



AN FOCAL



e-mail ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

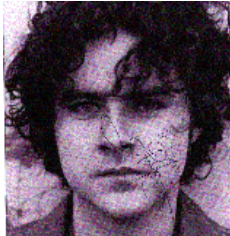
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TERM 1 WEEK 4



**SoUL Week
returns
Oct 26th - 28th**

Clubs + Socs Pg 22.



**The Paddy
Casey Issue
(He's everywhere)**

Features Pg
Ents + Reviews Pgs



**Clubs + Socs
take a trip to
Kilkee**

Clubs + Socs Pg.

Students Voice Their Opinion On New Bar At Heated EGM

LAST TUESDAY night saw the second Union meeting in a week, where the new Student Centre bar was the topic of discussion.

A sizeable number of ULstudents deemed themselves interested and turned up in a large enough number (in or around 270 - 300) to deem the meeting quorate.

All of the publicity for the meeting centered around the fact that it would decide what approach be taken as regards finding an operator for the new Student Centre bar. The meeting began rather controversially when SU President Pat McCarthy

proposed an external chair for a meeting of this importance and proposed Cllr. Diarmuid Scully, a former SU president and current member of Governing Authority. This proposal was quashed by a constitution-carrying student at the back of the room who pointed out that the Chairman of Class Reps. is constitutionally required to chair this meeting. This received support from the floor, and Mr. Aidan O'Gorman Chairman of Class Reps duly took over the chair.

The situation before the meeting was that the tenders for the new bar



say it loud

had already been received and the selection committee had narrowed it down to two possible operators. At the meeting we were told that the two operators could not be named due to legal reasons. There was now an impasse at committee level and

the process had stalled over the summer as the SU waited till students came back to gauge opinion on the matter.

The situation before the meeting was
*contd on pg.4
selection criteria on pg.5*

Two UL Students Stabbed During Incident in City Centre

Two UL students were stabbed after an argument on Limerick's Mungret St, near the Watergate Flats at 4.45am on Sunday morning, October 3rd.

The two received the injuries after an argument broke out while they were waiting for a taxi. They were assaulted with a broken bottle by two men. Both were taken to the Regional Hospital where they were treated for their injuries, and later released.

A Garda spokeswoman com-

mented that the thick jacket worn by one saved him, and that "he wouldn't be alive today" if he hadn't been wearing it.

Two men were questioned in connection with the assault, and one was charged under the firearms and offensive weapons act, pending the submission of a file to the DPP. Since then, a Limerick man has appeared in court in connection with the stabbing.

Also, the spate of attacks and burglaries highlighted in the last issue of An Focal is continuing in the Castletroy

area.

A number of attacks have again been reported around the Elm Park area, including one outside Zacs restaurant in which two students were hurt, and one outside the Esso, where it is reported that the attackers were students.

There have also been five burglaries reported to the Gaurds, mainly in Oaklawns and Elm Park. A number of items including money, jewellery, a watch, a walkman and a rucksack have been reported stolen

**Meeting to discuss
An Focal's progress
to date**

*we're looking for opin-
ions, comments, ideas
etc*

Thursday Wk 4

6.30pm

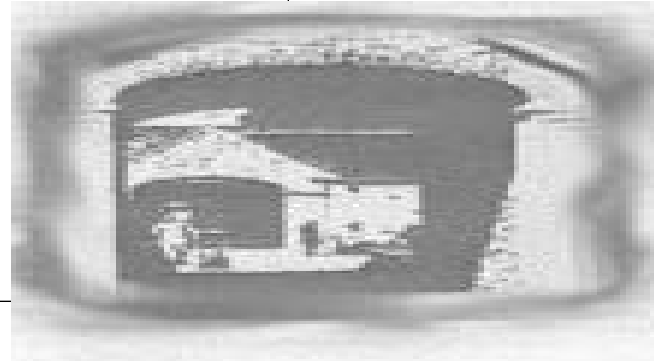
A1053

all are welcome

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

Each issue, we'll give you a quick dose of what we're up to. As they say in the 'Fast Show', this issue, we have been mainly thinking about the meeting last Wednesday night!



The boy McCarthy's been working like a divil, so he took a quick trip to Paris

an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) last week. Almost three hundred people attended and emotions ran high at some points. Decisions were made and the selection process continues. Now, with Dave and DeeDee, I'm looking at the other issues that affect you as students and going about fixing, improving, removing, or putting them in place, whichever the case may be. These things include reviewing Student Services, Co-op Office, Erasmus, and Medical Centre. Soon we will be asking you what you find needs changing with these departments and taking your views to the University. So sit back, relax, and stay tuned.

Pat

Well the first three weeks of the semester have been interesting to say the least.

The issue taking up most of our time has been the contentious "who's running the new bar?" one. We had a UGM (Union General Meeting) in Week 2 which was inquorate (the 200 people needed to make decisions binding weren't there). So we said "right, let's try again" and held

Dee Dee's had a little luck with the fella's recently, so now's the time to call in, 'cause she's in a good mood



It's been a busy two weeks in the Welfare Office with getting the OUTREACH Society up and running again and also planning the upcoming Welfare Campaign on Bullying.

WELFARE WEEK, takes place Week 7. On the Monday our issue will be Unplanned pregnancies and how to deal with them.

Tuesday and Wednesday will be dedicated to the Bullying Issue watch here for more details, a full outline will be given in the next issue of An Focal.

The Creche is almost near completion and will be ready for opening in early November. Anybody requiring information on the Creche or the Creche Bursary drop in.

Undoubtedly the biggest event of the last two weeks was the EGM. The tudents Union are in a very difficult position regarding the new

b a r however a f t e r m u c h h e a t e d d e b a t e c r i t e r i a a c c e p t a b l e t o a l l w a s l a i d o u t. Information and updates on this issue are available. The NITELINK service is once again running each evening (Mon-Thurs) between 7 and 11pm, this invaluable and free service is there so please avail of it for your own safety.

If anyone has any ideas or Welfare Issues they wish to highlight please let me know, your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

Finally remember Financial Aid is available on Tuesdays from 11 - 1 only.

Dee Dee

Dayvo's all excited about Soul Clinic coming next week, not that he's had time to think about it



It's been a pretty mental two weeks.

You can get used to hearing this fill-you-in starting like that, by the way, 'cause I've a feeling I'm going to be saying that a fair bit over the next few months. Roll on Christmas and a quick trip to Amsterdam.

As we've hinted at above, the EGM about the bar took up a lot of our timelast week, and the week before. We got a bit of a sting when we showed up at the first one the previous Wednesday,

to a crowd of no more than 60 people. We thought we'd done enough

to get people in the room to talk about the whole thing. We reckoned that once we got the word out, the news would travel and we've have 1,000 students in the concert with another 7,000 outside, pissed off 'cause they couldn't fit in to tell us who they wanted to run the new bar. Not quite.

But we learned from it, + got our act together for the next one, hitting as many lectures as we and the Ents crew (thanks lads) could, getting leaflets to the buses on the previous Friday, and doing our best with flyers and posters during the week. It did the trick, and 280 - 300 of you showed up in the [Monnet the following Tuesday, and we feel that we made some progress. It wasn't an easy meeting, but it was good fum at times.

The other thing that we learned was that we weren't as up on the facts as we should have been. This

wasn't a lack of interest on our part. If anything, it was too much interest. We were trying to do so much stuff that we weren't properly focused on some of the really important things. Again, we've learned, and we remedied that by trawling through every file, folder and piece of paper that had any relevance to the new bar. We found out a lot of stuff, which we're glad we now know.

Anyway, the point is that we now know what you want, and we're going to do our best to get it for you.

There were other things happening of course. Apart from the 101 things that hit our desks every week calling to be sorted out, and that won't all fit in here, the main thing I was working on was the paper.

We had a really good workshop with Laura Ryan from the Limerick Leader, and Allan Meagher, a journalism lecturer in

the college. It was attended by about 25 people, and that didn't include most of the people who are already writing regularly.

The point is, if all these people keep writing, and more come on board then the paper can only improve. I learned a lot when I saw the last issue in print, and hopefully you can see the benefits of that in this issue. Hopefully, there won't be as many typos and stuff. When there's more people writing, then I have time to check everything, instead of writing half of it. By the way, thanks to everyone who is writing so far, I hope you'll stick with us. And, again, if you'd like to write, just give us a shout in the office or at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie. Or, you could come to the meeting tonight, or any thursday night that the paper comes out.

I reckon that's about half of it, but I haven't got much space left, so I'll leave it hear, and see you next issue. dayvo

UCD Students' Union Welfare Officer In Drugs Scandal

By JOHN LAWRENCE

A student union leader at UCD has defended her decision to show freshers how to roll a joint.

Alison Gibney, the student union welfare officer at the country's largest university, performed the demonstration in front of several hundred new students.

Ms Gibney said she was attempting to introduce the new students to the harsh reality of college life and strongly denied her actions promoted drug use in college.

According to the UCD Observer newspaper, the Welfare Officer rolled the cannabis joint at the Law Society's first year debate.

Students at the debate were also offered £20 for volunteering to make a joint for the first time.

"I did nothing illegal. I believe I was right to do what I did. The drug problem is getting increasingly worse at UCD and the support structures are already over-stretched," said Ms Gibney. She said she rolled the cannabis joint to make students aware of the potential danger of the drug's misuse in the social life of students.

"I did it at 1pm in the day when every one was sober. It is a lot different when

students take drugs in unfamiliar surroundings when they could be extremely drunk," she said.

In that situation, she added, many of them could end up with a crisis pregnancy or could contract a sexual disease.

She claimed the demonstration was done in a light-hearted manner to introduce students to the issue. She added that she did not smoke cannabis but "neither condemns nor condones it".

The preliminary results of a study carried out at UCD revealed that over 50pc of students there have used cannabis.

The UCD Registrar, Professor Caroline Hussey, said she viewed the demonstration as a "bit of youthful exuberance," and did not intend to take any disciplinary action at this stage.

John Whyte of the National Parents Council hoped Ms Gibney had carried out the exhibition to alert students to the dangers of drug abuse. Many people moved on from cannabis to do harder drugs, he said.

"Parents must know the problem no longer applies to their neighbour's children," he added.

courtesy of Irish Independent

Students Encouraged To Take Up Footbag



Over the next few weeks, the Stables courtyard will play host to demonstrations on the sport of footbag, thanks to a national promotion campaign being sponsored by Snickers.

As well as a number of advertisements on both national television and radio, the WFA, (World Footbag Association) has employed a number of the sport's best players to travel Europe and promote the sport in areas where it isn't as well known.

Canada's Judel Wallace, who has competed in the World Championships of the sport, and France's Franck Patric, are two of fifteen players who have been given the job of informing the public of the ins and outs of the game.

Players from the USA, Canada, France and Argentina have been placed in all the major cities around the country. From these cities, they travel to schools in the local towns, where they stage demonstrations and competitions. The daily competitions lead to

further competitions at weekends, and eventually to a semi-final. The winners of the semi-finals then move on to the final to be held in Dublin at the end of the month.

Footbag originated in China around 3,000 years ago, and was rediscovered in Oregon in the sixties. Judel told us that "the sport has been underpromoted and underfunded, like most new sports such as snowboarding and skateboarding." He now hopes that such a large promotional drive will lead to an increase in the numbers playing footbag.

There are many categories and adaptations of the sport, including individual freestyle, footbag net, consecutive timed and non-timed, which is played in pairs, and footbag golf.

More information about the sport can be found on the WFA website, located at www.wfa.org

Class Reps Re-elect Last Year's Chair

The first class reps Meeting of the year took place on Tuesday of Week 3 at 6pm in C1055.

There were only two items on the agenda. The first of these was a presentation by ULSU president Pat McCarthy on the role of Class Reps within the Union and within the class. It was mentioned that last year the Class Reps went on a highly successful and enjoyable training weekend to Kilkee and it is hoped that a similar training weekend can take place in the near future.

The second item on the agenda was the election of a chairperson of the class reps council. This person has the job of chairing all Students Union General meetings and class reps meetings as well as to represent the Class Reps at Students Union Executive meetings. Three people were nominated for this post. After a hustings speech of one minute from each of the candidates the election took place. Aidan O'Gorman of 4th year Computer Systems was elected by the 41 students present having narrowly defeated Kevin Cuniffe and Aonghus Haiceid.

During A.O.B a discussion on improving the role of class reps within the Union took place. It was decided that a sub committee be formed at the next meeting to investigate how class reps council may be improved and made into an effective body. This committee will also discuss how to improve awareness about class reps.

The next meeting of Class reps will be at 6pm on Tuesday of week 5 in C2062 (the Donagh O'Malley lecture theatre). All students are welcome to attend. The proposals on criteria for determining the best tender for the new Student Centre bar will be discussed.

If you would like to become a Class rep and your class has not yet elected representatives then forms are still available in the SU offices.

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Student Voice Their Opinion On New Bar At Heated EGM

from pg.1

The situation before the meeting was that the tenders for the new bar had already been received and the selection committee had narrowed it down to two possible operators. At the meeting we were told that the two operators could not be named due to legal reasons. There was now an impasse at committee level and the process had stalled over the summer as the SU waited till students came back to gauge opinion on the matter.

SU President Pat McCarthy outlined the current options available to the SU :

1. Reopen the entire tendering process and start from scratch - he then rubbished this proposal for two reasons a)it would leave us open to legal action and b)it would cause a long delay in the opening of the bar. This option was duly ignored but more because of any more delays in the opening of the bar then because of any fear of legal action.

2. To reconvene the selection process, reinterview the two remaining candidates and make a decision based on specific selection criterion decided at the meeting.

When this proposal was thrown open to the floor a long debate ensued. The general gist of the debate was that the majority of students there favoured competition and were not in favour of the new bar contract going to the current operator of the Stables. There were some voices who spoke in favour of the Stable but they were in a tiny minority. This could be really seen when after at least 45 minutes debate with more than just the usual contributors, a former SU president called for a decision to be made there and then that under no circumstances would the current Stables Management be allowed to get the contract for the new bar. The reaction to this was loud to say the least and it looked as if the meeting was going to adopt the proposal but the SU sabbaticals explained the situation and suggested that there was no point in re-entering the selection process if we were going to make



The SU get their point across

decisions before we heard what both candidates had to say. They again reiterated that they felt that we should re-enter the process but with set selection criterion that would be decided upon at this meeting. They managed to sway the crowd and a decision was taken to adopt the Sabbaticals Proposal. It was however noted that student opinion was largely in favour of competition and in favour of a new operator on campus.

Mr. Brain Hand , the buildings manager and Chair of the selection Committee, had been at the meeting up until this point and had clarified the a few matters for students. After the vote he had to leave the meeting and invited any further questions before he left. The one question that was repeatedly asked and repeatedly went unanswered was as to whether the show of strength of Student Opinion would be relayed to other members of the committee and if it would be a factor in the final decision ? Mr. Hand seemed reluctant to answer and his attitude and demeanor seemed only to incense certain students further.

The debate then moved on to the set criterion ,the first criteria proposed was that competition be a criterion. The debate that had raged for the first hour then went on again for another 15 minutes until a vote was called and the motion defeated. For the next 40 minutes various criterion were debated and decided upon until a final list was drawn up (see end of



ULSU Ents Card Can Now Be Got At A Reduced Price

The Ents Card launched this year by the University of Limerick Students' Union can now be bought in the Union office at a reduced price of £25.

