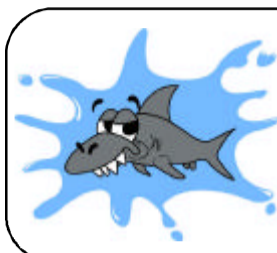




New Club on
 Campus
 News p 4



Friday Night
 Chat Show
 Reviews
 View p 18



Clubs and
 Societies
 Reports
 p20



One of the zombies which have been seen on UL campus lately. Zombies, rumours and strange threats seem to indicate an interesting Hallowe'en

What's News?

Student Teacher Officer	p2
Collection donated to UL Library	p2
10k Walk	p3
Spam Email	p6
Interview with Dave O'Donovan	p7
Movie Reviews	p10
GW3 Preview	p17
Letters Page	p26
Sabbatical Reports	p28



Decisions to be made by Students

ULSU are constitutionally obliged to hold an AGM not later than the seventh week of semester one. While the time and date are yet to be announced, the AGM will happen in week 7. The Annual General Meeting is the place where Union Policy is made and is the second most important body in the Union (second only to a referendum). It is where average students can state their views and opinions on issues that matter to them. All members of the Union have voting rights at the meeting. There must be at least 200 students present at the meeting for any decisions to be made, otherwise matters may only be discussed and no votes can be taken. The agenda for the meeting has yet to be ratified by Class Reps Council, but it must contain the following

- (i) Minutes
- (ii) Matters Arising
- (iii) Officers Briefings
- (iv) Motions and Proposals
- (v) Any Other Business

A total of eight motions have been submitted by students. They are as follows:

1 Alcohol Policy

That the Students' Union no longer endorse or comply with the University's Alcohol Policy

2 Car Parking

To mandate the Students' Union to lobby

Plassey Campus Centre to remove the Pay Barrier in the Pay Car Park and to make it free to students.

3 Re-Open Nominations

In the case of all ULSU Executive elections, the option of "Re-Open Nominations" will be included on all ballot papers for the positions of voting executive members (excepting those of Clubs Officer and Societies Officer). If a simple majority of voters choose to Re-Open Nominations for a particular position, then the election procedure for that position will be run again within 2 weeks, without the option of "Re-Open Nominations" on the ballot papers.

4 Student Parent Officer

To create the position of Student Parent Officer, who shall represent the interests of Student Parents on Campus"

5 Security On Campus

This Union Resolves

- To obtain and ensure better security on campus and on surrounding estates as to protect all students and their estates.

- To improve lighting and to review relevant funding of students' while on campus and its distribution for security on campus.

- That the University has to be recognise accountability in relation to this issue and has to address this matter with appreciation of the grievous nature of campus awareness.

- That the Union will ensure by any means possible that this issue does not remain unresolved and ignored.

6 Library Opening Hours

This Union Resolves To support and obey the wishes of the student populace in obtaining extended opening hours and the introduction of Sunday opening in the Glucksman Library

7 Entrances to Housing Estates

This Union Notes the efforts of some Residents Associations to block student entrance points to the University from some of the surrounding Housing Estates This Union considers that these entrance points are vital for the safety, security and access of students This Union urges that the Students' Union resists any effort to block these entrance points.

8 Auditors

Considering the Financial Difficulties of the Students' Union

Noting the prior experience of Pat Carroll and Company in relation to the operation of a Students' Union Noting the reputation of Pat Carroll and Company and its experience within the business world. This Union resolves that Pat Carroll and Company, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors be appointed as External Auditors for the Students' Union for this and subsequent Union Financial Years.

News

Class Reps Galway Admin Weekend

BY LIAM QUINN

The Class Reps Administration Weekend was most certainly a success, with loads of work and a lot more play! The aim of this weekend was for all Class Reps to get to know one another (which certain people did very well!!), and to train for their newly appointed positions.

Having arrived at Galway, following a quick snack'n'chat, we got straight down to business-"ice-breakers". The purpose of these games was for everybody to get to know each other. I assure everybody this was a vital part of training, as everybody played with Bunny, although we're still not sure whose hunch he actually stayed in for the night.

Following our introduction, we were forced out on the town by Dympna Nolan (2nd year Science Education). She led the whole way around Galway for the night, which led to my conclusion-"that girl does get around!" It was definitely a great night enjoyed by all including the rocks of our lives, "The Sabbaticals". Our night ended in the 5-star hotel-"Supermacs", I'm certain everybody enjoyed their "slap-up" meal!

Next morning, it was Rise and Shine for some of our more enthusiastic campers, who were up at 8.15am and traipsed down to the Saturday morning market to buy olives and fancy cheeses and the like. The more seasoned campaigners took a little more time to get going, but everyone managed to make their way out of the hostel and headed towards the University. By 11 O'clock, we were down to business in NUIG. This involved all the reps expressing their opinions and ideas for the year. We were also informed about what is expected from us during

the year, and how we could make the most of our positions! There were presentations on how the Union works, the procedures in Class Reps Council, and on Public Speaking.

David Garrahy also gave tips on how to deal with issues which may crop up for a Class Rep. These included everything from dealing with prickly lecturers to reassuring people who were pregnant. Then we just had time for a quick tour of NUIG Students' Union before getting the bus back to Limerick. Thanks a million to Gemma for organising a great weekend, and to Paddy and all the Exec at NUIG who were very accommodating.

It is vital that everybody is aware that what you say to your Rep will not be broadcasted publicly but rather treated with all the confidentiality it deserves. If you have any problems or anxieties feel free to talk with your Class Rep its what we are here for! Remember, your Class Rep is representing you, your opinions and your ideas in The Students' Union, voice your opinions to us and we will be more than happy to help. Likewise if you experience a problem with a lecturer or assignments, etc, come to us and we shall liaise with your lecturers to correct the issue in question.

Make sure you know your Class Reps name and feel free to e-mail him/her at any time. Remember, we cannot do anything for you, if you don't let us know how you feel. Finally, I encourage all classes with no Class Representatives to get one now. Come and talk to Gemma in the Students' Union, nominate yourself, if your class has no Rep, your voices will not be heard!

Student Teacher Officer Elected

BY ALAN HIGGINS

First year Science Education Student, William "Gerard" Dineen, was elected Student-Teacher Officer. The elections again saw turnout similar to that of Equality Officer elections.

Gerard gained 236 votes out of a total turnout of 393 (21 votes were spoilt) and Aoife Conway, 1st Year Material Science link-in, gained 136 votes. Speaking of her obvious disappointment, Aoife said, "I'm obviously disappointed of not getting the position. I felt confident after the days of campaigning, that William Dineen is just as capable and enthusiastic about the position as I would have been and I wish him the best of luck." The electoral victor meanwhile spoke of his delight with the result, "I'm happy with the result, we (Aoife and I) campaigned hard and the team around me put in a great effort, especially Eoin O'Rielly and Liam Quinn."

After only beginning office for over a week, Gerard has recognised a number of areas that he hopes to deal with during the year, "After speaking to members of the Exec, I have become aware that there is a lot of change in the College of Education. This gives me an opportunity

to get evolved and change things for the better." Gerard is also aware of the issues surrounding a Teacher Resource Centre and payment for Teacher Practice, which students have brought to his attention.

Madeline Molyeaux, Students' Union Education Officer and key figure that will work with the new Student-Teacher Officer, welcomed the interest generated around the election, "It is good to see such interest in the position of Student Teacher Officer. In UL it is essential that the Colleges of Education and Science have additional representation to work on problems such as payment for Student Teachers. It is my hope that this year a Student Teacher forum will be put in place representing the voice of all Student-Teachers." Remarking on the candidates' campaigns and working with Gerard, Madeline continued, "Congratulations to both candidates, Aoife Conway and Gerard Dineen, on a fair and well fought election race. I look forward working with Gerard, to combat problems that Student Teachers currently face."

The new Student-Teacher Officer is now looking forward to the futures with Gerard concluding, "I hope I have a successful year and wish to thank the students who voted for me."

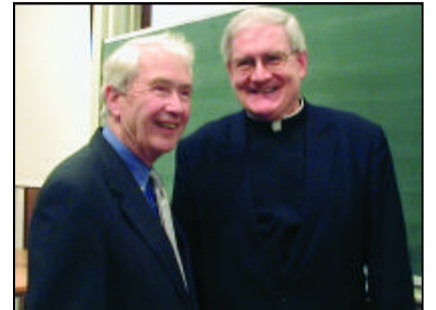
Frank McCourt donates Limerick Books to UL Library

BY SARAH RYAN

A new collection of over 4,000 items, which has been called the definitive collection of Limerick books, has recently been bought for the UL Glucksman Library by Frank McCourt. The collection was put together by Father John Leonard, a priest from Limerick, over thirty-three years, and bought by McCourt in memory of his mother, Angela.

The collection is comprised of books about Limerick and the surrounding area, books that are set in Limerick, and books that were written by Limerick people, printed in Limerick, or just of Limerick interest. There are also many historical journals as well as maps and prints of Limerick its surrounding areas. The collection was unveiled in the University Library on Wednesday October 22nd. John Lancaster, Director of the Library, Roger Downer, President of the University and George Cunningham, Vice-Chair of Governing Authority were joined by Fr. John Leonard and Frank McCourt in the Jean Monnet Theatre as they spoke about how excited the University was to receive the collection and thanked Frank McCourt for his generosity.

Fr. Leonard spoke about his life-long passion for books which developed into an obsession and from there into a collection which is so broad and diverse that it could not be duplicated. He spoke of the scholarly works and rare editions as well as the five Mills and Boon books, written by a Limerick author, which found their way into the collection. Fr. Leonard will advise UL Librarians on further acquisitions over the next few



Frank McCourt and Fr. John Leonard

years. As about one quarter of the items in the collection were added in the last two years, it is to be hoped that Fr. Leonard will not give up his passion in a hurry.

Author Frank McCourt, whose works feature prominently in the collection, was full of praise for Fr. Leonard, calling him 'a madman' and a 'raging bibliophile'. Both of these terms were obviously meant with the fullest respect and affection, as McCourt spoke of his own love of books. He also spoke of how proud his mother would have been of both his acquisition of the Leonard Collection for UL, and of the University itself, which he described as welcoming and involved with the community. McCourt also said that he hopes to continue to add to the collection in the coming years.

The assembled guests, academics, and a smattering of students then made their way over to the Library to witness the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Angela McCourt. The plaque is positioned beside the entrance to the Special Collections area of the library, on the top floor. Students wishing to view the Collections should ask at the information desk.

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AllSorts

Each fortnight, we're going to get the views of a student who isn't your average run-of-the-mill, Irish, straight of out secondary school student. This fortnight, meet Madge!

Students come in all shapes and sizes, and from a variety of backgrounds. I'm a woman in my late forties with a grown up family. I don't look like your average undergraduate! I am one of the many students who attend evening lectures at U.L., and who rarely gets the chance to wander around campus during the day, or to join in on the many social activities of college life.

I am in my second year of a four-year degree course, attending lectures three nights a week. There are about 20 people in my class, some of whom drive over 50 miles each way to attend lectures. Most of us have full time jobs during the day too. No free fees for us - most of us pay full fees. We are not entitled to maintenance grants either.

When I first walked around campus I felt intimidated and out of my depth, just like many other regular students feel like in first year. I was a little lost - me, who had raised a family and survived to tell the tale! I couldn't believe it! I was walking around wondering if I'd made a huge mistake - and I hadn't even moved away from home! No-one was going to support me in the way that I'd supported my children through college - no-one to go home to at the weekend to serve up the Sunday roast or to slip a crisp legal tender note into my bag, or a few tins that they just happened to have too many of! I felt very much alone.

So why do it? My son jokingly remarked recently that he was going to have a T-shirt printed with the slogan "I just love to study" emblazoned on it! That's partly true, but there's more to it.

I missed out on third-level education mainly because I came from a working class background and I am female - women of my age and class generally did not get to go to university. We were expected to get married, have children and stay at home. Now that a lot of that has changed, women are gaining more access to third-level education.

Over the next few months I will be talking to other students at U.L. who are outside the student stereotype. I hope it will help to integrate us even more and we can certainly learn from each other.

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News

UCD students ban Coca-Cola

BY JENNIFER SMITH

On Wednesday October 15, the students of UCD voted to boycott Coca-Cola from their Student's Centre and the Union-run shop once the current stocks have run out. This move follows the allegations that Coca-Cola was indirectly responsible for nine deaths over thirteen years in their bottling plants in Columbia. And although Coca-Cola were removed from the suit by an American judge, UCD students have followed the lead of trade unions around the world in boycotting the international company.

In UCD's Student Centre and the Student's Union shop, supplies of Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Lilt, Sprite and Fanta will continue to be sold until their supplies run out. In two on-campus cafeterias and a nearby vending machine, Coca-Cola products will continue to be sold even after the boycott is in effect. SIPTU is against the ban, due to their concerns about jobs at Irish bottling plants.

The boycott was passed by only fifty-nine votes. Three thousand, two hundred students voted, out of a student population of seventeen thousand. Although the No 'freedom of choice' campaign was expected to win, the Yes

UCD VOTE TO BAN COKE:



vote took the referendum with this slim difference. This was, in part, due to the fact that the No campaigners went home at 7 pm, with the ballots still open until ten o'clock, giving the Yes campaign three vital hours to catch their win. Coca-Cola is attempting to call for a second ballot, and for good reason. Ten years ago, the students of UCD voted to 'temporarily' ban Nestlé products from the college and the ban is still in effect, with no end in sight. So the remains of their Coca-Cola stock may well go the way of the Yorkies and KitKats, and be the last of the company's products to grace the Student's Union for a long time to come.

Holy PingPong Balls, Batman, It's the Table Tennis Club!

BY KEITH WHELAN

Whether you call it gossima, flim-flam or ping-pong, table-tennis will always be known as the unifier of the two great super-powers of China and the U.S.A.

The afore-mentioned are all names to what we refer to as table tennis (we are simple folk after all!) Time Magazine called the table tennis show-off between the super powers in 1971 as "the ping heard around the world". Now another super-power has entered the equation, with more of "pong" than a "ping" but with time comes a great return of serve. What am I getting at?

The Table Tennis Club in U.L. has been announced as a new club in U.L. this semester with Tim Mackey as president. He is a graduate of Computer Systems but his love of the game has made him come back and help get this club off its feet.

"While it's more popular on the continent and a lot of foreign students play the sports, we have the perfect environment here, with the sports facilities, to facilitate the growth of the sport and the club along with it", he said.

While it may have an image problem and the only time any of us get to see it, is as we are flicking the channels and Eurosport comes up and two Asian guys are playing at the speed of sound, Tim says it is a highly competitive sport and if played actively is a physically demanding sport. "I played rugby and after a training session of both sports,



you'd feel just as tired from either". He went on to say that it traditionally held the image of a sport for geeky guys and that of the 22 members they have, only one is a girl, nothing could be further from the truth.

"If you have played tennis or squash before you would fit right in but, even if not, with the help of resident coach, Paul Lynch, you would achieve a good standard with in three months", Tim said. At the moment the club has eight table-tennis tables and 10 more on order through the U.L. Arena. They meet every Monday and Thursday nights at the sprint track in the arena. "My ambition for the club is to make it a social place and hopefully get it involved in inter-varsity and to get the club established and organise some internal competitions. Obviously we will handicap the good players...may even have to tie one hand behind their back!", he said laughing.

It's five euro to join and you can check them out at www.ul TTC.net

10K Charity Walk - November 13th

BY DAVID GARRAHY

It's just a couple of weeks now to the Students 10K Walk. The Walk, which happens each year in all third-level colleges, is to help the children of various institutions and orphanages in Belarus, which were affected by the Chernobyl disaster. For some of the children affected, due to their disabilities and lack of funding, they have been unable to go outside or even sometimes outside their own beds for their whole lives. Doing the 10K and raising money for this very deserving cause will make a difference.

Seosamh h'Eachterin, a first year in UL, has visited the area on three occasions and describes the difference that the 10K can make.

Seosamh Ó h'Eachterin is ainm dom! I'm studying Irish Studies here in UL and having the time of my life. I recently got involved in the Students' 10K Walk, for the Orphans of Belarus. I'm writing about my previous experience in Belarus just to give all readers a personal view of what life there is like. I have travelled to Belarus for the last three summers. You might ask what brought me there. Well, a neighbour of mine for whom I used to babysit asked me. She was involved and reckoned that I was the right material for such a visit. I myself was unsure. I felt that I was not cut out for such work. To be very honest there was a slight element of fear in working with physically and mentally disabled children, however I agreed to go in the end, to Chernobyl. My friends wondered what's this nutter doing going to Chernobyl, and to be honest I thought the same.

The first summer, that of 2000 was to change my whole outlook on life and changed me as a person, an individual. The day I walked in to the Novinki Orphanage on the outskirts of Minsk I was hit with something - how poor some people actually are. It was tough in the beginning but each day as we visited the children we became closer and closer. "Falling in love," sounds a bit silly but that's the only way to describe it. In all my life I don't think I'll ever felt or will ever feel the affection that was shown to me in Belarus.

To be held as if you were a child's mother is a bit strange. To be squeezed tight and kissed a big dirty slobbery wet one from a child with a smile so big that it goes beyond his/her ears. These smiles are ones that I created by just being there. And they lasted every minute I spent



there. I was told before I went over that all I needed was a "big heart and open arms". Whether the child be blind, deaf or have every limb twisted in his/her young body, once you had a smile you knew that the child was happy.

Before I went over I didn't have any real interest in "doing good" in this world. I was your typical guy, life revolving around girls and drink. Talk about being blind. The difference that I alone made is incredible. Whatever I gave to those kids out there, I got returned a hundred times over. It has been the most worthwhile thing that I have ever done. I noticed that when I returned, my complaining stopped. I was almost ashamed about moaning that I didn't have enough money for some ridiculous clothes or complaining about food or having to get up for college or school. But in reality none of these things matter, we have it very easy. There are some people who have nothing, not only do they not have anybody to moan to but they aren't even capable of doing it themselves.

By summer of 2002 the Novinki orphanage was looking swell. It was nicknamed the "Disneyland of Belarus". Thanks to a lot of hard work the Belarussian Orphanage Project turned a nightmare into a dream. Today each child's need is catered for in Novinki and most of it's Departments - the way it should be. But unfortunately for every one Novinki, there are too many other institutions that remain the same - under resourced and without the basics to care for these kids, who though not even born at the time of the disaster are still living out the effects of the worst nuclear accident of all time.

The people I met and worked with over there are the closest friends that I've got today. So when I say it changed my life, it was in more ways than one. For me, it cost nothing to do what I did but for the kids it meant millions.

I reckon I should leave it at that. But just to let you know that it doesn't cost much to make a difference. If you can support the 10K in any way please please help. And cheers for the read.



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Features & Opinion

Ryanair now fly Dublin - Havana

BY MIKEY STAFFORD

'Not all unions are good, and, in fact, many of them are just plain lousy.' Not my words, and not the words of Charlie McCreevy, Donald Rumsfeld or any other right-wing figure you'd credit with such rhetoric. No, that is the opinion of Michael Moore, the most prevalent left-wing voice in the United State. With the success of his recent endeavours such as "Bowling For Columbine" and "Stupid White Men" he has catapulted himself to the position of leading Socialist muse, beating off stiff competition from Joe Higgins. So what does that say, when such a dedicated lefty lambasts trade unions in his new book "Dude, Where's my Country?"

In Ireland we don't have a problem with trade unions, we simply have a problem with dealing with our trade unions. By we, I mean our beloved leader and all round good guy, Teflon (Not so much) Bertie. An Taoiseach's dealings with the unions on a myriad of occasions have ended in the same manner, namely Bertie grabbing his ankles. Ahern's relationship with the unions is reminiscent of the relationship which my classmates and I had with our second-year history teacher. He had the power, we knew he had the power but we also knew well that we

could get away with murder. His problem (therefore Ahern's problem) was that he was too worried about us not liking him. The result was a role reversal; we had the power along with a pathetic aptitude for second-year history and a shiny new teacher in third-year. Beware Bertie, he who forgets my second-year history teacher is doomed to repeat his mistakes.

This week has once again brought the issue of our Premier's ineptitude in the sphere of industrial relations to the fore. In saying that it wasn't so much brought to the fore as flown there in an efficient yet uncomfortable way by Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary. He branded the Taoiseach as "spineless" and "incompetent" in his dealings with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in relation to the proposed second terminal at Dublin Airport. Of course, let's keep things in perspective; Michael O'Leary is hardly a neutral observer when it comes to the issue of a second terminal at the capital's airport. His airline has promised to open thirty new routes to mainland Europe if and when the terminal is built. Furthermore, Ryanair's working conditions were not inspired by "Das Kapital". O'Leary's recent appearance on the ego-massaging that is

"The Dunphy Show" portrayed a man who is not ashamed of his wealth or the sometimes ruthless way in which it was attained. As Bill Gate's told Homer, "I didn't get rich by writing a lot of cheques."

Michael O'Leary's obvious capitalist leanings aside, he has a point vis-à-vis Ahern's approach to the matter of a second-terminal. The Minister for Transport, Seamus Brennan is behind the building of the second terminal and the airport privatisation that is required to make it happen. However, Ahern's procrastination would imply that he is more concerned with keeping the unions on side throughout the process than actually getting it done. Obviously the support of the unions is preferable and indeed advisable with a proposal of this magnitude, but once they begin behaving (and being treated) as the fourth wing of the government, then we have a problem. The building of a second terminal is part of the government's wider plan to attract more foreign investment to Ireland; increased privatisation, tax incentives and quite possibly child-labour are also being dangled in the faces of multinational companies in an effort to entice them to our shores. In comparison, union aspirations are a little different, to

put it mildly.

Few would dismiss the importance of the unions; they provide an invaluable service to their members. However, that is what they are, a service provider; their members pay their dues and the union fights their corner. Is it not obvious then that organisations with such narrow, self-serving and opinionated mandates are not suited to governing a country? I'm not implying for a second that that is the objective of any Irish trade unions, but has anyone told Mr. Ahern?

