



€5million to go to
 College of
 Business

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Faces depicted on the new, eight-panel mural in the Students' Union Common Room which was commissioned by ULSU recently. See report on page 4

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Getting Served in Campus Clubs

Orientation Week Procedures for Stables and Scholars Clubs



BY SARAH RYAN

New membership procedures have been put in place by the management of the Stables and Scholars clubs to ensure that they are not closed again this year.

Anyone who wants to apply for membership can do so by logging on to <http://www.clubs.ul.ie>. You must be over 18 and a student, graduate or member of staff at UL to be eligible for membership. Once you apply, you will be nominated as a member by the management committee, and your name will be displayed in the bar for two weeks. Once one week has passed, you will be elected as a member and will be able to collect your membership sticker at the Students' Union after 6pm. If you wish to become a member of the clubs, please apply as soon as possible. Those who have club

membership cards from second semester of last year can give in their card at either of the clubs or SU reception after 6pm. You will be issued with your new sticker on payment of €1.

Further measures have for the time being, and especially during Orientation Week, been put in place to prevent the club rules being broken. Neither the Stables nor the Scholars club will be serving alcohol before 6pm. They will of course be serving food and non-alcoholic beverages.

At 6pm, all customers will be asked to leave the premises of the club. This is to be 100% sure that the rules are followed and that no room is left for error. Please co-operate with the staff of the clubs at this point as this is best way to ensure that the clubs stay open this year.

After 6pm, there will be a member of the

club at the door to check that everyone is over 18, and that all non-members are signed in correctly.

These steps are being taken to ensure that all the rules of the club, including membership rules are being upheld. This follows an objection to the renewal of the licences of the clubs meant that they lost their licences and were forbidden to serve alcohol, last year. This ban was appealed by the management, which meant that the bars were only closed for one week, but neither ULSU nor the clubs want a repeat of this situation.

A spokesperson for ULSU said, "We are hopeful that by week two, most of the people who wish to become members of the clubs will have done so, and that disruption to club members will be reduced. Until then, bear with us!!"

News

College of Business becomes Jim Kemmy Business School thanks to anonymous €5,000,000 donation

BY AISLINN O'KEEFE

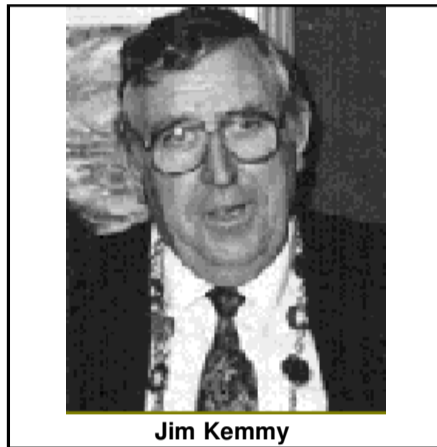
Over the summer, U.L. has received a five million donation towards the development of the College of Business, which will now be renamed 'The Jim Kemmy Business School'. The Irish benefactor who donated this substantial amount of money wishes to remain anonymous, but wished for the late Limerick politician, Jim Kemmy to be honoured. Jim Kemmy was a one-time mayor of Limerick and was well known for his then radical socialist views. A stonemason by trade, he was noted for his work for the poor and disadvantaged and when elected mayor, he donated his £16,000 salary to help local organisations. Speculation has been rife as to the identity of the private donor, and there has been much coverage and conjecture in the national media about the story in general.

This gift is one of the largest private donations ever made to an Irish Third-Level institution and it will help the University of Limerick to further develop its reputation as a leading University. U.L. President, Professor Roger Downer has stated that the generous donation 'reflects not only vision and foresight, but also great trust and confidence in our capacity to further develop our College of Business to the highest international standards. This donation is an investment in our future as a University and recognises the contribution that a highly reputable business school can make to that future, and to economic growth and development regionally and nationally'. This boost in funding for the College of

Business will enable a new, state-of-the-art Business School building to be constructed beside the present Schuman Building and will help to develop the quality and capacity of the school. The new Business School will bring together all Business faculty and staff, allowing for a more efficient running of the Business College. Plans are currently being prepared for the design of this new facility, which will provide facilities which will allow postgraduate, executive and professional educational programmes to co-exist with research centres on work, entrepreneurship and tourism policy. Business students will be able to benefit from the use of 'wireless' computing facilities the new building, which is planned to be opened for the beginning of the 2005/6 academic year. While the building may not be in use until 2005/6, the College of Business became the Kemmy Business School on September 1st this year. While the official name for the college is "The Jim Kemmy Business School", it will be known as the Kemmy Business School.

But what does this mean for students in the College of Business, its 2,500 students and 75 faculty? As a Business student who hopes to graduate in 2005, it means that I will miss out on this new facility, but hopefully it will raise the profile of the College of Business here in U.L., which would help us get work at the end of the day, and judging from the media coverage this news received early this summer, I think it is succeeding in doing this. Fourth year Business Studies class representative Anna Keely is happy that such a large boost is being given to the School of Business, but is also

concerned that the money go to improve resources for students. She draws attention to the fact that the Final Year Project, considered by many to be an essential part of a UL degree, is being made optional for Business Students. She



Jim Kemmy

says that this is occurring because the College of Business has insufficient resources to cater for a full complement of students doing FYPs. "This money could change this situation. I think that students, especially Business students, need to be told exactly where the money is going," she said.

UL President, Roger Downer also said that "the University of Limerick is proud to be associated with the name of Jim Kemmy, a man who devoted much of his life to championing the cause of the underprivileged and disadvantaged. It would be a splendid legacy to Jim's name if the graduates of the University of Limerick played a leadership role in persuading corporations to assume responsibility for redressing the plight of the billions of people who currently survive on less than €1 per day."

Changing Rooms in Students' Union

BY SARAH RYAN



UL Students' Union

If you've come into the Students' Union looking for the president of the Students' Union in the past couple of weeks, you may have become a bit confused. The Students' Union building's new lease of life has extended beyond fancy murals in the Games Room, and has resulted in an almighty all-change, with a huge amount of office-swapping going on over the summer.

The first change you'll probably notice is that the the President, the Welfare Officer and the Education officer are all along in a row just to the right of Reception (that at least hasn't changed... yet). The President is in the first office, the Welfare Officer is in the middle, and the Education Officer is the last door on your right down the corridor. There's still one sabbatical officer missing, right? Where's the ever so important Communications and Campaigns Officer? She's moved upstairs to a spacious new Communications Office. If you're looking for her, go up the stairs, keep going straight ahead until you're looking at a load of Kayak Club photographs, turn left, through the glass-panelled door and follow the signs. She's right beside the Class Reps' Office, if you already know where that is.

The reasoning behind the move upstairs is to co-ordinate all aspects of communication into a big Communications Centre, which will also serve as a hub for campaigns. If you're interested in Communications, this office will be the place to go. It will incorporate both publishing and broadcasting.

So, what's happening to the Presidents' old office? The plan is to convert it into a waiting room for people who are waiting to see the Education Officer, Welfare Officer or SU President. Meetings of certain welfare-based groups may also be held there in the evenings. This will be a welcoming room where stressed-out students can wait in comfort. You should see things happening there in the next few weeks.

One of the most important switches has been the move of the Students' Union's Job Placement Agency to right inside the front door of the Union. All you have to do is come in the main door and turn to your right. Paul O'Connor will be there to help you get that part time bit of work, or your dream job.

Those are most of the changes to date in the Students' Union. If you do manage to get lost, don't worry. Just ask someone at Reception and they'll probably know where you're trying to go and send you on your way.

Public Administration Student wins Award

BY MICHELLE DALY

As if we needed any proof that University of Limerick students are the most caring and humanitarian to their fellow man this year one student won an AIB Humanitarian Young person of The Year Award. 4rd year Public administration student Tim Hennessy walked away with an AIB young person of the year award in Limerick during this summer. Tim is a Cork native and a frequent sight around campus and in the Clubs and Societies the office.

The 21 year old was one of five young people awarded the accolade by Limerick Junior Chamber of Commerce. He won the award for his work with the St. Vincent De Paul both in University of Limerick and in the greater Limerick Area. This work included setting up and running homework clubs taking children from disadvantaged homes swimming. The student also oversaw the setting up of a drop in centre and worked with soup kitchens in Limerick. Tim Hennessy also took part in a trip to Haiti to help with development projects over there in



Tim is presented with his award

the summer break.

His tireless efforts for the disadvantaged won him the Humanitarian young person of the year award in Limerick. He was awarded the prize at a ceremony on the 26th of July this year. The four other recipients were Michelle McKeown, Sinead Nolan for her academic skills, Amanda Minihan for her moral and social guidance and Sinead McDonnell for Cultural efforts on behalf of the people of Limerick.

Speaking to An Focal this week Tim said he was honoured and delighted to receive the award but that this new semester meant the work would be starting all over again.

The Corkonian appealed to all students to get involved or help in some small way with the efforts of the St. Vincent De Paul chapter on campus over the coming weeks and especially in the run up to Christmas.

News

City Venue gets Students Moving

The UL Student's Union are delighted to announce that finally they have secured the long awaited regular college-city night bus service for all students.

After several years of campaigning for a reliable secure service they are launching a seven night a week service from the city centre to the college and back with ten stops in the Castletroy vicinity to encompass the College Court, UL Campus, Oaklawns, Kilmurray Lodge, and Curragh Birin areas, then stopping at a designated spot in the city centre.

This will serve not only as a convenient option for the students but several runs a night starting at 10.30pm til 4am each morning will provide a safe, controlled student transport service linking the college and the city.

Good news all round for the students, and it gets better - thanks to the New Limerick venue Trinity Rooms in the Granary who are sponsoring the bus service, there will be no charge for the Castletroy/City runs. With soaring costs in every aspect of student life it's nice to see them getting a break for once!

The specially commissioned bus will be hitting the streets from week One of the college semester on Monday 22nd September. With custom designed artwork inside and out of the bus it'll be a brilliant addition to the city and campus streets!

Competition

ULSU IN ASSOCIATION WITH



THE PRIZE

WIN ONE YEAR'S FREE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRINITY ROOMS NIGHTCLUB

How

Name the bus that will ferry students to and from Castletroy to the City every night.

The name must evoke an image of "The Campus", "Nighttime" & "the City Centre". It must also be short enough to put on a bus! Use your own judgement.

WHAT THEN?

Place Entries in Box at Students' Union Reception.

CLOSING DATE:

Friday 19/9/2003 at 4pm.

More Details Next Issue

GW3 (Greek Week 2003) - Coming Soon!

BY PATRICIA MORIARTY

Week 7 will see the 3rd Greek Week taking place all over UL. A combination of SoUL Week and Welfare Week GW 3 hopes to be the biggest and the best so far!

The philosophy of this week long celebration of the cultural life of UL is to encourage a healthy approach towards college life, embracing all the forms of entertainment that UL Societies, Clubs and University services have to offer.

Currently the skeleton programme for the week is being put in place. We are greatly honoured that GW3 will be launched by Senator David Norris and a high profile and controversial debate/discussion will take place that evening. The Stables Courtyard will again host a crafts and heritage display by members of CELT - blacksmithing, drystone walling, felt making are just a few of the skills that will be on display.



Peace Society's Greek Week Charity Love-In

A major food event will be hosted in the Students Union Courtyard and the ever popular International Food Fair will also take place. The Jonathan Swift will be buzzing for the week highlighting the Music and Drama Societies activities. A visiting theatre company will present the highly challenging " Paris Texas" - a major success at the Galway Theatre

Festival this bilingual production is limited to an audience of ten per performance. The Cinemobile - a bus converted into a cinema - will take up residence in the Plaza Courtyard. A series of lunchtime performances are also planned throughout the campus and lectures and poetry readings will also feature. We also hope to reprise the inter pub Celebrity Table Quiz with guest appearances by some of our visiting celebs!

You can participate in GW3 in more ways than just being in the audience. Join a Club or Society and find out what they have planned. If you are in a Club or Society already plan an event to be incorporated in the timetable of events. If you have any ideas /suggestions now is the time to speak up. If you need help planning or financing your event now is the time to ask. Contact paul.lee@ul.ie or patricia.moriarty@ul.ie

Monday • Manic Monday's
Monday is the New Saturday with the tackiest most singalong anthems this side of Tom Jones record collection !!!
Free Admission to emergency services, bar, restaurant and hotel staff, hospital staff and with college id.
Everyone Else: €5

Tuesday • Indie Nation
in association with Mary I SU
Mary I Students host a massive Tuesday night with the ladies getting it down to a cutting edge soundtrack of r'n'b and rock while the boys struggle to catch their eye!
€6 all night long

Wednesday • Student Central
in association with UL SU
The biggest college, the best looks and the most up for a party? They certainly like to think so and it's the biggest student party of the week!
€7 from ULSU and on the door.

Thursdays • Access All Areas
Soul Clinic is in the Red Room & Courtyard with Sterie G, Noel Phelan and Bass Odyssey among the residents and guest slots from Nightmares on Wax to Stereo MC's!
In the main room, it's big dancefloor anthems all the way!
€7 gets you all in all over!

Fridays & Saturdays • Trinity Rooms
3 rooms, 2 courtyards, 1 ultimate venue!
Our showcase nights when we throw all the doors open!
Aiden Kelly's in the courtyard, Paul Webb's in the main room, Johnny & Mark are in Quarter Club and every week is full of surprises!
€10 all night long

Sundays • Trinity Classics
Guaranteed Thrillers, no Fillers! €10 all night long.

Free Trinity Rooms Campus To Town Bus Service 7 nights. Full Details next issue!

THE GRANARY • MICHAEL ST
LIMERICK • IRELAND
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Doors to the Main Room open at 11.30pm each night, if you're in the Redroom early enough you might just get in free
Partys of all sizes catered for!



is open every day for Tasty Eats and Beers from 10am with guest dj's from Thursday - Sunday



The Quarter Club is open 7nights with an extensive wine and champagne menu. Table Bookings on 061411177



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News

New mural gives Games Room a fresh look



Work in progress on the mural

BY MICHELLE DALY

The Common room in the Students' Union building, which once hosted only arcade games, vending machines and pool tables, is now home to a brand new mural, commissioned recently by ULSU. The mural is situated along the back wall of the Common Room. The wall is divided into four sections and each section contains two panels of the mural.. So that's eight different paintings all of which the artist does directly onto the wall with aerosol paints. The mural itself is comprised of four abstract pieces and four figurative pieces and promises to brighten up even the most boring pool game in the games room. If you get the

chance to grab a look at the mural do so, the games room is on the second floor of the union building up the stairs and to the left.

The artist is a young Limerick-schooled artist by the name of Conor Harrington but he also goes by the tag name of Mr. Who. Anyone who sees the mural and paintings can see that Conor has more than a little of the graffiti artist in him. He describes his style as 'Abstract Aerosol Art' and says that his intention is to bring a graffiti style to Fine Arts. He got his degree in Fine Arts and Painting from Limerick School of Art and Design in 2002 making him a recent graduate and he was commissioned to do this work over the summer break period. Conor has already shown his work in an exhibition of graffiti on canvas and he



Artist Conor Harrington in the Games Room



Two of the mural's panels

will be exhibiting his work again before Christmas.

Most of the people I asked for a reaction to the mural were too blown away by it to give more than a one-word reaction. 'Wow', 'Fantastic', 'Funky' and similar expressions of a highly-impressed nature were thrown at me. Eoin O'Broin, President of the Students' Union said that the main reason for the mural was "to funk up the room and increase its appeal." When asked what he thought of it, he said, "It's very impressive. It's modern art!" The finished mural will cost the Students' Union 1,100. It's up to you to come up to the Games Room, have a look for yourself, and see if it was money well spent. The Games Room itself is open from 9am til 11pm, so you have no excuse not to come and see it. While you're there, why not make some suggestions as to what we can call the room itself. Send your submissions to sucommunication@ul.ie

Mary Robinson is appointed as Chairperson of Irish Chamber Orchestra



Mary Robinson

BY MICHELLE DALY

The Irish Chamber orchestra based here in the University of Limerick recently appointed a new chairperson. former president of Ireland and UN High Commissioner on Human Rights Mary Robinson. The orchestra invited Mary Robinson to chair their board of directors when she recently completed her term as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Mrs Robinson is currently Director of the Ethical Globalization Initiative.

On her election to the Chair, Mary Robinson said: 'Having spent a term as Patron of the Irish Chamber Orchestra

when I was President, I am delighted to resume my association in steering the ensemble through this exciting period in its history. This outstanding orchestra's commitment to excellence will see it prosper internationally.'