The card was initially sold at a price of £35, but the remaining cards are now being offered at the reduced price due to the fact that two of the events included in the Ents Card; Cream presents K-Klass in the Gallery, and Watercress in Dolan's, have taken place. There are still a total of 20 Ents Card gigs left in the term.

The Ents Card was an idea 'borrowed' from Portsmouth university, and is the first initiative of its kind in any third level institute in the country.

The ideas behind it are threefold. Firstly, there are two benefits to students. Having initially purchased the Ents Card, the holder is not required to pay for tickets to any SU Ents Card event for the rest of the term. This entitles the holder to free entry to all Su Ents Card gigs until the end of the first term. The second advantage is that the Ents Card represents

a big saving for holders, with the price of entry to all Ents Card events being estimated at £120. This means that an Ents Card holder will have saved 3/4 the price of his or her ticket by paying in advance.

For the Students' Union, it means that there is an Ents Budget in place at the beginning of the year, which was never the case before. This allows prebooking of an extensive and varied line up of entertainments, including a weekly dance club, a number of live bands and a number of comedy nights.

Over the next two weeks, there are two more Ents Card gigs. Thursday night of Week 4 sees the arrival of Picturehouse to Dolan's Warehouse as part of the live bands line up, and next Thursday sees the Soul Clinic crew take charge of the Halloween Ball in the Gallery as the next night of the ULSU dance club, VIVID. With Stevie G. and Aiden Kelly playing the best in soul and hip-hop, it's set to be a great night.

see ents and reviews pgs for preview of Picturehouse and Halloween Ball

article). The only other point of controversy was an altercation between the Chair and a student when the Chair asked that student did he wish to call for a "Vote of no-Confidence" in him ,the student replied no he just wanted him to do his job properly.

And so the meeting finished 2 hours later. We had decided to re-interview the two candidates and award the contract to the operator who best fulfils the criterion as laid out in the meeting. Hopefully this will provide the students of this college who are funding this project to the tune of 50% with the best possible deal. I don't think we've heard the last of this situation but either way lets hope we're drinking in our own club by Christmas.



as do the college through Brian Hand

UL Students To Be Represented Nationally By FUSU

The Students' Union has, over the summer, taken an active role in FUSU, the newly established Forum for University Student Unions.

The forum was established by last years Students' Unions of those universities not affiliated with USI, the Union of Students of Ireland. It now consists of the members of the Students' Unions of UL, UCC, UCG, UCD, DCU, Trinity and Maynooth. It is aimed solely at representing university students in the Republic, and so no IT Student Unions, or Student Unions from the north of the country have been included.

It was initially set up as a discussion forum, where the elected members of each university could come together and exchange information on relevant topics such as accomadation, quality assurance, welfare issues and national campaigns.

The forum was established last year amid a crisis in USI which saw both its president and vice president resign from their respective positions, leading to much in-fighting and back-biting. As a result of this situation, confidence in its work and quality of representation of students nationally wavered. USI has since undergone a major overhaul, and with the appointment of some

new full time staff, and the election of new officers, is thought to be working more effectively this year.

FUSU has avoided the position of electing representatives and spokespeople, aiming to concentrate on the issues at hand, rather than putting a hierarchy in place. The meetings are held monthly, and the location of the meetings is revolved. Each meeting is chaired by the president of the Students' Union of the college in which the meeting is being held, and that person is regarded as the spokesperson until the date of the next meeting.

The question of the relationship with USI has still to be decided, however. The initial forum was set up as a seperate operation, but the improvements made in USI to date have led to a reconsideration. The next meeting is due to take place on the 28th of October in Trinity College, and it is possible that the situation may arise where FUSU is regarded as the voice of university students around the country. Decisions made at FUSU will be passed on to the president of USI, Philip Madden, and from there to the Department of Education through USI's seat on the HEA, the Higher Education Authority.

Students Asked Not Take Shortcut Through Milford Primary School

A shortcut that many students use when walking to college from the East Gate direction has been ruled off limits by the Parents Council of the school.

Students are currently crossing the school yard and climbing a barbed wire fence to gain access to the campus, as opposed to taking the path through the site of the memorial walkway, which is at the side of the school grounds. A notice had been placed on the barbed wire fence, but has since been removed by an unknown party.

Eoin McCann, a member of Academic Council in the university, and chairperson of the Parents Council said that "access to the university

through the school grounds is not permitted". He highlighted a number of reasons for this, one being the safety of the students undertaking to cross the barbed wire fence.

Another reason given by Mr. McCann was the risk of crossing the school yard when their are children present, given the current climate that exists in the country in relation to children. Mr. McCann said that "one complaint" could lead to serious trouble for those involved, whether that complaint was unfounded or not.

He added that he wanted to avoid such a situation, and made his request to students hoping that it would encourage them to take the path through the memorial walkway.

Opening of Student Centre Delayed

In the last issue of An Focal, we told you that the new Student Centre was going to be opened on Monday 18th October.

Well, construction being as it is, that date has fallen back slightly due to the finishing off of the building. Locks are

being put on doors and the last coat of paint is being applied. So all going well, we will have a completed Student Centre this coming week. Sorry for the delay but I think we can all agree, it's worth the wait.



University Concert Hall
Bookings: 061/331549

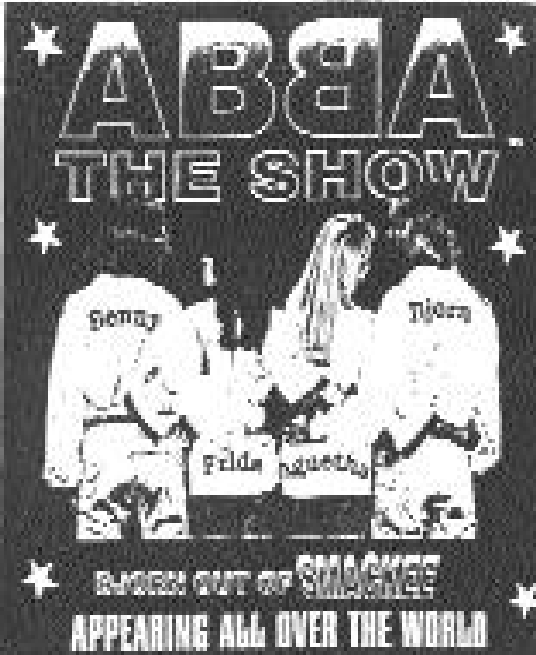
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Park It!

Dear Ed,

Many students who came back to UL last week to find that they could no longer park their cars beside the buildings in which they have most of their classes. The three car parks beside the Schrodinger, Lonsdale and Sports buildings have been designated as "Staff Car Parks". If you do not display the parking permit on your windscreen you run the risk of having your windows covered with those "No Parking Here" stickers, which are very difficult to remove.

Instead of tackling the actual problem - a shortage of parking spaces/too many cars on campus - the University has chosen to adopt a policy of apartheid: reserve enough parking spaces for the lecturers and staff, and let the plebs squabble over the precious few spaces that are left! The staff (the one pressure that the University will always bow to) are looked after... the students are a mere nuisance!!!

What this policy will do is to force students and visitors to the University to park illegally. Or else they could park their cars in the Castletroy Park Hotel, Kilmurray Lodge or the Parkway and walk the rest of the way!!!

Those "No Parking Here" stickers are very dangerous. Someone should look

into the legality of their use. Often cars are almost covered with these stickers, with as many as two per window. They are very difficult to remove - especially in dry weather - and they obstruct the drivers view, which increases the chances of an accident, thus putting people's lives at risk.

What is needed is a realistic, long-term plan to tackle the issue. Nobody should be driving to the University in an empty car! The University should lead the way and introduce incentives for, and facilitate, both staff and students to organise car pools. This would significantly reduce the number of cars on campus. If all the major employers in Limerick followed suit, then this would alleviate traffic congestion no end.

This should go in tandem with a proper government investment in the public transport system. With less traffic on the roads, bus services would become more efficient, running on time. More buses on the roads, covering more routes, would make public transport more accessible, encouraging more people to use it. City buses should be free of charge.

Ron Byrne
Socialist Party

Students, Use it or Lose it. Act Now

Two years ago due to increasing workloads for students and less time in the academic year in which to achieve these levels, students lobbied vigorously to have a 24 hour lab in which to continue their studies after lecturing hours. Due to their relentless efforts, the Venus/Vax rooms officially extended their facilities to cater on a 24 hour basis and provide study and computer facilities for the students. This was considered an essential right for all students. This right has now been revoked and if you are a regular user of the labs, as I am, you'll find that they are now

closing at 2am in the morning. This is totally unacceptable and does not allow for a serious study period, and when the exam period approaches, the pinch will really be felt.

If you feel as strongly as I do please make your intentions known to the Students' Union, and with the proper representation, we can make a formal approach through the correct channels to have the decision overturned.

If nothing is said, nothing will be done.

Concerned Student

Student Support

Dear Ed,

A sorry sight was one that greeted the eye, Tuesday night at The Concert Hall. The first Student Union General Meeting of the year was in no uncertain terms - a flop. Under fifty people were in attendance, a disgusting low number in comparison to the actual number of students at UL.

The meeting was to discuss who should take over management of the new Student Centre Bar. Basically it has been currently narrowed down to two candidates, who can not be named for legal reasons. However, President Pat McCarthy felt the selection process had been flawed and the general consensus was that neither candidate was satisfactory. However, a vote for whether or not the selection process should start again was hampered by the fact that nobody bothered to turn up, the 200 students necessary to facilitate a vote just weren't present.

So instead the meeting turned into a vicious battlefield. Accusations bounced off the walls. The 3 student union representatives, Pat, Dave and Dee Dee were accused of personally

benefiting from the new bar. They were genuinely insulted by this nasty comment, as were many of those present who support these three and their obvious dedication to the student body.

Barry McLoughlin, last years President, seemed stirred at the mention of this and stood up to challenge anyone who had spread rumours of him "fiddling" with money last year. The Stables Club representative was clearly fighting a strong anti-stables feeling and made a few harsh comments of his own. Politics became heated at this.

In conclusion, we, the students of UL are the Students' Union and we can get things done our way, if we turn up, voice our opinions and show our support. Turn up to the next meeting, so we can decide who we want to run our new bar. Because you know you'll be the first to complain about it.

Think! Do we really want one club to have a monopoly on alcohol at UL.

Name with editor

Letter of the week

Ná dean dearmad An Rud Tabhacht!

Ceol, cain't agus craic! The all too familiar aspects of Irish life and culture without forgetting of course, deoic! I mean, especially among the student contingent, congregating in the Stables for a few casual kegs is enjoyable and sociable. Clubs and Societies also host a number of their events in the Stables.

But, could you envisage carrying out your daily lives 'as gaeilge'. Mar tá an teanga gaelach our native tongue.! We all should ideally be able to speak our own language fluently. Unfortunately, history cast a dark shadow over this, as our forefathers suffered the wrath of oppression and a gradual decline of the language.

However, now attempts have been made to revive 'an feanga gaelach.' Through organising events on campus I would like to

continue this revival. To my knowledge,

attempts have been made in the past in this direction. The cumann gaellach in UL indeed highlighted the need for people to take pride in their own sense of Irishness. By organising events such as folklore sessions, ceol tradisiunta, debates in Irish and trips to the gaeltaocht, this idea will continue stressing of course that my intention is strictly on a cultural basis and not practical whatsoever. I would encourage members of the Cumann Gaelach and other students interested to help incorporate the Irish language within UL.

So, now, don't be embarrassed to use the cupla focail as gaeilge with people you meet everyday. Ignore those perplexed frowns which you might encounter from others.

Anois, sin é mo sceal.

Slán,
Á chara,
Marcus.

If you want to write a letter to An Focal about any thing at all, and maybe win yourself a tenner, then stick it in the An Focal box in the SU office, or, better still, e-mail it to Dave at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie.

the real world

Each issue, we'll have a look at the life of some UL students who've finished college, and are now living and working abroad.

Meet Nicola (America), 'John + Tara' (Europe) and Denise in Australia



Nicola Connolly writes from New York

The high-light of the past two weeks here for me in NYC was definitely Sasha and

Digweed in Twilo Club, Manhattan.

If you like your House music progressive, you'd love this place. It is genuinely one of the best NY clubs; it's huge, always has great line-ups (PVD, Nick Warren, Carl Cox and S&D all playing this month) and has the most hypnotizing laser lights ever - happy daze! Sasha was in top form playing most of his new stuff and the crowd was still bouncing off the ceilings at 9.30am. However, I have heard detailed reports about Homelands and the least I can say is that I'm very jealous.

Besides that, things have been non-stop really. We've had loads of visitors (including a 'not-very-well-known-yet' band from London), and this gave us the best excuse to go drinking for almost two weeks, ever! Work suffered slightly to be honest, but all in the

name of conquering the highest level of drunkenness. See, I work for travel and computer company that employs European interns, (aka co-op students) from France, England, Italy and Ireland. The Irish ones are mostly UL co-op students (who are now back in UL -we miss you guys!!) but in any case there are about 16 of us interns in the pub at night. You can imagine the behaviour!

Saturday night was eventful. My friend Lorraine and I went to a Thai restaurant and drank two-for-one lethal cocktails for 3 hours and then rolled out on our heads into a Moroccan bar called Fez. There we met some Israeli guys who where on their first night out in Manhattan, and well, we felt absolutely obliged to assist them in their quest for madness. We took them on a full speed pub-scramble of the Village, fed them with Goldschlager, fell about the place in the usual fashion and showed them how to drink the Irish way. They appeared to have enjoyed themselves anyway.

Next week we have two 23rd birthdays to celebrate, so I'm off to plot schemes.

N

Denise Gallagher writes from Melbourne

still
no
picture

still

no

article

Snotty + the Bull write from Amsterdam

This is always the hardest part, the follow up.

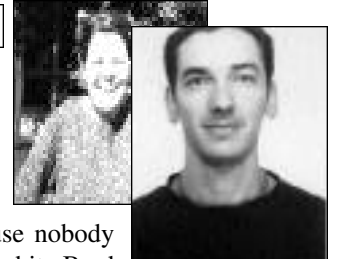
Weekend came and went and i cannot remember the slightest bit of it. I got news that my brother was coming from OZ to visit and along with him, I got my other brother to come over with two friends, so as you do we painted the town Green, of course with a few carrots for good measure.

Found out some interesting info for anyone interested. 50 Guilders for a S*** and F***. If you go for this option take the advice of a mountain climber "dont look down". Or if you are ambitious enough you can get something to be proud of for 100 Guilders(35 Squid). I do not know about the others but I think this is the only work i will be doing all day.....Any more info required contact Ents Crew Chief Tim Mc Auliffe ashe arrives here on thursday 21st, So keep an eye to se if he is walking strangely when he gets back. Details of this weekend will be grosly exaggerated, at Tims expence in the next issue.

Believe it or not there are loads of Irish in this place, firstly the No. of Irish bars in and indication but as you go out drinking you will be amazed how many irish are over here. I was also amased at the amount of people from, UL here. I think it must be the wholl pressure bullshit that we are put under during our 4 years of purgatory. I dont know what it is but it just breeds the kind of people who need to get up and go, so why not.

Unlike Nicola we are not meting

anyond famous over here but that is because nobody gives a shit. Brad



pit could walk down the streets and no-one will look twice, probably as they all see two of him anyway and are afraid to make a tit of themselves by saying hello twice , so we dont. Plus they will probably not even realise they are famous, A bit of Ronnie Reagan i think.

