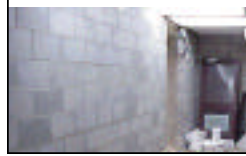


**Week 4**  
**Edition 2**  
**Semester 1**



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## Inside

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## New Officers elected to ULSU Exec

by Judith Roche

Weeks of campaigning saw the successful advent of eight new officers to the Student Union and Clubs and Societies Executive Committees this month.

On the 4th of October ULSU elections were held in the canteen of the main building. The total valid votes polled saw Caroline Walters narrowly defeat candidate Marian Roche by a mere thirty votes to attain the position of Equality Officer. Due to the unforeseen withdrawal of Eamonn O'Flynn on the Monday prior to the election date, John Mulcahy succeeded in taking his seat as



John, Caroline, Marian and Eamonn

Community Officer. ULSU General Manager, tanBlennerhassett, extended his congratulations to all candidates for a closely contested

election that yielded an impressive student body turnout. This years campaign trail welcomed a new approach adapted by the campaign teams and their managers. Ibar Davies spearheaded the campaign

sonal approach toward the student body, and candidates targeted various lecture halls and theatres around the college in order to project their respective objectives. Both candidates consciously decided to

reduce expenditure on poster advertising, and according to Mr. Blennerhassett, this had surprisingly little impact on the final poll. Both candidates also noted that students are inundated with such advertising and therefore decided on the more direct, personal approach.

As newly elected Equality Officer, Ms. Walters

intends to address as much of her election manifesto as possible given the obvious time constraints. Amongst her objectives lies an emphasis on the need for

## Club Licences Under Threat

by Claire Shaughnessy

In a recent sitting of Limerick District Court, action was taken which could have major repercussions for student life here at UL.

A standard application for renewal of licence for the two main college clubs, The Scholars and The Stables, took a dramatic turn as substantial objections were made about the running of the clubs under The Registration of Clubs Act 1904.

The well constructed objections, made on behalf of the College Court/ Castlebrook Residents Association, could possibly close down the most famous and familiar of student haunts:- the campus bar!

This prospect has not only caused

a stir at management level but has also evoked massive student debate. Patrick Kennedy, a member of the board of management for the two clubs commented "?????????????". With emotions still running high over the closure of the beloved nightspot "The Lodge" a vigorous effort is being made to retain and preserve the most precious of venues within the campus itself.

Policies at each of the bars have been reviewed and the necessary measures are being taken to bring the clubs into strict accordance with the law. This will mean that every student who wishes to drink at the clubs must be issued with a membership card. The Identification card will state date of birth, name and UL student

status.

Any person who does not hold such a card or who is under 18 years of age will not be admitted to the either club following the 5th of November 2001. However, a non-member who has attained the legal age for the consumption of alcohol (i.e. 18 years) can be allowed entry as a guest of a registered member. Members will be obliged to sign in all guests.

The court is to be recalled on the 2nd of November. Will residents determination over-ride student vigour? Will the heart of UL be dissected forever??? Will the water in the stables finally run dry???



Deccy Burke, new Clubs Officer

## ATTACKS ON STUDENTS..

by Claire Roche Kelly

There has been concern expressed over the number of attacks on the main avenue in recent times. As many as six attacks on students have been reported. Some of these attacks were quite minor, but others were more serious, with students being held at knifepoint. As of yet, only one attacker has been caught and prosecuted, and we know that he was not a student of the college.

We have all long known that at nighttime, the front avenue and the road to Plassey Village can be unsafe, to say the least. But this can only be further emphasised in light of the recent spate of attacks in that area.

Tara Curley, the Welfare Officer, is urging students to be more careful around campus at night. She is appealing for students to take the precaution of walking home in groups and not attempt to walk around campus alone. "It is too dangerous for anyone to walk around alone at night," she

said, "you should always arrange to walk with someone."

But as an added precaution, there now are personal alarms on sale in the Student's Union and in the shop. These cost just £2.50 and are about the size of a marker, so they can easily fit into a handbag or pocket. They are very easy to use and the alarm is loud enough to alert anyone in the vicinity of distress, and so would be certain to deter any attacker. Since the alarms are so reasonably priced, every student is being encouraged to invest.

These attacks have all occurred within the same area, so extra caution is being called for when walking the main avenue, but this is not to say that everywhere else on campus is safe. Students are encouraged to be cautious



around the entire campus. While no one can be guaranteed to be completely safe anywhere, if you walk in groups and carry the alarm, there is a less likely chance of being attacked. "Although we would prefer if the personal alarms never had to be used," Tara Curley said, "all students should carry one as self-defence in case an attack occurs." These alarms are now on sale.

"These attacks have all occurred within the same area"

## Condition of Pitches is Finally Improved

by Edel Fitzgerald

Much-needed attention has finally been shown to our sports pitches, which are being re-drained and re-sealed. This is extremely important as the state of the pitches has deteriorated considerably in recent years, and they are in need of immediate improvement.

The University of Limerick is renowned nationwide for promoting the benefits of sport. As UL students, we are all encouraged to take part in the multitude of sporting activities that take place daily in UL. The sports pitches

are often the second home for many passionate sports people and are a major part of UL's extensive sports facilities. Therefore, these pitches must be impeccable for the sports enthusiasts among us. There are a wide range of clubs that utilise the pitches, including the GAA, soccer and rugby clubs, as well as the more reserved student who enjoys

walking off that hangover. Training by the clubs has been interrupted, but the work being done will benefit all clubs in the future.

Much damage has been caused to the pitches in the past few years. As well as being used by the dedicated sports fans,

these pitches are easily accessible by the general public. Overall, there is a lack of security surrounding the pitches, and this has certainly not helped the situation.

So why has this situation been allowed to continue? Basically, the grounds staff that are employed by the university have the difficult task of attending to the entire grounds of the University. Consequently, they have found little time to work on the pitches.

Unfortunately, our pitches have suffered badly as a result. It is hoped that more grounds staff will be employed, and these will deal with the pitches specifically. The constant upkeep of the pitches would be a great advantage to all concerned, ensuring that they are always of the highest quality.



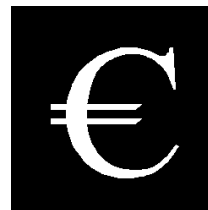
The work on the pitches is often inconvenient for the clubs, but the condition of the

pitches is fairly bad. It is hoped, for example, that the work on the 9 acres pitch, which is to begin in April or May of next year will be finished by September, 2002. This may seem like a long wait for many, but it will definitely be worthwhile.

"The University of Limerick is renowned nationwide for promoting the benefits of sport"



# Poverty: The Next Generation by Alona Troy



It's 1.30am and while down the pub you have run out of cash!!! No problem, just run out to the ATM and insert your flexible friend, the only one that's fun while flexible, and withdraw the last of your overdraft. Sure you only live once. Unfortunately the ATM seems to be out of order. The same is true of the one across the road. Dammit, you've been to five now and none work. You are now pissed, penniless and peckish, with no chance of a taxi or that battered sausage you have been promising yourself all night. This nightmare scenario will come true in the next few months. That is to say that on the 1st of January 2002 at 01.30hrs, the ATM's of the country will close down to welcome in our new friend, in good times and bad, the Euro.

So unless you are completely broke or are a boring-type person and are at home on New Years Eve / Day, the Euro is going to affect us all from the off. We've all heard the daft ads on the radio and seen the even dafter ads on the telly, but the change over is actually a big deal. As a country we are more prepared for the Euro than we were for decimalisation, so the few crusties who remember the now 'old' 'old' pence need not have nightmares about the new ways. So whether we have lots or none whatsoever, money makes our world go round and it is up to ourselves to be ready for the Euro.

As of January 1st the Euro becomes the legal tender of Ireland, not just on the stock exchange but also in reality. We all have to deal with banks and other lending institutions so lets start there. As stated earlier the ATMs will close down in the wee hours of New Years Day and the will be stocked with ten and twenty Euro notes. The higher denominations will be added later. Any money in your account, or listed on your overdraft for that matter, will automatically be changed. Remember the amount of money you have or owe will look greater on paper. You will have more money in your wallet but it will also seem like you are spending a great deal more than you used to.

As of the 1st of January, all money given out by

the bank, ahem, will be given out in Euros. The bank is the only place where you will be able to exchange your punts after the 9th of February. This is for a limited time only so check with your bank as to when they stop. After that punts are dead in the water. Now as for the bottle full of whichever coinage you are partial to hoarding, you are advised to bank it now as after January the banks will only accept change in a predetermined amount of punt notes and coins free of charge. If you exceed the 'household amount' as it is called, you will be charged a conversion fee. While few of us use chequebooks anymore, we all receive one now and again. If you do write cheques, be sure and have your new euro chequebook before the first as all cheques written from January 1st must be done so in euros. You may not alter a punt cheque book to a euro chequebook yourself and do not accept such altered cheques. Punt cheque written before December 31st 2001 are valid after the 1st of January but you are asked to have them cashed by the 9th of February 2002, like a cheque

euros. CIE will also be providing such change over services. However in your own interest it is better to get your ticket in advance of boarding the bus or train, to give yourself a bit of time for delays with the new money and to have the exact fare for the commuter trains and buses. They will only accept one currency per transaction, don't be an awkward b\*\*tard. Most shops at this stage have dual pricing and you may have noticed some funny prices in order to facilitate the change over. Get yourself a converter; available at most banks or even better if you can do it on your mobile. Keep an eye out for any price jumps etc.

As you can see the advantages of computerised banking and billing means that the change over is not going to be such a taxing problem for the majority of us. It will be just like being on holidays, you get used to the money after a few days. It is also a good time to remind ourselves that not everybody will find the changeover so easy. Remind anyone who might have problems with the whole process, such as the elderly, to hand in their coins and inform them of how the changeover will proceed. Bring them a changeover booklet available from any bank. There is plenty of information out there. All the banks



The new pharmacy and PC shop in The Student Centre Courtyard

would last that long with a student. The bills we all face will also change, although in name only, they still demand money. Your ESB and gas bill will convert to euros and like the shops will accept payment in punts up to the 9th of February 2002 and will give change in

have their own literature on the topic and should carry some from the Euro Changeover Board of Ireland. The best place to go for any questions, queries or general info is, [www.euro.ie](http://www.euro.ie).

## Exec Elections (continued from page1)

improved facilities for students with disabilities, including easy website access on campus. She also stresses the need for the increase in left-hand seats and improved overheads in lecture halls and theatres. Ms. Walters has taken on board the pressing issues of discrimination against the gay, lesbian and bisexual population at UL. These are a sample of the demands and requests Caroline has so far received on a one-to-one basis with students on-campus, and this was to become her campaign trademark.

John Mulcahy has taken on board a comprehensive agenda, a sample of which is aimed at improving student/resident relations and increasing on-campus security. Regarding the former, John wishes to embark on a new tack with the employment of student liaison officers to deal with both student and resident complaints. John has accented the lack of lights on campus, especially in the East Gate vicinity, and the need for more extensive Garda patrol and availability of

information re student accommodation rights. Mr. Mulcahy has expressed his eagerness to attack his election manifesto and contin-

society was the successful candidate in the battle for the Societies Officer position. Ella Daly, who was defeated in this contest, successfully rebounded and attained a position in the



Carolines Campaign Team

ue to do so within the time constraints of office. The South Court Hotel hosted the Clubs and Societies Executive Committee elections on September 14th last. The days results yielded Declan Burke of the kayaking club as the popular new Clubs Officer, defeating Stephen Driver of the soccer club. Anne Marie Murphy of the dance

Societies Executive Committee. Final tallies also pinpointed Stephen Driver of the soccer club with a rebound victory, successfully gaining a position on the Clubs Executive Committee. These polls saw the election of Mark Breen of the lifesaving club and Brid Walsh of the badminton club to the committee. The year ahead promises to be both a challenging and rewarding one for all successful candidates. An Focal wishes to offer its congratulations to those involved in these elections. The student body hath spoken, and thus the year kicks off in anticipation.

# Hi! from your Sabbatical Officers



## Mick Phelan- ULSU President

Well another two hectic weeks have passed in the mad world of UL. The American Flag Day went well with over £1500 being raised for the American Aid Appeal. Also there will be a similar flag day for the Afghan Refugee's on Wednesday 17th October (Week 4) and £1 from every ticket that is sold for Docs on the night will go the Concern Afghan Refugee's appeal, so please give generously.

Last week was a bit nuts with all the Clubs & Societies Budgets on. There were over 55 C&S looking for money this year and the standard was extremely high. As you might have noticed the new Medical Centre is nearly finished, another 2 weeks should do the trick - hopefully.

The Class Reps Admin Day was on last Saturday, and I cannot stress enough the importance of having a Class Rep. A good Class Rep can be an invaluable asset to a Class.

The Students' Union Executive for this year is:

President	Michael Phelan
Welfare Officer	Tara Curley
Education Officer	Tom O'Donovan
Communications Officer	Patrick Kennedy

Post Grad Officer  
Timmons

Community Officer  
Equality Officer  
Clubs Officer

Societies Officer  
Student Teachers Officer  
Non Voting Members

General Manager Stan Blennerhassett  
Chair Class Reps Council To Be Elected  
First Year Rep To Be Elected (If Required)

Caroline Tel: 061-202326

John Mulcahy  
Caroline Walters  
Declan Burke

Ann Marie Murphy  
Catherine Levis

*Mick*

Email: michael.phelan@ul.ie

Tel: 061 - 202326

Web: www.ulsu.ul.ie

Congratulations to all new members, I look forward to working with you all.

Finally I would like to thank Dr. Roger Downer and Eamonn Cregan with their help in securing £20,000 for a Clubs & Societies Mini - Bus, which is part of the C&S 3-year plan. Also thanks to the Students' Union shop for a donation of £10,000 for the project. The Mini-Bus project has been in the pipeline for the last couple of months and finally it has come to fruition.

Well that's about it for now

Mick

Email: michael.phelan@ul.ie



## Tara Curley- ULSU Welfare Officer

Well hello all!!

Hope ye are all settled back in and for those first years hope its what you expected. Things really are a bit mad at the moment and it doesn't look like they are going to settle down, last week we ran the American Aid appeal which raised around £1500, I would like to thank everyone who supported the flag day and a special thanks to all those who helped out at the last minute.

Next week sees the Afghanistan Refugee appeal (Wednesday Week 4), all support and volunteers are welcome (and badly required!!). All proceeds from Doc's next Wednesday night will also go towards the appeal. As they did last week to America.

Week 5, October 22nd, sees the launch of the first National Alcohol Awareness Week across all the Universities in Ireland. Guys we not telling ye not to drink, just be careful with it, take it handy and don't go completely mad. There is more to college than drink, go join a club or society (there are over 70 of them, there is bound to be one which suits, if not start your own). This is only the start of it; don't forget Greek Week is coming soon.

Outreach is really starting to pick up momentum, for those of you who haven't signed up

yet and are interested, the Outreach meetings will be every Tuesday night for the semester at 7.30pm in the Students' Union. Just drop in the more the merrier.

One of the biggest projects this year is for one of our own, a 3rd year Environmental Science student was left paralysed over the summer after a bad car crash. We will be having numerous fund-raising events over the coming weeks, to help his parents fund his needs. I hope ye will all be in full support, and we can show how much we can do together.

Last but certainly not least, unfortunately there have been some attacks over the last few weeks on campus, and I would like everyone to be consciously more careful, when walking home at night. Try walk home in groups of a least two. There are personal alarms for sale in the SU for £2, it's a small price to pay for safety!! You can also rent them for the night, if you just leave in your I.D card. The Nitelink will be returning in the very near future, I'll let you know more about that as soon as I have more info.

That's me done for this week, remember I'll here if ye need me for anything (no matter how big or small). Just call in, if I'm not around (I'll probably just be in a meeting)

just leave a message and I'll get back to you

Cheers

*Tara*

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# Tom O'Donovan ULSU Education Officer

In the last Edition of An Focal I spoke about what I felt was the most important aspect of a third level education – the learning of how to learn rather than learning off by rote as most of you were use to coming in to university. I mentioned that it is your position to take responsibility for your own progress and that from now on that is what is expected of you. All of that is what I am going to call here, your job.

Our job, that is your Students' Union and your Class Representatives, is to help you do your job to the best of your ability. We are here to help you in any way we can. No problem is too big or too small. We are your representatives so let us represent you. Tell us what's going on. Let us know how we can help. If something is happening that you are not comfortable with or not sure about or confused over call in and see one of us here and we will do everything we can to clear it up whatever it may be.

Most of you will never have any great apparent need for us; you will go through the system with relatively few difficulties. Those of you who will have problems just be aware that we are here and that we can help!

Be aware of the fact that there is a network here on campus, a network of students, recognised by the govern-

ment under the Universities Act, 1997 that does help students every day. Not least of which are your Class Representatives.

You the student population of UL identified the importance of Class Representatives in the Student Satisfaction Survey of May 2000. You said the system wasn't working and that it needed to be overhauled. Well last year we started that overhaul. We re-empowered Class Reps at Union Council, we hired the first ever Class representative Development Officer in the Country and in cooperation with the University Authorities we have got for the first time and also one of the few of its kind a Certificate of Recognition for the valuable contribution that Class Reps. make to this campus.

We have started that overhaul now you must help us improve the system even more by getting your Class Reps. elected. For the system to work and for you to get the benefits of it we need every class to have a Class Rep. Get your Class Rep signed up now! We will provide the support and the training that they need to help your class have the smoothest possible



ride through the UL system. Help us help you do your job!

**Tom**

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Hi everyone I hope you have been well for the last two weeks! As I sit here, trying frantically to meet the printing deadline I feel like falling to sleep in front of the computer, but then again I egt to go to bed for longer when all of this is finished.

I haven't got a whole lot to tell you about what I've been up so I'll be as brief as I can. Basically reagrdng An Focal I've been trying to iron out the initial problems that I had last week and I'm sure you'll agree that this edition look s somewhat better as a whole.

Next week we'll be running a campaign to raise money for Afghan refugees, I urge everybody to give as kindly as they did for the USA appeal last week. Another Campaign that you'll be noticing soon is the attempt to get people to register to vote while residing in the Limerick Region. It is everyones right to exercise their vote and, with a general election looming, it is important that you can approach the relevent authorities to rectify issues in the area that you live. Watch this space for more news about how we'll be helping you to register .

I'm wrap up now as the printer is on the

# Patrick Kennedy- ULSU Communications and Campaigns Officer

phone asking what in the lords name have I been up to , talk to you later

**Patrick**



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# It's your Letters

## Correspondence to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I recently received a very witty e-mail from an unnamed source, which I thought might prove informative for my fellow students. Dubs, take no offence - us Kerry people put up with enough slagging from the rest of the country - so sit there and read!!

Here are the ten most asked questions about Dubs.

- Why do Dublin people piss in the streets instead of a toilet?
- Why do they refer to all other Irish people as Sheep Shaggers when we all know damn well what they're doing with those horses? A man from Ballyfermot (probably called Anto) recently got divorced from his cousin so he could marry his horse.
- Why is their knowledge of Irish geography restricted to 'da nart soide and da sout soide'?
- Why does their knowledge of Irish history go all the way back to the 1980's?
- Why do they complain about 'doze bleedin' niggers coming over here taking ere women and ere jobs' when Paul McGrath is 'yer only man' and 'God Bless Phillo'?
- What the fuck language are they speaking?
- Why is hurling a culchie game until Dublin win a match when it suddenly becomes 'Hoorlin', da fastest field sport in da bleedin' woodin'.
- Why can't they go for a drink without trying to stab each other afterwards?
- Why can't they accept Aslan are never going to make it 'cause they're Shite?
- Why are they all still wearing tracksuits?

Yours in satisfaction,  
Imelda from Kerry

A certain U.L. lecturer may mention during the course of one of his lectures that the constant down-pouring of rain in Frank McCourt's book *Angela's Ashes* is not a historical accuracy but instead a metaphor, which demonstrates the dampness that the author felt in his state of poverty. That lecturer has obviously never cycled to work during the month of September.

In the future I know that the lasting memory I will have of U.L. will not be the friendships I made, the knowledge I gleaned or even the pressure which this damn F.Y.P. is placing on me, but rather the ritualistic soaking I received at least once a week while cycling to and from college. Yet my gripe is not with Limerick weather, after all I grew up in Tralee, I should be well used to incessant rain. No, my concern is for my poor innocent bicycle, the true victim in this saga. Not only must it endure my considerable weight pounding on it every day but it stands out in the open, all alone, braving each and every foray which the atmosphere throws at it.

Here is where my incomprehension begins to demonstrate itself. I simply can't understand why, in a college where buildings seem to be reproducing quicker than rabbits (I notice the Catherine Lonsdale and the Schrodinger are about to have a love child), the college authorities don't see fit to build a covered bicycle-shed. I don't wish to appear greedy, I must commend the college planners for providing ample bicycle parking spaces. However I have first hand experience of the ravages to which bicycles are subject in Limerick's H2O rich environment.

Witness my bike maintenance costs last year. In the two academic semesters I replaced two brake cables; two pedals; one set of bullhorns; one set of cogs and sprockets and a bottom bracket, to the total cost of almost £100. With the sole exception of the bullhorns each of the aforementioned was damaged irreparably due to rust. There is no doubt in my mind that the lack of appropriate shelter for bicycles in this college contributed to the degradation.

The total number of students attending this college is listed at ten to twelve thousand depending on whether you account part-timers and postgrads, add to that the staff figures and it is evident that we live in a campus whose population rivals that of most big towns in Ireland. It is safe to assume, the full bike racks back me up on this, that up to a thousand diligent people cycle into the U.L. campus daily. We cause no pollution and the only green house gases we produce are the remains of last night's curry and chips. Yet while we work or learn our environmentally friendly pedal powered machines are suffering at the hands of Limerick's climate.

Thus I implore you, the next time you see a student soaked to the skin, clambering into a lecture with leggings in one hand while cleaning their glasses with the other, spare a thought for the bicycle they have left out in the cold. Come on college planners, get it together, a couple of sheets of corrugated plas-

tic will do the trick. Please save our frames! Even Noah had an Ark.  
regards,  
Peter Burrows

### STUDENTS/PEOPLE WITH 'HIDDEN' DISABILITIES

My name is Deirdre Hough and I am one of the above! I'm a mature first year (Public Admin) student and have never come across the following situation until I arrived into the hallowed halls of ULI

One of my disabilities is Diabetes. One of the potential difficulties of a diabetic person is the 'Hypo-glycaemic' occurrence. In layman's (!) terms, that means that us diabetics require glucose of a Mars bar every so often to function. I was in the Stables Bar recently; I just experienced a "hyp" and quickly took some sugar, bought a sandwich and a cup of coffee and badly needed to sit down. There was a group of "young fellas" sitting at the bar and they were resting their pints on a barstool. I asked the lads if I could borrow the stool for five minutes in order to eat my sandwich. About five minutes of "craic" ensued and none of them would give me the stool. After about another five minutes, I really, really needed to sit down but no joy!

I quickly finished my coffee and spoke to one of the chaps - I told him that I was a registered disabled student - he could verify that by going to the restricted section in the Library where he would see me most days. I told him that people don't always require wheelchairs or guide dogs to be disabled - sometimes they/we have hidden disabilities. I told him that I hoped he would have a "pang" of conscious when he saw me!

I had occasion to be in the stables bar a few nights later with similar "Hypo2" but on that occasion I met a "gentleman"! When I asked him for a stool, he immediately gave me his own one and I then proceeded to tell him that I was a registered disabled. He told me that his mother did a lot of work with a lot of Disabled people so he had more understanding of my situation than the "yobbos" on the previous occasion. WELL DONE LUKE!

My point is - JUST BE AWARE OF HIDDEN DISABILITIES! If someone tells you they are disabled - even if they don't look disabled - give them the benefit of the doubt. It's not exactly a fun statement to make for the Disabled Person and for the most part if the person is genuine, most people have the cop-on to discern the truth!

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in relation to an article published in the last edition "An Focal". The article in question is one which deals with the issue of insurance coverage for students. The article states the insurance policy that the Students Union has taken out with Don Reddan Insurances, "You're not covered whilst mountaineering or rock climbing unless you get injured under the supervision of experts in these fields. Recognised qualifications only - personal opinions don't count." To the knowledge of the OPC this is untrue. Last semester we had many meetings with both the SU and the insurance company in trying to clarify the terms of the insurance policy, insuring all students were covered whilst on activities with the club. We were told that "experience" was all that was needed, with no reference to personal qualifications. Our club is recognised for its high standards of expertise and experience among its members. This proves that the section of the article was untrue, and we would hope that a retraction will follow.  
Yours sincerely,  
Dave O'Neill  
President OPC

First off I'd like to thank Caroline for being a worthy opponent

and also congratulate her on a campaign well done. I know she'll be a great Equality Officer and I wish her well through out the year.

I want to thank everybody who helped out in any way even if you just told your friends to vote (although offering sexual favours on my behalf might have been going a bit too far Kate!!!), anyone who wore my ladybird stickers and/or Winnie the pooh ones and any one who handed out fliers. In particular Emma, Ann-Marie, Jean and the rest of that crowd. Thanks a million!! But I especially want to thank the following people:

John: my co-conspirator in this whole election business, for keeping me grounded on Thursday, and giving out to me when I was getting lazy, for getting me champagne (even if Ciaran dropped it!) but most importantly for being there and being proud of me!! By the way Congrats on getting Community Officer!!

Breda: not many people would stay up till 6.30am helping with manifestos and posters, dedication and loyalty are words that anyone who knows Breda associate with her. For being my calming influence during the week, thank you!

Mags: I know Equality Officer elections didn't quite compare to meeting Bertie but it seemed to come a close second. A born campaigner thanks for the website, advise and all the hard work babe!!

Leah, Sarah, Kate and Roisin: the unfortunate people who live with me, for people who wouldn't even walk into the SU last year ye've come a long way!!! The best group of girle friends ever!!! By the way those stickers rocked!!! Oh and thanks to Leah for lending me the phrase "It's not the size of the ship it's the motion of the ocean". Mucho thank you-o (sic)

Shane: when everyone else was sitting around looking bored on Thursday Shane was still handing out fliers and charming all the passers by into voting for me, (although I suspect when he and John went off to "talk to people" they were actually chatting up girls but nevertheless it's all votes!!!)

Grainne: for risking the paint fumes and painstakingly drawing out those letters for those banners, thanks a million.

Fergal: Thank you for introducing me to Microsoft publisher and all the help with the posters and Manifestos!!

Peter, Claire and Ciaran: thanks for the leaflets and spending half of Thursday in the canteen despite having the radio soc budget to do!!!

Caitriona, Louise (and David): those leaflets didn't hand themselves out, even though ye were both really sick ye donated loads of time to the campaign, thank you so much!! (So jealous that I didn't go to Tall Paul now Lou!!!)

Breda's Friends: who lent me the Winnie the Pooh stuff on the day, only problem was people wanted to take them, we had to watch them like hawks!!

Thomas: for getting me some of the Erasmus vote!!!

The Scholars: especially Christian and Phil for organizing those drinks vouchers and of course for the champagne. It's about time we got a customer loyalty gift!!

Dave: those concessions and comps for Dolans were much appreciated, although I'm not quite sure what some of the girls made of the Dolans experience I'd say it'll be back to the Market next week, but at least I tried!!!

Eamonn O Flynn: for the words of political wisdom! No wonder Eamonn has such a reputation with "the ladies", he could talk even the strongest character into anything!!! (No particular references)

Last but not least, Stan: thanks for those vouchers (I ended up with 80 altogether), and for not giving out to me for causing an election!!

