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An Focal

The Official ULSU Newspaper



www.ulsu.ul.ie

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(other things ending in -
elections, think of them your-
self!)

PSA proves to be contentious issue at packed UGM

-Alona Troy

It is many years since there has been such a well attended and heated UGM as that which took place last Wednesday 26th March. One of the contentious issues on the agenda that evening was the 'PSA issue', and it was an issue that drew a crowd. It is fair to say that about half those present were post graduate students, mostly occupying the rear of the Jean Monet. There was a charged atmosphere as the theatre filled. It was clear that the PSA had managed to entice many postgraduates to turn out in their support. Some post grads present were well informed on the issue and were intent on supporting the PSA cause. Others were less informed but had gotten the PSA call to arms and were equally intent on supporting the motion. As for the undergrads that I spoke to, they were mostly involved with the union or were present with some of the other societies that had motions up for discussion. For the most part they were informed on the issue but from the SU viewpoint. There was nothing sinister in this, as only post grads seemed to have received e-mails from the postgraduate students association.

Consequently most people had their minds made up before the debate began.

begin the debate in favour of the PSA motion. Ms. Timmons made an impassioned argument



Once the UGM was declared quorate and the initial item for discussion was dealt with, Caroline Timmons (PSA president) arose to

on how the PSA is neither a society nor union. The PSA, which has its own constitution and president, did not want

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Students Vote to ban Nestle

-Laura Greer

UL Environmental Society called upon UL students at a recent UGM on the 20th of March to recommend the ban of all Nestle products from the UL campus. This boycott is in reaction to a worldwide protest to their artificial baby milk, which is thought to contribute to the deaths of millions of babies each year. Nestle, the world's largest baby food company, increases profits by promoting artificial infant feeding in violation of the World Health Organization's International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. Once the bottle has come between a mother and child breastfeeding is more likely to fail and the company has gained a customer. UNICEF and the World Health Organization

(WHO) are encouraging a boycott of Nestle products in 18 countries worldwide due to Nestles continued breaches of the 1981 WHO Code regulating the marketing of breast milk substitutes. The boycott is due to continue until Nestle abides by the International code and subsequent World Assembly Resolutions in policy and practice - (Nestle Boycott Website) The proposal put before attendees was fifth on the UGM agenda. However, due to pressure from the Postgraduates Student Association to deal with their proposal first the matter was not discussed for two and a half hours. By this time numbers had to be recounted after the majority of satisfied post-graduates exited with no regard for the

remaining proposals. Speakers Michael Flanagan and Mae Pagett, representing the Environmental Society stated a number of disturbing statistics about Nestle. These included facts such as 1.5 million babies die each year from unsafe bottle-feeding in the third world. Also in countries where widespread poverty exists, infants fed with artificial baby milks, or supplemented with artificial feeding, face four to sixteen fold increased risk of dying from diarrhoeal disease compared to exclusively breastfed infants. - (UNICEF & Baby Milk Action Websites.) Speakers called on students to, "take a stand," say, "Nestle clean up

Contd on page 2

PSA changes at ULSU UGM

Contd from page 1

to become a separate union or to make the PSA president an executive officer within the ULSU. In order to maintain their autonomy on post grad issues the PSA felt it was necessary to solidify their current standing with the union and the university. One of the most contentious issues proposed by the PSA was that they would receive postgraduate capitation in full directly from the university, which would pay for the president of the PSA and fund PSA activities. Ms. Timmons assured those present that the money would be fully accounted for and opened for public viewing. The PSA felt that their autonomy and freedom from 'union baggage' with the union would give them a better chance to represent postgraduates' better within the university.

In reply Eamonn O' Flynn took the floor in opposition of the motion. Mr. O' Flynn argued that the motion put by the PSA was flawed and its implementation would only cause further troubles between the ULSU and the PSA. He argued that the problem between the ULSU and the PSA had arisen out of personality clashes and failed negotiations. Mr. Flynn also argued that if the motion were passed an inequality would arise within the union, which the PSA is still a member. Undergraduates would have to pay for all the services provided by the union including clubs and societies funding. As the PSA member sitting on the Student Union Executive would be non-voting, postgraduates would be essentially under represented on generic issues. Mr. O' Flynn's essential argument was that the passing of the motion would see both the ULSU and the PSA pulling away from each other and eventual separation. This would lead to a weaker union for

everyone, who would be better served by a strong unified voice.

With that the argument was opened up to the floor and things got very heated. Those speaking for the union pointed out that reconciliatory offers had been made prior to the UGM which met most of the PSA needs, however the PSA rejected this argument as they felt it was only made when the ULSU felt threatened by the strength of the PSA support. Many postgraduates in the audience voiced their upset at the lack of movement prior to the week of the 26th March. At this point the debate seemed about ready to boil over. Points of information were slung across the floor, swiftly followed by points of order and the situation degenerated into a partisan shouting match. Anyone who was perceived as a union supporter or an undergraduate was booed and jeered at by some of the postgraduates present. It took pleas from all sides to calm the situation down to a level at which the UGM could continue.

Claire McCarthy made the final arguments for the PSA motion. She argued that the motion would solidify the situation, that postgraduates had specific issues, which could only be tackled by specific representation. Making the final arguments against the motion, Caroline Walters, Equality Officer, stated that it was an equality issue. She argued against having different rules for different students. In summing up Caroline Timmons initially thanked everyone for turning up. She argued that this motion was well thought out, as it was six years in the making. The object of the motion was not to go against the SU but to enshrine mutual

respect for and from both the PSA and the union within the constitution and to safeguard the PSA postgraduate representation. It would allow for the SU and the PSA to forge unity and bring an end to the meandering divisive negotiations of the past six years. Eamonn O' Flynn summed up the argument against the motion by reiterating that if passed the motion would set a dangerous precedent, where the undergrads have to pay for all services. The positions would become entrenched and the split would be enshrined in the constitution. He argued for further negotiations to find an equitable solution.

Amendments were added to the motion to ensure that the capitation money going to the PSA would split two-thirds clubs and societies, one-third services, as is the case with the undergraduate capitation. There was also an amendment to ensure that the PSA president would continue to be paid by the union until postgraduate capitation was available to the PSA directly from the university. With that an easy majority passed the motions put forward by the PSA on each issue.

It must be said that the huge turnout was in most part thanks to the PSA who got a huge turnout in their support. This was evidenced by the fact that many postgraduates left the meeting as soon as the PSA issue was dealt with. For many of those left, the massive exodus of postgraduates reinforced their opinion that there is a split between the postgrads and undergrads, which has a long way to go to be resolved.

Investigation into GATS to be undertaken by ULSU

By the time you read this Rag Week will, sadly, be over and we'll all be peering bleary-eyed down that not so long tunnel that is the remaining time before the end of the semester. And therefore, I will understand that, if I pose a question like

"What, my friends, is GATS and why should some abstract set of letters concern the students of UL?" you won't really care and will move to the next article or perhaps just get the heck off the toilet seat and wander off to watch Eastenders.

Well people I would urge you to sit up properly in your seats and take note that this innocent looking ensemble of vowels and consonants could have some very real implications for the students, not only of UL but all over. And implications that concern finances. The grant (those of you who are getting it...we will say nothing) and funding from companies and even government funding could all be endangered. Imagine...NO GRANT (for those of you who are getting it "erherm")...no sudden

injection of cash into the ATM at the Banking 365 in the Scholars Courtyard every so often to keep the old beans in the fridge, pasta in the press and bog roll in the bathroom...that is if you purchase it honestly and you don't happen to just, how could you say it??...acquire it!! In the words of Brendan Wallace: "The hills are alive with the sound of music".

The UGM for the students took place last week in the Jean Monet and the GATS (General Agreement on Trades and Services) proposal was part of the motions.

Denise Ryan, 1st Year European Studies took it upon herself to inform the Student Body on GATS and its effects on us, the poor Irish students. And to say the least, it was a tad shocking. On interviewing Denise afterwards, I discovered that GATS is basically the liberalisation of all services, opening the world up to complete free trade. But this is a good thing I hear you say. Maybe so...in some cases

but not when it involves the liberalisation or privatisation of the education system meaning that our fees will increase and funding will decrease on the whole. Colleges such as the NUIs (UL, UCD, UCG, UCC etc.) will become private fee paying colleges like Griffith College or HSI Limerick.

According to Ms. Ryan, nothing has, as yet been signed

as negotiations are ongoing in Geneva. GATS was introduced in Seattle in 1994 by the World Trade Organisation with the aim of the liberalisation of services ensuring 100% access to free trade. The programme concentrates on services, under which title apparently, comes education.

Health and tourism have already been liberalised and the European Commission have been quoted as saying that "Education is ripe for liberalisation". Sir Leon Brittan, Former European Commissioner for Trade has stated that "No sector will be excluded". The main result of the introduction of this programme as far as education is concerned would be the fabrication of education into some sort of commodity? This could increase private competition and ensure that those in third level education would be only those who could afford to pay the exorbitant fees. The grants have already been reduced in England. If the Irish government sign this agreement, it will be binding ensuring that tribunals and court cases would have to be held if the government were ever to back out of it. Not an attractive prospect for any party. Therefore, if this piece of paper is signed, it's signed for good. Eoin O' Brian, Societies Officer for the college stated that "this is a situation in which the college and the students should be unified because the college is no more interested in private education than we are."

So people I hope you're still reading and I hope you're even more shocked!! We, the students, should most definitely support this GATS investigation as it involves us directly. We don't want to see those queues at the ATM shortening. It might be a pain to wait but a queue means that there is money in the thing.

GATS: making education a commodity? Taking funding from public students??

-Marianne Blackwell



Proposal for Increased Funding of Political parties passed

My first UGM was unexpectedly exciting, despite the long-windedness of some speakers. There was a fairly big turn out, with post-graduates representing the majority of the student body, obviously eager to vote on their proposal. This eagerness resulted in the proposals being immediately tackled, taking priority over the minutes and the reports from the SU sabbatical officers.

Up first was the proposal for increased funding for the political parties on campus, namely Labour Youth, The Green Party, Young Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and Sinn Fein. This was definitely the most dignified of all the proposals in my opinion, with few interruptions or jeers from the crowd. The following proposal was much more heated, and the final proposals were passed with little significant opposition, as people became more and more restless as time passed..

Dave Garraghy was the main speaker in favour of the increase for the political parties. He basically outlined why it was imperative that the parties got this increase. In the present situation, the parties receive only one euro, obviously remarkably lower than other societies. He indicated to those present of the injustice of the situation, with the members themselves having to pay, "out of their own pocket" for any expenses incurred by the party.

The main objector to the proposal was Ed Horgan. Being a member of the Green Party himself, Ed's objection was a significant one. He sympathised with the fact that the members themselves have to fork out for any extra expenses, but he feared that it would give too much power to the parties on campus. He suggested that the money could be put into much better use, for example cycling lanes. Ed spoke well and made his feelings clear, obviously very passionate about the issue. Despite this, there were few who agreed with him and he was the only objector that spoke.

Other like-minded individuals present reiterated

his feelings. The speakers highlighted that political parties had as much right to funding as any other society and deserved the increases in recognition of the work done by the parties. It was also made clear by those that spoke that money was not received by their mother parties to fund events. A member of Fine Gael, mentioned the amount of work that is done by the political parties on campus, and highlighted this by handing around leaflets detailing the many campaigns and issues that have been dealt with by the party. This proved to be very effective, and I think it definitely influenced the eventual decision. There was a resounding majority in favour of the motion, and it was quickly passed.

Speaking to An Focal on the overall result, Eoin O'Broin, the Societies Officer, felt that the new legislation was highly deserved by all campus parties.

He also felt that it was a positive step for the future. "This funding should help UL's diverse range of political parties organise more inter-party debates, to give the students a better understanding of the parties on

topical issues, such as abortion, privatisation, neutrality, asylum seekers, the level of the grant, taxation local government and of course, the environment", he said.

In conclusion, this proposal was popularly passed, with more equality amongst societies. The hope now is that students can choose for themselves who they think represents their way of thinking the best, as the diversity of the parties seems to have been lost with the previous lack of funding.

