

METLERS CAUSE MICHAELMAS MAYHEM

By Maria Casey

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S.U. Deputy President Enda Loneragan, a member of Millford Grange Neighbourhood Watch group told an *Focal* how the gang have "terrified" young children in the area. "They hurl verbal abuse at able bodied people but become physical with people who are young, old or vulnerable", he said.

Up to now two of the gang have been arrested; one for assault on an elderly woman on Halloween night and another for the theft of a bicycle from the grounds of the Castletroy Park Hotel.

Three weeks ago the Metlers were banned from campus when a member of U.I. Security caught one prowling around. A list of names has been sent to the Gardai at Henry Street and to the Registrar, Mr. Leo Colgan. If caught on campus in the future, anyone named on that list will be immediately arrested.





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Lecturer Tops Poll

by Cathal Kelly

University of Limerick faculty member Willie O'Dea topped the poll in Limerick East in the general election two weeks ago. Mr O'Dea is a lecturer in the Department of Law, and has been on leave since his election to the Dail. He is a Fianna Fail TD, and is currently Minister of State at the Department of Justice.

In Cork, former UL lecturer, Mr Pat Cox was elected for the Progressive Democrats. Mr Cox retained the PD seat held by Pierce Wyse, who retired from politics. Mr Cox is also an MEP.

Former Students' Union President, Mr John Ryan, failed to be elected in Limerick East, receiving 835 first

preference votes. Mr Ryan was eliminated at the eighth count with 1,130 votes. Mr Ryan is a member of the Democratic Left, and was elected to Limerick Corporation in the last local elections. He was president of what was then the NIHE Students' Union in the early 1980s.

Tally's from the party activists show that Progressive Democrat Leader Mr Desmond O'Malley scored highest in the boxes in Castletroy and Monaleen, where most UL students are registered. In the Castletroy box Mr O'Malley received 139 votes, with Fine Gael Senator Mary Jackman receiving the next highest number of first preferences, 46. These figures are unofficial. SU president, Diarmuid Scully says it is difficult to assess how many of the votes in the relevant boxes were cast by students. Mr Scully pointed out that to be eligible to vote in this election, students at UL would have to have registered with the County Council in September of last year.

Strike 'Unlikely'

A strike by UL staff is unlikely, despite a vote by the largest staff union MSF in favour of industrial action two weeks ago. The staff voted in favour of action arising from a dispute over study time for a member of the administrative staff who is pursuing a BA degree at UL.

Students' Union leaders had been worried that a strike might affect the holding or grading of exams. However, staff sources indicated in week 10 that they believed a strike was unlikely and that a negotiated settlement would be found to the dispute.

The after birth of the elections

So, we've apparently just had a real watershed election. Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have lost ten seats each (subject to that interminable recount between Ben Briscoe and Eric Byrne in Dublin South Central). Labour have swept all before them, to the extent that they seem to be the party of future. But what does it all mean?

The much-mentioned "Rainbow Coalition" seemed odds on to be our next government. But maybe not. Labour look like demanding to include Democratic Left in the Coalition; but not the PD's. Yet Fine Gael are talking to the PD's, apparently to the exclusion of Democratic Left. How will they sort this one out? The state of the country demands that we have a strong, stable, committed government; but the petty politicking of the most likely partners could end up throwing a massive spanner into the works.

If the oh-so-principled opposition parties can't manage to settle between them, then what's the deal? One would have thought they might put the interests of the country ahead of their own concerns. Yet, already, these parties are making noises about providing "principal opposition". Why? What good would this do? Fianna Fáil could, conceivably, form a minority government under the auspices of these other parties. However, the Soldiers of Destiny are in some disarray themselves, and seem to be

gazing longingly at the opposition benches too.

Where would this leave us? With no government and four opposition parties. Does that make sense? Whoever does take the helm will have to steer us through some very unpopular waters. A haircut budget in February is all but inevitable, and spending will have to be further curbed. Do we have anyone who is prepared to eschew the populist policies of yore, and do what has to be done?

