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# An Focal

The Official ULSU Newspaper



www.ulsu.ul.ie

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Edition 12  
Semester 2



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# Summer Exams Not to be Graded?

-Patrick Kennedy

Though the headline may seem a little sensationalist yet this story was first covered in the Christmas edition of An Focal. The basic background to this story is that in June 2000 the Governing Body of the University of Limerick agreed to a system of promotion with the staff union, MSF. This made provision that only 20% of promotions to the position of Senior Lecturer would be filled by external applicants.

According to a press release from the academic section AMICUS (formerly MSF) the agreement meant that there would be 52 internal promotions since the June 2000 meeting. Instead of this there have been just five. Clearly unhappy with this, MSF intended taking industrial action at the beginning of the year. However the Labour Relations

Commission intervened and asked Governing authority to make a written proposal by March 7th. The proposal submitted made provision for 10 promotional posts in each of the Academic years 2002 and 2003. In further meetings with the University management it was revealed that there would be four positions advertised externally over the same period of time. This then meant that there would be only 16 internal promotions during these years.

AMICUS claim that accepting this would mean that 47 internal promotional opportunities would be lost (for more details of this see the AMICUS press release on page 6). In the December issue of An Focal Kevin Ryan VPA claimed that some of the positions that AMICUS refer to were allocated previous to

the June 2000 agreement. It seems there may still be some misunderstanding between management and staff as to the numbers agreed to at the June 2000 meeting.

Now the students of the University will begin to suffer due to the failure of the University and the Staff to settle their differences in an amicable manner. During the coming week AMICUS will conduct a secret ballot on the motion *"The Academic Section members will withhold grades for assessments for all modules for Semester 2, AY2001/2 until the issue of the breaches of the promotion policy is resolved to the satisfaction of the membership."*

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## O' Broin Elected President of ULSU

-Claire Shaughnessy

With anticipation high over the outcome of this year's ULSU Alumni elections the prominent Environmental Society member, Éoin O' Broin emerged triumphant last Wednesday in a landslide victory as the next President of the Students Union. His campaign, both flamboyant and confident, scooped a massive 1302 votes out of a total valid poll of just 1807. The turnout for the election, though down on last year, indicated a concentrated interest on the presidential vote with a slight but significant minority choosing to use only one vote, the vote for president, out of a potential four.

The position of Deputy President and Welfare Officer saw a tightly-ran race between Grainne Heffron and Gemma

Nolan with a difference of just 146 votes deciding the result in favour of Heffron.

However another landslide victory was in store for the post of Campaigns and

## ULSU wins Website Award

-Edel Fitzgerald

Twenty students from UL embarked on a major night in Dublin on Wednesday of Week 10, when they attended the Oxygen Media Awards 2002 in Vicar St., Dublin. Despite being short-listed for two honourable awards, it was with amazement

that Paddy Buckley, the next Campaigns and Communications Officer (CCO), and Patrick Kennedy, the current CCO, claimed the prize for Best Website for the ULSU website.

This was the first media award of its type given to ULSU and was well deserved after the hard work done by Paddy Buckley, computer wizard and Mick Phelan, SU President. Speaking afterwards, Paddy said he was astonished but thrilled. "It was unexpected but I'm really delighted the website got the recognition it deserved. I'd also like to pay special credit to Mick Phelan for his enthusiasm and hard work on the website."



Paddy Buckley and Patrick Kennedy collecting the O2 award from O2's Mark Lee

Contd on page 2

Contd on page 2

## ULSU Website wins O2 Award (contd. from page 1)

O2, the mobile phone company, sponsored the night and they were constantly being plugged throughout the night. Vicar St was filled to capacity on the night in question, with representatives from all colleges nominated, namely UCD, TCD, University of Ulster, Ballyfermot College, NUIG, GMIT, UCC NUI Maynooth, and of course UL. The host for the evening was Brendan O'Connor, formerly of Don't Feed The Gondolas and presently writing in the Sunday Independent. Brendan played up to his public role on the night, entertaining the crowd with his wit and smart-ass jokes. There were fourteen judges in total, each having ample experience in media activity. All were well-known and included Colin Murphy of RTE's Blizzard of Odd, Myles Dungan and Rachel English of RTE Radio, Michael Ross, editor of The Sunday Times and Gerry Mc Govern, author and internet consultant.

An Focal was also short-listed for Most Improved Publication or Production. Since Patrick Kennedy undertook the challenge of CCO 2001/2002, there has been a major improvement in the quality of the newspaper and this was recognised by the judges. Despite entries flooding in from just about every college in the country, An Focal was one of four nominees short-listed for this award. UCD's College Tribune and two of the Trinity publications, The University Record and Icarus, were the other nominees. It was an achievement to just be placed in the same category as them. It was an indication of the positive improvements made, and these were all well received by the judging panel.

After last year's dominance by Trinity College, this year it was UCD's turn. Their two publications, University Observer and the College Tribune, were nominated for no less than twenty awards, often in the same category. The two most prestigious awards of the night, Best Newspaper and Best Media College, were both one by UCD. The O2 Award, an award for outstanding achievement in student media, went to Icarus of Trinity College. Ballyfermot College won Best Film Script for their creation, "Billy Baker and the Tooth Fairy" and Cork Campus Radio won Best Radio Production for "Get That Monster Off The Stage". Best Editor went to Daniel Mc Connell and Best News Reporter went to Enda Curran, both from UCD's University Observer.

UCD's Editor of the University newspaper, Daniel McConnell highlighted an impor-

## O'Broin Elected President (contd. from page 1)

Communication Officer. With a clearance of almost a thousand votes Patrick Buckley will succeed the current CCO Patrick Kennedy in the position and also as editor of An Focal. In a week of unprecedented achievement Buckley also collected a prestigious Oxygen Media Award, at a ceremony in Dublin, for his involvement in the ULSU website.

Poor turnout resulted in a separate referendum vote, cast on the same day as the Alumni elections being disallowed. The referendum proposed that changes to the ULSU constitution should only be made by referendum. However it is necessary for 20% of the student body to vote in a referendum if the result is to be upheld. As there was a turnout of less than 2000 students on this occasion, it therefore rendered the outcome invalid.

tant point when he accepted his award: "Every student newspaper or publication

today is under-funded", he said. Receiving cheers of agreement from those assembled, he proclaimed, "Give us the power, give us the investment. Give us the money now!" Everyone appeared to agree and it was noted by many as one of the most important statements of the night, especially considering representatives of the sponsors were present.

Speaking later both Brendan O'Connor and Colin Murphy paid tribute to UL and the Student's Union for putting in an extra effort this year. Both hoped it would encourage more UL students to get involved in writing for the college newspaper and they are hoping for even better results next year. Brendan also spoke of the importance of UL winning. Being from Cork himself he said "it's great to see someone from outside Dublin getting something".

Considering UL was the only college outside of Dublin to receive an award besides Cork Campus Radio, it was a real achievement for both UL and for the Student's Union to gain recognition in a ceremony shadowed over by Dublin colleges. The future editor of An Focal, Paddy Buckley, confidently spoke of his hopes for next year's ceremony when he proclaimed, "we're going to be even better!"

# Taoiseach officially opens University Arena

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern officially opened the University Arena on Thursday, the 11th of April as jazz music played and a crowd of over six hundred looked on.

President of the University, Roger Downer, opened the ceremony saying he was proud UL had, "the finest sports facility in the land." Downer said, "the arena and national 50 metre swimming pool is part of our

strong institutional commitment to sport, recreation, health therapies, physical therapies and physical education areas that are vital to the reduction of health costs and the promotion of a fitter, healthier Ireland."

After Downer's speech, Bertie Ahern began by applauding UL on, "its vision, creativity and dedication," that culminated in the arena. Ahern said, "I think that all of us here can agree that the national 50 metre swimming pool is something that the University of Limerick, Limerick city and Ireland can be very proud of."

The Taoiseach further complemented UL on its close ties to industry and training of its students

in co-operative education as well as highlighting UL's unique ability to adapt and change with the times. "It is right too that a top class University should have access to the top class facilities to meet the sporting and recreational needs of the student body on campus," said Ahern.

Chancellor of the University, Dr. Miriam Hederman O'Brien, expressed the desire that the University Arena "will benefit the lives of generations to come, thereby greatly enhancing the lives of not just our stu-

dents, but in turn the whole community."

President Downer congratulated UL sportspeople for their many successes across the board, in hurling, camogie, men and women's soccer, indoor and outdoor athletic champions and also mentioned the success of UL Bohs Rugby, who were promoted to the AIL First Division. He further expressed the hope that the arena would aid these and other sports clubs and persons to excel and succeed.

The Arena cost 28 million Euro in total, with 7.6 million coming from Government grant assistance, philanthropic gifts by donors to the tune of 6.9 million Euro, 4 million Euro from Students of

the University and significant commercial funding.

To mark the official opening of the University Arena, the special 4 x 50 metre relay swimming races were held. Irish Olympic swimmer Chantelle Gibney took part in the event and former Olympic swimmer Gary O'Toole was running the show.

An enjoyable day was had by all and even the threat of rain didn't hamper the buoyant mood as all those who had worked so hard in bringing the University Arena to reality got their day in the sun. For those who are more academically or socially minded than sporty its worth checking out the outstanding facilities of the Arena, its numerous classes, extensive gymnasium, 50-metre pool, wood sprung floor courts and much, much more. You never know, it could be just the incentive you need!

-Laura Greer



Bertie Ahern present at the Arena Opening

# UL Students Demand Weekend Vote

University of Limerick students appealed to Taoiseach Bertie Ahern for a weekend vote in the forthcoming General Election as he attended the campus for the official opening of the University Arena on the 11th of April.

Students sought assurances from Ahern that another mid-week vote would be avoided so that thousands of students across the country would be able to travel home and vote. "I think we should choose a day when everybody can vote," said Ahern.

When asked by Bernadette Sexton, one of the protest organisers what exactly he planned to do, Ahern said he was still looking into the issue. He did, however, state that Sundays were out due to possible protests by religious groups and Saturdays wouldn't work for those in the cities. He said he is now strongly considering a Friday.

Students held up banners reading slogans such as, 'no voice, no choice,' and, 'peace prosperity, hypocrisy'. Some went so far as to tape their mouths in protest at their frustration over the inability to express their opinions at the ballot box due to timing of elections and referenda. President of the University, Roger Downer supported the students in their appeal for weekend voting, and thought they came across very well. "I don't think anyone can object if you make a point in a dignified manner and withdraw," said Downer.

Author Frank Mc Court, who attended the opening,

said of the protest, "there's a time for the University and a time for politics,". He did, however agree with the point students were trying to highlight and said, "I think they should make it as easy as possible for everybody to vote."

Bishop Michael Mayes agreed that the general election should be held on a weekend. "A lot of countries have voting on Sundays. This is a good idea as it enables people to go home and vote." The Bishop had no personal objection to an election being held on a Sunday.

The protest was organized by The Irish Peace Society, Members of Young Fine Gael and Labour Youth with over a hundred students attended.

Third Year, David Garrahy explained, "we're not being facilitated to make our point in the ballot box so we have to do it this way." Another concerned student, Cal Barrett explained, "we're protesting because it's not right that 40 to 50 thousand students didn't get a chance to vote in the abortion referendum and we're facing into a general election that may be a weekday again."

Guard, Mic Kilroy said that he had had no problems with the protestors and found them very co-operative. "They had a point to make and they made it and that's all," said Kilroy.

One of the organisers, Elaine Byrne was pleased with how the protest had gone although she said, "Friday is still a weekday, its not good enough." Eoin O' Broin said he was pleased that; "students were taking action on student issues and thanked those that supported the appeal."

The protest, however failed to get nationwide publicity and one of Ahern's aides asked RTE not to get footage of the protest. The nation-

al newspapers also declined to pick up the story. Inside the pressroom, Ahern seemed ambiguous on the issue of a Friday vote when he said most students probably wouldn't turn up on a Friday anyway. Katherine Harford, a member of UL's Labour Youth was sceptical at the reality of a Friday vote, saying,



A section of the crowd protesting during the Arena Opening

"Ahern gives people answers they want to hear. He'll go back behind closed doors and nothing will come of it, because it's not in Fianna Fail's interests to give students a franchise, as there would be a totally different outcome."

Those protesting clearly expressed their desire to vote and some were visibly annoyed. "I think it's a disgrace that Bertie Ahern is coming here to a student campus, yet the government of the day continues to disregard through their most basic right and that is voting," said Harford. These strong feelings follow on from the 5,000 student postcards from Trinity College and DCU that were put through the letterbox of Government Buildings in the past two weeks calling on Ahern to hold an election on a weekend.

Student demonstrations against a midweek general election and letters to the government appealing for a weekend vote seem to contradict the recently published National Youth Council poll which showed only 50 percent of Irish 19-24 year olds intend to vote in the next election. With the level of student interest at present the statistics for actual student voting should be far higher. That is, if the students are able to get to the polls.

-Laura Greer



# Outreach Society preparing for Thailand Trek in aid of Charity

Eight U.L Students are set to trek through the Thailand Jungle from the 5th to the 15th June in aid of the Meningitis Research Foundation.

The aim of the Meningitis Research Foundation is to try and prevent death and disability resulting from meningitis and septicaemia by promoting awareness of these diseases. This foundation also funds scientific research into the detection, treatment and prevention of this disease, of which Ireland has the highest number of cases in Europe.



These eight brave U.L students from the Outreach Society,



Eamonn Flynn, Stephen Driver, Cait Mulcahy, Grainne Hefferon, Eimear Nevin, Amanda Lordan, Tara Curley, Welfare Officer and Mick Phelan, Students Union President, have set a fundraising target of 38,000 in aid of the this foundation.

Since January they have managed to raise a total of 26,000 from a number of fundraising activities, including flag days, table quizzes and raffles.



Bigger events include a race night in the South Court Hotel, which raised 7,000, and a non-uniform day held by schools in the Limerick area. Some of the money raised during rag week from bungee jumping, the slave auction, bucket collections and the jump-

ing castle were contributed to this charity as well. Roger Downer UL President has also given sponsorship to the fund. They now have only 12,000 to raise and are holding a mystery tour on the Thursday of week 12 followed by a race night in the Stables that Friday and a corporate ball on the 25th May with tickets at 60 to try and reach their target.

They will then set off to the Thailand Jungle for 15 days in aid of this charity. They will walk 40km daily during their ten-day trip in the Kanchanaburi province, which will include climbing Mount Khao Laem, and staying in villages built of bamboo. They have already started physical training on a walk from Ennis to Limerick, which is roughly the same distance they will walk daily on their jungle trek.

They hope this trip and their fundraising activities will raise much needed financial resources for the meningitis research foundation.

-Sinead Kelleher

# Hello from your Sabbatical Officers

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



Ollscoil Luimnigh

## Mick Phelan - ULSU President



### Elections

Congratulations to all those who took part in the elections during week 9.

Special congrats to the successful candidates

Eoin O'Broin – President

Gráinne Hefferon – Deputy President – Welfare

Margaret Ryan – Education Officer

Paddy Buckley – Communications & Campaigns Officer

I hope they all enjoy their year as much as I have and get some results.

As the total number of people who registered to vote was below the 20% of the number of registered students in UL, the Referendum was not quorate

### Student Media Awards

The ULSU were nominated for 2 awards at this years Oxygen Student Media Awards in Vicar St, Dublin last Wednesday Night. We were nominated for

Best Website of the Year

Most Improved publication for An Focal

It's great that the ULSU walked away with an award, one that is close to my heart as I spent 2 week designing the website in January of 2001, with the help of the incoming CCO, Paddy Buckley. Also congrats to PK, this years CCO for bringing on the paper to within a cats whisker of an Award.

### Summer Grades being withheld

The Academic section of the staff Union within the college - MSF voted to hold a ballot next Thursday

"The Academic Section members will withhold the grades

for assessment for all modules for Semester 2, AY2001/2002 until the issue of the breaches of the promotion policy is resolved to the satisfaction of the membership."

It is imperative that the University Management does not allow this action to occur, as the wide range of knock on effects for students could be disastrous. Tom and myself will be working on this over the next few weeks and will keep you all posted.

### Governing Authority Presentation

I will be making a presentation to the Governing Authority this Tuesday on the current position of the ULSU. I will be including all aspects of the ULSU, the Clubs & Societies, Class Reps, the two companies of the ULSU and various other aspects. I will also making a similar presentation to the PCC Board of Directors.

### University Arena

The University Arena was officially opened by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern on April 11th. There was also a protest held by a group of students backed by the ULSU Executive in relation to voting at the weekend instead on the week. All involved were a credit to the protest and it is my opinion that due to the fact that the protest was held in such a dignified manor, that the point was deliver more effectively.

Mick

## Tara Curley- ULSU Welfare Officer Deputy President



### How's it going all?

So has the fear of exams started to kick in yet?? If not, why not, there is only 5 weeks until its all over for another year. There still is enough time for those of you who enjoyed a good year of Jenny Jones and the couch for the afternoons. If anyone is having serious problems motivating themselves after the semester, please don't hesitate to call in, or call up to one of the counselors who have some very good tips on time management and exam preparation. Either way the best of luck with the studying over the next few weeks. It will pay of, honest.

### Nite link

Speaking of studying and working late in the library, just remember the Nitelink service is always there, so please please don't walk home alone. The bus leaves every half an hour up until 10.30pm from outside the stables and after that every half and hour from outside the Library. The service is free, so please use it.

### Personal Alarms

The Personal Alarms are still available from the shop, they are small, cheap and a great comfort to have if you are walking anywhere alone.

### Financial Aid

Financial Aid is getting a little bit of reshuffling, but don't worry it won't affect your loans or applying for one. The fund will be frozen for the month of June (its always closed for the summer anyhow). From next year, there will be a information booklet available on financial aid, how to apply etc. As a lot of rumours seem to be going around about the fund, such as you can get as much as you want ( if that was the case I would have been loaded in college) For now, the fund will still function as normal,

Monday's 11am – 1pm

### Duck Race

It really restores my faith in students, when a random student walks into my office and says he is raising €3000 for Raleigh International, off his own back. It is great to see, despite FYP's and projects people still have a good cause at heart. So please support him, you might have noticed the big duck wandering around the place last week!! That's because there is a DUCK RACE on Thursday evening wk 11 at 7.00pm on the river in front of Plassey house. There still are ducks for sale, they only cost €2 and the first prize if your duck wins is €500, there are also prizes for the best named ducks.

It's a good cause, so please support it, and if anyone would like to get involved in any charity work, please get in touch as there is always enough to go around!!