So what else have we done to get all my folk up to date?? North Sea Jazz festival, Leftfield in an old Gas Chamber (Crazy accoustics and bass) Reggae Festival, Flatlands (orbital, suede, offspring, plus about thirty others i cannot care to mention, or think about), it is jusy festival after festival, it is a matter of deciding and prioritising as money dont exactly grow on trees. Counting crows played last night to 1000 people and tickest were impossible to get(next time hopefully)

Until next time
Take care of yourselves.....and each other
and be careful whose arse you kick today as you never know which one you will have to kiss tomorrow.
Keep smiling

Snotty and Tara

but we're working on it, we'll have it next issue, we promise

(sorry about this, but we were holding out for denise, and she just missed the print deadline.)

the real world contd.

Last issue, we started a series with UL students who'd finished college and were living and working abroad. Now, Erasmus students want to get in on the act. So, here's Triona from France, and Emma and Keira Eva from Germany.



Triona gives the low down on Rennes, France

This here's my first report on student life in Rennes. Unfortunately, college still hasn't started so we're all stranded in our lovely resi-

dence, bored out of our brains. So, what have we all been doing? We've been to an Irish pub in town, called O'Connells, quite a lot. There are a few other Irish pubs in Rennes but we haven't found them yet. We've also spent our days window shopping around town.

The past two weeks have gone really slowly. In the evenings we've become very adventurous and have started playing Trivial Pursuit and Monopoly just to pass the time. It feels like we've been here five years. Have you ever seen the film Groundhog Day? Well, its exactly like that! Sundays are real killers as there is nothing open.

I still can't get used to our "facilities". Cooking is a right pain. There's no oven at all – just two hobs for 37 hungry students. You must keep on pressing a switch every two minutes to keep the hobs burning. Luckily you can eat at the University restaurant for just under 15 francs. I've also invested in a snazzy toasted sandwich maker. I never realised the huge expenses we would have coming over. If we had some idea before hand, we could have brought some things over instead of having to buy them here.

Taking a shower in our communal toilets is an experience in itself. Even though the showers are located in cubicles, water can still run under the door and out all over the tiles. Ugh! It's a good idea to wear flip-flops if you don't want to catch a verruca.

Last week we had a bit of a session one of the nights which was great craic. It really lifted everyone's spirit. We sang loads of Irish songs and tried to teach the American students a few reels. A French student joined us and amazed us all by playing traditional Irish music on the flute. It was a wonderful night.

At the moment we're all really concerned about the fact that the cleaning women have keys to all our rooms. They're supposed to come in and change our sheets every 15 days but that doesn't stop them coming into your room and having a snoop. One afternoon on

American student was taking a nap. She had her door locked on the inside. Suddenly the femme de menage walks in and asks her why was she still in bed? Was she sick or something? Another time the cleaning woman came around to our rooms asking for a form which we had to sign on arrival. One girl who was out at the time came back to find the specific form mysteriously on her desk, even though she had it filed away with her other documents. I'm very worried about this as I'm keeping money in my room. We all opened bank accounts but it will be a while yet before we get our ATM cards. We have absolutely no control over this happening.

Another disappointing fact, the college organises nothing for the Erasmus students. There is no International Society like in UL Erasmus students are left to their own devices here. I really believe that Erasmus students in UL get a better deal.

Finally, we travelled to Nantes this weekend to visit some friends who are also on Erasmus. Like us, they were shocked at the living conditions and were completely unprepared for the reality of living in student residences in France. The same company runs the dorms in Nantes but amazingly enough the facilities are a little bit better. I don't understand this inconsistency in living standards. We're all paying the same rent. The residences are in a safer area and are located in a private compound. Nobody has to worry about getting her arse pinched or being spat at when coming home. When we were all coming home the Sunday evening at ten to six we had to cross the road (to avoid a group of loitering drunks.) Need I say more?

Some students went home two weeks ago after registration which was a really good idea. You have absolutely no business hanging around for three weeks with nothing to do. The cost of living here these past few weeks could have brought me my airfare home. In this age of technology, could we not have registered by e-mail or by post? Unfortunately we all foolishly thought that there would be some form of Orientation Week for students.

We all firmly believe that as soon as college starts, things won't seem half as bad. We have a meeting this week about subject choices and an exam on Wednesday to grade us for French classes. Hopefully, that will break the week up for us in the meantime we can look forward to another week of window

Keira Eva + Emma give us the buzz on the Germans

While sipping cheap red wine from plastic cups on a train from Weimar to Würzburg we talk of college. So we decided to write something of our experiences while on Erasmus here in Germany.

Unfortunately we narrowly missed the Oktoberfest in Munich but this weekend's events made up for that. Arrived in Weimar clueless as to our whereabouts to discover a "Zweibelfest" in full swing. For those of you whose comprehension of German extends only as far as "Volkswagen" and "Frankfurters", "Zweibelfest" can be roughly translated, bizarre as it may seem, into an "Onion Festival". We failed miserably in our quest to obtain this year's title of onion queen, however we must hand it to Heike Vonderhimmel, whose onion-peeling and yodelling skills proved far superior.

So now its back to college in Würzburg, where we're involuntarily participating in an intensive language course. After one week they've realised that we are worthy of an upgrading from the "Wie komme ich am besten zur Toilette?" class. Nevertheless, it's giving us a good opportunity to meet other international students and to tune our ears into the language.

Despite living on a con-

No pictures yet, but we're working on this too

struction site where yellow helmets must be worn at all times, the rooms are actually quite modern and spacious. But well-equipped they are not. After being subjected on our first night to drinking tap-water with cupped hands we decided a plan of action had to be made. Luckily our traffic-cone-stealing skills acquired in UL have proved beneficial, as we slip a spoon in our pocket here and an ironing board down our top there.

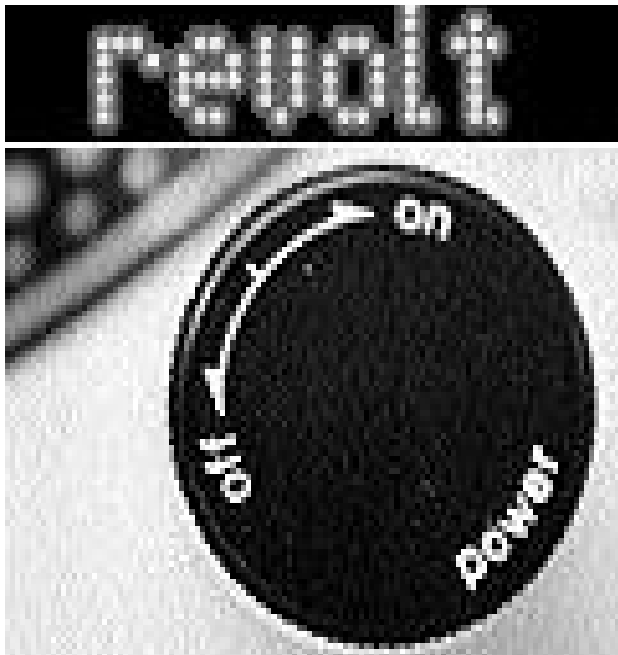
So now we face into our second week, officially recognised as fully-fledged citizens of Würzburg having last week completed the bureaucratic marathon it took to do so. As our train journey draws to a close and our bottle offers not another drop, so too do our words cease to flow. But we will leave you with some pearls of wisdom delivered by Pope John Paul II himself:

"How, I ask you, will history judge a generation that had the means to feed its population, yet failed to do so?"

It's getting a bit full, but if you know anyone abroad who'd like to give a short few lines, and I mean one or two lines, tell 'em to drop an e-mail to ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

DEATH OF A STUDENT

Some words of advice from a young fella who's been through the long stretch.



we reckon this says it all
revolt, + turn on the power

After six year at UL, a veteran postgrad, Andrew Doherty, gives some final thoughts on his time here, as well as some hints on surviving your time at UL!

I was an anarchist during my days at UL. Well, maybe I wasn't, but at least I thought I was and I guess that is all that counts when I look back.

Years of sore heads, bottles of Buckfast, cheap white wine, tie dyeing all my clothes and rummaging through second hand stores in Limerick has had its effects on who I am now. Although what you've just read might sound bad, I enjoyed it all! And if I didn't, that would have been my own fault for not making things happen.

I spent 4 years doing a degree in Mechanical Engineering and by the time I had finished realised that I just didn't want to be an engineer. I found it all a bit humdrum and boring. Its like when you hear a new album and think all the songs sound the same... it basically means you aren't into that type of music. When I studied engineering, I found that everything was sounding the same after a while. So I managed to find my way into a research masters in computing and now find that each track on this album sounds great, some better than others.

When I was about to finish my engineering degree, I felt great pressure to get a job and I even applied for a few, unsuccessfully. I told some friends in my class that I didn't want to be an engineer and they thought that was funny, that I'd spent 4 years studying engineer-

ing and then decided I didn't want to be an engineer. They even included a comment in our yearbook "After 4 years studying engineering, Andrew has finally decided that he doesn't want to be an engineer!". It caused many chuckles I can tell you! But doing my degree and completing it opened the door for me to pursue something else that I couldn't have pursued if I hadn't completed my degree. Although I felt bad at the time, I'm happy I did what I did now. If I had

taken a job as an engineer, I'm sure I'd be hearing the same music every day and feeling miserable right now.

The point of all this is that you've got to do what you enjoy or your life will become a permanent misery. If I had graduated and got a job as an engineer, I'd be as miserable as hell today. Luckily I took a step to do something else that I enjoy more. Always take a look at what you are doing and if you find that it is all beginning to sound the same, look around to see what you actually enjoy more. Do you hate all the equations, theory, stories of things breaking, but realise that you did enjoy using a computer to type your reports and found yourself using them even in your spare time when you had no reports to write? It could be as simple as that to figure out what you truly what to do and what interests you the most. To everybody who has just started UL and those who have been here a while, here's my best pieces of advice - make sure you make it an enjoyable and worthwhile time.

Remember two important things:

1. Education is what's left behind after the facts are forgotten.
2. Enjoy the freedom and the opportunities that being a student offers.

Ask a third or fourth year what they learned in their first year at UL and they will pretty much have forgotten. You'll probably wonder how they made it to third or fourth years without remembering what they were supposed to learn. You'll soon realise that they have obviously been learning something or they wouldn't be here! Its not really the facts

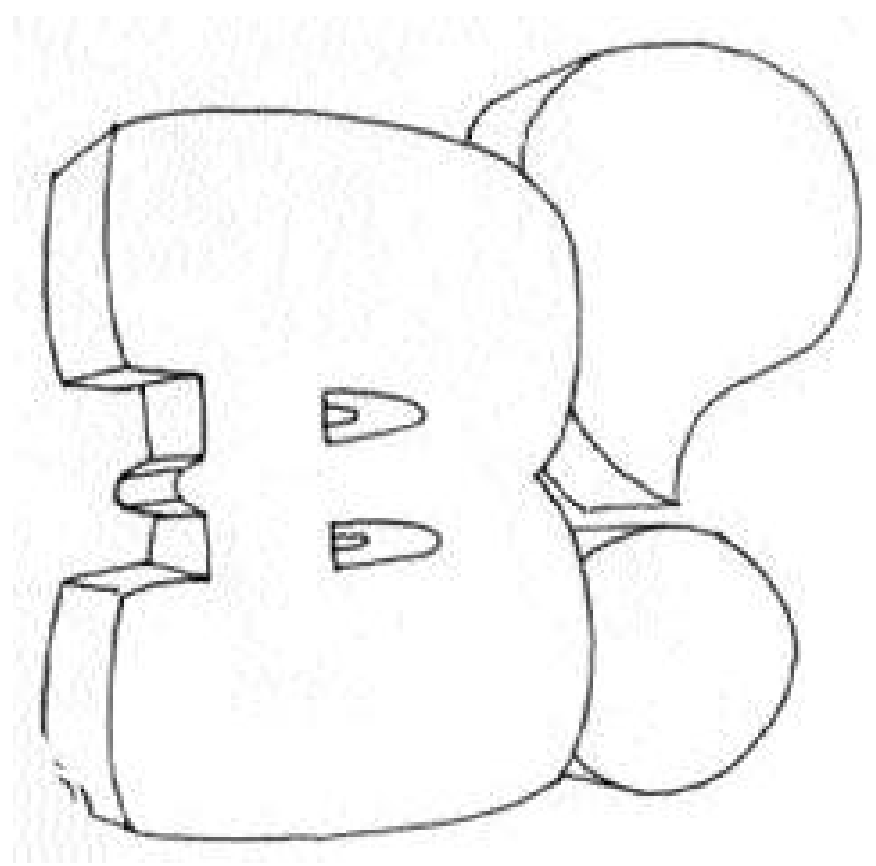
that are important, it more to do with learning how to learn. Studying for exams teaches you that skill. The two things that University and a real life job have in common is that both will require you to learn new things all the time. That's what six years here has taught me about being a student, that's the key to succeeding academically is to learn how to learn.

Notice I said succeeding "academically". Succeeding at University or succeeding as a person involves a lot more than getting good grades. Maybe good grades are all that interest your lecturers and parents, but don't let yourself get cornered into thinking that this is the only thing you should be learning at University. If your mother cooked for you when you lived at home, you'll now find that you have to learn to do this yourself, or you will forever eat noodles (pot noodles and those cheap Chinese noodles that come in a pack of four!), savoury rice, and burnt to hell pork sausages. And the same goes for using that machine in the kitchen with the glass door, through which you can watch things go round and round. Learn to use it to. In other words, learn to become independent and your life will become so much easier and more fun. It will open up a world of choices for you. Take advantage of what this place has to

offer. If you want to learn karate, join the karate club. You will probably never get the chance to learn for the few pounds it costs to join when you leave university and maybe not have the time later when you are working. Or if you are a poet, write poems and don't be put off by other people and their comments. If its what you like to do, then do it. Send your poems to An Focal and try to get them published. Go to those one off lectures where some famous person visits the university and you may learn loads. Go swimming every day. Many things are free or only cost a small amount in university, you'd be crazy not to take advantage of them!

I remember when the Lodge (or Kilmurry Lodge Hotel to those who haven't been there yet, shame on you) was just a field. And I remember when the area between the Foundation building and the Schuman was just a field. I remember when Kilmurry Village was just a football field. I remember when Curragh Birin was just a field. I remember a lot of fields. Remember to enjoy the university experience and expand your horizons.

The world is a field on which you can build your dreams.



the message is, B! who you want to B!

A Word From Our London Correspondant

Ivan Moran's a working man, though you'd never think it after reading this. Now and again he's promised to pop up with a story for us

A Spice Girl winked at me today. Feck, there's an opening gambit for an article, eh?

Yes reader, your eyes don't deceive you - a Spice Girl winked at me today. I was at the UK premier of the new Disney movie 'Tarzan' and she got out of the car (a nice 1990 Black Mercedes) to go in, and winked at me. Wearing a very nice kinda khaki printed top and jolly nice (God, this British thing has got to stop!) 501's, and a damn cool pair of crocodile skin boots. Never mind those daft white dresses she wore in the 2 become 1 video and so on, in the flesh, Baby Spice - or Emma as I like to call her! - looked a picture. She had two wee kids with her, cousins or sisters I should imagine, and as I say, she winked at me.

