

# AN FOCAL

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FREE

## RAG Week hangs in the balance

By Aoife Ní Raghallaigh – Editor

**THE future of Raising and Giving Week remains uncertain following continual displays of antisocial behaviour by students in the Castletroy area. The threat comes after increased pressure on the Students' Union from the University, the Gardai and local residents to cancel the week long event which will take place late in semester two.**

Members of the Castletroy community are very aware that drunken and antisocial behaviour increases during Raising and Giving Week and as such are calling for the 2010 event to be cancelled. Since the beginning of this semester Castletroy residents have been subject to nightly displays of antisocial and drunken behaviour from students. These events include students throwing loud house parties before going out or shouting on the

streets on their way which prevents permanent residents and their children from being able to sleep. Students are also repeatedly leaving broken bottles on the paths and roads around the area. This poses a threat of serious injury to children who are playing in the area. Welfare Officer Derek Daly said students need to "Respect your neighbours and respect your housemates."

Students are also reminded of the serious events which occurred during Raising and Giving Week last year. In 2009 students overturned a resident's car in one of the off campus estates and also lit numerous fires which posed a danger to everyone living in the area. In one of the most serious events an object was thrown through a window of a young baby's room which could have killed

or maimed the child. Mr Daly also stated "We all know that the freedom of being away from home may facilitate behaviour that is not acceptable in your home environment but it is not acceptable here either. While we don't want to ruin all your fun a bit of cop on wouldn't go astray."

Mr Dillon McLoughlin also said "Unfortunately some students have lost sight of the true meaning of RAG Week, this being the Raising and Giving aspect for charity." Last year students raised €20,000 for four worthwhile charities but caused over €45,000 worth of damage over four days.

When faced with figures like this one can't help but wonder if Raising and Giving Week really holds any sort of worthwhile future at all. Campaigns and Services Officer, Fergal

Dempsey, echoed this stating that "the essence of RAG Week is lost." Mr Dempsey said that if students wish to see Raising and Giving Week continuing in future then it is up to them to save it. Mr Dillon McLoughlin explained "If RAG Week or any entertainments are to be secured into the future it's going to have to take the average student to stand up and vocalise that this behaviour is not acceptable in UL and will not be tolerated by UL students."

For the future of Raising and Giving week to remain safe students need to remember that the event is about helping those less fortunate and is not about getting drunk and making life hell for everyone else.

An improvement in night time behaviour throughout the year is also necessary.

## Parking situation escalates off campus

By Aoife Ní Raghallaigh – Editor

**STUDENTS and residents living in off campus estates have been forced to take drastic action to combat the parking situation in the areas. Double yellow lines will soon be painted on the roads in College Court and Elm Park in order to deter those who are not resident in the estate from parking on the roadside.**

The situation has been ongoing for a number of months and was previously highlighted in An Focal when the path of an emergency vehicle was blocked by cars parked illegally on the roadside. After this incident students were urged to park elsewhere but residents now feel they need to take further action as the situation has not improved. Students

have also raised complaints regarding the issue, stating that they are unable to have their rubbish taken away as rubbish trucks do not have the space to get to all the houses. A number of reasons have been suggested as to why parking is so bad in these estates. It is believed that a number of students are parking in College Court in order to gain closer access to the Kemmy Business School, which backs on to the estate. Others believe that numerous students are driving from nearby estates, including Briarfield or Courtyard, and parking in College Court or Elm Park as they cannot find parking on campus. Such students are urged to avail of the pay car parks on campus, which are rarely full, or use alternative means of

transport such as walking, cycling or the Brookfield shuttle bus. Students are also encouraged to car pool to college rather than having numerous cars from the same location driving to college. The double yellow lines will be painted in College Court and Elm Park as soon as possible and will be policed by Gardai from Henry Street Garda Station. Anyone found parking on a double yellow line will be subject to a €40 fine per offence. Residents of the estates will soon receive parking permits which will give them permission to park on the street but until these permits are received students living in the estates are urged to park on their lawns or in a place where double yellow lines are not present.



Cars parked illegally in College Court

## An Focal Digest

## In Brief

**Bereavement notice**

The staff and officers of the Students' Union would like to express their condolences following the death of Sean O'Connell, beloved husband of Majella O'Connell, executive director of the UL Alumni Association. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ms O'Connell and her family.

**UISU launches new Facebook pages.**

The University of Limerick Students' Union has launched two new Facebook which it hopes will be more interactive for students. Communications Officer, Aoife Ni Raghallaigh, explained "Previously ULSU was a group on Facebook. Now we have created a page which is linked to our Twitter. Any updates we make now show up as a status update and also show up on the Twitter automatically. The page also allows us to posts events, photos and also to start discussions with the students." A page has also been created for An Focal. S Students can become a fan of the ULSU page at [www.facebook.com/ulstudentsunion](http://www.facebook.com/ulstudentsunion). The Twitter address is [www.twitter.com/ulstudentsunion](http://www.twitter.com/ulstudentsunion). The address for An Focal is [www.facebook.com/anfocal](http://www.facebook.com/anfocal)

**ULYFG organising phone collecting campaign.**

UL Young Fine are organising a Christmas charity campaign in association with the Jack and Jill foundation. We will be collecting old mobile phones from students and staff for this very worthwhile charity. Jack and Jill provides care and support for children with severe neurological development issues, it also offers respite to the parents and families. Just 250 phones can provide one months nursing care for one family. We have located boxes all around the college. Posters indicate the exact location of these boxes. Everybody has at least one old phone at home so please do the right thing and donate this to the Jack and Jill foundation. An old phone has no use to you at home, but could be very worthwhile to these poor children with neurological problems. So please donate at least one phone, you really will be helping a family this Christmas.

**Development Soc**

The Dev Soc is a new society which was formed on campus. Membership benefits include:

- A chance to learn about development issues ["Third world", NGOs, etc.].
- A chance to explore human rights.
- Be kept informed of local and national events [lectures, seminars etc.].
- Volunteering - one off and longer term opportunities with the society - help others - good for the spirit - and/or the CV depending on your viewpoint!
- Volunteering overseas - information and speakers from SUAS, VSO.
- Job opportunities - we will post these as we near the end of academic year.
- Acquire soft skills and project management experience via creation and running of our own community projects.
- Discounted trips away in Ireland and possibly further a field to see successful community projects or start our own.
- Socialising - no explanation needed!

## Almost done for now

**An Focal is almost done and dusted for a semester. After this issue there is only one more issue. The last 11 weeks have flown by in a blur of assigning articles, editing articles and looking forward to the paper arriving. So far I haven't had a single regret, but that doesn't mean the job is easy.**

You often hear students complaining that the officers in the Students' Union do nothing; that they sit around all day having the craic at the expense of students. The most common comparison is that the officers are "paid to go to college". How much work each individual

officer does is down to them but one thing is certain, no one does anything. Finding an Officer in the Union at 8 or 9pm is no special event; there's almost always someone there, and they aren't just turned because they only rolled in to work an hour before hand. More than likely they've been there since 9am that morning. 12 or 13 hour days are part and parcel for the officers. But why am I telling you this? Well last issue I spoke about handing over the reigns to the sub-editorial team and sang their praises for all the work they did for me. Now the second issue of the new regime is done, I

have to thank them again. My desk is clear, my office is tidy and I am up to date on my emails. In every other week of the semester this is something I have been fighting to find time to do. Now, thanks to Finn, Jason, Darragh and Tomás, I have that time.

It may seem like such a simple thing but it has been such a relief for me. I can now get things done without having to sacrifice other things. I've stopped having nightmares about An Focal too; now I just dream about it. One day in the future, I hope I might go to bed without it in my thoughts at all...



Is it our beloved Fergal, or Garth from Wayne's World?

## And thanks to...

**News Editor** – Finn McDuffie

**Features Editor** – Jason Kennedy

**Arts Editor** – Darragh Roche

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...and anyone else I've forgotten

**Next An Focal deadline is Friday, November 20 for Opinion/Features/Columns/Arts/C&S and Sport. News deadline is Monday, November 23. The next issue is the last of the semester and is the Christmas/Exams special!**

**Email submissions to**  
[sucommunications@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunications@ul.ie)

## Quotes of the Fortnight

**"I'd get a haircut"**

An unnamed student in response to what he'd do if he was SU President for the day

**"If writing custom software isn't your idea of a good time..."**

An excerpt from the training programme for the new information screens

**"Press the cum button!"**

News Editor Finn McDuffie after seeing the Irish version of the Compose Message button on Facebook

**"What the fuck does this noise mean?"**

Feature Editor Jason Kennedy

**"Is it that time of the month already?"**

Ailbhe Kirwan when asked to help out with Student Speak

**"It's a cup of chocolate!"**

Communications Officer, Aoife Ni Raghallaigh, is surprised at what she gets when she orders a chocolate cup.

# No mowing in Movember

By Alan Corbett

**THE lucky lads and ladies of UL are enjoying plenty of tickly kisses, as Movember, the charity that aims to change the face men's health, has returned for its sophomore year in Ireland. Mo Bros and celebs alike have been prepping their upper lips for some time now, so if you're wondering why some of the Munster rugby stars are sporting a stunning Fu-Manchu or those Hulk Hogan wanna-be handlebars, let me explain what Movember is all about.**

Movember is about having fun, growing a moustache and raising much needed funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer. The "Mo Bro's" are all growing moustaches or Mo's (Aussie slang for Tache), acting as walking billboards and ambassadors for the fight to change the face of men's health. The "Mo Sista's" are on side to drive awareness of the campaign and assist in raising much needed funds which go not only towards research but also fund the likes of the Prostate Cancer hotline which is a freephone number where concerned individuals can have their questions answered by competent professionals 1800 380 380.

Prostate Cancer is the most common male cancer, and Irish men have a one in nine chance of developing prostate cancer during the course of their lifetime. Irish men are the most at risk in Europe with the national Cancer Registry of Ireland estimating there will be a 275% increase in the incidence of prostate cancer by

2020. Facts like these spurred the UL Med Soc into initiating an active campaign to encourage UL students to get involved in Movember this year which launched on the 29 October. Aided by a live on-campus broadcast from Spin SW, the Spinnies and a trolley load of free samples from Movember sponsor, Lynx, UL Med Soc set about spreading the word on the month formerly known as November. They are inviting everyone to join the UL Movember Campaign Team.

2009 is Movember's second year in Ireland and anyone interested in being a part of the movement that is changing the face of men's health should visit Movember.com. If you are interested in joining the UL Movember Campaign Team should search for our group on Facebook where details on how to register can be found. The team is currently ranked in the top 20 teams in the country after raising almost €700 and are aiming to be number one by the end of the month. The more that join us, the more we can "change the face of men's health" through raising awareness and the money that will be raised. Let's do this - register and grow a moustache as a Mo Bro, or sign on as a Mo Sista. We have some great events and treats in store for all registered team members, not to mention that there is potential for individuals to win some amazing prizes as well as the coveted "Best MO in UL" title.

Let's "Change the Face of Mens Health."



President Don Bany gets in on the fun

## New CRO elected

By Aoife Ní Raghallaigh - Editor

**DANIEL Reid, 4th year Public Admin, has been elected as the new Community Relations Officer (CRO) for 2009/10 following a vote on Friday, 6 November. Nominations for the CRO position reopened after the previous CRO was deemed to have resigned following the Union AGM in Week 7.**

Nominations for the position closed on Monday, 2 November, at 6pm. Only one complete nomination form had been completed and returned as late as 5.30pm on the 2 November but David Joseph Smith, 1st year Architectural Technology, later submitted a form. As two students were contesting the position the decision was placed in the hands of the students who were asked to vote for their preferred candidate on the Friday. As the election was held on a Friday and was for a non-sabbatical position the candidates agreed to open one polling booth in the Students' Union.

The polling booth also worked on reduced

hours to account for the amount of students leaving the campus for the weekend. A total of 249 votes were cast on the day, with 2 being spoilt. Mr Reid received 177 of the votes while Mr Smith received 70. As Mr Reid had exceeded the quota he was deemed elected on the first count. Mr Reid will take up his position as CRO immediately. He will now sit on the Students' Union Executive as well as on Community Forum.

The Students' Union wishes to congratulate Mr Reid and express commiserations to Mr Smith. Both candidates had excellent campaigns and worked hard throughout the week.



## UCD Students' Union pulls out of national forum

By Nicole Ní Ríordáin

**UCD STUDENTS' Union (UCDSU) has announced its withdrawal from the Forum of University Students' Unions (FUSU) despite never attending a meeting of the Forum. In a letter to the ULSU, UCDSU President Gary Redmond explained that on 27 October, UCD Union Council officially passed the motion to "withdraw... [from FUSU] with immediate effect".**

The FUSU offers university Students' Unions around the country the chance to discuss issues which are common to all Universities. Current members include UL, UCC, DCU, DIT, Trinity College Dublin, NUI Maynooth and NUI Galway.

Mr. Redmond explained that "It is the feeling of [UCDSU] that the interests of our members can be best served on a national level by a single, strong voice uniting students across Ireland. It is our firm belief that the best way forward is through the Union of Students in Ireland [(USI)]. In order for us to achieve goals on a national level and effect change, it

is important for our members to be represented at the HEA and at all levels of the decision making process."

He continued, "given the current economic climate, the possibility of a significant rise in the student registration charge, the obvious issues surrounding the maintenance grant and the looming cuts across the education sector- now is the time for us all to unite, work together and represent the best interests of our members."

Mr. Redmond encouraged national Students' Unions to become members of USI.

The ULSU withdrew from USI in 1991 because it was felt the national body was no longer serving the needs of the UL students efficiently.

In 2001, ULSU considered re-affiliating with USI, however the referendum they held was deemed invalid as too few voted. In 2007 steps were once again taken to re-join the USI, but the Class Reps Council refused to support this initiative.

# Students destroy bus to city



By Jason Kennedy – Chief News Correspondent

**STUDENTS** travelling on the Bus Éireann bus to town on the Tuesday before Halloween destroyed the inside of the bus by pulling off parts of the roof, breaking empty glass bottles and by getting sick on the seats.

Photos of the incident were handed in to the Students' Union last week by Bus Éireann officials.

Bus Éireann official, Paddy McGuinness, advises students not to damage any of the buses that service the college. "It was disgusting what we found. Large chunks of the roof were torn down, chairs were pulled off and there was vomit on one of the seats and on the ground. Students should know that it's their bus that is being damaged. It's the same bus that services them the whole time and it's a shame to see it destroyed."

This was the only incident so far this year of vandalism of the UL buses. Last year incidents such as this were occurring on a

regular basis. This resulted in Bus Éireann curtailing their bus services to the University. Mr McGuinness claims this will not happen again this year.

"We do not want a repeat performance of last year. Last year was awful for behaviour on the buses. There were people fighting between themselves as well. We had no other option last year. We brought similar photos in last year the the then Students' Union President, Pa O'Brien"

Mr McGuinness claims that Tuesday is the problem day, as it is one of the biggest nights for students in UL going to town for a night out. The bus driver did not confront the vandals at Halloween, as he was concerned that he would be attacked if he did. Instead, he reported the incident to Bus Éireann officials at the end of the day. "We don't want to call the guards. The students should be informed that it's their bus and they are the ones that will be using it."

## Economics Department receives "Excellence" status

By Emma Hayward

**UL'S DEPARTMENT of Economics has been recognised for its outstanding high standards. The Department, which is part of the Kemmy Business School (KBS), has made its way to "Excellence Group" status, as recognised by the Centre of Higher Education Development (CHED), based in Germany.**

UL is one of only three Irish Universities to enter the "Excellence Group" this year and ranks alongside UCD (Economics) and Queen's University, Belfast (Political Science) in this category.

Head of UL's Department of Economics, Dr. Anthony Leddin, is pleased with the new ranking. "This award [...] confirms the firm reputation that the department has built-up in recent years at national and European level," he said. "It coincides with a doubling of students taking economics as their major option within the BBS degree and the placement of graduates in senior and prestigious positions in government, services and industry in Ireland and abroad."

The CHED provides a "Ranking of Excellent European Graduate Programmes" for the disciplines of biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics, political science, psychology and

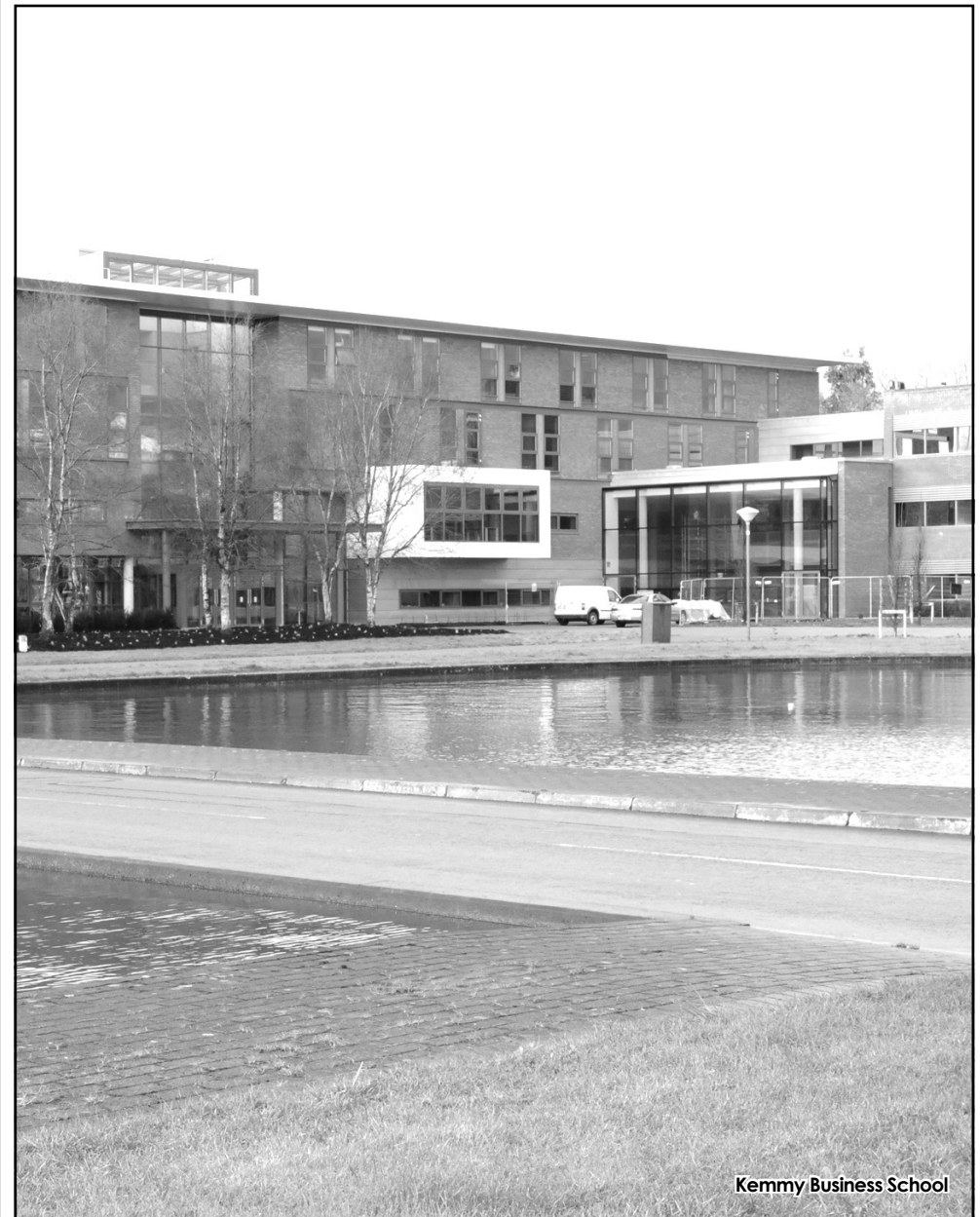
economics. The ranking highlights the research strengths of European Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It also gives those HEIs listed in the ranking useful ideas to further improve their already excellent programmes.