### Mystery Tour

The Mystery tour is on Thursday of wk11, it's the last chance before exams, to have a really good night on the tear, the destination is unknown but if your up for a laugh this is for you, so round up all your class mates and have one last night out!!

Tickets are available from the SU reception, places are limited so get them fast

I think that's about it from me for this week, just remember if you have an questions about exams, I grades, life in general just give me a shout

Tara

## Patrick Kennedy- ULSU Communications and Campaigns Officer



Hi everyone,

I trust that you've all been keeping well and have recovered from a severe Kollege Week followed by the Sabbatical Elections (we won't say that you're gearing up for the exams until the next edition so you can have a little respite at least!).

Congratulations to Eoin, Grainne, Paddy and Mags on their respective victories and hard luck to John and Gemma. All candidates should be commended for the campaigns that they conducted. I hope that you all enjoy whatever the future holds for you.

The big news this week is that www.ulsu.ul.ie won the O2 (the new name for ESAT Digifone) sponsored award for Student Website of the Year. The adjudicators cited the information that the webpage provides to UL students as most impressive and an excellent service for anyone attending the University of Limerick.

An Focal was shortlisted for Improved Publication/Production of the Year. Alas, we lost out to the College Tribune from UCD, though the adjudicators said that this particular category was very hard to pick a winner from. The fact that we even got shortlisted is testimony to the dedication of the hard work-

ing volunteers that are involved in the production of An Focal. When compared to a number of publications that receive much larger investment I feel that we can hold our heads up proudly at the standard that An Focal has adhered to this year. I have no doubt that my successor Mr. Paddy Buckley will be back at Vicar Street this time next year to collect a few more awards!

Regarding Wired FM, I hear that the UL Radio Society are about to collect signatures for a petition asking the University of Limerick Institution to commit to the Wired FM project. Watch out for them around the campus and at your door. It's a worthwhile project and ask any of the volunteers about Wired FM if you'd like to know a bit more (or call into me in the Student Centre).

Congratulations additionally to the Umbrella group that organised the protest against mid-week voting at the Arena Opening last week. This highlighted the disgraceful ignoring of the rights of students to vote, well done particularly to Ms. Bernadette Sexton and Ms. Elaine Byrne for the success of the protest.

That's all for now take care,

Patrick

## Tom O'Donovan- ULSU Education Officer



### Provisional Exam Timetables.

Exam time is coming up and the pressure is mounting. Well to let you know if you don't already, the provisional timetable is up. You can check it out on the notice boards to the left of the service desk in the Student Services area or on the web at <http://sras.ul.ie>

Make sure that none of your exams are clashing. Go to your Class Rep if you have a problem with the times and he or she will see what can be done. Be aware though that you are only entitled to get the times changed if you have three on the same day.

Any other change is an accomidation. Student Services will do what they can to give you the best possible solution to a situation but there are many factors involved in the scheduling process so be patient. If you have issues raise them now because it may be too late after.

### Studying

Many students do well cramming in the final few days prior to the actual exams, I've done it myself once or twice, however, there is a better way. Systematic study will nearly always beat it. Plan your study. Work to a programme. Allow time for rest, breaks and a bit of non-related actavity. Go for a walk, kick a ball or go for a swim. Do something which will stimulate the body, it will make study that bit easier. Get some fresh air and a bit of sun; if there is any about, normally around exam time there is loads of it. Remember, if you get down to it now it will save panic later.

You still have time if you start now!

And for those of you who feel you might need a bit of help getting prepared for exams; the Centre for Teaching and Learning are running Exam Preparation Workshops. These will take place from this week (Week 10) up to and including Week 13 in the Students' Union Centre on Mondays 1-3pm, Tuesdays 3-5pm and Thursdays 7-9pm. Registration is not necessary. All enquires to [niamh.bowen@ul.ie](mailto:niamh.bowen@ul.ie)

### A warning before exams.

After every set of exams there are normally a few students brought before the Discipline Committee of the University on the charge of Academic Cheating. This is a serious offence and is treated as such by the committee. Make sure you have no writing on your hands or arms. No notes in your pencil case. No writing either. Make sure there are no notes in your dictionaries or any allowed material. Stashing books or notes in the bathrooms wont work either. In the end of the day what you might gain by trying to cheat is far outweigh by what it will cost you.

Tom

# It's Your Letters

## *Alcohol Policy ignored by 'An Focal'*

Dear Editor,

I know you are leaving soon, so you probably don't give a damn about complaints, but I just want to bring up one issue. In this weeks edition you included an article entitled "Mission: Whores on tour". Now while I could complain about how awful an article it was, and how painful it was to read and question how you justified giving it nearly two pages, I won't because there is a more serious contentious issue. As a committee member of a large club and a regular attendant of clubs and socs council I am fairly up to date with the Alcohol policy, the advertising of clubs, and what An Focal supposedly will and will not publish. I was led to believe that we had to leave out all mention of alcohol and how drunk we get and who scored with who. This was fine with us, but it seems that there are double standards in the paper. The article I am referring to revolves around how drunk a girl gets each night, and how she try's to get a shag while drunk. There are references to drinking games and other issues that are specifically mentioned in the alcohol policy as something we should try to stop. If clubs and socs are trying to make a difference and are making an effort by being careful with what they send to be printed, it is ridiculous if in the same paper there is an article going clearly against all we are working towards. I normally wouldn't complain about something so petty, but I just feel that, a)An Focal should lead by example and ,b)An Focal shouldn't be so hypocritical, by refusing to print articles submitted by clubs and socs, but then letting its own staff write such utter drivel which contravines everything the Union is trying to promote.

Dave

## *'Whores on tour?'*

Dear Sir,

I recently visited Oxygen.ie, the Student Website only to see that our own An Focal had been nominated for "Most Improved Publication" in the Student Media Awards. To begin I would like to congratulate the Editor and all those involved in the publication of An Focal on the nomination. However I would strongly suggest that all efforts be made to keep the last issue of the newspaper out of the hands of the Judging Panel, if they were to cast their eyes over the "article" (if it can be termed that?) entitled "Whores on Tour", I am sure they would rethink the nomination.

Throughout the semester we have watched An Focal develop from a ULSU "newsletter" to a newspaper that conveys important information to UL Students in a much more professional manner than in previous years. To allow such an "article" to be published and offset the good work done this year is an absolute disgrace.

The article epitomises everything that was wrong with An Focal in previous years, it was bursting with "in jokes" that only the writer and her friends would understand, the article had no structure and just rambled along in a stream of conscious manner. It was chock-a-block with references to alcohol and correct

me if I'm wrong but doesn't the University have an Alcohol Policy that prevents the Students Union and/or Clubs and Societies from encouraging the abuse of alcohol like, The Author obviously believes that there is one rule for her and one rule for everyone else. The writer would be well advised to put her ego aside for a while and realise that not everyone wants to know about her sordid social life in such detail!

The inclusion of such an article gave the impression that the editor had an empty page and had to fill it with something!! I suggest more vigilant editing in future.

Name with Editor

## *An Focal Standards not consistent?*

Dear Editor,

May I begin this letter by commending your paper for its recent short-listing in 2 categories of the Oxygen Media Awards. I also extend my congratulations to all involved in the paper. However despite recent improvements, there is one particular aspect of An Focal that I find hard to digest. A number of articles have appeared recently which contain the type of verbal diarrhoea that would be more at home in the social and living section of a certain Sunday paper.

I don't know if all the articles are from the same pen, but the most recent offender was the "Whores on Tour" article. I implore you, think of your readers and leave this puerile nonsense in the bin. The formation, focus (where possible to find one) and tone of this piece reflect all the worst aspects of illogical and irrational journalism. It is the type of self-indulgent drivel that I had hoped An Focal had gotten rid of. To the unnamed author, I urge you to consider this: when you want to tell your friends about your recent drunken escapades, then please tell them in a group email and don't subject the rest of us to an account of your wanton lust filled nights in the lodge.

I applaud the author for her (as I get that impression from the article in question) desire to write and to take an active role in her student newspaper and also for the potential she could have if she considers what she is writing and who will read it. Your friends may enjoy the veiled references to particular parties, sessions etc, but for the rest of the student population, it is like overhearing a conversation that you're not really interested in. I did read the whole article, in the hope of finding some redeeming features, but, at the end, felt compelled to write to the paper. There were a number of articles in previous editions of a similar tone and content, which fortune has prevailed upon me to forget the titles of. I do not wish to appear to be criticising only the author of the "Whores on Tour" piece, but as this is the most recent, it is the piece that readers have easier access to and can critique.

"Whores on Tour" and other articles of a similar nature need be toned down or excluded. If you want to be a student voice through on An Focal, then the best of luck. Just remember to bear in mind that the people who read it often want to read informative pieces on student issues, not an overlong and annoying piece on "What I did when I was drunk and other

adventures".

Yours etc,

J. O'Brien

## *Weekend voting not impossible!*

Dear Editor,

As one of the organisers of the 'Umbrella Group against Weekday Voting' I would like to thank the Peace Society, Young Fine Gael, Labour Youth, the members of the Environmental Society and the many UL students who swelled the ranks of the protesters to over 200 on Thursday Week 9 when the Taoiseach opened the University of Limerick Arena complex.

The protest was successful in that it peacefully and respectfully got across the point that students will no longer accept the blatant efforts by the current government to deliberately exclude young people from the democratic process by favoring weekday voting. In the last five years, there have been six By-Elections, two Referendums, Local and European Elections. On only one occasion was the opportunity to vote given on a weekend. (Tipperary South By-Election 2001) This has left thousands upon thousands of students disenfranchised, as it is impractical for students to return home to vote.

Many of the protesters wore black masking tape over their mouths to symbolize that we have no voice if voting takes place on a weekday. Placards were held high while swaying to the jazz music stating 'Bertie Mugabe' 'No Voice No Choice' 'Weekend Voting Now' and my favorite, 'Peace, Prosperity, Hypocrisy.' A thousand leaflets were disturbed to the crowd asking the Taoiseach to make an immediate commitment to weekend voting and if not why not?

In answering this question to the protesters, the Taoiseach stated that Saturdays were inappropriate because of concerns by the business community and Sundays were unsuitable because of religious sensitivities. He said that Friday was a possible alternative. Although some of the protesters felt that Friday was better than nothing, others felt that this is not good enough. Unless the government has introduced legislation in recent days to enshrine a three-day weekend, Friday is still a weekday no matter how the Taoiseach looks at it. Friday is unacceptable to many students living away from home unless polling stations remain open for longer periods to allow students to return home.

A report issued last week by the National Youth Council of Ireland, referred to 100,000 young people between 18-25 who have declared that they will not be voting. The reasons stated were due to a number of factors, chiefly inaccessibility to polling stations and inappropriate voting arrangements. In the Week 6 edition of An Focal, Michael Noonan, Leader of Fine Gael, wrote a letter to the editor stating his views on weekend voting. Why can't the other political parties do the same? What is the Taoiseach afraid of?

Elaine Byrne

# AMICUS (MSF), Academic Section, University of Limerick

## Statement re: University's breaches of Academic Promotion policy

-On June 27th, 2000, following lengthy negotiations between the University and MSF (now AMICUS), the Governing Authority approved the document Policy and Procedures for the Promotion of Faculty, thus concluding a process of seeking an internal promotion mechanism, which had begun some six years previously.

-The Agreement states that No fewer than 80% of posts at Senior Lecturer level will be retained for the internal promotion mechanism.

-The University now admits that, since the start of the Agreement, there have been five internal promotions to senior lecturer and 13 externally advertised senior lectureships. In order to comply with the Agreement, there should have been 52 internal promotions, and not just five.

-It is clear that the management had been acting in a manner contrary to the intention of the Governing Authority and the Governing Authority instructed the management to negotiate with MSF on resolving the dispute. The management and MSF met but there was no proposal from the management side for any redress.

-The issue was finally referred to a conciliation meeting of the Labour Relations Commission in February. The LRC asked the management to send AMICUS a written proposal by March 7th. The offer was for 10 promotional posts in each year 2002 and 2003.

-Following a further meeting with senior management in early April a second letter was sent stating that there will be "in the region of four positions" externally advertised in 2002 and 2003. The bare minimum of internal promotions over the two-year period per the Agreement should then be 16, in order to be in compliance with the Agreement (and not allowing for any redress for what happened the previous two

years)

-Using the figures provided by the University, 47 internal promotional opportunities have been lost (because of the 52 minus 5 that have been lost by the breach of the policy in its first 18 months). The actual substance of the offer, to redress this loss, is a mere 4 additional promotional posts, above and beyond what is required by the policy in any event, i.e. two each year for the next two years.

-Given the obvious breach of the Agreement and the failure to offer meaningful redress for the loss of promotional opportunities suffered by many faculty members, it is not surprising that the University's proposal was rejected in a ballot held last Wednesday by 85%.

- An AMICUS UL Branch EGM was held today, following on the rejection of the proposal. In accordance with the decision of the Branch EGM of last December, the Branch Executive has now mandated the Academic Section to ballot its members on industrial action. There will be thus a secret ballot held next week on the motion:

"The Academic Section members will withhold the grades for assessment for all modules for Semester 2, AY2001/2002 until the issue of the breaches of the promotion policy is resolved to the satisfaction of the membership."

-The Academic Section is acutely aware that if the motion is carried it could be very disruptive to individual students. We have not taken this decision to ballot lightly and regret having to take this course of action but, under the circumstances, we are left with no other choice.

April 19th 2002

## Question over Summer Grades (contd. from page 1)

The Academic section claim that they are aware of the disruption that this will cause to the lives of most students, but feel that they are left with no other choice than to take this course of action.

The implications for the students of UL are many. Those graduating in September will be first to suffer as

they will have to put applications for jobs and further

courses of study on hold until they are sure of their qualifying grades, not to mention the uncertainty as to when the conferring ceremonies will actually be held. Anyone travelling to abroad with a possible repeat looming over them will also be unsure of what Autumn

holds for them if they are waiting to see if their Summer grades bring them up to a 2.0 QCA.

For updates as to the result of this ballot keep an eye on the notice boards around the University and you the Inbox of your student e-mail account. ULSU will be keeping you informed of what the outcome is and may also be hold an Emergency General Meeting in Week 12 that it will be in the interests of all to attend.

club audio  
every friday @ midnight

club audio

floor 1 : deep and soulful house music  
floor 2 : hip hop and breaks

@ the globe clubaudio@eightball.ie 7 euro   6 with flyer	residents marc o'neill shane slattery skinnyboy jaz
--	--

april  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

05 residents  
12 aoife ni canna & taylor (discotonic, the kitchen)  
19 residents & aidan kelly in the cigar bar  
26 marc hurley (lebowski's, cork, & radio friendly)

# A University Library?

Short loans. Long loans. 3-day loans. Loads of loans. Yes, I am waffling on about the library. The only building in U L known for its security guards, lack of seats at exam-time and those funny beeping machines in the short loan section. While it would seem the ideal place for quiet reflection and study, these days it is far from that. There are no books to be found following week 8, no seats to be had after 11 a.m., no silence except for Saturday morning and no patience left in students or librarians after 5 o'clock.

Why is this so? This year's election candidates regarding the library opening hours and book drought raised numerous complaints. Despite the fact that I am but a young one and have not been in this fine college for previous elections, I have been informed that it is an issue that has been on the manifesto of many a great man. The library is open from 8.30 a.m. until 9 p.m. on a normal college week. On a Saturday it only remains open until 12.45 p.m. Despite the fact that there is a large student population milling around the college every weekend, the library doors remain firmly shut on a Sunday. It's also a case of "see ya" if you attempt to gain access to the building on a Bank Holiday Monday.

Along with ludicrously short opening hours, the library has a severe book shortage. What is a library with too few books? Not really a library, that's what. It's like a fry-up without the runny egg or a college party without copious amounts of "Dutch Gold". In recent weeks, I have been spending many a night in the area, politics essay making it a necessity. I was appalled by the lack of books available on my chosen topic. I spent half my time wandering aimlessly through

the aisles wondering why nothing is in alphabetical order and the other half of my time typing titles into the reference computer only to have the computer tell me there was no such book in the library.

I was delighted to see the issue being raised recently. Will the college take note? They'll have to. The library has come a long way since moving into this building and that is thanks in part to a man named John Lancaster. In the beginning there was no manager, just mess. The

walls and yet not buy books?" Following exhaustive research or some may say a chat with Tom O Donovan; I discovered that the funding for new buildings is sourced mainly through sponsors found by the UL Foundation. The money cannot be touched.

Perhaps a better way of securing funding for the library would be the establishment of a body to go forth into the world of rich and wealthy folk and seek out cash. We could stick their name on the side of a shelf, if it's kudos they are after.

Or how about the novel idea of actually allowing the library to buy the materials they require. Here, each college has a budget and chooses what books get bought. It's all well and good if you are a super dooper lecturer here and you have found the time to write a book too, but will we really need 99 copies of it in the short loan section if it will only be loaned out twice a year? The library needs power. It needs money.

Where will this cash come from? The government are hardly likely to give it. The funds from the good auld USA have all but vanished. We need to make sure the library staff, who know those books and that building better than any student have got the resources to purchase materials, alleviate the queue for the computer and reduce the noise level somehow. The buildings and bridges and walls that are being built will, in the future, stand tall – tall, unused and unoccupied. Without raw materials to produce the product, that is the learning materials to produce the greatest minds of our time, we won't have any need for buildings. We won't have any students.

-Louise Neville



The University of Limerick Library facing continual criticisms

library had been moved to an area more than 10 feet from the "Stables" and so was forgotten about. A group was established to look at the problems associated with the building. Talks went on and on and on ...

The group came up with a gaggle of great ideas and went to the college bosses to ask for the one thing they still required – cold, hard cash. There was none to be found. Ideas about computer systems to allow staff to spend less time behind the desks and theft prevention measures were once again just dreams. I asked myself aloud, as I frequently do, "why can we build

chase materials, alleviate the queue for the computer and reduce the noise level somehow. The buildings and bridges and walls that are being built will, in the future, stand tall – tall, unused and unoccupied. Without raw materials to produce the product, that is the learning materials to produce the greatest minds of our time, we won't have any need for buildings. We won't have any students.

## (Small) Improvement in Rain Cover with New Bus Shelters at East Gate

You know on Friday evenings when you're waiting to go home in the pissing rain, nursing those hungover heads and you're looking forward to mammy's cooking. Well now you can wait in style, as at long last the University has erected three new bus shelters costing €25,500. Yes I know, they are little hard to notice. They've actually been there a few weeks now but I'm afraid they only came to my attention this week. Anyway, trust me, they do exist over in the corner from the East gate.

