

New Comedy Club  
@ The Lodge  
Review P.4



Sexuality awareness  
and disability  
awareness campaign.  
Pages 9 -13



Green Week  
Page 15



An Focal Week Seven Semester Two A ULSU Production

# Focal

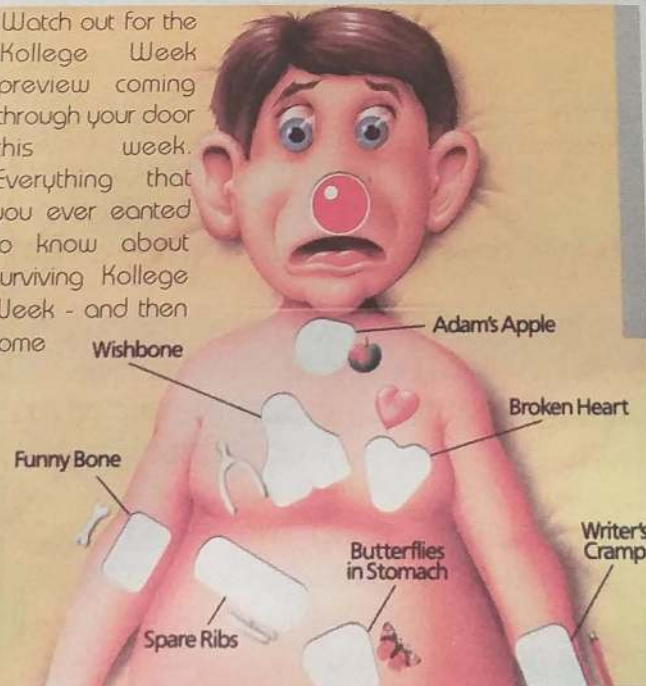
of LIMERICK STUDENTS' UNION

## POSTGRAD STRIKE OFF

The proposed withdrawal of services by postgraduate demonstrators and tutors has been called off until at least May 1999. At the PSA EGM last Tuesday - a quite heated at times - the postgrads voted to accept the offer from the Science & Technology faculties, with reservations. See page seven for full story.

### OPERATION : KOLLEGE WEEK

Watch out for the Kollege Week preview coming through your door this week. Everything that you ever wanted to know about surviving Kollege Week - and then some



### Oliver Keating - Apology

In the Week unwarranted, Eleven, Semester unfair and inaccurate and that One edition of an curate and that *Focal* and again Mr. Keating's in the special company performs its duties Christmas edi- forms its duties tion, we pub- under its contract lished critical fully and proper- statements relat- ly. The Students' ing to Mr. Oliver Union and an Keating and his *Focal* unre- c o m p a n y , servedly apolo- Keating Security gise to Mr. Services Limited Keating and

