece, (not a typo) the event took shape. The stables courtyard was transformed as sarongs appeared and became tablecloths, sticks were bound together and the geo-dome was made. Slogans and symbols were drawn on the ground in coloured chalk, all adding to a festival atmosphere.

When the traders weren't selling their wares they swapped amongst themselves some colourful Tibetan socks for some

scented hand-made soap.

At about 2pm a blue girl (Jenny) and a yellow boy (Eoin) appeared in the courtyard. People grabbed paintbrushes and began to transform these two freezing bodies into living works of art. As if the trad music students playing some trad tunes, didn't provide enough craic for a lively, cultural afternoon.

Some students tested their pedalling skills, in an effort to charge a stereo battery. On half a bicycle with a very loose chain, that was a tough challenge. Really, it was sight to be seen. Amazing tie-dyed shirts were sold (amazingly). The cocoa bean stall had some deliciously rich chocolates to sample for free.

The Fair Trade stall, next door, decided this was an unfair advantage and in no time at all free chocolate appeared there also, along with the tea, which was also free. The olive stand was out on its' own a bit, but didn't suffer from lack of business at all. This event actualised potential and was an inspiration to us all. It showed how with a little bit of effort and some friendly help a lot could be done.

Perhaps the only regret, besides the poor turnout was the fact that it ended so early (4pm), maybe next year it could continue later into the evening.

## Greek Week Games and Talks

On Friday 7th November Skynet ran its Greek Week event with much success.

Proceedings kicked off around 4:30PM (we were ambitious J) with a retro gaming competition. All the old classics were there; Pac Man, Street Fighter II, Space Invaders. After some heated matches and some outstanding play, (you all know who you are J) The competition was won by John Ryan, with a prize of a Playstation II being his reward sponsored by CommNet Tom Kelly won the HP printer sponsored by PC World and

Peter Brooks came 3rd in the retro gaming competition and won Skynet goodies. Thanks to all those who came and took part .

This took us nicely up to our next event, the series of talks.

To start Mikael Fernstrom gave a fascinating talk on the life of a hacker before most of us knew what a keyboard was. Mikael is the head of the IDC research group in the CSIS. Their work involves, among other projects, the Z-Tiles system that was recently presented in MIT.

Following that, Mel Gorman (an Alumni Member of UL and Skynet) travelled

from Dublin to give an overview of the 2.4 Linux Memory Manager.

John Sturdy (who should be known from his research work with the CSIS department) gave a talk that most post grads would be interested in; Clearing the path from idea to program. John is best known to us for his work on reducing RSI based injuries by a new interaction system for computers.

Next in the line up Pdraig Brady gave a talk on rapid GUI Application Development using Python and Gnome. Finally was Pamela O Shea. Pamela is attempting to get Linux used in schools and other education organizations to teach people from a young age the advantages of using a 'nix'. Her talk on The Linux Awareness Project showed their progress to date, as well as the methodologies behind this initiative.

After all the talking was over and the dust had settled, everyone headed down to the Scholar's Function Room where finger food was served and those who attended the talk got a chance to meet the speakers in a more social setting. Thanks to all those who travelled to take part in the events, especially NUIG Computer Society and Redbrick Computer Society from DCU.

**Skynet**  
UL Computer Society Network



## Clubs and Societies

## UL Basketball Begin the Defence of their League Titles

Wednesday 29th October saw UL women's team in the first match of their league defence against UCC. The game started timidly, neither team able to capitalize on chances. The 1st score came midway through the 1st quarter, a 3 pointer by UCC. 2 more followed in quick succession and UL suddenly were trailing 9-2. Coach O'Sullivan introduced Dearbhla Breen and Aine Stauton, which had a colossal impact on the game. In their 1st possession Staunton's fade away shot drew a foul to give UL a 3 pt play. Tough defence from Breen, Staunton and Caoimhe Clancy pressured UCC guards well and they found it difficult to break down the UL defence. Eimear Fitzmaurice rebounded well against a taller UCC side. Breen orchestrated the UL offence and UL began to look like the reigning cup, league and varsities holders and managed to outscore their UCC counterparts. The quarter ended UL 13 UCC 16.

Both teams began to score more heavily in the 2nd quarter. Good scores from Amanda O'Regan consolidated the UL lead leaving the score at the half time mark UL 30 UCC 22

In the 3rd both teams played high-energy defence and made the opposition work for scorers. Breen once again was running the show for UL and combined well with her team mates to keep UL in front. The highlight of the game came at the end of the 3rd, Niamh O'Donovan got

the ball at the half-way line dribbled 5ft short of the 3 pt line and launched a shot at the buzzer, it connected to give UL a 9pt cushion.

The 4th quarter saw UCC attempt to make a comeback. However scorers from Clancy, Fitzmaurice, Eadoin Mackey and the phenomenal Breen ensured the UL victory. The final score was UL 64 UCC 47.

