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Low turnout at registration fees campaign meeting

by Deirdre O'Shaughnessy

There was some consternation at the unexpectedly low level of attendance at a meeting held on Tuesday 26th at 7pm in the Jean Monnet theatre. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed government measure of reintroducing college fees. Chaired by Eoin O Broin, ULSU President, along with ULSU officers Paddy Buckley, Grainne Heffron and Margaret Ryan, the meeting was attended by less than 40 students, a dismal figure in a university the size of UL. Nevertheless, this did not prevent a lively and interesting debate.

First up on the agenda was a speech by Eoin O Broin in which he laid out the facts of the issue at hand. On the 18th of July, Students' Union officers from all over the country were attending a training camp when they received a 'phone call from an Irish Times journalist, wishing to interview them on the increase in registration fees. No

press release had been issued to Students' Unions informing them of the Minister's decision.

The issue of registration fees, while a separate problem, is symptomatic of the contempt in which the government holds us, the country's future. Registration fees are intended to go towards student services, as indeed the original amount still does. The rest of the fees, however, are simply being absorbed into government funds, to make up for the shortfall caused by irresponsible and wasteful spending.

Mr. O Broin laid out the Government's supposed argument for reintroduction of tuition fees:

- Not enough disadvantaged school-leavers are attending college
- Rich farmers and self-employed people are taking advantage of the existing means test.

In response ULSU have been considering a number of possible reactionary moves:

- Hold debates
- Hold talk
- Local media coverage
- Hold protests in Limerick (scheduled for Week 3)
- Occupation
- Unite opposition parties
- ULSU paper/pamphlet
- Phone/e-mail/ send postcards to Minister
- Camp outside Minister's house

Paddy Buckley, Communications officer of ULSU, spoke about the difficulty of opposing the Government on this issue. According to Mr. Buckley, this campaign will be long and hard, as the Government has never consulted students regarding fees, and never will.

Opened to the floor, the discussion proved fruitful as the SU

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ULSU concerned as College Court/Castlebrook Residents Association warn students

by John Mulcahy

Students returning to College Court for the start of the new semester were met with a letter inside each door, entitled "Don't say, 'I did not know'". The letter, sent by the College Court/Castlebrook Residents Association, claims to have been sent as a result of the horrendous behaviour by University of Limerick students over the last ten years. The Residents Association say they have "put measures in place" to identify students who cause trouble. They list the following, amongst others, as illegal activities; parties with loud music, furniture on front lawns, litter, playing sport on the roads, and houses without bins. If any issues

arise during the year with regard to these "illegal activities", they intend to have it dealt with by the Gardai, landlords, etc. The University of Limerick Students' Union have expressed grave concern with regard to the content of the letter and the manner in which it was distributed.

Here is a copy of the letter in full;

Don't say, "I did not know"

As a result of the horrendous behaviour by many students attending UL over the past 10 years, The College Court/Castlebrook Residents Association would like to bring to your attention that the following activities are illegal and

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sucommunication@ul.ie



President - Eoin Ó Broin

Hey All!

Graduation week, freshers week and week 1 - possibly the three busiest weeks of my life have just finished. The grad week involved myself and Grainne attending the conferral ceremonies that took place from the Tuesday to the Friday. Over 2000 people graduated. The ceremonies were not much more than an hour twice a day but took most of the day with all the ceremonial duties. Dr. Downer gave a different speech at each conferral on topics ranging from Irish peoples ecological footprint to our responsibility in the wider community. The MA traditional music performance graduates livened up proceedings quite a bit. The week ended with the grad ball in the South Court Hotel attended by 1400 people. The ball rocked with, minimal speeches, a good meal and dancing into the wee hours.

Fresher's week brought the masses back to the college! Our aim was to encourage as many people as possible to go in to the students union building. We did this by handing out the freshers packs upstairs in the building and turning room 5 into a common room with free tea, coffee and water available. The room made such an impression that the use of this room will be discussed at clubs & Socs council and at class reps. Hope you are getting good use out of those cool cloth bags! The orientation guides seemed to be really on the ball this year. I took a break from college for the Sunday of the all Ireland to go to the Reclaim the Streets in Dublin. It was a great street party with Baggot St. being reclaimed. Plenty of drumming, juggling, techno, samba and theatre.

Week 1 brought my first governing authority meeting - if you saw me wearing the suit that's what was where I was coming from. GA meets once a month and decides policy and strategy for the University. On Tuesday and Wednesday the clubs & Socs village were packed out. The word is that membership is up although the format of the village seems to be an ever evolving project. Welcome to all the new societies & clubs taking the plunge - French Society, German Society, card playing society, Vincent de Paul, Amnesty, Pool & darts club. On Tuesday evening an informal clubs and Socs Council took place. Congratulations to those who volunteered and were elected on to the Clubs & Socs exec: Eamonn from Debating Union, Clodagh from the Sailing club, Conor from Racing Soc, Fiachra from Irish Peace, Ed from Athletic club, John from Young Fine Gael, Ewan from Archery & Eoin from the Soccer club. Clubs & Socs finished their week with the clubs & Socs admin weekend at the West County Hotel in Ennis attended by over 120 people. Topics discussed included storage facilities from clubs & Socs, the proposed half day Wednesday and a health and safety policy for clubs & socs. Plenty of "networking" too!

Thursday night of week 1 brought the meeting entitled "Fees in the Back Door" which is covered in further detail further on in these pages. 50 very enthusiastic people turned up and demanded immediate action. A leaflet was drawn up on Friday and 400 were given out to people getting on busses home. We want to spread the word more about the issue



through an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) next Thursday and plan to march with our sister colleges in Week 3. The idea has been floated to do a three in one march - march for free education, for a half day Wednesday and for Bus lanes...and what day are we marching - yes you guessed it - Wednesday October 9th! Let that be our cue! However others are saying that we shouldn't dilute the message. We can always go marching again for Bus lanes. Also keep in mind that there is a march to raise money for Childrens Chernobyl taking place soon too.

So hope to see at least a thousand of you marching next week. There will be at least a thousand from the other three Limerick colleges so...

I will be out in the big courtyard on front of the Students Union from

12pm to 2pm next Wednesday if any of you want to meet for a chat about your ideas and issues. Time to start making the changes!

Talk to you soon! Slán,

Eoin

PS: The three weeks before my FYP may have been busier than these three except that there was less interaction with people:

PPS: Up Armagh!

Welfare/Deputy President - Gráinne Heffron

Hi There

So we are over week 1 and I'm feeling a bit wrecked but it's great to have so much activity on campus again. Here are a few up and coming welfare office projects

- Self Defense Classes will be starting, hopefully in week 3. Keep an eye out for posters and ask in the Students Union for details

- The Nitelink should be starting in week 3 as well, so again ask in the union

Please remember that when you are out, you are a student of the University and if you cause trouble, vandalism etc. then you can be found to be breaking the code of conduct of the university and be brought before the disciplinary committee here on campus or convicted of a public order offence. A case of a student jumping onto the roof of a taxi was reported this week and behaviour like this is

seen as a serious breach of the code of conduct not to mention a criminal matter. So have a bit of cop on when you are out and show some respect for the rest of the community.

The closing date for applications for a child care bursary is the end of this week so please call into me before Friday. Also I hope to organise some information evenings for student parents and if any of you have any ideas about what the content of these should be or whether you would be interested in a student parents support group then please let me know.

So Slán from me and I hope to see you all on Thursday at the EGM,

Gráinne



Education - Margaret Ryan

Hi Everybody

in the office ahead of me.

So, you've all been to the first week of lectures and know exactly how you're going to be assessed in all of them, right? And you know what the requirements are for passing exams and so forth, don't you? I thought as much.

Well, for the last week, I've been speaking to First Years (Bless!), going to meetings, and talking to individual students about different issues.

Talking to the First Years was really the first thing that made me realise exactly what I'm getting myself into for the year. Wednesday of Orientation Week, staring 850 (more or less) students in the face while I tried to hype up the Union and my job within it, made me think about what I have before me this year. Let's just say that there are a lot of long nights

I also managed to make it to some meetings inside in the University, where I represent you and your issues to the powers that be. This is where you come in. Class Reps nominations are now open, so if you have something to say, and you want it heard, now is the time. The training weekend will be held very soon - the date, as I write, has not been finalised yet, but will be very shortly.

Your Class Reps are the people that argue your case to Lecturers, The University, and the Students Union. They vote on policies brought by the Exec of the Students Union or developed by one of the committees. Think about it. Possibly 300 people in the class. One huge problem that affects everyone. What's more likely to get a result? All the 300 of you marching up to the lecturer individually, thereby pissing off the



lecturer mightily, increasing his blood pressure, and God only know what else? Or one trained, knowledgeable individual that will make sure that they get the best deal for everyone?

Each class is entitled to a Class Rep, or two reps if there are more than 25 in the class. A class is designated by the LM codes in the CAO handbook,

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
TEL: 061 330190
FAX: 061330710
EMAIL: info@scholarsclub.ie
WEB: www.scholarsclub.ie

Breakfasts 9am to 11.30am
Lunches 12 noon to 4pm
Evening Meals 5pm to 7pm

WEEK 2

MON DJ Eric Fitz

TUES DJ John Kelly
Champs League F/ball
Murphys Comedy Club

WED "Free Beer" Live
In association with Heinken
+ DJ Eric Fitz

THURS Chart/Party Night
Erasmus Night

FRI DJ Keith Piggott
Happy Hour 5 - 7
+ Comp Finger Food

Did you know that you can book 'An Phluais' free of charge?
www.scholarsclub.ie

Thurs. 26th Sept

SUTRAS
With Special Guest: Niall Quinn
Single Release "The lonely one". They got song of the year by Hotpress and voted top ten most promising acts by Hotpress reader's poll.
Doors @9pm Tickets: €10

SOUL CLINIC
Doors @ 12am Tickets: €9 Student: €7

Fri. 27th Sept.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN & Friends
(NEW MODEL ARMY)
As founder member and main songwriter with the group New Model Army, Justin Sullivan has sold over 1.5 million albums.

Sat. 28th Sept

CATCH A FIRE
Bob Marley Tribute
Doors @ 9PM Tickets: 10 Euro

Mon. 30th Sept

MARK O'LEARY
An evening of contempory improvised jazz featuring Marc o' Leary on guitar, Marc Nauseef on percussion, Jorma Tapio - Tenor sax and Pepa Paivinen on tenor sax/bass sax/ flute.
Doors @ 9PM Tickets: 10 Euro

Tickets available in advance from Dolan's Pub, 3/4 Dock Road, Limerick
061-314483 / info@dolanspub.com / www.dolanspub.com

ie LM051 is Computer Systems. (Not that I'm showing any bias or anything.) Each year of that LM code is a class.

Class Reps have training to ensure that they can handle pretty much any situation, and this training also goes on throughout the year at Class Reps

Meetings. A great social life is also guaranteed in Class Reps, (though the less said about that the better...)

So that's my bit for the week. If you have any questions about Class Reps (or indeed this place in general), call in to the Union. We'll find the answer for you, or run up the

phone bill till we have an answer.

Have a great two weeks

Margaret

Communications - Paddy Buckley

Hi everybody,

As usual, this is the last piece of the paper to get done. First of all, thanks a million to everyone who turned up at the An Focal meeting last week, it was really encouraging to see so many people turn up. Thanks to everyone who beat the deadline and got an article in for this issue. I'll be getting in touch with ye all over the next few days, to see where we can go from here.

Also, I've arranged for a 50 euro prize for the best article submitted to An Focal in each edition from here on in. The articles will be judged by a panel of independent lecturers in the college, and is open to everyone, so get your thinking hats on and start writing. Also, from the next edition on, I'll be putting an accomodation listing and a buy and sell section into An Focal, so if you've got a notice you want advertised mail it to me at sucommunication@ul.ie

I've also been involved a fair bit with Clubs & Socs budgets and the Admin

weekend over the last week. As usual, it looks like a dedicated bunch of people are involved in Clubs and Societies again this year, so good luck with the budget process and best of luck to all of the Clubs and Societies on campus over the year. Also, congratulations to Paul Lee for organising a brilliant and informative Admin weekend out in the West County, I'm sure everyone who was out there will agree with me in saying it was most beneficial. Congratulations and good luck also to Clodagh Cavanagh and Eamonn O'Flynn who were elected Clubs and Societies officer respectively at the Clubs & Socs Council.

Apart from that, the registration fees issue has been rumbling on over the week as well. It now looks increasingly inevitable that fees will be reintroduced next year. That means that people are going to be looking at paying anything up to 6000 euros to start or continue in third level education. This isn't speculation or conjecture, and if something isn't done about it now then it will be too



late to have any say in the process. The SU is organising another campaign meeting in Meeting Room 5 in the Students' Center on Monday evening at 6 o'clock and an EGM will be held in the Jean Monnet on Thursday evening again at 7. If you care about paying 6000 grand for

your education next year, then now is the time to stand up and be counted.

Thats about my piece for the week.

Later
Paddy

WANNA WRITE?

Articles, Questions, Comments,
Queries & Theories to

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Small Adds

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Looking for a housemate?
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From the next edition on An Focal will contain a small ads section. Email submissions (Max 30 words) & contact details to sucommunication@ul.ie

continued from frontpage

representatives gauged just how angry and betrayed students felt at this blatant disregard of our fundamental right to education. The situation in the UK, where fees were recently reintroduced, was discussed. Students there are graduating only to find themselves with debts of up to £20,000 - will we see this happening here?