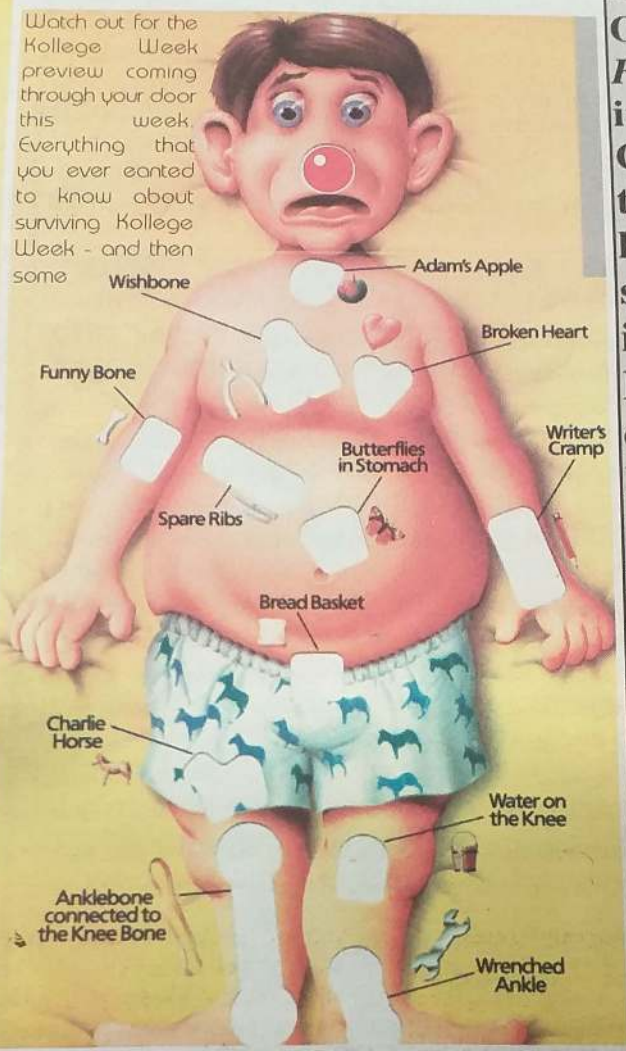


# an FOCAL

UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK STUDENTS'

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STUDENTS' UNION



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK





## It's Your Letters

Dear Students,

It is with great distress and anxiety that I write this letter to all the students of the University of Limerick. Most of you will know that for the past three months certain individuals interested in the professionalisation and development of clubs and societies and indeed the University as a whole, were struck a heavy and devastating blow at the recent Students' Union EGM on Tuesday last, 18 March. The meeting was called in order to radically alter the ULSU Constitution so as to give clubs and societies the right to determine their own policies. This meeting failed to reach the necessary quorum of two hundred people. Why? Because students of the University of Limerick don't care! Last Tuesday would have been the beginning of a new era in the history of our Union. It would have been the necessary catalyst which could have brought that air of professionalism that is so needed in the structures of this University. But it didn't happen. The chance missed. I have a message for all clubs and societies on this campus. Thanks to you, and your empty promises of support, future students have lost their right to a properly run clubs and societies structure. Those who view this

An Focal Week Seven Semester Two Page Two

current generation will laugh and scoff because students of this University and especially those students who are members of a club or society failed in their duty and right to discuss issues which affect them. People will not forget this. Those people who proposed these changes, including myself, will not forget it and probably more seriously the people holding the purse strings will not forget it. Members of the Law Society, the GAA and the rest of those clubs and societies who shamed us all have a lot of questions to answer by their non-attendance. Those astute clubs and societies who did attend, I thank, but ask why not more? I only hope that the long road of reform has not ended here, defeated and subjugated. I pray to see one day a more professional and efficient body of students, willing to work and strive to make this University a proud place in which to study and enjoy ourselves. My final word goes to the brave people who formulated and campaigned for constitutional change - Ron Byrne, Garvan Barry, Paul Lee and Muiris O'Sullivan. The fight has not ended. It goes on. Yours sincerely,  
David Fleming  
Clubs and Societies Council Member  
UL History Society



## Class Representatives Council Update, by Aiden O'Gorman

The class Reps council meets every second week in S205 at 6pm. All are welcome to attend and it is important that each class ensures that they are represented at these meetings. Because week 8 is Kolledge week it was decided to postpone the next meeting until Wednesday of week 9. The following is a report of the meeting that took place on Tuesday of week 6

Geraldine Moloney from the Library kindly agreed to attend the Class Rep's meeting in order to answer questions about the service that the library is offering to students here on campus. Issues raised included library opening times, lack of availability of some needed books and copies of FYP's. The problem of people using mobile phones disrupting other students in the Library was also discussed.

Geraldine promised to return when she had replies for all queries put to her by the various Class Rep's.

At the last meeting a petition was handed out by a representative of the Environmental society to ask for a Pedestrian crossing from Plassey Village to the Main entrance. As only one Class Rep had returned with the petition it was decided that petitions could be handed in to the Students' Union office. All Class Reps could make an effort to get the petitions filled out by their classes and to return them quickly.

Ron Byrne gave an outline of some proposals to highlight the Irish Language on Campus.