Consider the benchmarking process, wages within the public sector were found to be considerably less than their contemporaries in the private sector. The expensive and exhaustive process arrived at a figure of 9%; that was the percentage increase which civil servants across the board were to receive, unless they'd won a pay increase in the recent past like the Gardaí or nurses. Ahern and Co. were so concerned about industrial relations that the process was given precedence and rushed through the legislature. In other words industrial relations had become a political act. More than ever before, the unions can see the fear they instil in the Taoiseach. Oh well, if the pressure gets too much for him he could always have a go at teaching junior-cert history.

Spam and UL

BY JOHN PEARSON

Guitar lessons. Books for sale. Lost bags. Lost phones. Lost harmonicas(?). Lifts from Clomel to Limerick. Books wanted. Want to live in College Court? (I suppose someone has to...). Spanish Lessons. Spanish Nights. Life Saving. Piano Lessons. Pilates courses. More rooms to let. TVs for sale. Reduced Rent. Lost Keys.

No, i don't want to live with you. No, really. I don't care if it's got free TV. I couldn't give a rat's ass about "funkyhousesoulelectro." No, i'm not going to vote for you, especially if you clog up my inbox with spam. House Music on thursday night? Well, you have my sympathy, but i think i'll pass...

I get lots of email. It's a great way of communicating, you can speak to people all over the world for free, and generally keep in contact with people you'd otherwise never hear from. With that freedom, as i'm sure most people are aware, comes people who crawl out from under their rocks to offer you the chance to help out a Nigerian dictator.

Spam is a way of life for nearly everyone who uses email. It's a pain in the rear end, but unfortunately something that's very hard to avoid. You fail to read the small print and tick the box at the bottom of a registration page, and suddenly you're being offered a mortgage for every day of your life. It's something you come to expect, and spend a certain amount of time dealing with, even though you shouldn't have to. What you don't expect however, is to receive such electronic diarrhoea internally, from other students when you use UL's email system.

In the last month, I have received 36 spam messages. As i'm writing this, another is being shat into my inbox. I can

tell this because i use dialup internet access, and it takes at least a minute longer to download these, with their huge 'To:' fields, than for nearly any other mail i get sent. All of them were sent internally, through the University's email system, and no doubt making use of the internal address book.

I replied to one of the first ones i received, after i started collecting them to find out just how much abuse the system was getting. I pointed out to the person, admittedly not in the nicest language, that sending spam is a breach of the university regs. The sender responded, taking umbrage at my labelling them a 'moron'. Well sunshine, i got news for ya. Given the words that i wanted to use, you got off real lightly, believe me.

Using the email system to send spam is not a good idea. To me, it makes me much less likely to attend any event, or to vote for a candidate, than i would otherwise. Even our esteemed leader is not without blame on this one. During last year's SU Presidential Election campaign, one of his supporters sent out a blanket email in support of his campaign. Well, now i knew who to vote for, anyway... I should make clear at this point that there was nothing within the email to show whether Mr O'Broin was personally aware of it's existence himself, it could have been perpetrated without his knowledge.

Aside from the potential to actually turn people against your cause when you send spam, it is actually forbidden by ITD's own usage regulations. From ITD's online regulations, section 7 - "The unauthorised creation and exchange of advertisements, solicitations, chain letters, viruses and other unsolicited E-mail [is prohibited]." "Individuals in breach of this policy are subject to the University of Limerick's

disciplinary and/or criminal procedures." Just over a month ago, i emailed ITD's service desk, asking them what their policy on spam and it's prevention was. I suggested they clarify their position to their users by making a clear statement on their policy with regard to this issue. I have not had any reply.

So, what is to be done to curb these problems? The entity which has the most power in these matters, and i believe the duty to deal with them, is the Information Technology Division. Spam is prohibited by them anyway, and if they were to effectively enforce the rules, then it wouldn't be a problem. I have made some suggestions below, however the issue needs to be considered further by all involved.

To ITD; You have the power to make the most difference here. Enforce your own rules. Provide a method by which users can report spam messages to you easily, like a specific address they can forward the message to. Take action against those persons who do abuse the system, perhaps with a warning and a fortnight's suspension of email usage the first time. I would imagine that if you were to indefinitely suspend the account of the sender the second time that they sent such a message, and warn them of it the first time that it happened, these occurrences would cease quite quickly.

My other question to you, is whether it is really necessary for all users to have access to the university's address book? I have never once accessed it, and i fail to see why most people would. Indeed, if you haven't given someone your address personally, then you probably don't want them to have it anyway. If you were to restrict it to members of staff, or even to those people who specifically request

access to it (and provide an explanation as to why this is the case), then the means by which these emails can circulate so widely and so easily would be largely removed at a stroke.

To those who send such mail at the moment; Be a little more original. If you have an event to advertise, you can put a notice up on the boards outside the Stables or in the SU. You can run around dressed in a chicken suit, and abseil off the CSIS for all i care. If you've lost an item, go and ask at the SU. Perhaps the union would consider setting up an electronic bulletin board system to do the same thing, for those who prefer not to use paper. But don't send me rubbish which is only gonna make me hate you, and which i'm then going to delete.

And to those who receive such emails; don't just delete them. If you don't like being sent such things, reply to the sender, telling them (as politely and rationally as you can) why you don't want to receive such things. Perhaps send an email to ITD, asking them about their spam policy and why such things are possible. Then you can delete them. Your alternative is to move them all to a separate folder, and see for yourself just how much rubbish builds up in there.

Additionally, don't do what they ask. If someone advertises a "funkyhousesoulelectro" night, even if its on behalf of their friends "who needed a break" via such methods, boycott it. Perhaps the sender will get the message, and be a little more original next time. Spam is a problem which is prolific throughout the internet, but at least in this more localised case, we can pro-actively do something to actually curb it's deployment, and not just filter it out.

Graduates Done Good - Interview with Dave O'Donovan

Every fortnight we talk to a graduate of UL who is doing something a little bit different with their lives. This week, Denis O'Gorman stayed on campus to talk to 'The Ents Guy', Dave O'Donovan.

Full Name for the record;

David Joseph Daniel O'Donovan.

Does anyone ever call you that?

No...my ma sometimes.

Favourite band?

The Frames.

What course did you take in UL?

I did Secondary Science Education and I did a Post-Grad in Education after that.

So why aren't you a teacher?

I like it and enjoyed it but it was just, while I was in college, I started running gigs and enjoyed that too. I was always kind of into music and promoting music I liked that wasn't really being heard. So, as I finished college, there were things I wanted to do with music and I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to do them, and be able to make some sort of a living out of it.

Do you find your time outside of college was more beneficial then your education?

No, it's not even that, it's like, I enjoyed the course I did, I was into it and I liked the psychology behind it. It was just that what I did outside of college suited me more then what I did in college. I don't know if it was more beneficial yet because this time next year I could be teaching a class, depending on how everything continues to work out.

What was your favourite part of college life?

The people I met and the people I lived with and hung out with.

What was your least favourite?

Dealing with the Educational Department on teaching practice and dealing with student services.

How cool is your job?

It's not as cool as you think! It's great I love it, I wouldn't be doing it otherwise but there's an awful lot of work in it. As I do it more and get better at it and start taking on bigger things obviously then the workload gets bigger. The coolest thing is that I get to do what I'm really interested in, but I'm doing the ents job, running a magazine, running a bar, and doing lots of other gigs outside of all that, so it's a great job, but a tough job. And it's also being run through my own business, so there's always pressure to stay afloat.

Do you think it's stressful?

Everyone else seems to think it's stressful. It can be stressful but the only thing that really causes me stress is dealing with people not doing their jobs properly, which makes your job harder. At the end of the day, whatever goes wrong is fixable and you're not working

at your best when you're stressed, so you just have to keep your head and get the work done.

How often do you go to gigs?

Not as much as I'd like too.

Do you feel that's a downside of your work?

Definitely and when you go to a gig that you've nothing to do with organising or running, you end up looking at it from a promoters point of view.

How do you feel about the recent changes in nightclub laws?

This has always been a bit of a bee in my bonnet. I'm twenty-six years old, I work hard, I pay my taxes, I don't break the law. I don't like some shower of ***** telling me to be home by two o' clock on a Saturday night, purely on the basis of a knee-jerk reaction to a Prime-Time documentary in an effort to look good and get themselves elected again next time around. I haven't travelled a lot, I haven't done the year in Australia thing, but I've been to the States a good bit, I've been to Barcelona, I've been to Holland, France, Thailand and as a nation, I think we have a tendency more than others to go and get pissed, and that's the only reason for going out. So there is an element of responsibility that we have to take. But from a government point of view, I don't think the best way to deal with that is to tell people to go home to bed. I think the people making decisions for us lack an understanding of the things they're making decisions about. I hope it'll show in the next election but who do you vote for, they're all the same.

Why don't you set up your own party?

My mates and I have thought about that and talked about it before, running in local elections in our ripped jeans and messy hair, to make a point more than anything else, that we're not being represented or taken seriously. But that would mean giving up what we do, cause running for election is a big undertaking, and I'm not willing to give up what I do. And I think it'll take a lot more than a couple of scruffy kids shouting about what's going on to defeat the arrogance of the people in the Dail.

What are your thoughts on the music scene in Limerick?

If you go to Cork, Dublin or Galway there's an underground, there's a real alternative. If there's a DJ or band and they do the work, they'll get a crowd. But Limerick is different, there are not many people in Limerick into



Who would have thought that Science Teachers were this popular?

that. I find Dublin, Cork and Galway a lot more open with a lot more variety and a lot more options. Limerick is very much commercial music and that's it, except for a few pockets of people doing something different.

Do you feel what you do is important?

Important's a big word, a little bit close to cockiness. The reason I started running gigs five years ago with a little techno club in the old Student Centre and an acoustic singer songwriter night in the Stable's on a Monday is because they weren't there and it's the music I was into and it was the same in town. I couldn't get into a club in town cause I didn't wear a shirt, so I started my own, with lots of help, and there were other people in the same boat who came along. So, it's important to me, and maybe to the people who come to the gigs, but I wouldn't say it's important in the grand scheme of things. At the end of the day, it's a party, which I suppose is always important to the people at it. I think the Event Guide's important, because it's highlighting people and gigs that don't get any serious coverage in the Leader or the Post or on 95FM. That's why I started it, because there was a lot happening that was being ignored but had a place.

Thoughts on the black and white wall?

I don't know enough about it but I actually don't think it's a bad idea. I thought it was going to look awful but I actually don't think it looks too bad. I do think there are other things the money could be spent better on though.

Any advice for students?

Get involved; if I hadn't got involved in anything I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing

now, and wouldn't have met the people I met along the way. And buy a CD by a girl called Amy Winehouse called 'Frank'!

Thoughts on Student Union?

(Long Pause.) I spent a year as communications and education officer. I worked hard. We achieved some stuff, and we didn't get to do other stuff, but, like everyone elected to the Union, we did our best. Now what I do for them is a part-time contract so the only time I pay attention to SU politics is when it affects me and the job I'm trying to do. Otherwise I try and keep my head out of it because it's not my place. That's the most diplomatic answer I can give!

Work for the future?

I want to do a weekend festival in the city with two shows in King John's Castle as the main gigs. There's also a big show I'd like to do in Kollege Week on the Thursday night. I'd like to close off the Student Centre area and basically have an access all areas festival with five different types of music in five different areas, the two clubs, the two courtyards and the function room in the Scholars. That all depends on whether we can do Kollege Week on campus or not, but it'd mean a sort of festival thing with over 3,000 people at it, I think it'd be amazing. And I'd like to do a free end of term pre exam party at the end of the year in the green area where the fountain is in the middle of the college with a huge barbeque and a dj in the canteen playing above the crowd. I think it's be smashin'!

Final comment;

Em, that's kinda broad! I suppose just find out what's around you. Use it and enjoy it and open your mind to new things.

I'm coming out. I want the World to know...

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood
And sorry I could not travel both" from
"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost
At some point in every gay persons life comes those dreaded words "coming out". No matter who you are, if you are gay then you have to give this some thought whether or not you want to. There are hundreds of reasons to tell people and just as many not to.

I was nearly 15 when I first came out to someone. Despite my fear and worry I knew I'd go mental if I said nothing. And it went ok. My friend listened, asked me was I sure, and said it made no difference to him. Since then I've come out to plenty of people and all my friends know I'm gay. It's generally not been a problem. I've had some strange reactions to coming out ("you don't fiddle with kiddies do you?"), but once the shock

wears off people don't seem to mind and my friendships have improved as a result of being honest.

But it hasn't all been easy. One very religious friend thought I was sick and wanted to get me leaflets and help for "my illness" while another person told me that we should all be "lined up and shot". I didn't expect coming out to people at the time to be good but I certainly didn't expect that reaction from a friend. I've also had problems with "friends" deciding that my business is everybody's news. The rumour mill can be harsh if you're on the receiving end of it. But you can't expect everything to be perfect and in the long run it didn't make a difference to me. I just learned to choose my friends wisely.

Here in UL being gay hasn't been a problem for me. I told my housemates

almost straight away and made sure it wouldn't be a problem while everyone on my course thought it was great that I was so open about it. Many said that I was brave coming out so quickly but I just see it as being honest. Who I am is not a problem for me; why should it be for them?

Out In UL has also been great craic. It was the first society I joined since I knew I'd make use of it and I'm finally getting to know gay people my own age, something almost impossible where I come from. Paddy, the president, is approachable (at times) and puts in the effort to make you feel welcome (Either that or he fancies me!). I'm getting to know the Limerick scene thanks to the soc and the interaction with the other clubs is good fun. I had a ball at the rock climbing with OPC and will definitely do

it again. For anyone who missed it go if you get a chance in the future.

The one thing I think I don't like is that I have to keep coming out. There is always someone who doesn't know and then I have to tell him or her eventually. It gets annoying doing it again, and again, and again. But I love being out. I don't have to lie about myself anymore and I know who my real friends are: the ones who accept me. If I had the chance to go back into the closet again there is no way I'd take it. Everyone is fine with me being myself and the few who do have a problem I don't want to know anyway. I'm happy being who I am and that's all that matters.

Thomas (1st Year)

Features & Opinion

Poetry From Prague - Interview with Michael Longley

BY ANNE SHERIDAN

Biographical Note - Michael Longley was born in Belfast in 1939, and educated at The Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Trinity College, Dublin, where he read Classics. His collections of poetry have won The Whitbread Prize for Poetry, the T.S Eliot Prize and the Hawthornden Prize. He has also been awarded The Queen's Medal for Poetry. Not least to his credit, he is said to be the only poet ever to have written love letters to a critic (his wife Edna)!

The Poetry Reading - My first assignment with the Charles University newspaper, Babylon, was to interview a man whose poetry I studied for Leaving Certificate English, a man who received The Queen's Medal for Poetry, and who, judging by his photograph on the Internet, looked like a wild, fierce, Presbyterian with the manner of Ian Paisley. Babylon wanted radical. I quaked in terror. Thankfully, the man I encountered could not have been further from what I had imagined. He spoke with a beautiful, heart-rending eloquence that left you breathless with every word. Each word was issued with skillful precision, and even when he walked he looked as if he was calculating every single step. He interacted with the audience with humorous, animated conversation, joking about how the love making of swans was a vast improvement on that of dogs', or at least it was the last time he viewed the act! About how the world seemed to be coming down with poetry about cats and dogs. That Seamus Heaney had even written a poem about drowning cats, and even that seemed a wee bit soppy! And he spoke of love. How love is like the hub of a wheel, from which everything springs. The reading ended to a rapturous extended applause. Yet no one stirred. Everyone wanted more, indeed a lot more. They certainly did not want to leave. I was in awe. Finally someone had managed to seduce the Czech people.

Our interview was arranged for two days later, in Kaverna Slavia, a glorious Parisian style cafe, a place where writers once congregated before it was burned down in WW2. He was over an hour late. But I would have waited. And waited. And waited.

Excerpts from the Interview

Anne Sheridan: Writing has often been described as a form of therapy. But there is also the concept of writing being a kind of poisoned chalice. Do you think there is a danger of exposing too much of oneself through their work?

Michael Longley: One of the things that people had hoped for Northern Irish poetry was that it would be a solace for people. I don't like that. I think poetry has a value of its own. I dislike art that wears its heart on its sleeve, I dislike art that is operatic. I do like restraint in art. An artist must put all of themselves into their art, but how to do that without appearing as an embarrassing show-off is the real task for a writer. I would reiterate that poetry is my way of making sense of the world. And in pursuit of that, it's a kind of concentration.

Anne Sheridan: You were a member of the Cultural Traditions Group in Belfast, a group which promotes acceptance and understanding of cultural diversity in Northern Ireland. At present, what do you think is the level of acceptance and understanding between people of different religious and political ideologies in the North?

Michael Longley: In some ways the communities are as polarised as they ever have been. However, I think we've left behind the violence of the past. The movement which I was involved in provided a vocabulary, which used words like diversity and heritage, and encouraged both sides to look into their own paths, evaluate their own heritage and to be sympathetic towards others. The movement tried to replace a political belligerence with cultural tolerance and cultural pride. We cleared an area of middle ground for moderation. We provided a vocabulary for a change of heart. We set up a menu, as it were, which has been only partially accepted, but it's there. But in as much as we were successful within that, we also pushed the extremes further apart. We started something which is going to take a couple of generations. But there are going to be some awful things between now and then.

Anne Sheridan: Do you think there could ever be a united Ireland and would you agree that such a state would be desirable?

Michael Longley: Way back in 1974 I said publicly that I would like there to be a united island, which is slightly different from a united Ireland. I do believe in a united Ireland but the concept is so contaminated by Provisional IRA violence that I can't publicly express allegiance to that concept until the whole atmosphere is cleaned up a bit. But I don't think in terms of the border really, I think of Ireland as a whole entity. I think the concept of a Green Ireland is inadequate, in the same way that an Orange Ulster is inadequate. I think it would do the South an awful lot of good to have all those recalcitrant Presbyterians down there! Really what I would hope for in the short term would be to see Ulster Unionists admitting that they are Irish in some way or another and Irish Nationalists admitting to the vast strands of their background, which are Britannic.

Anne Sheridan: Your mothers' volcanic temperament has often been mentioned in biographies of yours. Do you think Northerners' in general possess a more volatile nature than Southerners'?

Michael Longley: My mother was in fact English anyway. It's the circumstances that have made Northern Irish people appear volcanic. If you take the tribal mix in Northern Ireland, where you have a large, to put it very crudely, minority, threatening an insecure majority, the miracle is that it wasn't much more violent. Amongst other areas of the globe where you have that chemical mix, the violence has been much worse. It's the political situation, the demographic facts which make the Northern Irish appear more volcanic in comparison with the South.

Anne Sheridan: Many of your poems,

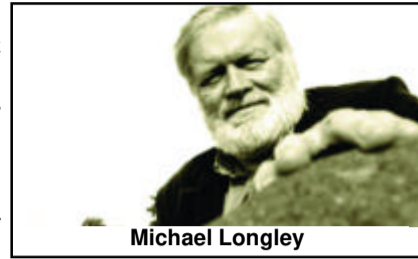
such as 'Detour' and 'Aubade' talk about the transience of life, the 'silly little shards of our lives' and ultimately conclude with death. How do you feel about your own mortality,

especially when you will have left such a marvelous volume of poetry behind?

Michael Longley: I am only beginning . . . really. I think well, what I'm involved in at the moment is building my ship of death. A writer with The Irish Times once wrote, 'poetry gives things a second chance'. I like that. Another thing I believe is that a poet is someone for whom no experience is complete until he/she has written about it. I myself, feel slightly sorry for people who don't have this secondary or additional inner life, which in a way I have. Writing poetry is a way for making up for the fact that you only have the one life. Whereas I feel as though I've lived two. I think if you start to think about your mortality as an artist you're lost. Take these semi-literal jazzmen, people like Louis Armstrong, who came in off the street into a recording studio and played, their music is immortal. And if you said to any one of them that in eighty years time people will be listening to your music, they'd have been frozen, they'd have been paralysed, they wouldn't have been able to do anything. I write poetry simply because it has to come out. I wrote the poem The Linen Industry with my younger daughter when she was three, crawling all over me. There was nothing that was going to stop that poem from coming out. A bit like women on planes, every now and again who go into labour. Nothing they can do except lie down on their backs, open their legs and let the baby come out. Although it's not as urgent as that. Any poem I write that I didn't have to write isn't going to be any good. If there's a chance that people might read them after that it's a bonus, but that's not why I write. I think a poem has to be well made, in the same way this chair has to be well made. And if it's well made it'll last.

Anne Sheridan: Your father and his role in both World Wars is mentioned quite frequently in your poetry. Do you think writing about him has helped you come to greater terms with his death?

Michael Longley: Oh, definitely. Definitely. That was one of the saddest things of my life really. He died when I was only 20, just a half-baked jerk. I thought I knew everything and he knew nothing. I wish I'd asked him questions, been patient with him. He read awful newspapers like the News of the World and The Daily Mail . . . ughhh! And at 16 or 17 I had just discovered The Observer and The New Statesman. But now I feel such unbearable tenderness towards him. And regret . . . that I didn't get to know him better. He saw my first poem which was ever published. A poem called Marigolds and he said, he was dying at the time, it's not worth the paper it's written on (laughs uproariously)! Which was very cruel of him, but he was absolutely right, it wasn't. When I



Michael Longley

received the Queen's Gold Medal, I had an audience for half an hour with the Queen and I brought a photograph of my father receiving the Military Cross from George V, who is her grandfather. And I

got to stand in the exact spot where my father received his medal. And I remember thinking Marigolds may not have been written the paper the paper it was written on, but I've written some good ones since and here I am . And I keep thinking I must give the poor bugger a rest and not write any more poems about him, but he keeps coming into my mind. I think he was beautiful really. I also think he was brilliant. But he had no education. He was a commercial seller. Sold furniture. But the more I think about him the more I admire him. So, yes it does help. These are all the big simple problems how you get on with your parents, how you bring up your children, how you remain loyal to your friends, how you deal with getting older, how you prepare for death. As I said I'm only beginning. Harmonica A tommy drops his harmonica in No Man's Land My dad like old Anaximenes breathes in and out Through the holes and reeds and finds this melody. Our souls are air. They hold us together. Listen. A music-hall favourite lasts until the end of time. My dad is playing it. His breath contains the world. The wind is playing an orchestra of harmonicas.