The Orchestra has elected former President of the University of Limerick Dr. Edward Walsh as deputy chairperson of the board of directors of the ICO. John Kelly Chief Executive of the Irish Chamber Orchestra welcomed the appointments. Speaking to An Focal about the appointment of Mrs Robinson he said that 'We are honoured that Mary Robinson has accepted our invitation to Chair the Board. It is very encouraging to have the support of one of Ireland's most distinguished citizens in our quest to become one of the great chamber orchestras of the world.

The Irish Chamber Orchestra is regarded as one of Ireland's most distinguished ensembles. Consisting of top Irish and international string players, the orchestra has gained a reputation, not just in Ireland, but further afield, as a vibrant and refreshing force in the sphere of classical and contemporary music today. The enthusiasm of the members of the orchestra for the music they perform characterizes the unique personality that the ICO has developed over the years. This, coupled with the irrepressible charisma of Music Director Nicholas McGegan, and the artistry of Principal Guest Director Mariana Sirbu indicate exciting times ahead!

While enjoying a very busy touring



The Irish Chamber Orchestra

schedule within Ireland, the ICO has travelled extensively in the last couple of years and had many opportunities to perform on international platforms; it has just returned from a ground-breaking tour of South Korea and China and has toured to the U.K., France, Italy, the Netherlands, Australia and the U.S. performing in venues including the Barbican in London and the Kennedy Centre in Washington.

All of this and they still are involved in so many projects here in Limerick like the recent Killaloe Music Festival and Come and Listen a curriculum based exercise in music for secondary schools in the Limerick area among other projects. The community spirit and history of outreach of the Orchestra is one to be proud of.

The appointment will bring with it a fresh outlook to the Orchestra and undoubtedly will spur an already forward moving group to new heights.

Learn to travel

Over a century ago Samuel Clemens, known to most as Mark Twain quipped that:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover"

This I believe is the very ethos of travel. Sometimes the greatest risk in life, is not taking one. At the beginning of this 21st century most peoples idea of travel is for two weeks summer vacation to a sun destination (beach and pool). Now after a stressful year working there is nothing inherently wrong with this, indeed it is positively appealing. However deep down a lot of people feel like they should be seeing more of their world. Some primeval hunter-gatherer need bubbles to the surface and gives them the urge to travel off the beaten track.

This is why the University of Limerick's Centre for Life Long Learning is running a ten-week course entitled "Epic Trips". The course will bring the armchair traveller around the world on an amazing journey through Planet Earths most spectacular sights. It is aimed at people who might be heading away for example to spend a year to Australia, but are not sure what to see / do or those who are simply looking for novel holiday ideas to spice up their travels.

The lectures will cover all aspects of travel including: Great Treks (e.g. Inca Trail / Kilimanjaro), Great Festivals (e.g. Mardi Gras / Spring Break), Great Historical Sites (e.g. Taj Mahal / King Solomon's Mines), Great Cities (e.g. Havana / Krakow) as well as adrenalin activities (white water rafting / shark diving). The course will use both multimedia and personal anecdotes to fly you over glaciers in New Zealand or paddle up the Amazon in Brazil.

As well as exotic locations and activities, the course will cover travel basics such as: Should I buy a compact or SLR camera? How do I rent an elephant in Nepal? How do I become a Scuba diver? What do I pack? etc. The course promises to showcase hundreds of breathtaking experiences and the best places around the world for enjoying them. The course is all about helping you transform your ideas into reality by



providing both practical advice and inspiration for your own Epic Trips.

For more details contact:

Centre for Lifelong Learning

Tel: 061-202530 / 202047

Email: lifelonglearning@ul.ie

News

Limerick Students Pull Together to form LASU

BY EOIN O'BROIN

Limerick's student bodies moved a step closer together during the summer with the formation of LASU - Limerick Association of Students' Unions. The SU's of Limerick's four main colleges UL, LIT, Mary I and the Art College met on the grounds of the oldest of the 4, Limerick School of Art & Design for the formal launch. The four student representative organisations agreed to cooperate on ents, campaigns, promotion of public transport, publications and getting better deals for students in the shops around Limerick City.

Limerick's population includes a higher percentage of students than any other city in Ireland. Last year the combined Students' Unions worked together to mobilise these students and to organise successful protests against the proposed re-introduction of fees. The anti fees protest in Limerick City last October saw 3,000 students on O'Connell St. and was the first City Demo in the Country on the subject. Eddie Price President of LSAD Students Union said "We feel that continuing this co-ordinated approach will best represent the needs of Limerick students."

Diarmuid Moriarty, Vice-President, Mary Immaculate Students' Union said "We in Mary Immaculate College Students' Union are excited and expectant about the agreement. We see



this as a huge opportunity to build on the promise which lies in the city's four Students' Unions. However, the Union is nothing without the students' involvement and we urge all students to get involved in student affairs to fulfil the potential which is close at hand."

So far LASU have been working on a Limerick Student Discount Card and on lobbying the City Council for Student Representation on the Cities Transport & Infrastructure Special Policy Committee. Two big student nights have been organised; the Limerick Freshers Ball in the Royal George Hotel and the Halloween Ball! There is also talk of a Limerick-Wide Safety Campaign in the offing.

Eamon Clancy, Vice-President, Limerick Institute of Technology Students' Union, said the four Unions forming LASU are dedicated to representing third-level

students in Limerick to the best of our ability. He added "Limerick Institute of Technology Students' Union believes that this association can only benefit student life in Limerick, which will in turn benefit Limerick city."

Eoin Ó Broin, President, University of Limerick Students' Union, said LASU has the potential to turn Limerick into a rocking town. More interaction between Limerick Students also means more students in the city. He suggested that co operation on ents could be of huge benefit to the four students bodies in terms of student deals and the, attracting big names and the diversity of events large numbers could allow.

The LASU logo, the four students unions lassoed, will feature prominently on the fresher bags to be given to first year students across the City.

First UL Charity Ball set for Week 10

This Semester on campus sees the launch of the first UL Charity Ball. This promises to be the gig of the term with hundreds of people having a great time while helping out a great cause (this years beneficiary will be www. Sight Savers .org). The smart-casual ball (black tie optional) will be held in the South Court Hotel on Thursday November 27th (Week 10) and tickets will cost 30 euro (meal / dance and buses included!). It promises to be a cracking night with plenty of local companies sponsoring spot prizes and Limerick's best DJs on the decks - so get saving.



These guys won't be at the Charity Ball, but you should be! Start saving for Wk 10



SCHOLARS CLUB
ENTERTAINMENTS FRESHERS WEEK

MON DJ ERIC FITZ 8PM

TUES DJ ERIC FITZ 6PM
HIP HOP, HOUSE AND REGGAE!
THE DOT COMEDY CLUB
RETURNS WEEK 3!

WEDS BEST OF ROCK, 6PM
DJ CONNOR WALSH + LUCKY DIP

THURS DJ CONNOR WALSH 6PM
WATCH OUT FOR LIVE BANDS ON THURSDAY NIGHTS IN *The Scholars Club*

FRI HUNGRY HOUR ???
COMPLIMENTARY FINGER FOOD
6 - 7PM THAT MEANS FREE PEOPLE

AN PHLUAIS AVAILABLE FOR 21ST BIRTHDAY PARTIES, TABLE QUIZES & CLASS PARTIES



SCHOLARS CLUB
ENTERTAINMENTS WEEK 1

MON DJ ERIC FITZ 8PM

TUES DJ ERIC FITZ 6PM
HIP HOP, HOUSE AND REGGAE!
THE DOT COMEDY CLUB
RETURNS WEEK 3!

WEDS BEST OF ROCK, 6PM
DJ CONNOR WALSH + LUCKY DIP

THURS LIVE BAND IN THE MAIN BAR
FIND YOUR FEET NIGHT
THURSDAY NIGHT IN *The Scholars Club*

FRI HUNGRY HOUR ???
COMPLIMENTARY FINGER FOOD
6 - 7PM THAT MEANS FREE PEOPLE
U.L.'s own Eoin O'Suilleabhain LIVE in the main bar

SUN BREAKFAST BRUNCH 12 - 4PM
CHILL OUT WITH COMFY COUCHES, CANDLES, FREE SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS !!
AN PHLUAIS AVAILABLE FOR 21ST BIRTHDAY PARTIES, TABLE QUIZES & CLASS PARTIES

Features & Opinion

Words of Wisdom for Freshers from An Bainisteoir

as imparted to Brendan Coffey

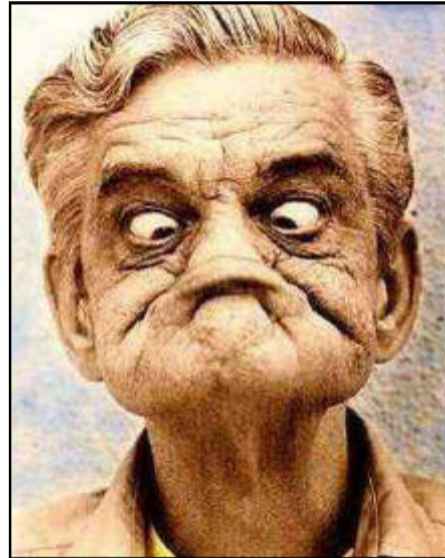
An Bainisteoir gives a run down of some of the more discerning points which First years should note in their fresher year at college.

Firstly, as you'll more than likely be away from home for the first time, it is crucial that you acquaint yourself fully with your immediate surroundings. This has a two fold benefit. One, you'll need to know the shortest way into college for all those nine o'clock lectures, so that you can have the utmost time to work off the worst of any hangover. Two, your route home from the Lodge will be crucial to your reputation in college. If you are unfortunate enough to live in College Court, this means you will have a good half an hour of a walk home from the Lodge. On such occasions when you are venturing home from the Lodge, the temptation to kip in the nearest similar looking house is quite high. It will be Milford Grange before you will reach any similar looking houses, because Elm park is a kip. Do not be tempted to take shelter in the nearest lodgings. Remember, if you're in somebody else's bed, then who's in yours?

I know it may come as a bit of a shock to

you first years, but just because you happen to be eighteen now, at college and hopefully away from home, under no circumstances should it mean that you no longer drink either Dutch Gold, or for those of you that can't handle a beer, Linden Village cider. These two products were madewith students in mind. Six of the best (Dutch), before you depart of an evening amongst the public houses of Limerick will mean less money spent on the over priced pints on offer in such places, and should the need arise, as it does regularly in college, it will be much cheaper to get pissed. Those of you from the pre-euro days will remember the six Dutch for a fiver plus one quid service charge for someone to go into the office for you, but now it's seven euro for six, but as a plus, you won't have the added expense of getting someone to go get it for you anymore-so my advice is to get an extra can, handy for when you get back home with someone you've picked up along the way. A strict diet of six Dutch before every night out should see you financially secure for the whole year in college.

Coming to third level education will



mean for the most part, lots and lots of books, with the Law students knowing more than most about this particular facet of college life. Strictly speaking, the type of books you'll come across, are not the type of books you're supposed to be buying. Don't be surprised to see some priced at nearly a hundred euro, this would seem to be average cost of a book, especially for a law student. Books at these prices just don't make sense, I

mean what publisher expects a student to spend that much on a book. What they're really aimed at are those middle aged cronies who want their bookshelves to look impressive with an array of hardback books that they've never read or will ever read, but just want it to look well under their framed copy of some Arts degree they got years ago.

Do not buy books. It's not school, nobody's going to check if you have them or not.

Remember the library is a valuable resource, and by the end of term, you should be able to pick out twenty or thirty pages from the book you need that will be necessary for you to pass your exam. Photocopying these pages will cost little more than a couple of euro.

For the moment, that's it. I could have said something about diet in first year, but as I adhere to a strict 'no cooking for myself' policy, I would feel rather hypocritical advising you lot on food and the rest. Enjoy the year, and always remember that if you don't remember, then it didn't happen.

An Bainisteoir's regular column can be found on page23

And here's what the folks who stayed at home got up to over the summer, not like ye who were off gallivanting round the world....

BY DÓNAL Ó DRISCOLL

As we embark upon another year of Sleeping in lecture halls, and hurriedly lashing together projects, here is an highly selective view of the summer, through the eyes of one man. Summer 2003 had its ups, its downs, its side to sides and just about any direction you care to mention.

Weather wise of course we were treated to a good old Irish summertime. Rain and rain and more rain, and more rain, and a small bit of sun, more rain, more rain, another small bit of sun, yet more rain, sun, sun, sun, sun, rain, sun, sun, sun and just to make sure we didn't get too cocky, one last burst of good old Irish rain! Other than looking out the window to see if you were better off wearing a rain mac or a pair of speedos, a lot actually did happen over the summer.

June saw the leaving cert begin and end, as those of us lucky enough to have it over and done with, thanked our lucky stars we didn't have to do it again and pittied the poor saps that did. The mighty rebels got their campaign for Liam, off to a cracking start, when they gave a good old fashion derriere whooping to the banner. There is a God and Deano is his Namo! The Highlight of the month has to be the special olympics, the biggest sporting event ever staged in Ireland and officially the largest in the world this year. (though rugby fans may dispute that) I was lucky enough to have been involved as a volunteer in my home town of Clonakilty, and was delighted to have met over fifty wonderful people from Denmark, who knew how to have craic as much as the Irish. It was a great source of pride when we discovered they

had amassed an impressive haul of 64 medals. The special olympics was of crucial importance as it gave these people with such large obstacles in their way (some more so than others) the chance to show what they were capable of. Congratulations to everyone who took part and I hope a certain Music Manager and a certain ex-journalist were hanging their heads in shame for their snide remarks about the games and the athletes. We traveled up to Dublin for the closing and it was truly magnificent. Everyone enjoyed it, except perhaps for Bertie Ahern, whose government's appalling track record on disability, earned him a loud chorus of boos. What made it an even better day was that the mighty Cork beat the Déise, despite a bad start. Gill's pub didn't know what hit it as a large contingent of screaming Corkonians stopped to hijack the place for the end of the match, before heading on to Croke Park for the ceremony. Dublin is still deafened from the roars as the mighty rebels pulled away to secure the Munster title and an All-Ireland semi-final berth. The major transfer in June, and indeed of the summer was that of David Beckham from Man U to Real Madrid. During a far eastern tour, thousands of screaming female admirers swarmed the high-toned, sarong wearing superstar for autographs and possibly some fashion tips. The other big news on the transfer front this summer saw the domination of the transfer market by the New Roman Empire of Chelsea's Russian millionaire owner. The boys in blue now have a team for every day of the week, which partially helped them to a poxy 2-1 victory over the mighty reds, but we'll show them yet. Kewell and Finnan were good additions the Anfield

giants; we'll show those Man U ponces yet!

From a UL point of view, the big event of July was the release of the exam results for Semester 2. It was an anxious time for all us students, worrying about whether or not we would have to make an early trip up at the start of September. In Britain, the Iraq dossier came under scrutiny and we saw the tragedy of the Suicide of weapons expert Dr David Kelly, which prompted the Hutton tribunal. The race for Sam continued and Laois won an historic Leinster title, their first since 1946. Limerick, (Who I'll forgive for humiliating us in the first round) despite a gallant effort this year, succumbed to Kerry in the Munster Final, before being dumped out by reigning champions Armagh. August saw the wedding of Nicky Byrne and Georgina Ahern in the posh surrounds of France. Bertie came in for some harsh criticism over the photo deal but to be honest it was much ado about nothing. I'm all for a bit of Bertie bashing when the man deserves it but don't attack his personal life. Sporting-wise, Cork were back in their rightful place in Croke for the All-Ireland Semi-Final. The Yellow Bellies wanted to get in our way and looked to be on their way to the final after taking a six-point advantage. Then, however, the yellow helmeted messiah from Kila, along with his fourteen apostles, stormed into action. Great goals by our beloved Deano and the Legendary Setanta, seemed to put Cork in the driving seat, until a last gasp goal by Rory McCarthy, gave the Wexford boys a deserved draw. In the replay though, Donal O'Grady's army were too strong for the yellow bellies and we booked a place in the final, where we meet the



Liam McCarthy went home with the Cats

Cats, who got their claws into Tipperary the next day. At the time of writing, the All-Ireland has not been decided, yet at the time of publication it will have been. Thus, I will cover myself by saying in the event of defeat, well done Kilkenny; ye were brilliant, the better team won. In the event of a Cork victory... Up the Rebels, aha ye cats, we skinned ye alive! By the Banks of my own lovely lee. (writer starts crying sentimentally.) In the race for Sam, Tyrone, who impressed me from day one, brought down the kingdom, in a poor contest. The best action came from Mike the Gun O' Sullivan, after the full-time whistle) they now face reigning all-Ireland champions Armagh, in the first ever All-Ulster all Ireland final, after the Orchard county slayed a valiant Donegal side. While Armagh will be hungry for a two in a row, Tyrone have been, in my opinion, a league apart this year and should secure their first Sam Maguire, like their opponents did last year. I will end this extremely selective, Summary (summer, summary get it?) Ok fine be that way) by wishing everyone a welcome back to the madness that is UL. To all those Freshers or New Spuds out there, I say, I hope you realise what you are leaving yourselves in for!