Some of his ideas included an Irish language page in an *Focal*, Irish signs be placed around the University. That the SU home page on the Web be in Both Irish and English and possibly that the new Cafe/Bar be given an Irish name. It was decided that a sub-committee be set up to further develop these ideas.

Denis Duggan gave a proposal to allow multiple Polling Booths in the different buildings on campus for future Students' Union elections. These included hosting such elections on the web or the possibility of using networked computers to set up a database to record the place where each student cast his/her vote. This would prevent people voting more than once in different places. However students would still use the Traditional Ballot paper method to cast their votes. The benefits of the proposed changes are that it would make it easier for student who do not usually attend classes in the main building cast their votes. If web voting was introduced it would allow people on Co-Op or Erasmus to vote. A lively debate ensued on this issue in which it was stated that a awareness campaign would have to be organised in order to combat fear of new procedures. It was also pointed out that such changes would have to be rigorously tested before being implemented on something as important as the Sabbatical elections. The proposed changes were to be presented at the next meeting of the Students Union Executive.

(At the Exec meeting on Wednesday it was decided that allowing distributed polling booths using electronic means was a laudable idea and a system should be developed and extensively tested. It was decided that as the Sabbatical elections were too close, that it would be unfeasible to have these mechanisms in place this year but hopefully they could be developed and be ready for next years Executive and Class Rep's elections.)

Barry gave a speech outlining the roll of the Class Rep's as a body that decided policies within the Students' Union.

Tara McCabe told us of her plans for a sexual awareness campaign and also of the latest developments in the Limerick Education Initiative and Outreach Programs.

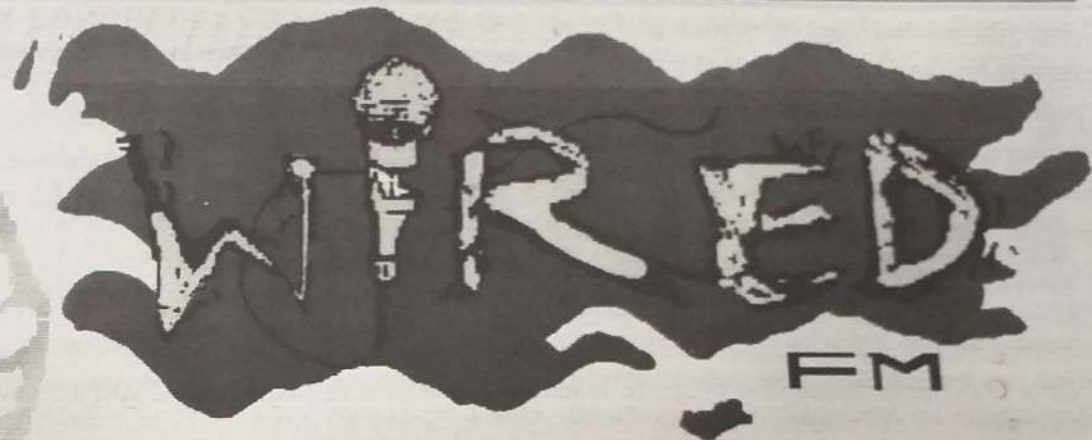
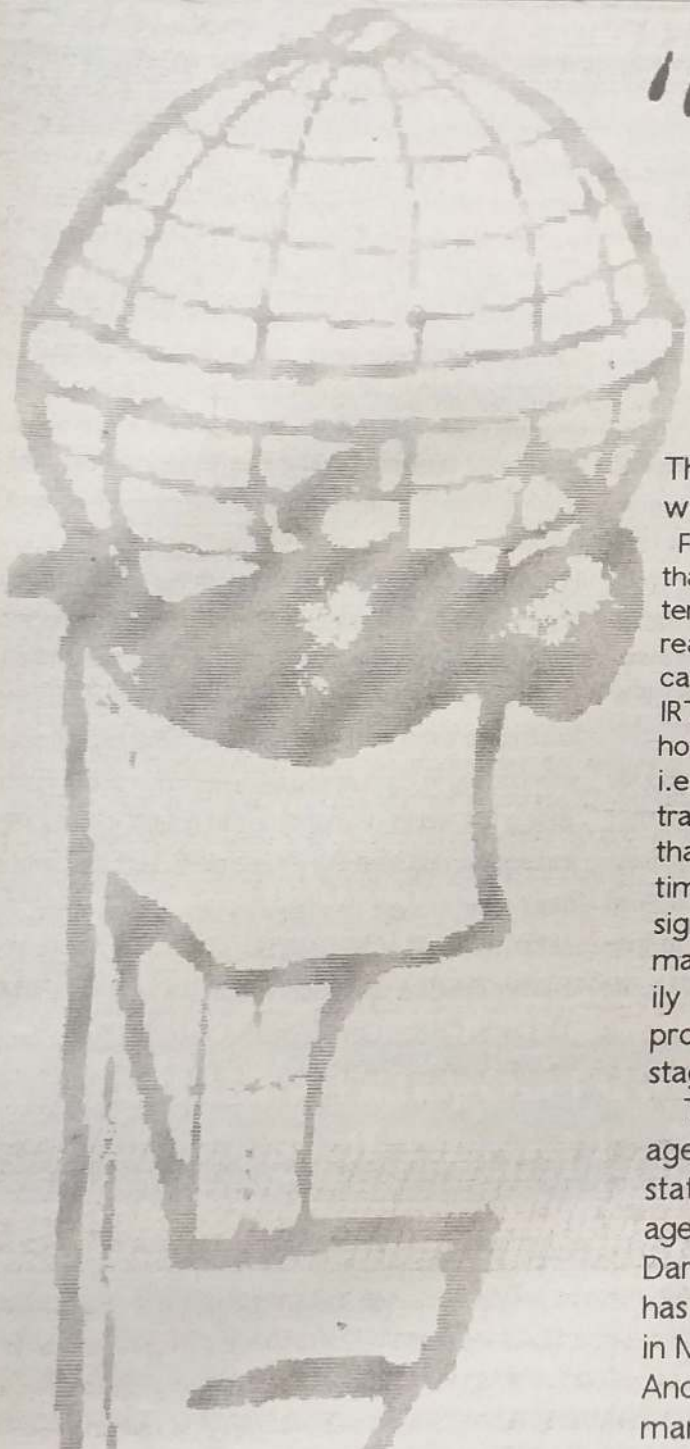
The members of the executive committee of the Students' Union were introduced; they are