It was suggested that a joint campaign be held with secondary school students, on whom this measure will impinge in the future. This idea may be unprecedented, but it is worth remembering the impact felt when school walkouts were held in protest at ASTI industrial action. Other groups who could be supportive, such as parents groups, the IFA, trade unions, opposition parties and even high-profile students such as GAA players were also mentioned. A suggestion was made in support of using student votes on the Nice Referendum as a bargaining chip but this was rejected as being too controversial.

It appeared to be the opinion of the meeting - with one notable exception, Sarah Davitt of Ogra Fianna Fail - that the Government are using students, a relatively vulnerable section of society, to make up for gross overspending. The general consensus was that the Government overspent in order to gain votes, and that now they are backtracking and

effectively thinking up 'get rich-quick' schemes to make up for this. However, Ms Davitt had other ideas. Speaking as the Chairperson of Ogra Fianna Fail, she informed the gathering that the reintroduction of fees is not a definite decision. She suggested that Minister Dempsey's intention is to rid our education system of inequalities, not to create them. The Government's position that asset-rich farmers and self-employed people with good accountants were getting the better of existing means tests was restated. The example given by Ms. Davitt was the way in which farmers reduce their measurable income by investing in machinery the year their children go to college. This statement was met with the following retort from an unknown audience member; "Not all farmers buy equipment! Some make a profit of E3000 a year which wouldn't buy you three wheels for a tractor."

Also attending was a Young Fine Gael member who spoke about increasing cutbacks which most affect the most vulnerable members of society. He also made the point that much of the revenue from the proposed tuition fees would probably be spent on areas with huge deficits such as infrastructure. Young Fine Gael's stance was that students should exercise their votes and hit Fianna Fail where it hurts most.

The battle plan suggested by ULSU to make the Government sit up and

take notice of students is a series of marches. Firstly there will be a march in Week 3 (providing enough support is generated) involving the 4 colleges in Limerick. The UL contingent will join with the art college in Clare St. at approximately the same time as Mary I and LIT meet up at Sarsfield Bridge. Both groups will come together at Roches Stores in the city centre and a mass rally will take place at a venue yet to be decided. Following this it is hoped that other marches will take place nationwide, culminating in a mass demonstration in Dublin.

However, in order for any demonstration to take place mass support is required. Is it apathy or simple disbelief that kept so many students away from a meeting that should have been packed to overflowing? Whichever it was, it must end. There is no 'might' about it. The concept of fees being reintroduced is a 'when', not an 'if'. Without your participation and a protest, there won't be one. The Government will have succeeded in its aim of reinforcing students' position as one of immense vulnerability. Only we can stop this.

What you said.....

Manus Bree, postgraduate student:
"From my point of view, it's important for students to take the introduction of fees seriously; it's not something that might happen, it's inevitable. It will happen."

Jenny Hannon, 1st year, Science teaching:
"It's outrageous already to say that we have free education, but it's very important for students, parents and pupils to show some solidarity on this issue."

Brian Fleming, 4th year, Business:
"I believe that the Government should allocate resources so that tuition fees are paid for from tax receipts to prevent the social problems that would arise if individuals had to pay the fees; if you believe the same, come to the meeting Monday night."

Robbie Carroll, 2nd year, HPSS:
"This affects lecturers too, because standards will go down in universities and their jobs will inevitably go then. It happened in England, it'll happen here."

Patrick Healy, 1st year, Public Administration:
"If they cut education they cut everyone's future"
"One voice in the Dail is better than a thousand voices outside."

Students to encourage Irish on campus

by Laura Greer

Eight first years' students are living in an all Irish-speaking house in Kilmurry as part of an initiative to encourage greater use of the Irish Language amongst University students.

The four boys and four girls come from Roscommon, Dublin, Kerry and Limerick amongst other counties and were chosen to participate in the project because of their enthusiasm for Irish and social personalities. The project is part of a targeted initiative funded by the Higher Education Authority and this is its first year in Limerick.

Organiser Deirdre Ni Loinsigh from Aonad na Gaeilge chose the participants because of their different musical, dramatic and sporting talents. None of the students are studying Irish in University and have different levels of fluency, "some of the students come from Gaeltacht areas, some attended Irish Schools

and some are just good at Irish," said Ni Loinsigh.

"It's a chance to spread the Irish Language," said Stjohn O'Donnabhan from Kilkenny, "Irish is part of our cultural identity, it's the only thing that makes us truly Irish, different, unique and special". Stjohn says that although the Irish spoken in the house may not be perfect, everyone makes an effort and visitors to the house try to converse in Irish also. "It's fun and we all get on really well," said housemate Niamh Ni Earcaín from Dublin, "I didn't know anyone coming to college and this is a great way to meet new people. When Irish is being spoken all around you, you just fall into speaking it and I can feel myself improving all the time."

As part of the project students are obliged to partake in promotion of the Irish language around campus. Each student must get involved in the student newspaper, radio, Irish society or help to organise Seachtain na Gaeilge. The eight students had



Kilmurry Village

some of the accommodation paid for and got a grant for taking part in the project. Ni Loinsigh hopes that the project will become an annual affair and hopes the eight will impact greatly on their classmates and friends and encourage people to use their 'cupla focal'.

For more information about the project and Irish events and classes on campus contact Deirdre Ni Loinsigh at C1074 or email Deirdre.niloinsigh@ul.ie

Response to College Court Residents Association

Name with Editor

The long-standing grievances of College Court Residents Association were aired again early in week one when a confrontational message was delivered to student houses.

Within days of returning to college, many students in College Court reported receiving a hand-delivered flyer through their letterboxes entitled "Don't say 'I did not know'". It consists of a warning to students about their conduct, due to the "horrendous behaviour by many students attending UL over the past 10 years".

The flyer contained a list of activities purported to be illegal, possibly "leading to a criminal prosecution". The warning, hostile and threatening in its wording, is not signed. Neither are any contact details provided.

The list of supposedly illegal activities varies between the nonsensical, the blatantly obvious and indeed, the blatantly legal. Among them are "Furniture, Stereo's, Televisions, and drinking on front lawns", "Hurling, Football or sport of any kind played on the public roads, avenues, day or night" and "Anti-social behaviour".

It would appear the notice did not pass the scrutiny of a spellchecker, let alone a lawyer, leaving the credibility of the notice and that of the association in serious doubt. While the principle of the notice (to remind students to behave responsibly) is a fair and sensible one, the content and tone used by the Residents' Association falls wide of the mark. It is patronising, offensive and in many places, misinformed.

Students are not a homogenous group in any aspect, be it age, background or personality. The belief that they are joined by the common bond of a love for excessive drinking and vandalism is a fallacy that the law-abiding majority should not tolerate.

One-size-fits-all warnings of this nature issued to the travelling community or to asylum seekers are generally met with public outcry. There is little moral difference when a blanket warning is issued to students. With their reminder that students are "transient residents living in our area", there is no doubt that students



College Court

are viewed by the association as "second-class citizens" at best.

Whether the notice met the approval of every permanent resident of College Court is unknown, but one would certainly hope not. As several student houses did not receive the warning, one can only speculate how the Residents' Association actually tells them apart...perhaps by the "student's on roofs" or the "litter & rubbish strewn around the front of houses".

In any event, it would seem that the Residents' Association erred on the side of caution in their choice of houses to deliver the flyer to, perhaps to avoid giving residents who are not involved with the Association the chance to read what has been said on their behalf. Pre-emptive warnings like these are massively insulting to those to whom they do not apply. Conversely, a would-be troublemaker is more likely to be provoked into action rather than talked out of it by such a letter...assuming they read it in the first place.

Nobody would deny that vandalism does take place in student areas, and that much of it is perpetrated by students themselves. This fact alone does not mandate a blanket warning of every potential criminal. In the minds of the Residents' Association, every student constitutes a potential criminal.

According to the flyer, "The residents association have put measures in place to help with the identification of the houses or students that cause problems". It is not stated what these measures involve or how they complement the existing methods of dealing with those who break the law, such as by the Gardaí.

There is no doubt that this type of action serves only to reinforce the "us-versus-them" divide between student and non-student residents that the Association actively promote. No students sit on the committee and it is unlikely that they would be welcome to do so.

Nobody, student or otherwise, appreciates being threatened by an organisation such as the Residents' Association, with whom they have had no personal contact. Inevitably, those who received the notice include first years, foreign students, non-students and indeed, students who behave in a mature and responsible way. No welcome was extended to the students to what the Association believes is "[their] area". Their public perception is obviously not a priority for the Association.

It would seem they would rather enforce a clear divide between students and non-students rather than engage in face-to-face dialogue about whatever specific concerns they have. In the cartoonish simplicity

of the Residents' Association's view of responsible behaviour, there is only black and white. The decent, responsible, hard-working homeowners are having their sleep disrupted by drunken, inconsiderate layabout students.

The Residents' Association, despite their lack of legal standing, have appointed themselves guardians of decency, faceless arbiters of what is acceptable behaviour. The attitude they have adopted here is a decidedly unconstructive one.

No advice was provided about, for instance, how to hold a party or play sport in a way that doesn't disturb other people. The Association would rather have students believe that these activities are fundamentally illegal.

If these "rules" are taken to their logical conclusion (and it is generous to suggest that there is one), then nobody would be allowed to set foot in their own front gardens, create any sound that could be heard by another person or do anything in the street other than travel from one place to another. The residents' own children and pets are no doubt excluded from such rules.

Socially responsible behaviour is a two-way street. Premature accusations of criminal behaviour do little to further their cause.

UL students plan protest over 69% increase in registration fees

by Laura Greer

Third Level students throughout Ireland have been in uproar in the past week over a 69% increase in third level institutions tuition fees. A number of protests have occurred nation-wide and UL students look set to join in as they prepare to protest against the hike in tuition fees this year and the possible reintroduction of tuition fees next year.

Students in University of Limerick had to pay 720 Euro in fees this year versus £320 last year. This fee is a 670-euro fee plus a 50 Euro levy by the University. David Gray, a first year Business student from Limerick said, "this is not free education, the fees were very expensive, my parents had to pay them because I didn't have the money. If full fees come back in it'll be tough enough to stay in college but I'll have to."

A march is planned for the 9th of October leaving from Castletroy. UL students will meet with students from the Limerick College of Art and Design at Clare St. before joining protesters from Mary Immaculate and L.I.T at Sarsfield Bridge. The group will march up O'Connell St. and rally at Arthur's Quay. It is hoped

that over 3000 will attend.

UL Student Union Welfare Officer Grainne Heffron said that the fees had caused many students financial problems already this year and many have had problems meeting initial college costs between accommodation, fees, books etc. "These fees have made it harder for those who are struggling anyway," said Heffron, " these changes are going to badly affect people from middle income families who are outside the grant, families who are just about putting students through will just not be able to send their children to third level without huge debt."

The re-introduction of full tuition fees could cost students between 2000 - 3000 Euro per year and could rule out third level education for many. Twice National Irish Dance Champion, Patrick Mc Hugh is a mature student in UL. He does not qualify for a grant and will owe 6000 Euro in loans at the end of this year. Mc Hugh said that without grant aid the re-introduction of fees would end his third level education and he would be, "back on the dole or seeking and inadequate job somewhere."



Students' protest fees increase in Dublin

President of UL Student Union Eoin O Broin said, "this is a serious, serious issue and its beyond a shadow of a doubt that fees will be reintroduced next year unless students shout stop." He strongly stresses the importance of students making a stand and not just sitting back and letting fees be introduced.

David Garraghy a fourth year Law and European Studies student said, "If we don't make a statement now and show we have the power to represent ourselves then students are going to get screwed. Education can be an easy section to slash because of student apathy but students must realise what they stand to lose or it will be too late."

Arriving in UL

by Donal O Driscoll

I think it was Dorothy from the "Wizard of Oz" who said "Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas any more. Well I am beginning to know how she felt. Coming from a middle sized town (I won't say which town for fear some crazed stalker who reads my articles and concludes I am a jumped up little shit will follow me) into the big smoke, as it were of UL, there are a lot of changes to adjust to.

Firstly, there is the change in family/home life. I have found it amazing how quickly I began to miss that institution which is such a dominant part of pre-college life. I am of course refering to "The Mammy". Its strange, but the barrage of professionally administered naggings which I came to UL to escape have assumed a very special nostalgic value. Who could forget the classic "I could drop dead in the morning and

you'd just jump over me" or "you'll end up dead in some bogland one day, you will, you will, I know it, you will". There is not some type of protectiveness, essentially, once you pay your rent and don't leave the house resembling a bomb shelter the landlady will leave you to your own devices. As for your flatmates, some people stay with a gang of old friends, others like myself stay with hither complete strangers, either way its surely the same kind of scenario as living wiht brothers and sisters.

The next major change is the whole system of education. In secondary school, you have to do seven subjects. If you really like any more then three of these there is something wrong with you. In college, as I interpret it at least, there are two types. Type A, who just want to live the college life and will choose any course they can get the points for. These people will possibly not like any subject. Type B are people



UL Flagpoles

who endured the horrors of the leaving Cert to get a specific course. These people will like most if not all

their subjects.

Of course, coming from a predominantly from a male school, what strikes me is the talent, (and I don't mean the people who can play the tin whistle with their nose). I had 4 girls in my year, around 50 in my school (most of whom are illegal). Now I am surrounded by good looking women or chicks (sorry PC people) Oh God, why had thou forsaken me, do you not want me to get an education. Imagine likewise all those poor innocent convent girls being corrupted by those heathen college men. Where is the parish preist when you need him.

