

STUDENTS' UNION



University of Limerick

an Focal

University of Limerick Students' Union

UNIVERSITY IN CRISIS

PROPOSED LEGISLATION HERALDS DARK AGE FOR UL

Week 12

Semester 1, 1995

INSIDE

Repeats

Just as the Repeats issue is finally resolved, an issue of even greater magnitude has arisen. The Minister for Education has published a document entitled: "Government Position Paper on Proposals for University Legislation". The key problem for ULSU is that if this legislation is passed the Students' Union will cease to have an effective voice in this university.

The problem centres on the dilution of Governing Body powers. Under the proposed legislation Governing Body, on which ULSU has two reps, would become little more than a rubber stamp for decisions made elsewhere. There would be little opportunity for student input as policy initiatives would have already been decided behind closed doors.

Separation of Powers

Because Governing Body is made up from such a wide range of groups from within and beyond the university the students are guaranteed to get a fair hearing. There is a very successful separation of powers between the Governing Body and the Executive which acts as a control. So what exactly is the executive? It consists of the President, the Registrar, the Vice-Presidents and the Finance Officer. The proposed legislation would allow the President to chair Governing Body, thus in an instant

destroying the use of Governing Body as a checking mechanism. If one is looking for analogies it would be like the Taoiseach becoming the Ceanncoirleach and running the show or a sophisticated orchestra becoming a one man band.

Action

Governing Body has had an emergency meeting on the issue and roundly condemned the position paper. The executive is the management of this university. Governing Body drives policy. If we allow the managers to run the

institution the students will be lucky to be heard again. We need a voice and that must reside in Governing Body. The staff have met on this issue and are horrified at the proposed changes. ULSU must make sure that this is not the last year that the union has a voice. We will be writing to the Minister expressing our objections and will be meeting the university senators. You, the student, need to be aware of the magnitude of the problem and be ready to take action.

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Semester 1, 1995

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REPEATS & TRANSFERS

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Hugely Significant

To most students terms such as Governing Body do not mean very much. Yet its importance can not be stressed enough. It is the "committee" which has ultimate responsibility for the university. It would not be an exaggeration to state that the support that was received from Governing Body on the repeats issue was a key factor. Remember that were it not for the insistence of Governing Body that a yearly review be put in place then ULSU would not have been able to force the issue. Another example was Governing Body demanding that UL not be allowed to fund private companies thus stopping the draining of public money. Again, it was Governing Body that ensured that appointments of staff are carried out fairly and openly. These are only a selection of examples of the importance of this body. It acts as a checking mechanism and a court of appeal for student issues.

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REPEATS & TRANSFERS

Caught between a Rock & Hard Place

By Lorna Kerin, Welfare
Officer, U.L.S.U.

There could not have been a worse Christmas gift and repeat and internal transfer students than the fees office notification last week that they are the only students **not to benefit from the 'Free Fees' Dept of Education scheme. To be fair, the decision stems from a decision taken by the Dept of Education in late July to doubly disadvantage those students who already forfeit or lose their maintenance grant. The logic used, according to one Dept. of Education official, is that**

because repeat & transfer students have already consumed the HEA's cash in their previous academic year, students should pay through the nose for a second chance.

'Hypocritical' is the most pertinent word to describe the Dept of Education who throughout the entire summer blew its welfare trumpet loudly to one and all, eagerly reaping in any available plandits for its 'compassionate' efforts enabling students who experience financial disadvantage to further their studies.

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Repeats Secured

Finally the university authorities have seen sense. After a long battle the principle of repeats at the end of each year has been accepted. Last Wednesday, Academic Council voted in the idea of repeats at the end of each year, with the progression point being a QCA of 2.00. The details of the policy will be worked out at the Academic Regulations sub-committee (ULSU represented by Brian Synnott and Duncan O'Toole) to be presented to Council on the 24 January, for final approval. There are some points to be discussed but the resulting policy should bear a close resemblance to the 1993 policy.

This is a major victory for the students in UL who, through concerted and unified effort, put this issue on the agenda. It is also a victory for those staff who consistently

argued that, firstly; students need a second chance and secondly; that the QCA of 2.00 as the progression point is the only way to protect academic standards. It must be stated that without these reasoned opinions it would have been a lot more difficult for the SU.