- Barry Mc Loughlin President
- Tara McCabe DP and Welfare Officer
- Kieran O'Hara Vice President and CEO
- Sarah Maunsell Equalities Officer
- Pat Mc Carthy Community relations Officer
- Chris O'Keefe 1st year Rep.

-Aidan O'Gorman Chair person Class Reps.  
-Apologies were received from Mike Knightson Societies officer (who had to leave early), Stephen Driver; Clubs Officer, Roger Geagan; Student Teacher Officer.

Finally it was decided that the next meeting be held on Wednesday of week 9 as week 8 is Kolledge week. All Classes should ensure that they are represented.





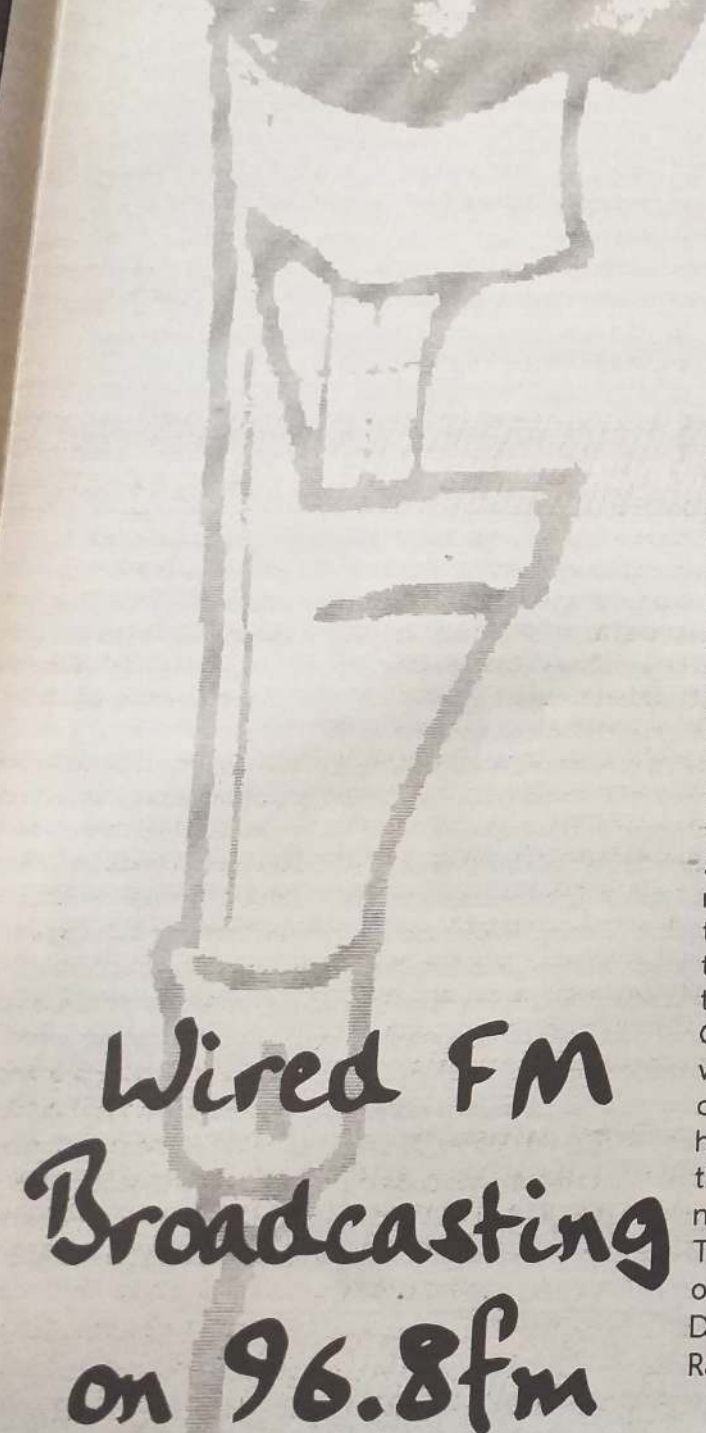
There's been loads happening on the Wired FM front over the last few weeks, and this is just a report to let you all know about it.

First of all, lots of you mightn't know a whole lot about Wired FM, the main reason for that being that it was very hard to pick up the signal out here. It's been explained in letters from station managers and chair people on the board before, but the problem was really that the transmitter wasn't placed high enough, and because of the position of the campus, being low down, the signal couldn't reach us. Anyway, representatives from the IRTC were down a couple of weeks ago, and we've received a report from them as to how we can fix it. Previously we'd thought that we'd have to put up a new transmitter, i.e. planning permission, loads of money, and therefor loads of time. The target for good transmission was set for next September. The good news is that the IRTC have told us that this isn't necessary, and have proposed that we use a temporary transmitter for the time being. This is being organised and I've been told that we will have a much better signal by rag week. The IRTC are also working on a long term solution with the station management. So basically, there's been a lot of progress, and the problem is temporarily solved with a permanent solution not too far away. Thanks to Rosemary Day, who promised action on the situation at a general meeting of the ULSU, has brought it to this stage of improvement, and is still working hard on it.

The main thing that's happened other than that is the resignation of the station manager Eoin Brady, who has landed a job as a producer at RTE's new arts and classical music station, Lyric FM, so congratulations to him. Interviews for the position of station manager, which was advertised nationally, were held last week, and the new manager, Darren Connolly, starts on Monday. While we've been managerless though, all the work has been left to the three co-op managers, Deirdre in UL, Suzanne in LIT, and Katharina in Mary I., so thanks to them as well.