## Teams &amp; Top Scorers

## UL

I Codd, E Fitzmaurice, N O Meara, L Finnegan, M Brosnan, É Mackey, G Clarges, D Breen (11pts), N O Donovan, C Clancy, A Staunton (11pts), A O Regan (13 pts)

## UCC

SJ O Connell, C Walsh, G Murphy, C Sutherland, A McManus, B Nelson (18 pts), E Liston, L Winnerker (6 pts), S Molby, S Ní Broin, L Kelleher (6 pts), R Kenneally

The UL Men's Basketball team began the defence of their League Title with a home game against a strong UCC side. Both teams traded early baskets with UCC's Robert Grants pair of 3 pointers separating the teams at the end of the first quarter. The 2nd quarter saw the home team up their intensity to match the visitors basket for basket. First year players Richard Lacken & Tommy Canavan put on their own 3 point

shooting display while Paul Freeman rescued balls from seemingly impossible positions to keep the home team in touch. The 3rd quarter turned out to be make or break in this match. Alan Bromwell made some key baskets for UL but UCC's Robert Grant proved a constant thorn in Limericks side hitting three of his seven 3 pointers in this quarter. With 16 points between the teams UL had a lot to do in the final quarter. Both teams produced a fast paced final quarter with plenty of scoring opportunities. Thompson, Freeman, Aidan Holden, Adam Holden & Murphy contributed early scores to reduce the UL deficit but Niall O'Reilly kept UCC ahead. UL will regret not taking more of their chances in this game, they'll have another shot at UCC away in December.

## Teams &amp; Top Scorers:

## UL

R. Lacken, A. Holden, P. Freeman (25 pts), D. Murphy, Adam Holden (11 pts), I. De Jong, K. Wrenn, T. Canavan, A. Bromwell, A. Thompson, T. Cronin, C. Reidy

## UCC

C. Drummond, L. O'Regan, F. Power, R. Grant (31 pts), N. Hanley, N. O'Reilly (20 pts), D. Kennedy, L. Culloty

UL's next game is Thursday 6th November away to Waterford IT.

## UL SVP Christmas Appeal

This year is starting off to be one of the best yet for St. Vincent de Paul at U.L. Since September we have recruited new students eager to give their time and energy to help those less fortunate. Homework club has branched into other schools around Limerick and the Soup run is helping to give some relief to the homeless this cold Winter. Our other projects are running smoothly for another year and we are hoping to make four more houses habitable for Christmas.

Fundraising has gotten off to a great start, the men's and women's hockey teams joined together to organise a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul. Week 5 saw the lads dressed up as nuns and vicars playing a two-hour hockey match. They managed to raise an amazing €1,080. All at SVP would really like to say a big thank you both the hockey teams and to all of you for donating what you could.

## Christmas appeal

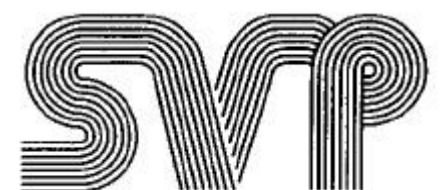
This year, we have decided to do something a bit different as part of our Christmas appeal. We hope to bring a little joy to the people of Bosnia. For these children war misery and hunger are part of their everyday lives. Last week we handed out shoeboxes around collage and asked students to fill them with simple toys they would have at home, it was a great success and thanks to you hundreds of children will have a better Christmas this year!

Last weekend was the SVP Intervarsity in Kerdiffstown, Co. Kildare. Although Halloween night in an old convent was a bit scary the weekend was a great laugh and a very motivating experience. Four existing members of SVP UL went along with our two newest members, Niall Riordan and Siobhan Ryan We had talks on Child Protection, Hostels, The homeless and Social Policy and also had discussions about our own conferences and what we had been up to in the last year. Here we were able to swap ideas and create awareness of different fundraising events etc.

## Coming up

The coming semester looks to be another jam packed one with events such as leg waxing (or anywhere else on your body, which proved to be an interesting one last year!!), Christmas bag packing, Church gate collections, Easter play, County colours ball, and much more!

We are still really in need of people to help with or many activities or even just to spare an hour a week to help with fundraising (we would really appreciate it). Our next meeting is Tuesday Week 9 at 7 in the S.U. and new volunteers are more than welcome. If you're unsure and have any questions about SVP in UL you could e-mail me, Eileen Mc Bride at 0248894student@ul.ie.



## UL Rowing Club Season Begins

Rowing clubs from across Ireland converged in Galway last weekend for the annual NUIG Galway head of the river. The race held over approximately a 5km stretch of the scenic river Corrib, saw a large entry of over 250 crews from across the country. This year also saw the some top UK Rowing Clubs making the trip to this highly competitive racing fixture.

University of Limerick had a large entry and they didn't fail to disappoint. First and second place was achieved in the Men's intermediate pairs, second in the Men's Novice Eights, third in the Men's Intermediate eights and fours, and not forgetting good performances from the men's double scull and Women's Intermediate eight.

The weather although cold, was dry and these conditions left the water level in the river very low, making the course far more dangerous for the coxswains to steer boats. The lack of flow in the river also meant much slower finishing times compared to other events held along the same



course. However a great day racing was had, thanks mainly to the large turn out and good weather conditions, which pulled the spectators to the banks of the Corrib.