Features & Opinion

Graduates Done Good - a look to the future

Each fortnight, we take a look at how a UL graduate is doing in the real world. Just to show you that there is life after college, and that it needn't necessarily have anything to do with your degree. Today we're off to Finland. Special thanks go to Gareth Eason for his help this issue.

If you know a graduate who is doing something weird, wild or wacky who might be interested in being profiled here, drop a mail to sucommunication@ul.ie

Euterpe

From Allegro to Prestissimo...

BY FRANCIS KIERNAN & GARETH EASON

The caffeine haunts of UL spawn infinite ideas, concepts and plans.... Some of which are actually realised. This is a tale of two lads who are fast turning Allegro dreams into an inspiring reality.

Francis Kiernan (M.Sc. Music Technology 1998) and Gareth Eason (B.Eng. Computer Engineering 1999) are heading up an innovative new company that is set to change not only the face of music education but music production too. Euterpe Ltd. was established earlier this year by the UL alumni to bridge the gap between arts education and the entertainment industry. Providing tailored solutions in areas of music productions, education and technology, they have managed to combine their specific subject areas with their true passion - music.

"Finland, Finland, Finland, the country where I want to be..." or so the Monty Python song would have us believe. Finland has provided the ideal base for these two lads. Francis went for a 10-day conference and was convinced by the Finnish Academy to remain on as lecturer. Four years later he resigned in order to realise a dream with friend and co-musician, Gareth. Having worked for Nokia UK since his graduation, Gareth

was torn between passion and profession. An avid musician and sound engineer, Gareth's name is still revered in the UL folk group, into which he lured Francis, marking the beginning of what promises to be a bright future. In spring of this year he joined Francis and their Finnish partners to establish the now flourishing company that runs, among other artistic concerns, the Nordic Film Orchestra. Proud to be Irish, these UL alumni decided to invite the choral group Anúna for their debut performance with the Nordic Film Orchestra. Anúna's acclaimed performances with Riverdance shows and many recordings have gained them world renown. However, it is their innovative approach towards music making which pinpointed them as being ideal collaborators. Joining Anúna and the Nordic Film Orchestra will also be saxophonist Kenneth Edge and percussionist Noel Eccles. The production will be presented over three nights this October in Finland's largest cathedrals (Helsinki, Turku and Jyväskylä) with extravagant sound reinforcement and lighting elements creating a unique experience for all in attendance.

Despite the high-end productions being staged by Euterpe, the company is also



committed to the development and nurturing of the future of classically oriented music. Working as development partners with the Finnish Conservatory; Gareth, Francis and their colleagues (Kai Nieminen - Warner Music composer, Kirsti Korpela - Sibelius Academy and Jarkko Tornberg - Signal to Noise Studios) have developed a unique concept in turning dreams into reality. By providing challenging and innovative work placement opportunities for advanced students of music performance, technology and management, they educate through real-life experience. It is the drive and adrenaline of the living context that manifests passion in this field of work - "At Euterpe we harness and channel this energy into a self-propagating source that we hope will set our charges well on

course towards life-long learning." "To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield," are words that ring through most students' ears at some stage during their UL experience. Be it through entering the library for diligent study or simply passing through on the way to the Plaza Café, the words of Tennyson bear effect. So perhaps the crucial message that can come from the Euterpe story is inspired by these words: Seek inside yourself to find a balance between your passion and ability, strive to develop it into something tangible and then find a way to realize it within your profession. It is finding the balance between scholarly and social activity, abstraction and reality that constitutes a true education. Dreams really do come true... follow yours...

THE BINGE QUIZ

Know your UNITS, GRAMS, LITRES and LIMITS. Take The Binge Quiz to test your level of knowledge about alcohol.

1	One pint of beer equals one "unit"	True	False
2	Women and men have the same recommended weekly limits for safe drinking	True	False
3	It takes your liver about an hour to break down a glass of beer or of wine	True	False
4	Alcohol is a stimulant	True	False
5	Binge drinking is defined as having ten or more pints in one session	True	False
6	The current legal blood alcohol level for driving in Ireland is 80 mg/100 ml.	True	False
7	In the year 2000, Ireland was last among EU countries in alcohol consumption.	True	False

ANSWERS

- FALSE: ONE UNIT = one half-pint (glass) of beer = one small glass (125 ml) of wine = one standard measure of spirits.
ONE AND A HALF UNITS = one alcopop.
THREE UNITS = A pint of strong lager (export beer).
SEVEN UNITS = one bottle of wine.
28 UNITS = one bottle of spirits.
- FALSE: The recommended safe weekly limits for women are 14 UNITS (seven pints), and 21 UNITS (ten and a half pints) for men.
Women are generally smaller than men, which concentrates alcohol in the system.
- TRUE: Your liver breaks down about one UNIT per hour. The rest builds up in your system, and contributes to making you drunk.
- FALSE: Alcohol is a depressant, mood altering drug that slows down your central nervous system, and can become addictive.
- FALSE: High-risk (binge) drinking has been defined as SEVEN UNITS for men and FIVE UNITS for women in one session.
- TRUE: Even at this level, a driver is six times more likely to have an accident. Most other European countries use the lower legal limit of 50 mg/100 ml.
- FALSE: Ireland came second after Luxembourg among EU countries in 2000, by consuming 11.1 pure litres of alcohol per capita.

Features & Opinion

Who wants to be a Class Rep?



Last year's Class Reps at the Certificate Presentation

BY GEMMA NOLAN

Hello Everyone & Welcome to the ULSU!

My name is Gemma and I am your Class Representative Development Officer... So the Summer is over and it's the dawn of a new college year and thus the madness begins again! At this moment in time I am sure that the transition to University life is a little bit overwhelming. Not to worry. As Officers of the Students' Union it is our job to make that transition an enjoyable one and to help it remain that way throughout your years in U.L. I know that this may be a daunting time for many of you but everything will fall into place very quickly.

As the Class Representative Development Officer I am here to ensure the maintenance of your Class Representative system. I hope to help you all get as much out of the Students' Union as possible and offer you support in dealing with the problems your class may encounter in the course of the year ahead. Each class is entitled to elect a representative to highlight their views or problems to the Students' Union. It is this liaison between the Class Reps' and the Students' Union that allows the Class Rep system to work effectively. The Class Representative Council consists of all of the Class Representatives and the members of the ULSU Executive Council.

If you are interested in becoming a Class Representative fill out the nomination form, which you can pick up from reception in the SU building. If unopposed you shall be deemed elected. Every class is entitled to a Class Rep but any class with more than 25 students can have two Class Reps'. If you are opposed then the Students' Union can help organise an election in your class.

By re-capping on the events of last year I would like to highlight the positive role the ULSU Class Representatives have played within Students' Union and University life on campus. In the first semester of the year the Class Representatives took part in an Administration Weekend in Ennis at the end of Week 3 where they received training and instruction for their roles for the year. All who participated enjoyed the training seminar and another training day is in the works for the coming year. Also the Anti-Fees march was a huge success and enjoyed by all who participated. Attendance at Council was

quite good and many interesting issues came to light.

One of the highlights of last year was of course the presentation of the Class Representatives Certificates of Recognition to the Class Reps from the previous year. The presentation took place on Wednesday 11th of December 2002 in Plassey House. A wine and cheese reception was held before the certificates were presented by Dr. Rodger Downer President of the University of Limerick and our own ULSU President Eoin Ó Broin. Dr Downer's presence at such a long awaited event demonstrates that the Class Representative body is finally receiving the recognition it deserves not just from the Students' Union but the University also. The parchments bare the University seal and crest and the ULSU crest and are aptly named Certificates of Recognition to portray the importance of receiving them. The weight of significance behind the presentation of these certificates goes hand in hand with a huge expectation of hard work and dedication in return from the Class Representatives. The Class Reps' must fulfil certain criteria before qualifying to be in receipt of such an honour which has a certain prestige attached to it now, as this is a joint award from both the ULSU and the University of Limerick. All in all it was an interesting year and I am looking forward to getting into the swing of things again and getting to know you guys!

Essentially the point is that the Class Representatives' have the power to make a difference. They can create and maintain a successful Students' Union that everyone can enjoy. So if you are interested in becoming a Class Representative feel free to call in to see me in the Students' Union upstairs in Room 117 or alternatively I can be contacted via email at gemma.nolan@ul.ie. I wish you all the Best of Luck in the coming year, get involved and have a bit of craic!!

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big Thank You to Marian Roche who was Secretariat for the Class Reps. Council last year and did a fantastic job. Thanks Maz, congratulations on your graduation and best of luck!

For more information go to the ULSU website: <http://www.ulsu.ul.ie>

New College year: New Premiership season

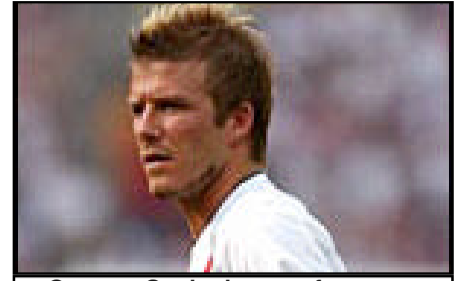
BY ANTHONY KILPATRICK

It's that glorious time of the year again: when we meet up with old friends after enduring a long summer, introduce ourselves to new lecturers, buy new and over-priced books. There's also an excuse to visit the Lodge again. But more importantly, the new season of football has arrived... Yippee I hear the girls shout.

This season promises to be the most thrilling yet in the F.A Premiership, especially as a result of the occurrences off the field during the summer. Let us begin by dealing with a certain Russian who, to all of us goes by the name of Roman Abramovic, but to the Chelsea fans, Mr. 'Chelski' is also quite sufficient. At the conclusion of last season, Chelsea sealed their place in this season's Champions League as a result of an amazing performance at Stamford Bridge against Liverpool. One word: Delighted. Coach Claudio Ranieri, with little or no resources, had pieced together a strong team who were always improving. The loss of Gianfranco Zola to Italian side Cagliari was set to pose a mammoth problem in the off-season for Ranieri however, as Zola is irreplaceable. Enter Russian oil tycoon Roman Abramovic. Chelski, as now nicknamed by the fans of the club in south London, not only bought the entire club, but has also managed to spend a total of €160 million euro on some of the world's most promising footballers. Damien Duff, Hernan Crespo, Geremi and Juan Veron to name but a few are now attempting to prove that Chelsea can be one of the major dominating forces in both domestic and European football. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger described Ranieri as "an incredibly lucky individual who has just won the lottery". I doubt Ranieri is complaining.

All of the above events at Chelsea made the summer an interesting one. Each day the sports pages would read of more and more new-signings at the club. But the real question on everyone's mind now is: - Can Chelsea obtain instant success with such an all-star squad of players? My answer: Maybe. Everyone realises that no matter how talented and gifted a group of players are, they still need time to adjust to playing together on the field. Chelsea have however proved this statement wrong to a degree with two wins and a draw at time of print. I'm certain the squad is strong enough to accomplish more than last season. But it will be interesting to see if they can dislodge Arsenal and Manchester United as the top two clubs in England.

Another drama that had us all in an emphatic sense of wonder during the summer was based around a certain wealthy individual from Manchester. David Beckham was unfairly singled out by United boss Sir Alex Ferguson and sold out by the club he has played for since a very early age. But one team's loss is another one's gain. Spanish giants Real Madrid now have the pleasure of having the English captain in their squad of superstars, and by viewing the way he has played so far this season in La Liga, it was money well spent. The Premiership will certainly not be the



Gone to Spain, but not forgotten

same without Becks, from both neutral and Manchester United perspectives.

Along with David Beckham and the above mentioned Chelsea signings, other exciting key summer transfers included Teddy Sheringham to Portsmouth, Ronaldo to Manchester United, and the majority of the Sunderland squad to any place better than the Stadium of Light. The David Beckham saga received the most media attention though, and was certainly the most exciting to watch unfold.

The title race should be one for the sceptics this year. On one side, we have both big spending Chelsea and Manchester United. Both have signed several players in the quest for Premiership glory. But on the other side we have Arsenal. Due to stadium relocation, money is scarce at the moment around North London for the Gunners. Only German international Jens Lehman was signed this summer, along with some free transfers. If Arsenal were to win back the title this year, it would prove that money cannot buy Domestic glory. Whereas if Manchester United or Chelsea were to become victorious, we might have to believe once and for all that money does buy success in football. It should be interesting to see where the trophy departs to this year.

Along with the title race, we also have the annual dog-fight for Premiership survival: and this year it promises to become quite a temperamental one. Wolves, Bolton, Leicester, Leeds, and Manchester United: any of these teams could be relegated back to the Nationwide League. And with this comes financial free-fall. Take one look at what has occurred to Derby County. After relegation two seasons ago, they now lie at the bottom of Division 1, with no money and a much depleted squad. Wolves have also begun the season in a dreadful fashion, having conceded nine goals in their opening two games. It should prove to be a long winter for Dave Jones' men at Molineux. I honestly can't see them avoiding relegation though. Bolton always seem to find themselves struggling at the conclusion of every season, regardless of having quite a talented squad of players. I'd imagine lady luck will be with them yet again this season. And as for Leeds, nobody can predict what will happen next at the most unpredictable and crazy club in Europe! It's becoming increasingly more difficult to predict the Premiership each season. And with the calibre of teams promoted from the Nationwide Division 1, both the title race and the fight for domestic survival in football shall make the college year quite an interesting one. Just remember to look at one or two lecture notes over the coming two semesters!

View

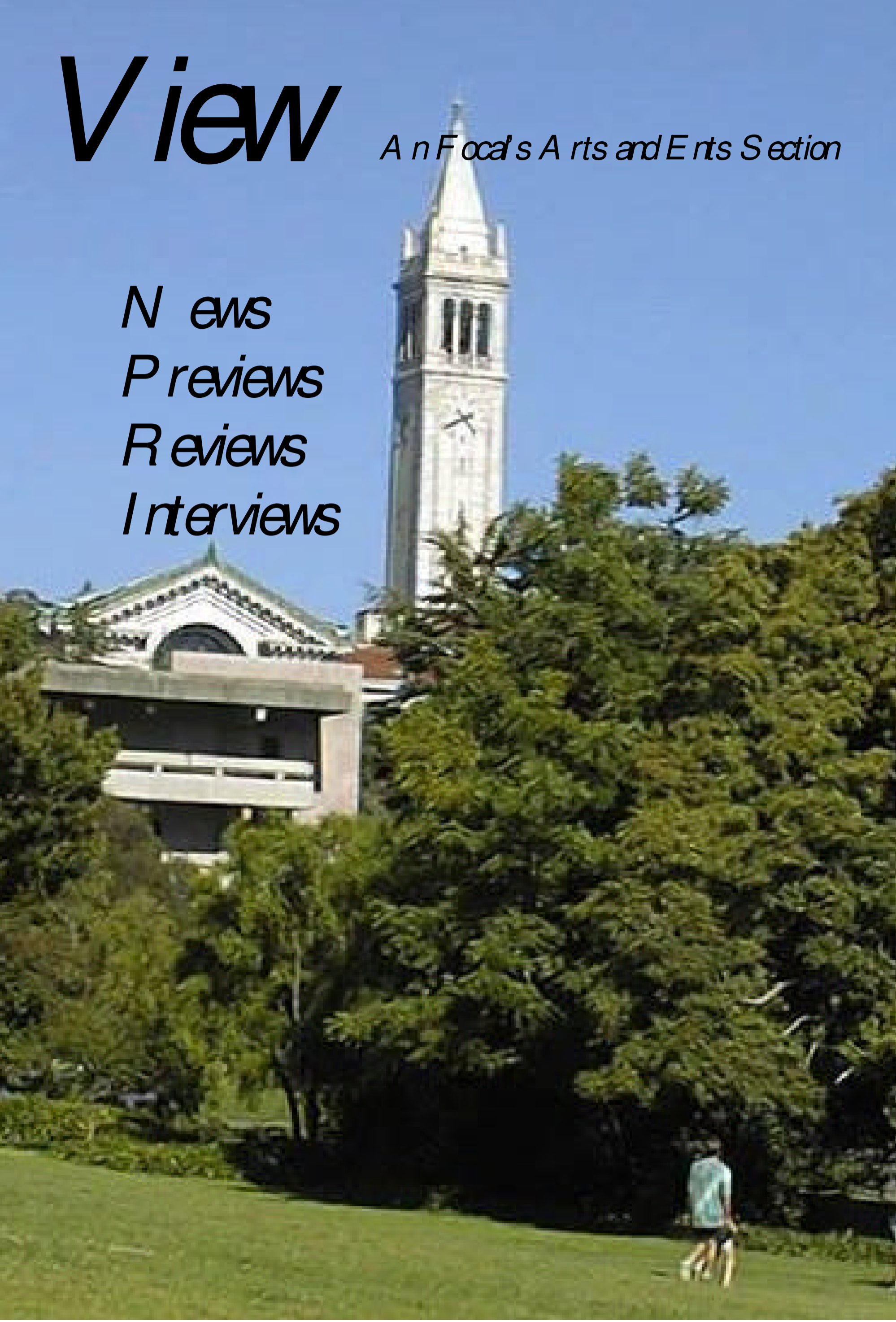
A n Foca's Arts and E rts S ection

N ews

P reviews

R eviews

I nterviews



Movie View

LARA CROFT: TOMB RAIDER - THE CRADLE OF LIFE



Two years ago, the first Tomb Raider film was hailed as the most plotless, pointless rummage around for nothing, and a waste of an hour-and-a-half. Still, with \$200 million taken from the box offices around the world, the producers decided they could wring another few coins out of the franchise. The film, like the game, seems very tired at this stage. The plot involves Angelina Jolie travelling around the world (changing costumes as many times as possible in the process) searching for Pandora's Box, before evil-doers get their filthy hands on it to use for nefarious ends. The whole thing just seems so drab and uncharismatic in any respect, with director Jan de Bont (Speed) and Jolie seemingly in career freefall.