And yet why did this take so long? Why do arguments have to be made twice every time in this university? There was an air of self-congratulation at Council because the issue had finally been resolved. Yet the reality is that the policy to be decided will be very similar to the 1993 model. The fact is that this tortuous road could so easily have been avoided. Due to political pressure the 1993 model was never given a reasonable chance. Problems in implementation, that were due to

semesterisation and the August date for resist, were erroneously attributed to the policy itself. The SU representatives were painted as rabid alarmists, senior academics smirking up their sleeves saying that this fire and brimstone stance was "hardly constructive".

And yet all the SU did was to predict that glaring problems would result from such an ill-thought out policy. On this point a huge amount of credit should go to last years president- Matt Hamilton. The final report from the regulations committee directly reflected Matt's own paper (written 12 months earlier). Well Matt, it's nice to be vindicated!

In conclusion, this writer wonders what is next. First it was semesterisation, then repeats, lets not make a dogs dinner of the next issue.

Who can fire the President?

So out of the frying pan and into the fire! Is that how the saying goes? No sooner have we got repeats, than another problem lands on our laps! A problem that is a lot bigger than repeats itself, it is a problem that could undo anything Students have achieved in the past. Yes you read it in the headlines, "University in Crisis!" it looks as if some legislation will be passed in the next few months that will probably be implemented in the next year that'll probably have no real effect on students for a while well not until the University has settled into it's new found power and probably won't affect any student presently here in the University! So what are we worried about?

A few months back in the middle of the repeats campaign this Editorial wrote that this year was to mark the year when students became more involved in what was happening around them, when students would act in solidarity with fellow students and if one group of students had a problem then every student had a problem. And it happened, Students who had no need for repeats (e.g. fourth years) still campaigned for repeats, and we got them.

Students who themselves felt they would never have to depend on repeats still campaigned for them. Now we are faced with legislation that will perhaps have no effect on this current S.U. administration and this current administration will not have to defend why they did nothing when the legislation for changing Governing Body was first introduced. It will be next years administration and all the years after who will look back to see what exactly the Students of U.L. did when it looked as if the President of the University was to be vested so much power that he/she no longer needed the support of students or staff to bring about change. I say he/she because this legislation should not be directed at the personalities in the job, there are principles to be argued. The fact is that the president could be anyone, not specifically Ed Walsh. The principle of giving one person (who presently is not elected into position) enough power to pass over objections of Students, staff or any group, leads to the situation where those groups being represented have no real say. At the staff meeting last week it was said that the President of this

University wanted to have governing body meet three times a year - this seems to suggest that Governing Body will be a mechanism of approving executive decisions, if the make up of Governing Body is chosen by the executive well then where is the objectivity? what are the chances of a Governing body chosen by executive actually going against them on any issue. Governing Body will become a rubber stamp for executive policies. There will be no avenue for students to prevent potentially harmful policies being implemented. At the moment students can depend on Governing Body for at least a fair hearing this will go if the Governing Body becomes an extension of the executive. For years there has been a principle of separation of powers i.e. not giving one body all the power and having a system of checks and balances, the proposed direction of Governing Body will go against this.

On a different note thanks for all the help and participation on the repeats issues in particular thanks to the class reps and volunteers for their help.

News

A ULman's Diary

The Stables on Christmas day was more like Calcutta than a 'club'

Another semester almost finished!! What the fuck I do with my time perplexes me. What a week it was. Since my last entry on the issue of Student Union meetings repeats have been introduced, Christmas day has come and gone (thank god) and Plassey Village got its awaited, long campaigned for extra phones. Now we have repeats. Many people are under the illusion that this is the best thing since the ribbed condom. However our lecturers are already including with the module summaries the procedure in the repeat exam. They will be repeat exams in their opinions. Does anybody think that lecturers will not be as concerned with how many people in a course pass or not any more? When they unleash their red pens on all the scrawled manuscripts in February will these temporary fate deciders give a shit if three quarters of a class go down in the exam. Somehow I think not. One comment from a lecturer (cannot be named obviously) I recently asked what he thought of the new repeats was 'You all have repeats now I will have no hesitation in making as many people as possible use them'.

Before all you pen armed people get ready to nail me to a cross in the stables pavilion because you don't agree with the last paragraph be assured I am not against repeats (personally I'm relieved their in) but merely trying to look at the other side of the coin. A coin may I add that has been left jammed to the ground so there was only one side on display to UL students.