Back at home learning the skills, ULRC has a new crop of rowers in the form of a Novice Women's Squad and a Novice Men's Squad. There is also a welcome addition of experienced rowers who have joined ULRC from their respective junior Clubs. These new Club members, with great experience, will be an inspiration to the new novices. We

hope to be competitive with the other clubs and universities in time for Muckross Head in early December and are looking forward to great success this season.

The rowing club is still actively looking for new members and we would encourage anyone interested in rowing or coxing to send us a mail to irow@ul.ie

Further updates and information can be found at [www.ulrowing.com](http://www.ulrowing.com)

Clubs and Societies

## ULYFG Activities



It's been a very busy time for UL Young Fine Gael of late, but one would expect nothing less from the society that got the second highest amount of points in 2002-03. On Thursday of Week 5, a meeting was held to discuss the unfair high prices that young drivers have to pay for car insurance, and tied in with the Young Fine Gael national campaign. Speakers at this meeting were William Lavelle, National Campaigns Director and President elect of Young Fine Gael, Simon Coveney TD, Fine Gael Spokesperson on Communications and Jim Lynch of the Irish School of Motoring. Also present were Jarlath Munnely, former Chairman of ULYFG, who is running for Mayo County Council, and Cllr. Mary Jackman. William addressed the audience with YFG's 'Better Deal for Young Drivers', a 10-point plan with features such as free compulsory driving lessons for young drivers and a major overhaul of the driving test. Simon Coveney outlined the



current Fine Gael policy on the issue, saying that the driving test needed to be replaced with ten one-hour driving lessons as a form of continuous assessment. He said that this could be used by insurance companies as a better way of gauging someone's driving skill than the current way where it is simply done by age.

The next meeting was on Tuesday of Week 6, which discussed the future of Ireland's neutrality. The panel was composed of Gay Mitchell TD, Fine Gael Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Dr. Seán Donlan, UL Law Lecturer. Fine Gael Sub MEP for Munster, Rickard Deasy and Cllr Maria Byrne also attended. Deputy Mitchell spoke of how Ireland has had the same old views on neutrality for the past 50 years and that



there is an unhealthy silence only broken by half-truths. He said that political cowardice exists in Ireland and the best option is to join an EU defence entity, because if we join now, we will be involved in the rule-making, but if we join later we will be playing by other people's rules. Dr. Donlan added that Europe needs to take its responsibilities more seriously, and whether or not one agrees with it, Fine Gael seems to be taking its responsibilities seriously.

YFG's Greek Week contribution was a discussion on the issues of suicide and depression in Irish Society (Monday, Week 7). On the panel were Tom Neville TD, Fine Gael Deputy Spokesperson on Health and Children, as well as being President of the Irish Association of Suicidology, and David Garrahy, UL Students' Union Welfare Officer. Tom Neville, son of Dan and an alumnus of UL who was recently co-opted onto Limerick County Council, also attended. David said that there was a lack of social outlets in rural areas for young people and that anybody who did not identify with the Irish 'pub culture' may be left feeling lonely and alienated. He added that it was difficult for young males, whose role models can vary from Colin Farrell to David Beckham. Deputy Neville said that suicide was the main killer among 15-30 year olds in Ireland. More people die through suicide than in road accidents each year, yet €22 million is spent on road safety awareness and only €665,000 is spent on suicide awareness. A positive point to be noted, however, is that 90% of mental problems can be treated and permanently cured.

Gerry O'Connell, outgoing President of Young Fine Gael and a candidate in Tipperary South County Council Elections, will visit UL on Monday of Week 8 and on Thursday of the same week, a fundraising table quiz will be held, more details of which will be available on campus.

## UL Ladies Soccer

### A Study Abroad Perspective

Upon coming abroad to UL, I had already decided that I wanted to play soccer while I was in Ireland. I joined the team hoping to improve my skills, win some games, stay in shape and most of all, have fun. So far, I'm doing all of those things and more!

The coaches of the 1st division team, Steve and Derek, are great. We have training on Monday and Thursday evenings and usually have great craic on top of learning tons of new moves, techniques and discussing things to improve on during games. I have made tons of new friends and learned a lot about Irish culture at the same time. We

haven't won any matches yet, but we play hard and work together really well as a team, and hope to get even better as the season goes on.

Of all of the clubs I have joined this semester, UL Ladies soccer is by far my favourite. It's great craic and the team is so friendly and open to all new players. It is a great experience, especially for me as a study abroad student looking to get a taste of Irish sports, and I would recommend soccer to anyone looking for a good time, to meet new people and who has a competitive side to them as well!

Amy Cooper

### Match Reports

#### UL Ladies B 2-3 Colaiste Ide

The U.L. ladies 'B' soccer team were unlucky to lose out to Colaiste Ide in their second outing in the league on the 22nd of October.