European institutions are selected for analysis on the basis of set criteria. Publications, citations, most-cited authors, Marie Curie programmes, Erasmus Mundus masters courses, teaching staff mobility, student mobility and highly cited books are among those criteria.

For these institutions, more detailed data has been acquired, such as information about faculties as well as about master and doctoral programmes. The Economics Department at UL was selected for the award for its outstanding achievements in citations and staff mobility.

Dean of the Kemmy Business School, Professor Donal Dinenn, welcomed the announcement. "Over 30 years, the KBS has established a reputation as a leading business school in Ireland through our innovative programmes and dynamic faculty.

We are proud to see this success reflected in the announcement of the [award] which is testament to the dedication of the faculty and staff."



Kemmy Business School

# Tánaiste commends UL led “landmark” in scientific research

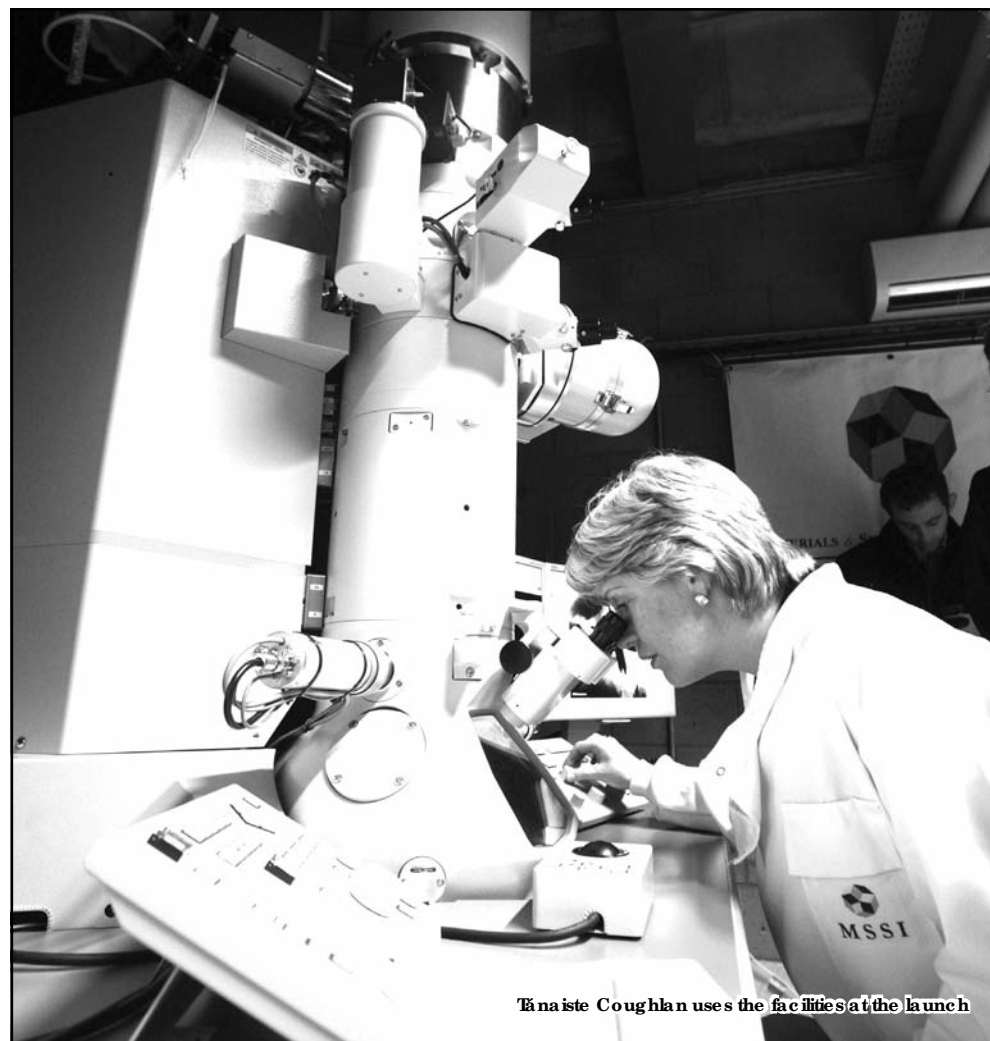
By Finn McDuffie – News Editor

**TÁNAISTE and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan, has unveiled the world’s first pharmaceutical, best-practice, online portal. The website designed for, and by, pharmaceutical industry and academic institutions, was developed through the Solid State Pharmaceutical Cluster (SSPC), a collaborative research group led by UL.**

The group comprises some of Ireland’s leading pharmaceutical companies and third level institutions, with Government funding being provided through Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). Companies involved include market leaders such as Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline and many more. Counterpart academic institutions include UCC, NUI Galway, Trinity College Dublin and UCD. Launching the portal, the Tánaiste said, “this is a landmark day for scientific research in Ireland and, indeed, on a global scale. The development of this secure online facility enables unprecedented collaboration among a range of industrial and academic partners, towards establishing best practice in the field of pharmaceutical compound crystallisation.”

The site, [www.bpx.ie](http://www.bpx.ie), came about as a result of requests from the SSPC’s industrial partners to create a collaborative environment, which would focus on best practice techniques. It is hoped the portal will assist key research efforts, while supporting the sector locally within Ireland in its strategy to move up the research and development knowledge and value chain.

The Tánaiste commended the SSPC’s spirit. “This proactive and visionary arrangement illustrates the collective determination among Ireland’s scientific community to pool their resources and expertise towards achieving far-reaching outcomes for the benefit of Ireland, and for the stakeholders involved. For me, this unparalleled level of engagement signals the genesis of a new kind of multi-sectoral partnership which, it is hoped, will be adopted by other disciplines in the wider science and engineering arena, both here and internationally.” Professor Kieran Hodnett, Scientific Director of SSPC at UL said, “the launch of the portal is not only a world first in collaboration within the pharmaceutical community but it also further reinforces Ireland’s reputation as a leader and innovator in a sector which plays such a vital role in our economy. This project is an excellent example of academic institutions and industry partners working together in a collaborative manner to address a specific need and generating knowledge based solutions to a collective problem.” Dr. Stephen Simpson, Director, Life Science, Science Foundation Ireland, stated, “The SFI Strategic Research Cluster model clearly demonstrates the benefits of pooling resources and is creating new opportunities which can potentially accelerate commercial outputs and other beneficial consequences. The portal will create a focus point for industry and academia and build further on momentum generated by SSPC around its specialised discipline.”



Tánaiste Coughlan uses the facilities at the launch

## Journo Students given new Voice

By Emma Hayward

**SECOND year Journalism students have been given three weeks to produce a local newspaper. The paper, The Moyross Voice, will be written, edited, designed and published by the 24 students involved with the project this semester.**

The Moyross Voice first appeared in January 2009 when UL’s first 12 Graduate Diploma/MA Journalism students produced the local newspaper for the community of Moyross in Limerick city as part of their team project. The publication emerged one year after the launch of a major regeneration plan for the area.

The Moyross Voice was the first on-campus newspaper produced by university students in Ireland for a disadvantaged community and now the reins will be handed over to the current second year Journalism students, who have undergone interviews for editorial positions. As the University doesn’t have the money to fund a physical newspaper, it will be published online instead with extras such as podcasts of interviews and radio broadcasts.

This year’s MA Journalism students will begin production of a new newspaper, The Southill Voice, for their project. The

Moyross Voice will be a 20-page publication. The students involved will have to source and write all the news, sports and feature stories in three weeks, with only two days to physically compile the paper. The paper’s editorial panel is comprised of a news Editor, features Editor, sports Editor and Editor-in-chief. “It should be a lot of fun and it should be a great experience,” says Jason Kennedy, second year, Journalism and New Media. “It has been a stressful semester but it will be rewarding to look at this paper when it comes out after a few weeks of hard work.

I can’t wait to meet the people and get to know the real Moyross.” Orla Walsh, Editor, looks forward to the challenge. “It’s going to look fantastic on our CVs, to be able to say I worked on a team of 24 people to produce a newspaper in three weeks. I hope everyone enjoys it. It’s putting together a paper by ourselves, something none of us has ever done before. It’s also about using [degree skills] and putting them into practice. It’s showing people what we can do.” The paper is part of a major regeneration project entitled ‘Having a Voice in Regeneration’, which was featured on RTE’s Nationwide on Friday the 6 November.

## Nitelink explained

**NOW that winter is firmly in place and everyone is spending long hours in the library, student are encouraged to use the free Nitelink bus home. The bus, which runs from 7pm to 11.30pm from Monday to Thursday of each week, is provided free of charge by the University of Limerick Students’ Union.**

The bus departs from the Stables archway every evening and visits 19 different locations, both on and off campus. The bus stops at all of the on campus villages and also travels as far as Annacotty and Park Mews. It also visits the likes of Elm Park, Briarfield and Courtyard. Students can get on or off the Nitelink at any stop. The full timetable can be found on page nine of this An Focal and you can also pick up a copy in the Students’ Union, at any of the SU Information points and on the website, [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie).

The aim of the Nitelink is to keep every student safe by ensuring the no student has to walk home alone in the dark, cold weather. As many students are now staying late in the library to study and get assignments done the Students’ Union feel it is important to make sure everybody gets home safe. Your SU also understands that the thought of walking home after a long day in the library is often disheartening but with the Nitelink you can be dropped to your door. The Nitelink is funded entirely by the Students’ Union so the students don’t have to pay for the privilege. As such students are asked to treat the service with respect and not to abuse the facility by treating the driver and the bus with respect. The Nitelink hours will most likely be extended in coming weeks to accommodate student studying for exams. Check An Focal and [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie) for updated timetables.

# Cappavilla Shop to be open by end of the month

By Jason Kennedy – Chief News Correspondent

**AFTER a series of delays, the Cappavilla shop is set to open by the end of the month. The shop, which will be located in the Irish Chamber Orchestra Building, has been provisionally set to open on the 23rd of November. According to the shop manager, Aileen Donegan, the shop will be a little bit different.**

“We aim to get the best value for your €4 or €5, by offering meal deals. We will also be offering a deli counter, insomnia coffee. To be a bit different, we have decided to serve ciabattas and paninis as well.” Ms Donegan also stated that the offers in the current Students’ Union shop were the best in the

city. She also explained that there may be job opportunities in the Cappavilla shop. “Students are good employees, as they can work for the two hour shifts been lectures.”

The shop has been hit with a number of delays since the project started last year. First off, the people building the shop had to make sure the shop was soundproof, so as not to disturb the musicians in the ICO.

Then they had to negotiate a position for the oven, which the ICO would be happy with, as they pipe would have to lead up to the extractor fan on the roof of the building. This also had to be soundproofed. The location for the fan was decided four weeks ago and, at present,

workers are waiting for the soundproof wrap to arrive. Discussion between Macarthy Contractors, Store Fit, the soundproofers and the architects were facilitated by John O’Rourke, Chairman of Plassey Campus Services. Secretary General of the Students’ Union, Tomas Costello claims that a lot of effort has gone into the Cappavilla shop. “It has been a long drawn out process, with five different parties and lot of frustrating hassle, but all going well, it will be open by the end of the month.

There are very high standards as regards the shop, but it looks like we will be good to go soon. Most of the hassle was based on the

fact that nowadays most shops are designed like restaurants.” Mr Costello claimed that there was a need for a shop in Cappavilla, as it is the furthest away student village. “There was an absolute need for a shop in the North Campus. People were crying out for it.” Ms Donegan also stated she is looking forward to getting the shop open. “I cannot wait to get the shop up and running.”

Ms Donegan offered her apologies for the delay in opening the shop. “I’m sorry for the delay, but it is no fault of our own. We wanted it open in Week One. We’re going to make things as cheap as we can and if you have any suggestions, please come in and ask.”

# UL Foundation invests €1m in venture fund

By Finn McDuffie – News Editor

**THE UL Foundation, UL’s official fundraising arm, has invested €1m in one of Ireland’s largest venture capital funds. The €26m fund, which includes an €8m endorsement from Enterprise Ireland, was launched by Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan.**

Dubbed the Bank of Ireland Seed and Early Stage Equity Fund, the money is expected to help Irish Universities profit from research ideas and intellectual property and will also invest in start-up and early stage companies. It is designed to focus on high potential, University spin-offs and export-orientated start-up companies based in the technology, food and financial services sectors.

UL President, Professor Don Barry commented on the launch of the new venture fund. “Investment in University-based research is even more critical in today’s uncertain economic climate”, he said. “Spin-out, campus companies have the proven potential to make a significant contribution to the economy by providing new jobs, attracting foreign investment and providing new revenue bases to stimulate growth in the Irish economy.”

The Tánaiste was “delighted” to announce the launch of the fund by Bank of Ireland as part of the Government’s bank recapitalisation initiative. She said it marks “a significant increase in the supply of seed capital available for new Irish businesses and campus spin-out companies.”

The fund, which includes a €17m investment by Bank of Ireland, will be managed on behalf of investing parties by Kernel Capital. This new fund is the eighth supported by Government through Enterprise Ireland’s Seed and Venture Capital Programme 2007-2012 and will increase the funds under management by Kernel Capital and its associates to €190m. David Cronin, CEO of the University of

Limerick Foundation spoke of the “key challenge [in] translating research concepts into successful new products and services that will spark new growth and job-creation opportunities.”

He said the fund “will greatly facilitate this.” He also commented, “this initiative [...] underscores [UL’s] commitment to ensure that Ireland maintains its reputation as a world-

class hub for transformational technology and scientific excellence.” For over 20 years, the UL Foundation has provided substantial investment funds to stimulate education, research and development initiatives that are important for the economic and social development of Ireland, and, in particular the Limerick region. These catalyst funds have increased considerably over time.



# UL forges new links with China

By Emma Hayward

**A MEMORANDUM on student exchange has been signed by representatives of UL and Tianjin University, China. UL's Vice President Academic and Registrar, Paul McCutcheon, welcomed Vice President of Tianjin University, Dr. Hu Xiaotang, to our campus to sign the Memorandum.**

The Memorandum forms an agreement between the Universities to enable academic exchanges, cooperative scientific research and joint training programmes.

Professor McCutcheon welcomed the agreement. "We look forward to many years of collaboration and exchange with Tianjin. This relationship will be very beneficial to students of both institutions and further support innovative and world-leading research activities." In the next few weeks a number of PhD students from Tianjin will be joining the 102 postgraduate and undergraduate Chinese students already enrolled at UL. With a population of over 10 million, Tianjin is the third largest city in China

after Beijing and Shanghai. Tianjin University was founded on 2 October 1895 and was the first University to be financially supported by the Chinese government. The University has 27,000 full-time students (including 1,000 international students) and 4,440 faculty and staff. After more than 113 years since its foundation, Tianjin University has cultivated over 180,000 high-calibre personnel, and its graduate employment rate has always ranked among the best in China.

The University offers courses in Science & Technology, Economics, Management, Liberal Arts, Law and Education. It is home of 3 national key laboratories, 2 national engineering research centres and 2 national key centres for the promotion of scientific and technological achievements.

Tianjin is one of China's most productive research Universities and has been selected as one of "China's top ten Scientific and Technological Centres in Higher Education".



VP Academic and Registrar, Paul McCutcheon, and Vice President of Tianjin University, Dr. Hu Xiaotang

## Universities to suffer cuts in research spending

By Finn McDuffie – News Editor

**DUBLIN CITY University (DCU) President, Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski, has suggested the government is undermining Universities' financial autonomy by making decisions on fees and reductions in funding.**

The veteran critic of the Department of Education said decision-makers did not appear to "understand the role of Universities in a modern country." Speaking at a graduation ceremony, he further stated that efforts of Irish third-level institutions to promote the value of research "have been undermined" by the McCarthy report.

The report, which questioned the usefulness of public spending in this area, recommended that overall staff numbers across the sector should be cut by up to 10 per cent, resulting in 2,000 people losing their jobs.

The Professor noted the progress of Irish Universities in recent months, citing major advances in global rankings. He mentioned Ireland has five of the top 300 Universities in the world. He argued that undermining the financial base of Ireland's institutions threatened any gains made in this regard. His

remarks come amid concern that research funding may be cut in next month's budget, as the government seeks to cut costs of some €400 million.

Professor von Prondzynski believes management of higher education should be taken from the Department of Education, claiming that body's main responsibility pertains to "responding to the needs of schools and teachers." He continued, "These developments go to the heart of what allows our Universities to offer quality and to support Ireland's bid to escape from recession."

He criticised the "downgrading" of Irish Universities and the "undermining of their financial viability." He claimed by cutting their research budgets and controlling the institutions centrally, they will cease to be a magnet for international investment in Ireland. "Ireland's drive to recover prosperity and growth will not succeed so easily," he said. He also criticised "key decision-makers and opinion formers" for their lack of understanding of the role of Universities in a modern country.

## Lecturer advocates "radical overhaul" of Constitution Articles

By Finn McDuffie – News Editor

**A UL law lecturer has called for the reform of the Irish Constitution in a manner which would "recognise and protect the rights of all children" in society. Speaking at a UL Law Society seminar, Jennifer Schweppe, lecturer in public and criminal law, said the Constitution currently "favours the family based on marriage above all other relationships".**

She said this position is "outdated" and called for "radical overhaul" of those Articles which recognise modern family relationships, "with inclusivity, rather than exclusivity, being the guiding principle."