On a somewhat lighter note — Christmas day. Ho Boy! What a day. It somewhat began with dinner at the restaurant. Queing seemed to be the order of the day and as it turns out would be the order of the whole day. Dinner was the same as every other year. After three years in this college I begin to wonder if Cambells new product developers are all accountants. The girl from last week from Sligo was in the group I had dinner with. She is still sticking to her opinion that Sligo somewhat has city status. Will these people ever learn?

The Stables was the next port of call. At three o'clock it was full to capacity but not too uncomfortable. Six hours, fourteen Budweiser, six trips to the jacks, two scraps and thirty seven and a half Christmas kisses later the place was fucking like Calcutta. Will the management of the 'Stables Club' (more like a Farmers Mart) please answer this question: What the fuck is the idea of trying to push a ten inch square through a two inch circle hole. The Stables was one of the greatest safety hazards on Thursday night of the term. In proper 'Clubs' there is a policy called crowd control, i.e. if the capacity is one thousand people then one thousand people is the maximum not twice that. Oh yea, by the way if I see the stupid drink (probably after two pints of Carlsberg) little first year that spilt a pint on me I'll make him wish he was in college in Mary I.

Mevin Keyres.

Legislation Horrifies Staff

MSF wishes to express the gravest concern at the proposals for University Legislation as contained in the position paper published by the Department on the 27th of November 1995. We are especially alarmed at the proposals insofar as they relate to the University of Limerick.

The proposals for structural change consist mainly of a detailed revision of the constitution of Governing Body and also of their responsibilities and powers.

We note that the current wide range of powers will be reduced to three:

1. An ill defined and vague planning role.
2. Monitoring academic quality (a function which is proper to Academic Council).
3. Preparation of policies on access for groups including the disabled, women and the economically disadvantaged.

This represents a totally unacceptable reduction in the powers of the Governing Body which could have the most serious consequences for the State, the staff of the University and the student body. The proposals if proceeded with would reduce the Governing Body to a rubber-stamp for the President.

MSF have serious concerns on the proposed structure of the Governing Body.

Σ There are no requirements that the current procedures in place for democratic election of staff to Governing Body would be retained as this would be discretionary.

Σ The proposed structuring of academic constituencies replicates the worst features of a hierarchic and oligarchic structure. There could be up to three people appointed to Governing Body from the hand-full of professors all of whom are men; two from senior lectures of whom there are only a small number; and only one from junior lecturers. Despite the fact that the 'junior lectures' are referred to in the document there is in fact no such

grade in the University of Limerick. This represents an appalling level of ignorance of the structures in the University of Limerick.

MSF requests that this legislation not be proceeded with until there has been major changes which would guarantee

1. An accountable Executive and President
2. Separation of powers between the President, Executive and the Governing Body
3. Independence of the Governing Body.
4. A representative Governing Body

Brian's comment

This week I want to thank everyone who helped on the repeats campaign, explain the significance of the proposed legislation and explain what we'll be doing for the next month or so.

So we finally got repeats. It was a long road, involving; AGMs, UGMs, a Referendum, lobbying and the threat of strike action. But that list forgets one major element- the strength of a united student body. If anything that is the most significant outcome of this campaign. Seeing people willing to go around houses, hand out leaflets, paint posters, attend meetings and vote was incredibly encouraging. To be able to go into a meeting knowing the amount that voted in the referendum was what gave the campaign teeth. So while not wishing to turn this into a love-in, on behalf of ULSU thanks for the help. With full support change can be achieved and that is what must be remembered for future campaigns.

As has been mentioned on the front page the most pressing issue is the proposed legislation for universities. I have no wish to personalise the issue but it would be disastrous for the students and the university if the

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As has been mentioned on the front page the most pressing issue is the proposed legislation for universities. I have no wish to personalise the issue but it would be disastrous for the students and the university if the management/executive were to be given the powers that are outlined in this document.

ULSU attended, in an observer capacity, an emergency staff meeting on the issue. The best comment came from the floor when it was stated that it is not our President who is a power-hungry megalomaniac but all presidents who are power-hungry megalomaniacs. That is the key point. We can not allow the staff and student voice to be marginalised for the sake of some opportunistic whim or prestige-motivated fast-buck. Democracy must be respected in this university and the only way to do this is with proper controls.

