

## Kollege Week '05 : Paddy Casey set to rock the Concert Hall

The clock has been counting down for weeks and finally Kollege Week '05 (KW05) is finally here. KW05 takes place this week, Week 8, April 5th to 8th. This annual event will include headline acts such as Paddy Casey (Thursday 7th 8-10 pm in the UCH, €25) and Des Bishop (Tuesday 5th 8-10pm same venue, €16) this year as well as the regular daytime events which will take place Tuesday to Thursday 12pm to 4pm in the Stables Courtyard. Night time events are also planned for the Market and the Trinity Rooms.

Events kick-off Tuesday with the daytime events in the Courtyard. Daily events include boat racing, chandeliers, drink while you think, yard of coke, ice tray races and many more. Prizes for competition winners include exclusive KW05 t-shirts and hoodies and tickets to the night time events among other things! UL and

Laughing Soc's own Eoin Kelly is supporting Des Bishop Tuesday in the Concert Hall at 8pm and then everyone is heading to the Back2School Ball in the Market, tickets €10.

Wednesdays events include the hypnotist Zak Powers in the courtyard from 2pm as well as all the usual madness. Charity waxing is also taking place at 2pm in the Student Centre Courtyard, then it's to Trinity Rooms for the Pimps and Hoes Shagtag Party, also €10. The sponsored bungee jump will also take place Wednesday from 11am and mad, crazy people will be raising buckets of money for charity all day long.

On Thursday the comedy club featuring Andrew Stanley, Colm McDonald and Bernard O' Shea will be counting down to Paddy Casey from 2- 4pm. Paddy kicks off at 8pm in the Concert Hall. Rumours have it that he has plenty

of new material he's going to unleash in UL, could things get any better? Well, yes in case you still want more the Superheroes Ball takes place in a mystery venue Thursday night, tickets still only €10. Live MC'S for the week are Limerick's own Karl Spain and also Neil Delamere.

Comedy, fun games, waxing, bungee jumping, music gig, dress up theme nights and that's not even including the gladiator fight, bucking bronchos or the bungee running.

Tickets are selling fast for the night time events in the Students' Union reception.

Kollege Week this year had an interesting potential in so far as it was the first year in five years that the Students' Union was granted a license to host the night time events in a marquee in the Student Centre Courtyard. While a positive outcome was reached in court, unfortu-

nately, due to time restraints the SU was not able to proceed with this venue. However, a future event later this semester is being explored as a result of the positive court outcome. Credit must be given for all his hard work to Timmy Hennessy, SU President, Mick Dolan of Scholars and the cooperative nature of certain area resident groups for the positive outcome in court.

While Kollege Week is a great time to unwind and take a break from the stress of academia students are reminded to be respectful of other students and residents during the week. A zero tolerance policy for those seen to be breaking the law will be strictly adhered to. Those engaged in such activities will face charges either through the courts or the UL disciplinary code.

The Students' Union would like to encourage everyone to enjoy themselves and the week's events but also to be safe and respectful.



There'll be three nights out in town so you get to dress up and go mad, like you need and excuse!



A yard of coke, could you chug this?



The brewery sponsorship is gone but we still have the same great games.



There's the sponsored bungee jump Wed from 11 onwards.



Get your head shaved, wax something, it's all for charity.



SVP members manning the bouncy castle.



Kollege Week Formerly RAG Wk is all about having fun and raising lots of money for local charities



Oh Yeah, did we mention Paddy Casey will be in town.



ULSU PRESENTS

**KOLLEGE WEEK**

**2005**

FEATURING

**PADDY CASEY**

**THURSDAY 8-10PM // 25 EURO**

**DES BISHOP**

**TUESDAY 7-9PM // 16 EURO**

**BACK2SCHOOL BALL @ the market**

tuesday // 10 euro // bus leaves @ 10.30PM FROM THE COURTYARD

**PIMPS AND HOES SHAGTAG @ trinity rooms**

wednesday // 10 euro // bus leaves @ 10.30PM FROM THE COURTYARD

**SUPERHEROS BALL @ mystery venue?**

thursday // 10 euro // bus leaves @ 10.30PM FROM THE COURTYARD

live mc's

**KARL SPAIN** tuesday

**NEIL DELMORE** wednesday and thursday

**DAY TIME EVENTS** commencing 12PM daily

**TUESDAY**

gunge tank  
boat racing  
chandeliers

**MUD WRESTLING**

drink while you think  
yard of coke  
ice tray races

**GLADIATOR FIGHT**

boiled egg competition  
cracked!!  
cream egg challenge  
sink the ship

**WEDNESDAY**

gunge tank  
boat racing  
chandeliers

**BUCKING BRONCOS**

drink while you think  
yard of coke  
ice tray races

**BUNGEE RUNNING**

iron stomach  
cracked!!  
cream egg challenge  
sink the ship

**THURSDAY**

gunge tank  
boat racing  
chandeliers

**MUD WRESTLING**

drink while you think  
yard of coke  
ice tray races

**GLADIATOR FIGHT**

bean eating competition  
cracked!!  
cream egg challenge  
sink the ship

**CHARITY WAXING**

wednesday @ 2pm

**COMEDY CLUB**

featuring:

**ANDREW STANLEY**

**COLM McDONALD**

**BERNARD O SHEA**

wednesday from 2 - 4pm



# U.L. Law Society Celebrates Law Week 2005

In the hectic run-up to Law Week 2005, the first of it's kind for the UL Law Society, the Law committee were rushing around, trying to ensure that everything was in order for a successful week. Fresh from the success of hosting a packed-to-capacity speech by the Minister for Justice, Mr. Michael McDowell, on "Citizenship and the Republic", the Law Soc was rapidly becoming a far more active Society.

In any event, a few well-placed posters, and word of mouth ensured a great turnout for both of their eminent speakers, Professor Eoin O'Dell from Trinity College and Judge Aindrias O'Caomh, the Irish Judge in the European Court of Justice. Law Week 2005 got off to a great start with a speech by Professor O'Dell on "The Reform of Irish Defamation Law". As an academic with a well-established reputation as a lecturer in both contract and tort law, the former President of the Irish Law Teachers Association, Editor of the Dublin University Law Review, and a consultant on the Justice Ministers' Committee to propose reforms to Irish Defamation Law, the Professor gave a very interesting speech. He outlined the principal proposals of the Committee, and his exasperation at the aforementioned Minister's apparent reluctance to implement the proposed legislative changes in the seventeen months since the Committee submitted its' report. Following his speech, he invited questions from the audience to give his laryngitis-stricken throat a break, and even challenged his colleague, our own Tort Lecturer Mr. Eoin Quill, to ask him a question!



Law Society members enjoying the Law Ball

The following evening, the Society was privileged to welcome the Irish Representative in the European Court of Justice, Judge O'Caomh, to the University. Our second speaker in Law Week proved no less informative than his predecessor, and all in attendance seemed to agree that the speech, and the ensuing question and answer session, reinforced our knowledge of the processes of the ECJ, and indeed the working life of a Common Law Judge as yet quite new to such an environment.

Our final event in Law Week was the much talked about Law Ball. The committee were keeping fingers and toes crossed that this much-promised night would more than make up for the stress and hard work involved in planning the event. The tea and coffee were accompanied by a brief speech from the President of the Society, Joe McGrath, in which he proceeded to thank a few people, without whom the event would have been impossible. In the first instance, special thanks went to the lecturers and administrative staff in the University's Law Faculty. A special men-

tion must also go the Student's Union Exec, and to the SU Reception Staff, without whom the event would not have ran quite as smoothly. Joe proceeded to thank the committee, without whom the event simply would not have happened in the first place.

On a personal note, although I was shocked to find myself elected treasurer when all I had intended to do was sit inconspicuously at the back of the A.G.M., being on the committee was a baptism of fire, an experience I will never forget. What I'm really trying to say is: if you're a law student who's interested in getting to know their classmates better, and finishing their time on the committee with the Law Ball, please don't be afraid to go to the A.G.M. and stand for election. As many people have said to us: it would be a shame to let the Society crash into oblivion after such a successful year.

The Law Society would like to thank everyone for the support which they hope will continue next year and also hope that the new committee have a similarly positive experience.

The society also have a high profile speaker, Professor William Binchy from Trinity College, and an Inter-University Law Gathering with the U.C.C. Law Society lined up for the new committee. The society hopes to hold the A.G.M. in the S.U. on Wednesday Week 9 and interested students are advised to look out for further details on posters around campus.

The Law Society Committee 2004/2005 were Joe, Julie, Stephen, Sarah, Rose, Jenny, Noreen and Joe.

**Sarah Kelly**



## Shell in Mayo: Who really fits the bill?

On Tuesday the 22nd of March, the Environmental Society hosted a talk on the issue of the exploitation by Shell of the Erris Gas Field 70km north-west off the coast of County Mayo. Discovered in 1996, the gas field is owned by a consortium including Shell, Statoil and Marathon Oil. Energy Enterprise Ireland, a subsidiary of Shell applied for planning permission to exploit the gas from the gas field. The controversy predominately surrounds the permission given to Shell to build a massive refinery, and accompanying pipeline in north-west Mayo in order for the company to reach the gas. Local activists claim this poses a danger to the local community from landslides, traffic and water supply pollution, and will threaten the marine ecology in the area.

The main objections to the development surround the development and construction of the refinery and the ecological impact which it will have, the loss of potential revenue to the state in addition to the perceived underhand political influence in the development.

One of the main speakers against the development was Maura Harrington, the principal of a local primary school, and, in her own words, an 'Indigenous Stakeholder' in the area. She is a strong opponent of the development, because of concerns for the community, the environment and the economy.

### Local fears

In terms of the local community, there are a number of areas of contention, mostly associated with the development. International practice would dictate that a refinery is located at a point where the gas reaches land, but this hasn't happened in the case of the Shell refinery at Erris. Instead it will be placed 9 kilometers inland, at the 500 acre Coillte site provided to the company by the then Minister for the Marine, Frank Fahy.

In Kinsale the gas is treated offshore at sea and is then piped ashore at a much lower pressure and after an odour has been added for safety.

The problems with the Erris site is that a gas pipe, containing untreated gas which has yet to be odourised for safety will pass through villages and pass by peoples'

houses.

The pipeline will run at an extremely high bar pressure of 345, it is important to note that the biggest Bord Gais pipelines in the transmission network only runs between 16-70 bar pressure.

Clean offshore drilling is possible, so why not here?

### Environment

Another thing that's being ignored is the environment: the Special Area of Conservation that is Broadhaven Bay (where the pipeline and terminal are to be located) is being disregarded. The waste for the refinery will be pumped into the bay. The Irish Whale and Dolphin group dispute the contents of the Environmental Impact Statement made to the Dept. of the Marine by Shell stating that there was no evidence that Broadhaven Bay was important for whales and dolphins.

Pollatomish Bog has been proposed as a National Heritage Area - this is the same Pollatomish Bog which saw massive landslides last winter - funny that, as Pádraig Campbell noted, the only mountain out of numerous hundreds in the West of Ireland where there were landslides during that storm also happened to be the only one where major construction had taken place in the preceding months for Shell.

### Economic

From an economic point of view the development is equally insane. The Erris Gas field is estimated by independent analysts to contain 7 trillion cubic feet of gas, which would be worth in the region of 21 billion euro. Experienced rig workers agree with those figures. Shell deny this.

### Going forward

So, what are the alternatives for this area? Well, the answer is that there are many alternatives, which should work in tandem with one another. Consider the Norwegian example, in order to starkly highlight the problematic nature of our current deal. Oil companies in

Norway pay 78% tax, and must help provide local services in order to gain licenses, while the world average is 40% (including oil dictatorships).

The Irish government have been even more generous: the tax rate for gas exploitation is only 25% in Ireland, with generous write-offs and the infrastructure is being supplied and Compulsory Purchase Orders have been used for the first time for a private company and the provision of hundreds of acres of land formerly owned by Coillte and the acceptance of liability for any problems with the pipeline.

For all this, we get the privilege to buy Ireland's gas from Shell, via their connection to the European gas grid!

The Norwegian example is an obvious one to follow - simply allowing Irish people to benefit from our natural resources surely isn't too much to ask! An alternative is to request a reasonable level of tax and a say in the exploitation, instead of "the organised rip off of a nation's resources, without a struggle, without a fight". Getting rid of the numerous uncomfortable 'coincidences' in the development would help a lot. Benefits for the local area are also crucial to any plan. Fishing is an important local business, and tourism has unbelievable potential, in this most unspoiled of locations - now that the old maxim; 'you can't eat the scenery' is being disproved.

The importance of helping people in their local struggles is paramount in any environmental action, and to this end the Environmental Society hopes to travel to Erris to take part in a solidarity camp at the beginning of June to show solidarity and support for their campaign, and to act as observers as to the propriety, or otherwise, of Shell in the area.

If you want to join us, send an email to [ulenvirosoc@care2.com](mailto:ulenvirosoc@care2.com), and for more info, check out

[http://www.indymedia.ie/newswire.phpstory\\_id=68991](http://www.indymedia.ie/newswire.phpstory_id=68991)

&results\_o fset=30

<http://corribsos.com/test/>

<http://www.irishoil.net>

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**STUDENTS' UNION**

**SPECIAL OFFERS**

**CUISINE DE FRANCE OFFER**

**Chocolate & Jam Doughnuts 3 for**  
**€1.00**

**HOT FOOD BAR OFFER**

**Chicken & Mushroom Pies €1.00 each**  
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**2 for €1.00**

**Personal Attack Alarms €3.50**

**Also stocking Fairtrade tea, coffee & biscuits**

**Fairtrade chocolate coming soon!**



## So you want to be a Sabbatical Officer

It's coming up to that time of year again, and I'm not talking about Kollege Week! The ULSU sabbatical elections will take place on Thursday of Week 9. Candidates will contest the positions of President, Deputy President/Welfare, Vice President/ Education and Vice President/ Communications and Campaigns. Nominations will be open between 10am, Tuesday March 30th and 5pm Thursday April 1st. Hustings will also take place in Week 9 before election day, day, time and place to be confirmed. This is where all candidates must make a speech and answer questions about their manifesto and policies. Polling will take place all day on Thursday of Week 9 (April 14th) in the Main Canteen and the Scholars function room. Other locations for polling

## So you want to be a Welfare Officer

Get ready for one of the toughest years of your life! I won't sugar coat this job, being the welfare officer means putting a lot of your personal feelings about issues on the shelf, putting your personal life on hold and helping the people that come in through your door. On any given day, you are expected to be a counsellor, solicitor, mediator, politician, activist, executor, small business manager, researcher, accountant and best of all, completely approachable at all times! As well as being the welfare officer, you'd also be the Deputy President of the Students' Union so when the President isn't around, you're the woman (or man) in charge of things. Sound fun? Before you get totally put off though, let me tell you about the good things. First and foremost, my life is a lot more clear now; before I took this job, I seriously considered a Masters in social welfare, but I now see that I'm better suited for something along the project management side of things. I've met some incredible people and made some great connections and networks that will, without a doubt, help me in the future. I've been able to make a difference in some people's lives, big and small and being thanked for the little

## So you want to be a Communications Officer

So you don't want to sleep for the next year? Well not the entire year but you will be under extreme pressure for 12 weeks a semester, still interested-read on. The communications officer is a unique position for a number of reasons. A main element of the role of welfare, education and president is representation. The CCO does sit on committees but the representative role is not as integral a part of this job. Your main job is simply to communicate information to students on behalf of the Union whether this is through the paper, campaigns or by other means. This could quite possibly be the sabbatical position with the most scope, and the least realisation of its potential.

### Communications

The main responsibility is as editor of the newspaper 'An Focal'. The paper undoubtedly takes up most of the time. It is a two week cycle during both semesters and allows for very little else in between. You are not just the editor, you are the paper. You deal directly with the printers, recruit writers and sub editors, set deadlines, requirements, edit, proofread, liaise with and hound advertisers, liaise with the other sabbats, university staff and anyone necessary to keep informed of what's going on in the college and what you the students need to know.

The communications officer is also the editor and general jack of all trades again when it comes to the handbook given to new students at the start of the new academic year. You soon learn that you will be chasing people for one thing or another all year.

The CCO is responsible for all Union publications; there's the website, TV's, advertising on campus, posters for anything that goes on in the SU at all including elections, info posters. You also liaise with the Shop manager in an effort to promote the shop through the paper, among other things.

### Representation

The communications officer sits on fewer committees than the other positions but none the less every seat the SU has in the university is increasing the influence students have in relation to our university.

### Campaigns

The campaigns element of the job tends to come second to the communications role for a number of reasons. Firstly, the paper does actually take up that much of your time. Secondly, the campaigns budget is limited so the campaigns run should be those that you, the students, want the Union to run and not personal campaigns according to a political affiliation. It only takes 200 signatures for students to call a referendum on a motion. In a university with 10,000 students that's nothing. Campaigns can also be started from Class Reps Council, this body of students is far more powerful than

may be announced. Only registered students of UL may vote, and voters will be asked to produce a valid UL ID card. The organisation of the election, the supervision of voting and counting, and the announcing of results is the responsibility of the Returning Officer, Joanna Griffin. All disputes will be mediated by her and her decision is final. Elected candidates will finish out the current academic year, they will then spend the last two weeks in June training with their predecessor, before taking office properly on July 1st. This page will tell it like it is in the Union, so that prospective candidates will have some idea what they're getting themselves in for!

things still surprise me. My people skills and public speaking skills have dramatically improved, I've learned to work in a team with the other sabbats and I've become a lot more assertive and have had the freedom and independence to promote and develop things that I feel are important to students. As for the rest of the perks, let's not forget the snazzy office though, that tremendously lucrative minimum wage salary, the 2,000 condoms the welfare officer gets to distribute and the monthly free lunches you get after Governing Authority. All and all not too bad of a deal! So, in summary, if you choose to run for this post, be prepared to work hard-you'll have tough decisions, long hours and some crisis almost every day. This is not an easy job despite what you might think but it's a job that can be very fun and very rewarding all at the same time. You'll make some great friends, earn some money and figure out what you want to do with your life all while being able to help people. Best of luck if you decide to run for office and call into me if you want to know more about the job.

I think they ever realise. Class Reps represent their class and the issues facing their class to us. You as students can make your representatives campaign on the issues that effect you. The campaign to get the library opening hours extended was carried on by consecutive sabbats over ten years. Campaigns do work but students need to decide what these campaigns should be!

First things first, if you are considering running then I have to yell you this: a sabbatical position is not a 9-5 job, it's a lifestyle for a year. The communications officer constantly has a deadline to meet and this often means doing the most unsocial hours imaginable. Your social and personal life will suffer regardless of whichever position you go for but it's especially true for the CCO, but in the end it is definitely worth it.

You will be dropped into the deep end and you'll have to swim. It's a year like nothing else, the learning curve is quite steep but if nothing else you learn so much about yourself and your own limits. You learn to be strong mentally and emotionally, cope under extreme pressure, learn to be confident and assertive, you hone your leadership, management and organisation skills as well as so much more. You discover your strengths and weaknesses and a meet a lot of great people along the way.

If you're interested in going for this position call into me in the SU for a chat.

## So you want to be the Education Officer

### What do I do?

**1) Represent Students within the University Structures on Academic Matters** This takes up a lot of my time weekly. I sit on 25 committees/groups/boards within the University, from small working groups of 5-10 people right up to Academic Council with 40-50 people attending. On most of these committees, I am the only student representative and I need to talk in favour or against any items that may come up which would affect students. I would generally have no less than 5 meetings in any week and the most I have had is 17! Depending on the meeting they last from between 1 and 4 hours. The documentation comes out before hand and requires a lot of pre-meeting reading! **2) Advise and be available for Students to help them with Academic problems** I would deal with approximately 25-30 students per week.