Okay, maybe I should come clean here. Firstly, maybe it wasn't exactly a wink, per se. Maybe she had something in her eye. I'm not a doctor, and I don't pretend to know of the afflictions suffered by my multi-million selling recording artistes such as Ms Bunton. I suppose it could have been a bit of dust in here eye. Maybe one of the infants with which she travelled had just before leaving the car, poked her in said retinal region. but what the hell - let me have my fantasy! And secondly I wasn't exactly 'at' the Tarzan premiere.

It was a Sunday afternoon and I noticed a big crowd hanging about Leicester Square. And not wanting to miss anything, I joined the crowd behind the barriers. It was kinda funny really. Lots of people like myself only hanging around because there were other people hanging around.

Nobody really knew what to expect, but y'see because other people are there, the rationale is that 'well, there must be somebody famous coming along, otherwise there wouldn't be such crowds! - and besides, there's television cameras, sure I might get on the news'. And when the famous people started to arrive - or 'celebs' as us...um...gossip columnist wannabies (Ha Ha Ha...Wannabies...SpiceGirls...Wannabies?...Geddit>!) - it was such an anticlimax. I mean so what if that's Phil Collins. The only interesting thing I can say about him is that he's even smaller than you'd think. And Jonathan 'Woss' Ross was there as well. He just looked like a silly arse. He was there with his family, but that doesn't really excuse it now does it? The Woss Clan was there bedecked in silly t-shirts - all of them I

might add - each emblazoned with devices called 'Pogamon' or something as equally silly. As far as I can gather they're all the rage in Japan, and we're gonna be sick of the bastards by Christmas....kinda like a cross between Garfield toys and Tamegothcies or however you spell that.

Anyway, I digress. So there was the Woss family...and, like, what can you say. Y'know, you see people on the telly - and having seen them in the flesh, you just wish they'd go back there. Looking at celebrities sucks. All your opinions are shattered. I kinda liked Jonathan Ross on the telly. His movie reviews aren't bad and he has a nice streak of irreverence about him. However having now seen him go to the movies with his family I know two things I really didn't need to know. Firstly, somebody else chooses his wardrobe when he's on TV - they must, 'cos today's ensemble was just the arses arse. And secondly, his wife has massive breasts. Call me a simple minded chauvinist if you will (you're a simple minded chauvinist - Ed.) but that just had to be said. She does. And mad red hair. So you see, for all this hoo-haa about star spotting, I've had my fill. After one 45 minute session of it. You get to see them without the image manipulators, and it's not a pretty site.

Which brings me on to Chris Eubank. Oh Christ. Oh Chris. Where Do I Start. For yes, he was there. And if I thought that Jonathan Ross shouldn't have been let out of the house in the state he was in, then in fairness, Mr Eubank came from behind, with a right hook (were such a combination possible) to take the heavyweight biscuit.

He was wearing green pants. The kind of pants you'd wear with a suit. And big, fuck off red Docs. Which were on the inside and kinda making the trousers look really crumpled and...oh, I don't know....I just despaired. It made me pine for the days of Barry McGuigan when having his own brand of crisps named after him was as low as boxing could go. Chris, we may have said you looked silly in the suit and cane and monacle. But we were wrong. Oh dear. Oh dear oh dearoh dear.

But enough of that. I'm off to surf the internet. I'm going to look up instances of famous people suffering from mysterious eye disorders. You know, perhaps Keith from the Prodigy undergoes the ordeal of onion eyes when faced with

butchers from Newtwpothouse. Could it be that Clint Eastwood finds himself squinting even more if met by nuns from Termonfeckin. Are there documented cases of that nice girl who sings with TheCardigans furiously winking whenever she comes into contact with bank managers from Bohola? If such instances are the case - if it wasn't just me that got the wink, then I'll be ordering a large dose of humble pie from the nicewaitress in the cyber cafe from which I send this dispatch.



We were just going to print a picture of Baby, but by God, the rest of them just look so good

But if they aren't....if they aren't, then I'm off to sign up for the Spice Girls fan Club....and reciprocate Emmas obvious lust for me. Sure isn't that what she'd really want...

Zig-a-zigah!

Diary Of A First Year

Maired Moriarty gives us the low down on what it's like to be walking round this place for the first time. (ps go on the Kingdom!)



For years, we have worked hard, sat in cold, ugly classrooms and tried our hands at impossible homework. We have put up with childish humour and immature behaviour from fellow classmates. But was it worth it?

Independence, drink, maturity, drink, freedom, drink! Now that the Father Jack images have come to mind, we can relax and enjoy college! The lecture halls are calling, but is there anyone listening? It seems to me that college is the best place a body can really come to life!

Now, please don't all think that this is some little, innocent, inexperienced first year. (I probably am, but that's not the point!) I'm just new to all this, OK! I love not having to answer to anyone. I love being able to do my own thing and most importantly I love getting absolutely bamboozled without my parents knowing. Maybe that's immature, but everyone else

here seems to do the same thing!

There is, however, the bad side to being a first year. For starters, nobody tells us, the naive first years, that we have to do so many things. Then they don't tell us how, when, where or why to do them. I mean, are we supposed to be inspired? It's already week four and some of us still haven't our full timetables. And what is the deal with the queue at Student Services? God only knows how we're supposed to set up our e-mail. And then there's the queue for the ladies to top it all off! Can we not even relieve ourselves now?

Then there's everyone talking about the newly decorated Stables bar. Honestly, I don't see anything wrong with the colour scheme! It's definitely a step up from the dull, dreary classrooms back home. Plus there's drink there, so who are we to complain?!

It seems that all the hard work has been worth it! Nobody here asks you why you don't go to your lectures. All they ask you is about your social life and how bamboozled you were last night. Now, who's coming for a drink?

Connections

A fortnightly look at the Internet with Fergus Keely



Internet Service Providers: On-ramps to the Information Super Highway.

With the release of three new internet access services last month, two from Esat and one from Indigo, the Irish people have never been in a better position to surf the web.

Two of these new services i.e. Go Free from Indigo, and Surf Free from Esat have widened an already growing market in Irish web business.

The market for free Internet access was first introduced into Ireland in March of last year when Esat Clear arrived on the scene. Another branch of Esat's booming business in Ireland, Esat Clear gave Irish web users the chance to surf the web for free or so it seemed. First of all the service was not on general commercial release like it is now and was only available to Esat customers. Secondly the tariff which Esat receives to pay for this service was charged to the customers and not to the phone company. This meant that anybody using Esat Clear was charged almost double the normal rate for calls under the guise of Esat's famous "per second" billing. This service was widely and quite rightly criticised in the press and never took off the way Esat would have liked.

Of course this scandal had a bad effect on other companies who tried to introduce free web access because of the famous saying: "Once bitten, twice shy". That was of course until Ocean arrived on the scene.

Ocean has developed no end since its introduction here in May. The company has two main branches: Ocean and Oceanfree. Ocean is a business-orientated company offering Internet, Intranet, Networking, Video Conferencing and other services to businesses trying to keep up with the changing times. Oceanfree however is a commercially driven company offering genuinely free Internet access to customers. It differs from the previous attempt by Esat to offer free web access because it receives its premium from Telecom for bringing in extra business so what you see is what you get. It is a new and unique service since it is the first joint operation between two phone companies namely Eircom and BT. The website itself is powered by Line One (www.lineone.net), one of the UK's

biggest service providers. There are of course drawbacks to the service. Despite offering unlimited e-mail addresses and a generous 10Mb of web space and even an IMAP protocol so that you can read your e-mail online it still has no NNTP server which allows you to subscribe to newsgroups on the Internet. Anyone interested in the service can check out the website on www.oceanfree.net/ocean.

Getting back to the new services however it is strange why Indigo decided to launch their service at the same time as Esat. For a company like Indigo, going up against Esat is like David and Goliath all over again. Indigo just can't survive and that is why their parent company Eircom decided to intervene. The Indigo service is not a bad one; in fact it's one of the best web based e-mail and internet services in the country. It's just that a multinational company like Esat is too frequently a relentless and unmerciful opponent. The Indigo service however should not be laughed at even though it is a poor relation of Indigo's Go Live subscription service.

The service offers 5Mb of web space and one e-mail address (username@gofree.indigo.ie). It also has an NNTP server and a full technical support team, though at the cost of 58p per minute as opposed to 48p for ocean and 10p during the day for Indigo Go Live (which is charged at the cost of an 01 number). It has also teamed up with Eircell so that existing Eircell customers who sign up for an account with Indigo Go Free will receive a text message on their mobile notifying them of their first thirty e-mails. Again anyone interested in this service can check out the website at www.indigo.ie or alternatively call indigo sales on 1850 73 00 73 or check out Aertel page 601.

Esat have gone overboard once again launching not one but two new Internet services at the start of September. The first of these is Surf Free.

Surf Free resembles the original Esat service although Esat have rethought their policy on who to charge. This service offers free internet access for the price of a local call be it from Eircom or Esat. (The cost of the calls for Eircom customers subscribing to Esat clear, Indigo Go Free or Ocean is 11.5p/3 min. before 6 p.m. and 11.5p/15 ins. after 6 p.m. and at the weekend). The service offers unlimited e-mail addresses and 10

Mb of web space. The other details about the service are unclear however thanks to Esat's policy of keeping the most important elements of the service in an attempt to appeal to people's curiosity.

The other service from Esat is Surf No Limits. Although it has been built up by advertisers and like-minded critics recently, Surf No Limits really is a groundbreaking new service for the Irish market. This service offers unlimited online time for a flat rate of £17 per month. This service is invaluable for people who surf the web a lot either for business, pleasure or because they do a lot of research. A word of warning though, peak time calls are still charged to you at the cost of 3p/min. The service otherwise resembles Surf Free, offering unlimited e-mail addresses, 10Mb of webspace and an IMAP protocol like Ocean. Anyone thinking that registering for a free internet service is an easy task should check out Esat's "acceptable usage" policy on the website www.esat-clear.ie or check out Aertel page 167 for further information on the services offered by Esat Clear.

Despite the prevalence of free internet access in Ireland today, subscription services still retain a huge hold on the ISP market. There are so many subscription services out there now that to review them all would take me a few months so I will limit my discussion to the important Irish and International ISP's.

Perhaps the first subscription service that I should refer to is the one I have already mentioned: Indigo Go Live. Go Live is the evolution of the original service offered by Indigo. It offers one e-mail address (username@indigo.ie) and 10Mb of web space. It too has an NNTP server and a fully equipped tech support hotline; all for £10 per month. The call value with Go Live is slightly better with peak calls charged at 11.5p/7.5 min and off-peak charged at 11.5p/15 min. There is no real incentive anymore to stay with Go Live now that Go Free has been launched although small companies may find 5Mb of web space a little small for their needs. Even less of an incentive is that anyone switching from Go Live to Go Free who has at least 30 days credit on their account will be refunded the subscription cost. Despite this however Go Live remains one of the top ISP's on the market.

Anyone subscribing to Tinet will have noticed a change in their e-mail address recently as Eircom start tying up the loose ends in their transition from Telecom Eireann to Eircom. Anyone

with an e-mail address username@tinet.ie now has as his or her e-mail address username@eircom.net. Eircom is by far and away the best subscription service in Ireland although at £145.20 per year it is a little expensive. It offers subscribers 3 e-mail addresses (described on the site as one for each member of the family though what families with four or more people will do I don't know), 10 Mb of web space and even a one month free trial. It also offers other facilities for the serious web surfer such as Telnet and FTP (file transfer protocol, for people who don't have Java), Microsoft IE5, an NNTP server and a free tutorial CD on the web and also tips on creating your own website.

As an added incentive the call charges with Eircom are lower than even a local call with peak calls charged at 2p/min and off peak charged at 1p/min. The installation software can be purchased from any Eircom store for £3.99. Further details can be found on the Eircom website at www.eircom.net/services/index.html.

One of the biggest multinational ISP's available to Irish users at the moment is Compuserve. This company has a large section in Ireland and offers a very high tech and stylish service. For £17.95stg per month you can have unlimited off-peak time or for regular access £6.50 per month plus calls charged at 3p/min off peak. The new upgrade for existing Compuserve customers Compuserve 2000 offers a new, faster service for \$199.00 per year plus calls charged at 3p/min off peak. The drawback of this service however is that Compuserve 2000 tends to cause bugs in other products such as IE5 and Outlook Express so that you will use their software only. Also it has only three servers in the country, Cork, Shannon and Dublin. This results in extra charges for users not living in those area codes and also reduced performance at peak times due to the lack of servers. Both Eircom and Oceanfree have servers in every area code so that everyone can access the internet for the price of a local call and have enough servers to cover any demands.

That's all for this week. Next week I'll take a look at the ongoing war between Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator and also the other companies involved in the race for the ultimate web browser.

As usual anyone with comments or problems on any aspect of the web or computers can reach me at fk1121@oceanfree.net.

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Paddy Casey ; he can afford to relax and enjoy it all

Grafton St. has given us The Frames, Mark Dignam and Mundy and it's latest protégé Paddy Casey. Is Grafton St. becoming a valuable "breeding ground" for Irish singer/songwriters? "That's a bad question!!" laughs an amicable Paddy Casey. (Casey, to the contrary, stresses that the busy street once contained quality but not anymore). The Apologist laughs and accepts the criticism of the opening question of the interview!

Paddy Casey has just completed the first night of his Irish Tour in front of a capacity crowd at Dolan's Warehouse on Dock Road in Limerick. Ushered to the front bar by his tour manager, Phil, who kindly informs us that we have fifteen minutes with tonight's hero, Casey looks bemused at the fuss created around him by eager punters wanting ticket stubs and CD sleeves signed by the 24 year old heralded as "Dublin's singer/songwriter prodigy", and the predictable cliché "voice of a generation". Casey is introduced and the interview commences at a table in the corner of the bar, away from the mass of the his entourage crowding around for late orders.

Tonight might be the first night of his Irish Tour but Casey hasn't had a quiet summer. Commencing with the release of his critically acclaimed and appropriately titled album, "Amen (so be it)", Casey has brought his music to the hordes at a sun-drenched Glastonbury as well as supporting REM, David Gray, Blondie, Ian Brown, Reef and most recently The Pretenders on the European leg of their tour; ("they were great...it was me first time in Europe"), not to mention a month-long residency during August at London's Borderline Club.

Put this to Casey and ask him to compare his present lifestyle to previous years busking on the streets of Galway

and Dublin.

"It's pretty good" he says modestly, unfazed by high profile support slots and his larger than life billboard posters splashed all over the nation. "I don't leave the flat much" is what he says, indicating that a hectic summer schedule hasn't given him much time at home in Dublin.

Casey is obviously not just destined to be a household name in Ireland, as is clear when he recalls reception of his material at The Borderline, not to mention a certain triplet from Athens, Georgia who upon hearing his debut album snapped up the 24 year old to play as opening support at their Lansdowne Rd. gig this summer. Asked whether supporting REM was something he wanted to do, Casey hesitates a little stating that of course you would accept such a slot, before conceding that he actually does like the band also. Indeed his high profile slots may cause critics to remark that Casey only receives such publicity thanks to being founded by Paul McGuinness and signed to Sony/S2.

Casey confesses that he doesn't think about these things, though he considers himself lucky to be signed to one of the world's biggest record labels - but comparing himself to other not so fortunate artists he states "they got what they got and I got what I got". Casey may have his opinions but he is not arrogant, in fact tonight he is friendly, modest, down to earth and easy to talk to.