The staff and students are co-operating on an intensive lobbying campaign to ensure that the provisions are changed. This legislation is due to go through the Dail in late January so I appeal to you to be ready to take action if the lobbying fails.

At our own executive we decided that as the repeats issue is over we have an opportunity to form a new agenda. Any suggestions as to what should be prioritised are welcome.

Have a fantastic break and don't study too hard

Brian Synnott

News

WOLFMAN'S VIEW FROM OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER

MY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS IS: "GET STUFFED!"

Christmas is usually a time of snowballs, good cheer, mistletoe, romance and Santa Clause. However, for some residents this year, it will be spent handing around police stations, picketing high profile public figures and hiding out in dirty, defecation destroyed hovels. If they are lucky, they might be granted an audience with the evil King of Limerick, Ed Walsh. At this meeting, Ed will issue a royal decree stating that nay students seen urinating into letterboxes will be castrated on the spot by the Residents Committee. And then, all the world will be well with itself, and Ed can sail his yacht up the Shannon once again and gaze proudly upon silver applies being plucked and plucked.

As you have probably guessed, the issue at hand today is that of student relations with the residents, and vice versa. It is a tale of two stories. The former is the official story which you will read in the newspapers and get letters about to your parents from the college authorities. It is the tale of how an increasingly thuggish element which has appeared as the university as expanded with

little thought or planning has been responsible for acts of vandalism. It is a tale of damaged property, intimidation and anxiety. It is a tale of swift action by the authorities, with strict sanctions being promised!

Now let me tell you the second tale. This is the unofficial story which has been buried by powerful individuals operating to suit their own purposes. It is the tale of how a local gang was allowed embark on a campaign of terror against students, involving beatings, armed assault and rapes. It is the tale of inaction by both the college authorities and by residents association, who made very little effort to aid the students, if any at all!

If there is one thing I hate more than student stupidity, it is pig-headed hypocrisy. Therefore, if you are approached by residents moralising about student irresponsibility this year, tell them to GET STUFFED. MY MESSAGE IS SIMPLE: THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE AUTHORITIES DID NOTHING FOR US WHEN WE WERE BEING BEATEN AND

SEXUALLY ASSAULTED. The University never contributed to the safety patrol, which had to be discontinued because it was too expensive for the S.U. to run on it's own. The University even dragged it's heels about improving the on campus lighting, which is still woefully inadequate! The Residents Association didn't even bother to make an effort to help the students overcome this quite serious problem. Hell, they didn't even publicly condone it. At the risk of sounding boring, I must repeat this" THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE AUTHORITIES CAN STICK IT WHERE THE SUN DOESN'T SHINE! THERE WERE A LOT OF INCIDENTS ON THIS CAMPUS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF PEOPLE WERE MORE CO-OPERATIVE. LET THEM SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. NO SURRENDER!

The Wolfman.

P.S. The Wolfman does not condone the recent indiscretions of students. In fact, I think they should be publicly flogged.

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING LIMERICK GAYS : LIMERICK FORUM

Limerick Forum is a social group based in Limerick who organise events aimed at gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. They have proved to be very successful in providing a contact point for Limerick gays who find

homosexual and bisexual community.

Apart from this, they play a central role in the provision of information and support services in total confidence. The number is 061-310101 and operates from Mon. - Tue.,

Thursday, 7.30-9.30pm (women).

For those interested, they are running a disco, Club Attitude, soon, and further details can be had by ringing the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard.

Are you quite finished

All I can ask is - Are you quite finished?? I believe it's our turn now! Let me explain - **YOU are the males of this university who we, the females have had to suffer since we joined this fair place.**

Over the last few weeks we've heard you moan, groan and fill pages with you're ranting, mainly about us poor females. Now that we have basically summed up that you're all a pack of unintelligent, immature geeks (and you haven't a clue how to dress either!) I think its time for our opinions!

Now I know you're all waiting for a bit of petty hormone induced abuse, well I'm sorry. It's not that there's not enough to abuse them about it just that there's only 16 page sin 'an Focal' and it would be unfair to

fill them all. Anyway you only have to look to see how unfortunate the males are (or how unfortunate we are to have them here!). I feel the opposite sex are telling their own story the last few weeks. Their doing themselves more damage than we ever could!