Having home advantage, the U.L. girls clearly dominated from early on in the game. With U.L. exerting ever increasing pressure, the Dublin girls defence looked unsteady on several occasions and it finally cracked after a fantastic solo effort from Emer Cregan. Finding herself in space in the box, she slotted home to make it 1-0 to the U.L. girls. Some composed defending from both Aileen O Loughlin and Teresa Fahy saw off several threatening attacks from Colaiste Ide and U.L. finished the first half with a deserved 2-0 lead after Michelle Ryan shot past the keeper on the stroke of half time.

On the restart however, a resurgent Colaiste Ide side caused the U.L. midfield and defence more problems. Within 10 minutes, they had scored to make it 2-1. Another opportunistic goal after a further 15 minutes made it all square and U.L. were in trouble. With a further 20 minutes to go, it was hoped that they would hold on for the draw but a seemingly aimless long ball from the Colaiste Ide defence landed straight on the boot of an oncoming forward and the ball was in the back of the U.L. net again, leaving the final score 3-2 to the Dublin girls.

All in all a disappointing day for the U.L. team as it should have been three points in the bag.

#### UL Ladies A 1-1 Waterford IT

We travelled to WIT on Wednesday last to kick off our season, following the postponement of our Inchicore match, where we faced the team that beat us 1-0 in last years Intervarsity Final. WIT had beaten CIT 2-0 in their first match and would like to extend their winning start to the league. The weather played a pivotal role in the match, as it was very windy and it made it very hard to play in. There were few chances in the 1st half, and both teams struggled to really find their feet. We had to wait 60 minutes for the 1st goal, when WIT struck a free kick. We almost equalised straight away, when Michelle Ryan played Valerie Mulcahy through, and saw her shot come back off the post, only to escape the run of Selena Travers and instead fall into the hands of the WIT keeper. With just 2 minutes left on the clock, UL did equalised when Valerie picked up the ball on the halfway line and proceeded to beat the keeper.

Our next fixture is at home to Sligo IT on Wednesday of WK 8, with our B Team travelling to UCC on the same day. Training continues on Mondays and Thursdays at 6.30pm on Maguires.

If anyone is interested in joining, all you have to do is call down to Maguires for training, or, email 9942203@student.ul.ie

## UL Kayak Club's Very Late Article



It's a little after midnight and we're in the Scholars enjoying some food, (thanks again to the Scholars) and who do we bump into to but our very own CCO Sarah Ryan (we'd forgotten it was an Focal weekend!) and she agreed to include us because as it turns out, SEONA NEVER WROTE AN

### ARTICLE THIS WEEK.

Anyway we're in the Scholars after another very successful night of the Munster Polo League. Tonight was night two of five and DCU are marginally ahead in Division 2 while Division 1 seems to be all but decided with only the 'Apaches' left with a chance of mounting a challenge to the Wild Water Kayak Club Team.

In other news we held Level 1 and Level 2 Assessments in Week 6 for this year's

first years (and some of last year's first years who never got around to passing them last

year) This Wednesday we ran our first river trip of the year and by all accounts

it was pretty successful. We took 21 people down the Mulcair and despite the river being at a very low level everybody enjoyed the trip. This week we also held an introductory session for disadvantaged inner city kids as part of our Greek Week event.

In the coming weeks we've Level Three assessments (check the message board for details) and a weekend trip to Kerry planned for week nine with forty-five people signed up. Roll on Kerry!

## Letters Page

Something getting your goat? Someone rained on your parade? Something about the last issue of An Focal that you cannot let pass without comment? Trying to be funny to impress your friends? Never fear! An Focal's Letters Page is here. Vent your spleen here on whatever topic you like. Just e-mail your letters to [sucommunication@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunication@ul.ie)

### UL Green Fair

A wonderful innovation, and something I looked forward to. I just wish it lived up to the hype. I visited one of the stalls and saw some salads I'd like. Well lads, after handing over E5.07 for two fistfuls (the reason I can say that they were fistfuls was because a plastic bag was inverted and a "fistful" of the salad grabbed) I left the fair feeling done... Now I'm not saying the salads were not tasty, they were! But please! At a price like that I won't be back. Now I wonder am I just being mean or does it seem excessive???

Regards  
Feeling Had Mature Student

The Irish Republican Army has played its part in the current phase of the Peace Process. I have no doubt that the IRA will continue to courageously make a valuable contribution to this process of conflict resolution. This contribution must balance internal anxieties and external expectations. The time has come for others to face up to, and ensure the full implementation of, the Good Friday Agreement and the workings of its institutions. Only through the Good Friday Agreement can an agreed basis for a just and equal society in the North of Ireland be achieved. This achievement will mean the full and final closure of the conflict and the removal of many of the causes of this conflict.

Tony Loughran,  
Ogra Shinn Féin.

### Response to Article

A chara,  
I am writing this letter in response to the article "Class Reps Galway Admin Weekend" written by Mr. Liam Quinn in An Focal's Week 6 Semester 1 edition. I feel that the third paragraph, which mentions me personally, was slanderous and diminished to my character. I would like a letter of apology printed in this forum from Mr. Quinn and that the statement in question be retracted and resolved to my satisfaction. I would also like it noted that I was not representing 2nd year Science Education as was stated in the article but in fact in attendance as Clubs officer of the Student Union.