Note to readers: remember that this article was done Friday morning of rag week, with all straight thinking lost somewhere between the Stables and the Lodge!!

Edel Fitzgerald

Students Vote to ban Nestle (contd from page 1)

your act and do what we can to encourage them to cop on."

Post grad and member of the executive, Eoin O Broin is the brainchild behind the proposed Nestle ban in the SU Shop and the lobby to Campbell's catering. Broin suggested the campaign as a continuance of the Nescafe boycott, which the Society achieved last year.

Students Union President, Mick Phelan pointed out that a total ban of Nestle products was impossible because the SU does not have direct control in the product purchase and running of the student shop. Phelan suggested that any vote on Nestle products would have to be in principle only.

The Environmental Society thus amended their proposal. It read, "We the undersigned call on ULSU call a ban on University campus and to encourage Campbell's catering to use an alternative supplier for their vending machines."

The proposal was passed overwhelming on principle by attendees. Flanagan said afterwards that all those affiliated with the society were

very pleased and said it "would get the ball rolling and keep the ball rolling on the ban on Nestle." He was however realistic and recognized the motion is only a symbolic gesture. Students themselves are called upon to boycott Nestle products and use alternative in their own lives.

Speaker Mae Pagett, an exchange student from Colorado said she became involved in the project because, "Nestle is in part responsible for the deaths of over a million each year. It's important that the school makes an ethical choice on the product it buys."

Pagett said that while no plans were certain as yet the Environmental Society would continue to keep pressure on the removal of unethical products from UL and inform students. She regrets the motion doesn't have the ability to ensure the removal of Nestle products from the SU shop and restaurants but says, "It's a definite step toward a more ethical campus."

University Arena

A I R E A N A N A H O L L S C O I L E

Official Opening



The official opening of the University Arena will be performed by An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D. at 15h00 on Thursday, 11 April.

All students are invited to attend.

A brief ceremony will be followed by refreshments

Hello from your Sabbatical Officers

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



Ollscoil Luimnigh

Mick Phelan - ULSU President



I hope that you all enjoyed Kollege Week and a big thanks to Davoh and all the Ents Committee & Crew for all their hard work in putting the week together. During the week I managed to get egged, spanked hung up in the Stables Courtyard and my legs waxed all at the same time, all of that can be summed up in one word – PAIN!, but it was worth it with all proceeds going to the Meningitis Research Foundation. Well its that time again, when elections are due. At the time of writing this article, I was unaware of all the candidates, but I wish them all the best of luck in what can prove to be a very tough week in terms of campaigning. The positions up for grabs are President, Welfare Officer, Education Officer and Communication & Campaigns officer, all very worthwhile pursuits. Over the last 2 weeks I have been involved in preparing a new Budget form for the Clubs & Societies for next semester and also in the process of designing a new budget process for the Students' Union, which I hope to have finished in the next few weeks. At the last Governing Authority Finance Committee I brought forward a proposal for funding of the Nitelink bus for AY 02-03, and the committee agreed in principal to fund this very worthwhile project. A big thanks to the President, Dr. Roger Downer for his support of the Nitelink over the last few years, and hopefully he will be in a position to do the same again next year. On Thursday next, April 11th, An

Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern will be on campus to officially open the new University Arena and the National 50m Swimming Pool. The day is set to be a wonderful event and all the campus are invited to attend what proves to be a memorable occasion. With the general election looming on the horizon, many people have been pushing for the polling day to be on the Saturday to give students the chance to return to their respective constituencies and vote, if I get the chance I will bring this up with the Taoiseach. Finally I know that the exams and project deadlines are nearly around again, to all those who have FYP's due in, good luck and I hope that you all enjoyed Kollege Week.

Mick

Tom O'Donovan- ULSU Education Officer



Silence is golden...particularly in the library!

It has been expressed very clearly to me in recent days that students are very unhappy with noise levels in the library. Between general conversations and telephones going off it is becoming nearly impossible to study.

Ultimately the problem stems from the actual design of the building itself. Its open plan, two large atria and glass staircases are all noise amplifiers. The clack of fingers hitting keys on the computers can be constantly heard echoing around the building. But on top of all that, one cannot deny that a culture of noise acceptance has developed on the campus.

If you were to just stop in an issuing section, or its equivalent, on any floor and observe those passing you by, you would notice people stopping to have full conversations. You would notice people coming from the study areas that have finished up for the time being, heading down the stairs talking to their friends or meeting people on the way in and having conversations with them.

It is almost as if people believe you only have to observe the rule of silence when you are at a desk with a book in front of you. Folks if that s true then no one is going to get much done in the line of study on this campus.

It is up to us, the users of the library, to ensure that the atmosphere in the building is conducive to study. It is us, the users of the library both students and staff, who are the responsible for the noise being made in the

building therefore it is up to us to stop it.

For those few of us remaining who remember the old library and who remember how quiet it was there know what I am proposing is not impossible. For those of you who don't, can I point out that despite the impractical design of the library here in UL it is not the only open plan library in the world nor even in this country and silence is observed in those.

For those of you who need additional convincing I would advise renting the movie, "City of Angels" with Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan, where there were a few scenes shot in an open plan library and you could hear a pin drop!

So what am I proposing? 1. Turn off your phone before you go into the building! Do you absolutely need to be contacted while you are in the library? What did people do before the introduction on mobile phones in that situation? 2. Conduct your conversations outside the library building. It's not like there aren't enough other places to do so! 3. If you see people talking, politely remind them the building is a library and to respect the rule of silence. It's in their interest too!

Tom

Patrick Kennedy- ULSU Communications and Campaigns Officer



Hi everyone,
I hope everyone had an enjoyable St. Patricks Day and Easter. It's been three weeks since the last edition and theres been quite a lot happening in the meantime.

I got to take some of my holidays and journeyed off to Holland for a long weekend (which was nice). Kollege Week has also happened in the meantime and what a week it was. A big thank you goes out to everyone who took part in raising money for all the deserving charties that will greatly benefit from the week (particularly the guys who got their legs savaged, I mean waxed).

As regards my work there has been a fair amount of varying different stuff happening. Most recently we've had the Union General Meeting and the nominations for the Sabbatical Elections are finalised. Thanks to all that turned out to make the UGM quorate. It was excellent to see so many people out to express their views on the number of different topics up for discussion. While it was good to see everyone it's really a shame that everyone couldn't wait until the end of the meeting, particularly when a number were openly critical of student involvement in ULSU but exited the meeting as soon as the subject they had attended for had been discussed.

The elections for our successors take place this week and I want to wish everyone the best of luck and hope that you all have a very enjoyable week. Additionally I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to get out and vote on Wednesday. Polling will be from 10am to 7.15pm in the main canteen. You should vote as it's your right to choose the people that will be representing you tot he Campus Community next year. Try and get as much information as you can regarding the experience and plans of those going for election and make an informed decision.

Over the next two weeks I have a number of things happening. Catherine Levis and myself will be meeting with the City Corporation in relation to any plans for a bus corridor from the City to the University. The University has begun an investigation into the Wired FM project regarding their involvement in it and I will be advising them on a number of differnt matters in relation to this.

Finally, the shortlist for the Oxygen Media awards will be out this week so here's hoping that those from the An Focal team that have been nominated will make the final cut, Thats it for now, Take care,

Patrick

Tara Curley- ULSU Welfare Officer Deputy President



Hello again all!!!

It's the middle of Kollege Week and I'm sitting in my office at 11.43pm on the Wednesday night, writing this how sad is that!!! It honestly has nothing to do with the fact that once again I'm late on the deadline and Patrick is fit to kill me!!

Well I hope everyone had a good Kollege week, from what I seen a brilliant week was organized and is a credit to all those boys and girls in the Ents Office and the on the Ents Committee. And a big thank you to all of ye who gave so generously to charity, that's whats its all about at the end of the day. I will be able to let you know where your money went by the next edition.

The Sexual health week was also a great success, even though I have to apologize to all, it was supposed to be in wk6 however due to major problems with the printers and stuff we were unable to get the packs out to you until wk7, my deepest apologies. I hope ye all read what was in the packs, and are going to be all mature and responsible about your sexual behaviour from now on!! If you have any questions about anything that was in the packs or you simply did not receive on just call into me.

The Sabattical elections are on this week, I remember this time last year and it was the scariest and best week of my life. So to all

those running for a position the best of luck. It is the best and worst year of your life, even though more so the best!!! Its really has hit me that its nearly near the end of my time here, and its really sad.....ok I won't start getting all sentimental about it just yet. But once again to all the best of luck!

Outreach has been striving this semester and I would like to say well done to everyone involved, keep up the good work. One of the biggest projects to ever been taken on the by the society is really starting to take shape at this stage, the Outreach Meningitis Charity Challenge. Basically, 8 of us (for our sins) are setting of on an endurance trek through the jungles of Thailand in June, all in aid of the Meningitis Research Foundation. You might have noticed your dearest President hanging from the rafters getting his legs waxed last week, this is the reason why. The Outreach society have pledged to raise €38,000 by June, and have already reached a staggering €26,000. Over the next few weeks there will be a series of fundraising events, so please support this worthy cause.

Ok I'm going to stop rambling now... Talk to ye next week

Tara

It's Your Letters

The University of Limerick is in serious crisis, this is not yet on the radarscope as far as the majority of students are concerned, but rest assured, your alma mater is out of control and terminally ill.

The first serious indication of the crisis was the failure by the institution of secure significant funding in the PRTL cycles 2 and 3. I suggest you look at the results, which are available from the web at <http://www.heai.ie/>. The fact that we did worse than many of the Institutes of Technology in some cycles, speaks volumes for how badly we performed.

This failure has been explored in minute detail by an independent consultant chosen by the President. This report, which is currently under suppression by the President, despite its author's recommendation to make it publicly available, allegedly castigated the institution. In the subsequent governing authority meeting, when the report was discussed, the president is alleged to have said that he will "take the responsibility" for any further failure in cycle 4, the final cycle of the PRTL.

At this stage of the downward spiral, it is legitimate to ask the question, what amounts to "a failure" in cycle 4. It would appear reasonable to put a target figure on it, let us say 10 million. In the second place, what does "take responsibility" mean? Well how about offering his resignation? Does the president mean to say, "If the university of Limerick does not secure at least 10 million from cycle 4 of the PRTL, then I will offer to resign" or is it, as everyone suspects, a bluff?

The meaningless platitudes that are emerging from Plassey House these days are very worrisome. Their whimsical, erratic management style is putting your institution at serious risk. For example, the president and the VPA allegedly both admitted to the Governing Authority that they had not properly read the cycle 3 proposals.

Is this true, if so, how can they justify not reading a document on which the entire research future of the institution is resting? In short, how can they meet the eyes of the staff and students, to whom

they owe a responsibility? The answer is, they cannot, and this is why they are all in the bunker over there. When was the last time you saw them in public?

Research is not only place where the house of cards is tumbling, a decline in first preference applications of close to 70% that's right, seventy percent in some courses had led to an across the board reduction of around 20% when averaged across the board. And the HEA is taking money away from us as a result.

So that's it, two out of the three prongs are in serious trouble, research and teaching. If the third prong, that is Administration falls, the clever bunnies will have scored a hat trick. You need had no worries on that score, the administration is alive and well and fatter than ever dining on "Bureaucratic Spaghetti". We have seen two high profile resignations in the past six months this is not very comforting.

In closing we should be aware that this is the new administration that was going to right all of the wrongs perpetrated by the previous one. In fact the new administration that has been unrelentingly critical of what went before. It has, so far, failed to deliver anything except spectacular failures. Come back Ed, all is forgiven.

Students might think that these matters are of no importance to them. This is very wrong the academic currency of this institution is devalued by it, the quality of your degrees is devalued by it, our future career prospects are being devalued by it, and you should be afraid, very afraid because rightly or wrongly, you as individuals are being devalued also.

Anon

Dear Editor,

In regards to the week 6 issue of your "newspaper" we are highly disgusted at the manner in which you addressed the obituary. I have never been so ashamed to be called a member of a so called "academic union" that has dealt with a situation as delicate as a situation as this, degraded with the slapstick humour that was used in relation to the above.