I know I've probably left out someone really important and if I have I'm really sorry, but the whole day was so busy it was hard to keep track of who was there and who wasn't, again sorry!!!!

E-mail [patrick.kennedy@ul.ie](mailto:patrick.kennedy@ul.ie) with your questions and complaints

# Many Classes still without Class Reps

by Marian Roche

Once upon a time, in a Galaxy not so far away, a higher power decreed "there shall be a representative body, which shall determine the policy if the union...this body shall be known as...the Class Representatives Council or CRC." The Students Union constitution has a lot to answer for. Basically if you were to take that as read, all the Union's policies would be left up to a handful of "active" class reps. Sounds a bit irresponsible to let something as important as policy to about 30 amateurs. Well that's what happened last year, three policies that affect all of us were passed by a tiny percentage of the student body. Those policies were the Transportation Policy, the FYP Policy and the Environmental Policy.

During the summer, the few class reps that were living in Castletroy worked on a new edition of the handbook in conjunction with Education Officer, Tom O Donovan, and President, Mick Phelan. Special Credit is due to Breda

Class Reps will use it throughout the year to solve any problems that may arise for members of their class.

This year, we have become the first University in the country to appoint a Class Reps Development Officer, her name is Joanne McCormack. She has the daunting task of trying to improve the Class Rep System. She has only been doing the job for a few weeks but seems to be enjoying the work despite it's challenging nature. According to Joanne the importance of Class Reps within the Union and University structure cannot be stressed enough, "Class Reps are the vital link between the University, the students and the Students Union," this sentiment echoed by Education Officer Tom O Donovan. At the time of going to print, Joanne was looking forward to the Class Reps Administration Day, and getting to know everyone involved better.



Elect your Class Rep or Else!

Being a class rep is more than just being in CRC and drafting and passing policies. Last year's Class Reps Handbook outlined five of the main roles of Class Reps.

- Representing your class to individual lecturers
- Representing your class to the department or faculty
- Representing your class to the Students Union
- Helping individual students
- Providing services like photocopying notes etc.

Kiely, Margaret Ryan and John Mulcahy, who donated their time to the Handbook. It will be given to all registered class reps, and it is hoped that

The Students Union ran a campaign during orientation week and week 1 to encourage people to become Class Reps, but it is obvious that more work is needed on this, as there are only 72 registered class reps at the moment.

# Register to Vote in Castletroy!

by Gearoid Holland

As students, we spend three years out of our four-year courses in the Castletroy area. However, we do not directly elect anybody to the Dáil or to the Limerick City Council to represent us.

...tive is clearly an option. That politician would be responsible to his/her electorate, namely the students of UL, and would have to represent our concerns at a national level. If not, he/she would risk losing out on a re-election, and no politician wants that to happen.

ally, but a simple change of address for voting purposes is as permanent as you want it to be.

To be entitled to vote you must be at least 18 years of age by 15 February 2002 and be ordi-

With a student body of 9,000 students on campus every semester, electing our own political representa-

"To be entitled to vote you must be at least 18 years of age by 15 February 2002 and be ordinarily resident in the state"

Michael Gleeson of the Franchise Section in the Department of the Environment contacted An Focal in relation to getting students registered to



vote. A general election is due to occur during the next electoral year, and that is an opportunity to get our voice heard on a national stage, as well as on a local level, through the city corporation elections.

However, most students are still registered to vote at home (if at all), where they spend three months out of every year (unless they go on J1, in which case they spend barely any time there at all). It, therefore, makes sense to be politically represented where you are actually resident most of the time, namely Castletroy.

narily resident in the state. However, if you want to change your place of registration or if you want to register to vote for the first time, the closing date for applications for inclusion on the register is 25 November. Therefore, it is particularly important if you are not already registered to vote anywhere, that you register before then. Otherwise, you can't have a say in the general elections next year.

The ULSU will be issuing further details in the next few weeks as to how to register to vote for the first time and how to change your address for voting purposes, so as to give UL students more political influence. A vote gives you a voice in Castletroy, as well as a say in the country as a whole. Use your voice, and your vote.

The postal vote does not entitle an individual to vote in local elections in Limerick, it merely entitles one to cast your vote by post. That vote will affect your hometown, not Castletroy, and will weaken the political clout of the 9,000 strong electorate on the UL campus. The postal vote also has to be renewed annu-

**AMERICA AID APPEAL**

Last week almost €1500 was raised for the America Aid Appeal. The money was collected by the donation of €1 from every ticket sold for Docs to the fund. The money, along with the books of condolences that have been in the Student Union building will be presented to the American Embassy and the money will go towards helping victims and the families of victims injured or killed in the New York attacks.

**AFGHANISTAN AID APPEAL**

A similar undertaking will take place on Wednesday of week 4. In order to make a contribution to Concerns nationwide Afghanistan Aid Appeal €1 will be taken from all tickets sold for Docs, and donated to Concern. The money will then be used to help the millions of famine victims and refugees in Afghanistan.

# Blood Donation- Good or Bad?

by Gearoid Holland

**M**any people are put off by the thought of giving blood. The mere idea of sticking a needle into your arm and then sucking out your blood makes some people squeamish, and puts others off the whole idea. But this is one of many myths that attach an undeserved stigma to blood donation. Many people never realise that it's in their own best interest to donate, and the most popular excuse of all is that they're simply too busy, or too lazy, to donate.

## Why Donate?

Only 3% of Irish people donate regularly; about one quarter will need a transfusion at some point in their lives. This is according to Teresa Barry of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service.

The demand for blood is constantly outstripping supply, with many operations being cancelled daily due to the shortfall. Blood can only be stored for 35 days, so existing donors are urged to donate as often as possible to replenish the supply. New donors are also urgently needed, even if only for a one-off donation.

Emergency operations involving road accident victims use up a large proportion of the blood presently in storage, and emergency cases add extra strain on blood supplies that are already critically limited. Cancer patients need fresh blood platelets from blood donations to repair their damaged immune systems after cancer treatment. Pregnant mothers in particular also need blood, so you may in fact be saving two lives, not one, by donating blood.

3,000 units are needed each week for these operations. The IBTS are hoping to collect 1,000 units in UL in Week 7, which would be a new Irish record for the single biggest collection in one place.

## How Do I Donate?

All that is involved is one hour of your time, and a little generosity on your part.

The first step is to fill out a form in relation to your health, and a little

background on your medical history. Nothing too complicated. One of the professionally trained nurses will then discuss your medical form in complete confidence to discover whether there is anything that might make you ineligible to donate. It is merely a precautionary step and a "wrong" answer doesn't automatically mean you can't donate. A sample of your blood will then be taken to measure your level of iron, after which the actual donation takes place.

The donation takes about seven to ten



minutes, where a unit of blood, just a little under a pint, is taken. New needles and sterile blood packs are used every time to ensure all donations are untainted. Giving blood is itself relatively painless and many people barely feel the needle at all. You lie down for the ten minutes, in privacy if you wish, or you can have a friendly chat with the nurses.

Afterwards, you can stay lying on the bed for as long as you like, or you can head out to a side-room where light refreshments are available. You can resume your usual duties after 15-20 minutes but if you are doing anything strenuous or hazardous, such as operating heavy machinery or mountaineering, you are advised to defer it for a day.

And in the meantime, you have possibly saved up to 3 lives with one donation.

## Main Facts

Many otherwise acceptable blood donors are turned away simply because they are unsuitable on the

day. If you are thinking about donating, but unsure as to whether you are suitable, keep these in mind

- Eat well beforehand. A cup of coffee will not give you enough energy, so have a substantial lunch or dinner.
- If you have any colds or flu, you should wait two weeks after recovering from the symptoms, with cold sores; wait until you're recovered.
- Don't turn up just to get a HIV test. It wastes valuable medical resources for collecting suitable blood donations, as well as selfishly jeopardising the eligibility of the whole batch of blood collected.
- You should be between 18 and 65 and weigh at least 8 stone in order to be able to spare a unit of blood. You should also be in good health.

You are advised to donate blood only once every 90 days, as it takes that long for your blood platelets to replenish themselves. You will not run out of blood simply by donating one unit. Most people have between eight and twelve pints of blood, and can easily spare one.

And you don't have to wait for a blood drive in order to give blood. There are plenty of clinics nationwide that are more than happy for you to drop in anytime. For more information on your nearest clinic, check the Irish Blood Transfusion Service website at [www.ibts.ie](http://www.ibts.ie). In the meantime, if you can't make the blood drive in UL on 5-8 November, there will be a mobile clinic in Kilmurry Lodge on October 31st and on November 29th.

Share the gift of life. Give blood.





# Alcohol Awareness- What to watch out for

by Treasa Keane

**M**any of us think of smelly old men when we visualise an alcoholic – one of those who shout crazy, obscene things while brandishing a bottle concealed in a brown paper bag. If we think for a little longer, our imagination may stretch to the vision of a middle aged man, arriving home at an ungodly hour to beat his wife and shout at his children.

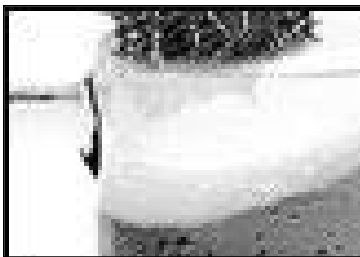
These are the stereotypical alcoholics and while they certainly exist in the real world, alcoholism touches every walk of life and anyone, regardless of age or gender, can become an alcoholic. In truth, the highest rate of alcoholism occurs among the 18-29 year age group, while the lowest rate is among the 65 plus age category.

So, how many of us could be diagnosed as alcoholics? Well, if you can answer “yes” to any of the following questions, you may have a problem.

- 1- Have you ever felt you should cut down on your drinking?
- 2- Have people ever annoyed you criticizing your drinking habits?
- 3- Have you ever felt bad or guilty about drinking?
- 4- Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to settle your nerves or cure a hang-over?

If any of you are squirming in your seats reading this, or perhaps proclaiming loudly how “those tests don’t prove anything!” you may want to talk to some of the Erasmus students sometime. The fact is Irish people drink a lot. And Irish students drink an awful lot. Here, in Ireland, and particularly in U.L., it is quite normal to commence drinking early in the day, and continue until the wee hours of the morning. . . What’s wrong with that, you might ask? Nothing really- but bear in mind that our Erasmus friends are watching on in astonishment and horror at our “normal” drinking habits.

So perhaps it’s just a case of different practices amongst different cultures. But what



exactly is the difference between a ‘social drinker’ and a legless idiot that can barely stand, let alone hold a pint? Well, here it is – the recommended limit is one drink per day for women and two per day for men. Women’s bodies contain proportionately less

water and they are naturally smaller, hence the reason for a lower recommended limit. That translates roughly as seven glasses or pints of beer per week - hardly worth drinking at all, is it?

At this point we should move on to discuss the effects of alcohol abuse (That’s drinking considerably more than the recommended limit –something we’re all guilty of!) The long-term medical effects are as follows:

**Fatty Liver Disease** (sounds beautiful, doesn’t it?) It hardly needs any further explanation. The good news is that it is reversible as soon as one abstains from alcohol.

**Alcoholic Hepatitis** – an advanced form of Fatty Liver Disease. This one is irreversible.

**Cirrhosis** – a liver ailment which interferes with the liver’s ability to perform its’ normal functions. It is completely irreversible even with total abstinence. Other medical effects include diseases of the digestive system, damage to the heart and lowered resistance to infection.

That’s all ahead of us. Luckily, due to the size of this campus, the student body is reasonably fit and healthy thanks to that massive trek from the Schumann to the Stables. And of course, our fine sports facilities. The more immediate concerns are waking up when you feel like something has died in your mouth. Or facing the bus journey home on a Friday afternoon after an inebriated Thursday night, and feeling like you’re actually about to die. Or on a more serious note, waking up next to some stranger and wondering what exactly happened last night –and that’s just not funny.

In America, a growing number of colleges and universities are addressing the problems of drinking on campus. They have introduced measures such providing education on the facts about drinking and expanding the counselling services. American statistics show that 1/3 rapes, 2/3 murders, 1/3 suicides, 2/5 assaults, and 3/5 cases of child abuse are alcohol related. With those figures, there is little surprise at the fact that they have a much stronger campaign against drinking than here at home.

Despite the shock that many Erasmus students experience when arriving here, most Irish students have a healthy respect for drinking and know how much is too much. How many times have you seen some poor unfortunate getting sick outside the Lodge and shaken your head sadly at the shameful waste? The fact is, most students can’t afford to drink every

night, and by the time we can afford it, we won’t have time to indulge as much. It’s a vicious cycle, but I’m confident that it’s all part of God’s plan to ensure the continuity of the human race. In other words, it’s for our own good!!! Believe me, nobody wants Fatty Liver Disease!

However if you’re reading this and experiencing niggling doubts about your own level of control concerning drinking, there are people on hand who are there to help. AA hosts meetings on the campus – for further information, contact Tara Curley, Welfare Officer. If you’re simply cutting down, here are some tips recommended by the experts.

1- Drink lots of water or fruit juice but no more than three litres per day.

2- Avoid tea and coffee – they will interfere with your sleep pattern, which will be disrupted, anyway, due to withdrawal from alcohol.

3- Avoid stress – take up something new that you will enjoy and take your mind off drinking – it will make you a bearable housemate if nothing else!

And to the rest of you, all I can say is, be aware of what you’re drinking, how much and how often. Most importantly, never drink alone – it’s unsociable, and frankly, worrying. Some words of advice – particularly for those of you who are new to U.L: Always make sure there is someone who will take care of you, if you do happen to drink too much you can repay the favour some other night.

Don’t accept drinks from strangers, no matter how good looking they are!

Don’t steal drinks – apart from the fact that you will be thrown out, you don’t know what could be in it. An empty case of Rohypnol, more commonly known as the date rape drug was found in the Stables two years ago. So ladies, you have been warned.

Finally, and most importantly, don’t do a drunkenkleptomaniac act to supply your house with stolen glasses from the Stables or the Scholars – you will be caught and be forced to collect glasses for free.

(Ironic, but true)



If any of you are squirming in your seats reading this, or perhaps proclaiming loudly how “those tests don’t prove anything!”

Luckily, due to the size of this campus, the student body is reasonably fit and healthy thanks to that massive trek from the Schumann to the Stables. And of course, our fine sports facilities.

# HURLER OFF THE DITCH

At first glance, the death of journalist Martin O'Hagan in Northern Ireland almost three weeks ago highlights once again the extent to which brave people who seek the truth are vulnerable to sick fundamentalists. At a deeper level, O'Hagan's exposing of the links between loyalist paramilitaries (loyalists are 'paramilitaries', republicans are 'terrorists') and the drugs racket that funds their operations was the primary reason for his slaying.

The public reaction to his death (the first journalist to die in the war known as 'the Troubles') contrasts radically to the killing of Veronica Guerin in June 1996. In one sense this spares us the canonisation of a courageous man and the transformation of him into a saccharine-sweet public figure without imperfection. There will be no films made by Hollywood regarding O'Hagan: his former membership of Official IRA - an organisation that once blew five cleaning ladies in an Aldershot barracks to smithereens - precludes him from such an honour. Neither will his children meet Tony Blair and be presented with posthumous awards for his lifetime's work. The headlines during the hoped-for trial of his killers will not put us on first name terms with the victim as they did during the Veronica Guerin murder trial (e.g. 'I primed the gun that killed Veronica') - a cheap device used by sub-editors to give readers the sense of an intimate relationship with the victim.

O'Hagan's death highlights another frightening scenario: The death penalty as a 'quid pro quo' for the truth. Another journalist once wrote that most men would swim through a mile of snot to secure sexual favours. To obtain a good story, many journalists would conclude a Faustian pact with the Devil and make someone else swim through the snot! It is essential therefore not to romanticise or glorify a profession ('the lowest in the land', according to the Irish Times' Kevin Myers) where the public interest often comes a long distance behind boosting of the ego and personal gratification. This should not however camouflage the evil inherent in the beliefs of those who carried out the death sentence on O'Hagan.

People of previous generations grew up with the indelible image of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returning from the Munich Conference waving a slip of paper and speaking of 'peace for our time'. This image became synonymous with the dreaded art of appeasing fascism. The danger for those of a peaceful disposition is that appeasement of the lunatic loyalist fringe will lead to more killings and the propagation of further sectarian hatred. Alarming, it is not only on the fringes of loyalism where the lunacy can be found. We have long been accustomed to the deranged figure of the Free Presbyterian Ian Paisley expounding bigotry in flights of oratory. His excesses we could cite to his leadership of the DUP, a party that acts as a refuge for those malcontents who regarded the old Unionist Party as a bedfellow of nationalism, and as a latter-day appeaser of the IRA.

However, the sight of the deputy leader of the ostensibly Official Unionist Party, Geoffrey Donaldson eulogising his old mentor Enoch Powell in a recent newspaper interview should send us into despair. Old Enoch was a bright boy (professor of Greek, no less, at the age of 24!) whose cerebral capabilities seriously malfunctioned when it came to the issues of race and the Union. It was Enoch in 1968 who told his Wolverhampton constituents that allowing immigrants into Britain was like 'a society heaping up its own funeral pyre'. For our Geoffrey, however, Enoch was: 'not a racist, he was merely warning us of the dangers of a multicultural society'. Geoffrey also lets it be known in the interview that on certain issues he could not agree with dear, deceased Enoch. A think of sane thinking from the deputy leader, perhaps? Unfortunately, no: 'I could not agree with Enoch when it came to capital punishment and nuclear arms', says Geoffrey. 'His opposition to both I could not countenance'.

With those words the actions of certain acquaintances during the Good Friday Agreement referendum made impeccable sense. Their opposition to the Agreement was based on their dread of having to live in the same state as the proponents of what they referred to as 'loony loyalism'. Belfast-born



by Ger Downes

Protestant author Geoffrey Bell (his religion shouldn't be of interest, but in the context of Northern Ireland...) in his splendid tome, 'The Protestants of Ulster' wrote that most working-class loyalists live in some of the worst housing conditions anywhere in western Europe. Without the perceived need to cling to the realm, Bell contended that such a group would be more inclined to agitate for better housing and living conditions. Instead, most members of the tribe venerate the German House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, otherwise known as the British Royal family. Matters such as the truth, e.g. that King Billy was supported in his enterprise at the Boyne in 1690 by the Pope of Rome, are anathema to the group (much as members of the Roman church recoil when confronted with the fact that Pope Adrian IV issued the Papal Bull 'Laudabiliter', that King Henry II used to justify the conquest of Ireland).

It was his quest for the truth and audacity to write it that directly led to the gunning down of Martin O'Hagan. That people of any disposition would welcome his death is indicative of a prevailing ill feeling and need to mentally 'circle the wagons' as the Voortrekkers did in South Africa during the 19th century. The Voortrekkers did so in order to escape from the modern world, the abolition of slavery and the inevitability of progress. One of the new dominions they created became known as 'the Orange Free State'. The attempt to create a new Orange State in the north-east part of this island has been an unmitigated failure, politically, socially and religiously. Attempts to illustrate to the 'paramilitaries' who took the life of a journalist that Paisley and Donaldson would be laughable caricatures in a 'normal society' are usually met with replies akin to that given once by the man who carbonised Cambodia, Henry Kissinger:

*'Don't confuse me with the facts!'*

## Diary of a First Year

### My So-Called College Life - So Far!!

Week four of University of Limerick and I still can't find my French labs!! Anyone know where building P is?? No? Me neither.....

So far, I have dutifully fulfilled my fresher role with ease. Getting lost in that labyrinth of a main building is definitely a biggie - whoever designed that one left all our fresh souls out of the picture! And yes I have (needlessly) purchased all my set texts. I haven't managed the mind bogging task of actually looking through any of them yet -but I'm sure the Christmas hols will rectify the situation! (and we thought we'd never have to do an exam again after the f\*\*ing Leaving Cert) They neglected to mention that one at the open day....

Twenty-eight days of college have taught me many lessons. Unfortunately none of the cheff-

The format for this years diary of a first will be slightly different. Rather than there being just one constant correspondent we'll be having a number of different first year students describing how they battle their way through academia.

ing kind are likely to be mentioned here - they don't seem to cover that in Contract Law! So my staple diet is pasta with tomato sauce, pasta with mushroom sauce, pasta with anything I can dig out of the fridge really! But the one thing I must say here -(bearing in mind that this is coming from one of the most undomesticated females ever reared in Gaillimh) is that some guys actually can cook (namely my housemates) Yes.....deep breath.....and some of them can even bake great chocolate cake! (his name is Oisín Floure ladies, and he can be found roaming the electronic engineering labs)

The best things about being in college are all related to the word -"choice". The worst things about being in college are its consequences. And as you're reading these lines, a small knowing smile appears, as do hazy memories of drunkenness, nakedness, recklessness (and not always in this order)

My "wise" third year computer system friends are forewarning danger as regards studying an extra language. But sure once we know the telly

ads off by heart we'll be o.k.....

"Voulez vous couchez avec moi?....." No not really. (That's December's issue) So I naively continue minding my P's and Q's in French and Spanish, and even more naively hope they'll introduce TAA (Telly Addicts Anon) -I'm beginning to know way too much about daytime TV, and I swear those computer system bums are writing the scripts.

I've been advised by my devoted Mommy about another major word -"independence". (This coming from the woman who's feeding my bank account every weekend, though it does have a nasty habit of going on hunger strike at the most inopportune moments - or so I tell my landlord.) I suppose I should really mention something about that QCA business as well..... Or should I say WHAT QCA??? I have the luxury of remaining "independent" of this term for a whole year! I wanna stay in college forever....and write for An Focal of course....

**by Judith Roche**

Educational Issues

Academic Calender Under Review

by Jennifer O'Brien

For the vast majority of U.L. students the news that U.L. once operated on a trimester basis and not the semesterised programme we now have will be new. U.L. ran its academic year along the same lines as many other colleges in Ireland do today. That is a system whereby students attend for 3 terms a year and complete a series of exams at the end of that year.

U.L. took the step several years ago to change this format. The progression to semesterisation was seen as being beneficial to students, staff and student support services, as it weighted the pressure of exams and coursework throughout the year, making for a more evenly balanced academic calendar. Not everything would be squashed into a couple of weeks at the end of the year, giving students a lesser body of work to revise and a wider variety of study options.

However this system has not been without fault and it is in answer to these problems that the ACPIC Proposal has been formulated by the ULSU. This proposal is in response to those issued by an Academic Calendar review group within the university, a group that seeks to allay the problems faced within the current academic year structure.

In the years the semester programme has been in operation several problems have come to the fore. Most notably amongst these has been the issue of exam timing and its associated problems. Currently, U.L. breaks for Christmas and returns in early January. A week of lectures usually takes place, followed by a couple of "reading days" and exams start on the Thursday of the second week back.

The allocation of eight days to hold all exams in U.L. has caused heartache and hardship for many a student, and no doubt an equal amount of grief for Student Services. There is hardly a student in UL who hasn't checked their exam timetable to find that they



are scheduled with two exams in one day, or five in

three days. When compared to the number of weeks and the spacing of exams in colleges such as UCC, this situation is ludicrous. Also, a far lengthier period of preparation time is offered in many other universities. Yes, we all know that we shouldn't be leaving it to the last few days, but with project deadlines often coinciding with exams, 3 days without lectures simply is not enough. This problem is even more relevant when one considers the situation in the library coming up to exams. A longer preparation period would be more advantageous to students, as would a longer period of examination. This would ease the pressure on both students and staff.

The proposal put together by the ULSU seeks to redress some of these problems through the rescheduling of the academic year. Two scenarios are put forward, one that proposes fundamental changes, the other that proposes minor alterations. Scenario One proposes that UL students start in early September, which would allow all courses to be run and completed by December. Reading time would till stand at 3 days, but there would be an increase in the time over which exams can be run. The Christmas and semester break would be rolled into one 3-week period spanning the end of December and early January, a l l o w i n g Semester 2 to start in mid January. Thus the spring semester would be completed by May, and many UL student s would have the summer job market at their command.

Scenario Two proposes less radical change, but is possibly the more viable option. This is due to outside constraints, such as the CAO system and the timing of offers. A college cannot start without the second round offers having been distributed and so Orientation Week of Scenario One may clash

with these offers. To deal with this Scenario Two offers a 12-week teaching term, 1 reading week and 3 weeks for exams. This leaves the semester break shortened to 2 weeks, but allows for a one week Easter break. Both of these scenarios hope to allow exam repeats to be held early enough to allow fourth year students to graduate

"The allocation of eight days to hold all exams in U.L. has caused heartache and hardship for many a student, and no doubt an equal amount of grief for Student Service"

with their classes.

Several students, when questioned on this topic favoured the idea of finishing exams before Christmas.



Conferrings could be moved in the Academic Calender

Having experienced a similar structure to that outlined in Scenario One on Erasmus, one can vouch for the effectiveness and efficiency of

the system and also the great delight in not having to complete essays and study over Christmas.

The ULSU have put together this proposal to address the problems they are aware that students are facing e.g. exam timing etc. Student Union President Mick Phelan prioritised the problem of the length of time allowed for

President Mick Phelan prioritised the problem of the length of time allowed for exams and the need for a reading week

exams and the need for a reading week, but also outlined the constraints within which an academic calendar must conform.

Finishing before Christmas, but starting in early September? Longer time to study and better spacing of exams? These issues will certainly give UL students food for thought and the review of the academic calendar is certainly an area to watch in the development of UL and its response to the problems and needs of students.

# The People of UL

## A LIVING LEGEND

by Mikey Stafford

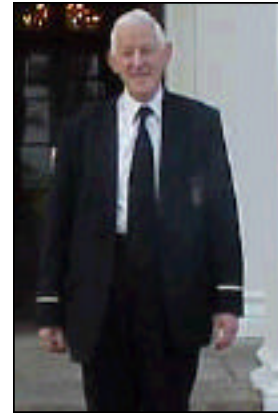
Every student who has passed through this University since 1986 knows who he is, everyone who knows him likes him, by this theory Walter, the White Houses Commissioner is the most liked man in Ireland. Would anyone argue with that? I thought \*\*\*, Walter the \*\* feature of the White House is one of the nicest people I've ever had the pleasure to meet.

When I called to interview him on Tuesday afternoon he was as always dealing with at least two tasks. "When they advertised for the job, they said they were looking for a self motivated person" he informed me later. Well, congratulating Plassey house hole in one, bullseye. \*\*\*. When he finally finished the multitude of jobs he had been engaged in he began on a new one, fussing over me. Obviously I wasn't going to complain. My housemates are only nice to me when they need their tins of baked beans opened. I'm deprived of love and affection. Once I had assured him that I was content, he finally sat down himself.

With his first answer he surprised me, I found it hard to believe he'd only been in the job since 1986, June, 1986 to be precise, because it wouldn't be doing Walter justice if I was anything but precise because Walter is to precision what I am to inclusive, wait, I'm not inclusive, or am I?

Thanks folks, I'm here all week. What? Oh yeah the article. Walters typical day assists of opening the house in the morning and serving tea and coffee at 10.30 to members of the University Club and before you start thinking that the white house \*\*\* be a nice change from the stables, we common students are not members of the university club. Not that Walter would have anything against more students in the White House, "If not for the students we wouldn't be here". After serving the morning tea and coffee, Walter sets up the rooms for meetings and after that its up to him, "I'm my own boss" he informs me with some glee. That's not to say that Walter takes the rest of this day easy anyone who has had he pleasure of strolling through the White House will know that one could preform heart surgery on those floors if one was so inclined.

Throughout the year An Focal will be bringing you interviews with the people who live and work in the Univeristy Environment, giving everyone a bigger picture of what being around UL actually involves.