The 24 year-old may be only a signed artist recently, but he has been performing and playing songs since the age of 13. Asked about what he considers himself now as, he says that he is still a busker "cause that is what I really am". In fact by the time the good people at Sony had the sense to sign him, Casey claims to have had five to six albums worth of songs; "I wanted to release a triple CD compilation but they wouldn't let me" he laughs.

With such a back catalogue of songs

The Busker who came in from the streets

(a late night chat with Paddy Casey)

The Apologist queries as to whether the songs we hear on Amen, and at the live shows are taken from that store of material.

"I'm writing all the time" he replies although tonight's opening track, Sweet Suburban Sky, a highlight of the album, is one such song - it was written 5/6 years ago. During his teenage years the four-track taught him how to record songs in their basic forms; "I learnt a lot about studio recording using the 4-track, until I wore it out!" On Amen, Casey does not just stick with his acoustic guitar and a DJ can be heard scratching in the background along with the use of drum loops, particularly on Ancient Sorrow.

"So are PC's going to be an integral element of Paddy Casey albums in the future?", Casey shrugs "see what happens", is the reply.

Like Glen Hansard of The Frames, Paddy Casey was also a regular performer at singer/songwriter clubs in Dublin. Upon this point The Apologist makes it known that the hard working members of the UL Music and Radio Societies have endeavoured to set up such an event on campus. So are these songwriter clubs worth it? Casey agrees; "Somebody might be in a flat with a song, wondering how good it could be, but unless they get a chance to try it out, they won't know their potential".

Throughout the interview Casey makes reference to his friend Sinéad Martin with whom he has previously performed. The Apologist having witnessed Casey and Martin performing together at 4am during the REM after-show party in the HQ Hall of Fame this year, surprises Casey with this reference. Casey laughs and confesses "I was pissed that night". Casey is easy going and willing to discuss his past. Perhaps his most revealing story was brought up when asked about...wait for it: "L'Orange de Gateau". The fanciful French quote refers to his pseudonym for an audition he did for the part of a busker in Alan Parker's film "The Commitments". He explains jokingly that he didn't think that he'd get the part so he decided to use this code name.

The reference to orange was made because "my friends used to call me Jaffa 'cause I always wore orange". (Non-surprisingly Casey is clad in an

orange T-shirt tonight bearing "The Six Million Dollar Man" logo). Thinking the audition didn't go well, he returned to Galway. Shortly after the interview "a big white stretch limo" pulled up at his family house in Crumlin. When Mr. Parker asked his Mum if L'Orange de Gateau lived there she told him that they must have the wrong address and advised him to "try Cashel Avenue and Cashel Lane!" Alan Parker finally tracked down Casey but the recorded scene was cut from the film. Alas Casey's film career had come to an abrupt halt!

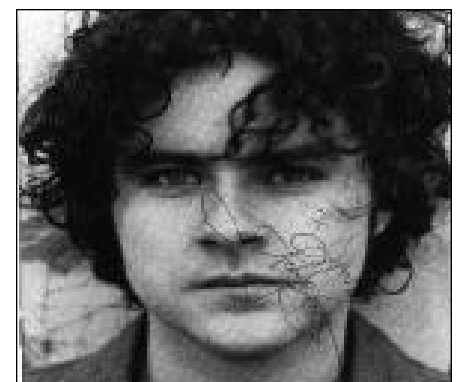
So after the Irish tour, which includes Nancy Spain's, Roisin Dubh and three nights at Whelans, what next for the young prodigy? Building on the positive response received during his August dates in London, Paddy Casey will tour the UK (something he is visually excited about by pointing out this is his first proper tour as opposed to showcase gigs). However the length of his present tour looks like it will clash with the possibility of some dates supporting Travis.

Then again maybe it's time for Grafton St's latest, and perhaps it's last wunderkind to, after a Summer of triumphant success, take the next step and finally stop being compared to his peers such as David Gray and Mike Scott. Instead he should be recognised as the influential musician that he is. Paddy Casey says that he "is writing all the time", and on that note music-lovers may sleep easy knowing that somewhere out there the voice and guitar that of Paddy Casey is recording new ideas on a battered old four-track.

The Apologist, October '99

see review a of the gig on the pg. over

paddy, signed and all



"Tonight, I'll be David Gray"

Paddy Casey Live at Dolan's Warehouse,
5th Oct '99

Even before doors opened at 9pm Dolan's pub was packed with revellers there to see the opening night of Paddy Casey's debut Irish tour. This young Dublin busker has, in just a few short months, been signed to Sony; supported the likes of REM, Ian Brown, Reef and The Pretenders; and in general stormed the singer/songwriter circuit both here and in Britain.

Shortly after 9.00pm Colm O Suilleabhain took to the stage, warming up the capacity crowd with five songs, including 'Young Hearts' a song often covered by The Frames. He was followed by Owen Coughlan who has just returned from supporting Madness in the US and will be supporting Casey throughout his Irish tour.

As the night wore on, the air of anticipation grew steadily until, finally, Casey strolled on stage shortly after 11pm with two guitars and two pints (one water, one Guinness). Tiny in stature, his right foot shoeless (due to a broken leg) and wearing an orange 'six million dollar man' t-shirt, he perched elf-like on a stool before asking 'what the f*** are youse all doing here?' of the cheering crowd.

Beginning cautiously with 'Sweet Suburban Sky', the curly-haired Casey was interrupted by huge applause, and he laughingly responded 'You're mak-

ing me nervous now!' before re-commencing the melodious ballad with a trembling hand on his guitar. 'Can't Take That Away' followed, to more cheers, after which the singer, amazed at the response, asked 'did someone tell yez David Gray was singing or something? Tonight I'll be David Gray!' By the time he launched into the much louder 'Would U Be', his courage had improved, and he announced cheekily at its conclusion that he had no more songs left and would have to play 'American Pie'.

'Precious Time' ensued— a song which he rarely plays live, but wanted to try out, advising the audience that if they didn't like it they could go to the disco next door. This was proceeded by 'Criminal' another song from his expansive collection which isn't featured on the album. At this stage he announced that it was 'nice' to look out and see loads of people there to see him .. even though he didn't believe they all knew where they were!.

For 'Ancient Sorrow', the 24 year old was anxious for quiet, and persisted on singing in a whisper until the crowd fell silent. Then the instant he started it, everyone burst into applause again, before allowing him deliver a brilliant rendition of this somewhat medieval-sounding chant. After tumultuous hand-clapping, he declared that he didn't have a clue (or a 'f***ing clue' to be precise!) what to play next.



giving it loads

Keeping the crowd's enthusiasm up (and making it obvious why he succeeded as a busker), he acknowledged the public enthusiasm by getting everyone to count in, and clap in time through, his next composition 'Cold as Ice'. After this, the song 'Downtown' was dedicated to all present who had sandpaper in their backpocket .. but before it began, he decided to tell the story of his broken leg: 'I was trying to chat up a horse - but obviously the horses in Limerick are much nicer than those at home!'.

'Freedom' was followed in quick succession by the popular 'Everybody Wants'. Just before the instrumental, his guitar slipped out of tune, but he just instructed 'wait for it' while he grabbed another and then carried on to great cheers. 'Fear', the opening song of his debut album, was welcomed with roars of appreciation, and Casey, not hiding his astonishment at everyone knowing the words, passed several lines over to the hordes to sing. After this, he launched straight into the latest single from the album .. 'Whatever gets U true', an upbeat anthem that all assembled chorused along with. This was dedicated to the bearer of a new pint of Guinness to Casey, before he again shouted to the audience if they were sure they were at the right gig ... he even stopped mid-verse to shout 'How the f*** do you know all the words?'

'Rainwater' was to feature next, with Casey telling the assemblage to 'SSHHH' and asking for 'loads of guitar' on it. Then his 'f***ing lead' went and while he went through a guitar change he entertained the crowd by threatening that he was Darth Vader, and anyone who didn't listen to him would be choked! Time was ticking by, so Casey improvised and tried 'something different' namely 'Can't wait to see U again'. When Phil (tour manager) returned his guitar, Casey said 'may the force be with you .. (and indicating Phil) .. how can I teach him? He's soo young!' At this stage all present were introduced to Phil and informed he was from Adare. When he finally got back to

do 'Rainwater', the echoing lyrics were accompanied by lots of reverb filling the venue. At a particular intricate guitar piece he boasted 'Look I've been practising this for ages .. I can even do it with me eyes shut ..' accompanied by an impressive demonstration of skill!

When it came to encore time, he declared he was going to pretend to go off stage for a bit until he was called back by a bellowing mob .. after which he announced 'I didn't take that much persuading, did I?' and dedicated 'Sign of the Times' to the support acts .. referred to as two country boys. This was followed by the hugely-popular 'It's Over Now' before moving straight into 'Goodnight Baby Goodnight' and the joyous declaration .. 'Thanks for making my first night f-ing brilliant .. yez are f-ing off yer trees!'

The final song of the night was fittingly 'The Auld Triangle', dedicated to his da .. Paddy's lone wistful voice singing to the night .. 'I wish he'd come to one of my gigs but he never has. Shut up ... I'm trying to sing a song. I'm sure he's drinking Guinness in heaven'. Unfortunately the gig had to come to a close at 1am as he shouted 'Ye're f-ing brilliant .. but I'm dying for a piss as well'.

It was a ground-breaking first night of his solo tour ... and promises of great things to come. Seize the chance to witness it now.

The Apologists, October '99



Paddy smiles for the masses on Dolan's balcony .



pensive paddy

Now Hear This.....

We'll review the albums + singles that you might like to spend your grant on



First off, The Albums

Soulfood, Cookin' Records

LTJ Bukem has long been one of the most important players on the drum and bass scene.

Through his Good Lookin' label, and leaning towards the jazzier end of the drum and bass scale, he was far ahead of his time, producing tracks such as 'Music' and 'Cosmic Interlude'. His 'Logical Progression' compilations veered towards the heavier, more hardcore drum and bass styles, while his 'Earth' compilations aimed at fans of the more laid back style.

Cookin' Records is a spin off of Good Lookin', and its first release, Soulfood, is a record that's along the laid back lines of the 'Earth' compilations, indeed featuring artists such as Artemis, Blame and Blu Mar Ten, who appeared on those 'Earth' compilations.

Soulfood is a great album to sit back to. From 'Du Bi Tribe, the swirling, atmospheric opener from Intersperse, right through to Longers closing track, 'The Brain', Soulfood is an album of jazzy beats and top-drawer arrangements.

This record is made up of 13 tracks, 11 of which are almost based around a pretty simple and effective formula. Jazz drum beats, easy going bass lines and various sound effects ranging from waves to birds to quick piano loops are what each artist starts of with, before adding their own touch in the form of a lead instrument such as the brilliant double bass on Vincent's 'Golden Gate'.

This is one of the best tracks on the album, with symbols fading in and out for the intro, and then playing throughout the track, having been added to by the double bass, the drum beat, the bass line and the sound effects. The track is later dominated by jazzy piano, before stalling in the

middle to again let the symbols go, with only the sound of waves for company. The track jumps back into life again on the sound of the drum and returns to (without trying to sound too pretentious) the 'atmospherics'! In short, it's just great music.

Most of the other tracks follow suit, with various piano lines popping up throughout, and Vincent's double bass being replaced by instruments like the sax and violin on 'Fifth Sun', or a jumping flute on 'Twin Moon', or bongos on 'Solstice'.

There are, however, a couple of tracks that sound a little forced and awkward. Artemis' 'Second Sight' and 'Lucy's Song' by Flying Fish don't really hit the target. They aren't bad tunes, they just don't reach the heights of the tracks that they're placed beside. The only other weak link, I think, is Bjorn's 'New Forms of Life', which doesn't show the same imagination or width in its use of sounds and instruments.

The only other thing I noticed is that both K-Scope tracks sound like they're taken from sixties spy shows on television, which is great if you ask me. The closing track breaks away from the rest of the album, and doesn't really follow the formula, but 'The Brain' sounds like it was taken straight of a DJ Cam album, and as I'm a big fan of his, I've no complaints about that.

Overall, Soulfood is a great album. It's one to listen to in a dark, smoky room with a couple of candles and some girls (or boys if you're a girl etc.) If you're into jazzy, laid back sounds, then you probably have this album already. If you're not, then go out and get this album, or you'll never know what you're missing.

DH



The Handsome Family "Down in the Valley"

A Treasury of their most willowy and haunted songs

As the old saying goes 'the first impression is a lasting impression.' Well my first impression of husband and wife duo Brett and Rennie Sparks(!) from Chicago was that they sounded terrible.

Yes, terrible. I would like to consider myself an open-minded kinda'gal but to be honest I couldn't force myself to listen to this album more than once.

Thankfully then the CD cover had all the lyrics printed and I was able to read, assess and categorise these depressing songs without listening to them over and over. Death, as a theme was right up there, being incorporated into approx. 6 songs-made sure one couldn't escape it. Then, in varying measures other depressing themes, such as destruction, personal despair, mental people, and out and out weirdness were explored.(enlightning stuff)

However, some people like that sort of thing and if you are one of such a scattering of people then hooray, this album is for you.



For all my negativity, The Handsome Family must be admired for "outing" the weird side of country music. They have been described as "The Adams Family - country style". They speak to the lonely, the loveless, the sad and the depressed. They are depressing. However, their clever mixture of country music and strange slants on reality could be considered special and is certainly new.

Why not decide for yourself --- Brett and Rennie are coming to our fair isle soon:

- Fri 19th November - Cleere's Theatre, Kilkenny
- Saturday 20th November - Roisín Dubh, Galway
- Sunday 21st November - The Lobby, Cork
- Tuesday 23rd November - Whelan's, Dublin

Louise Hegarty

classic corner

Each Issue, Brendan Gregory will take a look at a classic album from the 70's, 80's or 90's. This issue.....



Smashing Pumpkins - Siamese Dream.

This album elevated the Pumpkins to a completely different level from the Grunge Movement and helped to shed the Nirvana comparisons which hindered them in their early years.

From start to finish the album is a pumping powerhouse of melodic rock and lullaby harmonies intertwined to form the basis of the Smashing Pumpkins trademark sound. Arguably this is the band's best album. Their first album, 'Gish', was a mish mash of experimentation with few memorable tunes while 'Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness' was simply too overblown and nihilistic. Their last album 'Adore' deterred some of their original fanbase with its gentle acoustic and eclectic mix. It is a highly underrated album yet when compared to

Siamese Dream, the nostalgia wins, and Siamese Dream can be viewed as the better album.

Standout tracks are many and varied, from opener 'Cherub Rock' to the hit 'Today', to the powerful 'Disarm' and 'Soma' to the gentle closer 'Luna'. The recording of this album was dogged by internal friction between the band. Allegedly frontman, Billy Corgan played all instruments himself bar the drums, therefore making this Corgan's troubled baby. Lyrically, Corgan is desparing and angsty as ever.

'Can't wait for tomorrow, I might not have that long'. If you hear only one of their albums make it this one. Siamese Dream is a classic of the 90's to rival even Nirvana's 'Nevermind'!

Brendan Gregory

If you'd like to review an album or single, then just drop the review into Dave in the SU office, or e-mail us at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie. You can review something that you already own, or call in to see if you'd be interested in reviewing the music we get from promotion companies.