These aren't what you'd call stylish bus shelters especially when you take into account the fact that they are literally thousands of students going home on Friday evenings and they will probably hold less than a hundred so you will have to run to get your place and are most certainly designed for the Irish weather guaranteed

to keep out the rain. One thing for sure you won't feel the cold as you'll be nicely squashed



A similar shelter to the new addition at the East Gate Car Park

such joy for us students.

But not to worry! These are only temporary

measures, according to Gerard Manning, Buildings Officer. There is a long-term plan for a proper coach park with a designated area for coaches and shelters. They also plan on erecting better bus shelters at the Lonsdale building and near the roundabout at the main entrance. It was decided that they would not be enclosed until the park is completely finished due to the damage caused to previous bus shelters by students. However there is no set date for implementing this proper coach park because of lack of funding. We know that U.L can spend money on the "rusty man" and the "Chinese wall" at the entrance but not on bus shelters, a necessity for students especially with the bloody Limerick weather.

-Sinead Kelleher

# Campus News

## STUDENTS DAY IN LIBRARY "COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME" \*

Third year student Fionnuala Sweeney got hardly any work done on Friday despite spending almost 8 hours in the library, informants close to the Engineering student told 'An Focal'. "It was a complete waste of time," stated the distressed 20 year old, who squandered her entire time engaged in an assortment of intentionally time-wasting pursuits such as checking her e-mail; walking from her desk and the computers on the way to or from checking her e-mail; and reading a varied selection of nearby books unrelated to her project topic.

"I started out that morning confident that it would be a productive day," the Kerry native continued, "but somehow something seemed missing that day. I must have only done 40 minutes work all day," she reflected, however investigation into her movements later revised her estimate down to sixteen and a half minutes.

A detailed breakdown of a typical hour of Miss Sweeney's behaviour has been assembled from information collected from taped interviews with the student. At 2pm, Fiona was on Level 2 of the library staring into the middle distance in the vague direction of The Stables, while drawing a series of small-interlinked squares on her lecture notes. At 2.04 pm, after the completion of 56 such squares, she abruptly left her seat and began to carefully flick through a geographical and historical atlas of south Asia, paying particular attention to the pre-independence political structure of India, until 2.12. She then descended to the ground floor and after queuing for 45 minutes she discovered that she had received no new e-mails since 1.26pm. Her inbox had, however, less than 500k of storage space left, and the



precise paring down from a cluttered 97 e-mails to a relatively manageable 38, meant that Miss Sweeney was only able to return to work – after also checking her seldom used Yahoo account and the websites of three national newspapers- at 3.20pm. The remainder of the hour Miss Sweeney spent at her desk, though she occupied all but four and a half minutes of this time in reading a book on Picasso, which she had discovered on a short detour on her way back from the computers.

Miss Sweeney's study is due to be completed by 2025 at the earliest.

## HIGH VOLUME HIP-HOP MUSIC CONVERTS NEIGHBOUR \*

The pumping beats of Jimmy 'Tupac' McNamara's C.D. collection, a second year student residing in College Court, have revolutionised the cultural perspective of elderly neighbour Peggy Jo Connolly. The loud and brash tunes, frequently played at top volume by Mr. McNamara, have been responsible for a radical transformation in the musical opinion of the aged neighbour.

Peggy Jo registered a complaint against Mr. McNamara at the beginning of the year, but has since come to love the wall-shaking sounds throbbing into her sitting room. "I'm so grateful to

Jimmy," she exclaimed, "If he'd turned down his stereo like I asked him to do, I'd have never experienced the genius that is the Wu Tang Clan. Dig it."

The 78 year old is also adopting Mr. McNamara's lifestyle: "At the start of the year I might have considered anything beyond midnight a late night, but now I know a party isn't a party until it hits the daylight hours." "Yo, brother," she added, though no one was in view, whether of an ethnic minority or not.

However, fellow College Court residents have proved less impressionable. "All we get from those two is deafening 'noise' into the night," commented one disgruntled student. Peggy Jo, though, was unperturbed by the criticism. She replied, "Whatever", barely audible over the ear-bashing music coming from her hi-fi.

## DRUNKEN STUDENTS CONDEMN UNIVERSITY'S LACK OF FOCUS ON EDUCATION \*

Four technology students have attacked the



University's lack of concern over their education during a prolonged drinking session. "They treat us like sheep, like customers," claimed Peter Murray, one of the students, unaware that he was missing an important tutorial. "It's like our education means nothing to them."

"The University authorities are only interested in money," added Barry Keane, who spent his €100 book allowance early in the semester on the "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" machine. "It's irrelevant to them whether or not we get a good degree as long as we're here and they're getting money."

As Mr. Keane went to order another round, his views were echoed by his close friend Walter Ryan: "They don't mind giving themselves fat pay cheques, but why can't that money be put to something useful, like improvements for the library?" Mr. Ryan has yet to visit the library this semester.

"I couldn't agree more," declared Lawrence 'Larry' Smith. "The colleges try to squeeze money out of us, money that we just don't have." Mr. Smith took a moment's break from his venomous attack to suggest double vodkas all round, an idea



heartily supported by his friends.

"So many students nowadays are having to take part-time jobs to fund their way through college", continued Mr. Keane. "I've got two huge stacks of books in my room that I just don't have time to read," he added, having been in the Stables since 11.30 that morning.

"The bottom line," concluded Mr. Smith, "is that the bean-counters in Plassey House don't give two sh\*ts about our degrees. And it has to change." Mr. Smith then confirmed that the students would be skipping lectures the next morning due to an anticipated hangover.

\* The product of my imagination shamelessly disguised as a legitimate news report.

-Valerie Gunning





# Latin America Week

## 13-20 April 2002

Edel Fitzgerald

UL was transformed during Week 10 as part of a celebration of all things Latin American! It was organised as part of a nationwide festival that has been taking place in Derry, Dublin Dundalk, Galway, Waterford and Wexford. Although it is the second year running of the festival, it was UL's premiere, and what a premiere it was! It was a week in which students could participate in a programme teeming with diverse activities, some very serious, like the talk on the appalling housing in Brazil, and others much more light-hearted, like the terrific guitars, drums saxophones and South American tunes that resonated in the Stables Courtyard on Wednesday afternoon.

Latin American Week is an annual festival of educational, cultural and campaigning events, held throughout Ireland. The primary purpose of the Week is to highlight the issues that affect the marginalized majority that live in Latin America and the Caribbean. Now in its sixteenth year, the Week also affords those working in solidarity in Ireland with these people, a vital opportunity to both share experiences and ideas and plan for the coming year. Currently about forty solidarity groups, non-governmental organisations and local development education and One World centres sponsor Latin American Week. It is these organisations that contribute to the Latin American Week Committee, which together with the organisational and administrative support for preparation of the programme of activities and the hosting of the Latin American guests.

And what a formidable selection of speakers there were! Monday, there was my very own politics lecturer, Martin Mullins, who gave a very informative speech on Chile and the effects of its progression to democracy. Next, there was a speech about Brazil and the lack of appropriate housing available. This important issue was raised by guest speakers Maria Alvez Bezinha da Silva and Anselmo Schwertner. Students spoke of their experiences in

South America during Co-op which appealed to many students of Spanish who have the opportunity to go an alternative route for Co-op.

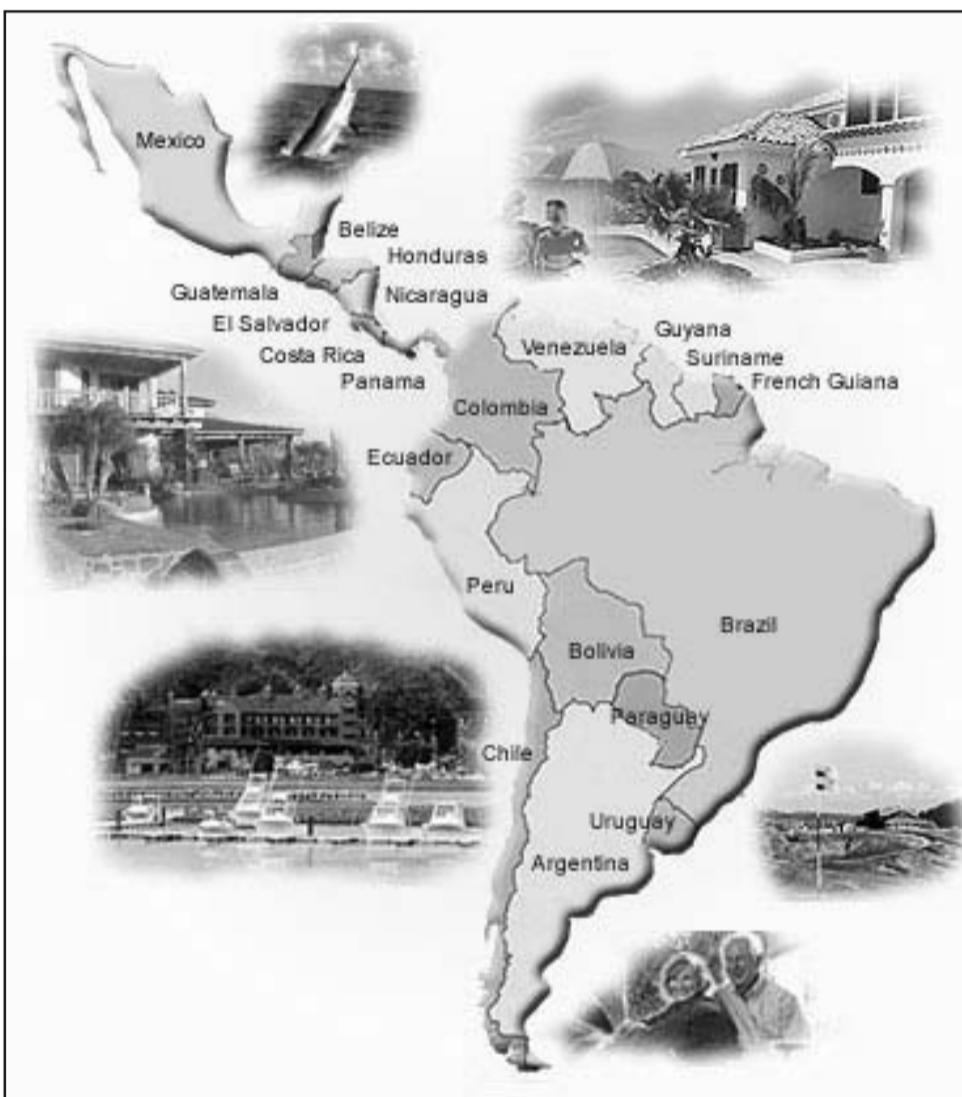
A travel guide to Latin America was produced as part of this whole event, compiled by Cearbhuil Ni Fhionnghusa, Rebecca Breen, Zoe Morrow, and Marie

are into taking the unconventional co-op placement.

Speaking on Friday of this week, Nancy Serrano, a Spanish tutor in UL and one of the main co-ordinators of the week spoke of the huge success, claiming it was mainly due to sixteen students who were willing to forego study to concentrate on organising the events.

Both Nancy and her husband Toyo spoke fondly of those involved and want to give a big "thank you" to all involved, making Latin American Week undoubtedly one of the biggest college events of the year. Many societies got involved, including Labour Youth, Environmental Society and Music Society. Special tribute has to be made to Ten Forward, the film society, who held excellent films all week, all having an element of Latin American influences. Speaking to Barry Cronin, who helped organise the viewings, he said he was delighted to be a part of such an important week and was pleased with the turnout for the films, which were all free.

The highlight of the week for me by far was the Salsa Party held in the Sports Bar on Thursday night. Anyone who knows me is aware of my severe distaste for Ricky Martin, yet that night, even in my sober state, I couldn't help but boogie to the tunes. The bar was packed to capacity and there was shaking of hips going on in any possible free space. It was excellent- great food, great music, great dancing.....a class ending to a fantastic week of events.



Shanahan. The programme includes spectacular journeys by UL students during their Co-op Programmes. The guide launches into an education of the local lingo and then goes on to detail entries of those lucky enough to really get to what it is that makes South America so amazing. From Cuba to Costa Rico, Mexico to Ecuador, all were detailed splendidly in the brochure. It's by far the best guide for those of you out there who

Well done to all involved-it took a hell of a lot of hard work and sacrifices, but I promise you, it was worth it. For those who missed out-well you've only got yourselves to blame. But don't go into therapy just yet! With the success of this year, it's highly probable that there'll be another one next year. Give you three guesses who's looking forward to the next one.....

## All Postgrads behind the PSA?

In the last glorious issue of this fine read, we featured articles regarding the PSA motion that was passed at a recent UGM of the SU. We received feedback however about these articles and it wasn't all sweet. Some Postgraduates say the articles didn't reflect the feelings of all postgraduates present. There are Postgraduates out there who did not support the motion. The article claimed that the post grads there, either well informed of the issue or simply there to support fellow associates, were all voting in favour of the

cause. This was not the case. Yes, the majority were there for this reason but there were those in the post grad genre who believed the split would cause inequality in the union of which the PSA, is still a member. They would have actually voted against it. The piece also claimed that any union supporter was booed and heckled by a number of post grads present. Booing and jeering went on, but it was rather hard to tell from where it came. I was there and enjoyed partaking in occasional booing and then yeating myself.

Well, if you can't beat 'em ...

While the piece written was telling the story like it was, we may have forgotten to mention those post grads who just want to be in the SU with the rest of us. The motion may have been passed and seen to be a victory for the PSA, but some post grads are not happy and we will, no doubt, here from these in the future.

-Louise Neville

# Bob and Bill's CELEBRITY DEATH-MATCH



Welcome ladies and gentlemen to this weeks Celebrity Deathmatch... We've been away for the last few weeks for the mid season break, but we're back with a fabulous fight tonight. And what an unlikely match this is. Who would have thought that two people would once again be duelling for the title of the Queen of Ireland! Never in history has an Irish royalty match been anticipated with such enthusiasm.

**In the Red Corner sponsored by Barry's Tea**

**Name: Graham Norton**  
**Age: mature**  
**Weighs in at: Super Camp Weight**

**In the White Corner sponsored Ryanair**

**Name: Brian Dowling**  
**Age: innocent**  
**Weighs in at Middle Camp Weight**

I have to tell you Bill that I will have to go for our man in the red corner, Mr. Graham Norton. He's been leading the Irish Monarchy for quite a number



of years and is well known on the celebrity noble circle, and as the saying goes, 'he's a cute Cork whore'! He is the hostess with the mostess, and has knocked out many a shining star with his outrageous tactics, and I'm sure he'll do the same tonight. Nobody could knock him off his throne at this stage, he's reigned already for far too long and come on, we all know that Cork is the true Capital, he'll win it for the boys and bring the crown jewels back to his native land. I'd nearly be willing to call a knock out in the 2nd or 3rd round.

Bob, I'm going to have to agree with you, apart from that whole Cork thing, you really have your priorities mixed up. The young, innocent, extremely camp Mr. Dowling could never beat the older, bigger, and just as camp Mr. Norton. Brian isn't the first challenger to Graham's crown and won't be the last. I don't even think he's the strongest challenger at the moment, we cannot forget the increasingly popular Brendan Courtney, but Norton's obviously gone with the easy option here. Granted Brian is becoming more and more famous since leaving the Big Brother straight onto the couch of SM:TV, but he doesn't have the wit or personality that could see him present So Brian Dowling, it doesn't even sound right. I don't see this one lasting that long, with Norton kicking ass(for once).

## Round 1

In a twist of events for the match that's in it, it was ruled that both men would have to dress suitably for the affair in noble duelling clothing. And what fetching dresses they are wearing tonight! I have to admit Bill that Brian has won in the fashion stakes, that tiara is sparkling like the evening stars! Both men have come out fighting though and Graham is walloping Brian with a hefty stick...its making a very weird buzzing noise....but for some reason Brian has a strange smile on his face, and seems to be enjoying it. But wait a second Bob, Brian seems to have come to his senses and that nimble wrist of his is flying in all directions, nothing Graham can do can get him out of the firing range. And there goes the bell. Maybe this match is not going to be as one sided as we had thought, as Graham's hair seems to be all out of place.

## Round 2

Brian surly had the upper hand in that first round. The handbags are flying now, but Graham has a much bigger sack and is clobbering Brian who seems utterly defenceless. And I suppose that



was to be expected, Brian's strap has broken and the round has been stopped to allow for stitching...he's very lucky to get away with that, he could have been disqualified. Brian's quick repair job seems to be holding up well as we hear the bell. Graham seems to be on top now, but it's all to play for yet Bill.

## Round 3

Are they dancing? Bob is that a dance they're performing? What a bizarre sight, the two of them are...oh, but what a great tactic. Graham has just tried to take Brian from behind, but we should have known that he would not be caught out by that kind of manoeuvre. It's all Graham now. He has Brian pinned to the floor, in a position that I'm sure he knows all about, Brian is in agony, its written all over his face, well I hope that's pain, it's never pleasure is it Bob? Hell no Bill, Graham has got a tight grip on his man. Oh, he's spanking him like a bad little boy...that's your favourite move in the bedroom Bill isn't it, and bang goes the bell.

## Round 4

Brian really looks down and out at this stage; Graham is beating some manners into the young pretender. How much longer can Dowling hold out??? Obviously not that long cause his management have just thrown in their pretty little pink towel and the tiara has well and truly slipped. Norton has retained his crown (jewels) and for the moment at least is still the unquestionable Queen of Ireland.

*Next week expect a epic match. Stay tuned for the grand finale.....*

# Perpetual World Peace

by Raymond McInerney

It's a concept that seems born in fable, not in fact, an idea conjured in fantasy, not formulated in reality, a plan more mystical than rational, more curious than conceivable. What is it? An immediate gathering of 40,000 Vedic pandits trained in the art of Yogic Flying. The cost? Approximately one day of the U.S. defence budget.

The catch? Finding the courage to acknowledge that the mind is mightier than matter. The reward? Perpetual world peace.

From the perspective of cost and reward, the use of this consciousness-based strategy is appealing. This approach requires no military arsenal, no ground troops, no loss of life, and no threat of global annihilation. Consider that every time this strategy has been implemented in "hot spots" around the world the results have been measurable, consistent, and effective.

The fact that individuals can radiate peace into the environment is documented. Studies on this phenomenon have been published in more than 40 scientific journals such as the Journal of Conflict Resolution, Social Indicators Research, Social Science Perspectives Journal, The Journal of Mind and Behaviour, the Journal of Crime and Behaviour, the Journal of Crime and Justice, and Psychology, Crime, and Law. Additionally, these remarkable findings have been made available to government's around the world. However, the information has mostly been ignored.