Ms. Schweppe later contended that children must be given a voice in the Constitution and their interests must not be lost in the "crossfire between parents and the State."

The seminar, entitled The Need for a Constitutional Provision for the Protection of the Right's of the Child, featured guest speakers Mary Banotti, Jennifer Schweppe and Justice Catherine McGuinness.

Speaking on the limitations imposed by the Constitution, Justice McGuinness mentioned the practical effects, both on child protection law and on the framework of adoption law in this country.

She said the "natural and imprescriptible rights of the child are specifically referred to in only one sub-article of the Constitution and then only in the context of the State supplying the place of parents who have completely failed in their duty to their children." She also suggested the Constitution's very high

emphasis on family rights may be biased towards the rights of parents as opposed to children and highlighted an incompatibility with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in this regard.

Mary Banotti commented on the more global aspects of children's rights and welfare. Discussing the risks to the child of new technology, she said, "Just as the Internet is virtually everywhere, no country is untouched by child abduction and abuse. We must use technology to protect children because so often it is technology that brings them harm."

Professor Paul McCutcheon, UL Vice President Academic and Registrar and member of the UL law faculty, was also present. Remarking on the seminar he said, "a lot of what we've talked about tonight is about social policy... [and the Articles discussed are] a very poor instrument of social policy." He recommended reform of Articles 41 and 42 of the Constitution.

Closing the event, ULLaw Society President, Dearbhaile Flynn said, "It is a great honour and privilege for the Law Society to host such influential figures with an unrivalled expertise in the area of Children's rights coupled with their passion for the law."

The UL Law Society was founded five years ago, with the aim of establishing a law society which would help students to develop a stronger interest in law by bringing law out of the textbooks with the help of guest speakers, moot trials and other such events.

## Union Debrief

## Postgrad News

**HELLO hello hello. First up, HALLOWEEN; it's been and gone and left its usual mess behind (mostly just hangovers thankfully). The PSA/SU kids' party was held on Wednesday, 28 October, and was a huge success.** Over 30 kids played games and partied in the PSA Common Room.

This was the first Halloween party and was a huge success. I'd like to remind you that we will be holding the Annual Kids Christmas Party soon, most likely Week 13. Again preregistration is essential so watch this space and of course the website, [www.postgrads.ie](http://www.postgrads.ie). The aim of these parties is to help students from all walks of life feel more included in the broader Postgrad campus community. If you have any ideas for future events or want to suggest ways in which the PSA can increase community inclusion then please email your Community Inclusion Officer at [cio@postgrads.ie](mailto:cio@postgrads.ie) or me at [psapresident@ul.ie](mailto:psapresident@ul.ie). While the kids had their night on Wednesday, the adults partied on Friday, 30 November, in the PSA Common Room and then in Bentleys @ the Treehouse. The Party was a UV costume party and attracted between 200-300 people. A great (but messy) night was had by all. Many thanks to David Morrissey for all his help. The Treehouse has been such a success that it is now a weekly Saturday night event and the cheapest in town at just €5 before 12am. If you enjoyed the last PSA event or even if you are still raging that you missed it then we have some good news.

The **PSA Movember Madness Bash** in association with UL Med Soc and the Movember campaign will be held on the **19th November in the Stables from 7.30pm**. This very special night will have a LATE BAR until 2am which gives us plenty of time to have a GREAT time. The details are as follows:

- VIP tickets (available from the PSA) cost €10 and buy you 2 drinks and a meal! (Bargain and only available to postgrads)
- After 10pm its €3 on the door which goes straight to charity!
- And if your skint get in before 10pm cause its FREE! Yes FREE!!!

## So what's happening you may ask?

Two of Ireland best up & coming bands – Nugget and the Funeral Suits will be live on stage to delight you with their musical stylings. Nugget have played to some of the biggest crowds ever in UL at last years Fresher's Ball and The Funeral suits are making their debut UL appearance just a week after headlining in Whelan's up in the big Schmoke.

Both bands have toured with international acts and supported such bands as Franz Ferdinand, Delorentos, Future Kings Spain, the Flaws, Passion Pit and the Breeders. The bands will be followed by a surprise DJ who will keep you dancing til late – at least 2am!

## Vacant faculty officer position

The position of Science and Engineering faculty officer is currently vacant. If anyone is interested in filling the position, please contact Michael Bourke, the PSA president at [psapresident@ul.ie](mailto:psapresident@ul.ie)

## The other faculty officer emails are:

[scieng@postgrads.ie](mailto:scieng@postgrads.ie) -  
Science and Engineering

[kbs@postgrads.ie](mailto:kbs@postgrads.ie) -  
Kemmy Business School

[ehs@postgrads.ie](mailto:ehs@postgrads.ie) -  
Education and Health Sciences

[ahss@postgrads.ie](mailto:ahss@postgrads.ie) -  
Arts Humanities and Social Sciences

In other postgrad news, with exams looming its never been more important to have a class rep. If you are interested in becoming a Class Rep then call into me to discuss it further.

And as always if there's anything you need then call into me my door is always open – when I'm there and if I'm not then go to <http://www.postgrads.ie/info/michaels-office-hours> for my office hours.

Peace Out -

Michael

## Ruán's Rundown

**WELL guys! We are well into what is now know as Movember at this stage. I hope you are all sponsoring everyone growing a "Mo" for the month. Log on to [ie.movember.com](http://ie.movember.com) and donate to the "UL Movember Campaign 2009". Remember Movember is in aid of The Irish Cancer Society (Action Prostate Cancer Programme) and your support is greatly appreciated.**

Keeping on the theme of supporting others, Special Olympics Ireland are looking for volunteers for the organization of 2010 Special Olympics Ireland Games which are taking place in Limerick from 9 - 13 June. They are looking for people with backgrounds in all area, from helping the Athletes to logistics. The following introduction sessions have been organised for all those who want to get involved:

Sat Nov 14th 10:30am or 1:30pm

Tue Nov 17th 7pm

Sat Nov 21st 10:30am or 1:30 pm

Mon Nov 23rd 7pm

Sat Nov 28th 10:30am or 1:30pm

Anyway enough of that for the moment. I hope you're all working too hard getting all your project work done. Unfortunately it is coming to that time of the year again. At least you will be glad to know that there is not much longer left and then it will be Christmas and you'll get a chance to put your feet up for a bit. For any of you who are felling a bit overwhelmed and feel you can't cope make sure you make use of all the support services that are available to you. Remember there is Maths, Science and ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) learning centres on campus. If you need any more advice or support email your Education Officer, Aoife Finnerty, at [sueducation@ul.ie](mailto:sueducation@ul.ie).

I am delighted to say that the Information

Screens that have been erected around the campus by the Students' Union are now live! They will provide information about events happening that will be of interest to members of the campus. The information is administered through the Students' Union and will be updated daily. The screens were funded through the Ulster Bank Enablement Fund.

Swine Flu is still here. Don't forget the good auld mantra; Catch it, bin it, kill it! Also remember to look after your friends and classmates who might be stuck at home for seven days. Be kind enough to do a bit of shopping and maybe keep some notes for them!

Guys can I remind you again to be aware of your neighbours when you're out and about. Try and keep it down on your way out and your way home.

Well as always we like to hear what you think and your ideas. Please forward your comments to [sufeedback@ul.ie](mailto:sufeedback@ul.ie)

Don't forget to check out [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie) for the latest info!



Ruán, ULSU President

# Policy Explained

## Polasaí an Dátheangachais

**THROUGHOUT the years a number of policies have been passed by the student body, particularly through Class Reps Council. A policy motion can be brought to Class Reps Council and needs a proposer and seconder.**

A policy motion can propose a change to an old policy or the implementation of a new policy. A student can object to a policy, but a seconder is needed also. If there is an objection the policy goes to a vote.

If there are no objections the policy is deemed passed by the Chair and this policy is then adopted by the Students' Union.

One such policy is Polasaí an Dátheangachais (Bilingual Policy) which directs the Irish Officer in their work and also states the steps the Union must take in order to implement the strategy. According to the policy the Irish Officer should work in conjunction with Aonad na Gaeilge and Rannpháirtigh na Scéime

Cónaithe to create long-term endeavours for the Irish speaking population. The Irish Officer must also ensure the Irish language is accessible and visible to all students of the University community.

Polasaí an Dátheangachais also states that Union shall endeavour to conduct formal greetings and open official correspondence in Irish and on request only, provide any publicly available documentation in Irish. The Union shall also support C&S in any attempts to implement their own Irish language policy and encourage the use of Irish names on any new Union buildings.

Polasaí an Dátheangachais was approved by Class Reps Council on the 2 May 2006 and was renewed at Council on 21 April 2009. The Policy was later amended by Council on 27 October 2009. A copy of all the ULSU policies is available on the website, [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie), or from the Communications Office.



Council Corner

# Clubs and Societies Council

**CLUBS AND Societies (C&S) council met for the fifth time in Week 9. Representatives from the different Clubs and Societies who were present at the meeting discussed a number of issues including vehicle usage policy, the next recruitment drive, an update on the extra C&S staff member and also a three year plan for Clubs and Societies.**

Representatives at the meeting were informed that C&S had recently purchased Toyota Landcruiser, bring to three the total of vehicles owned by Clubs and Societies. A new protocol document on vehicle usage was also presented to those present. The new document was to combat damage from being inflicted on the vehicles due to poor driving and lack of consideration for the cost of the vehicles.

Next year's C&S Recruitment Drive was also discussed with representatives examining ways to improve the experience for students. Included in the suggestions was the idea of

providing overhead power for laptops, having a technical assistant on site and also to allow C&S to set up their stands earlier. Another suggestion was distributing the sign up fees in advance so students are aware of the costs. Representatives were informed that this will hopefully be done with the new online registration.

The Council was also shown a proposal for a new C&S staff member. The idea was first brought to Council at the meeting in Week 7. The new proposal explained debated the issue of getting a full time staff member over a Co-Op student, what the new position would do and how the position of Clubs and Socs Development Officer would change.

It was also announced that the three year plan for clubs and societies is still in the preliminary stages and has been deferred to the C&S Executive Working Day which will take place in January. Any suggestions from C&S are welcome and can be submitted to the C&S Executive.

# Class Reps Council

**Class Reps Council (CRC) met for the fifth time this academic year on the Tuesday evening of Week 10. Reps at CRC were asked to propose amendments to a number of educational policies. A number of discussions also took place.**

The first policy to be amended at Council was the FYP Policy. The policy was amended to correct grammar, reflect changes in the economic climate and to bring the policy up to date. Following this the I-Grade policy was updated to include a strategy on creating I-Grade awareness.

Finally the I-Grade Graduation policy was created so that there would be a policy dedicated solely to the issues surrounding students who receive an I-Grade in 4th year and as such cannot graduate with their class. All changes were initiated by the Education Working Group and were passed by Council. The students present were also asked for their opinions on the Class Reps Christmas Ball which will take place in Week 12.

A number of options were presented to the reps including visiting the Stables and going into town, going to Molly's for the whole night or having food in the SU Common Room before going into town. It was pointed out that Christmas Days were being held in The Stables that week and as such that option was struck off. Anyone with ideas or opinions can contact Aoife Finnerty on sueducation@ul.ie. Students were also asked for their opinions on the Christmas Ball. They were asked to consider whether it should be a formal ball with sit down meal or a nightclub event similar to the Halloween Ball. Anyone with ideas can contact Fergal Dempsey by email susco@ul.ie. In addition students were asked for ideas on the campaigns which are run around exams. Typically this campaign includes educating students on what they can and cannot bring to an exam and providing them with water and food before exams. Anyone with suggestions for this year's campaign can email Fergal or Aoife on the above addresses.

## ULSU Nite link

### Time table for Academic Year 2009/10

**Route A 19:00, 20:30, 22:00,**

- Stop 1: Dromroe Village
- Stop 2: Thomand Village
- Stop 3: Cappavilla Village
- Stop 4: Plassey Village
- Stop 5: College Court
- Stop 6: Groody Student Village
- Stop 7: Courtyard Student Village
- Stop 8: Brookfield Hall
- Stop 9: Parkview Hall
- Stop 10: Park Mews (Clancy's)

**Returns to UL via Flag Pole Entrance**

**Route B 19:45, 21:15, 22:45,**

- Stop 1: Kilmurry Village
- Stop 2: Elm Park
- Stop 3: Oaklawn
- Stop 4: Kilmurry Lodge
- Stop 5: Brierfield (Back of the Estate)
- Stop 6: Woodhaven
- Stop 7: Annacotty (Synotts)
- Stop 8: Spar (at University Court)
- Stop 9: Courtyard/Brookfield
- Roundabout

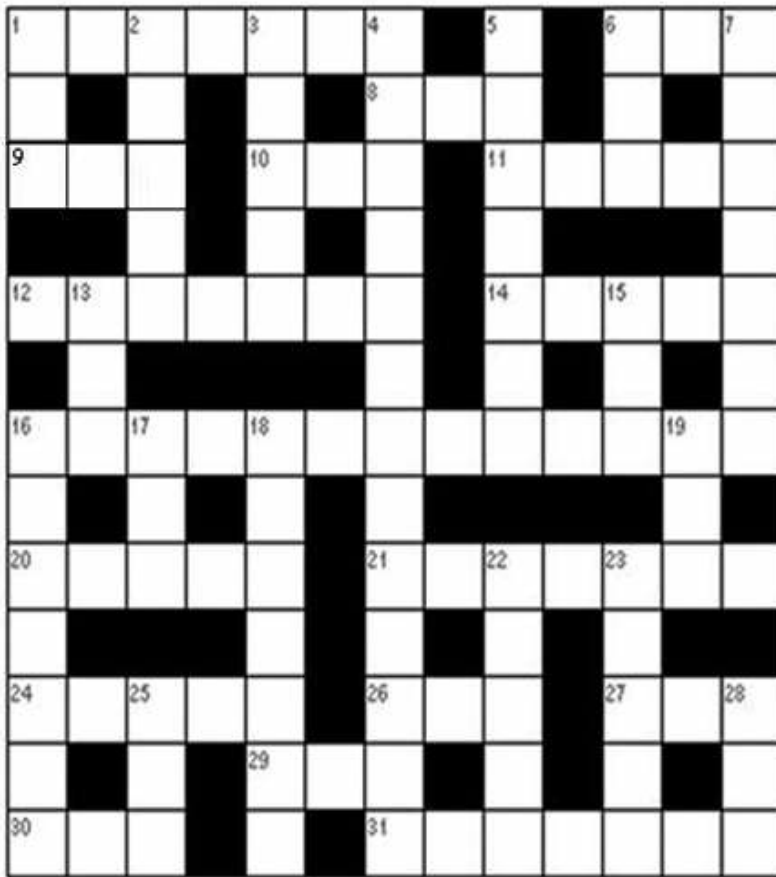
**Returns to UL via East Gate entrance**

**Route C 23.30 Only**

Route A+B Stops on Request  
Drop off only

Fun Page!

Crossword

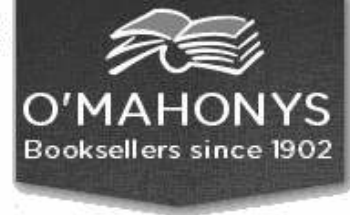


Across

- 1. An act of deliberate betrayal
- 6. A non-human primate
- 8. A sphere or globe
- 9. A playing card with only one mark
- 10. A form of address for a married woman
- 11. Gather up leaves
- 12. A device which receives signals
- 14. A deep yellow colour
- 16. Not diminished in intensity
- 20. What a book is compiled of
- 21. Saving up for future use
- 24. To be similar in sound
- 26. An Internet abbreviation
- 27. Slang for sleep
- 29. Slimy, scaleless fish
- 30. Gasp while crying
- 31. One who yields

Down

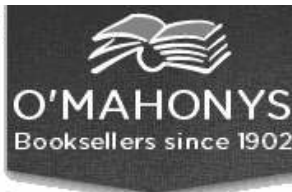
- 1. Hot drink
- 2. Choose a representative
- 3. Another name for sperm
- 4. Remember with longing
- 5. Side by side
- 6. Make a request
- 7. Advanced in years
- 13. A woman devoted to religion
- 15. A place to sleep
- 16. Another name for referees
- 17. Slang for face
- 18. Those who are taking tests
- 19. A network connecting computers (abbrv.)
- 22. To birth a calf
- 23. Annoyed
- 25. An antisocial person
- 28. A state of being equal or level



The lucky winner will receive a €20 voucher to spend in  
**O'Mahony's Booksellers**  
 or online at  
**www.omahonys.ie**  
*For all your college needs*  
 Submit entries with name & ID number to the entry box in SU reception

Sudoku

Sponsored by:



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | 3 |   |   | 7 | 9 |   |
|   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |
| 6 | 9 | 7 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |
| 9 |   | 3 | 7 |   |   | 6 |   |   |
|   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 4 |   |   | 8 | 7 | 3 |   |
|   |   |   | 6 |   |   | 5 | 8 | 4 |
|   | 7 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
| 3 | 5 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |

Instructions:

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow in a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- \* Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- \* Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- \* Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

The winner will receive a €20 voucher to spend in  
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*For all your college needs*  
 Submit entries with name & ID number to entry box in SU reception

In Numbers

**€30,000**  
 The cost incurred by Plassey Campus Services during the last Raise and Give Week.

**€15,000**  
 The amount spent by the County Councils on clean up following Raise and Give Week.

**€20,000**  
 The amount raised for charities during the last Raise and Give Week. It hardly seems worth-

while after the cost of damages and clean up.

**1** The amount of An Focal's left this semester, after this one of course.

**5** Weeks left until Christmas. I love Christmas.

**94.8mm**  
 The average amount of rain that falls in Limerick during November

**UL EnviroCom**  
**Twitter**

**UL Environmental Com**  
 is now on twitter  
<http://twitter.com/ULEnviroCom>

# WITCHCRAFT

## continues to thrive

By John Rainsford

**THE annual “milk round” of company presentations leaves many students feeling just as uncertain about their career options as they were beforehand. For Warren Coates however a career is very much a vocation. You see Warren is a practitioner of “Wicca”- the religion commonly known as “Witchcraft”. In 1991, driven by a passion for the supernatural, he founded ‘The Northern Ireland Paranormal Research Association’ (NIPRA). Its stating goal was to conduct investigations into hauntings and other paranormal activity nationwide.**

“From a very early age I have had the ability to cure warts and to help make sores go away. I have also had a deep interest in what I now know to be ‘Wicca’ and ‘Witchcraft’. Years ago there was nobody here to work or train with so I did a course on “Ritual Magic” for three years but still got an urge to study Wicca, said Warren. He continued: “I was then introduced to Stewart and Jan Farrar from Kells in Co. Meath. Stewart, now passed away, trained with and was in the coven run by Alex Saunders in the 1960s.