Take the passengers - I mean really!!! A definite sign of male intellect or what! Penis Power V's Brain Power - we win I'd say. Last week we had the man on the Grassy Knoll! Hello! - who the fuck made you Tarzan, King of the Jungle !!! Does it keep you awake or something worrying about the high numbers of virgins on campus! Can't you bloody understand why!! Look around its a college full of mummies boy's with daddies woolly jumpers, black shoes, short trousers, and white socks. Yes we want our

memorable first time with brainless versions of boyzone maths teachers - NOT!!!

Of course I'm not so narrow minded as to think all the guy's are like that. No we have the alternative smelly - haven't washed for a month, engineer or the I'm so full of myself Bus Stud. The only decent dozen or so have already been snapped up so is it any bloody wonder half the female population are virgins, or at least keep their under-garments well in place around UL men.

This brings me swiftly on to my final point, the representation of all representations? Mr UL Man and his amazing diary!!! This guy didn't throw petty abuse at us, the unattractive, frigid females! No, he wooed us with his wisdom and humbled us with his advice. For starters if you would check it out, Sligo is, in fact, a City. There are certain criteria to become a city in Ireland, Sligo passes them all. Not all cities are sprawling metropolises!!! What's wrong is simple geography beyond your reach!

Finally isn't it just like a man to become such an expert in such a short time? I mean, one meeting, that a female study had to drag him too and he suddenly becomes bloody PRO and starts pointing the finger and calling the rest of the college all sorts of things for never taking an interest. I think someone should introduce you to the word HYPOCRISY!!!

Overall I'd say the males of UL are represented honestly and fairly by themselves !!

Moi!!

The Sex Files (the truth is out there ...!)

To Mr "I had sex in a confessional box in Bal...",

Fuck you and your statistic, literally, (and please leave the buttons on my dress alone we know who you are...). We you a trial run in Docs one night and you failed miserably. We were surprised to learn that you've been in UL for 5 years and claim to be so experienced as your technique compared to that of a first year's. Given your physical attributes, are

you sure your 'partner' isn't a transvestite? We cannot comprehend how you, "Grassy Knoll", would have any knowledge of females other than your fucking Biology book. (we bet there's a hole burnt right through it!).

Nice meeting you, Mr Oasis of Sperm.

Barbie loore and Judie Dredd!

Welfare

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REPEATS & TRANSFERS

Caught between a Rock & Hard Place

The only information that the Students' Union received was a Dept. of Ed. glossy brochure, full of reassuring 'Questions and Answers' which were ultimately misleading - such as:

Q: If I do not qualify for any grants what do I have to pay this year?

A: All students will pay half the tuition fees plus a charge of up to £ 150. Needless to say, there was no mention of any exceptions, such as repeats and transfer students.

Apparently a working group was set up in July to formally outline the implementation of the "free fees" business and that's where the decision was taken to discriminate against repeats, transferees and 2nd degree students. However, even the university's were not informed of this until late August or early September.

I can only presume that the reason the decision was not shouted from the rooftops was to avoid bad press. Unfortunately they forgot that students are much more concerned if they find themselves being further immersed in financial debt than with the Dept's P.R.

The 2nd issue is that of UL's response to this late

information. Zero. Even a tortoise would be embarrassed at the length of time they have taken to inform the students concerned that they must pay full fees. Despite the fees office being informed in early September, only last week were students informed by way of a standard letter & bank giro. Someone somewhere messed up badly and many students feel that they would have deferred the year to earn money if they had known they were liable for full fees.

Moreover in Week 1 and 2, some students approached students services and to fees office in order to clarify the 'free fees' and were reassured that they were only liable for half-fees. This is incredibly serious as it constitutes misinformation and ultimately lead some students to paying the first fee instalment in good faith (and thus entering a contract) that this would cover their fees for the entire academic year.

The fees office and students services are denying that these incidents ever took place. At a large meeting last week, however, students were clamouring to testify that this was indeed the case. The

Students' Union intend to investigate these claims further.