Yours,  
Dympna Nolan,  
Clubs Officer.

### Left High and Dry by the Grant

To:  
Pamela Wilson, Higher Education grants,  
Donegal County Council.

Cc:  
Eoin Ó'Broin,  
University of Limerick Student Union President.

Directorate General for Education and Culture,  
European Union.

Education Desk,  
The Irish Times

Editor,  
An Focal

Eleanor Lamb,  
My Mother.

Dear Pamela,

I have been officially placed on Erasmus placement in the University of Granada since the 30/09/03. I have yet to receive the money from Donegal County Council which allows me to exist, I literally mean pay for the most basic things like rent, food and books. I am supposed to be matriculating this week but I haven't even been able to buy the books that should have started me off three weeks ago. It really is not my concern if there have been bureaucratic delays in the distribution of grants, that is in the domain of the council's responsibility.

Education and grants are bread and butter issues, if I don't have any money I will have to leave University and go home to sign either find a job or sign on for welfare payments. If the system doesn't work, it means it has failed and needs to be changed, but that as I say is neither my concern nor responsibility. I imagine that the grant is designed to give access to those who otherwise would be unable to attend College, these weeks on the other hand seem to be telling me that instead of helping it's population get out of a disadvantaged situation Donegal County Council would prefer to maintain the cycle and have students leave university and come home, when all of these people start claiming the dole it will be the same governmental organisations that will have to cough up. So I really do see it in the interests of everyone to have a system that works from day one and not let today's students be tomorrow's dole queue.

I have just been accepted into the most advanced intensive language course available in the University and I am happy with my efforts to keep abreast of the work, which I am enjoying thoroughly.

Having to ask relatives for money that they don't have and also borrow from my Spanish flatmates not only makes me feel uncomfortable and embarrassing but also contributes to the formation of a negative national stereotype.

So, I implore you to lodge the money as soon as possible, if not I will be returning home to Carndonagh very soon and signing on.

Yours Sincerely,  
Fiachra Ó'Luain  
3rd Year, Language and Cultural Studies  
University of Limerick

### Facing up to Responsibilities

Facing up to our intertwined responsibilities

The 21st of October was one of the most significant days in Irish history. On this day the IRA undertook a third act of putting weapons beyond use. Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin President, coupled this with a speech. In his speech Mr. Adams reiterated Sinn Féin's commitment to the peace process and the party's "total and absolute commitment to exclusively democratic and peaceful means of resolving differences". Further to this he acknowledged "...the importance of reaching out to Unionists, of learning about Unionist concerns, fears and aspirations". The speech was given added weight when the IRA accepted that it "accurately reflects our position".

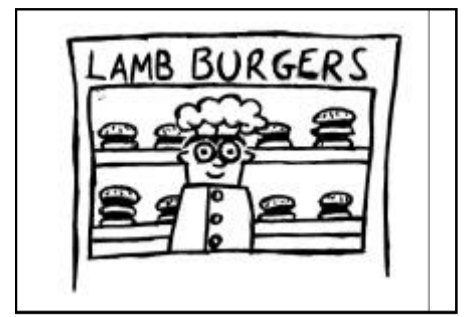
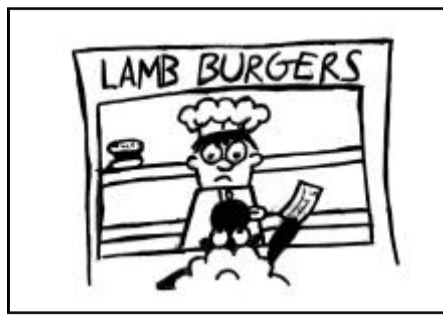
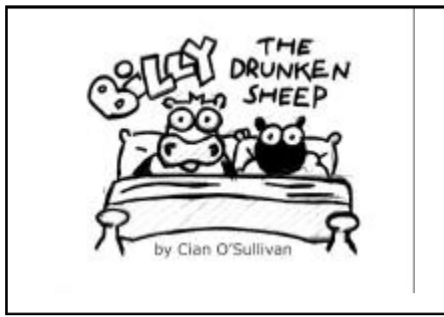
Confirmation of the putting of weapons beyond use event came from General John De Chastelen. De Chastelen heads the Independent International Decommissioning Commission. The IIDC has been given a specific mandate by the London and Dublin Governments. This Mandate provides schemes and regulations through which the monitoring of disposing of weapons takes place.

However the word of an independent commission mandated by both Governments and headed by a decorated Canadian General was not enough to satisfy Irish Unionists. The Unionists desire a greater degree of "transparency" in the decommissioning process. The tactic of pressuring for greater transparency has two key objectives: 1) Reasonably the UUP want to be assured that the IRA are no longer a threat to the Unionist community. 2) A complete humiliation of, and surrender by, Oglai na hEireann. This is not the first time that Unionists have refused to accept independent bodies. The Patten report on policing was rejected and fundamentally altered to accommodate Unionist's concerns.