Although it sounds out of the ordinary, the phenomenon referred to as yogic flying does generate peace and neutralise hostility. For the mind to move matter,

for a mental impulse to lift the body off the ground, the brain must be operating from a state of tremendous power and energy. When large groups of individuals gather in one location and practice this technique they generate great peace and coherence within themselves and in their surroundings. A more orderly and peaceful environment is the documented outcome.

While the current plan calls for 40,000 Vedic pandits stationed in India, over 100,000 yogic flyers have been trained in the world since 1976. Who makes up yogic flyers? University professors, airline pilots,

librarians, doctors, lawyers, students, taxi drivers, accountants, farmers, politicians, merchants, stockbrokers, actors, bankers, men and women,

mothers and dads, wives, husbands, uncles, aunts, grandmothers, young, old, short, tall, brown, white, black, yellow, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus. In short, very ordinary people sprinkled over 100 countries in the world make up this extraordinary force. What has been lacking for the establishment of world peace is a communion of these efforts.



To restore order and civility in the world will require a more educated strategy than we have currently utilized. For perpetual world peace to be the legacy of our generation, we must be open to a new form of defence that has the proven ability to create coherence and eradicate the terrorist stronghold on the world.

One billion dollars is needed to permanently engage 40,000 such Vedic experts in India at the rate of \$100-\$200 per month. For the amount that the U.S. Defence Department spends in a single day-less than the cost of a B1 bomber-world peace can be created and perpetually maintained. The Endowment Fund for Permanent World Peace is a permanent fund whose principal will never be touched. The income generated by the Fund's investments will be used only for the purpose of maintaining peace on earth.

An endowment fund is being established now to support this critical peace-creating force of 40,000 experts in these Vedic technologies of peace-experts who have dedicated their lives to the mastery and performance of these ancient technologies to enliven the unifying, nourishing power of Natural Law, and maintain positivity and coherence in world consciousness. Specifically, the income from the Endowment Fund will be used to support 40,000 professionals in the Vedic Technologies of Peace, located on several university campuses in India, whose practices will secure world peace now and for all future generations. The initial goal is to raise \$250 million-the amount needed to permanently endow the first 10,000 Vedic Pandits.

Currently, over \$100 million has already been raised to create permanent world peace. Plans for the first group of 10,000 Yogic Flyers are being implemented. This is good news for all of us, since this group will create a momentous upsurge of peace and positivity in world consciousness.

raymond.mcinerney@ul.ie

## THIS YEARS PISS TAKE CAMPAIGNS

Ok ok so we all know Eoin O' Broin won the presidential sabbatical election. And yes if we hear "Vote no.1 Eoin O' Broin for president" we will take the placards and beat the daylight out of the Eoin campaigners and proceed to mummify them in "Yer Eoinly Man" posters and bury them under their own paper.

Now don't get me wrong, I voted Eoin myself, them lollipops WERE lovely...specially the blackcurrant ones...but one has got to wonder as to whether one did in fact make the right choice. In this year's Sabbatical Elections there was no shortage of worthy candidates. Take John Mulcahy for instance...a fine young Limerick man with the interests of Limerick students at heart (those originally from Limerick I mean, like myself of course...the rest are only wannabes). Well done on his effort.

But really I think those who stole the show were Stripey, Lad and the one and only John Barron with his very original and striking campaign based on the worthwhile project of Bucket Power. I mean Bucket Power? Buckets are of course an overlooked, yet vital

part of the world power struggle and something, that I think Eoin, in his presidential state, should attend to, now that John Barron has drawn the attention that was due to buckets to the correct recipient. Whether they are buckets for feeding calves or for building sand castles, its remains that they are finally on their way up the ladder. I really don't know what went wrong for Mr. Barron. I suppose it all comes down to which side of the bed the voters roll out of on the morning of Election Day. Maybe Bucket Power Campaigners should demand a recount. When asked to comment on this bizarre and unexpected opposition, Eoin O' Broin stated that Lad had in fact told everyone to vote Eoin!! Very gracious of Lad indeed.

Eoin promises to try to acquire quality bus corridors from UL to Limerick city. He stated that he will attempt to turn Kollege Week into a real festival but in all fairness, Stripey and Lad were completely honest in promising absolutely ZILCH!! Nothing at all!! The real student approach...don't aim too high and you won't be disappointed.

In addition, on a more serious note, there is something else about misconceptions and elections that should be given some attention. It was on the Monday of election week when 7 banners belonging to both John Mulcahy and Eoin O' Broin "mysteriously" disappeared. When an investigation was launched, not to mention a mad search, it was discovered that the banners had been unfairly dumped, without the knowledge of anyone involved in the campaigns, by the Buildings Dept. of the college. This was an incident which was unfair both to John, Eoin and indeed to the students of UL. It was an infringement on the rights of the candidates and those of the students who deserve to know all of what the candidates are offering and what they are going to do to achieve their goals. I mean last time I checked, Britney was still blonde, Six were still lost in the mist and Ireland was still a democracy. Mistakes do happen but more care needs to be taken so that something like this does not occur again.

-Marianne Blackwell

# I am Jack's Supernatural Spin-Doctor

We've cast our votes, and voiced our opinions. We've debated and argued and stormed out of the room and pulled hair and thrown objects across the room and used hand puppets to get our own point of view across, but at the end of the day, there can only be one winner. So, Eoin is to be the next president of ULSU.

Has any candidate ever been so vehement and vocal in stating his plans for the union? Probably, but I'm only a first year here, so he's the most vocal candidate I've ever encountered. Has any candidate ever been so passionate, and outspoken? Has any previous candidate ever held his beliefs so dear? Has any previous candidate ever used a Treasure Troll as his campaign mascot?

Eoin might have some great ideas about how to run the SU, but I truly believe it was his mascot, the hirsute, deformed lump of plastic with the acid-tripper stare and the Peig Sayers beatific grin that ensured his rise to the top of the political greasy pole. It was quite an astute choice of mascot, too. You know, what with that whole connection between trolls and politics, ever since the PR disaster that accompanied the Billy Goats Gruff affair.

John Mulcahy, on the other hand, plumped for South Park characters as his campaign mascots- quite a clever manoeuvre, attempting to tap into the zeitgeist of the age we live in. Unfortunately, Eoin's fiendishly clever alliance with the troll nation threw the Mulcahy

campaign a curveball they never saw coming. After all, what are a couple of inane, foul-mouthed, irreverent, badly animated children, when compared to trolls? Everyone knows that cartoons aren't real, whereas trolls emphatically are.

The time has come for me to take a deep breath, and let the world know the truth about me. Something I've kept hidden for a long time. I am an uldra. There, I've said it, I feel better.

Yes, that's right, an uldra. Whaddya mean, you've never heard of such a thing? Well, that's

cause. I voted for Eoin because he supported trolls in all our shapes and forms, even to the point of displaying us on his posters. Oh, yeah, and because of the half-day Wednesdays and the fluent Gaelic and the environmental issues and the public health bills and the drainage ditches and the irrigation system and the military police force and the great sex and the soon-to-be-implemented kangaroo roast on Thursday evenings as well.

John-boy might have held a stronger position in the voting if he'd only allied himself with people who actually exist. That being said, however, there has been election disasters in the past. Remember Maureen MacAweewaw, who used vampires in her campaign a few years back, in an attempt to sway the election with the undead vote? Exactly. By limiting her canvassing activity to nocturnal hours, she scuppered her chances at the presidency, and few even know of her existence. And the less said about Mossy Ní Hhoolyhhawn's attempt to run with the incubi and succubi, the better.

You see, I may be only an ickle first year here at UL, but I know a thing or three about politics. Already, I am setting in motion Machiavellian schemes which your feeble minds could not possibly comprehend. And my mascots? Well, actually, I'm at a loss. It's either going to be mermaids or cocaine-crazed ferrets, I haven't decided yet.



just typical of the bigoted, narrow-minded attitude held by you poncey college-people, and it's why my pixie-drinking companions and I jumped for joy when we saw that a SU presidential candidate actually had the stones to take up our

## Looking for Work?- Tips for your CV

It's that time of year again and students everywhere are competing for the best summer jobs around. This article aims to make UL students the most competitive yet. The availability of seasonal work has dropped recently which is bad news for students hoping to save up some money. That's why you need to be as attractive as possible to all potential employers. Curriculum Vitae are often the main way an employer chooses someone for a position so it's extremely important to get this right. To get your CV to stand out from the rest, it must be remarkable.

Most shops, businesses and companies take on summer staff on a temporary basis. Most positions are basic and pay minimum wage. And while some will advertise these positions, many don't need to as hundreds of students send their CVs to the companies and they're kept on file in case a job comes up, so it's important to get your CV in early.

It's important to remember to keep your CV short,

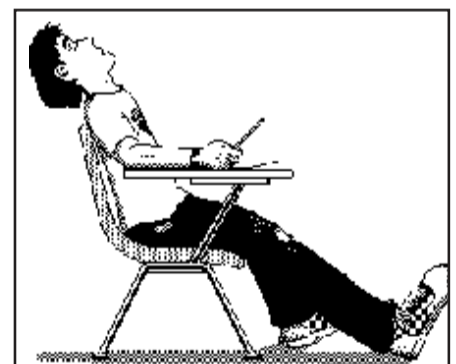


You too could be lucky enough to find your dream job and end up on the picket line!

concise, and to the point. Going on and on and being repetitive is a big no-no. If you bore the person who's reading your CV it's unlikely that they will hire you. Also, remember to include your phone number, the date your available to start work and when you need to finish. Include any of your extra-curricular achievements which you think will reflect your better qualities. Stick to the facts- just list your previous job experience, achievements etc. Save the details for the cover letter.

The cover letter, which you include with your CV, is your chance to discuss your personality traits (good ones please) and to convince the reader you're the ideal candidate for the job. Put some thought into this letter, it may be the deciding factor for your future employer. Discuss any work experience which you think will improve your chances.

Talk about the responsibilities you had and how you think it will help you with the job your applying for. Tell them what skills you



Or you could just take it easy and wait for the repeats

learned from previous jobs. Demonstrate how the subjects you're learning in college will help you in the workplace. Be clear and don't babble. Keep in mind that self-confidence is appealing but arrogance isn't.

Oxygen.ie has a great service which allows you to register your CV with them. Various companies throughout the country will view it. It's an excellent idea which is very easy to avail of. Also, check out monster.ie for further tips on how to go about finding work.

Good Luck!

-Aoife Helly

# Lights, Cameras, Reaction!

-Aisling O' Connor

## REVENGE SWEET REVENGE! The Count of Monte Cristo

The Count of Monte Cristo is a modern adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' classic tale of betrayal, lost love and yup, you may have guessed from the byline revenge thrown in to lighten the mood.

This offering stars as its two principles Guy Pearce, last seen, by me anyway in the brilliant Mementos and Jim Caviezel, star of the Jennifer Lopez vehicle Angel Eyes who also put in a stunning performance in the Thin Red Line. The film opens with Edmund Dantes and Fernand Mondego (Caviezel and Pearce) swashing their buckles while on Elba, in the company of Napoleon and the action never stops from there. Mondego, a languid, lazy layabout second son of a prominent noble man is painfully jealous of Dantes, the innocent, gullible peasants son. Mondego's words at the beginning of the film "it wont always be like this" do not bode well for our two dashing young swashbucklers. And then ah yes, we learn the real reason for Mondegos jealousy, the girl, Dantes' girl, its always something isn't it???

So yes as you may have guessed Dantes and Mercedes get married while Mondego becomes bitter and cynical, and writes a best selling book about his experiences. Actually no I lie, that's not what happens at all, the first chance Mondego gets he betrays his very bestest friend who spends the

next nine years of his life in a dark, dank jail on an island with a cruel sadistic jailer. However, to make things better he meets a priest (played by Richard Harris) who teaches him how to read,



write and think philosophically about his life I guess they didn't have satellite tv in those days!! So anyway to make a long story short Dantes escapes and having found loads and loadsa money on a deserted island proceeds to wreak revenge on those who have done him wrong, awww shucks isn't he sweet.

The films style is rather reminiscent of an old Errol

Flynn spectacular, albeit with much less tights and more special effects. The director Kevin Reynolds, finally making a film without Kevin Costner (a cause for joy all by its ownyo) is eager

to make up for previous disasters and it shows in his efforts to make the film black and white with no shades of grey. This is quite obvious in his differentiation between Mondego and Dantes in the latter part of the film, Dantes having spent 9 years in the Chateau d'If prison in the dark, on one meal a day comes out looking remarkably well fed and tanned while Mondego having spent the time living in the lap of luxury in gay Paree is a mess of broken veins, grey hair and absolutely awful oral hygiene. There are also a number of cross overs from Reynolds previous adaptation of a Dumas novel the Man in the Iron Mask, namely Dantes mode of escape from prison, and his casting of Michael Wincott (previously the baddie muskateer) as the cruel and sadistic and sarcastic prison warden.

However the film, whatever its faults is an enjoyable 2 hours and 11 minutes, especially with the twist in the end, and Dantes' entrance as the Count of Monte Cristo, which is almost worth the entry fee to see just by itself.

## Bend it Like Beckham C'MON REF, OFFSIDE!

Following in the tradition of East is East comes a film about an Asian family in England, but one with a difference. This time it's about a girl, Jess (Parminder Nagra) who can in the immortal words of the films title, Bend it Like Beckham. However, that's no good to her if she cant make chapattis, as far as her family is concerned. This all changes however when Jess meets Jules (Keira Knightley, previously in The Hole), an English girl who plays for a womens side the Hounslow Harriers. Jules encourages Jess to come and meet the coach Joe (a delectable Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, better known to some as the guy who shot Michael Collins, in the film that is) and try out for the time. This Jess duly does, and surprise surprise she is as good as Jules thought and promptly makes the team.

However this causes problems, as Jess's traditional Punjabi family don't want her kicking around a football in the park never mind showing off her legs in shorts

playing with a team.

So the games begin, and not just on the pitch. Jess has to lie so she can practice with the team and hang out with Jules, who becomes her new best friend, she also becomes better "friends" with Joe to the detriment of her friendship with Jules. But life goes on as do



Jess's sister Pinkys wedding plans. The team start to do better and Jess realises she doesn't want to be some boring solicitor she wants to go to America and play soccer professionally. But then the final of the league falls on the same day as Pinkys wedding and Jess is torn between to worlds, to be faithful to her family or her dreams.

Bend it Like Beckham is an enjoyable feel good film and although clique after clique is trotted out still manages to get in some funny lines. Joe as the coach does a good job although he sports an over exaggerated Irish accent for some unfathomable reason. However Nagra and Knightley are actually quite convincing in their roles and manage to bring the right measure of emotion and comedy to their characters. Juliet Stevenson

(Jules' mother) provides some of the film's best laughs. The film also features guest performances by Alan Hansen, John Barnes and Gary Lineker, Shaznay Lewis also puts in an appearance as the captain of the team and Posh and Becks even do a token "look at us being followed by photographers and screaming fans" turn.

While maybe not living up to other British comedies namely East is East and Bridget Jones Diary the film still manages to sprinkle some good one-liners along the way, unintentional as some of them may be and it is a credit to the director Gurinder Chadhas talent that she manages to make two subjects with no apparent similarities soccer and the life of Indian families living in England and intertwine them in an enjoyable manner.



# 24 Hour Party People

2002 London Records 90

Music from the Motion Picture

It seemed like a weird CD to buy. I know very little about the movie. Even less about this latest fascination with Steve Coogan. All I know is that the music here is good. We can't go wrong with the likes of New Order, Happy Mondays, Joy Division, The Clash, Buzzcocks. So it makes for one of the most superb soundtracks I've heard in a long time.

For those of you who were mere babes in the time of the unforgettable 70s/80s genre, this is an excellent introduction to some of the genius of that time. To be honest where else can the likes of scoundrel Shaun Ryder get such exposure? Happy Mondays feature three times including the kicking title track. Joy Division grace us with four tracks, including "Transmission," "Atmosphere" and "She's Lost Control." New Order offer their new single "Here To Stay," along with the interesting collaboration with Moby on "New Dawn Fades" and two other fantastic tunes "Blue Monday" and the legendary "Temptation," the latter being a great personal memory of great times. (I don't know how I didn't blow those speakers. But I did manage to dance around like a mad eejit for hours on end. They checked me in soon after that.) Featured previously on the Trainspotting Soundtrack, it's an excellent addition to an already excellent collection.

The eighteen-track store of musical history undoubtedly

ly surpasses the test of time. All influential in their time, the artists still seem to have that little something



to re-arouse our interest in the once-popular Madchester scene. Remember the days of the Inspiral Carpets, The Smiths / Morrissey, and to a much lesser extent M People? Well that's what I grew up with. I

studied with this music in school. They got me my Junior Cert. Then came the likes of Oasis (inspiring in their day!) and the whole explosion of Indie rock bands - too many to name! Manchester certainly seems to have spawned a great deal of musical talent - more than its quota, some might say, but they were great times, eh?? Those days were my introduction to music. Sharing a room with my sister and telling her to turn off that guy who sounded like he wanted to jump over a cliff. Little did I know, Morrissey would become one of the most influential artists of our time and I would later be thanking her beyond belief for opening my eyes to original music.

The award for the most outstanding track has to go to Joy Division for the great finale of "Love Will Tear Us Apart." The opening beats have me whistling. I love it! Its enormous intensity lends itself to the overall quality of the album and is the best option with which to end. The tune is also widely recognised as one of the few live covers performed by the Frames. Apologies to you who had to hear me sing it over the phone!

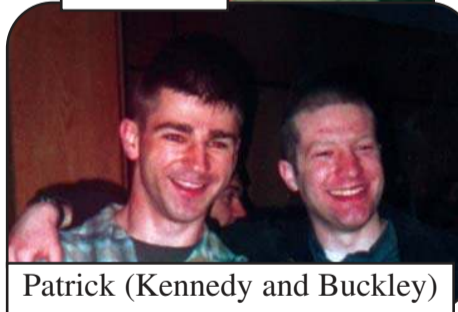
A great nostalgic trip this is indeed. Phenomenal, even if you still know nothing about the movie. I loved it before I even bought it. I knew it before I bought it. You do too, but will, however, enjoy the trip.