It was both insensitive and arrogant. What we want to know is, who the fuck wrote this? , and who the f*** published this?

Remember one thing, a cheap joke is just that cheap, but do not try to disvalue the life of the person in question.

K Cosgrave, C O'Reilly,
Padraic Nevin, Larine
Kelly, Fiona McCormack,
Paula Bolton,

PS Think before you open your mouth!

A Cairdre

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise completely for the mistake in the Obituary for Johnny McNamara in the last edition of An Focal. While the mistake is inexcusable I would ask you to understand that it was completed at the last minute. Such is the voluntary nature of working of An Focal a lack of communication between the contributor and myself was the catalyst for this unfortunate error.

Once again I would like to apologise for any hurt caused, particularly to the porting staff, family and friends.

yours

Patrick Kennedy

Communications and Campaigns Officer
ULSU- Vice President
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Sabbatical Elections 2002

The Candidates

John Mulcahy - President



My name is John Mulcahy.

While at UL, I have participated actively in student life, as a member of Class

Representative Council, Clubs & Societies Council and the SU Executive. I have held the roles of Community Officer and Chair of Council. I have knowledge of the existing structures and know that I can work within them.

Through various committees I have developed a relationship with the University and the residents.

I know that I have, and always will, work in the best interest of students. The position of President is one I know I can make a difference to.

Therefore I ask you to consider me for your #1 vote during the elections on Wednesday.

Things that concern me,

Students' Union

-The public image of the SU is in need of reconstructive surgery. This is an unfair reflection on the work that is completed within.

-Web forums, newsletter and e-mails will be employed to do so.

-Positive changes were made to Clubs and Societies Council and Class Representatives Council. Changes encourage more people to actively participate. This makes certain that policies are initiated by the students.

-The SU must become more user friendly, by removing much of the red tape that currently exists.

-The ULSU Constitution remains extremely flawed. A new constitution must be adapted.

Library Hours

- Library opening hours are too short.

-An agreement has been reached between the SU and the library to extend the opening hours at night and at weekends. This has not happened due to the University's unwillingness to make funds available.

-John Mulcahy will ensure that money is made available.

The University Arena

-John will fight to get fair access for all students and that unfair price increases must not arise in the future.

Clubs & Societies

-This year there was a shortfall of €120,000 in funding.

-John will fight for an increase in student capitation, which would put us in line with DCUSU, who receive €97.77 per student, whereas ULSU receive €69.29, with 2/3 of this going to Clubs and Societies.

Repeats

-It has been alleged that the University are making a profit on repeat examinations.

-An independent investigation must be undertaken, with the results published.

Co-op

-John appreciates that an open line of communication needs to be established between students and the Co-op

office.

Clubs on campus

-As a result of problems renewing the licences of the Stables and Scholars Clubs, it was too late to organise a marquee for Kollege Week.

-John will ensure that all club rules are strictly adhered to. The residents could, no longer use the clubs, and students, as pawns, to gain the attention of the university.

Accommodation

-The state of some accommodation in Castletroy is a disgrace. Tenants need to be treated with respect.

-Landlords will be continually lobbied to improve overall standards.

Litter

-The amount of litter on campus and in Castletroy is increasingly noticeable. Bins and recycling facilities are needed, as well as, increased awareness.

On-going Issues

Many problems refuse to go away. They are too important to be ignored!

- Students needs are constantly pushed to one side. The University must improve Support Services before expansion can take place.

-Student teachers must pay for two houses while on teaching practice, while they receive no income.

-Student nurses still have to pay fees.

Thanks for your time,

John Mulcahy



Gráinne Heffron - Welfare Officer/ Deputy President

My name is Gráinne Heffron and I am running as a candidate for Welfare Officer-Deputy President. I am a 4th year applied maths & computing student and struggling with my FYP at the moment! In the last four years in UL I have been heavily involved in the Outreach Society. The society works on various voluntary projects on and off campus. This year I was project co-ordinator for the School Visits Project. This involved UL students going to 2 disadvantaged Limerick schools and working with the kids there. I am

also involved in another Outreach project to raise €38,000 for the Meningitis Research Foundation through a charity jungle trek in Thailand in June.

Why do I want to be Welfare Officer?

The last 4 years in UL have been brilliant for me and I believe everyone is entitled to that positive college experience but some students do encounter problems both small and large and I want to help them through these and hopefully prevent some of them happening in the first place. I want to make students aware of the services available and also help improve these services

What am I going to do?

The main issues affecting Student Welfare as I see them are:

-Student Health & Well Being

- I intend to work to reconcile the student and medical centre staff views of the problems with the medical centre

- I will push for more resources for the medical centre & counselling service. The counselling service has a 1-2 week waiting list.

- I will promote some non-alcohol based events through an improved Greek Week

- I intend to work towards an alternative option to the pub be it later café opening hours e.g. Plaza

-Student Safety & Security

- I will ensure funding is secured for the Nitelink Service, Better advertise the Service, Push for specific NiteLink bus stops on campus and in the housing estates

- I will work to ensure student safety on campus especially students working late or at the weekend by pushing for more patrols by the Campus Security, and making students aware of an emergency number to ring

-General Issues

- I will work for Student Parents' rights and requirements on campus

- I will ensure that The Outreach Society develops at a committee level and continues to attract new members and thus take on some new projects

- I will work with the Access & Equality Officers to ensure the fair treatment of all students.

If we want to come and talk to me about any Welfare issues then I will have a table in the canteen Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday or you can email me grainneheffron@hotmail.com.

Sabbatical Elections 2002

The Candidates

Eoin Ó Broin - President

Hi there,

I am Eoin Ó Broin and I am running for SU president. I want to address the following issues:

ULSU - Put the students back into the Union!
UL Students through ULSU have made changes in the past. They got repeat examinations, the new student centre and the new medical centre. Much more can be achieved if more students are involved in the union promoting real student issues such as Grants, Fees, Housing, Cost of Living and the Minimum Wage as well as publicising local and national issues that relate to students!

COMMUNICATIONS - We want a **QUALITY student newspaper!**
An focal should be addressing the above issues!

CLUBS & SOCIETIES - more money, more facilities & more members!
Clubs & Societies make UL the excellent collage that it is. If free Wednesday afternoons were returned it would be even better.

EDUCATION - make the library a **University library!**
UL library should be on a par with other Irish University libraries.

ENVIRONMENT - a quality bus corridor & cycling lane to the city!
How can traffic congestion be addressed without these?

EQUALITY - tolerance on campus and for foreign students!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - help create

HARMONY in Castletroy!

Rag week can only return to its former glory through better relations with the permanent residents of castletroy.

ENTERTAINMENTS - make Limerick a rocking town!

Cooperate with other Limerick colleges to bring big name acts to Limerick.

An Gaeilge - Seas an fód don Gaeilge!

WELFARE - get same treatment for students as everybody else!

Have I got what it takes to do this?

I have been Societies officer for ULSU since November 2001 and sit on Student Union Executive, Class Reps Council, Clubs & Societies Executive, Clubs & Societies Council and have been twice nominated for societies person of the year.

I introduced a change in the structure of Clubs & Societies council, which has improved feedback, efficiency and participation.

I am a member of UL Environmental Society and Spraoi - an Cumann Gaeilge. Campaigning with the Environmental Society has given me excellent experience in what it takes to organise and publicise campaigns with clear goals that achieve the desired results. Such publicity has led me to appear on Network 2 news, be quoted twice in the Irish Times and be interviewed by none other than Seán Bán Breathnach, Ed Myers and Gerry Ryan.

My goals for semester 1:

Lobby for longer opening hours & more books in the library
Investigate the GATS and its

implications for privatisation of third level education
Lobby for greater storage facilities & funding for Clubs & societies

Lobby for a quality bus corridor into city
Increase communication & participation between union & students.

What you can vote for me to do!

Be the president of a Student Union run by the students for the students.

Be part of a Students Union that publicises and deals with local & national student issues.

Ensure that the University implements its alcohol policy, which holds benefits for students such as the return of free Wednesday afternoons & a free indoor recreational area for students.

Put the students back into the Union. Lets work together to make this happen.

For more detail see my manifesto, my web page or ask me in person.

yer eoinly man!

<http://eoin.csn.ul.ie>



John Kelleher - Communications and Campaigns Officer

Vote John E. Kelleher for Communications!

My name is John Kelleher, and I am running for the post of CCO. I am a Postgraduate student, and I am also the president of the LGB Society.

If elected, my main priority will be to concentrate on An Focal. An Focal has greatly improved in the last year, but there is still room for growth. Clubs and Societies should be much more visible in An Focal, and detailed information of all meeting/training times and locations should be made available.

The current participation of the student body at large is severely lacking. An Focal is the voice of all UL students, not just those participating in the Student's Union. More participation from students and Class Reps should be encouraged.

Also, many issues outside UL and its immediate area are not covered. More information on National and International Issues affecting students should appear in An Focal's pages.

Participation by our visiting Erasmus and Year Abroad students should also be encouraged. Currently this participation is almost non-existent.

An Focal is the voice of UL Students, but we are not the only ones who read it. Articles should be written in a responsible manner which would ensure a positive image of the student body is sent out to the local residents and the Limerick population at large.

As regards Campaigns, I will endeavour to set up reliable groups of volunteers to help run campaigns successfully. As it stands the running of Campaign's is overshadowed by the management of An Focal.

I believe that I would be well suited to the job of CCO due to my previous experience in editing, web editing and translation related positions. I have also participated in Societies for the last two years, namely the LGB Society. In the last year, during my presidency of the LGB Society I have managed to publicise our society across campus, and designed a website which is regularly updated, and regularly checked by UL students (400 in the first week of

this semester alone). This has enabled our membership to rise from 3 people at the beginning of the year of over thirty, and our numbers are still rising. We have also established links with most of the other LGB Societies across Ireland.

Vote JEK4CCO!



Sabbatical Elections 2002

The Candidates



Paddy Buckley - Communications and Campaigns Officer

Hello all,

My name is Paddy Buckley, and I'm running for the position of Communications and Campaigns Officer in the Students' Union. The CCO's job is to manage all the publications and information campaigns that the Students' Union runs over the year. The CCO's responsibilities include:

- Editing An Focal
- Managing any information campaigns which are being run by the Students Union
- Maintaining and updating the website
- Generally letting you know what's going on around campus

So why do I think I should get the job of CCO? Well, I think of any of the positions in the Students' Union as being a job. The CCO's job is to let you know what's going on around campus. Now, I'm currently finishing my Masters in Computer Science, and my degree is in Computer Systems. That means I've the know-how and knowledge required for the job of CCO. I can use desktop publishing packages, such as Quark Express and Publisher, I can design websites, and I can send bulk emails to all the students on campus. That might all sound a bit boring, but these are the skills you need for the job, and I've the necessary background for the job. I also have a lot of experience in running campaigns on campus, I've been a campaign manager for SU elec-

tions twice, and I was also on the group that organised Greek Week in Semester 1.

If I get elected I've a lot of ideas for what I'd like to get done next year. For a start, I'm not going to tell you that I'm going to radically redesign An Focal. I will be making changes to the format, but I will not be redesigning the paper for the sake of redesigning the paper. I want to improve An Focal, and to do that I intend to build on what's already there. Some of the ideas I have for next year include

Encouraging Writers:

An Focal can only ever be as good as the people submitting articles for it. I intend to do everything I can to support the existing writers for An Focal, and encourage new writers to start. I would like to see An Focal become a more news orientated paper. Some ways I intend to do this include;

- Organise lectures and talks by professional journalists
- Organise prizes and competitions for the best-written articles and pieces every week (Sounds corny, I know, but I think it would work!)

Website:

The ULSU already has an excellent website. I've already done some of the work in designing and developing the existing site, and if elected I intend to continue improving and developing the site. Some of my ideas for the website include.

- An Irish language version of the website
- More services such as a lost and found site, an improved accommodation search site, and a community notice board.
- A weekly event guide section, detailing what's going on around campus, from clubs and societies events to gigs in the bars, to what's going on in town.