If the "Rainbow" crew can't put their differences aside, it seems that we may have that Fianna Fail minority regime. Unlikely as it sounds, this could work. The Fianna Fail minority Government from 1987-89 was arguably the most effective reign we've had for thirty years. That was done with the help of Fine Gael's "Tallaght Strategy", but the (rare) selflessness of that policy ultimately cost them seats. Do any of the "opposition" have the mettle to steer that course?

While stability might not be easy to come by, a Government dependent on the

support of the other parties would, of necessity, have to reach consensus. This is what we need at the moment, the only problem would be, if the Government in question put the opposition's noses out of joint: TA-DA! GENERAL ELECTION! Whoever does end up in charge will have to sublimate their natural instincts for the common good. Does it seem likely? I'll put odds of 5-4 on that we'll be voting again come March, or so. Does it sound pessimistic, to you? Wake up and smell the coffee (or more aptly, other, less pleasant odours) kids, its sad but true.

ZEN ZUCCHINI

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You can post -in contributions for the next issue
Printed by the Limerick Leader



The Stables Club Wishes All

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROS

SIMONSNOODGRASS

Christmas Time Is Here Again



I've always wanted to write a heartwarming "faith in your fellow man" type Christmas story. A charming tale with the human spirit triumphing over great adversity. It would naturally require plenty of exuberant banter and a surfeit of alacritous characters. You will all be no doubt enthused on reading that just such a story lies in an advanced state of readiness. I present a preview here:

Plot Summary

Little girl (Shirley Temple type) gets lost in the big city on Christmas Eve. Is taken in by dirt poor but kindly family who care for her. (father Al Pacino, Mother - Sharon Stone). Much is made of the fact that they can't afford a turkey for Christmas.

After a suitable interlude little girl is reunited with her snobby parents, who are greedy and patronising (a metaphor for materialism in the 1980's). They have a change of heart on hearing how nice the disgustingly poor family treated her and invite them over for dinner.

Final scene - Both families sitting around gigantic table with slabs of turkey being dished out. The obnoxiously poor family receive presents and Sharon Stone starts to cry because she's never received a present before. The rich family are thrilled too because they've learned the true meaning of Christmas. The credits roll to the theme of Andy Williams crooning "It's a Wonderful Time of the Year".

You walk bleary eyed out onto the streets with a lilt in your step. All the way home in the car you feel a warm sense of contentment inside you. What more can anyone ask for?

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Ents: Ber A.
Photos: Mayor

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You walk bleary eyed out onto the streets with a lilt in your step. All the way home in the car you feel a warm sense of contentment inside you. What more can anyone ask for?



The Stables Club Wishes All Its Patrons a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



Stables New Years Eve Gig £6.00 for U.L. students, £8.00 for all others.

The Glentworth Hotel and Castle Oaks House Hotel both give special discounts to U.L. staff and students booking parties, balls, bar-b-que's etc....

The Stables Club will be closed from
Tue. 22nd Dec. to 5.00pm Sun. 3rd Jan.



Entertainment

Because most people seem to wait for the Friday and Saturday end of term gigs. At this time we find it not feasible to run one on the Thursday night. However if you do want to go out on the Thursday night talk to Ber.

Friday 11th December

Two Discos
Two Mile Inn.
Advance Tickets £3, (£3.50 on the door if available)

Saturday 12th December

1. The Pale & Disco
Advance Tickets only 1st 100 £3, remaining £4.

2. Disco. Costelloes Tickets £3.

Sun. 13th.

Co-Op Ball,
This gig is strictly by tickets only, a small amount of tickets are still available from Ber.

Mon. 14th.

S.U. Ents. and SoftBall Club
Disco in Costelloes
Adm. £3, Buses 11 pm, Stables.

REUNION GIGS

On Sun. 27th Dec. and Mon. 28th hundreds of graduates are returning for the two reunion gigs, in Costelloes.
Adm. £3. (more info. Ber).

No Ticket
No Admission.
Tickets available
from Ents Stand in
main canteen

Tue., Wed., Thurs.,
11 - 1, 2.30 - 4 pm
Friday
11-1 pm,
2.30 to 5 pm.
Saturday
2- 5 pm.