Walter finds meeting the guest the most enjoyable part of the job, that and the fact that he's left to himself. "I'm very happy here" he confesses. I do believe Walter. I speak on behalf of the whole student body when I say that we're very happy to have you here.

## This Is what it sounds like when Doves Cry

by Fiachra O'Luain

What is this noise in our ears?

What is it that has happened to our world? We are in the words of Aslan 'Waiting for this madness to end'.

Waiting is a luxury we cannot afford.

True for all of us that our foundations have been shook along with those of the World Trade Centre. Six thousand souls have scarred our consciousness, a crater left in the family lives of so many. Aghast we stand in a stupor, what is to come of us?

The most truthful and inspiring statement I heard on September 11th was that this was 'the awakening of the human consciousness'. I believe that this is true.

For once a catastrophe of this scale happened in perhaps the most cosmopolitan city in the world. Downtown Lower Manhattan. This is a place where you can almost pick your camera angle, where as Bono says 'Freedom looks like too many choices' A centre for an international media. With graphic detail we see in slow motion the destruction of many lives. This gives us a new insight into the nuances of human hatred. Now it is time as Booker prize winner Arundhati Roy states 'Terrorism as a phenomenon may never go away. But if it is to be contained , the first step is for America to at least acknowledge that it shares the planet with other nations, with other human beings who, even if they are not on T.V. have loves and griefs and stories and songs and sorrows and for heaven's sake rights' .

'The September 11 attacks were a monstrous calling card from a world gone horribly wrong. The message may have been written by Bin Laden (who knows?) and delivered by his couriers, but it could well have been signed by

the ghosts of the victims of America's old wars. The millions killed in Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia, the 17,500 killed when Israel - backed by the US - invaded Lebanon in 1982, the 200,000 Iraqis killed in Operation Desert Storm, the thousands of Palestinians who have died fighting Israel's occupation of the West Bank. And the millions who died, in Yugoslavia, Somalia, Haiti, Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Panama, at the hands of all the terrorists, dictators and genocidists whom the American government supported, trained, bankrolled and supplied with arms. And this is far from being a comprehensive list,' , Terrorism is the symptom, not the disease. Terrorism has no country. It's >transnational, as global an enterprise as Coke or Pepsi or Nike. At the first sign of trouble, terrorists can pull up stakes and move their "factories" from country to country in search of a better deal. Just like the multi-nationals'continues Roy. I've heard said that we have a lot to thank the Americans for economically , perhaps for some true , not the redundant workers of Fruit of the Loom who are left with unpayable mortgages and debts because Fruit of the Loom could make a fractional increase in profits due to horrendous Moroccan wages . for the other rich few, are they willing to accept the fate of a fattened turkey awaiting Thanksgiving ?

This I must stress is the forces of the U.S. military and not the U.S. people behind this. This is because the U.S. people are generally sheltered and blinkered on matters of foreign policy; moreover many are openly against this aggression.

My father aged nineteen gave up his life in Philadelphia to 'help' who he believed to be an ideologically besieged people of ' South ' Vietnam. He became a Vietnamese translator,

Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps only to witness the ' instinctual racism' of an U.S. Imperial conquest. Betrayed by his government's propaganda, he once had to identify by touch the charred remains of four of his good friends . 1st Lt. David Jacobsgaard , Lt. Edward Keeble whom he had checked into the VMO-6 squadron upon arrival in Quang Tri . William Brenich and Cpl. Vasquez, the latter two with whom we had shared a smoke with hours previously. My Dad is still haunted by the smell of burning flesh at summertime barbecues. The U.S. military killed, among others, my father's innocence.

Pat a Dubliner, Sgt. E8 PJ Kelly joined the U.S. Army out of hedonism and wanderlust; recalls how young Vietnamese boys unknowingly given bags containing bombs into their family villages which flattened their entire community, under U.S. military instruction. Pat believes that if the truth of what we saw in Vietnam is revealed then the nature of U.S. foreign policy would be forced to change by democracy. Pat returned home to Dublin a deflated alcoholic, who had lost many friends and who had killed many men women and children, unable to soberly cope with his existence.

Personally having visited Laos, I saw an officially neutral country desecrated by over 2,000,000 tons of ordnance, in what was the most intense aerial bombing in history. These were entirely U.S. bombs. Laos is a peaceful and agricultural country, with no great need for the idea of money; a bountiful and pristine diet their sustenance, yet farmers to this day are still killed by U.S. landmines. These people, the dead, the paraplegics and their families never asked for this terror, in the same way that the innocents of Lower Manhattan never asked for their fate. Military terror begets military terror and those in control need to be let know that those of us who are

involved in our own lives and problems never asked for this jeopardy are not willing to suffer for theirs.

Yet Emperor Bertie has dictated the U.S. usage of Shannon, 20 miles North North west of UL. contrary to our constitution . Without any consultation with us, Bertie Ahern has created in us a military target and in the days of airport terrorism this is not so unlikely. This is the entire opposite of De Valera's reclaiming of the Seaports before World War 2, which guaranteed our military neutrality.

Audaciously the condescending election poster for Fianna Fail challenges us to ' Be A Republican. Vote Fianna Fail'. If this appeals to you and you believe that you are being democratically led please read about Plato's original Republic then decide. We are not of any importance to the U.S.'s military aggression; it's simply a coercion of our neutral sovereignty, which has ceased to exist in the last two weeks.

Bush says that you're either with him or against him, while General Barry Mc Coffrey has said that those against the U.S. Army and their war would ' be killed suddenly, in significant numbers and without warning.'

A free society no more? The right to self-determination and the pursuit of happiness?

Are we to succumb to this fate die for speaking our compassionate mind? These dictations must not be allowed, democratically. We the thus so far silent youth must speak our sense, others don't see as clearly as we do.

My relatives in America along with many others see that is the military boys and their ultra-budget toys that are itching for a fight. Believe it or not but there are many who would make much money from a large-scale war. Who are we? What is a democratically free society?(Don't ask Florida.) We have always advocated individual rights and respect; we are bound by law to bring people to justice legally. While anonymous U.S. pilots bomb populated areas and among other places a U.N. aid centre killing four people there who cared enough to help heal the hurt.

It is time for us to define ourselves as a democratic people, based at a compassionate human level on personal, familial, diplomatic and political scales. We have a cultural connection to the bemused and angry Irish right wing of the U.S., it is time for a maternal slap on the wrist, Listen young lads stop bullying or you've no supper do you hear !

What is a war on terrorism? If not a war on humanity itself. Is this not a definition of a paradox, War = Terrorism? The ability to strike terror into the heart of another is inherently human. We have all experienced this in the playground, traffic lanes and in front of TV's. Terror will not be overcome by an exacerbation of aggression. I watched Bush ridicule Al Gore for his 'Fuzzy Math' well aren't fuzzy words much more dangerous?

Concerning the strikes on Afghanistan, Vyaceslav Ismailov, who commanded a Soviet Union battalion in Afghanistan, said, " When I hear people talk about terrorist 'bases' I have to laugh, Terrorists don't sit in 'bases' waiting for bombs to drop. They live in houses. They live with their families... If America begins to drop bombs, all they will do is convince the

ered that my first cousin was a U.S. troop on his way to Kuwait. Out of Shannon and over our campus he flew to become a serial killer, a mass murderer. Dad tells me that Darren was a zealous, intelligent and patriotic young man, honestly believing that he was on his way to 'defend a free world'.

He told me this summer ' Fiachra, I've killed a lot of men.' with tears in his eyes and whiskey on his alcoholic breath , he went into detail as to how he has hacked Men's heads off during torture . My cousin , who once looked like me , is a man destroyed , he believes that the U.S. Army stole his life , they did , Darrin is dying , on top alcoholism , he suffers from sclerosis of the liver , Hepatitis B and a crack addiction . I don't believe I will ever see my cousin alive again . This is what

Shannon was a springboard for and this is what Ahern has condoned once again .

The onus is on us to , as Michael D. Higgins says to ' challenge the inevitabilities of our world' . 'A problem is only the lack of an idea' observes Einstein. ' Those with some confidence in the human species will try to determine the intrinsic human characteristics that provide the framework for intellectual development, the growth of moral consciousness , cultural achievement , and the participation in a free society as Noam Chomsky implores

There is no excuse for this aggression , but there is another future than this . I believe that so far in our recent lives we have come a long way to harmonising a

respect among our peoples . Don't let them throw this away . Stand up , think , talk , vote and be alive . Otherwise we will inherit a legacy of hatred , deny them their guns and their excuses .

Be aware and be aware for your loved ones, I care infinitely for my sisters and brother in the United States. Chris is seventeen and risks conscription. I will not allow my little brother to die or kill in vain or succumb to any such grisly fate and I will say that as loud and as often as needs be until it's understood .

What is this that has befallen our world ? What is that noise in our ears ?

In the words of David Kitt ,

'This Is what it sounds like when Doves Cry'.



anti-Taliban population that the United States in their enemy."

Similarly if Osama Bin Laden is killed he will become a martyr who will inspire future hatred in those in fear of their lives.

Although a Cork man, I have lived and come of age on the Derry/Donegal border since 1994, the year of the cease-fire. I have seen so blatantly that it is sincere words and humanity that diffuse military tensions not more military campaigns, the day that humanity became able to destroy itself war must have become an anachronism .

In 1989, aged eight my mother brought me to Shannon to object to U.S. refuelling in Shannon for their Persian Gulf conquest. Nine

years later I discov-

## A New Yorkers Reaction to the World Trade Centre Tragedy

New York, the Big Apple, crazy cabbies, rude people, tall buildings and lots of running around right? Well not since September 11th! Aside from the physical changes to the skyline, New York really has gone through a massive transformation.

As a New Yorker I find the hectic, private lifestyle reassuring. You are weary of others and vice versa, you get where you're going as quickly as possible and you don't let people walk all over you. But, I am afraid that this has all changed.

up to Halloween and in NY stores usually stop selling shaving cream because kids use it to decorate just about everything. But, these kids are going to be bored this year, because seemingly a lot of people in NY have written messages such as 'God Bless America' on their cars with shaving cream already!

And the patriotism goes on... A friend of mine went out on the day of the WTC attacks and bought the last ten American flags in her local shop. She arranged them all over her lawn and proudly told me that 3 weeks later none

For example, we are coming

of them have been stolen! That is amazing. Saying that, I've never been mugged, which is something many people associate with New York. But, I've also never been hugged on the streets of New York by a stranger and there seems to be a lot of that going on too.

Where will it all lead, one big happy New York family? I don't know- I'll be back to see it in December and am looking forward with trepidation to what will greet me. I think that the loss of the Twin Towers and the people involved will leave its mark on every New Yorker but it will also remind us to move on and stay strong because that's what we do best.

**Kirstin Horan**

# My Summer as a Gluaiseacht Member

by  
Sheila  
Ellis

So we're all back. Now that you've caught up with each other's news after the summer holidays, you're set for another year at the books. A number of us have been already organising some really serious campaign work along with all the fun side of student life.

As some of you know I spent this summer travelling around Europe doing some amazing things, meeting great people and sourcing up to date information to use in lots of campaigns. In brief, I was in Genoa (G8 protests), Luxemburg for "The BET", Bulgaria Black Sea Coast for ECO-topia, Sofia capital of Bulgaria for an International workshop on Sustainable Consumption, (Ankara) Turkey International seminars and workshops for the compilation of an Environmental Training Pack. Finally I stopped off in Amsterdam to meet with EYFA and Aseed who are very progressive organisations involved with various activities including ECO-topia and environmental publications like "The Greenpepper Magazine".



The "eco warriors" my preferred term of all the names that have been created for us, had an unforgettable summer. Apart from working to earn enough money for living in an ever increasingly expensive world (we've been extremely busy), more than 100 people came with us to Genoa to the G8 protests. People from all walks of life gave up their summer holidays to make their stand against the injustice of the G8. Leaders from the 8 richest countries isolate themselves from the world and make decisions regarding Free Trade and how much NOT to give the poorest



people of the world, which leads to the deaths of millions. For every £1 you give in aid to the third world they give £30 in servicing debts, which disables their countries from ever coming up basic living standards. I was there to protest peacefully against this undemocratic gathering of FAT CATS who spent more on this conference than they gave on debt relief. Those of you who watched the news reports (my first T.V and Radio experience) were probably shocked by the police brutality and numbed by the death of Carlos Juliano RIP. It has only served to strengthen the resolve of concerned citizens of the world something has to change and as Gandhi said

"You have to be the change that you want to

see in the world "

The "BET"

The idea started in Germany where the children "BET" their government that they would reduce their CO2 emissions by 8% in 8 months in response the Kyoto agreement, in which the EU pledged to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions by 8% in 8 years. This idea spread like wildfire across Europe and many schools took on this bet and the European BET was launched with the EU Commissioner for the Environment, Mrs. Wallstrom from Sweden promising to cycle to work for a month. Of course the children won this BET and that is why all the European BETEES met up in Luxemburg with the commissioner to celebrate and to discuss the current state of affairs following COP 6.5 in Bonn, The Climate Change Conference.

In Ireland, we take on primary and secondary schools all over the country, and instead of just teaching the pupils about the environment, we try and give them a broad overview of what the BET campaign is about. In a nutshell, reducing CO2 emissions by 8% in 8 months. We work with the pupils and make it practical, rather than emphasising the theoretical, which enables them to be a part of the positive solution of Climate Change. We rely on their willingness and enthusiasm help to make their school as energy efficient as possible.

For this project to be a success it is necessary to include all students, staff and the principle and if possible members of the board of management and the parents association.

We enlist the help of volunteers (usually transition year pupils), to whom we can delegate some of the poster making, survey making and investigation of how to save energy in their particular schools. We suggest the purchase of energy saving light bulbs to be an obvious start. Turning off lights, insulating the windows and doors with insulating tape, which is where we lose major amounts of heat.

Our role is helping, advising, suggesting we can do this, by really concentrating on getting the transition year students to make it their work experience and being part of a European Bet and the challenge of getting the government to do its bit.

ECO-topia

This is a summer gathering for environmentalists from all over Eastern and Western Europe. The main idea is to set up and run a sustainable camp for 3-4 hundred people running workshops and actions for 3 weeks in August. These camps have been run for more than 10 years in the most beautiful locations. This years ECO-topia setting was idyllic being in a wooded area with wetlands and beach. A typical perfect day starts with the breakfast call, followed the morning circle in which there are no hierarchical leaders and the days



plans are made from "who's leading a workshop to chopping veggies for delicious vegan dishes". At eleven some people opted for the solar heated shower (I usually took a dip in the Black sea.) Workshops could be anything that people wanted to teach, there was Ecorates, Indigenous Peoples and their relationship with the environment, Climate Change, Direct Action, Fire Juggling, Irish dancing and face painting (the later two offered by yours truly) plus many more. We'd have lunch and chill out siesta for an hour or two and then in the afternoon have more workshops or actions followed by more healthy options for dinner. Last but not least stimulating conversations and singing around the campfire or for those brave enough a bit a skinny-dipping in the moonlight. The main action this year was a clean up of the beaches and surrounding area. Europeans and Bulgarians made a carnival of colour from all the recycled rubbish we found to raise awareness about litter and its devastating effect on the environment. Yet again this summer, I was on the TV, getting used to it now.

The good news is "Gluaiseacht" are bringing ECO-topia to Ireland next August. I will be volunteering to be one of the main organisers.

Sustainable Consumption

International conference with UN UNEP, Bulgarian Environmental minister and other members of the ministry, Bulgarian NGOs, Black sea NGO, Mediterranean NGO, European NGO, business consultants, civil society and me!!!!!!J

It was all a bit too official for me but I was at the table, and that is the place to be if you want to directly influence the system, and help to be part of the solution rather than the problem. There is a report which is going to be published, which should be some very interesting reading about how to tackle "Sustainable Consumption". For those of you



not familiar with this term, it means "How to develop industry, economics, and lifestyles without jeopardising the environment and the future of this planet."



#### Turkey

Hours of research on Greenhouse effect and Kyoto Protocol went into this workshop I gave, just to know

the facts and figures for my own information and for the fact that this information, is going to be used to teach thousands of pupils all across Europe. It is quite obvious to those of us in the environmental movement that the general public do not understand all the issues that face the world today, or the seriousness of the future regarding Climate Change. Of course it was not all work but trips to National Parks and Metu Campus, which is 4 thousand hectares of natural and planted woodlands. My last night (one of my favourite) in Ankara Castle with Turkish traditional musicians had us jumping up in between courses in our meal to dance.

It's about 5 days and nights by train and boats (Global Interrail ticket) from Ankara back to Ireland. I consider flying the least environmentally friendly option for travelling. I hope you realise that I have been working like a beaver keeping my pet campaigns in the Limelight and spreading the idea of banning of plastic bags and promoting cloth bags as the alternative.

Thanks to all I've met in the last month for making this a voyage of lifetime for me. This is a basic summary of the last 34 days, not mentioning all the hilarious moments along the way, excellent Monthly Python material language difficulties, border police, corruption, and transit visa etc

Thanks to those who helped to write this article.

Sile Ní hEllis

Gluisceacht(www.gluisceacht.org) are taking part in the blockade of Faslane Nuclear Submarine Base in Scotland in two weeks time. The blockade Takes place on Monday 22nd October. Busses will leave from Limerick on Friday 19th staying night in Derry and Glasgow on the way An introduction to the blockade will take place in Limerick The cost for the trip is between £45 - £50.

For more info on the blockade and Faslane see

<http://www.cndscot.dial.pipex.com/protest/okblok.html>

All Welcome!

### Contact:

086 3096791

[gluisceacht@ireland.com](mailto:gluisceacht@ireland.com)



# No Plans to Re-open the Lodge!

by Marian Roche

There was more talk in UL during the last few weeks about the closure of that great UL "hot-spot" The Lodge than there was of the Twin Towers attacks in New York. It's pretty easy to see where most students priorities lie!!

Among the rumours doing the rounds at the moment about the closure, is the prospect of turning the "night-club" into a Gym and Leisure Centre to raise the standards of the Hotel in the hope of achieving that elusive fourth star!! Another story being circulated is that the management did not get the licence renewed this year. When we contacted Kilmurry Lodge they would not confirm or deny any of these rumours but they did tell us in no uncertain terms that the Lodge would not be opening until at least January. The rumours of a return to business in week 5 were denied.

Many sexually frustrated UL students that I spoke to are beginning to get paranoid. Some are even investigating a number of conspiracy theories. One of these involves the Irish Government in a major initiative to reduce the pregnancy rate among students in the country's third level colleges,

in which we are the guinea pigs. I don't know about you but I'm starting to feel a bit violated!! (And I thought those days were gone with the closure of the Lodge)

Of course the closure of Castltroy's Premier Venue and home to DJ Derek will have more of an effect than a falling birth rate and rising QCA rate. The University's many Clubs and Societies are losing out on a major fund raising opportunity! Each year every almost every club and society had a "night in the Lodge" in order to raise much needed cash to carry out their activities. All of the Clubs and Societies are going to be faced with a major shortfall in funds this year. It will take a lot of effort by their committees to concoct new ways of extracting money off the drunken people in the Stables and Scholars who, when faced with a relatively cheap ticket to a "night-club", did not look a gift horse in the mouth. (At least till they get to the Lodge anyway)

The loss of the Lodge will be damaging to the bars in Castletroy as well. No longer can we stumble up there after a hard day in the Scholars (I mean lectures!!) in

the clothes we have been wearing all day. Now we are faced with the prospect of "going home to change" losing valuable drinking time, which is in turn going to affect the revenue of the bars. Of all of them, The Hurlers will probably suffer the most, as many students would have stopped in there "for one" before going to the Lodge.

At the end of the day it's the first years I feel sorry for, they have yet to be initiated into the underlying culture of the University of Limerick student life. They have lost out on one of the stages of developing into a true UL person. I'd hate to think that The Globe would be allowed to become the new Lodge. Despite the fact that this would be detrimental to the pockets of most students; it's so much effort!!!! As one avid Lodge fan who wishes to remain anonymous put it "Bring back the Lodge".

# The Fear to Travel (and the fear to go home)

by Jacky Drovín

The reports on the news are grim: As the American president Bush prepares his citizens for what will be 'a long campaign' in the war against terrorism, anti-American protest and anti-war rallies erupt all across the world. Recent images in the media of the missile launchings, the bombings in Afghanistan and the memory of the Twin Towers collapsing instil feelings of insecurity and terror with the realization that this has become a global issue.

The events of September 11th have not only raised questions of national security, but also changed the way that travellers will plan trips. Several countries have already posted warnings on their web sites, discouraging their citizens from visiting various countries and cautioning travellers to 'be especially vigilant and avoid situations where political violence and demonstrations may occur'. Individuals were also encouraged to limit travel, to monitor local developments and to follow the advice of the local authorities in the days ahead.

International travel has also been affected by the attacks on the United States, as airline companies and hotels are reporting a significant drop in bookings and reservations. In Spain, where tourism accounts for around 11 percent of the Spanish GDP, the Trade Minister Juan Costa has reported that October plane bookings have dropped by 30 percent, while plane reservations were down by 20 percent.

The European Commission, to compensate for the damages within the aviation industry, has approved a package of state aid for EU airlines. This would allow member states to provide state aid to airlines to meet extra security costs and insurance premia in response to the crisis.

While governments are doing whatever is

in their power to restore feelings of security amongst its citizens, the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, along with the wake of the U.S. air strikes, are beginning to appear in various economic spheres. The distinct rise in the German unemployment rate is a sign that the German Economy is beginning to slow down. In both North America and Europe, economies are already showing signs of slowing down as investors are beginning to back out of trade.

There are mixed feelings amongst the students at the University of Limerick, especially those who are travelling from abroad. Despite the increased security being brought into all airports, there are very few people who feel that the measures taken are enough to make them feel secure enough to get on a plane.

'I wouldn't feel safe travelling right now,' comments one student who is studying here for the year, 'I wouldn't even get on a plane right now to go home.'

Despite the daily media images of anti-American protesters, the growing anti-American resentment has only been matched by the thousands of Americans that are protesting against the war and the actions of President Bush.

'Not everyone agrees with the bombings of Afghanistan,' points out one student. 'Most people would rather have a peaceful resolution.'

There are several student groups that have been gathering to speak out against the violence in Afghanistan, most predominantly the Berkeley Stop the War Coalition, formed by the students at the University of California on the 14 of September. The Coalition has been in opposition to the anti-Arab/Muslim sentiments and vio-

lence and want to see a peaceful response. Since the bombings began, over 150 campuses across North America held rallies against the violent response to Afghanistan under a new coalition called "Students for a Peaceful Response".

The anti-war sentiments can be found globally. In Briton, demonstrations have been held by various groups in opposition to the bombings, including the Stop the War Coalition and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. While groups believe that the 'perpetrators of terrorism (should be) brought to justice,' as the Chair of the CND, Carol Naughton explains, it is 'for the UN to pursue it through international law, not through the U.S. taking it into its own hands to bomb Afghanistan'.

With countries such as Canada and Britain forming military coalitions with the United States, the dangers for those citizens travelling abroad has increased significantly. The simple act of wearing your nation's flag on your backpack could be enough to trigger resentment in some areas.

'It's absurd. I can't understand how I can't wear my flag on my backpack just because people hate my country' one student comments after hearing the warnings to travellers. The idea of travelling abroad is usually done in order to experience other cultures and ways of life, and for the first time, to perhaps fully understand the level of misunderstanding and hate that exist between nations.

'This is great: we'll get to experience first hand how people really feel about us.' Very few countries, in fact, remained unaffected by this war against terrorism.

## New Church of Ireland Chaplain - Patricia Hanna

HI! My name is Patricia Hanna, and I am the new Church of Ireland/Anglican chaplain to the University of Limerick. I hope to get to know some of the students and staff here a bit better over the coming terms and make life at University richer for all.

### WHAT CAN I OFFER THE STUDENTS?

- a) 'Spiritual listening':- a person who listens to the needs and concerns, hopes and joys of the student, and who offers to them 'a word in season.'
- b) Help in building up a smaller dynamic Christian community within a very large campus. Relating to other Christian groups on campus i.e. Roman Catholic, Christian Union, and other religious groups.
- c) Regular liturgical worship, including Holy Communion, at a venue and time to be decided.
- d) Contact with the wider Church of Ireland parishes in Castleconnell, and Limerick city, where you might like to worship on Sundays
- e) Meetings during the year for study and discussion
- f) As a married cleric, with a husband who is a

Rector of six parishes in Co. Clare, and with three small children, work with the Traveller community, and hopes of further postgraduate study in the area of Theology, I know what is like to combine academic and other commitments, and to try to get a balance between them!

- g) My room on campus is C BLOCK, MIDDLE FLOOR, OF THE MAIN BUILDING, ROOM 068, ALONG FROM THE STUDENTS PERSONNEL CENTRE at Boyde Tower end.
  - h) I hope to have a working voice mail, email, and computer printer soon!
  - i) My campus phone no. is 2225, and you can leave a message, but beware the voice mail designation, it is very hard to change!
  - j) Please use my email address : phanna@indigo.ie for now.
  - k) I will be on UL campus on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, each week, (and am designated to be at Mary Immaculate College, for some hours during the week.)
- Thought for the day: One of the most quirky and interesting sculptures I have noticed around the campus is the 'sundial' with its enigmatic inscription, along the pathway from Students' Union area

to the Main Building. By coincidence I read Tom O'Loughlin's description of an ancient Irish sundial at Kilmalkedar in his book 'Journeys on the Edges'.

"They believed that time is legible: at the point of its fullness Christ appeared...stone told the times of the daytime offices and showed that the monastery's liturgy partook of the order of heavens."





# Student Liaison Officers Needed

SLO's work, along with the Community Officer's work is to ensure that relations between residents and students are good. They will be a contact person for anybody with a complaint in a given estate. This is a paid position within the SU with SLO's making £50 for the hours that they work. The job does not take up a lot of time but is of enormous importance.

If interested e-mail John Mulcahy 9923586@student.ul.ie or leave a message in the SU reception for the Community Officer before the end of Week 4

## UL Rowing Club in association with Tecnomen!

[www.tecnomen.com](http://www.tecnomen.com)

UL Rowers off to BOSTON with the help of some Tecno Men!!!

UL Rowing Club is heading across the Atlantic this week defying imminent security risks to compete in the Head of the Charles rowing race in Boston. We are representing our club, county and country at this prestigious international event with the help of our new sponsors, Tecnomen, and the generous support of the people of Limerick.

We are very proud to announce this new five-year partnership with the Shannon based, Finnish Telecommunications Company. We hope that our new acquisition, which they helped finance, our Aylings boat, will help us achieve sporting success and develop the club. Tecnomen are involved in the provision of messaging solutions. As it is one of the world's leading suppliers of carrier grade messaging systems and a pioneering developer of wireless internet solutions it is constantly on the lookout for high calibre recruits. Tecnomen were keen to support local sporting organisations and a partnership with the neighbouring University with its strong technical background and promising world-renowned graduates was an obvious choice for a successful and worthwhile association. This partnership was developed and implemented due to the hard efforts of our club members' predominately Mary Barry, Majella Mulroy and Ronan Ivers and also the continued support of Tecnomens

representatives.