Another retirement was that of Dr. John Hayes, the first chairperson of Wired, and the man who got the whole show on the road. It's because of his work that we all have the





# Wired FM Broadcasting on 96.8fm

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Another retirement was that of Dr. John Hayes, the first chairperson of Wired, and the man who got the whole show on the road. It's because of his work that we all have the opportunity to work at, and listen to Wired FM. Dr. Michael Breen, who's head of the Department of Media and Communications at Mary I. will be filling John's shoes from now on.

The last thing is that Wired has got itself a new logo, and you'll be seeing it around a lot from now on. If you're looking for a few car stickers just call up to the studio in the canteen and Deirdre will sort you out with a few.

Another thing to call up to Deirdre about is rag radio. We always extend our hours for rag week, and there will be slots available for shows from 8am to 1pm, and from 10pm to 4am, Tuesday to Friday of rag week. You can leave your name with Deirdre in the station or come to the radio soc. meeting in C1059 on Tuesday at 6pm. You can do any type of show you want but try and get your name in early, to make sure you get a place. Other than that keep an eye out for Live Wired in the stables. It's an open mic session where anyone can come up and play a song. That's every Monday at 9pm. Also, watch out for live DJing in the canteen at lunch times on Mondays and Thursdays, which will hopefully be starting this Monday. We've just got a brand new set of Technics 1210s through the radio soc., so if any DJs would like to get a slot for an hour or two then drop me a line at [dayvoh@hotmail.com](mailto:dayvoh@hotmail.com).

That's about it, so keep it tuned to 96.8 Wired FM, and keep ringing requests at 315103, or 202484.

David O'Donovan.

Radio Society Treasurer.

**Wired FM Broadcasting on 96.8fm**



# Ulster Says No, But Bertie Says Yes

Unionist versus nationalist, republican versus loyalist, we've got it all! After months of hard work and endless phone calls this University is going to see one of the country's most heated debates, this side of Christmas. The "Irish Independent Celebrity Debate" will definitely prove to be the most entertaining piece of debating that UL has seen in a long time. It's going to take place next week in our very own Jean Monet. DeV would be proud, all we need now are the comely maidens dancing at the cross-roads at the main entrance to UL. A small group of people associated with one political party, who can't be named for legal reasons, have spent months organising what should be a very entertaining night.

The motion was coined by Bertie Ahern in an interview last November, "I can see a United Ireland before the end of my lifetime". This has the potential to stir the emotions on both sides of the argument. After sending many invitations and receiving many refusals, the battle lines are drawn up. The proposition team for the debate is made up of Eamon O'Cuiv, Minister of State (deV's grandson), Brian Hedding from the SDLP and Don O'Leary from Sinn Féin. The opposition is Jim English and Robert Girvin from the UDP and Joe Higgins from the Socialist party. The Ulster Unionist Party are also represented by Stephen King. Ironically, when Ian Paisley Jr. was asked, he said NO!!!!

The debate is the culmination of about four months work from Denis Duggan and a small group of helpers in that unnamed political party. He informed me that seven speakers and a chairperson have to be accommodated for the night and their travel expenses must be paid. Without the support of the Irish Independent and ULSU and the University of Limerick Foundation this debate would not be going ahead. Thanks are also due to the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, University Club and to Michael McEillott Coaches.

On the night the Jean Monet will open its doors to the public at 7:15 and the debate is due to start at 7:30 on Wednesday the 31st of March, that's Wednesday week 7, and remember it is the week before rag week...sorry Kollodge Week so if only to save money and witness a scrap brewing on stage it will be well worth the watch.

Once again the organisers wish to thank their sponsors, especially ULSU and the Irish Independent, without whom this debate would not occur. We hope to make it an annual event now that it has started.

This should be a heated debate, which should see some blood spilled, tempers lost and reputations gained. I would like to pass on an invitation from the organisers to one and all to come and listen, or argue whichever you prefer to do on the night and who knows their might be a pint or two in it for the first person to ask a question that starts an argument on stage.

Dara Killilea.