ENJOY NOT DESTROY
End of Term Warning!
There was a spate of trouble after a recent gig, which very much blackened the good name of the college (and a few eyes).
If drink makes you violent may we suggest you stay at home. Anyone acting violently during the end of term, will later be dealt with by the Displenary Board of the Gardaí, who will be taking a stronger line, so please have respect for your fellow students and College property. And Enjoy Not Destroy.

TERM 1, WEEK 1

Monday, 4th
Disco (with Mary I) Cheers, £3
Tuesday, 5th
Kayak Club Disco, Cheers, £3
Wednesday, 6th
S.U. Disco, "The Park" (tbc) £3
Thursday, 7th
(1) Start of term discos
Two Mile Inn, Tickets £3
(2) Disco "Saints and Scholars"
(Formerly Arthurs Warehouse).

RAG WEEK '93.

From Mon. 12th April to Sat. 17th, (Week 2) if you have any ideas could you please write them on a piece of paper, and hand it in to the Union Office, for Ber or Billy's attention.

Both Ber and Billy will be away for most of Week 1, at a Major Rag Week Conference in Manchester, of which over 200 colleges from the U.K., Ireland and Australia will be represented.

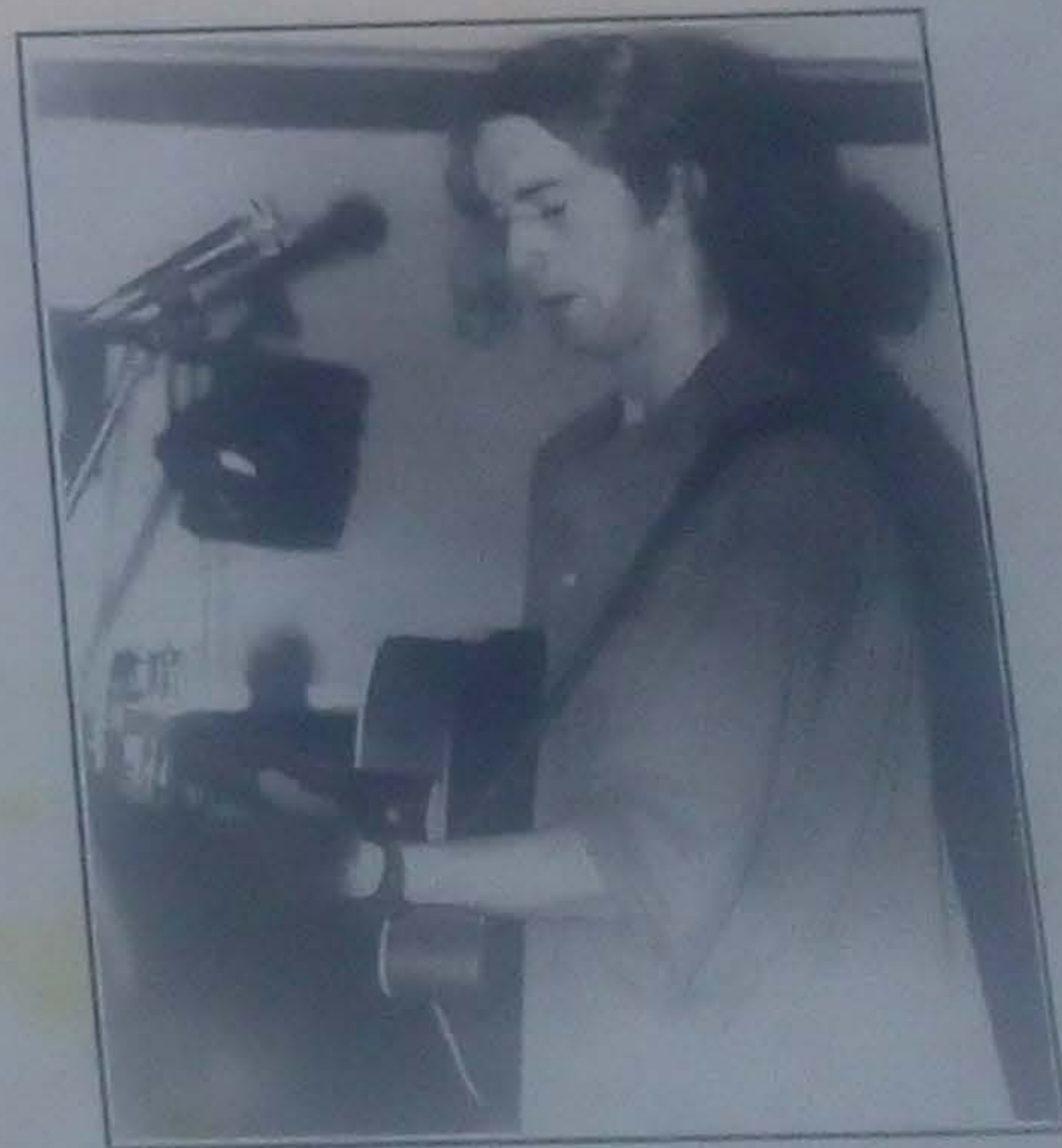
This will be a massive idea exchanging conference, so we should come back with really good ideas.