-Máiréad Moriarty

# O2 smedia awards



David Kitt



Patrick (Kennedy and Buckley)



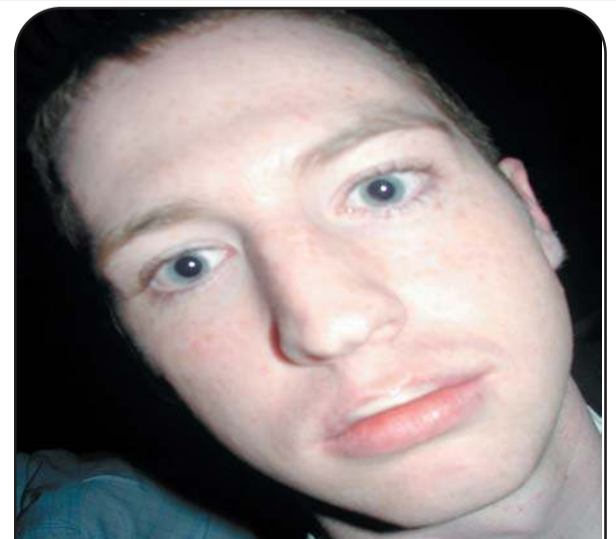
Colin Murphy, adjudicator for the O2 awards



Brendan O'Connor using the power of sarcasm to belittle all



Aisling, Edel, Marianne and Claire from the An Focal Team enjoy the O2 Awards



Ciaran Duffy looking suitably bewildered

# Focal Eálaine

## Drama Society Triumph!

As a contrast to my usual fare of star-studded premieres and gala openings I went on Monday night 16th of April to the Spring One Act Plays 2002.

First up was the aptly named Last Temptation of Michael Flatley written by Arthur Riordan and directed by Adrian Crowe. This followed a post Lord of the Dance interaction between five friends from Ballyhaunis. Everything is there the country girl who has had her head turned by the big lights of Dublin, the boyfriend less enamoured with it all and with said girlfriends choice of friends, the budding comedienne with her suction pump routine, the big boss man "cock of the walk" and the bouncer whos in serious danger from the fashion police. The cast; David Curley, Sean Fitzgerald, Rebecca Hadrill, John McInerney and

Margaret Maguire were all excellent, interacting well with each other but ready to take centre stage when the script required it. The stories of the five intertwine, as they drive in the car with soliloquies from Tommy and Mick interspersed with the conversation in the car as they head to town to experience the infamous Dublin night life. The play is resolved with Jackie and Tommy the starcrossed lovers together again after Jackie discovers that Lar tried to recreate the "Martians on acid" scene that she was so enamoured with, Lorraine and Lar failing to make a connection and Mick being shown up for the manipulative tycoon that he is.

The second play, The Best Gift was written and directed by Katherine Denver and starred Liz Schuller and

Kipolomew Lamers as two people reflecting on their relationship to themselves. It was extremely engaging and really held the interest, a very reflective piece with a Sixth Sense twist and a number of alternative endings. They both tell the same story but with a mans perspective and a womans perspective which are entirely different in some cases and provide for some comic relief from the serious nature of the piece.

All in all a very enjoyable time was had at the theatre, as the Johnathan Swift became for an hour or so, fair play to ye all.

-Aisling O'Connor

**Week 10 saw a very busy bill of events in our own University Concert Hall. On Wednesday 17th April the National Symphony Orchestra were in attendance and a Frank Sinatra Tribute by Louis Hoover drew crowds on the following evening.**



### Frank Sinatra Salute- Louis Hoover

Frank Sinatra graced a near sold out University Concert Hall on Thursday April 18th in the form of Louis Hoover and his 17-piece 'Salute to Sinatra' Big Band. For two and a half hours the old Sinatra classics were belted out in typical Sinatra fashion in a modish production that came directly from the dance floor of the forties and fifties. After a slightly hesitant start Hoover grew as the evening progressed until ultimately his voice sounded pitch perfect like Sinatra's. He has picked up the modus operandi laid down by the masters of big band music, given it a new dynamism and zest, going well over and beyond a typical tribute artist.



His guest for the evening was Fiona Paige, whose cabaret voice fit well in with the evening's theme. Their duet of 'Something Stupid' showed how a Sinatra duet should be executed unlike the Robbie Williams woeful attempt of a Sinatra impersonation. Hoover's 17-piece Big Band set the tone for an enjoyable evening with the classics like 'Come Fly With

Me', 'New York, New York', 'Strangers in the Night', 'Fly Me To The Moon', 'I've Got You Under My Skin', 'The Lady Is A Tramp', 'Mack the Knife', and 'Luck Be A Lady' all performed to perfection. Obviously the encore had to be a rousing rendition of 'My Way' bringing enormous applause from the audience who went home contented punters. It

may not have been Sinatra, it may not have been 'Live at the Sands', however; nonetheless you found nobody going home complaining.

For those interested in more music of a somewhat similar nature, the University Concert Hall will be host to

'Masters of the Musicals' on Wednesday May 22nd.

-Bernadette  
Sexton

### Alexander Anissimov- NSO

Wednesday the 17th of April saw the University Concert Hall host the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland conducted by the illustrious Russian conductor Alexander Anissimov as part of their Spring programme. The programme consisted of Tchaikovsky's Francesca da Rimini; Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1; and Shostakovich's Symphony No 5 in D minor, Op 47. The symphonic poem Francesca da Rimini immortalised in Dante's Divine Comedy tells the story of the



13th century Italian beauty married to the hunch-backed lord of Rimini, Gianciotto while in love with his handsome brother Paolo. On discovering the infidelity Gianciotto had them both murdered. Throughout the piece Anissimov's vivacious command of the orchestra was instantaneously perceptible. The orchestral resonance was enthused by the exceptional persona of their instructor. The orchestra appeared to detonate with vitality under his command. Anissimov brought lucidity and uniformity to the work leading the instrumentalists through inspiration.

The French Soloist Olivier Charlier performed Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1. His elucidation was so naturally paced and so unambiguous in its animated intentions that it incorporated in enthusiastic fashion the persistent patina and

exciting commitment of the orchestra. The final performance of the evening was of Shostakovich's Symphony No 5 in D minor, which once again demonstrated the amazing talent of the conductor in inspiring his orchestra to travel to profound depths, exhibiting abundant warmth and elegance. The

evening confirmed the talent that our National Symphony Orchestra possesses. Unfortunately however, the Orchestra will not be returning to Limerick until August for the highly anticipated Wagner Ring. In the meantime for those connoisseurs of Ballet, the Tchaikovsky full-length classic Sleeping Beauty will be presented by Ballet Ireland on Tuesday April 23rd.

-Bernadette  
Sexton



# The Lodge re-opens as Residents Objections are Withdrawn

Week eight was one full of excitement with the sabbatical elections in full swing and essays due in. It was also the week in which the 'Lodge Niteclub' lost its bar extension licence which allows the music and the drink to flow into the early hours of the morning. Consternation followed as the news filtered through to the student population of Castletroy. The 'Lodge' has continuously proved itself to be immensely popular with students, who make up the greatest number

of patrons. Often the club itself is full before 11 pm and its numbers are consistently high, any night of the week.

The club must attend court once a month in order to renew its licence extension for the month. However when the 'Lodge' tried to renew their licence this month they were faced by an objection from the Plassey Residents Association. The residents were objecting to the bar exten-

sions and the disco on the grounds that the majority of the patrons are students are the



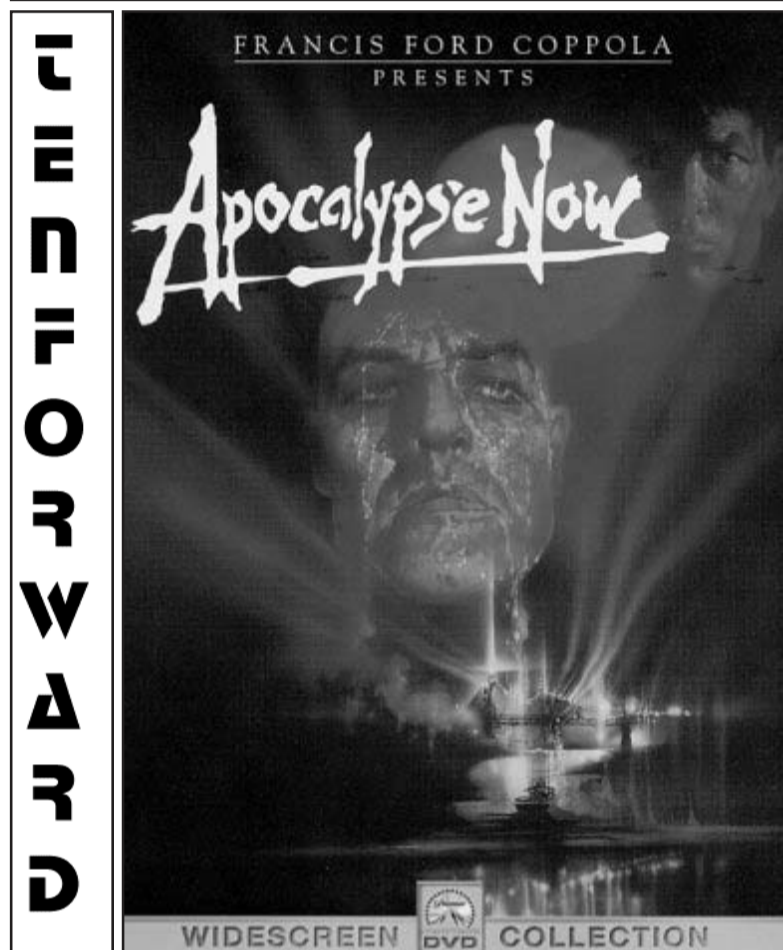
Kilmurry Lodge Hotel

behaviour of some when leaving the club is disruptive. Noise and vandalism were the main reasons for this objection.

With that the court refused to sign the bar extensions. Following this decision the 'Lodge' stated that they would be appealing the decision.

However, talks between the 'Lodge' and the Plassey Residents Association during week 10 led to a compromise being reached. The Plassey Residents Association removed their objection to the bar extensions, allowing the niteclub to run until early in the morning, on the grounds that the 'Lodge' will provide personnel to patrol the estates of Castletroy who will report vandalism and excessive noise to the Gardai. Once again it is the students of UL who can ensure that the 'Lodge' will remain open. If the noise can be reduced and vandalism stopped there would be little threat to the 'Lodge', which provides entertainment for so many students each week.

-Alona Troy



Ten Forward AGM  
7.00 pm Tues 23rd April  
Postgrad Centre  
All Members must attend  
followed by  
Apocalypse Now Redux

## Daghdha Launches 2002 Programme

On Thursday 18th April, Daghdha Dance Company, Limerick's resident professional dance company, launched DAGHDHA 2002. Internationally acclaimed choreographer and Artistic Director of Daghdha, Yoshiko Chuma will officiate at the launch.

Daghdha's first major production for 2002 holds the prestigious role of closing the first International Dance Festival Ireland May 8/26. Daghdha will present Yoshiko Chuma's much celebrated site-specific work Reverse Psychology. Act I, 10,000 Steps is performed by thirty dancers in period costume in the streets of Templebar, followed by Acts II and III performed in Project.

The Festival performance will mark the completed Reverse Psychology trilogy and the World Premiere of Act III Tunnel. For local audiences, 10,000 Steps can be seen at any of three free outdoor performances during the summer, at University of Limerick Campus (May 17), Newcastle West's Arts Festival (May 18) and again at The Killaloe Music Festival (July 21).



Scenes from the launch of Daghdha 2002

Daghdha continues to build its international profile in 2002, performing at two international festivals this summer. The company will appear, by invitation, at the Annual International Dance Conference and Performance Festival in Poland, and in Dusseldorf during Global Dance 2002 Festival & Conference.

Closer to home, Daghdha presents The Living Room Project for the second year with two series planned in July and October. Aimed at de-mystifying dance, professional dancers and musicians will make your home a stage with a dynamic and spirited performance in your very own living room. White Space features ongoing events

which international guest choreographers are invited to present workshops, seminars and performances in Limerick. Three series are prepared for April and September.

Daghdha's Education and Outreach Programme is relaunched this year. De-op! includes Creative Movement and Dance Classes for teenagers, adults and children beginning in September. And for the older enthusiast, Daghdha is proud to introduce Tea Dance for over 55's.

Daghdha Dance Company has developed a strong national and international base over the past 14 years with extensive theatre and education programmes. Since the award of multi-annual funding from The Arts Council/An Comhairle Ealaíon in 2000 and Yoshiko Chuma's appointment in that same year, the company has been afforded a new and exciting phase of development. As Daghdha prepares to lay the foundations of its new and purpose built studio and office spaces, 2002 promises to be a most eventful and exciting year!

For further information on Daghdha's productions contact:

Maighread Neligan, Press & Promotions  
Officer, Daghdha Dance Company.  
Tel: 087 9390455; Fax: 061 202943;  
Email: DaghdhaMaighread@ul.ie



Yoshiko Chuma

# ULKC rule the Pool, Curragower and Courtyard!

Over the past few weeks the kayak club have been extra busy between the new safety courses, the official opening of the 50m pool and of course, how can we forget kollege week. As you all know, the official opening of the University Arena 50m pool was held on Thursday 11th of April. The college had the honour and privilege of having the Taoiseach Bertie Aherne as Master of Ceremonies. The kayak club were given the opportunity to



show off their skills during the rule-free pool day. The demonstration was performed by almost thirty of our members consisting of polo, play and safety. Taking advantage of the pool's leniency, members strutted their stuff by demonstrating various play tricks, such as cartwheels and spins in the play boats, while others showed off their polo skills. The safety aspect was also at the forefront as various rescues were demonstrated with throw ropes, while X and T rescues were also performed. The demo was extremely successful as the club proved that they do rule the pool while the crowd of spectators got just a taste of the many aspects of kayaking.

Good Friday, March 29th, when most students were enjoying their Easter R'n'R, the kayak club gathered at 8:30a.m in Curragower (standing wave in the middle of Limerick by John's Castle). The reason for this was for a kayak freestyle course under the instruction of two of Ireland's top class freestyle paddlers. Jon Hynes and Killian Kelly from H2O Extreme Whitewater Company imparted their

expert knowledge to a group of ten advanced paddlers from the club - Don (organiser), Jimmy, Ross, Paul, Mel, Cathal, Decky, Kevin, J.P and Mike



"sleepy" Jones! Freestyle is a relatively new discipline to kayaking but probably the most dynamic, combining small kayaks with fast steep standing

waves giving fast spins, big air and mad FUN! Right through the mid day sun each member practised what the instructors had preached and at the end of the day everyone took away something from the day (even that Ross needed a new helmet). It was then back for soup and sandwiches provided by the club and to gain some useful tips from the day off the video that H2O extreme had made of our day. Big thanks to H2O extreme for a great day, John Street Deli for the good food and the S.U for the use of the TV and room. There will be a beginner's freestyle

course in the next few weeks so if you're interested, drop an email to 0037435@student.ul.ie or visit kayak.csn.ul.ie. The safety courses have started and will continue right up to the end of the semester so



if you want to learn how to paddle safe, drop by the pool Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday night from 10 to 11.

And last but of course not least, it was that time of year again and ULKC took its part in the adrenalinizing fun fest we know as "kollege week". This year, ULKC's involvement spanned to the first ever "Xtreme Dry Land Kayak Race". The brainchild of top female paddler, Jenny J and her lovely assistants Jimmy and Kev! The way it went..... Basically the guys brought two boats to the courtyard. Two teams of three were picked from the crowd to man the vessels. The object was that the teams got one person to sit in the kayak with a pint (supplied by the stables-

cheers guys) and then to race around the yard. The winners were the team with the fastest time and the least amount of drink! Needless to say carnage



ensued and people ended up in the mud pit! Tune in next year for more "Xtreme Dry Land Kayak

Racing!". Well done to all those who took part in the surf competition over the weekend down in Castlegregory (on the Kerry coastline who haven't had the privilege of visiting this class surf spot). More details of the weekend in the next issue. Catch ye then!



## Dance Society to finish Semester in style

With classes being run by the Dance Society set to finish up in week 11, we are holding our end of semester party on Thursday, 2nd May (Week 12) in the Function Room of the Scholars. It promises to be a spectacular night, with a feast of dancing genres on display, from Salsa to Set Dancing, reflecting the diversity of the classes that have been offered during this semester.

It has been a successful semester yet again for the Dance Society, the highlight undoubtedly being the trip to Westport for the Salsa weekend. A group of twenty embarked on a totally new and fresh experience, getting the opportunity to meet people from all over Ireland, as well as England, Italy and Spain. Classes were offered at all levels of Salsa, so even beginners

got up to speed on the sexy dance moves! Salsa teachers from Germany, London and our own Dr Rumba took us all through our paces on a memorable weekend.

The end of year party wont see the end of dancing for the summer, as there will be a Salsa Festival in Dublin shortly afterwards. In a festival which attracts dancers from all around the world including World Champions, our own Salsa dancers will be strutting their stuff. Thus, plenty of practise is going to be put into perfecting our steps for this event, not forgetting how much fun the whole experience is and the opportunity it provides to meet new people.

Finally, a special THANK YOU to all of our commit-

tee members this year and for the great job you have all been doing, the Dance Society could not have had so much happening without ye. Thus, we say thanks to Laura Czajkowski, Olivia King, Catriona McWeeney, Doireann Ronayne, Maria Donnelly, Shelly Goldstien, Deirdre Bourke, Ralf and Lorcan.

Also, to say thanks to everyone who has supported the Dance Society throughout the year, whether it be coming to classes or functions.

And to those who haven't tried their hand at dancing this year, there is no better place to start than at the Function Room of the Scholars on the 2nd of May!

# U.L. Archers: All Ireland Champions!

Hi, how's it going?

I'm just here to tell you what the U.L. archery club has been up to.

Only a few short months ago a fresh and new team of archers from U.L set out to Galway for the G.M.I.T. intervarsity competition where we showed everyone there that we meant business

After competitions in Limerick, Maynooth and Dublin, we returned to the untamed land of Galway on Sunday fortnight ago, this time for the U.C.G. intervarsity. Where we gave a marvellous display of skill and determination. What we have to show for our efforts is no small token either. Not only did we collect prizes for best team on the day but we also took home best individual on the day as well. But success is no stranger to the team, all throughout the year we have been pushing the standards of intervarsity archery in Ireland. Now at the end of the competition season we still hold an undefeated record of 25/25 points, our previous success's throughout the year have won us the title of Best Intersivity Club in Ireland and congratulations to El Presidente Emmanuel O'Dea who now holds the title of best individual at intersivity level. We have the honour of being the first club to have its name on 'The Richard Quinn Perpetual Shield'. We might be forgiven to say that U.L is where intersivity archery is at!. The people who represented U.L.A.C. during the year were, Michael Maerlein, Neville Gawley, Patrick Keegan, Christina Poggel, Thomas Sheppard, Stephen Cunniffe, Daniel Walsh, Emmanuel O'Dea, Ewan Oughton and Christiane Kuhlmann.