After this I was able to train with them on a regular basis and after a few years was initiated into the second degree by them.”

Warren now lives in Bangor and his organisation has members from Portrush, Omagh, Dungannon and several other places across the country. They hold open nights, haunted castle trips and training courses designed to help people come more in tune with the world of the spirit. Perhaps because of the former troubles in Northern Ireland he feels that the province has even more of a paranormal ambience than any other area of the island. Everywhere he goes he senses the presence of psychic phenomena. “I don’t believe in Demons, bad negative people yes, but Demons are just another way to help control what people follow and have faith in. I have felt in danger at times but I also know that these beings can’t harm us and we do have a lot more to fear from the living. He continued: “My most frightening experience was in Crumlin Road Gaol where several of our group

were made aware of at least seven or eight figures standing around us. At the same time there were banging noises coming from the walls, one of our members had to be carried out of the Gaol, after suffering a panic attack.”

Despite these experiences Warren believes that Witches are needed now more than ever. “With organised religion losing followers more and more people are turning

as we need to be very careful in case a relationship that is meant to be is split. We could do a spell to give someone confidence in talking with the opposite sex however. Everything we do is returned threefold good or bad. The role of a Witch today is to give advice about life or to help to heal an ailment.

He continued: “The only fear is that there are still some sections of the country that still hold very negative

do Esbats and full moon rites.”

Our attitude towards Witches has often been shaped by ignorance. Bidy Early, a 19th century “folk healer” from Feakle in Co. Clare, was accused of the crime of “Witchcraft” in 1865- chiefly by local landlords and the church. Had she been found guilty at that time she might well have been hanged but fortunately the case was dropped for lack of evidence. Bidy

Daniel O’Connell who swore by the accuracy of her predictions. This process of divining future events is known as “Scrying”. It was used by French clairvoyant Nostradamus (1503-1566) and by astrologer to Queen Elizabeth I John Dee (1527-1608). Warren explained: “The art of Scrying can be done with a crystal ball, hot coals, tarot cards or even clouds. All they are for is to focus the mind of the ‘Witch’ on ‘seeing’. I believe that everybody with a good amount of training can see and learn things that are hidden.”

One incident in particular shows why Bidy’s name still elicits a frisson even today. Five police officers and a sheriff, sent to evict her from the small cottage she occupied near Kilbarron Lake were commanded by her to “stay where you are”. The terrified men were rooted to the road for two hours before she released them. Such events may be explained by the power of auto-suggestion or even hypnosis. Stage performers like Derren Brown for example have made fortunes from similar tricks today. After a hard early life Bidy Early finally died in 1874 having married and outlived at least four husbands. Legend has it that her “magic bottle” was thrown into the lake by the parish priest, acting under her instruction. Her cottage has been restored today but attempts to uncover the secrets of her powers have not always ended well.

In the 1970s Limerick film maker Eamonn O’Connor was involved in a helicopter crash near the lake while filming a documentary about her life. Given that Bidy was generally very kind to others it would be unfair-and perhaps unwise- to blame her for this. The “Curse of Bidy Early” however was said to have prevented Clare from winning the All Ireland Hurling Final for many years-a curse which is now said to reside with their Limerick counterparts. Whatever we think of Witches it must be said that their power to capture the human imagination remains as powerful as it did in days gone by. Indeed, the case of Warren Coates has shown that even today the “Craft” has no shortage of applicants. Prospective UL graduates please take note!



to the old ways and to alternative forms of worship. Wiccans and Witches were once the wise men and women of the village. People are coming back to look for the spiritual side we have not had that for many years.” Witchcraft is not done to harm people he explained. Spells are only cast to help people in their daily lives and struggles. He said: “All Witchcraft is done for the good of the earth and the good of people. A real Witch will not even perform a spell for love

views even if they have never read a book on the subject. The other problem is that some people can be carried away with the Harry Potter world and think they are actually living in it.” The real benefits that Witches bring are in their ability to cure or foretell the future. Warren stated: “The spells we cast are designed to help sick people get better, to help bring employment to someone, to help heal the earth. We celebrate eight Sabbats throughout the year, like Halloween. We also

was known among local people as a person with a gift for herbal cures. She helped both humans and animals and spoke the language of ancient mystics called “Shelta”.

The source of her powers was said to be a blue-green bottle filled with a dark liquid. It was reputed to have been given to her by the fairies. Indeed, Bidy was said to have been “away with the Sidhe” (fairies) and to have lived amongst them for part of her life. Visitors to Bidy Early’s cottage included MP

# Batty in the bedroom

By Emma Hayward

**I WAS not expecting to be up at 2am in the morning trying to catch a bat in my bedroom. For the record, they are hard buggers to catch. If you know what a moth sounds like when it's flapping around then you can easily imagine that a bat sounds like a much larger and scarier version.**

I woke up to this very sound one weekend when I was home from college. Hello pets, hello family, hello wildlife in my room.

It was odd enough having woodlice crawling out of various nooks in the bedroom walls and making a voyage across my carpet. Even so, I wasn't expecting this particular visitor in the middle of the night. I woke up to hear a fluttering, flapping noise doing a circuit of my bedroom and every so often it would appear to stop, with a loud slap, on one of my giant posters hanging on the wall. Well, for some time I lay there, perfectly still, wondering if I was in fact dreaming or if there was a giant moth in my room. I don't have anything against insects really but if you've ever seen one of those moths that sound like helicopters flying around, you would understand where I'm coming from. I knew that bats lived in our attic and I often saw them outside at dusk feeding on the many midges and other insects, so it did finally dawn on me that my night time visitor could only be one thing. I reached for my bedside lamp and flicked the switch and sure enough there was the bat racing around in circles above my bed. So I got up and grabbed

my dressing gown, attempting in vain to throw it over him as he flew around above my head. After a while he eventually landed high up on a book shelf. I was surprised at how still he remained after all the previous displays of energy. I guess he had worn himself out.

I climbed up on to a chair and gingerly approached the little furry lump that was now clinging, perfectly motionless, to one of my books. His wings were bald and wrinkly, not the most attractive animal, and the mouse-like ears were just visibly sticking out. I lowered my hand carefully around him, not touching him just yet. I was sure he would fly away any minute – but he didn't. As I paused, I thought for a moment that he was kind of cute, in a way. I closed my fingers around the hairy body and it suddenly came to life again, opening its eyes wide and its mouth wider.

At this point any previous thoughts of admiration were erased and I spared no time in jumping down from the chair racing over to the window and chucking the poor thing back outside. I knew bats didn't bite, or suck your blood, but I didn't like how his head wriggled around between my fingers. It might have been a much scarier experience, had I been younger, but the Pipistrelle bat, which is our most common bat, is actually quite small.

An adult is, apparently, small enough to fit into a match box, although this one seemed a lot bigger at the time. One bat can eat up to 3,000 midges in one night and you can hear

them hunting at night making high pitched sounds. It's also easy to see them flying overhead as they have quite a distinctive flight pattern. Bats can roost in old buildings, under bridges, in caves and mountains and many other places in shady places. Modern

buildings don't provide many opportunities for bats to roost in, so generally they will prefer older buildings. The Pipistrelle bats are usually the ones you will find roosting in the attics of old houses and, if you're lucky, one might drop in for a visit.



## Diary of a First Year

By Amy Murphy

*SO whose idea was it to come to college anyway? If you thought week six was bad, try living through week nine on your own two feet, and I mean that literally as well as figuratively, as UL's pathways and rain do not mix.*

*I can't be the only one feeling the pressure though, the Library looks fit to burst most days. I remember my beloved History teacher telling me how closer to exam time all the 'sillies', who had done no work over the past ten weeks, would cram into the library as they get ready for the holidays. I cringe to think of myself being a 'silly', but apparently it has happened.*

*Speaking of teachers, I was at my school's awards ceremony this Friday night and it was so weird being back. The little cluster of classrooms that had become mind-numbingly familiar over the past six*

*years was suddenly so strange; A06 - my home away from home - felt so unwelcoming and the teachers had changed so much over such a short period of time. Well, they had practically forgotten my year and I for one. It finally made me come to terms with the fact that that part of my life is over now. Is that a sad thing?*

*Actually, every year, once the awards ceremony had passed, I always thought to myself: "not so long until the end of the year now", because time always seemed to disappear afterwards.*

*Now, if you have been reading my diary, you will notice that I've had this complaint for weeks, so I wonder how quickly it'll go now. Anyone making their new semester's resolutions yet? I must increase my word count. Oh well, I was never one for poetry.*

## Halloween Mystery Tour for 1st Year Law Students

By Diarmaid Hartnett

**AS I was head of entertainment on behalf of my law class, I began to feel the pressure to organise a well deserved night out. During the previous two weeks I had been ringing around neighbouring counties to decide where to take the legends of young fellas and girls.**

I really enjoyed it, however many of these towns nearby didn't understand the concept of being students, i.e., lacking in the dosh. Luckily for me and my Kerry charm I managed to include transport, Halloween mystery adventure, drinks promotion and free into a nightclub all for €20. Not bad eh?

Before I knew it, the 27 October dawned, and by 7pm 50 eager heads were on the road heading on our mystery class party towards the deep south. The combination of craic and tension was mighty. Needless to say the only informed pair on the bus was Liam the bus driver and myself and the destination was safe with us. On the motorway the large signs loomed, screaming Galway, Tralee or Cork. Puzzled passengers scratched their heads. On

reaching Newcastlewest people figured it was Tralee, that fine town. After an hour and a half of driving where we sang at least 30 songs ranging from the "Irish national anthem" to "Galway Girl" and "I tell my ma when I go home" we arrived at Nightmare Realm which was a Scare House, a haunted house for adults, where they Scare the b'jaysues out of you. In this eerie dwelling the strangest of characters prowled about; vampires, mental doctors, werewolves, mad ape, creatures gone demented with angry chain-saws!

On survival of the Nightmare Realm we gathered ourselves and headed to the Basket Bar where cocktails revived us. After a few scoops of beer we stumbled into Horan's nightclub, where we danced the night away. And the rest is well...er... history, the legal kind.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the marvellous Vanessa Clark, Entertainment Officer, who made our tour possible, and Peter Shone, the member of crew who accompanied us on the bus.

# Student Speak

**On a dreary Monday Evening, Jason Kennedy finds out what you would do if you were Students' Union president for the day.**

"I'd have a Captain Morgan's day in College. I love me a bit of Captain Morgan. Yarrrr."



**Rebecca Rigney**  
2nd Year Food Science

"Do a Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky."



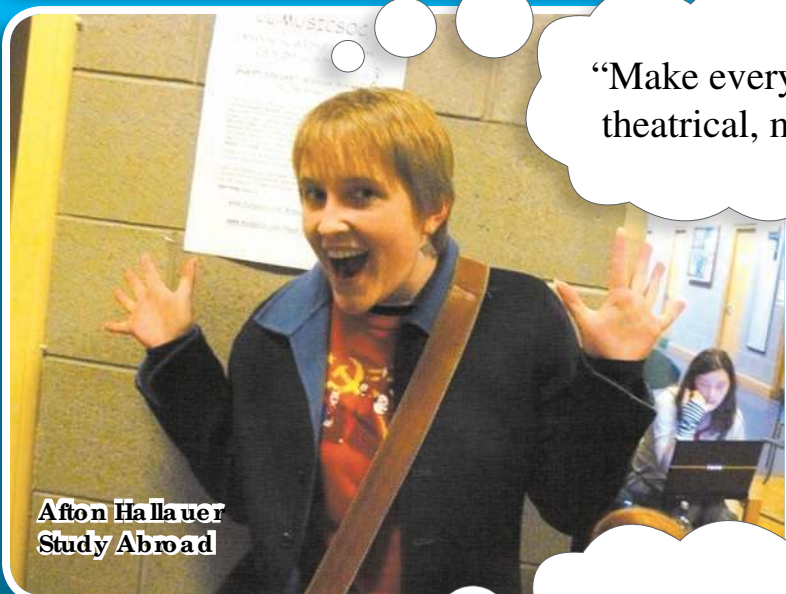
**Sarah Grace**  
2nd year New Media and English

"I'd make everything happy and Pink \*titters girlishly\*"



**Tigheaman Noonan**  
2nd Year MMPT

"Make everything theatrical, man!"



**Afton Hallauer**  
Study Abroad

"Order the un-clamping of all cars."



**Finn McDuffie**  
4th year Law and Euro

"I would make exams optional."



**Jennifer Cleary**  
1st year BBS with French



PROMOTIONS & MEDIA



Ruan Dillon McLoughlin with Colin Murphy



Girls Alouder



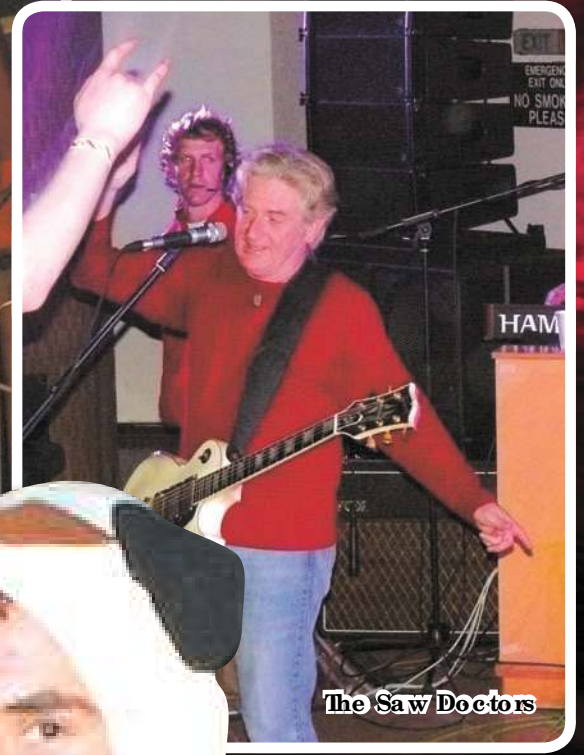
Knights of Leon



Halloween Ball



Pussycat Dolls



The Saw Doctors



Right Like Apes



Waiting patiently for the Saw Doctors



Halloween Ball

# Theatre's fight for survival in a changing world

By Damagh Roche – Arts Editor

**THEATRE is a word that rarely passes the lips of the children of the twenty-first century. Few university students can name a famous Shakespearean actor, despite having been forced to study Shakespearean tragedy at school.**

Beyond the Immortal Bard, few of the great dramatists of previous centuries are even known by name outside theatrical and academic circles. To mention *The Glass Menagerie*, *Waiting for Godot* or *A Doll's House* in conversation with most people will be met by a vacant expression. It does not need to be so. The decline of theatre has obvious causes. The rapid rise of television and cinema, the twin behemoths of modern entertainment, has left theatre out in the cold. Over the course of the late twentieth century, cinema and television battled for the attention of viewers who craved ever better forms of entertainment. Cinema went into decline for decades while television predominated, today television is becoming less popular and cinema has reached a new golden age. Who cares about the theatre?

This writer cares about the theatre and he is not the only one. UL is a place where theatre is important, at least to a few. The obvious answer lies in the Drama Society, which hosted the Irish Student Drama Awards last year. It has already begun planning its workshops and productions for this year. It is not the only place where theatre flourishes. The Rapparee Theatre Company is the culmination of the hard work and commitment of students at this university. Its triumphant production of *Closer* during the summer, which was directed by a student and performed entirely by students, is an example of what love of drama and determination to keep it alive can do. Their next production will take place this semester. The efforts of this new, idealistic group should be applauded.

It would be entirely unrealistic to claim that theatre can ever again be as popular as it once was. In the days before the Lumière Brothers first made pictures move on a screen, live theatre had a monopoly on entertainment. That singular advantage can never return nor can theatre be as accessible or as popular

as television and cinema. Nor can theatre companies have access to the same funds and media as their younger cousins in the film and TV industries. Theatre will continue to struggle, but the fight is a worthy one.

There are, however, practical limitations on what theatre can achieve logistically. It simply is not possible to stage the kinds of events that TV and film audiences have become accustomed to over long years of viewership. It is simply impossible to simulate a massive terrorist attack or alien invasion in a theatre. Unfortunately, audiences have become so acclimatised to special effects and elaborate scenarios that theatre may not hold any appeal for them. Theatrical performances cannot provide the same thrills as TV and film. What theatre can and should provide is depth of thought, quality acting and examination of the human condition and catharsis. The true majesty of drama lies in the exposition of human nature, the examination of the breadth of human experience and the effect upon the audience. An audience should walk away from

a play feeling differently about life than when the play began. For lovers of theatre, this effect is enough. It may not be for a twenty-first century audience.

Explosions, car chases, elaborate camera angles and computer generated imagery are the bread and butter of modern entertainment. They do not provide substance or catharsis but they impress and they entertain. The lack of such effects and gimmicks in a modern film would immediately prejudice an audience against it.

This is a grim note for theatre, which has never had the abilities TV and film have and never will. However, theatre will survive as long as it continues to be unique and it excels at that which makes it unique. It should not change to suit popular tastes, as long as it does the best it can with the tools at its disposal it will continue to flourish. As long as there are enthusiastic, energetic people like those in the Rapparee Theatre Company, theatre will survive and theatre will thrive.

## Only Revolutions

By Eoghan O'Sullivan

**BIFFY Clyro are not supposed to be in this position. They are not meant to be at the top of the pile. They were intended to be the also-rans: the band that missed out on the mainstream. Yet here they are, against all the odds, leading the British rock scene. "Only Revolutions" comes along with more publicity than any of the previous four releases put together.**

Everything that makes this band great is on show throughout. The sing-along chorus arrives with impeccable timing on each track; the slow lighters-in-the-air songs are here; the time-changing breaks are also scattered around. Perhaps this is the album's drawback and its strongest point. For the uninitiated, this will be a breath of fresh air. A kick to the groin of "You Me At Six" fans. For Biffy's army of fans though, it might just be a case of more of the same. "The Captain" and "That Golden Rule" open the album in Simon Neil and co.'s time honoured tradition of confounding expectations. This is the one of the biggest bands in Britain and they are doing a song about pirates? And subverting the James Bond theme? "Bubbles" features Josh Homme of "Every-Band-In-The-World-Ever" fame. It contains a ridiculously catchy guitar hook, but what Homme actually adds to the song is debatable. The story is that he was in the studio and going on one listen, knew exactly what the track needed: a solo. One feels that the band could have figured that pickle out by themselves.