PARTY PLAN

If anyone wants parties booked for Jan. and Feb. (Especially Weekends) please contact Ber now as dates are getting booked up (21st etc.).



McGill Jazz Band - Canteen Concert



Ger Lane - music society jam, Stables

Teaching Practice Handbook Launched

by Cathal Kelly

The Students' Union launched the Teaching Practice Handbook and Diary in week ten. The book is for use by students in the College of Education who will be going out on teaching practice (TP) after the winter vacation.

SU Transition Officer, Mr Billy Kirwan, said there had been a crying need for a TP handbook for some years, and he had approached the College of Education TP Committee earlier this term with a view to publishing the booklet. Following discussions at the committee, the project was discussed at a meeting of the College's Faculty Board. Mr Jim Gleeson, head of Dept Second Level Education, reported to Faculty Board on Teaching Practice changes, including progress of the handbook project. Mr Kirwan said he had received strong support for what members of the College of Education

described as an "excellent idea".

The handbook contains details of the new TP regulations, introduced by the College of Education earlier this term. The changes arose from the new ten-week TP system introduced following the Dissolution of Thomond College Act.

Up until this year, no written information was given to education students on how they would be assessed by tutors while on TP. The handbook also contains information on the new structured observation and induction week which education students complete in the first week of their placement.

Exam Venue Confusion

Substantial numbers of students missed the start of exams this week following confusion of the location of venues listed on the Examination Timetable Issued by Student Services.

Porters at the reception to the PE building, the Schrödinger building, and the Schuman building reported that they had to redirect exam candidates to another of the three buildings.

The confusion arose from the similarity in the codes for exam venues in the three buildings, especially rooms on level G of the Schuman building. The codes for venues in the three venues begin with SG, SR, S1, S2, and SP.

SU Transition Officer told an Focal that he believed that the frustration many students felt at discovering their error was compounded by the realisation that their correct venue was at the far end of the campus.

Mr Kirwan went on to say he feels that following the merger of UL and TCE, the University authorities should have named the Schrödinger building the Thomond building instead of trying to "bury everything to do with Thomond College of Education".



The Abominable Christmas Quiz - £50 Prize

Christmas is coming and Dustin's getting worried. To help you fill the time between the Christmas pudding and the time you sit down to do your final year project, we supply you with ten questions. There will be a prize of £50 for the best answers received by 5.00 pm Friday week one.

Don't worry if you can't answer all of the questions. There will be marks for answers the judge deems to be "wrong but a good try".

All members of the University - faculty, staff, students and graduates - are eligible to enter. Students' Union employees and sabbatical officers may not enter.

The editor's decision is final.