It seems ridiculous to make the following point, but because of the scepticism of Loyalism I must. General de Chastelen and Mr. Patten are not members of the IRA, nor are they in any other way connected to the Republican Movement.

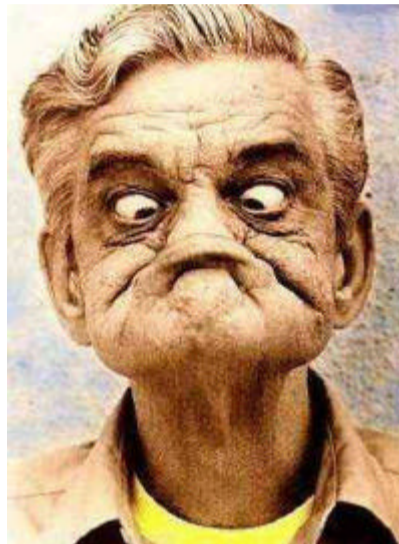
It is important to recognise that the IRA has maintained ceasefires over the past decade. In fact it was a declaration of ceasefire that allowed for the all-party negotiations that culminated in the Belfast Agreement. It has maintained the ceasefire despite continual assaults on the Nationalist community by Loyalist paramilitaries and other agents of British rule in Ireland. Secondly, the IRA is the only armed group in Ireland to have actively and consistently engaged with the IIDC. These engagements have led to three separate and highly significant events of rendering weapons operationally useless.

Back Inside



An Bainisteoir as imparted to Brendan Coffey

AN BAINISTEOIR returned to the fold last week when he lined out for the local Garda side, in the annual grudge match against the publicans of Rathveigh. AN BAINISTEOIR's cousin, Theodore was over for the match, and having not seen a GAA game before, it was interesting to note Theodore's, or to give him his proper title-The Third Earl of Dalrymple-observations of the game.



AN BAINISTEOIR would like to give the result, but is unable to do so, as the Gardaí are currently investigating the match, after the publicans refused to return their takings from the game-each side is obliged to raise €500 for the post-match celebrations. Nevertheless, AN BAINISTEOIR's presence in goals was enough to ensure that the publicans had netted ten goals by half time. Thereafter the Gardaí took matters in to their own hands, and having asked the publicans, "What are ye up to lads?" they became incensed by the publicans' answer that they were playing football. Immediately, Det. Sergeant, John 'Likes his sauce' Humphries gave chase in his new Ford Mondeo-complete with belly rests (airbags) and hotline to chipper. This was enough to force the publicans from the field, but Humphries had inadvertently struck the referee, causing him to literally lose his notebook, and so no "official" record of the first half was available. The second half did see the Gardaí take complete control of matters, with the publicans defenceless, but the Gardaí displayed complete and utter wastefulness in attack, failing to put away the chances that came their way.

Theodore told me that he was tempted to ring the emergency services when he first arrived, due to what he saw on the pitch.

"One did not quite expect such a ghastly gathering of obese men at such a languid and insipid affair as this promised to be upon one's first glance at such a spectacle. The dress sense was utterly tasteless. Mostly, one's view was dominated by the sight of overgrown manes on the clearly visible behinds of these men; their shorts having split open".

"These shorts were nothing like the type I had encountered in my days at Eton-Randy Roger wouldn't even have worn shorts as skimpy and tight as the ones now before my eyes. One was tempted to call the authorities, what with all the indecent exposure before my magnificently resplendent eyes-mummy had always insisted on good eye care, although it was rather minimal expenditure for such a fabulous wealthy family as mine".

However, Theodore was unable to call the police, as the Gardaí were the ones sporting the arses to which he referred. Theodore's appraisal of AN BAINISTEOIR's performance was far from complimentary.

"One makes an extra effort to spot one's own relative when in the position I found myself. However, his prowess at flatulating was not matched by his goalkeeping ability-certainly I was relieved that I hadn't brought my esteemed acquaintance, Charlotte Moore to the game-she would have been thoroughly horrified by the smell and noise emanating from my cousin's behind".

So much of a snob is Theodore that he refused to stay for the second half, after seeing the scenes at half time.