## So you want to be the next President of the Students’ Union

### *The president shall be responsible for the following*

#### 1. SERVICES

Student Unions traditionally provide services to their members that the University doesn't provide. The president should bring him/herself up to speed on the state, feasibility & benefit of the services provided and look to expand and consolidate the range. One obvious way to explore service provision and performance is to investigate what is on offer in other similar sized colleges. The main ULSU services have been Ents, Clubs & Societies, the SU Shop, Pool Tables, accident insurance cover for C&S members, legal representation to members & printing though it is worth bearing in mind that Welfare & Education are also considered services.

#### ENTS

Up to last year the Union had for the previous 3 years employed an ents manager on a contract basis. Due to downsizing last year the 4 sabbats with a part-time ents coordinator have organised all ents including Kollege Week.

#### CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ULSU is the only Union in the country that administers Clubs & Societies completely autonomously from the University. The president is a member of Clubs & Societies Executive and must appoint the chair of Clubs & Socs Council. Clubs & Socs pay 40% of the Presidents wages and as such want a return for their money.

#### SHOP

The shop is constituted as a separate legal entity though wholly owned by the SU and has a board of directors, and a shop manager who reports directly to the chair of the board. The SU president will have an equal role with the other directors in overseeing the running of the shop though can be called in as the "boss" when dealing with suppliers & staff and is a channel for grievances students have with shop to the Board.

#### 2. FINANCE

The Union's income streams are predominantly captivation & subventions from the University and are supplemented by income from the Students Centre & the games room. One rule of thumb to consider when looking for additional revenue sources is to target all places that students spend money. The president will have to be aware of bank balances, adherence to budgets, regular financial reporting to exec & council and the day-to-day handling of cash in the Union.

#### 3. REPRESENTATION

Representation of members occurs at 5 levels: College, local, city, national and international.

In reverse order international representation would be as a delegate to a meeting of say the European Education Forum, National representation would be at FUSU or with the Government over fees, minimum wage, privatisation etc., City representation would be with the local authorities over public transport, waste collection, or with the local media commenting on issues relating to youth or at LASU, Community representation would be with local residents and organisations and college level would be the multitude of committees which govern UL.

These are some of the main Committees which the President (along with other SU Reps) generally attends. Stables Club, Sports Arena Club & Scholars Club: (2-4 reps per committee) Student Centre Management Committee: (2 SU Reps) PCC Board of Directors: (1 Rep) Sports Arena BOD: (2 Reps) Governing Authority: (2 SU Members) Finance sub committee of GA: 1Rep Campus Development Sub Committee of GA: (1 Rep) Library Development Sub Committee of Governing Authority. Nominating Sub Committee of GA: Alcohol Policy Working Group: (2 Reps) Taskforce on Student Affairs: (1 SU Rep) Boathouse Building Committee: (4 SU Reps) Academic Council: (Pres & Education)

While about 50% of these will be one-off academic queries (mainly answered by checking with the relevant academic regulations documentation) some of these issues can get quite difficult to resolve. These include complaints about lecturers, modules, timetables, notes, repeats, results, fines, the library, computers, etc! The other 50% of cases require more work - some will be solved by a phone call or an e-mail while some will require many meetings and contact work on behalf of the student. I have written some letters on behalf of students to people within the University in order to solve the case. I also help student get through the very complex University structure. **3)Point of Contact for Class Reps and Class Reps Council** I organise the Class Reps handbook, the Class Reps training and the weekly Class Reps Council. I am in charge of dealing with any complaints that class reps may have. These are generally the same as individual students. **4)Sit on the Union Executive and some other bodies as ULSU Vice-President** Apart from the 25 committees, there are a number of other

Discipline Committee: (2 SU Reps) Conferrings: (President & Deputy) Residents Forum: (3 SU Reps)

Other committees that are shared between the sabbatical officers are: Visual Arts Committee: Coiste na Gaeilge: Environmental Committee: Marketing Committee: Program for Prosperity & Fairness Partnership Committee: Catering Committee: Campus Watch Committee LASU(Limerick Association of Students' Unions) FUSU: Those are the committees you have to go to. After that there are all the meetings you arrange yourself to push the SU agenda. These can involve one to one meetings with Deans, Vice Presidents, Presidents, and heads of departments.

#### 4. ORGANISATION

The President will have to approve and even organise training for Staff when needed, training for the 4 elected sabbatical officers over the summer, training for the SU Executive and for the Clubs & Societies Executive in October and the administration days for Class Reps Council and Clubs and Socs Council. The President will also have to approve and even arrange recruitment of staff.

The president will have to familiarise themselves with Union Insurance Policies, Union Legal Representation, Union Financial Auditors, Union Bank & Credit Union accounts, Union Staff Contracts, Union Safety Statement and Union Evacuation Procedures.

Class Reps Council is the "parliament" of the Students' Union. It meets fortnightly. The president must give a fortnightly report to Council and work with the Class Reps Development Officer to ensure the smooth running of Council. This of the forum where policy changes and the merits of new initiatives are debated.

The president is chair of the Union Executive Committee and as such must arrange weekly meetings and ensure a follow through of Action Items.

#### 5. CO-ORDINATION

Co ordination between the different arms of the Union is also in the Presidents remit.. This co ordination can be helped through Union Line Managers meeting which is a monthly staff/sabbatical officer plenary.

#### 6. INITIATION OF POLICY

Most ULSU policies date to 1992 and are in need of review. However their core message remains relevant and refers to areas such as Education, Welfare, Communication, Clubs & Socs, Trading, Services, Equality & the Environment. There are also mandates the SU has been bound to pursue by council or general meeting such as the encouragement of the removal of Nestle products from campus, an investigation into the impact of the WTO GATS Agreement on Higher Education & regular financial reporting to council. There are many areas the SU has no policies such as I.T. & Staff. Below are some leading questions as regards policy areas for exploration.

How should ents be run? Should the SU have a photocopying service? What about bilingual policy, minimum wage policy, environmental policy? Should there be 4 class reps per class? Should UL be part of USI, FUSU & LASU? What hours should SU building open? Should SU employ a Graphic Designer? Should SU president be chief spokesperson for Union?

There it is. Any more questions call in to me. Inevitably next years President will have to prioritise and perhaps a good way to do that would be to discuss the above job description at Council. Sin é, glac leis nó glac go réidh!

bodies I sit on to represent students. These include internal ULSU bodies, such as the SU Executive (day-to-day decisions), Class Reps Council (policy and strategic decisions), Education WG (to deliberate policies) as well as external non-academic positions on the Stables and Scholars Club Management Committees. I have also spent some time working with the other officers on Ents, General Union business, etc.

I have really enjoyed my year (so far!) as the VP Education Officer. Although during the semester it requires some heavy work and a number of late nights, it is worth it in the end when you get a successful outcome for a student or group of students. The meetings can be boring but again it is great when you get a result at the end. Trying to get anything on your manifesto done will be hard, given the amount of time that is spent doing the above. If you want to know any more please drop into me and I can have a chat with you about the roles and responsibilities of my position.

Regards  
Fintan



## Student Diaries

This week Matt discusses his first Paddy's Day in Ireland, Sine, the Irish Officer tells us what she's being doing to push Gaeilge in UL and Thanael keeps us up to date on what a TP student does during school holidays.

### Paddy's Day for beginners

I still cannot believe it. I was in Dublin for St. Patrick's Day! As a seasoned fan of the holiday, which is not even a holiday back in Canada, per se, I was incredibly excited for the once in a lifetime opportunity to be in Ireland for the quintessential Irish day. This was to be the best St. Patrick's Day I could ever have.

Even with all this anticipation, I was not in the least disappointed. It was the best St. Patrick's Day I could have. The parade was amazing; quite easily the best parade I had ever attended, and I am sure that the 700,000 that attended can attest to this. I spent the afternoon wandering from pub to pub, enjoying a pint here, a pint there, and a can of beer between. We stopped at the Arlington, the Mezz, the Stag's Head, and well, a few that I can't recall at the moment. Good times, I must say.

I had been to Dublin about three weeks before, and I thought that it was busy then, but that was a ghost town in comparison to the Dublin of St. Patrick's Day. The atmosphere was second to none! Everybody seemed to be having a great time, and really enjoying the spirit of the day. I know that I could not keep from smiling as I walked the streets of Dublin, and everybody around seemed to share the same sentiment. As the sun started to go down and the city lit up with artificial lights, the energy of the crowd rose astoundingly, and it felt like the party was going to be raised to yet another level.

And it was.

We settled into the upstairs of the Stag's Head and grabbed a seat in a windowsill. It was interesting to sit and watch the crowd of which we had been a part from above for a while. That, and the pints were pretty cheap there. All in all, a good place.

One of the most interesting parts of the night, though, was a complete accident. I ducked into a Centra store for a moment, and when I came out, for the life of me I could not see the people with whom I had been all day-not all that surprising given the crowds of people in the streets. Despite the best of efforts from

both my friends and I, we could not find each other. Side note: I don't have a mobile, which makes situations like this a touch more complex. Anyways, I took at least one wrong turn and ended up quite a ways from the hotel at which we were staying, even though I had walked at least far enough in what I perceived to be the right direction. I knew I could eventually find my way home; it was simply a matter of talking to someone, and, no matter where one is in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, there is no shortage of people. I ended up happening upon three fellows around my age sitting on a curb singing their county songs. They gave me the directions that I needed, but only after I sang them some Canadian songs, which, at this point, I was much obliged to.

Needless to say, what should have been a twenty minute walk took me anywhere from one and a half to two hours, but it was a fun detour, I must say.

I was so glad that I was able to have the experience of being in Ireland for St. Patrick's Day. It truly was a once in a lifetime experience, and I will never forget it, at least the parts I can remember.

## AN GAEILGEOIR

**ag ragaireacht** = *going on the lash / revelry / going on the tear*

**N'fheadar** *Wonder* an bhfuil aon bhaint ag an nGaeilge le teideal na seachtaine seo?? Má tá, tá seans ann nach **Seachtain na nGiobal** an t-aistriú ceart ar *Ragweek* ar chor ar bith ach **Seachtain na Ragaireachta**...mo leith-scéal, ba é sin mo bhotún! Cé nach dtugann muid é faoi ndeara i gcónaí, is minic go mbíonn **rian trace** na Gaeilge le fáil sa chaint **i ngan fhios** *unknown* dúinn féin. Deir na hÉireannaigh amháin *Thanks a million* ónár **dtaithí practice** ag rá **Go raibh míle maith agat**; má tá gach rud ceart go leor, tá gach rud **cúla búla**; bíonn **craic** againn lenár gcairde agus *shenanigans galore*!!

Tá tionchar na Gaeilge thart orainn chuile lá so ná bí eaglach í a úsáid, tá **seanch-leachtadh** *old habit* againn uirthi. Mura bhfuil **an iomarca óil** *too much drink* istigh ná **an iomarca céille** *too much reason* amuigh le linn na seachtaine, cuimhní ar bhur gcúpla focal agus **Paddy Casey** ag canadh a amhráin álainn as Gaeilge, *Buachaill Óg, oíche Dhéardaoin*; sibh ag éisteacht le filíocht chumasach anghrách ag **Cathal Ó Searcaigh Dé Máirt**; agus sibh in **Umar Gunge na Gaeilge Dé Céadaoin** ag iarraidh éalú ón gloop glas!

Lasmuigh den tseachtain seo, tá mé féin agus an Ghaeilge an-ghnóthach. Tá **polasaí nua dátheangachais** *new bilingual*

*policy* á dhréachtú agus tús curtha agam le **Bunreacht an Aontais** *the Union Constitution* a aistriú go Gaeilge (ugh!). Tá líon na dtaifead as Gaeilge sa **Teanglann LRA** ag méadú in aghaidh an lae freisin **buíochas le** *thanks to* Herveline Roche agus is iomaí **gearrscannán filmshort** as Gaeilge a bheas le feiceáil inti amach anseo, **Éireville** le James Finlan agus **Fluent Dysphasia** le Daniel O'Hara, ina measc so **breathnaigh amach dóibh** *look out for them*!

Sa bhreis air sin, beidh traenáil ar fáil go luath **d'oibreoíri** *workers* an Aontais le cleachtadh ar conas **beannachtaí** *greetings* ar an **nguthán** *phone* agus a leithéid a rá as Gaeilge. Táim **ag tnúth** *anticipating* go mbeidh **rogha teanga** *choice of languages* ar na h**UMB ATMs** ag **Banc na hÉireann** *Bank of Ireland* **gan mhoill** *without delay* buíochas le Pat Cleary chomh maith. Níor éirigh linn lóistín accommodation sa chathair a fháil oíche Shathairm don turas go Gaillimh an deireadh seachtaine seo caite ach ar a laghad tá **sceideal sealadach iontach** *great provisional schedule* réidh don turas Gaeltachta an bhliain seo chugainn!!

Go dtí an chéad uair eile, bainigí sult as an tseachtain agus ná déan dearmad bhur gcuid airgid a roinnt **go fial** *flaithiúil* *generously* leis na **carthanais fhiúntacha** *worthy charities* thart fán gcampas - ní leis na tithe tábhairne amháin,

Síne x

## Education, Teaching Practice & Me: Holidays

They're not what attracted me to teaching in the first place, but holidays are a very real perk of the job. Just before Easter I had a very negative teaching experience (just a pupil discipline problem) - and during a tutor visit! Having this week and a half off is a wonderful way to reignite the love I had for teaching. I've had plenty of breaks to sort both myself and my teaching out since starting TP. (In fact, in the 2½ weeks I've been here I've taught only 1 solid week's classes!)

During the time off I'm making a rocking horse, to show to the second years who are starting to make it as a project. Doing this project, coupled with having watched that "hands" program on RTE (in which an old man performed some beauti-

ful carpentry to make a milk churn from scratch) have helped me to discover a real appreciation of being able to make something that is uniquely mine. The old man in the programme said that he would sacrifice money just to make the piece as perfectly as he could.

This sense of pride voiced by the old man is also felt by countless other woodworkers and tradesmen - anyone who makes something beautiful out of raw materials, in fact. There is joy in crafting a beautiful artefact, story, film, bar chart, painting etc. If we experience this joyful and proud emotion from changing raw materials into something uniquely ours, how much more pleased would we be if we created something out of nothing (Ex

Nihilo)?

I can't let a day go by without acknowledging my Creator, and it's engaging in projects like making the rocking horse (among other things) that helps me to focus on Him. He made us and the world Ex nihilo, and we're told that He saw that it was all "very good" after He had finished. Our sense of pride in what we make is very small compared to how proud He was of His creation. Our sense of pride helps us to understand how He feels about us. Even though we do things that displease Him and ruin ourselves, our lives and our world - He is proud of having made us and wants us to acknowledge Him. Holidays - talk about re-creation!

**Thanael Mackarel**



# Features

## 'BELFAST TAXI' struggles to find the elusive third way

The documentary *Belfast Taxi* relies on a tried and tested objective formula but ends up reaching a few dead ends, says **Anne Sheridan**.

Alexander Van Der Meer is not a familiar name in Irish film circles; he was even less so in the Northern Irish domain until he produced and directed *Belfast Taxi*, aired on RTE 2, March 20th. A Norwegian's interest in Belfast, and particularly the lives of its taxi drivers does strike at first as slightly curious, but it is yet a further indication that "outsiders" have more interest in the dynamics of this problem that we ourselves do.

*"Stuck In The Middle With You"* ought to be the theme-tune to the Northern Ireland struggle, as Frank Nowell, a taxi driver for the Shankill Taxi Association, asserts: "nobody wants us. We're costing the British government too much money. The Irish government doesn't want us 'cos we'll cost them too much money. We're stuck in the middle." All conflict zones are a reflection of their own particular territory and its peculiar mix of inhabitants, with outside intervention only going a short way towards resolving the fundamental problem. Van der Meer successfully re-iterates throughout the programme that the problem for N.I. is ousting that built-in hatred. The resolution of which is less than clear, especially when we see kids from the Shankill setting Irish flags alight.

**"you see all this decommissioning - they'll never get all the guns outa here, never in a million years. Everybody wants to keep what they've got and nobody wants to give it away."**

The few moments of real insight in this film are those we've seen countless times before. Is there anything new and revelatory another documentary on Northern Ireland can hope to achieve? They are all spin-offs of each other, only under a different guise.

The film, and why the peace process has stagnated, can be summed up in the words of Frank Nowell, of the Shankill Taxi Association: "you see all this decommissioning - they'll never get all the guns outa here, never in a million years. Everybody wants to keep what they've got and nobody wants to give it away. Just because Gerry Adams says there's peace do ye think people from the Falls and the Shankill are gonna run out, open their arms and say "yes, we have peace". They're still gonna hate each other no matter what. There's no way them walls are ever comin' down - it's not like the Berlin wall."

Van der Meer persists nonetheless and builds his framework around that of the famous black taxi - the most routine, overlooked symbol of British rule in

Northern Ireland. Public transport was one of the first things to suffer during the "Troubles". Busses were set on fire or blown up. Taxis refused to operate initially in certain danger areas and eventually refused altogether, it was simply too dangerous to be a cabbie in Belfast. And it is still dangerous as the film shows, but not on the scale it was thirty years ago. Now, there is less chance of getting killed doing what one would call an average job.



**Holy Cross girls on their way to school, many of who suffered post-traumatic stress after being spit at and having urine thrown at them.**

"It works because it doesn't work," states one of the drivers of the Falls Taxi Association (F.T.A.), "it was born out of a conflict - you couldn't try to take it out of N.I. and export it to somewhere like Amsterdam". All conflict zones have their own specialised system of transportation. In 1971 the Falls Taxi Association had six taxis to its name, by 2005 it claims 370. In opposition to the Falls Taxis is naturally the Shankill Taxis service - "anything they've advanced on is modelled on what we do," claims one member of the F.T.A.

What Van der Meer's film does so successfully is reproduce the old aging stereotypes on both sides - both blindly attacking the other verbally; he plays one off against the other. It has been done to death. Worse still, the Cranberries 'Zombie' accompanies the finale, could anything more formulaic be used? The



**A mother interviewed in front of a mural depicting the Holy Cross incident - "Everyone has the right to live free from sectarian harassment - Arkansas 1957,**



**One of the famous black taxi's in front of a mural depicting the taxi drivers who have been killed in the conflict from 1971-2000.**

tried and tested remedy is not always to be knocked, but when it comes to highlighting the vicissitudes of such a conflict, maybe its time we tried something different, something less novel. Why van der Meer neglected to interview any women is a mystery and there are only infrequent references to women dying of a broken heart after the death of a son. Perhaps they would have swayed his staid projection.

**"All this talk about peace is nonsense. We're told we have peace here at the moment. We've no peace. A man still isn't safe walking down the road. Guns are still prevalent. Every week somebody is getting murdered." - Eddie Magill, Shankill Rd. resident.**

What the film does reveal is the unbending stubbornness and built-in hatred of both communities, just as one of the taxi drivers on the Falls Rd. claims there's no way "we" (Catholics) could ever have been as vicious to them as they have been to us, we see children from the Shankill setting Irish flags alight, burning them with relish and cheer. The film manages to weigh up the opinions of both sides, carefully avoiding tilting the balance. Van der Meer has achieved a wild success in that he has made a very objective film about highly subjective issues. Instead of poking the argument himself, American tourists going on one of the black taxi tours around Belfast, act as the interrogators: "But some of their people have been killed too right?" "Oh aye, aye, on all sides" answers the cabbie. Hardly groundbreaking stuff and this is one of the key moments of the piece.

He shows John Green, of the Shankill Taxi's, in the full force of his hatred: "A Republican is a terrorist. An IRA Terrorist. If he's a republican he supports the IRA." He goes one better "Catholics are always innocent Catholics. They're never terrorists. They're as guilty as sin in my opinion." Guilty of what exactly? Van der Meer refuses to stroke Green's fire of prejudice, despite the man's obvious nervousness on camera and clear indications that even he isn't quite convinced of what he's saying. How could a presumed intelligent businessman honestly equate and justify the rationale that all Catholics are guilty and all Republicans are terrorists? It is one of many countless missed opportunities in this piece of film. He allows this torrent of abuse to stand on air, providing its own justification for the viewer.