A highly successful Sponsored Row was held in the Crescent Shopping Centre in Dooradoyle on Saturday the 16th of September to help club funds and aid financially the sending of the club to Boston. All day from 9am to 6pm we kept going the indoor rowing machine, our 'erg', much to the fascination and amusement of the local Limerick shoppers going about their usual Saturday business. We raised close to £1,500 on the day and rowed between us over 100,000 metres! Not quite the distance to

and respectful women rowers firmly declined. Regretfully, perhaps, in terms of club funding but apparently they have an honest reputation to uphold! Many thanks again to the people of Limerick and especially the Saturday Crescent Shoppers for your help and to Limericks Pimps for your funding tips! A special mention of thanks to our Club Secretary, Marie O'Neill, who organised the day for us.



The boat was named "Tecnomen" after the Shannon based company who kindly helped the Rowing Club to purchase it.

Boston but it sure helped get some good erg practise in and remove anyone's personal reservations about training in public as you can't get much more embarrassing than dripping with sweat in the middle of a busy shopping centre! But the public were intrigued and contributed to our rowers' hard efforts generously offering additional money for efforts of a sexual nature to which our honest

ULRC always welcomes new members, just check out our notice board in the canteen or behind our ergs on the indoor running track in the Arena or check out our website at [www.ul.ie/~ulrowing](http://www.ul.ie/~ulrowing). Pick up an information sheet at any of these locations and just turn up at one of our land training events, we'll get you fit, strong and out on the water in no time.

Very best of luck to our newly, technically enhanced, rowers at BOSTON on the weekend of October 20th / 21st. We have entered a men's 8 and two women's 4 and in all, we will be represented by 16 rowers flying the UL colours and sporting our Tecnomen affiliation.

Remember, "Train easy, Row hard!"

**John Normoyle PRO**

# Student Housing: International phenomena

by Jacky Drovín

After a long weekend of 'extra-curricular' activities, I retreat into the living room and literally sink down into the 'posh' green sofa, as the sofa collapses down with me. A huge spider boldly struts across the brick wall, half hidden by Van Gogh art posters, and disappears under a stack of old magazines. There's a general clutter in the room, half empty plates from the night before stick to the table, a kitchen sink full of dirty dishes from the week before and I don't even need to venture upstairs to know what the bathroom looks like. In general, the atmosphere is very grimy. This isn't some dive hostel or the remnants of a house party: this is my home, or at least it will be for the next eight months. Even with the fancy art posters, nothing can hide the fact that this is nothing more than a traditional student house on Elm Park.

A house on Elm Park, aside from sending shudders down your spine, usually generates two reactions: the first, and probably the most common would be that of sympathy, as students crowd around and offer their condolences. The second, and probably the more honest of the two, would be humorous, a laugh as yet another student is tricked into believing the proximity to the school is worth living a year in a house on the infamous street.

'Noisy,' one student comments when asked about his house. 'The walls are paper thin and you can pretty much hear whatever your neighbour is doing, even if they're down the street from you.'

This is where student house myths become urban legends. Stories about how the walls being so thin that they actually collapse if you push hard enough against them. As one story is told,

It actually happened at this party, where some guy got pushed against the wall as a joke and actually went through the wall, into the neighbours bedroom,' reports one student. Few students believe the legends, and while the houses may not be palaces, stu-

dents stick up for their houses.

'It's not that bad,' claims a second year student, coming to the defence of Elm Park. 'It is, after all, student housing, and you can't really expect much.'

Student housing is an international phenomenon, probably starting some time around the Enlightenment when students had the brilliant idea to move out of their parents house and get flats together in the cheapest neighbourhood in town. Generally, the idea was to save as much money as possible (so they could spend it on books and tuition, of course) and live in a community with individuals as bright and brilliant as themselves.

Today the concept of student housing hasn't changed much. The housing is cheap, brilliant students are your neighbours and students are still diligent with their money to spend on, of course, books and tuition.

Even in countries as far away as Canada, student housing is an ingrained part of college life. Many students chose to live in off-campus houses because it is relatively cheap but also because of the freedom that comes with having a place of their own.

'On campus you still have to follow rules,' remarks a first-year student. 'You're not really living on your own because there's always someone that checks up on you.' Many residences often have rules against smoking, lighting candles or even the number of people that can stay in the building. None of these rules apply, however, when you're the one making up the rules.

The freedom of having a house off-campus often blinds students to the reality that comes with owning a house. It's a double-edged sword as students get the freedom of having their own house, yet must also deal with the

drudging responsibility that comes along with it. With an absentee landlord, students can get away with parties and no curfews, but have to deal with bills, general maintenance and ensuring that the house doesn't fall down. Often, students are stuck having to deal with issues before the landlord can get around to it, such as broken windows, a temperamental oven or in my rare case, flooding. In my house in Canada, my housemates and I watched as our basement filled with water to become our own private Jacuzzi for three days before the landlord decided to stop by. Until he showed up, we spent five hours lugging all furniture upstairs to safety. By the

second day, we were using buckets to ensure that the damage to the house was minimal. By the third day we were floating rubber ducks in our basement to keep ourselves sane. We've given up being responsible and decided that being kids isn't always so bad.

Sometimes the lack of freedom is probably the best thing that can happen to a student, especially when there are free hot meals involved.

I missed the chance of moving in with my friends and ended up living with a family for a year,' recalls a fourth year student. 'But it was great. They cooked for me and even though I couldn't have parties, they didn't give me a curfew, so it was still better than living at home. And the house didn't smell bad.'

Despite the sinking sofa, and the spiders that are staying rent free, the house isn't so bad. The dishes can be washed, candles can be lit to rid the smell of mildew and more posters can be put up to insulate the walls. Besides, if student housing ever rose its standards then I'd never be encouraged to graduate. After all, a house is a house, and more or less it's the people that you fill your house up with that will take away the grim feeling. Even with the spiders, all can be manageable with nice roommates.



## "Me and my 800 mates"

"Student Village" - what do you associate with that term? Seven noisy housemates, crappy TV channels, tiny fridges? Well, think again. After having been to an average German student village, you're bound to just love your cosy little place in Plassey.

At my home university in Marburg, Germany, the student village consists of seven huge blocks, dating back to the 1960. You don't need much of an imagination to assume the aesthetic significance of these buildings! 821 students live there, sharing kitchens and showers with about ten of their housemates. By the way: don't expect to find a TV set in those kitchens.

After all, entertainment in the student village is brilliant. There's always an exchange student who asks you for a hand in that translation homework, or the girl next door who's just broken up with her mate, desperately looking for someone who understands (Of course that someone will be you). And if you

By Monika Muench

are damn lucky, this jerk from down the hall just got a new stereo and is all over testing the new possibilities concerning volume - that might be the right time to take your books and stuff to the library!

There's another thing that's really different from Plassey, Kilmurry and Drumroe. The student village is not exactly on campus, but about four kilometres outside the centre of town. Considered that there is no campus in Marburg in the first place - university buildings are scattered all over town - this isn't quite surprising. And you guessed it, the distance can easily turn into a problem at night, when the bus services don't operate and the hottest party is miles away. In order to make up for that, students tend to have their own parties in the village, and these events certainly have a pretty wacky reputation.

After all, there's real good value: the cheapest rooms in the Student Village are about 250 Mark per month, including all extra costs - that would be 100 Irish Pounds, so how's

that?

If you want a little more luxury, you might as well look for a different kind of student accommodation, which is also provided by the university. There are several new houses waiting for you, offering single as well as twin rooms, apartments for two or four people, furnished or not - you name it. You should be prepared to pay up to 420 Marks (about 150 pounds) for those and you'd better be patient: the more pleasant you want your new place to be, the longer the waiting list will be.

Still, these new houses provide a real alternative to private accommodation: they are relatively cheap, tasteful and always a good place to meet people and make friends - which is probably the one benefit student villages all over the world have in common.

# TRAVEL BUGS

By Katherine Harford

Over the forthcoming editions of the paper I will be giving travel tips highlighting the do's and don'ts for the low budget traveller who doesn't mind a bit of rough! I will though take no responsibility for my words, they are down to personal experience and what others pass on, at the end of the day its down to you, a little bit of cop on can make your experience more fun, and less dangerous! Before I start, my first advise is get out there, it not such a lonely planet

This week:

## TRAVEL LIGHT, BE CONCISE

Heavy packs can make travelling very difficult, and remembering after you've left home things you may have needed can be frustrating.

One: consider your destination

-Do you need heels in the Himalayas? Your most brazen boob tube in Bulgaria? Camping stoves in Sydney? Water purifiers in Wexford!? Mostly if you are travelling for a long time or through different climates and need a variety of clothing, footwear and music etc, it is cheaper to buy locally, when necessary rather than shopping in millets and lugging everything with you.

Two: Sarongs (large rectangle piece of material worn as a skirt or lungi)

Even for the lads! In warmer climates, these are the most multi purpose, practical and cheap item in your pack. The sarong can be used as evening wear, towel (don't even think about packing the set in the hot press, they are bulky, and difficult to dry) and a sheet-which can be vital in certain big ridden hostels. But better still in this case bring a duvet cover, a cheap version of a 'sleeping sheet'. Just wriggle inside for a cool, lice free night!

Three: Home comforts

There is no need to bring a year supply of coffee, toothpaste, toilet roll, washing powder and shampoo. Coca Cola have made it to all corners of the earth -it worked for them. Other companies, fortunately for us (not for the locals in most cases) have followed suit, Colgate, Nestle and Ariel for example.

Four: Wash bag

Shampoo is a very adaptable item and can double up as body wash, in the process saving squiggy soap bottles and bulky bottles. Similarly, after sun can be used as face, hand and body moisturiser.

Five: Bottom of the bag

These are perhaps a few little things you may not have considered but can be surprisingly useful: String used for washing line, broken bits (hopefully not you!) hair ties and fishing line etc. Tournch for black outs on trains, streets and hotels. -The best are the hands free ones that go on your head; they may look silly, but are extremely practical. Some sort of small knife for cutting and peeling fruit: In all seriousness though, it is best to by this at your destination and dispose of before moving on.

Six: Cash

Don't carry £1000 worth of local currency, in a lot of cases it takes up a lot of room and of course attracts attention. A mixture of traveller cheques and small amounts of hard cash -including dollars and sterling, which can help you get across borders and help with bargaining. Credit cards are useful too: even gypsies selling rugs and stuff will surprise you by accepting 'all major credit cards.' Spread your cash supply around, some in the backpack, nap sack, bottom and bra, (everyone knows tourists wear money belts under their t-shirts)

that way if something gets robbed you haven't lost everything.

Seven: First Aid

If you are travelling in rural or poorer countries where they can't afford to look after their own people, let alone transients like you, its good to bring a bit of first aid. Purchase a kit with the sealed needles -you don't want to be sharing with half the community of a government hospital or from a GP who has a lot more patients than his/her Irish counterpart. It is easy to become very ill from what might seem simple dehydration or the runs. So bring too, dehydration salts. Personally I would question Imodium -if you have a bug that's causing cramps, a day on the loo will usually do the trick (better out than in.)

Eight: Photocopies

Photocopy all your documents and keep them separate to the originals. This means every page of your passport, including visa stamps, and your insurance documents, and medical information others may need to know. All this can save hours of administration in embassies if you are unfortunate to have the originals stolen (passports are worth a lot of money on the black market!) especially when your next travel date is closing in.

Nine: Smalls!

Long journeys on trains and buses for perhaps two days or more in heat and cramped conditions can be incredibly uncomfortable. In your nap sack make sure you have perhaps a piece of cotton material (handkerchief style) that you can keep wet to cool you down, followed by a change of socks and pants, simple and obvious, you may say, but can make all the difference.

Ten: "The Bible"

- A label that Australians seem to have put on those enormous travel-guides. If you are going to a number of countries there is no need to by the whole lonely planet series. The wonderful thing about travelling is meeting other people and sharing experiences, including recommendations for and against stuff, which can take on a trail far from what you had planned. Talk to locals who are mostly delighted to help you, and can tell you a lot about the area. Lots of hostels and weird and wonderful shops have a second hand book corners, were others have left books. It is as easy to pick up a guidebook as well as a good novel, in exchange or for a small price.

Well, that's my tips for this week, take them or leave them, love them or hate them.

MATURE  
STUDENTS  
SOCIETY

MEETING THIS  
THURSDAY NIGHT  
AT 8PM IN ROOM 5  
IN THE STUDENTS  
UNION

# "If You Can't Laugh, You'll Crack!!" Murphys DOTcomedy



Setting: The Scholars Function Room, UL  
Occasion: Murphys DOT COMedy Club  
Date: Tuesday 10th October, 2001 - 9:30pm

Murphys DOT COMedy Club provided the entertainment in the Function Room of the Scholars for Tuesday night - Week 3. John Moynes was the MC for the night, introducing Bob Reilly and main act Michael Mee. There were laughs galore and there were unsipped complimentary pints of Murphys when the whole thing was over. We were almost to busy laughing to be bothered with the pints!

It was my first visit to the Club - but it was just what the doctor ordered. Ask no questions!! As they say - laughter is the best medicine. I certainly received my remedy. A queue promptly formed in the direction of the Function Room as the clock struck nearer to the ninth hour. The show was to begin at half past, but we were just eager for the free pints!

The setting was perfect - very intimate. Most were sitting - others were standing - but all held some form of drink at their side. So what were we in for?

Delays at the bar held up the kick-off on stage, but all were anxious hear some gags. The atmosphere and air of intimacy was set with the Scholars trade-marked candles-in-wine-bottles on the tables. It wasn't long before John Moynes had the crowd warmed up with his witty chat with the "Canadian" member of the audience. Within minutes he was trying his hand at match-making between two unsuspecting parties at the front. However I don't think his worked proved fruitful!

Next up was Bob Reilly who proved to be funnier for his accent rather than for his jokes. Although he had a thick Dublin accent, he swore he was from a little village in Wicklow, by the name of Glenree. He had his moments but somehow managed to keep the crowd's spirit with his renditions of Trick-or-Treating at Hallowe'en. Apparently the houses in Glenree are so far apart that he was singing Christmas

carols by the time he reached the last one! Bob's main hiccup was the fact that his set was riddled with pauses and silences. Not a good sign for any comedian. The whole point is to keep the attention of the audience at all times. Having said that his stories of colouring books and crayons on a train journey, and complications between the words "wit" and "width" with the "sexiest man in the room" were the source of much giggly behaviour from the crowd.

Then came the grand finale with the one and only Mr Michael Mee (who has played the Jean Monnet Lecture Hall in 1999). But not before John Moynes had another go at Diarmuid and Mairead (not me!!) in the front row! Michael Mee is a self-proclaimed "pacifist by physique" and thanks his lucky stars that his parents did not name him Ewan! Cork-born, he is a thirty-three year old qualified solicitor and even lectured in UL for four years in his law. So he's no stranger to the campus grounds! His career in stand-up comedy began in 1997 when he reached the final in the Kenny Live Irish Comedy Awards. He has played several festivals since, including Murphys Unplugged, Galwat Arts Festival and a full run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in the Best of the Irish show Just For The Craic.

His career in writing, he revealed, began with the scribbling on the "fleadh wall" in the bathrooms in school, and continues to this day. He was runner-up in Short Story competitions at Westport and Kilkenny Arts Festivals, and has also taken part in the esteemed anthology Phoenix Irish Short Stories in 1998. Incidentally, the "fleadh wall", located in the girls' bathroom generally, was where comments about the male population were scribbled for all and sundry to inspect. The word was also used as a verb - "Td love to fleadh her", and as an adjective - "she's a fleadh"!

In his set Michael mocked the Americans for being a nation of drinkers. It is true that they are seen to be sitting in bars in movies if they've had a bad day; whereas having a drink in Ireland is part of everyday life! He told us of his endeavours to gain entry to night clubs when he was a student. He had all the necessary documentation to prove his age - ID card, Birth Cert,

Passport, DNA

tests, letter from

his mother - yet the bouncers refused to believe he was actually 19, and was asked to "stand over there"! Michael isn't exactly what Hollywood would call a stunt guy!

I suppose no comedy night would be complete without the Kerry joke. Now I'm a bit partial as regards this matter, but I think it's true when he says that Cork people stick out, whereas Kerry people are just "ethnic." And so his set finished with moans and groans from the audience, gasping and begging for more.

The return of MC John Moynes provided the perfect dose for the night. He checked out the up-to-date situation between Diarmuid and Mairead, thanked them, as well as the Beans Guy, the "Canadian", the "sexiest man in the room" and his co-comedians, before bidding us farewell and urging us to return next week.

So what did they think of the UL students? I managed to speak briefly with the terrible threesome after the gig. They were still in flying form. They said the gig was enjoyable and that student gigs are definitely different to regular gigs, in that students tend to be more enthusiastic. Michael Mee said of his experience gigging in lecture halls, that the audience tends to be more reserved and cautious, whereas here in the Scholars we were more relaxed with our few drinks and regular applause. He seemed delighted with the response from the crowd. John Moynes stated that his only disappointment was that Diarmuid and Mairead never got it together.

The atmosphere was electric all night. Everyone went home bright-eyed. The wit and cleverness from the comedians astounded and overwhelmed. No wonder there was a queue!!

Coming up in Murphys DOT COMedy Club  
Week 4: Adam Hills, Michael Downey, John Henderson MC  
Week 5: Paddy Courtney, Fergal Crehan, John Henderson MC  
Get in line before you're left out!!



## Ents Diary Nights

Indie/Chart Night every Wednesday in Doc's

70's Night every Thursday in Gallery

Tickets £5 on sale in the SU Reception (includes buses in and out)

'save some money, save some hassle and have a  
great night'

# ULSU

# Entertainments



**F**ollowing on from David Kitt's amazing gig in the Jean Monnet in Week 2, Mundy is set to do the same on Tuesday of Week 6. As a big fan of Mundy, I was asked to write a piece about the singer/songwriter from Birr Co. Offaly who claimed fame by the age of 21 supporting artists such as Alanis Morissette and Neil Young.

In 1996 Mundy released his debut album "Jelly Legs". I welcomed this album as I had been waiting for some months to hear the acclaimed sounds of the young guitarist. I heard him playing support for Neil Young in the Point Depot, Dublin, where Mundy surprised the audience with his originality and intense lyrics. I will never forget hearing "Gin and Tonic Sky" for the first time - I had forgotten that it was Neil Young that I paid to hear.

*"On a lonesome evening, the rain turns the pavement black,  
I put you on a train - I'd never see you back again.*

*And you were leaving, I couldn't fad -  
dom why, and the moon was a slice of  
lemon in the gin and tonic sky .....  
....you give me one last cold kiss cold -  
er than steel and this will be the last  
time, and my tears were like vinegar,  
burning in my eyes ...."*

Where Mundy finds inspiration can only be speculated though I imagine he has a tremendous amount of respect for his friends, Bob Dylan, Neil Young and his family.

His music is professionally raw and his sound is intense. He has confidence and the personality to turn his song into your story. He is every young man and at the same time he is unique. His beautiful melodies are certain to touch your soul while his boisterous anthems will provoke you to sing along. He has a unique sound and it is this sound that has earned Mundy his success to date.

It is almost impossible to describe the twelve brilliant tracks on Jelly Legs;

they are certain to hold a different meaning to each listener. However, upon listening to the album, you will agree that this young man is exploding with positive talent and is set for a

adolescent experience in Rural Ireland as I too grew up in the Irish Midlands. In this song Mundy looks back on his youth addressing a local (old friend) or even himself,



*"Well how are they all in Springtown, can you still drink the water down under the sportspark... is there still apples in the castle to steal And how does it feel to be stuck there..... Is St. Brendan still beheaded and covered in Pigeon shit?"*

This is an example of the rawness of his work. Mundy tells it as it is in that fashion as only Patrick Kavanagh could

roller coaster journey that will be his career.

The album features songs concerning his family, friends, relationships and his youth. He will tell you "Life's a cinch" and at the same time tell you tales of heartbreak and even scorn. He will declare his undying love in romantic anthems. You will have already heard Mundy's "To You I Bestow" on the soundtrack to "Romeo and Juliet" (1997).

I believe poet Patrick Kavanagh to have been the best representation of the Irish artist. He had a powerful accommodation of expressing himself in plain beautiful poems and prose. He wrote perhaps the best lovesong of a time before mine, Raglan Road. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the Irish poet and now some thirty years after his death, Edmond Enright (Mundy) tells his own story in a very similar style.

One song on the album struck me as being a perfect description of life in rural Ireland for a young man with a guitar and a hat full of dreams and talent. He sings a song about a town called Springtown which could be interpreted as a song about his hometown. I could immediately relate to his

40 years before him. A great excitement surrounds Mundy's work; I love to hear it and I await his new album - one I am told is on the way!

I recently visited Hong Kong where I learned and experienced a most sophisticated culture and one I respect. I was in TST in Kowloon one evening and I dropped into HMV. I was looking for some material that I knew would be hard to find back home but when I entered the store I was faced with a copy of Jelly Legs. I was delighted to see a local showing interest in the album to the extent that she went and listened to it in the store. I say to you: listen to Jelly Legs in your music store and decide for yourself.

For me Mundy was an inspiration to overcome my own fears of not being mature enough to write or release songs. It is a lasting regret that I never got a chance to play guitar with Mundy, few of my friends have.

For you, Mundy will open your mind to the talent that is inside this tiny country and you will hear "Ireland's best kept secret".

Dave O'Donovan

# The Music Review

-Adrian O'Connell

There's been music thumping up through the floor below me all evening but I'm having no problem concentrating on this review. If I may, I'd like to start with a short joke. Anyone hear about the one-armed fisherman? He caught a fish THIS big! Those of you who know that joke will know I haven't done it justice by putting it down on paper (the rest of you will just think I'm a tosser!) My point is that I don't think I'll be able to do David Kitt justice in this column either by my description of his brilliant gig 2 weeks ago in the Jean Monnet. Anyway, a few of us got in while the band were still sound checking. There was David Kitt on guitar and vocals, Diarmuid MacDiarmada on sax, clarinet and backing vocals, and there was another chap playing keyboards. (I know my ignorance here is unbelievable, I'll try and redeem myself here by telling you that the saxophonist also plays with the excellent Dublin band, the Jimmy Cake).

Back to the gig. Well having seen the whole band perform during their soundcheck, I was expecting the gig to be pretty much that, the whole band. But this was of course, a David Kitt show and sure enough he played the first few songs of what would eventually be a two hour set completely on his own. These first four or five songs had a beautiful, almost lullaby-like quality to them and within seconds he had this capacity crowd completely mesmerised. This was confidence in itself - starting off a gig playing oh-so quiet songs that could easily have been ruined by an inattentive audience. Legend has it David Kitt's style of playing music came about from practicing and recording in his bedroom well through the night in a house full of people - the music had to be low so as not to wake anyone up. But the audience played their part too, by being virtually silent during the songs, giving the low-volume parts the attention they deserve before bursting into applause after each one finished. Now I must admit at this point I was beginning to think a change of pace or sound would be just right, and sure enough the other

two in the band took to the stage and they started into some of the Kitt radio hits that I'm sure you've heard. I'm not sure of the exact order but they played a song about a wrestler, 'You Know What I Want to Know' and my personal favourite, the beautiful 'Song From Hope St (Brooklyn Ny)' which the audience loved. Shortly after there was a break from proceedings and back again for more of the quiet, gentle, solo guitar stuff. I did enjoy these parts of the gig but I felt I'd like to hear just a tiny bit more in the songs, maybe more vocal melodies or something. (I feel at this point my criticism of Mr Kitt is tantamount to saying 'Well George, Pelé had a great game, you can't deny him his eight goals but he really should have gotten that third hat-

trick..). Looking back now, I think what David Kitt was doing was extending the gentle acoustic songs and getting a relaxed vibe going, before bringing on the others - the change in sound, volume, and pace between the stuff he played solo and the livelier songs (played with the whole band), accentuated the different moods and made the music even more striking.

An even greater change in the evenings proceedings was provided by Diarmuid MacDiarmada who got up and sang (without any accompaniment whatsoever) two songs by some guy who's name I unfortunately can't remember but they were funny and well sung - the crowd got a great laugh. A great laugh too was provided between songs by David Kitt, he told us an hilarious story about some poor stunt double getting walloped on the set of a new video he'd just shot. He also joked about the karaoke-ness (is that a word?) of some of his songs. Seeing as I haven't mentioned this before, Kitt plays with a backing track of drum

beats and bass-lines and uses it to great effect. I did talk before about how the gig started out extremely quietly, well the end was the complete opposite. There was an absolutely brilliant Dandy Warhols/Sonic Youth noisy build up along with some unorthodox instrument playing, culminating in a quick, sharp stop. The crowd went mad. And that was it, the music stopped and it was all over. I went home thinking I had just seen something fantastic and I had. I just wish I'd tried to interview him, but I didn't think this was fitting considering I hadn't even heard his new album (The Big Romance). I'm in the process of rectifying that.

would be playing in the Scholars on Wednesday the 10th of Oct so I made my way over to see them. (Time constraints have made this a bit of a short review). Anyway, Woodstar are without doubt one of, if not the tightest and most professional bands I've seen in ages. They won a Hot Press band competition last year and have since been signed by Parlophone Records in the UK (same people that Radiohead and I think Blur are signed to). They are due to release their debut EP at the beginning of next year and from the songs I heard at the gig it should be very good indeed. They played for over an hour, starting off kinda slow but soon getting an atmosphere going in the function room. With two guitarists, a bassist, drums, keyboards and the fine

Breifne on viola, they sounded to me at times a little like REM - one of their songs even reminded me of Whipping Boy's 'Twinkle', which is cool in my book. I don't know the names of any of the



“the audience played their part too, by being virtually silent during the songs, giving the low-volume parts the attention they deserve”

“An even greater change in the evenings proceedings was provided by Diarmuid MacDiarmada who got up and sang”

songs they played but I can tell you that they had a great set, which along with their second song, really came into its own for the last three numbers. These were brilliant and if some of them don't appear on their new EP I'll be disappointed! (Although I later heard one of them had only been written recently and this was the first time it had been played live). They really got the crowd going, and this to me was Woodstar at their best. My only criticism of the evening was that I felt a couple of the songs they played at the start were maybe a bit too slow but they ended on a really brilliant note (excuse the pun there - that's almost as bad as my fisherman joke earlier!) but I can't wait to see them again and I might even be getting an advance copy of their new EP which, if the band don't mind, I'll gladly review for ye here.

Anyone interested in seeing live music take note that Mundy and The Frames are coming to play in the University in the near future. As for live music in

town take a look at independent promoters The AMC ([www.theamc.net](http://www.theamc.net)) whose gigs include Dublin's Joan of Arse with their new Steve Albini produced album on Sat the 20th of this month in the Globe, and Trans Am playing the night after in the High Stool. Also keep an eye on whats coming up in Dolans Warehouse ([www.dolans-pub.ie](http://www.dolans-pub.ie)). Highlights there include Alabama 3 - you've heard them before - (theme song from the TV series The Sopranos) and Bonny Prince Billy (Will Oldham) on the 27th of this month. I also tried to see whats on in the concert hall these days but the website was down..

Other news: London instrumentalists Billy Mahonie played in town on the 27th of last month, and apart from their guitarist breaking a few strings and subsequently having a bit of a tantrum, they played a great set to a packed out and very appreciative audience.

Sorry if I've left something or someone out, its late and I'm wrecked. Until next time, Adrian

## WOODSTAR

# The Outreach society uncovered

## Ongoing projects

At the Outreach AGM on Tuesday of week 3, the society set out the projects for the year, as well as the ambitious goal of picking up the best new or improved society, at the Clubs and Societies ball 2002. The societies three major projects are firstly the Limerick schools project, where UL students' visit one of two schools in Limerick to take part in a reading club, those who take part need only commit two hours each week. Secondly the Soccer for success/Homework club project, where pupils come on campus for soccer training on campus, but before soccer they must do their Homework, outreach members supervise the children for one hour. Thirdly the Enable Ireland project; where Outreach members offer daily assistance to two students with cerebral palsy.