**The team and the trophy** (back from left: Neville Gawley, Emmanuel O'Dea, Michael Maerlein, Yann Coussot; front from left> Patrick Keegan, Thomas Sheppard, Daniel Walsh, Stephen Cunniffe)



**Where it all started: G.M.I.T.** (from left: Christina Poggel, Patrick Keegan, Thomas Sheppard, Daniel Walsh, Emmanuel O'Dea, Christiane Kuhlmann)

Congratulations to member Stephen Cunniffe as well. Only a few days after showing what he was worth in Galway, he managed to get his first ever Robin Hood (to those of you who don't know what this is, it's the term given when you split one of your arrows with the next one). Not bad going for someone who's only been shooting a few months.

And for the future, best of luck to Ewan Oughton who will be representing Ireland in Thailand at the Student World Archery Championships, and next year the club hopes to have a team at the Student World Games in Korea.

But U.L Archery is not about winning, its about the people as well, honestly in my completely unbiased opinion we've got a great bunch of people in the club. Take it from me, there are days when Archery is the last thing that I want to do, but I go because I know that there's always crack to be had and that I can really relax and forget all that college S\*\*TE that's slowly killing me anyway. That's why we always encourage new members, more people means better crack and a better club for everyone.

And if that wasn't enough information for you and you need more, then there is only one possibility: browse to <http://www.skynet.ie/~archery>.

Thomas Sheppard,  
Vice Bruce of U.L. Archery Club

The weekend of Week 8 was another triumph for UL Young Fine Gael. Putting on a brave face and overcoming all tiredness, the branch rallied around Mary Jackman and Michael Noonan. In West Limerick, too we support Michael Finucane and Dan Neville.

This weekend was most notable because it was a Rapid Reaction Force weekend and the target was Limerick city and county. Members of YFG from all over the country, Donegal, Galway, Cork and Dublin trooped down to Newcastle West for Day 1. Very soon the town was swamped with small teams, armed with leaflets and ready to tackle any questions, comments and dogs(well not the ones foaming at the mouth). A fleet of cars was on hand to ferry the gangs around and in no time at all Abbeyfeale and the surrounding villages were in the firing line.

East Limerick was not to be left out either and almost every house in and between Moroe Cappamore, Doon and not forgetting Oola, although many more have been, sorry. The determination to get Mary Jackman elected with Michael Noonan is palpable and no stone

is being left unturned in the effort.

Naturally our guests for the weekend were shown terrific hospitality by all the candidates, councillors and



branch members. Somehow the party in Newcastle West lasted well into the early hours of the morning but the whole team rose on Sunday to hit the pavement again.

For anyone who hasn't been in Raheen, beware! The size of the sprawl is shocking. Thousands of houses lie hidden behind the front rows chewing up the fields at a rate of knots. So the whole team set off from the Unicorn pub to tackle the goliath. However the weather was fantastic and make the whole day very pleasant. It also silenced any mention of the Bull Island weatherman.

So after that confidence boost UL YFG is out and about doing a couple of hours here and another couple there. UL YFG was also at the opening of the Arena, waiting to give a very clear message to Bertie Ahern- no week-day voting! Obviously everybody isn't satisfied as a number of groups were also present. We had no custard pies at hand though.

For anyone looking for a break from all the serious business of politics Election Bull is something like Bull Island and will be running in the Concert Hall on May 5-6. Tickets are €25 approx. Might be fun.

Anyone interested in canvassing or any general queries or suggestions contact [ulyfg@hotmail.com](mailto:ulyfg@hotmail.com)

# The Racing Society's Trip To Cheltenham

Monday 11th at 3pm, 21 eager students departed from UL on the Racing Societies premiere trip to the Cheltenham festival with the sole intent of having a good time and hopefully making a bob or two on the likes of "Looks like Trouble" or "Like a Butterfly".

We always knew that the journey was going to be, well, a nightmare basically. Train to boat, boat to train, train to train to train to.... Well you get the idea, 16hrs trapped with people that really should be committed is a life altering experience I can tell you, but hey nothing years of therapy won't fix. I complain but it really was fun, we had delays of course, the crossing over was smooth and thankfully it wasn't due to the sailing that caused a few wavering bodies but I'll say no more.

After following near death by carbon monoxide poisoning we left the car deck only to see our train departing sans us. As you can imagine certain people were none too pleased with the ever punctual? Stena Line but somehow what seemed to sleep deprived eyes, a magic floaty bus that was wait for it... free!? Took us



to rendezvous with our train.

Eventually we reached Bristol; time now 7.30 am Tuesday after 16 hours travelling and for some 24 hours sleep deprivation. Its amazing what one finds stimulating after no sleep; We must have spent a good 3 hours trying to build card houses whilst Paul tried making conversation with the vending machine, or "shop" as he called it.

A lucky few had tickets to that days racing whilst oth-

ers went ice skating or shopping.

Tuesday racing, the atmosphere was electric. Six of the UL posse experienced the excitement. Clad in their finery some were mistaken for racing's elite and spent the day in the owners and trainers bar-in true jammy student style. The race goers became familiar with Cheltenham city centre; the 21 Club is a must apparently! Unfortunately sleep, or the lack of finally caught up with them and lets just say a taxi from Cheltenham to Bristol is not a good idea!

For those of us still in Bristol, we decided to check out the hot spots along with the original founders of the Racing Society Rob Downes and Robbie Bourke. A good night was had by all, although unfortunately some were struck down with food poisoning and went to bed early. Luckily enough all were fine by sunrise (bar Justine/Britney) and after breakfast the group made the 40 min journey to Cheltenham.

On arrival the group dispersed towards the bookies, the stands or the bar depending on what tickled their fancy most.

A good days racing was had, Istabraq was a disappointment but just experiencing the raw excitement is the true essence of Cheltenham Festival.

A good bit of advice is, if you are one for tips the Mandarin bar is the place to go. Also keep an eye on all personal belongings no matter how close they are to you, as Julie Anne

will tell you.

Wednesday night, those most used to Cheltenham nightlife at this stage wanted another fix. Good fun was had apparently, although most of the night was spent in the good company of the Irish, bets being taken on whether a rather large contestant could jump tables, or not as the case turned out.

Rumour has it one individual got a little carried away

and went rolling in the mud in her nice pink suit, the name slips my mind though funnily enough.

Word of warning is to avoid train stations at this hour of the morning unless you like to fraternise with the rather touched members of the Cheltenham community.

Meanwhile the rest took the train back to Bristol where we quickly changed and headed out to dinner. The rather bemused owners of the Italian restaurant in question looked like they had never seated 21 people in their establishment before let alone such a dodgy looking crowd.

After dinner we went next door to the local student dive and were entertained by various drinking games and Britney Spears of course.

After keeping the tradition of being the last to leave/be kicked out, bed was definitely in order-though no cohabitation much to my disappointment.

The final leg of the journey was similar to the first; another missed train due to catfight on ferry (very amusing, though none of us girls joined in, much to the lads disgust)



We eventually made it home in good spirits though with empty pockets and sore heads.

The only thing on our minds, Cheltenham Festival 2003. Watch this space.

## University of Limerick Debating Union

It's been a busy two months for the UL Deb U. Chief among the recent activities have been the trip to the annual European Universities Debating Championship held this year in Haifa, Israel in March 21-27, where UL Deb U did very well indeed. Having successfully lied to their parents that Israel was completely safe, that all those stories of suicide bombings were totally blown out of proportion (?) and that they'd be far away from any trouble spots, two teams (Tadgh O'Shea and Julian Moore, Gavin Ward and Eoin O'Culain) set off for Israel, first to Gatwick, then on to the middle East.

Having successfully gotten through customs in Tel Aviv airport after a barrage of questions, we then got a taxi up to our hotel in Haifa. Having had quite enough of the naff seventies décor inside, we went out to seek out a nearby pub, and found one, conveniently situated across the road. We then found out another thing, Israelis don't drink, for as we huddled in the corner quietly imbibing away, every time we walk to the toilet you would be lucky to see a solitary bottle of lager among a table of twelve people. The following day was much better as all the other debaters began to arrive along with the organisers. We had a look around Haifa, a very picturesque, mountainous city on the North West coast of Israel.

Having spent just five days there however, you realise how paranoid about security this country is.

Given the suicide bombings and terrorists attacks it has endured in recent months, armed security guards stand at nearly every door of every mall, shop, government building and university, customarily searching all your bags and checking you with metal detector devices. Quite a culture shock indeed and you only hope it ends soon.

Yet even with all this, you wouldn't have known that there was

(what now looks like) a war going on. In spite all of this, the organisers treated us with great hospitality and warmth, and put on an exhaustively well-organised tournament. We had to rise at 7am each morning, which was torture, but the Israelis made clear that no time would, or could be wasted. We had to debate in six different rounds with different motions. They ranged from equal rights for women in the military to banning blood-sports to whether liver transplants should go to alcoholics, luckily for us, the topic of the Middle east was studiously avoided. Some of the interpretations of different motions proved hilarious, like the Turkish team who insisted that women 'can't fly fighter plane' because the G-forces would cause them to orgasm in mid-flight (!?) or the Yugoslavian team who decided to define Cloning Britney Spears as, "that this House would give tax free status to teen-magazines, like Sugar, Mizz and J-17." I'll let you think about that for yourselves...

In the end, both teams did brilliantly, with Julian Moore and Tadgh O'Shea reaching the Semi-finals, and Gavin Ward and Eoin O'Culain reaching the Quarter-Finals. This has been the best performance by UL DebU in such a prestigious and high calibre tournament in the last 10 years, and hopefully the sign of even better things to come.

During our time there we also got some sightseeing done, courtesy of the organisers (from the University of Haifa) going to the ancient town of Acre just north of Haifa, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee (which, if the Israelis I talked to are to be believed, is in danger of drying up in the next thirty years if it remains their main water source). Jerusalem, for obvious reasons, was never going to be a hot destination given recent developments but many of the Israelis we talked to were very

friendly and enthusiastic about showing us around there if we ever came back. All in all, it was a great tournament, great weather, a very interesting country and an excellent experience. In other news, at the end of March, four First-Years, Eoin Gubbins, Shane Moloney, Donal McCarthy and Martin O'Brien watched over by Grace Lord went to the Engineering College of Paris for a week to give debating tutorials to debaters there, to give them coaching and advice in British style debating. It was a great experience, taking part in mock debates with the Parisian students there, and no doubt seeing all the sights of Paris along the way. They must have done a good job as the university now intends to send many more teams to our intervarsity next year.

Also worth mentioning is Paddy Buckley's and Eamonn O'Flynn's success in reaching the final of the NUIG Lit. & Deb. Intersvarsity final. Three teams in all from UL took part in this IV at the end of March, with all doing very well, maintaining the high standard of debating for which UL Deb U is known.

For April, there are many events still to go ahead like the annual Ciaran Treacy Memorial Debating Competition on Tuesday Week 11, an internal competition open to all UL DebU members and the by now annual Law and European Studies Vs Law and Accounting debate (slugging match, more appropriately) on Wednesday, Wk 11 also. Expect all the usual jibes, mockery and insults.

Regardless of whether you are an L&E or an L&A student, you're bound to find someone or something to laugh at.

Well that's it for now, and in case you haven't figured out by now, we meet every week, Tuesdays at half seven in the Scholars' Function room, new members more than welcome.

Till the next issue then.

# Intervarsities 2002 Belfast

## Intervarsities 2002 Belfast

Another win was recorded this weekend to the increasing success of U.L. clubs and societies as the O.P.C. won but couldn't lift the granite trophy (in excess of 3Kg) over our heads.

The climbing Intervarsity was hosted by The University of Ulster, Jordanstown in the beautiful city of Belfast, which is much loved by our members. As we walked through the streets of the city centre I could see the eyes of the more experienced amongst us looking sharply at the surrounding buildings. I too was looking at the impressive Georgian architecture, but where the experience showed they were scanning the buildings for possible climbing routes to be attempted later.

We left Limerick at 4:15 on Friday evening and before long we were making good headway up the country before being forced into a stop which would "Only be for 5 minutes" for another member of our team, a vital contributor for one of us at least (have to be careful coz was the president's demand to stop). We waited and waited and waited and 40 minutes after arriving at the car park in McDonalds the engine was cranked up, the handbrake disengaged and the wheels rolled on with the extra weight of the awaited one.

Just past Dublin we had another unscheduled stop, kidney junction as some of us had taken the large coke at McD's. By the side of the road - no that's illegal, at a conveniently placed lay-by we let loose our flows and broken the seal to honking horns and dubious smiles from drivers of both sexes. Onward we motored toward the border where upon watching the diesel flow into the bus we again had a bladder inspection followed by currency conversions before finally hitting Belfast at about 11:00 pm.

A quick phone call and ten minutes later we were enjoying the company of the U.U.J.M.C. and president Johnny Conroy, at a party hosted in honour of our arrival. We were delighted but not surprised at the hospitality shown to us by the ever-friendly club. We joined them in the celebrations and long into the small hours of the morning we sang and danced with them, and much to the amusement of the Jordanstown club, Stevo Williams performed his version of 'Angels', 'Anals'.

After the long night came the early morning, and the purpose of the welcome party soon became evident. Splitting headaches and heavy eyes were in abundance throughout the U.L. crew, myself no exception. The Jordanstown contingency, were rightly smiling at the ease and success of their plan, to subdue the main opposition. Nonetheless we climbed through our pain and the majority of both the U.L. and U.U.J. climbers displayed some great performances, with Queens, D.C.U. and Columbia also getting in on the act. Unfortunately the pain was too great for one member of our team who after only 6 out of 11 routes retired to the shower room and fell asleep for over an hour and upon waking had a 20 min shower, refreshing. How do I know all this? Guess!

After day 1 of the competition we returned to our accommodation, which was slightly better than what was originally quoted (internal joke), got changed and headed toward Belfast city centre. We entered a hall and a great night of Irish dancing followed with several members thinking that they were Michael Flatley; the only similarity was that they fell flatly on their arses. With tired and bruised bodies we vacated the premises with sighs of relief from the locals and ventured to a club. Unfortunately we left the Ceili hall in little groups so losing people was a certainty. Some took the direct route to the club while those in my group of 5 solely U.L.'ers walked aimlessly through the city centre asking for directions. When we finally got to point B we decided to walk the 1 mile back to the Ceili hall beyond it to point C, where we hoped the others were. We found them there and so more dancing followed. Again leaving the club split the groups but this time I made sure I had at least one U.U.J. member with me. Walking home led to some of the climbing of the routes, which were spied earlier in the day. Upon arriving home most of us dove into our sleeping bags but one of us decided there

must be more to Belfast that she hadn't already seen so she took off to find another party. Several hours later she returned unbeknown to her where she was or had been.

Day 2, as usual, followed day 1 but the days climbing was for some more rigorous while for others possible. Again great performances were witnessed including the not so good (not me this time). We saw a guy literally run up a wall in 8 seconds and our very own John Harrison take the prize in the expert male lead, which for a mere mortal would be like climbing up a pane of glass. We also had an injury in our midst, which took the brilliant Darragh Dolan out of the competition, maybe we wouldn't be taking the trophy after all, but we overcame our crippling disadvantage and raised our standards.

With 4:00pm quickly approaching we finished up loaded our bus and returned to the hall awaiting the results. The Jordanstown gang really did spend too much time watching Alfred Hitchcock as their display of suspense really did have us biting our nails into extinction. Our deadline for leaving was 4:30 and at 4:29 the result was announced, we grabbed the trophy and ran to the bus and homebound, but, of course not before saying goodbye to the excellent U.U.J.M.C. and thanking them for their hospitality and in a few cases their over friendly welcome (Our 3 members know who they are along with their other halves). The bus journey home was the quietest of any Intervarsity winning team in history. Instead of roaring and screaming loudly, we sat quietly, spoke softly, but did snore loudly, with fewer toilet breaks. The long journey ended outside the pub but the thought of bed strongly outweighed the lure of even the coldest, creamiest, free Guinness, so home to bed for a satisfying sleep dreaming about how we WILL win again next year.

For a full list of results check out [www.go.to/uujmc](http://www.go.to/uujmc)



## UL Tennis Club: Championships Begin

*"Treating your adversary with respect is giving him an advantage to which he is not entitled."*

Samuel Johnson

So for the next two weeks during the UL Tennis Club Championships all competing members will be transformed into a bunch of disrespectful, crude competitors... We didn't need a competition for that. You should have seen the crowd during the night out. You wouldn't put them in the zoo. They were all like wee newborn calves struggling to keep on their feet only without the innocence. It was a good night all right.

OK so the UL Tennis Club Championships have kicked off this week, the final of which will be played on Wednesday of week 11 at 5 o'clock, with all going well. So a bit of a crowd and support during the final match will be greatly appreciated by all involved. Anyone with some free time about then get down to the courts and cheer them on.

These are my first club championships. I played in the 35's tournament in November but that's been about it as far as competitive matches go. I'm trying to think of as many excuses as I can beforehand but I haven't any good ones...tennis elbow, gimpy leg, and sight bordering on none at all. This God-given talent, which I'm supposed to have, must have been tossed aside like an old mistress-or is that mattress?

Ability is one thing but stability is even better in competitions I've been told. So concentration is important throughout the entire match and negligence can finish you off.

In anything, if you think you have it in the bag, the bag usually breaks and at 15cents a bag it isn't cheap to fail! There are two chief ways to insure failure: always under-rate your competition, and always overrate yourself.

But to climb that ladder of success you must climb many

rounds, it's rounds of drinks I'd be more acquainted to. But the championships are based on a round by round knock-out basis. If you knock them out, you win and progress. I misunderstood this concept at first and tried clubbing my first opponent with my handy racquet in an oh so vain attempt to knock him out. An official warning soon followed.

Belief is a major factor in competitive times also. Confidence is that quiet, assured feeling you get just before you fall flat on your face...but it can win you the match also. A friend of mine who competes in Karate told me that, when going into a competitive arena, believing you can win is a must or else failure is almost a definite...so I must be positive! I have great faith in fools- self-confidence my friends call it.

So I'm laden with great words of advice, confidence, belief, a little skill and I'm praying for luck. That Lady Luck is the kind of a dame who smiles on a few of us, but laughs at the rest of us. I'll give her a wink. She might smile.

It's my old foe Michael Phelan I meet in the first round. He beat me in a "tennis related" competition during rag week and the forfeit I carried out was stomach churning to say the least. It's far easier to forgive an opponent after you've gotten even with him!

The other first round fixtures are as follows:

**Michael Quinlan vs. Jeffrey Richardson**

- Winner plays seed 1

**Fergal Curtin vs Donal McCarthy**

- Winner plays seed 4

**Richie Molloy vs Shane (Bono) Kirwin**

- Winner plays seed 3

**Michael Phelan vs Barry Mc Mackin**

- Winner plays seed 2

The winners of these matches will then go on to play one of the seeded players in the next round

1. Allan Costine
2. Turlough Flood
3. Charlie Strum
4. Eoin Young

At the time of writing this there were no result yet available but I'll have them all for the next article.