Perhaps he's afraid to question Green and really you could hardly blame him. It's likely that he hasn't encountered many staunch loyalists in his lifetime (his previous research was likely to be a lot less gruelling - "Four Emperors and One Nightingale" won the Best Documentary award at the Dance Screen 2002 in Monte Carlo), but at the very least got someone else to ask all the hard questions.

In the end one of the Holy Cross School girls says it all. "Yous are happy now girls, aren't ye?" propositions one of the cabbies as he meets them on the street. Three of the four smile and nod as kids do being on camera, but the fourth is less enthused. "Aye, until it starts back up again."

**www.belfasttours.com - Tours around Belfast cost £7.50/person.**



# It's Now or Never for Sinn Fein

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Yet again we find that after taking one step forward we have taken four steps back. After being given a bad dose of its own medicine Sinn Fein may now be forced to take some drastic actions; namely ceding to popular demands and bringing an end to the IRA.

Let's attempt to summarise what has gone wrong in Northern Ireland over the past four months. Firstly, the attempts to put the peace process back on track came to a halt when the IRA refused to state that it intended to end all criminality! On 20th December the IRA carried out the Northern bank raid that netted them roughly £26.5 million. The PSNI, the Garda Síochána, as well as the Irish and British governments believe that the IRA were the driving force behind the robbery. While Sinn Fein was busy attempting to deny that the IRA had any part in the robbery, a major money laundering operation was uncovered which led to the arrest of several IRA men and the recovery of some of the money that was taken in the bank raid. As if that wasn't enough for Sinn Fein to have to deal with, some members of the IRA brutally murdered Robert McCartney in Belfast and then threatened all the witnesses to stay quiet or else!! Martin McGuinness himself described the situation as "a fairly incredible series of events".



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Another result of the McCartney murder has been that Bertie Ahern is no longer unwilling to speak out against the Sinn Fein/IRA axis which has deprived them of one of their staunchest allies and someone who was always willing to go that extra

yard in order to ensure the success of the peace process. Alas it seems that even the best of them have their breaking point.

So what for the future and what can Sinn Fein do in order to reclaim its former glory? They must make clear to their own members that were involved in the murder that they must go to the PSNI and to be fully accountable for their atrocious actions. What place does a democratic political party hold if it is not the upkeep of law and order? The PSNI is still not seen as an impartial police force to the majority of Nationalists in the North but Sinn Fein won't achieve anything by remaining outside of the peace process. To get back into the peace process they must tell the IRA frankly that its time to disband and to decommission its weapons.

Why should the IRA give up its only real bargaining tool without the promise of anything concrete in return. But there are several things that are going in favour of the IRA and Sinn Fein. Firstly, Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair are after putting a lot of effort into the peace process and as they come near the end of their reigns they will wish to leave the peace process on the path forward and so forever be recalled as the men that helped resolve the Northern Ireland issue. Secondly, an election is due in a few years in Ireland and if Sinn Fein has by that time gotten rid of the IRA and become fully integrated in the Northern Ireland institutions then the Southern electorate will look on them much more favourably than they would upon the present day Sinn Fein. Sinn Fein could then realistically attempt to look for a place in any government being formed. Finally, with the help of both governments and the Unionists no longer able to ignore the political mandate that Sinn Fein has, they will then be able to get the majority of their issues fixed by the usual method of diplomacy and not via their current method of bluff and counter bluff.

After all the recent animosity towards Sinn Fein they really have to come up with something special in order to get past their current impasse and to get the peace process up and running again. Sinn Fein must be frank with the IRA and once they have done that they will find a Unionist party that must work with them, two governments that will be willing to back them in a more profound way because of the

## EDITORIAL

effort that Sinn Fein put in to getting rid of the IRA and finally an electorate that respects them much more and a greater number of people willing to vote for them. The question remains, have Sinn Fein got the nerve to take that final leap and become a fully democratic party or are they bound to forever linger as a mixture of a political party and an illegal army?

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So what for the future and what can Sinn Fein do in order to reclaim its former glory? They must make clear to their own members that were involved in the murder that they must go to the PSNI and to be fully accountable for their atrocious actions. What place does a democratic political party hold if it is not the upkeep of law and order? The PSNI is still not seen as an impartial police force to the majority of Nationalists in the North but Sinn Fein won't achieve anything by remaining outside of the peace process. To get back into the peace process they must tell the IRA frankly that its time to disband and to decommission its weapons.

Why should the IRA give up its only real bargaining tool without the promise of anything concrete in return. But there are several things that are going in favour of the IRA and Sinn Fein. Firstly, Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair are after putting a lot of effort into the peace process and as they come near the end of their reigns they will wish to leave the peace process on the path forward and so forever be recalled as the men that helped resolve the Northern Ireland issue. Secondly, an election is due in a few years in Ireland and if Sinn Fein has by that time gotten rid of the IRA and become fully integrated in the Northern Ireland institutions then the Southern electorate will look on them much more favourably than they would upon the present day Sinn Fein. Sinn Fein could then realistically attempt to look for a place in any government being formed. Finally, with the help of both governments and the Unionists no longer able to ignore the political mandate that Sinn Fein has, they will then be able to get the majority of their issues fixed by the usual method of diplomacy and not via their current method of bluff and counter bluff.

After all the recent animosity towards Sinn Fein they really have to come up with something special in order to get past their current impasse and to get the peace process up and running again. Sinn Fein must be frank with the IRA and once they have done that they will find a Unionist party that must work with them, two governments that will be willing to back them in a more profound way because of the

## EDITORIAL

effort that Sinn Fein put in to getting rid of the IRA and finally an electorate that respects them much more and a greater number of people willing to vote for them. The question remains, have Sinn Fein got the nerve to take that final leap and become a fully democratic party or are they bound to forever linger as a mixture of a political party and an illegal army?



# Pop Goes the Century:

## Icons of Pop Culture from the 20th Century

### FREDDIE MERCURY



Contrary to popular belief, Freddie Mercury was not a singer - to refer to him as such would be to greatly underestimate his contribution to music. He was a performer and on the stage Mercury ruled supreme; no-one could compare with his flamboyant style and a distinctive voice that resounded from deep within. He devoured the energy of a rabid crowd and translated that vigour into stunning performances that engaged, enthralled, and excited. A born entertainer, his love of music was apparent in his stage persona, and during his career he was never afraid to challenge the boundaries of acceptance. Although Freddie often pranced about the stage with all the pomp of an army general, he and his band-mates never lost sight of their fans and on numerous occasions attempted to acknowledge and repay their continued loyalty. By the same token, they put heart before ego and helped to raise money for those less fortunate than themselves. Later the band would devote many hours to raising funds for research into the disease that would deprive them of their exuberant front-man. On 23 November 1991, Freddie Mercury revealed to the world that he had contracted AIDS...the following day, he was gone.

Farrokh Bulsara entered the world on 5 September 1946 to Persian parents on the small island of Zanzibar. The following year the family relocated to India where Farrokh attended an English boarding school in Panchgani near Bombay. It was here that he was first referred to as Freddie and soon the name was adopted by friends and family alike. He was a keen sportsman but also developed an interest in music and began taking piano lessons in which he reached grade 4 in both practical and theory. In the late fifties, Freddie and some friends created the Hectics, a rock and roll band that appeared at school parties and dances. When Bulsara finished school he returned to Zanzibar, but civil unrest forced the family to flee to England where they settled in Middlesex in

1964. Here Freddie enrolled in school in order to acquire the one A-Level he needed to attend art college. Consumed by the aesthetic rather than academic side of education, he easily gained the required grade in Art and was accepted at Ealing College of Art, where he began his studies in 1966.

At Ealing, Freddie befriended fellow student Tim Staffell who played bass in a band called Smile. Staffell brought him to rehearsals where Bulsara met the other band members, Brian May and Roger Taylor, with whom he struck up an immediate friendship. Stimulated by the sound of Smile, Freddie began to experiment with music again. Having completed his Diploma in Graphic Art and Design in 1969, he joined the band Ibex in August. He performed a number of gigs with the group before a reshuffle among its members saw them re-emerge as Wreckage. Conflicting interests within the band saw it dissolve before the year was out but, undaunted, Freddie soon adopted a new outfit, Sour Milk Sea, after answering a "Vocalist Wanted" advert. Again, internal antagonisms resulted in the group's meltdown within a matter of months but as usual, another opportunity - this one life-changing - was looming on the horizon.

In early 1970, Bulsara's old friend Staffell decided to quit Smile. Freddie quickly stepped in as lead singer and changed his name to Mercury. The band hired John Deacon as a replacement bass player, changed their name to Queen (complete with a crest designed by Freddie based on the members' zodiac signs), and thus opened a new chapter in rock history.

From the beginning, Queen worked tremendously hard at creating music, and toured relentlessly throughout a career that produced over twenty albums and lasted as many years. Their success speaks for itself: by 1980 they had sold 45,000,000 albums worldwide and in 1986 the UK alone purchased 1,774,991 records; they were the first major rock band to complete a stadium tour of South America and also the first to cross the iron curtain to perform in Hungary in July 1986; 'We Are The Champions' was the Christmas No. 1 in France in 1978 having knocked anthem 'We Will Rock You' off the top spot after twelve weeks; and in 1984 Queen had a total of nine albums in the British Top 200.

Queen's achievements have also been acknowledged through plethora of awards. Mercury was presented with the Ivor Novello Award by the Songwriters Guild in both 1975 and 1976 for 'Killer Queen' and the exceptionally elaborate 'Bohemian Rhapsody' respectively. In 1987 the band received the Ivor Novello Award for their 'Outstanding Contribution to British Music' - a feat that was repeated in 1990 when the British

Phonographic Industry bestowed a similar honour upon them. 'Another One Bites The Dust' became a huge, best-selling, global hit and succeeded in smudging the lines between music genres. It topped the US Rock, Soul, and Disco charts and was awarded a Billboard award for 'Top Crossover Single.' While the band received Grammy nominations, they also collected a 'Dick Clarke' award for best band. At the end of the 1980s, readers of TV Times and viewers of the associated Independent Television voted Queen the best band of the eighties.



Freddie Mercury with Queen

Although Queen once used a performance to raise funds for the emaciated population of Kampuchea, and on another occasion donated the proceeds from a gig in 1986 to the International Save The Children Fund, their appearance at Live Aid in 1985 endures as their most dazzling and significant charitable outing. In front of a worldwide audience of one billion, Queen outshone the dense line-up of headlining acts and stole the show at Wembley Stadium.

Besides devoting himself to Queen, Freddie dived into a number of side-projects throughout the 1980s. In 1984, he released the song 'Love Kills' which he had contributed to the soundtrack of the remade film classic, Metropolis. The following year the first single from his solo album was unleashed, pursued soon after by the album itself, 'Mr. Bad Guy.' During a quiet period in Queen's schedule in 1987, Freddie entered the recording studio, a visit that resulted in a cover of the Platters classic 'The Great Pretender.' Later that year he set to work with the Spanish opera star Montserrat Caballé - a collaboration that resulted in the famous single 'Barcelona' which the duo performed together on 8 October 1988 at the La Nit event in Barcelona, marking the arrival of the Olympic flag to the city.



Freddie on stage

An inherently caring soul, Freddie's dying wish was that 'Bohemian Rhapsody' would be re-released and all profits donated to AIDS charities. The double A-sided single 'Bohemian Rhapsody/These Are The Days of Our Live' went straight to number one in the UK Charts and maintained its position for five weeks, earning in excess of one million pounds for the Terence Higgins Trust. At the 1992 Brit Awards ceremony Mercury was posthumously rewarded for his contribution to music while Days of Our Lives won the Best Single of 1991 award. Roger and Brian used the occasion to announce plans for a concert in memory of Freddie to raise money for the 'Mercury Phoenix Trust' - an organisation set up to distribute funds to AIDS charities. Although no line-up had been announced by the time the tickets went on sale, all 72,000 sold out in six hours.

Gone but not forgotten, Freddie Mercury has become an immortal figure in music history. Even in death he persisted in reaching his fans through songs he had been working on in the months prior to his demise - the re-mixed 'Living On My Own' was released in 1993, became Mercury's only solo number one single, and was awarded the Ivor Novello Award for 1993 International Hit of the Year. Through the use of Queen's music in T.V and film, Freddie continues to touch people's lives and engulf them with a passion that cannot but endear. Gifted with a voice of enviable power and range, Mercury combined his operatic style with complex harmonies and melodies. A versatile singer he possessed unbelievable technical control of his talent. Equally, his song writing prowess was enlightening, insightful, inspiring, playful, unique, energetic, and derived from a range of sources and genres. As such a powerful and commanding global superstar, the announcement of Freddie Mercury's illness, followed so quickly by his death, numbed the world. The void left by this naturally charismatic man has yet to be filled and though there are many talented and credible musicians in the music industry today, none even threaten to epitomise greatness in the way Mercury did.

On behalf of UL History Society,

Emma Stafford



## Reviews

'This week Eoghan ponders U2 going snap, crackle and POP; Benny gets cosy with BellX1 but pry's himself away long enough to assume the role of music guru; Matt's been getting acquainted with the ladies in the Belltable; Niall prepares for long, dark evenings...in the cinema; and Eoin Kelly wipes the laughter tears away to talk to comedian Dave O'Doherty.'

## POP: STATEMENT OR MISTAKE?

*Eoghan Clancy*

Over the years the music that U2 have brought into this world has enraptured fans and critics alike. Their unique sound has positioned them at the very pinnacle of rock and pop music for the last twenty years. From humble beginnings in our nations capital, U2 have managed to conquer the world, bring their music to millions, smash America wide open, and all the while retain their integrity as artists. This story has been told many times and shall not be rehashed here. Instead, the intention is to focus on one of their least loved works - 1996's "POP". U2 have consistently evolved their sound - with every album sounding distinct and exciting - yet the group always manage to put their own stamp of identity on their music. This has ensured the world's attention throughout their long, illustrious career and enabled them to maintain their position as the crème de la crème of the music business.

The process of reinvention has taken the group through many phases since the



simple, stripped down, garage punk vibes of the first three albums. The nineties saw Bono and Co. reinvent themselves for what they perceived as a new world. U2 have always been influenced by politics and as such, there have been some correlations between their own shifting identity and the global and social climate of the time. The incredible success of 1987's "The Joshua Tree" as well as 1988's "Rattle And Hum" propelled the group to unprecedented heights, the upshot of which was to unsettle the group and create internal forces that moved them in a new and far more experimental direction. The driving force behind the greatest of U2's music has always been The Edge. A supreme musician with an unrivalled creative instinct, his decisions tend to influence the direction of the entire group. It was he who was primarily responsible for the change in direction of the early nineties. Edge's desires to remain fresh and exciting combined with Bono's political influences and were the perfect cata-



lysts for change. The seeds for this transformation had been sown when, in 1989 at a gig in the Point Depot in Dublin, Bono famously declared (as he does!) that the group were, "going to go away and dream it all up again."

This was precisely what happened, and on November 18th 1991, U2 exploded back onto the music scene with the release of their seventh album "Achtung Baby". This fantastic album is still considered to be among their finest works; it rock, rolls and lives up to all expectations. However, with its signature sound, nobody but U2 could have made this album. From this, Edge-fuelled creative height, they returned to earth somewhat with 1993's "Zooropa". In the opinion of many, it did not reach the standard of its predecessor but it still managed to bag a Grammy for "Best Alternative Album" and the Zoo TV world tour was their biggest and most successful yet. "Zooropa" was a step further leftfield than "Achtung Baby" had been, but their journey into the uncharted waters of techno and electronica was not going to stop there. In January of 1996 the band began to work on the album that would become "POP". Following a difficult start to recording the band decided to relocate



U2's - the Edge

from Windmill Line in Dublin to Miami and its sunnier climes. The album's gestation dragged on for a further year before finally being released on March 4th of 1997.

This album is a clear step on from "Zooropa;" it is different, exciting, packed

with great songs, sounds and beats...but it doesn't sound like U2. The hit singles "Discotheque" and "Staring At The Sun" were the antheseses of each other, but together they demonstrated the difference in direction that existed between the U2 of



U2's - Adam and Bono on stage

the 1980's and the U2 that had reinvented itself for the nineties. "POP" brought their trip down this experimental route to its ultimate end, and in the minds of many it may have been a step too far. To conclude this would signify a gross underestimation of the album and excludes far too much from the equation. The album must be looked at in the context of its creation. At the time, there was a huge trend towards dance and other electronic styles in the music industry, Orbital and The Chemical Brothers being perfect examples of what was rising to the fore at the time. U2 had started their move down that road years before it hit the mainstream, and so cannot be accused of simply riding a trend. Their musical direction had led them to this point and while they were there they managed, not to only dabble convincingly, but succeed beyond all belief in fusing the dance inspired sounds of the mid-nineties with classic U2 feel and soul. This album

may be flawed, but it oozes character; and while the marriage of styles may at some times be rocky there are moments where both combine to create musical fireworks that cannot be denied. "Discotheque" packed dance floors around the world, "Please" evoked memories of "Joshua Tree", "Mofo" catered for the more "altered" amongst the fans, while "Staring At The Sun" was the perfect summer single. This album is so very different from the direction that many would have (understandably) expected a group like U2 to take - it would have been far more conventional for quartet to plough the "Britpop" furrow, but conventional is a word that can rarely be used to describe U2. Their sound has always avoided mainstream musical trends; for example, in the eighties when guitar excess was at its height, the Edge developed his own style, no less spectacular, but a distinctive sound and tone that has withstood the test of time, sounding just as good on "How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb" as it did on "War".

With POP, U2 did something quite different and deliberate - they stopped sounding like classic U2. Their signature sound disappeared or immersed itself in the synth and keyboard sounds that drench the album. Even Bono's distinctive tones are not immune from effect and on several tracks his voice is warped by the electronic wizardry and polished production skills of The Edge. This is not to say that all of the classic U2 trademarks are absent, the steady drumming of Mullen (albeit embellished by drum machine effects) and the attractive bass lines of Clayton check the right boxes. Even the lyrics, while at times obscured in a very unU2-like fashion remain perhaps the most political and revolutionary of any Bono has written. Criticism could be levelled at the fact that some are overly preachy but at times, this should be forgiven - people need to say what they feel from time to time! Also classic U2 balladry remains in force on the album with the tracks, "If God Will Send His Angels", "Last Night On Earth" and "Miami" deserving of a place amongst their best-loved songs.

The listener should not always expect groups to slowly evolve their sound in a predictable way. POP took the U2 sound and threw it into a melting pot, boiled for a few months, added some imagination and served up the brew that resulted. If you allow yourself to remain unaffected by the preconception that we all have about what should be a "U2 album" and let POP start from a blank sheet, it will paint a picture that is just as mesmerising as anything else they have created.



# BellX1: Under The Microscope

**Not content with listening to them on his radio, Benny decided to go one better and hunt BellX1 down. Here's the result.**

Whether you prefer to rock out to bands like Radiohead and Pearl Jam or just relax and be eased off to a place of inner relaxation by classics such as The Byrds' "Mr. Tambourine Man" or The Steve Miller Band's "The Joker," BellX1 are not to be missed out on. Their quaint approach to the typical love song is unique and insightful as well as deeply connecting. With popular, established critics hailing them as "what Radiohead should be sounding like" it's hard to image anyone not liking these guys.