Anyway, whichever angle you look at it from, I sm sure my fellow freshers will agree with me when I say college is like a roller coaster...

BUCKLE UP

Not Guilty - Scottish Court returns “Not Guilty” on Irish Peace Activist

by Gluasteacht

On September the 11th 2002, a 2nd year UL student was found not guilty by a Scottish court on charges pressed against him by the crown. Fiachra O'Luain, 21, living in Donegal, appeared on a charge of breaching the peace at the HMS Naval base on the Clyde, known as Faslane. The UL Environmental society had organised a bus up the west coast stopping in Derry over night on the way to Scotland. In Derry a protest had been organized against the presence of a 'Raytheon' factory, brought in by SDLP during the 'Peace process'. In this factory, components are made for Tomahawk missiles, currently being used to murder people in the Middle East. Later that day the students talked to the residents of the Ardoyne Road in Belfast where their children have been stopped from attending primary school by sectarian bigotry. On October 22nd 2001 up to 1000 people from the locality of Glasgow, Asia, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England, Europe, the United States of America, Mexico and further afield gathered in a carnival type atmosphere at the Naval Base, thirty five miles from Glasgow City centre. The crown charges arose from an organised peaceful protest against 512 weapons of mass destruction. 170 people were arrested from dawn until dusk for blocking the entrances to the base, which is home to the

UK's, nuclear armed, Trident submarines.

This protest included people in costume aged from their teens to their eighties, people who chained themselves through their wheelchairs, through pipes in a lock-down against nuclear terror. One Irish M.E.P. (Member of European Parliament), two MSP's (Members of Scottish Parliament) and many other well respected politicians were prepared to risk arrest in the battle against nuclear arms in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks and the war in the Middle East.

The Trident submarines based at Faslane (five miles from the courthouse), contravene international law. The International Criminal Court notes that 'in order correctly to apply to the present case the Charter law on the use of force and the law applicable in armed conflict, in particular humanitarian law, it is imperative for it to take account of the unique characteristics of nuclear weapons, and in particular their destructive capacity, their capacity to cause untold human suffering, and their ability to cause damage to generations to come.'

The day's engagements, with Justice of the Peace, Viv Dance at the Helensburgh Courthouse, began at 10am. The unnecessary use of police force and inappropriate techniques of interrogation were an early theme in the courthouse.



British police at Faslane

Helensburgh, is where most cases against those who protest against Trident at Faslane and Coulport come to court. Accused campaigners had a much better day than usual as Justice of the Peace Viv Dance found one not guilty, admonished another and issued only modest fines on two more. Fiachra had his case scheduled for 1.10pm but as earlier proceedings drew to a swift conclusion he stood to attention for his case much earlier.

The UL student defended himself against the crown charges for over

three hours. Two Strathclyde police officers verified the identity of the accused. Fiachra O'Luain and the crown's representative then had the opportunity to cross-examine the police officers who both gave concurrent evidence of the arrest. When asked for Fiachra's statement after arrest both officers quoted him as saying, 'I am upholding international law.'

Fiachra then stood in the dock and gave evidence.

He told the court how he had

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Not Guilty - Scottish Court returns

“Not Guilty” on Irish Peace Activist

returned from America in early September 2001 from a trip which had included visits to New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. He talked of the trauma and fear that people suffer universally at the presence and threat of nuclear weapons. 'It doesn't matter what side of the fence we stand on if we are divided by fear.'

Fiachra informed the court that he is a member of the Irish Peace Society and had first hand experience of war zones in Ireland, Poland, Laos, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, United States and Britain. The society gave him the opportunity of listening to students, Non Governmental Organisations and United Nations officials in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Mostar. He also spoke of the peace, development, equality, justice, pluralism, democracy, cultural and national identity, security and hope that can flourish after a cease-fire followed by open dialogue, mutual respect and decommissioning of arms and explosive material. 'An unprejudiced police force is essential to the authority of peace as set out by the Patton principles. The way forward may seem vertical and impassable sometimes but dialogue can never truly fall below the safety net of a free press and a truly representative democracy.'

He told the court about how his protest had taken the form of street theatre. How he and his fellow arrestee had symbolised a policeman and a protester connected by a chain representing Alexander Pope's 'Great Chain of Being'. The police

uniform was topped off by a 99p Police bobby's hat. It was only when they sat down on the road that the chain was stable and peace was restored. The actors Fiachra and Peter were then arrested.

After all the evidence was heard the court was adjourned for lunch and at 1.46pm Scottish time a minute's silence was observed for all innocent victims of war and terror.

The Court reconvened at 2pm that afternoon. Fiachra put forward further written evidence to the court which included a book about Charles MacGlinchey called 'The Last of the Name' which tells of how Irish fishermen were forcefully pressed into the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars, also included were local newspapers with details of the peaceful protests and about a live 1000lb British Bomb 20 yards from the submarine jetty which had been undetected for over fifty years until last June when French divers found it, also submitted to the court was a full page advertisement taken out in the 'Sunday Business Post' by the Irish Government calling for an immediate closure of the Sellafield Nuclear Reprocessing Plant in Cumbria on the English border with Scotland. This article also called for a stop to those British authorities' deceit and threat to the Irish people.

A falsification of documents by England's BNFL (British Nuclear Fuels Limited) led to Japan's rejection of a lethal time-bomb of Weapons Grade Plutonium. On their return to England two ships carrying

the apocalyptic cargoes, the 'Pacific Pintail' and 'Pacific Teal' passed through pirate waters and dangerous currents by the Cape of Good Hope (Near the Earth Summit). These MOX cargoes traveled very close to North Korea, a region of volatile conflict and also part of George Bush's 'Axis of Evil'. 'The slightest of incidents, terrorism or no terrorism, would render any nearby continent uninhabitable. Britain plans many more of these shipments, through Irish waters to boot!'

Fiachra challenged the crown's authorities to take such risks with anybody's life, let alone the lives of Ireland. The only witness was then called. This woman flew twice on that day to get to and from Scotland. Eleanor Lamb gave evidence as a character witness. The first question asked was, 'Could you please tell the court what your relationship to me is?' "I am his mother." Eleanor explained to the court. Eleanor gave evidence of the accused being two weeks old at his first Anti-Nuclear demonstration, his reasons for being in Scotland and his frame of mind before and after the arrest. She also said that she believed that if Bush and Blair get their war that not only would she expect to see her son protesting again, but herself too.

The crown's representative was given a chance to change the motion of the charge. The Procurator Depute changed the charge to from lying down to sitting down on the road, along with hundreds of other members of the public. This was granted by the Judge and the

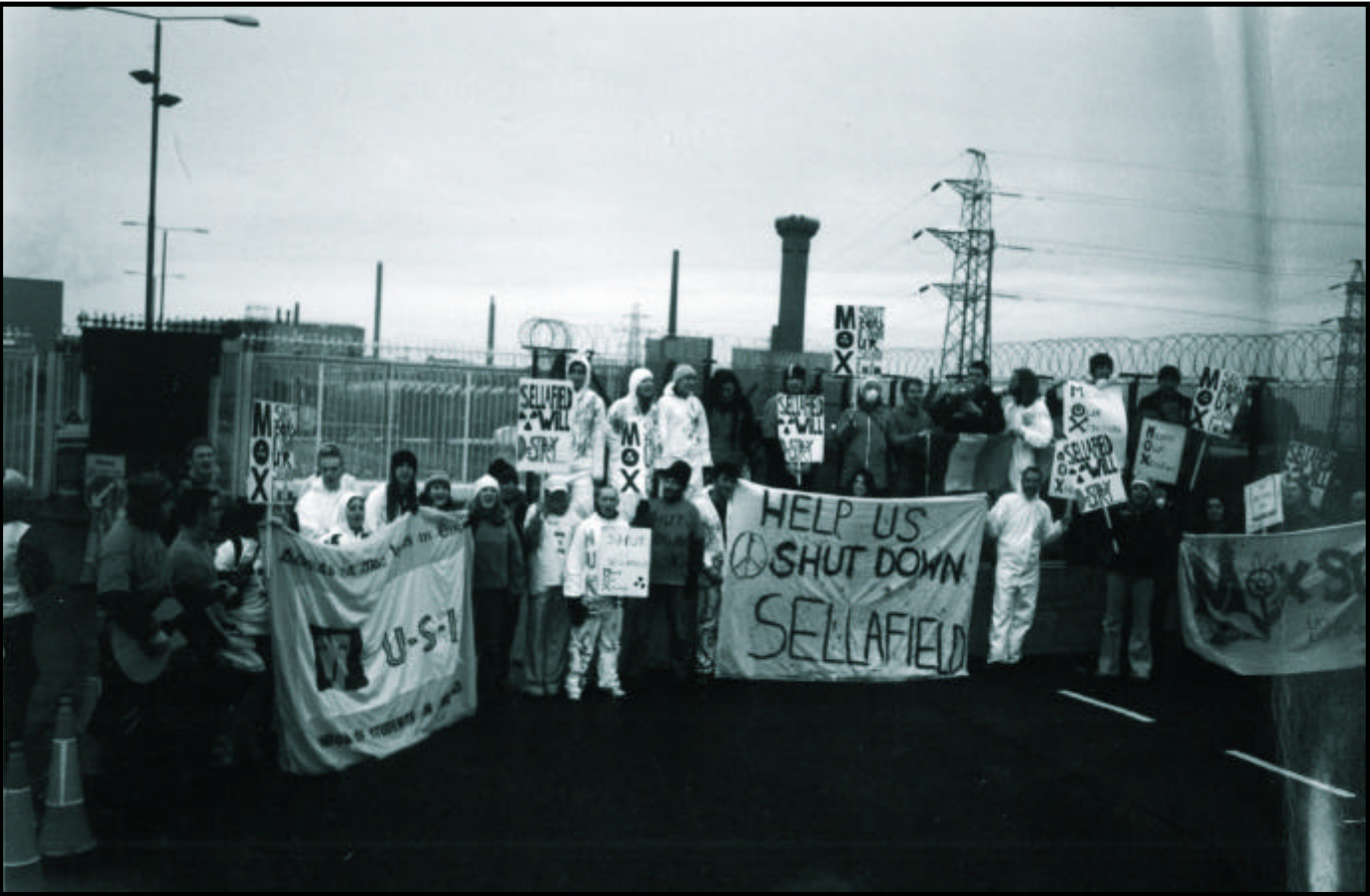
defendant.

The Justice of the Peace retired to her chambers for a few minutes before returning a 'Not Guilty' Verdict. This was on the grounds of dissatisfactory evidence to prove that O'Luain had refused to desist when asked. Fiachra admitted to being very relieved at the verdict though still very anxious for the future if the threat of any war is listened to. 'We all have our grief and this should not be played upon.'

'It's because of the threat of war that we came here last October. Scots Law which is bound by the European Convention for Human Rights, was never broken and that is what the Scottish Court system recognised today. More and more people are focusing, working hard and investing in endless generations of peaceful tomorrows. We need to concentrate on how future European and American foreign and economic policies will be accountable to the time and space that they affect, ethically, equally just, local, pluralist, respectful, understanding and essentially democratic so that nuclear weapons will soon consigned to history. Real power needs to be vested in the United Nations as the most significant multilateral body in the world we all have to share. The United Nations must be fully independent and autonomous in its resolve and decision making processes. There are those who compromise resolutions, peace, freedom of expression, others sovereignty and compromise democracy. Whether that occurs in Baghdad, Glasgow, Florida, Shannon, Jenin, London, New York, Dublin, Washington D.C., Belfast, Jerusalem, Derry, Houston, Kabul, Latin America, New Zealand, Belfast, Australia, Seattle, Zimbabwe or anywhere, the perpetrators need to be communicated with, stood up to, persuaded patiently and disarmed. It's high time to write instead of fight.' These times are a challenge for the U.N. but if they don't stand up to imperial bullies they too will have to be replaced when the Bush Administration resigns.

A supporter in court said: "It was as if all the whole court just faded into the background as Fiachra and his mum carried on this personal dialogue about what had motivated him and how much she supported what he was doing. The Procurator Fiscal seemed completely bemused and did not object."

Contributors: Fiachra O'Luain
Tim Hourigan



Anti nuclear protestors at Faslane

The Nice Treaty

With the recent announcement by the government that a second referendum is to be held on the Nice Treaty on Saturday the 19th of October, campaigners for both sides of the debate are gearing up for a full scale campaign on the issue. All the major political parties including Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Labour party are pushing strongly for the electorate to vote in favour of the Nice Treaty this time around. On the No side, groups such as Sinn Fein and the Socialist party are again

looking for the Treaty to be rejected. As part of its coverage of the Nice Treaty debate, An Focal has asked spokespersons from Ogra Fianna Fail and the Socialist Party on campus to submit pieces explaining their reasons for their parent parties respective positions on the Nice Treaty. Also the ULSU is organising a debate about the Nice Treaty in the Jean Monnet lecture theatre in Week

4. Guest speakers for the debate will include Patricia McKenna for the Green Party and Martin Manseragh of Fianna Fail, as well as representatives from Fine Gael, Vote No to Nice Campaign, the Socialist Party and Ireland for Europe. An Focal would like to thank Sarah Devitt of Ogra Fianna Fail and Dominic Huagh of the Socialist Party for contributing the following articles.