So all that's left for me to say is best of luck to all competitors in the club championships. Thanks to all who are taking part and to all other members and future members, remember that there is now another year to prepare for the next club championships. Get yourself involved and know that championships like these are nothing without those that are starting off and beginning in the sport. The experience of match play is invaluable and the championships are all the better because of your involvement.

I'll leave you with this, if you are competing over the next few weeks or maybe the imminent arrival of exam time is getting to you...

Remember the tea kettle: When it's up to its neck in hot water, it sings

For any information regarding the Tennis Club, the Club Championships, Training or membership, Contact me at [0134074@student.ul.ie](mailto:0134074@student.ul.ie)

Club Secretary

Barry Mc Mackin

# Limerick City triumphant in the League Cup

by Lorcan MacCurtáin

In an era where the bigger clubs are getting richer, while many smaller, less fashionable clubs are desperately struggling to survive, one can take great heart from Limerick City's recent triumph over Derry City in the League Cup Final.

Despite finishing bottom of the pile in the First Division, Noel O'Connor's side have managed to defy all the odds, defeating no less than four premiership teams on route to winning the competition. Two narrow away wins against Galway Utd and Cork City respectively saw Limerick face Shamrock Rovers in the semi-final. On a miserable February afternoon, Limerick gave a performance that would be permanently etched on the minds of the large faithful at Jackman Park. Taking the game to the hoops from the start, Limerick deservedly took the honours with a beautifully struck volley from Brian Donnellan on 75 minutes, and it could have been more, with Shane O'Donoghue and Brendan Hughes coming agonisingly close to increasing the lead towards the end.

Saturday, 6th April saw the first leg of the final against

Derry City. On a scorching day, a huge crowd (that included a small but colourful group of Derry supporters) converged on the sun-baked Jackman Park in the hope that the fairytale would continue. Derry threatened to put a spanner in the works when, against the run of play, Kevin Deery struck first blood after 41 minutes. Any fears that Limerick would capitulate were turned on their head when Ciaran Foley lofted the ball over Derry keeper, Russell Payne just before half time to level the match. Unfortunately, Foley had to be taken off immediately after concussing himself in the challenge with Payne.

The second half was as spirited and keenly contested as the first, yet approaching the end, there was a distinct feeling that the game was going to finish level, with neither side prepared to take big risks. That was until Limerick were awarded a penalty in the 84th minute, coolly slotted home by John Whyte, sending the crowd into delirious celebrations. Derry exploded into action, launching an all-out assault on the Limerick goal in the last five minutes, only to find Owen Poill, Pat Purcell and UL student Conor Molan equal to the task of defending these vigorous attacks. When the final whis-

tle blew, the home crowd let free their emotions after years of disappointment.

The following Thursday, Noel O'Connor and his charges made the long trip North, followed by a small group of dedicated supporters, while the rest of us into Live 95FM (albeit with a few technical hitches throughout the match!). Limerick gave a pure blood and guts performance that saw them weather incessant Derry pressure throughout the 120 minutes of football played. Jimmy Fyffe in goals was the hero for the blues, constantly thwarting the Derry forwards, until finally being beaten by a Liam Coyle penalty, controversially awarded in the 71st minute. After some confusion, the tie was declared level at 2-2 aggregate, and the game went into extra time. Fyffe would again come to the rescue, making a stunning save from Jamie Hughes. The penalty shoot out that ensued would set in stone Fyffe's legendary status on Shannonside. Two inspirational saves helped Limerick to a 3-2 win, followed by chaotic celebrations as captain Brendan Hughes lifted the cup.

A victory for Limerick, a victory for football, and a victory for the enduring magic of the cup.

## Craic le Spraoi i gConamara!

A chairde,

I dtús báire ba mhaith liom comhghairdeas a ghabháil le **Eoin O'Broin** agus na daoine eile a bhuaigh agus a rith sa toghacháin don Aontas na Mac Léinn an tseachtain seo chaite. Súil agam go mbeidh an tacaíocht a bhfuair Spraoi i mbliana go háirithe i Seachtain na Gaeilge chomh fliursí sa bhliain seo chugainn mar a raibh sé sa téarma seo.

Cinnté tá Spraoi gnóthach na laethanta seo. Tá na cláracha raidió ar siúl an

t-am go léir ar Wired FM, '**Spraoi!**' gach **Céadaoin idir 5-6** agus '**Cúlábúla**' idir **12.30 agus 1.00** gach Déardaoin. Éistigí istigh, beidh sé greannmhar!!

Ina theannta sin, buailimid go rialta sa Stáblaí chun spraoi is comhrá bheith againne. Beidh Spraoi páirteach san Environmental Awareness Day ar an Déardaoin i Seachtain 10 agus iad ag bualadh le na páistí beaga ón nGaelscoil Chaladh Uí Traoigh arís.

Chuaigh Spraoi go dtí na Forbacha i nGallimh chun freastal ar Ard-Fheis Conradh na Gaeilge agus ar an chomhdáil Sheasta na Gaeilge d'AMLÉ, (Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn) a bhí ar siúl in ostán Chois Fharraige ag deireadh Seachtain 9.

Bhain gach duine an-taitneamh as an deireadh seachtaine. Bhuaileamar le dream de mhic léinn ó Choláiste Phadraig, BÁC agus mic léinn ón Institiúid Teicneolaíochta na Gaillimhe, Mhaigh Éo agus Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh i rith na deireadh



seachtaine. Ba eachtra stairiúil é an Ard Fheis toisc gurbh é an chéad uair riamh go raibh an méid sin de mhic léinn i láthair.

Bhí an oíche againne ar an Satharn san ostán Chois Fharraige le ceol ó na ceirneóirí 'O2' a chas gach shaghas ceoil ó chuile chearn den chruinne. Bhí Spraoi ag strútaíl ár stuif ar an t-urlár ar feadh na hoíche go léir ag baint sult as snagcheol is ceol te ó Bhrasíl! Bhí an t-atmaisféar draíochtiúil!!

Beidh ár gcóisir deireadh an téarma ar siúl sa Phluais ar an Déardaoin, an dara lá de mhí na Bealtaine, Seachtain a 12. Céillí mhór agus duaiseanna iontacha. Cead isteach saor in aisce, fáilte roimh chách. Aibheáil mhór orm a rá go mbeidh mé ag fágáil OL go luath, bhain mé an sult as mo thréimhse anseo. Bhí

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2002 i OL absolutely go hiontach. Súil agam go leanfaidh an SPRAOI sa choláiste ar aghaidh. Beidh Johnathan, (alias Seanacháin!) agus Guinevere i smacht (súil agam) an bhliain seo chugainn.

Tuilleadh eolais maidir leis an gCumann ó Guinevere ag guinevere27@hotmail.com nó Johnathan ag 0131091@student.ul.ie

Sin é an scéal, go n-éirí an t-ádh libh sna scrudaithe,

Grá mhór,

Regina Ní Riain.

**Labhair an Ghaeilge agus mairfidh sí.  
Tír gan Teanga, Tír gan Anam.**



# Mt. Aconcagua

• **The Club**

The UNIVERSITY of Limerick continuously provides its members with the opportunity to learn new skills, develop freedom and enjoy the splendour of the mountains. Modern adventure sports, carried out by the University of Limerick Outdoor Pursuits Club facilitates rock climbing, caving, hill walking, mountain-skills courses and international expeditions.



LIMERICK Outdoor Pursuits Club has been running for twelve years, providing its members with the opportunity to learn new skills, develop freedom and enjoy the splendour of the mountains. Modern adventure sports, carried out by the University of Limerick Outdoor Pursuits Club facilitates rock climbing, caving, hill walking, mountain-skills courses and international expeditions.



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• **The Mountain**

The 2003 expedition is to Mt. Aconcagua, in Argentina, South America. It is the highest mountain in the world, outside of the Himalayas, standing at a colossal height of 6962m. At these altitudes climbers find the simplest of tasks physically debilitating. A tremendous amount of training and preparation has to be undertaken to ensure personal safety, while climbing at these extreme altitudes. The team is planning to ascend the "Polish Glacier"; a more technical and physically demanding route than the "Normal" route.



The team intend to use a 'climb high, sleep low' tactic; necessitate the establishment of a base camp at 4200m, and higher camps at 4900m and 5700m. With temperatures as low as -27°C inside the tent, and pit themselves against some of nature's extremely demanding for the human body to sustain itself for prolonged periods of time at this expedition.



With temperatures as low as -27°C inside the tent, and pit themselves against some of nature's extremely demanding for the human body to sustain itself for prolonged periods of time at this expedition.

• **The Team & Equipment**

To meet these demanding conditions the twelve-team members have already begun training. The team is made up of members of the UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK Outdoor Pursuits Club. The rigours of this expedition will require specialist high altitude equipment, such as storm tents, kerosene cookers and down filled clothing. The cost of this expedition equipment alone will be €10,000. All training, which consists of a season in the Alps and several mountain skills courses, and personal climbing equipment has to be self funded by the individual team members.



• **The Cost**

The total cost of this expedition is €40,000, while this is an appreciable amount of money, we feel it is a worthwhile investment in the future of Irish mountaineering. This is the first time that any Irish college club has undertaken such a venture.



• **The Future**

It is now planned to organise such an expedition within the UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK Outdoor Pursuits Club every two years. This will be made possible by the experience and equipment gained for the club, from the Mt. Aconcagua 2003 expedition.

“The stage is set, please take your seats...”

YEAR	DESTINATION
2003	Mt. Aconcagua
2005	Mt. Kilimanjaro
2007	The Himalayas
2009	The Rockies

[www.AA2003.com](http://www.AA2003.com)

Aconcagua 2003  
Outdoor Pursuits Club  
University of Limerick  
Limerick

E-mail: [expedition@AA2003.com](mailto:expedition@AA2003.com)

# Election appreciation from the candidates

## Éoin O' Broin

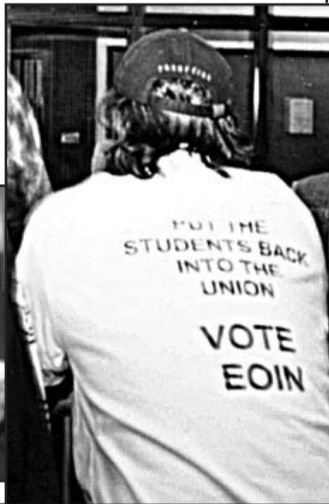
I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who helped my campaign to become president of ULSU. From designing posters, to inventing slogans & logos, to making t-shirts & banners, to buying odds and ends like markers & lollipops and getting flyers & manifestos printed - I certainly couldn't have done it without you. Hopefully I don't leave anyone out but here's a try at all those who worked long and hard to get me elected: Mae, Edel, Denise, Sorcha, Delia, Fiachra, Pádraig, Bryan, John R, Keith, Aengus, John o'G, David, Jarlath, Cáit, Eamonn, Katherine, Manus, Cathal, Cearbhúil, Dominic, Michael, Ed, Guinevere, Marie, Nancy, Mark, John K, Maureen, Xavier, Barry, Ron, Andrew, Tim, Paul, Mamon, Jack, Alan, JP, Lorcan, Martin, Ann, the troll and of course the fire dancers from the art college. Hopefully that's not the last we will see of tandems & drummers around UL.

Thanks as well to all who asked me questions, and debated with me the finer points of my manifesto throughout the campaign. Lastly thanks to all who gave me the encouragement to run. You were right!

Lastly thanks to John Mulcahy and his campaign team for a good clean campaign. Make sure to stay involved!

I look forward to a great year working for the students of UL along with my fellow sabbaticals Gráinne, Mags & Paddy. There's plenty of campaigns a comin'.

*Eoin*



## Margaret Ryan

A big thank you to my campaign team, who offered to help get me elected, though their services were ultimately not needed. So thank you to:

Kate O'Connell: campaign manager, best friend and full time antagonist. We've stuck together this long, to the amazement of everyone that knows us. Thanks a million for everything - tea, sympathy, manifesto, posters, and keeping my motormouth in check - at least for the week that was in it! God knows, you'll probably never manage that again :)

Daniel Nagle: thanks for the ideas, the pep talks, and indeed the comments that kept me laughing for a week - "Sure I'm just a quiet boy". Yeah, and I'm Audrey Hepburn.

Ciara Griffin: I didn't guilt you into going to the UGM, and sure, didn't you get a lot of work done while you were there anyway, so what's the problem? Thanks for everything, you're a legend.

Dee Quinn: What can I say? I appreciate everything more than you'll ever know, and thanks for the advice on the American situation. I'll keep ya posted.

Grainne Daly: Thanks for everything, and the offers of much work, backbreaking as it was going to be.

To everyone else who offered to help, to vote, or even to make me cups of tea at three in the morning, thank you so much, I really appreciate it and I'll never forget it.

Congratulations to everyone who ran and kept me entertained for the week, and especially to those who won. I'm looking forward to next year already.

*Margaret*



## Paddy Buckley

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who took the time out to come up and vote for me on Wednesday, I'll do my level best to repay ye're trust in me. Thanks to all the other candidates and campaigns teams for the fairest and cleanest election I've ever been involved in, I'm looking forward to working with Eoin, Grainne and Mags next year, and commiserations to two Johns and Gemma. I've a few more thank you's to make to other people as well, in no particular order!

Eamonn O Flynn: Campaign manager extraordinaire, For telling me I could do it, and hitting lecture after lecture despite having a massive project due in, thanks a million.

Kate O Connell: My second campaign manager, mother by name and mother by nature, I couldn't have done it without you.

Marie Claire Butler: Another legend who helped me more than I had any right to ask or expect, thanks a million.

Mick Phelan: All debts are paid! I reckon, we just call it quits after this one though! Cheers boss.

Nuala Lynch: Nuala, who always comes through for me, thanks a million for everything.

Willy Ryan: Young Ryan, for being as kewl as ever and getting your office to vote for me!

Eoin Gubbins: The first of the little monsters I'm supposedly responsible for, thanks for all the help over the week.

Shane Moloney: Another of the little monsters, Cheers for all the help over the week.

Louise Ryan: Another legend who never lets me down, you're a star!

Jen: Big smile, big heart, thanks a million for everything over the week.

Grace Lord: For all the origami and the usual support and encouragement.

Jody and Eoin O Cool: For being there as much as ye could, thanks a million, and thanks for that rousing intro Jody!

Diana and Julie: For handing out the swans, thanks a million lads.

Sean: For the tunes at the stand!

Daeglan Meagher: Last of the young guns, and thanks for the inspiration baby!

Tony and the rest of the men in green for the tables, Everyone in the DebU, ye were all brilliant. Everyone who gave me encouragement over the week, and there was lots of them, thanks a million one and all.

*Paddy*

## Grainne Heffron

A Message from the Welfare Officer Elect

I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped out last week in my campaign. It was a lot tougher than I expected!

-To Dónal my campaign manager

-Rónan and Brian, for your constructive criticism, and that long day talking in the canteen

-To Jacqui for the canvassing and the bowls!

-To Fiona, Aoife, Noreen, Michael, Mary, Dave, Fergus, Noelle, Georgina, Imelda, Eimear, Majella for the canvassing, manning the stand and all the

encouragement (and the sweets)

-A special thanks to Imelda for listening to me and encouraging me, I owe you

-To Eileen, Olivia, Ben, and the rest of the 4th Year Applied Maths Class, for letting me take over their lab and helping me out during the week their FYP was due.

-To the 1st Year Applied Maths class for their stickers!

-To Eugene Gath, my supervisor, for a much needed extension!

-To all the maths lecturers who allowed me to address their lectures, I never thought I would be able to speak to a Concert Hall full of students with the confidence I somehow acquired during the week

-To Demot Hurley, for a brilliant poster

-To Mick for your advice

-To Máire, I couldn't have done it without you!

-To Dave for being there in every way

-And finally to all those who voted for me, I really hope it wasn't just because of the sweets and rice-crispie buns!

I am looking forward to taking up my position in June and continuing the great work of Tara Curley and previous Welfare Officers. I look forward to working with Paddy, Margaret and Eoin. I am sure it will be an interesting, challenging and rewarding year.

Finally I would like to thank Gemma for a great campaign. You made me realise how much I actually wanted the job.

See you all in September

*Gráinne*





## John Mulcahy

Thanks to:

Catherine: You didn't have the easiest job to do but I wouldn't have survived without you. You were always able to pull me to the side and put me into my place, for some reason I never doubted that you would!! No matter how many times I questioned you, you always made me believe that I was wrong, and I usually was. You're a true friend and I'll never forget the help you gave me.

Aislinn: My shadow. You were always good for a poke. Don't lock yourself into the bathroom anymore; the lads couldn't handle taking that lock apart again. You're a star and I couldn't think of anyone better to wake up beside the morning after the week before.

Simon: You were always able to provide a laugh, and you were worth it for the porn collection alone (don't forget to hide that from Aislinn). Thank you panda - we see you still haven't gotten rid of the smell. If nothing else came out of the week we finally found a woman for you who reached those high standards.

Denis: For someone who didn't even know me at the start of the week, you put in some effort. I hope all the bruises were worth it, and at least you got out of the Tiger suit alive.

Dee: Another lady who I managed to keep up all night, and that was just doing the manifesto, and the stickers, and at least you finally managed to organise your life.

Maz: Hope it was worth taking those days off work. I never thought I'd see you on your hands and knees scrubbing the floor, then again I never thought I'd see myself doing it either.

John: You never got to eat that grass but at least you got a good look at those College Court girls. It was good to see you make use of your sewing skills.

Regina: Your infectious smile was a source for everyone all week. Go raibh mile maith agat.

Breda: For someone who actually had a real job to do, the effort you put in was unbelievable.

Grá: Despite your sore feet you still managed to do loads of the background work that everyone else was trying to avoid.

Daniel: Thanks a million for the website and everything else. When I take over the world I'll know who to come to.

Ruth C: Thanks for all the publicity in the Lodge, it gave the lads a reason to stare. Cheers for all the other help. Don't forget to keep the cast as a memento of the week.

Denise: You're an absolute star.

Bernadette: Thanks for all the help, especially with the banners; despite the fact we only had them for a few hours.

Jen O'Brien: You're right I'm still too tempting for Jesus.

Ruth B, Shane D & Tanya: Us poor class reps have to sick together.

Cearbhúil: For jumping ships to fold my manifestos.

All the lads in the house, thanks a million for all ye're help and support, especially Yvonne.

All the people who didn't want to be thanked, you know who you are.

All at Paddy FM for keeping us sane, and John Kelleher for his hilarious campaign.