Anne Sheridan: In an interview with Mike Murphy, you were quoted as saying that you find writing to be a very erotic experience, often more pleasurable than sex. Would you care to elaborate on that statement?

Michael Longley: It lasts longer than sex! Yes, it is erotic. I think what I would say is that those kinds of concentrations have an intensity, which I find more electric and exciting than the other pleasures of life. One is always talking about sex retrospectively, otherwise one is a very cold blooded person. You know the story of Victor Hugo. His mistress thought he was stroking her back during a passionate embrace and then she realised he was counting out an iambic pentameter on her spinal column! I mean apart from Victor Hugo it's basically retrospective and therefore unfair to make the comparison. But then I find reading poetry can have a very similar effect. Just before I came over here I bought the collected poems of Stanley Kunitz, an American poet. I was reading this poem, he's 92 and it was a love poem to his dead wife. I can't quote it but I just went Aaaaaah . . . oooh and it left me breathless! I wanted to burst into tears and I wanted to find Etna so as I could share it with her. I don't know anything else quite like that. It is spiritual, as well as emotional and intellectual. Most poets I know and mathematicians and composers have told me this as well, going for a walk helps you to write. In other words something that happens to you physically, helps this mental process . . . How about you?!

View

A n Foca's A rts and E rts S ection

N ews

P reviews

R eviews

I nterviews



M o v i e V i e w

D O W N W I T H L O V E



This is a chick flick in all its pink, fluffy, frothy glory. Directed by Peyton Reed, this film tells the story of writer Barbara Novak (Renee Zellweger), a woman who has written the book "Down With Love" in an attempt to reveal to all women that love is standing in their way on a path to freedom and respect. In this book she intends to teach a woman self-dependence, help her achieve her career goals and as a third step, show her that she can have a healthy sex life without love attending it or interrupting.

Catcher Block, the ladies man, the man's man, (Ewan McGregor) is a successful journalist and it becomes his mission to do a piece on Novak for his magazine, but he wants to take the story at a different angle. Basically he wants to ruin Novak in her newfound fame. He wants to show every woman that has grown to admire and respect her that in the end all a woman wants in the end is...love and marriage. He is a man on a mission and in doing this he disguises himself as a Major Zipp Martin, a not-so-dashing-type but one who he hopes Novak will fall in love with and therefore lead her into a trap. The story has a funny, slightly annoying twist in the end but, all added up, this movie is a fairytale, complete with (corny) fairytale ending.

The direction in this film is as smooth as its characters. The use of split-screen adds to the humour and shows (if you by any chance missed it) the colourful and comic nature of this swinging sixties film. And swingin' it was. The soundtrack was excellent in highlighting the bubbly and fun nature of the film, full of jazz and Sinatra. The sets were beautiful and really brought you into the world of the characters. The costumes were eye-catching to say the least and would be much appreciated today due to the revival of the sixties fashion.

Colour is thrown at the viewer from every angle making this film thoroughly enjoyable, some serious eye candy. Performances are not disappointing either. McGregor and Zellweger are on top form in this, both sexy, saucy and smooth. The supporting roles were filled with two very good characters also, namely Frasier's David Hyde-Pierce as Blocks "boss" and Sarah Paulson as Vikki Miller, Novak's editor and friend. **CH**



K I L L B I L L V O L U M E 1



Finally, here's "the 4th film by Quentin Tarantino", as labelled by Miramax. Only it isn't really. It's actually the first half of Tarantino's blood-soaked tribute to the oriental martial arts classics, but slashing the three-hour globetrotting revenge saga into two volumes has merits. Vol. 1 opens with an assassin known as the Bride (Uma Thurman) who quickly gets over her wedding day jitters by being shot and left for dead--the price she paid for skipping out on her lover and boss, Bill to marry another man. The comatose Bride wakes up four years later with payback on her mind but can't get to Bill without first taking on his Deadly Viper Assassination

Squad's members. Tarantino's not out to say anything fresh or profound about retribution; he just wants to tell an old story in the most brazen and stylish way possible. Unfortunately, though, Tarantino's love for toying with narrative structure backfires on him this time. It worked for Pulp Fiction as Tarantino sought to tell several self-contained stories. It also allowed him to film a portion of Jackie Brown from several perspectives. But Vol. 1 doesn't need to constantly jump back and forth like it does. This is an unambiguous tale of revenge that can be told without unnecessarily disrupting its narrative flow. Slicing Kill Bill into two parts does work. The only problem is that it only just hits its stride when it comes to an abrupt end. You feel a little cheated that you can't see the entire film in one three-hour sitting. And you can't wait to see how Thurman knocks off Bill, if indeed she does.

Tarantino the director thankfully trumps Tarantino the screenwriter. Tarantino pays homage to the spaghetti westerns, chopsocky sagas, Japanese anime and blaxploitation classics that he so adores. Told in chapters that reference these specific film genres, Kill Bill Vol. 1 sees the Reservoir Dog foaming at the mouth again after the grand funkiness of Pulp Fiction and the cool detachment of Jackie Brown. It's a relentless tidal wave of blood from start to finish that makes Bad Boys II look tame. But Tarantino makes no apologies for the violence he orchestrates with such boyish enthusiasm that you sit transfixed, wondering how many other inventive ways he can dispose of a human life. The showdown at 'the House of Blue Leaves' chapter is simply one of the best clashes ever committed to film. Tarantino balances the gore with large doses of humour. Yet even Tarantino has his limits, and he presents some of the gorier scenes in anime, black and white or in silhouette to minimize the bloodshed, perhaps for ratings reasons.

Vol. 1 doesn't top Pulp Fiction as Quentin Tarantino's crowning achievement, but it is definitely worth the long wait. Then again, even half of a Tarantino film is twice as good as any thriller we've seen all year. And it leaves you counting down the days until Tarantino unleashes Vol. 2. **NM**



T H E L E A G U E O F E X T R A O R D I N A R Y G E N T L E M E N



War machines explode across the battlefields of Eastern Europe and the world is held in the grip of terror...only a group of elite beings can band together to combat the criminal undertakings that threaten to obliterate the world at the turn of the 19th century. And in 2003, Alan Moore's graphic novel is wrenched from the media it deserves and dragged kicking and screaming to Hollywood.

The most extraordinary thing about this film is how in hell director Stephen Norrington managed to take some of the most exciting characters ever dreamt up, along with an impressive cast and a substantial budget and create such a disappointing piece of cinematic garbage. In what could have been quite possibly the most exciting film ever made, limitless potential is snubbed for a thin plot, splattered with underdeveloped and unconvincing characters.

The only thing that kept me from walking out of this film was the vain hope that a film including a vampiress, a brilliant scientist, a rather attractive immortal, the schizophrenic Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde, an invisible man, a spy and a mercenary adventurer with the deadliest aim in the world (played by Sean Connery...a man so cool he doesn't need superpowers)

might possibly have some kind of entertainment value. After 110 minutes of sifting through bad puns, idiotic dialogue and ridiculous attempts at what can only be called ironic slapstick acting, however, one cannot help but conclude that this is, disappointingly, just a League of Extraordinary Bollocks. **CR**



S O N G F O R A R A G G Y B O Y

Based on Patrick Galvin's memoir, Song for a Raggy Boy is set in the grey, grim surroundings of a brutal Irish reform school in 1939.

As the film opens, William Franklin has just been appointed as the only lay teacher at St Jude's. This central character's outsider status lets the audience see the enclosed world of the reformatory school through his eyes - and it's not a pretty sight. The Christian Brothers, particularly the prefect in charge of discipline, Brother John, use verbal and physical abuse to control and terrorise the children, calling them by their identification numbers in a sort of Nazi manner.

Franklin, who fought against Franco's fascists in the Spanish Civil War, is opposed to the blind violence meted out to the boys. In his classes he tries to instil a love of poetry and learning in his students, but soon makes an enemy of Brother John, when he interferes in a beating that he is giving new pupil Patrick Delaney. A defeated man when he arrives at St Jude's, haunted by memories of his fellow communists and the wife he lost in Spain, Franklin gradually awakens to the boys' plight and battles against Brother John to save these already damaged children from more harm.

Director Aisling Walsh does not shy away from portraying the physicality of violence - there are moments of sheer brutality and a particularly harrowing scene of sexual abuse at the hands of one of the Brothers - but a happy ending, lifted straight from Dead Poets Society, is unworthy of what's gone before.

It's a tough film to watch but Song for a Raggy Boy is a timely and important reminder of the tortures that thousands of Irish children suffered in similar institutions, pointing the finger not only at the perpetrators of violence but at those who aided it by their silence. **NM**

L I L Y A 4 - E V E R
(Belltable)

Lilya 4-Ever is an unremittingly bleak tale of a young Russian girl who is abandoned by her mother, maltreated by her aunt and betrayed by her best friend. As life in her depressed and decrepit hometown become more unbearable, she is duped into fleeing to Sweden to become a prostitute. The only light in her life is a strange relationship with Volodya, an equally traumatised ten-year old boy, with whom she shares the joys of basketball, vodka and glue sniffing. Lilya's character scarily develops through the film, apart from being subjected to various inequities. Her disloyal, cruel family is replaced by evil pimps; her surroundings barely change as she moves from the decaying squalor of Russian public housing to the high-rise hell of Malmo.

The two lead actors are tremendous, though the tender, complex relationship between a beautiful teenage girl and a ten-year old boy is scarcely credible.

The evocative framing of the apartment blocks and crumbling submarine base of Lilya's hometown show a superb filmmaking talent.

The film's sincerity and political relevance is not in doubt, but instead of using his full arsenal of cinematic weapons to tell this important story, director Moodysson has opted to slap his audience around the head. When all is dark, sometimes it's better to strike a light than curse the darkness. **NM**



Theatre View

Previews

TIME WARP



Phoenix Productions presents
Time Warp
Belltable Arts Centre
Wednesday 29th October @ 8.00pm

Hot on the heels of Phoenix Productions' phenomenally successful tour of 20th Century Musicals, which sold out at theatre all over the UK and Ireland, Phoenix productions return to Limerick with their latest show TIME WARP.

Stars of WEST END Shows recreate hit songs from the greatest Rock Musicals, ever produced, including: "Rocky Horror", "A Little Shop of Horrors", "Grease", "Fame", "Hair", "We Will Rock You" and many more. This high-octane action packed rock and pop-production show is full of fantastic dance routines, amazing singing and colourful costumes.

Memorable songs including a catalogue of hits and crazy new choreography from the best Rock Musicals: "Over at the Frankenstein Place", "Feed Me", "Aquarius", "We Are The Champions", "Greased Lightning", "Gimmie Some Lovin'" and of course, "Time Warp".

Glamorous guys and gorgeous girls that will send you all a quiver, so give in to ultimate pleasure, get out your suspenders, you basques and you high heels, and party like there's no tomorrow.

"Let's do the timewarp again!"

Tickets: €15 for students
Booking @ Belltable Box Office 061 319 866
Visit: www.belltable.ie

ELEEMOSYNARY



'ELEEMOSYNARY' is a word that now has more meaning for theatre audiences in several parts of Munster, after Limerick theatre company La Cosa Nostra's tour, which culminates this coming weekend with three nights at the Belltable Arts Centre.

The fledgling company's play choice for the Autumn season, 'Eleemosynary' by Lee Blessing, which saw the return to the stage of former 'Fair City' soap star Maeve McGrath, has been out on the road in October for a tour of venues, including Kilmallock, Skibbereen, Listowel and Charleville, and has garnered great audience

reaction.

Directed by one of Limerick's theatre supremos, Gerry Meagher, it is a very dramatic piece for three female actors. Its three-night finale at the Belltable Arts Centre in Limerick takes place this Friday, October 31st, Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd, and bookings may be made on 061-319866.

The cast of 'Eleemosynary' includes Maeve McGrath Sinead Fahy and Helena Enright. This play is an intriguing tale that tells the story of three women intertwined in that most complicated of relationships: mother and daughter, then grandmother and granddaughter.

It is the story of three women who long for knowledge, intellectual stimulation and freedom. It tells a story of pain, choices, reconciliation, anger and avoidance. Mainly, 'Eleemosynary' tells about love, both the good and the bad.

Maeve, who played Lorraine in 'Fair City,' truly enjoyed making her return to the stage after an eleven-year gap. She left the soap three and a half years ago and worked in England since, mainly in film and television.

Having moved back to live in Ardpatrick with her husband, Jonathan O'Connor, a former professional footballer, who played with Everton, Sheffield United and Blackpool, Maeve was delighted to join La Cosa Nostra, which is bringing quality theatre to rural venues, without any grant aid. Maeve also runs a theatre school for young people every Saturday morning at Mary Immaculate College of Education in Limerick.

Sinead Fahy is a founder member of La Cosa Nostra and played the title role in the company's debut production, 'Agnes of God,' last year. As well as earning acting kudos, Sinead is highly experienced in the technical aspects of both television and theatre production and plays a pivotal role in 'Eleemosynary'.

Helena Enright completes the cast and also brings a wealth of experience to her part. She studied acting with the London College of Music and Centre Stage School, Limerick, and is currently studying for an MA in Drama Studies at UCC. Having also done some film work, Helena is a founder member of the Amalgamotion Theatre Company.

La Cosa Nostra's mission statement is 'to present relevant and dynamic theatre in a unique, innovative and visually-stimulating way' and, judging by reaction on their tour of 'Eleemosynary' this month, this mission is being accomplished. With the tour culminating at the Belltable next weekend, their creative efforts have been honed to optimum effect for the enjoyment of Limerick audiences.

* Further information on www.lacosanostra.biz

Reviews

STONES IN HIS POCKETS

The Belltable Arts Centre was host to the Lane Productions interpretation of the award winning play Stones in his Pockets. The play is set somewhere in rural Co. Kerry, where the dramatic landscape and scenery provides the ideal location for an American film making company to film "The Quiet Valley". Of course this is not the first time Hollywood has used this location to film, The Quiet Man was also filmed there providing plenty of work for the locals in the form of extras where they earn a handy £40 pounds a day, generally to be spent that night in the pub.

Two actors (Gavin Armstrong and Denis Foley) play a myriad of characters - 15 in total, the two central ones being Jake Quinn - a handsome local, related to half the village and recently returned from New York after failing to make his fortune; and Charlie Conlon - an outsider from Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, with a fondness for gin, escaping from the reality of broken dreams in the form of a failed business venture, when XtraVision moved into Ballycastle and ruined his video shop, and a failed relationship, when his girlfriend dumped him only to compound the pain by embarking upon a relationship with his bitter rival, the manager of XtraVision. Where better to escape the reality of life than on a movie set, where Jake can view life through the prism of a Hollywood lens, and the beauty that it has

to offer, while Charlie can dream of selling the appalling film script he has written in the hope of 'making it big'.

When Jake's drug addicted cousin Seán Harkin commits suicide through drowning himself, Jake feels guilty, his young cousin used to look up to him, but how did it get to this. He quickly begins to blame this unreal world that is projected onto the screens of movie theatres, showing an unattainable world, a world where guys so badly want to become somebody, that in failing to achieve it, they resort to the unthinkable. What compounds Jake's pain is the fact that Seán committed suicide after being thrown out of his own local, in his own village after Caroline felt distressed by his presence; after which he saw her leave for her hotel with Jake.

Attempts to discuss his pain with Charlie are fruitless, Charlie is unable to deal with serious issues, until Jake forces him to admit, that he once reached the lowest ebb possible, only unlike Seán, he couldn't even succeed at the task of committing suicide. Together, they set up Canvas Productions and decide to make a real movie, a movie that focuses on the extras, instead of the purported stars. The movie will tell the story of a young lad like Seán, and how he went from a happy youngster, to a drug addicted teenager. There is no happy ending, no love affair, Seán will commit suicide as he did in real life - by walking into the river, only to come back out and fill his pockets with stones, and walk back in again. From a feeling of hopelessness and dejection, of broken dreams and with no future to look forward to, the play leaves the viewer with a feeling of possibility, of potential and hope and; despite the comments of the professionals, the feeling of success. The play succeeds in its task of assimilating comedy with tragedy, of reality and fantasy, and of good acting with fine directing. After the quality production of 12 Angry Men last May, Lane Productions has succeeded once more in placing its own original stamp on a major production. Long may this marriage continue. **BS**

THE QUIET MOMENT

I had one of those vivid dreams this morning, you know the one we've all had it. You are working away having a pleasant morning, the meeting with your lecturer has gone fine and if it wasn't for that incessant buzzing in your ears life would be bliss. Turns out however that buzzing is your alarm clock you're still in bed and already 30mins late for college. How you wonder did that happen?

Imagine now that your entire life was like that, flitting between dream and lucidity, never being able to trust your mind because memory and moment intertwine in a twilight haze. Such is the lot of Eddie Conway the central character of Mike Finn's "The Quiet Moment". Eddie, played by Des Keough, is a bed-ridden Alzheimers sufferer who has been looked after by his only daughter Deirdre for the last 10 years. His son Peter, who has been in America since 1985 and has not witnessed his fathers decline into dementia returns home in a flurry of big business and technology, but is forced to rethink his commitments when confronted by his father's illness.

Through a mix of humour and poignant drama the play deals with the family unit as it strains to cope with the terminal decline of one of its members. This is by far the best exploration of Alzheimers I have witnessed with Keough playing the patient to perfection. Even in the height of his self loathing and tantrums, Keough never loses sight of Eddie's humanity and it is in his most desperate moments that the audience feels closest to the character. Those of us who have witnessed the disease first hand will be all too familiar with a loved one reliving the fear of some distant event as if it was happening in front of their eyes.

Despite the poignant subject matter, the play is by no means bleak, indeed the copious humour is often tongue in cheek. "Thank God, I thought I was going mad", remarks Eddie as it's explained to him the "The Muppets" are in fact speaking in Irish. I left the theatre feeling privileged to have been in the audience and I would highly recommend a visit should another run be scheduled. **PB**

Upcomings

Here are some acts, shows and sundry interesting things that are happening around and about over the next fortnight. If you've got something going on that should be included, email sucommunication@ul.ie

ACT	VENUE
OCTOBER	
28 Hot String Quartet - bluegrass gig	Dolans Pub
28 In This World (Belltable Film Club)	Central Cinema (Bedford Row)
29 DOT COMedy club - The Comedy Improv	Dolan's
29 Time Warp	Belltable
30 Veneer	Highstool
31 Estel, The Kyboshi, Kader Fire	HighStool
31 The HotHouse Flowers	Dolan's
NOVEMBER	
1 Australian Nirvana	Dolan's
3 (AMC) Melt Banana, Hatch77, Giveamanakick	Dolan's
4 Goodbye, Lenin! (Belltable Film Club)	Central Cinema
5 Deirdre O'Kane & Karl Spain	Dolan's
6 Bratsch (European Gypsy Folk)	Dolan's
7 (AMC) Nad Navillus, Waiting Room, & Guests	Highstool
7 Yann Tierson	Dolan's
8 Evan Dando	Dolan's

For further info, check out www.theamc.net, www.dolans.ie, www.uch.ie, www.belltable.ie or visit the city and check out the posters!

Where's Ben?

Somewhere Nice!



Sunset on the Beach in Nice.

Ben is making us all jealous this fortnight, as he shows off his tan on the beach in Nice. Winter sun holiday anyone?

Nersh

ARE YOU A COYOTE OR JUST PLAIN UGLY

STRUT YOUR STUFF

WEDNESDAY WEEK 8

ONLY AT THE SCHOLARS

The Scholars Club
Weekly Food Specials

Early Bird breakfast menu before 9:30 that's a mini breakfast for only €2.50

Tea and Coffee for only 50c before 11:30.

Any dinner from the **Lunch Special** menu and a mineral can of your choice for only **€5**

Choose from our **Full Fresh Salad bar**

Fresh Evening Menu from 4 pm

Interview

Ming the Merciless; Politician, Campaigner and Man with Good Hair

This fortnight, Niall, our interviewer caught up with Luke "Ming the Merciless" Flanagan. Ming is a former MEP candidate, and a strong voice in the campaign to legalise cannabis in Ireland. He'll be in FG042 on November 4th, so if you're curious, you can check out his ideas and beliefs for yourself... or just heckle. A documentary of his life for the past few years, "The Life and Crimes of Citizen Ming", will be shown on the night.

So you'll be coming down to Limerick in a couple of weeks?

Yes, I will yeah. Apparently the college is showing the documentary about my activities in the last six years. It's called "The Life And Crimes Of Citizen Ming", and I'll be interested to hear what people think of it.

How did the film end up getting made?

Well, the first time I was on the national airwaves was on the Marian Finucane Show, on foot of the fact I appeared in The Star; and as a result of being on that radio show I was contacted by a man called Mike Casey, who said he was interested in making a documentary. They had made a documentary called Dole Eireann, which had won a couple of prizes in different festivals around the country. As a result of the fact that my activities kept going on he decided to make it over a five-six year period, and that's basically how it came about. He went to the Irish Film Board to get funding and pulled the money together somehow, and as a result it's gotten made.

RTE gave part-funding and then refused to show it?