"God and Satan" and "Many of Horror" fulfil the staple slow numbers and are so interchangeable it is absurd. They are nearly identical. It is something that could be said of some of the faster tracks too.

"Boooooom Blast and Horror" and "Shock Shock" are two such examples of fast and loud. It will make for a great live show. But sadly, the repetition is a downfall. Not only could you reference almost every song here with tracks from their earlier albums, but you can actually compare them with earlier tracks on this album!

Thankfully, "Only Revolutions" is defined by the final trio of songs. Each offers something diverse. We get the ridiculous falsetto-rock of "Cloud of Stink". "Know Your Quarry" meanwhile, could easily feature Natasha Khan of "Bat for Lashes" fame; such is the synth work on display.

It verges on plagiarism but in a good way. "Whorses", opens with the best phallic-dismemberment line of the year. It also serves as a reminder as to why the band is so adored by so many. They put a smile on your face. They are not to be taken too seriously. Biffy Clyro are the anti-Nirvana. That is why they have such a devoted fan base. That is why they stand at the top of the mountain. Simon Neil, Ben and James Johnston tick every box expected of a rock album and then make up a few more and tick those as well. It may sound familiar to some, but "Only Revolutions" will be a revelation to many! 8/10





# Phrazes for the Young

By Eoghan O'Sullivan

**THIS is it; this is the one everyone was waiting for: The final side-project from the final Stroke. And this is the one people really care about, or so it would seem judging by the amount of coverage "Phrazes for the Young" has garnered thus far.**

Julian Casablancas' solo album arrives amid cries of forlorn critics lamenting the fallen "voice of a generation". Back in 2001, The Strokes made good music, something that seemed a lost cause back then, and Julian was God. He was responsible for the birth of every subsequent guitar band including The Libertines and Arctic Monkeys.

"This is It" was one of those cultural moments that can never be bettered. Like movie sequels that always fail to recapture the essence of the original, "Room On Fire" and "First Impressions of Earth" arrived to a wall of indifference. What had happened to the band that had redefined music? The answer seems to be that they grew up and got boring. All found an outlet with which to express themselves. Bassist Nickolai Fraiture formed the worst named band of the decade (Nickel-Eye); drummer Fab Moretti dated Drew Barrymore and formed another bad band (Little Joy); guitarist Albert Hammond Jr. tried his hand at being the American Graham Coxon and succeeded insofar as nobody cared about the solo stuff; Nick Valensi, lead guitarist, took some photos and was last seen living under a rock.

All of which leaves Julian and that drawl. He has not exerted himself much since touring finished for 'First Impressions...' and apart from appearing in a Converse advert with Santigold and Pharrell, he has been quiet. Then, he announced that there was going to be a solo album with synthesizers at the forefront.

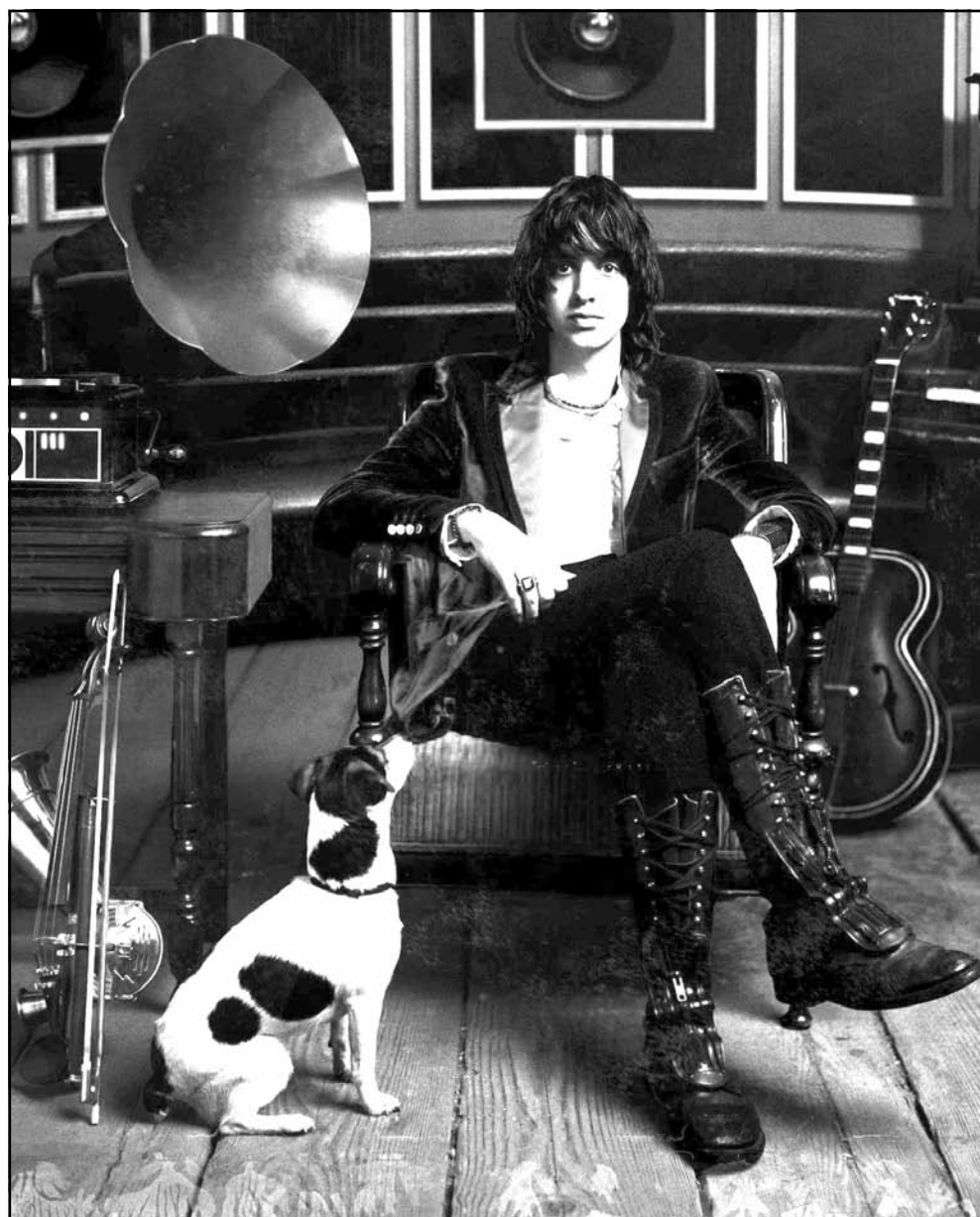
Does "Phrazes for the Young" get away with it? The answer is a resounding just about.

First single "11th Dimension" paints Casablancas as a modern day preacher as he proclaims: "you don't have to be smart all of the time" and that you should "forgive them even if they are not sorry". It seems that he has indeed been living "on the surface of a fireball". Some will cry that like many bands nowadays, Julian has been listening to The Killers. "4 Chords of the Apocalypse" might confirm this hypothesis. Opening track "Out of the Blue" could have you believing this is The Strokes redoing their first album. It sounds exactly like "Hard to Explain" which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

However while that band does simple, brilliant three minute pop masterpieces, Julian does difficult, hard-to-love epics, none of which fall under the four minute mark. Before you think of it, that does not make this a prog album and it sounds nothing like Pink Floyd. "Phrazes for the Young" is a good album but the likes of "Left and Right In the Dark" and "Ludlow St" prove very difficult to love. A myriad of ideas are asked to blend together over eight songs and it was never going to work.

All could be forgiven though because of Julian's voice. It is a joy to behold. Effortlessly cool, he demands respect. On the likes of "River of Brakelights" and "Glass" it is allowed thrive. On final track "Tourist", the voice gets lost and the track suffers as a result. "Phrazes..." is half a good album. It sounds like Julian needed to get some things off his chest before going in and recording the fourth Strokes album. Hopefully, it will be worth the wait. In the meantime this album should tide you over. Just about!

6/10



## Ireland's Modelling King and Queen will be crowned in Limerick

By Marese Heffeman

**ONE man and one woman will be crowned as Ireland's king and queen models in the final of the national competition which will be held in the Strand Hotel in Limerick.**

Over 8,000 people throughout the country applied for Ireland's King and Queen Model competition and 50 finalists were selected to battle it out for the grand title on the 12th November. Each of the winners will receive a contract with the John Compton Modelling Agency, as well as a management contract and a feature in several Irish magazines. It was important to the organiser of the event, Greg Ryan, that the final of the event would be held in his hometown. "Everyone expects things to be held in Dublin and it doesn't necessarily have to be that way," he said. Mr Ryan wants to keep up the positive press Limerick received when the Mr. Ireland competition which he also organised was held here in July. "My whole key thing was to hold this in Limerick

as well just to keep the positive side up," he added. The contestants will be challenged to dress themselves for the competition and will be judged on various different styles of clothing including casual, cocktail, formal-wear and swimwear.

Some of the judges include Ms Ireland, Mr Ireland, several Irish supermodels and various other journalists and media figures. The contestants will be judged on personality, creativity and people skills as well as their modelling ability. "We took on board the people that we thought had real potential to go along with this. There are a lot of young people, there are middle-aged people, we basically took on the people who we thought had what it takes, who would have real potential in the long-run with this," Mr Ryan said.

The event is currently sold out but 200 extra tickets will be made available to people in the coming weeks.

## Top 5 Youtube videos

### 1. Black Eyed Peas - Meet Me Halfway

The third single from their new album "The E.N.D." is very different from their previous two singles. And that's good, even brilliant. People get sick of mindless dance songs, although they are very catchy, and Meet Me Halfway is a slow song that has got an eighties vibe to it. The video is brilliantly done (you'll like the elephant part) and with the group storming the charts this year, it's another hit for them.

### 2. The Big Pink - Dominoes

The song that's on all the Xbox 360 adverts at the moment, it's so finger tappingly good, it deserves a place in the top five.

### 3. Cheryl Cole - Fight For This Love

Now, I only put this here for two reasons: One, I much prefer Cheryl to Alexandra Burke any day, and second, she is hot. She is currently sending Alexandra packing back to her X-factor days, and rightly so. The video is great, with weird eye shadow and pyjama wearing, and the song isn't as annoying as Alexandra's. And she's hot.

### 4. Basement Jaxx feat. Sam Sparro - Feelings Gone

After the brilliant summer song "Raindrops", Basement Jaxx are back with a collaboration with Sam Sparro (remember "Black and Gold"?). The video is cool, a little bit like the old Thunderbirds, with actual heads placed onto puppets. The song isn't the best Basement Jaxx song ever, but the video is worth a gander.

### 5. Wolfmother - New Moon Rising

This is a great return from the Australian band with a nice arty and slightly strange video, and a good song to boot. If you haven't heard of them before now, I'd definitely recommend having a look at this video, and decide whether they are good, or brilliant.



## Advice Bureau

## Welfare Corner

So it's Week 10 as I write this (late as usual...driving poor Aoife nuts, she doesn't get half enough credit!). There's a noticeable drop in the footfall through your SU building and less queries coming through my door which has given me a chance to tidy my poor neglected desk which I wrote about in the Week 9 edition.

The new couch for the Deputy President/Welfare Office has arrived and has been getting a lot of attention from Staff and Sabbats and all visitors alike. All I need now is some ambient lighting, a table for 2, a LED flatscreen and a jug of Ribena and the setting will be complete.

Exams are coming up behind you like a Porsche comes up behind a Mini on the Autobahn from Stuttgart to Munich, so take some time to pull in out of the way and relax. If you're stressed take some time to breathe. Go for a walk in the rain, or take some time for a game of pool in the SU Games Room or Home and Away over lunch...just TAKE SOME TIME OUT. I'm doing Movember,

so if you want to donate to UL Movember Campaign 2009 on [ie.movember.com](http://ie.movember.com), feel free, it's for men's health cancer research! The Special Olympics is coming to UL in May 2010, so if you want to volunteer there's a datyou need to keep in mind;

Tuesday Movember 17th 7pm  
Saturday Movember 21st 10:30am or 1:30pm  
Monday Movember 23rd 7pm  
Saturday Movember 28th 10:30am or 1:30pm

Happy Movember.

Keep up to date with the discussion boards on the new Facebook Page University of Limerick Students' Union where you can become a fan and get updates.

That's pretty much it. Short and sweet.

If you need anything I can help with, just call in

D

## LET'S TALK SEX

By Kanielle Dantie

## Start Dreaming!

**SEXUAL fantasies are common erotic desires that occur in the minds of the average man and woman. Specialists claim that people who actively sexually fantasise enjoy a better sex life. So let's get fantasising!**

The most appealing aspect of sexual fantasies is the fact that there are no rules or boundaries. You can fantasise about anyone doing anything at any time and at your own convenience. Fantasising allows you to channel your thoughts into doing the dirtiest, filthiest, sexiest acts without the need for a physical partner. There are an endless amount of fantasies which all differ according to the individual. After discussing this particular topic with various social groups, I was intrigued to discover how student fantasising is at a climax. So if you're running dry on ideas here are a few that might tickle your fantasy! Sex with a stranger: No strings attached! This one expresses the kinky side of having sex with the unknown. Just imagine a stranger approaches you in Molly's, picks you up and whisks you away to Brookfield to have wild, lustful, passionate, (protected) sex. You can be as adventurous and wild as you want with no guilt, questions or bruises. The best part of this is that there is no awkwardness in the morning as it is just a fantasy.

Teacher student: Now most of us have had the pleasure of being lectured or tutored by the hottie whom we may have fantasised about

outside the classroom. The most stimulating idea of this is the fact that, strictly speaking, you don't have a chance with them. They have the authority over you and you yearn to impress them on a day to day basis but you really just want to have them in the bedroom.

Aqua Activities: Many people fantasise about their partner peeing on them.

When I first heard of this, porn-overload was screaming out at me. But my friend assured me that this fantasy is very much alive and kicking. (Long story short, when his request for making this fantasy a reality was denied, his desire resulted in a wet patch on some Groody bedroom carpet.)

The Cleopatra Fantasy: This involves a woman being worshiped and pleased by two strapping young men whose intentions are entirely focused on achieving her satisfaction. Without going into too much depth (no pun intended) the thought of double-penetration and the like may get your juices flowing.

Risky Business: Most people are aware that sex in public places is illegal, which is all the more reason for this fantasy to exist. Whether it is against Brown Thomas outside the library or even to be as brazen as lacing into each other in the Schumann fountain, there are no negative consequences. So if you are enthralled by the danger element then this one is the one for you. Fantasising is fun, enjoyable and most importantly, exciting.

Don't be shy about doing it because more than likely the person sitting next to you in the library or in the queue for coffee is probably fantasising about you there and then.

## Ed's Education

During the summer, it shocked me to realise the amount of misinformation out there in relation to I-grades. I didn't think that everyone was well-versed but I thought there was a basic level of information out there. Because there isn't in some cases, I thought this column should focus on I-Grade explanation and myth-busting!

**First things first, what is an I-Grade?**

Put simply an I-Grade is given by the University to a student who cannot complete the requirements for a module (e.g., the exam, coursework, etc.) as a result of illness, either physical or mental, or an immediate family bereavement. In effect, where exams are concerned, students defer sitting them until the annual repeat period in August. Now that you're aware of what an I-Grade actually is, I can start quelling some of the major misinformation about them;

**Myth or Fact 1:**

You have a finite number of I-Grade applications.

**Answer:**

False! There is no set number of I-Grade applications, to which students are entitled. If you are sick, experiencing difficulties or bereavements then you are likely entitled to an I-Grade. However with that said, remember that I-Grades must be cleared before you can progress into the next year.

**Myth or Fact 2:**

You can only get an I-Grade (for physical illness) if you are seen by the University Medical Centre.

**Answer:**

False. You can get an I-Grade with a cert from your own doctor. However, the cert must be seen by the University Medical centre for confirmation.

**Myth or Fact 3:**

There is a set amount of time in which you can apply for an I-Grade.

**Answer:**

True. The University Regulations state that students have a number of days from the day of the last exam, in which to apply for an I-Grade. There is a method of appeal; however it is governed very strictly in order to avoid misuse.

I-Grades are there to help students in need. However it is very important that you do not apply for an I-grade unless you really need one. Applications that are not genuine may result in serious consequences for you should you have a genuine application in the future and they may also affect the ability of other students to get I-grades in genuine cases. If you need any information on getting an I-Grade please contact me on [Aoife.Finnerty@ul.ie](mailto:Aoife.Finnerty@ul.ie) or [sueducation@ul.ie](mailto:sueducation@ul.ie).

All the best,  
Ed

## Campaigns and Services

**Well, how's life with everyone? I can tell ya that our photocopying room is getting busy now which means it must be getting near to the business end of the year.**

Exams are looming and that means night's out are getting quieter. Having said that we are still getting complaints in here about student behaviour both off and on campus. At the moment we are trying to organise Raise and Give (RAG) Week to make sure that we can get quality acts on campus. The behaviour in the estates is causing a lot of people to question whether we should run RAG week. The problems that are occurring now will be amplified in RAG week so we have to try and cut down on the antisocial behaviour in the estates to have any chance of keeping RAG week. It's unfortunate that things have come to this stage but we're trying our best to keep everyone happy! Tis some craic!

Christmas Days are gonna be another blast, I hope ye all have the tickets got for this one. It's a tradition that's as much a part of UL as the Lodge. Having worked and partaken in these days before I can tell ya they're some craic. So if you're in first year and wondering how exactly you're meant to celebrate Christmas in November, a Week or 2 before exams then just wait. We'll see ye there for "Fairytale of New York".

I suppose to finish up just keep the heads down for studying guys. We'll be out and about for the exams, giving out free water and that. We'll even have a masseuse to relax everyone that's stressing before the exams! If anyone has got any ideas of how we can make life easier around exam time for students please let me know, thanks guys.

Slán.

# Busy weeks for ULYFG

**IT HAS** been a very busy start of the semester for UL Young Fine Gael, which is the most active youth political party in UL. We started off the semester with our EGM. At this meeting eight positions were filled and five first years were elected to the committee. This is a very positive sign for the continued future success of the branch. Our chair Ailbhe Carney addressed the meeting and outlined our future semester plans. On Week 3 we had a mini-golf competition near the Lodge which had a great turnout and was great fun. On the 29 September we held a "Europe Day" at the

Farmers' Market. At this we canvassed UL students and staff for a "YES" vote to Lisbon. At our stall we had an array of European foods to offer the hungry students and we played some famous Eurovision songs. We got a great response and were delighted that the vast majority of UL students planned on voting yes. On the Wednesday of Week 5, eight UL YFG members visited Dáil Éireann on the invite of Kieran O'Donnell TD. Everyone had a great day and we met lots of well-known TDs including Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny. On Monday of Week 7 we held

a public meeting on the very contentious issue of NAMA. Kieran O'Donnell TD, Fine Gael's deputy spokesperson on Finance, spoke at this meeting and outlined how NAMA is proposed to work as well as Fine Gael's alternative, the National Recovery Bank (NRB).