Postgraduate Section:

Currently the Postgraduate Students Organisation has no paper of their own which they can use to highlight postgraduate issues on campus. If elected, I intend to offer the PSA their own section within An Focal, which they will have complete editorial control over.

Clubs And Societies:

Clubs and Societies are in many ways the backbone of student life on campus. If elected, I intend to ensure that they get the publicity and recognition they deserve. I am particularly interested in promoting the smaller clubs and societies on campus. If elected I will

- Organise a weekly email to all students on campus to advertise clubs and societies events on campus. (Don't worry, if you don't want it, you will be able to opt out!)
- Organise basic courses in web design and desktop publishing, to help clubs and societies, especially the smaller ones advertise themselves better around campus.

Campaigns:

One of the major problems that has existed with Students' Union campaigns in the past is people don't know what's going on. If elected I intend to actively rectify this. Be it a Students' Union UGM, a referendum or an election, I will get both sides of the argument and clearly print it in plain English.

These are just some of the ideas I have for next year. I'm not going to promise what I can't deliver, everything I've outlined in this article can be done. These ideas mean that you get more information, and more accurate information, which is at the end of the day what the job is about. If you like what you read, vote for me on Wednesday.

Paddy

Margaret Ryan - Education Officer

Who I am

I've been a class rep for the last two years, and I've sat on the General Affairs Committee last year, which I chaired, and this year I sit on the Education Committee.

I was also involved in writing the Class Reps Handbook this year, and helping to develop some of the procedures that are currently in use.

As a result of my involvement in the Education Committee, I feel I have a good broad understanding of the Education-based issues facing students today.

What I Propose to Do:

Co-op and Erasmus

As the situation stands, very few people are satisfied with their co-op experience.

Provision of a Survival Guide/Liaison facility - most people who go abroad don't know that there are grants to assist you while you're there, and that you are supposed to go to the co-op office to find the reports of the previous students who were there. There is an invaluable resource that nobody knows about sitting in that office unused.

Better Information on Changing courses

Stories get told every year about people finding out too late about the exact requirements for changing courses. There is no point in repeating exams four times to change courses, only to find

out at the end of your battle that it needn't have been done. This college has a policy of ensuring that nobody knows the full rules, so everybody runs around from pillar to post on even the smallest issue. This badly needs to be rectified.

Equality for Differently-Abled Students

Did you know that some students have been told not to go to their labs because they would be a hazard there? They are missing out on a very important part of their

Advisor System

The only person able to argue for you at Exam Boards if you need to change course, or to apply for a repeat is your advisor. Wouldn't it be an idea to be more than a name on a list to them?

The sitting Education Officer

Business FYP and Co-op Policy

The faculty of business have proposed to turn the Business FYP into a minor option, but academic council has not yet passed this. I intend to lobby for the retention of it as a major component of the Business Degree, as it remains one of the identifiable components of a UL Degree as seen by outside institutions.

Class Reps

Develop an adequate support system for class reps, based on the work of the current Education

Officer, in conjunction with Joanne McCormack, the Class Reps Development Officer. As it stands, Class Reps are confined to an office that cannot be found without a map and a compass. Class Reps do not have a budget and

Lecturing Standards Review

Too many times students announce after coming out of an exam "but s/he couldn't lecture anyway" This has to change - lecturers must be held to a certain standard. If they can't explain what they are supposed to be teaching us, how are we supposed to pass exams and get degrees - which is, after all, what we are here for. I feel that a survey of students should be carried at the end of each semester so that this problem may be somewhat alleviated.

Sabbatical Elections 2002

The Candidates

Gemma Nolan – Welfare Officer /Deputy President

Hi, my name is Gemma Nolan and I am currently a fourth year Public Administration student. I am running for the position of Deputy President and Welfare Officer of the Students' Union and I am asking you to vote for me next Wednesday in the canteen. The problems that present themselves on a day-to-day basis are an integral part of the job of the Welfare Officer and if elected my door will always be open.

I have been working as part of the Students' Union Secretariat for the past year. My experience in the Secretariat has given me an in depth knowledge of the internal workings of the Students' Union. This role has put me in the position to witness first hand the many welfare issues, which need to be addressed within the University. In addition to this my Co-op placement within a government department has given me the tools to work effectively as part of the Students' Union team. My interest in welfare stems from my involvement in Amnesty International, which is concerned with furthering human welfare interests at an international level.

Financial Aid

I intend to make students more aware of the financial aid that is available to them. There is a general lack of awareness within the student population about the various means of financial assistance available to them.

Accommodation

I will highlight the need for a vast improvement in the availability of single parent housing for students. Another important issue that I intend to address is the increasing cost of living for students in the university. I intend to campaign locally and nationally for an increase in the grant, which should help to alleviate

some of the burden.

Counselling

There is a serious shortage of counsellors within the university to deal with problems such as alcohol and drug abuse, depression, suicide and unexpected pregnancy. As Welfare Officer and Deputy President I will continue to put pressure on the university to make funding available for an improvement in these services.

Medical Centre

We all know the Medical Centre has been extended however without adequate staffing it is still unable to provide the services U.L. students need. I intend to follow up on the work of previous Welfare Officers and continue to press for greater resources for the Medical Centre.

Outreach Society

If elected I will continue to liaise with the Outreach Society which is a wonderful example of students giving back to the local community.

Safety and Security

Safety and Security can never be perfect however if elected I will continue to campaign for improvements in areas such as lighting. One of my priorities will be to highlight the dangers of Date Rape drugs and raise awareness on campus.

Nitelink

I intend to improve the Nitelink service by heightening awareness among the student population with regard to the times it runs, where it runs from and I will attempt to get designated stops made official.

Information Weeks

If elected I will continue the role of previous Welfare Officers in the organising of Greek Week and Sexual Health Awareness Week to provide students with information on welfare issues on campus.



Fundraising

This year has been a great year for fundraising in the Students' Union and I plan to build on this through the running of various events during both Greek Week and Kollege Week and other such occasions throughout the year.

These are the issues, which I see as central to student welfare on campus. If you have questions on any of these issues or have any other areas, which you would like to see addressed, then please feel free to come and talk to me in the Canteen next week and remember to vote for me on Wednesday.

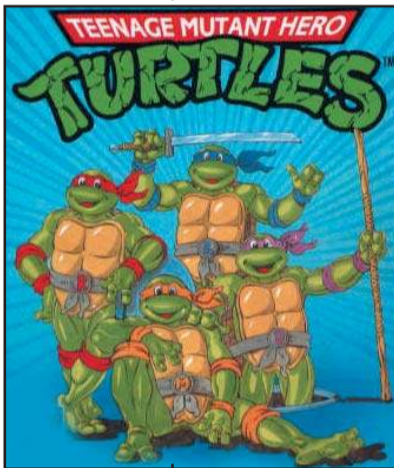
Gemma

Forwards >>

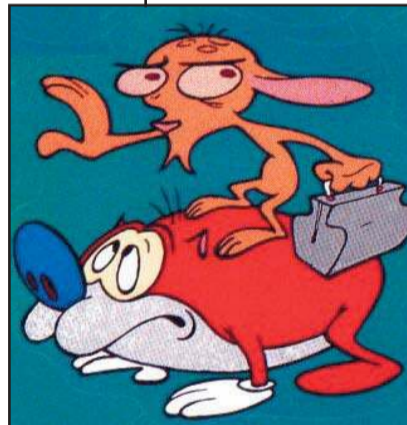
Welcome to Forwards, the newest addition to An Focal. This feature will simply present the best e-mail forwards that we (and by we I mean me) find in our inboxes on a daily basis.

You Know You're a Teen of the Early 90s If...

- 1.) You know who Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and Donatello are.
- 2.) You remember the Milli Vanilli scandal.
- 3.) You religiously watched 90210, Melrose Place, Party of Five, and My So-Called Life.
- 4.) You tight-rolled your jeans.
- 5.) You wore big hoop earrings.
- 6.) You thought bellbottoms were horrible and couldn't understand why anyone would've ever worn them.
- 7.) You knew how to do the dances called the MC Hammer, the Roger Rabbit, and the running man.
- 8.) You owned a pair of K-Swiss, Keds, or Air Jordans.
- 9.) You thought "Ice Ice Baby" was the coolest song ever, and when your parents told you Vanilla Ice would be a shot in the pan, you refused to believe them.
- 10.) Your bangs were at least 4 inches high, and you thought it looked good.
- 11.) You tried to sing along to "Informer", no matter how hard it was.
- 12.) You or your sister owned a banana barette and a T-clip.
- 13.) A hairdryer was required to set your hair.
- 14.) You rolled up the sleeves of your t-shirts, and tucked in the front, letting the back hang out.
- 15.) You had any "No Fear" or "B.U.M." clothing.
- 16.) You wore 2 pairs of neon colored socks.
- 17.) You wore overalls with only one side connected.
- 18.) You had Exclamation perfume.
- 19.) You remember when cartoons were actually GOOD, and not scary like the Teletubbies.
- 20.) You loved to slow dance to Power Ballads.



- 21.) You had a "slap bracelet".
- 22.) You wore your sweatpants pulled up to your knees.
- 23.) You had a black Debbie Gibson hat.
- 24.) You wanted to be just like Paula Abdul.
- 25.) You know the words to "The Humpty Dance".
- 26.) You owned the Spin Doctors tape.
- 27.) You said, "PSYCH" or "WAY!"
- 28.) You saw "Wayne's World" at least 2 times at the theater.
- 29.) You loved the New Kids on the Block (and Joey was probably your favorite.)
- 30.) You wore jeans pulled up to your navel.
- 31.) All of your clothes were "baggy".
- 32.) You owned a pair of biker shorts, and possibly ones with a neon strip down the side.
- 33.) You wore "water shoes" into the pool.
- 34.) You had a boom box, or your stereo was a weird color like pink.
- 35.) You bought tapes instead of CDs.
- 36.) You never missed "Fresh Prince" and you know all the words to the themesong.
- 37.) You or someone you knew wore "Cross-Colors" clothing.
- 38.) You remember when TLC weren't divas, and they dressed like they were in the circus.
- 39.) You thought "I'm Too Sexy" was such a cool



- song.
- 40.) You "busted a move" while C&C Music Factory was playing.
- 41.) You remember when Mark Wahlberg was part of Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch.
- 42.) You owned a silk shirt, which you tucked into your jeans.
- 43.) You had jeans in various colors, like green, brown, burgandy, black...
- 44.) You had a "Button Your Fly" t-shirt.
- 45.) You had a Ren and Stimpy t-shirt.
- 46.) You thought long-haired heavy metal bands would never go out of style.
- 47.) You were addicted to Nintendo.
- 48.) There was always a "scrunchy" in your pony tail.
- 49.) You gave the "peace" sign all the time.
- 50.) You loved Beavis and Butthead.
- 51.) If you were a guy, you had an "undercut" and you parted it down the middle.)
- 52.) You owned at least one Hypercolor shirt.



What I've learned as I've matured----

I've learned that you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is stalk them and hope they panic and give in.

I've learned that no matter how much I care, some people are just assholes.

I've learned that it takes years to build up trust, and it only takes suspicion, not proof, to destroy it.

I've learned that you can get by on charm for about fifteen minutes. After that, you'd better have a big willy or huge boobs.

I've learned that you shouldn't compare yourself to others - >they are more screwed up than you think.

I've learned that you can keep vomiting long after you think you're finished.

I've learned that we are responsible for what we do, unless we are celebrities or have heaps of dosh

I've learned that regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades, and there had better be a lot of money to take its place.

I've learned that the people you care most about in life are taken from you too soon and all the less important ones just never go away.

I've learned to say "F--- 'em if they can't take a joke" in 6 languages. thinking about it anyway.

History Society Duck Race

The UL History Society staged its first ever duck race on campus on Wednesday of Rag Week. Oh, what a splendid sight, over a hundred ducks and other floatables meandering down the stream, drenched in spring sunshine as they raced for the finish line all for the cause of Rag Week charities.