RATING: ★★

SPY KIDS 3-D: GAME OVER



For those of you who missed the first two Spy Kids movies, it may be puzzling that the series is onto its third instalment in three years. After all, the only other series to do that is Lord Of The Rings, so how can a trilogy of films that have made less than 10% of LOTR tally be out? The answer is director Robert Rodriguez, the twisted individual who brought us Desperado and From Dusk Till Dawn. Here, the violence level is replaced by pratfalls and big cheap special effects, with Sylvester Stallone hamming it up as the bad guy. But then, EVERYONE in this film is hamming it up, from the kids to the adults, including some lovely cameos from George Clooney to Salma Hayek. You'll either take or leave these films, as they're not intended for adults really. But, leaving your brain at the door, you may find yourself enjoying SP3 despite yourself.

RATING: ★★★

CAMP

Oh dear. A musical. After all the brouhaha of Chicago winning the Best Film Oscar this year, and Moulin Rouge not winning the previous, it may seem that we may find it the resurgence of musicals tougher to bear than the current glut of sequels. In this respect, we should enjoy our time with musicals while we can. Camp does exactly what it says on



the tin; young, attractive teens going through young, attractive teen troubles with dance routines brewing up when you most expect them. The film is full of no-name actors (Sasha Allen anyone?), so you may be forgiven in thinking you may have strayed into the latest teen-horror flick at first. However, a few cruddy songs aside, the film does have heart, and you warm to it towards the end. Which is more than you can say about Chicago.

RATING: ★★★

BLACKBALL



Crud. Absolute crud. This insultingly poor excuse for comedy wastes every opportunity, and may be the worst film of the year. Paul Kaye (Dennis Pennis) plays an annoying git who loves bowls; that's right, bowls. He wants to play for England some day, but his local club won't let him play. Maybe because he's SO annoying? Anyway, he gets himself a new agent, and BAM! He becomes Britain's newest hot celeb. Y'know, the way it happens in movies; fake headlines on fake papers, a few billboards for no reason whatsoever. There have been some great pointless films, Clerks and Withnail & I to name but two. This isn't a pointless film, it has clear plot dimensions, but yet it just feels pointless. Too many talented actors crop up for this to have been such a shambolic mess. Avoid.

RATING: ★

AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING



So, four years and two movies on from the first GREAT gross-out comedy, can Jim, Stifler and the boys still get us rolling in the aisles? Sadly, not as much as the first one, but this third slice of American Pie is certainly better than the second. Thankfully, they have jettisoned all the boring characters of the previous

instalment (i.e., the girls and Chris Klein), so we aren't left with long stretches of pointless scenes. Having said that, this Pie is gentler in nature in certain areas, as befitting a film centring on the wedding of the series two most lovable characters, Jim (Jason Biggs) and Michelle (Alyson Hannigan). Don't worry though, a rambunctious stag party, and Stifler in particular, make sure your sides, while not exactly splitting, will hurt for a time. A good end for the series - fellas, please doesn't make another.

RATING: ★★★

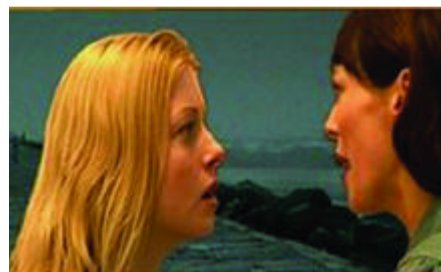
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN



Or to give its full title (deep breath), Pirates Of The Caribbean - The Curse Of The Black Pearl. Phew! That pretty much sums up the film; a rollicking great blockbuster of a film, with great fights, humour, action and Johnny Depp looking like a complete twit with eyeliner. Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley, hot young things at the moment, play the straighter roles with aplomb, more than holding their own against Depp and Geoffrey Rush, but still ending up with every scene stolen by their elders. The plot involves some gush about ghost pirates and a curse, but it's all really just an excuse for some swash to be buckles (or is it the other way around). Explosions, one-liners and high-drama come flying around every corner, until you think director Gore Verbinski has no more to throw at you. You'd be wrong.

RATING: ★★★★★

GOLDFISH MEMORY

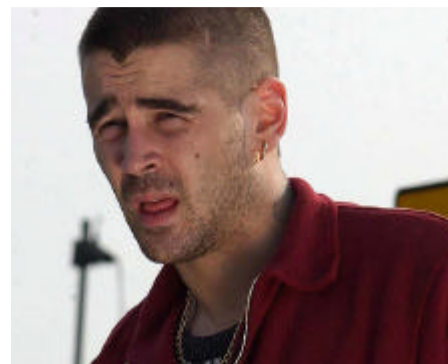


Best Irish film of the year? No mean statement for 2003, comparatively a great year for Irish film. Since it came out of nowhere to win Outfest's (the World Gay And Lesbian Film Festival) Audience Award, Liz Gill's second film has been picking up fans left and right. Following the increasing trend to make an Irish film instead of an Oirish film, Goldfish Memory is fresh, snappy and funny too. Not bad for a movie whose main characters include a lecherous University lecturer and a lesbian television reporter. What could have been caricature turn into real people that you really care about, a factor missing from most romantic comedies these days. Let's hope this marks a growing trend in Irish cinema instead of a one-off. Give Liz more money, and let's see what

she can do.

RATING: ★★★★★

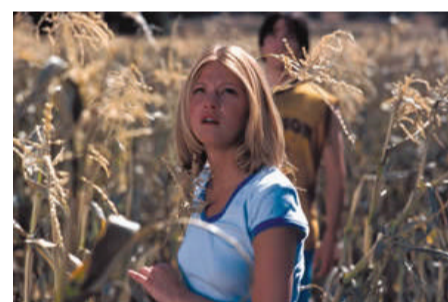
INTERMISSION



Halfway through John Crowley's flick, you may feel a little lost. With over a dozen characters thrown at you in less than an hour, you could be forgiven for thinking that this may get a little messy before the end. Thank God the boy's put together a great cast, including Colin Farrell (who else?), Colm Meaney, Cillian Murphy and Kelly Mac Donald. Funny to the point of hysteria at some points (Farrell mostly) to boring lulls at some points, this is never going to challenge PT Anderson or even Guy Ritchie for storytelling. But then, like I Went Down, that's not the point. Just sit back and let the whole thing wash over you. You may have forgotten everything short of Farrell's "I Fought The Law", but there are no hard feelings either.

RATING: ★★★★★

JEEPERS CREEPERS 2



It's getting harder and harder these days to come up with an original horror movie. For every The Ring, you have another Wrong Turn. And for every Signs, you get stuff like the original Jeepers Creepers and this, its follow-up. This time the Creeper is on his last day of feeding, and has decided (again) that his menu of choice is to be easily frightened, dumbass American teenagers. Stranding them on an abandoned stretch of road with school bus, various nobodies die with intermittent regularity. Showing none of the promise of the first hour of its predecessor, you grow gradually more uncomfortable not at the gore, but at the sheer mundanity of it all. A very poor attempt at a film that you've seen a hundred times before, except usually better done than this attempt.

RATING: ★★

LEGALLY BLONDE 2

First, a confession. I didn't like the first Legally Blonde, so I wasn't in any way looking forward to watching decent actress Reese Witherspoon wasting herself in a pointless sequel. Supposedly her "charming naivety" means that she is

Movie View



21st nu-feminism, whereas most should recognise her as the swot in class who turned out decent-looking, deeply inoffensive, but still trying to run everyone else's affairs when she should be looking after her own. Hence, agitation replaces what should be laughs, and its reverse sexism carried on from the previous film mean that less savvy moviegoers will go along with this claptrap. Don't. Reese, we've seen what you can do in Election; get yourself some decent roles. Please.

RATING: ★★

TERMINATOR3: RISE OF THE MACHINES



No Furlong. No Hamilton. Crucially, no Cameron. Arnie has only himself to blame for signing up for a third instalment. Now that he's on the campaign trail in California, and a fourth Terminator has been confirmed (with or without Arnie), the only complement to pay T3 is that it doesn't screw up too much. Picking up 10 years after T2 left off, Nick Stahl does an admirable job making John Connor the most unlikable character in the film. Claire Danes plays a woman with no charisma, tact or

warmth, so we empathise with neither him nor her. So that leaves the two terminators, Arnie and newcomer Kristanna Loken as the TX to hold up the film. They make a decent stab at it, but they're not helped by a dodgy script that has too many laughs at their expense, and some dodgy computer effects in the middle of genuinely spectacular action sequences. An OK entry in the series, but this will never be revered as a classic, unlike its' predecessors.

RATING: ★★★

VERONICA GUERIN

Plucky Irish journalist goes up against the toughest Irish criminals and gets shot dead in the process. With material like that, you can't go wrong, can you? Well, yes, you can, if you take your eye off where you aiming this film. Worryingly, the producers of the film decided they needed a story that Geurin's family approved of, so at some points the film



veers off into martyr territory. Ironically, if they'd just stuck to the facts they would have crafted a pretty cool martyr movie. The movie is not a complete failure, however. Dublin is shown is less than tourist-friendly terms; crack babies, heroin addicts, scumbag dealers the lot. Without falling into cliché, Cate Blanchett gives an affecting performance that lifts this rather crude effort of a film.

RATING: ★★★

reviews:

Movie Feature - Extreme Cinema



BY DAVE MCCRANN

This topic isn't likely to appeal many people, but then if you're reading this article it must hold some interest for you... Are we a film watching public getting fed up with the increasingly sterile, banal and tepid shite that Hollywood seems so keen to force-feed us?

We see every summer the same films been reproduced (with sequels literally), that all follow a certain pattern... i.e. ...big budget, special effects, wafer thin plotting and more advertising than could possibly be good for us! Certainly this summer was no different than every other with the likes of X2, The Matrix Reloaded, The Hulk, Terminator 3 etc all clogging up the local cinema. However, they are all repeating something we've seen a million times before only in some cases with more finesse and efficiency and in which case they can make for great popcorn entertainment. Otherwise it's just recycling what was there just to screw the viewing public for more cash.

Maybe it's for this very reason that viewers are turning their attentions abroad. In mainland Europe in the last year alone we've had the sexually shocking yet surprisingly adult The Piano Teacher and Irreversible. Both rate high on the shockometer but have different approaches to their dark subject matter. The Piano Teacher deals with

sexual repression and S & M, but in an implicit rather than explicit way, where as Irreversible is extremely upfront about a vicious rape (shocking for its single shot 9 minute long view of this) and the tragic consequences of it. Maybe we as viewers are getting fed up with Hollywood's easy answers and we are looking to be treated as adults and want responses other than the norm from characters in these unusual circumstances.

Of course extreme cinema would not be complete without the Far East showing the rest of the world how it should be done. Battle Royale (school kids dumped on an island and forced to kill each), Audition (psychological horror that'll mess with your head for days), Versus (manic, over the top action, zombie, horror flick), and Ichi The Killer (uber violent adaptation of Japanese comic, strong stomach essential) are just some of the examples of how film makers can make truly vivid pieces of cinema that stick in your mind. Admittedly some of them seem to be overtly violent and shocking just for the sake of it. But hasn't that always been a part of the medium of film? Pushing the boundaries, just to see



Scene from Ichi the Killer

how far you can go?

But, only on a small scale are foreign language films permeating the mainstream. Only Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon has really gone on beyond a cult following and achieved financial success. But I'm not advocating foreign over Hollywood, merely highlighting the fact that the movie watching public has more choice than the homogenised product Hollywood feels is fit for mass consumption.

ULartsoffice

Autumn Film Season
Venue: Jean Monnet Theatre
Time: 6:30pm

in association with ten forward



Monday 22 September 03

> SEX AND LUCIA

Director : Julio Medem
France / 2002 / 128mins

> *INSOMNIA

Director : Christopher Nolan
USA / 2002 / 118mins

Sex and Lucia begins with Lucia who, while working at a busy restaurant, receives a distressing call from her live-in boyfriend, a writer named Lorenzo. She arrives home to find a note, gets a call from the police, and assumes he's dead. She flies off to a remote Mediterranean island, a place that apparently meant a lot to Lorenzo even though he never took her there.

Meanwhile, we flash back and learn that Lorenzo spent a single romantic night on that island with a mysterious woman named Elena and has fathered a child he didn't know about until years later.

Another flashback shows the beginning of Lucia and Lorenzo's relationship: Lorenzo furiously writes and the two make love whenever possible.

When Lorenzo discovers his daughter's identity, he goes to visit her every afternoon in the park where she plays. He becomes interested in the child's sexy nanny, Belén and she gives him erotic ideas for his novel -- including a shower fantasy people will be talking about for years to come...

Jeffrey M Anderson,
San Francisco Examiner

Photo View

Welcome to UL! Here's what to expect....



Presentation of the Jason Hackett Award for Club Person of the Year



Mudwrestling during Rag Week



Escapade playing the Scholars



Clubs and Societies Training Weekend



Tang-Soo-Do Club tournament



Clubs and Societies Ball '03



Getting to know the Erasmus students in the Scholars



Students Union EGM about fees - Oct '02



Clubs and Societies Days 2002



Graduation Ball 2003 Finery



Conferrings 2003



UL Trampolining Club in action

Spot your mates in the Centre Page Photo Spread every fortnight. Email your photos (with names and captions) to sucommunication@ul.ie

Photo View

Presented
by....



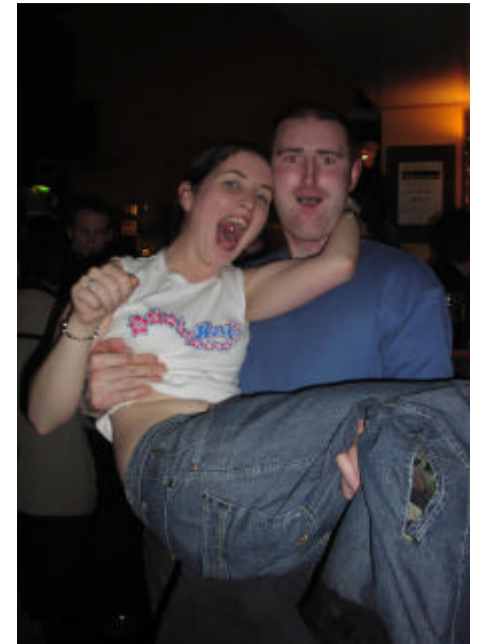
<http://photosoc.csn.ul.ie> e-mail: photo@skynet.ie



Skynet Awards - May '03



Fees protest at the opening of Dromroe



Enjoying the company in the Scholars



Christmas Daze in the Scholars



UL Kickboxing Club



Computer Society night-out

University of Limerick Students Union presents **Orientation Week and Week 1** entertainment at **The Stables Club**

ORIENTATION WEEK
Tues DJ Aidan
Wed BAND: Energy
Thu DJ Aidan
Fri DJ 'til late
Sun Closed

Orientation Week
 The Stables Club will not serve any alcohol during Orientation Week until 6pm
 Photo ID will be required at the door as proof of age
 Please co-operate with Club staff

WEEK 1 (Sept 22nd - Sept 28)
Mon DJ Aidan
Tues Karaoke Night
Wed BAND: Free Beer
Thu BAND: Lollygaggers
Fri Video Jukebox
 Pool tables Fri-Sun

Video Jukebox
 We have installed a Video Jukebox system for your entertainment
 It is regularly updated with chart music
 5 songs, only €2!