The Treaty of Nice - Ogra Fianna Fail

Scare mongering. It is a word that has been thrown back and forth between the Yes camp and the No camp in the run up to the upcoming referendum on the Treaty of Nice. But who is doing the scare mongering? Which camp is right? It sounds like a war, doesn't it! With the camps hurling missiles at each other. The problem with missiles is that they tend to leave smoke in the air, making things obscure. In this article I am here to clear up the ambiguity and obscurity that has become the Treaty of Nice. The Treaty of Nice is considered to be necessary to facilitate the enlargement of the European Union by the accession of an additional thirteen states. These are Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, with Turkey to follow.



The European Parliament

The process for enlargement was started by the Treaty of Amsterdam, which the people of Ireland consented to the government ratifying and came into force in 1993. The purpose of the Nice Treaty is to provide the necessary legal framework to complete this process. It is in essence housekeeping. With the addition of another thirteen Member States, which are entitled to their own representation, the existing membership of the commission and the European Parliament is unworkable. Therefore a reformulation of the present commission and the European Parliament has been computed. I shall deal with the commission first. At present there are twenty commissioners. The five larger Member States have two commissioners each and the rest of the Member States have one each. What the Treaty of Nice is proposing is that from 2005 the larger states will lose their second commissioner, leaving every Member State with one commissioner. There will be a ceiling imposed when there are twenty-seven members. Once this happens the Council will decide unanimously upon the number of Commissioners, providing that the number is less than the number of Member States and that members will be decided by a rotation system. In the rotation each Member State will be treated equally as regards to length of time and sequence of terms. There will be regard to a demographic and geographical balance. For a decision to be passed there needs to be a majority of 74.78%. Ireland has only 0.8% of the population in Europe with just over 2% of the votes. In the European Parliament it is proposed that there will be a ceiling

placed of 732 seats. With the entry of additional Member States there is a need to reallocate the number of sets each Member State has. It was argued that there should be a proportional reduction in the number of seats for each Member State. This would leave Ireland with nine seats. The Presidency identified a range of recommended seats for the various Member States. The range recommended for Ireland was between 9 and 12 seats. Ireland has been allocated 12 seats. From these details you can see quite clearly that Ireland is in no way losing its voice in Europe. What the Treaty of Nice is is the proposal of necessary readjustments of representation to facilitate the new Member States to have a fair say in the decision-making process. No Member State can carry out a decision independently. There are many benefits to Ireland voting Yes. We keep Ireland at the heart of the European Union where we have prospered. Ireland is seen as one of the most attractive places in Europe for foreign investment and by voting Yes we are ensuring this view continues. Ireland has always been viewed as being pro Europe and this has attracted much foreign investment. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is coming up for review and by voting Yes we are ensuring that Ireland has allies at the negotiation table. The Treaty of Nice in no way interferes with our Neutrality. By voting Yes we will be actually guaranteeing that our traditional stance of neutrality cannot be altered or watered down without the prior consent of the people of Ireland by means of a referendum. Sweden, Austria and Finland are all also



neutral and they have ratified the Treaty of Nice. Many are asking why do we need to hold a second referendum since we already had one? There are a number of reasons for this. At the last general election in May both Fianna Fáil and the Progressive Democrats clearly stated in their respective election manifestos the intention to hold a second referendum. They both received a resounding endorsement in the general election. Another reason is that the Treaty of Nice is of the utmost importance and it has serious implications for Ireland's international relations and our long-term prosperity. As you can see once the smoke is cleared it becomes obvious that the Treaty of Nice is of great benefit to Ireland and in no way harms our future. By voting Yes on Saturday October 19th you are ensuring that when we graduate we will still have Europe as our oyster. If you would like to find out more on the Treaty of Nice you can contact the Department of Foreign Affairs for the White Paper on (01) 4082510 or whitepaper@iveagh.irlgov.ie, on the website www.irlgov.ie/iveagh, or alternatively call into one of the Ógra Fianna Fáil meetings that are advertised around the college.

The Treaty of Nice - The Socialist Party

The Nice Treaty will have a profound and long-term effect on the future of the people of Europe. The implications being outlined by the Pro-treaty and Anti-treaty groups are their interpretations of what is likely to happen. In this article we will attempt to provide evidence for our point of view and hopefully it will enable readers to have a better understanding of the arguments.

The pro- treaty side argue that the Nice Treaty is solely about enlargement. However, even EU Commission President, Romano Prodi, has stated that enlargement could take place without the Nice Treaty. Under the Amsterdam Treaty 6 new countries can join the EU and all applicant countries can negotiate individual accession treaties, just like Ireland did in 1973. There is no legal restriction on the number of countries that can join the EU. The Establishment politicians argue that an enlarged EU will become unworkable without reform of the EU institutions. We would argue that the reality is that the current EU structures are unworkable, undemocratic and bureaucratic anyway and that the reform should not be on the basis of the neo-liberal agenda of the Multi-national corporations and right-wing politicians but on providing for the



No to Nice Posters

needs of ordinary people.

One issue that is constantly raised is whether the Nice Treaty will create a "two-tier" Europe. Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Labour, the PD's, IBEC, the IFA say it will not. We agree the Nice Treaty will not create a "two-tier" Europe, for the simple reason that a "two-tier" Europe already exists. Ireland has the biggest gap between the super-rich and the rest of the population, in Europe and is second only to the USA in the entire world. If that is not a two-tier system then what is. We do not view this in terms of nations but in how Corporate Capitalism exploits the EU to generate wealth for themselves at the expense of the rest of the population.

The Establishment argue that rejection of the Nice Treaty cost Irish jobs. The Socialist Party would argue that it is by passing the Nice Treaty that jobs will be lost. Why? Article 133 of the Nice Treaty allows for the negotiation of a deal with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the General Agreement of Trade in Services (GATS). The purpose of GATS is to facilitate the selling off of 160 different public services including, water, health, education, electricity, postal services, etc even down to services like libraries. If the Nice Treaty is passed it will allow the European Commission to conclude the GATS agreement without referring it to the European Parliament or national parliaments like the Dail. The EU's chief negotiator for GATS, Robert Madelin, has identified the health and education sectors as "ripe for liberalisation". The current suggestion for the re-introduction of third-level fees is part of this agenda. The EU have been critical of the fact that Ireland has no third-level fees every since they were abolished. In fact EU spokespersons have repeatedly suggested that third-level fees in the region of €4000 should be implemented on a Europe-wide



basis.

The neo-liberal privatisation agenda being pursued by the EU and the Irish Government will result in large scale job losses, price rises and poorer services. Already, over 4,000 jobs have been lost or are earmarked for cutting in Aer Lingus and ESB as they are prepared for privatisation, while at the same time the ESB increases prices in order to boost its profits in order to make it more attractive for privatisation.

The Environment is also under threat as a result of the GATS agreement by allowing big business to by-pass environmental legislation if it is "more burdensome than necessary". This clause is already in existence within other World Trade Agreements and, in particular, the USA is insistent that it be included in GATS.

Will the Nice Treaty affect Irish Neutrality? In the first instance it is debatable whether Ireland currently acts as a neutral country, especially given the use of Shannon Airport by large numbers of US warplanes on their way to the Gulf. The Nice Treaty places control of the RRF in the hands of a new unelected "Common Foreign and Security Policy Committee". Tony Blair has already stated that the RRF will operate as "an extension of NATO". The Government are engaged in cutting €300million in health, education etc. with more cuts on the way, while last year spent over €530million in purchasing 400 armoured personnel carriers in order to facilitate Ireland's participation in the Rapid Reaction Force. All Irish military hardware now has to be compatible with NATO hardware and will lead to spending further huge sums of money on the military. The European Arms industry

is licking its chops at the potential profits that will become available with the passing of the Nice Treaty.

The Socialist Party calls for a NO vote in the Nice Referendum. We believe that a European wide campaign of opposition to the privatisation of public services and the defence of jobs is necessary. A European wide charter of rights for workers and youth is vital to protect the living standards of ordinary people and vital public services like health and education. The Socialist Party argues that the problems being faced by working class people on a worldwide basis can only be solved by the replacement of capitalism with a democratic socialist society.

Finally we would like to comment on the Yes campaign using the racist comments by two individuals involved in the NO 2 Nice campaign to attack the NO campaign. As the Yes campaign know organisations representing 98% of the NO Campaign condemned the comments and are in no way involved with these individuals. In reality, the comments by Justin Barrett and Anthony Coughlan could be one of the main reasons for an increase in the "Yes" vote. Furthermore, it is quite hypocritical of Fianna Fail to accuse those opposed to the Nice Treaty of being racist when, during the General Election campaign, many Fianna Fail candidates used racist comments to boost their own campaigns and the current Government is initiating racist legislation, like the current attacks on refugees and the travelling community.

For further information please contact Ashling Golden at 087-7862726 or <http://socialist.csn.ul.ie>.

UL Career Options Evening

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these activities take place during the month of October as part of our 'Careersfest' programme. This programme includes career seminars, job search workshops, employer presentations and the Careers Fair on October 22nd. These are all explained in the careers website at: www.ul.ie/careers.

This year, we are introducing a new event for students in all disciplines, a Careers Options Evening on Wednesday, 16th October. The

Careers Options Evening will provide an opportunity for current students to meet with UL graduates and get first-hand information about their careers since graduation. It will be a very informal event, encouraging one-to-one interaction between students and alumni. This is your opportunity to pick the brains of UL graduates who have already made the transition from education to the world of work.

You can learn from their experiences and get some insight into different career options. We know that this

will be a very popular event with students and we hope to get a good representation of alumni to cover all degree disciplines. The UL Alumni Association is supporting this initiative.

The Careers Options Evening will take place on Wednesday, 16th October, from 5.00 to 7.00 p.m. in EGO10. Make a note of this date in your diary.

Racism, Enda Kenny & the media

by Babs

I am intrigued by the furore over Enda Kennys comments at a private Fine Gael (FG) function that is now seeing international calls for his resignation. Mr Kenny, the leader of the FG political party, was eulogising a recently deceased colleague. He recounted a memory of a holiday he had taken with a number of colleagues to Spain; where he mentioned that the person he was eulogising, inquired of the black barman who was serving them, as to the origins of the name of the cocktail they were drinking. The barman replied that the drink was named after, and I quote, "some nigger killed in the war". He was referring to the rebel leader, Patrick Lumumba, who had been killed in the conflict in Congo.

Mr Kenny's usage of the word "nigger" has been condemned by various political commentators in the press as an indictment of possible racist tendencies. They do not however claim that these tendencies are held by Mr. Kenny himself, indeed most have gone out of their way to expressly state that they do not believe that Mr. Kenny is a racist. The thrust of the point that these commentators seem to be making is; that as they come from a political

leader, such comments give sustenance to the racists in Irish society and therefore shouldn't be made.

This notion of protecting society from encouraging the growth of Irish xenophobia is a worthy cause desperately needed in Ireland today. But I ask myself is that what is going on here over this issue? Did Mr. Kenny utter a racist statement? No. He recounted a story as accurately as he recollected it. Who in fact used the words that caused the offence? The barman. What was the point of the allegedly humorous story? That the barman wasn't aware of who Patrick Lumumba was while the Irish contingent were. Not really funny if you ask me. Is there really a news worthy story in this whole incident?

The comparison being thrown around is that of Ms. Ann Widdecombe the Tory MP and former shadow Home Secretary in the British House of Commons who was forced to resign for telling a racist joke at a rugby dinner where she was guest of honour. I don't think you can compare the two. She made a joke at the expense of a racial group while Mr. Kenny was recounting a shared memory of a friend. What Mr. Kenny said was stupid; there is no doubting that. He could probably have come up with any number of better



Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny

anecdotes to remember his friend by. Even having heard as much about the story as we all have by now it is hard to try and discern the intended point of the story.

And the rub of it all is the media itself. The creators of this story, the protectors of a liberal open Ireland! How many times have you read in the Irish newspapers of "a foreign national" committing such and such a crime? When the same or similar offences are carried out by Irish people the reference is normally to "a

man in his early twenty's" or words to that effect. If by chance the crime is committed by what are perceived to be more desirable nationals they are normally identified by the country of origin, "a British woman" or an "American youth". The "foreign national" usually gets their country of origin named further into the text of the story when you are already sure this is a nasty piece of work. Who is really helping to encourage the growth of Irish xenophobia?



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THURSDAY
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NEXT WEEK

MONDAY
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Jamming with the Folk Club

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Music Night

SUNDAY
Jamming & Trad Session

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Harder Generation

by *Timmy Hennessy*

Welcome to the second instalment of the Harder Generation. There will be no reviews this week, just a bit of gig info, and the notice below:

On Tuesday night one of my mates was walking down Catherine st to his brothers flat in Catherine place. He was on the phone to his girlfriend, told her he loved her, that he was at the door of the flat, and said

goodbye. 5 mins later he was found stabbed.

If anyone was, or knows anyone, that was on Catherine st, or near Catherine place around 11:30pm - 12am, if you saw anything strange, any scumbags around acting strange, please, please contact Roxboro Garda station.

I'm not really in the form this week to say much, just remember if you are going on and about in limerick, be bloody careful, don't walk around on

your own, and if your not from around make sure you find out where is safe to be and where isn't. What happened to Seamus O'Toole could have happened to anyone out in limerick, it could just as easily have been a student out for the night, just minding their own business.

News
Techno Monkeys Are Go! In limerick starting this week (week 2). The night will have me on the decks (for the first week anyways) playing some

decent hard house (yes there is such a thing) from 12 to 1, with some proper bad ass techno following my set.
See posters and flyers around the college for details.