The band, formerly known as Juniper, is coming to Limerick once again in April to invade Dolan's warehouse and invigorate their army of ever-expanding



BellX1

fans. Their fresh, new sound managed to get them nominated for the Best Irish Band award at the Meteor Awards in February, although the accolade was eventually swiped by the very successful, Snow Patrol. They've also had no less than two emotionally charged songs featured on the popular second series of The O.C., one of which (the touching "Eve, The Apple Of My Eye") has gotten some major, and well deserved, airplay on all radio stations nationwide. This single managed to slot into Tom Dunne's Top 40 Singles of 2004 at a not un-impressive number 22, and BellX1 have also been mentioned throughout the Hot Press Reader's Poll of the same year under headings including "Best Single", "Best Group", "Best Male Singer" and "Best Live Act"....

But enough of the praise chorus, time to get down to business and to seek out the heart of a group that have brought us a warm humorous approach to love songs that has not been done (well) by many a band in such a long while - here are the ponderings of a music fanatic, journalist and band member, Paul Noonan:

**Q: Describe your music in four words.**  
Blood Sugar Diabetes Banjo

**Q: Weirdest place/crowd you've ever played for?**

We did a wonderful tour of Eastern Europe last year, and played in a pub in Warsaw called "St Patrick's Very Irish Pub". The crowd consisted of mainly middle-aged couples, who fast danced for the fast songs and slow danced for the slow ones. There was a lone mentalist who flailed around amongst them, like Jim Morrison.

**Q: Favourite venue?**

Vicar St in Dublin has a magic about it... I think it's because everyone can see and the sound is good everywhere, which is rare, sadly

**Q: Favourite Album/Artist?**

Bill Withers - Live at Carnegie Hall  
PJ Harvey - To Bring You My Love  
Talking Heads - Fear of Music  
Nick Cave - The Boatman's Call  
Gillian Welch - Time the Revelator

**Q: Major influences?**

The first record I bought was "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" by Tight Fit, the first song I learned to play was "It's Raining Again" by Supertramp...my Dad always had a song, and I was a flautist in a concert band when I was 10.

**Q: If you could go back in time and stop someone from making a record who/what record would it be and why?**

I don't think I'd want to do that, I don't think there's a musical equivalent of "If I knew Hitler was going to do what he did, I'd have killed him...". OK, maybe Scooter. And Dido.

**Q: Where's the monkey?**

Monkey 61 was the first monkey in space; he was up there before precious man. He and his family were taken from Africa to Tucson, and taught how to fly a space pod. I presume that this monkey's gone to heaven

**Q: How did you come up with the name? What does it mean?**

We came up with the name by trying our hardest...surrounded by leaving cert geography books and almanacs in my sitting room, like Ted and Dougal trying to write a song. The Bell X1 was the first aircraft to break the sound barrier, in 1950-something. I love the clean cut and sinister vibe of that time, hair crème and chrome, the birth of the cold war

**Q: Biggest hate?**

My shoes always look enormous.

**Q: What do you want to be remembered for most?**

Making records that people take to bed.

**Q: Guitars or Synths?**

I like all sorts...I love the way talking heads mixed them, and the flaming lips and the killers today



Jack (left) and Eddie Vedder (right) at the Santa Barbara Bowl CA in 2003

**Q: Favourite guitar/synth moment or song?**

I heard Gary Numan's "Cars" again the other day. It sounds amazing, and it's twenty or thirty years old. I think that while many of the new synth pop bands strive to achieve this kind of feel, few get close.

**Q: Night out or night in?**

Night in, then out, then shake it all about. Oh hokey cokey.

**Q: Quiet or loud?**

quietLOUDloudQUIETloudLOUDquietLOUDQUIETquietLOUD

**Q: If you could gig with anyone you chose, who would it be and why?**

**CD rack looking a little on the dull side? Friends mocking your so-called taste in music? Fear not, Benny Kupka's here to steer you in the right direction! This week, to expand your mind (as well as your record collection), he recommends:**

## Jack Johnson

If you're in the mood for something different, if you're sick of the batch of current sterile rock or pop artists out there, or even if you're not but you still like a bit of a change in your music repertoire every now and again, then give Jack Johnson a listen. You may even have already heard his newest release on the radio, the very catchy "Sitting, Waiting, Wishing" which is from his latest record "In Between Dreams".

Johnson grew up on the northern shore of Hawaii and made surf movies before releasing his debut album "Bushfire Fairytales" on his own Bushfire Records. This enjoyed a rather subdued but nevertheless considerable success in the American Billboard Charts, conspicuously floating around for quite some time and even making it as high up as number 3. His combination of laid back, lethargic surf-rock and melodic acoustic sound on songs such as "Flake" (which features Tommy Jordan on the Steel Drums and Ben Harper on slide guitar) gives this album a warm feel to it, like sitting on a beach on the Pacific Ocean and kicking back with a few

I'd love to do the Muppet Show. It's a pity there's nothing like this around now

**Q: What was your best gig to date?**

The last Irish tour was great; there was a real sense of something happening within the band as we progressed through it, a relaxation and confidence that we've never had before

**Q: Recommend an up-and coming band that's caught your attention lately?**

We've had the pleasure of playing with The Chalets on a recent tour, who are rapid. And Matt Lunson is a singer that really moves me.

BellX1's second album "Music In Mouth" is available in all good music shops and has gone platinum since its release in 2003. The band have found themselves touring with the likes of Snow Patrol, Damien Rice and Keane. I think it's safe to say that BellX1 are undoubtedly making their mark on the music scene but not just in Ireland. They're here, they're there they're everywhere, and we love them all the more for it!

**BellX1 play Dolan's on April 16th and 19th. Tickets are €19 and are also available for reduced student rate of € 15.**

friends. Johnson's been touring worldwide with Ben Harper and has raised his profile accordingly by playing a few jazz festivals on the side.

In short, listen to Jack Johnson and you will be left feeling like it's summer time already. Now, technically speaking we're currently not too far away from said mythical season...but when has an extra dose of sunshine ever hurt in Ireland?

**Notable Albums:**

"Bushfire Fairytales", and "In Between Dreams"





# Ladies Day at the Belltable

**Sisters really were doing it for themselves this past week in Limerick and Matt Chomistek was there for An Focal to check it out...**

This past Thursday through Saturday (March 24-26) the Belltable Theatre hosted two plays, 'The Galway Girl/The Donoghue Sisters,' dealing with some of the toils of family life. This combination of two one-act plays was written by Geraldine Aron, put on by 'Teaspach' and directed by Tom O'Donnell.

The first play, "The Galway Girl," exposes the audience to the marriage of a couple and reveals both partners perspectives through an exchange of monologues. The lack of communication that exists between the two is clear, as they never talk onstage. The two actors did an amazing job of portraying the difficulty of a marriage, and I was captivated throughout. Karen Fitzgibbon excelled in the role of Maisie, a girl from a well off upbringing who displays an unending tolerance in putting up with her husband's abuse, alcoholism, and brutishness.

Edward Dillon really shines as Dermot, her husband. It is startling to see Dermot age right in front of you as he changes from a fiery young lad with a poor urban upbringing, into an old man dying of emphysema. It seems that



The Donoghue Sisters at the Belltable

every drag from his endless supply of cigarettes and every gulp of Jameson's Whiskey adds five years to his age, resulting in a shuffling, withered old man, all within the span of forty five minutes. His anger towards his children for not being the mischievous lads of his youth is transformed into despair that they do not write from Australia and America as he lies in his deathbed.

Both Fitzgibbon and Dillon command the audience's

attention unceasingly. Through subtle lighting and sound effects, the actors are left virtually on their own on the stage to perform this incredibly well written play; they really bring the production alive, and the audience is left feeling that they have seen two lives unfold in front of their very eyes, if only for forty five minutes.

"The Donoghue Sisters" take the audience inside an attic where three sister re-enact a traumatic event from their past. The play exhibits the complex dynamic of family in later life, after the kids have left home. More than that though, it shows how hard it can be to come back, but also how necessary it is. Lorna O'Brien, Sinead Fahy, and Helena Enright play the characters of Dunya, Rosie, and Annie, respectively, and they do an excellent job of portraying three very different sisters who seem to have nothing in common except for memories, both good and bad. Throughout the play, a seemingly unbridgeable gap is crossed, and the sisters find out what they truly mean to each other, and only by reliving a terrible memory do they succeed in accomplishing this.

Teaspach did an incredible job with this performance. The entire cast, crew, and the director deserve an abundance of credit for what I found to be a magnificent performance. I would encourage anyone to attend anything put on by this group, and I will definitely be in the audience the next time they make their way to Limerick.

**The sunny months may be a-coming but there's reason enough to stay indoors. Casting a shadow over cinemas this summer will be the latest in the Batman saga while also looming in the darkness is the final instalment in the Star Wars tale. Niall Murphy investigates...**

## Batman Begins

**Release Date: June 24, 2005**

**Starring:** Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Morgan Freeman, Gary Oldman, Ken Watanabe, Katie Holmes, Cillian Murphy, Tom Wilkinson, Rutger Hauer

**Plot Summary:** Christopher Nolan's "Batman Begins" explores the origins of the Batman legend and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham. In the wake of his parents' murder, disillusioned industrial heir Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful. He returns to Gotham and unveils his alter-ego: Batman, a masked crusader who uses

his strength, intellect and an array of high tech deceptions to fight the sinister forces that threaten the city (courtesy of Warner Bros).

**Preview:** Eight years after the cinematic travesty that was Batman & Robin, the Dark Knight is back. Memento director Christopher Nolan's Batman Begins seeks to reignite the franchise by exploring the origins of the Batman legend and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham. With an estimated budget of \$120 million a lot is riding on this film's ability to step out from under the shadow (sic) of previous incarnations. The casting of Christian Bale as Bruce Wayne seems to have eased fan-boys initial concerns, and both star and director have good experience of dealing with dark issues: Bale in The Machinist and Nolan with Memento. Villain duty this time round is divided between The Scarecrow, played by our own Cillian Murphy, and Ra's Al Ghul, played by The Last Samurai's Ken Watanabe. Michael Caine takes over the role of Alfred from pre-

vious incumbent Michael Gough who turns 88 in November. Batman Begins gets a two-week head-start on Spielberg's War of the Worlds, which should help its box-office takings. And let's face facts, this is the strongest cast of any of the Batman movies, while the choice of Nolan directing and co-writing with David Goyer borders on genius. Tim Burton's 1989 Batman and Richard Donner's Superman started the whole superhero movie business. With Bryan Singer's Superman Returns set for release summer 2006 and Batman Begins this summer maybe it's time for the old boys to show the upstarts how it's done.

**Official Website:** <http://batmanbegins.warnerbros.com>

## Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith

**Release Date: May 19, 2005**

**Starring:** Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman, Hayden Christensen, Christopher Lee, Samuel L. Jackson, Frank Oz, Ian McDiarmid, Jimmy Smits, Anthony Daniels, Kenny Baker, Peter Mayhew

**Plot Summary:** After three long years of relentless fighting, the Clone Wars are nearly at an end. The Jedi Council dispatches Obi-Wan Kenobi to bring General Grievous, the deadly leader of the Separatist droid army, to justice. Meanwhile, back on Coruscant, Chancellor Palpatine has grown in power. His sweeping political changes transform the war-weary Republic into the mighty Galactic Empire. To his closest ally, Anakin Skywalker, he reveals the true nature of power and the promised secrets of the Force in an attempt to lure him to the dark side.

**Preview:** So the final part of the trilogy is upon us and we finally get to see how Anakin became seduced by and lured to the dark side of the force. This is the one all fans of the series have been waiting for, the fall of the Jedi, the formation of the Empire, the rise of Darth Vader, it's all in here. Devotees of the franchise



are cautiously anxious about the release of Episode III having been largely disappointed by the two previous films. The hype that surrounded the release of Episode I has died down considerably and Lucas will be anxious to appease the cult followers of the series as well as entertain and attract the masses. Initial reaction to the teaser trailer is positive with the line "Lord Vader... RISE!" spawning considerable frantic excitement. Lucas writes a compelling story - one that his directing abilities have never been able to match. Perhaps he should have hired another director to finish the opus, but then again, it is his baby. The scale has been significantly ramped up in this outing with the introduction of a few more planets including Kashyyyk, the homeworld of the Wookies. It is here that Chewbacca makes an appearance, long before the event of A New Hope. The Star Wars franchise is the most successful in cinema history and as a result this movie should be huge. With battle scenes galore this could be the most exciting movie of the summer. May the force be with you.

**Official Website:** <http://www.starwars.com>





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[www.gcd.ie](http://www.gcd.ie)

Griffith College Dublin - a Complete Learning Experience

## How would you and your friends like to earn €500??

As part of their Sexual Health Awareness Campaign the Sexual Health Working Group is offering you and your friends the opportunity to earn **€500**. All you have to do is design a **Sexual Health Crossword** or create a **Sexual Health Table Quiz**. The themes can cover all and any aspects of sexual life, without restriction.

The crossword needs to be at least 15 questions across and 15 questions down. The table quiz needs to be at least 10 rounds of questions with six questions in each round with one visual round.

**The successful applicant(s) will be paid €500** for completing the project to the required standard.

Students can apply individually or alternatively you can team up with a group of friends.

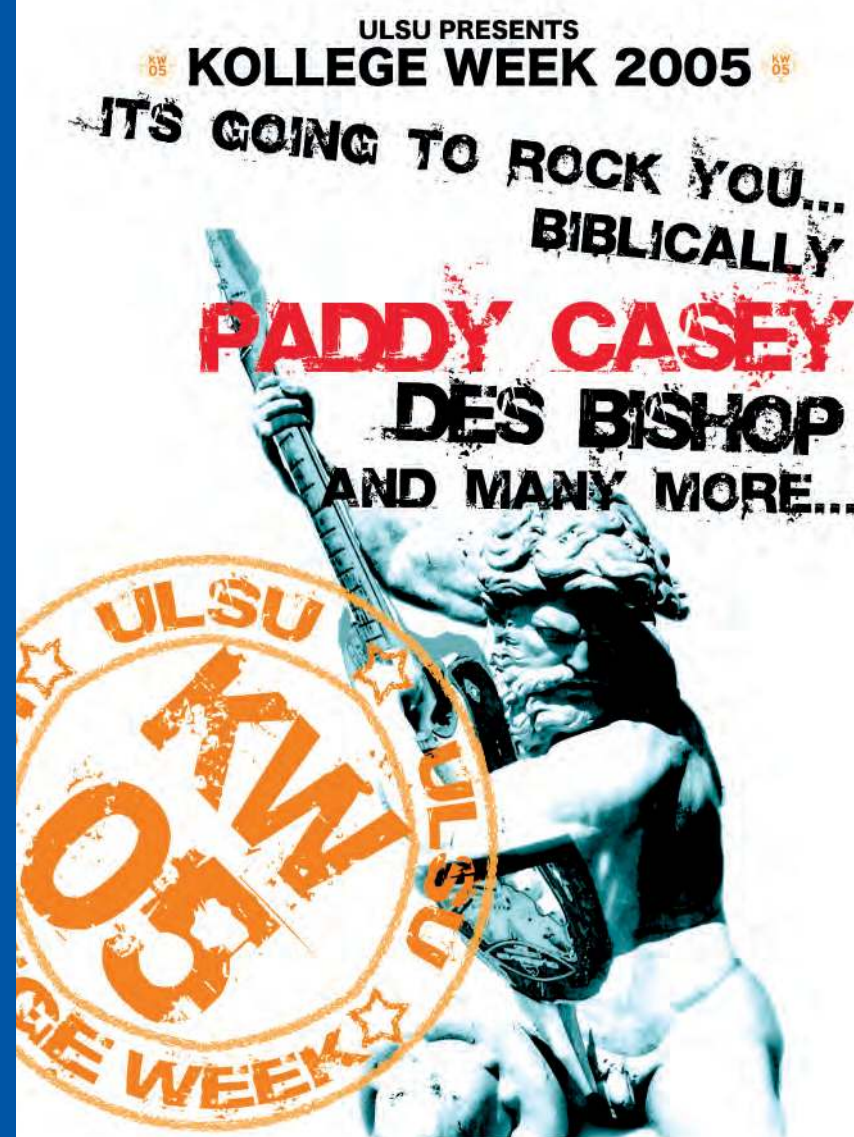
It is important to bear in mind, when deciding the best way to approach either the crossword or the table quiz that the judges

## Mumps: Be wise, immunise!

Thur 31st Mar- Fri 8th April  
10.00am- 1.00pm and  
2.00pm- 5.00pm daily

Students with final examinations later this year should present themselves on the first three days and other students are asked to cooperate by presenting themselves on the later days. Nobody, however, will be turned away from the vaccination centre.

Were you around the Hurlers or Esso the night of March 18th between 12:30am and 1am? Two UL students and then 20 minutes later one UL student (on his own) were assaulted in this location, with hospitalization required for one of them. The perpetrators are described as a group of three to four white males between the ages of 15 to 18. If you have any information to help identify the perpetrators of these attacks please come forward with your information to Rosey Healey, ULSU Welfare Officer, or call the Henry St Garda Station (061)212400 and ask to speak Pat Coakley, the Castletroy Community Guard.







The Professional Law School

Griffith College Limerick

For the last two years (2003 & 2004), a remarkable six out of nine of the Law Society's FE1 first place prize-winners were students of Griffith College

Griffith College will deliver preparatory courses for the Law Society's Final Examination (Part One) in Limerick commencing June 2005.

- All lecture materials are provided in the form of professionally produced course manuals
- Lectures will be relayed from Griffith College Dublin to the University of Limerick
- Class-work and homework is set and corrected weekly
- Students are entitled to avail of the College's extensive on-line law library with complementary access to Lexis Nexis, Westlaw UK, and Westlaw.ie
- Summer and Winter courses available

For further information, please contact  
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It is important to bear in mind, when deciding the best way to approach either the crossword or the table quiz that the judges will be looking out for entries that are fun, informative, accurate, original and even provocative (and in good taste).

Interested students should contact the Student Affairs office for further details and application forms. The Student Affairs office can be contacted by e-mailing [Elaine.Kiely@ul.ie](mailto:Elaine.Kiely@ul.ie) or [Stephen.Walsh@ul.ie](mailto:Stephen.Walsh@ul.ie)

## Alternative Careers & Volunteering Fair University of Limerick

**13 April @ 12.00-3.00 p.m. in EGO 10**

*Are you interested in any of the following options?*

- Identifying **ALTERNATIVE CAREER OPTIONS** in the non-corporate sector
- Exploring **WORK OPPORTUNITIES** that are typically not advertised
- Understanding how **VOLUNTEERING** can add to your marketability
- Finding out about opportunities in the **PERFORMING ARTS**
- Learning more about necessary **JOB REQUIREMENTS**

The UL Careers Service will host the Alternative Careers & Volunteering Fair on Wednesday, 13 April, 2005. This follows on from the success of the first such fair which was held on campus in March 2004 and which attracted over 500 students. We expect that at least 30 organisations who offer graduate opportunities in the following areas will attend:

- non-profit
- local, regional and international development
- youth and community work
- voluntary work
- performing arts
- summer work and gap year jobs

Public Interest organisations don't often recruit on college campuses in the same way that corporations and the larger blue chip companies do. Careers Fairs like this one create a vital and infrequent opportunity for students and social organisations to discuss some of society's most rewarding jobs. So if you've been wondering what other career options are out there, come along and find out on **13 April in EGO 10** in the main building. Check the Careers website for details at: <http://www.ul.ie/careers/careers/events/news.shtml>.

The organisations attending include the following:

Aspect Work and Travel  
Ballyhoura Development Organisation (Community Development)  
Federation of Music Collectives  
Franciscan Community  
Foroige (Youth work)  
Gymboree Play and Music  
Ionadglas, Organic Education Centre  
Irish Peace Institute  
I-to-I Ireland (Voluntary work abroad)  
Limerick Youth Service  
Paul Partnership  
Shannon Heritage  
Society of St Vincent de Paul  
Sli Eile (Community & Volunteering work)  
Suas (International Development work)  
Paul Partnership  
Tipperary Mid West Radio  
USIT  
Volunteer Mission Movement  
Voluntary Service International

This is an open event and students from all disciplines and all years of study are invited to attend.