Well, RTE put money into it alright but wouldn't show it, but in certain ways I'm not surprised at all that they wouldn't show it. During my election campaign I came up against numerous obstacles that candidates from the traditional parties wouldn't have come up against, and I was quite clear in describing RTE as a shower of bastards, which is exactly what they were. Maybe they didn't appreciate the fact that I broke into one of their studios for a live debate that I wasn't invited to, during the European elections with the other candidates. Maybe that has something to do with it.

Are you planning to run again?

I'm contesting the local elections in Roscommon, in the Castlerea area next June. I'm running on the issues of rural redevelopment and trying to get an indoor swimming pool for the people of Castlerea. I believe the best way to get people to stop abusing drugs, whether it be alcohol or anything else, is to saturate society with things for young people to do. The more things you have to do, the less chance there is you'll do something that could damage your health.

There is a misconception about your issues. People hear the word Ming, and they assume you're going to shove a joint in their hand...

Well, I can take that a bad way and I can take it a good way. If someone accuses me of being a one-trick-pony and of only having one policy, well then my answer to them is that at least you know one of my policies. Does anyone know what Fianna Fail's policies are? Do they have any?

Hopefully you can get your points across to the UL student.

Well, I have a big advantage in that if someone doesn't like me, they couldn't have a lower opinion of me at the moment. Once they hear me speak, it can only get better.

You've had a lot of run-ins with the law, haven't you?

Well, since I called for the legalisation of cannabis I have been strip searched five times, and searched on twelve other occasions. I've got a criminal record on five occasions; seems the word occasions seems to be popping up a lot, and I've spent 16 days in prison for non-payment of fines in connection with cannabis. They were wonderful experiences, let me tell you.

How do you think legalisation should come about,

because even in countries like Holland and Belgium, their systems are not perfect.

Well, there is a common misconception about Holland, that is has been legalised there, when it hasn't. The authorities call it "tolerance", and have adopted a policy of ignoring it. If you look around Europe the standard policy seems to be not to prosecute people found in possession of small amounts of cannabis, and that slowly but surely is happening here. It may not be official policy yet but if you get caught in possession of cannabis, there is only a 50/50 chance of getting charged. Which is a very bad road to go down; really I think it should be one or the other. Otherwise you are left with a situation where you can get prosecuted for possession if you are not liked by the authorities. It becomes about who you are rather than what you do, and that can lead to anarchy at the end of the day.

If it is ever legalised in this country, how do you think it should be handled?

I think it should be sold through licensed vendors, and basically be taxed and regulated in the much the same way as alcohol, and for people who are over 18 only of course.

There are the health risks attached to cannabis use, especially to men, to do with cancer, infertility, impotence...

Well, the problem with people who say that smoking cannabis causes cancer is that you don't actually have to smoke cannabis. If you smoke any substance it will damage your lungs; it isn't cannabis that damages your lungs, it's the act of burning something over your lungs and inhaling toxic fumes. And if people are worried about the health aspects of that, then they should boil it up in milk and drink it instead. Then, instead of causing cancer, there are numerous studies out there that suggest that it helps to suppress cancerous tumours, so you're probably helping to not get cancer if you take it the right way. It all depends how you use it; the best way to put it is if you give a knitting needle to a madman he'll kill you, give it to a grandmother and she'll knit you a jumper. I mean, at the end of the day the knitting needle isn't dangerous, but in the wrong hands it is. Do you ban knitting needles? No you don't, that'd be stupid.

Does it always feel like an uphill struggle?

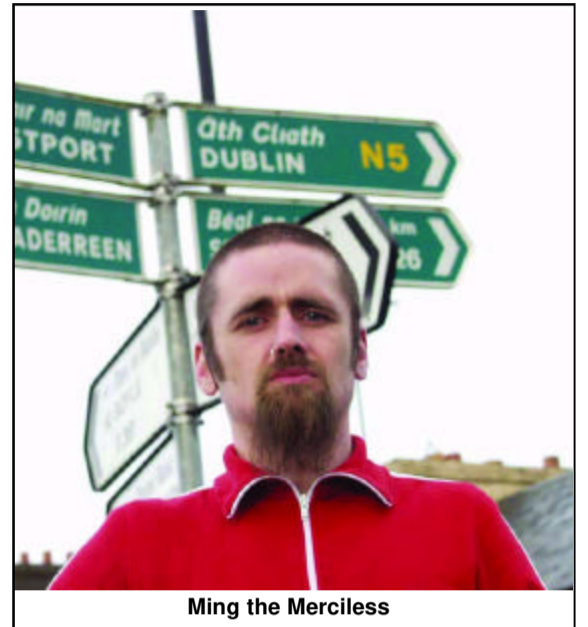
Not for me. My aim was to get the police off my back; to stop annoying me for doing something that did no harm to anyone; and even if did harm me, what has it to do with them? And as a result of it, the Gardai don't go near me anymore. As far as I'm concerned, cannabis is legal for me. The ultimate proof of that was after National Legalise Cannabis Day, when I posted joints to every TD, according to the law, and I fully admit to it, I possessed, I supplied and I cultivated cannabis. I was sent a letter by the DPP stating that there would be no prosecution, so as far as I'm concerned cannabis is legal to me. They have told me I can do it; I have a letter from the DPP. What more could you want? So, from that point of view it's not an uphill struggle. But on a bigger level it is an uphill struggle alright, but an enjoyable struggle. I can wait; I'm in no hurry.

What kind of message would you give to everyone in UL thinking about going to see you?

I'd say, come along, you might be pleasantly surprised. I certainly couldn't be less intelligent than some people like to suggest. Come along, and especially if you disagree with me, because I'd love to see how anyone could disagree with me on my points on cannabis.

Have you been to Limerick before?

No. It's going to be interesting place to visit, when you



Ming the Merciless

consider the amount of violence that takes place in Limerick as a direct result of government policy on drugs. The reason why most of the violence occurs in Limerick is because people are fighting over who has the right to sell cannabis, whereas if it were legalised it would be sold in shops, and these people would have one less thing to play with, and to extract money out of

ULartsoffice

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



Monday 03 November

> DIVINE INTERVENTION
Director: Elia Suleiman
French / 2002 / 92 mins

Few places on Earth seem more tragic at this moment than the checkpoint between Jerusalem and Ramallah. In Elia Suleiman's fiction film "Divine Intervention," the checkpoint isn't just a physical divide between two warring peoples; it's a ritual space in which Israelis and Palestinians react their compulsively violent, heart-breaking bloody relationship on a daily basis. For the Israeli soldiers manning the checkpoint it's a buffer zone. For the two Palestinian lovers who meet at its perimeter -- he's from Ramallah, she's from Jerusalem -- it's a theatre of the absurd.

Manohla Dargis
Los Angeles Times

Photo View



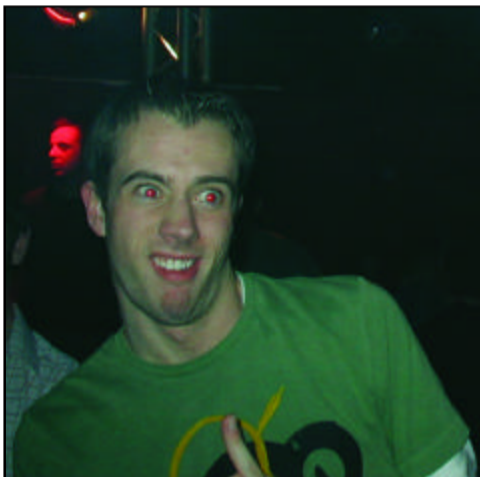
Sculptor Sean Scully explains his work to University Dignitaries



All Class Reps are Camera Junkies. Discuss



Playing with toys during the Open Days



Yeah, I love you too, sweetie!



Students walking to college on a cold and frosty morning



Damn Zombies!!

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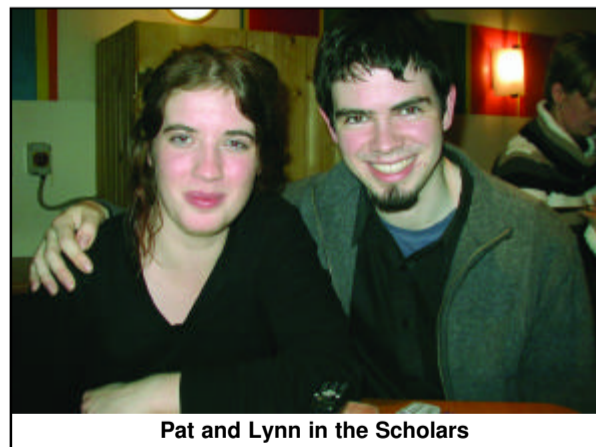
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More Zombies!



Pat and Lynn in the Scholars



Some of the decorations in the Arena for the Open Days

Photo View



Ella checks out the Wall



Those Zombies really are everywhere!



Hordes of them!

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THE COMMUNICATIONS
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BEFORE NOVEMBER 6TH



UL Kayakers in Lahinch



Hmm, Interesting!

University of Limerick Students Union
entertainment at **The Stables Club**

WEEK 6

Mon Music Soc
Tues Karaoke Nite
Wed BAND: Energy
Thu Halloween Party
Spot prizes for Fancy Dress
DJ from 8pm
BAND: The Lollygaggers 9pm
Fri DJ

Karaoke
Our Karaoke nights are proving a huge success!
Drop in any Tuesday night to participate, or to enjoy!
- Prizes -
€ 300 voucher
Stereo System
€ 50 voucher

WEEK 7 GREEK WEEK

Mon Music Soc (Battle of the bands)
Tues Karaoke Night
Wed BAND: Free Beer
Thu Battle of the Bands (Final)
Fri DJ Aidan

Membership
Please ensure that you have completed your application at
www.clubs.ul.ie
Proof of membership will be required for you to avail of club facilities

Week 6 & Week 7 Ents
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!

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Tuesday The Greatest Music	Tuesday The Greatest Music
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 Sunday Lunches	Weekend Pool table available & don't forget our Sunday Lunches

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M u s i c / L i v e V i e w

Gig Review

PADDY CASEY

(15/10/03 - Jean Monnet)



Its Wednesday 15th October and the MEAS banner draping the makeshift stage in the Jean Monnet Theatre reads "Respect Alcohol, Respect Yourself"...yet after queuing for a ridiculous hour and a half to even enter the room I have to admit that a drink is looking pretty damn enticing.

Pat Harkin warms up the crowd with his unique Bob Dylan-esque gravelly vocals and harmonica solos supporting cheesily romantic and self-indulgent, yet toe-tappingly good ditties of the country/folk variety.

When the diminutive Paddy Casey finally emerges from taming his locks and graces us with his presence however, it is to blast us with a 90 minute selection of some of the high points of his career to date and an even mix of intriguing new material and the usual classics.

We see Paddy's inner rock demon clawing its way to the surface and proving the guitar solo is alive and well with tracks like "Living", "Want I Can't Have", "Fear" and "Whatever Gets You Through", while the relatively intimate setting of the Jean Monnet Theatre lends itself extremely well to the poignant and melancholic sounds of "Sweet Suburban Sky" and "It's All Over Now".

His fresh new material was surprisingly well-received by a crowd undoubtedly accustomed to the repetitive and plagiarised tunes of the Irish folkrock music scene, in particular his excellent new single "Saints and Sinners", a song with the kind of beat that leads to involuntary rhythmic foot spasming and widespread grins of approval.

The gig was somewhat tainted by the late start, the repeated botching of "Promised Land", the 'technical difficulties' which at one stage led to jeers of "Ye're shite" from one particularly astute member of the audience and the questionable acoustics in the theatre itself which gave one the distinct sensation of crashing headfirst into a wall of sound and static.

Despite all this, Paddy Casey and his faithful entourage delivered on the night, soaring from melancholic, heartwrenching lows to groin-grabbingly good folk-pop highs.

Anyone That's Yet To Come will have quite an act to follow. **CR**

THE WATERBOYS

UCH, Thursday, October 16th



It takes half an hour for the UCH to fill on this Thursday night. The sound-engineer is frantically preparing

himself and his sound-desk in the middle of the room, as the lights go down and the Waterboys take to the stage at eight-thirty. "Is this the first ever, real Waterboys gig in Limerick?" asks Mike Scott, guitarist/vocalist as he steps up to the microphone. The three-piece on stage are lit up, they take a deep breath, look to one another and break into a series of tracks from their new album, 'Universal Hall,' released last June. With powerfully moving, soul stirring lyrics such as, "Dark words, bright words, of ice and fire," the audience is enthralled. Make no mistake; this audience is made up of die-hard fans, those who'd travel to the ends of the earth to hear the Waterboys play their songs.

Mike Scott has a distinct voice, one which is clear, yet can be rough and harsh whenever Mike feels the need. He is a musician of another time and conjures up images of a younger Bob Dylan, with his unique images and powerfully moving vocals. The keyboards of Richard Naiff are complimented by the energetic fiddle work of Steve Wickham, breaking from melodic calm to a thunderous wall of sound, like the crashing of a wave. Mike works the crowd, speaks to these people like he's known each and every person in the room for years. He opens up and allows you to search his spirit, to determine the musical qualities of those who play as the Waterboys.

After nine songs, this three piece, acoustic/ fiddle/ keyboard set ends and a half-hour recess is called. Tonight there are no mistakes, the band is very professional and the sound is excellent. The Waterboys are a band who over the years have changed musicians on a constant basis, yet somehow have always managed to retain their own sound. As the band return to the stage, Steve Walters walks out with his bass strapped on and Carlos Hercules sits on his drum-stool ready to begin. From an acoustic set, to an electric set, the crowd love it. "Are you the audience spokesman?" Mike asks one fan, who cries out for the Ramones. Some of this is spooky, even historic, soul moving stuff. The crowd are entranced by their heroes. This is not a student gig, this audience is real, this music is real and that's all that matters.

These are the guys who restart an intro twice because someone's phone rings and they want perfection. "If that's not for me, could you switch it off?"

As the gig progresses and the band commands definite respect over the crowd, Mike picks up an electric guitar and breaks into a series of solos. At one stage he launches into a long, winding solo, which moves twisting and turning through each and every rhythm Mike can find, he falls to his knees playing, only to stand up and slide his fretting hand quickly up and down at the end of his fret to reach a Jimmy Page style of guitar screams. He is a very fast soloist when he wants to be and seems to be one of those unique individuals who can play anything he mind is set on. The cries of the audience are deafening, I've never seen a more enthusiastic crowd, there are no fans like Waterboys fans. After the show ends, the band receive a standing ovation having played songs like, 'Piece Of Iona,' 'The Pain Within,' 'A Man Is In Love' and 'Every Breath Is Yours.' The crowd chant and clap for an encore and they're not giving up. Mike confidently strides to a keyboard, sits and start playing, 'Whole Of The Moon.' The crowd erupts in a frantic cry of delight. One by one, the five musicians come out and take to their instruments for this massive crowd-pleaser. The band play two more songs and eventually after this two hour, double set gig, the crowd go home happy and obviously awaiting the next Waterboys gig. This was a triumph; the band played well and no-one can contest either their legions of fans or their massive amounts of talent. The Waterboys are here to stay and hopefully they can stay on top-form as long as they play.

DO'G

Comedy Review

COLIN MURPHY

The Jean Monnet Theatre, at eight o'clock on Wednesday October 22, presented the always-affable Colin Murphy, of The Blizzard of Odd and X-it File

fame. And first, let's just say, that what you see on the television, is the highly edited and toned-down version. For one thing, he didn't have to worry about cursing, because his student audience certainly didn't.

For the warm-up act, we had Niall Delemere, an Offaly man who immediately pounced on his county men. This was an energetic, fun and interactive act. And, for all those who went along, let's all cheer on Eoin, Charlie's Angels, Easy Girl and the apprentice fitter from LIT. You guys were all great sports and made everyone else glad they'd stayed near the back i.e., out of the firing line. The jokes were great and it was an act that you could really get into and thoroughly enjoy.

And then there was the main man himself. Once Niall had gotten us all clapping like lunatics, out came the comedian we had all come to see. Colin Murphy has so much energy in his act that he made the warm-up act look like he was sleepwalking, even though he seriously wasn't. The first thing we all had to notice was the two bottles of Heineken he brought on with him, compared with the sign behind him telling us to 'Respect Drink, Respect Yourself'. Brilliant!

Colin Murphy didn't take the front row as targets in a comic firing squad, but he did get the audience involved in his act. As well as just telling the jokes, he acted them out, moving in stranger and stranger ways. His caricatures were just beautiful, the accents were spot-on and I'm still not quite sure what he was doing with his tongue for a while there. Very amusing though. Plus, his facial contortions were, quite simply, class. The stories were great, and I can honestly say that there was not a moment in which I was bored. And he had some very good advice for people who drunkenly raid a hotel minibar (have to try that one myself...).

All in all, Colin Murphy is a great act to go see. If you never go to another comedy show in your life, go to him, even just the once. It is time well spent and well enjoyed (just try not to drink as you might end up spitting it out as you're laughing.) **JS**

Album Review

JOSH ROUSE - "1972"

1972 is the latest offering from earnest Nebraskan Josh Rouse, since his 2002 album "Under Cold Blue Stars", and marks a new era in insouciant pop balladry, while commemorating both the year of his birth and the year his telecaster was made.



The title track conjures up the dreamy drugged-up sensation of that age, giving listeners the impression of floating away on a cloud of mellow gold, while the positively groovy "Love Vibration", successfully incorporates a sax solo(!) into upbeat California pop.

"James" is reminiscent of the all-but-forgotten soft rock relic of the 1970's, and along with "Under Your Charms", is one of the more melodic and moving songs on the album. The unabashedly funky bass lines of "Come Back (light therapy)", the keyboard artistry of "Sunshine (Come On Lady)" and bare rhythmical joy of "Slaveship", give the album its honest-to-God feel-good happy vibes that are the basis of its appeal.

1972 mixes sweet soul funk, Nick Drake pastoral folk and the more American electrified version on tracks like "Flight Attendant" and "Rise", while the beautiful mix of gospel and country in "Sparrows over Birmingham" makes it the most haunting track on the album.

This retrogressive album is a tribute to the era it describes and amazingly, has managed to salvage the vibraphonic loping grooves of the '70's, merging them with languid vocals and happy/sad lyrics which cut across loneliness and depression, yet never swoops too low. **CR**



GW3 View



Welcome to Greek Week 2003. A week of activities celebrating the cultural life of UL and offering just a small sample of what's available to amuse, educate, stimulate, invigorate, infuriate, entrance, excite and unite us. We don't

promise a life changing experience but we certainly guarantee a life enhancing one. GW3 takes place in week 7 and is run by Clubs and Societies and the Arts Office. The Welfare Office are also

running a week of stress relief, so relax, open your mind and try something new. There's something for everyone on the timetable below so come along, make the effort and join in. It's all there for your to experience!

Monday 3 November Tuesday 4 November Wednesday 5 November

Divine Intervention
presented by UL Arts Office
Jean Monnet // 6:30pm // Admission Free

Few places on earth seem more tragic at this moment than the checkpoint between Jerusalem and Ramallah. In Eli Salkinman's film "Divine Intervention", the checkpoint isn't just a physical divide between two warring peoples, it's a ritual space in which Israelis and Palestinians re-enact their compulsively violent, heartbreakingly bloody relationship on a daily basis. For the Israeli soldiers manning the checkpoint it's a buffer zone. For the two Palestinian lovers who meet at its perimeter - he's from Ramallah, she's from Jerusalem - it's a theatre of the absurd.

Professions of the Past
presented by CLT and UL Arts Office
Stables Courtyard // 10.00 am - 4.00pm // FREE

Do you believe that money can grow on trees? Have you ever built a dry stone wall? Can a blacksmith shoe a willow horse? Have you ever been in a yurt? Come to an interactive exhibition of living traditional crafts and learn through participation and fun.

Cinemobile
presented by UL Arts Office
Foundation Car Park
1.00pm / 3.15PM / 5.00pm / 7.15PM / 9.00pm
ALL SCREENINGS FREE

The Circus comes to town. Theatre groups tour the country. Cinemas get bigger and bigger in big towns. Picture houses in small places close down. But now the cinema comes to you. See UL's favourite film in this unique cinematic environment. The Cinemobile is a magnificent state of the art machine, which in 45 minutes magically transforms into an air conditioned 100 seater cinema. This must be seen to be believed.

Living History
HISTORY SOCIETY
Scholars Courtyard // 10.00am - 4.00pm // FREE

Swords and Sherry come to the Scholars Courtyard with an exhibition of swordsmanship. Learn the secrets of Heraldry and help the History Society choose their new crest.

The Weakest Link
IRISH PEACE SOCIETY
Jean Monnet // 8.30pm // £ 4 // all proceeds to both

Well known academics from various departments battle it out to discover who is the "Weakest Link". "Ever got a bad grade from a lecturer, well it's payback time!!!! Fancy a lecturer or wonder how they ever got the job in the first place?? Come and revel in their doom and find out for once and for all who is UL's Strongest. Featuring Michael O'Sullivan (Irish World Music Centre), Luke Ashworth (Politics), Bain Reeves (Economics), Fergal O'Brien (Finance), Naomi Brotherton (Marketing)

Assassins
CSOC
Main Canteen // All day

Two strangers meet on the ledge of adjoining windows as they prepare to jump to their deaths. A young man Aubrey climbs out a window and edges his way along the ledge until he manages to sit down. He has scarcely settled himself when the young Pauline follows suit by dambetting out of the adjoining window. Aubrey is enraged at this intrusion and lively exchanges follow as each encourages the other to take the plunge. Despite the seriousness of the underlying theme, this play abounds in comic dialogue and achieves a happy ending, even providing a neat twist as the curtain falls.

Hobby Horse Grand National
RASC SOCIETY
CSB BUILDING // Heats 12.00pm, 1.00pm // Final 2.00pm

Race your bets Ladies and Gentlemen, they're under Starter's Orders and they're off!!!! Choose your favourite runner and ride. Show the class and the glamour of Antree Grand National Day. Prizes for Best Dressed Lady and Gent.