1 Name the literary works and their authors which begin as follows:

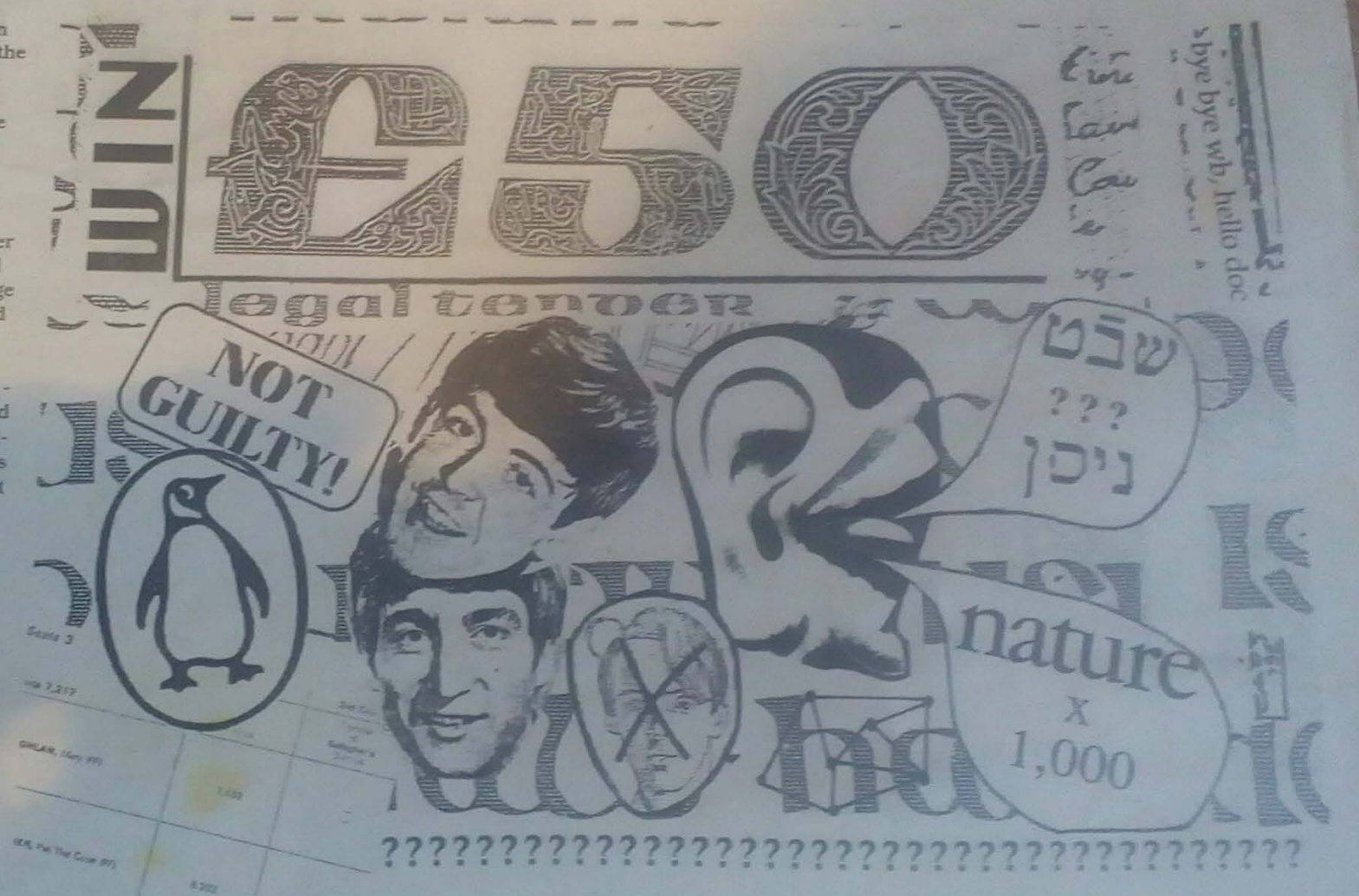
(a) Of man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world,
and all our woe....

(b) I thought the King had more
affected the Duke of Albany
than Cornwall

(c) When Farmer Oak smiled,
the corners of his mouth
opened till they were within an
unimportant distance of his
ears....

(d) What's it going to be then,
eh?
There was me, that is Alex,
and my three droogs...