The fees office are calling for the next instalment (about £ 1,00 - a snip!) to be paid before January 5th 1996. However, the fees office have reassured the Students' Union that they are not vicious taskmasters, and sympathetic to the plight of student poverty. They admit that due to the rushed introduction of half-fees and the lack of instructions or guidelines from the Dept. of Education that eligibility criteria is still unfolding to a certain extent. So if you're a repeat or internal transfer student in financial trouble call up to the fees office and they will attempt to come to some arrangement about the payment date of the final instalment.

Finally, the bizarre situation of some students receiving official documentation from the university stating clearly that they are only eligible for 1/2 fees, and then receiving a request for a 2nd instalment has occurred, if you are in this situation, please call into the welfare office to discuss your options.

The next an Focal will contain a copy of the letter sent to Niamh Bhreathnach, the Minister for Education, outlining the Students' Union's deep disgust at how the implementation, or rather mis-implementation of half-fees has been carried out.

Boxwells

Bar & Restaurant

Why not try our
New Evening Menu
4p.m. - 9p.m.

Pre-Ex

The welfare Office & Ents are offering a pre-exam service the week before exams (i.e.) Monday the 8th of January to Friday the 12th, consisting of cheap sandwiches, coffee and TV comedy in the Student Center.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



"WE MADE A BOTCH OF IT; LET'S PUNISH THE STUDENTS!"

A rather typical University response when it comes to money. Once again, the university has exceeded itself when it comes to making an almighty mess of things, and of course they have set about punishing the students in a typically pig-headed fashion. I refer to the victimisation of transferees and repeats over half fees!

The facts are as follows:

1. The University and Department of Education are operating a system of triple jeopardy against repeats. They punish them by making them stay back an extra year, by taking away their grant and by coercing them into paying full fees. The concept of double

jeopardy, never mind triple jeopardy, is non-existent in the Irish legal system.

2. Transferees are being punished for changing their minds. Therefore, the implications of this are twofold:

(a) Students are not entitled to a second chance.

(b) That students are being discouraged from making choices which are right for them and their career.

3. The students are being punished because of the university's inadequacies. The failure of the University to provide a proper repeats system means that the students are forced to pay because governing body have made a mess of things.

4. On top of all these gross miscarriages of justice, students will be forced to pay a late fine fee if they cannot pay the balance by January 4th. The University expects students without grants to magically produce £800 at a time when money is at it's tightest!

There is one simple solution to this whole mess. The Academic Council and all the other administrators responsible for this shambles should resign their positions. This combination of "captains" of industry, yes men and politicians have proved time and time again that they are incompetent and incapable of maintaining a university system which works!

Season

*What is it, about the wind,
Always makes you look up
To what's ahead,
Dreams whisper through the
Rustling life that breathes, harmony,
"They shall come true."*

*What is it, about the sun,
Makes every crack seem beautiful,
Makes the immoral seem holy,
Makes tranquillity never ending,
Makes the imaginary, real.*

*And what is it, about the rain,
That pelts the pain, so harrowing,
So clear, refreshing
My memory,
It has returned,
And they have gone.*

C. Wallace

last year's services such as FTP, Web, local and external news, local mail and IRC, and we hope the societies will encourage members to make Skynet a forum for their activities.

Like the Green Party, CompSoc has no President on campus, but we are eagerly awaiting Caolan's return from Holland (so we can lump him with all the work). As for other personnel moves, Mark Dowling steps down as PRO having assumed caretaker Auditor at the Debating Union.

It is important that any Skynet account holder who has not paid membership and wishes to get their account unfrozen contacts us soon via SUMS at 1000020 or 1000020@ul.ie. Shortage of space (again) means we must use every amount of space and thus these accounts will be deleted,

excepting people on co-op.

Once again, the society expresses grovelling thanks to John Quinn for the continued access to Skynet, and to ITD for continued Internet access.

throw on your clothes - hey presto - one foot blue, the other purple. It is perhaps this breed which show odd sockists in their purest form.

concept. One would think it a fairly simple subject to do away with it as a matter of opinion

there - much woolly, cottony fun in sockdom.

Fiffi Longstocking.

University of Limerick Debating Union

A.I.B. Freshers Final

Wednesday Week 10 saw the final of what was a very encouraging Freshers Competition. This year in particular, both the level of participation and the quality of the speakers is a credit to all those involved.

The motion for the final was "That this House would Revere The Memory of the British Empire." Surprisingly enough the overall winner of the competition was Thorston Becker, an Erasmus Student from Germany!