Nickelback - Silver Side Up

by *Simon Renardson*

- Tracks:
- 1) Never Again,
 - 2) How You Remind Me,
 - 3) Woke Up This Morning,
 - 4) Too Bad,
 - 5) Just For,
 - 6) Hollywood, Money Brought,
 - 7) Where Do I Hide,
 - 8) Hangnail,
 - 9) Good Times.

They've been compared to Metallica and been called the next Nirvana and, after listening to Silver Side Up, I'd be inclined to agree. Canadian quartet Nickelback's second major-label release after 2000's The State blew me away. In a world of manufactured kiddie-pop bands and nu-metal sub-sonically tuned noise it's a welcome relief to hear such well-written and poignant songs. Vocalist/guitarist/lyricist Chad Kroeger's Emotive and well delivered lyrics sit well with his, and second guitarist Ryan Peake's, stunning riffs, bassist Mike Kroeger's growling basslines and sticksman Ryan Vikedel's dynamic drumming.

Opening proceeding is the track

Never Again, a track reflecting on spousal abuse, told through the eyes of a child. The low, rumbling bass and intro riff immediately catches your attention and as you listen to the lyrics you realise how heartfelt and sincere they really are. The worldwide smash hit How You Remind Me follows and after the first three chords almost had me skipping. Luckily for me I didn't. The remainder of the song is a three-minutes and forty seconds (Give or take) example of why this album went 4X platinum in America. The disjointed rhythm of the chorus adds to the catchiness of this song. This, added with Kroeger's haunting, understated voice provides an emotional description of being overly analysed by a lover. This really taps into the teenage mind and opens a door to the goal that is chart success.

The rest of this album represents an emotional outburst of feeling from Kroeger underlined by hard-hitting riffs from Peake. The range of emotions is typically metal, death (Woke Up This Morning), family problems (Too Bad), and loss (Good Times Gone), feature prominently throughout. Fueled by his deep, edgy



voice Kroeger gets right to the heart of people's feeling and delivers one of the best albums to grace modern music.

Overall, this album totally changed my views on Nickelback. Silver Side Up will appeal to chart listeners as well as the heavier music fans of

Guns 'N Roses or Kiss.
Standout Tracks: Never Again, How You Remind Me, Where Do I Hide.

Buy if you like: Nirvana, Metallica, Staind.



THE OUTREACH SOCIETY

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Effigy

by Patricia Moriarty

Impact Theatre Company in association with Limerick Civic Trust presented " Effigy " by Brona C Titley in the Georgian House and Garden in No 2 Pery Square. The Georgian House is a faithful recreation of a household of this period, starting at the hall door with its original marbled walls. There are 16 rooms on view including the unique architectural feature of a mezzanine of three rooms at basement level. The Town House garden is also on view leading to the Coach house where last night's production was staged.

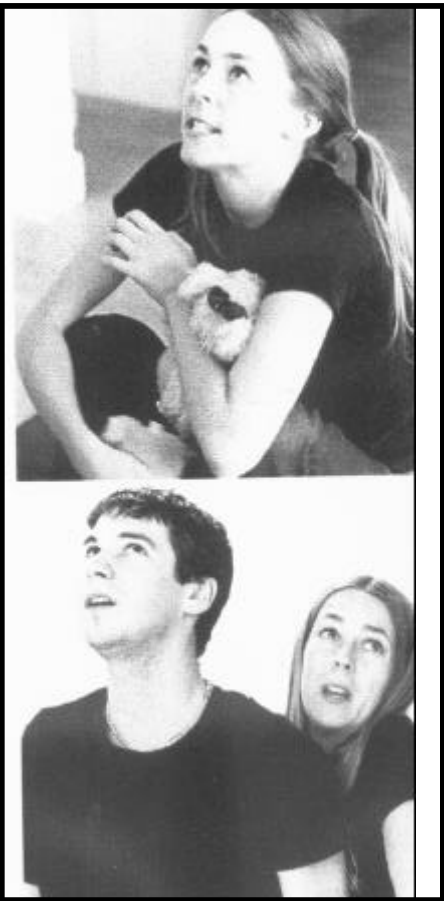
Impact Theatre Company was established in Limerick city in winter 1996 and they have produced a number of home based and touring productions in the intervening period. During the past few years they have been involved in the development of new writing and

rehearsed readings of new plays by young writers in the city. Consequent to this process " Effigy " by Brona C. Titley is their first full production of a new play. "Effigy" is a Dark Comedy in the absolute. Eff and Gee are lovers. They exist in a world of their own. In living and re-living their lives they take us through a montage of snapshots of their experiences, underscored by love songs that depict the state of " love " in our times. Their story pulsates with a humour and physicality that takes the audience to the heart of laughter and beyond.

Directed by Patrick Burke the three players Eff (Jo Jordan), Gee (Caoimhin O Conghaile) and Godd (Geraldine O Grady) perform on a simple set of a circular red mat and red bench. Eff and Gee are locked in a " space portal " between time and existence and play out the self-absorption of their relationship

much to the amusement of their warden - overseer Godd, herself a former female stalker! The play has resonances of Beckett and Ionesco, the childlike lovers vacillating between states of childish innocence and adult passion and violence. Playing out Sartre's notion that Hell is Other People Eff and Gee regularly kill each other such is the claustrophobic nature of their relationship. Played as a series of short scenes inter cut by snatches of love songs the production is both lively and meditative with energetic and compelling performances by the 3 players. Although a short play the intensity of the dialogue and the rapid fire rollercoaster ride of emotions amply make up for its brevity.

" Effigy " is undertaking a national tour in association with the Wexford Arts Centre but An Focal Ealaine hope to present them in the University in Semester One



Effigy

Damien Rice - Majestic in the Monnet

by Peter Burrows

Definitely the Jean Monnet theatre is one of the best venues for gigs in the country. On nights like last night one is lucky to witness the synergy between artist and audience that transcends the music and takes a gig to another level completely. I am of course talking about the Wednesday of Week One when a dynamic Damien Rice plus support played to a jammed Monnet.

Before I run out of superlatives I'd better tell you that support was in the quite lovely form of Mairead Nelligan. A singer/songwriter whose one woman and her guitar style is common in Irelands music scene. Despite Mairead's obvious



Mairead Nelligan

nervousness on stage her performance did not suffer. With a sound that sometimes crossed Juliet Turner with Alanis Morissette she carved a very confident set, full of romantic angst and yet coupled with a voice capable of switching from angelic to anger in the same breath. This girl is one to watch and hopefully one we will see again on the UL campus.

Firstly this is not the first time I have seen Damien Rice live, indeed they say third time lucky and I could not have been more privileged than being in the audience last night. Characteristically he arrived on stage by himself and immediately won the audience over by beginning with some "silliness" as he put it before introducing the mesmerising and understatedly beautiful Lisa Hannigan. Normally the appearance of Lisa on stage is coupled with loud cheering from the male population, however it was a testament to the music knowledge of the UL crowd that only a small ripple of applause interrupted Damien's guitar playing.

The set included most of the songs from Damien's critical acclaimed and now platinum debut record 'O' released in February of this year. From the luscious ballads "The blowers daughter" or "Delicate" to the raw emotion of "Woman like a Man" Damien Rice delivered a star performance. Yet many of the songs are laden with sexual tension, a female ghost lurking in the



David Rice & Lisa Hannigan

background perhaps. Whether Lisa is the cause of, or the foil for, this tension is subject to speculation but one thing is certain, her vocal accompaniment is the height of understated brilliance and makes the super superb. The Lisa/Damien relationship on stage is an enigma to say the least and I am sure it could form the basis of many a psychology thesis. However the introvert/extrovert mix adds a layer of intimacy to the performance that I believe highlights the best of both. Shy Lisa forced to take centre stage while Damien repairs a guitar string, Damien stepping back from the mike to allow Lisa to sing lead on "Cannonball". With a mix of comedy and story telling punctuating the tracks and finishing with the theatrical "Cheers Darlin'" meant that the pace of the gig never lessened the three standing ovations were well

deserved.

In my opinion, the mixture of attentiveness and responsiveness that is second nature to an audience in the Jean Monnet brings out the best in artists like Mundy, David Kitt, The Frames and Damien Rice. Last years three encores by the Frames and last night's three standing ovations can only cement the venue in the hearts of fans and musicians alike. The Monnet hosts a plethora of talent over the coming weeks with names such as the "Frank and Walters", Mundy and Josh Ritter gracing its doors. Also "The Frames" play a larger gig in the UCH in December. If you missed the gig last night feel free to be aggrieved but don't compound the error by missing out next time, full houses are almost guaranteed.

Dance Troupe in Da House

Now for something a little different!! Why not invite an entire troupe of musicians and dancers plus, for good measure an Artistic Director from Japan, to put on a lunchtime dance performance in you sitting room on Tuesday October 15th? It may sound a little unlikely but it's what Limerick's Daghdha Dance Company offers in its innovative Living Room Project.

All you have to do is provide the "living room" and call in friends,

family and neighbours to watch. The company will do the rest. It's all the brainchild of Yoshiko Chuma, Daghdha's Artistic Director.

"Essentially, the exchange at a Living Room Project is akin to that of a barter system", she explains. "The troupe exchange performance for food and refreshments and there is no exchange of money between the hosts and company. In a materialistic world, we find this ethos is quite important. The project takes the

focus of paying for and buying every single thing."

Already performed in living rooms in both Japan and Manhattan, the project was launched in Ireland in 2001 with series in Dublin and Limerick - anyone remember last year's student house that was visited by Daghdha in association with UL Arts Office??? 2002 brought the experience to families and homes in the Killaloe/Lough Derg areas in July and another series is planned for the Limerick area in October.



Yoshiko Chuma

otherwise experience it. It also takes performance away from the more formal theatre setting and introduces it into the familiarity of the home.

Interested? Contact Patricia Moriarty, UL Arts Officer at 202130 or email Patricia.Moriarty@ul.ie More information is available on www.daghdha.com



Dancers at the last Living Room Project

"I observed on a trip to Japan that people there made lasting friendships after inviting others to dine in their homes. That gave me an idea and the Living Room Project was launched in Japan in 1996. It's such an intimate thing for both performers and audience", explains Yoshiko. "In a normal theatre you might be hundreds of feet from the dancers. Here, it's so personal and close."

The aim is to make art more accessible and bring contemporary dance closer to people who may not

UL ARTS OFFICE AUTUMN FILM FESTIVAL

presents

MONDAY 07 October



THE CASE OF....MAJELLA McGINTY (Short)

Director : Kirsten Sheridan

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

Director: Kenneth Lonergan

USA / 2000 / 109 mins

The story centres on two siblings from a small town in upstate New York who must come to terms with their conflicting lives. Orphaned at a nearly age, they've remained close despite the different paths their lives have taken. Sammy, played by Laura Linney, a single mother, is forced to break out of her dull existence when her troubled and irresponsible brother (Mark Ruffalo) comes to visit.

Sammy Prescott (Laura Linney) lives a nice orderly life. She lives with her son in the small community where she has always lived and works in the local bank. She attends church, behaves respectably, and even has a nice dependable boyfriend. Then, out of the blue, she receives a letter from her brother Terry (Mark Ruffalo), who she rarely sees, announcing his impending arrival which will lead to an upheaval of everything she is used to.

Kenneth Lonergan makes his directorial debut with this sensitive film, adapted from his own play. A quiet, gentle affair, "You Can Count on Me" covers the emotional gamut as run by all family members and does so with an intense honesty. All the performances are excellent, with the sibling relationship in particular portrayed with poignancy and style by the Oscar-nominated Linney and Ruffalo. This is one of those films where not much seems to happen apart from the passing of time, which makes for surprisingly enjoyable viewing. While in some cases this can fail to be memorable or pleasant, here it is a warming, worthwhile experience as the characters endear themselves to you with their unfailing humanity and fallibility. Humorous, gentle, and completely charming, this is a film that truly captures what family is about.

Reviewed by Ali Barclay / bbc.online 21st March 2001

ZULU 9

Director :Alan Gilsenan

INTO THE ARMS OF STRANGERS : STORIES OF THE KINDER TRANSPORT

Director : Mark Jonathan Harris / UK/USA / 2000 / 117 mins

This documentary chronicles the lives of some of the 10,000 European Jews evacuated to England as children before the Second World war. Elderly survivors who were part of the Kindertransport recall the heartbreak of leaving their parents behind a starting a new life in Britain. This film won the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature in 2001 Faces which carry history. That's what you will take away with you after watching a highly-charged two hours about the Kindertransport trains which left Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia during the nine months before the Second World War began to wrest 100,000 mainly Jewish children away from the Nazis. This act of salvation was made possible not just by rescuers like Nicholas Winton, a 29-year old London stockbroker in 1938, but by willing families in Britain, even if some did exploit the kids as free labour.

And emotion, memory, love, and loss are etched deeply into the faces of a lady who still dreams of a sunny, happy childhood and wakes sobbing; another who woke up to the reality of Nazism when no child showed up at her birthday party; there is, by contrast, Kurt Fuchel, who led a comfy, sheltered existence in Vienna; while another survivor remembers - when still very young - being tossed through a plate-glass window. As the film moves on from troubling German childhoods through the journeys to Britain to the children's selection (by families) and survival in their new country, some of the most upsetting memories include the agony of departure, as children left parents for what the parents correctly guessed would be forever. Towards the end of the film, an old Czech lady remembers the letter which she wrote to her folks after the war being returned to her with the brief scribble on the back: 'Deported to Auschwitz, 1944'. ...