## Fundraising

This year Outreach will also be getting involved in Fundraising for a number of good causes, but none more so important than for one of our own stu-

and is in 3rd year environmental science, he had the misfortune of being involved in a serious car accident over the summer break. The long-term outlook for Ronan is unclear, but in the short term he will need the use of a wheelchair. So we will be going about organising a number of events to raise money for the purchase of a wheelchair and for other needs Ronan may have. I won't elaborate at this time, but don't worry you won't miss us when the time comes. All we ask is that you give generously.

## The Committee

This year the society has an exciting year in prospect. We have a brand new committee elected and a number of new projects planned, as well as continuing all the projects from last year. Our committee is as follows: The President is Tara Curley; this is an honorary position to be held by the welfare officer of the Students' Union. Chairperson Stephen driver, Vice chairperson Gearoid Holland, Secretary Deirdre Hoek, Treasurer Eamonn

dents,  
h i s  
name is  
Ronan  
O'Keefe

O'Flynn and two PRO's Patricia Daly and Yvonne O'Regan. The committee has an excellent mix of experience and new energy. Last year Tara Curley and Stephen Driver picked up awards for their respective clubs, with Stephen picking up the best club award for the Soccer club and Tara claiming the best new and improved club award for the Waterpolo club.

## Outreach uncovered

Each year we always do the three projects I have mentioned and if you wish to get involved in these please e-mail or call to Tara Curley in the welfare office of the Students' Union, remember it only involves 1-2 hours a week. If you wish to get involved in our fundraising activities which ranges from walks and dinners to posing near naked for a calendar as 12 of our clubs on campus have kindly volunteered?? to do, again contact Tara. Alternatively come along to one of our meetings held each week on Tuesday at 7.30 in meeting room two of the Students' Union. Make sure to buy a calendar when they go on sale, you'll more than likely see someone you know and all proceeds go to charity. Above all be sure to get involved in any way you can.

# LGB Society Meets Again

Societies in general... Let's get back to the matter in hand, the LGB. Why bother with an LGB Society? There are lots of reasons:

The LGB Society (that's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society, NOT Ladies and Gents Basketball, as some of you seem to think), is back again and ready to recruit! Last year was one of our busiest ever, with a record 35 members (not bad considering that statistically there should be between one and two thousand LGB Students on Campus), but most were fourth years, and have now left to go to work in the big gay world out there...

Why bother in having an LGB Society? I hear you scream. It's not like it's a hobby, is it?

(Well, some might beg to differ on that last point). And while we're on that subject, why bother with any Society? It's just a waste of time! When you could be either cramming away in the Library, or getting spasticated in the Stables (now that the Lodge has made such a rude and abrupt exit from our dull and predictable lives). Well, University isn't just about studying and nurturing a dependency on alcohol. It's a place where for four years you have the opportunity to meet new people, use your creativity, and sample independence. Some of you are just mad to get into a nice nine-to-five job, but by then it'll be too late to sample new horizons and broaden your minds. You'll have spent four years of self-imposed misery, only to end up in a routine job, with only sitting on the photocopier at office parties to look forward to.

And for those of you thinking of being in flashy jobs when you finish, a Society is a good place to meet and befriend people from other courses, and years, and from other colleges through intervarsities... CONTACTS SWEETIE, CONTACTS! You could be ten or twenty years down the line trying to start your own company, and remember good ol' Bobby from Law and Accounting, oh and wasn't he going out with Shirley from Production Engineering, who's cousin Tom did BBS and is now a Manager in Bank of Ireland? No, of course not. You just know Podge and Mick who sat beside you in Cultural Theory, and who used to get pissed on Aftershock and throw shopping trolleys into the Shannon. Fabulous.

People say that UL is an Elite University. Oxford and Cambridge are Elite Universities, and their Clubs and Socs are huge. It's also a fact that Alumni from those colleges will end up venturing into business with other Alumni. And how do you think they all met up? Through swotting and getting pissed? I don't think so... It's easy to complain about "Old Boy" Networks when you are outside them... THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX! (That phrase works on so many levels...).

Well, enough of my rantings on student apathy for

- The LGB can combat the isolation that may be felt by LGB students
- Educate and Inform students (Gay and Straight) about LGB issues
- Campaign against homophobia
- Allow LGB students to network in a comfortable environment
- Provide a space for LGB students to discuss issues of concern
- Debate new ideas
- Organise social events
- Involve more LGB students in the Students' Union through planning and discussing campaigns, allowing these students to have input in Union campaigns and also giving the Union support in running these campaigns
- And, oddly enough, it can even be fun!

As a small society we tend to organise things with the help of other bigger Socs (another plus point, we don't have to "be gay" all the time...).

Our next event shall be USI's Pink Training in Galway during the October Bank Holiday weekend. It's organised by the USI LGB Rights Officer Diane Goldthorp, and all of the LGB Societies from Universities and Colleges around Ireland shall attend. UL isn't a member of USI (long story), but we are allowed participate in this event anyway. Here is an extract from Goldthorp's first letter to the Uranians explaining what the week-end is about:

"...Pink Training 2001

Venue: GMT Galway (Cluain Mhuire)

Date: 26-28 October 2001

Pink Training, the annual USI training event on LGB issues, is taking place from 26-28 October in Galway. The event is hosted this year by Galway Mayo Institute of Technology.

The event is a weekend of participatory workshops and information modules aimed primarily at LGB students.

The aims are to Inform  
Empower  
Network.

Through the information provided, attendees will gain a broader understanding of issues that specifically impact LGB students. Through the participatory, solution-based format & energised atmosphere, those attending will be empowered to effect positive change in their own colleges. This is aided by the

opportunity for networking with students from many other colleges, exchanging ideas & opening the way for co-operative ventures.

Pink Training provides LGB students with a safe, non-judgmental space to talk openly about the issues that affect them. Here is a sample of comments from PT 2000 feedback:

"I'm not the same person I was on Friday"

"First nerve-wracking, then eye-opening & then mind-blowing"

"Mad craic!"

It has proved to be an invaluable source of peer support for many.

Modules at Pink Training include:

Coming Out, Queer Culture, Campus Activism, Violence in LGB Relationships, Transsexual Transgender Issues, LGB & the Law."

So if you would be interested in coming along come to one of our meetings, leave a message in our Cubby Hole in the Clubs and Socs office, send me an email to 9706321@student.ul.ie, or check out our society website: <http://ul-heaven.tripod.com>.

You may also use that information if you have any "queeries" (Sorry I just had to say that).

We also have a few things planned for Greek Week (more info in the next issue), mainly in collaboration with other Societies in UL. So if you have any ideas, and you would like to help, then by all means do. Some ideas that are being thrown around at the moment are: Guest Speakers, Comedy Night (in association with Ents), LGB Film Festival (in association with the Arts Office), an LGB Food Stand at the Food Fair (in association with the International Society), Post UL-ympics Student Pride March and Mardi Gras Carnival (in Association with the Dance Soc), a new Web-Site (in association with Skynet). (All of the above are still pending confirmation)

So as you can see, we are not here to make up a "Gaytto". We work with other Societies all the time, and they are very supportive of us. Basically, we wouldn't exist without them. We also can't exist without you the LGB Students. (Duh). But having said that, we also aren't here to "out" anyone. "Coming Out" is a personal decision that has to be taken personally by each individual when the time is right for them. We can offer support, as most of us have "been there", or are in the same boat. You aren't obliged to run around the campus with Rainbow Flags the minute you join. (You wouldn't be allowed anyway, you need at least 16 Fairy Points and 5 Queenie tantrums to earn your first Tiara, sweetie...). As the Northern Ireland Tourist Board says: "You won't know unless you go". So come along to the meetings and get to know people. We won't bite (hard).

# Focal Elaine

-Patrica Moriarty

## FOCAL FILE

Welcome back to the section of An Focal that lets you know about arts events happening on and off campus over the next couple of weeks. Already Societies have kick started the academic year with ambitious weekly programmes. The Film Society and Ten Forward have taken up home in the Post Graduate Association Centre on Tuesday evenings with an eclectic programme of films and the Dance Society has arranged a wide variety of dancing classes at various locations around the campus. DebU had an unusual beginning to the year with the visit of Mr Nice - Howard Marks - who apparently made more or less sense as the evening wore on! The Students Union Centre continues to reverberate on Wednesday evenings with the sounds of djembes and congas and many of the Environmental Society can be found there when not off saving the planet for the rest of us. The Arts Office in association with the Students Union screened Daniel Aronofsky's cathartic film "Requiem for a Dream" and the season will continue ever other Monday in the Conference Centre, Students Union at 7 pm. Admission is free and programme details are listed below.

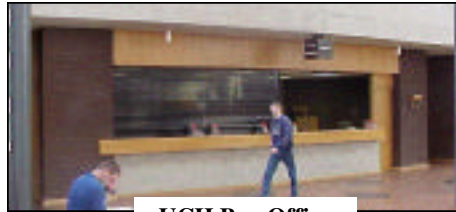
The NOMAD project - Travellers' Music, Song and Dance Cultural Centre, IWMC, UL

Perhaps the richest vein of music, song and dance culture in modern Irish history has been maintained by the travelling communities of this island. This is not a situation peculiar to Ireland as travellers have been regarded throughout Europe and the world as important culture bearers. Ethnomusicologists, ethnochoreologists, folklorists and historians within Ireland all recognise the distinct cultural significance of the travelling community and that without their contribution the culture of this island, that which makes us distinct in the world and has provided the basis of our present prosperity, would be much poorer.

The NOMAD project has attracted visionary funding from the higher Education Authority to facilitate access to the performing arts cultures of the of the Irish Travellers community to a University environment. Directed by Niall Keegan and Sandra Joyce, NOMAD will explore relevant aspects of traveller culture and enable increasing interaction between the traveller community and the university. The project will facilitate community outreach performances, workshops and seminars and will have a wide educational remit, as well as a significance beyond third level and the traveller community. The first major NOMAD event took place at the University Concert



Hall featuring some of Ireland's best known exponents of traveller music traditions including Finbar Furey and band, Pecker Dunne and family, singer Patricia Reilly, Mickey and Christy Dunne (local traditional musicians) and Russian fiddle player, Oleg Ponorarev and band. A lively evening ensued with a great deal of audience participation and Focal Elaine will give details of any future events.



UCH Box Office

### THE SIONNA FESTIVAL OF EUROPEAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC

At a press launch at the Mayor's Office in City Hall Limerick yesterday, the Irish World Music Centre announced details of the forthcoming Sionna Festival of European Traditional music, which takes place in various venues around Limerick from October 18th - 21st next. Hosted by the Irish World Music Centre and Limerick Corporation, the festival is bringing some of the most exciting musicians from Europe to Limerick, including the wonderful Bulgarian State Radio & Television Choir (whose voices featured in a major Television advertising campaign some years ago); from Finland the electrifying eleven-piece vocal ensemble Värtina; from England the Mercury Prize winning English folk singer Kate Rusby; from Scotland the concertina virtuoso Simon Thumire with David Milligan on piano and the eight-piece traditional/bluegrass band Deaf Shepherd. The weekend will include concerts, schools outreach workshops, late-night festival club sessions each night of the festival at the Belltable Arts Centre, choral workshops with the Bulgarian State Choir, dance theatre workshops with former Riverdance star Colin Dunne and a family day at Limerick City Hall. The two main venues include the Belltable Arts Centre, the University

Concert Hall Limerick. A brochure detailing the Sionna Festival is available from Ellen Byrne at the Irish World Music Centre. Extn. 2917, or see [www.sionna.com](http://www.sionna.com)

#### SIONNA - THE LINEUP

##### THURSDAY OCTOBER 18TH

8pm Belltable Arts Centre: Box and fiddle night with Paul Brock, Johnny Connolly, Paddy Canny, Eileen O'Brien Minogue, Larry Gavin, Charlie Lennon, Manus McGuire, John Connolly, Donal O'Connor. Tickets: £10/8 from the Belltable Arts Centre Box Office: 061 319866

10.30pm - Belltable Arts Centre: Festival Club with North Cregg and Guests.

Tickets: £8/£5 from the Belltable Arts Centre Box Office: 061 319866

##### FRIDAY OCTOBER 19TH

School Workshops, City Hall, Bishop's Quay with Simon Thumire (concertina) & Dave Milligan (piano)

9.30 a.m.-10.30 a.m./11 am - 12 pm/12.30 pm - 1.30 pm 4 - 5 P.M. CHILDRENS DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH COLIN DUNNE (under 12s only, places limited)

Performing Arts

Centre, Foundation Building University of Limerick Admission free. For further details contact Ellen Byrne, Irish World Music Centre, University of Limerick Phone: 061 202917, Email: [ellen.byrne@ul.ie](mailto:ellen.byrne@ul.ie)

8 p.m., University Concert Hall Limerick:

KATE RUSBY & JOHN MCCUSKER

and VARTTINA

Kate Rusby & Band: The sweetheart of the English traditional music scene, bringing the folksong tradition to a huge new audience with appearances at festivals around the world and a recent appearance on Later With Jools Holland. Her voice has been described by Q Magazine as having "descended straight from the angels" and by BBC Radio 2 as "One of the top ten folk voices of the century" The second major act on this night is Varttina, the electrifying, platinum-selling eleven-piece ensemble from Finland who have taken the world music charts by storm with their hypnotic and compelling vocals. This is their Irish Debut. "The sheer harmonic flexibility of the four lead singers is the essence; long sweeps of quarter-tones and extreme chromatic passages, interspersed with melodies of dramatic simplicity, music that defies analysis". (Songlines)

TICKETS: £16.50/£12.50 from the UCH Box Office: Phone 061 331549

10.30pm BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE, O'Connell Street Limerick: Festival Club with Simon Thumire (concertina), Dave Milligan (piano) and Friends Tickets: £5 from the Belltable Arts Centre Box Office: 061 319866

#### SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH

Choral Workshops Le Mystere Des Voix Bulgares, University Concert Hall Limerick

12 p.m.- 1 pm & 2-3 pm Chant Workshops/3- 5 pm Le Mystere Des Voix Bulgares (The Bulgarian State Radio & Television Choir) A special package is available to Choirs which will include participation in the workshops and attendance at the concert featuring Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares on Saturday evening, October 20th. Choirs interested in partaking in these workshops should contact Ellen Byrne at the Irish World Music Centre, University of Limerick, Phone: 061 202917 or email [ellen.byrne@ul.ie](mailto:ellen.byrne@ul.ie)

2-4 pm IRISH DANCE THEATRE PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP WITH COLIN DUNNE

(Experienced over-16 dancers only, places limited)

6pm: Augustinians Church O'Connell Street Limerick: Orthodox Liturgy

8pm University Concert Hall Limerick:

Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares (The Bulgarian State Radio and Television Female Vocal Choir) with special guest, former Riverdance star Colin Dunne & the Irish World Music Centre Band Founded in 1951, Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares is a 27 piece female choir which came to world prominence some years ago when a track of theirs was used on a major television ad campaign for a well known Irish cider. Then as now, its members are singers from the rural regions of Bulgaria, each an informal apprentice in the folk songs of her home. The choir's imaginatively arranged songs join traditional folk melodies with sophisticated harmonies and compelling rhythms, performed in an exotic six-part style. "The hippest show on earth...in a live setting the varied textures of their voices swirl around the auditorium, leaving the



listener breathless and bleary-eyed" (LA Weekly).  
 Tickets: £18.50/£15 From the UCH Box Office: 061 331549

10.30pm BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE, O'Connell Street Limerick:  
 Festival Club with Deaf Shepherd & guests.  
 Tickets: £5 from the Belltable Arts Centre Box Office: 061 319866

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 21ST**

12 - 4 p.m. @City Hall, Bishop's Quay Limerick.  
**FAMILY DAY**  
 Workshops and performances with the Kilfenora Ceili Band, Colin Dunne, Simon Thoumiere, Deaf Shepherd and many more. An activity-packed day for all the family. Music, song & dance workshops and performances, ceili and step dancing. The restaurant at City Hall will be open all afternoon.

On Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 of October at 8 pm Daghda Dance Company will present **TWO BY TWO BY FIVE**. Conceived and directed by Yoshiko Chuma, in collaboration with Crash Ensemble 2 x 2 x 5 is Daghda's autumn production for 2001 and represents the company's new commissioned work for 2001. Yoshiko Chuma, Daghda's New York based artistic director, has invited an eclectic mix of choreographers from Ireland and New York to create five short dance duets. Terry Creach (USA), Paul Johnson (Irl), Mary Numan (Irl), and Anthony Phillips (USA) present their new works in an unusual production which features live musicians on stage with the dancers.

A specially commissioned new work by Donncha Dennehy scored for four musicians will punctuate each dance duet. Donncha Dennehy is Artistic Director of Crash Ensemble - the Dublin based multi - media ensemble reputed for its presentation of exciting high quality concerts of contemporary music

Tickets £8/ Concessions £6

The Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick Corporation/Limerick City Libraries and Impact Theatre Company present the **CUISLE POETRY FESTIVAL** with highlights including Paul Durkan and Rita Ann Higgins. Further details are available from the Belltable.

The Belltable also host the Welsh Independent Ballet Company, Cwmni Ballent, Gwent production of Romeo and Juliet on October 26.

In addition to the concerts for SIONNA the UCH present

Wednesday 24 October Smackee - The Musicals

Barry Walker's award winning show group Smackee played to a packed UCH house two years ago and they are back due to public demand for what promises to be a wonderful treat and should not be missed by musical theatre lovers in the region. Smackee will perform hits of the most popular musicals from London's West End and Broadway including Evita, Phantom of the Opera, Grease, West Side Story and Les Miserables to mention but a few. Presented by

West End Productions the versatile producer, Barry Walker and his superb singers Dawn Glenville and Margaret Barnes will present a memorable show for all the family to enjoy. In addition to the superb vocals, The Musicals show incorporates magnificent orchestral arrangements and breathtaking choreography all sensationally complemented by the many glamorous and sparkling costume changes.  
 Tickets: £12.50, £11

Thursday 25 October Dickie Rock in Concert  
 Dickie Rock's professional career as a singer and entertainer spans four decades. His first came to public attention in 1962 following his exhilarating performance as support to Cliff Richard at The National Stadium, Dublin. He became a superstar of the sixties with hits such as "From The Candy Store", "Just for Old Times Sake", and "Every Step of the Way" which created Irish chart history as

combine art, science, and technology. The public will be invited to interact with all manner of Sci-Art, from musical vegetation that sings when harassed to a virtual-reality exercise bike. This exhibition is original, amusing, and highly entertaining. One of the highlights of the Festival is the Gare St Lazare Players production of The Beckett Trilogy on October 18 at 7.30 pm in the Danlann an Chlair. Written during a period of intense creativity from 1946 - 48 and before his dramatic work, The Trilogy overshadows and informs all of Beckett's subsequent work. As the protagonist of Molloy appears to become Malone and finally the Unnamed narrator of the third novel, so too does the actor Conor Lovett, closely guided by Judy Hegarty, evolve across these three pieces in a performance that has been widely acclaimed. Further details on this and other events are available on their website <http://octoberarts.ennis.ie>  
 Focail Ealaíne can secure tickets for events in return for reviews. Please contact 2130, or [patricia.moriarty@ul.ie](mailto:patricia.moriarty@ul.ie) for further details.



ARTS OFFICE-

STUDENTS UNION  
FILM SEASON

**OCT 15 LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (La Vita e Bella)** (1997) Directed by Roberto Benigni  
 A Jewish man has a wonderful romance with the help of his humour, but must use that same quality to protect his son in a Nazi death camp.

**OCT 22 HAPPINESS (1998)** Directed by Todd Solondz  
 A series of intertwining love stories, stories of connections missed and made between people, how people always struggle to make a connection, and to what degree they succeed or don't

**NOV 5 NIL BY MOUTH (1997)** Directed by Gary Oldman  
 A film about a dysfunctional working class family and their relationships with each other, drink and drugs. "... arguably the best British film ever made..."

**NOV 19 POINT BLANK (1967)** Directed by John Boorman  
 There are two kinds of people in his uptight world: his victims and his women. And sometimes you can't tell them apart. Move over Tony Soprano - this film stars the legendary screen icon Lee Marvin

**NOV 26 CATCH - 22 (1970)** Directed by Mike Nichols  
 We all know the expression but what exactly does it mean?

**DEC 3 ORLANDO (1992)** Directed by Sally Potter  
 Based on Virginia Woolf's novel a comely, immortal youth experiences from the point of view of both sexes as s/he moves through 4 centuries of social change

**ALL FILMS WILL BE SCREENED IN MEETING ROOM 5, STUDENTS' UNION AT 7.00 pm SHARP. ADMISSION IS FREE.**



**Heineken Kollege Energy live**

- Free every Thursday in the Scholars Function Room

This semester sees the launch of a new and exciting era of live entertainment on campus in assoc. with Heineken Ireland, The Scholars Club is opening it's function room doors to the Heineken Kollege Energy live gigs and adding a new dimension to live quality entertainment. The Club has proved to be an ideal venue for this type of night. Rememehr Paddy Casey, Juliet Turner



and Mundy Last year? and of Course the Murphys .DOTCOMedy which has returned this year with the same rave reviews. Herres a chance to see local bands Escapade, Woodstar, Sutras as well as national talents Catch a Fire, Bell X1, the Murphy Bro.s (formerly the 4 of us), and Mundy over the course of the year. Of course its all FREE!



## DANCE SOCIETY

I wandered into the Student Union Monday evening, all decked out in my dance clothes, ready for my first UL jazz class. I discovered jazz class starts next week, but by some great fortune, (I hope!) I was just on time for the dance committee meeting. The current members welcomed me with open arms, warm smiles, and lots of assignments! Dancers are a crazy bunch, but they sure know how to have a good time. Even meetings are a source of constant comedy, as I found out. Two girls sprang up to show me Irish set dancing, one girl proceeded to discuss t-shirt designs while standing atop a chair, and another did impersonations. By the end of the meeting, I felt quite at home with this quirky but friendly group. One girl even invited me to go along with her to meet some of her friends at Stables.

I suppose I should introduce myself now, for I will be regaling you with stories and the latest happenings of the dance club. My name is Shelley Goldstein and I left my hometown of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania two weeks ago to begin my semester long study abroad adventure in the lovely country of Ireland. I was thrilled to learn that UL had a dance society. Dance has been a part of my life since I was four, and I've taken classes in ballet, tap, jazz, and modern. I even ventured into tumbling for a couple years, but didn't stick with it long enough to learn back handsprings or anything impressive.

I took my first Irish dance class here at UL on Wednesday night. I went for the beginner class and found that I already knew the 1-2-3 steps they were teaching, so I decided to stick around for the advanced class. It was great!! The style is very unique, and it's also a good workout. A few of the girls demonstrated some of the reels they already knew, which was fun to watch. I've been practicing my steps and I can't wait for

next week's class!

The dance club is offering classes in jazz, set dancing, and Irish dancing as well as salsa classes with a prominent dance instructor from Dublin. We'll have you all auditioning for Riverdance in no time! The Jazz class is in room 4 of the Student Union building, Monday nights at 6-7 (beginners), 7-8 (advanced). The Set dancing will be in the Scholars Function room and is from 7-8:30. Irish dance classes are also Wednesday nights in room 4 of the Student Union. Beginners are welcome from 6-7, and the advanced class is from 7-8. The Salsa classes will be held at Doc's, a club in the city. A bus will bring you there and back, and you can dance the night away there after the lessons are over! Salsa classes start the 29th and there is a chance for all you Salsa lovers to register on Wednesdays in the canteen between 12 and 2pm, so come along and get all the details from Annmarie and Caroline. Don't worry if you think you have two left feet. It's all about fun here at the University of Limerick. Special note to all the gentlemen aspiring to be the next Fred Astaire-come join us! It's much more exciting to dance with you than with each other. Absolutely no previous dance experience is necessary. Can't wait to meet y'all!!

The turn out for the beginner's class last Wednesday was excellent, but the turnout for the advanced classes wasn't as good, so all you people who love Irish dancing or would love to be able to take off those Riverdance experts give Irish dancing a try. You never know, you could be the next Micheal Flatley!!!!

Classes for Set Dancing kicked off last Wednesday night in the Scholars Function Room and attendance was very poor unfortunately. We have brought in a professional teacher who ensures lots of fun and enjoyment and who will help you break out a sweat no problem. So every Wednesday come along to the

Irish dancing and Set dancing, you can even pencil it in as a workout.

Jazz Dancing kicked off this Monday and was poorly attended by all, so all you Dance Society members who told us you loved Jazz where are you? Every Monday, Room 4 in the SU beginners and advanced classes are available so don't forget to pencil it in your diary's. There will hopefully be a dance studio arranged for this class within the next week or so and you will all be informed of any changes at the classes.

Just to let you all know, the steps you learn are not going to waste as you will be able to strut your stuff during GREEK WEEK, when the Dance Society will take part in the Mardi Gras festival night on the Thursday and also at the Christmas party in the Scholar's Function room on Thursday 13th December. We will also be heading to the Globe on Tuesday 13th November, so do come to the classes and enjoy the fun that is had by all that attend.

To all you SALSA lovers yes there are going to be SALSA classes starting, they will be taking place on Mondays from 7 to 11 in Doc's and buses will be provided. The only thing you have to do is come to the Canteen on Wednesdays between 12 and 2 to pay for your classes so the event will take off. The classes are going to be taken by DR RUMBA who is based in Dublin and he will be teaching from 7 to 8 and then playing the best of Salsa music for ye to enjoy the rest of the night. This night is going to be open to the people of Limerick, as this guy is not cheap, but dance society members will have the advantage of a discount. So, next Wednesday in the Canteen, I will look forward to seeing you all also. There is an email address you can contact to find out more information [Dance@CSN.ul.ie](mailto:Dance@CSN.ul.ie) and don't be afraid to contact me Annmarie on 087 9529230.

## UL Vikings Battle Hard but Are No Match for the Dublin

Dublin Rebels 48 - UL Vikings 0

On a very wet and windy Sunday afternoon on the 7th October, the UL Vikings, American football team opened their National League campaign in Dublin against the Rebels.

This game was something of a historic occasion, as this was the Vikings first ever fully kitted game but also the first game on Irish soil in almost three years, following the break-up of the former National League and subsequent legal action. All this is over and every team in the league has one thing on their minds and that is to reach the Shamrock Bowl on December 16th.

Preparation for this game started in No. 20 Plassey Village in February 1999, when the UL Vikings American Football Club was founded with LK "Coda" Plain as the inaugural AFC President. In recent weeks, training began in week 1, and first thing the club had to do was to find a starting Quarterback and Defensive & Offensive Linemen. The QB search ended with Larry ..... being chosen to fill the most important position on the field and as a bonus we found Beau D'arcy, club president 2001/02, club captain, centre and linebacker extraordinaire to lead our offensive and defensive lines. To get ready for our first game the team decided to train everyday for two weeks, if we were to put up a good fight against a very experienced side like the Rebels.

Our training was going well, when disaster struck two days before the game when our QB got injured playing Soccer, and then aggravated it even further whilst "dancing" on a team building session on Thursday night. Therefore, on the day before the game we had to find a replacement and train him. Tommy Connelly stepped into the role reluctantly but was a popular choice amongst the players.

Our preparations didn't exactly go as planned, but we still felt confident of getting some kind of result in Dublin on Sunday.