Orientation Week & Week 1 Arena Sports Club

Avoid all the hustle & bustle that comes with a return to University! Why not drop in to the Arena Sports Club, for a relaxing meal, or break. With state-of-the-art audio-visual entertainment facilities available, we are, without a doubt, the premier venue for matches and any other major sporting events.

Our entertainment programme has been revamped. Building on the success of our Open Mic sessions last year, we now hope to host some live entertainment in the Club.
 More details next issue!

Pool Table available most nights
Comprehensive food menu available daily from 9am - 7pm
 BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER
 COMPETITIONS AT www.arenasportsclub.com

Orientation Week	Week 1
Monday The Greatest Music	Monday The Greatest Music
Tuesday Trad Session - all Welcome	Tuesday Trad Session - all Welcome
Wednesday Music Night	Wednesday Music Night
Thursday Music Mix	Thursday Music Mix
Friday Music Night	Friday Music Night
Weekend Pool table available & don't forget our excellent Sunday Lunches	Weekend Pool table available & don't forget our excellent Sunday Lunches

T: (061) 332760 | E: info@arenasportsclub.com | F: (061) 339641 | W: www.arenasportsclub.com

Arts View

Singles

EVANESCENCE - GOING UNDER



"So, Amy, how do you think you'll follow up the success of 'Bring Me To Life' and your new album?"
 "Well, I think we'll forget all the great songs on the 'Fallen' album, and just release 'Going Under' as our follow-up single."

"And why's that?"

"Well, our fans will buy just about anything of ours at the moment, and I know there are worse tracks on 'Fallen', but if we save 'Going Under' for later, it may not sell as well."

"Hmmm, don't you think that's kind of exploiting your fans?"

"That's what they're there for. Anyway, we get to save oodles of dosh by filming a really cheap video live with our fans. Y'know, like Linkin Park just did."

"Right. Well, when do you plan to release 'My Immortal' and 'Everybody's Fool'?"

"When I need a new bodice."

"OK..."



RATING:

LIMP BIZKIT - EAT YOU ALIVE



So, Fred and the boys are back. Taken from their very long-delayed new album (aptly titled Results May Vary), this slice of pop nu-metal sees the Limp in slightly more reflective mood than we last saw them. Also, less posing (Durst being one of the few people who sounds like he's posing), which can only be a good. Like Metallica, it seems humility in some measure has been the order of the day, and if the rest of the album can hold up, perhaps fans will forgive the concert snubs and Britney. Either way, it seems as if catastrophe has been averted just in time.



RATING:

If you want to join our panel of previewers, interviewers and reviewers, come along to the communications group meeting, Tuesday Week 1, 5pm Room 4 in the Students Union

Theatre - Are you afraid of Virginia Woolf?



A scene from Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf

THE KEEGAN THEATRE PRESENTS

**WHO'S AFRAID
OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?**
BY EDWARD ALBEE

BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE
SEPT. 25TH, 26TH & 27TH @ 8PM

An instant classic in its honest investigation of the power and brutality of love, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? is a masterpiece of language - an acutely candid exploration of the power and peril of the illusions people use to keep themselves alive. In this dramatic tour de force a night of drinking takes one ugly turn after another, as layers of artifice are stripped away to their terrifying center.

The Keegan Theatre, an acclaimed Washington, DC-

based theatre company, returns to Ireland for its fifth consecutive year of bringing classic works of the American theatre to Irish audiences. This year, Keegan's award-winning company tours Ireland with Edward Albee's dazzling masterpiece, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

In this searing study of matrimonial anguish, Edward Albee introduces audiences to the American theatre's most memorable married couple, George and Martha, who spend a searing night of dangerous fun and games with a younger couple who innocently become their victims in the savaging of each other and of their life together. A stunning, almost unbearable, revelation provides a climactic shock of recognition at the bond and bondage of their love. In its superlative construction, in its mastery of razor-honed dialogue and emotional crescendo, and above all in its power to strip away layer after layer of social pretense to expose the naked nerve of truth, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? is one of the most riveting and unforgettable experiences of the American theatre. Vicious, funny, and wrenching, Woolf is considered by many to be Edward Albee's finest work.

Belltable are looking forward to full houses for all performance so book early if you are interested in going along!

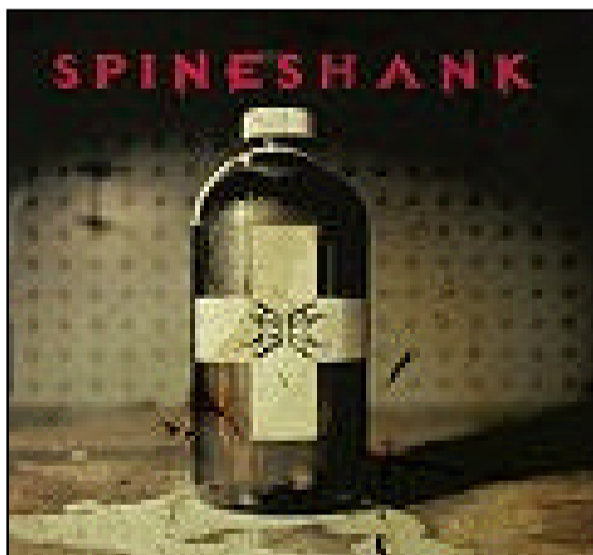
BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE, O'CONNELL ST.,
LIMERICK SEPTEMBER 25TH, 26TH & 27TH @ 8.00PM

STUDENT TICKETS €18

BOOKING: 061 319 866

Album Reviews

SPINESHANK - SELF DESTRUCTIVE PATTERN



At first glance another bunch of nu-metal chancers, but given that this is their third album they must have some sort of fan base built up through touring. Their Fear Factory influences are obvious but never overt and with a sense of melody which will probably see them win a new fan base. Songs such as "Beginning Of The End" and "Violent Mood Swings" would appear to reek of typical teen angst but given a chance these mosh pit classics in the making. This is a band that utilises the quiet verse, loud verse, screaming chorus dynamic. Anyone expecting a Linkin Park clone will be in for a shock but stick with it. A lot more hardcore and most definitely will not be heard on the radio this is a band to put your head down, fist in the air and scream. Not the best metal album of the year (that title goes to Metallica's "St Anger") but by no means the worst (that goes to Marilyn Manson's "Golden Age Of The Grotesque"). Give this a try and you'll be humming along like a bastard.

RATING:



(FOR SHEER
MOSHING) OTHERWISE



ELBOW - CAST OF THOUSANDS



Ah, those cheery lads from Manchester, Elbow, return from the success of first album 'Asleep At The Back' (nominated for the Mercury Prize, and shifting a good few copies) with possibly the best album of the year. This and 'Elephant' will be tough to beat when the years best get summed up in January. Holing themselves up in Scotland, at first listen 'Cast Of Thousands' seems more depressed than 'Asleep'. This is misleading, because although the band were weary of two years touring when they sat down to record 'Cast', they used the studio time to turn this recording into a big mishmash party of an album. Friends drop in at various points (including most of Doves) to lend a hand with songs. Some are crackers, like opener 'Ribcage', with ribs broken apart so a closer look may be taken. "All I need is you", apparently. First single off the album, 'Fallen Angel' jabs in to complete a brilliant one-two opening blow. All the lads needed was a rest, and the remainder of the album drags us through the pains of just wanting to not worry all the time. At times weird and kooky, but never dull, is this where Radiohead should have headed instead of 'Kid A'? The picture painted is an ugly one, painted with love and paranoia with equal measure, "lost in a lullaby" sums up most sentiments during the 50 minute running. In the end, you're left yearning for more, tired and giddy, all at the same time. Which is no bad thing. Also available in limited edition double-set, with an excellent DVD covering the album. A treasure that should be found by all who love music.

RATING:



The Interview

"It's my Fucking Show!" - An Interview with Phil Coulter



The set of Coulter and Company, which was shot in the University Concert Hall over the summer

BY NIALL MCGLADE

We caught up with Mr. Phil Coulter as he was recording Coulter & Company in the University Concert Hall. He had just confirmed that he was coming back for a second season of *You're A Star*, and the new show had nudged its way into the Top 10, while Mickey-Joe Harte floundered in the EuroVision. Authoritative yet affable, Phil seemed very relaxed...

How did the idea for Coulter and Company come about?

The producer of "You're A Star", asked me if I'd fancy being on the jury, and I said "I don't think so. I've seen those types of shows, and that kind of cruelty is not my style. I'm not sure I want to be on TV every week. I was a bit ambivalent about the whole thing, until I had a conversation with my kids, and they said 'Oh yeah Dad, that'd be dead cool, you gotta do that!' So "cool" and "daddy" are two words that aren't said together too often in our home, so I thought "Hey, I'd better grab this bit of credibility while I can". So, I really started to enjoy myself as I got more into the show, and my role expanded as the show went on.

You found yourself getting drawn in?

Oh, definitely. I became more involved in the selection of the finalist's songs, the commissioning of the songs, that kind of stuff. That's kind of my nature; I'm a hands-on kind of guy, and if I'm sitting watching something that's not being done properly, I'll say "That's not being done right, let me fix it". So the kids were choosing the wrong songs and shooting themselves in the foot, so I kinda volunteered to help them with that. So, on the back of that, suddenly I have a profile on TV I never had before. I knew that when ten-year-olds started following me around Tesco's, a new constituency I never had before. Then I was approached by RTE about hosting my own show, and the concept of Coulter & Company came from David Heffernan, the executive producer and me. Very much a music show, not a chat show, because the last thing the world needs is another chat show.

Well, you are now in the same timeslot as the Late Late, RTE's most successful show. Is there any pressure because of that?

Oh sure, but if you can't stand the heat, don't be in the kitchen. I don't want to do a show that's broadcast at half-eleven on a Sunday night; I want to succeed or fail spectacularly. That's the only way to do it- you can't hide yourself away and hedge your bets; you have to go out there with all guns blazing. So this was really on the deep end, a big, big undertaking. Ten shows, with an average of 4-5 guests performing each night. They're

performing two songs each, so that's 80 compositions that have to be arranged, transcribed, rehearsed, all that stuff. It's a mountain of work.

Do you find the music industry getting more like people basically just looking out for their own interests?

Well, all chat shows today are just a parade for people coming on to sell something. They'll sell a new book, a new film, there's an election coming up, they're just about to start a new tour, or whatever it might be. It's a sales pitch; it's a cynical thing, but that's what it is. Most people on this show have nothing to sell, certainly not the senior members. We don't play that game. Two rules for coming onto the show - everyone coming onto the show has to be able to perform acoustically. No miming. And secondly, no trouble, no grief. Anyone who's got a reputation for being difficult, no matter how good he is, I don't want him in the show.

So, no prima donnas allowed?

Absolutely not. We were offered a couple, mentioning no names, and I turned them down. I've worked with them, I know they're difficult, and I know they would have changed the dynamic of the show. You've probably spotted that it's very relaxed; it's very comfortable, because that's what I want. In the few lumpy bits there's been so far, where there's been any sort of tension so far, you diffuse that, rather than saying 'It's my fucking show, you'll do it my way.' I don't do that - there's ways of compromising, ways of getting round a problem. When you've been doing it as long as I have, the last thing you need is a fight.

You've worked with an array of stars over the years - Van Morrison, The Rolling Stones et al, but there have some stranger, more interesting collaborations, such as the recently late Gregory Peck...

A wonderful beautiful man, I was very sorry that he passed on. Last year BBC did an hour-long TV Christmas special from my Hometown, to celebrate my 60th birthday. Gregory Peck was in the frame to present the show, but he was too ill to travel.

How it came about, I lived in Hollywood, in Beverly Hills for a couple of years in the 70's. I worked with people like Elmer Bernstein, and met a lot of famous people there. Four years ago, I did a two nights of my one-man-show, which I called *Both Sides Now*. So we did it in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. We had James Galway, Frank Mc Court, Edna O'Brien and Gregory Peck. And Peck and the rest, they were doing readings. Gregory read from the Seamus Heaney *Ciara Troy*. "When hope and history rhyme" - wow, it was like sitting watching *Moby Dick* with HIM. He was just

endlessly gracious, and it was a privilege to occupy the same performing space as him. I said at the time, if there were a hierarchy in Hollywood, he'd be the Pope.

You've received doctorates and given lecture courses in the US. Would you ever think about giving them in Ireland?

If I had the time, I sure would, no problem. I have a doctorate from Queen's, my old university, and one from the University of Ulster, and I was visiting professor in the music section of Boston University for about 3, 4 years. Which I reluctantly gave up because of time pressures, just too many trips across the Atlantic. But I definitely enjoyed it; I enjoyed the energy of the students and the young people, who have this voracious appetite for knowledge, knowledge of music, of Irish music. Having spent 5 years in a campus situation, the first thing that occurred to me coming back here was, 'This takes me back, the sun is shining... shit, exams'. And I got this uneasy feeling, like 'Shit, I should be studying', just like a trigger. So, that whole graduate thing, I think young people with that kind of energy is great.

And you're part of the famous St. Colum's bunch...

Ah now, we're now famous, but we never thought we were going to be famous. But it is, it's quite uncanny. I'm often asked, particularly in America; St. Colum's produced two Nobel Prize winners, also produced Mr. Hume and Heaney, Brian Friel, Seamus Dean, Paul Brady, Fergal Sharkey, and numerous other academics. Was it the privileged school, the progressive school, for the rich and famous? No way. It was the only school; it was the minor seminary in Derry. If you were aspiring to third-level education, that was it. We were all beneficiaries of an education act that opened up third-level education to scholarship. Seamus Heaney would never have expected to get to college with his parents paying for it, I would never have gone to university, Hume neither, Friel, if we hadn't had the opportunity of the new scholarships. That was a turning point, which really is what produced that kind of a flowering in St. Colum's that coupled with the work ethic at St. Colum's. In those days, if you had a talent it was beaten into us, sometimes literally, you had an obligation to do something with that talent. No time for dossing - you can aspire, buy into a new lifestyle that nobody in your family has ever aspired to before. And your world would change, and maybe the world around would change.



Phil and our interviewer get all pally

Gaming View

Each fortnight we'll have a look at some new games and rate them for you. This fortnight, it's the turn of the GameCube as The Lord of Cheese puts a few of Nintendo's latest offerings through their paces

TITLE: METROID PRIME

FORMAT: GAMECUBE
 GENRE: ADVENTURE/1ST PERSON SHOOTER
 DEVELOPER: RETRO STUDIOS
 PLAYERS: 1
 PUBLISHER: NINTENDO

Metroid prime has been a long time in the making.

The Metroid games began on Nintendo's NES system many moons ago and despite the last update being for the SNES (Super Metroid) Metroid has had a place in most gamers memories, simply because it was one of the best side scrolling platformers/shooters ever.

Ingenious level design, a wide area to explore and taxing puzzles has made sure that the previous versions of metroid still rank high in today's top 100 games list Being the only major Nintendo franchise not to be released for the N64, metroid is back.

If it can live up to the pedigree of its predecessors is another matter.

The story of the game is thus: taking control of Samus Aran (no, metroid is the name of some of the enemies you face, not the hero of the game) last of the chozo, you are sworn to hunt down and explode with extreme prejudiced the evil space pirates.

Just so you know the chozo were an all powerful race that rejected the ability to defend themselves with their technology in favour of being more like the Amish. The space pirates are a group hell bent on ruling the galaxy, and the murdered Samus' family.. The nasty gits.

Anyway the game starts with Samus landing on a research facility owned by



the space pirates.

One swift battle later and the station is kaput, however Samus takes a nasty explosion in the face and loses all but the most basic functions in her battle suit. She decides to follow the space pirates to the planet below, Tallon IV, which handily enough was an old chozo colony and contains all the powerups Samus just lost, plus a whole range more besides.

All that stands between our girl and being fully accessorised is 5 areas filled with vicious space-pirates, mind altering puzzles and more angry locals than Limerick late at night.

The first thing that strikes you is Metroid primes graphics.

This game is a showpiece of what the

Gamecube can do with relative ease. The game creates rain soaked jungles and massive tundra's with consummate ease. The game is constant eye candy with tiny little effects being thrown in just to show off (for example Samus charge shot warps reality around it as it flies towards its target)

The sound is of an equal high quality, with changes in tempo indicating battle and every creature having a unique sound, and the game supports Dolby surround sound, for a completely immersive experience.

But it's the gameplay that really shines. Like Mario and Zelda before it, Nintendo have shown they are the masters of converting 2D titles into the 3D realm.

The game retains everything that made the original metroid special, and then adds some new features.