Bouncing Castle
SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Scholars Courtyard // All day

Who said Bouncing Castles were just for kids.....

Boys Don't Cry / God and Monsters
OUT IN UL and TEN FORWARD
MRS // 6.30 pm onwards // £ 3

Boys Don't Cry tells the true story of Brandon Teena, the popular new guy in a tiny Nebraska town. Life is good for Brandon, now that he's one of the guys and doing handsome beauty work. However he's forgotten to mention one important detail and for this his life will eventually be ripped apart. *God and Monsters* is the story of James Whale, director of *Frankenstein* and the *Bride of Frankenstein*, who has to stand the invisible man and the complex relationship he develops with his handsome gardener.

"Jump Off"
DRAMA SOCIETY
Jonathan Swift // 8.00pm // £ 5 / concession £ 4

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Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill
presented by ANMAD na CAELCE
Bourne Vincent Gallery // Foundation Building // 1.15pm // FREE/SACK IN ASBCE // 8.15pm poetry reading

Ar dhúir ineachtraí Sheachstair na Críge 2003, tá léamh líodtha le Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill. Is í duine de na filí is ionraí sa tír seo léamh na huaire. One of the best known of contemporary Irish language poets, Ní Dhomhnaill has an international reputation and her work has been widely translated in Europe. For her the Irish language is the gateway to "an saol eile" or "an fíricí thar" - another world of the imagination and the psyche.

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UL Unplugged
MUSIC SOCIETY - preliminary heats
The Stables // 8.00pm // £ 5 per competition entry // £ 4 for MUSIC members // Admission to event FREE

Openmic goes deep down and dirty for a night as musicians battle it out for a grand prize worth £ 1,600, including a handcrafted liveable acoustic guitar and a radio mike. Original songs and covers are welcome, but originals are recommended. Strictly acoustic guitar(s) and/or vocals only. No effects allowed. All entries must be on official entry forms which are available from <http://music.soc.dyn.net>

"Are Beauty Contests Demeaning to Women"
DEBATING UNION
An Phiuis // 7.30pm // FREE

Top Totty - Does My Bum Look Big in this - do you care and why do you care? Expect an as ever lively debate chaired by Louise Doherty, Ireland's representative at Miss Universe, 2000 and DEB UL's very own bathing beauties.

Assassins/Munchkin
CSOC
Main Canteen // All day

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Des Bishop
A MEAS event presentation in association with UL Arts Office and CAMPUS LIFE
Jean Monnet // 8.00pm // £ 10

The MEAS event series which has been bringing the best in live music and comedy to the University all term get's Greek Week's favourite with the arrival of Ireland's favourite American immigrant Des Bishop has sold out!!! his previous show on campus and we're laying our bets that he'll do the same again don't miss him!!!!

Thursday 6 November Friday 7 November

Martial Arts Display
AOKI, KICKBOXING, KARATE, TANG SOO DO, JUDO, TAIE KWONDO
Stables Courtyard

Are you The One? Discover the secrets of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, give Uma a run for her money - irresistible members of the UL martial arts community will share their arcane knowledge with you for one day only

Food Fair
ESN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
Canteen // Main Building // 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Always a highlight of the UL social calendar this year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever. Sample the cuisine of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Ireland, Mexico, Morocco, Romania, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA.

Flight Simulator/Wind Tunnel
AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY
Stable Courtyard // All day

Who knows what the future holds - the Pagan Society that's who!!!! Tarot readings and Palm readings, Divination and Rune Casting - truly the Oracle is amongst us

Divination
PAGAN SOCIETY
Stable Courtyard // 10am - 5.00pm
Tarot readings // £ 4

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Slow Bike Races
UL RIDERS
Car Parks // All day

When does First Place mean Last Place? In a slow bike race - first over the line loses. Or come to the SU Courtyard and try out your motor bike skills.

UL Unplugged
MUSIC SOCIETY
Stables // Heats and Finals // 7.00pm

Openmic goes deep down and dirty for a night as musicians battle it out for a grand prize worth £ 1,600, including a handcrafted liveable acoustic guitar and a radio mike. Original songs and covers are welcome, but originals are recommended. Strictly acoustic guitar(s) and/or vocals only. No effects allowed. All entries must be on official entry forms which are available from <http://music.soc.dyn.net>

Paris Texas
presented by POC Productions, UL Arts Office and ANMAD na CAELCE
An Phiuis // 3.00pm, 5.00pm, 7.00pm, 9.00pm // FREE // SACK IN ASBCE

We presents live film short! Taken from the latter stages of Wim Wenders' acclaimed movie of the early '90s, *Paris Texas*, hit of the Calvary Arts Festival 2003 and winner of the Seisest Production, ESB Dublin Fringe Festival 2003, shows a reconciliation of a couple in the unlikely setting of a peepshow booth, presented in an installation style format. Playing to an exclusive audience of 10 people there will be separate shows in Irish 3.00pm and 7.00pm, English 7.00pm and 9.00pm. TS an ineachtraí seo comhnaíonn na CAELCE

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presented by POC Productions, UL Arts Office and ANMAD na CAELCE
An Phiuis // 12.00pm, 2.00pm // FREE

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Ferenc Szűcs Cello Recital
UL Arts Office / UNIVERSITY CLUB
Rassey House // 7.00pm // £ 5

Ferenc Szűcs has performed in over fifty countries and has associations with numerous orchestras, institutes and ensembles worldwide. Born in Hungary, he studied at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest and won the prestigious State Award for musical excellence and particularly for his interpretation of Bach. He presents the Bach Suite No 1 in G BWV 1007 and the Kodaly Sonatas for Solo Cello Op. 8 in the unique surroundings of the White House

"Aspects of Computers - From Games and Beyond"
COMPUTER SOCIETY
An Phiuis // 4.30pm - 10.00pm // FREE

Retrogaming in the Phiuis followed by talks by Mikael Fernstrom, Mel Cormier, John Sturdy, Pamela O'Shea, Padraig Brady see the CompSoc continue their quest to demystify computing. Covering such topics as 2.4 Linux Virtual Memory Manager, Rapid GUI Application Development using Python and Chrome the evening promises to be both enjoyable and informative.

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**Kenta Matsumi (violin)
Seiko Miyamoto (piano)**
IWMC in the RAC // Foundation Building // 1.15pm // FREE

Presented by the Irish World Music Centre as part of their lunchtime concert series

"Jump Off"
UL DRAMA SOCIETY
Jonathan Swift // 8.00pm // £ 5 // concession £ 4

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Yann Tiersen
Dolan's Warehouse // 9.00pm // £ 18

Best known for the beguiling, award-winning soundtrack to Jean-Pierre Jeunet's delightful *Amélie*, Yann Tiersen recently composed the score to the German movie *Goodbye Lenin*. He is an integral part of a French scene that has been a remarkable hotbed of new talent in recent years with artists such as Air and Daft Punk.

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Soul Clinic
Featuring Qool Mary and Aran McMahon
presented by BQTEBALL
Redroom // 10.00pm // £ 7

The longest running club in the city, and the sole home of hip-hop, soul, funk and house in Limerick, the clinic can't wait to hit the floor to New York's Qool Mary, your dj to A Tribe Called Quest, Busta Rhymes, Macy Gray and many more.

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View

Aussie Soaps Update

HOME AND AWAY



Sun, sand, sea and scandal. Put all of these ingredients together and hey presto you've got an Australian soap opera. Unlike their British counterparts however the storylines in these Aussie soaps do NOT mimic each other on a weekly basis!!!!. Take Home and Away for instance. Currently the soap is in the midst of the Angie Russell murder. The best thing about this storyline is that the killer was her son - definitely did not see that one coming. The minor storylines that are happening, in case you've been too busy with lectures and want to catch up are; that Alex is in love with Haley, only he's the last one to know, Alf is back minus the brain tumor BUT with a sense of humour and Jesse and Leah have finally got it together. For once Home and Away is moving with the times and has off loaded a lot of the dreary and boring characters in favour of new exciting ones and much sharper storylines. I wouldn't go as far to say that you're missing out if you don't watch it religiously but if you want a break from the doom and gloom of Eastenders and Corrie then give it a go - it might surprise you. Home & Away is on weekdays at 6:30 on Network 2 NC

NEIGHBOURS



Next up - Neighbours! Currently Toadie is grieving the death of wife Dee, who died tragically on their wedding day and Steph is in turmoil over the lump that she's found on her breast. On a lighter note there's the lovely Jack, who is in the most difficult situation of declining his girlfriend Nina's offer to take their relationship to the next level. His reason for this is his guilty conscience following his one-night-stand with a virtual stranger(and all the men reading this would just love to slap him on the back!!!!). Other than that Neighbours is still moving along at its usual snails pace so if you've missed it lately you'll easily catch up!!! Neighbours is on weekdays at 5:30 on Network 2 NC

SHORTLAND STREET



Although technically not Australian, third on the list is Shortland Street. Unfortunately this programme moves

so fast that even a t.v. addict like myself is having trouble keeping up, but here goes. . . Right well Nick has found himself another new girlfriend(note to all men, if he can get a woman, anyone can, even if it is a soap!!) and it all appears to be going great, although her grandmother has just come into the frame and is guaranteed to cause some trouble sooner rather than later. Nick's ex Minnie has also found a man in the shape of scumbag Nathan but all is definitely not what it seems there either! Then there's Maura, who seems to have a vested interest in just about everyone in the programme. She's just bought the Buzz bar with husband Dean and seems to be hell bent on turning it into a family amusement centre rather than keep it as it was! I could go on and on AND ON about what else is happening but it's all rather boring and pointless because by tomorrow there'll be a brand new crisis and more new cast members so if you watch it and you like it then great and if you don't watch it, keep it that way, trust me!! Shortland Street is on weekdays at 5:45 on R.T.E. 1 NC

Friday Night Chat Shows

THE DUNPHY SHOW



Since its inception a few weeks ago, the Dunphy show has been seeking to take a firm grip on a section of TV viewers, who have previously escaped the evil clutches of the chat show monster.

Admittedly, I am a fan of Eamon Dunphy, so I watch the show every week. Therefore I was the right lad to review the show of October 17. Unfortunately, it was probably the worst show in the current series so far.

The show got off to a good start it must be said with music from the legends that are the Waterboys. Then there was an interesting segment featuring agent Marianne Gunn O'Connor and best selling author Cathy Kelly. A competition was unveiled to find the next big thing in Irish writing. But of course unless you actually were into writing, this wouldn't be of any interest.

Then there was a very high-brow angle to the show this week. When I heard John Waters, blathering on about Fianna Fáil, I thought "what's going on here?". I am a Public Admin Student, I eat sleep and breathe politics and I was bored witless, I can only imagine the torture and agony that Mech Eng students who were watching went through. A deep philosophical argument about FF is fine if you have a Fianna Fáiler and a Fine Gaeler and let the audience join in the discussion and start tearing strips off each other. With all due respect to Waters, the Irish Independent's Bruce Arnold and one time Fine Gael candidate, Lord Henry Mountcharles, they were too civil to make the subject interesting.

The Waterboys returned, which was a nice break, but then we had a quite confusing slot about mother Theresa, featuring Indian native Dr Aroup Chatterjee and a Cork priest Finbar Buckley.(yeah I never heard of them either) We had a bout of deja-vu as Páidí O' Se, Dunphy's first ever guest, made a comeback to confirm he was WestMeath Manager. The space between his two interviews were so short that he couldn't really tell us anything new, hence it added nothing to the show.

As a fan of the series, I must say this overtly high-brow show didn't do that much for me and I hope future shows will do more justice to this great Kilkenny man. **DO'D**

FRIDAY NIGHT WITH

JONATHAN ROSS

Friday Night 11.05 BBC1

"Friday Night with Jonathan Ross" began, like every week, with a short stand up routine by Ross. These are usually mildly funny with this episode being no different. Ross went down the predictably route of slagging off David Beckham and David Blaine, nothing we haven't heard before.

Fortunately, the routine was short lived and Ross brought on his first guest, the comedian/actor/tv panelist Alan Davis. Ross and Davis were very funny together as they both had the same sense of humour and played off each other well. Davis slagged off Ross about his comedy calling it "style over substance" and Ross slagged off Davis for being more hip replacement than hip, knowing full well that he was in the same boat. Ross said "You've gotta get down with us", and gave Davis advice on how to get along with his second guest, 50 Cent.

50 Cent was then introduced with the house band's ("Four Poofs And A Piano") version of "In Da Club" which was very disturbing to say the least. Ross greeted 50, or Fiddy as he calls himself, with "What's up ma bro?" 50 had a great sense of humour, didn't mind being made fun of and was shy, yet polite. Ross's interview with him was hilarious and Ross managed to make up for 50's quietness on stage by making fun of himself. His third guest was the actress Felicity Kendall. She was by far the worst guest Ross had on that night, as she didn't match Ross's sense of humour. I felt that Ross lost the audience at this stage and didn't win them back. This was not one of Ross's best show. It was fairly dull by his standards but, in my opinion, it is by far the best chat show on TV, as it is very funny and entertaining. **ME**

Reality TV

THE SALON



Reality T.V has a lot to answer for, and its banal, insipid and oddly hypnotic qualities will be the downfall of the human race. Ok, that's a lie, it'll actually be a legion of despotic mole-men that will end all human life, but Reality T.V is high up on my list of things I need to erase from existence. So enter The Salon, the latest in a line of shows whose sole premise is that, like a race of perverts we really like watching other people live their lives.

So what's The Salons angle? Well, it appears to be some awful bastardised mish-mash of previous shows like Big Brother. A salon somewhere in London, I think, is filmed all day, and the Staff's interaction with their punters is broadcast for all to see. So question one, who the hell thinks this is worthy of my, or anyone else's attention? Day after day for a week I watched a parade of Z-list publicity junkies warble on and on about the greatest collection of mindless gibberish known to man. Lobotomised shrews can communicate more meaningful sentiments than these fame rejects.

The staff, like some media pimps, ask loaded questions with all the tact and finesse of a Russian tank ploughing through a nursing home, just so the vacuous media whores can talk about themselves for a little longer. The reality angle itself is a joke, as there is no pretence to real-life and a good 30% of conversations can be found to include the words "this is my first time on The

View

Salon".

The Salon is one of the few things in life that make me wish that I had the legal powers to dispense on its creators the kind of punishment that this show deserves. While this is a family publication and I'm not allowed to divulge, I can assure you all that it is painful and will eventually prove if people can breath underwater.

In short The Salon is a meaningless waste of television bandwidth and a boil on the arse of humanity. Now, I need a lance... *LOC*

Homegrown Drama

THE CLINIC



Sunday RTE 1.

This is RTE's second post "Glenroe" attempt to resuscitate the Sunday evening soap. "Glenroe" had Irish audiences captivated for years until a John Woo style death of Biddy ended the show. Soon people discovered a world outside their living rooms and RTE has been desperate to tempt us back in ever since. "On Home Ground" pathetically failed with its "Dream Team" take on the life of GAA.

This new drama follows the lives of two G.P's, Ed and Cathy Costello, who run a Dublin clinic. The trauma of losing her baby after seven months pregnancy has Cathy raging on full bitch mode around the clinic. The staff in the clinic therefore has to put up with something that resembles Wall Street on a Monday morning instead of an Irish clinic.

The story that is supposedly going to keep us in on Sunday nights is that Ed has had an affair with the receptionist (who is an annoying bitch who can't act). Other sub-plots include that of desperate flirting between the Australian doctor and another receptionist, who is adored by another member of staff who's a bit of a dumbass. There are also a plastic surgeon and a homeopathist bickering over the credibility of each other's practices. But as predictable as it is, we all know their going to end up in the janitors closet together - we've seen it all before.

While everyone is going to call this the Irish "E.R", it has its similarities; there is the whole medical thing after all. It isn't as funny or exciting because the emphasis isn't on the patients as much as it is in "E.R." At the moment the directing is pretty useless, as there are so many characters crammed into the small set it can't be easy to control. The camera work is also pretty crap, it tosses and turns constantly. The acting, especially by the two leads is pretty good considering the script they have to work off. The question is whether one building can produce enough engaging story lines to keep its position and become the staple of the Irish Sunday evening? If that's their aim, they have a lot of work to do. *KC*

Documentaries

FACT OR FICTION: ROBIN HOOD

C4, 18/10/03 8pm

In this programme, presenter Tony Robinson attempted to track down the most celebrated outlaw of all time, Robin Hood.

Many of you may have seen or heard many versions of the story, eg. Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, Robin Hood Men in Tights etc. There are so many, but how close to the truth are all these stories we know?

The research in this programme was based on ballads,

which were produced several centuries ago. Now, you would think that if you had ballads to go by, and these were fairly specific about their subject, you would think that it might be just slightly difficult to find a man that existed to fit the profile but unfortunately there were several men to fit, in fact there were three possibilities:

1. Robert Hood of Wakefield, forest of Barnsdale no mention of Sherwood)
2. Several other Robins or Roberts, eg. Gilbert Robinhood, who, in the end didn't fit the bill
3. Robert Fitz Odo, who oddly enough, was Robin of Loxley and who was thrown out of his manor, but given back his land when a certain King Richard returned from the crusades(sound familiar?)

Another little detail worth mentioning is the fact that these men, most of them anyways, were known for theft, in fact it seems very likely that our hero Robin DID steal from the rich but....kept the lot. So he and his men were just a bunch of highway robbers.

Several of the discovered Robins did have a companion called John, who fits the Little John character, a Friar Tuck did exist at some stage but Maid Marian was not what she seems entirely. It is suspected that Robin's wife, Matilda, assumed the name Marian as an alias. It is also a belief that Robin died because he was betrayed during a routine bleeding(a person was bled for health reasons at that time) but this person, his cousin, a nun, let him bleed to death.(what a way to go!).

The programme was very interesting and well narrated by Robinson but at the end we are left with no real solid conclusion. It seems that our modern hero "is a product of centuries of change and evolution", and that the ballads aren't about the original Robin Hood at all. He is both fact and fiction and either of our possibilities 1 or 3 could have taken the name Robin Hood as an alias also to aid their camouflage in a life of robbery and trickery. Either way it is very likely that his character evolved to suit the needs of the audience from age to age. *CH*

Weird Websites

with Neil Ryan



WWW.RATHERGOOD.COM

Mother Theresa on a moped! This is the most bonkers thing I have seen on the Internet to date (which truly is a profound statement). Britney Spears dancing with crabs with Darth Vader heads, Kittens playing guitar and singing Electric Six's Gay Bar, Mark Lamarr in Llama form inflating gerbils with helium, Norse Gods in a kebab shop after mugging old-ladies handbags, and get this, Mick Hucknall of Simply Red rogering a rabbit, and that's scratching the surface! At last I have found my peers! This website truly is as mad as a duck with arms but is but gustingly funny and will leave you just wanting more insanity! Interactive games such as gak attack (just don't ask trust me...) and monkey invaders, a highly entertaining take on space invaders where monkeys fire snot at you and you must retaliate with explosive crabs...obviously! Top-notch stuff. from Joel Veitch, keep up the good work sir! *NR*

HTTP://SBT.BHMEDIA.COM

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Slugs have four noses...? Giraffes have 21-inch tongues? A man had the hiccups for 69 years? In California, a law created in 1925 makes it illegal to wiggle while dancing? This is exactly the kind of stuff you need to know if you want to be a successful weirdo these days! This site is full of the craziest, useless crap this side of Kerry! The fear of vegetables is called Lachanophobia... who are these people!

Unfortunately the strange fears portion of the site is under construction and the page itself is a little bland but is worth a look if only to find out that In Kentucky, it's the law that a person must take a bath once a year!

HTTP://WWW.CHRISWETHERELL.COM/HOBBIT/ WHAT'S YOUR HOBBIT NAME?

Ever wondered what your name would be if you wre a hobbit? Of course you have well here is the website for you (Don't ask how I found it!).

The page features a male or female name generator. Just type in your first name and surname and suddenly you are Old Bumbleroot of Haysend! Our review section editor Niall McGlade came up as Olo Broadbelt of Buckland, earning his name from his huge enormous... ill fitting pants of course what else?! On contemplating over who I knew who was distinctly hobbit-like I entered the name of our esteemed Tanaiste... Lila Chubb of Deephollow ... I'll say nothing!

WWW.MOVIE MISTAKES.COM



This website is a Mecca for nitpickers, and I'm ever so slightly embarrassed to say I visit it quite regularly. Almost any film you can think of is featured, and a good lot of TV programmes too. You needn't worry though, it's not all mistakes-there's some 'interesting' movie trivia too, for example, "The scene when Jerry ties the dress on the front porch - the strap on the dress really did break, It was not part of the script." (Jerry Maguire) There is a list of the Top 20 Mistakes, with number one going to The Matrix Reloaded: "In the scene where Neo is fighting the French guy's henchmen, at the end of the fight Neo stabs one of the guys with a sword. But if you look closely, the sword is actually not penetrating him at all. It is actually going under his arm."

There is also a list of the films with the most mistakes, and the award goes to Titanic, with an impressive 178 mistakes. Mistakes are categorised into 'Continuity', 'Visible Crew/Equipment', 'Factual Errors' and 'Plot Holes'. Contributors are not overlooked either, with a league table for those people who have nothing better to do than spot errors all day, and the top spotter has found 780 mistakes. If you're too lazy you can always just click on 'Random Film'and be amazed: "When the Griswold's are at Wally World, supposedly the only people there are the guards. Who starts the rides for them?" (National Lampoon's Vacation). It can be quite an enjoyable site the first few times one visits it, but eventually, when you find yourself sitting around in your own filth, remembering that actually, yes, the actor who played Tony Gregory TD in Veronica Guerin did wear a shirt and tie and the Real McCoy never does, then it's time to find a life again.