The bus left UL at 8:30am, for a 1pm kick-off. The team spirits were high throughout the 3hr journey,

and this time was used to run over a few tactics and some special team plays. On arrival in Dublin, we felt confident, the weather was fine and we were psyched for the game.

During our warm, our luck once again failed, when we lost one of our key linemen, Jason ..... with a sprained ankle. At the coin toss, Beau D'arcy, our team captain mention it was good weather for football, then all of sudden it started raining very heavily, and continued for the rest of the game, which ultimately help our opposition. They won the toss and elected to defer, which meant we had choice to kick or pick sides, we decided to kick to them. Game on.

The Rebels were far bigger than us, but we contained them for the most of the first quarter. However, with 3 minutes to go, after some great passing plays they opened the score with 5 yards run into the end zone. They completed a two-point conversion play, and so lead 8-0 going into the second quarter. By the end of the game the Rebels had notched up 7 more touchdowns, with Vikings scoring nothing.

The team played extremely well, but were out-sized and the opposition had just too much experience on their side, against a rookie team like us. However, we learnt a lot, took a lot of punished especially our QB, Tommy Connelly, & our two Running backs, Fergal Fennessy & Pat "Stroh" Marrenzino. However, Most Valuable Player (MVP) for us had to be on Offence - QB Tommy Connelly and on defence - Linebacker Beau

Tenforward, the Sci-Fi and Film society are proud to present

### Blade Runner: The Directors Cut

Tuesday 16th of October at 7.00pm

### The Goodfellas

Tuesday 24th of October at 7.00pm

All showings are in the Postgraduate centre (next to the Stables) and new members are always welcome.

D'arcy.

The Vikings still held their heads up high on the long journey home and were entertained by the now infamous stories from Pat Marrenzino, fuelled by "Stroh". The team is back in training for the next game on Sunday 21st October, 1pm, in UL. If your interested in joining, please send us an e-mail, [fergalfennessy@yahoo.com](mailto:fergalfennessy@yahoo.com), (john put your e-mail address in here) or check out our web-site for details of training [www.ulvikings.com](http://www.ulvikings.com)

Special thanks to Larry for calling all the shots on the sideline in the rain and to all our supporters for watching the game, to the Rebels well get you next time. Also, to JJ look after yourself and hope you back in the team soon. See you at our next game.

Written by Fergal Fennessy, UL Vikings.

# Equestrian Club hosts this years Tetrathalon

With Orientation Week upon us again, the Equestrian Club joined those dedicated clubs and societies who set up stands in the courtyard. And so the recruitment drive for new members began. This proved successful, with many new members displaying an interest in joining our club. Our club hosting this year's Tetrathalon is an extra incentive to join, with a great sporting event to look forward to.

Success in last year's competitions and many social outings to Clonshire and Clare Equestrian Centres also proved an attraction for new members. However, this year hopes to achieve more, for those of you who are up for a good time and those more competitive among you.

This semester, there will be groups going out to the Clonshire and Clare Equestrian Centres for lessons, cross country, show jumping etc. This will be happening on a weekly basis, with groups for every level. So even if you have never sat on a horse before, this is an opportunity to have a good laugh! Fund-raising nights will also be taking place throughout the year, both for the club and for charity. If any members have any ideas for events, they would be greatly appreciated. Just get in contact with a committee

member and we will be glad to hear your ideas.

During the year, there are various competitions with other colleges around the country. The first one is the 35's, a showjumping competition between UL and DCU, one of the Dublin colleges. This happens around Week 5 and is great fun. With many other sports clubs competing, it is a great way to meet other people. This is not a serious competition, however we usually aspire to win this section of the 35's!!

This year UL is holding the Tetrathalon on the 17th and 18th of November, which is being organised by the Equestrian Club. This involves most of the colleges from around Ireland, and is a one of the best weekends in the college year! It involves running, shooting, swimming and horseriding. On Saturday, the running, swimming and shooting take place on campus. Then on Sunday, the horseriding takes place in the Clare Equestrian Centre. Nightly entertainment is a must, with a ball on the Saturday evening. All supporters are very welcome!!!! This whole event would not be possible without the dedication of an excellent committee. Their work for this began at the end of the last academic year and continued right through the summer. If any

off their shoulders!!

The other major event is the Intervarsities in February. This involves teams competing in showjumping, dressage and prix caprilli (a novice dressage test with two jumps). Again it involves colleges from all around the country. More information about this at a later stage!!

Our AGM was held on Wednesday of Week 2. This proved quite successful, with a committee being elected - Paul Downes, Chairperson; Fiona O'Keefe, Secretary; Cynthia Murphy, Treasurer; Ciaran O'Neill, Riding Officer; Anna Kavanagh, PRO. Other members also offered to become committee members and to help in the running of the Tetrathalon. If anybody is interested in joining the club, helping with the Tetrathalon, or has any queries, please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee.  
Paul : 087 6119697  
Ciaran : 086 3050369  
Fiona : 086 3098460

Written by Anna Kavanagh (PRO)

## ULKC bring kayaking around the country

The kayak club have been busy the last few weekends bringing their skills and their leadership, which they have learnt here in the unique environment of UL throughout the country. On the weekend of the 6th of Oct, Dave Tucker, on his second year with the club took part in a ranking long distance race in Cork. He came fourth in his first ever, ranking race, and to think that Dave only started kayaking with us last year and is already making his way to the top.

The sluice rodeo was on last weekend and our young homegrown paddlers took part. There was a good turn out from our club. The rodeo is one of the most glamorous events in kayaking. It takes great skill, practise and dedication to perfect your moves. Here in UL we have the benefit of the warm pool two nights a week to practise, without the fear of the cold water and also, at the back of the sports building, there is a good play area for the club to practise on. Over the years ULKC have seen the number of freestylers (rodeo) increase and the numbers are still on the rise thanks to our great facilities.

Our annual trip to Lahinch is scheduled for the weekend of the 26th and 27th of Oct. On Wednesday of week 5, we hope to complete the most level 2 certs for any club. These level 2 certs will enable an individual to participate in the river trips. It is important to obtain this cert and also it is an indication of how well you are progressing. The examination will be held at the back of the sports building and details of times will be given out at pool sessions or will be on the notice board. It is not that difficult

to pass your level 2 cert, all you need to do is come to the pool sessions and Wednesday afternoons. There the instructors will teach you the skills you need to know.

Speaking from experience, the Lahinch trip is brilliant, it doesn't cost that much (£25, and that includes 2 nights, plus food) so this is a great bargain for such a good weekend. It is an excellent opportunity to get to know the other members of the club and it is also a great chance to practise and improve your skills on a safe sandy beach. Bring warm cloths and a towel; the club will supply the rest. Hope to see ye all there, to sign up for the trip come to the pool sessions or else contact one of the committee.

This year the kayak club are holding a UL DESCENT, 10th Nov Greek week. For anyone who doesn't know what a descent is, it is a long distance race similar to that of the Liffey descent. It will be a major event for our club and hopefully will be a ranking event next year. The race will finish at the black bridge - the site of our proposed boathouse. There is no need for previous kayaking experience to take part in this race - just turn up to the next few pool sessions and Wednesday river session, and we'll try our best to prepare you for the race. Our posters on the event will inform you of the rest of the details. A correction to the last edition, the email address for the children with cancer camp is; [www.firstdescents.com](http://www.firstdescents.com). Sorry for any

## UL Trampoline Club

For all of you who are wondering - yes, UL actually does have a trampolining club! First of all, we would like to apologise to all our members for the delay in setting up our training times this year. We are still in negotiations with the arena but hopefully it should all be sorted out very soon. Just keep an eye on your emails if they work or the notice board in the old Sports Building as you enter the Café Sportif. Once again we will compete in the 35's competition which is going to be held in DCU this year. Any members that would like to compete are very welcome. We also hope to travel to Scotland again, as last year was a great success. So the sooner we get you all into training the better and for those not interested in serious training it is worth pointing out that these trips are serious piss-ups and serious fun. So no excuses for not coming along! Hopefully we'll have a few more trampolines to cater for the big increase in members (as you probably know the club was only formed last year). And a few more coaches too. Anyway things are defiantly on the up and judging by the amount of interest in the club to date look set to stay that way. So here's the perfect opportunity for all first years to get to know a wide variety of people from different courses and make lots of new friends. Glad to see so many familiar faces from last year and a big welcome to all our new members - we know you'll enjoy it as much as we do. Anybody who didn't know that we had a trampolining club here in UL and is now interested is more than welcome to come along and try it out (but I must warn you - it is addictive). So just e-mail [0059498@student.ul.ie](mailto:0059498@student.ul.ie) (Michelle) or [0037486@student.ul.ie](mailto:0037486@student.ul.ie) (Yvonne) or alternatively watch for notices in the old Sports Building.

inconvenience caused. Finally, pool session Tuesday @ 9.45 till 11.00 Wed river trip notice board.

Thursday 6.45 till 8.15.  
All are welcome.  
ULKC

## “University Of Limericks”

A WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT!!!!

After establishing the link between a limerick and Co. Limerick, UL History Society needs your help in creating the world's largest collection of limericks, "The University of Limericks".

PRIZES IN A NUMBER OF CATEGORIES!!

All we need you to do is compose a limerick and send it to us through one of the following lines:

Email to: ULHISTORYSOCIETY@HOTMAIL.COM

Drop in to Student Union Building (there will be a box at reception)

Post to: UL History Society,  
Heineken Clubs & Society's Office,  
Student Union Building,  
University of Limerick,  
Limerick.

Example of a limerick:

"Hickory dickory dock,  
The mouse ran up the clock,  
The clock struck one,  
The mouse was gone,  
Hickory dickory dock."

Complete collection will be displayed in The Stables courtyard on Tuesday 6 November during Greek Week (Week 7) and prizes will be handed out.

# Lodge Memories

Fiona Maher responds to the appeal for lodge memories last week

Just thought I'd share my grief with you about the lodge, as they say a problem shared is a problem halved. Like most fourths years I treated the news that the lodge had closed down with a mixture of fear and disbelief. I had lost count of the amount of times I had heard rumours like that before, so I wasn't about to get too worried about it. I figured that in a couple of days the lodge would be open, just as it always had. But then realisation sank in and it became apparent that my worst nightmares had come true.

At first I felt a strange compulsion to get a wreath and place it outside the Lodge, I felt that there should have been some sort of memorial service, after all I felt that the lodge and all who worked there were great friends of mine, I knew those people better than I knew some of my own classmates! I felt that there should have been a protest, or at least a special edition of An Focal giving the history of the lodge and its special place in the hearts of those of us from UL who used to frequent the place.

In writing this I realise that there are some first years out there who, God Bless there little cotton socks, will never have heard of the Lodge and to those people all I can say is that you have my upmost sympathies. Never will there be another club quite like the Lodge on this earth. Places like Copper Faced Jacks in Dublin try to

recreate the Lodge, right down to the lumps of tree trunks around where you try to sit down (I could never see why they were there, they were a death trap when you were drunk). But even Coppers couldn't compare. The reason why is simple and can be summed up in one name, Dereck.

Derek the DJ in the Lodge (at least I think that's his name, he told me it was, but he could just have been trying to get rid of the scarey drunken girl trying to make him play loads of crappy songs). Dereck was one of those original things. A good DJ who realises that the customer (or drunken girl trying to make him play loads of crappy songs, whichever you'd prefer to call it) is always right. Night after night you could harass, I mean ask the man, to play any song and he would do so. Who can forget those glorious Tuesday nights last year when, week after week, he would say that he was dedicating a song to the Mary I girls and, week after week, they would cheer and, week after week, that song would be Who Let The Dogs Out by the Baha Men! Those Mary I girls (intelligent as they are) would cheer right through until the chorus kicked in and they realised that they were, yet again, the punchline of a joke!

The other thing about the lodge was how handy it was. No matter how drunk you were coming out of the Stables you could still manage to find your way

there. It didn't matter what you were wearing, you'd still get in as long as you had UL IDs. You could be blind drunk but as long as you tried to appear to be in control of your bodily functions you were allowed in.

I've been thinking while writing this about my best nights in the Lodge, and I have to say that the best times were during the year 1998/99. Sunday nights, £1 in, 70s night. Need I say more? I remember arriving off the bus and barely stopping at the house long enough to throw in my bag. Dereck was at his best doing his 70s nights and everyone there used to love it. They were some of the best nights out of my life, and I truly feel sorry for those first years, who won't experience that. Ok so maybe their QCA's will be all the better for it, but if I had my time again I'd still choose the Lodge over the QCA. Right now I'm getting bitter, because I'm missing out on another great lodge tradition, Friday night for the Fourth years, I went a couple of times last year, so I know how good it is, and I know that I'll be missing out on great things, but maybe it's for the best because it really is about time I started worrying about that QCA.

# Nostalgarama

by Alan Byrne

Part II: 'I pity the fool who don't like 80's TV shows'.

Week 4 and another edition of An Focal, and yes love it or hate it, it's time that time again. So sit up straight in your chair, arms folded and no talking, as this instalment of Nostalgarama requires us to cast our minds back to primary school and beyond as we take a look at classic TV shows of the 80's.

What a decade eh? Not only great cartoons but also hour after hour of non-stop classic TV shows like Chip's, T.J. Hooker, The Greatest American Hero, Street-Hawk, Airwolf, Knight Rider, MacGyver and the A-Team to name but a few. What can we really say about such shows, where do we start, words hardly do justice to the countless hours of entertainment they provided? As with everything else in this life we each had our favourites, and each show seemed to offer something different.

We had William Shattner ridding the streets of thieves and muggers, while trying not to stare at Heather Locklear in her practically skin-tight rookie police uniform (and hey we all know Heather's worth it!) as T.J. Hooker brought law and order to TV screens. We had Michael Knight (aka David Hello to all my German fans keep buying my album Hasselhoff) as a lone crusader in a quest for justice with a sh\*t-hot talking car called KITT. Incidentally anyone else here paint a little red stripe on their Matchbox or Corgi toy cars in the vain attempt of replicating the KITT look? No? I find that hard to believe.... no true Knight Rider fans out there? Come on I know some of ye out there took the whole thing a bit further and tried to convince your Dad to put a red stripe just above the licence plate of the family car.

What about Street-Hawk? How were all the lads at customising the BMX Santa brought. Not too shabby eh! Well I just wish Santa had brought me a Raleigh Vectra (remember that one?) so I could have saved myself a lot of hassle in my quest to fight crime as Street-Hawk. We also had Chips 'The California Highway Patrol', which along with Airwolf was one of my most loathed of the afore mentioned 80's classics. I never quiet enjoyed the antics of those motorcycle cops whose names I can't remember (and couldn't be bothered to check). Even now when I think back to the show itself it just seemed to pass and hour while I waited for my own personal favourites MacGyver and the A-Team. And what a crap title CHIPS' sure it's an acronym but it also comes with curry sauce after a heavy session at 'The Lodge' (I know I'm sorry too, lets just remember the good times). I can just imagine Tarentino bringing out a directors cut of Pulp Fiction in which Travolta and Jackson discuss why us crazy Europeans call members of a CHIPS unit Motorcycle police. I thought Americans called CHIPS fries? Does this mean I have to go into Mc Donald's and order a Big Mac with Coke and a side of Motorcycle Police Escort?

Oh no I've done it again. Please excuse the previous mad ramblings which are due to my 'Going off on a Tangent Disorder' which I picked up as a HPSS undergraduate and have never been able to get rid of. So where were we? Ah yes, the pros and cons of those classic TV show. How could we possibly say that Airwolf was better than Street-Hawk or that T.J. Hooker was better than Knight Rider? To be honest I don't really know, it kind of reminds me of school hard arguments where 'my brothers bigger than your brother! Oh yeah well my Dad's bigger than yours so there' etc, but perhaps only now amidst the countless re-runs of such shows I may have found a method of comparison which I shall attempt to illustrate in this article. So for the purpose of this experiment I will use two of our 80's

favourites the A-Team and MacGyver to shows deserves

the title of 'Best TV show of the 80's'.

So why take the A-Team and MacGyver as examples,

well aside from the fact that they are my personal favourites (and hey I have the entire feature to myself this week) the comparison is pretty fair as both the 4 members of the A-Team and the main man MacGyver are masters of construction and destruction in the name of justice. Both used their inventive skills to right wrongs throughout the States. So how do we sort the men from the boys? Well using MTV's Celebrity Deathmatch as a template I suggest that we pit the A-Team against MacGyver in a competition against each other, in which contender will have an array of props at their disposal and a set time limit within which to come up with an effective assault weapon or vehicle to defeat their opponent.

We can use what we know of each contender drawn from the TV series to suggest possible scenarios and outcomes. So lets look at the strengths and weaknesses of each in turn, starting with the A-Team; The theme tune: Above average with an excellent spoken intro which tells us what has lead our heroes to this juncture in their TV careers.

*"In 1972, a crack commando unit was sent to prison by a military court for a crime they didn't commit. These men promptly escaped a maximum-security stockade to the Los Angeles underground. Today, still wanted by the government they survive as soldiers of fortune. If you have problem, if no one else can help, and if you can find them, maybe you can hire the A-Team".*

Classic stuff I agree, but really I think MacGyver has the A-Team on this one. His simple but 'catchy theme tune' was also a winner and didn't undermine him as a professional in anyway shape or form, unlike that of the A-Team. I mean think about it if that "In 1972 a crack..... etc" is the CV of the A-Team no way I'm hiring them, no matter how big my problem is with Student Services.

Read through it, it doesn't exactly inspire confidence, but I don't suppose they could put an ad in the Leader stating: Innocent crack commandos who got f\*cked by their lawyers now hiding out in subway station in Los Angeles underground. No problem to small, preferred position sought 'preventing inbred rednecks from forcing small local landowners to sell to big faceless construction company or similar role'. Actually come to think of it this probably was the groups 'press release' until they hired a better looking, faster speaking 'Face' after a few lean episodes.

What about the individuals themselves, there were four members of the A-Team and only one MacGyver, well, I guess for the sake of the article we could say that MacGyver was tag-teaming with his buddy Jack. Although I think that inflicting this liability on to MacGyver gives the A-Team a bit of an advantage. Jack Dalton is nothing but trouble, he has owed money to everyone from the Mafia to the Yakuza to the Student Hardship Fund at one time or another and he's about as welcome to the MacGyver team as a hole in the head.

So what about the man himself, MacGyver, what can we say? not a lot about his background really. He seems to be a renegade secondary school science teacher who has a passion for pen knives and Technic Lego who has been known to be able to make certain things from time to time enabling him to get out of a couple of sticky situations. Loves doing good deeds for those less competent than himself, likes to use his intelligence as a tool of attack and defence. Weapon of choice; Chewing Gum wrapper+ Penknife+Mirror+Duct Tape= High Power Laser. Mac's only apparent weakness is his inability to use a gun, perhaps he wouldn't even recognise a gun if

placed side by side with a banana. But hey the A-Team aren't exactly crack shots either now are they!

So how good are our crack commandos? In short good but not good enough, plenty of skill and invention, plenty of initiative and courage, but sadly they have too many failings to test MacGyver. For starters their leader is moonlighting and eventually the taxman is going to get his hands on the aspiring actor John Hannibal' Smith.

Smith loves it when a plan comes together, yet we never see him plan. He never consults his diary to see if he can help a young Southern Daisy Dukes stereotype and her father to stop yet another faceless corporation from running them off their land. It's never like 'Sorry sweetheart can't help, next week we have to get to Florida to stop alligator rustlers from poaching on Johnny Potsmokers tiny plot of land in the everglades, and we haven't broken Murdoch out of the Nut-House' yet!"

And what's Murdoch's story, would you get into a plane with a guy who was constantly looking for his imaginary elephant, hamster, dolphin, python while talking to a sock puppet I think not, hence he's a pretty useless member, a liability in the Jack Dalton Mode. Then there's 'Face', whose probably called 'Wrinkles' by now, whose time is wasted either in busting 'Howling Mad Murdoch' out of random Mental Institutions across the United States or trying to chat up Daisy Dukes look-alikes who are literally busting out of their tops while all hell breaks lose in the battles against power mad companies intent on extra hostile takeovers. And then there is BA Baracas played by Mr T, (I pity the fool who don't know who that is) who hated planes and specialised in turning any vehicle which still had the use of its four wheels into an armoured car, armoured truck or armoured bus, which was handy because the baddies always tried to trap the A-Team in places where there were sufficient tools to build all of the above, and in feature length episodes included bonus items which facilitated the construction of an armoured tank, just so we felt we were getting our moneys worth!

So it's looking good for MacGyver right about now isn't it, his laser would make pretty short work of the numerous armoured A-Team vehicles wouldn't they? I think so, but what if that failed what then, surely MacGyver would be at the mercy of the crack commando unit, wouldn't he? Perhaps, but I don't think that Mac has much to fear from the 'crap commando unit', I mean they can't shoot for sh\*t !!! They could shoot up a patch of ground in front of MacGyver forcing him to be prompted by the director to hurl himself over the bonnet of a car, (regardless of whether there is car in the scene or not) but lets face it the A-Team are never going to hit the target from open play! It's at this point that MacGyver makes a cell phone out of a discharged shot gun cartridge, a piece of chewing gum, a few pieces of duct tape and a piece of glass, using his own feeling of self satisfaction to power the unit and call Colonel Decker and inform him of the A-Team's location. Instructing Decker to run an 'APB' on a Black Van with a red stripe (or the 'Just Do It' Van as it's also known) noting that it won't be hard to spot as it will be the one with the f\*cked suspension due to that time when the A-Team needed to jump a mountain stream which was in the middle of the town in order to make a quick getaway!

Having never dealt with an adversary whose mother wasn't also his sister and aunt in true redneck fashion the A-Team would immediately surrender title of Best TV series and the prize money to the better man, MacGyver who would subsequently use the prize money to pay off Jacks debts to the mob allowing everyone to live happily ever after in TV land.

'I love it when an article comes together.'



# FARAWAY, SO CLOSE!

Reports from UL Students in foreign lands and International Students studying in UL.

## Lifestyles of the Young and Crazy.

It is Monday morning. The alarm clock goes off beside you. You hit it. Then just to be sure you hit it again. Then the real nightmare dawns. What the hell did I do this weekend? The answer, Prague. You promptly collapse on the bed again.

Prague, capital of the Czech republic but more commonly known to students as heaven and to parents as a place you don't let your kids go. Unfortunately for my parents they were a thousand miles away when I went there last August. It was the kind of trip that you look back on and go "Oh my God did I really do that?!!?!!?" Prague is a city of a thousand delights whether you just want to party or experience the sights and sounds of Eastern Europe. I went there to experience the sights and sounds, which mostly involved a lot of partying, fun and craziness. Oh and I did see a bit of the city too.

To get to Prague from Munich is relatively inexpensive. It cost us about 30DM return, which relatively nothing when you consider the distances involved. We traveled by train in a journey that took 8 hours. To say the least Eastern Europe is both different and similar to Ireland. There are similarities when you look at the lush green fields that dot the hillsides and pass some of the occasional mountain vistas. The differences are obvious though when you view the poverty and some-time depravity of some of the towns and villages you pass. Saying that the Czech Republic still is a beautiful country and Prague is a beautiful city. The sight of the Royal Palace's lights reflecting of the Vltava River under a moonlit sky is one that is hard to criticize for even the most cynical amongst us.

I went there with a friend who is on Cooperative Education over here in Munich with me. Now he is from Cork but I forgive him. Only joking Cork is a lovely place (I am not being sarcastic at all).

Martin is another madcap individual who likes to have fun. Hence the first night in Prague is a bit hazy for both of us. We booked into a hostel and headed out. The first stop was Joe's Bar in the Old Quarter of the city. For about three or four pounds Irish we ate like kings. Now beer is very expensive in the Czech Republic. Why it must have cost us 15p a pint during happy hour there. However after happy hour we were robbed blind by the cost. That was approximately 30p.

That night proved to be one of the best nights out ever. They resident DJ of the bar started to play classic rock like Thin Lizzie, U2 etc. With the help of the beer we were dancing about the place. Of course the other people in the bar looked on our antics with amusement. After a while we started to sing along with the songs,



which of course is the usual hobby of anyone under the influence of alcohol. Shortly after we started dragging the other patrons of the bar out to dance. These just happened to be female. Damn. Silly me dancing with a bunch of gorgeous women in a bar in the middle of Eastern Europe. To say the least I had an interesting time that evening. Of course I am leaving out a few details but I am only a quiet lad from Kerry so I can't be telling you everything now can I? I ended the night in the Hard Rock Café, which I staggered out of to return to the hostel. The time at that stage was about 10:00am. Opening hours in Europe are a lot different to Ireland!

That day Martin & I toured the beautiful city of Prague. It is truly a place where east meets west. There are many sites to see including the Merchant Quarter, The Royal Palace and the Old Quarter of the City. Prague is littered with restaurants and souvenir shops. From what I saw though it is somewhat of a tourist trap unless you are prepared to go and hunt bargains. All in all though it is a city well worth the visit.

On our last night there we went to Lucerna Music Club which is one of the biggest Nightclubs in Europe. It basically occupies one huge building with 5 floors. Each floor is then devoted to a different type of music. I thought being the ninny that I am wore my Kerry jersey. Now that day was the day that Kerry drew against Dublin in GAA. What chance would you say I had of meeting anyone from Dublin? Little? None maybe? I met over 20 people from Dublin in the space of an hour. Imagine the agony of listening to Molly Malone 5 times. And then having to sing The Rose of Tralee myself. It was a lot of fun though. Of course the bouncers did not see it that way which probably explains the threats. Oooops.

The following day we did some more touring and headed home to Munich. All in all, my visit to Prague was one of the best weekends of my life. I experienced so much in such a short time. If you are looking for fun then look no further than Prague. It is an experience in itself and one that I can honestly say you will never ever forget. That probably explains why I am going there again next month. I'll send you a post card (maybe). All I can say is that living in the center of Europe has its advantages. In the words of the great philosopher "Tis better than a kick from a Donkey".

Daniel Nagle  
([daniel116@hotmail.com](mailto:daniel116@hotmail.com))

## Bonjour from Gaby

Would you like to know how to spend a lovely week-end far from uni ?

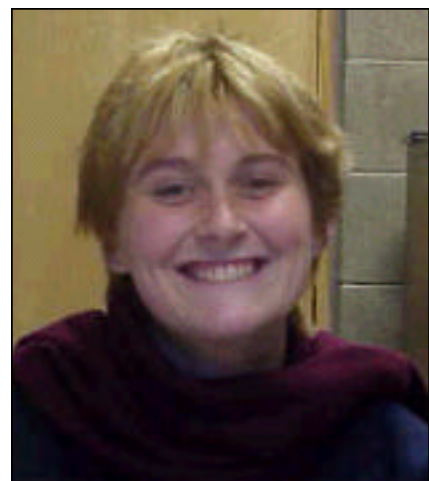
- Wake up early on a saturday morning.
- Get the bus to Doolin from Limerick bus station at 9:30 am, it should cost you £10.50 return ( information, call 061 31 33 33 )
- Opposite the bus stop in Doolin stands the Paddy's, it is a nice hostel in which you can leave your stuff for £8.50/ a night and where you can buy food and cook it if you don't want to spend too much money.(call 707 4006 )
- From here you can either go to the harbour walking, go to the Cliffs of Moher by bus £3 return but i advise you to take a single fare and to come back by hitchhiking because the bus picks people very late at night or you can get there by rentig a bike £7/ a day and 8 kms far from Doolin.
- Try to come back in Doolin for 9:30 pm since it is the start of live Irish music in

every pub of this village.