The original ideas of new areas being opened only when you have the required ability still stands but there are new ideas such as the 4 different view modes, the grapple beam for swinging across chasms and a variety of new weapons.

The game even eliminates the bane of all console first person shooters, that being the clunky control system for shooting foes, by using a lock on system that with a click of a button homes onto the nearest enemy, leaving you to manoeuvre and fire without having to worry about ending up staring at the floor.

Metroid is almost perfect, but it has a few flaws.

Firstly it may be a bit too sedate for some, the major battles are well spaced and for those who demand constant warfare Metroid prime might be too relaxed for them.

Also the lock-on system while effective 99% of the time, makes it hard to avoid charging enemies.

But these are minor gripes.

The game oozes class and polish, this is indeed a worth addition to the metroid family, and indeed to anyone's game collection, this game is probably one of the best FPS on any of the consoles, and knocks halo into a cocked hat.

RATING: ★★★★★

TITLE: LEGEND OF ZELDA: WIND WAKER

FORMAT: GAMECUBE
 GENRE: ADVENTURE
 DEVELOPER: NINTENDO
 PLAYERS: 1
 PUBLISHER: NINTENDO

After Mario, Zelda is Nintendo's best known character. Star of multiple games all the way back from the NES days, most well known of these being the SNES game Legend of Zelda: link to the past, and the N64 games Ocarina of time, and Majoras mask. The Latest instalment of the series has been clouded in controversy since the first shots of it surfaced well over a year ago.

There was uproar, people were outraged. In an age where most games are measured in how photorealistic their graphics are Nintendo had committed a cardinal sin.

They made it look like a cartoon.

I'll return to the graphics in a moment, but first just a little exposition. Wind Waker follows the adventures of a young boy from a little place called Outset Island. It is traditional upon coming of age the boys would wear the traditional dress of the legendary Hero of time. Not best pleased at being outfitted in a green tunic and foppish hat the young lad goes



about his business as best he can.

However soon enough he sees a large bird being chased by a pirate ship, as it flies over the island it drops a young girl into the forest on the top of the island.

From here things spiral out of control taking the young hero on a journey all over the world to save his sister, slay evil, sail his way across vast seas, and collect as many items as he can.

Now back to those controversial graphics. They who game has a cartoon feel about it, all the characters have a thick black outline, making them look like 2D drawings in a 3D world, the wind blows about in stylized gust and the whole world looks like it leapt straight from a illustrated folk tale.

This isn't to say that its unimpressive,

quite the opposite, its one of the most refreshing and bold graphical looks to a game in quite some time. Technically it's quite stunning as a variety of real-time lighting is employed, and the heros' facial animations make the game come alive as he twitches, squirms and when left idle will offer clues by looking in the direction of the solution to the current problem.

The sound is of equally high quality, be it sailing the sea, or navigating a monster-filled dungeon the score fits it perfectly. I promise that the sailing theme will be stuck in your head for days at a time.

The controls are beautifully intuitive, with an improved combat system making the hack-and-slash a lot more skilful than

simple button bashing, and navigating the levels is also a breeze as the analogue stick is just sensitive enough.

The Gameplay itself is solid and while not as innovative as I would have liked, it is packed full of new items and features to keep everyone happy.

However seeing as the bulk of the game involves you sailing about the sea in order to find new islands and vital treasures from the ocean floor; it's a shame that after a while such an essential piece of the game can become tedious.

No matter how packed each square of sea is with items and challenges there will come a time when a sea of blue will just seem really unappealing.

But these times are few and far between as the action is very well paced and keeps the game from lolling into a stupor. This is another piece of gaming genius from Nintendo, well paced, imaginative and oozing charm and impossible not to love, its no wonder this has been hailed as the game of the year

For those who have never played a Zelda game before this will most probably be the "best game ever" for those who have played a Zelda game before, it's merely brilliant.

RATING: ★★★★★

Live View

ulsu ents presents freshers week 2003



a quick lowdown on the high up of what's happening, where it's at and why you should be there

tuesday week 0**THE BOOTY BALL**

What? down & dirty r'n'b with colm kenefick (savoy theatre, cork)
Where? the market
How Much? tickets €8, available from SU reception

wednesday week 0**THE ROMEO & JULIET BALL**

What? get a name tag and find your partner. the rest's up to you
Where? trinity rooms
How Much? tickets €8, available from students' union reception

thursday week 01**THE FUCK SCHOOL BALL**

What? ul & mary i team up for the full on freshers ball where you can say goodbye to your old uniform whatever way you like
Where? the gallery
How Much? tickets €8, available from students' union reception

A quick run-down of some of the summer's big gigs

EMINEM.

The blonde bastard was back and he brought some friends. Eminem's first major Irish concert kicked off the summer's festivities this year. It was a two-day event and it was in the Punchestown Racecourse. The much-reviled rapper was accompanied by X-bit; Obie Trice, old school Cypress Hill, and his own crew D-12. I went up early on Thursday morning and missed the inevitable traffic and hoped to get a pit pass but some of the more fanatical fans had been queuing since the wee hours of the morning. The show was scheduled to begin at 4 in the afternoon but the crowds were kept waiting until 7:30 for the arrival of X-bit. He had a tough gig to play as the crowd was pissed off and the rain was starting to come down but it was worth the wait.

Next up was Cypress Hill. I heard a girl in front of me ask her friend who were Cypress Hill and she said that she didn't know but they were on the Simpson's once. That was a good example of what the crowd were like. Young Eminem fans. Cypress were fucking class. They were the best act there musically and the moment of the show was a toss up between bobo playing drum and bass and Rock Superstar. The crowd didn't really appreciate the old schoolness of Cypress and so the buzz wasn't as good as expected for them.

Then came the main event. The Eminem show started with comments from top U.S. Senators on how much of a bad influence Eminem is and it slowly mixed

their words to say "welcome to the Eminem show". Then the man himself appeared on the top of a ferris wheel on the stage and kicked off with "Lets get down to business". D-12 and Obie Trice joined him over the next two hours as he reeled off all his top hits but he never really said anything to the crowd that wasn't scripted. He was onstage to do a job and he did it. The crowd lapped it up and the atmosphere was amazing, I just feel he could have been better. When he left the stage the crowd were chanting for 50 cent who was supposed to be performing on the night too. We were then informed that he wasn't going to show up, boo hiss. Eminem played "Lose Yourself" as an encore and everyone went home happy.

WITNESS

The Thrills wowed at Witness

The main music event of the Irish summer was back and it was bigger than ever. It had been moved to Punchestown due to the mudbath that was Fairyhouse the year before. The location was class this year with the stages nicely separated so there was no sound seeping from other stages but things weren't too far apart. The campsites were as good as can be expected and, yes the toilets were horrible. The line-up was considered to be the worst in years with Coldplay and David Gray not being known for their attention grabbingness, favouring a more chilled out gig. Looking down the line-up though there was some interesting propositions. local favorites The Frames, The Thrills Damien Rice, Justin Robertson, The Streets, and Redneck Manifesto made sure that there was something for everyone on offer. The early part of the day was spent messing around in the fun-fair at the centre of the gig so not much music was witnessed. When I finally got my act together and

got to the Streets I found a violent angry pumped up show in full swing. Wonderful. After the Streets I ventured into the Rising Tent to see the Thrills. This was it, within five minutes everyone in the Rising tent knew that this was the gig to be in. Half the crowd was up on the other half's shoulders and just screaming back the words of the singles. The band knew it too and stayed on as long as they could and left saying that it was the best gig they had played.

SLANE

I came in halfway through Morcheeba's set. As good as it was, it didn't belong to a day full of rock sets. The first few bands should warm you up for a day of rocking, not put you to sleep. The crowd didn't like them at all and at one stage the singer, Skye, announced to the crowd "there's a girl down the front who says that we suck, what do you think?" This comment received a tremendous applause from the audience.

Feeder were really good and managed to salvage the crowd from complete boredom. They played a great set and got the crowd singing along and dancing about. They warmed up the throng and got them ready for PJ Harvey who was somehow lost on them. She played a great set and played it really well and all would have been good if it evoked a positive response from the crowd but alas this was not to be. It might as well have been Morcheeba playing up there for all they cared. Everyone agreed, however that she looked hot but it was simply not enough to keep everyone's attention.

I thought I'd sample the fine local cuisine at this point (a €5 chicken sandwich and a plastic glass of Heineken) and it did not disappoint. And then came the rockinist rock band that ever did rock, the Queens of the Stone Age. And boy did they rock even if their bassist, Nick Oliveri, remained clothed for the entirety of the set and the drummer was not Dave Grohl but Jed Clampett from the Beverly Hillbillies (or at least he looked like him.) The high point was that they played Regular John from their first album, even though I'd been reliably informed (by someone who plays in a kyuss rip-off band) that there was no way in hell they were going to play it. But they did. The set was a tad spoiled for me by the three fools in front of me who

knew one song of theirs (No-one Knows) and with each song came a chorus of "ooh, hang on... this is it... no, ok, maybe the next one..." They played a nice mix of songs from Rated R and Songs for the Deaf. And boy did the pit rock. Well, no it didn't actually. A result, no doubt, of



Chili Pepper's Anthony Kiedis

queuing since four that morning. Next on were the Foo Fighters. They played a good mix of songs from the last three albums and the crowd went mental for them. Dave Grohl was on top form and even offered to show the crowd his thong at one point. Good stuff.

It was clear from the first few bars of By the Way that all the anticipation and the silly people queuing at four in the morning was not in vain. The Chilli Peppers played a blinder and had the advantage of not being supported by New Order and taking the stage to an angry, angry crowd. I must admit they lost my attention for a while in the middle but the high points had to have been Flea starting to sing Amhrán na bhFiann and the crowd joining in and the fantastic encore: Californication, Under the Bridge (gentlemen, start your lighters) and the Power of Equality.

And then there were the fireworks. These rocked as much as the bands that preceded them. This was followed by 40,000 people singing Redemption Song whilst trying to fit through a single gate. Which was fun.

Clubs and Societies

Clubs and Societies Tips

There are 64 clubs and societies on campus at the moment. Each one of these caters for a specific interest, sport, hobby or religious or political affiliation. There are up to 4,000 students signed up as members of at least one club or society, and they are one of the most vibrant and visible sections of the campus.

There are many reasons why a student (or indeed a staff member) should join a club or society.

They provide an opportunity to acquire new skills and hobbies. They are a great way

to meet people, not only in UL but further afield. They are a great social alternative to going to the pub or sitting in and watching tv. Being a member of a club or society usually helps to keep your body and your mind healthy. Being part of, or helping to manage a successful club or society gives a great sense of accomplishment. And, on a slightly cynical note, employers are more likely to consider applicants whose CVs list varied interests.

So, now you know why you should be out there joining every club or soc that

catches your eye.

The next question is how to go about it.

This one is really quite simple.

Go along to Clubs and Societies Days in Week 1.

This will take place on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th of September in the Main Canteen. All clubs and societies will be present for both days, between 10am and 3:30pm

Clubs and Societies will be vying for your attention and your membership. Take a good look at all of the stands and decide what interests you. Join up to a few things, but

don't join everything. You don't want to stretch yourself too thin.

If you missed out on a club or soc you think you might be interested, check an Focal to see if they have regular meetings. If that doesn't turn anything up, call into the Clubs and Societies Office (upstairs in the Students' Union) and ask someone there how to get in contact with a club or society.

Whatever you do, throw yourself into it, because the more you put into something, the more you get out, as my old mother used to say.

Don't Forget

Clubs and Societies Days

Tuesday & Wednesday Wk1

Main Canteen

10am - 3:30pm

UL Environmental Society - When Nature Calls

Hello again, signing on from last semester. Fáilte rómhaibh go léir ar ais. The summer started with a bang straight after the exams in Evian, France where the G8 meeting was being held. Despite the tight security, the protesters caused quite a stir. Tear gas was used, batons were drawn, and two passionate



protestors dangled themselves at each end of a rope across the width of a motorway bridge to prevent a cavalcade from travelling to the conference. Savagely, police cut the rope. Luckily the damsel on one side was pulled up to safety. The guy at the other end wasn't so fortunate, he fell into the river below and was hurt badly. Amidst all the chaos, St. John found romance in the city of love under a bridge in Paris- I'll say no more!

St. John finished 'the Bet' package for secondary pupils and also translated it into Irish, to which he got a lovely sum of money. The Bet is an energy-saving competition between young people that are in primary/secondary schools and the Government. They challenge the Government that they can reduce carbon dioxide emissions faster than the high politicians can. The politicians agreed to reduce carbon emissions by 8% in 8 years under the Kyoto agreement while the pupils aim to do the same in eight

months. The kids achieve this by participating in energy-saving activities/schemes within their schools and homes set out in the package. See: <http://www.irishbet.org>



Then a weekend in August was the Frog Fair located in the back arse of Ballydehob near Skibbereen, Co. Cork. This fair was set up initially to raise money to preserve bog in which rare frogs have their habitats. There was a good selection of workshops including tantric sex, reggae dancing, cosmic healing, tai chi, etc., food stalls, tipis, domes, water-slide, sweat lodge- everything was included in the entrance fee except for food. I found that it was quite like Ecotopia (eco festival held every year in a different country) but there were more children at this event. Nevertheless us Environ-Mentalies paid for our keep by helping out at the Palestinian Kitchen set up by our Thurles friends Tracey and Peter (UP Tipp!). Their aim was to collect a few bobs in order to return to 'Israel' to make a documentary on the Palestinian life, ever since the occupation of the Jews and the atrocities that continue behind closed doors. Good luck to them who are still out there.

Saturday night was the night to get funky! We all dressed in funny costumes taken from the Transformation Tent. St. John bared his body in a bright yellow and orange bikini (see photo!) and the glittery silver 6-inch hooker boots matched my Mermaid outfit. We danced the night away to the rockin' band on stage. Of course the sweat lodge was a favourite to the immodest Jenny, St. John, Denis and Steven -jumping in and out of the lake starters! I on the other hand created dream-catchers out of

willow branches and coloured wool with Sammi. Near the Morning Circle was the Peace Garden in which everyone was requested to place a stone on. It was very pretty with flowers and ribbons blowing in the wind. Note: if u want a hippy, you'll definitely find one in west Cork!

During the last two weekends of August Ecotopia was born again in the remote Carpathian mountains of Ukraine. About 15 Irish people went and made up and were the biggest contingent outside of Ukrainians, Polish and Russians. The thing that struck Dom, Eoin and Nancy was the bad roads and the different architecture. It is like Ireland 50 years ago with huge flat fields of grain and old women hanging about with their cows all day on the side of the road. There were workshops on anti-nuclear, nature in the Carpathian Mountains, language classes in Russian and Ukrainian. One Eco



Anarchist Ukrainian group called The Rainbow Keepers did a workshop on their protest against an ammonia chemical plant that's built on the Sea of Azov. (U go u coloured people!) The lads helped build showers, kitchens and of course there was an American/Indian sweat lodge! What Dom enjoyed the most was the music festival in the village nearby and surely enough the Ukrainians drinks as much as we do! But they don't have the same consumer culture as us, the rural area is more traditional and Kiev has a good transport system with lots of open markets. The trio from UL said they'd definitely go back again. So next stop: Ecotopia in Holland!

Last week St. John attended DSEI, the Trade Arms Fair in London with other Gluaiseacht members. His excursion will

be posted in the next edition of An Focal.

The lads on co-op did their bit: Fiachra saved a turtle from being dinner in Mexico and Denise went to a few anti-war protests in Brussels. She also travelled to Prague for the World Bank Boycott meeting, where her mind was opened up a lot to the corruption of the organisation.

Events coming up:

- Anti-war Israel/Palestine protest- 27th September
- European Voluntary Service training, Maynooth- 8-9 Oct
- Get in SHAPE, Ghent, Belgium-Oct 25th .
- Bomb spotting action at the NATO military HQ
- Green Fair, UL-Greek Week

>Many more to come!

If you want knowledge of the globe, here's your chance to experience anti-nuclear rallies in Sellafield, feel the rush and anticipation to doing something that may be illegal but you know in your heart that it's right and the adrenaline that overcomes you when apathy is forgotten and freewill is a gift. Meet people from all over who share the same ideals and combine your energies to a good cause. Travel, experience different cultures and eat your veggies!

Save the World today!

Join Envirosoc!

Be true to yourself and no-one can hurt you.

Le Síochán,

Delia

Busy Summer for University of Limerick Football Club



Members of ULFC

The Summer is normally an Off-Season period in a soccer club's Calendar, but the decision by the FAI to start the new season in the summer has seen a very high level of activity in UL since early June.