Usual Suspects, Joe Higgins and Eamonn O'Cuiv who will be doing battle in the Jean Monet on Wednesday



# Green Week

An Focal Week Seven Semester Two Page Fifteen

## The Environmental Society Green Week Our Green Week was a magical success

As you know The Environmental Society is dedicated in making a difference to the future of U.L. We are continuing to campaign on issues on campus such as our Getting Earth Friendly leaflet



to help you with basic, daily environmental tips. We are currently campaigning to encourage U.L students to use less plastic bags when visiting local shops. We are also in consultation with Campbell's Catering due to the over use of Styrofoam cups and plastic cutlery. A carpool scheme will be in place in the Students' Union within the next two weeks, this will initially be focused at students and eventually we hope to install a commercially available software package which will enable both staff and students to access carpool facilities. Paper recycling is continuously ongoing at U.L and we would encourage students to use the recycling facilities which are already in place at the university. Remember what you take from the earth, you must give back to the earth. The green fair on Tuesday was a great success with 20 different stands in the stables courtyard.



*'Hope' The winning photograph of the competition. Congratulations to Norbert Schneider for this exceptional winner.*

The five main areas that we feel are important were represented, these were organic food, crafts environmental action groups and alternative medicine, plus the ambience of the drummers.

The river cleanup on Wednesday was a great success with in excess of 20 volunteers to help us do our bit for the environment. We collected 55 bags of rubbish plus two televisions.

Thursday of Green Week saw a joint effort with the Socialist Party to host a talk on Genetic Engineering. Una Ní Bhroin formally with Genetic Concern and now studying at the Organic Education Centre in Drumcollogher, Co. Limerick spoke for 40 minutes on most of the issues



*Just a few of the items that one is sure to spot along our river bank*

dealing with Genetic Engineering from the consumer and what they are eating to the corporations who are producing food from third world countries especially from a seed saving



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*Tuesday's Green Fair was a kaleidoscope of colour, sound and smells. Check for this one next year - it's sure to grow bigger and better*

dealing with Genetic Engineering from the consumer and what they are eating to the corporations who are promoting this technology right up to the impact of GMO's on third world countries especially from a seed saving point of view. Ron Byrne then gave the Socialists Party's viewpoint on these issues. Other events included the photo competition. Following on from the success of the Green Fair we are looking at having a monthly organic, fair trade and eco friendly market on campus.

Check out Java's Cafe and green acres of Limerick for a relaxing fair trade coffee.

The environmental Society would like to thank the following people for their support during Green Week 1999. Donal Fagen in The Stables Bar. The Students' Union. Walter Stanley, Heineken Beer. Spectra Photo. The participants in the green fair, Genetic Concern, Tony

O'Donnell & Joe Murphy the courtyard porters. The UL secu-

rity staff. The kayak club for their co-operation in the river cleanup. We would also like to thank the U.L students for their support for Green Week '99, it was undoubtedly a great success.

Arls ba mhaith linn ar mbulochas a gabh-il le gach duine a ghlac pairt sa seachtain glas. Ta suil againn gur spreag imeachtal na seachtaine suim sa todhcal agus imshaoil. Sheana fein taamar ag suil leis an blian seo chugainn.

**Beir Bua Glas!**



# L A W S O C I E T Y

Any sore heads out there after the law ball? Not mentioning anyone in particular.....Anyway, the whole thing went swimmingly, a fab meal, a cool band, Keith Pigott and the Ents crew - need we say more? So thanks to all involved and watch out for our forthcoming events - including my personal favourite - a piss up on the ferry to Wales - our way of saying goodbye to duty-free. Keep an eye on the noticeboards for further details.

Speaking of piss ups - they have fine beer in Poland!. Indeed, in the interests of research, your ever diligent Law Soc went to Poznan, Poland recently under the guise of attending a conference on EMU. After hearing the likes of Martin Ricketts, Euroconsult of Monaco and Lars Bowman, Administrator of the European Commission speak, night-time entertainment included a tram party, banquet, bowling and clubbing. Hey, it's not easy but somebody's got to do it!!

JACINTA CUSACK