2(a) How many first prefer...



the same constituency at the same election to represent the same party. In 1992 they both stood as Dail candidates, though for different parties, neither of which was the party for which they were first elected to the Dail. One was elected, the other wasn't. Name them, their parties, and the constituencies.

3 Where might you meet a Chinese Postman or a Travelling Salesman?

4 Whose first novel was recently published six years later?

7 He said it began in a miraculous year, between the acquittal of Penguin Books on charges of obscenity, and the release of Please Please Me. What was he, what was it, and when did he say all of this?

8 What comes between Shevat and Nisan seven times in nineteen?

9 Who said of whom:
"We are not appointing a washerwoman or a mechanic, but an advanced..."

(c) When Farmer Oak smiled, the corners of his mouth opened till they were within an unimportant distance of his ears,....

(d) 'What's it going to be then, eh?'

There was me, that is Alex, and my three droogs...

2(a) How many first preference votes did Barbara Hyland get in the 1992 General Election?

(b) Which member of the 26th Dail was born in India?

(c) They were both elected for

the same constituency at the same election to represent the same party. In 1992 they both stood as Dail candidates, though for different parties, neither of which was the party for which they were first elected to the Dail. One was elected, the other wasn't. Name them, their parties, and the constituencies.

3 Where might you meet a Chinese Postman or a Travelling Salesman?

4 Whose first novel was recently published sixty years later?

5 Of what are the *Denial*, the *Large Family*, the *Ears to Ear* and the *Forgotten Sins* erroneous versions?

6 What did Nature decide in July this year would change (in the mode of Humpty Dumpty, perhaps?) by a factor of 1.000?

7 He said it began in a miraculous year, between the acquittal of Penguin Books on charges of obscenity, and the release of *Please Please Mr. Wilson* (or, what was the book whose title he say all of this?

8 What comes between Shevat and Nisan seven times in nineteen?

9 Who said of whom:

"We are not appointing a washerwoman or a mechanic, but an educated girl who ought to know what books to put into the hands of the Catholic boys and girls of this country?"

10 How has a nineteenth century politician replaced a twentieth century Nobel prizewinner in Ireland this year?

Have a safe holiday season.

Noticeboard

CASUAL LABOUR

Anyone wishing to make themselves available for work for the next term should apply through the SU Office where application forms are available. Work is available in the SU Shop, SU Graphics, Pool / Snooker Room, plus a variety of other jobs. All application forms are to be completed & returned to Linda in SU general office on Monday of Week 1. You must have your free hours on this form and have read the form through. All the info you require is on this form. Ents Crew forms available Monday Week 1.

CHRISTMAS HOLS

The Students' Union Offices will close for the Christmas Holidays from 1pm on Wednesday 23rd of December until 9am on January 4th 1993.

Week 12 - all offices will be open from 9 - 5pm only. The Students' Union and all its staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

2ND HAND BOOKS

The 2nd Hand Book service will operate from the old SU Shop located next to the

General Office, during the first three weeks of term.

If you have any books which will be used during Hilary Term and wish to sell same, then bring them in during Week 1.

2nd Hand Books will be sold from Wednesday of Week 2 and all payments will be made out to owners on Wednesday of Week 4. Please note the price of 2nd Hand Books should at most be two thirds of cost price, depending on the condition of the books.

A Special Note of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank JJ Kennelly,

Valerie White and Clare Armstrong, the three 4th Year students who spent their 2nd Co-op placement in the SU. On behalf of all members of the SU I would like to wish them all every success during their final 6 months here in UL. We enjoyed having you with us for the past 6 months and rest assured you'll have no problems completing your Co-op reports. Many thanks for your cooperation and assistance and good luck in your future careers. Carmel & all in the Students' Union.

GOING ON CO-OP?

A few things to note;

1. Have a good time
2. Make some money

3. Empty your locker before you go

4. Check the mail list for any uncollected post and collect same from SU Office

5. Check for any lost property in SU Office

6. Have you settled up your account regarding 2nd Hand Books?

7. Sign on to the an Focal mailing list in the Students' Union

an Focal wish all our readers
A Very Happy
Christmas & A
Prosperous New Year