Deputy O'Donnell told us that he had great concerns over NAMA. The biggest concern he voiced was the fact that NAMA will overpay the current market price of these "distressed assets". He also said it was vital that there will be a flow of credit into the economy; however in the current legislation before the Dáil, there

is no specific requirement that the banks have to lend. Fine Gael's plan of a NRB will ensure that credit flows in the economy and is poses less of a risk to the taxpayer than NAMA. To try and ensure fairness in the legislation, Fine Gael has proposed 99 amendments to NAMA, which is currently being debated in the Dail.

ULYFG will be organising many more events over the semester, keep an eye out on the notice boards for advertisements. If anyone is interested in joining ULYFG or wants to find out more information, please email [ulyfg@gmail.com](mailto:ulyfg@gmail.com).

# UL Softball all bring home the silverware



UL Softball 55's team

The UL Softball Club's trip to Belfast for the first Intersvarsities of the year was a profitable one. Both the 55's and the DT's teams won their divisions in the tournament, bringing home both the Cup and Plate trophies, as well as all four MVP trophies. The 55's finished the weekend with 8 wins and 1 loss to qualify them for the Cup final. They put up a huge score in the final,

winning 21-7 against the UCD Wildcats. The DT's had 4 wins and 6 losses going into the Plate final and ended their weekend with an exciting win over the Queens University club, coming back from a 7-0 deficit to beat them 16-11.

Most Valuable Players for the weekend were Eugene O'Callaghan and Stephen Quinn of the DT's, along with Ruth Lillis and John Leonard of the 55's. The 55's are now

at the top of the league table for the 2009-2010 Intersvarsity season, a great start to their search for their 5th straight Intersvarsity title.

This was the first Intersvarsity to be played at Queens University, and saw two new clubs join the Intersvarsity league: Queens University and NUI Galway. The next Intersvarsity competition will be held at UCD in March.

# A highly strung weekend

Two major shoots were held by UL Archery recently and an Irish Record was smashed. The IAAA National League & Halloween Shoot was held on Saturday the 31st of October and the Irish Open was held on Sunday the 1st. The Irish Open is one of the most prestigious Indoor Shoots in Ireland and is one of the few International Shoots held in the country every year.

Last Saturday anyone walking by the P.E.S.S. Building would have thought that they had walked onto the set of the next big blockbuster Sci-fi film. The variety of weird and wacky creatures strolling around the place was phenomenal. This is because UL Archery Club was hosting their inaugural Halloween shoot. Costume was optional for the day and most of the 36 competitors took

the option. Costumes varied from a Circus Ring Leader to a Storm Trooper and even Woody from Toy Story popped in. There was a very high standard of competition on the day, with Irish Champion Keith Hanlon producing a World Championship and European Championship qualifying score of 578 out of a possible 600 in the mornings shoot. Martin Hornak won the Male Recurve category with some great shooting. Sinéad Cuthbert took the Female Recurve category. Eoghan O'Donoghue beat off some stiff competition to take Male Compound while Sarah Deegan won Female Compound. The Junior Recurve category was won by Eoin Doyle. UL's Michael Curtin secured a silver medal in the Junior Recurve category. UL's Louis Burke set a new Personal Best on the day. The Irish Open was a much more serious

event. The wet morning didn't dampen the spirits of the 46 archers who showed up to do battle for the prestigious titles to be won. By the time the results were announced, archers, supporters and volunteers were all shot out. Eoghan O'Donoghue of the Kingdom Archers set a new Irish Record for Male Compound Indoor with a score of 119 from 12 arrows. Joe Gills qualifying score on the day of 573 also provided him with a World Championship and European Championship qualifying score.

UL's Donna McKenny qualified as an advanced archer on the day, scoring 366 on her first ever archery competition, a feat not many can claim. UL Archery President, Dave Cunningham scored a new personal best during the morning shoot. Joe Gill won Male Recurve with a fantastic days shooting.

Sinéad Cuthbert won Female Recurve after a tight battle. Harry Lyster took the Male Compound category. Another tight battle took place in the Female Compound category, with Sarah Deegan coming out on top. In the Male Barebow section Charles Taylor took home the gold and Oisín Cleary took the honours in Junior Recurve. UL Archery brought home two silver medals from the Irish Open with Michael Curtin in the Junior Recurve category once more and Denis Angland shooting in the category of Male Barebow.

UL Archery would like to thank everyone who made the weekend possible. We would also like to give a special word of thanks to our volunteers on both days. A special thanks to our administrators on both days, Margaret Carey and Niall Boland.

# Wexford Handball Intervarsities 2009

By Gary Hassett

The 2009 college handball season kicked off with the 60x30 team event which this year was held in Wexford Town over the weekend of the 9 to 11 October.

Over 70 participants from colleges throughout the country participated including a team of 10 representing UL. Preparations this year were affected by the World Championships recently held in Portland, Oregon, USA but nonetheless UL came away with plenty to be proud of.

Congratulations are to be given to all participants in the 2009 World Handball Championships.

In particular a good mention is due to UL's representatives at the games, Deirdre Donohoe of Roscommon and Cathal Hannon of Clare. Deirdre arrived home a world champion as she claimed the Ladies A Title while Cathal took a number of scalps on the international front.

Proceedings in Wexford got underway on the Friday evening with the Men's B team event which saw the UL team of Jamie Geraghty, Ian O'Dwyer, John Fitzgerald & Gary Hassett come out the wrong side of a 67-45 defeat at the hands of DCU's Ciaran O'Sullivan, Steven Travers, James Smith & Connor O'Gorman. DCU had the stronger team overall and they proved this by going on to claiming the title. The Men's C team event followed this and after a controversial decision UL were forced to concede 30 aces before stepping into the court due to the inability to form a 4 man team.

However the UL team of Sean Egan, James Enright & Brendan Sheehy battled on before going down 45-10 to DIT. In the Ladies

doubles, UL's dynamic duo of Deirdre Donohoe and Karen Lawlor finished in 3rd place behind UCC's Ashley & Maedbh Prendiville and winners Hilary & Marianna Rushe of UCD.

The UL ladies were unlucky not to have claimed 2 titles by the tournament end. Deirdre Donohoe set out her intentions with a good victory over ITT's Shauna Hilley in the semi finals while at the same stage Karen Lawlor was overpowered by UCC's Ashley Prendiville. This set up a thrilling final between Deirdre and Ashley but alas it was a bridge too far for the UL star. The Ladies A Plate final set up Karen Lawlor with the daunting task of attempting to overcome Shauna Hilley but despite Karen's best effort UL once again had to settle for a runner up spot.

It was rough beginnings for UL Men's B players as all five participants failed to make it past the round of 16. Attention now turned to the B Plate. In the opening round Ian O'Dwyer and John Fitzgerald faced stiff competition and were subsequently defeated by ITT's Danny O'Riordan and DCU's Steven Travers respectively. Finally fortunes changed for the UL men as Gary Hassett got them off the mark with a 14-9 vanquishing of UCC's John Kearney.

Unfortunately Mark O'Donovan was next to exit the competition as he was unable to overcome Ciaran O'Sullivan of DCU in a close fought 12-8 encounter. Jamie Geraghty came through an epic clash with NUIG's Shane Hayes as he managed to escape with a 16-15 victory after extra time.

A smash-and-grab attempt from DCU's

James Smith was enough to overcome Gary Hassett as a strong finish saw him through to the semis on a 9-8 score line. Jamie's good form continued in the semi-finals as he overwhelmed Ciaran O'Sullivan to advance to the final. Sadly it didn't get any better than this as Jamie collected UL's 3rd runner-up medal of the weekend as James Smith came away with the gold for DCU after a 21-15 win.

Finally all hopes rested UL's C team to bring home the goods. This optimism took a blow with opening round defeats for the trio of Sean Egan, James Enright and Brendan Sheehy. Sean got the ball rolling in the Men's C Plate with a comfortable 17-2 victory over DIT's Eoin McCafferty.

Unfortunately the ball never started rolling for James or Brendan as successive defeats saw them hit the showers earlier than they would have wished. A semi-final place was as good as it got for Sean Egan as DIT's Conor Grealis got the better of him in a gruelling 13-5 contest.

With a respectable haul of 3 runner-up medals and numerous encouraging performances attention now turns to the small alleys and in particular the 40x20 Intervarsities due to be held in Tralee from the 20-22 Nov.

Training continues as normal in the PESS building on Monday and Thursday evenings with trips to the alleys any night in between. Any new members interested in joining the club should get in contact with the club on our facebook page University of Limerick Handball Club or send an email to ulhandball@gmail.com.

## UL Badminton

THE UL badminton club started the year with a bang at the Irish ISBT (International Student Badminton Tournament) held in the Arena during the October bank holiday week end 23-26 October.

17 teams originating from Ireland, the United Kingdom and Norway took part in this competition. In total 175 players entered the various sections of the tournament. The UL badminton club lined up a 19 people strong team led by club Captain Richard McEvoy and Vice Captain Deirdre Lynch.

Each Player competed in two of three categories, singles, doubles and mixed doubles. The strongest players were ranked A and less experienced players were ranked D. Double teams were formed randomly by the organising committee to encourage socialising. Each category first played in a round robin format and the top two players/teams of each category met in a final on Monday afternoon.

UL Badminton club captain, Richard McEvoy was very satisfied with the team results: 'Overall it was a fantastic performance from the UL team, with students taking honours in all categories.'

Equally important, the ISBT provides a platform on which the players can test their skill levels against the best in the country and further a field.

The ISBT also encourages 1st year beginners to experience team competition at college level in a fun and social environment. It has proven, over the last number of years, to help integrate student and cement their interest within the UL Badminton club. This is not alone beneficial for the students but also for the club as a whole as new members are the future of the clubs existence.

The next big event for the UL badminton teams is the Limerick league that will be starting in the next few days. UL entered three teams at level, one in the strongest 2-3-4 category, one in the level 5 and one in the level 6 leagues. Matches are played on a home and away basis and will take place between the start of November and the end of March. You can follow the performances of the UL teams on the club website.

# Freshers slide to muddy victory

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

**THE UL fresher 2 football team recovered from their opening loss to Cork IT to record a facile win over Waterford IT in conditions more akin to mud wrestling on pitch one. Once again the playing surface was the main talking point as players slipped and slid throughout the game on the rain sodden terrain.**

The game took on a one sided nature from an early stage. The visitors failed to even register a wide in the opening half. A brace of Daire Summerville frees opened UL's account before the referee awarded a penalty on ten minutes. Aaron McLoughlin's effort was weak and was saved by WIT goalkeeper Donal O'Sullivan but McLoughlin fired home the rebound and UL were well on their way. The tally quickly started to mount up with forwards Niall McMahon, Colin Dempsey and Thomas Quinn also finding the range. The pick of the bunch though was a lovely curling effort from the left side by outstanding centre back David O'Donnell. By half time UL were 1-10 to 0-0 in front and coasting. It should have been more with the UL forwards shooting poorly at times and also finding keeper in O'Sullivan in fine form.

The second half followed a similar trend. Dempsey fired another contender for point of the day and Summerville maintained his accuracy from placed balls. The odd splash of water continued to be a permanent feature.

The highlight of the game arrived when O'Sullivan dived at full length to deny Aaron McLoughlin a second goal. On this day the WIT number one could do no more for his team. There was one brief moment of glory at the other end for the away side when Cian Sisk got WIT off the mark, a feat which even brought cheers from the UL supporters. With twelve minutes to go an end was brought to proceedings with a seventeen point victory achieved by UL without any great fuss. Backs John Murphy and David O'Donnell caught the eye for UL with forwards Niall Mahon, Colin Dempsey and Daire Summerville contributing handsomely to the scoreboard.

UL: J Barry, J O'Brien, J Murphy, G O'Connor, JJ Murphy, D O'Donnell (0-1), M Halliney, C Faul (0-1), C Trent, N Mahon (0-3), C Dempsey (0-2), T Quinn (0-1), D Summerville (0-6 5f 45), E Mc Sweeney, A McLoughlin (1-1).

Subs: C Dixon, C McMuiris, A Campbell, A Walsh, M Lonergan, T Callanan, D Holton, S Egan, S Dowling, M Gavin.

WIT: D O'Sullivan, C Kennedy, E Hoolohan, D Bulger, N Browne, C Ryan, E Galvin, A Murphy, R Doyle, C Gilligan, P O'Donoghue, C Lynch, B Cocoman, A McLoughlin, C Sisk (0-1f).



**UL 1-15**  
**WIT 0-01**

The freshers fighting hard against WIT

# Football wins over mudwrestling on Pitch One

By Daniel Bridge

**UL 2-5**  
**WIT 1-4**


**COLD hands. Cold feet. Cold... well... you know... The horrible weather of Week 9 had many of the University's home games moved to places like Annacotty and Milford. Pitch One, however, was in full swing. Fresher A football action was the order of the day for this An Focal Sport reporter, who had a makeshift press box in the form of his umbrella.**

A mediocre first half ended with WIT having the upper hand, playing some good football despite the conditions (this may be in comparison however, to their Fresher B counterparts who only registered a single score in the previous match). Despite

being outplayed, UL kept in touch with the Waterford side with a half-time score of 1-1 to 0-2. The second half had WIT showing a different approach in how to defeat their opponents, by taking the term 'contact sport' a little too much to heart.

On numerous occasions 50-50 balls were ignored by WIT players in order for them to go straight for their man. WIT had four players names taken and could well have been more. Three of those bookings were for arguing with the referee. But in fairness, there could well have been yellow and red cards issued for dangerous and needless challenges.

The arguing from the WIT players had also got to the point that it looked like the referee didn't want the hassle of calling fouls and aggravating both the management and players of the Waterford side. Football won out in the end though, with UL winning out 2-5 to 1-4. The introduction of Ed O'Sullivan at half-time was the turning point in the match. He gave an outlet to the midfield and was composed and assured in possession, capping the performance with two well taken goals.



**UL ROWING CLUB**  
**PRESENTS THEIR INAUGURAL WINTER RUN SERIES**  
**WITHIN UL CAMPUS**

**Thursday nights 7pm**

Participant registration at the boathouse 6.30pm (registration closes at 6.50pm)

Race start time 7pm from UL boathouse around UL campus – see map below

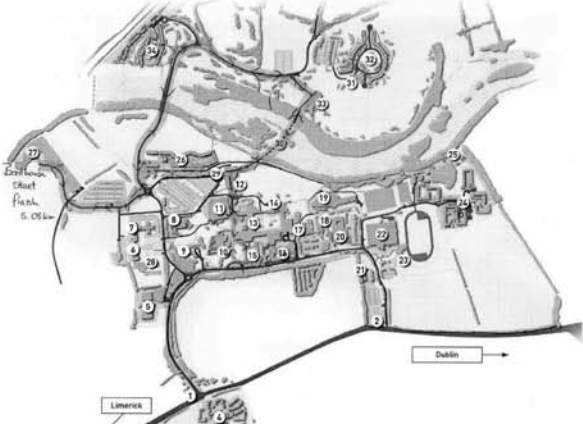
Distance: 5km on the first three Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> in November, Increase to 7km on next three Thursdays 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec & 10<sup>th</sup> December Resume in January with a 10km distance over three Thursdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

Entry fee €5  
Student entry fee €3

Prizes will be given for overall fastest male, female and most improved male & female after the final January race.

All runners of every ability are welcome.

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST WEAR HIGH-VIS VESTS.**



For further information contact: [liz\\_gabbett@yahoo.ie](mailto:liz_gabbett@yahoo.ie)

## Match Reports

# UL upstage UCD

By Cian Healy

**UL LADIES took to the impressive All Weather surface in the Seanchóill complex in Corbally this Wednesday afternoon, due to the weather affecting the pitches on campus, to face old rivals UCD in a massive game for the UL, after drawing the opening game in their league defense.**

UL started off at a frantic pace, with the long and wide pitch suiting UL's wide play, with Julie-Ann Russell and Jenny Critchley showing their pace by getting past their respective full backs on numerous occasions, but finding Louise Quinn at the heart of UCD's defense impossible to get past. Some neat passing play between Kacey O' Driscoll and Aoife Herbert led to a long range strike, but the UCD Keeper wasn't tested.

A frustrating first half for UL got even more so, when a ball over the top by UCD caught out the defence, albeit suspicions of offside, led to the opening goal of the game. The UCD

striker brought the ball out to the wing, and squared for UCD's Vicky Reynolds to wrong-foot Laoise O' Driscoll in the goal and put UCD 1-0 ahead.

This seemed to spur UL on, as for the rest of the half, Laoise did not see the ball again. Sarah Considine was controlling the midfield, giving Karen Duggan and Kacey O' Driscoll a license to attack, while Sarah also supplied some of UL's best chances, with some cleverly worked corners delivered into the box, just lacking the vital touch. That seemed to be UL's problem, with Aoife Herbert, Kacey O' Driscoll and Karen Duggan all having good chances, with some excellent build up play, just no end product.

Aoife Herbert had a shout for a penalty turned down, when one of her mazy runs was stopped by the defender somewhat forcefully. The referee brought a disappointing first half for UL to an end with UCD still leading. The second

half began in the same way as the first half, with UL controlling the tempo and dictating play, with the centre half pairing of Sarah Crotty and Aimee Jordan handling everything thrown at them, and Catherine Power and Lorna O' Connell getting forward at every opportunity for the full back positions. A tactical change saw a change in fortunes for UL, with Karen Duggan being put as the focal point of the attack, Aoife Herbert on the wing, and Julie-Ann Russell being dropped into the midfield. This led to the equalizer for UL, when a clever corner was put into the box and Karen Duggan got a foot to the ball, and flicked it around the UCD Keeper. This was the goal UL needed and didn't look back from here.

With more and more pressure being applied, Aoife Herbert had another penalty shout turned down, before Aoife cut in from the wing and got past 3 players, before being fouled on the edge of the box. Sarah Considine stepped up,

and curled the ball into the top corner leaving the UCD Keeper with no chance, and UL with a deserved 2-1 lead. The UL defence held strong, not giving UCD an inch, and put UCD on the back-foot again, with more attacks building from the wings, but UCD were holding strong and clearing everything else that was thrown at them. With 20 minutes left, the game was sealed by a 25-yard screamer into the top corner from Julie-Ann Russell.