Clubs and Societies

UL Aero Soc visit F.L.S in Dublin

On 8:40 Tuesday morning and I dragged myself out of bed; but only happened because of the Aero.Soc's first trip of the year, which I was awaiting impatiently. We headed off at 9:30 and the weather was great. The journey up was quick, as we discussed possible events for the coming year. We reached F.L.S at 12:15 and after clearing the high-tech security (!) we went for lunch in the canteen, which was quite cheap and tasty. Of course I finished last - little did we know how long it would be before eating again. A mechanical engineer called Michael O'Malley, who Conor (Aero.Soc's) knew from working there, then showed us around the hangars, and workshops, after explaining about the various checks they carry out on the aircraft to ensure that its systems are operational.

The Hangars: There are 6 hangars altogether and we spent a good bit of time walking around the airbus A320's and A330's as Michael and Alan, an aeronautical engineer who graduated from U.L., explained in detail the working of the engine, most of which went over our heads! We saw how detailed aircraft maintenance actually is. We were very lucky to be allowed into the cockpit of an airbus A340 that was having an 8C check, which is done on each aircraft about once a year. A head technician explained the detailed

equipment in the fascinating "fly by wire" cockpit. We were also given a run through of hangars 4 and 5, but hangar 3 was off-limits as it contained a "secret project" (a Boeing 747), which made it all the more curious!

The Shops: Michael then introduced us to Brendan Ward "the master"! He showed us the engine workshop that had 2 spare engines and a bird struck engine - anyone fancy some "Kentucky fried chicken"! We were then shown photos from a borescope, a piece of equipment that enables technicians to look inside the engine for faults or damage without having to disassemble the whole engine. The photos were of the bird struck engine but to my disappointment there was not a sign of any bird, just a few dents. However these few dents were enough to cause the engine to require an overhaul and be placed out of service! Also we were told of how the core of the engine only produces a fraction of the overall thrust (20%).

Next we saw the wheel and landing gear shops, and all the cleaning processes that go on, and the inspection for faults was explained to us by Aidan; a wheel technician. The landing gear and wheels also have to be power-washed before servicing. The nose landing gear section is the most important part of all in the plane, worth up to \$500,000. Despite our best efforts we had to keep our hands

off! After this was Michael's area of expertise, the Auxiliary Power Unit (A.P.U) workshop, which repairs and overhauls the A.P.U.s (these are smaller engines located in the tail of the plane to produce power for internal systems such as electronics and air-conditioning instead of thrust). They showed us a turbine on a shaft worth \$30,000 - it looked like a gladiators battleaxe! When faulty they can explode at 40,000 r.p.m and they're quite heavy!

Michael then had to go on a course, so to finish, Alan showed us around an airbus A320 in detail, explaining the landing bays, hydraulic systems, wings (which John attempted to sabotage!!), pressurisation systems and the "honey-wagon" that removes the sewage!

This was the end of the tour and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at F.L.S, especially Michael and Alan, for their time.

We were able to get a group photo with an airbus A340 without getting arrested. Thanks to our bus driver as well, we told him we'd be an hour and a half rather than the five hours we actually took as well as facing him into rush hour traffic and the famous Red Cow Roundabout! We all had a great day and it was definitely a very worthwhile trip.

UL Kickboxers at World Championship

Four members of UL Kickboxing Club competed in the World Championship, which took place in Killarney between Wednesday 15th and Sunday 19th of October.



Debra Donovan

One of the club instructors, Debra Donovan, a bronze medallist last year, won a silver medal at this year's event. After some tough fights in the preliminary rounds she won her place in the final of the division. The final took place on Saturday, in front of a large crowd of spectators and plenty of Irish support. The fight was over three rounds. Debra started well and appeared to dominate the first two rounds. The last round was a closer affair, with each giving as good as they got. After the fight there appeared to be no other way for the judges to score it other than a win for Debra. However the fight was awarded to her English opponent in a split decision that did not go down well with the audience. It was a very disappointing way to finish the day, however Debra could not be faulted in anyway, it was only a shame that the standard of judging did not match her standard of performance. Fellow instructor Tim Murphy commented, "losing a final in an event as prestigious as this would always be difficult to take, but going out and dominating a fight and to have the decision go against you is much worse. The reaction of the crowd said it all really, and Debra knows herself that she won that fight. Her performance was exceptional, I have never seen her fight a more intelligent fight than she did in the final. Over the weekend she proved without question that she is the number one competitor in the world in her division, poor judging cannot change that."

Tim Murphy, a gold medallist last year lost out in the second round this year. In a close fight against a Belgium opponent he had beaten last year, Murphy felt that he had done enough to win, but the decision went against him. He commented, "In the world championships you really can't afford to leave fights close if you want to win. Of course I am disappointed but I have no one to blame but myself".

Brenda Cremin and Kathy Dunne also took part in the event as part of the Irish Team. Brenda, a gold medallist in the World Tae kwon-Do World Championships in 2000, lost out in the first round to a German opponent who later won the gold medal in the division. Kathy, who won a silver medal in the German Open in June, was also eliminated in the first round, her opponent winning a silver medal. This was the first time that either competed in the world championships. Former UL student Sean Keane won a gold medal in the event.

UL Socialist Party



UL Socialist Party Members with Joe Higgins, TD

Socialist Party members took their first trip as an official society last weekend. 6 members from UL travelled to Dublin for the release of Socialist Party TD Joe Higgins and Councillor Clare Daly.

After serving one full month in Mount-Joy prison, for refusing to abide by a High Court injunction that prohibited them from taking part in peaceful protests on behalf of their constituents, over the bin tax, Joe Higgins and Clare Daly walked free. We were to greet them along with other socialist party members, friends and family.

That evening we all attended a public rally in which Joe and Clare pledged to continue on with the campaign against double taxation, of which was to the delight to the 400 people in the room. The night continued in high spirits with

drinking and dancing, and all members from UL were given the opportunity to speak to Clare and Joe as they wished. Joe also made a promise to visit UL during the year.

The fun and games of the weekend continued the next day, when we attended a rally of the Irish Social Forum, at which plans were made to organize protests and demonstrations when Ireland takes over the EU presidency next year.

The Socialist party in both UL and nationally will be to the forefront of all these movements and if you want to show your opposition to this government and the system they represent join the socialist party society in UL today.

UL Hockey Clubs go Mad

On Tuesday of week 6, UL Hockey Clubs will be holding a Band Night in the Scholars function room. The band is 'Impala' and Tickets cost €4. A good night is guaranteed to be had by all. Following on from that, we will be holding in conjunction with SVP a charity costumes match. There will be people going around college collecting money for SVP. The charity match will take the form of "Nuns vs. Vicars" and we hope to raise some money. Come on down and support us or mortify us. Your choice!!

Green Fair 2003

Welcome to Greek Week, it's time to be healthy, green and environmentally aware! This year's Green Fair promises to be the biggest ever yet. We have a range of stalls from yummy vegetarian food & snacks to funky hippy clothes to a electricity-bike generator. Dress for craic in the Transformation Tent & indulge in organic snacks:)

Come & enjoy & experience

Clubs and Societies

UL Ladies Football

UL senior ladies football team had their first league match against NUIG on Monday last the 5th of October. UL started strongly and clearly dominated the first twenty minutes of the match, with a score of 1-6 to 0-0 twenty minutes into the game. After Patrice Dennehy's second goal Galway seemed to come to life somewhat. At the half time break with five out of six UL forwards scoring and a score line of 2-8 to 1-3 UL seemed to have the game in the bag.

However some excellent tactical changes on Galway's part made sure that this was not going to be the case. NUIG clawed back and proved that their earlier start back to college meant that they had supremacy in the fitness ranks even though the UL girl's skill had ensured such a good first half performance. Hence the match finished disappointingly for UL with a final score of 3-14 NUIG to 2-10 UL.

It is hoped that an extra effort will be made for training on both Mondays and Wednesdays at 6pm on Maguire's pitches and also that all members will put a big effort into the upcoming fundraising event: "Who Wants To Be A Thousandaire?" which will be held in Kilmurray Lodge on the 19th of November.

The panel for Mondays game included: Margaret McGrath, Elaine Bennett, Niamh Keane, Emer O'Sullivan, Deirdre Martin, Jenny Johnson, Karen O'Sullivan, Rachel Nolan, Angela Walsh, Patricia Marmian, Aileen O Loughlin, Patrice Dennehy, Valerie O' Sullivan, Deirdre O' Mahony, Lisa Quinn, Stephanie Corkery, Sile Burns, Marita Fahy, Cliona Dowling, Sinead Kelly, Linda O' Connor, Ailbhe O' Loinsigh and Colette Walsh.

Want to learn about politics?

Want to understand what's going on in the news (and not fall asleep)????

Here's your answer.....

YOUNG PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS

Meeting Thursday Week 6

6.30p.m. Room 4 SU

ALL ARE WELCOME



UL Peace Soc prepare for battle

PEACE SOCIETY introduces-THE WEAKEST LINK-UL STYLE!!

Monday Week 7, November 3rd @ 8.30 in the Jean Monnet the irrefutable Keith Piggott will change gender for the evening and assume Anne Robinson's role. He has thus faithfully promised to tantalize his fan-base and dress up in a black dress. In an exclusive interview with An Focal, Piggott has revealed that his life ambition has always been to utter those sexy words, 'You are the weakest Link, Goodbye.' It is also rumoured that the participating lecturers/victims have pooled vast copious amounts of dosh to receive coaching lessons for THE WEAKEST LINK-UL STYLE from Eamon Dunphy. This has yet to be confirmed. Unnamed sources from Humanities, Economics and Finance have put cold water on the Engineering Department from progressing to the second round. Betting has been fierce and intense. Odds on favourite are tied between Marketing (they know how to persuade) Music (they know what to do on stage) and Economics (they know how to influence). Humanities and Engineering have indicated that they are not concerned as long as one makes the next round before the other.

The Battle of the Departments has now commenced. Be there to witness this historical event. The participants so far:

Department of Politics
Luke Ashworth
Department of Management and Marketing

Naomi Birdthistle
Department of Electronic & Computer Engineering
Colin Fitzpatrick
Martin Hayes
Department of Computer Science
Paddy Healy
Department of Accounting and Finance
Fergal O'Brien
Irish World Music Centre
Micheál Ó'Súilleabháin
Department of Computer Science
Norah Power
Department of Economics
Eoin Reeves

Come and support your relevant department or revel in the discomfort of that lecturer who gave you a bad grade! The battle of the colleges commences. Tickets are €4, available at the Students Union, from Irish Peace Society members or available on the door. Come early to avoid disappointment! Its all for a good cause as all the proceeds go to charity.

Other upcoming Peace Society events:

Greek Week, Week 7 the Scholars Courtyard will be transformed into a competition zone for charity. There will be a Cracker Eating competition and a Folding Paper competition among others. You have been warned!

The South African Ambassador to Ireland, Mrs. Melanie Verwoerd, will speak on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The talk will take place on Friday Week 7 (7th

November) @ 11. See posters for venue.

Des O'Malley former Leader of the Progressive Democrats will speak on the 1970 Arms Crisis. This will be the last time that an audience will speak to our guest as Des O'Malley. He will be conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by the University later that day and hence known as Doctor O'Malley. The talk will take place on Monday of Week 9 (17th November) @ 1. See posters for venue.

John Cushnahan Fine Gael M.E.P. will speak in his capacity as the EU's Chief Election Observer for the General Election in Pakistan of 2002 and in Sri Lanka of 2000 and 2001. Mid-late November.

David Rovics, Paul O'Toole and Eoin Ó'Súilleabháin had a very successful gig in the Scholars on Monday night of Week 5. Monies raised went to the Anti-War movement. Friday of Week 5, the President of the Society, Eoin Ó'Súilleabháin, sang his tunes for UN day at the Scholars. See posters and the Irish Peace Society website for further details. The enthusiastic membership of the Peace Society has much more planned.

Elaine Byrne
www.peace.ie

UL Waterpolo Club get in gear



Here it goes... Into another year and we're ready for anything. For the next two semesters the UL water polo club are promising some interesting and fun events. The old members are looking forward to what's ahead and we're all excited by the enthusiasm of our new first year members. Losing a good few members last year to graduation and the likes was a bit of a blow, but after our AGM and weekly meetings we're back in the driving seat with first year students making up a good slice of the new Committee. There's a new Lease of life for the UL water polo Club... Prepare yourselves we aim to surprise!!!!

The men's team did us all proud in the National League last year finishing second over all. There's more to come from them.

After winning their first friendly to Tipp

Town 3 weeks ago they had an unfortunate loss in their first league match of this year. It was a close call for the boys against UCC on Sat the 18th in the arena pool. The ladies are pushing hard at the moment to come back up to that level with friendly matches already scheduled, the first was against UCC, the girls put up a fight but lost in the end, and still managed to help the UCC girls celebrate their win afterwards. With plenty ahead of us we're all training hard and having a laugh at the same time!

The new committee are planning to work hard and we aim to see some serious results for the club. Our Team Captains have been selected for the year. Sinead O'Donovan is the ladies Captain and Fiona O'Shea is the ladies vice captain. Colm Fitzgerald for the men's Captain with Brian McCaffrey as the vice. Sinead has also taken the responsibility as the Clubs chairperson and plans to continue all the hard work she did for us last year. Many thanks again to her.

Some events already planned include a 24-hour splashathon during Greek week for charity. This will involve team members, and anyone who wants to join in, diving non stop in the diving pit. Each person will get sponsorship for

participating and collection buckets will be flying around college. Be Generous!! There are some volunteers heading up to Abbotstown in Dublin to help out in the European Championship. We have committed ourselves to community work in the pool with the Limerick Access group weekly. There are a few fundraising nights on the horizon, including one coming soon in the Trinity Rooms on the 5th of November. Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for us during rag week. Not forgetting our club trips away.

We are always recruiting new members, of all levels; so complete beginners are welcome. We train Mondays 10pm-11pm and Wednesdays 9pm-11pm, so come along and jump in. We only bite during matches. If you want to know what we do or what we're about come to the spectator's area at the Arena pool on the above times and be a fly on the wall. If it's your cup of tea bring your gear along the next week and give it a go. Don't be shy, we still have newcomers arriving down every week and they seem to be enjoying it, because they're still coming! It's great to be back and you will all be hearing more from us over the coming weeks.

Clubs and Societies



The University of Limerick Computer Society, as part of Greek Week, will be running an event on Friday November 7th. This will kick off at 4:00pm in An Phluis in the Scholars with a retro-gaming competition, which will run until 6:30pm. There will be prizes given out followed by a series of talks at 7:30pm. The following guest speakers have been arranged.

- 1) Mikael Fernstrom
User-centred confessions by a reformed hacker - shifting perspectives from hardware to software to wetware, and back
- 2) Mel Gorman
Overview of the 2.4 Linux Virtual Memory Manager
- 3) John Sturdy
Clearing the path from idea to program
- 4) Pamela O'Shea
The Linux Awareness project
- 5) Pdraig Brady
Rapid GUI Application Development using Python and Gnome.

This event is an open to all and will be taking place in the Scholar's Function Room (An Phluis), on Friday 7th November. There will be finger food afterwards and a chance to meet the speakers.

If you would like more information please send an email to

compsoc@csn.ul.ie

UL Rowing Club

UL Rowing Club has grown strongly since its foundation in 1996. Thanks to impressive performances on the river, generous corporate sponsorship and intelligent businesslike fundraising, ULRC has not only become the University's largest sporting club but also Limerick's prime rowing club.

Those pulling an oar this season will include the large number of new members signed up plus some very experienced rowers from other top clubs around Ireland (Athlunkard B.C. and St. Michaels) giving us an explosive start to the season.

ULRC men's and women's crews will be hoping to build on last years successes, most notably the men's National Championship Victory in the Novice fours and the Women's impressive season.

The club has also become a coach's dream with no less than 30 Intermediate/Experienced Rowers to choose from and over 30 freshly recruited rowers to select crews from. This can only mean that one exciting racing season is ahead of us.

Galway Head of the River

This bank holiday weekend will see us head up to the Galway Head Of The

River on the 25th of October hosted by NUIG, for our first Head of River (Time Trial) of the season, racing all the top crews from Ireland, and also some London based clubs over a distance of 5 kilometres on the ruthless river Corrib.

We will be sending out a large entry in this H.O.R. consisting of the experienced rowers who the coaches will be mixing up to find the fastest moving boats. It looks like it is going to be an exciting weekend not to mention the night out NUIG are holding.

How Can I Get Involved?

So you have an hour or two spare in your day, and you want to become a strong fit rowing animal? ULRC always welcomes new members, just check out our notice board in the canteen or check out our website at www.ulrowing.com. Pick up an information sheet at any of these locations or just turn up at one of our land training events, we'll get you fit, strong and out on the water in no time.

John Meehan PRO

UL Men's Gaelic team defeated by WIT

UL 1-7 WIT 1-9

In their first outing of the season, the UL senior team suffered defeat at the hands of WIT at the Waterford Crystal Sports Grounds.

After an even first quarter, during which the teams twice swapped scores (Sean Dempsey and Kevin McHugh the UL scorers), WIT began to dominate, winning a lot of breaks around the middle third of the field. However a series of aimless long balls forward, coupled with some good UL defending kept the scores close. Frank O'Rahilly (19mins) and MOTM Joe Quinn just before the break cancelled out two WIT points and the teams finished the half level at 0-4 apiece.

The second half started disastrously for the visitors with a fine long distance WIT point being quickly followed by a close range goal. Two pointed frees by centre forward Ed Barrett (both for fouls on Joe Quinn) were all UL could muster in the first 20mins of the half, with WIT maintaining a 4 point lead courtesy of two minors of their own.

An inspirational score by centre back Niall Fitzgerald, who was becoming increasingly prominent, cut the gap to a goal and, after a terrible wide from a free by a WIT forward, UL fashioned a superb goal: Niall Fitzgerald and Frank O'Rahilly combining to free Ed Barrett, who crashed home the equalising score in the 55th minute. 1-7 all. Could UL pull out a victory that looked unlikely just minutes earlier? Alas no, as some slack defending presented WIT with the

lead point and victory was secured for the locals with a well-struck '45' in the final minute.

Best for UL on the day were sub Ray Murray, Niall Fitzgerald, midfielders Joe Quinn and Sean Dempsey and Ed Barrett.

Scorers: Ed Barrett 1-2 (2f), Sean Dempsey, Kevin McHugh, Frank O'Rahilly, Joe Quinn and Niall Fitzgerald 0-1 each.

Team: Billy Sheahan; Peter Ruane; Damien Martin; John Stack; Tom McGuire; Niall Fitzgerald; John Dunne; Sean Dempsey; Joe Quinn; Pat McNicholas; Ed Barrett; James Clarke; Frank O'Rahilly; Kevin McHugh; Dara Kinnevey.

Subs: Ray Murray, Kieran Quirke, Dermot Dineen, PJ McGauley, Brian Purcell.

Earlier in the day, the UL intermediates were defeated by their WIT counterparts on a 1-12 to 1-7 scoreline (HT: 0-6 to 0-5). Some slack passing and poor refereeing decisions were the keys to UL's downfall, despite a well-taken goal by sub Sean O'Donohoe and accurate shooting from top scorer Cian McNamara.

Team: Brian Leahy, Cathal O'Flaherty, Kevin Shannon, Joe Tormey, Kieran Quirke, Ray Murray, Phillip Ryan, Colm Gavin, Sean Dempsey, Brian Purcell, Fintan Gillane, Cian McNamara, Dermot O'Sullivan, Liam O'Meara, Brendan O'Sullivan.

Subs: Ross Brosnan, Aidan Grace, Sean O'Donohoe, PJ McGauley.

Motorcycling in UL

The motorcycle is a pretty amazing mode of transport. It's as much fun as it seems, and more. It's cheaper than driving a car and much more convenient. Bikers are a diverse bunch who tend to do their own thing, but in UL a group of us have gotten together, and we have our reasons.

It should be pretty obvious to anyone reading the papers over the last few months that motorcycling as we know it in Ireland will soon be a thing of the past, unless we make it our business to support it. What better place to start than on our own campus? While the number of bikes on campus increases a quick look around reveals the pathetic state of parking facilities for example. There is **NOT ONE COVERED PARKING SPACE** on campus!

We are not just about facilities though. The UL Riders are here to promote motorcycling in UL. Promotion amounts to helping motorcyclists attain the skills and support they need to continue riding their bikes both safely and confidently. It also involves helping those who have an



interest to develop their knowledge so that when they do get a bike they will have a head start.

Motorcycling is a great way of getting around but it also offers a chance to gain some very worthwhile skills in areas such as road safety and basic mechanics. Making contact with other bikers is what it's all about and we're very friendly!

Check us out:
<http://www.skynet.ie/~ulriders>

Clubs and Societies

ULKC Lahinch - What a Weekend

And so we all lived to tell the tale of yet another thrilling trip to Lahinch! Friday 5.00pm at the east gate is where it all began as more than 50 freshers piled on the bus not knowing what was ahead of them for the weekend! Some of us left earlier to prepare the hostel for the onslaught of crazy kayakers! Due to a mix up with double-booked buses the earlier crowd got to travel down in style on the Trinity rooms bus! As usual the journey down to Lahinch was no normal journey. Kev and John Power entertained everyone with a comical presentation on how to surf! Armed with hilarious pictures they taught the first years the basis of kayak surfing! At about 7.00pm the hostel was taken over and once rooms were organised everyone settled in. Then it was off to O'Looneys pub to give the first years a taste of the Lahinch social life! The first years also got acquainted with the more seasoned veterans of the club! By the end of the night there were endless games of fubball played as well as a lot of dodgy games involving icecubes, which were all initiated by Don himself! After O'Looneys it was time to hit the dance floor in the Claremont nightclub!

We had a slow start on Saturday as we waited for the surf to pick up and for the tide to come off the rocks. Ronan got his first introduction to the joys of unloading the trailer and of course Homer's bitching! With everyone kitted out people made an advance towards the waves. Despite Kev and John's excellent surf lessons several swimmers were spotted within minutes of hitting the water. Leaning into the wave is something you should not forget to do!