UL/Aisling Annacotty U21

Mr. Pat Reidy was appointed manager of our U21 Southern Section team for this season. We compete in a 6 team league with Cork City (Current Champions), Cobh Ramblers, Waterford Utd., Kilkenny City and the Kerry League. This is our 3rd consecutive season competing at this level, but the 1st time the season hasn't coincided with term time in UL. As a result of this, we haven't been as strong as we were in the previous 2 seasons. However, the performance of the team has been encouraging at times and there have been many impressive performances from some of our Aisling Annacotty U18 players, who have 3 more full seasons at this level. Pat Reidy has often spoken of his desire to help these players improve and help to bridge the gap between us and the other sides in our league.

We have drawn with Kilkenny (twice) and Waterford, and we beat Cobh 3-1 at home. In all of our defeats, we have lost by only a goal and the winning goal has often come late in the games.

We continue to train every Monday and Wednesday at 7pm on the "10 Acres" and encourage all Freshers and anyone else born in 1982 or after to get involved. Anyone born in 1985 or after would also be eligible to play in the Limerick U18 League for UL/Aisling Annacotty and can declare their interest to UL Club

members at the Soccer Club Stall during Week 1.

UL/Aisling Annacotty U21 are sponsored this season by KOSTAL, based in Abbeyfeale. You can visit their website at www.kostal.com

UL/Aisling Annacotty Ladies

For the first time, UL/Aisling Annacotty entered the Limerick Ladies Football League. This competition ran for the whole summer and will conclude with the Limerick Cup Final between us and Ennis club, Lifford. We have lost twice to Lifford this season, 2-1 and 1-0, so the final will hopefully be another good game, but go in our favour for a change!!

The squad for this competition was based on current UL players, U16 girls from UL/AA and a handful of non-student members. We won 11 of our 15 matches and have been very happy with our decision to compete.

Our U16 team have had a very successful season as well. On September 14th they will challenge Raheny from Dublin in the National U16 Cup Final, taking place in Terryland Park in Galway. We were very happy to have Louise Byrnes, Natalie Heffernan, Lisa Tuohy and Rachel Clancy play in our senior ladies team this summer. The Club would like to wish the girls the best in the final. A special mention to team manager Mr. Mike Brennan for his countless hours and bottomless pit of Mobile Phone Credit.

Our U14 team will compete in the Munster U14 cup final Vs. Lifford and our U12 team won a 7-a-side

Tournament, held in UL, and will now compete in the National Finals in Galway. We would also wish both of these squads the very best in their upcoming fixtures.

Representative Honours

This summer, the World Student Games were held in Korea. UL were very fortunate to have 3 players included in the Ladies Squad. Julie Kirwan, ex of Shamrock Rovers, Valerie Mulcahy (Wilton FC) and Louise Henchy (Lifford FC) played in all of the Irish teams matches and did us proud in Korea. Val and Louise will be part of our squad for the college season this year, so we hope this experience will add an extra dimension to their game. Julie has graduated from UL and we would like to wish her much success in whatever she decides to do next.

An extra special mention for Louise and Julie as both girls won their 1st International Senior Caps this season.

Lisa Touhey and Natalie Heffernan represented Munster U16 girls in the Gaynor Interprovincial Tournament. Their team was coached by UL graduate, Trevor Lovelle. Lisa also made the Irish U17 Junior Olympic squad which competed in Paris this summer.

Coaching Standards to Improve

UL were pleased to be able to send 3 of our coaches to Kings Hospital for a Level 2/ Uefa B Coaching Course this summer. Pat Reidy (U21's) and Derry Vaughan/Eoin Killackey (Ladies Soccer) will hope to qualify at this level when their evaluation takes place next summer. Many thanks to the UL Sports Department for their support of our coaches development.

New Members

As a new college season is set to start, we would like to encourage as many new students as possible to get involved in our club! For all male students, we offer an opportunity to compete for a place in our Harding Cup Squad. All players will also be able to train at U21 and U18 level, if eligible. Members of our club will be available to answer questions and collect membership fees (€3) during Orientation week and Week 1.

We also encourage female students to get involved in our club. We have a team competing in the WSCAI Premier and 1st Division and we also compete in a 7-a-side and Indoor Tournament. Training schedules will be available shortly.

Club Contacts

There are many ways of contacting our club members. The e-mail address for our ladies is ladies_soccer@hotmail.com. General Soccer e-mails will be dealt with at 9942203@student.ul.ie.

UL Kayak Club Report

Hey there,

Yes if you're reading this your back for another year at U.L. If its your first time reading about ULKC in an focal your more than likely a fresher, so a big welcome from the FUN club in U.L to the best days of your life! To join talk to one of our members at our stand or just simply drop down to the pool, Tues, Wed or Thurs 22:00- 22:50. We've got all the equipment, know how and experience to make you into the complete peddler.

Here's some stuff that has happened since the end of the last semester ULKC have been a very busy club, with

- A club trip for 24 people to the Alps, which left shortly after the exams.
- Playing lots and lots of competition kayak polo with one second place finish.
- Far too many to count weekend and day surf

trips to beaches such as Easky, Lahinch, Doonbeg and Spanish Point. (With the result that the club is now represented at the World Surf Champs in Easky this weeks)

- July was a very wet month here and was thereby loved with our favoured river being run. (Clare Glens).

- Trips to Dungarven where the exploration of sea caves followed by kayak skiing were on the cards.

And that's just to a few of the things we got up to..... If you only join one club this while you're in college, it's got to be the Kayak Club. Find out more about the club check out our website on <http://kayak.csn.ul.ie> Enjoy your stay, Seona P.R.O



Clubs and Societies

UL 55'S - University of Limerick Softball Club



UL Softball Club members pose for the camera

Hello everyone and welcome back to UL for another fun-filled year with us the UL Softball Club (ULSBC). A very special hello to all the new guys and gals whether they be Freshers, Transfers, Mature Students or Foreign Students.

First of all I'd like to introduce the ULSBC and myself. My name is David Murphy and I am currently President of the club. I have been a member of the ULSBC since Feb 2001 and have held a committee position since Sept 2001. The club has been going strong for 15 years. We currently have a membership of 30+ and hopefully with your help that number will grow this semester.

So what is Softball?

Well first and foremost don't let the name fool you the ball is not soft, quite the opposite in fact!! The game itself is played on a field roughly the same size as a soccer field; it's just stretched to a different shape. Softball was conceived in North America by people who were tired of the competitiveness of Baseball (Hardball) and wanted to play the game for fun. It has since developed into a sport played by all ages, at all levels at whatever level of competition you are interested in. We play slow-pitch co-ed softball, that's right guys and girls playing together on the same field at the same time. Teams comprise of 10 starters with 2 substitutes, of these 12 players the minimum number of female players is 5. In fact softball is the only sport in Ireland where male and female must play together even

at senior level. This makes it more fun to play and a great way to meet people.

Although a minority sport in UL we have had some success in the very recent past. We are the current holders of both Intervarsity Cup and Intervarsity Plate titles, which we won here on the pitches of the



David Murphy collecting some silverware

University of Limerick last April. Even though the club is primarily based on campus and plays from September to May we recently entered and finished joint 7th in the Irish Open Softball Trophy, which is an international senior softball tournament hosted by UL last month comprising of 25 teams from both Ireland and England.

When do we play?

During semester 1 we play every Wednesday and Friday from 2pm - 4pm on the Astro turf pitch beside Kilmurry Village. If the weather is okay we might get a few days on the grass pitches before they turn to mud. For semester 2 we play the same days at the same time on the grass pitches.

What do you need to play?

The University of Limerick Softball Club has everything you need to learn and play the game, from balls right down to bases. We have for the first time a dedicated coach for the club, Adrian Crowe, with 3 qualified Umpires to back him up and to assist in teaching you all how to play softball.

We would advise all new members of the club to wear tracksuit legs and runners for playing on the Astro turf. The club is happy to accept all levels of players to join, whether they are novice or expert.

Our aims for 2003 - 2004.

This year the club hopes to grow and develop using our success in both the Intervarsity and IOST. It has yet to be confirmed but our national body to which we are affiliated the Irish Softball Association (ISA) has told us of the World Softball Intervarsity Tournament which is to be held for the first time ever takes place in June/July '04 in Florida. Therefore we want to put UL's strongest ever Softball team together to retain our Intervarsity title and go on to represent both UL and Ireland in this event.

Its up to you.

All you need to do is come to the main canteen on either Tuesday or Wednesday of week 1, 23rd & 24th September and sign up. If you can't make it then just show up at practice at the time and place shown above and we can sign you up then.

Our first Practice.

Wednesday 24th September @ 2pm on the Astro turf. See you all there!!!

Contact:

9942599@student.ul.ie / dipum55@hotmail.com
Visit our website at: www.csn.ul.ie/~softball

"Out in UL" - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Society

Hi one and all welcome home or just welcome, Here are the results from the gay jury...

The pope is a tosser, that's right, the infallible anal retainer has made our lives even more troublesome this summer by deciding to offend the whole gay community and declaring war on "gay kind", that was all very informative until we heard the usual crap of being deviant and unholy and all the rot.



Jesus would you not think that he was over his homophobia by now, well obviously not. Anyway onto something a bit more interesting, men and women (works for me), college the home of obscenity and filth (yippee! I hear you say) well yes the campus life does lend itself to many pretty little things but not all the wonders of the world are contained, shame. To all the newcomers this is definitely the fittest campus on the shores but for all the queens and co sorry not the best campus for gay students. Well that's where I come in; I'm the person in charge of giving UL a good kicking. It starts with weekly meetings, fortnightly videos (not porn, really I swear), monthly outings to other third level colleges and lots more. Oh yeah, I hope the freshers enjoyed the gay guides in the fresher packs but if you missed it no panic they will be out monthly also so as to keep people up to speed on the activities on campus.

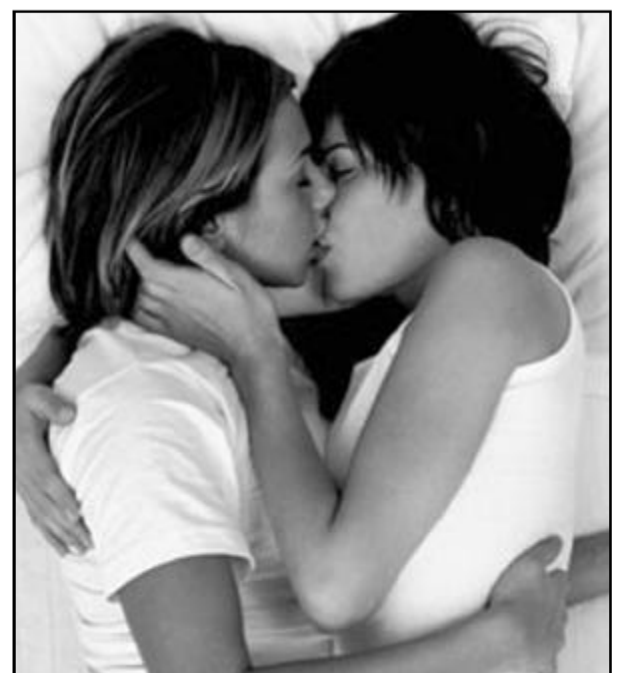
The summer has been busy, lots of stuff in the media over same sex partnership rights. I even ended up on Limerick Radio giving guff to the press about the rubbish government as well as the archaic church statements.

As for all the usual stuff, hope the summer was great well at least entertaining. I hope you're glad to be back or just glad to be. Hope all exams went well and looking forward to a new year and a good one for being queer. Hoping this year sees the lesbians making a step forward on the campus and getting involved. Remember there is no shame in being gay, just shame in

getting caught with your trousers down. (Especially if it's the folks.)

Keep in touch all you crazy loco scholars.

Yours in mischief
Patrick McHugh,
President of "Out in UL".



Clubs and Societies

G.Soc: Summer of the Monkey

Like an oil-tanker with a drunken captain, the good ship G~Soc ploughed into the summer with good intentions and very little idea of how to actually stop ourselves.

The result was slightly less explosive than ramming an oil-tanker into an iceberg, but only slightly.

Want to know what we did, read on...

Dragons are our friends... right?

Conclave:

This well respect Convention has been running for years in Limerick but a rise in popularity meant that this event was brought to UL with the help of G~Soc and The Gathering.

Taking place over 3 days over 300 people descended on EG0-06 for a Myriad of Role-playing games, including the creation of an official WhiteWolf vampire group in Limerick, and many unique scenarios.



Gamers in action at Conclave

Fans of turn-based war games were well catered for with the constant Warhammer and Warhammer 40K games, as well as the new lord of the five rings war game.



I bet Hannibal's mum didn't help him

Card games took centre stage as a massive Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament was run, along with smaller Magic: The Gathering and Star Trek CCG games.

This convention drew crowds from the UK and beyond with several well respected Men In Black from Steve Jackson games showing off many new card and board games to legions of new and old players.

Hopefully Conclave will become an annual event in UL and will continue to grow.

We'd just like to thank Gary Jackson and everyone in The Gathering for their support and expertise, as well as everyone who attended.

Holy Binary numbers batman! G~Soc Summer LAN party

A few weeks after Conclave G~Soc were at it again, with the 3rd LAN party we've held in UL.

Unlike previous LANs this was an intentionally small affair, with 12 hardcore gamers turning up for some intense Shooting action while the rest of the world marvelled in the wondrous summer we were having.

Anyway far away from the realities of the world the attendees of the Summer LAN battled it out for dominance.

From the epic and ever popular Battle Field 1942, where the Axis team rewrote history and thrashed the allies in a manner that would have Churchill spinning in his grave, to the manic free-

weekend was about was pure fun, and there was that by the bucket load.

We'd also like to thank Building and Security who were very accommodating and reasonable. Thanks lads.

The future:

Anyone who wants to get involved in G~Soc activities, from Role playing games, to LAN parties to paintballing just e-mail us at ulgsoc@skynet.ie or visit www.gsoc.net

Until next time remember:

"I like my women like I like my coffee... in a plastic cup"

The Lord of Cheese



LAN Gamers battle sleep, hunger and each other for no particular reason

for-all that was Unreal Tournament where only the most brutal warriors lasted long enough to ask "who's cleaning this mess up", all that this

Young Fine Gael



Young Fine Gael is the ONLY Irish youth political movement which is completely independent of it's Senior party. So, put quite simply, it's is the ONLY Irish youth political movement worth joining! YFG is one of the largest student societies in UL. It has been in existence in the University since 1983, and in it's 20-year existence ULYFG has long been recognised as one of the most active, progressive, and outgoing societies in UL. We've highlighted injustices, challenged stereotypes, tackled apathy, and caught the attention of those in the corridors of power on more than occasion ! We attract a large contingent of members and non-members alike to our events, often numbering up to 100 people attending on a regular basis

The 2002/03 year was, without doubt, one of the society's most successful years to date. ULYFG was nominated for the Students' Union's Society of the Year Award - the first time that a political society was nominated for the award..... EVER! We helped to spearhead the campaign against the re-introduction of Third Level Fees, along with Fine Gael's Education Spokesperson Olwyn Enright TD, who visited UL last October. In November, the President of Young Fine Gael, Gerry

O'Connell, visited UL and spoke on the future of YFG nationally. Also, many of us travelled to the YFG Conference in the Burlington Hotel in Dublin, and met up with the guest of honour and founder of YFG, former Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald. ULYFG's new ideas, positive attitude (and extremely casual dress-sense!!) made for an unforgettable weekend.

In December, we held our annual "Get Registered to Vote" Day, where we helped over 200 people to sign on to vote, no matter what their political allegiances were. The week before Christmas, 15 brave souls (or is it crackpots...?!!) took part in our 24hr Sleepout in Limerick City, which raised 3,345 Euro for charities working with the Homeless in Limerick.

In Semester 2, we travelled to Dáil Éireann to meet with FG Leader Enda Kenny. We also had seminars and discussions on various topics of the



YFG's 24-hour sleepout

moment such as Youth Involvement in



Young Fine Gael's trip to Dáil Éireann.

Politics; the impact of EU Enlargement on Irish Agriculture; and Overseas Development Aid to name but a few - and often filled the venues where they were held. We had a trip to Brussels over St. Patrick's weekend, and visited the European Parliament, NATO HQ, and the Convention on the Future of Europe. We also held two fundraising Table Quizzes, and packed out the Scholars Function Room both times !

This is just a flavour of what to expect when you join UL Young Fine Gael, and we have loads more in the pipeline for the coming year!! So, are you passionate about politics? Do the stuffy old shirts in Fianna Fáil, the smoked-salmon socialists in Labour, and

the other peace-loving hippies and bearded lefties in the Socialist Party really make your skin crawl?? Or you just looking to meet really great people and have some mighty Craic ?? Then Young Fine Gael is the place for you. So why not join us at our stand in the canteen on Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 1. Come on.....Join The Party !!!!

ulyfg@hotmail.com
<http://finegael.csn.ul.ie>

Letters

Is something getting your goat? Has someone rained on your parade? Is there something about the last issue of An Focal that you cannot let pass without comment? Or are you just trying to be funny to impress your friends? Never fear! An Focal's Letters Page is here. Vent your spleen here on whatever topic you like. Just e-mail your letters to sucommunication@ul.ie

And to cap it all off...