Reviewed by Michael Thomson / BBC online

MONDAY 14 October



2 Hospitalised after 'Violent' scenes at Clubs and Societies night!!

by Anthony Fitzpatrick

That busy time of year returned for whom it concerned Tuesday night of last, as the first clubs and societies general meeting was held. This, and the other two-weekly gatherings of all representatives from each club and society, is vital to their development and success, and as a result provides us students with an excellent recreational alternative to our studies here in the university.

At this point, I wish to applaud the fine efforts of the Students' union. This wonderful group of people contribute so much of their time and energy in aiding each of the various clubs and societies on campus with regards financial aid, training, holding administration weekends etc. that without these people, we would be considerably lost. Keep up the good work lads.



Eamonn O'Flynn

A large crowd assembled in the 'Chill Out' Room of the Students' Union building for the meeting. President Eoin O'Broin chaired the meeting, with cameo appearances from Paul Lee, Paddy Buckley and the S.U accountant to name but a few, also in attendance. On the agenda, two main objectives were to be dealt with: the explanation of the budgetary procedure, and more importantly, the election of a clubs and societies executive.

Now, over seven major competitive trophies were accumulated last season by our extremely successful teams. This is quite a major feat in itself. But going out onto the field of play and winning matches appears to

me to be the easy task. The main representatives from each club and society must work extremely hard to anticipate a budget of various income and expenditure throughout the year. Concluding this, fundraising, organisation of invoices, equipment and budgetary deficit are all major issues each club or society must also deal with.

Being a first year in U.L, being used to teachers running the teams, I was amazed to see such a vast array of students undertaking these major responsibilities in their own free time.

I won't bore you with all of the minor details regarding the budgetary procedures, because the fun part of the night was without a doubt, the elections for the executive!!

A certain air of hostility could be detected between the rival clubs and societies as nominations for the positions of clubs officer, societies officer, and the executives all took centre stage.

The procedure was a simple one: a candidate could be nominated by anybody in the room, but this nomination needed to be seconded by another. Clubs Officer was the first position to be selected, with there being only one nomination, Clodagh Cavanagh of the sailing club had been deemed elected. A more smooth process prevailed afterwards, as Eamonn O'Flynn, Ewan Oughton, Ed Niland, and Eoin Callachy were also deemed elected to the positions of societies officer, and clubs executive representatives respectively.

At this specific stage of the night, restlessness prevailed amongst many, but the atmosphere became somewhat rowdy when four people ran for a three-position societies executive. "Can the candidates take to the floor please?" proclaimed President O' Broin. Suddenly, the restlessness of the crowd was demonstrated by the words "QUICKLY!!!"

Adrian Crowe, Connor O'Brien, John O'Grady, and Fiachra O'Luain all attempted to win over the voters. Crowe's very inspirational one line speech: "I find the executive interesting" (which I believe is Limerick slang for "I couldn't give a sh*t if I get elected!!!) May have led to his downfall in the end.

While all of this was occurring, I noticed that none of the audience was observing the particular 'chill out' aspect of our designated room. Many of the representatives' behaviour on the night, led me to believe I was in Madison Square Garden!! Objections between numerous clubs over issues such as the sailing club having two members on one executive, right up to capital expenditure on pens and erasers led to an all-out scrap!! I received the impression from the beginning that one of the four candidates at the top of the room (especially O'Luain of the Irish Peace Society) was going to head butt his closest rival and begin a much-anticipated Battle Royal!! It got so intense, I expected the chant "JERRY, JERRY" to roar from the eager crowd, and any second I was expecting an appearance from the legendary slap-head security guard Steve from the Jerry Springer Show to get stuck in and prevent anymore chair throwing!!

Well actually no, I lied, none of that



Clodagh Cavanagh

really happened, but I wish it had!! O'Luain, O'Grady and O'Brien were all deemed elected to the societies executive by voting...how boring!!

And so that was how clubs and socs night drew to a conclusion. But before I sign off my first article, my sincere apologies for the rather misleading headline accompanying this piece; I had to intrigue ye somehow!! I also want to wish all of the clubs and societies on campus a very successful year ahead.

UL FRENCH SOCIETY

Discussions
Débats
Films
Musique
Journalisme
Gastronomie
"Food fair"
"Table quiz"
Sorties

Intéressés?

Alors, venez nous retrouver:

**jeudi 3 octobre
à 18 heures
salle 4
Student Union Building**

Pour plus d'informations,
contactez-nous par E-mail

à Stephanie.Sachet@ul.ie

Aeronautical Society

by Ruth Bagnall

This year UL Aero Soc has many events planned. To kick-start this year we are going to Shannon Air Traffic Control in week 2. With an increase in numbers places are limited so it's first come, first served.

For those interested in the history of aircraft manufacturers and airlines we have a well-informed guest speaker coming Wednesday of Week 3. This event will be free to all members.

Future events such as trips to Shannon Aerospace and FLS in



Dublin are planned. A team of 43 knowledgeable people will be sent to London RAES Young Members competition next semester. One section of this competition was won by ULAS two years ago.

For further information contact 9925538@student.ul.ie

Chess Club

by Kitsune Habiki

Aiya readers! This is my first article, so please, lets go gentle on each other. Ok?

Let me introduce myself. I am TNT Kitsune Habiki, Beginner Liaison Officer for the Chess Committee. You can call me TNT. Most club and society committees are made up of hardcore and/or highly experienced members. This is all well and good when it comes to budgets and national competitions but not much use to the newbie who doesn't know his pawn from his el passant.

That's my function. I've been barely playing for a year and the only reason I know that el passant exists is because I looked it up in my Encyclopedia (And I've still no idea what it actually means). This way I can try to put the beginners or casual players point of view to the

committee on the behalf of a section of the club that would otherwise have no voice.

My first bit of Club business was the Clubs and Societies recruiting week. I'd like to add my voice to the choir of complaints towards the Excessively loud music in the cafeteria. People came to chat and discuss their possible choices with other students and the club and societies representatives. Not to be blasted with RnB till they fled. (president note: this was sorted out by the second day when the problem was reported, thanks Paul.)

I was suffering a cough at the time, so I couldn't shout over the music for to long till I had to rest my throat. This gave me a fantastic observer view of how people see chess. Its obvious that most see it as a nerdy pursuit. A cop out for those to weedy for 'real sports'. Their where a lot of sneers and funny looks thrown towards our

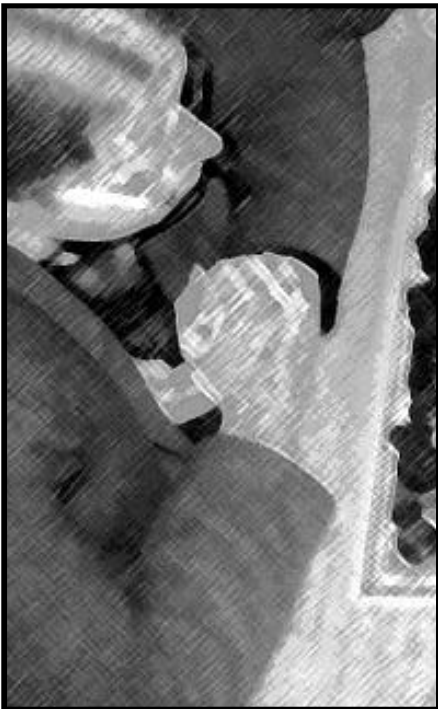
little table, along with a few snickers. I dared ask a passerby in a GAA jersey whether or not he'd like to join, and it took the person all their restraint not to laugh in my face. Another person came over to our table unprompted, just to point out why they wouldn't join.

Its all a shame though, as much of the criticisms leveled at chess are undeserving. While some of it does suffer from "I will defeat your Cachovski Maneuver with a Travis Counter and then use the Travska Attack", more often then not, these types of tactics that look to far into the game get caught out by an inventive player who spots the impending trap and then lets the over confident and rigid opponent march straight into a trap of their own. I myself have turned the tables on 1 or 2 players by simply not playing "the best move".

My best suggestion to all is, try the game out! Come to one of our meets. Play a game or two. If you had no fun, walk away happy as you've just proven what you already knew. If you enjoy the game, then smile. You've found something you enjoy. Its win-win.

Thank you for reading my little article and I hope to entertain you more in the weeks to come. ere's a final, non-chess related, few words.

For you PS2 gamers. Get Timesplitters 2 as soon as its out!!! I've played the demo and all the promises are true! Console First Person Shooters have a new king. The RARE is dead. Long live FREE RADICAL! The Illustrious TNT Kitsune Habiki



Chess President note:

Welcome back to all the older members, and greetings new members. I meet most of you last night at the Beginners night. Remember Next week is also a Beginners night. It will be a meet and greet and we will be trying to help you all enjoy the game and get to play people of your own standards. Last years members who have wandered back from their travels having spent time playing GMs in Harvard square and chess on the streets of Paris, I hope you will enjoy the normal insanity of life here.

MerRua



Dance Society

by Anne Marie Murphy

UL Dance Society would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new and old students back for another year packed with fun and entertainment through dancing. We will be delighted to welcome our teachers for both Irish and Set Dancing back Mrs Breda Garrard and Mr Pat O'Connell. We will also be introducing a new teacher for the infamous Salsa who hails from France with his skills in Professional Ballroom, Tango, Latin American, and Salsa dancing. We look forward to meeting you all on the dates listed below. All events are guaranteed to be 110% enjoyable.

Times and Dates to mark into your diary for Semester 1

Irish Dancing:

Every Thursday night in Dromroe Village Hall
From 7pm to 8.30pm. Class caters for all levels if you have never tried the traditional Irish Dancing why not give it go, or on the other hand if you want to practice and brush up on



your steps then Breda is the teacher to help you with it.
All members bring your membership cards and anyone who hasn't joined up you can on the night.

Salsa Nights:

Salsa will take place in the Scholars Function Room on Monday Nights from 8pm till 11.30pm. October 7th,

and 21st, November 4th and 18th, December 2nd. This is a night, which includes one and half hours of class followed by plenty of Salsa beats to practice your new sexy moves and maybe even pull the partner of your dreams!!

Céilí Nights:

Céilí Nights will take place also in the Scholars function Room on Monday nights from 8pm till 11.30pm. October 14th, November 11th, December 9th. Thus once a month to let your hair down and meet everyone who enjoys the traditional trad music, our instructor Pat O'Connell will call the sets throughout the night and we will have some musicians from the MA in traditional Irish music course here in UL to get the night going.

We will look forward to meeting you all pretty soon and don't fret if you haven't joined the most entertaining society as yet you still can sign up at any of these events.

Just so you don't think this is all that's happening this semester we will be informing you on the Salsa weekend in Bundoran and Céilí weekend here in Limerick soon enough along with a few shows we will visit and lots lots more. Don't get bored of college this year come along and join the UL DANCE SOCIETY.

Drama Society

by James Fitzgerald

Are you interested in any of the following?

- Acting/Performing
- Backstage/ Onstage Management
- Making a twit of yourself in front of your mates
- Or are you just a natural born show-off

If all the above apply then count your blessings because the University of Limerick Drama Society are back in action (be afraid, be very afraid) and we're looking for new recruits for our evil schemes. We have a lot of activites planned over the next few months, we'll be holding a play called Regency Romance during Greek Week (week 5) and believe me you shouldn't miss this as it is extremely funny and brought the house down at the LYT summer show at the Belltable Arts Centre downtown.

We have trips planned over the next

few months up to theatres both in town and all around the country, including vists to ISDA (which we held last year and it went down a storm) and to the festival of fools in Dublin which is basically an event where everyone dresses up to the nines and generally acts as obnoxious as humanly possible. Also during Greek Week various members of the crew will be seen around the campus getting up to all sorts of mischief, you won't be able to miss us anyways, we'll be the ones terrorizing all the innocent bystanders in the canteen area.

We meet every Wednesday night at 7pm in the Johnathan Swift Theatre (B-1023), so come along and get acquainted. Whether you are a theatre veteren or a complete novice at the game it won't make a difference, our motto is "you don't have to be a star to be in our show".



For information,contact
Ella Daly
at 9925961@student.ul.ie,
Adrian Crowe
at 0143138@student.ul.ie
or drop me a line
at 0127329@student.ul.ie,

or keep your eyes on the noticeboards over in the courtyard or up by the Johnthan Swift theatre for our posters.

See you on Wednesday.



UL Debating and Law Society

by Marie-Claire Butler

The August University of Limerick Debating and Law Union, more commonly and informally known as the DebU has had, modestly speaking, an exemplary 12 months. The aim of our Society is to provide a balance between debate on the contemporary issues of the day and social interaction, both between students within UL and also between the Debating Societies in other Colleges.