The imaginatively named Duck 24 won the race. Duck 24 beat off strong competition from Daffy (pictured above) and Quick Quack to capture the prestigious title. A prize of bubble bath goes to Duck 24's lucky owner. The crowd's favourite, Dingo, couldn't hold the pace and finished well down the field, much to the disappointment of the screaming multitudes. But, there's always next year.

Yours duckily,
Fintan Tuohy



Campus News

MOBILE PHONE NOVICE CONFUSED BY FRIENDS TXT MSGS*

Self-confessed "mobile-virgin" Louis O' Leary has been in a state of complete confusion since he purchased his first cellular phone last week. The second year student has been constantly perplexed by the abbreviated slang used in his friends' text messages.

Trouble began just hours after O' Leary had switched on his new phone. The first text he received was from close friend Jonny Mc Gee. In reply to Mr. O'Leary's "What are we all doing tonight?" Mr. McGee responded, "no1 knows". "Suddenly I had visions of an underground Limerick mafia," stated Mr. O' Leary, "led by the mysterious Number One, who knows everything even though no one had ever seen him. I spent two days looking over my shoulder."

Mr. O'Leary confessed to being totally bamboozled by phrases such as "cu 18r". When he received a message from a housemate that read 8pm@hurlers.ok? The stressed recipient spent 30 minutes in the Fishtank trying to send an email to the elusive address. His housemates enjoyed their



pint in the Hurlers without him.

Louis's friends are certain that he will soon grasp the concept of the new technology. A close friend of his went on to say, "I'm not worried about him getting used to it and fitting in. He's a fairly smart guy-I mean he's at U.L., right?"

UNEXCITING LECTURE PRODUCES EXCITING DOODLE*

Last Monday's mind-numbingly tedious economics lecture produced an interesting doodle on one first year's notes, reports have confirmed. The student drew "a kind of a cross between a spaceship and a swirly shape" that attracted interest from his neighbour.

The neighbour, a fellow business student, estimated that the incident took place some time between 12.20 and 12.30 on Monday afternoon. "We were getting to the stage of the lecture where it feels like 3 hours have gone by but it's actually only 20 minutes," said the student who reportedly skipped 53% of his lectures last week. "I'd spent a few minutes staring at the clock, a while studying the graffiti on the desk, and a moment thinking about the bird that was 2 rows in front of me, and then my wandering attention was grabbed by this cool little squiggle."

Critics have been unanimous in their praise of the young first year's work. The student was reluctant to comment on the work itself, though he did not specifically deny that it blended post-modern and traditional influences together in a kind of eye-candy meets avant-garde structural-



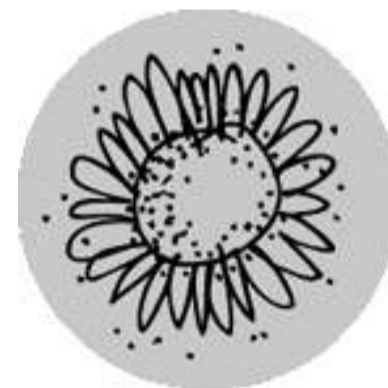
ism type way.


"It started off like any other doodle," stated the student, "though once I saw how pretty it was looking I brought the blue biro into play. The shading was hard to do and took at least five minutes." He went on to emphasise how the drawing of the doodle helped him immeasurably in surviving until the end of the lecture.

"It started off as a random squiggle, but then I noticed it looked a bit like a spaceship, I guess," recalled the student, before adding: "You know?" The drawing is now stuck on his bedroom wall between posters of Ali G and Buffy.

* Not entirely based on fact.

-Valerie Gunning






Nite-Link BUS

New late hours

Stables: 7.00pm / 7.30pm / 8.00pm / 8.30pm / 9.00pm / 9.30pm / 10.00pm / 10.30pm

Library: 11.00pm / 11.30pm / 12.00am / 12.30am

Free Service

MISSION: WHORES ON TOUR

-Á Babogí

A quiet week in U.L? So many people say the social scene in limerick has become morbid due to the generally more studious atmosphere. I was bored, so I picked up the Limerick events guide to see what's on offer. Silly students don't bother to venture out of the happy land of castle troy, so we went on a binge to investigate what can be done to amuse yourself. You may have a budget of Zero Euros, but there's fun still to be had.

I was sick of deadlines and the hassle of trying to find an FYP advisor. So I decided an escape was needed. I went to visit my friend the Shannon. Smile hello at the stork tree where margarine is made. Found a lighter and took a trip on "the rag-doll" boat HOUSE to sleepy hollow. Stopped off by killmurry and sat on the sunken bench. I had a little think about the insanity around me; the ever-sprawling metropolis of UL- will it ever stop expanding? Mr O' Brien visited the bench and gave me a history lesson on the Battle of Plassey in Africa, how the great MR Plassey won his challenge and his prize was a piece of land far off I little green Ireland, a couple hundred acres by the river Shannon. Too poor to even survive he gave his property to what is now known as castle troy. Perhaps his history involves slaying a dragon with two giant flagpoles? Who know what this legend inspired, why would we need a giant formula one flagstone @Uls entrance? Play station has reeked havoc and in Quest of world domination built a live comic strip, (Castle Troy; an aerial view of.) Now "The Late Late Toy show" will promote toy Uls fairytale of the magic bridge and the salmon that fear its shadow, it's all a bit harry potter really eh? This visit at the river inspired many theories.

Quote Bob the builder turns nasty; "enjoy the river kids before I start my destruction"

Quote; Flaherty the dog "do not bark at dogs kids, they are susceptible to cardiac problems. Walked the banks up by dell on my way home to prepare for the first night of madness, as always refreshed if not a bit daunted by my Enid Blyton walks...."



STILL WEDNESDAY.

The mission entitled "whores on tour" started on a Wednesday I got dollied up in my attempt to re-enter the world of insignificant snogging and general over indulgence. There was a free night in the post grad centre, bring your own drink and listen to UL's established DJ's, With the intention to keep an open mind and give Cian Duggan the benefit of the doubt, (from here on for cians observationalistic skills we will highlight HOUSE and TECHNO to illustrate the superiority of house music.) I thought first perhaps I should dull the senses with a bottle of buckie. Bad idea, I passed out by 8:30. mission denied, and a waste of my pulling panties. I think ill save Wednesdays for my "ME time" (to exp to boys, this involves a looong shower& loadsa

girlie things like face masks so we can look beautiful for you.)

THURSDAY

Uuuugh... sore head, many cups of tea and feeling guilty about my inability to apply myself academically. To numb the pain, a pint o cider. Damn there's ANOTHER match on in the scholars, and I was publicly ridiculed by Happy Phil. Home, throw on the glad rags, and I just about made it onto the free bus to coopers. My intolerance of alcohol returns and I am suddenly swept away by the night's festivity. Operation smooch retaken but dear was I too pitifully drunk to score. Girls will sympathise that room-swirling feeling where you do irreversibly embarrassing things like tell someone you fancy them. Well done kid, now you just may as well go home any hide for a fortnight... cringe. I have no memory of who I saw that night in coopers, I remember seeing Mark O' Niell or was it Killian O' Neachtain, or Eoin Gaughran when I arrived, and frank Quinn started his set as I fell out the door, or was that the same night? What have I done to myself that I can't even differentiate between nights? Limericks dull? Quite the opposite, I smile at the sign on the door "no track suits allowed"- brilliant! Left the DIVERSE surroundings behind and fell out the door.

Lets walk to Dolan's. Here is where my sense of direction becomes completely disorientated and god knows how I ended up in DOLANS. If you are lost, look to the skies and follow the direction o f a large pipe that shoots smoke out into the night sky (polluting b*st*rds).

A Frolic or two in SOUL CLINIC, pretty inhiibrated at

heads gerner "any tobacco around??" Esso was nut a skip away but the party managed to survive on some guys pouch of drum. I suddenly redeveloped my "rolling machine" syndrome.

Mesmerised by a glowing tunnel, spinning lights that looped & dived in and out of trippy shapes in the middle of the sitting room. I heard whispers "she looks like an angel" If I was off my face I would have shared equal appreciation, but instead my head got whacked from behind by a swinging ball of light and 2aa batteries. I felt numb& slightly blind, ouch.

I decided enufs enuf, time to wander onwards, through the gap into Elm pk. Hi big tree, hi cameras...shit im on camera again, whose watching me???? THAAAATS PAAA RAAAA NOIAAA.

Next challenge, cross the Dublin road, head down, guiltily. Children of the night like a zombie, in my Pyjamas.

A stroleen through the Jewish Graveyard I spot my friend the black bird and hum Lennon's song of the same name. I looked at the grave stones, pitying the poor souls buried there being distastefully incinerated by Eircoms giant satellite that could land a plane. Each time I walk past it I feel my thoughts being TECHNO TECHNO TECHNOlogically scrutinised by the telephone spies.... home

FRIDAY MORNING

The insanity continues. I crept into my HOUSE, silence, tiptoe through the sitting room to find a lighter, stepping softly over sleeping bodies. - Ooh, Harry J looks so sweet in sleep, mmmm.... And I wonder how his gig in the globe went. Nice warm comfy HOUSE. Slap up breakfast, before I start my day. But first ill just lie down for a few minutes...

S-H-I-T!!!!!!! I awoke @ 12:55. Wrote a 5hr essay. Made dinner for 3.went to the Wicked Chicken for a few lucozades, productive day? When do I get to rest? Why did I voluntarily become freelance hard bitch? To the Globe for my 2nd experience of Audio. 2002. Wicked. The two top floors dominated by various acts, inc-Skinny boy jazz& Marc o' Neill. I had a little dance & a quiet drink up in the cigar bar able to chill out by the 2nd set of decks being privileged by Ben Philpot. Well done Davyo, he's on to a good nite here, if youre around Friday nights, take a trip into Audio for a gander, I seriously enjoyed it! At this stage I really needed to fall down. Home please.

WEEKEND

The weekend arrived and coinciding with my empty bank account I took the long trek home to mammy. I needed some unconditional love sleep, chocolate, hyperactive kids&more Enid blyton adventures. Some of the things I miss, but only think about on those rare visits into the depths of the shticks, that some of you could never appreciate, beautiful seaside sunsets, overwhelming raw beauty, festivals in sheds 20miles from civilisation, in me Ma's Vroom Vroom, a weekend at home a few quiet pints and smile back as pretentiously.... more tea sleep chocolate, re-energised for... rag week?

Happy rag week. What can I say about it, the week of "whores on tour" is nearly up, but this article will be sent to print before I have made up my mind if "Kollege week" is the disaster we all expect. Why can't we watch&learn? Look at the Art College fro example. They turned their exhibition hall "the church" into a venue for top class entertainment, we can't even organise a big tent.

this stage but able to recognise Brian Phelans improved impressive scratching. Shane Slattery had been appreciated by those still awake. I looked sadly down on the crowd, my two targets for the night otherwise occupied. B*Ilix. My celibacy is slowly returning. Maybe I should just go home and have a little snuffle....

That was the plan, but in my intoxicated state I found myself wandering towards the orchids in my PJs. 4am trying to remember where the party was, by some strange occurrence I ended up in Oak lawns. Right, lets see if the parties are as good as they used to be? I used to know all the faces, but now they all look like someone's little brother. The music was fresh, Mr Super Quinn keeping all the die-hard techno heads entertained. Back stretching hanging upside down from the stairs, I remember this, could I ever miss it? Skaggy

SUNDAY

For anyone who stays around, besides a quiet pint in the Hurlers, there just aint much to do on a Sunday night. I rounded up the girls to investigate. It started with giggly drinking games& sisterly bonding. We pretended we were on an engagement party and were promised a discount into the ICON over the phone. However we were appalled at Limericks ridiculously undependable taxi service, and the icons selective snobbery. Not only were we lied to on the phone by a mysterious "Willy" but insulted by the bouncers' inability to communicate. They have no clue of fashion and even refused my friends designer trainers... why would you want to go there anyway. THE ICON has now officially lost all my respect and I hope to never consider going there again. One day I will send the manager -An olive& sardine sandwich with marmite& a cup of Bovril, because he was so mean.