Nine Inch Nails - - The Fragile

It's been five years since Trent Reznor's last album, the apocalyptic masterpiece 'The Downward Spiral'.

But Reznor hasn't wasted that time, instead he has infused all his creative output into numerous ventures such as production, soundtrack compilation and bonus tracks. All done he says, because he wanted to delay another album for as long as possible. Finally in 1997 he started work on his follow up to 'The Downward Spiral', but from the very beginning all deadlines were pushed further back.

Initially conceived as an instrumental album, Reznor tried to push away from the standard drum machine and synthesizer sound instead, striving towards a more natural feel incorporating real drums and instruments. As a result 'The Fragile' has a more organic feel with violins, cello's real, warm drum sounds and erratic piano fills. But the pounding flesh metal beat is still intact. As the recording progressed more and more vocal tracks were written resulting in a double album, 23 tracks in total, the majority of which have vocals.

The overall feel of the album is extremely disjointed - To those who have heard Nine Inch Nails before, this comes as no surprise. This album is definitely a very



slow grower. In fact, I hated it on first listen, it's taken me three weeks to fully appreciate it, which is what Reznor intended. In his view, albums like that, which sound terrible on the first listen and gradually grow on the listener, are the best. 'The Fragile' is a masterpiece, but a troubled one. Lyrically, the album is as depressing as ever, Reznor sings of pain, hate, broken relationships and self loathing. Take for example opening track 'Somewhat Damaged' *"too f**ked up to care anymore poisoned to my, rotten core"* or on 'Into the Void' *"Tried to save myself but myself keeps slipping away."*

Standout tracks on this album include the title track 'The Fragile', 'We're in this together' and instrumental 'Complication'. Like all double albums, listening can become quite tedious but unlike others, 'Nine Inch Nails' rambling disjointed soundscapes work surprisingly well as a double album. With a little patience, this album could well become one of the best of 1999.

Brendan Gregory

+ then, a couple of singles

The Revenants - "Sarah"

Unfortunately I don't have too much to say about this single (for a change). However, they were nominated in three categories in the Hot Press awards recently, so their music must say something to someone somewhere.

I found the title track disappointingly middle of the road, a tune that usually prompts you to reset that radio dial to another sta-

tion. However, if bland easy-listening is what you are after then you should enjoy this single, which includes songs L.I.V.#1, Book of days, and What's Going On.

Having said all that however, and to be fair, Ryan's voice has an excellent 'weathered' quality to it. The band seem really laid back in their playing which illustrates their competence and experience.

If you don't trust me and



wish to find out more for yourself, contact—
<http://homepage.tinet.ie/~independentrecs>

Louise Hegarty

The Frank and Walters - "Plenty Times"

Finally, a single that I like. I'm sure that most of you have heard this song before, even if it be unbeknownst to you.

It comes from the bands third album 'Beauty Becomes More Than Life', which was released last May and has received much radio play.

It's upbeat, kinda quirky, something that can be hummed along to and you wouldn't change the radio

station because of it. However, as was pointed out to me, the title track's refrain sounds questionably like U2's 'who's gonna ride your wild horses / who's gonna drown in your blue sea / who's taste your salt water kisses / who's gonna...etc'. This didn't bother me though as I still enjoyed listening to them.

The second song on the single is a new one called 'Open Up' and Stephen Merrit of Magnetic Fields penned the third tune 'Falling Out Of Love'.



Both of which were pleasing to the ear.

The Franks are currently touring in France and Spain. They will kick off their Irish tour in December. Watch this space! Find out more at : friction@tinnet.ie

Louise Hegarty

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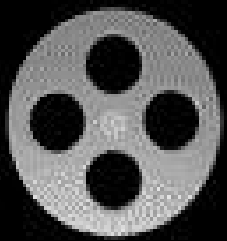
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The Reel Thing

Each issue, we'll take a look at some of the films available on both the big and little screen, to make sure that you're not wasting valuable time watching films like 'the Avengers'

Unmissable *****

Excellent ****

Watchable ***

Below Average **

No Thank You *

The War Zone ****

Directed By ; Tim Roth
Starring ; Ray Winston, Tilda Swinton, Lara Belmont, Freddie Cunliffe

Reviewing this film isn't much good to you, as it only ran in Dublin's IFC, and that short run is now finished. But, I caught the last show of it, and saw one of the best and most effecting films I've ever seen. Therefor, I thought it worth a review so that you might remember it when it comes out on video.

Tim Roth, to me, is a bit of a legend. He's played brilliant roles in so many films, Pulp Fiction and Reservoir Dogs being the best known. My favourite performance of his was in Four Rooms, in which he played a sleazy, quirky bell boy with such feel for the role that you wonder if he considered it an early career possibility.

The War Zone is his directorial debut, and shows a much darker and far more serious side to Roth than was seen previously. The film revolves around a family who've moved to a country home in Devon from flat complexes in London. Behind the outward family appearance, however, is the fact that the father regularly sexually abuses his daughter.

Roth pitches a family that functions normally on the surface, against this abusive situation. The mother is a constant source of light and support in the family, going about settling in to the new home while expecting and later looking after a new baby. In the family situation, the father is also a loving, yet authoritative figure. The daughter and son are your typical teenagers growing up and dealing with the relocation. At times they fight, at times they are best friends, like any other.

The incest winds under their daily life and eventually comes to the surface. The father increasingly slips into his paedophile persona, the daughter's outer confidence slowly unravelling on the screen in front of the audience due to the assault endured by her. The son's normal, youth-



Tim Roth ; Makes a great start as director

ful sexual confusion is intensified by the sight of his sister in naked photographs, in the bath, and finally in the harrowing 'bunker scene' with her father. The mother seems oblivious to what's happening in her family until the end when she acts quickly on a nervous warning from her son that he doesn't trust his father, and to "keep him away from the baby".

This film is all about realism. Constantly shot under the grey skies of Devon and the grey walls of London's flats, Roth clearly shows the pain that this family suffers. How many times have we seen a stabbing on screen, or a woman giving birth, and the experience has been made to look easy. Roth, in his direction, as well as the actors in their portrayal, show true, real life pain, be it physical, psychological or both. The pain of childbirth, of being stabbed, of growing up, of the act of incest, of the mental torture and guilt of those involved after the act, are all quite clear from what's happening on screen. This isn't a Hollywood cut. It's more like a documentary of the destruction of a family and the five people within it.

This also is not a film to watch on a night when you don't get into the Lodge, and you want to go home and hang out for a couple of hours. It's a film to watch and learn from, to think about and to try and understand. And, it's definitely a film worth watching

DH

American Pie ****

Directed by ; Paul Weitz
Starring ; Chris Klein, Thomas Ian Nicholas, Eugene Levy and Tara Reid

You've heard the hype, you've probably seen the apple pie scene in the trailer, so you have a fair idea what its all about.

This is the return of the teen sex pic. For those of you who can remember that's Porkies, Screwballs, Revenge of the Nerds etc. American Pie never quite reaches those heights but there are lots of cheap laughs, some crass, some with a little bit of thought involved. But if the reaction of the audience is anything to go by then you will enjoy this as everyone laughed from start to finish when I was there.

The plot (struggle!!) centers around a group of high school buddies all of whom are virgins and sick of that particular tag (who could blame them). In a fit of frustration they make a pact to lose their virginity before prom night and the entire film revolves around their antics and adventures leading up the Prom Night and them getting it on .

The four central characters are Jim (hopeless with women and not helped by advice from his father) ,Oz (the obligatory jock, if lacrosse can have jocks and Chris Klein doing his best Keannu impression), Kevin(a rather insipid individual who has a girl-



picture, 1,000 words, etc.

friend and still can't get laid) and the rather over sophisticated Finch who is probably the most enjoyable character of the lot.

There are some classic original scenes ,watch out for the live internet broadcast, the apple pie scene and any scene involving Jim and his father (who steals the show) but there are some great rehashes of old jokes ie. Laxatives etc. The only complaint I have about this film is that its got a "Chick Flick" ending. Everybody lives happily ever after. Except Stiffler, you 'll see what I mean. This is why it falls below the high standards set by Porkies, Screwballs etc.

All in all this is a well enjoyable film , there are people out there who will tell you that this is thrash and that if you enjoy it you are devoid of any cultural values etc., i.e. people who take themselves a little bit too seriously. As far as I'm concerned, I hide nothing. I've said it before, I enjoy cheap laughs, and this film is full of them. Go and see it if nothing it will cheer you up with the reminder that there is always someone out there more pathetic than you.

KP

If you'd like to get in on this reviewing films lark, then, same drill as before; call into Dave in the SU office, or e-mail him at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

What's On The Way

the two big gigs over the next two weeks are the Hallowe'en Ball with Dublin's Soul Clinic (wednesday wk 5), and Picturehouse (thursday wk 4)

the latest r'n'b up to Garage vocal house, ...if its funky it gets dropped..... International guests to appear and already confirmed are... matt from the freestylers...oct [date tbc] Sugarhill gang..nov 5th Justin robertson...lion-rock fame..dec17th.

Along with these guests and the residents in action.. the venue which has a very unique layout has given rise to one of the best nights out in Dublin in the last year...Check one and two.

STEVIE G..

A completely smooth character and has all the tunes that work to prove it... ..a tireless crusader for soul and hip in cork city for over 6 years and doesn't look like he's going to slow down just yet, his Saturday night back bar residence which he has stuck to for the last 5 years has been the forerunner of the fusion of his two favourite sounds funk and hip hop and its resulting combination is what we now call R'N'B. He's one of those Dj's that changes the night in two tracks and you get the overall feeling that your'e in safe hands..hearing NWA 'express yourself' alongside TLC 'No scrubs' is not unusual..he was quoted in a recent interview..."Theres this thing at the moment in hip hop that it's all about keeping it real..like 100% hip hop... and yeah a lot of the music i would listen to would be hip hop based, but i think just that sound of its own is boring..clubbers think so too...so i'll end up playing anything from hip hop up to Roni size andJimi hendrix".

His formula works..hes constantly working and his last show for Brown Sugar in the kitchen was sold out..his sets in HQ for Soul Clinic are equally sold out and catching him is difficult unless you live in cork that is. His long time running show on Radio Friendly 104.6fm has been the inspiration behind many young budding Djs intro-

duction to popular music through work shops... and legend broadcasts, this can only be a good thing afterall Cork is known as a Funk city and his effect must be recognised.

Soon enough he's bound to pick up best Dj award somewhere and rightfully so we haven't seen the last of Stevie G just yet.....

AIDAN KELLY...

"A bit of a headcase this bloke..." In 1989 Aidan kelly had already collected about a 100 records but unfortunately most of them were really bad cheesy 80's remixes..stuff like Cameo.."Word up"..and Alexander o neill.."Fake" Y'know those really bad dance tracks from the states they used to play on Sunshine 101 on their Saturday afternoon shows...or maybe thats too far back..... still everybody has to start somewhere...yeah?

Thankfully today his music taste has changed for the better and working most nights in Dublin cities favourite bars and clubs takes up much of his time at the moment but thats not everything..there a few other things going on for the boy they call "Billy Scurrys long lost brother" [influx]. Writing for local puplications Dubfly...Noise..and the famous In Dublin adds to the CV and timetable concentrating on whats going on in the scene...hes also an Artist but to get into that would be a totally different interview..just lets say its Abstract.. As a Dj he's worked with some of the biggest names in the business..hes gusted alongside Derrick carter..Dave angel..Massive Attack..les rytmes digitales..and even the Average white band....

But his claim to fame according to some people is the Naomi campbell incident...

"There was no way i was playing that fucking "Firestarter" in the middle of

my deep house set and so i told her to go fuck herself..."

Seemingly the leggy supermodel had approached Mr Kelly and requested her favourite songand so intent on hearing it she had brought it on CD, but of course not only does Aidan hate the Prodigy but he was also a little bit pissed up...the consequences where disastrous...he got kicked out of the Kitchen nightclub and hasn't been back since...nice one kelly.

Production work has picked up speed under the moniker of PLASTIC GLASS he's just finished a remix of the boy band BLINK and their new single "Would you kill for love" and has just recieved the go-ahead for work on a remix with SACK...

"Yeah i'm actually too busy sometimes can't get to do things i was supposed to be doing 6 months ago but its always better when you got stuff on...i always be worried that i'd be unemployed or something.."

No chance..catch Aidan kelly when in Dublin... HQ fridays..Irish music hall of fame...SOUL CLINIC... RIRARA...dame court... Mondays for strictly hand bag...

Soul Clinic has been running solid now for 6 weeks and in demand for a new idea in club culture we've come up with something a little bit different.

Each week the club rotates not just on it's head but in talent with Djs from 4 corners of the country... Well known Spinkids like Stevie g... Corks answer to Trevor Nelson..Aran mc mahon from Galway whos 5 year running club in the GPO...Sunday best is as sucessful as ever is joined with the nutcase Aidan kelly who's claim to fame was telling Naomi campell that she had no taste in music...if thats not enough these guys are working alongside others like Noel phelan [from 'loose' in the POD] , Jim comet and the well known Jim carroll.. The idea itself is very simple...

People at this stage who've grown up on the culture of dance music have learned to appreciate all those other sounds that influence the sound of today..one of those important genres was of course Soul and in all its various forms is the back bone. ... so drawing from this and each of the Djs working in the current scene SOUL CLINIC has become a constant source of old and new reference and has become popular as a result. You will hear everything from the original Rare groove through



the boys

A truly independent band without being 'indie' Picture House, over their 3 year recording career, have release their records through a variety

of companies internationally (East West, KOCH International, Showtime, Kick, Wacca Wacca)

In October '95 Picture House's first record, an EP, 'Probably...', was released in Ireland. Great press reviews, including 'single of the fortnight' in Hot Press, hefty air play and numerous TV appearances across Ireland fixed the band firmly in the public eye. Fellow musicians were also impressed and guest spots at concerts were offered by The Corrs, Texas, James, Meat Loaf, Runrig and Divine Comedy.

The debut album, 'Shine Box,' was released in Ireland at the end of '96 to gushing media acclaim and entered the Irish charts in the first week of release showing that the preceding year's hard

work was starting to pay off. The album had staggered releases throughout Europe over the course of '97

Thanks to their unstoppable combination of great songs, great voice, great performance and great entertainment the band's 6 week tour of the UK and Europe at the start of '97 designed to promote 'Shine Box' ended up at 40 weeks as the band's popularity snowballed gig by gig.

2 years of sitting around in dressing rooms and hotel rooms was put to good use by Picture House writing and arranging their second album which was recorded in the late spring/early summer

of '98 .

The resulting 'Karmarama' album shot to number 5 in the Irish charts in September and has now reached Gold status and is closing fast on platinum. This established the band as one of Ireland's premier acts. This triumph was compounded by the success of the 'Sunburst' single from 'Karmarama' which became one of the top 10 most played tracks on Irish radio in 1998.

1999 started with the band special guesting on The Corrs Irish and UK arena dates which will saw them performing to 150,000 people over a 3 week period.

Radars Have the Rythm

Last Thursday night, ULSU Ents presented Limerick band, the Radars, in the Savoy, for the launch of their new single, 'Mama Said'.

Darach Kennedy was in the audience.

Local band Radars stormed the Savoy last Thursday night at the launch of their new CD single 'Mama Said'. An Focal sent special reporter Darach Kennedy to review the gig, and he caught up with band member Graham Conway during the week.