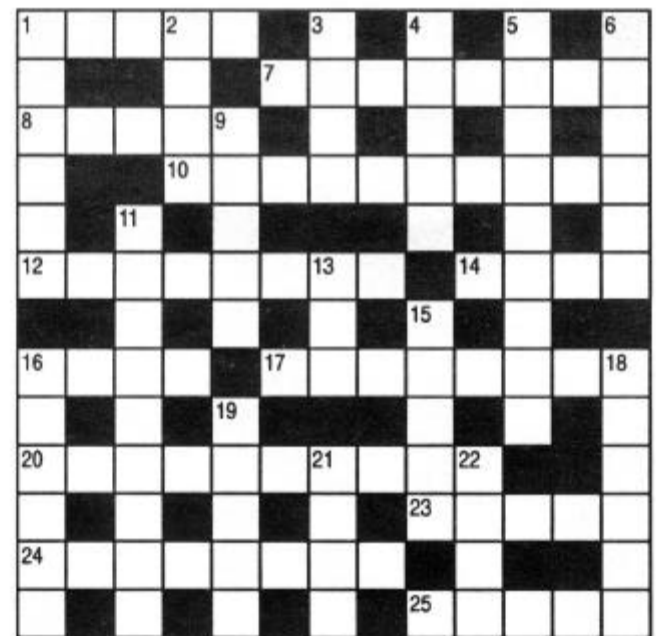
"These men were absolutely vile and disgusting in their behaviour. They were relieving their bowels in every conceivable corner of the pitch, before returning, hands unclean to eat chips and burgers that everyone had been handling. At Eton we retired to the James (gym-AB) for showers, tea and crumpets and if we were lucky, some wise words would be heaped upon us from school captain, Chrispen".

"I had no choice but to leave. My stomach was churning at the very sight of this excrement, and repulsive food, that neither looked cooked nor in any way edible".

AN BAINISTEOIR was disappointed at this rather harsh view taken by Theodore, but at least he hadn't seen Garda David Dumping follow through on a spectacular fart. He would have received a round of applause, only for the fact that he didn't change his gear afterwards.

It is hoped that AN BAINISTEOIR will be in a position to clarify the result in the next issue of An Focal, but seeing as the publicans are remaining hostile to the relevant authorities on these issues, it could be some time yet before the final outcome is known.

An Focal Crossword #5



ACROSS

- 1. Treacherous person (5)
- 7. Androids? (8)
- 8. Poisonous fluid (5)
- 10. Became depressed (10)
- 12. French police officer (8)
- 14. Capp, cartoon character (4)
- 16. Boxing match (4)
- 17. Handcuffed (8)
- 20. Blossomed (10)
- 23. Authoritative proclamations (5)
- 24. First letters (8)
- 25. Come into flower (5)

DOWN

- 1. Rock'n'roll dancing (6)
- 2. Missing without permission (inits.) (4)
- 3. Block up (4)
- 4. Man's name (Welland) (5)
- 5. Treat roughly (9)
- 6. Tastelessly showy (6)
- 9. Female title (5)
- 11. Inflammation of the lung (9)
- 13. Extinct bird (3)
- 15. Defeated in chess (5)
- 16. Research scientist (sl.) (6)
- 18. Take away weapon (6)
- 19. Cereal seed (5)
- 21. Sodium chloride (4)
- 22. Face (sl.) (4)

SCRIBBLE BOX

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## Sabbatical Reports

## PRESIDENT - EOIN

Brothers & Sisters,

The Union is in debt. Not quite up to our eyeballs in debt but in a situation that must be rectified this year lest it have a negative impact on future years of the Union. The problem arises due to some of the Unions services making losses and a lack of adherence to in-house budgets, which is necessary to control spending.

What services does the Union have you may ask? Ents (entertainments), Graphics (photocopying, faxing & binding), Job Placement Agency, Reception & Games Room. If you want to hear the details of the debt (and we sincerely hope you do) we have called an Emergency General Meeting on the subject for Wednesday week the 19th.

The Union is a members' organisation made up of ALL the full time & part time students of UL including Postgrad, Erasmus & Study Abroad students. A portion of the registration fee of €670 goes to fund Union activities and UL's Clubs & Societies which are administered by the Union. Thus ask yourself if the Union is providing value for your fees?

The Union also works as a direct democracy in that the members tell us what to do. Yes you are right the members did not tell us to go into debt. The way it works is that you tell your class reps what you want from the Union and they in turn tell the Union executive what to work on. The forum for this is class reps council. Has your class got one? In turn your Class Rep keeps you abreast of progress with Union activities and campaigns.

Elected members of the exec bring a mandate to bring about certain changes and improvements for the benefit of their members which adds to the contributions from Class Reps. However exec can be overruled by Class Reps Council who can in turn be overruled by a Union General Meeting, which can be overruled by a referendum.

That's it. The future of the Union is in your hands. What I mean by this is that by communicating your wishes to your rep and by your attendance at general meetings you can steer the Union. In addition to this though, the 4 fulltime officers whose photos you see of this page are also fully aware of their obligations to come up with some very smart ideas soon to sort out the Union and put them to you for decision.

Slán, Eoin



## DEPUTY/WELFARE - DAVID



The accommodation situation around UL at the moment is one of the best of all Universities. Accommodation seems to be in plentiful supply therefore tenants are in a more powerful bargaining situation. However some problems will never go away and a full knowledge of your rights is always handy.

One of the first questions to arise is whether or not to sign a lease. A legal agreement already exists even though it isn't in writing. This unwritten lease gives the tenant some rights including the right of either party to back out of the agreement with 28 days written notice however the landlord can raise the rent at any time. However in a written lease you could be forced to pay for a period of time in which you did not occupy the house.

The most fundamental right that is granted by a tenancy agreement (written or unwritten) is that towards the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of your home. This means that if the landlord turns up at your doorstep, they need your permission to enter. You are also entitled to have friends to stay overnight, unless specifically forbidden in your tenancy agreement.