To the Globe, I believe the only other nite club open on sun nite. Excellent choice as we created a fun girlie dunk atmosphere. 3cheers for the globe for redeeming our faith in a week of "whores on tour."

MONDAY

We took Monday off to rest, comedy night, if I had energy or Euros I would have gone to Phil Kaye in the

scholars, instead I settled for a mad tea session in my HOUSE and Billy Connolly, "I know you, I do, I know your face, I don't know where from, but it'll come to me, its at the tip of my tongue, but I do know you, y'know.."

TUESDAY

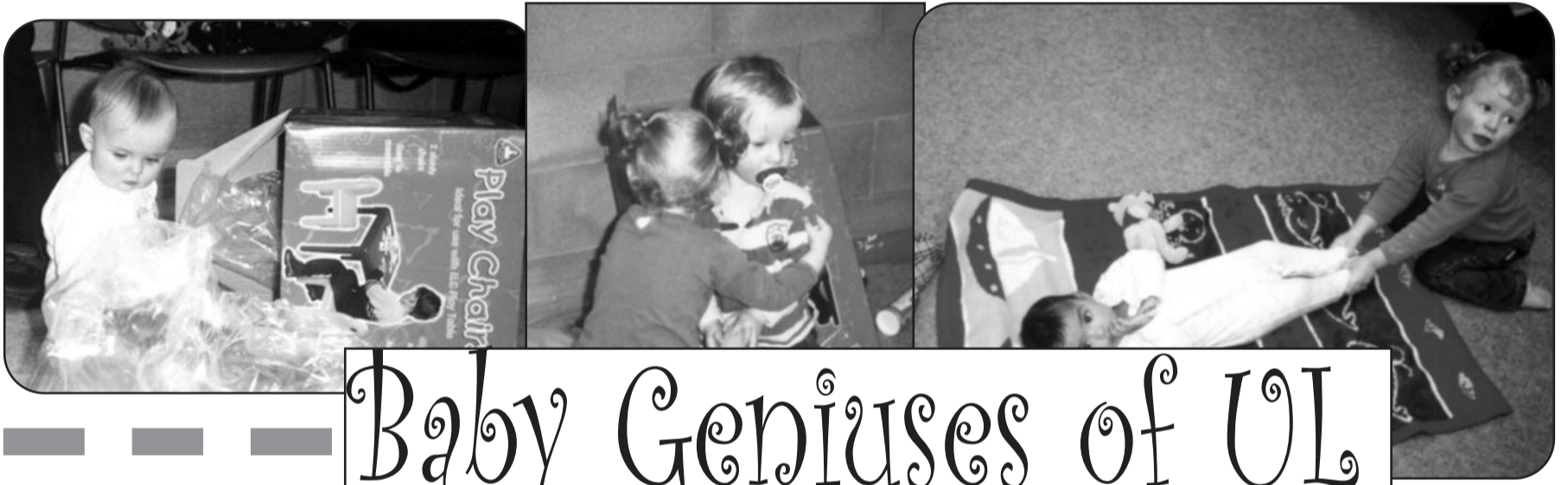
The last night of Whores on tour. Still haven't managed to kiss any boys, am I loosing my touch? Will loneliness throw me into a pit of despair again? Never fear, the fun bus pulled up outside my HOUSE and a Chinese goddess visited me. It rained, we drank& caught up. The beginning of rag week.... What to do? How can you slut around limerick and not include the lodge? It had become highlight of mature Friday nights, AUDIOS main competition. But we tackled the splodge on Tuesday. The "NiteClub" opened @8? Why? We waited till 11:30, till all the babbies fell home sick after their first rag day. First, a drink. Will we try a shifting spree? Could I manage a lap of the lodge &kiss 20boys, in no fear of destroying my reputation seeing as everyone's too bollixed to care. No, too many muck-savages and RUDE boys why think shouting&spitting is the appropriate manner to address a girl, no tata. Here is where I reinforce my grievances with some students. Why do they frequent the lodge 5nights a week? I put the social scene to the test & the best nights were had in town. If you spend all your time in castle troy

you are under surveillance 24/7 i.e.: when drinking/shopping/studying... everything you do is recorded. The Truman show? There's a whole lot of coincidence going on and soon we wont be able to take a breather down by the river. 6degrees of separation is a bit uncanny now at this stage. Once enter Ul you will be eternally be branded by its cult-like nature. Whatever party In whatever field or beach or mountain top you go in Ireland you are 80% guaranteed to meet someone who know someone who knows you. Cosy& familiar, yes, but its nice to escape once & a while.

THE END

In conclusion mission "whores on Tour " was a success. Operation-shag was a failure. Well do it all again when the grant comes in then. Till then- yay to the smell of freshly cut grass& "well done Mr Sun". Take care Kids.

On the page opposite is reinforcement picture of the week, a beach party in Donabate last summer that was haunted by UL heads.

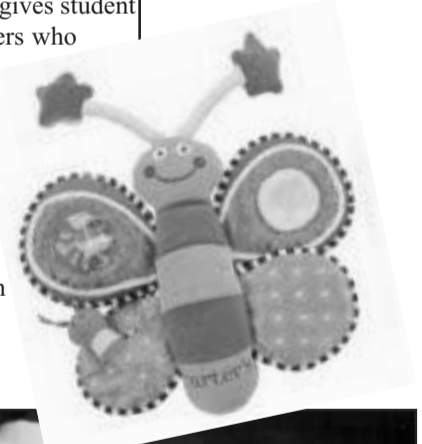


Baby Geniuses of UL



Most of these kids have probably spent more consecutive time in college than most of us!! They had a whole nine month period, with nothing better to do! Maybe to the surprise of some, students do have children and here is the proof. These children all attend to the Student Parent and Toddler Group, which is in its pilot year and proving a great success. The group meets every Saturday morning in the student Union building, and it is more like a little sanctuary for all student parents. Baby talk is not something you can do with your average friend, they just don't quite understand the joys of pacing all night with a teething

baby, or weaning etc So this groups gives student parents the opportunity to meet others who know those feeling all too well, and a chance to talk "babies" for a couple of hours. The group provides a great support system and is open to all. So if you have a baby or are expecting a baby, please don't hesitate to call in on a Saturday morning between 11am and 1pm, for a coffee and a chat!!



kollege week images 2



2002 - were u there?



CELTIC SUPPORTERS CLUB

The 1st semester saw the Celtic Supporters club run many events for its almost 150 members. In September the Club had members in Glasgow to attend the Celtic Vs Dundee United game, which saw the Celts run out 5 – 1 winners, with new signing John Hartson grabbing his first 3 goals for the Bhoys. The Man Mountain that is Bobo Balde scored from a corner and youngster Shaun Maloney grabbed the fifth in a rout of the tangerines from Tayside. Then in October we were represented in Oporto, Portugal, as the Bhoys in green took on Porto in the UEFA Champions League, but the less said about that performance the better. In Late October we had a number of club members travel over to Glasgow to see the Celts play and beat the mighty Juventus, (a game which was reported on in an earlier edition of An Focal), only to be cruelly denied a place in the next phase of the Champions league because of an Italian who in the first game between these two sides would have been more suited to a certain water sport.

During Greek week we had a function in the Stables when we presented the band Oisín to UL, and they seemed to go down a treat with the many people that attended on the night. This night also saw the launch of our club merchandise, which has a club crest, which was designed by our club members. The crest is a merging of both the University crest and the Celtic Football Crest. We had for sale Club Fleeces in both Green and black for £25 and these were completely sold out. We still have for sale Club Polo Shirts in both Black and white and in all sizes for €20, and also Club embroidered Woollen Hats in black and green, which are for sale at €6.

In November 52 hardy souls made the long trek from Limerick to Glasgow, and watched as the Celts beat the other Scottish club with Irish roots, Hibernian, 3-0, before a crowd of 59,415. John Hartson scored twice for Celtic and set up the other, a wonder goal from Neil Lennon. Hartson's 11th minute header and amazing chip after 40 minutes warmed the hearts of the faithful on yet another bitter cold day in the East End of Glasgow. These 2 goals extended Hartson's total to seven goals since his move in August and also extended Celtic's unbeaten run of league games to 12. More importantly it stretched Celtic's advantage over our bitter rivals from across the Clyde to 12 points.

The weekend of December 3rd saw another 52 people take the bus on the journey to Paradise to Watch Martin O' Neill's treble winners defeat Dundee 3-1 before a crowd of 58,679. Celtic continued on their championship cruise and not even a ten-minute flood-light failure could halt the inevitability of the 3 points remaining at Celtic Park. Part of the Parkhead lighting system went down 15 minutes into the second half, referee John Rowbotham played on, but when the middle section of lights went out three minutes later, he was left with little alternative and led the players off the pitch. Sufficient lighting was restored ten minutes later and the match resumed to its inevitable conclusion.

In the first half Dundee had become the first team in Scotland to take the lead against the hoops, for all the

good it did them in the end. However a ten-minute spell at the start of the second half completely turned the game. Celtic played with Chris Sutton in midfield, with Hartson and King Henrik up front, and all three managed to get their name on the scoresheet. Three minutes into that second half Paul Lambert found Chris Sutton with a perfectly flighted cross and the big Englishman made no mistake as he bulleted his header to the back of the Dundee net. Shortly afterwards Thompson found Henrik Larsson, and the 'King of Kings' slid the ball past the Dundee keeper at his near post from the tightest of angles. Two minutes after the game restarted when the lights came back, Celtic went further in front. Stillian Petrov fired over a free kick, which was met by the head of John Hartson. It was not the best header in the world but the Dundee keeper allowed the ball to creep under his body and into the net. Game over and another three

the Celts, who rattled in five goals without reply, and could even afford the luxury of a missed penalty. King Henriks penalty was well saved by the Dunfermline keeper but he was to make amends in great style by grabbing a hat-trick. The first goal arrived after 15 minutes, when Larsson fired home from close range. On 22 minutes Larsson had his and Celtic's second goal when his outstretched leg was enough to divert the ball home after Hartson's cross had cleared the goalkeeper. Hartson got himself on the score-sheet shortly afterwards when the ball broke kindly to him, from Alan Thompson's powerful shot. Hartson controlled the ball instantly and hammered the ball past the Dunfermline keeper low into the bottom corner of the net. That was the game over and it now became just a question of how many the hoops would win by.

Soon it was 4 – 0 to Celtic, with that man Larsson completing his hat-trick. This time King Henrik was given a run through on goal, he held off the last defender before coolly lifting the ball over the advancing goalkeeper into the far corner of the Dunfermline goals. It was a fitting goal to complete a hat-trick for arguably one of the greatest players ever to don the green and white hoops of Celtic football club. The second half saw the Celts take their foot off the pedal, but they still managed to score what was possibly the goal of the game. Substitute Jamie Smith played Alan Thompson through on goal and with the Goalkeeper advancing quickly on him to narrow his target, Thomson had the presence of mind to backheel the ball into the path of the onrushing Didier Agathe, who buried the ball high into the roof of the net. So another five goals and more importantly three points to keep Celtic 13 points ahead of our rivals from across the city in the race for this seasons league title. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable



points in the quest to retain the league title.

During the three week break after the exams again 52 people travelled over to watch our Bhoys in Green and White play Dunfermline. Among our group were six youngsters from the outreach programme and their two minders, which our club sponsored on the trip over to see their idols playing in the flesh, and they were even fortunate enough to get to meet some of the players after the game, Henrik Larsson included. The Club saw this as being in keeping with the charitable ideals of Celtic Football Club, and it is after all why Celtic was founded in the first place. Celtic was formed to look after the poor and the needy of Glasgow's east end and the UL Celtic Supporters Club was delighted to be able to give something back to people who might not be as fortunate as the rest of us. They really enjoyed their weekend, along with the rest of us that travelled. This is hopefully something that we will expand on and we look forward to taking some more kids from the outreach programme to Celtic Park in the future. We would also encourage any other clubs or Societies to get involved with the Outreach Programme.

The game resulted in another convincing win for

trip.