- On sunday it is the best day to go and conquer The Burren, a splendid rocky country of polished limestone. Go to Lisdoonvarna where the bus should stop near Ezzo. Rent a bike from here they are very nice. Afterwards ride in a direction of Aillwee Cave about 16 kms. You can visit the cave which are wonderful although the guided visit is a bit short ( cost of the tour £4 if you show your student card, very useful whenever you go away).If you are not keen on going under ground you can ride to Ballyvaughan which is a pretty fishing village surrounded by those strange mountains. After that you will be so proud of your sportive day and your eyes will be so delighted by the sight that you may miss the bus to come home ( that is what happened to me !!!)

- So be careful and enjoy this beautiful part of Ireland.

Gaby



# Canadian Stories

by  
Darragh Murphy

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Marx once said "I've got a good mind to join a club and beat you over the head with it"; if your from the socialist club your probably thinking, Karl Marx never said that, I'll have to boycott An Focal as well as not eat at McDonalds, wear Nike or wash my hair. Before you get up in arms, it was the other famous Marx, the one with the sense of humour, Groucho, in response to Chico Marx offering him a Cabinet post in the film 'Duck Soup'. Sitting here in my apartment watching one of my four fuzzy channels on a TV no bigger than a chicken I decided I should probably join a club on campus, so off I went to check out a few.

I figured I wouldn't do what I did in UL in first year, join loads of clubs and not go to any of them so I was looking for something interesting, something that would grab my attention and drag it off to the pub, I mean the playing field. I figured, I'm in Canada one hour away from the Rockies; it's a long time since I last broke my leg and somebody mentioned something about lots of free beer so I joined the Ski Club. That's fine for winter but what am I going to do until then?

I wanted to get back to playing some sports and

the University of Calgary has excellent sports facilities so off I went to the Students Union to check them out. To my complete dismay- well not really I keep saying I'll go to the gym next Monday but it never happens- out of the one hundred and thirty or so clubs only two were sports related. I took another look at the list to find something vaguely interesting to join. You



have all the usual international clubs representing the various nationalities in the university, you have all the political clubs and Amnesty and UNICEF, and the Dot Com club although I hear that is bankrupt. An overwhelming amount of

the clubs are Religious or business clubs and me not being interested in religion or business but left with no choice I decided to check them out.

To thing to remember here is that Canadians, in this University at least, study constantly and from day (literally) one so really it should have come as no surprise to me to see a 'Association of Risk Management Club' an 'Association of Collegiate Entrepreneurs Club' the 'Financial Management Group' and my personal favourite 'Cash Flow 101 Club'. These people are dedicated, not to having a life but they are dedicated nonetheless and that has to be admired or made fun of whatever is your disposition.

The business clubs are only the tip of the iceberg or mutual fund if that's the way you like it. As with a lot of things strange the more unusual clubs are of the Religious variety. The 'Campus Crusade for Christ' is there to tell you will burn in hell if join the Ski Club. If they become a bit of a problem you can join the 'Society for Military and Strategic Studies' that should scare them off or if you want someone else to fight your battles for you join the 'Petroleum Club'. What did I join in the end? The 'Pipeband and HighlaDuck Soupnd Dance Club' of course what else.

## US Retaliations by Laura Greer Oct 9th 2001

US Retaliation causes concern among International Students just wipe them out and we will find Bin Laden'.

'We got them, we got them good', one Student shouted down the stairs to his friend. One could be forgiven for confusion about what he was talking about, but the words, 'we bombed Afghanistan man', end all confusion and that is how I learned of US bombings in Afghanistan in retaliation for the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Centre.

October 7th 2001, the date US and British forces began their air attacks on Afghanistan, was for students of the State University of New York, in some ways very like September 11th and in some ways very different.

Upon hearing the news, CNN once again took over our living room, not that it and ever really left it. Reaction was varied, some watched in shocked silence contemplating the future, while others celebrated for having as one said it, 'getting our own back'.

On and for the last four weeks, September 11th the terrorist attacks was the one and only topic of conversation on campus. Students sat glued to their televisions and discussed the future. Four weeks later the retaliation has begun as it is as though a ban on discussion of the situation has been issued.

Haven given a cursory glance at the events unfolding, many students shrugged, accepting the inevitable had come, and went on with their day, maybe playing soccer, catching one of the drama departments plays or just relaxing with friends.

Eighteen year old, Ben Stifler said, 'I never read the newspapers or watch the news, it just doesn't interest me'. Freshman Stephanie Gianakos, said, 'I'm happy, that we've retaliated and its good the military seem to be bombing only military spots in Afghanistan, in that way we can

International student reaction was somewhat different. Being thrown suddenly from the 'American dream' to a country at war was a transition all hoped would not occur. Roman a student from Latvia left soon after September 11th and with present events threatening a long conflict. International students are weighing up their alternatives.

Londoner Paul Salter said, 'with Britain joining the attacks I feel safer here in New Paltz than I would at home, I'm definitely staying'. Sarah Brennan said, 'we feel really far away from it

and feel safe but its still really frightening. Its still a worry about now or never will we make it home later on if things worsen'.

One University of Limerick student alarmed at the events unfolding and the threat of plane strikes in coming months returned to Ireland on the 11th of October. At present, four University of Limerick students remain at SUNY, Valerie O Sullivan said, 'it's the fear of the unknown that gets you, you don't know what will happen'. Most International students have chosen to bide their time and see what happens.

Bin Ladens' frightening words, 'America will never dream of security until the infidels' armies leave the land of Muhammad', left behind in a videoed message and aired just after the strike, is a constant threat hanging over the US. President Push emphasized that it is likely to a lengthy and relentless campaign, 'we will not waver, we will not tire. We will not falter and we will not fail'.

Piles of newspapers full of images of war, anti-Afghan propaganda and news of the attacks lie unread in the dorms. It is as though people do

not want to hear any more of death and devastation having spent the last month watching relentless imagery of the wreckage of the world trade center, the misery of losses and the death lists grow daily.

When pressed, first year Deanna Sousa said, 'I thinks its wrong that innocent people have to die', another, James Capano said, 'I think we should kill those that messed with us just to prove we are the strongest nation in the world'.

There have been a number of lectures on campus regarding chemical, biological and nuclear warfare that may in the near future pose a threat to America. Cases of the lethal Anthrax bacteria in Florida, although now not thought to be terrorist related, confirm these fears.

A number of SUNY students are members of the National Guard for the Air

Force and Army, and wait for news of further conflict. Air Force reserve and nineteen year old SUNY student, Katie White said, 'it's a little nerve wrecking not knowing whether you're going to go or not, but at the same time I'm grateful that I have the chance to do something for my country'.

As the US military embark on campaign, 'Enduring Freedom', emotive American Propaganda is shown on all media outlets. Images of bombs with slogans such as, 'Pentagon USA' and 'FDNY' as well as the Twin Towers destruction are shown over and over again, rallying military support.

As tomahawk cruise missiles and bombs find targets in Afghanistan, life in New Paltz continues as usual. Mid term exams, Halloween and beer-pong parties seem to be a preferable conversation than that of a possible World War Three. As US President Bush says, 'this will be a long and drawn out conflict and you must continue with life as usual'.

'with Britain joining the attacks I feel safer here in New Paltz than I would at home, I'm definitely staying'

## Outdoor Pursuits Club

Welcome home my pretties. We at the Outdoor Pursuits Club hope you all had a pleasant holiday would like to let you all know that it was great to see all your beautiful faces again, on our second outing of the new school year, 'the conquering of Brandon'.

Our intrepid expeditioners set out with hearts on high. On the good ship McElligots we sped, our captain was the staunch and experienced purveyor of the highways, Paddy, who was held by all in high esteem. A motley crew we were, with the contents of the bus looking more like the inhabitants of Noah's ark than the climbing elite of U.L. There was Frank the elephant man, so called by the ladies because of his enormous dic-

-tionary. He was the source of much appreciated entertainment because of his ability to recite in rhyming couplets the meaning to the most

obscure and useless words.

Four enactments of the Nativity later (including one in Arabic by our Islamic/Iranian friends- if only there parents could have seen it), our journey was over. An excruciatingly painful journey for me I might add, because for hygiene reasons I had to spend it in the boot (I was later informed this was a cruel joke). We arrived at Clochan 2 and a half fun filled hours later (pronounced gutturally, i.e. spit when you say the 'c'- I had great but unappreciated fun with this on the way back). We disembarked into countryside that can only be described as an American Leprechaun hunters dream. One girl actually got caught by the little people while relieving herself at the end of a rainbow, we managed to negotiate her release, with the understanding and kindly King of the little people, Finton McSpudgarden, in exchange for Darren and a box of cotton buds.

On we skipped up the hill. There were daisies and dandelions a plenty to be picked. The nightingales and larks sang to greet us in the

meadows. The Von Trapp family (Erasmus students) even gave a heart rendering recital of that 24 minute classic 'I love the sun, I love everyone' which was tragically cut short by there unfortunate but brutal battering to death with big sticks and hard rocks.

The lakes were a shimmering as we passed them, the sun was a shining, the clouds were a floating by and the sheep were a making love in the pastures green. Oul shit arse, our respected leader, set a somewhat brisk pace for the day and in an uncharacteristic oversight made no provision at all for cigarette breaks. This misunderstanding was sorted out with the use of only minimal brute force.

We all made it to the top and then we went home.

## Windsurfing Rules!

Week four and you still haven't settled down to work, that's okay we are here to help. Recent research coming out of the Sligo Higher Institute of Teaching & Education has shown that going windsurfing can help focus and improve your learning skills. So it's in your best interests to come out on the bus to the activity centre that leaves from the car park side of the concert hall every Wednesday at 2pm. What happens in the activity centre you ask? Well all manner of wonderful and exciting things that's what. Equipment and coaching are provided free to members, all you need bring is a towel, two measly pounds for the bus and we normally drop off in a nearby pub afterwards so whether its peanuts or alcohol you are after they have it all (stay away from the pork rinds). Interested? Of course you are, you'd be a silly billy to miss out on an opportunity like this wouldn't you. New members are not so much welcome as they are worshipped so come on out real fast like.

Two successful international trips were had by the club this summer. Gran Canaria and Tarifa were the exotic destinations. After the success of these, Cape Verde and Maui are on the cards for next summer. Book your place

now.

Last weekend saw the IWA roll into Castlegregory, conditions on the day were nothing short of insane. Contestants had a hard time getting their rigs onto the water never mind performing for the judges. To their credit though they still managed to put on a show for the assembled crowd as they huddled in the long grass to escape the weather. Despite the incredibly complicated scoreboard (double elimination...so everyone gets a doggie life eh?) it became apparent that the Irish lads were not getting anywhere. The top three finishers and five wild cards mostly from the U.K. go on to the PWA event happening in Castlegregory this weekend. The PWA tour stop off in Kerry last year was a huge success with the best in the world wowing those lucky enough to be among the hundreds that made the trip down. This year promises to live up to its predecessor, the windswept stomping ground of the Atlantic that is Castlegregory rarely disappoints when it comes to the weather and when just about every name in the sport gagging for it the weekend is going to go off in a big way. Needless to say your college while not having the standards necessary to represent you on the water will do you in proud in the equally important tent erection (tee hee hee) event held later on that night. All manners of anecdotes, accounts and apologies

should be forthcoming in the next issue.

Oh, and a quick good bye to Dave's sail, it had only one day left till retirement and a quick cheers to Benoit (that can't be spelt right) for being very understanding about our no non-Irish nationals in the tent policy. Still the car looked comfortable and he managed to avoid Diarmuid "what happens on tour stays on tour" Boyle's snoring and Gary and Dave "keeping warm".....

This weekend is beginners weekend in Rusheen Bay Co. Galway, sign up on the website, [www.csn.ul.ie/~winds](http://www.csn.ul.ie/~winds). Cost is £25 and all gear, coaching, transport, food & accommodation is provided. Keep an eye on the website for upcoming trips to the coast.



## LADIES HOCKEY CLUB

in association with

# Deloitte & Touche

On Saturday 6th October the senior hockey team faced old rivals U.C.C. in U.L. It was the first match of the season so neither team knew what to expect. Only five of the U.L. side played on last years team; Fiona Murray (Capt), Brid Kilbane, Sandra Hedegan, Ciara Ronan and Lorna Kingston. The new comers to the U.L. senior side were Niamh MacAulliffe, Caroline Hutchinson, Emily FitzGibbon, Ursula MacCarthy, Kate Rushe and Claire Delaney. All of whom put in a great performance.



U.L. started off the

stronger side, coming into the U.C.C. circle a few times but not really making the most of their chances. U.C.C. were quick on the break but the U.L. defense were just as quick to defend. Goalkeeper Ciara Ronan making some great saves. The half time result was 0-0.

The U.L. side knew that this game was up for the taking so in the second half the girls dug deep. It all paid off two minutes from the end when Claire Delaney scored the winning goal from the penalty spot. The match ended

UL 1-UCC 0

This was a great result for a team

that had not played together before. We're looking forward to another great season.

**Lorna Kingston**





## The Irish Peace Society

The Irish Peace Society got off to a good start this semester by electing a new committee with Bernadette Sexton at the helm as Auditor. Other committee members include, Edward Horgan, Clara Slattery, Fintan Touhy, Jennifer O'Brien, Alona Troy, Gerard Downes, Alex Gray, Deirdre Mangaoang and Katherine Hartford.

Proposed activities for the coming year include:

A seminar entitled The Four Islands will be held in October or November 2001. This will be a follow on from last semester's seminar that dealt with Ethnic Conflict in the islands of Cyprus, and Sri Lanka. This year's seminar will deal with Ethnic conflict on the islands of Ireland and East Timor. Our first major event will be a seminar on the East Timor conflict, and the influence of civil society, local and international, in resolving such conflicts. The keynote speaker will be Tom Hyland, founder of the East Timor Ireland Support Society. This event will be followed in November by a seminar on the topic of Ethnic Conflict in Northern Ireland. This final seminar in this

### UL Mens Gaelic Football beat CIT

The UL Gaelic Football team started their campaign last Wednesday in Maguire's pitch in UL. Cork IT provided the opposition, in a game that the visitors lead for the most part. The leasiders came away with a well-deserved 4-point victory.

UL started well and lead by two points thought Brian Lonergan and Cork native, Niall O'Sullivan. A fortuitous 11th minutes goal by CIT's Ray Keane ensured that UL would not lead in again. After 20 minutes CIT stuck for goal again through the impressive Niall O'Driscoll. This left the score at 2-2 to 0-5. Before half time CIT scored through O'Driscoll and full forward DJ Flemming. El Barnett from the \*\*\*\* answered for UL.

#### HALF TIME

UL CIT  
0-6 2-6

UL Manager Michael Mc Dermot introduced Mark Lennon, Brendan Guiney and John Anderson in an effort to claw back the lead at half time. Again UL started well thought a Kevin Golden free and Gary Mullian point. DJ Fleming responded for the Cork side with a goal and 3 points, one from play and 2 frees. The latter of these in the 23rd minute broke a 10 minute score

series will include a comparative analysis of the conflicts on the four islands of Cyprus, Sri Lanka, East Timor and Ireland.

Other events planned for the first semester include a presentation by Edward Horgan on United Nations peacekeeping, and democratisation/election missions undertaken by the so-called "International Community".

Probably the most ambitious undertaking of the Irish Peace Society will be its plans to publish a Peace/International Relations journal, which will provide undergraduates, post-graduates and academics with the opportunity to submit papers for publication. A special editorial sub-committee is being set up to coordinate this important project.

In the holiday interval between semester one and semester two the Peace Society are planning a member's visit to the Former Yugoslavia, which it is hoped will include visits to, Mostar and Sarajevo in Bosnia, Dubrovnik and Vukovar in Croatia and Belgrade University in Serbia.

During semester two, several important events are planned. A debate involving high profile speakers from Ireland, north and south, will be organised in conjunction with the Irish Peace Institute in March 2002.

It is also planned to arrange a members

drought from both sides. In this \*\*\*\* Paudie Murphy and Gary Mullins received yellow cards. With five minutes to go UL staged a revival scoring a goal through a clinical Darragh Long finish and Brian Louergan's third. CIT closed the game out well and the only scores after that were Gary McLoughlin for CIT and wing back Dermot Harrington for the Cosers

Overall the result was justified as CIT were the hungrier over the hour. They were both served by DJ Fleming who contributed 1-5. Aiden O'Mahony, at no 6, was solid throughout. CIT had the best of midfield and Fleming was well supported by Tom Commons and Ray Keane in the forwards. For the Cosers, positives could be taken from the performances of Dermot Harrington, Martin Kennedy and Gary Mullins, who also battled hard at midfield.

After the game, UL manager Michael McDermot said, "It was a very disappointing performance, but we can draw strength from the fact that it was only our first competitive game. Nevertheless, we have a lot of hard work to do over the next few months

ing clubs in U.L.

This year we hope to grow and improve on what we achieved last year. Some of our achievements of last year: Best-improved club award,

Womens Munster Waterpolo champions and the list goes on.

This year will be a very exciting year with the opening of the 50m pool, us hosting the Intervarsities, trips planned for Dublin and Belfast, which will see our return to competing in the National League.

Training as always is on Monday 6:45 to 7:30 and on Wednesday 9:45 to

visit to Northern Ireland in April 2002.

New members are very welcome. The promotion of peace and justice, in Ireland, as well as throughout this much-abused planet of ours, was never more important.

The following are a few slogans that may indicate the degree of progress towards peace, or lack of it, achieved over the past century:

World War I: "The war will be over before Christmas" and

"The war to end all wars" and "in defence of small nations"

1938, Neville Chamberlain "Peace with honour, peace for our time"

World War II: "never again" (in response to the Holocaust).

US / Vietnam War, President LBJ Johnson: "When you have someone by the \*&\$!\*, their hearts and minds tend to follow"

Robert MacNamara: "We were wrong, terribly wrong"

Bosnia, James Baker "we don't have a dog in this race"

Tony Blair 2001: "we are all sons of Abraham"

Albert Einstein: "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones".

Edward Horgan

and weeks".

UL centre back Martin Kennedy said, "We (UL) had no excuses. That level of effort will be no good for Sigerson".

The game was preceded by an intermediate game between the two colleges. Again CIT were the victors, this time by 1-15 to 0-6.

CIT

UL

K. MURPHY	G. BRENNAN
N. BARRY	P. MURPHY
R. MANIEN	J. DAVIS
A. OSULLIVAN	J. FLANNERY
M. WALSH	D. HARRINGTON 0-1
A. OMAHONY	M. KENNEDY
G. TUBRIDY	S. BRIGGS
R. CURRAN 0-1	G. MULLINS 1-0
G. MCLOUGHLIN 0-1	N. FITZGERALD
S. OSULLIVAN	K. GOLDEN 0-2
P. FOLEY	E. BARRETT 0-1
T. CONNERS 0-1	N. OSULLIVAN 0-1
N. ODRISCOLL 1-2 (IF)	B. LONERGAN
	0-3
R. KEANE 1-1	J. CLARKE 0-3

3-11

2-10

BY RICHARD BARRETT



The Waterpolo club would like to welcome all old and new members to one of the fastest growing and most excit-

ing clubs in U.L. 11:00 in the old sports building (until the new pool opens!).

Check out the website for more info and all the gossip!!!!!!

<http://www.csn.ul.ie/~h2opolo>

So if you like playing with balls and know how to have fun...Come join us!!

# Hello from... **your** **Community Officer**

**John Mulcahy**

Hi! My name is John Mulcahy and I am the new Students' Union Community Officer. The Community Officer sits on the Executive and Class Reps Council within the SU and also sits on various residents committees and the Campus Watch Committee within the University. Outside of attending all these committees there are a number of aims that I have for my time as Community Officer. The most obvious of these is to improve relations between students and residents. We must all remember that residents are the backbone of the Castletroy community, while us students breeze in and out for four years they stay here permanently. Some are elderly, some have jobs to worry about and some have young children. It's the same as any normal community so they don't need, and don't deserve to be, harassed at any time of the day or night. Respect is needed on both sides to ensure that both residents and students get on well.

I will be re-establishing a phone line whereby anyone who has a problem or a query with regards to any aspects of the community can leave a message and I will get back to them as soon as possible. I will also be re-introducing the role of Student Liaison Officer (SLO). Along with myself, it is them who will investigate complaints against any student or resident.

I shall endeavor to continue the implementation of the SU Environmental Policy and make any relevant changes to said policy. I will attempt to make

people fully aware of their rights as regards to rental accommodation, ensure that they have a lease, that they copy all bills, and that all houses reach a regulatory living standard. I will also try promote all that is good about our university and Castletroy in general and ensure that it is well published in the local media.

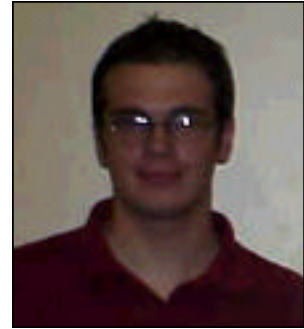
Safety is also a major issue on campus. In my role as Community Officer I will fight to:

- Get more lights on campus and in the wider community, especially in those areas that have previously been ignored.
- Fix the lights that are there but aren't working.
- Acquire more security cameras both on campus and in all the estates.
- Ensure that security and garda presence is increased in the entire area.
- Increase the number of runs and the number of hours for which it is running of the 'Nightlink' service.

If anyone needs to contact me I am available on e-mail 9923586@student.ul.ie and you can also leave a message in the SU reception for me and I will get back to you.

**Student Liaison Officers Needed**  
SLO's work, along with the Community Officer, to ensure that relations between residents and students are good. They will be a contact person for anybody with a complaint in a given estate. This is a paid position within

the SU  
with  
SLO's  
making  
£50 for  
the  
hours  
that they  
work.  
The job  
does not  
take up  
a lot of  
time but  
is of  
enormous  
importance. If anyone is interested in a job as SLO get in contact with me by the end of Week 4.  
Thank You



While I did not have to run for election I would like to thank everyone who had offered their assistance and support for my campaign. There are just a few people I will pick out: Grainne O'Mahony, my 'Campaign Manager', thanks for all the help even if you are still high from the paint fumes. Breda Kiely for all the help with the manifesto. Maz, congratulations. Mags, Leah, Sarah, Rosie, Kate, Shane, all the lads across the road...the list could go on for ages so I'll leave it at that. Thanks especially to all my housemates who didn't see me for two weeks while I was getting ready, I'm only realising now how mad ye all are but at least I have the bamboo to protect me. Thanks again to everyone.

# Hello from... **your** **Equality Officer**

**Caroline Walters**

Hi! My name is Caroline Walters and I have been elected Equality officer for the coming year in the Student's Union. I'm a fourth year student studying Applied Languages and have done both Cop and Erasmus placements. I work with Ents Crew, and have been involved in Class Reps & Clubs and Societies over my time here in UL.

The role of Equality Officer is not yet clearly defined, but I hope to work on some of the following objectives, which fellow students have told me about over the last few weeks. These include lessening discrimination against marginalized groups on campus, an investigation of increased food prices, lobby for better overheads and more accessible UL Websites, to improve facilities for the disabled, get more recognition for the Irish language and many more issues

outlined in my Manifesto.

My email address is:- 9837264@student.ul.ie or walter-scaroline@yahoo.com. Please feel free to contact me if you have any problems or queries which you think I can help you with.

I would like to thank Marion for a good and fair contest, my campaign manager Ibar for all his support and help during the week along with Orla Mac, Dee, Karen, Orla P, Patrice, Marie, Emer, Regina, Caroline eile!, John and everyone else who helped me out during the week in any way. I couldn't have done it without ye all being there for me.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir,

Caroline



# UL Soccer Club News

## Ladies Soccer News

Anyone interested in joining the Ladies Soccer club can do so by emailing the Club at the following: ladies\_soccer@hotmail.com mailto:ladies\_soccer@hotmail.com>. (There is an underscore in the e-mail-address) Our current training schedule sees a session on the Astroturf Mondays at 5pm, on the grass Wednesdays at 6pm, and an indoor Session in the Arena at 10am on Thursday mornings.

We are entering the Freshers Intervarsities this year, for the first time in about 6yrs, and are always looking for new First Years to attend Training. We are also going to enter the Indoor Intervarsities, take part in the Premier College League and compete in the Ladies Senior Intervarsities.

There are plans for a 7-a-side Astroturf tournament, which would take place on Tuesdays. We would like squads of 10, and you don't need to be interested in playing in intervarsities to take part. Erasmus and International Students are more than welcome to join as well.

Right now, the ladies are preparing for their first match of the season in the Premier League. This should be in early November. The Freshers Intervarsities will take place at the end of November, so any interested First Years should attend Training as soon as possible.

## Crowley Cup News

The Crowley Cup is a competition for college students who don't compete in the Collingwood Cup. As the Collingwood Squad consists of 20 players, it stands to reason that there are a lot of students still eligible for this

team. As the competition takes place in March, training doesn't normally begin until January. Anyone interested is asked to stay in touch with the club and take part in any Internal Events we have planned eg, Indoor Soccer and Astroturf Leagues. This year's Crowley is being hosted by UCD.

## Indoor Soccer Tournament

The Club is interested in organising an Indoor Soccer Tournament in 1st. Semester. We will have a separate one for Men and Women. We are looking for Squads of 7, and the matches will be 4-a-side. Details of cost etc will be disclosed when we have more details.

Contact : indoorball@hotmail.com <mailto:indoorball@hotmail.com>

## U-21 League

ULFC's first venture into the National League has been a difficult one but the signs that they are adjusting to the level of competition are there. The season began with very little preparation due to the season starting before the college term and a number of players were out foreign or else in jobs all over the country. None the less, a squad of 12 players travelled down to Waterford to take part in the first game of the season. Although a final score of 5-0 gives a bad impression, it has to be considered 3 of the goals were scored in the last 20 mins when UL had 2 players playing with injuries and had no subs to replace them. It was a credible performance given the lack of players and unfortunate injuries.

The next game was UL's first home game and the visitors were Cork City who brought with them a number of Senior National League players. UL also had a few players back but were still without a good 5 or 6 players. Cork played very well in the first half and were 2-0 up at the interval. UL came back at them in the second half and deservedly pulled one back through Kevin Murphy. Then, the turning point of the game came when Cork were awarded a penalty which they scored to go 3-1 up. They scored 2 further goals at the end but signs of improvement were there from the UL team.

Next up for UL was the big local derby with Limerick City. Limerick City were represented by a couple of UL student which added extra rivalry to the game. It was a closely fought game with very few chances at either end. In the end, it was settled by a goal from debutant Jason Hannam. This was UL's

first ever win at this level and finally lifted them off the bottom of the table at the expense of Limerick City.

The next weekend's game was a very tough encounter as UL were up against table-toppers Cobh Ramblers who still had a 100% record. Cobh showed plenty of signs of why they were top in the first half as they stormed to a 3-0 lead with 3 well-taken goals. A few changes were made at half-time and UL played with a lot more heart. Even after going down 4-0 they never stopped trying and were rewarded with a consolation through Jason Hannam to leave the final score at 4-1.

This brings us up to date as the Peak Villa match was postponed. The next match is in UL on Sat. 13th Oct against Peak Villa. Let's hope the team can continue it's improvement and start climbing the table.

Squad : Darragh McMahon (capt), Pdraig Blake, Eoin Killackey, Paul Mulvihill, Pdraig Brody, Paul Crowley, Mark Reidy, Ian Holland, Finbar Stapleton, Grant Murtagh, Mark Holland, Martin McGourty, Wayne Gartland, John Dunne, Shane Beere, Kevin Murphy, Jason Hannam.