About two years ago Radars came into being and the remarkable success story of this band reached a new height last Thursday at the launch of the single 'Mama Said'. Their unique blend of jazzy trip hop and drum n' bass had a huge crowd begging for more at the end of a fantastic set. It follows two extremely successful EP releases, which were met with great critical acclaim.

Earlier this year, the band were voted winners of the prestigious and fiercely contested 2TVBattle of the Bands for which they won a trip to Eurodisney where

they represented Ireland with a few other bands at the festival there. As well as playing in the Heineken Weekender in Dublin alongside many top international acts, they have had considerable airplay from Uaneen Fitzsimmons, Donal Dineen and also Dave Fanning, which was how they came into contact with 2FM producer Pat Dunne, the producer of this track.

Radars have their own completely original sound but sometimes smack of Roni Size and Portishead, they mix this very successfully with drum n' bass and trip hop to achieve a strong dance feel but keeping it relaxed thanks to the excellent vocal talents of their singer Jenny McMahon. Although it took a while for a sizeable crowd to assemble at the venue, when the band hit the stage the floor filled immediately and stayed that way until the end. When you consider the



The Radars ; flying the flag for new Limerick music

type of music the outfit play this is no small feat.

Right, on to the single "Mama Said". All I can say is "Excellent!" With an ambient intro leading to a stomping drum'n'bass(ish) track, this is original and stylish and makes great listening. If more Irish bands achieve this quality of production, originality (all important considering the tripe being released nowadays) and presentation then there is hope yet. The band are now embarking on an extensive nationwide tour and will be appearing in Limerick again for an in-house gig at Empire Music, O'Connell Street, on the 23rd of this month. The single is widely available courtesy of Spaced Out Records. Get it, and if you can, see them live, they're worth it.



the frames ; regular visitors to the garden

Day two of this summer's Liss Ard festival was host to one of the most talented and varied line ups this country has ever seen. Joining resident Nick Cave were, among others, John Cale, Will Oldham, The Frames, Donal Lunny + Veda Hille.

The Frames (always exciting to experience, irrespective of the setting or particular setlist of the performance) are intense, committed, experimental and highly talented. Saturday at Liss Ard was no exception, as



John Cale ; the show stopper

Will Oldham song "New Partner" (the songwriter him-

self was napping at that precise time at Lissard, after a long journey!). Sung with harmonious intensity by Hansard (obviously an Oldham fan), he vented his frustration midway through the song when the mike screamed with sudden feedback. The Frames next sang a cover of 'Young Hearts' before finishing with the title-track from the new album. It was at this stage that Hansard created some blistering guitar-sounds using a 'Light Saber' kindly donated by a young member of The Frames entourage.

Late afternoon, Cian performed a spirited traditional set at the Celtic Meeting Place (a naturally-occurring raised-rock platform under a sycamore tree, where one subconsciously retreats to medieval ages). Next, John Martyn (always popular in Ireland), played a lively set to a packed marquee, including Christy Moore bopping enthusiastically.

To begin proceedings in the main tent, talented singer/songwriter Terry Sutton delivered a pithy and plaintive set, which was very well-received. Donal Lunny, Nollaig Casey & Band then took to the stage shortly after 9pm. Even for non-traditional music fans, their rollercoaster performance exploding with live energy interwove mandolins, violins, uilleann pipes, keyboards, drums and percussion into the magical reels, jigs, hornpipes and slow-airs (many composed by the artists themselves).

The main event that night was the legendary John Cale, founder/member of The Velvet Underground (his former bandmate Lou Reed played a stirring set at Liss Ard last year). Unlike Reed's repertoire, Velvet Underground fans should not expect any old 'Velvet's' chestnuts at Cale's gigs. Looking austere and iconic in minimalist black, Cale mastered both the guitar and grand piano on stage, the intense performance aug-

The Stars are on the Ground

Last issue, we took a look at the music festival held in Liss Ard, Co. Cork each summer, and at what makes it so special. This time around, the Apologists report from day two of the '99 festival. (No funds to send 'em to the whole thing.)

mented by two talented support musicians. Even though his compositions often commanded considerable audience attention, he amicably and almost affectionately welcomed the rapturous roars of applause from a surprisingly-appreciative 600-strong gathering. In all, Cale performed a heart-warming set that climaxed with a wonderful piano-led version of Cohen's 'Hallelujah' well after 1.00am (time slips by deceptively in the haven of Liss Ard's setting).

The intimate Parting Glass session ensued at 2.00am. Limited to maybe 200 people, that evening's session was hosted sincerely and effortlessly by Nick Cave, a piano virtuoso who only began solo performances following his first appearance at Liss Ard in 1997. Several songs into the fluid, free-flowing session, Cave introduced Will Oldham (looking almost like an extra from the set of 'Fargo'). Oldham's wonderfully melodious songs delighted the audience, especially the smiling and buoyant Hansard. Soon, Oldham (tired from the day's travelling and sinking into slumber) called on The Frames' frontman to sing. Looking shy and child-like, Hansard nervously fumbled the first few chords of 'Star Star', then went on to deliver a more beautiful than on the album live performance. Towards the dawn, Nick Cave, Veda Hille and The Frames all took to the microphones. It was a tremendous experience, ending with Cave performing three encores, and the final song of the night being the wild, discordant 'Dead Joe' (it's obvious why The Frames have often chosen to cover this song during their live shows!). After 16 hours of magic, this second day of the ten-day festival had evaporated into memories.

The Apologists, Sept. '99



Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Socs on campus.

Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Centre, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

Clubs and Societies 'bond' during weekend in Kilkee

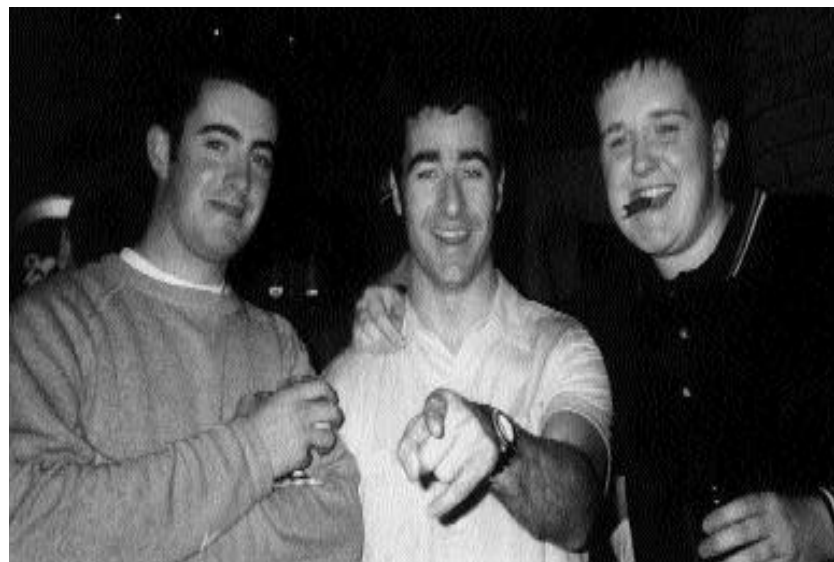
Well first things first and welcome back to all involved in Clubs and Society life on campus.

I believe that exciting times lie ahead for the Clubs & Societies of the University of Limerick, now more than ever, especially with the opening of the New Student Centre fast approaching. It will be a massive boost for all involved to move to a state of the art facility to promote and organise your Club or Societal activities as opposed to our present existence inside our dingy little bunker. However, all that is about to change and looking at the plans and having had a tour of the facility whilst under construction during the summer, Clubs and Societies are going to be extremely well catered for with the room allocations and not a moment too soon. I have to say I was well impressed with what I saw, and I believe that the sheer buzz that will be generated for those of you who have organised elaborate events and ventures from the sub-standard facility on offer at the moment finally get the recognition that you deserve. On that note I think credit where credit is due. Congratulations to all Clubs and Society committees throughout the years that have raised the awareness through elaborate events to the level that they have, and also a resounding slap on the back for all the Sabats that have come and gone in that time, and have brought the long term future of Clubs & Societies to this exciting new chapter in the life of the Students Union.

In keeping with this development,

we have taken steps to push the organisational capabilities of Clubs & Societies closer towards a more "professionalised type of service". However, we do acknowledge that some committees are very amateurish in nature but if we do not aspire to improve them then they will not improve. This is how it came to be that the Administration weekend was taken off campus for the first time ever for an over night stay in Kilkee. With regard to my previous statement, if you think that, to include the words "professional" and "Clubs and Societies" in the same sentence is a ludicrous association, then now is a prime opportunity to congratulate the phenomenal work rate of Claire Cox recently elected Societies Executive, who is on the verge of a combined fundraised figure of £27,000 (not a mis-print!) for the Physics Society and the Rowing Club in the last 12 months. £7000 is already signed sealed and delivered.

To go back to the "Administration Weekend", it is a Students Union constitutional requirement for all those who wish to be funded with regard to their Club or Society. Given the commitment required to develop a Club or Society, a new incentive was developed during the Summer with myself and the rest of the Students Union to reward those involved at a committee level with a working weekend away, whereby a seminar was organised incorporating workshops relevant to the effective running of a Clubs or Society to help contribute to the on-going development of those elected to the position of committees. Unfortunately the more effective you are



**P Lee says.....
Clubs and Societies need YOU!**

at organising a Club or Society the more you seem to be taken for granted, and considering all involvement is voluntary, we felt it was a very appropriate gesture to take committee members off campus for an overnight stay as a kick-start to the year ahead and as recognition and thanks for the voluntary work about to be undertaken. It enabled a constructive seminar to take place where people had the chance to network together as a group rather than as individuals, and the key issue behind this venture was to develop effective committees for the year ahead and hopefully secure the long term prosperity and future of the Clubs & Societies individually and collectively.

As I emphasised to the 123 people who stayed overnight it was the "idea" behind the weekend that really mattered and it had to be "test run" before it could be improved upon. No doubt mistakes were made, but I believe it was generally well received and is a progressive step for Club and Society development. As the saying goes "tús maith, leath na h-oibre".

Congratulations to those who felt Clubs & Societies was an important element to student life so much so that they ran for election of Clubs & Societies Executive. I believe it is a long time since candidates had to hust for all eight positions. There are winners and losers so here are the victorious,

Clubs Officer - Declan Burke (Kayak Club)
Clubs Executive - Stephen Driver (Soccer Club)
Clubs Executive - Fergal Fennessy (American Football Ball)
Clubs Executive - Garvan Barry (Hockey Club M)

Societies Officer - Muiris O Sullivan (Sean Sabhat, Sínn Féin Soc)

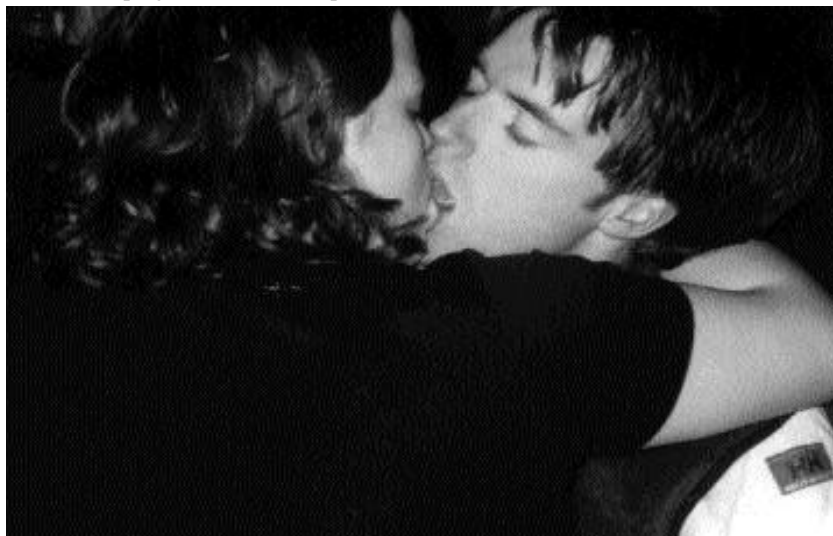
Societies Executive - Claire Cox (Physics Soc)
Societies Executive - Eoin Brazil (Young Fine Gael)
Societies Executive - Michael Phelan (Music Society)

Thanks must be extended to a number of people for a helping make the weekend, Muiris O Sullivan, Claire Cox, Keith Piggott, who, incidentally, has a geographical malfunction that very nearly saw us in Ballyunion!!

Fintan Tuohy
Ken Mc Donagh,
Mr. Pat Curtain "Curtain Executive Travel"
Mr. Peter De Clerk (mgr) of the Marine Hotel, Michele and the rest of the staff who get the thumbs up from the University of Limerick Students Union, And of course all the Clubs & Societies representatives whose behaviour was described as exemplary, and finally our very own Sabats
Pat Mc Carthy,
David O Donovan,
Dee-Dee "ditch" "sexual" Hosty,
And of course Stan "the purse string-man" Blennerhasset.

Those who work hard together play hard together, and for anyone in "Myles Creek Pub" or the "Marine Hotel" who witnessed the spectacle of 123 people chanting "take it to the hoop", manning imaginary line-outs, doing squeaky bed-springs impersonations and moshing to the Alvin Purple Experience on a dreary October evening in an abandoned seaside resort, saw one of those rare events that you will recall long-after you have left ULbehind.

Paul Lee
Clubs & Societies Development Officer



It wasn't all about work, you know!

What does your SoUL look like?

What is SoUL Week?

Societies of UL Week is a chance for the Societies in UL to display their talents to fellow students who may not be aware of their existence.

During SoUL week we try to create a "Mini-Rag Week" atmosphere on campus, with live music, International food fair, Debating, films, and many other interesting and enjoyable events.

So why not drop into the Stables courtyard during week five, and watch our Societies come alive.

Provisional Timetable for SoUL Week'99

Tuesday 26th October

<i>Society Name</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event Location</i>
-Student Teachers		
Shoot the Ball	afternoon	Sundial Area
-Aeronautical		
Glider Competition	afternoon	Pitches
-Games		
Play Station	afternoon	Canteen
-R.P.G.	evening	Staff Canteen
-Radio		
Barbecue/DJ	evening	New Courtyard

Wednesday 27th October

<i>Society Name</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event Location</i>
-Environmental		
Green Fair	Morning/Afternoon	Stables Courtyard
-Celtic Supporters		
Penalty Shoot-out	afternoon	Sundial
-Games		
Sega Lock-On	evening	Meet at courtyard
-Fianna Fail		
Michael Smith	evening	To be confirmed
ULSU Ents presents		
SoUL Clinic		
Live DJ	evening	The Gallery

Thursday 28th October

<i>Society Name</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event Location</i>
- Student Teachers /Aeronautical		
Banana, Aero-Bars		
Eating competition	afternoon	Stables Courtyard
- Drama/Law		
Kangaroo Court	afternoon	Stables Courtyard
- Folk Group		
Live Music	Afternoon	Stables Courtyard
- Socialist Party		
"Why I'm a Marxist"	Evening	To be Confirmed
Joe Higgins TD		
- International Food Fair with live music.	7pm to 9pm	Main Canteen Music
- Live Bands	Evening	Stables courtyard

Also during the week, UL Sinn Fein will be painting a Muriel in the Stables courtyard for the three days and will have a guest speaker. The Computer Society will be having a Quake tournament and the Photo Society will host a Dynamic Gallery. There will also be other events running through out the course of the week, including live music sing-a-longs and Films. A definitive schedule for SoUL week'99 will be posted up next Monday in the Stables Courtyard.