In Semester two of this year we ran a coach to the Celtic Vs Dundee United game on March 16th. We also hope to run a coach to Celtic's Last Home Game Of The Season when baring a case of the Ebola virus striking Parkhead, Martin O' Neill's side will once again parade the new SPL trophy around the finest stadium this side of the Nou Camp in Barcelona. The supporters club is also working on bringing over somebody from Celtic to give a talk on Football and all things Celtic during the 2nd semester so watch this space. We have other events in the pipeline also and they will be revealed in time. If you are interested in joining the supporters club, travelling to Celtic Park with us, or purchasing some of the Supporters Club Merchandise then drop an e-mail to ulcsc@eircom.net and we will do what we can to accommodate you. Here's hoping for another trophy winning year, the future's bright, the future's green and white.

Hail ! Hail !
UL bhoys.

CELTIC VS. DUNDEE UTD.

The Celtic supporters club attended the Celtic Vs Dundee United game at Celtic Park on Saturday March 16th which the hoops won 1-0. The game was watched by an attendance of 58,392 among which was 48 Celts from UL. Among our lot were two guys from the US and their opinions of the trip were as follows "I felt the trip was a good experience, one I will never forget. I would go again if it was possible" and "I had a great time this weekend, so thank ye again for making this opportunity open to me. It was a great experience for me. The drive was a little long but nothing to really complain about. The atmosphere was grand and it was what I was hoping for". Also on the trip were 3 kids and their minder from the Sport for Success group, which we took over as we say it in keeping with the charitable ideals of Celtic Football club. This was the second occasion this year that we brought over kids from the outreach programme and we would encourage other clubs to get involved if they can as

it is very worthwhile.

The score line suggests victory by the narrowest of margins, but the main statistic of the match fails to reflect the magnitude in difference between the two sides, although in fairness the match and all the characteristics of a game edging towards the end of the season. Stilian Petrov opened the scoring five minutes before the interval, but by that point Celtic should have opened up a far wider margin to take into the interval. Martin O'Neill was forced to make a number of changes given his burgeoning list of suspensions and injuries, but despite some less familiar faces in the team there was nothing surprising about the patter of the game itself.

Inevitably it was Celtic who enjoyed the bulk of the early chances and in the opening minutes O'Neill's team created a flurry of chances with Didier Agathe teeing up Larsson and Moravcik on a couple of occasion. Going into the game in the knowledge that just nine points lied between them and the retention of

the biggest prize that Scottish football has to offer, Celtic strove incessantly to get the breakthrough their play merited.

Five minutes before the break the 22-year-old found the net for the second time in six days when he collected a pass from Larsson that eluded the United defence and pounced to sprint forward and slide the ball under Gallacher and into the net.

The second period followed the pattern of the first with Celtic constantly bombarding the United defence. Moravcik came closest to getting the elusive second seconds before he was replaced with young Jamie Smith, after a superb Agathe run had culminated with the winger cutting the ball back only for Lubo's shot to be blocked by the United defence. The little Slovakian's replacement was only denied a goal by the woodwork when he rifled a fierce attempt off the crossbar as Celtic continually tried to cement the points.

Music Soc hits the right note

Ah, Music is great isn't it! Awesome bands like Six and S Club 7 battling it out for supremacy of the charts while we readily fork out copious amounts of money so they can bombard us with even more meaningful songs that they painstakingly created! What is wrong with the world! Music is all about feeling, and the only feeling I get when I hear any of these groups of idiots performing is nausea and the need to somehow torture Luis Walsh.

Real music can manipulate your emotions, recapitulate your highs and lows in life in just a simple song, and it is then undoubtedly a very powerful force. I feel this energy; mainly the creative aspect has been slowly fading on Campus.

This semester we are trying hard to change things. We have elected a new committee, focused solely on the music society; they are a new breed of people who are completely devoted to its needs. Willing to throw themselves as a human cushion in front a guitar headed straight for the societies drum kit or to go on a long treacherous journey through Limerick Junction to get a gig for a band who gather most of their influences from the Kelly Family, they are unselfish and entirely delegated to music. But it is a bit like trying to turn a Ford Cortina into a Ferrai Testarrosa with just a hammer, and it will take some time to make the transformation.

We have a brand new website (thanks to Cormac) which is updated regularly. One of the most useful features of the website is a message-board which helps bands seek members which they are missing in order

to complete their crew or to show the availability of members willing to join bands. It's a simple

idea but has already proven to be very effective. It's a big change from the primitive system used previous years which saw members being herded into a tiny room and asked to recruit their band without any aids. This often had awful consequences in which the frontman was singing some serene tune while the drummer resembling Animal from the Muppets was pounding away Slayer beats in the background. Maybe this is why so few bands exist in college at the moment!

The society's equipment is all in functioning order (strangely enough) and includes everything you might require to pull off a miniature Woodstock. The ever elusive mic and PA system make a welcome return (They had an annoying habit of going for walks around college in past semesters!). While the Music room is undergoing sound proofing, the Jonathan Swift has become the main arena for jamming sessions and guitar whaling shenanigans. Its big, it's acoustic a l l y extremely good and you can often get very carried away in there. Just last week I flung myself aimlessly off the stage into the imaginary crowd with catastrophic results (I don't recommend this to anyone unless you enjoy removing a

guitar head from your ribcage!). The main project we have planned is the creation of a UL bands compilation CD with all the proceeds going to charity. It's a great way of publicising bands as all the songs on the disc will be originals performed by various groups on campus. We hope to record the songs in the excellent CSIS recording facility but it will take a while and a fair bit of money. Also

open mic night in the Stables is set for a comeback along with a possible band night as well. This time we are encouraging members to get on stage to showcase their talent. We hope the quality will be improved this way and may help prevent fatal ear bleeding induced by previous sessions.

Finally I strongly encourage people to join this society. Music should be one the biggest societies and yet it's shockingly small. I refuse to believe that most people in UL are jocks! No matter what your influences are from Charlie Landsborough to Cradle of Filth, we will find a band for you! It's a great place to make friends and there is a real buzz attached to playing an instrument with like-minded people while building the road to stardom and untold wealth. I've recently joined a new band with our main influences being Bannarama and we hope that by repeatedly listening to the Steps B - sides we may adapt some of the subtle and original techniques they masterfully craft into their songs. We intend to be selling out stadiums within the next three years or so with hoards of screaming ten year olds and intoxicated mothers!

**DON MURPHY
PRO OFFICER**



UL ATHLETICS CLUB

UL Athletics- We haven't Gone Away You Know

You may (or may not, depending on your interest in the sport) have noticed a glaring absence of Athletic Club articles in An Focal this college year. So it is time to fill you in on what we have been doing so far this year.

After the spectacular 2000-2001 season, in which we collected 10 out of the 11 trophies available in Intervarsity Athletics, people were wondering could we go one better and achieve a clean sweep. Unfortunately that proved impossible, but so far this season 3 trophies have returned to UL, with another 4 left to fight for.

The season began spectacularly with the Maynooth Road Relays. Last year, the only trophy the Blues neglected to win was the Men's title. Indeed, previously this was the only trophy ULAC had failed to win in their glittering history. Of course, our lads changed this fact spectacularly with a fine performance. Our team, consisting of Brian Swaby, John Paul O'Brien, Vincent Mc Guinness, Patrick Muldoon and Liam Morris, produced a gutsy performance to lift what had become our Holy Grail, the Men's Cup. The women's 'A' team were also triumphant, destroying the field to ensure their cup came home to UL, with Tracey Roche, Eliz Egan, Anna Verges Bausili and Fiona Reid completing the successful quartet.

Next came the Indoors in December. Again the Men's

team were victorious, winning the overall trophy, beating second place UCD by a whopping 41 points. Our new first year talent was on display, most notably Dave Mc Carthy, winning the 400m at leisure and coming joint third in the 200m with team mate, Darragh Graham. Both of these athletes have gone on to break National records since, Mc Carthy smashing the old Irish senior 400m Indoor record, with a time of 46.66 seconds. Graham beat the old Junior Irish 200m record, running 21.95. While the overall team performance won us the Cup, people like Kevin Burke paid a huge contribution, taking part in the 60m Hurdles, Long Jump, Shot Put, Pole Vault and Relay.

Meanwhile, the women's team were having difficulties. Brave and committed performances were demonstrated by all our ladies, some of them even stepping up to compete in events they have never even done before. This fact, however, illustrates the fact that the squad was quite stretched by a relatively poor turn out, and the girls could not compete against the numerically superior Trinity team, who convincingly knocked us back into second place by a 19 point margin

The bus journey to Coleraine for the Cross Countries took well over 10 hours, so we seemed to subconsciously set to work at lightening the load to get home quicker. Regrettably, the weight lost turned out to be the three trophies (Men's/Women's/Overall) we had

won last year, and we came home empty handed. This fact, nevertheless, reflected cruelly on our team's performances, the Women's coming second, the Men coming fourth. Overall, therefore we missed first place by only two points, a huge disappointment after an excellent display of Cross Country running on an extremely demanding course. Patrick Muldoon finished best for our lads, in the 5th scoring position. Our women's team, coming to terms with the loss (through injury) of the inspirational Fiona Reid, saw Year-Down student Eliz Egan finishing strongly in fifth place.

Of course the social element of ULAC was present after all competitions mentioned. As is always the case, the Indoors produced another night of scandal and debauchery. I wouldn't be thanked to go into too much detail, but lets just say the usual silliness prevailed in a night of 'Southern Payne' fuelled chuckles. The Cross Country after party was unique by way of providing almost NO scandal whatsoever... (That's the last time I go away with you guys.... only joking!!!!)

All in all, as was probably predictable, we failed to live up last year's expectations, but with the outdoors coming up next month, we still have a chance to shine. Thanks to everybody for putting in the effort to compete and train, and especially our coaches, John, Danny, Patrick and Sean. See you all in Cork!!!!

ROWING CLUB WIN AT GALWAY HEAD

The 2002 Tribesmen Head of the River held during the St. Patrick's weekend proved once again to be the highlight of the winter rowing calendar. The race held in near perfect conditions over the full 3

miles proved to be an excellent test of current form. A record entry with crews travel-

ing from all parts of Ireland and overseas led to one of the most enjoyable regattas of the year. There were excellent performances in what was one of the most closely contested Galway heads in recent years. The Corrib at full flow led to extremely competitive racing. The University of Limerick Rowing Club sent a trailer packed with boats to

the event as there was a large entry for the Club. It was a magnificent scene to have the Men's Inter Eight, Men's Novice Eight and

Women's Novice Four pushing off the slip at the

same time and rowing under the bridge together as they made their way to the start. It was a different story as they raced back down again as crews fought for their place on the timesheet.



The results of the top crews were predictable enough, however the difference separating the top crews was slim enough. The Men's Senior Eight was won by NUIGalway by a mere 1.3 seconds from UCD while only a second separated the coxed 4 which was won by Queens University over NUIG.

The UL novice crews had honorable performances and will be hoping for further improvements in the forthcoming regatta season. The Novice Men's Squad, under the coaching of Niall Deloughry entered a coxed four and an eight while Justin Sherin who coaches the Women's Squad entered a Novice Women's coxed four. UL's Intermediate Men's Squad, coached by Ian Cumiskey, entered two coxed

fours and an eight. The Highlight of the day,

besides practicing the dirty dancing moves with Kerrie after the Blackbox, was the win by the intermediate men's crew in the 'Tecomen' Four. The win, by over 4 seconds makes them the cur-

rent crew to watch particularly in the forthcoming intervarsity championships which will be held in Castlewellan in April.

After prize giving and a few pints in the pleasant surroundings of NUIG college bar it was on to McSwiggans where a great night was had

by all. The added festivities of the St Patrick's Day weekend ensured a great time was had by all. The night continued in the Blackbox with



music provided by Tribesmen's very own 'kif'. UL would like to give Grainne McDonagh an honorable mention for solving the accommodation crisis, by putting the intermediate men's crew up for the weekend (and offering to wash them in the morning). The results from the weekend should provide a sound foundation to the regatta season. Castlewellan followed by Queens will be our next outing. Give me the shorter distance anyday, cos it's so easy and never really hurts!!