He received a cheque for £150 for his troubles from the sponsors of the event, A.I.B.

The winner of the University Bookshop Challenge was the team of Keith Pigott and John McElligot in the debate that "The Irish Farmer is Outstanding in His Field." They each received book tokens valued at £100 from the University Bookshop.

Best wishes must go out to our speakers who will be representing the UL Debating Union in the Worlds Championships this Christmas in Cork.

Next term is still in the making but there will also be elections on the first week back

to decide our new Auditor and Convenor.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage any speakers involved in the preliminaries or even those who didn't enter to keep at it and to get involved in the next semester

Also on this note we would like to heartily thank all our sponsors, the people who have helped out over the term and anyone who bothered to come along and enjoy themselves. Here's wishing everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Clubs & Socs

UL Drama Society Review of Semester 1

This semester has proved to be one of the most successful in the history of the drama Soc. in its existence. In Orientation Week we enrolled over 100 new members. We also won the award for the best stand.

The first thing on the agenda was the election of the committee. This was taken care of at the end of week 1. The committee consisted of

President

Rob O'Meara

Vice-President

Mark Hewitt

Treasurer

Deirdre O'Rourke

P.R.O.

Ger Maher

Secretary

Tim McAuliffe

Technical

Mike Bradley

OSS Rep

Chris Egg

First Year Rep

Sara Mansell

The first production of the year (week 3) was "The Words Upon The Window Pane" by W.B. Yeats. This was put on in the Jonathan Swift theatre

under the direction of Matthew Hamilton. The play proved to be a success and laid the foundation for the rest of the semester.

Our next production (Week 6) was a series of comedy nights. We took our material from various sources such as Rowan Atkinson and Monty Python. We also used material from students of UL. Also during the productions we had the pleasure of the company of the Torch Players.

In Week 9 a superb production of "Be strong and fear not" by Mark Hewitt and Leah Wallace was staged. The show ran for three nights in the Swift. Anyone who missed it missed a lot. Nothing more needs to be said about this show!!!

Week 10 saw "The Three Penny Opera" on stage. This was a production run in conjunction with the Arts Office. It was directed by Boyd Brogan and it ran for 5 nights in the Swift. It was a spectacular of light, sound, dance and acting. An experience to be remembered by all who saw it.

The final production (Week 11) of the semester was a play by Oscar Wilde called "The importance of being Earnest". This play was a fine finale to a successful season. Kathy Garvey and Triona Lally did an amazing job and brought off a fantastic play. No doubt we will be hearing from them in the future.

During the term we ran a number of workshop's among which was one run by the artistic director of the Island Theatre Company. They were well attended and will be continuing in the New year.

We would like to thank all the people who helped us in making this such a productive term. There are too many to mention by name. In particular we would like to thank the Belltable Arts Centre, The Island Theatre company, the Students Union and Errill the ex Heineken rep and Heineken our sponsors.

Hope to see you all back here next year. Good luck with the exams and have a happy Christmas.

Heineken Law Dinner

The Law Dinner, organised by the Law Society in association with Heineken, was held on Monday of week 8. A hundred students, from the various law classes in UL attended. The event was also attended by faculty, including Law Department head, Henry Ellis. The dinner was held in the George Hotel, following a drinking session, including a number of free pints of the yellow stuff being given to everyone. Following the dinner, a disco was held in the

Desmond Arms. The event was an even greater success than last year, due to a great extent to the extra numbers. Jim Kemmy, Mayor of Limerick, was unable to attend, due to a City Council meeting on the night. Thanks to all who attended, especially lecturers, also thanks to Errill, the (ex) Heineken rep for helping with sponsorship and Ber for booking the disco venue. Next term's big event is of course the Law Ball. Watch notice-boards early in term for details.

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Well guys and gals,

It's the end of another term at UL. We have had a great semester. We had plenty of drinking sessions, a brilliant UL intervarsity (in which UL scooped all the honours). We had great results also in martial arts competitions around the country especially in the Dingle FreeStyle Open where Taekwon do competed against jujit su, karate, kung fu, and came out tops.

On November 10th, UL held its biannual grading which was at a very high standard. Well done to all those who got their next belt.

See you all next term (to work off all that Christmas cake!).

Have a cool yule,
Derek O'Keefe.