For further information, contact either [patsy.ryan@ul.ie](mailto:patsy.ryan@ul.ie) or [mary.sweeney@ul.ie](mailto:mary.sweeney@ul.ie).

23 March 2005, Careers Service  
Cooperative Education & Careers Division

# Mumps:

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# WIN 1ST FLIGHT TICKETS TO DUSSELDORF

(JUST PAY THE TAXES AND CHARGES)

This week 15 lucky An Focal readers will win a pair of return tickets on the first flight to Dusseldorf with Ryanair & your Students' Union

Ryanair is Europe's No. 1 low fares airline with 220 low fare routes across 19 countries, 12 European bases, operating a fleet of 79 aircraft, with firm orders for up to a further 85 new Boeing 737-800s which will be delivered over the next five years. Ryanair currently employs a team of 2600 people & will carry in excess of 27 million scheduled passengers in the current financial year. Shannon Airport has just been unveiled as Ryanair's 12th European base with the addition of 9 new routes to Nottingham East Midlands, Liverpool, London Gatwick, London Luton, Stockholm, Barcelona, Hamburg, Düsseldorf and Milan. To celebrate, we are giving away 15 pairs of return tickets to Dusseldorf.



**RYANAIR.com**  
FLY CHEAPER



## Dusseldorf

Combining the legendary good cheer of the Rhineland with the cosmopolitan charm of an international exhibition city, Düsseldorf offers the visitor a wealth of memorable sights and experiences. Eighteen museums, the German Opera House, countless theatres large and small and numerous other attractions all attest to the city's standing as a major arts centre.



[www.germany-tourism.de/e/dest\\_cities\\_duesseldorf\\_e.html](http://www.germany-tourism.de/e/dest_cities_duesseldorf_e.html)

To Enter, please answer the following question:

Q: How many employees does Ryanair have?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I.D. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Course & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Replies by Wednesday 13th April to:  
**Ryanair Competition, ref SU**  
**Student Union Centre UL**

The competition is restricted to registered UL students only. Winners will be announced in the next edition.

**Last weeks winners:** Raphael Murphy, 1st Yr Business, Conor McBreen, 3rd Yr Aero Eng, Tom Dalton, 4th Yr Electronic Eng, Patricia Foley, 3rd Yr Applied Languages, Sillian Kirschke, Exchange Student: Physiotherapy, Kate Kerin, 4th Yr BBS & French, Claire Concannon, 2nd Yr Sports Science, Emer O' Reilly, 1st Yr Business, Michael Toomey, 3rd Yr HPSS, Lisa Oates, 3rd Yr Law & Euro, Ian Dowling, 4th Yr Sports Science, Alan Geary, 4th Yr Computer Systems, Orla Leland, MA Interactive Media, Cian O' Donnell, 1st Yr Business, Michelle Ryan, 3rd Yr Law & Euro

**www.ryanair.com is Europe's largest travel website for flight bookings, hotel accommodation, car hire, travel insurance and much more**

Terms and Conditions 1. Flights are subject to airport taxes and charges which are to be paid by the winner. These are payable by credit card (Visa/MasterCard only): Transaction charge for payment by credit card is 2.50Euro per person per flight. When booking a return flight the passenger will pay 2 x 2.50Euro. This flight giveaway is only available on Ryanair specified flights from Shannon airport. 2. Travel is only available from 3rd May up to 30th June 2005 excluding all School and Public Holidays and any other peak periods. Travel on Friday or Sunday is not permitted. Applicable travel days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday only. 3. The number of seats available for this promotion on each flight is strictly subject to availability. 4. Bookings must be made by the date specified on the flight voucher(s) and can only be made by fax, via Ryanair Sales Office, Stansted Airport. It is the responsibility of all winners to complete vouchers clearly and provide a fax or email address for receipt of the flight confirmation. Failure to do so will result in the voucher not being processed. Ryanair will not contact winners in this regard. Vouchers must be completed with correct and complete payment details-failure to do so will result in the voucher not being processed. Ryanair will not contact winners in this regard. 5. Flights bookings are non-changeable, non-transferable and non-refundable under any circumstances once a booking has been confirmed. The Prize cannot be exchanged for Cash. 6. Flights bookings made prior to this promotion cannot be exchanged or refunded for any booking acquired under this promotion. 7. All flights are subject to change without prior notice. Therefore it is recommended that passengers confirm their travel itinerary prior to departure. This can be done by contacting our call centre on: 0818303030 8. Passengers will not be allocated with a ticket, as Ryanair.com is a "ticketless" airline. A booking reference, which must be quoted at check-in, will be issued. All passengers must be in a possession of a valid Passport for all Ryanair flights. A valid Driver's License is also accepted for UK Domestic Flights only. 9. Passengers are responsible for their own insurance requirements. It is recommended that passengers take out suitable travel insurance (Ryanair sell excellent value travel insurance through the website). 10. No child discounts are permitted. 11. Persons entering must be 18 years or over. 12. Ryanair bookings are subject to the conditions of Contract as made available on the Ryanair website or printed on Ryanair form of Itinerary/receipt and to Ryanair's General Conditions of Carriage for Passengers and Baggage from time to time and such conditions shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency within the terms of this competition. 13. Ryanair shall not be liable for any failure to fulfil this promotion where such failure is caused by any supervening circumstances including but not limited to: severe weather conditions, fire, flood, earthquake, or severe movement of land or other natural phenomena, industrial disputes, war, riots Acts of God or events which without fault of either party rendering performance impossible or incapable of satisfactory execution. 14. Ryanair shall not be liable for ancillary partners to this promotion. 15. Bus/transfer services are the sole responsibility of the relevant bus/transfer companies. Ryanair shall not be held responsible for late or cancelled buses/taxis or flights that are missed as a result of delayed/non-arrival of buses/taxis. 16. Ryanair reserve the right to vary any of the terms and conditions of this offer at their absolute discretion. 17. Ryanair reserves the right to cancel this promotion without notice or obligation.



# Dave O'Doherty: Scholar, Comedian, Musician...though not necessarily in that order.

*UL Laughing Society's Eoin Kelly explains*



Essentially, Dave O'Doherty is a mad comedian who builds you up one way and takes you somewhere totally different - he'll lead you down the garden path, then go and hop over a bush! Disillusioned with modern commercial music shows he took it upon himself to right

this aural torment, creating his own radio show which broadcasts on Mondays from 7-9pm on LIVE 95FM. Listening to the programme reveals many insights into the character of "David O'Doherty - comedian" and his weekly slot is littered with a mixture of music from his time tested collection. There are just two types of music in this collected works - the 'party music to impress chicks' and music that interests him at the moment, for example, Red Neck Manifesto because they have a cool name. He advises all budget-conscious college students to get their own radio show because it means never having to buy CDs again! Radio gigs, he states "are the easiest to do, the toughest was a bunch of kids at one of my book readings in which they all started crying because their mothers weren't there."

Back in the day, Dave attended Trinity College Dublin with David Kitt, and says they hope to

release a Christmas style power ballad but cannot find the right words to express their true emotions. He requests that all Michael Bolton/Whitney Houston wannabes in UL submit their power ballads to An Focal, from where they will be transferred for review on his show. O'Doherty received a degree in economics and philosophy from Trinity, which, he says, is very helpful when applying for a job in Xtravision! The reason he took the course was that he wanted to know the price and value of everything.

Dave revealed that his hero is Stephen Roche, because he reckons he was the first Irish person to do something of importance. He recounted a gig where he and another comedian asked the audience to bring in their broken bicycles and they would fix them on stage - he observed that more people could openly talk about their bicycles than themselves!

[O'Doherty persisted in playing his comedic horn throughout the duration our conversation and recommended that all comedians should have one...in the face of such wisdom, I have decided that I too am going to get one...eh, a non-sexual one of course!]

The future is littered with possible milestones and Dave is now off to Australia where he hopes to present his show on the beach accompanied by a kangaroo. He has already completed pilot shows for both the BBC and RTE which he describes as "just me messing around with a camera." His next gig in Limerick is currently unknown as his outrageous demands for one hundred scented candles have yet to

be met. However, you can catch David on the RTE 2 programme 'Scope' in SAPS (scientific analysis of potato snacks) - a job he got when a guy rang him up with a midlands accent asking him to make science funny. A tough job for someone who hadn't done science since his junior cert but he rose to the challenge and claims to have had great fun doing it. The main audiences O'Doherty hopes to cash in on from his success on 'Scope', are eight year-old girls, college stoners (who watch everything on TV) and homeless people at bank machines, who are surprisingly apt at revealing his identity!

Lastly, if you Google David O'Doherty the main website that comes up is an Esat Young Scientist of the same name. Comedy Dave urges his audience to keep pestering Scientist Dave with guestbook signatures of 'great comedy man' and 'saw you last week...brilliant', just to p\*\*s him off, as Scientist Dave once called Comedy Dave a '2nd class comedian'. Our Dave compares this war to the war between Biggy and 2Pac and he's intent on bringing it downtown!

More info available at [www.davidodoherty.com](http://www.davidodoherty.com), or [www.live95.ie](http://www.live95.ie) - and don't forget to come laugh your pants off (no, not really!) with UL Laughing Soc, every Tuesday at 8pm in the Scholars. See UL's Eoin (own) Eoin Kelly as he supports Des Bishop this Tuesday 7-9pm, Kollege Week in the Concert Hall. Tickets €16 available in the Students' Union Reception.



## Ceolchoirm Kíla

Barge Rooms, Baile na hInse,  
Oíche Fhéile Phádraig

Thug mé faoi ndeara nach raibh an club lán le Gaeilgeoirí nuair a chuaigh mé isteach sna Barge Rooms ar dtús. Bhí daoine ann ó gach aicme den tsochaí agus ó gach aoisghrúpa. Bhí na "Hippies" nua-aimseartha ann, lucht an ghnó, mic léinn, muintir na ceirde, daoine



níos sine - máithreacha, aithreacha, infonacha agus mic araon. Nuair a thosaigh na ceoltóirí ag seinm, tháinig athrú ar an slua. Thosaigh siad ag damhsa, ag screadaíl agus ag béicíl, ach bhí na ceoltóirí ag baint taitneamh as. D'fhreastal mé ar a lán ceolchoirm ach ní raibh aon

cheann mar seo! Bhí fuinneamh mífáidúrtha ag teacht ón stáitse agus iad ag seinm a gceol sainiúil féin. Bhí gach duine ann caillte sna rleanna agus na jigs. Sheinn siad a n-amhrán *An Tiománaí* (SnaG '05) agus cúpla ceann nua, ceann amháin faoi oíche phaiseanta! Rud amháin a

thaitin liom ná gur mhínigh siad gach amhrán sular chan siad é. Bhí siad iontach agus bhain gach duine an-sult as an gceolchoirm. Nuair a chríochnaigh siad, bhí gach duine ag lorg níos mó agus tháinig said ar ais chun cúpla amhrán eile a

chasadh. Ag an am seo bhí na ndaoine ag teacht isteach sa chlub oíche agus iad faoi dhraíocht an cheoil freisin. Is trua nár chas said cúpla amhrán eile, abair *Féach, Cathain nó Ríl a hAon*. Ach beidh mise ag dul ar ais, nuair a bheidh said timpeall!

**Brendán Ó hÉamhaigh**

## SnaG '05

Is dlúthdiosc nua é seo a rinne go speisialta don Seachtain na Gaeilge. Is iad na Devlins, Paddy Casey, Kíla, Mundy, na Walls, Liam Ó Maonlaí, John Spillane, Morgan the bouncer, na

Frames, Iarla Ó Lionáird, Nina Hynes, agus daoine eile atá ag canadh agus ag seinm ar an dlúthdiosc. Aistrigh chuid mór do na amhránaí a amhrán go Gaeilge. Tá cúpla chinn tradisiúnta ann fós, ach ní chloiseann siad sean aimsire. Go pearsanta, is iomhann liom an amhrán Buachall Óg le Paddy Casey, agus an Tiomání le Kíla. Aah leis an diabhair



é, tá gach amhrán ar an ceirnín seo go h-iontach! Agus tá seigheas rap ann le "bhFait" le Morgan the Bouncer, is rap greannmhar é seo, sa Gaeilge, agus níl sé deachair aon rus a thuiscint. Teigh amach agus chean-

naigh an rud seo!!!

**Ainm:** SnaG '05

**Ar Fáil:** Gach soipa ceirnín sa tír

**Costas:** Timpeal 1 EUR 15:00 (ag dul chuig Concern Ná bí ag déanamh cóipeanna!!!)

**Brendán Ó hÉamhaigh**



## The Blurb

The week Lisa discusses feminism illustrated in *Sex and the City* and *Desperate Housewives*, Dominic discusses the awkward relationship between a boyfriend and a protective dad and 'T.Onge Incheek' provides an alternative report on Minister Hanafin's recent visit to UL.

### *From Sex and the City to Desperate Housewives...*

Lisa Egan asks 'Has feminism finally regressed?'

It is the year 2005 and feminism has ruined everything. Nowhere was this more vividly shown than the show *Sex and the City*. The world watched and was mesmerized by a group of ageing, fraught women obsessed with clothes, shoes, sex and lunch...in that order. They changed their handbags as often as they changed their men. Carrie and her posse were the epitome of success and glamour, still despite all their shiny trappings; their main aim in life was to settle down with a man. But they seemed to have the need to hide their loneliness behind overpriced shoes and often-ridiculous outfits. These women who were heralded as the essence of independence just reeked of desperation.

Now we have a new breed of women on our screens, the desperate housewives. At least these women are upfront about their desperation and don't hide it behind a façade of clothes. They actively pursue happiness, whether it be a man, money or simply a nanny. Life isn't a Manhattan cocktail of sex, glitter and shoes. Despite their status as housewives, these women are far more progressive than their *Sex and the City* counterparts. At least their worries are slightly less trivial than which sexual potion they should try next.

However, the truly redeeming factor about this show is the men. The show has not succumbed to feminism's worst crime....the creation of the metrosexual. Ah the metrosexual, throughout the

1990s, women searched for man's 'feminine side'. Why this was something that needed to be found I will never understand. Half of the earth's population is female. Surely that is more than enough feminine side to go around. Just imagine the uproar if men suddenly went searching for women's 'masculine side' and complained that we didn't fully empathize with their passion for football or truly connect with their obsession for porn. Yet search women did, and they found it. The result is the metrosexual; the man that will spend longer getting ready than the average woman, steal her hair mousse, her issue of *Cosmo* and then spend the entire night discussing his feelings. Feminism has created a monster. Now women have to spend their days searching for real men, partly because we can't afford to keep replacing our hair products. The feminine side is what women bring to the party, why can't men keep up their side of the bargain? Is a masculine side too much to ask for? No woman wants a man that knows more about fashion and celebrity gossip than she does. That's what we have friends for. And we certainly do not want a man that is more exfoliated, toned and moisturized than us. Unless he is a contestant in *Mr. Universe* it's just wrong. Some people argue that women are getting what they spent years looking for, but enough is enough, this metrosexual thing has gone too far. Bring back real men as they are meant to be.



### *She may be your little princess but she's my little ...*

By Dominic Hewson

Why doesn't he like me? I'm a nice guy, I mean I'm not Ghandi or anything but I'm clean(ish), I'm courteous and I can be polite to the point of irritating so why does my girlfriend's father treat me with the same contempt usually reserved for war criminals or Jehovah's Witnesses?

I know why he doesn't like me these days and to be honest he has good cause (I'll get on to that later) but he loathed me from the start and for what reason? I have several theories on the matter ranging from 'it's because he's just a soulless jerk' to it being an ethnicity matter incorporating his fierce patriotism, his nationalistic Belfast upbringing and my own painfully squeaky cockney accent... Then again his hatred could stem from the time he found handcuffs and a riding crop on his daughters bedroom floor.

Of course my girlfriend thought it was all in my head and that he really did actually like me, she accused me of being melodramatic when I stated that Hitler had more affection for the Jewish, I mean for the love of God the first time I ever met the guy he was driving us back from the cinema and playing Joe Jackson's "Is she really going out with him" over the C.D. player. Then there was the time he 'accidentally' dropped MY phone into the sink.

From talking to friends of mine this seems to be a problem more common than I had first thought, several of them possessed first hand experience of dealing with fathers who had more than a little trouble watching their princess grow up. From veiled hostility to, in some instance, outright physical violence most males have at some stage had to deal with this awkward part of life. And yet despite this incident being far from unique, there always seemed to be very little I could do about it. Or so I thought. I was sorely mistaken, however, and was soon to find I could in fact make it worse.

It was a fine Sunny day and I had the pleasure of accompanying my girlfriend's family on a pick nick. After the tuna sandwiches and homemade

lemonade (which the delightful Mr. Waldron spilled on me in a humorous jape) my girlfriend's younger brother suggested we play soccer, with the aforementioned prankster extraordinaire and I as opposing captains. Despite the idea filling me with dread once the game got underway (with my girlfriend acting as referee) I started to enjoy myself. As I dodged the various mistimed neck high tackles aimed in my direction I began to forget my troubles and let my inhibitions float away with the gentle breeze.

Then with the scores tied it happened - through one goal I was taken down, this time unintentionally. As my girlfriend granted the slightly dubious penalty kick and her father protested, I picked myself up off the ground and said the first thing that entered my surely empty head.

"What do you expect I'm sleeping with the ref"?

There followed one of those roaring obnoxious silences that seem to drown out all for miles around soon followed by the most awkward car journey of my life and to this day he has not said another word to me but I kinda prefer it that anyway.

I suppose it's not my fault and it's not his fault and in the end I'll probably end up an overprotective father and in that sense I can sympathise with the man. But I still smile at the memory of his face when my faux pas at the picnic banished all lingering hopes that the hand cuffs and riding crop on his daughters floor were for something more innocent.

#### 'Limerick Limerick'

There once was a little lost me,  
who sought vainly the arts fac-ul-tee,  
for words to inspire,  
I stopped to enquire,  
what I got was a map saying  
NUIG!

Jean Kent



# Scientific News: How long does it take to build and officially open a building?

*An Focal reporter T.Onge-Incheek discusses the Minister for Education's recent visit to UL*

On Thursday the 10th of March Mary-Anne d'Nuffinout, The Minister for Education and Science visited the University of Limerick to open the new Materials and Surface Sciences Institute (MSSI) building on the campus. She was welcomed by the Director of the institute Dr Edmond the Magnificent.

**Conceived in the Edwalshian era and constructed in the present Bertien age the building is a fine example of breezeblock and galavanised construction artfully blended with wooden cladding.**

The interior is lavishly furnished with striking PD blue carpeting in the old Limerick O'Malley colours. The posters on all the walls are a testament to all the scientific achievements of the members of the institution in the time the building has been used before it was officially opened.

DE Minister made a lengthy and involved apology for her late arrival but with great political skill managed to evade the blame, instead placing it

squarely on the shoulders of the Americans and the forces of nature.

In her address to the assembled throng of mixed dignitaries, which ranged from ambitious local politicians, illustrious and ambitious University administrators and academics to the research staff and students, she praised the architectural splendour of the building and its young and dynamic Director.

In his welcoming speech to the Minister the Director, Dr Magnificent, expressed his gratitude to the Minister for recognising the importance of the Institute by taking time out of her busy schedule to be here today. He explained some of the important projects being carried out by the scientists working in this building. He alluded to the fact that the Formula One team, Jordan, was held together by the institute, that Aughinish Alumina owed its efficient production techniques to developments by the work in the institute and that the pulse of the Nation was being prolonged by new developments in surface science from within the institute with development of new

materials for stents.

**He made a strong point of the fact that being involved in research is extremely demanding and takes time. Bearing this in mind it is perfectly understandable that it has only taken three and a half years to get around to actually opening the building.**

He paid tribute to his predecessor the former Director Professor Hardneck whose vision it was to create such high ceilings and doors in order that he would always be able to walk tall and straight and look the whole world in the hair.