The landlord is also obliged by law ensure that the premises complies with certain minimum standards like being in good structural repair, adequate heating and ventilation, appliances in good working order etc. The landlord is also legally obliged to be registered with the local authority and he or she must give you a rent book detailing all the rent paid. If the landlord is in breach of any of the above you can contact the local authority (Limerick County Council - 061 - 496293).

Generally the landlord holds the deposit as security against you breaking the tenancy agreement. You may forfeit some or all of the deposit if you:

- don't give proper notice
- cause damage to the property over and above normal wear and tear;
- leave rent or bills unpaid.

They cannot hold back a deposit for any other reason.

Lastly, the rights enjoyed by those in the on-campus and private student accommodation differs from the above and you should consult your tenancy agreement. For those in digs, the rights are even more curtailed, as there is no law governing this area.

The University Accommodation Service is being subsumed shortly into the company that runs the University on-campus Accommodation. If you experience any difficulties with the service I would appreciate if you would contact me.

Lastly if you want to get a copy of my fortnightly officer's report on my job, just email me. suelfare@ul.ie

## EDUCATION - MADELINE

HELLO ALL

Hope ye are all having a fantastically schmeery time as the pressure steps up a little. Keep it calm and remember to relax. Anyhow what's the story around campus?

Well first off we had the ULSU AGM last Wednesday. I must say a sincere thank you to the 60 or so that attended, it was much appreciated. Its good to see that its not always us trying to help ye obtain the best of all scenarios and situations in this university but that you give a little in return too. Ye after all are the members and whom we represent. However due to not reaching quorum which is 200, we have to call an EGM for week 9. Hopefully we'll see you at that one, so you can voice your opinion in an open forum. Take a look at the financial accounts, which are available on request to all MEMBERS. And take a look at the motions and get frustrated and motivated. Without your bums on the seats we can't act on all the inadequate facilities and messy situations, we as students of UL, find ourselves in.

The big question posed education wise in the past 2 weeks is the quandary over retaining the capping or introducing the uncapping of link in repeats. Or to look at the picture as a whole should repeats be capped at all? Now the members of the Students Union choose to rule in favour of the capping of repeats at the time of the introduction of repeats in UL. This issue poses a real question for students. And it all depends on your definition of equity. Do you believe its unfair that repeat students aren't awarded the actual grade they receive in their exams or do you believe that you should only receive one opportunity to achieve your potential grade? Now remember I Grades are not capped so if you're ill etc and can't sit the exams, you are not capped. (I'm sure you were all well aware of that anyway!) The whole debate is a catch 22 situation, with one student having totally opposing views to another. So talk about it, tell your class reps and I'll act on whatever the Class Reps tell me your views are. Alternatively email me and let me know what you think personally!!!

Well I'll leave it at that. Hope to see you around campus. Don't hesitate to stop anyone of us or call in if you have a question or query about anything.

After all that, I hope ye've a fab two weeks,  
Behave and take it easy schmeers,  
Madeline



## COMMS &amp; CAMPAIGNS - SARAH



Hi everyone,

Well, Greek Week is over again for another year, and although I was chained (and occasionally handcuffed - seriously) to my desk all week, the bits of it that I managed to see were even better than last year! Congratulations to everyone that organised anything, took part in anything or attended anything. You are to be commended.

The next big thing that happened was the AGM. The turnout was disappointing, but those that did turn up were, once again, most appreciated. A lot of people have been saying that they didn't know when or where it was on. Some of the blame for that lies with

me, I'd say. Apologies for that.

If you're been awake at all for the last week, you'll know that ULSU are in need of your help and input to decide how to proceed financially. Come and view Student's Union accounts, get a feel for the situation and then come along to the EGM, **Wednesday of week 9, in FG042 at 6pm!** Just in case you're wondering, FG-042 is the first lecture theatre on your left as you go into the Foundation Building. Convince your classmates and friends to come along too. It's a vitally important meeting, and it's even more important that we can get decisions made, and things done!

In other, Communications-related news, the sounds of **Greek Week Radio** were heard in the Students' Union courtyard and in the Scholars for the first time this year. A big Thank You to the Scholars for facilitating us, and to all of the willing volunteers, especially Keith Whelan and Peter Burrows. Expect further radio-related developments in the next few weeks.

**The Communications Group** will be having a meeting on Wednesday, Week 8 at 6pm in the Main Canteen. Please come along if you are interested in the newspaper or the radio. (or any other aspect of communications)

**Stables, Scholars and Arena:** The stickers are now available in reception Monday to Thursday from 6pm-11pm. Bring along your UL ID, Proof of Age and the Membership fee of EUR1.30 to be able to collect them.

Don't forget about the MEAS gigs as you gear the study up a notch. They'll relax your brain far better than a night in the pub. Damien Dempsey is up in Week 8 and it's Jason Byrne's turn to wow us in Week9.

Take care,  
Sarah (sucommunication@ul.ie)