Mags and Kate, it's true what they say about running unopposed.

Gráinne for the rice krispie buns and Gemma for the m&m's, no wonder that one was so close. Not forgetting the teams who provided everyone with lots of laughter during the week.

Eoin and his gang, it was nice to see such a "civilised" campaign on both sides.

Fuithiama del Vasco Productions.  
I'd recommend this PR Company to anyone.

All those who sat trying to inspire my pose for the photo, that was the hardest thing I had to do all week, and yes Catherine my feet are here, my head is facing that way, and at this stage I don't know where my eyes are.

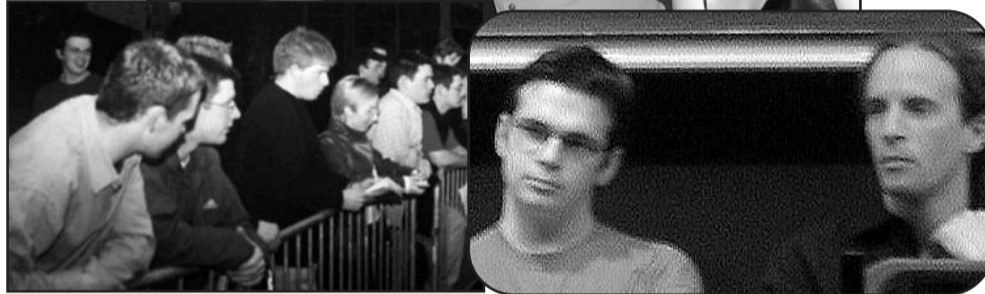
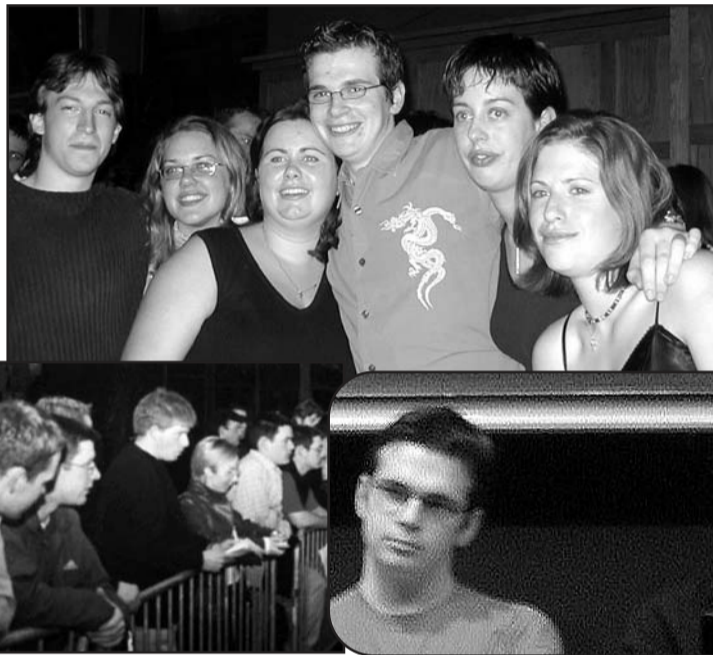
Lastly, thanks to everyone who voted for me. I have absolutely no regrets for running and had a brilliant time.

I wish Eoin, Gráinne, Mags and Paddy the best of luck in the coming year, I'm sure ye'll make a great team. I'll still be around to keep an eye on ye, so ye better do ye're jobs well.

If I left out anyone it was an accident, sorry.

Thanks again to everyone

**John**



Caroline and Helen: Go raibh mile maith agat.

Jen Aherne and Mad: Languages students had to have some uses!!

Val, Leah and Sarah: I knew my girls wouldn't let me down.

## Gemma Nolan

THANK YOU!

To begin I must say to anybody considering running for election next year that it is a risk well worth taking. The election week as all candidates will agree was hard work but in my own personal experience was great fun and this was due to the fantastic team I had behind me. I would firstly like to thank Grainne Heffron, Donal Kilduff and all their Campaign Team who participated in the election in a commendable manner. There was no bad feelings or nasty campaigning, which undoubtedly allowed the week to run smoothly with absolutely no tension. Congrats Grainne and also to Donal who stayed in good humour right up to the close of voting when all teams were beyond tired. Thanks to all the other candidates it was a week to remember. Congrats Eoin, your team were a credit. Thanks to John Mulcahy and Catherine and the entire Campaign team who even in the midst of their own campaign had a laugh under pressure. Thanks and Congrats to Paddy Buckley for your words of encouragement they meant more than you realise and of course Eamonn and Willie Ryan for the usual banter! Thanks to John Kelliher and well done on running. And of course special Thanks to Kate that pint went down well! And Mags even though you were uncontested you helped us all out. Thanks. To my own crew: Thank you to my family and friends at home who were brilliant as per usual. Thanks to

Karen who could not be there on the last day. You have been a great buddy and did what you have always done since we met in 1st Year, gave me your utmost support and encouragement. It has not gone unnoticed Karen and is very much appreciated. Thanks Dave your instant encouragement and unquestioning support meant a lot.

Thanks you to Joanne McCormack for your support also.



**Sabbatical Elections.....they're grrrrreat!!!**

Thanks to John, Eoin Fitz, Naomi, Tracey, Niamh, Elaine (and all the Pub. Admin 4th Yrs), Eoin and Dave F. and also to Serena the T-shirt suited you! Also thanks to Ann whose artistic skills were put to good use along with canvassing the nice boys in College Court! Thanks to Mark my housemate I thought you'd be well sick of me by now, sucker for punishment if you ask me! And to Pat Thanks it was unexpected and great help. Thanks also to Mark Mansfield who also gave us great help even after a traumatic experience at Marie O'Neill's 21st the previous weekend! Thanks to Kieran's

crew "Collins and the boyos" who got roped in to the campaign, at least it kept ye out of the pub for a while anyway lads! Thanks to Margaret Jones or "Peg" for all the canvassing, the support was much appreciated and also to Shane although I have a funny feeling you were just dosing from the oul F.Y.P.

Thanks Marie (and all your housemates) honey the canvassing was good craic (and so was the 21st) and also to Carol and Barry Ryan for the encouraging phone-calls. Also I would like to thank all the students who came out to vote not just for us but also for all the candidates, Thanks All for making the effort. And last but not least to "my boys" as everybody has come to know ye Kieran, Dan and Donnchadh: Kieran and Dan what can I say ye were fantastic and put heart and soul into the entire length of the campaign. I knew you both were the right crew for the job but even at that I am still taken aback at the unbelievable effort that was made and the support given to me. Thanks again lads it will not be forgotten.

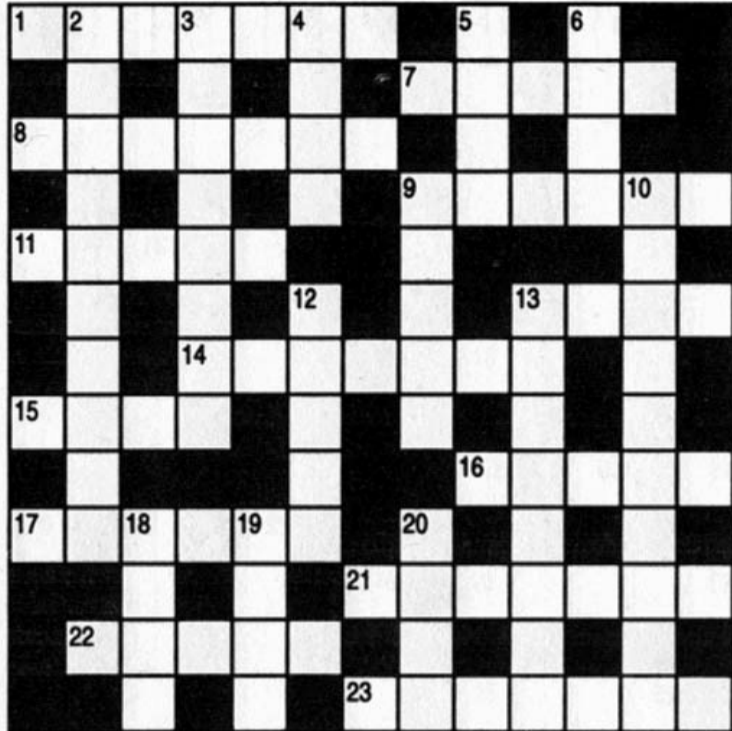
To Donnchadh or O' Leary as I usually refer to you, Thanks does not seem to cut it somehow. I instantly thought of you to be Campaign Manager as I knew you would do the best job possible and guess what, I was 100% right. We fought the good fight so a million times Thank You Friend! Thanks also to everybody else, who helped my team and I out over the election week, we appreciated it I can assure you all.

Thanks

**Gemma**

# LIMERICK'S LIVE 95FM

## Crossword



**ACROSS**

- 1. Resembling a gorilla etc. (7)
- 7. Spoke in delirium (5)
- 8. Unduly favouring one side (7)
- 9. Pay (6)
- 11. Iron\carbon alloy (5)
- 13. Behind time (4)
- 14. Arousing deep feeling (7)
- 15. Oxbridge courtyard (4)
- 16. Short musical exercise (5)
- 17. Son of God (6)
- 21. Stubbornly opposed (7)
- 22. Strike with wonder (5)
- 23. Sporting organisations (7)

**DOWN**

- 2. Decorating tool (10)
- 3. Kept one's ears open (8)
- 4. Was familiar with (4)
- 5. Woman's name (Seymour) (4)
- 6. Fruit (4)
- 9. Finger (5)
- 10. Presence (10)
- 12. Meat for roasting (5)
- 13. Of Socialist tendencies (4,4)
- 18. Hoar-frost (4)
- 19. Magnitude (4)
- 20. Man's name (Vincent) (4)

## Last Weeks Solution

ACROSS:- 6. Alphabetical. 8. Leaping. 9. Aorta. 10. Goes. 12. Domini. 14. Laser. 15. Esteem. 16. Xmas. 19. Theme. 21. Plumber. 22. Mademoiselle.  
DOWN:- 1. Apparent. 2. Manic. 3. Reign. 4. Picador. 5. Pair. 6. Allegretto. 7. Patisserie. 11. Ham. 12. Deb. 13. Immobile. 14. Levered. 17. Spook. 18. Burst. 20. Exam.

Submit correct entries to the Editor (him being Patrick) before 5pm Friday Week 12 and you could win the CD of the week courtesy of Limericks Live 95FM



What Budgie?

# Got Problems? - Barry can help, (and his mate Phil)

Dave is sick this week, so I'm getting an acquaintance of mine, Philomena McCrevice, to fill in for him.

Dear Barry and friend,

I have a minor social quandry I was hoping you could help me with. You see, I intend hosting a small soiree for some lawyer friends of mine and I'm not entirely sure as to the dinner situation.

I have, of course, chosen a menu to tantalize and excite my guests' taste-buds, but the cutlery layout is causing me sleepless nights. There is such a selection, ranging from fish knife to butter knife, and including soup spoon and dessert spoon. I have consulted

no end of etiquette books in my search for perfection, but unfortunately they've been of no help and now I'm turning to you for assistance. I believe I have it nearly right, but would just like to verify where I place the pudding spoon. Also, is pudding the correct term? I have also heard "dessert", "sweet", and "sorbet" mentioned, but I don't wish to sound common. I think having it just right would be classy and a nice touch, don't you?

This is quite important to me as I'm inviting a particular friend who is at the moment seeing another woman. I don't know how he's resisted my charms thus far, I am so much more wonderful than his current ladyfriend, who is lacking slightly in the hair department. Anyway, I know the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, especially this man, and I would greatly appreciate your aid.

Thanking you in advance,  
S

**Barry:** Sweetie, I'm so glad you wrote in. I suggest chop-sticks, silver cutlery is quite a faux pas in this day and age and remember, the only people who call dessert "sweet" are uncultured hicks. And by the way to a man's heart is through YOUR stomach, remember to swallow dear.

**Phil:** It's your own fault that you let this happen, love. If a man can resist your charms, it normally means that you're not doing

enough to advertise them. I heartily recommend leather skirts, hoop earrings and whips. If that doesn't get him, you can always use a cactus.

DEAR ADVICE

I just wanna come clean, I hit her, God I hit her, too hard, too hard. She was my girlfriend, 16 she was. Pretty too, and why she wanted me I don't know. But she knew my secret, no one could know. I buried her, I clawed with my nails, stones tore at my flesh. She was still pretty even with her hair blood stained red, still gorgeous, my baby, my one and only. But now she's gone, only a raised mound and a memory she is, I wanna tell everyone, please help

me, tell the police, I will come clean in freakscene some night, I will show everyone my secret, yes, jimmy's a good boy, good boy Jimmy, jimmy's a good boy, good boy Jimmy, jimmy's a good boy, good boy Jimmy, jimmy's a good boy, good boy Jimmy, jimmy's a good boy, good boy Jimmy, jimmy's a good boy, good boy Jimmy, jimmy's a good boy, good boy Jimmy,

JIMBO

**Barry:** Can't sleep, clown'll eat me, can't sleep, clown'll eat me.....

**Phil:** Jimbo, everybody knows about that little sparkly black number you keep in your closet. Girls talk, you know. Get over it.

Dear Barry,

My problem is one of my friends has a confidence level of about zero as he is completely unable to pull girls. He isn't ugly or anything just cripplingly shy and the usual cure for this (naggin of vodka) doesn't work as he's a teetotaller. His self-pity is becoming irritating so I need a way to put the poor bastard out of his misery.

P.S. Don't suggest trying to score in the Lodge as he believes you must be attracted to the person as well as the appearance so a place where you can't hear yourself think not to mind talk to a girl isn't great. 30 seconds of looking at each other followed by an hour of

shifting won't do for him

**Barry:** Join a club or society. There, your "friend" (who is obviously not you) can meet girls with similar interests. Unless you join Tenforward.

**Phil:** He can't pull a single underage, underdressed, innocent, pissed-out-of-her-skull teenybopper? Aaaww, that's so sweet! Send him 'round to my office at Latex Blue Productions, and I'll be happy to instruct him.

Dear Barry

Listen, mush, you're GT at solvin the problems, and you're a sound out old skin, so I'm askin you for help.

Myself and the boyz built a feekin hut last summer. You know, a place to take your beor when ye want a good old grope. All woz well and good until Chiseller went away wit Ming Mongo's bird and Ballywillum bate The Park in the street league. The conflickt in middle-eastern Ballinfeckin has been escalatin ever since, until last week, in a one ton act of savagism, the Mongo boyz petrol-bombed the feekin hut. Wot are we to do, boss? We got no place to bring our beors, an that means nun of us can get our hole. Were goin spa here, an we urgently need asistence.

Briany

**Barry:** That's a disgrace lads. Use a bit of community spirit to get the feekin hut up and running again! I'm sure all the neighbours will row in with their share of the help in order to make your street a better place! I think I saw that on the Brady Bunch.

**Phil:** That is outrageous. Feeking huts are where I first made my big break, and look at me now—the multi-thousandaire star of "Stallion Farm 9." Those thoughtless hooligans are depriving several young ladies of a lucrative livelihood! I heartily recommend a brisk period of discipline, followed by lotion and hosing. Or involuntary sex-changes.



# An Focal

Brought to you  
by.....

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# Oxygen Awards Show High Standard of Student Media

Despite a shaky start, forty five minutes behind schedule, the Oxygen O2 Student Media Awards began with a bang for the University of Limerick. Not only did the ULSU win the "Best Website" award but they were one of only two award winners from colleges outside of Dublin. UCD managed to scoop eight out of the seventeen awards, including "Most Improved Publication" award (for the College Tribune) and the "Best Newspaper" Award (for the University Observer).

The acerbic Brendan O'Connor, of Don't Feed the Gondolas fame, posed as compere for the evening, keeping everyone amused with his continuous stream of jokes and insults. Other winners included Ballyfermot, for "Best Film Script", Dun Laoighaire Institute of Art and Design for "Best Short Film" and Cork Campus Radio for "Best Radio Production". The Trinity magazine "Icarus" won the special category O2 award for "Outstanding Achievement in Student Media".

Patrick Kennedy and Paddy Buckley went up to collect the award on behalf of the ULSU. Both seemed stuck for words. According to Paddy, "I don't really have anything to say because we really didn't expect to win!"

I'm glad we won early though, I'm off to the bar!" A poignant moment for the audience was when Enda Curran went up to collect his award for "Best News Reporter". Enda had spent the last year not only recovering from a serious accident, but also pursuing such hardcore stories as student

drug abuse and prostitution in Dublin. The awarding of this honour not only acknowledges his immense talent, but also his determination to reach his goals.

Emotions ran high in the UCD came when Daniel McConnell went to receive his award for "Best Editor". He called on the national newspapers

and radio stations, and the universities to give more funding to student media because, as he said, "we're going to be the ones that work for you in the future". On receiving the award for "Best Media College", he raised a few eyebrows by proclaiming that the award was for the students who had worked so hard during the year and stated that "the award has nothing to do with the University. They have done nothing to encourage us, in fact, they try to discourage us from participating in student media".

Once all of the awards were given, all of the short films that had been nominated were shown and then the Jimmy Cake took to the stage. They are a nine piece outfit, originating in Griffith College, that kept the audience dancing until the early hours.

An Focal would like to say congratulations to all of the winners of this years awards. We hope that we can live up to the high standards that have been set this year. Hopefully next year An Focal will go on to greater things.

-Karen O'Sullivan



**Scholars CLUB**

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WEB: www.scholarsclub.ie

**Breakfasts 9am to 11.30am**  
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**Evening Meals 5pm to 7pm**


**WEEK 9**

**TUES** DJ Eric Fitz  
**WED** Heineken Kollege Energy Live  
-Lollygaggers  
Champions League  
**Thurs** Water Polo Strip Night  
**FRI** DJ Keith Piggott  
Complimentary Finger Food  
**SUN** Brunch 12pm-4pm

**WEEK 10**

**TUES** DJ Eric Fitz  
Murphys Comedy Club  
**WED** Heineken Kollege Energy Live  
"Blue Moose"  
DJ John Kelly  
**THUR** Tae Kwon Do Table Quiz  
**FRI** DJ Keith Piggott  
Complimentary Finger Food  
**SUN** Brunch 12pm-4pm

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**DOLAN'S WAREHOUSE**  
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End of Season CEILI.  
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Doors @ 9PM Tickets: €9 Students €7.50  
Soul Clinic with DJ Touche (Wiseguys) & Skinnyboy jaz

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featuring Kenny Carpenter  
Doors @ 9PM Tickets: €16.50

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LOUDON WAINWRIGHT 111  
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