With a well balanced mixture of charm, whit and gentle persuasion the Director made a strong case for continued and increased government funding for the institute. Coming just at the time when Finance Minister Cowedown was having to come to grips with a demand for 2 Billion Euros to pay descendants of little old ladies and men, long diddled out of their entitlements by the state, De

Minister could be seen clasping her handbag with whitened knuckles, her eyes fixed in a poker-like smile.

The Minister was then called upon to officially open the building. Whereupon she mounted the rostrum and in an impressive display of Ministerial dexterity pulled a few strings and the curtain fell from the plaque to uncover the writing on the wall for everyone.

During her lightening tour of the institute the Minister had an opportunity to see, at first-hand, the state of the art equipment in the laboratories some of which were demonstrated to her by the friendly and most competent analytical staff in their pristine white lab coats. By the end of her tour she had been bombarded by electrons, irradiated by x-rays, infused by various gasses and scanned down to the atomic level. Thus invigorated and probably becoming aware that she was rapidly being transformed into a new radiant power she cut short her visit and sped off to carry on her duties as Minister with her entourage following in her wake finding it hard to keep up.

## UL MONOPOLY SPEARHEADS NEW FUNDRAISING VENTURE

In an attempt to alleviate the financial troubles crippling the University, ULSU are launching a range of products set to hit high-street shelves in the near future.

Spearheading the commercial plans is a UL version of Monopoly, featuring locations such as The Stables Courtyard and Plassey House. All the colleges are featured, though Mary Immaculate College is set on a separate playing board positioned some distance from the main one.

Also on offer to the discerning shopper will be a UL trading card game, with senior University figures appearing on the collectable cards. The cards are tipped to be a "huge hit" with children, and range from the 500-point ultra-rare Roger Downer to the 5-point Campus Security employees.

The Computer Science department have produced a game based on the Quake 3D adventure engine, entitled UL Carnage Armageddon Megadeath IV. Retailing at €79.99, the software will allow users to march around a 3D recreation of the University, blasting at anything which blocks their path. Enemies include lecturers throwing deadly spectacles, leafleters promoting The Icon and L.I.T. students. Weapons that can be collected throughout the game include a flame-throwing kayak paddle and a heat-seeking rugby ball.

"While it is true that UL Megadeaths I-III were never released," admitted Professor Thomas Thomson, head of the project, "We felt that it was important to hit the ground running and sound like we were already an established product. We feel

that the game gives users the chance to experience what UL life is really like, as well as an opportunity to blast to bits anything that moves."

Reaction amongst the student population was somewhat mixed. "All the bean-counters at ULSU ever think about is money," moaned second year Albert McRoddy, a second-year, as he gazed in dismay at a ULSU alarm clock. "It's such a sell-out."

"This stuff is amazing," exclaimed Roger Rogers, a Humanities fourth year, putting together a jigsaw depicting the University Library. "Now all my leisure time can be spent using ULSU products. I can't wait for them to release some deodorant."

## NEWS IN BRIEF...

- Broken radiators to be fixed in time for summer
- Internet 'not all its cracked up to be'
- Students Services to extend opening hours by 15 minutes
- "Hilarious" joke receives stony silence
- Student remembers all of 21st Birthday
- First year asks "What's Rag Week?", receives dirty look





# Sports Talk

Otherwise known as the toy department where those who weren't good enough to make it criticise those who are and generally sit around watching Sky Sports all day. Interested? Read on.

## Six Nations 2005 Fallout: What now for Ireland?

*Gerard Fitzgibbon*

Without needing to gloss over the facts and hide behind excuses, Ireland failed to achieve their apparent 'destiny' in this year's Six Nations tournament: a first Grand Slam since their only previous one in 1948. The build up to this year's competition was focused upon the three merits of Ireland's potential glory this year: a strong, effective pack supplemented by arguably the world's best line-out; a hugely talented backline built upon the increasing strength and maturity of captain Brian O'Driscoll; and finally, the fact that we would be facing both the French and the English at Lansdowne Road. Eddie O'Sullivan's men, on paper, were on course to achieve the long held desires of their fans and establish themselves as the dominant force of Northern Hemisphere rugby. Or so we thought.

Hoisted by the heroics of 2004, Eddie O'Sullivan's team were five games away from realising their eternal promise. Yet the reality was much different. The pragmatic rugby that they exhibited failed to match the dynamism and penetration of France and Wales. Disappointment runs rife when one considers the potential that this year's tournament held for the boys in green. Simply, Ireland missed out on their best chance to win the competition in years. On a larger scale, the detriments of this failure run deeper. We will now witness a Lions Test XV taking on the All Blacks with a Welsh undercurrent. Places in the Test XV in positions that were considered to be up for grabs (numbers 15, 12, 10 and 7) were always going to be allotted to those players who performed well in this year's Six Nations. Expect those positions to be filled by Welsh players. Perhaps more damaging is the fact that, with tiresome predictability, the media have now set upon this Irish team, criticising what was previously heralded as a successful rugby unit. Questions

have now been raised as to where the future of this team lies, and how Ireland can regroup and continue their development on the road to the 2007 World Cup in France.

To be honest, lack of ability is not a problem for this team. Eddie O'Sullivan's boys are by no means inferior in quality to Wales. Granted, we may not have the endless pool of world-class players that the French boast, but



**Brian O'Driscoll in action in the final match against Wales**

in the end the success of a team will depend upon a strong core. Ireland has that. Paul O'Connell and Brian O'Driscoll personify these foundations. Criticism has deservedly been placed upon the backline for their failure to exhibit any of the attacking vigour that Geordan Murphy, Denis Hickie and Shane Horgan are capable of. But a failure to perform on this occasion does not suddenly imply that Ireland is devoid of any creativity from numbers eleven to fifteen (excluding thirteen, natch). They just need to loosen the hinges a bit.

Gordon D'Arcy's loss was monumental. The threat that Ireland previously boasted at centre was built upon the inability of any oppo-



**Geordan Murphy going for the touch**

sition to target one particular attacking threat when O'Driscoll and D'Arcy played together. Kevin Maggs and Girvan Dempsey, for all their merits, could not fulfil this role. Throughout the tournament, the backline seemed to display a cautiousness that dismayed many of us. Possibly due to tactical reasons, but far too rarely did we see Ireland probe from deep and seek to counterattack. The half-backs continued to perform solidly, though without much viable competition apart from David Humphreys. Something for Eddie to address, perhaps? Up front, the pack operated with fluctuating success. The lineout was sluggish by Ireland's standards. The usually indomitable O'Connell and O'Kelly did not react well to being targeted by England and France. Reggie Corrigan's inability to give more than 60 minutes is a detriment to the scrum, which seemed to break upon the anchor that is John Hayes far too often. Likewise, the loss of Keith Gleeson at openside was an understated blow. He adds dynamism and momentum to a defensive back-row, and provides an attacking threat akin to the 'classic' number seven. His replacement, Wasps flanker Johnny O'Connor, replicated his

fearsome club displays to the international stage well, but he too falls into the solid yet unspectacular category. Anthony Foley, the old reliable of pack, continued to produce his trademark strong performances. However Eric Miller should really now start to be groomed to take up this role come 2007.

Ireland will very much be in transition from now until next year's tournament. By then, the platform must be in place from which Ireland can launch their campaign in 2007, and seek build upon the performances of 2003. The augmentation of youth and experience holds the key to this. Eddie O'Sullivan must now seek to blood new talent, such as Denis Leamy, Shane Jennings and Gavin Duffy, whilst preserving the existing strengths of the team. The complete upheaval that some are calling for is



**Wales win the Six Nations with a Gran Slam**

not necessary. To be fair, this year's Six Nations will serve as a reality check for the Irish team, proving that they have the quality to succeed, but there is still work to be done. Wales were successful because they played without fear and expectation. Perhaps Ireland let fear and expectation get to them.

## The Tipster Rides Again

Well, with Cheltenham in the rear view mirror and the wallet a good deal lighter if you had the misfortune to follow my tips, it's time to assess the results and see what they tell us for the future.

It was without doubt the week of the Irish, with a record nine winners, and the annexing of the Big Three; Gold Cup, Champion Hurdle and Champion Chase. Kicking King has always been a class horse, but I must admit I didn't fancy him due to the health scare a month prior to the festival. However, he absolutely flew up the hill to score an impressive victory, setting up what should be a monumental struggle between him and Best Mate this time twelve months.

In the Champion Hurdle Hardy Eustace displayed stamina and sheer heart to clinch a great win over Harchibald. I know a lot of people blame Paul Carberry for the ride he gave Harchibald, but the horse simply didn't have anything to give when asked the question 50

yards from home. No reason why Hardy Eustace can't make it three in a row next year.

Moscow Flyer was the most popular winner of the week, I thought the roof would come off the stand when he jumped the last, and his jumping was precision all the way round. Well Chief was a gallant second, and has time on his side. I think he can turn Moscow over next year.

War of Attrition flattered to deceive and cost a lot of people a lot of money in the process (your correspondent included!) while Inglis Drever upset Baracouda in the Stayers Hurdle. Look for him to repeat the dose in 2006.

With that in the bag let's turn our attention to Aintree, where the Grand National is fast approaching, and look at a selection of runners who I think could go well. While picking a winner in a 40 horse race is nigh on impossible, it's a lot of fun, and picking a horse because of a quirky name can often be more effective than a study of the form book!

In this column though, we are deady

serious about our racing and will stoop to no such thing (although Nil Desperandum sounds like a stayer alright!) and will use old fashioned codology!

Last year's winner Amberleigh should go well, but Red Rum was the last horse to go back to back and I don't see that changing here, look for a top five finish though. Colonel Rayburn is one to look out for. He's won over two miles but is versatile enough to handle the 4½ mile trip and could be there or thereabouts on the run in.

The popular Monty's Pass, winner in 2003, rode a stormer to finish fourth on soft ground last year, but 11 st 10lbs is a lot for a 12 year old to be carrying. Frenchman's Creek is well worth an each way punt, he's unpredictable and ran poorly at Cheltenham, but that makes it all the more likely he could come up trumps this time as he has bags of talent if he's in the mood.

My pick last year was Hedgehunter, who fell at the last when third and exhausted. The

year's experience will always stand to a 9 yr old horse, and I'm backing him to get the trip, stand up and take the biggest prize of them all.

**Prediction:** Hedgehunter 10/1

**Each Way:** Frenchman's Creek 33/1  
Colonel Rayburn 40/1



**Hedgehunter in third place falling at the last in 2004**



David Gill, Manchester United Chief Executive, said an odd thing recently.

He made the rather risqué statement that Sir Alex Ferguson, Lord and High chieftain of Old Trafford, is not as secure in his job as many onlookers, especially the man himself, had previously thought. Perhaps it was just an attempt by Gill to reaffirm his position to the manager in the run up to the summer transfer window, when he will no doubt resemble a strict parent refusing to give his screaming six year old any more money to buy sweets. However, what if this is indeed a clear and focused message by the Plc board that Sir Alex can not expect his reputation and former successes to secure his position for as long as he wants?

Is it a realistic prospect that the once untouchable Fergie might have to cling to his job?

Sir Alex Ferguson has attained an equal footing in the club's history with the legendary Sir Matt Busby. Arriving at Old Trafford in 1986 off the back of tremendous domestic and European success with Aberdeen, he sought to take the club away from its stagnant position of the 1970's and 1980's. Ferguson inherited a United team that had grown dispirited and tame under the previous stewardship of managerial 'titans' Big Ron Atkinson and Tommy 'Jock' Docherty. Setting out to "knock Liverpool off their fucking perch", he rode a difficult first few years to guide United to the FA Cup in 1990 and the European Cup-Winner's Cup in 1991. He never looked back. Ferguson went on to guide United to unparalleled domestic domination in

# Is Sir Alex Sackable?

*Gerard Fitzgibbon*



**Manchester United celebrates winning the Champions League and the treble in 1999**

the 1990's. Manchester United have won the FA Premier League eight times out of twelve, and the FA Cup on five occasions.

His greatest achievement was undoubtedly claiming the treble of European Cup, Premiership and FA Cup titles in 1999.

In an era when football has moved into the days of franchise and marketing, Ferguson's defining glory has been his ability to capture the romanticism of old in his teams. His Manchester United sides have always exhibited a wonderful arrogance, espousing a combination of talent, strength of mind and an immense thirst for success through players such as Eric

Cantona, Ryan Giggs and Roy Keane. He has marshaled the development of the club both on and off the pitch, and has risen in standing at Old Trafford to such an extent that he can exude tremendous influence upon every facet of how the club is run. How then, can Ferguson, Leviathan of Manchester United, be facing the prospect of being removed from his position?

One reason really. Results. This season, for the second year running, United will finish their campaign without the league title or having progressed beyond the last 16 of the



**Morinho with Chelsea players. Have Manchester United been replaced as the greatest team in English football.**

Champions League. In both prestige and monetary terms, the Plc board is not satisfied. Always happy to flatter Fergie when success is rampant, the board is now beginning to turn the screw on the manager. Boardroom politics on the part of David Gill and chums, perhaps, but nonetheless the dry period needs to be halted if the manager wishes to continue at the helm of the biggest club in the world. The crux of the matter, however, is that Ferguson understands this more than anybody else. Under his guidance, Manchester United have constantly evolved and developed, with old warhorses being phased out and replaced with young talent eager to be a part of Ferguson's relentless assault for glory. This is a process that continues today, but the only difference between now and five years ago is that a viable challenger to Fergie's domestic stranglehold has emerged.

Jose 'the chosen one' Mourinho now stands at the helm of a Chelsea side that is exuding the same arrogance and belief that once characterized Ferguson's teams. Sir Alex must recapture that winning formula quickly if he wants to be the man to gun down Mourinho. His latest round of team building must bear fruit.

Cast your mind back to the All Ireland Series of 2000 and what do you see-Maurice Fitz saving Kerry with a last minute free, Mike Frank burying Armagh in the replay, maybe John Crowley capping the All Ireland win with a point. But above all, you might remember Séamus Moynihan giving four virtuoso performances back to back to claim Footballer of the Year.

An Focal caught up with the three time All Ireland winner and captain in 2000 for a chat. Keeping Kerry in the game with Armagh, slipping Pádraig Joyce into his back pocket over the course of two All Ireland finals, he played like he'd been at full back his entire playing career. He hadn't of course, which made the performances all the more remarkable. Want to know something else? He went into the first Armagh game with a torn hamstring. 'Not very confident' is how he describes his mood going into those 'monstrous' games with the Orchard County.

As for the final, he faced off against Pádraig Joyce, a Sigerson Cup teammate and 'great buddy'. They both found it strange, but had a chat beforehand and agreed to leave their friendship on the sideline for the duration of the game. But when asked about his own displays in those four epic encounters, the Glenflesk man chooses to focus on the luck Kerry enjoyed against Armagh. 'If Barry O'Hagan had kicked the ball into the Hogan stand instead of Declan's (O'Keefe) hands the first day, who knows?'

If the Millennium was the highest point for the Kerry captain, then his Kerry debut was the lowest, Kerry falling to Clare in the 1992 Munster final, a day that will live long in Kerry infamy. He doesn't remember too much about the game other than losing, and the initial years were tough for him, Kerry floundering in Munster each year. Enter Páidí O Se, the man from the west, and in 1997, Kerry ended an 11-year 'famine' by defeating Mayo. While Moynihan calls the victory 'sweet' having lost to John Maughan's men the previous year, he is more animated about the following year.

# Seamus Moynihan Interview

*By Cathal O'Flaherty*

"1998 was the one that got away", he recalls, a couple of refereeing decisions and bad luck leading to a one point loss to Kildare. He feels there was an All Ireland there to be won and emphasise Kerry's dominance. With a Munster final loss to Cork in a downpour at Páirc Uí Chaoimh the following year, people began to question where Kerry were going under Páidí. Then came 2000 and ultimate glory.

2001 however brought one of his worst days in the Kerry jersey. Having scraped past Dublin after a replay, Kerry came into the semi-final against Meath as raging hot favourites. Meath gave the All Ireland champions a hiding, and Moynihan described it as 'a bizarre game to play in. We were in touch at half time without having played well, but in the second half the flood gates opened'. Looking back on it, he sees where things went wrong. The replay against Dublin, coupled with Tomás O Se's suspension and a mere two-week preparation due to club commitments, set them up for a fall, and Meath were 'waiting in the long grass'.

2002 brought some of the greatest footballing displays of the past 25 years but a 'flat half hour' against Armagh in the All Ireland Final left them with nothing to show



**Séamus Moynihan**

for the year. Tyrone, the other Northern power, pulled the plug in 2003, a match which Moynihan describes as 'a sign that the game had changed'. With Kerry having had three consecutive setbacks at Croke Park, the issue of Moynihan's deployment in the full back line became a heated topic of debate in the Kingdom. He is quick to defend Páidí on the full back issue though.

"The whole thing was overhyped. It was the most balanced team that could

have been put out at the time".

With Jack O'Connor installed as manager for 2004, Moynihan reverted to the half back line, which he regards as his best position. He found top form, and was flying throughout the League and early stages of the Championship. An injury sustained while playing County Championship curtailed his season however, and he only reappeared in the latter stages of an All Ireland final long since dead as a contest. He has no regrets however, and says he enjoyed watching Kerry mix determination and grit with 'an old fashioned game' when claiming their third All Ireland in eight years.

The Sigerson Cup is mentioned in passing, and his response when prompted to reminisce is revealing. He won four, two with UCC, two with Tralee IT, and while he says

there was 'great cameraderie', he also noted that that September - March involvement gave him a great fitness base for the year 'while others were sitting at home doing nothing'. He reckons that between club and county he has four or five intense nights a week, and loves it.

The experimental rules brought in for this year's league find no favour with him. "The yellow card rule is punishing people going into 50-50 challenges while the more cynical fouls go unpunished, and the original sin-bin would not work at club level as you're lucky to get a ref at some Division 3 matches never mind a fourth official". He feels that linesmen should have a greater role in enforcing discipline rather than being assigned to one task. As for the other great GAA debate;

"It would be a PR disaster for the GAA if Croke Park is not opened up for at least the three years that Lansdowne Road is being redeveloped with a review after the three year period".

With Moynihan now entering his fourteenth year of Championship football, an inquiry as how motivated he is at this stage of his career leads to some bad news for inter county half forwards. He is enjoying his football as much now as he ever has, feels highly motivated and when the subject of retirement is broached he gives it short shrift. He says he'll know when it's time to go, noting that Kevin Walsh has just quit at age 35. Given that he's just past the 30 mark himself, this reporter would put good money on Séamus Moynihan lifting Sam Maguire once or twice more before he's through.



**Séamus Moynihan lifts the Sam Maguire**



# Darts Takes its Place in the Sporting Pantheon

By Brendan Coffey

Last Thursday week was a triumph for publicans everywhere. Sport England, arbiter of what is and what isn't a sport, decided that darts had satisfied all the criteria to be elevated to such exalted company as the 100 metre dash and boxing.

Heaven knows how they'll conduct tests for performance enhancing drugs with most of the pros spending their out of action hours down the pub. At long last the darts cognoscenti have been given the recognition they've long craved.

Darts a sport, surely not?

Yep, and now Andy Fordham is officially a sportsman. Previous to this he was a 30 stone goliath who worked his way through 25 bottles of beer a day. How times change.

It's fifteen years since the fags and the booze were banished from the stage. The fans still score double vodkas and



An athletic body is no longer a pre-requisite to being a sportsman. Phil The Power Taylor must be happy.

away crap prizes (Bully's special prize was a caravan) in the name of Darts would bring the game into the public consciousness such that fifteen years later they were banning fox hunting and giving Darts a place in the sporting pantheon. As Bowen was known to say; "You can't beat a bit of Bully".