It was an excellent all-round goal from one of the many contenders for Player of the Match, and with the game wrapped up, UL ran out the clock comfortably, with substitutes Jenny Downey and Richael O' Brien causing problems and testing the UCD Keeper and were unlucky not to add to UL's tally of 3 goals. The game came to a close, with UL recovering from a goal down, to run out deserved victors, and look forward to their next game at home to Sligo IT.

## Fresher ladies rain in the goals

### UL 9-16 Tipp Institute/ St Pats 0-0

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

**TUESDAY of Week 9 saw surely one of the most one sided fixtures in the history of UL GAA. The UL fresher ladies ruthlessly dispatched Tipperary Institute on pitch one in a mismatch of epic proportions. The game was played in a biting wind with heavy rain showers coming and going throughout. The seven spectators who braved the elements deserve some sort of award.**

Completely out of their depth the Tipp ladies fired a wide in the opening seconds. It was their only attack of the game. From the time Edith Collins lashed over UL's first point the trend of the game became apparent. By the sixth minute it was 1-4 to 0-0 with Sarah Dolan finding the net.

Dolan grabbed another on 12 minutes followed up soon after by Ciara McGrath. 3-14 to 0-0 was the half time score. Apart from the deadly full forward line of Collins, Dolan and McGrath others like midfielder Caroline O'Regan and half back Fabienne Cooney stood out.

In the second period the UL bombardment

continued. Caroline Reen raised two more green flags and Edith Carroll drilled home a fine penalty. The fading light and the thunder showers added further to the farcical nature of this fixture.

The Tipp goalkeeper was evidently struggling with a knock but with no substitutes she was forced to soldier on. McGrath drilled two more goals as the rain started to mill out of the heavens.

At a score of 9-16 to 0-0 midway through the second period it was time to depart for shelter. The Tipperary girls must have been jealous.

UL: N.Walsh, C.Hackett, A.Higgins, S.O'Neil, L.Collins, F.Cooney, N.O'Brien, J.Moore, C.O'Regan, C.Reen, M.Lynch, R.O'Donovan, E.Carroll, S.Dolan, C.McGrath.

Subs: S.Roche, M.Curran, N.Cronin, E.Murphy, S.O'Gorman, S.O'Neill, C.Burell, L.Bergin, N.Walsh, B.McManus, A.Nolan, A.Dunphy, E.Kennedy, L.Murphy, L.Quinn.

## UL hearts broken despite heroic comeback

### CIT 1-9 UL 0-10

By Tommy Crean

**A STRONG C.I.T. outfit broke UL hearts as they grabbed a late winner in this exciting Intermediate League contest. Alan Kennedy, brought on as substitute for C.I.T. just after half-time, placed the ball exquisitely into the far corner of the net following quality build up play with the last kick of the game.**

UL had managed an admirable comeback in the second half and had just taken the lead for the first time since their opening score.

Full-forward Dave Scannell opened the hosts account in the second minute but things soon went downhill swiftly as the Cork college raised four white flags in a row. UL managed only one more score for the remainder of the half to C.I.T.'s three, for whom L. Harrington was impressing in his playmaking role. This left the half time score at 0-02 for UL and 0-07 for C.I.T, a clear indication of the dominance of the visitors.

Both sides exchanged points early in the second period, the latter being one of the scores of the match from UL's Dave Sheehy, who struck beautifully with a left footed curling effort. C.I.T. then slotted over their final point of the match as UL grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck. James Moran, Michael McMahan, Stephan O'Connor added to UL's tally as well as two from Sheehy, who was getting stuck into the contest. In the 51st minute, Moran managed to get back heroically to prevent a certain goal against his side after

a goalmouth scramble. Soon after, O'Connor levelled the game striking from what appeared to be an impossible angle and Sheehy then struck what most felt would be the match-winning score. However, Kennedy proved to be the saviour as his cool finish earned the bragging rights for the Cork-based outfit.

Honourable mentions from UL go to Sheehy (0-04), Moran (0-01) and also full-back Chris Murphy who performed well in the second half. C.I.T.'s Harrington was my man of the match; every time he got hold of the ball the UL defence encountered trouble. Coakley and Kelleher also impressed.

UL: N.Doolan, D.Carroll, C.Murphy, R.Farrell, S.Lucey, K.Kiely, E.Kennedy, J.Moran, K.Gill, C.Forde, S.O'Connor, D.Sheehy, M.McMahon, D.Scannell, M.O'Goill.

Subs: J.Collins, T.O'Sullivan, R.McGrael, C.Moran, M.Togher, C.Fitzgerald, P.Golden, K.Quirke, A.Whyte, W.Ambrose, B.O'Keefe, J.O'Mahony, M.O'Meara.

C.I.T: B. Walsh, S. O'Dea, J. O'Malley, T. O'Donovan, S.Crowley, B.McGuire, C.O'Sullivan, D.Coughlan, M.Keenehan, N.Coakley, L.Harrington, M.Evans, K.O'Driscoll, B.Kelleher, J'O'Leary.

Subs: K.O'Sullivan, D. O'Mahony, A. Kennedy, P.Harnett.

Match Reports

# Five star champions hammer Tralee

UL 5 IT  
Tralee 1

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

UL recorded an excellent victory when first played second in this Umbro Colleges and Universities Premier League clash in Week 9. This win sends UL to the top of the Southern Premier Division table. The game was played under lights on an excellent pitch in Askeaton despite all the wet weather that had rendered the UL 10 acres pitches unplayable.

The home side hit the ground running. After five minutes a good through ball from Jamie Richardson found Limerick FC's Dave McGrath inside the penalty area. McGrath, playing with huge confidence controlled the ball perfectly with his first touch. His second touch was even better as he calmly placed the ball low to the Tralee keeper's right and UL were one up.

UL were really dominating in the middle of the field now and should have had a second when Dan Goggin hit a post with a powerful header from an excellent Walsh corner. It was not long before they got their reward as Waterford United's Paul Walsh went one better with another low drive from 20 yards out that fairly rattled into the net. This score would have been the highlight of many games but better was still to come. UL went three up with a lovely 11 pass move that started with Tomas Barrett at left full back. Nice interplay with Paul Walsh made space for Brendan Daly who was able to switch the play to Dan Goggin on the right wing with a raking 40 yard pass. Goggin made great ground up the right thanks to another give and go with Richardson. More swift interplay put John O'Leary in on the overlap. The pull back from the byeline was well controlled by McGrath who then coolly

finished low into the bottom left hand corner. A simply wonderful goal. UL now relaxed a little, perhaps thinking that the job was already over. Tralee came into things and ten minutes before the break Tralee scored when a cross from the left wing was not dealt with properly. The clearance came to a Tralee player outside the box who scored with an excellent drive that went in off the underside of the crossbar. This goal underlined the threat posed by Tralee and meant that UL manager Trevor Lovell had little trouble in galvanising his charges at halftime. It was clear that Lovell's halftime words of wisdom had the desired effect as UL clearly upped the tempo once again. They were rewarded 10 minutes in as a cross from Walsh on the left was met by Brian Cleary just inside the penalty area. UL's World Student Games star had plenty to do but he was able to conjure up a deft looping header that gave the Tralee keeper no chance to leave the score at 4-1. McGrath completed the scoring and his own hat-trick on 70 minutes when he calmly converted a rebound from his own shot.

All in all this was a great night for UL soccer that should fill everyone with hope for some of the bigger challenges that lie ahead for the rest of the season.

UL: Enda Joyce, Dan Goggin, Nigel Stanley, Brian Cleary, Tomas Barrett, John O'Leary, Brendan Daly, Gavin Roche, Paul Walsh, Jamie Richardson, David McGrath.

Subs: Niall Stack for Stanley (60 mins) Cian Egan for Brendan Daly (65 mins), Ed Gallagher for Cleary (70 Mins) Rob Phelan for Barrett (75 mins).



UL against Tralee  
Credit Ger Dunne

# UL ladies rugby demolish DCU

Liam Toogher reports from the UL Bowl

UL 31-  
0 DCU

UL HIT the ground running in the Ladies Rugby First Division with a 31-0 hammering of DCU at the UL Bowl on 28 October.

With the visitors' late arrival resulting in the game kicking off an hour after it had

been scheduled, the Limerick ladies were comprehensively warmed up and quickly set about welcoming their opponents, who last year had been promoted from Division 2, to the top level. For many of the players on show there was an introduction to contested scrums. However, the frequency with which these had to be reset prompted the referee to imply a no-contest policy from all scrums after just 20 minutes. It took UL just six minutes to cross the try line, Sarah Jane Cody jinking past four DCU players to touch down. Out-half Anna Caplice landed the conversion for 7-0. The home team totally dominated the first half and added to the scoreboard on 15 minutes, Ailish

Tone brilliantly intercepting in the DCU 22 to stroll over the line. While UL had the class, DCU were not lacking in determination and resolve, but the match was effectively over before half-time. Caplice got their third try in the 26th minute after a neat lay-off from Cody. Five minutes later UL worked the phases and their pressure was rewarded when Cody went over for her second try. Caplice notched another conversion to take the score to 24-0. The Limerick side continued to control proceedings in the second half, although DCU's defence put up a much improved showing and limited their opponents to just one more try from flanker Kyla Bruff. The visitors actually ended the

game stronger, but UL were determined not to drop their guard late on and held firm for a deserved 31-0 victory.

UL team: H Yagamisca, M O'Connor, SJ Cody, C Lacey, K O'Dea, A Caplice, A Tone; U Downey, L Barbow, S Hogan, F Malone, G McCann, K Bruff, M Flanagan, F Reidy.

Subs: M Moran, S Brueggie, M Claffey, K Berns, J Reid, J Kirwan, M Crehan, L Murphy, A Hogan.

Scorers: SJ Cody (2 tries), A Caplice (1 try, 3 conversions), A Tone (1 try), K Bruff (1 try).

# The Optimum Point

By Conor McGrath

**HEAVYWEIGHT boxing. When one thinks of heavyweight boxing, Muhammed Ali, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield and George Foreman usually spring to mind.**

The division represents the core of boxing. In recent years, the heavyweight division has become a shell of what it was in the seventies and the nineties.

The Eastern domination of the division has become a cancer to the sport as these fighters are hard to identify with, especially as they just move forward expecting to control the fight which is utterly boring to watch and extremely painful for the ticket holder.

The entertainment factor has been a non entity for nearly half a decade which, unfortunately, has led to the rise of the UFC

and the continuing popularity for various wrestling factions. However, David Haye's dismantling of "the beast from the East" Nicolai Valuev in Nuremberg has given the division a new lease of life. Nicolai Valuev of seven foot and two inches represents everything negative about boxing in recent years as most viewers were only attracted to the fight in the hope of seeing this giant knocked down to the canvas.

If Valuev represents everything negative about the sport, Haye is the complete opposite. A showman of the Ali school, Haye sold this fight to the masses and edged the fight with his disciplined tactics. His smash and grab tactics on the champ worked a treat and his near knockout of the beast of the

beast was a sight to behold. He truly showed up Valuev for the poor, one dimensional boxer he really is. A lot of critics of Haye have lambasted the man for his arrogance and his silly confrontational tactics. This has to be laughed at as he talked the talk and surely proceeded to walk the walk.

Let us not forget that the likes of David Beckham, Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard have usually bottled it on the world stage but Haye has shown us he is a class apart. He fought the man who nobody in the division wanted and took him to pieces, especially as it was only his third fight in the division. He conceded seven stone, almost a foot in height, and fought Valuev in the most controversial of boxing countries, Germany, and came out

the undisputed victor. Haye's victory is a breath of fresh air for heavyweight boxing. He is young, charismatic and willing to fight the best in his prime unlike Joe Calzaghe and his ilk.

Fights against the Klistchko brothers and John Ruiz are now on the cards and marketing value will be picked up by the pay per view corporations in America. With the continuing rise of Ireland's middleweights and the exciting amateur scene the possibility of a Vegas showdown between pound for pound kings Floyd Mayweather Jr and Manny Pacquiao in early May; boxing has a case for grabbing our attention in the coming months. Should Bernard Dunne make a comeback? Maybe that's just overstepping the mark.

## There's something about Anna

By Stephen Kelly

**IT'S NOT hard to get an article on Anna Kournikova published. After all it's an excuse to stick a big picture in there somewhere. Exclusive interview with Roy Keane? Hold that, we have to make room for Anna. The guy laying out the page started doing cartwheels when he saw this one coming.**

Has there ever been a sporting figure whose celebrity has been so disproportionate to their achievements? Doubtful, and for many the cult of Kournikova represents the ultimate victory of style over substance. If her level of fame is completely disproportionate to her achievements on court then so is the level of vitriol that has been aimed at her. There's a general impression that she was completely hopeless as a player. As one of my fellow sports hacks here put it: "Playstation games named after her: 2. Matches won: 0." Amidst all the hype and hate one thing seems to have been forgotten. Namely that Anna Kournikova was a very good tennis player. In November 2000 she was ranked number eight in the world. How many people get to say that they were among the eight best in the world at their chosen profession? She also reached the Wimbledon semi-finals on her debut at a 16 year old becoming only the 2nd woman in the open era to achieve that feat after Chris Evert. Admittedly the gaping hole in her CV is the lack of a title though she was unlucky to come up against Martina Hingis, twice, and Venus Williams in the three Tier I finals she played in. If her singles career was good but unspectacular her record in doubles was much more impressive. She partnered Martina Hingis to Australian Open titles in 1999 and 2002 and the pair reached number 1 in the world rankings. She won 16 other ladies doubles titles and finished her career with an impressive 200-71 win/loss record. Overall she earned over \$3.5m in a short injury-ravaged career that coincided with an incredibly strong era in women's tennis. It doesn't make for bad reading especially when you consider the development of her early career. When you trace the origins of Anna the Icon, it's clear that Kournikova the mere tennis player never stood a chance. She left Russia for Florida when she was just 10 years old. Before her 11th birthday she had signed with the world's largest management agency, IMG, and had a clothing contract with Ellesse. She was based at Nick Bollettieri's prestigious tennis

academy where the grossly unrealistic expectations for her were never kept secret. Bollettieri himself could barely contain himself: "She's not only the youngest real prospect I've ever had, but the best. We've had Andre Agassi. We've had Jim Courier. We've had Monica Seles, but when I see how this girl can play, at age 10, I'm shocked."

No pressure there then. The Women's Tour Association (WTA) was also complicit in creating the monster. Calls from other tennis authorities to raise the legal age for turning pro (from 14 to 16) were ignored. The physical and mental meltdown of Jennifer Capriati, another teen prodigy, had raised alarm bells. It was rumoured that Kournikova was one of the chief reasons the WTA were reluctant to raise the age and despite the warnings she began playing on the pro circuit at 14. Their irresponsible treatment of the player continued in her early pro career. Along with other teenage talents, Hingis and the Williams sisters, Kournikova was aggressively marketed for her appearance. Appearances in GQ, Vanity Fair and Vogue were engineered not by the players' agents but by the WTA, the body responsible for their well-being and development. The WTA however were unrepentant as their approach reaped rich financial dividends. Given media circus, pressure and off-court distractions, none of which she realistically had any control over, it's hardly surprising that Kournikova never really lived up to her potential as a player. In fact the most surprising thing is that she emerged from a successful career without having gone completely insane. And despite the revisionist consensus of her as a complete no-hoper, it was a successful career. When Kournikova looks back at her playing days she'd be entitled to feel a great deal of bitterness at the way she was handled. Her parents, her academy coach, her agency and her sport's governing body were all content to milk the marketing cash cow regardless of how much it hindered her progress as a player. It's something worth considering before writing her off as a talentless model posing as a sports person.



Anna Kournikova



# Flooded out to further a field

By Eoin King

**EVERY two weeks we here at An Focal Sport like to moan and vent about certain issues. We figure if we get it out of the way now, by the time we reach retiring age all the angst might leave the system. Either that or we'll have become curmudgeonly masters by the time we're forty.**

Anyway, while the young new hot shots who have invaded our An Focal Sports pages, improve the best section in the paper even further, 'The Sports Editor', being the sensitive guy he is asked for a piece on the weather, rather than break it to me gently and inform me that my sportswriting days are over.

So I looked out the window and told him it was raining. However, he was thinking more about how the weather was affecting UL sports matches (that's why he's editor and I'm on the fringes of An Focal Sport).

And so it is with the most artificial anger I can muster that I must let ye all know that between Weeks 7 and 9, six matches were relocated from the UL campus. Fresher 2 football was subjected to a spongy Pitch 1 in Week 7 while the Fresher 1 crowd took on CIT in Monaleen. Claughaun was the venue for UL's

fresher hurlers the same week, as they took on the WIT crowd. Every year in Ireland it rains. Fact. That's just the way it goes around here. Fixtures will be postponed, and we can live with that, but the number of reorganised fixtures that occurred in UL during Week 9 should be looked at seriously by UL officials.

The UL hurlers have one of the best college teams in Ireland, but that talent was on display in Newtownshandrum in Week 9. UL students should get to avail of that on the home pitch: Pitch 1.

The downpours that week were heavy at times but the fact remains that a drainage system in late October or early November should hold out to it. Mens rugby was switched, although that may have been due to the presence of the Irish rugby team. Men and ladies soccer were shafted off to Askeaton and Corbally, respectively. Check out Google Maps; I don't know where these places are, and, with all due respect to the residents there, I don't care either. I shouldn't have to wander out there, unlike our sports teams. They need support, and the closer they remain to the college, the more they'll get of it.

# The Scots got a lot of problems

By Liam Toghher

TWO years ago, Scottish football was very much on an upward curve. The national team stood on the brink of qualifying for Euro 2008 at the expense of either France or Italy, the two nations who contested the World Cup final 16 months earlier. Rangers thrashed Lyon 3-0 away from home in the Champions League and, despite leaving that competition in the group stage, progressed all the way to the UEFA Cup final. Under the guidance of Gordon Strachan, Celtic were about to reach the Champions League knockout rounds for the second year in a row.

Scotland missed the boat when conceding a last-minute winner to Italy on a miserable night at Hampden Park. Since the highs of 2007-08, football fans in Britain's northernmost country have been subjected to one humiliation after another. The national team began an underwhelming World Cup qualifying campaign with a limp 1-0 defeat in Macedonia and should have beaten Norway a month later at home, only for Chris Iwelumo to miss from, I kid you not, two yards. If one game summed up the mess George Burley's team got dragged into, it was the 4-0 capitulation against the Norwegians, who could have won by plenty more. Scottish club football has also hit a downward spiral over the last season and a bit.

Rangers' shock defeat to FBK Kaunas denied them a place in the UEFA Cup proper while Celtic finished bottom of their Champions League group, partly thanks to taking just a single point in their two matches against AaB Aalborg. Both Glasgow giants are set for another pre-Christmas European exit this time around as well, with the Ibrox team's 4-1 hammering by Unirea Urziceni topping the litany of poor results.