Hope to see you there!



A Few More Details About The.....

.....environmental society events

This month, during SOUL week, the Environmental Society will be hosting a couple of events in the Stables Courtyard. We will have an on-the-spot can sculpting competition. We will provide about 30 cans for a couple of teams to build a unique sculpture using the cans. There will be cash prizes for the winners of the competition. In addition, we will hold a photo contest. The photograph must have an environmental theme and be size A5. We will be accepting entries until noon on Wednesday, the 27th. Please bring the photos to the enviro soc's stand during the

Green Fair. The big event that the Environmental Society will be hosting is the Green Fair. This will be held on Wednesday of SOUL week. There will be different groups including alternative medicine, organic farming and foods, crafts, and various action groups. We will have national and local action groups including Earthwatch, Voice (Greenpeace), and Genetic Concern. Also, there will be jugglers, drummers, and music. So come, have a great time and learn something.

.....fianna fail events

As part of the SoUL week celebrations UL Fianna Fáil will be hosting a public meeting at which the Minister for Defence Mr Michael Smith will speak on issues such as the Partnership for Peace, Irish neutrality and Nato.

Minister Smith is a very entertaining and informative speaker so if you have any questions or opinions on Irelands inclusion in the PFP then come along on Tuesday of

week 5 (26th October) at 7 pm. Our popular annual SoUL week Hot Whiskey Night will follow this meeting. Entry to the Hot Whiskey night will be £2 for non-members. For members its free so if you want to join just watch out for our stand in the canteen during SoUL week. We would like to thank the Stables Club and the Kilmurry Lodge hotel for their generous sponsorship.

.....radio soc events

Soul Radio – The party starts here!! Once again the SoUL train enters the station and the Radio Society will be jumping on board. Keep your ears on, because Irelands most eclectic radio station, Wired 96.8FM, will be broadcasting from eight o'clock in the morning to four o'clock the following morning. That's a total of twenty hours a day for the three days, an extra eleven (yes I said ELEVEN) hours a day. We'll wake you up in the morning with the breakfast show (anyone having breakfast at this hour really hasn't caught on yet) and we'll gently send you to alcohol induced slumber with the daily roundup. In between: dance, indie, alternative and who knows maybe even Daniel. If you're

not tuned in, you're not switched on!!!

Okay so your not interested in the radio, you're a culchie from Mayo and you feel really out of place in the big, bad city. Come visit the welly throwing competition near the sundial. Nominate one of your friends and pay to belt wellies at him or her. The first one to hit them wins and the prizes will be paid in that famous student currency – alcohol.

Still not sure? Feeling blue that the summer is over? How about a barbecue to cheer you up. Celebrate the opening of the new courtyard in style: dance, trance, burgers and bass. What more could you want to ward away the winter chills.

UL Mens Hockey Club Go Down To UCG

Galway B Hockey Club 3 ; 0 UL Men's Hockey Club

It was a baptism of fire for ULMHC as they played their first ever Munster Division 2 League match in Galway on Sunday 17th October.

The spirited side comprised of many players new to the sport combined with a few seasoned campaigners who



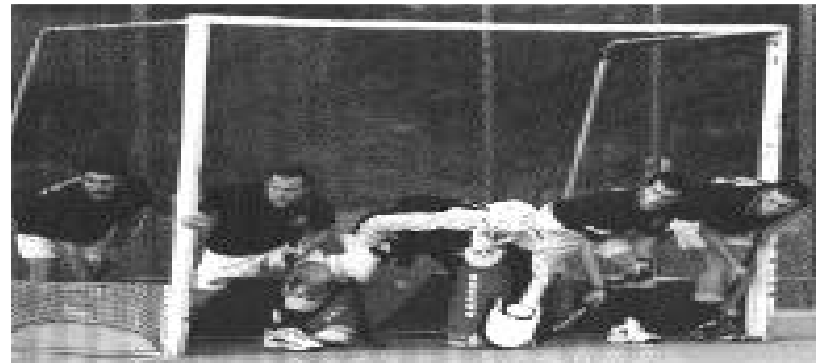
David White looks dejected

fought a brave battle but ended up on the losing side of a 3:0 score line. The match was a much closer affair than the score line suggests with UL hitting the goal post early in the second half, but Galway defence held up until the very end.

The future looks bright for ULMHC with numbers growing on the training field every week. The club has recently acquired a new sponsor in the Irish Times. Hopefully ULMHC will be able to build on Sunday's performance for their upcoming competitions that include the 35's Trophy in DCU and more importantly the Intersarsity in University of Ulster, Jordanstown between 8th - 11th November.

The club also faces two league matches at home on Sunday 31st October and Sunday 7th November. If you are in the vicinity of the astro-turf on these days come down and give your vocal support, if not tune to the New 95 FM for previews, reviews and score lines.

E-mail the club at: hockey@csn.ul.ie



Hockey Club man the line



UL Rowing Club On The Way To Boston

"we're leaving on a jet plane don't know when we'll be back again".

Yes the boys and girls of UL Rowing are off to row in the Head of the Charles in Boston. The crew travelling to Boston is made up of 13 members of the rowing club who will compete in 2 separate events. The Mens Club 8's and the Mens open Doubles (Sounds suspect). The Head is the biggest rowing event in the World attracting 6000 rowspeople, 300000 spectators and several news stations from Boston and beyond, to proudly display the Might of UL rowing. We will be spoiled by Senators, pampered by Politicians, displayed by Democrats and received by Republicans. The event gives the rowing Club the great honour of representing University of Limerick at the highest level of World Rowing.

Competing beside UL will be the top crews from around the World, including the American Heavyweight eight and the British Heavyweight Four....Redgrave is God!!! All crew members travelling earned their place by competing and coaching throughout the 1998/1999 season. The trip is a great incentive to all new club members, as the rowing club will be represented annually at the event. The club wishes to thank all members for all their hard work and dedication without which the trip would not succeed. A special thanks must go to Colin (Big Haired Byrne) and Jimmy Questions, who did so much

work over the summer. Unfortunately Jim will not be able to join us but his replacement a Mr. Paul Teeny Weeny Sweeney will represent him admirably (despite his teenieness).

The sponsors also deserve a huge thank you from the club, not only for sponsorship for the trip but also ongoing commitments to the Club. Sponsorship for the Boston trip was gratefully received from Siemens Ireland, Spar Ireland, Logica Aldiscon, UL SU, UL Sports Dept. and local Limerick businesses, Finucane's Electrical and La Piccaola Pizzeria. Special thanks to our main sponsor for the year, Software Architects International, located in the National Technology Park in Plassey. The company design Cash Management and eCommerce solutions for the world market and they have an excellent website at www.cashbook.com

To all members not travelling to Boston don't feel left out, we'll bring you back a stick of rock!!! Training will continue as normal and next year it'll be your turn anyway.

That's all the news for the moment, in the next addition of An Focail there will be a full report on not only the race but also the adventure of UL Rowing Club.....the triumphs and conquests...and all the hot gossip from the 1999 Head of the Charles Regatta, Boston.

Lash it out
James Finucane P.R.O. irish-james@hotmail.com

A Bit Of Welfare

Abortion

Every year thousands of young Irishwomen have abortions, often because the pregnancy is unplanned or unwanted. Unintended pregnancies are very common and can be experienced by any sexually active woman. Contraception sometimes fails and so it is possible for a woman to conceive even when they have taken measures to prevent it.

Outlined in the Student Union handbook are the different methods of abortion. However, some of the information provided on late abortions was inaccurate. Abortion is legal in Britain up to 24 weeks of pregnancy, and in some rare circumstances after then.

There are three main methods of abortion after 14 weeks of pregnancy - surgical dilatation and evacuation (D&E), a surgical two stage procedure, or a medical induction method. Detailed information is available if you want to know more.

Indeed any information you require on unexpected pregnancy please feel free to drop in anytime.

Outreach

Outreach has once again taken off to a flying start with a large number of students turning up for the first meeting. A committee was elected:
President - DeeDee Hosty
Vice President - Anne McDonnell
Secretary - Niamh White
Treasurer - Hilary Royston Bannigan
Clubs/Society Officer - Edel Maher
Education Officer - Gene Matthews
P.R.O. - Carol Kingston

Anybody wishing to join or want information on any of our activities please contact me at deppresident@ulsu.iol.ie. One of our first undertakings will be supporting 'MUC' the pig from Concern who will be on campus on Thursday 21st October please support this worthy cause.



A Few Announcements

UL Radio Soc. presents KICKBACK

in Java's, Catherine St., Limerick

Every Thursday evening, the UL Radio Soc present the best in Soul, Hip-Hop, Drum + Bass and laid back beats from Wired FM DJ's.

Taking place upstairs in Java's from 12 - 3am, layback is the perfect afterclub session. Get yourself a bottle of wine or a coffee, sit back and enjoy the atmosphere.

Starting Thursday Week 4 with Dj Killer + Dj Link



UI Radio Soc. Presents

the best of UL DJs
Every Thursday night
in the courtyard from
9.30 'til 11.15

livenin' up your Thursday nights

ALL MAIL CAN BE COLLECTED FROM THE STUDENTS UNION OFFICE NAME

- Andreevsky, Plamen
- Biggs, Eileen
- Bree, Manus
- Browne, Gerard Francis
- Chaussat, Cyrille
- Clancy, Ian
- Connolly, Fergus
- Corcoran, Noleen
- Downes, Michael
- Fenollar, Regis
- Gallagher, Garvan
- Gleeson, Declan
- Glynn, Maria
- Grimes, Caroline
- Guckian, Gerard
- Gutekunst, Jason
- Harrison, Adrian Mr
- Hayes, Edward
- Hickey, Austin
- Hickey, Majella
- Hickey, Alan
- Le Gonidec, Guillaume
- Lee, Breda
- Lenarde, Lisa
- Madden, Eoin
- MCCabe, Tara
- McDonnell, Paul
- McMahon, Elaine
- Meagher, Tom
- Moran, Dave
- O'Hagan, G.
- O'Boyle John
- O'Malley, Nia
- O'Sullivan, Michelle
- Patton, Patrick
- Power, Mr
- Purcell, Gillian
- Sabatier, Christopher
- Scolat, Cathal
- Shaughnessy, Garth
- Smyth, Adeline

Live Wired Storms the Stables

After the great success of last Monday night, the Radio Soc + the Music Soc come together every Monday to bring you:

Live Wired Acoustic Sessions.

the place - stables bar
the time - 10pm monday
the idea - bring your gutiar and your mates, get up on stage and give us a song.

Are you interest- ed in Sub-Aqua ?

Due to unforeseen circumstances last year, the Sub-Aqua club must be reformed.

We have equipment, a qualified instructor and are looking for members to ressurect the club.

We also need a committee to liaise with the Diving Officer to provide a Sub-Aqua service to students and staff.

Please contact Paul Lee, Clubs and Socs. office.

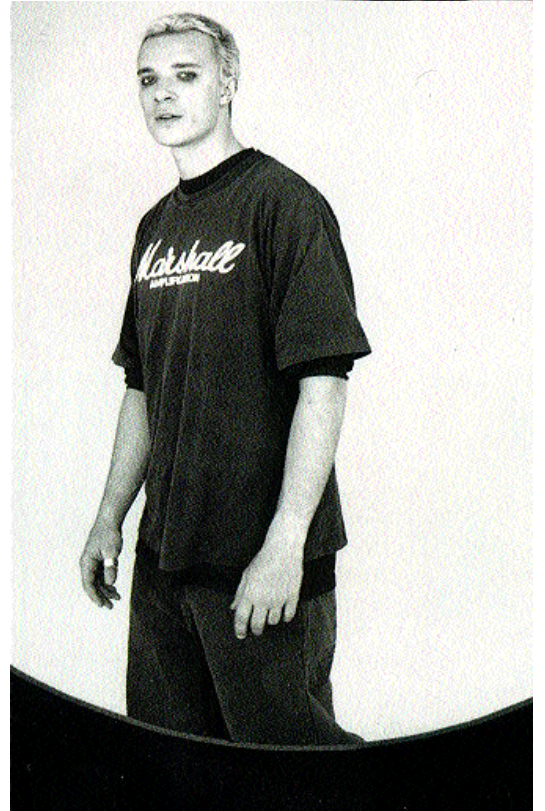
The photo soc show their generous side

the photo soc are available to take photos for different clubs and socs, for all games and events, clubs and socs membership cards.

meet every monday, new members welcome details on photo soc notice board in canteen for further details and queries about covering events, contact william.lyons@ul.ie

This Party's Over, I'm Going Home

This summer, Mosney hosted the first major Irish dance music festival. An Focal was there to see some of the best DJs in the world



Liam Howlett a big fan of the sex pistols



Orbital ; stars of the show

Aries 20 March – 18 April

You deserve a night on the town after the week you've had. Let your hair down and forget about annoying distractions.

Taurus 19 April – 19 May

The romantic side of your life looks good. Finances are a little short. But try not to rush into anything that can be postponed until later.

Gemini 20 May – 20 June

You will have a deep conversation with someone special this week, which will result in exciting possibilities. A fellow air sign will give you much guidance. Watch out for romance with Libra.

Cancer 21 June – 21 July

It's time to come to terms with an out-of-date relationship. Your need for freedom is realised with the help of a Scorpio, but beware of their darker moods.

Leo 22 July – 21 August

The past while has been tough for female Leos. It's now time to relax and decide exactly what you want, both romantically and academically.

Virgo 22 August – 21 September

After a time of distress, you need a shoulder to lean on. Your feelings for a certain someone will become clearer after the weekend.

Libra 22 September – 22 October

You need to say what you really want. But be careful about money as it may cause rows. A close friend needs you now.

Scorpio 23 October – 21 November

A fellow Scorpio offers you the safe-haven that you've been looking for. But beware of uncomfortable silences and childish sulks.

Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December

The next while is an adventurous one, but a word of advice – don't get too excited about minor things. They may not be worth the trouble.

Capricorn 21 December – 19 January

Your tendency to be easily hurt is overcome this week, but try to avoid endless chats with someone you don't trust. And remember appearances aren't everything.

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February

Serious decisions have to be put on hold until next week. You are too preoccupied with love to even consider other things.

Pisces 19 February – 19 March

Don't get any big ideas about love this week. You are far too busy with academic affairs. But don't get too disappointed if things don't go as planned.

Only two weeks after the commencing

Brierfield House Members Indicted for Bestiality

of the college year UL Students have had a run in with the law. As of the 7th of October six members of a Brierfield house have been formally charged with having unlawful carnal knowledge of a ram.

The Gardai became suspicious when they spotted people walking in a strange manner from the direction of Brierfield with multiple bruise wounds. It was initially thought that the dreaded bullying had made its way to third level education. After a more in depth investiga-

tion by the brave leading investigator Garda Roger Humpalot, a ram was discovered in the bathroom of a house in the general area of brierfield.

Elaborate video and sound equipment were covertly set up to find out the real story. House members were seen on video buck naked apart from some grass cuttings selotaped to their backs. The starved ram attempting to reach the grass was forced to mount the occupants. ULSU academic spokesman Dave O'Donovan commented "I have absolutely no objections to what these people were getting up to but I think that they could use their obviously large initiative to better effect in the academic field". Gardai are still looking into the case and have their suspicions of further incidents of bestiality as the ram has gone missing. They have announced that