Andy an example of a sportsman of the twenty-first century

treble brandies in an act of homage to their Herculean icons slinging arrows beyond the thick clouds of cigarette smoke. Above the parapet of drunken cheerleading, Phil 'The Power' Taylor and Peter 'One Dart' Manley strut their stuff over five sets and 13,000 paces, drug free and sportsmen acknowledged.

It's a victory for Jim Bowen too. Bowen, a Gameshow God, brought Bullseye into our living rooms in the 80s but scared the hell out of kids everywhere with Bully-a cartoon creation of a hybrid between an obese man and a bull.

Little did he know that giving

## SPORTS QUIZ

- Question 1** Hammersmith Bridge and Barnes Bridge are famous landmarks in which rowing event?
- Question 2** Where is the Irish Grand National held?
- Question 3** Which club does Johnny Wilkinson play rugby with?
- Question 4** Who recently called for a united Ireland soccer team?
- Question 5** Cian O'Connor was recently stripped of his Olympic Gold medal because his horse Waterford Crystal tested positive for banned substances. Name the other O'Connor horse which tested positive for banned substances earlier this year.
- Question 6** Which Irish athlete was known as 'Champion of the Boards'?
- Question 7** Who coached Wales in their 2005 Six Nations campaign?
- Question 8** What sporting event takes place at the Crucible Theatre?
- Question 9** Name the President of FIFA.
- Question 10** In what year did the Tour de France begin in Ireland

Here's what won't happen (probably) but in the esteemed view of the An Focal sports team, these things really should happen.

## An Focal Sports' 10

- David Beckham decides to transfer to Shelbourne FC after he is photographed in a dress (again) by Spanish paparazzi. Beckham says he relishes the new challenge and the chance to get away from the lime light. Paddy Power are already taking bets on Beckham's next child being called Tolka.
- Gary Lineker is sacked from his anchor role on Match of the Day for boring the pants off viewers.
- Peter Schmeichel is removed from the panel for similar reasons. The Great Dane is seen to be red faced and bull thick with Alan Hansen when escorted from the studio. Schmeichel later explains his actions, "I always abuse centre halves when I f\*\*k up".
- Brian O'Driscoll reveals that Powerade is really only water dyed blue.
- O'Driscoll also reveals that he hates the taste. "Yea I put some blue flavoured cool pop in my bottles for the interviews because I can't stand the taste of the stuff".
- Joe Brolly is sacked from the Sunday Game panel for being a smarmy git. The old axis of Colm O'Rourke and Pat Spillane is restored and RTE use the old James Last standard as the theme tune once again.
- Jim Beglin is assassinated during a live commentary George Hamilton is overheard saying, "about f\*\*king time".
- The GAA Congress decides to open up Croke Park. Supporters are allowed on to pitch once more after matches.
- Phil 'The Power' Taylor, Dennis 'The Menace' Priestly and John 'The, Er, Canadian' Part will celebrate the recent professional recognition of darts by appearing on the Afternoon Show, discussing fashion, dietary tips and their love of white wine with Dana and Anna Nolan
- Sepp Blatter, fresh from an excursion to Cayman Islands, will unveil his latest 'idea' to FIFA delegates. He proposes that all Women's soccer games must take place on purpose-built pitches where an array of mud, jelly and lubricants will be sprayed on the ladies randomly during the game. The motion is rejected by 51% to 49%.

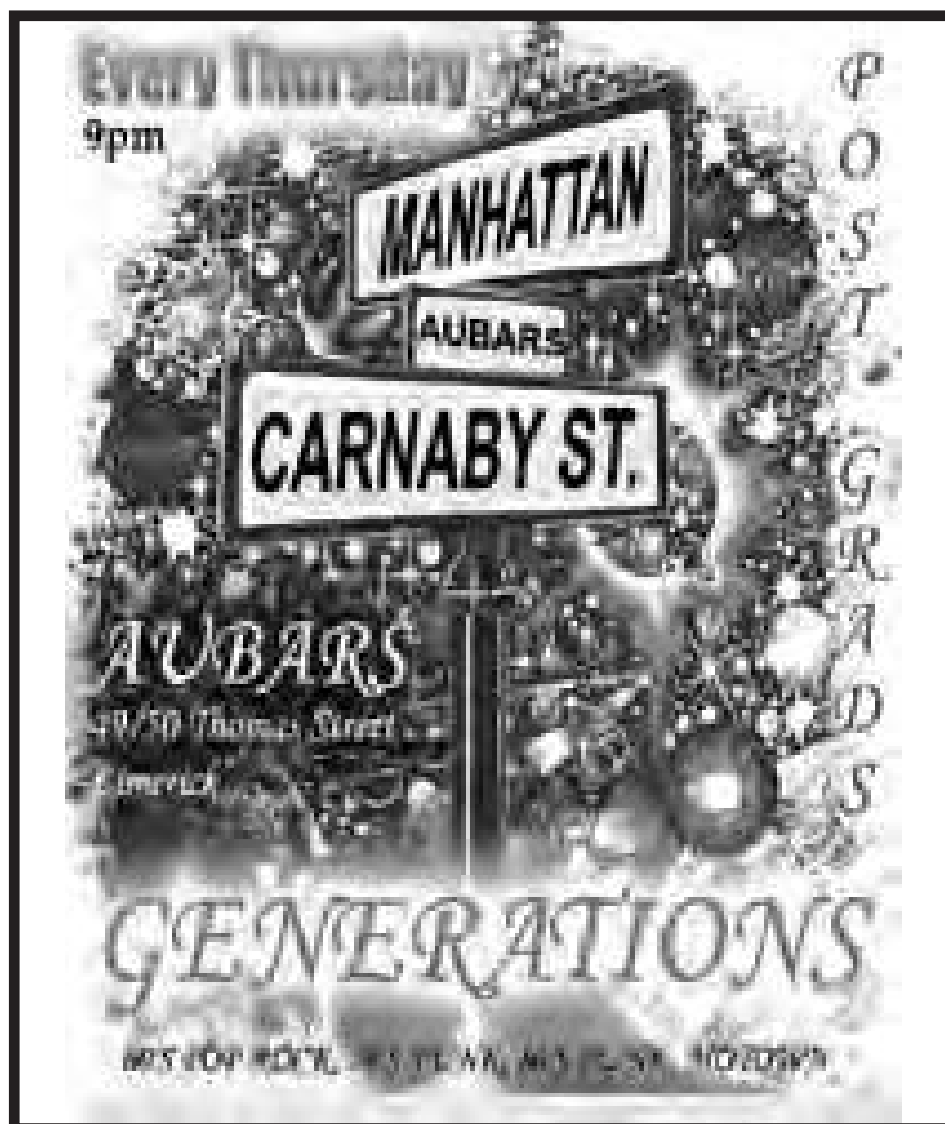


# Postgraduate News

## POSTGRAD WORKSHOPS

- Week 8:** *Wednesday, 6 April, 3:00-5:00 pm, Venue C1 060 (main Building)*  
**Career Planning and Preparation, 30 March**  
 Mary Sweeney, Careers Service
- Week 9:** *Wednesday, 13 April, 3:00-5:00 pm, Venue C1 060 (main Building)*  
**Moving from a Masters to a PhD: making the transition**  
 Alex Warleigh, Chair, Graduate Committee, Dept. of Politics & Public Admin.
- Week 10:** *20 April, 3:00-5:00 pm, Venue C1 060 (main Building)*  
**Presenting Your Research Findings**  
 Dearbhal Ní Chárthaigh, Assistant Dean Research, College of Education
- Week 11:** *27 April, 3:00-5:00 pm, Venue C1 060 (main Building)*  
**Managing Intellectual Property in Your Research**  
 Paul Dillon, Industrial Liaison Officer, Research Office

**Further Information:** [anne.odwyer@ul.ie](mailto:anne.odwyer@ul.ie) or ext 2672, Graduate Studies Office



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## ATTENTION POST GRADS:

*It is your last chance to buy tickets for the*

## Post Grad Annual Charity Ball

*this Thursday April 7th*

- Performers: Gan Anim  
Fred the Band  
DJ
- Pre-ball Champagne reception: Nestors, 7pm
- Venue: Limerick Strand Hotel  
Four course Meal

*Buses to venue provided, limited tickets available from PSA centre, Stables Courtyard*



# Clubs & Societies News

## UL Archery Club

Hi all,

The Archery Intervarsities have come to an end for another year and what a year it has turned out to be with UL and DIT continually swapping 1st and 2nd place throughout the year. Last Saturday the last intervarsity was hosted by UL Archery and a showdown ensured to see who was going to be crowned league champions this year. A day of intense shooting and immense fun was had by all. Representation from NUI G, GMIT, UCD, DCU, DIT, Carlow IT and NUI M, guaranteed that whichever team was going to win the overall league, was going to earn it.

UL, in second place going into the competition were looking for a strong performance and were hoping to return to the glory days of 2002. What a performance Archery produced with Daniel Walsh coming in 3rd in the Advanced Category and Margaret Carey coming in 1st in the Beginner Category shooting an impressive 428. Margaret will now be competing in the Advanced Category

in the next round of Intervarsitys.

In the overall league table, UL have taken 2nd place, having been narrowly beaten by DIT who have been very consistent during the whole year. Team scores are calculated by adding the scores of our five best archers for the year. Our team consists of Daniel Walsh, Ewan Oughton, Thomas Sheppard, Ted O'Connell and Margaret Carey. In the Men's league table, Daniel Walsh, who shot brilliantly all year for UL Archery, took 1st place.

Not a bad year for UL Archery, which shows you what you can do if you train hard enough. Margaret and Ted only started shooting this year and have proven to be considerable assets to the team. In existence for five years now, UL Archery has come a long way and we welcome all new members. Find out for yourself what it is all about. We will teach you from scratch with expert training and equipment provided. Training sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Old Sports Building between 7-10pm. Or visit our website at [www.skynet.ie/~archery](http://www.skynet.ie/~archery).

## UL Law Soc

If ever there was a hectic week for the Law Society it was Law Week, Week 6, the very first of its kind in the University. The society organised a number of events including guest speakers and the annual Law Ball. There are no doubts that the whole week was an enormous success and was enjoyable for all students who attended the events.

The week opened on the Monday night with Professor Eoin O'Dell from Trinity College Dublin who delivered his paper entitled "The Reform of Irish Defamation Law". During his talk he discussed the proposed reforms which included three main areas; media defences, complaints by the public on the award of damages and also he discussed his views on the presumption of falsity. The issues discussed were of great interest to all students especially those studying Torts this semester.

The follow up event was that of a visit by the Irish European Court of Justice Judge, Judge O'Caoimh who enlightened us with an in-depth discussion of the procedure of the European Court of Justice

adding his own personal experiences as a Judge in the ECJ. He gave us an insight into the life and work of an ECJ judge. It gave a broader understanding to those who have already studied The Law of European Institutions.

The grand finale of Law Week was the annual Law Ball that was held in the South Court Hotel on the Wednesday night. The night was a complete success with nearly two hundred and fifty in attendance. The Lolly Gaggers were first up after the meal and started the crowd off on the dance floor. D.J. Ber followed the Lolly Gaggers who kept the crowd on the floor till the early morning. The night however wouldn't have been such a success without the help from our sponsors; Bank of Ireland, AIB bank, Sweeny and McGann Solicitors and O'Mahony's bookshop and also the excellent entertainment and wonderful service in the hotel.

We hope that the week was enjoyable and interesting for all those who attended and that the attendance and interest continues.

## UL Debating Soc

Once again the Debating Union have had a busy few weeks. As this issue of An Focal goes to press, our annual intervarsity is taking shape and people are preparing to head down to Limerick for a crazy week-end of debating and debauchery (look out for pictures in the next issue) The DebU's plans for rag week are also taking shape look out for the sock puppets with a serious message in rag week this year (yes sock puppets with a serious message) Looking to the future, DebU will be holding its last major competition of the year in week 10

The Ciaran Treacy Memorial Debating Competition and it promises to be a debate of the highest calibre keep an eye out for the posters and further details in the next issue. Anyone interested in joining the society that just wont shut up, or that wants more information about activities contact 0231649 @student.ul.ie

## UL Hurling Club

The season has officially come to an end for the club this week as people begin their preparation for exams. The last team to grace the playing fields last week was the intermediate team in the Munster blitz and they were beaten by a sharper LIT team on the day in Thurles. Once again, many thanks to Alan and the lads for all their effort throughout the year. As the year draws to a close all the club committee would like to express their thanks to all who played on the various teams and those who administered them as well as the main sponsors Woodlands House Hotel. Finally, to those in their final year, we would like to say thank you for all your service throughout the four years and your likes will never be seen again. Go raibh mile maith againn.

## TRAD SOC - SOCIETY OF THE YEAR!!

What a difference a couple of weeks can make. After what has been perhaps the busiest few weeks, the society has been a hive of activity with nightly sessions and an ever-expanding set dancing community joining our musicians for our weekly slot in the Scholars. We also took part in the Cavan Arts festival, which was enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday night, 16th March, Gan Ainm, UL's premier source of trad on Campus, won a Triple Crown of Society Awards at the annual "Clubs and Societies Awards 2005".

In the category for Best event, we achieved our first honors of the night, as November's hugely successful trad music IV "Campus Trad" came out on top

and was named Best event for 2004/2005.

Further recognition was bestowed when we were awarded Best Society by our peers present. This is a huge honor for our society, which has only been in existence for just over two years in UL. Great credit is due to all involved in the society who have played at events in the college and have represented us both home and abroad.

The night was capped off on a high as our Chairperson, David Delaney, was awarded the "Mick Sadlier" Award for outstanding contribution to societies over the last four years.

Indeed we would also like to congratulate Jenny Hannon, Irish Peace and Aidan Holmes, Kayak Club, on winning

Societies and Club personalities of the year respectively.

On Friday of week 5, 10 members of the Society were invited up to perform at the Cavan Arts Festival in Cavan town. The weekend was a resounding success, with acclaim from organizers and attendees present. The Festival concert, which UL Trad Soc performed at on the Saturday night, was recorded for Radio na Gaeltachta.

We have already been invited back to the festival next year, such was the success of the UL involvement.

SEAMUS BEGLEY and TIM EDEY also performed at the Trad Soc element of Diversity Day, which rocked the campus on Thursday, 31st March.



UL Traditional Society

## UL Badminton Club

March has been a hectic month for the badminton club, especially for our league division 5 team. Playing four matches during the last three weeks, and deservedly winning three of the four. This team is well in contention to top the league. Defeating both Trinity and Manister in the Arena, the players were confident of attaining victory over rivals Effin. However a strong Effin team defeated UL at the opponents home venue. With a home match against Manister, scheduled for the same week, UL had a chance to redeem themselves, and did so by graciously taking a 5-2 victory.

Our league division 6 team has earned themselves a slot in the semi finals after an

undefeated season. Their last match saw UL take an impressive 4-3 victory over a very strong Shuttle team. The team is a definite contender for the final.

After an eventful and enjoyable season, the division 3/4s are preparing themselves for Thursday night. They will take on Effin in the Limerick League final in Clements Hall. After defeating Mungret on the opponent's home soil on Tuesday night, the team secured their spot in the final. As both Effin and UL are on level footing in terms of matches, with both teams winning their home games against one another, a close, nail-biting final is guaranteed. Best of luck to the teams involved.

## UL Drama Soc

Dear Audience

We would just to make everyone aware of the upcoming production 'Shadow of a Gunman' which is a show to be held in week 9 in B1023. Posters will be up around the campus so keep an eye out on them for the details. Also, thanks to everyone that came to

see Fallen Angel. We hope everyone enjoys RAG week or Kollege week, whatever it's called. Anyone interested in a 1920s night with live cabaret singer please contact me, responses to 0446866@ul.ie.

We Break Legs So You Don't Have To

## UL Peace Soc

Welcome to Week 8! While we revel in the throes of Rag week, I may remind you of the fantastic event that was Diversity day, which took place on Thursday the 31st of March in association with TradSoc: Gan Ainm. The courtyard outside the Stables was filled with lively music from a diverse range of musicians who provided musical samples from across the globe. We saw the likes of Elikya, Sumu, UL TradSoc, The Lace, Sangra Latino and Harry J & Downtown perform on the day.

The focus of the day was to raise awareness for the campaign for democracy in Congo.

You will all be pleased to hear that the Homework Club started up again after its break over the Easter Holidays, on Tuesday the 5th of April. This fantastic initiative was started earlier this year and has proved an immense success. The children are receiving much needed assistance and the volunteers find it an enjoyable and rewarding few hours out of their week. The PeaceSoc would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers from Peace and Development Studies and from every faculty who have become involved. Their contribution is crucial to the existence of the Club. But as always there is plenty of space for anyone who wishes to get involved. Until next time...



## UL YFG Soc

We started off week 5 by having our now famous Table Quiz on Tuesday the 15th. There was a big crowd in attendance, not to mention most of our local politicians, including Mary Jackman with her team Kieran O'Donnell and Patrick O'Donovan. There was spot prizes galore with a prize for the winners the losers and the team with the best name which was 'Brian Cowen ate My Hamster'.

The night after on the 16th we had the Clubs and Societies Ball to which we had a big contingency from YFG, both present members and members on Co-op made the trip. The night was a great success most of the YFG contingency made an effort to dance but some of the members will have to put in a lot of training for next year to keep the standards up!

Last Wednesday night some members went to Cork for the UCC YFG AGM.

There was a large attendance there with both Patrick O'Driscoll and our own Lizzie Munnely there to give there words of advice to the newly elected team. It was a very enjoyable night to meet up with the old faces and discuss the recent by-election win for Fine Gael. The next few weeks for the branch are going to be hectic as we have a Public Awareness Meeting on Suicide on the 30th of March to which we have a very impressive panel to speak about the topic. The week after is Rag week and we are having a Sports Tournament against Orgra Fianna Fail where there will be Football, Soccer and Rugby played by the members. This is on the Tuesday of Rag week from 2 to 3 so watch out for the posters. Till next time, have fun!

**Catrina Burke**

*PRO*

*UL Young Fine Gael*

## UL Outdoor Pursuits Club

**It's official; WE'RE THE BEST CLUB.**

The Outdoor Pursuits Club won the award for the best club at the Clubs and Societies Ball. It's a credit to all the hard work that numerous people have put in over the last year. A lot of time and effort was put in to make the OPC the best club on campus. It's not until you're on a committee that you realise the amount of hours that have to be sacrificed for the smooth running of such a large club. Special mention has to go to Aoife Nagle, former captain over the last year, Tony Ryan, our new captain, Alwyn Kinane for making such a good presentation at the hustings and all the lads who laid the foundations of such a great club over the years.

First off, the climbing intervarsities were held in UCC this year in Week 2. UL OPC sent down a lot of climbers, both experienced and beginners and they all did the club proud with a 4th position for one of the more experienced climbers and 9th position for one of



our beginners. The competition was tough but 'Team Ossum' gave a great effort and all the hours of practice down at the wall showed.

Over the Easter weekend, all the club members went to various parts of the country and abroad to climb. Frank went off to Gogarth in Wales for a week of sea cliff climbing. Liam went up to Fairhead in the north for some of the best climbing that Ireland has to offer. About fifteen other members went to the Burren to rock climb. All had a great weekend.

If you want to try some indoor climbing, come down to the wall in the old sports building Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7pm to 10pm.

The girls travelled to Belfast on Friday 19th March to compete in the Lynch Cup semi finals and finals. Before they had even left Limerick, they girls had made history by being the first UL team to qualify for the Lynch Cup. However, not content with just qualification they aimed high from the start with great hopes of bringing home the cup.