The core activity of the Debating Union is the weekly debates, which are held in the informal environment of the Scholars Function Room on a Tuesday evening. There is usually one main motion, which is pre-announced (usually the Monday before). As well as that there are also more informal "Private Members motions", where anyone can talk about just about anything, regardless of how inspiring or deranged it may be. (A previous one was "Pigs can fly if you think they can", a more recent one last Wednesday was "That this house would put Captain Birds Eye on trial for paedophilia") These debates are usually conducted in an informal manner, and while heckling may be technically forbidden, it's usually difficult to avoid in these debates, so thick skin and a brass neck along with a sharp tongue are



this house would send all the boys and girls to war" and "That this house would lose its virginity"

One of the most important aspects of any Society is in developing its new members, and in this respect the Debating Union has a particular proud record. In addition to the weekly debates where Freshers can come to watch the old hands in action, the Debating Union organises weekly tutorials for first time speakers, where they can learn the art of debating in a relaxed and informal setting. Also, the Debating

in national and international competitions against teams from all over the country. The past year has been another successful one for the University Of Limerick Debating Union. Last year, two teams and an individual speaker have made the Semi-Finals of the Irish Times competition. UL teams have competed with distinction at IV's all over Britain and Ireland, including UCD, Trinity College, UCC, UCG, Cambridge, Oxford, Dundee, Strathclyde and Glasgow. The highpoint of the year for the Debating Union has been the World Debating Championship in Toronto, where the UL team of Keith Piggott and Michael Hourigan reached the knock out stage. Only two other Irish teams manage to emulate this feat, which serves to illustrate the strength of UL debating. Two teams also competed in the European Debating Championships in Haifa, Israel; both teams did exceptionally well, with one team reaching the semi finals stages. Another UL team travelled to Croatia over the summer to participate in a pre-European debating competition and made it all the way to the final before being narrowly beaten by a team from Leeds.

The University of Limerick Debating Union also had the honour of winning the prestigious "Society of the Year" awards, and moved forward to represent UL in the national BICS awards.

This year, we are looking forward to sending teams to the World Debating Championships in Stellenbosch, South Africa. There will be a run off competition for the opportunity to

represent UL in Stellenbosch this Wednesday. Posters will be going up around the college, so keep an eye out!! Also, we are sending teams to the European Debating Championship in Zagreb next March.

We also have hosted Intervarsities, with possibly the best highlight of the past 12 months being the UL Debating Union Intervarsity. 20 teams including debaters from Oxford, Cambridge, the United States, France, Greece and all over Ireland participated. The Intervarsity has subsequently been acclaimed as one of the best in the UK and Ireland, with teams who went on the win honours at both the European Championship and the World Debating Championship being prominent in the Final. Its usually a great weekend with lots of socialising and many, well lets say... "Joyous" occurrences!!!!

The DebU have had a remarkable 12 months in terms of participation levels, debating quality, competition success and in our ability to host debates and Intervarsities. We fully intend to match and better our achievements this year.

So, if you have the burning desire to witness or participate in lively debates, lots of piss pulling (and of course the serious debating too), join us in the Scholars Function Room at 7:30pm Tuesday. For further details or enquiries you can contact:

Timmy Hennessy, Auditor:
Tadgh.Ohaonghusa@staffmail.ul.ie
Marie-Claire Butler, Secretary:
0030392@student.ul.ie
Aileen Murtagh, Treasurer:
0020117@student.ul.ie



generally a necessity! This year's Committee is being headed by Timmy Hennessy, and in the last year the Debating Union has gone from strength to strength, both in terms of the number of members and also in the standard of the debating. Some of the motions that have been debated in the last year include that "A good woman is hard to find", "That

Union runs a Maiden Speaker Competition every year, and this year the four winning finalists of this competition are going on a trip to Paris to an international competition for maiden speakers from all over Europe.

Apart from the weekly debates, the University of Limerick also competes

Kayak Club - The Alps Trip

by Adrian Holmes

On Sunday the 27th of May (Yes this is the day after our exams) a few very energetic paddlers met At 9 o'clock in order to go on a trip to the Alps. Having loaded the gear the night before we set off most nursing severe headaches from the night before. A total of 14 people set off on this trip to the Alps.

Shortly after setting off the ground rules were quickly set down

1. No sleeping on the bus. If he has to drive we have to be awake. Punishment was a super soaker in the face.
2. Any numerical question would be answered with the no. 7
3. Be prepared to take public humiliation. You do something stupid and they will let you know (especially if it is caught on tape look to Muppets video for further questions or laughs.)

We had to find ways to entertain ourselves on the bus on the long journey ahead so many sinister plots were undertaken which usually involved the locals wherever we were.

On reaching the ferry we soon met up with the rest of the group and went on board. And here we met our first challenge WHERE DO YOU SLEEP. Being expert navigators we kept getting lost. We were not allowed to sleep in the bar or the cinema or the games room although we tried. But to be fair the staff did lock Brian into the Bar on board but while his brain was still functioning he banged on the door until they let him out again.

After a short trip later we arrived in France. And we set off on the road to the Alps. At our first pit stop we learned to be afraid very afraid when our Bus Driver and was viciously attacked by the local wooden horse when he was only trying to be friendly (See Video). We eventually camped on the side of the road before making our way the next day to Bourg St. Maurice.



Here we did our first river The Azer. It was nice and easy just to break us in to the swing of things although the water did move a lot faster than anything that we have here and there were a few quick capsizes and a little bit later and we were on our way. A nice relaxing river once you got used to the flow and it is a bit hazy. We then had to find ways to entertain ourselves at night.

To start the lads tried to learn some Finnish from Satu. So for they know the Finnish yes which is slurp and no which is the sound you make when you spit.

Next came the Doran this was a very entertaining river with a few tricky sections and a nice little play hole at the bottom which resulted in some of us taking swims from the least experienced like myself and Cora to the most experienced you took the best swim of the trip in less than one foot of water all on camera (thanks for that Mick)

That night was haircut night where Paul and Don had their heads shaved and I got half a hair cut before the shaver went missing for the rest of the trip.

The third river was back again for a different section on the Azer. The most memorable bit being the bridge jump that some of us undertook. It was even more fun if you didn't get lost while trying to find the path that was just behind the tree and end up in bushes of thorns. This river also possessed a nice Gorge section, which creates whole new hazards with whirlpools and such having being created. Keep the ends up or face being looped.

After this it was back on the bus to find a new home in Italy. We decided to take the scenic route over the mountains and even had time to stop and have a snowball fight in our shorts. Our aim sucked but it was interesting all the same. We then continued on to Campertogno, which



was the best campsite by far.

water.

We decided to dine out that night in the local Pizzeria as our own cooking had taken a dive from Spaghetti and Risotto to Rice with tuna and a salmon sauce (delightful thought).

First River in Italy was for the better paddlers only Egua a 2km stretch took them 6 hours while the rest of us set up rescue. Swim beer was at a premium here. This as a series of very tough drops, with a few very memorable incidents. Firstly Brian deciding to jump into a 20 foot water slide/drop. Next came Decie getting pinned upside-down and managing barely to free himself by launching his boat over a meter in the air going vertical so that he could just about squeeze through the drop (Very tight squeeze for a man like Decie). Next came the MUPPET drop where all but those with the video camera (who went down first) ended up capsizing (6 for 6). The last drop was the most memorable with both Mick and Don deciding to run it without their paddles!

Mick made it out thanks to some handy work with a throw rope from the lads on the bank. While Don was not so lucky and managed to swim. To put this into prospective I will try and describe what they faced it was a 20foot water slide steep enough angle with a munching stopper and a big recirculating eddy which pulled everything back in again. The two crazy people then decided to go jump off the overlooking bridge, which was 30feet high in to a 2-meter stretch of

After this the others became more adventures and some of them also tried the drop (in boats) with some interesting results. Paul swam and then disappeared for a while under water as he got sucked into the stopper, rescue waited and waited before finding that he had appeared further downstream. Donie played in their for a while staying in his flooded boat going around and around and around.

We again experienced wildlife back at the campsite with the cookie monster making a guest appearance one night. Also they had these strange yellow crocodile of the sweet kind which found its way up Dons' nose and into Mick's' mouth before taking a refreshing swim in Satu's drink.

Like the kind people that we were we let other people join in our fun with some of the staff joining in our little game, which involved water and coke and a lot of running. Which ended in, Don and myself running back through the campsite with a super soaker and an Italian meter long water gun soaking the others before I was beaten to the ground with my gun forcefully removed.

The next river was the Sesia, which was nice for some of the less experienced paddlers. With one very tough section which was successfully navigated by all members who decided to run it until the very end where at first my elation was turned into swimming in the eddy at the

bottom (Shame). This river was again run a few days later with better results for most and a big confidence booster when we met people who actually swam more than we/I did.

In between running the Sesia we took a day off. This resulted in a few people going off on a mountain trek which took them a while and to my knowledge created some interesting scenes but as I only made it up a little way before turning back I can't tell you about that. Three of us Mick Jemma and myself then went to run a drop, which entered into the main river in Campertogno. It was very good and a new experience for Jemma and myself. After this we headed back to the campsite before heading back out again with some of the mountain climbers while others ran a different section of river. Having done it before I got to go first and managed to go backwards down the first half. Which contrary to appearances was not painful. But it did unfortunately begin to put people off " I think I will wait and watch at least three others do it before I decide not to". But by the end everyone was running it and some of us ran it backwards intentionally this time.

The next day we again packed up the campsite and got ready to hit the road again but not before the two Micks were going to run a GRADE V/VI section (to most a grade VI

means that we won't see you again. Mick R. went first down the easier river left and managed to negotiate it successfully while Mick J. went river right and was very lucky to come out of it unscathed having done the most part upside-down boy oh boy did he have a lucky escape.

It is at this point that things started to go against us. Don went home because he hurt his shoulder (really because he missed Jenny ahh!!!!).

Really though this was a big loss as he was one of the chief instigators of mischief. Also a bigger pity was the weather it went from beautiful sun to near floods. And it washed all the rivers out making most things quite pointless. It was at this time that we headed back to France where things were worse but we soldiered on. We went to Briancon in France.

As before most of the rivers were

washed out a few were tried but no real point until we found a play wave at Embrun. This was very entertaining and very tough. Most had really good fun but I managed to stay on the ball and swim again. After this we decided that we would then go look at the surf as we were fast running out of things to do. But we just didn't make it we stopped at the Pyrenees and stayed there. We again went back to doing the rivers, which had some mixed results mainly the carnage that ensued with three of us ending up in the water on the second attempt. The first, which resulted in a broken paddle for Jemma. We finished then with a nice easy river and a soft paddle before we headed for home. The trip ended with a nice Irish fry in Cora's house. After arriving back off the ferry.

This is just a short concise ramble about ULKCs trip to the Alps. There is much missing and I don't think that the rivers come in the same order but who cares. If you too would like to try it you are welcome to come to the pool on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays' to check it out between 10 and 11pm. All our welcome and we will do our best to teach you how to paddle and experience the paddlers world.



Sailing Club

by Laura Greer

f you have a spirit of adventure, a love of being around water, and a desire to be challenged and work as part of a crew then UL Sailing Club is the one for you. Whether you want to learn to sail in the majestic waters of Lough Derg, competitively team race against other Colleges or sail a forty foot yacht around the South coast ULSC has it all.

Commencing on Wednesday of week two a bus will depart from the back of the Foundation Building for Killaloe Activity Centre where the club operates. The club has a number of boats including 420s, Lasers and Toppers and can cater for any level of sailor. Amongst our members there are a number of Irish Sailing Association will be on hand to help you afloat and answer any questions.

For those of you with a bit more sailing experience, you might be interested in representing UL in Team



Racing events versus UCD, Trinity, UCC, CIT, NUI Galway and DCU amongst others. There are a number of weekends away throughout the year and training will take place every second Saturday morning from week two. UL has been actively involved in the intervarsity circuit since the clubs foundation and is hosting the Intervarsities next semester.

The sailing club attracted a large amount of new members at the recent clubs and societies days and looks forward to seeing everyone. For more information on ULSC check out our new website

www.geocities.com/ulsailing

or take a look at the sailing club notice board in the canteen.

UL Bohs - Will the Red Robin continue to soar

by Matt Porter

The 2002/2003 rugby season presents the biggest challenge faced by the UL Bohemians rugby club (known affectionately as the 'Red Robins') after yet another boom season. The club's first team will contest its inaugural year in the top division of the All Ireland League after winning promotion from division two in May.

It has been a remarkable climb to the top tier of Irish club rugby for the firsts who competed well but looked resigned to contesting the minor divisions until a few short seasons ago.

In May of 2002 the Mike Tewkesbury-coached UL Bohs firsts finished runner up to Belfast Harlequins in the AIL division two to clinch a spot in the top grade for the following season. It was the realisation of a long-held dream for the club faithful -- the likes of current co-president Martin O'Sullivan and immediate past-president Fergus Walsh and a host of others who had strived for so long behind the scenes to achieve a shot at the big time.

Not to be outdone, the club's women's team capped off a great 2001/2002 season by winning the Irish women's rugby title and providing the national side with a whopping nine internationals. The future of the club is also in good



hands with the under-20 side the reigning North Munster Cup champions.

A key turning point in the club's journey to the top came in 1999 when the Bohemian RFC merged with the University of Limerick club here on campus. The union has proved a major fillip to both the proud old rugby club (established 1922) and the University which now has a real presence in Limerick's number one sporting code.

A by-product of the amalgamation is the access enjoyed by the club to the vast array of training facilities and fields on offer at the fantastic new Sports Arena complex at UL. The facility, which includes indoor sprinting and jogging tracks, a full outdoor track and field stadium, two weight-training gyms, Ireland's only Olympic sized swimming pool, sports science labs and various specialists' rooms is second to none in the republic.

As well as the training facilities, the

UL Bohs teams' are able to avail themselves of nutritionists, sports psychologists and the like who are based at the university.

The club is also the natural club of choice for the large number of freshers who stream through the college gates each year.

In recent years many of these players have been lost to rugby as they are soon swamped by student lifestyle and its incessant social and scholastic demands.