But they quickly got the hang of it thanks to all the helpers, led by Homer, Daren and John Power. Big shout out to the three of them! We were lucky to have surf conditions on our side, with clean 4-foot faced waves, perfect for first time surfers. After a long days surf most people hit Seaworld for the luxury of the Jacuzzi and Sauna. Then the pool was taken over while we played a game of volleyball in the water.

Back at the Hostel a massive meal of the infamous ULKC Spag Bol was being prepared! It went down a treat, as everyone was ravenous after the day's activities. While people retired upstairs to prepare for the night, the lounge was decorated for our Hawaiian theme night. Then the much-anticipated Hoola shirts were taken out! The room became illuminated with 40 bright pink Hawaiian shirts! Soon after, the fun and frolics began...! With 2 Dolan's tickets up for grabs things soon heated up! These tickets were for the first two people to switch underwear and wear them outside each other's clothes! Photo evidence shows just how far some people will go!! Afterwards the Hostel contingent all traipsed to O'Looneys where five of our lucky members witnessed the charms of a lovely local lady! The night ended again with a visit to a packed Claremont to show Lahinch our dancing moves!

Sunday was full of scandal and slugging with fresher Ritchie getting the brunt of it after attempting to chat up a bedpost! Don't ask! Unfortunately there was not a wave to be seen on Sunday morning, Lahinch was more like a lake than the sea, but still the first years were enthusiastic about getting on the water, so they spent a good while messing about on the water and trying to catch the few ripples that were there.

The bus arrived at 5.00pm to pick everyone up and so once the hostel was looking respectable we all loaded on the bus, tired and sad to be leaving the place. However the weekend wasn't over yet. It was back to the Scholars for free food and a chance to experience A Bit o' Banter production's breathtaking video! Which will be on sale shortly by the way! The staff in Scholars kindly let us cook up our left over food so everyone got a feast of plenty of rashers and sausages. A big thanks to the Scholars for that! Soon after people began to filter home, wrecked but happy after a weekend of surf, craic and craziness with the ULKC kayakers!

If you want to try kayaking come along to the pool any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday night at 9.50 and we'll start you off!

Seona Dillon McLoughlin
Debbie Hurley

Munster Polo League and the UL Descent

Weekend Week 3 was a very busy weekend for the Kayak Club, with a national long distance race to organise and a canoe-polo league to run, things ran a little close to the wire as the surf was up and so everybody went to Dougie for the morning... (and then the stayed for the afternoon...)

Saturday night was the night for the Polo and seven teams from around the country joined the two UL teams to play in the University Arena pool for the first leg of a five-leg Polo league. UL entered two Division 2 teams, UL Bismarck and UL Titanic and whilst Bismarck did quite well winning one match and narrowly losing out to Spectre in a hard fought second game, Titanic lived up to its name and went down like a sinking ship losing both matches by a considerable margin. But as we'd not played together since the Limerick Polo Tournament (held in June) and had moved up a division we weren't too upset - after all there's still four more nights. Spectre are in front for now but there'll be tough competition in the months to come as X and Mad Cows have still to join the league.

Meanwhile in Division One Sean Mullins (ex UL Bismarck) had jumped ship to play with the Brayheads who were new to the first Division. The Wild Water Kayak Club came out on top this time with the incredible Stretch on their side but I can foresee a tightly fought competition between them and the rest in the first Division. A big thanks to Sean for reviving the Munster League which had been dormant for a few years but is back bigger and better than ever.

After the competition we retired to the Scholars who kindly accommodated our large party of tired and hungry paddlers and supplying toasties to all and sundry.

The morning after the night before we woke to begin organising our first nationally ranked Long Distance Kayaking Race. In its third year now this was the first time the UL Descent has been nationally ranked and as such was quite a challenging seeing as few of the committee had any experience long distance let alone in organising a long distance race. Luckily Eamon Coyle was on hand to sort us out and unfortunately he bore the brunt of work. Thanks again Eamon!

We'd like to thank the Scholars again for allowing us to use the Scholars function room for the presentation and for supplying us with sandwiches, Tea and Coffee. Also a big thanks to all our sponsors, UL Activity Centre, River Deep Mountain High, The Munster Dive Shop, The Outdoor Adventure Store, The Great Outdoors, The Bike Shop and Padmore Barnes. And a very special thanks to Mark Hennessy of Leisure Image Ltd. for supplying us with our excellent t-shirts on such short notice. (Some t-shirts are still available, if you want to buy one talk to me at one of the pool sessions.)

Richard Keely

Stab Sity Squadron on tour in the big schmoke

George Invitational Team Racing, 11/12 October 2003

The first event of term for the Stab Sity Squadron began with the usual pillaging around for all the forgotten sailing gear necessary for these events; shirt and tie, shoes, bootees, lifejackets, Richy Murphy. We also did the usual 'lads up from the country' routine of getting lost in Dublin with all the poxy one way streets. ('...but officer we were only driving in one way...') Andy's finger exploded and went septic, which was nice. I retired to bed as the rest went on the pull.

Productivity was at an all time low on Saturday with the minus 4 knot breeze so we all lounged around talking rubbish for most of the day. That night the future of the world was decided at the IUSA Captain's meeting before dinner in the clubhouse. The theme of the evening was that each team was expected to perform their party piece after the meal. The Brits sang filthy unmentionable stuff while Team George performed John Sheehy's birthday. Chambers and his merry men sang about sprouts and how interesting th...zzzzzzz..... The highlight was by the South County Rebels who stole the show, not only by their dress code and the whole Cork Vs. the rest of the world thing they have going on...but



they can sing and dance too! Colm Galvin gave us a beautiful rendition of Lady in Red while Brian gave us a beautiful re - make of the Bearded Lady in Red. Luckily the show was cut short before Limerick showed off Andy's septic hand to the members of the audience.

The Next day was greeted by lots of Aspirin and lots of breeze. The event was to be run in a split format so we had the morning off, and were scheduled to sail only 5 races. Score UL 1 million points! So we did the usual act of hanging around talking rubbish all morning. The optimists among us calculated that each race was costing us €50 so we had to make the most of it.

Race 1 HYC and we emerged victorious. And there was much rejoicing. That was about the height of our team racing efforts for the weekend. Late for the start... got luffed over the line... forgot how to sail... etc. we used all the above excuses and more. However we had a great weekend and for the small amount of racing that we did we decided it was worth it to get us in trim for the coming year and at least we learned a few lessons. Thank you Rusty for another great event, Alibi, Skippy, Pauline, Eunice, the catering staff, Jururs, Rescue, photographers, Race officers and all behind the scene. Thanks to Paul and Sheenagh for accommodation for the team.

Clubs and Societies



C/C++ getting you down...

Can't figure out how to publish that webpage you've been at for ages...

Just want to be able to use a computer...

Then Skynet has your answer!!!

Starting Monday Week 5 workshops in all computer related problems are running. You want to know something; chances are we have someone that can help out.

Drop in any Monday evening to the fish tank between 6pm and 9pm and we'll be running workshops in whatever you want. Cost is €4 per workshop and will be running for 5 weeks from 6PM - 9PM starting Week 5.

So far, Workshops include
6-7 Web-Based Programming
6-7 C++
7-8 PHP
7-9 Java

Mail us at compsoc@csn.ul.ie or just drop on by and we'll see what can be done!!!

Gan Ainm - UL TradSoc

We're into our sixth week in college, and what have we done? Well in Gan Ainm circles they have done quite a lot. For a number of months now, Aidan O'Donnell (chairman of "Gan Ainm") along with some other members have been organizing an intervarsity weekend that will be coinciding with the TG4 Gradam Ceoil awards and the Sionna festival which will all be happening around the weekend of the 14th 15th and 16th of November.

UL will be hosting what hopes to be the first of many "Campus Trad" festivals, which in it self is a "Gan Ainm" brainchild. This festival will involve all the Trad Socs of Ireland from Cork to Derry. "Gan Ainm" hopes to get all these Socs down to Limerick on the Friday the 14th of November for 4pm where they will register, after that there will be a Concert held in the Castle Troy Park Hotel by UL Trad Soc musicians.

The morning of the 15th of November there will be a conference held in FB028. This conference will be held to establish stronger links between Trad Socs in Ireland, and Traditional music as a whole, guest speakers will also attend. The Gradham Ceoil will follow the conference at 8 pm in the UCH. Followed by a massive session! Of what, who knows? In the mean time lets not forget about the weekly Trad Soc session which takes place in the sports bar starting at half nine every Monday night,



Gan Ainm in full flow

musicians of all caliber are encouraged to attend and air their musical ability!

More Recent Events

"Gan Ainm" would like to thank all who attended and supported and played at the Fundraising concert that was on the Wednesday night the 22nd of October in the Garda Club. I think we can all say, those of us that attended enjoyed our selves immensely,

"This is only a snippet of what's to come haw haw haw haw!"

"Dunkineely" chairman of "Gan Ainm" Let's hope he's right, we will all have to go and see!

If you're interested, and want some more information on this weekend or anything mentioned above, please do not hesitate to contact "Gan Ainm" on.

E-mail
ganainmul@hotmail.com

Website
www.ul.ie/~iwmc/tradsoc.html

UL Outdoor Pursuits Club

Week 3: Clifden Weekend Away!

Written by Rob Ryan

It all began on a quiet Friday afternoon when sixty-five students decided they would spend two nights, an evening and two days in Letterfrack, Co. Galway. The theme of the trip was a hill-walking excursion. Little did they know what would follow would be a gruesome test of everybody's stamina and patience (waiting for the bus takes a lot out of you).

The bus journey to Letterfrack, which is relatively close to Clifden, was a lighthearted affair with plenty of banter between the Old School members (Clive, Del Boy and Mike Rynne) and the new Erasmus students. We soon learned that "glue-bag" is not in the Spanish vocabulary. We made a brief stop in Galway to stock up on food for the weekend and arrived in the Hostel around 10 on Friday night.

Upon arriving at the hostel the committee members set about entertaining the crowd with fun and games. However Liam Gahan dressed in Darraghs' mothers best cocktail dress was not a sight to inspire a late night and MOST people had an early night.

Saturday morning was an early start (Ireland vs. Romania 8:00 kick off). The group left at 10:30 for the onslaught of Ben Bán one of the peaks of the twelve Bens, (the name given to the mountain range in the area). Darragh, Brendan and Patrick took off to tackle a more advanced walk. The rest of us were lead fantastically and very professionally by Liam, Alywn, Aoife and Paul with Mike bringing up the rear. We reached the summit after about two hours. The view was spectacular, as one would expect from 730 metres. After we had taken numerous photos we headed back down the saddle of Ben Bán. The walking took the best part of six hours yet everyone was left with a feeling of achievement.

Saturday night brought out the student in all the hill walkers. Alywn lead the way with a fantastic display of break dancing, which was followed by Mikey's new dance 'The Boxer' that everyone was able to join in. The local disco decided to take requests and it wasn't long before the group was on the floor "rocking the boat" (Letterfrack will never be the same again).

The late Saturday night lead to a late start on Sunday morning. The group was split between those who felt like walking up a mountain again and those who wanted to be culturally enlightened. The walking group set out to tackle another mountain while the intellectuals were lead on a trip around Kylemore Abbey by Stevo. The Abbey has some very interesting attractions such as the lake, the woods and the pleasure gardens. The tour ended with Mikey showing his magic tricks to some unfortunate first years in the coffee shop. Those who went walking were picked up after their brief swim in freezing cold waters and the group made the return journey to Limerick on the comfortable bus provided by Curtin 5star Executive Travel.

The trip was a complete success with

plenty of laughs along the way. They say once you go on one OPC trip you're hooked and I must say I can't wait for the next one.

Week 4: Ballykeefe Quarry, Co. Kilkenny

Written by Aoife Nagle.

Aim: Everyone to meet outside the Stables at 9AM and to be on our way at 9:05AM.

Reality: The last few stragglers arrived at 9:30AM and we were on our way by 9:35AM.

The destination was Ballykeefe quarry in Co. Kilkenny for a spot of rock climbing. This was the first OPC trip to this quarry as it has only recently become popular and a guidebook become available. For many on the trip this was their first attempt at outdoor rock climbing for others it was their first time at the quarry so expect the unexpected was the general feeling on the bus.

After a stop off for a few breakfast rolls and a few Hail Mary's that it wouldn't rain, 25 people including Eugene the bus driver arrived at said destination. Four climbs were set up: one easy-ish to get a feel for it, two harder ones to really test skills and a fourth to scare the bejaysus out of us. While this was being done everybody was given a harness and helmet and rock shoes (if they could handle the pain!) to put on. While this sounds easy harness' can be put on inside out and backwards and require a lot of adjusting. Helmets can also be put on backwards and also require adjusting. A lot of time can be spent staring incoherently wondering why your arm is through the leg loop!!

All the beginners were very enthusiastic not only about climbing but also about learning how to belay (this is where the person at the bottom of the climb controls the amount of loose rope and acts as an anchor point should the climber fall) Learning how to do this is very important as it makes the climbers less dependant on the more experienced people and saves a lot of time. Trips like this one also give the leaders a chance to practise and perfect their anchors and set-ups at the top of the routes. On all OPC trips we try not only to give beginners a taste of something new but also to give experience to older members in leading and organising.

Throughout the day everyone had a go on all the routes making pretty damn good attempts too. Most people I saw got to the top and even on the fourth route (aptly named 'The Animal') after a bit of cursing some people managed to get there. At about half five we were all climbed out so we packed up and headed back to Eugene and his bus.

Aim: To return to UL with everyone in one piece and happy

Reality: Returned to UL with everyone sore but happy. Not bad.

Clubs and Societies

A Modern Fairy-Tale: Experiences Of The Aran Islands

By Claudia, Anke, Renata, Timo, Terhi, Valentina and Mikael

Bikes, aspirin, sunshine, hot whiskey, rain, storm, fun, stones, waves, toilets, a good hostel, international pasta kitchen, a dog called Romeo.... Aren't these enough keywords to make up a catching fairy-tale?

Once upon a time there were 53 brave, young and restless, bold and beautiful international students who were crazy enough to leave their cosy apartments to venture into this temptation island called Inishmore.

To make sure that some nationalities would be on time, we met at 8 am but the bus left at 9 am. What a clever man that Ralf! After experiencing the high quality of the Irish roads we satisfied our growling stomachs in the city of Galway...was it the right decision? The following glorious trip over the water could easily be compared to a roller-coaster, which has slipped out of control. But we survived, settled in our hostel and were ready to face the adventure and to explore the ancient Celtic world as promised in the tourist guides.

Riding our mountain bikes we looked liked a herd of primary school students wandering around on the wrong side of



the road. (Yes, we are from the continent!) Only the instant feedback given by the local car drivers kept us alive. Forts, castles, cemeteries and of course the spectacular Dún Aengus were left behind until we reached the edge of the "world". Feeling exhausted, but happy we spent the evening in a pub drinking the blond in the black dress.

Sunday showed us why the pubs are so important for the Irish folk: Soaking wet after yet another sightseeing tour through pouring rain we crawled into the local restaurant to wait for our saviour - the ferry. But it turned out to be another joyride in our beloved roller-coaster, actually even worse than the first time. But as every fairy-tale has a good ending, everybody got home tired, grumpy, hungry, but very alive and happy. Thank you lads!

Claudia, Anke, Renata, Timo, Terhi, Valentina and Mikael

UL RACING SOCIETY 2004 NATIONAL STUDENT RACEDAY

Following the phenomenal success that was last year's National Student Raceday, the UL Racing Society in conjunction with Horse Racing Ireland and Limerick Racecourse are holding their second National Student Raceday, on Thursday 25th February 2004. Ok we know it isn't until early next semester but now's the time to mark your diaries.

At last year's Raceday, over 1200 students from all over the country enjoyed:

- Admission to Racecourse
- Racecard
- Supermacs Meal (it alone valued at € 6.50)
- Free Tote Voucher
- Free Bus to and from the track
- Free entry Nite Club and much, much more

ALL this for just € 10 per person

The same deal will apply again to this year's renewal.

More details have yet to follow so WATCH THIS SPACE! And remember to keep Thursday 25th February free so you too can enjoy what is a brilliant day out at an extremely reasonable price.

Further information is available from the Racing Society
Email: 0233269@student.ul.ie

UL Rugby Club at Conroy Cup in Belfast

At the weekend, a UL rugby freshers/U20s squad travelled to Belfast for the Conroy Cup 2003, the national intervarsity U20s competition.

UL were drawn in Pool A, arguably the most difficult pool in the competition alongside favourites UCC and UCD, the eventual winners of this year's tournament. QUB, Dublin University and NUI, Galway made up the teams in Pool B. UL's first qualifying game was on the Saturday against a very strong UCD side. UL started well and playing into a stiff breeze managed to keep the very well drilled and physically strong UCD team on the back-foot. UL's pack played admirably throughout the game, managing to match UCD's very powerful and skilful tight five. Stephen Roycroft, Kevin Dinan and Liam Crowley performed excellently out-of-touch, frequently turning over possession; providing some superb support play; and tackling like men possessed. The backs also played very well, with Gary Ryan at out-half and inside centre Gearoid Fitzgerald leading the line well in defence.

The outside back quartet: second centre Marco Kindler, full-back Dave Hartnett, and wings Damian Daly and Donagh O'Sullivan were full of running and tried to break individually, or put the ball through the hands whenever in possession.

However, with some powerful option play; rolling mauls; and well-orchestrated combinations and passing in the backs; and, after successive phases of controlled possession play, UCD managed to outflank the UL covering defence out-wide. UCD ran out convincing winners in the end. However,

this was the UL boy's first competitive game together and they acquitted themselves very well considering.

In the second pool game against UCC, UL set out their stall early on. Following a number of phases of possession, complemented by good strategic play from out-half Gearoid Fitzgerald, a searing break early on by pacy right wing Damian Daly resulted in a ruck just short of the Cork 22. Off a short pop pass from captain fantastic and scrumhalf Billy Fitzgerald, openside flanker Kevin Dinan handed off a number of defenders, and rode the tackle of the covering UCC full-back to score near the posts.

The front row of Owen O'Connell, loose-head; hookers Paul McCarthy and Dave Hare (who moved from the backrow when Paul had to retire injured); and Shane de Barra, tight-head, played especially well, scrummaging solidly against more experienced counterparts. Threequarters Julian King and Stephen Prenderville made a number of good breaks; and Dave Gallagher, playing at second centre, put in a number of huge tackles in midfield while also making a number of explosive incursions into the opposition's half.

After the interval, the teams turned around with UL trailing by just the one converted try, 12-5.

However, in the second half, playing against an increasingly stiff wind, and with the fatigue of having had to play two games back-to-back setting in, the UL boys started to tire and the UCC lads ultimately prevailed. The game also turned on the loss, just before the break, of talismanic number 8 and vice-captain Gary O'Driscoll. Following an accidental collision with one of the UCC backs,



who was attempting a block-down as Gary attempted a kick to clear his lines, Gary suffered a bad concussion, which necessitated that he stay overnight in hospital. Unfortunately Gary was to miss out on one of the highlights of the weekend, which was the reception on Saturday night for the coaches and teams, in the magnificent Belfast City Hall buildings. Each player was presented with a pin to mark their participation in the tournament, and all the teams greatly appreciated the tremendous hospitality of the QUB 'alicks' and players, and Belfast City Council.

The UL team improved as the tournament progressed, and this culminated in a hard-fought 6-5 victory over NUI Galway in the 'bowl' final on the Sunday morning. UCD and UCC, respectively, won the final and 3rd/4th place play-off matches.

Blindside flanker Keith McHugh had a stormer of a game covering acres of ground to make tackles and to support team-mates, both in contact and open play. And with Stephen Mullins, John McAvinue and James Connolly also leading the charge, UL continued to pressurise the Galway defence. And following some very good dynamic play

in the loose and movement from the backs, under pressure, NUIG strayed off-side, for which UL were rewarded a penalty to the right and on the 22. Full-back Gary Ryan slotted the kick, and he added another penalty (this time for an infringement at a ruck) just before the break. NUIG responded in the second half with a very well worked try from their backs. UL created numerous chances in the second half to widen the gap but failed narrowly on each occasion to breach the sturdy Galway defence. Nonetheless, UL were delighted to hang on for a well-deserved win in this highly exciting and entertaining game.

The UL boys departed Belfast on the long journey home, as the banter and songs resounded around the SU bus, finishing off what was a memorable rugby weekend for all involved.

The UL rugby team would like to thank especially our bus driver for the weekend Niall McEnroy.

Training

Mens training continues next Tuesday at 3pm on Maguires pitches and there will be a match on Wednesday. Ladies training will recommence Wednesday at 3pm with the first match coming up in November.

Letters Page

Something getting your goat? Someone rained on your parade? Something about the last issue of An Focal that you cannot let pass without comment? 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

Response to last issue's 'Pride and Prejudice' Article

A chara,

I'm sure Mr. Mikey Stafford has come across the term IRA apologist, and after reading his article "Pride or Prejudice?" (Week 4, Page 6) I believe the term British apologist could be used to describe him. At the core of Mr. Stafford's article, is that argument that the Irish, collectively speaking, are racist and hateful. (But he obviously feels that these sentiments are racist in themselves.) To start off this argument he refers to two specific rebel songs he heard people enjoying in a bar on campus, namely "Go home British soldiers, go on home" and "Come out ye Black and Tans". Let's just look at the themes of these songs, shall we? The first of these songs was written in the present period, about the present, and reflects the wish of what can only be described as a vast majority of the people on this island to have the British Army to leave and return to their homeland across the sea. Is it wrong to express these freedom-loving sentiments? Is it "brit-bashing" to say you don't want armed soldiers from an alien nation roam your streets? Would Mr. Stafford deny these Irish people their voice, their democracy? The sentiment of the song would be the same, whether they were French, German or Zulu soldiers. As regards "Come out ye Black and Tans", it tells the story of a conflict that occurred while trying to rid this country again, of Armed soldiers from an alien nation, and these particular soldiers a particularly vicious tool of violence and evil. Or are the Irish people not allowed to remember the past, and the ultimate sacrifice made in the name of liberty? Since Mr. Stafford is so fond of analogies, let me employ one. If I went to Germany and told the Jews to forget the holocaust and to look upon Hitler as a Jewish Zionist hero, I would be branded an anti-semite, and knowing Germany, would more than likely end up in jail.