Managers : Gerry McInerney, Martin Hayes

## Collingwood Cup News

All those interested in the Collingwood Cup Squad should take note that training continues in the University Arena at 10am on a Tuesday morning.

This is an Indoor Soccer Session which is followed by a workout in the Elite Gym. Many of our players are also taking part in "Soccer 4 Success". This is a coaching initiative designed to help disadvantaged children in the area.

We are very happy to be involved with such a project. We have our first Competitive match of the season against Maynooth, who beat us on penalties in the League Final last season, in Maynooth. The return home leg will follow on the Wednesday Week 5. The boys will certainly be looking to avenge last seasons cruel defeat.

## Trip to England

The Club has decided to head towards Leicester on a mini-tour during the break between semesters. We are looking to play against Universities in the area. The trip is for a squad of 20 men and 20 women. Anyone interested should make themselves known as an organising committee needs to be arranged. Players are asked to fundraise for the trip, and most of our other events by selling Lotto Tickets, which are available fortnightly at training.

## Junior Training Notes

The Junior Squads train on Tuesdays and Thursdays down on McGuiness. Next Thursday it will start at 5:45. Next week it will be on at 5:30.

## Freshers League 2001

The following is the fixture list and Captains Contact

## list for the upcoming

Freshers Astro League. Interested Players should contact any of the listed Captains and/or attend an open Training session on Thursdays between 1pm - 4pm.

	I&E	SS	ERAS	BUS	HUM
ENG/SCI	***				
I&E	25 Oct (3pm)	***			
SS					
ERAS	1 Nov (3pm)		18 Oct (3pm)	***	
BUS	15 Nov (2pm)		8 Nov (1pm)	25	Oct
(3pm)	***				
HUM	8 Nov (1pm)		1 Nov (2pm)	15	Nov
(1pm)	18 Oct (2pm)	***			
ENG/SCI	18 Oct (1pm)		15 Nov (3pm)	8	
Nov (1pm)	1 Nov (1pm)		25		
Oct (3pm)	***				

Be on the Astro 15 minutes prior to KO so that jerseys and bibs can be handed out.

## Playoff Games (35 mins. aside)

Thurs Nov 22 at 1pm	(Game A)	5th Vs 6th
Thurs Nov 29 at 1pm	(Game B)	4th Vs
Winners Game A		
Thurs Nov 29 at 2:30pm	(Game C)	2nd Vs 3rd
Thurs Dec 6 at 1pm	(Game D)	1st Vs
Winners Game B		
Thurs Dec 13 at 1pm	(Final 90 Minutes)	Winners Game C Vs.
Winners Game D		

For more information contact your college captain by email

I&E = Informatics and Electronics	
Ian Holland	e m a i l : - 0039136@student.ulie
SS = Education and Sports Science	
Ross Dunphy:	e m a i l : - 9919767@student.ulie
ERAS = Erasmus	
Javier Delgado or Victor Campos:	
BUS = Business	
Mark Reidy	e m a i l : - 0021407@student.ulie
Hum = Humanities	
Paul Mulvihill	e m a i l : - 0034509@student.ulie
Eng/Sci = Engineering and Science.	
Pdraig Blake	e m a i l : - 0031569@student.ulie

## Contact Details.

Eircom U21 Squad/National Universities : Martin.J.Hayes@ulie <mailto:Martin.J.Hayes@ulie>  
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 Indoor Soccer : indoorball@hotmail.com <mailto:indoorball@hotmail.com>  
 All other Inquiries : 9942203@student.ulie <mailto:9942203@student.ulie>

Visit ULFC on the Web : www.csn.ulie/~soccer

# UL GRADUATES SCORE HIGH ON THE EMPLOYMENT MARKET

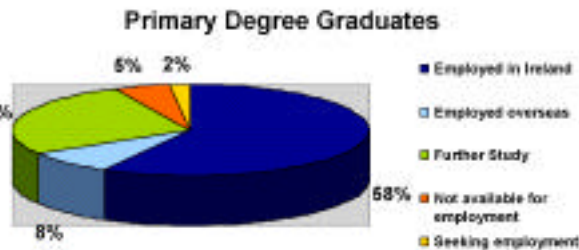
Graduates from the University of Limerick continue to enjoy an excellent employment record in all sectors of the economy. Major graduate employers deliberately target UL graduates because of their combination of intellectual abilities, personal qualities and relevant work experience. As a result, the employment rates of UL graduates are significantly higher than 27% the national average.

These findings are born out in the results of a recent survey which records the current status of more than 2,000 graduates who completed full time courses in UL during the year 2000. The main highlight of the survey results are as follows:

- Employment opportunities for UL graduates were excellent with 66% entering direct employment within a few months of graduation.
- The number of graduates working overseas fell to the lowest level recorded at 8%. This reflects the strength of the Irish economy and the quality of graduate employment opportunities at home.
- Postgraduate study continues to attract a significant percentage of graduates, 27% in 2000.
- A small number of graduates, 5%, were not available for employment, primarily because they decided to travel for some time before settling into employment.
- Very few graduates, only 2%, were seeking employment when surveyed.
- Average starting salaries continued to increase with more than 50% of the 2000 cohort earning in excess of £17,000, and 33% earning more than £19,000.
- The services sector accounted for 50% of jobs, industry accounted for 40%, and the remaining 10% were in the public sector.

UL graduates are most likely to be found in information technology and computing, electronics, and financial services sectors.

- Of those employed in Ireland, 48% are located in the Dublin area and 27% in the Mid -West.
- Of those employed overseas,



64% are in Europe and 31% in the USA.

- Demand for graduates with specialist teaching qualifications was also high and 77% of those who completed teacher education courses entered direct employment.
- Some 84% of higher degree graduates, and almost 90% of those who completed postgraduate diplomas entered direct employment. These courses have been very successful in equipping graduates with additional skills which are currently in demand.

## Summary of survey results

### Primary Degree Graduates

The overall outcome for primary degree graduates is shown in the chart below:

### Higher Degree Graduates

The status of graduates who completed Masters or PhD qualifications in 2000 is as follows:

### Postgraduate Diplomas

Almost 300 graduates completed postgraduate diploma courses in 2000.

### Teacher Education

This category includes graduates who have completed four-year degree courses which qualifies them as second-level teachers of specialist subjects.

Further information:

Mary Sweeney  
Head of Careers  
University of Limerick  
Tel: 061 202114  
Email: mary.Sweeney@ul.ie  
September 2001



**ULSU  
UGM  
Wednes  
31 October  
Week 6, 6pm  
Jean Monnet  
Theatre**

# UL CAREERS FAIR - October 30th, 2001

The Cooperative Education & Careers Division is organising a major on-campus Careers Fair on Tuesday, 30th October. This follows on from the success of a similar event which was held last year and is expected to be equally popular with over 70 companies already registered to participate. The Fair will take place in the new Sports Arena and will be open to students from 1.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. All sectors of employment will be represented so there should be something of interest for students of all disciplines.

### What's it all about?

For those of you who have never attended a Careers Fair (or Recruitment Fair), this provides you with a unique opportunity to meet with a number of employers who plan to recruit UL graduates in 2002. Some of these employers will also have immediate vacancies to fill. Representatives of these companies will describe their organisation and typical vacancies with a view to encouraging you to apply when vacancies arise.

### What companies will be present?

We will have in excess of 70 companies participating in the Fair. This will include large and small companies, local, national and international companies, representing all disciplines. What they have in common is an interest in meeting students who may be potential employees in the year 2002. The list of participating companies is as follows:

- A & L Goodbody Intel Shannon
- ACCA Intel
- Accenture ISPPC
- AIB Japan Exchange & Teaching Prog (JET)
- Airbus Kentz Group
- An Post Kerry Group Plc.
- Analog Devices Kostal Ireland GmbH
- Arthur Andersen Macalla
- Aughinish Alumina Management International, Dublin (Bank of Ber)
- B.o.I Asset Management Moog Ireland
- B.o.I Selection & Development Motorola Irl. Ltd
- B.o.I. Securities Services Ltd Musgrave Group
- Barclays Capital O' Donovan Caulfield Lavan
- BDO Simpson Xavier Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General
- Bertelsmann Distribution Financial Services Ogenek
- Civil Service Commission Openet Telecom
- Comnitel Technologies PFPC Int
- Conor Winfield Ltd. PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Coyle Hamilton Quinn Group
- Cuisine de France Russell Brennan Keane
- Dairygold Siebel Systems
- Deutsche Bank SmartForce Ireland Ltd
- Eagle Star Smurfit Irl.
- Eircell 2000 Solectron
- Enterprise Rent-a-Car State Street Bank, Luxembourg
- Ernst & Young Stratus Technologies
- Ireland Ltd
- Esat Business Sunbeam House Services

- FAS Graduate Programme The College of Law
- FBD Holdings Plc. The HW Wilson Company
- Garrett Engineer Boosting Systems (Honeywell)
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants
- Glanbia plc. Traventec
- Grant Thornton United Healthcare
- GTI VHI Healthcare
- Guidant Ireland V.S.O.
- Hobsons plc Woodgrange (Careers World)
- IBEC Xilinx Ireland

### Why should you attend?

The UL Careers Fair gives you the opportunity to

- Make personal contact with leading graduate employers in many sectors of industry and commerce;
- Get expert advice on what a career with a particular company might involve and how you can get the job you want;
- Collect company literature and information to help you compare companies;
- Determine which organisation you would like to join.

### Be Prepared!

To make the best of this opportunity you will need to be prepared. Few employers will offer you a job on the spot but if you make the right

- impression this will be to your advantage at the interview stage. Here are some tips to help you on the day:
- fi Do some research on companies you want to see. Read the company entries in this publication carefully and check the company websites.
- fi For help in preparing a CV, attend the seminar on 'Making Effective Applications' on October 22nd.
- fi Attend the seminar on 'Making the most of the Careers Fair' on October 23rd. if Have your CV checked at the CV Clinic on October 24th.
- fi Take along several copies of your CV to leave with employers.
- fi Make note of the names of any contacts you make on the day.
- fi Think about your strengths and skills and be able to tell an employer what you have to offer.
- fi Think about what questions you want to ask them: What vacancies do they have? What are their requirements? What training opportunities do they offer?
- fi Be sure to visit the less

well-known organisations also as they often have very challenging opportunities to offer.

### In summary:

The UL Careers Fair is an ideal opportunity to make contact with a significant number of employers who have real jobs to offer. By preparing for the event, you stand a better chance of using the time and opportunity effectively. Know what you want from the fair; know what you have to offer, and be prepared to consider everything. This is your chance to make some useful contacts and see what opportunities are out there.....SO DON'T MISS OUT!

### Further Details:


Details of the participating companies are included in Careers by Degrees 2002 which is available from the Careers Service. This document can also be downloaded from the Careers website at: <http://www.ul.ie/careers/jobs.html#gradopps>. The website addresses of individual companies are provided.

Any queries can be directed to Mary Sweeney, Head of Careers, Cooperative Education & Careers Division, at: [mary.sweeney@ul.ie](mailto:mary.sweeney@ul.ie).

Week 4  
 Mon 15<sup>th</sup> "Wired" "Play Music Sing"  
 Tue 16<sup>th</sup> "Monthly Oldies" (D.J. Aidan)  
 Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Noel McLoughlin @9.30pm  
 Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> @8pm D.J. @10pm "Fashion" (Pop and Crib)  
 Fri 19<sup>th</sup> "Party Disco Night"

Week 5  
 Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> "Wired"  
 Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> "Monthly Oldies" (D.J. Aidan)  
 Wed 24<sup>th</sup> "D.J."  
 Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> "Blue Monday" (T.B.C.) And D.J.  
 Fri 26<sup>th</sup> "Party Disco Night"


This year happening on Thursday 10h Nov.  
 It's a "Fancy Dress" with great prizes for the best dressed, we will also have a Group Prize for the best group (Last year it was won by a group of equine students.) A group must be at least 12 people; it can be a class, Club, Society or just a group of friends.



At Last Years Halloween Party



Noel McLoughlin



For More and Lots of photos to download [www.stablesclub.com](http://www.stablesclub.com)

The Stables Halloween Party  
 A Great success last year (See [www.stablesclub.com](http://www.stablesclub.com) for photos)

# ANCIENT GREECE TO GREEK WEEK

In the last edition, we were exposed to the way of life of the Ancient Greeks. It was the first in a series of stepping-stones, unleashing the phenomenon of "Greek Week," a very special event for the university which takes place in week seven of this semester.

The most significant and perhaps the most enduring feature of ancient Greek activity was the Olympic games, which first took place in 776BC. Many centuries later, the university is holding its very own Ulympics. This probably will not include chariot racing and wrestling, synonymous with the ancient style, but will share the same emphasis of fitness, stamina, and bravery (and a bit of fun too.) Amongst other things, the Ulympics will include an opening ceremony, celebrity charity walk, and the Water polo Club doing a 24hour swimathon.

The UL Kayak club will show how they and others commandeer the Shannon (in the same way as the oars men of Athens, in their warships,

once controlled the seas.) A descent of six miles will take them from Annacotty to the Back Weir Bridge.

The people of the Polis had a passion for the trade spices and enjoyed a variety of food and wine which the international society's Food Fair will encapsulate. -A delightful taste of food from around the world of traditional and contemporary styles. Food was only produced to requirement, there was little surplus in the polis and people learnt the trades and skills of their parents. Elements of such will be marked by the Environmental Society's Green Fare, bringing together trade and hand crafts, small scale fruit and vegetable producers, natural remedies and a lot more.

In keeping with the ancient engagement of politics, law and, of course, debate, the UL Debating Union will be holding a series of debates on topical issues and in the process hop to solve the world's problems! The UL History Society is attempting a world record by collecting the largest collection of Limericks, one achievement of this will be to highlight the historical connection between the county and city of Limerick and the five line poem of the same name. The Computer Society is holding a 'retro games' and will be playing all the classics. The Ancient Greeks had a passion for history and creativity.

Underpinning their successes, though was their sense of community, living in small numbers; every person had a role to

play. As such, the welfare office have arranged a number of events highlighting the important aspects of society, such as awareness to drugs/alcohol, illness and healthy diets. Their most ambitious event, which every student came contribute to, is the blood donations. In association with the Irish Blood Transfusion Board, they hope to collect enough blood (in drives throughout the week) to break the Irish record. The Arts Office will be putting on a play which will reflect on matters of discrimination be it sexual, race etc. Although as a community we have a long way to go toward stamping out discriminations, we could teach the ancient Greeks a thing or two, as they relied on slaves and did not recognise women or foreign people as citizens!

Just like the Ancient Greeks, we have to take time off from battles, labour, and philosophy. No better way than with entertainment, they loved music and theatre. We are not that different; there will be comedy by Jason Byrne, a celebrate table quiz, and a welfare ball You can also see life-size chess, a Mardi-Gras parade in full, unlimited flamboyance and colour, and many more fantastic displays and events to experience.

So you see now that only the passage of time separates our college life activity to that of the ancient Greek polis... sort of, in a round about kind of way!

So here's to GREEK WEEK, a celebration of healthy body, healthy mind.

Look out for advertising and a full time table of events in the next issue.

by Katherine Harford

## The Departure and Unusual Journey of the Apostrophe

Oh the torment and the abuse  
The decades of misuse  
Have left you limp and broken.

Possession and abbreviations  
Were once your only stations  
In this odd language of ours.

But now when people compose  
Their headlines, posters and prose  
They misplamt you everywhere.

When we pluralise a basic noun  
A misplaced 'postrophe will be found  
So subtle yet so obvious.

Your overwork is quite undue  
Alas, what is there for you to do  
But leave us to join another language.

You'll say farewell before you embark  
To the colon, comma and question mark  
And into the sunset you will journey.

And when you wander near and far  
Those who meet you will find it bizarre  
An apostrophe travelling alone!

You'll encounter many a lonesome night  
You'll overcome hardship, distress, and plight  
As you bravely battle against the odds.

And when you've lost all but your merry mirth  
Afar in some strange corner of the earth  
A welcoming language you will discover.

And forever there you will remain  
Free of overwork, hardship and pain  
Among those who appreciate your worth.

And as for us English speaking fools.  
Who disobeyed your simple rules  
We must live without your pleasant charm.

Fintan Tuohy - Fourth Year.

## UL Computer Society

Hello and belated welcome back from the Computer Society, aka The SkyNet Project. We're going to take this opportunity to let you all know what has been going on in the SkyNet room (and it's all good, we swear!) and what we're planning next.

First things first. Sun Microsystems, one of the worlds leading hardware developers, have donated a very powerful E450 Enterprise Servers to The SkyNet Project. This beast of a machine is the computer equivalent of a

Tank compared to the average bicycle you find in the computer labs and is one of the most powerful computers in UL. SkyNet would like to take this opportunity to heartily thank Sun Microsystems for its massively generous donation and looks forward to strengthening their ties with the company. This will give our members a unique opportu-

nity to use a server which normally runs entire business worldwide and gives them an experience which is invaluable for their future careers.

These range from your own "@skynet.ie" e-mail address, space for your webpage and CD burning to forums for discussing technology. Plans are in progress to run workshops that will familiarise users with the system and our many services. Watch the notice boards and this space for details of where we will be at.

On Wednesday 3rd October, the SkyNet AGM was held. Various matters were discussed, mainly the society's plans for various events during the coming year, especially plans for Greek Week. Our first event starting this week will be a "Design the T-Shirt" competition, the winner of which will have their design printed on a

run of SkyNet's T-Shirts, their own T-Shirt free and another nifty gadget! The idea is to make a design with the societies shark logo, computers or the society itself as a theme. So for those that fancy themselves with an ounce of creative flair, see <http://www.csn.ul.ie/competition> for details and posters will appear over time.

Congratulations are also due to the brave souls who have taken on committee positions this year. Particular congratulations go to Mel Gorman, who was elected president. Remember that the SkyNet room in the Student's Union building is open every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm (at the top of the stairs, in the Union turn left). If you have any problems, want to say hello, or just plain want to join, you're welcome to call in. You can also get information on signing up by mailing [accounts@skynet.ie](mailto:accounts@skynet.ie) or [visiting http://www.csn.ul.ie/membership.html](http://www.csn.ul.ie/membership.html) (we are a computer society, after all). See you soon!

# Got Problems? - Barry and Karen can help!



Dear Barry and Karen,

I am having a load trouble with my girlfriend at the moment. Now don't get me wrong, I really like her, I mean we've even moved in together, but I'm not comfortable with some of the stuff she goes on with. She is obsessed with Ewan McGregor. She's been to see Moulin Rouge 17 times, she owns every film he's ever been in on video and DVD and her entire room is covered from wall to wall with posters and clippings of him. She even has 'Ewan's girl' tattooed on her arse. Now I could get past all this if she didn't make me talk in a Scottish accent when we're having sex. She's not interested unless I scream out things like "Aye, aye, aye, that's a good lassie!" and she makes me call my lad a lightsabre! Not to mention the fact that I have to wear a paper bag over my head with a picture of his face stuck to the front of it. What the bloody hell am I going to do? I want to stay with her, but this getting to be a bit too much.

Confused

Dear Confused,

Come on, get yourself together! There's no way any man should have to put up with this rubbish, no matter how great a person she is or how great a shag she is. I recommend that you get all your stuff out of the house first (no greater fury than a woman scorned and all that). After you've drawn hilarious marker pen moustaches on all her pics of McGregor, put a poster of him on her bed, cut a whole in the crotch area and stick a dildo through it. Leave a note saying, "You wanted Ewan McGregor and you have him. This is your life from now on bitch!" If you think that's too nasty, forget about the note.

Dear Karen and Barry  
When I was surfing the net a few months ago, and I met the most wonderful guy in the world. We got on like a house on fire, and emailed each other every day. He

sent me his picture too and he looks just like Brad Pitt! I was so happy when he emailed me last week to say he wants to marry me! The only problem is that he lives in America. He says he'll fly to Limerick to marry me, but that I should post him £5000 first so he's assured of my intentions. And the funny thing is that he wants me to mail the money to a friend of his in Galway because he says that the American customs office would seize the money if I sent it right to him. Should I send him cash or a postal order?

Westlife fan  
Dear Westlife fan,  
You should send a postal order, of course. Never send cash through the post; it's not safe!

Dear Karen and Barry,

Hi, this is Autilla again. I want to thank you for helping me find beautiful. She is pretty and stupid and makes good goulash. I have one small thing...the sex is great, I mean, I is great at the sex...but eh...I need to sleep at least once a week. I think she is trying to kill me...if I don't arrive at my first exam in January, you know what has happened. I need ways to be less attractive or a shop where I can buy a leash to keep her back.

Yours, Autilla.

Dear Autilla,

So, let me get this straight. I sort out your problems for you and now you're complaining that your new woman is too much for you? What do I look like someone who listens to everyone's ridiculous problems? You obviously aren't man enough to handle this her, so either grow a pair of balls and deal with it or hit the road. Jack.

Dear Karen and Barry,

I have been going out with my girlfriend for over a year and we are getting on really well. I mean it, she is my best friend, the sex is fantastic and although that is so important, one small...let's say "personal characteristic" is making my life a misery.

I like my food, I was on co-op in Mexico and got a taste for the local cuisine, the only problem is, the food tends to

disagree with me. Picture the scene: all snuggled up, après shag, and all smiles and kisses, when the surge in my gut begins - I do my best, I clench and lie on my side, but come on, I'm dealing with a force of nature here. YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND: I can't just get up and leave - that would just be rude!, so I try to purge the pain, so to speak, and carry out a casual release, perhaps coughing to coincide with said emission.

I only wish it was that easy, the last time I made dinner, I made XXXtra hot chilli, and I tried the above, everything was going fine until the fire started and the sheets got destroyed. She was not a happy camper to say the least, and is not speaking to me as a result. We are on a "Sex break", (not to mention mexican...) I can't even touch my stash of tortillas or salsa - I'M DYIN' OVER HERE!

Please advise soon cos I just can't decide between the hot and spicy luvvin, or the hot and spicy grub,

Windy of Castletroy.

Dear Windy,  
Why decide between two things you love? Choose both! Include your girlfriend in your new spicy activities as she quite possibly feels threatened or left out. Try having fart lighting contests or seeing who can eat the most without being violently sick.

Hi, Barry here. Now I wouldn't normally put things like this in the column, but someone has abducted my cactus, Spikey Joe. There was a note left on my windowsill saying that he left me, but I know it's a forgery as it was signed by "Cactus" instead of his real name. Please, if anyone out there has any information, email me at adviceanfocal@hotmail.com. Oh yeah, you can email problems to Karen and I at that address as well. I have to go now, I have something in my eye....

## An Focal

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# Medical Centre in the process of being extended

The University of Limerick Medical Centre... the beating heart of students' well being... both physical and mental on UL campus. Each year the Medical Centre has a turnover of about 10,000 students. In effect, a visit per student from first to fourth year, post-grads and masters. An ominous and intimidating task for the staff. And too much traffic for the previously reputed inadequate Medical Centre.

Happily that past tense statement has been made redundant. The former Student Enterprise Centre is currently a building site with aspirations towards becoming an extension to the old Medical Centre, adding much needed office-space and waiting facilities.

The extension shake-up all began in Semester 2 of the Academic Year 2000/01. Consecutive SU representatives had topped their "To-Do" lists with "Medical-Centre Overhaul" for several decades, becoming for many reps and queuing patients alike, a heinous task badly needing to be done. It was a surprise therefore, not only to the SU but also to the entire student body, when the University's Governing Authority agreed to an initiative tabled by Mick Phelan, SU president, that the Medical Centre be extended and improved. The agreement was seen as a move made by the university to address the inharmonious relationship between the university administration and the student body. A positive move in the right direction.

Construction, of what is quite an expansive project, is currently underway on the mezzanine level of Block C of the main building. But by all accounts, an expansive project is exactly what was called for...just ask the queuing influenza patients! It is expected that the added space will improve on the cramped conditions that staff and students alike are occupying at the moment. Said Mick Phelan SU president, "The university is now obliged to provide proper facilities for students who are the most important and largest part of the campus community".



However the changes on the cards are more structural than staffing. The majority of the work of the Medical Centre will remain in the hands of the centre's 2 full time nurses with clinics from 9 - 5, a sessional physiotherapist, a psychiatrist, Dr. Peter Kirwan and the centre's doctors, Dr. Annette Hunter and Dr. Niall Cahill (Medical Director). However when asked as to whether the Medical Centre was understaffed and under funded, Dr. Cahill insisted that; "The big issue is meeting demand" and that medical services cannot always be improved by throwing money at them, but by the manner in which the said capital is employed. "We would like to expand our services," stated Dr. Cahill. This aspiration is born of the reality of the extra space now available to the team bringing them to consider joint projects

However when asked as to whether the Medical Centre was understaffed and under funded, Dr. Cahill insisted that; "The big issue is meeting demand"

with the M.W.H.B. such as an Alcohol Awareness Programme. Dr. Cahill also said that the centre has plans to take a theme week to inform on issues such as sexual health and smoking. With the new conference room available to the staff for meetings with outside health representatives, it is also expected to double as a health information library for the student body. The doctors in the centre hope to have more consulting time, therefore providing a wider range of services such as advice and help for crisis pregnancies, I.C.S.P and for the more complex patients with a tapestry of problems, both mental and physical. The centre was due to open on the 8th of October but complications due to wheelchair facilities has put work back to roughly the beginning of next month.

It's obvious on paper that plans for a more efficient Medical Centre are on the cards. However, what one must ask is, how much more efficient will the Med. Centre be? And can the problems of queues really be solved as long as the staff in the centre are reduced to using a filing system that came into being in the 1920's? U.L.'s beating heart is under the knife alright but will the operation make our ticker beat any faster? Watch this space!



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**WEEK 4**

- MON** Smirnoff Ice Request Night - **John Frawley**
- TUES** DJ Eric Fitz in the Bar plus Murphys Comedy Club - **Adam Hills**
- WED** Heineken Kollege Energy Live "Sutras"
- THUR** Student Party Night - **DJ John Kelly**
- FRI** Party Night - Comp Finger Food Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm
- SUN** Heineken Breakfast Club

**WEEK 5**

- MON** Smirnoff Ice Request Night - **John Frawley**
- TUES** DJ Eric Fitz in the Bar plus Murphys Comedy Club - **Paddy Courtney**
- WED** Heineken Kollege Energy Live "Dennis McCalmot"
- THUR** Student Party Night - **DJ John Kelly**
- FRI** Party Night - Comp Finger Food Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm
- SUN** Heineken Breakfast Club Happy Hour 9pm - 10pm

Champions League Listings etc. on [www.scholarsclub.ie](http://www.scholarsclub.ie)

Wed oct 17th  
**Alabama 3**  
doors: 8pm tickets: €12.50

Sat oct 20th  
**Killa**  
doors: 9pm tickets: €8 students: €8

Wed oct 24th  
**The Czars**  
doors: 8pm tickets: €8

Thurs oct 28th  
**Denis Mc Calmont & Band**  
doors: 8pm tickets: €8

Sat oct 27th  
**The Blind Boys of Alabama**  
doors: 8pm tickets: €10

Tuesday nights: Students Only  
Live Band followed by club doors: 9pm students: €8

Thursday nights: Soul Clinic doors: 12am tickets: €7 students: €8

Friday nights: **Comedy Club** doors: 8pm tickets: €8  
**Audio** doors: 12am tickets: €8

Coming in November: The Devlins, The Saw Doctors, The Proclaimers, Ron Sexsmith and much more....

Tickets available in advance from: Dolan's Pub, 3/4 Duck Rd, Limerick  
061-314483 / info@dolanapub.com / www.dolanapub.com