UL(2) faced Trinity College Dublin's first team in the semi-final which took place in Hollywood, Belfast. Slow to settle UL were under constant pressure from the start. Trinity gained a sizeable lead on UL that were unable to settle - this was to cost them in the end. Towards the end of the first half, UL played some of the football that they are capable of and with pinpoint accuracy from free taker Marian Ryan UL were within four points of Trinity at half time. Disappointed with their performance, they knew they could do a lot better. In the opening ten minutes of the second half, UL began to dominate, after three UL scores in a

## UL Ladies Football Club



row, Claire Conway put over a fantastic point from play to level the game. It was all too early for UL to start celebrating, as Trinity upped the game a notch, and came out winners in the end by five points, with a late goal at the end to seal victory. (Trinity went on to win the Lynch Cup, beating their opponents by eight points). UL: 1-11, TCD: 3-10.

The girls were bitterly disappointed with the result, but all was not lost, as the Lynch Shield was to play for on Sunday. With tired and bruised bodies after a tough encounter the day before, the girls knew that it would be a battle on Sunday, against Athlone IT. From the word go, UL took a commanding lead, and began to dominate all over

the pitch, with the seven backs working very well together, that fed the on-form midfield and forward line with great ball. UL went in at half time 1-9 to 0-1 up, but were still determined to do justice for their defeat on Saturday, and set themselves a target of 20 points. Changes were made after half time and UL finished easy winners on 2-20 to 0-2, and created history by bringing home the Lynch Shield.

The weekend as a whole was unforgettable and the experience of playing at this level will most certainly stand to the girls, when they hope to go one better next year. This was a very young team, with 23 out of 26 on the panel being 1st and 2nd years, so we'll be hearing a lot more

from the UL ladies teams next year. The Lynch Cup Panel included: Aoife Hennessy, Angela Lyons, Paula Dunne, Aoife MacCormack, Claire Concannon, Catherine O'Toole, SORCHA Furlong, Lorraine Whelan, Marian Ryan, Nancy Ferris (c), Una Ni Mhainin, Trisha Marmion, Sinead McHugh, Maria Kelly, Claire Conway, Michelle Biggins, Sinead Egan, Aine McKenna, Eidin Byrne, Eimear O'Sullivan, Kate Canty, Denise Ryan, Mary Grogan, Linda O'Connor, Louise Crowley, Gillian Kirshke.

A special mention must also go to our "All Star", Marian Ryan, who was selected for the Combined Colleges 2005 team, for her performances over the weekend. Thanks go to trainers John and Mono for sticking with us throughout the year, and for bringing us to the Lynch Cup! Thanks to Lynn Kelly for all her work throughout the year, and hopefully next year, we'll have the Lynch Cup and O'Connor Cup brought home to UL.

## UL Windsurfing Club

Blazing sunshine, sunburned faces and obvious lack of wind drew shaking heads and bemused smiles as windsurfers from several Irish colleges descended upon Galway, March 19th/20th for the 2005 Windsurfing Intervarsities.

UL's weekend experience was very pleasing, with two nights in an excellent hotel, life-size table football, and a Hawaiian-themed party, proving to be more than satisfactory!

Although bouts of suitable windy conditions were few and far between, the three com-

petition categories still took place at Rusheen Bay and Silver Strand respectively with UL emerging as overall winners.

The positive mood gained from staging and winning the intervarsities has been a huge boost for the club's name and its members. Credit must go to all those who made it such an enjoyable event, especially Mark and Fiona whose dedication and determination was undoubtedly outstanding. Check out our web-site for full coverage and pictures of the event <http://www.skynet.ie/~winds/>

## UL Waterpolo Club

Both waterpolo teams have a quiet time over the past few weeks, but that's going to change soon. The Men's team have a busy weekend coming playing Grads, who will make the long trip down from Belfast on Sunday night to the Arena here in UL. Then on Monday night they will back in action again playing UCC in the University Arena again. The men's team will then have nearly finished up all their National League matches.

Up coming matches for the ladies team will be against St. Vincent's of Dublin next month in the Arena. The recent fundraising poker night in Week 7 was a great success and helped raised a lot funds for the club. The gamblers were out in style and with some very competitive games of poker taking place in the final games. Many business

sponsored the club for spot prizes on the night and this included Fanco Horse and Pet World Ennis, Superquinn, Dunnes Stores, Elvery's, Domino's Pizza, Jim Flavin's Family Butchers, Chawkes, O'Mahoney Book Shop, The Pagoda Chinese Restaurant, Medicare, the Students' Union Shop, HMV, and Music Lane, Parkway.

In relation to the upcoming club trip to Lahinch which will take place the weekend of 22-24 April, anyone interested in coming contact Sandra ASAP. Also, any new members or beginners who want to join UL Waterpolo Club just come on down to training in the Arena Mondays 10-11 pm and Wednesday 9-11pm, (9-10pm swimming session). You can contact the club through Clare at 0465933@STUDENT.ul.ie





## UL SVP Soc

There's a cracking few weeks in store for SVP. First of all though, all our activities are still going strong. Homework club and paired reading are taking a break for a week while the kids are on holidays, however, swim club is still running. Soup run, home and prison visitation are still running. We're also hoping to start up a new evening Arts & Crafts Club. This club will be another reward for the kids for attending homework club, and will be something different for those who don't like swimming. As always with a brand new project we loads of volunteers! We are always looking for volunteers for all our activities and if anyone is interested please do get in contact with us via the e-mail address at the end of the article.

Fundraising is a huge priority at the moment. We held a fundraising night at The Lodge on Friday 1st of April. It was a great success and we would like to thank everyone for their generosity and their support.

Our most exciting and perhaps most painful fundraiser it taking place on Wed afternoon of Kollege Week. Yes at 2pm on Wed afternoon you can watch with great enjoyment when many courageous and brave men offer their bodies to be waxed. The waxing will be taking place in the courtyard so do your best and come along to support them. You're guaranteed a good show!

Another big fundraising activity is bag packing. Our volunteers will be working hard bag packing on the weekend of the 9th of April in Dunnes in Harvey's Quay. So if any of you happen to be doing a spot of shopping we would greatly appreciate it if you could support our cause.

Contact us: [svp\\_ul@hotmail.com](mailto:svp_ul@hotmail.com) or [www.ulsvp.com](http://www.ulsvp.com)

## Out in UL

Hey Guys,

Just to let you know that 'Queerbash' is going ahead on Friday of Rag week at 11pm in Trinity Rooms, Limerick. We hope to see you all there. Absolutely all shapes, sizes and types are welcome so please come along. The tickets are only €5 so it won't break the bank. It will also be a good round up to what will be a mad week. Tickets are on sale next week from the Students Union reception. There is also a number to ring on the day to book/get tickets at the last minute. See poster for details. The Trampoline Club are also coming along with their boingy boingies, which should be a laugh.

Hope to see ye there,

Paul  
[outinul@yahoo.ie](mailto:outinul@yahoo.ie)

## UL Laughing Soc

Here's what we are up to for Kollege Week.

Our resident comedian Eoin Kelly will be starring with special guest Des Bishop on the Tuesday with the show starting at 7. Also we are collaborating with the Students' Union and putting on a free gig starring Colum McDonnell, Andrew Stanley and Bernard o Shea in an orgy of hilarity called 'three comedians and a mike' on Thursday from 2-4 in the courtyard. Our €2 gigs recommence in week 10, see posters for details. Also we are holding a charity thingy involving a 64-ounce steak

pretty soon so keep on the look out for that.

Bishop on the Tuesday with the show starting at 7. Also we are collaborating with the Students' Union and putting on a free gig starring Colum McDonnell, Andrew Stanley and Bernard o Shea in an orgy of hilarity called 'three comedians and a mike' on Thursday from 2-4 in the courtyard. Our €2 gigs recommence in week 10, see posters for details. Also we are holding a charity thingy involving a 64-ounce steak



## UL Vikings 28-0 Dublin Dragons

**Venue:** Lucan Community College, Dublin

### SCORERS:

**1st Quarter:** Colin Hillman 85yd kick return, Glen Carr 2xpt (8-0); Andrew Gordon 20yd run (14-0); Colin Hillman 21yd run (20-0).

**2nd Quarter:** Colin Hillman 19yd run, Andrew Gordon 2xpt (28-0).

**3rd Quarter:** No scoring.

**4th Quarter:** No scoring

A first half touchdown from quarterback Andrew Gordan along with three touchdowns by Most Valued Player (MVP) Colin Hillman gave the UL Vikings their second consecutive victory in the IAFL this season. The Vikings got off to a quick start when Hillman returned the opening kick-off 85 yards for the first touchdown of the game. Carr converted to make it 8-0. QB Gordon got on the scoreboard again on the Vikings next possession when he ran the ball in from 20 yards out. The Vikings continued to take advantage of the Dragons

slow start and Hillman scored two of his three touchdowns on consecutive drives - a 21 yard run at the end of the first quarter and a 19 yard run early in the second quarter. Gordon's two-point conversion of his second touchdown gave the Vikings a 28-0 lead over the Dragons while the game was only two minutes into the second quarter. Many people would have predicted a blow out at that stage, but the Dragons defence clicked into gear and held the Vikings out for the remainder of the first half.

Both defences, with the no scoring, dominated the second half. Our Cheerleaders did us proud helping to keep up the intensity throughout the hard fought second half. This is the first ever shut out in Vikings history and they look to build on it and advance to the playoffs for the first time since their Shamrock Bowl appearance.

Next fixture for the Vikings: Sunday April 3rd hosting the Dragons.

## UL Softball Soc

On the weekend of the 12th and 13th of March Dublin hosted the second leg of the softball intervarsity. The club entered four teams into the competition and here is how the teams fared over the two-day tournament.

The Dt's started slowly with a defeat to the UL 55's and a narrow loss to Waterford but came back strong against the Ori-ginals to win 8-7. They followed this by a 4-2 victory over the All Sorts and a convincing triumph over the UCD Silver Foxes with a score of 15-8 in favour of the Dt's. Sunday proved somewhat different with losses to both Trinity and UCD Yellow Jackets. With three wins in hand we faced the Ori-Ginals in the Plate decider. Ori-Ginals proved too strong and were deserved winners in a final score of 23-8.

The UL All Sorts got off to a difficult start with losses to both the Ori-Ginals and WIT. They followed this with a steady performance against the Dt's and were unfortunate not to win. They then faced a superb UCD Yellow Jackets and were no match for their batting power. The Sunday

saw the All Sorts reach the bowl final against the UCD Silver Foxes. A combination off excellent batting by all team members throughout the game and very strong fielding led to the UL All Sorts winning by 33-23.

The UL 55's went to the UCD Intervarsity leg knowing they needed to win to stay in contention for the Intervarsity title. The 55's started well winning their first 3 games of the morning against the UL Dt's and both UCD teams. The 55's continued strongly, winning their last two games of the day against Trinity College and WIT. The 55's began Sunday morning with victories over both the UL Allsorts and the UL Ori-ginals. Having won all our games we went on to the Semi-finals of the Cup to play WIT. Despite an earlier victory over WIT they proved too strong and gained a narrow victory with a score line of 8-7 to lead them into the final against UCD. UCD beat WIT to win the Intervarsity title for the first time in 3 years, having won the Waterford leg already.

The Ori-Ginals started

off their weekend with a 10-6 defeat to the UCD Yellow Jackets. They followed this up with a narrow victory over the All Sorts and an extremely close contest against the UL Dt's with the Dt's winning 8-7. This was followed up by another close encounter against WIT with WIT taking the victory by 1 run. Sunday proved more successful with the Ori-Ginals taking the victory over the UCD Silver Foxes and having an extremely hard fought battle against the UL 55's, which proved to be the grudge match of the weekend. Despite some excellent batting and fielding by the Ori-Ginals, the 55's proved too strong and won the game on a score line of 12-8. Despite this loss they reached the Plate final against the Dt's. With some impressive batting and superb fielding the Ori-Ginals came out easy winners on a score line of 23-8.

Overall the weekend was a success with UL taking home both the Plate and the Bowl trophies. The 3rd and final leg of the Intervarsity takes place in UL on the 2nd and 3rd of April.

## UL Kayak Club

What a busy few weeks it been for ULKC with some surf trips, river running and even some awards!

On the 13th March ULKC set off to the kingdom in search of surf. We stopped at Goulain beach near Stradbally, the waves were as high as our expectations and with one look at the water we kitted ourselves out, dragging boats, paddles and ourselves down to the beach! With over half the crew being fresher's it was going to be an interesting trip for all. After an introduction talk for the first years and a quick warm up, ULKC hit the sea. The first years really gave it their all and after each swim mounted their boats and gave it another shot. A big thank you to the leaders who waited in the icy water and on the beaches to rescue paddlers and give advice! As the day progressed so did the skills and confidence of our fresher's. Well-done!

It was another successful year for ULKC at the C&S

ball, winning two out of our three nominations. It was great to see the girls looking like girls and the boys looking like men for a change! There was an excellent turn out from ULKC filling three tables. The first award was presented to Aidan Homes for Club Person of the year. He even got a special escort to collect his award. It really was a case of dumb and dumber. The second prize that we won was for trip of the year, for our trip to the Alps in 2004. We really did take great pride in winning this as it was a well-deserved

prize! A great night was had by all. Thanks to everyone who organised it!

If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the hottest clubs ever, then come down to the Arena pool any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday night from 9.50-11.00pm where you will learn the basics and have some fun in a friendly environment. Or if you like you can check out the message board on <http://kayak.csn.ul.ie/> where you can ask any questions you may have!





## Tribesmen head of the River 2005



The Annual Tribesmen head of the river took place on Saturday the 19th last.

320 crews from all across Ireland took part racing down Galway's river Corrib over a distance of 4.5 Km. The weather on the day like that in the south of Spain, reportedly reaching 23 degrees.

University of Limerick Men's senior pair proved that they are the crew to beat this year by winning the senior pair. Their blistering pace saw them finish over a minute faster than the other crews in the pairs category.

The Men's novice eight recovered well after one of the crew suffered a nasty crab (the oar tries to throw you out of the boat) at the second bend. A head wind picked up half way down

the course adding rough waters into the equation, in the end they finished well and within shot of the winners race winners DUBC.

Other University of Limerick results from the day were: 2nd in the Men's novice sculls Brian O' Shaughnessy coming just second to a former ULRC member now rowing with NUIG, 2nd in the Open Quad four, 3rd in the Inter

fours just short four seconds. The ULRC women fought the good fight coming 3rd in the inter eights and 5th in the inter fours.

It was an excellent trip to Galway for University of Limerick, and not even Ireland's loss to Wales could ruin it for us. ULRC members would like to thank SHELL OIL for their kind sponsorship for the weekend.



## UL Sub Aqua Club

With the return of all our instructors from Egypt after a week long diving expedition to the Red Sea during week 7, all Pool sessions are to return to normal every Thursday from the 7th of April onwards at 5PM. Hope to see you all there.

Donal Cahill



## UL Kickboxing Club

The first round of this years Mixed Martial Arts League took place in Galway. The MMA league allows fighters from different backgrounds to test their skills against each other. The rules allows competitors to fight both standing and on the ground.

TJ Davitt (a judo brown belt) won both his fights with relative ease. His first match was against Allyn Hunt of Higashi Sligo. Wasting no time he got into the clinch went for a kimura shoulder lock. Taking his opponent, the lock looked to be on tight, however as they had moved out over the end of the mat the referee restarted then in the centre of

the ring. TJ kept trying for the submission but he's opponent powered out of it. TJ took the mount position and worked in a few strikes before finishing the fight by armbar.

His second match was against Alan McNamara - Pankration Kickboxing Academy Limerick. He shot straight for a clinch and a takedown and landed in mount. From here it was like a rerun of the first match except he worked a little faster, again winning by armbar. An impressive performance by TJ, we look forward to him moving on to tougher opposition in the stacked -75kg division.

## Cumann Con Colbert Ogra Fianna Fail The Irish Language Debate

It is undeniable that, as a national language, Irish is under used in public arena and not widely spoken in the private. Furthermore, our identity as Irish people is increasingly seen as under threat from the aggressive cultural exports of other English speaking nations and the Irish language is becoming central to the debate on how best to stall this trend and begin to reverse its evermore-visible effects. The most significant way to achieve this is to have the vast majority of people in Ireland functionally proficient in the language, i.e. that they could avoid speaking English and still accomplish their daily tasks. The aim of this article is to outline a methodology by which this could be achieved and to support a case for the reform of the Irish education system along these lines.

The thirteen or fourteen years of Irish classes, which the vast majority of our population take, should be more than enough to make every so taught individual in this country orally fluent, irre-

spective of homework or other exercises. The issue, as many have pointed out, is the manner of teaching. At present, poetry and literature studies form a large part of the higher-level curriculum and a significant portion of that of the ordinary-level. In addition, the manner of teaching is expressly aimed towards exam achievement and points accumulation; the result of which is a tendency to learn set essays by heart. This ensuing language proficiency is thus not a fair representation of the class time spent in study of the language.

Ideally, one would like to see Gaeilge removed from the exam based curriculum with the new focus being on fluency of speech. If, after thirteen or fourteen years of learning, we can make one generation fluent in the language, it will be immeasurably easier to make their children fluent as well. Both statistics and common sense argue that the children of Irish speakers are overwhelmingly more likely to

become so themselves. Furthermore, with this skill attained, Irish may well become commonly spoken in the average home, further increasing the children's likelihood of fluency. Once a large level of facility achieved, the instruction of poetry and advanced language skills becomes relatively unproblematic and these can be reintroduced into the classroom, along with testing, as desired.

So far our Irish teaching methods are achieving well below their desired goals. The vast majority of people in this country cannot express themselves fluently in their own language and this is a real indictment of the current education system. For genuine change to be accomplished moderate curriculum reform, as outlined by the recent Department of Education publications, will not be sufficiently intrinsic. Certainly, it is time for more radical changes and a phase-based approach.

## Amnesty International shows people the hand!

Last week, the newly formed UL Amnesty International group ran its first major campaign, which was aimed raising public awareness concerning violence against women. The campaign was a great success and Amnesty would like to thank everybody who supported us either by signing a letter, donating the few bob, or by slopping' their way on to our banner with a handprint. Those who got their hands dirty should know that their handprint stands as a symbol of solidarity with all women who live under the threat of violence. We believe that governments should work to prevent violence



against women, and provide for the protection and welfare of abused women. Unfortunately, however, some governments do not provide any legal protection against such violence, and this is

what we're working to change. We would especially like to thank the volunteers who gave up time to man the table and make posters.

Ruth Concannon made her Mixed Martial Arts debut against Grace Chan of Waza Kai Limerick. Grace, the more experienced striker opened strong throwing hard punches. Ruth did a good job of defending and countered with solid knees and low kicks. Although Grace showed some good takedown defence, Ruth was eventually able to take her down and secure the top position. From here Ruth dominated. Looking calm and composed throughout, he worked her way into a high mount position and looked to be getting into position for a triangle leg choke. Instead she took Grace's left arm and secured a win by arm bar.

As there were only two ladies in the division, they decided to square off again later in the day. The second match started

much like the first, with Ruth looking for the clinch and Grace trying to work her punches. Ruth managed to get the takedown again and passed guard. Grace showed a bit more activity on the ground this time and was able to regain her guard, showing good movement. However it was only a matter of time before Ruth passed again and went to mount. Again Ruth worked patiently for a submission and when Grace turned Ruth took her back and worked in a rear naked choke to win with only about 30 seconds left on the clock.

Alan Humphries squared off against Guy Squires in what was a stand up war. It was a tough, hard-hitting match with neither competitor looking to take the fight to the ground. Alan landed strong low kicks which seemed to

slow his opponent, however Guy was hitting back with hard body shots. After about 4 minutes of action, Guy looked to take the fight to the ground, as he was doing so Alan caught him in a guillotine choke. It looked to be on fight, however he was unable to finish. The 5 minutes elapsed and so the fight was declared a draw.

James Keyes took on two Point Blank Submissions fighters in the -70kg division. In both fights he was able to land some good strikes standing up but was unable to prevent the takedown. He worked hard on the ground but was caught in an armbar in both fights. James showed some good skills standing up but his relative lack of experience on the ground cost him in the end.