Dear Madam,

As a recent graduate of this University of Limerick, I would like to raise an issue which has given me food for thought, and a feeling of having to make mountains out of molehills to get my point across. My quibble with the graduating ceremonies is fairly small, with a square bit on top, decorated with a tassel. That's right, I'm talking about the hat. We've all seen those teen films with the graduation bit at the end, where everyone in the class takes off their hat and throws it in the air. I know it's a tradition, and it all looks very fine and fancy, but it's rotten at its heart.

The wearing of mortarboards was originally introduced to symbolise the fact that women (once they were finally allowed to enter university) were not permitted to become professors, or even to progress beyond a primary degree. Thankfully this has changed, but the fact remains that in UL, female graduates are expected to wear the hat, and males may not, even though several have told me that they'd love to wear it. I'd love to have worn mine too, but as I may wish to become a professor later in life, I didn't feel that it would be appropriate, and I wished to make a silent protest on the issue.

Before you think that I'm a big militant feminist and that the hat is a meaningless tradition that should just be left as a part of the pomp and ceremony surrounding graduation, hear me out... I will admit to being a feminist, but I'm definitely not a militant one, and I think that the graduation ceremony is enhanced by the wearing of the hats. But why not change the tradition so that everyone, both male and female is expected to wear the hat. US universities do it, many Irish Institutes of Technology do it. I call on UL to leave behind sexist overtones and gender stereotyping of all kinds, even the symbolic stuff. Let the boys wear the hats too!

Yours,
Sorcha Ni Riain

Academic accolades take precedence over Welfare

Madam,

Academic life is a lonely one. Quickly in First Year you realise that the academic structures that are supposed to support you, just don't. Your Advisor doesn't care, that's if you get to meet them in the first place. The lecturer who you respect and admire from class doesn't really want to help you and always has something more important to do. The fact is that often people in academic life have notions about their own importance. This, mixed with a lack of self confidence in many academics leads to a perceived condescending and impatient attitude which can be detrimental to the learning environment of their students. I was at a loss to discover the reason for this until recently. For most academics the most important thing is not helping students but finishing their research briefs so they can be published in the next journal and be noticed and applauded among their peers. Every bit of their energy is not devoted to new innovative ways of helping their students to learn but to finishing some vanity project which will boost their academic ego and their pay packet. This leads to the situation where your average lecturer who is supposed to be aiding the student in their learning will only have office hours of about one hour a week. This is not nearly enough for someone to help their students become accustomed to the radically new learning environment that University provides.

It is my belief that lecturers cannot be both effective lecturers and researchers. Those who lecture must devote their full time towards the vital learning of their students, if they do not, it will always take second place to the demands of research.

Name with Editor

ULSU Communications Group

The communications group has been set up this year and is for everyone who is interesting in publishing, broadcasting and the media. It is run under the steerage of the Communications and Campaigns Officer.

Anyone is welcome to become a member of the group. The first meeting of the Communications Group will take place on Tuesday of Week 1 in Room 4 of the Students' Union at 5pm

We are looking for people who are interested in Writing, Editing, Broadcasting, Researching, Collating, Co-ordinating, Photographing, Reporting, Interviewing, Reviewing, Marketing, Designing, Analysing, Updating, Speaking, Listening, Reading, Ranting, Drawing, Joking, Thinking, Proof-Reading, Printing.....Anything!

If you are even mildly interested, come along to the meeting and check us out!

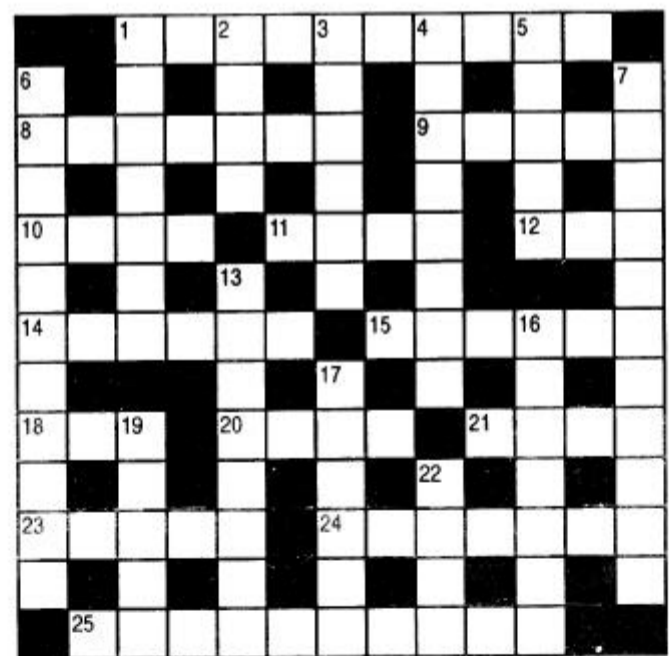
And no, you don't have to be in the Communications Group to write for the newspaper or get into broadcasting. It might help though.

Don't forget!

Tuesday Week 1, 5pm
Room 4 Students' Union Building

If you can't make it at this time, email sucommunication@ul.ie

An Focal Crossword #1



No. 167

ACROSS

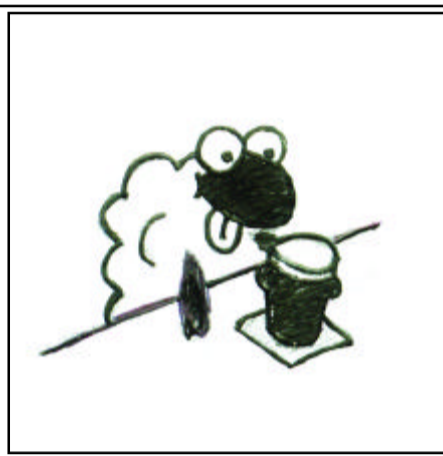
1. Apply sketches to story (10)
8. Sulphuric acid (7)
9. Profound quality (5)
10. Step on ladder (4)
11. Confine in a small area (4)
12. Low-bred dog (3)
14. Illogical (6)
15. Architectural style (6)
18. Child's word for stomach (abbr.) (3)
20. Keep clear of (4)
21. Zone (4)
23. Time being (5)
24. Becoming impervious (7)
25. Equivalent (10)

DOWN

1. Means (7)
2. Produced (an egg) (4)
3. Not often (6)
4. Place in new positions (8)
5. Subject (5)
6. Eternal (11)
7. Be dishonest with (5-6)
13. Dig for gold (8)
16. Woman's name (Harman) (7)
17. Practice of wearing no clothes (6)
19. Madness (5)
22. Hindu religious teacher (4)

Back Inside

Cartoon Time



An Bainisteoir



It has been a long and hard summer for An Bainisteoir. The junior 'C' lads came close to taking the championship title but with the final coming the day after the wedding of full forward, Johnny "Five Bellies" McCormack, there was no way any of the lads were going to be in any fit state to give the lads from Ballinspittle a game of it.

In the end, the game had to be abandoned because of the amount of vomit on the pitch, but Ballinspittle were given the title, when the referee found out we were playing ten bangers. It was a pity that the game fell on the day it did, as Johnny was playing the football of his life. Of course he had to lose five stone to be able to fit into his wedding suit, and we had the benefit of a much leaner and fitter Johnny.

We won't see much more footballing action out of him now, as the wife will be fattening him up. Her father's a butcher down the road in Rathveigh, and the rumour is that Johnny only married her for all the free meat he'd get. You wouldn't put it past ole Johnny. He once sucked the udder of a cow, when one of the lads told him there was alcohol in the cow's system. Sure his father was the same as him-divil for the sauce.

But that's enough of the summer. An Bainisteoir is back among the UL student population once again and would firstly like to issue a heartfelt welcome to all the new first years around the place. O'Mahoney's will be delighted, because they'll be all in buying books that cost a damn sight more than a decent prostitute.

It's also good news for the Lodge, which'll be packed out every night, even though it's officially the dirtiest nightclub in Ireland. It'll also mean good news for the Stables and Scholars. The influx of innocent first years buying pints galore will make up for the cute whores in the other years, who'll be sneaking in cans and naggins of vodka. First years take note that these will be feckers sitting in the corners, looking dodgier than a scumbag from Dublin on a day trip down to Limerick for some fighting.

An Bainisteoir is also delighted to see so many new faces around the college. It will give all those lads in fourth year, who've never had a woman before a chance to sexually express themselves publicly for the first time. Don't be surprised to see them queuing up outside the Lodge at half eight in the evening. The reality for them is that if they don't get a woman in the first two weeks of college this year, they won't get one at all this year because they'll be study bound for the next eight months. An Bainisteoir wishes these lads all the best as they try to boost their quantity of cleavage accumulated, or QCA for short, to make up for slacking off in second and third year.

For first years meanwhile, talk of QCA is meaningless to them, as the slate will be well and truly wiped clean at the end of the year. Don't be surprised to see first year males going for the first thing they see, that's in any way female, in the Lodge over the course of this year. Neither the quantity nor the quality of their QCA will be remembered in second year, so make sure not to go to the Lodge sober or you may feel compelled to ring the zoo and report a few animals that have escaped!!

Slogan Competition

Compose a slogan that signifies Healthy Living and you could win one of 3 great prizes.

1st Prize:

One Semester Membership of the Arena (worth €80 and valid for either first or second semester) courtesy of the Arena

2nd Prize:

Cash Prize to the value of €65 Courtesy of the Health Promoting Colleges Initiative

3rd Prize:

O'Mahoney's Gift Token (value €50) Courtesy of O'Mahoney's Bookshop

What do you have to do?

Simply come up with a catchy slogan that evokes the following: Healthy Living, Responsible use of alcohol and a balanced approach to University life.

The slogan must be between ten and twenty words long.

Email your entries to: sucommunication@ul.ie with 'Slogan' in the subject line.

Please include your name, mobile number and ID number.

Closing date for entries is Thursday September 25th

Rules

Only one entry per person.

Competition is open to all students of UL.

Winners will be notified by phone.

The Judges' decision is final.

What's the competition in aid of?

The winning slogan will be used to spearhead a Healthy Living Campaign on campus, and to assist in sourcing an alternative to alcohol sponsorship for clubs and societies.

ULSU is very grateful to the companies and initiatives who have sponsored the prizes for the competition

Sabbatical Reports

PRESIDENT - EOIN

A Chairde dhí,

Welcome back and Welcome new! The Indian summer we have had reflects the year we are going to have. Action packed and innovative!

Optional sentence:

Sure you just have to look at this latest incarnation of An Focal to know that the way its going to be!



Since July the four of us have been busy visiting the city of Manchester to see how the 4 Students Unions there work, doing sabbatical training with a management consultant in the tranquil setting of Glenstal Abbey, attending USI sabbat training seminars where we met the Students' Unions from around the county, having numerous meetings of LASU to make the city better for the 18,000 students and doing some rearranging of the rooms and furniture in the Student Union building.

On the campaign front its all quiet for the moment. Once again thanks to all of you who protested, petitioned and wrote letters against the fees last year. Isn't it a relief not to have any increase in fees! We have breathing space on this issue for the coming months until Minister Dempsey (if he is still in a job) attempts to increase fees again. In the mean time we will be working on bus & cycle lanes, better library facilities, improved Student Services such as medical centre, counselling and the infamous Student Services itself.

On the services front our priorities are to consolidate the Unions business interests which are the two shops, the graphics dept, the job placement agency and ents. The scale of the current Students' Union operation in these areas in terms of numbers of people employed and the outlay made mean that all four have to pay for themselves and provide a good service. Enough said and enough of this.

Lets continue these discussions face to face!

Slán,
Eoin

DEPUTY/WELFARE - DAVID



NAME: David Garrahy

POSITION: Welfare Officer

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?: Well, I deal with the more personal issues - those that impact on the well-being of students. It means that I am there for students who want to talk or sort out issues such as finance, accommodation, sexual health/pregnancy, discrimination and many more besides. It also means that I will run campaigns during the year to inform people about these issues.

RIGHT SO I AM SUPPOSED TO GO TO YOU IF I HAVE ANYTHING BOTHERING ME?:

I know it can be hard talking to someone about your problems sometimes, but I am always here to listen, and as with everyone in the Students' Union, I am on your side. I also understand that it's sometimes the small niggling issues that bother people most so even if it's just to chat, please call in!

JUST TO TALK?: Yeah, I can only know what's going with students if you can feel that it's ok to call in and talk. I can tell you a bit about what the SU does and you can tell me how you are feeling, if you like. I am in my office usually, and have the door open.

SO WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO BESIDES "TALKING"?: Well my job is also to fight on behalf of the students both within the University and outside. If your grant isn't coming through, are having problems with your landlord or if you are being excluded because of your sexuality, disability or whatever, I can help you and fight your corner.

SO YOU "TALK" AND "FIGHT" - ANYTHING ELSE MR. SUPERMAN?:

That's about the size of it. If there is anyone out there who needs to talk about anything, I can listen, solve or refer you to where it can be solved. I am here, in the Students' Union most days, from about 10 to 5 and if I am not, it will say on the door when I'll be there. Talk soon!!

David Garrahy,
Welfare Officer/Deputy President,

EDUCATION - MADELINE

Cead Mile Failte! Welcome to YOUR first experience or return to the UL. All I can say is IT IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT! So live it up people! Although in saying that, with the hectic social life, there comes a hectic study life. But every cloud has a silver lining, in that it's through going to class and being around college that you meet people and get to know the crowd, including some really sound people and some of the best mates you'll ever meet.



My name is Madeline, your elected Education Officer for the coming year. What do I do all day?

Well it's my job to look after your educational interests and needs. I do this by sitting on approximately a billion committees JOKE! No, but I do sit on a lot of committees and represent you and your views. How do I know what you think? Well there is 3 basic elements involved. A) by working with your class representative, who you as a class elect and they then bring your views to Class Reps Council and to me. B) by speaking with you individually, some problems you experience will be personal, some may be minor, some major but all are important. C) by meeting you around our fantastically bright and cheery campus!

If I'm not in my office which is in the ground floor of the Students Union Building

- 1) 1) Leave a note under my door (old methods are best)
- 2) 2) Leave a message with the girls at reception
- 3) 3) Email me on Madeline.molyneaux@ul.ie / sueducation@ul.ie
- 4) 4) Phone me on 061-203491 or reception at 061-202324

Any problems you have call into us here in the Students Union. Remember we are your elected representatives. We are here to voice your opinions. We don't have all the answers and sometimes things will go wrong, but we are here for you and will help you to the best of our ability. Looking forward to seeing you all around even in the rain! Your job is to enjoy your 4 years here and our job is to make that as easy as possible for you!

Behave SCHMEERS!!!
Take it easy and take care
Madeline

COMMS & CAMPAIGNS - SARAH



Well, boys and girls, now that I've seen what it's really like, I'll never complain about the odd misplaced apostrophe in a newspaper ever again. Anyway, it's ten to two on Saturday morning, and I'm setting a precedent for a long, challenging, brilliant year.

I'm your Communications and Campaigns Officer for the coming year and you're currently holding what many people consider the most important part of my job.

Yup, i'm the editor, typesetter, layer-outer, general organiser and occasional contributor to this wonderful piece of fortnightly literature. It's a pretty big job, even for a fine strapping young one like myself, so if you feel like contributing in any which way, be it constructive abuse (eh, i mean criticism), letters, articles, photos, editing, ANYTHING, drop into my office or give me a buzz or an email. I've made up a new rule you see. You're only allowed to bitch about the newspaper if you intend to do something about it. As you have hopefully seen, i've made a few switches and adjustments to the layout and content from last year... hopefully some improvements too. Comments or questions are always welcome.

In other news, there's more to my job than just An Focal. I'm responsible for the co-ordination of Union Campaigns, publication and dissemination of Union literature (including the Diary and other bits and bobs) and general Communications both within and without UL.

Before you ask;

- Yes, it's a full time job (sometimes it feels like about three),
- Yes, I do get paid to do it
- No, I don't have to study at the same time
- Yes, you're paying my salary (so MAKE USE OF ME)
- and No, you're not paying me too much!

Anyway, if you're interested in being part of the Communications group (which will be dealing with the newspaper as well as with Broadcasting and the Website) come along to the meeting in Week 1 and get involved. If you need to talk to me, ask for me in the Students' Union, or mail sucommunication@ul.ie

End of Transmission