Mr. Stafford's own analogy questions what would happen if he wrote a song called "Go home Nigerians, go on home?" He then nearly goes as far as saying that his analogy is worthless because one deals with an "occupying force, while the fictional one would deal with asylum seekers hoping to gain refuge from an oppressive regime." Basically he set up an argument, and instantly admits its not worth anything - or is he saying that the Irish are just plain inferior rather than equal to the Nigerians? He then goes on to lay the claim that the Irish harbour "a feeling of latent hostility towards our nearest neighbours" (disregarding the Scots and even the Welsh as closer than the English). I hate to tell him, but most Irish people reading his article will have said that they themselves have no such feelings, whether they love or hate rebel songs. Oh, but wait! Micky has evidence of this hatred: "'Steven Gerrard is a saint when he wears the red of Liverpool (Merseyside's Protestant football club by the way) but once he pulls on that England shirt? Well, let's just hope his mother isn't in earshot.'" That's not really evidence of hatred now, is it? Even if the largely false statement was true, so what? Soccer is a sport, and most countries have a healthy national rivalry in sports. Problems start when people take this rivalry out of the realm of sport. Take for instance, oh, let's say Mr. Stafford's above comment on Liverpool: "Merseyside's Protestant football club." Firstly it shows that Mr. Stafford has taken the club out of its sporting context and into one harbouring religious hatred or better put sectarianism. Secondly, the very fact he felt the need to insert this comment implies he believes that Protestantism is contradictory to Irishness or the search for Irish liberty which he is so much against. Forget Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, or Douglas Hyde.

Next of all he praises the Irish Times' Kevin Myers for his courage in dealing with this "hatred" of the English. Kevin Myers, remember, is the man whose greatest critique of the 1916 Rising sums up to "Padraig Pearse wrote poetry he was a teacher and a soldier - heh, heh, heh, you're gay Pearse!" It's OK though, Mr. Stafford tells us that our problem is just "our inability to consign past injustices to the annals." One thing that immediately springs to mind is the Russian proverb, To keep an eye on the past is to be blind on eye - to keep both eyes on the future is to be blind in both." Last, but not least, I will refer to his comment that while not rebelling (those treacherous Irish fools! I'll give them a thrashing to within an inch of their lives, by jingo!), the Irish were in fact getting on with their life, "a life made more bearable by modern infrastructure, justice health and education systems and many other benefits-in-kind of oppression." Modern infrastructure? Ireland only had a transport system when an Italian immigrant started one, and it wasn't until the British were driven out of the South of Ireland that that area made any progress in road, rail or electricity (Just cast your eyes a few miles away to the Ardnacrusha hydro power plant built in the 1920s) was made. Justice? Not, the same justice that executed or, if lucky, shipped so many Irishmen off to Australia for stealing a loaf of bread, a loaf of bread that was needed just for a family to survive? The same justice that forbid millions of Irish people from becoming MPS, lawyers or officers on the basis of their religious beliefs? Health system? The same health system that left 1.5 million people die of disease and starvation when the potato crop failed, even though during that period each year enough food was grown to feed the entire British Isles? The same health system that failed to do anything about Typhoid, TB, Cholera and Dysentery in Dublin, the third biggest slums in the world after Calcutta and Naples in as late as the 1910s? And Education system. The very same education system that had generations of Irish people being taught in hedges for fear of being caught learning, and forbid the Irish from learning their own language, culture or history. I make no apologies for knowing what has happened in those days of my nation's past, and you can certainly not construe a knowledge and appreciation of what has occurred in times past as anti-British sentiment.

If, like the education system in the good ol' days, the Irish were forbidden from learning their language, culture and history, you would indeed be happy. For that is your problem Mr. Stafford, the Irish identity. You, like the latter example in the Russian proverb, are the one who is truly blind, and have shown yourself to have, regardless of your birthplace, a hatred - of the Irish.

Brendan Curran

In Defense of Friday 13th

I was reading the most recent issue of An Focal when I came across a review on Freddy vs. Jason. After reading it I felt disgusted by the comments the reviewer made about this film- 'it is more clever than all the Friday the 13th installments put together'. And with only a two star rating on this film, I find that a very unfair comment. Only someone who has seen all 10 Friday the 13ths could possibly make that assumption (i.e. me- I have all 10 in my video collection).

Whereas the reviewer seems to be almost praising the 'unconventional horror' of A Nightmare On Elm Street and also that it was 'eccentrically frightening'. I see nothing scary about 'A Nightmare On Elm Street'. The same tension runs through both 'A Nightmare On Elm Street' and 'Friday The 13th'.

It has also been brought to my attention that 'Friday the 13th' was released a full 4 years before 'A Nightmare On Elm Street' Also Sean S. Cunningham and Wes Craven had worked together before then to film 'The Last House On The Left'.

As well as that, Tom Savini, considered one of the best special make up artists in the horror film genre, did all the make up effects on the original 'Friday The 13th'. Tom Savini has been closely linked with George A. Romero, one of the most ingenious horror film directors of our time. Which film is more innovative and original? You decide.

They are both very good films and once again I must say that I find the comments made in the review very very biased towards 'Friday the 13th'. Which film series has had more of an influence on society, the film industry and the music industry I say to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A crazed Friday the 13th fan.

UL's Great White (and black, chequered) Elephant

Editor's note: UL are obliged to spend a certain portion of building budgets on the visual arts. It must also be noted that the artist did not charge any commission or fee for the sculpture.

Reading the last issue of An Focal, I found myself in wholehearted agreement with the detractor of the 'checkers board' at the front gate of this most esteemed, and evidently wealthy, bastion of educational achievement. In a week where (a few, at any rate) students marched to defend their right to free education, we became accustomed to a huge lump of rock marking the entrance to our alma mater. Presumably this 'artistic' endeavour has been installed to show the world how cultured and enlightened UL students are, especially when it comes to huge lumps of rock. Sure aren't we all well used to 'interpreting' rocks, especially those of us from down the country? In my experience, most rocks are 'interpreted' as a pain in the proverbial... so why should this one be any different?

Well, this one should be different because it's art. That's the line we're being fed at any rate. Forgive me for being a poor ignorant mountain woman but is the thing or is it not a huge cuboid made of rock, in a pattern of black and white squares? That, to me, is a rock and nothing more than a rock. Just because some 'artist' who is now in all likelihood laughing all the way to the bank with the extortionate amount of money UL has been known to pay these comen, does that justify the expense of this monstrosity?

My information is that this 'work of art' was donated to the University by a wealthy benefactor. What the hell were they thinking? Look at our excuse for a medical centre! Granted, the physio is great, us being the sporty college and all, and the... hang on, I can't think of anything else good about it. It's not a GP service. So what is it? They seem to be trapped in this mode of assuming that all students are going to need in the nature of healthcare is counselling (probably for all the damage caused by all the drugs we're taking, y'know yourself), an STD clinic (because all students are, contrary to definition, stupid, and sex mad - ok that bit might be true), and physio (because, again, we're the sporty college). So why didn't our unknown benefactor spot this? What about library opening hours? What about painting the walls of the main building so it doesn't look like a cattle shed??? That, in my view, would improve the aesthetics of the University.

"Art" in my dictionary is defined as 'Skill, esp. human skill as opposed to nature'. Let's take this definition and see how it applies to the pointless accumulation of stone in question. Skill: ok, I'll admit that it took skill to hew and shape the stone... into cubes, and thence into a cuboid. But that's not art, that's an example of a craft more often used to do something useful like make bricks for building houses or walls or other things which serve a purpose. Human skill: hmmm... I think we'll all agree that it's possible for a machine to cut up stones into cubes.

If I know anything about college, I know that every single one of us resents having to spend money on rent, food, and anything that doesn't involve enjoying ourselves. The thing is, there are people out there who would rather spend money on this white (and black, chequered) elephant than give it to a worthy cause. That thing has been going up in some shape or form since I began college (no, I'm not a first year). Imagine what you could do with the huge amount of money (up in the hundreds of thousands, or so I'm told) someone, in the mistaken belief we would get something out of it, spent on that. You could buy a house with it. I'm not trying to be preachy or sanctimonious about it, but god almighty that money could have been given to the SU, to the medical centre, even to the library so it'd have more than one copy of a book 200 people want around exam time.

Well, there is one consolation. When you're drunk, coming home from the Lodge, you'll always know you have somewhere to go to provide you with further entertainment. Whether it's graffiti you're into, abseiling or even playing giant games of chess with people, traffic cones and whatever poor unsuspecting animals you find on the way home... the big yoke at the gate is your only man. Honest. Poor, poor campus security... does no-one consider the men in the red vans anymore?

Mistake of the Fortnight

was not giving Daithi credit for the fantastic photos he took of the student demonstration. Apologies, Daithi!

An Bainisteoir
as imparted to Brendan Coffey



The hour ended such that An Bainisteoir left entirely satisfied. Having consumed a number of beverages, An Bainisteoir was certainly satisfied leaving The Stables last Wednesday night, but walking out the main entrance, An Bainisteoir was greeted by the "Wall", and getting his thoughts together, An Bainisteoir decided there and then to dedicate this week's column to a discussion of it, making a number of observations of the "Wall".

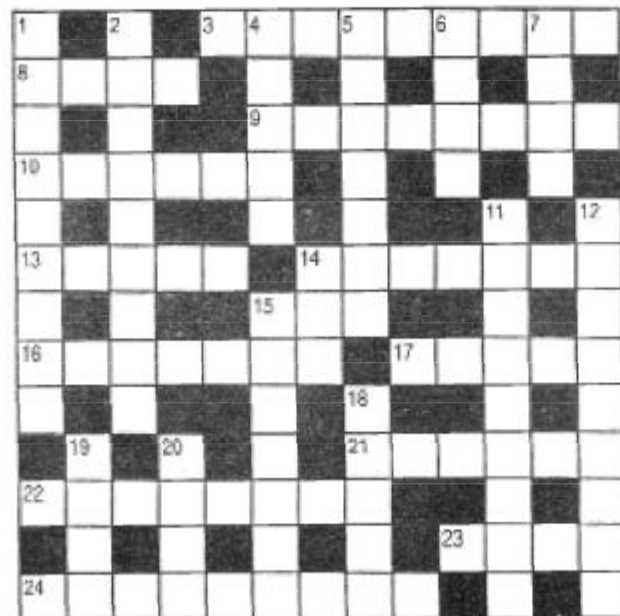
Unfortunately, An Bainisteoir wasn't present at the unveiling of the "Wall", although he's yet to hear if that's a good thing or not. A Bainisteoir did hear that it was blessed though; at least five lads were seen pissing against it on the way home from the Lodge on Wednesday night. An Bainisteoir has heard of some of the criticisms about the wall, namely that it's the ugliest erection since Miley shagged Fidelma in Glenroe. However, An Bainisteoir feels that the above criticism and others doing the rounds are somewhat misguided.

This wall is totally unimaginative, granted. The college could have picked a sculptor that wasn't colour blind at least, but there are a number of positive things that can be taken from this creation. Firstly, as has been discovered, the wall provides a great place to take a piss on the way home from the lodge-it will act as a fantastic wind shield, so it'll be easy to avoid getting urine on your shoes, although if you're coming from the Lodge they'll probably be filthy dirty anyway. Secondly, providing an ideal windshield means not only will it be easy to direct a piss, but it should be far easier to roll a joint. It has often been the curse of stoners across Ireland that the wind is so strong, making it impossible to roll a joint outside. But now it is abundantly clear that UL has recognised the deficiency in facilities for potheads. Not only is the wall ideal for protection from the wind, but the spotlights around the wall make it ideal for a late night joint, ensuring maximum efficiency in the creation of such. This wall will mean that going outside is no longer a hindrance to the enjoyment of joints, so we can expect to see a far greater number of guys with long greasy hair, baggy chord trousers and Rage Against the Machine or AC/DC t-shirts around campus. An Bainisteoir, on behalf of the stoners would like to extend his heartfelt appreciation to the UL Governing authority for this enlightened decision.

One other thing about the wall, that An Bainisteoir has noticed, what exactly is the story with the blocks used in the wall? The majority seem to be rough, with the supposed white ones looking like the builders puked on them, with some sort of creamy residue visible. But in the middle, there are a set of smooth looking blocks. An Bainisteoir is somewhat confused, but has come up with a theory for the apparent error. The aim of the sculptor was, apparently, to represent the many strands of Irish society, through the use of the opposing colours of black and white. Maybe the ingenuity in the piece is that the blocks seem to be of vastly differing design, which recognises the many strands of the building society, from the cowboys who would throw in a few odd looking blocks (the smooth ones) just to get the job done cheaper and quicker to the lads who go out on the piss every night, (the rough ones that look like they've been puked on).

On a final note, An Bainisteoir would like to draw people's attention to the fact that An Bainisteoir is considering making a comeback, and has been asked by the local Gardaí to play with them in a match against a local publican fifteen, as the Gardaí have lost their goalkeeper, Chief Superintendent Maloney, and An Bainisteoir was the only other twenty stone man they knew in Rathveigh who would be eligible to play. The Gardaí are worried that they won't be able to stamp their authority on the match, and are desperate to claim back the trophy they've failed to win since the competition began back in 1922. New rules have been adopted this year-at the behest of the Garda, which-which will see a complete ban on smoking during the game-very unpopular with the publicans, and the publicans have been told that they won't be allowed to play anyone who is considered drunk at the time the match starts. Full match report will appear in the next issue of An Focal.

An Focal Crossword #4



ACROSS

- 3. Gabbling (9)
- 8. Watery castle ditch (4)
- 9. Channel water into (8)
- 10. Honked (6)
- 13. Twit (5)
- 14. Warbling effect (7)
- 15. Brick carrier (3)
- 16. Superficial (7)
- 17. Item of belief (5)
- 21. Neutron star (6)
- 22. Man's name (Durrell) (8)
- 23. Abandon (4)
- 24. Lowest female musical voice (9)

DOWN

- 1. Vacuity (9)
- 2. Family automobile (6-3)
- 4. Tolcrate (5)
- 5. Lady working in pub (7)
- 6. Torn material pieces (4)
- 7. Head lice (4)
- 11. Bright silver white metal (9)
- 12. Academic degree (9)
- 14. Oath (3)
- 15. Shout of worshipful praise (7)
- 18. Written (5)
- 19. Mexican snack (4)
- 20. Easy pace (4)

SCRIBBLE BOX

Credit Where Credit is Due

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Keith Whelan,
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Sabbaticals Reports

PRESIDENT - EOIN

As you read this the possibility of extended Library Opening Hours should have moved one step closer to fruition. Last Friday the last of three groups of library employees that will vote on an employment package to facilitate the extension of Library opening hours cast their ballots. By this time fortnight if not sooner campus will know the verdict.



The media has featured prominently with me over the two weeks; I had a letter published in the Limerick Leader, I have had numerous college papers from around the country on to me with regard to our demonstration - all very impressed, I was also interviewed on 95FM about the new Wall at the entrance to the University and I have had a few journalists asking me if UL would be holding a referendum to ban Coca Cola. On the wall I said that time would tell if it's fitting for the main entrance to UL or an eyesore, while it will only be worth the money spent on it if similar amounts are spent on the Medical Centre, Library and Counselling Service. On Coca Cola I responded that matters like this are rarely initiated by Students' Unions rather by interested groups of Students. For the record I would support this kind of referendum as an awareness raising exercise win loose or draw though ULSU Services (the shop) of which I a director are certainly not in a position to deal with this kind of ban.

The Students' Unions capitation money for this year has been frozen at last year's levels. However there will be a real increase in our funding due to more students enrolling this year. Once again that scoundrel Noel Dempsey is to blame. His revenge for not being allowed to increase the registration fee was to instruct Universities not to increase capitation grants. As you may or may not know the registration fee isn't a registration fee at all but the combination of a registration fee of €420 and fees of €250. That second part IS fees - you are actually paying fees!

I met the head of Bus Éireann for the Mid West Miriam Flynn last Monday. Miriam assured me that Bus Éireann had recently added new busses to the University route in the morning time. She said there were 3 city inspectors on duty in the morning to ensure a constant supply of busses to meet demand. I asked her for a phone number students could ring if the bus didn't come though this wasn't forthcoming - as of yet

See you at the ULSU AGM! Slán, Eoin

DEPUTY/WELFARE - DAVID



So you think that you have this college thing sorted, going out, a few lectures now and again and loads of TV. If it wasn't for those pesky projects that you have to do.

For a lot of people this is the time that mid-term exams and projects are falling due. It's vital in order to avoid a lot of hassle and stress to try to do them on time. Putting it into practice can sometimes be difficult. However there are some simple things you can do in order to manage your time more effectively.

Time management can be strange for students who usually had someone telling you how to live your life. But in order to live an independent life it must be done. Starting at the start - you must respect and supply our human natural needs. These include nutritious food, friends (human society), exercise and physical activity and warmth. Before you do anything in relation to study you have to make sure these essentials are in place.

The key to studying is to value time as a scarce resource. Though it can seem that you have plenty, you know yourself how quickly a semester can seem to go. It is important to divide your day into blocks of hours that you will devote to lectures, study, eating, relaxing etc. Try as much as you can to keep to this personal timetable, remember if you decide to go drinking instead of studying, you will have to make up that time somewhere down the line - probably at 2am, the night before the exam!! If you do find yourself in this situation it is important to be as stress-free as possible in order to get the study done. Try to take a break every 30 minutes. A break can be just walking around your room or jumping on your bed for two minutes! Try also to do some breathing exercises now and again. These just mean you closing your eyes, clearing your mind of thought (easier for some people than others!) and concentrating on your breathing for a few minutes. It's amazing the extra information that goes in when you're relaxed.

suelfare@ul.ie

EDUCATION - MADELINE

Hello all,

Hope ye are all well, living life to its full, enjoying UL and having little or no problems. Life is busy busy here in the Union. Lots of things happening and hopefully lots of changes coming and all for an easier life for ye the students'. So where do I begin. Well around campus lots of things have been unveiled. We had the Scully sculpture at the main gate unveiled. The new Fr. Leonard Collection was opened in the library by author Frank McCourt. So lots of cultural activities taking place which I'd love to hear your opinion on...



This week I want to ask ye the students to help me with some things please.

I need ye to come in and tell us ANY issues/problems/nagging feelings etc that ye are having. Now this could be to do with anything from the security on campus, to lecturers, to module changes and alternations, to personal issues such as wanting to drop out of college or transfer courses. The list is literally endless. Also, anything that you find amiss around college from issues like prices, bad service to lack of information etc. These problems may not necessarily be in my area but I will help you in any way I can and ensure that you talk to the correct people

Also students that were in class on the 21st and 22nd (The Open Days)

I'd appreciate if ye called into me since this was against all college regulations. Your lecturer had no right to ask ye to attend unless it was with your express consent. All reports will of course be received and investigated with utter confidentiality. Anyone annoyed about the **VAX not being open 24 hours daily** should also contact me, the more people complain the more the university realise how much this service is needed. The VAX will return to 24-hour service this week (6). This issue is included in one of the motions for the AGM so get in there and be heard.

Also hopefully there will be a big turn out on **Wednesday for our AGM at 7 in the Union**. 8 motions have been submitted for discussion. We need your input here since we do represent your views. We also look at the accounts for the Union etc for the past twelve months. This is another right you have, to see where the money you give us is being spent.

Well I'll leave it at that. Hope to see you around campus. Don't hesitate to stop anyone of us or call in if you have a question or query about anything.

After all that, I hope ye've a fab 2 weeks,

Behave and take it easy schmeers,

Madeline

COMMS & CAMPAIGNS - SARAH



Hey everyone,

Hope you're still on track for the past two weeks. Week 6 already, reality must be starting to kick in. Once again it's been a mad two weeks, and a slightly delayed An Focal. Bank Holiday Weekends have that effect, I suppose. Some people have 'that time of the month'. I have 'that time of the fortnight'.

After this sleep-deprived weekend, we're facing into a crazy week, with the Hallowe'en Ball and a trip to Derry for the Forum for University Students' Unions on the cards for some of us.

On the home front GW3 is coming up in week 7, so get our there and broaden your minds. Clubs and Societies and the Arts Office have put together a feast for the senses... Food, Films, Fairs, and other fantastic things beginning with F. Do your liver a favour and escape from the confines of the pub and experience the diversity of the students of UL.

Also coming up in Week 7 is the ULSU AGM. I'd urge as many people as give even the tiniest of damns to turn up, hear what the Officers have to say, and put forward your own points of view. Who knows, if more than 200 people turn up, we might even get some decisions made. The list of motions are all in the front page article.

During the last fortnight I've been helping Gemma (class reps development officer) organise the Class Reps weekend, and the ULSU stand for the Open Day. We've also more or less sorted out the membership issue for the Stables and the Scholars (we hope!). Huge numbers of people were elected as members on Friday, so stickers will be available from Monday to Thursday evening between 6pm and 8pm. You can check if you're a member on www.clubs.ul.ie. Just click on the membership list, hit Ctrl-F and enter your name. It's a huge list of names, so it might take a while.

Just one more thing. I know it's Hallowe'en week and all, but fireworks scare pets, kids and me! So please, amuse yourselves in less ballistic ways!

I think that's more or less enough of my sermonising for this issue,

Take care,

Sarah

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