Even domestically the traditional top two have not had it all their own way. At the start of November, Celtic narrowly led the SPL from unheralded Hibernian, with Rangers lagging behind in 3rd and the likes of Motherwell and Dundee United not that far off. While those teams are improving steadily, their unexpected proximity to the SPL summit can also be attributed to the Glasgow clubs' demise.

Perhaps this will temper any notions of Celtic and Rangers joining the English Premier League, where they cannot realistically get anywhere near the firmly-established top four. The Old Firm derby in October was one of the worst instalments of the historic fixture in its 120-year history. For Tony Mowbray, Walter Smith and Burley at national level, it's asking a lot to restore this proud football nation to where many feel they belong.

# One cap wonders – Part 2

By Stephen Kelly

## Jason Byrne (Ireland)

Oh, I just realised he was actually capped twice. Move along now, nothing to see here.

## Michael Ricketts (England)

After helping Bolton to promotion Ricketts started the 2001/02 Premiership season like some kind of cross between George Weah and Usain Bolt. By February he'd hit 15 league goals and was rewarded with 45 minutes in a friendly against Holland. The term journeyman hardly does justice to his career since. Ten clubs (including current employers Tranmere) with an average of around two league goals at each and failed trials in Major League Soccer. I asked my Tranmere-supporting friend how Ricketts is doing right now. "Fat. Overweight. Can't run," was the verdict.

## Joe Lapira (Ireland)

The Louisiana Outlaws. The Lafayette Swamp Cats. The Baton Rouge Capitals. No I'm not playing around with a random American team-name generator. Seriously. These were the only clubs on Lapira's CV when he was called into a depleted Ireland squad for a US Cup game against Ecuador in the summer of 2007. Although losing 5-2 to Cyprus was strange, capping the amateur nephew of an FAI official must rank as the most inexplicable moment of the Staunton era. Currently playing for Nybergsund in the Norwegian 2nd division.

## Erik Meijer (Holland) and Andrea Silenzi (Italy)

These two don't deserve separate entries. A pair of lumbering donkeys who failed to score a single goal in a combined 36 Premiership matches for Liverpool and Nottingham Forest respectively.

How they were capped by countries with such rich football traditions is completely beyond me. I can't think of anything remotely interesting to say either. I just thought including a couple of players from outside Ireland and England would make me look somewhat knowledgeable.

## Lee Bowyer (England)

If we're talking purely in terms of ability then this is one player who deserved more than one cap. During the 2000/2001 season young Bowyer was one of the stars of David O'Leary's young team of young lads at Leeds Utd that reached the Champions' League semi-finals.

However, during that period he was banned from international consideration by the FA. They apparently took exception to his extra-curricular fitness training which allegedly involved chasing Asian students through the city centre in the early hours of the morning.

Bowyer was forced to abandon his unique cardio work-outs and his form never really recovered so it seems unlikely he'll add to the single cap he won against Portugal in 2002.

## Pat Scully (Ireland)

Yes, we found our Limerick connection! The current Limerick FC manager was capped once in 1988 while a teenager on the books of Arsenal. Though he never made an appearance for the Arsenal first team he went on to have a distinguished career, most notably at Shelbourne. He was PFAI Player of the Year in 1997/98 and gained a reputation as a reliable central defender with a knack for scoring important goals. And if the tone of this entry seems a little sycophantic compared to the others, well there's a slight chance Pat Scully could read it should I say something um, less than complimentary and I'm a complete coward. So there you have it. Pat Scully: great player, great manager, great man.

## Paul Butler (Ireland)

Honest. Whole-hearted. Brave. Yes, Paul Butler was that type of central defender. In other words he had had all the mobility of a beached whale and was slower than a comatose Ian Harte. Butler was a regular in the Premier League when he was picked to face the Czech Republic in 2000 and given the onerous task of marking Jan Koller. The giant Czech striker has soon applied a leash and gimp mask to his opponent, helping himself to two goals in the process. Butler was hauled off at half time and never called up again. He had been eligible for Ireland because of his Irish wife. She immediately filed for divorce in a symbolic apology to her fellow citizens.

# Russell earns senior international recognition

By Tomás McCarthy – Sports Editor

**FOR those who have seen UL student Julie Ann Russell in action, her elevation to Noel King's Irish senior squad for the games against Kazakhstan and Russia was no surprise. This achievement deserves recognition for a winger/striker who sets high standards for herself.**

The senior squad played Russia away first on Sunday, 25 October, as they continued in their quest for a place in the 2011 World Cup. Russell was an unused substitute as Ireland lost their second game of the campaign 3-0. On the Thursday a trip to Kazakhstan was facing the ladies in green. Yalova opened the scoring for the home side on seven minutes and it appeared Ireland's qualification dreams were fading fast. Russell came on in the second half for her senior bow. Immediately her pace caused trouble down the left wing. It wasn't long before Ireland was level with Russell at the heart of the action. Evading her marker on the left she whipped in a cross and another debutant Stephanie Roche was on the scene to equalise. Five minutes later Yvonne Tracey rattled the net again and Ireland had earned a hard fought three points. Noel King singled out Russell proving that it was an inspired decision to call up this ever improving young lady.

Russell has served her apprenticeship with the under 19's making a major impact at that level. In September the team earned a place in the elite qualifying phase for the UEFA

Championships. Russell scored the winner in a 3-2 triumph over Finland and was also on target in a 7-0 trouncing of the Faroe Islands.

An Focal sport spoke to one of Julie Ann's team mates and she was full of praise of the new Irish cap. "Her playing style is basically that she can do anything, but she especially loves running with the ball and taking players on. She is so comfortable on the ball that beating players looks quite effortless. She just plays with the ball very close to her feet, and she is very, very quick." We also got an insight into how Russell loves the game and strives for that extra inch. "On top of all that, she is very energetic and I've been really impressed by her work rate in training, you can tell she just loves her football and wants to be on the ball all the time." Russell's club at the moment is Salthill Devon, an incredibly successful ladies team with talent oozing in every position. Russell was in the right place to hone her skills and develop the correct mentality. Soccer obviously runs in the family as her brother John Russell was captain of the Galway United who finished mid table in the League of Ireland this season.

Given the recent success UL have experienced no doubt Julie Ann will have further opportunities to improve. She has already opened her account for the team in their most recent game against UCD. The frightening thing for defences facing the pacy Julie Ann is that her best is probably still to come.



## Who Are Ya?

Compiled by Daniel Bridge

### The Basics

**Name:** Pa Durkin.

**Age:** 18.

**UL Club:** Football.

**County:** Cork.

**Position:** Centre mid.

**Sporting Heroes:** Roy Keane.

**Biggest sporting achievement:**

Making the UL team.

**Best thing about the club:** Playing football.

**Worst thing about the club:** Making up excuses so I don't have to go training.

### Favourite s

**Food:** Pasta.

**Drink:** Vodka.

**Song:** Get myself arrested – Gomez.

**Movie:** The Hangover.

**Jersey:** UL jersey.

### Take Your Pick

**Lodge or Trinity Rooms:** Trooms.

**Dunphy or Giles:** Dunphy.

**Tea or coffee:** Tesco vodka!

**Simpsons or Family Guy:** Family guy.

### Four to Finish

**Describe yourself in 3 words:** Very easy going.

**Will Ireland qualify for the World Cup?** If they beat France!

**Best chat-up line you've heard:** I won't go down in history but I'll go down on you.

**What will you be when you grow up?** Part time super hero.



## UL Sports Round-up

By Tomás McCarthy – Sports Editor

### Basketball

Both superleague basketball teams have started their campaigns in barnstorming fashion. The ladies team are top of the league after wins over Tolka Rovers and Sligo Allstars. The men's team, the UL Eagles, top the southern conference with four wins from four.

### Hockey

The UL ladies were defeated yet again on 31 October by Catholic Institute in Division 1 of the Munster Ladies league. A final score of 8-0 is dispiriting for a UL side who are in transition and who have lost many players from last season.

### Alan Kearns Project

There was a big fundraising night for the Alan Kearns Project in The Hurlers on Thursday of Week 9. This was organised by Offaly and UL hurler Brian Carroll who is lending his help to the cause.

### Facebook

The An Focal Sport Facebook page has been launched so find us so let us know what you think of our work.

### Fantasy Premier League

To join the UL Junior C Football League on premierleague.com the code is 361507-163498. Michael Moloney currently tops the table with his team Pigeon Hunters F.C.

# Sports Writers Diary

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

**October 24**  
Glen Whelan pops in another screamer for Stoke away to Spurs. Surely he has now used up his supply of spectacular goals.

**October 25**  
Togher is delighted at Liverpool's 2-0 win over Man U but as we all know folks that glory was short lived!

**October 26**  
I decide it's time to hit the books on Bank Holiday Monday. Lets face it I could be doing a lot worse.

**October 27**  
Attendance at the sports writers meeting goes down from nine to five. Time to pull up the socks lads.

**October 28**  
We get the first sight of Alberto Aqualiani in Carling Cup action. He probably needs a rest after that so Liverpool fans must stay patient!

**October 29**  
A very dull day means the sports editor finds it difficult to get out of the leaba!

**October 30**  
A Friday free of a newspaper deadline is good but getting soaked going to college is just no fun.

**October 31**  
A day of drama in the Premier League means that every game on Match of the Day is worth watching.

**November 1**  
A day of celebration in Thurles marking the 125th year of the association is added to by a fine game between Newtownshandrum and Thurles Sarsfields.

**November 2**  
It's official; the sports editor is not a fan of rain. A quiet night in is the order of the day.

**November 3**  
A certain housemate is well annoyed by his absence in An Focal after the other four got a mention. Them Kerrymen are never happy!

**November 4**  
A mucky day on pitch one is followed by a legendary table quiz in the sports bar. Unfortunately Mackey's Men didn't emerge victorious but sure there's always next year! Also Togher has his first day out as An Focal sport camera man!

**November 5**  
So would you put Eamon O'Hara in your top 125 gaelic football players? Just thought I'd put it out there!

**November 6**  
Deadline day and the pressure is on. King is also evidently looking for more interesting articles to write. Watch out for the next edition to see if King gets his wish.

## Forgotten Footballer - Frank Leboeuf

By Liam Togher

FRANK Leboeuf was one of those players who despite his limited ability did very well for himself. He is best known as the bald headed centre back in the team Ruud Gullit built at Chelsea. He joined the club in 1996 and played alongside flair players like Roberto Di Matteo, Gianluca Vialli and Gianfranco Zola during his time at Stamford Bridge. In his five years he played 204 games scoring 24 goals, these mainly coming from penalties. After Frank left London it was downhill joining Marseille for a short spell before heading to Qatar.

At international level Leboeuf also found that football treated him rather well. He deputised for the harshly suspended Laurent Blanc in the 1998 World Cup final win over Brazil. He also claimed a winner's medal at Euro 2000 in Holland and Belgium. At 41 years of age Leboeuf now resides in Los Angeles. He has come to fame recently for saying that David Beckham is overrated because of his nice face and also for criticising French coach Raymond Domenech. Looking back although Frank Leboeuf wasn't the most solid of centre halves he certainly was a successful one.



Frank Leboeuf

## The Rumour Mill

By Conor McGrath

"THE truth is out there" was the phrase coined by Mulder and Scully, and excessively repeated by their cult following, all those years ago. However, the scandal mongers in UL don't do conspiracy theories or soul searching for that matter. Instead, it's a bout of Gossip Girl on the box followed by tea and unfounded, unlicensed chitchat. Simple people, simple needs.

The Darts club haven't been meeting their targets or keeping their bullseyes on their accounts in recent weeks. Word in the lounge has it that they owe a considerable amount to the Sports Bar in "consistently additional costs". Did somebody forget to pick up the tab? We know the professionals like to mix both but it looks the club might need NAMA to help them out in the very near future. On the subject of ruin, the pretty much non-existent Racquetball club in the college is staring into the abyss according to its single digit members committee. The club have apparently been reaching out to the old timers of the student population in a desperate attempt to keep the club ticking over or even field a team for the record. Success has obviously lost its status as a priority for the realists amongst us but they have apparently refused to give in. Ignorance is bliss I suppose.

Ronam O'Gara was spotted in the Venus lab last week looking deep in thought as he stared at the computer screen as if they were goalposts. Was he getting some juice on the up and coming Sexton or trying to make another quick buck on the tables? Oh yeah his business is a domestic one, as long as a French newspaper doesn't find out like last time, Rog. The truth is out there somewhere but one usually has to add one's own interpretation to proceedings, if the truth cannot garner that scene of astonishment or that wide-eyed ghastly stare. It's simply the student and the queen bee's way...

# Quotes of the Edition

By Liam Togher

**"1, 2, DCU!"**

The ladies rugby team from said college conclude their pep talk prior to their meeting with UL at The Bowl. The Uniflu approach didn't work - they lost 31-0.

**"It's like comparing a dead dog and a dying one."**

The sports editor talks about Nani and Lucas! As for which is which, that's for you to decide.

**"I must get my Flake out first!"**

It may have been raining, I may have had an umbrella and I may have had a sports editor to shelter from the inclement conditions, but chocolate was my first priority.

**"Ah f\*\*\* off phone!"**

Daniel Bridge responds to receiving a text message. Not a fan of technology is Dan! Or maybe he just wants an upgrade.

**"Some fella with a beard is coming on."**

Daniel proves most helpful when Mossy asks him for the name of a UL sub. Has Santa Claus made a premature and highly unexpected appearance on Pitch 1?

**"It looks like Eoin Kelly."**

A few minutes later, Dan the man has to identify one of the UL fresher footballers being withdrawn from action. Apparently I look like Rory Gallagher but a dead musician I am not.

**"Well will ye look up there - two men and a dog...I mean two dogs and a man!"** My glasses may have been subjected to a pummelling from the rain, but surely there was no excuse for that. Buck up, Togher!

**"It's trying to mount it!"**

On the Pitch 1 embankment, Tommy Crean gets distracted by the two dogs playing behind the goal. He's easily excited, is Tommy!

**"Still no sign of Gerd Muller"**

Mossy calls for the introduction of 'Der Bomber' during Germany's defeat to Brazil at the World Youth Cup. Muller being 64 years old means the wait goes on.

# GAA Results

**Senior Ladies Football**  
UL 4-9  
UCD 2-8

**Fresher 1 Football**  
UL 2-5  
WIT 1-4

**Senior Hurling League**  
NUIG 2-15  
UL 1-15

**Fresher 2 Football**  
UL 1-15  
WIT 0-1

**Fresher 1 Hurling**  
UL 6-14  
LIT 0-5

**Fresher Ladies Football**  
UL 9-16  
Tipp Institute/ St Pats 0-0

**Fresher 2 Hurling**  
UL 1-14  
LIT 1-8

# AN FOCAL SPORT

## UL Sailing learn World Cup lessons

By Tomás McCarthy – Sports Editor

**THE UL sailing club returned from the Student Yachting World Cup in Marseille, France perhaps disappointed with their tenth place finish, but also enriched by the experience of stiff international competition. Italy came through as the winners in some style after a week of racing from 24 October to 31 October.**

UL got off to a positive start on day one. In the last two rounds of the day they finished third and fifth to lie joint fourth in the overall ranking.

Day two failed to live up to expectations from UL's point of view as they slipped to ninth

overall by the close of play. Unfortunately it was a trend that was to continue as they battled it out with the likes of Wales, Japan and Scotland at the tail end of the field. By the Thursday night UL had slipped to tenth with Italy already well ahead even at that stage.

That tenth position was confirmed on Friday night as UL finished with a total of 108 points. In sailing the team with the lowest points wins. Italy's tally of 24 was 21 points less than second placed Czech Republic. UL were represented at the World Cup by Cian Gallagher, Darragh O'Connor, Katie

Tingle, Rachel Cronin, Conor Martin, Billy Clarke, Pa Hegarty, John Blake and Kevin Stellard. Speaking to a member of the club before the tournament it was clear that they were hoping for a good showing and were confident of doing well. Cork IT, their rivals, finished fifth in the overall ranking.

UL were eager to beat the Cork outfit but perhaps the experience of the Cork team who were reigning champions stood to them. Although they may not have reached their highest standards, being at a World Cup will no doubt bring them on hugely and inspire them to better things in the future. Sailing

is no different to any sport in that you have to experience the top level before you can actually triumph in it. What the UL team don't lack is hard work and in getting to this stage of competition they have also shown they have got talent too. In the immediate future its back to concentrating on retaining the varsities crown they claimed last time out. Whether it's at the World Cup in Marseille or training in Killaloe the sailing club are always trying to do UL proud. The UL sailing club are indebted to the likes of Jerry Cronin and Paul Tingle in the support and time they have given to make this happen.

## Soccer club left in the cold

By Tomás McCarthy – Sports Editor

**THE visit of the Irish rugby team to UL in Week 9 was undoubtedly an exciting and welcome event around campus. In the midst of all of that, however, it is important not to forget our own UL clubs and no club that felt more aggrieved in the last fortnight than the UL soccer club.**

Week 9 was an important week for the club. The senior men's team were due to play Tralee IT with the ladies team in action against UCD. Both of these were home games. On top of that UL had been picked to host the ladies fresher intervarsities on the Friday of that week. Only

some of these games took place but the more astonishing fact is that none of them took place on UL soil. Martin Hayes President of the UL soccer club described the week as "a gigantic pain". The Sports Office refused to pay the expense of using alternative for the men's and the ladies games. The men's match was played in Askeaton under lights with the ladies game moved to Corbally. Hayes estimated the cost involved in moving these games was in the region of an unbudgeted €800. "It's simply not good enough that the Sports Office can just say to us they've no money and then all this hassle

of sorting out pitches and potentially losing crucial home advantage if we can't pay for pitches falls on our shoulders."

The situation worsened when the intervarsities had to be cancelled mid week. Hayes explained that "the groundstaff cannot take the rugby posts down on a Friday. To be honest, the bowl will probably not have a blade of grass left on it by Friday anyway." The bowl was where the Irish rugby team were training all week. To call off a prestigious tournament like this undoubtedly frustrated Hayes. Unfortunately it is part of a wider problem with a lack of ideal playing

surfaces on campus. Hayes says that "blaming the weather just isn't good enough either. Every other single college and University has invested significantly in all weather field sports facilities over the last 10 years."

Even Hayes himself will tell you that he welcomes the Irish and Munster rugby teams to UL. However, the priority must always be for the ordinary students and the clubs of the University of Limerick and this situation highlights how clubs must not be forgotten about. Currently the soccer club feel they are fighting a losing battle.