The College has fielded at least one men's and one women's freshers' team since amalgamation.

The Registration Days last week netted more than 150 names for freshers of both sexes keen to play this season. In addition UL boasts a men's and women's first team which contests regular inter-college fixtures.

The University also provides a base for the club's Elite Player

Development Academy. Now in its third season, the academy has its largest intake of 14 members, including one women's player, the majority of who are UL students under the age of 20.

Each -- identified by the club as talented players with big futures both on and off the field- have been awarded scholarships to play, train and study by the club.

Under the guidance of a full time academy director based on campus, the future stars are placed on fitness and skills' programmes and are given tuition in such things as nutrition, sports psychology, time management and a host of other lifeskills. The facilities and specialist personnel at UL provide a perfect base for the academy.

An enthusiastic team of parents brave all-weathers at the club grounds in Anacotty every Sunday morning to coach an army of children from 6 to 16 in the burgeoning junior divisions. Hundreds of youngsters in all shapes and sizes can be found chasing the oval ball and learning the rudiments of catching, passing, tackling and running every week.

UL Bohs is a club which caters for any one of any size, any sex and any level of playing experience and ability.

Whether you want to have a bit of a run around with your mates in a Freshers team on a Wednesday afternoon or strive for success in Ireland's number one national club competition, UL Bohs is the club for you.

For further information check out the club's web site on www.ulbohs.com, or contact Academy Director Matt Porter on matt.porter@ul.ie.

A great way to kick off the season would be to get down to the inaugural UL Bohemians mixed touch rugby tournament Wednesday October 9 from 5:30 on the main rugby field on the UL Arena. Guys and girls get a team of six together or just turn up and we'll put you into one.



Uncle Travelling Matt

Battambang:
Got a dual-engine high speed boat to Battambang. The thing was fast and dangerous with the driver transferring petrol from one tank to another while the tanks were in use. Yamaha don't approve this. Hit the docks and 20 moto drivers jumped on the boat, there was only about 7 of us. There are two guesthouses in Battambang and not many tourists so they really push to get you. Picked one guy who had good English and booked him for a motorbike the next day.

In the guesthouse, I was talking with two guys from Utah when they met 3 other people from Salt Lake, and not one of them were Mormon, most unusual.

Battambang hasn't much to see really, but the town is really relaxed and nobody bothers tourists at all. So with my moto driver, Mono, I went to see some killing caves from the KR times, boxes with skulls and bones sit in the caves now. You walk through a monastery that was once a prison during the KR times also. I had a torch with me so when we entered one cave a young monk came with us as he had never seen the cave before as no-one had come along with a torch while he had been there. Then onto a large damn built during the KR days, with a man-made lake. Nearly 10000 people died building the damn.

Headed back to Siam Reap, and met up with Darryl and Eddie Doherty (who was in U.L. with us and travelling for a few months in the area). Eddie had been hit by a moto in Thailand and had his knee sown up, but had them removed before meeting us. Stayed in S.R. another day and then headed for P.P. again.

Got a visa for Laos the next day in three hours, arrived at the embassy to find it closed for lunch, but the moto driver woke up the guard and I got to go into the guard house and fill out the forms on a little plastic stool, very unusual it was but I gave the 45 dollars my passport and the forms to the guard, returned 3 hours later on a motorbike and he handed me my passport without me having to even get off the bike. Taking a moto through rush hour P.P. also was one of the more dangerous modes of transport so far.

VCDs:
over here cinema is non-existant, shops sell Video CD (VCDs) of the latest movies from cinema recorded with a camera at the cinema, complete with peoples heads in the shot and all that. The quality is brutal the sound crap but thats all they have here. So in P.P. I watched Spiderman amongst about 10 other films.

Sihanoukville:
Took a 3 hour bus journey on a perfect road to Sihanoukville the only port in Cambodia. Nice town, met up with a guy who I had met in Siam Reap and a couple of the girls on the bus that day and some of us ended up in a Khmer nightclub, quite funny place. Music was brutal and we had missed the karaoke section. Next day took a motorbike out to the waterfalls, which were very cool, big local attraction for Cambodians and only about 10-15 people there when I was including one Khmer family who were trying to take a picture of the family standing in some very dodgy places on the waterfall. Next day headed back to P.P. again.

Spent a couple of days waiting for the World Cup final in P.P. as didn't where we would see it if we left. Sampled some local pizza with one



of the lads Damion who we had met before in Vietnam. Finally on the 2nd July left P.P..

Ban Lung:
Myself and Darryl had decided to see some of the Ratankiri province in N.E. Cambodia, so we took a pickup truck from Strung Treng to Ban Lung. This was my first pickup truck and we sat inside most of the way. The road wasn't that bad, it was a dirt track but only got bad for a few miles.

Pickups:
Pickups are a rather unique form of transport. A four wheel drive pickup is packed high with as much stuff and people as they can tie to it and then goes to some town. It leaves whenever the driver thinks he isn't going to get anyone else, and then travels around the town for an hour picking up things he has pre-arranged to carry if he decides to go. They can either me the 20 people in the back type or loads of stuff.

Ban Lung is another quiet town with no electricity a lot of the time. Bought a small SW radio to keep up to date without the Internet and the 4th July was on the way. Took two days in Ban Lung, seeing crater lake (really clear water), some waterfalls (nice but not impressive) and some villages (I'm not a village person one looks like another to me). Also went to the "American Resturaunt" about as American as Osama.

Mad pickup journey back to S.T.:
Heading back to S.T. myself, Darryl and Hugo (an English guy who had come to Ban Lung with us), got a pickup. We got on it at 8am, we sat around for ages, he then drove us to a house and told us to get off. We were worried he was going to leave us there or something so we feigning lack of understanding until some explanation became apparant. This arrived in the form of 10 gallon drum of petrol. So we climbed down took everything off the pickup and loaded 3 x 10 gallon drums of petrol onto the back. Everything was then loaded up on top of it, including the spare tyre and then we sat on top of the spare. There was 7 people on the back, 3 of us, 3 Khmer women and one Khmer man, and of course 30 gallons of petrol. At the halfway stop, we sprung a leak in one drum so petrol sprayed out of the container. They tried to seal it in a number of ways, banana mush cement being one of interest before Hugo took some Blue-Tac from his bag and gave it to them. The locals were amazed at Blue-tac and how it sealed the container. We then set off again on the really muddy road from rain the previous couple of days. At one stage we went off-road and when we tried to return the pickup got stuck. Four of us, pushed the pickup through the mud to free it. We then spent an hour using the battery from the pickup to start someones elses 4WD truck, no jump leads and some unusual wiring.

Your Stars

by Mystic Meg

Aries: (March 21—April 19)
Though you enjoy doing the Times crossword puzzle, your addiction to the thrill of anticipation means there's nothing worse than finishing it.

Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)
You're a man magnet, which, while enjoyable, does mean you're constantly demagnetizing your credit cards.

Gemini: (May 21—June 21)
You will shatter existing records for speed and distance when you're struck by a car while walking across the Bonneville Salt Flats.

Cancer: (June 22—July 22)
It's said that there's a thin line between love and hate, but that's just a metaphor. Stop asking what color it is.

Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)
You're worried about your upcoming trial because, as an arrogant evil genius, you're not sure what the court considers a "jury of your peers."

Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)
The dangers of time travel become all too real when you meet your new boyfriend's parents and discover they come from the year 1956.

Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)
Your plan to strike from the shadows and slip away unseen will be seen as inappropriate by the other teachers.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)
You'll put up a valiant effort during an upcoming gunfight, but in the end, victory will belong to the gun.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)
A close brush with death will shock you into turning your life around and becoming heavily involved in drinking, drugs, and casual sex.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)
You will be the first person in almost three millennia whom the gods see fit to punish for an astounding lack of hubris.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)
Your confusion over the baffling ordeal of modern life is only made worse by the strobe lights and klaxons.

Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)
You're familiar with the saying "throw the baby out with the bathwater," but you never imagined you'd actually find yourself in the situation.

An Focal Contributors

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continued from frontpage
could lead to criminal prosecution.

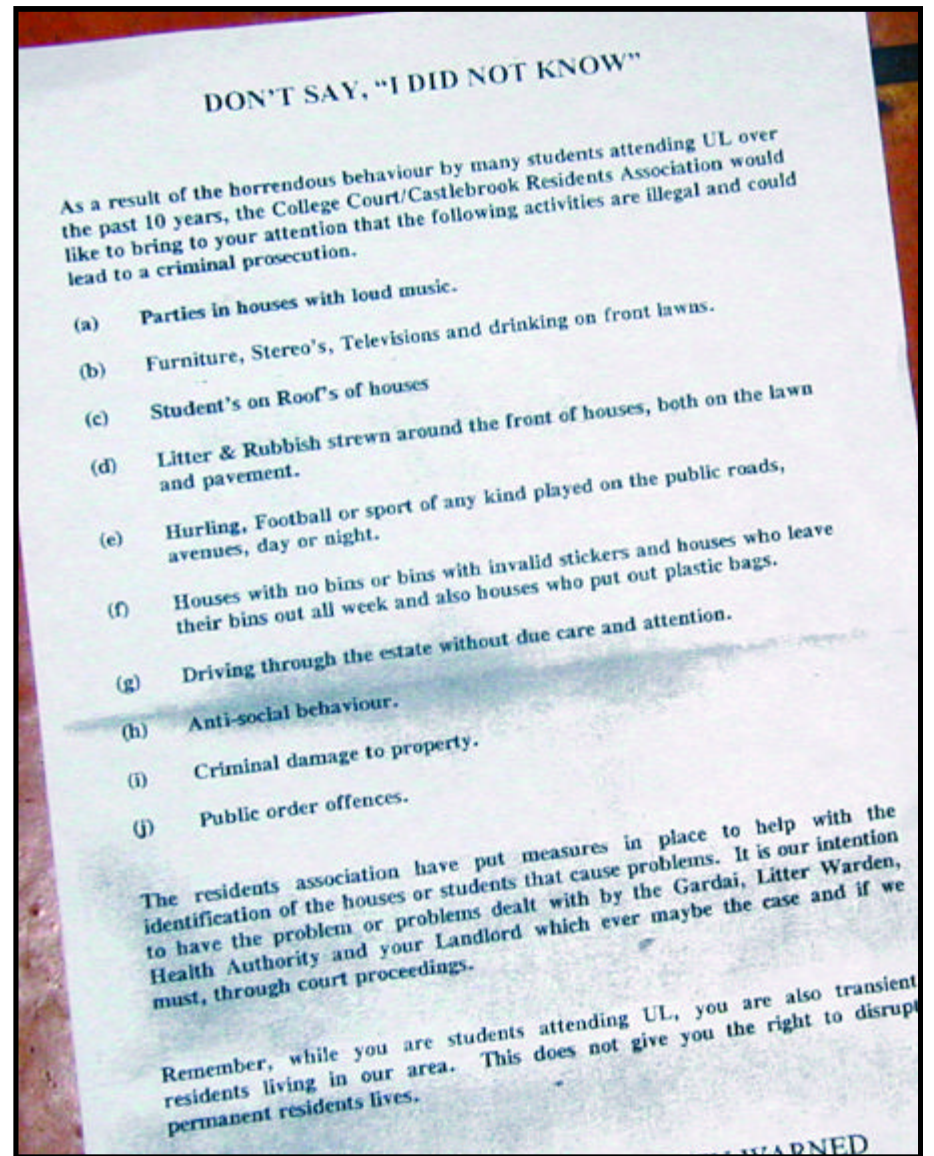
- a) Parties in houses with loud music.
- b) Furniture, stereos, televisions and drinking on front lawns.
- c) Students on roof's of houses.
- d) Litter and rubbish strewn around the front of houses, both on the lawn and pavement.
- e) Hurling, football or sport of any kind played on the public roads, avenues, day or night.
- f) Houses with no bins or bins with invalid stickers and houses who leave their bins out all week and also houses who put out plastic bags.
- g) Driving through the estate without due care and attention.
- h) Anti-social behaviour.
- i) Criminal damage to property.
- j) Public order offences.

The Residents Association have put measures in place to help with the identification of the houses or students that cause problems. It is our intention to have the problem or problems dealt with by the Gardai, Litter Warden, Health Authority and your landlord which ever maybe the case and if we must, through court proceedings.

Remember, while you are students attending UL, you are also transient residents living in our area. This does not give you the right to disrupt permanent residents lives. Don't say you have not been warned.

According to Paddy Buckley, ULSU Communications and Campaigns Officer, the official position of the University of Limerick Students' Union has always been that any antisocial behaviour is the work of a very small minority among the student population. The Students' Union has always respected the right of local residents to live their lives, and has constantly encouraged students to behave responsibly. Furthermore, he points out that if any person breaks the law, student or not, of course they run the risk of prosecution. Mr. Buckley claims that the Students' Union is deeply worried by the sentiments expressed in the above letter. They reject categorically the implication that all students living in College Court engage in "horrendous" behaviour. He went on to say that ULSU further believes that the manner in which the letter was written and delivered will do nothing to help improve relations between the students and the local residents, and will probably only exacerbate tensions between both.

In a separate, unrelated, incident another letter was dropped into every house in College Court on behalf of the College Court Landlords Association asking that all students lobby the Students' Union to object to the closure of the entrance to the campus at the end of Cambridge Close.



A copy of the letter delivered to student houses in College Court

Official U.L. Night @ THE MARKET Nightclub every Thursday

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