A big 'thanks' to all the people who pitched in with organising the event.

Clubs and Societies Ball 2002

Greetings from the Clubs and Society Office and my apologies for the long delay in getting an article into the "An Focal" but they were predominately due to circumstances outside of my control that just means that there is loads more to update you on.

It is my opinion that within the AY there is a significant date with regard to the clubs and societies calendar and that is St. Patrick's weekend. Why? Well firstly it seems to coincide with many of our field sports drawing to a close as the penultimate stages of top-flight intercollegiate sport reach their climax. Secondly with exams on the horizon many clubs and societies seem to begin a slow wind down, and finally the annual clubs and societies ball where we celebrate another year of achievements.

Where to start on the achievements? I suppose the most high profile was the Fitzgibbon Cup success of the Hurling Club, which was a superb illustration of a club putting its shoulder to the wheel and overcoming massive odds. Considering that



last year saw the club dismissed from the competition for an illegal player and 1994 being the last year the title was captured makes this achievement all the more remarkable. It was a year that saw many of the old traditional activities

being emulated again such as the trip to Boston by the rowing club to compete in the worlds biggest rowing regatta the "Head of the Charles" except that this time more teams than before were sent. The Kayak club managed to fit in their trip to Wales again, pick up the "Canoeing Intervarsities Perpetual Cup" and start the UL descent which promises to be "one to watch". The same could be said of the Debating Union who again competed in the "Worlds" in Toronto and of over 300 competitors managed to finish inside the first 32, not to mention their regular debating trips to Oxford, Cambridge, and even Haifa-Israel. We have had another bigger and best yet "Foodfair" from the Erasmus Student Network almost 1200 people present on top of all their regular trips. The soccer club has had a spectacular season and in an era where female sport does not always receive fair accolade the stalwarts of success this year has been the Ladies Soccer teams. Currently residing in the office are the Harding Cup, WSCAI Indoor IV Cup, Irish Football Union Perpetual Cup, Freshers Perpetual shield, WSCAI Indoor IV Plate not a bad haul by anyone's standards.

Many seem to think that because some of the events are the same each year that it becomes easier to do and as such becomes a little more trivial and even stale. Such opinions over simplify the real message in these accomplishments; the key to this success that people seem to brush over is the remarkable CONSISTANCY these particular clubs and societies display. In a student world that sees a huge turnover of people on an annual basis rampant apathy towards anything other than lectures and the pub this CONTINUITY is a credit to all committees involved. These are students just like all the others who get no extrinsic rewards other than the pleasure afforded to them in pursuit of FUN outside the lecture theatres. You are only as good as your members and without them you cease to be interesting or worthwhile yet there are those who have cottoned on to this and they are the student committees that deserve all the praise that can be heaped upon them.

Each year we endeavour to honour these club and societies in our own humble way through a voting and presentation procedure to their peers which culminates in an award presentation at the Clubs and Societies Ball. The following are the clubs and societies that I referred to previously and unfortunately there can only be one club and society winner in each category and they are the underlined, yet credit must go to ALL on the shortlist.



Best Club/Society

Environmental
Erasmus Student Network
Debating Union

Badminton
Outdoor Pursuits Club
Soccer

Best Event

Foodfair - ESN
Trip to Bosnia - Irish Peace
Professions of the Past - History

Badminton - Rotterdam Trip
Hurling - Fitzgibbon Cup
Rowing - Head of the Charles

Best Individual for 2001-2002

Bernadette Sexton
Eoin O Broin
Katherine Harford



Eoin Killackey
Mark Breen
Rosamund Healy

Best New & Improved Club/Society

Irish Peace Society
Racing Society
Ten Forward



Chess
Mountain Bike
Trampolining

It is the second year of the Mike Sadleir Award & The Jason Hackett Award for societal and sporting excellence respectively. The Arts Office and Sports Department sponsor these respectively, thanks to Patricia and Neasa. They are awarded to individuals in the final year in UL who go over and above the call of duty in their promotion and dedication to Clubs and Societies during their total time in UL. This years recipients were Michael Fallon of the Kayak Club and



Michael Phelan the outgoing SU President.

As Graham Norton says when finishing a show "but there is sooo much we have n't had time to talk about", and that is the case with this article. Specifically Ten Forwards Tri Con convention a milestone in their societies history, the Racing Society in Cheltenham, the Irish Peace Society in the former Yugoslavia. The Outdoor Pursuits regular trips to Scotland, the Burren and the "BIG ONE TO WATCH" for next semester is their €40,000 expedition to Mount Aconcagua in South America which has been two years in the making. With almost 70 clubs and societies on campus it is impossible to deal with them all individually but in this article but I think this glimpse of clubs and society life speaks for itself.

This year the ball took place on the 14th March in the South

Court Hotel. If this Ball is a barometer for the interest and importance of extra curricular activities the signs for the future are very



encouraging as this was the biggest one yet with almost 400 people in attendance. With regard to the future, I believe too that if the alcohol policy which has been discussed in various forums in the SU and in the an Focal is implemented in its entirety with a true conviction from the University that the Clubs and Societies of UL are poised to go on to much greater things.

News in Brief

There has been no further progress with regard to the pricing and numerous issues relating to Arena but this will be tackled with regard to providing a report for the next edition, meanwhile "An Taoiseach" Bertie Ahern will be in UL on Thursday 11th of April to officially open the 50 metre swimming pool.

Council Meeting on Tuesday 9th April in Room 5 @ 6.00pm

All membership books must be handed back by Week 10, as we need these to quantify our actual total membership for all Clubs and Societies and the demographic make-up to help us improve and develop.

My thanks to Patricia Moriarty and Neasa Fahy O Donnell for their help with the Clubs and Society Ball. Dave O Donovan our Entertainment's Manager, the ULSU Crew, the Lollygagers, Tony Galvin, the South Court Hotel for their superb food, service and all round professionalism. Also my thanks to Patrick Kennedy for the superb new edition of the clubs and societies Yearbook the PDF version will be on the website as soon as is conveniently possible www.ulsu.ul.ie/yearbook. Last but not least the Clubs and societies themselves.

Wanted

Any students 25 and over who have a full driving licence (B) without endorsements and wish to be trained up for the purpose of driving the Clubs and Society minibus as a part time job (D) and (D1) for the remainder of this semester/summer and the new academic year. Attractive rates. Any students who may be interested should make them selves known to Paul.Lee@ul.ie or 086-8336262

All winners of the UL Societies Categories must contact me ASAP as your nominations for the National Society of the Year Awards run by the Board of Irish Colleges (BICS) www.skynet.ie/~bics needs to be submitted by 11th April and the presentations will take place in UCC on Friday 19th April.



OUTREACH SOCIETY HELPING OTHERS

Hi guys!! For those of you who have never heard of us, the Outreach society is a society where each member gives up about an hour of their time a week to help others. For all of the information below checkout our website at www.csn.ul.ie/~outreach

Southill Junior School & St. Kieran's Boys School Projects

Groups of students travel to South Hill Junior School on Mondays and also to St. Kieran's Boys School on Tuesdays to help children with reading and writing skills. An hour is spent with the kids just helping them with simple and basic reading and writing which they find difficult. Some of the kids are very young and we just play games with them for an hour. Because of travel this project will take up about an hour and a half to two hours a week, which is nothing really. The taxis to the school are paid for by the society so all it'll cost you is a little bit of your time.

For more information contact Grainne at 9845887@student.ul.ie

Enable Ireland Project

At present we have one student, Derek, on campus who has Cerebral Palsy for which he needs a wheelchair. Derek is a very independent person and doesn't need looking after more so company. The outreach members assist Derek getting to and from class and help him interact in the broader campus community. Derek only has classes two mornings a week so helping him would

only take an hour or less a week to meet up for a cup of coffee and a chat.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Caroline at 9837264@student.ul.ie

Homework Clubs in association with the Access office In accordance with the Soccer for Success programme run within the University, to allow children from disadvantaged background a taste of university life, the outreach society aid by helping with homework.

Each day from 3-4pm, 7-8 members supervise and assist children on the programme with their homework. It's not hard and it's good fun to do, you just see if the kids need any help with their homework and if they don't you can just have a chat with them.

Contact Tara at tara.curley@ul.ie for more info.

Milford Old People's Home

This is a new project we are starting this semester. All it entails is going to visit some of the old people who don't get many visitors or taking part in entertainment i.e. bingo and singing on a Wednesday.

If you are interested in helping out in this project please contact Grainne @ 9845887@student.ul.ie or PJ Sommers the chaplain.

Book taping for visually impaired students

This is an ongoing project, which can be done in your

own time and in your own home. All it involves is reading passages from course notes or books onto a Dictaphone for visually impaired students. This is a very simple project, which makes college life far easier for some students.

Contact Tara at tara.curley@ul.ie

Outreach Meningitis Charity Challenge

Currently we are involved in raising money for the Meningitis Research Foundation. This is a very worthy cause as it affects many students. Fundraising is ongoing and on Easter Monday last the eight members who are going on the Thailand Trek did a sponsored walk from Ennis to Limerick!! Thanks to all who helped out and donated money. We hope you will all continue to support this charity.

Hoodies for sale

Outreach have now got some funky looking threads, perfect for all occasions, well ye can call them navy hoodies if ye want. They're available for only €15 for members and €25 for non-members.

Meeting time: Every Wednesday at 7:30 in room 4 of the SU building.

ALL NEW MEMBERS WELCOME :)

TENNIS CLUB GETTING ACTIVE

Nowadays, when his wife talks too much, a man goes to his club; in primitive times, he just reached for it. And I know vise versa!

Ever wanted to take up a new sport at college but have yet to do so?

Maybe you'd just like to improve and sharpen the skills you already have or simply get a little fitter?

Or it could just be you're looking for a good social and lively club?

Well then come and join the UL Tennis Club.

Like the phrase above shows we all need somewhere to get away for while and escape all the pressures and stress that sometimes comes with college life, or else

just a place that'll add to the fun of it all.

The UL Tennis club has been successfully coaching and training all levels of ability throughout the entire college year and with almost 100 members it is clearly growing and becoming a very popular club.

It also has a very active and competitive calendar and with the UL Tennis Club Championships coming up, now is a good time to join and take part.

The UL Tennis Club also holds many social events including a night out in week 9 to mark the beginning of the club championships. With the Topsy Tennis in Rag Week being a great success it shows that it's an all round club catering for the social and competitive members.

Training takes place at the following times:

Beginners - Wednesday 3-4

Improvers - Wednesday 4-5

Advanced - Wednesday 5-6

Racquets and tennis balls are all supplied so there is no need to have your own.

So get down to the courts, enjoy the friendly atmosphere, get fitter, learn and improve in the sport and have a few nights out. What else could you want?

Tennis, it's one of the few sports where love means nothing! unfortunately...

Barry Mc Mackin
Club Secretary

YOUNG FINE GAEEL

Hot on the heels of the Table Quiz success comes one of the most important decisions for UL Young Fine Gael as a society. On Tue 26th March the Students Union held one of their UGMs(Union General Meetings). Young Fine Gael had worked with other political societies on campus to put forward an amendment to the constitution to make all clubs and societies equal on campus and equally eligible for funding.

Up to now the maximum funding for any political society was €1.27(€1). The only other funding came under Special Apps and a common misconception was that Fine Gael financially supports Young Fine Gael. However this is false and so many members ended up paying for photocopying, buses, and the expenses of guest speakers out of their own pockets. UL is also alone in this policy, every other branch receives Students Union funding.

Such changes have been proposed before but to get a

quorum of 200 people was a major stumbling block. It was apathy breeding apathy. However there was another very important item on the agenda that filled the Jean Monet to capacity and beyond. The Postgraduate Student Association wished to insert the rights and entitlements of the PSA as they believed into the constitution. The Students Union had been in negotiations but did not have a motion at the meeting and the amendments were passed.

David Garraghy of Young Fine Gael spoke on behalf of all the parties that supported the amendment, including Labour and Fianna Fail.

Young Fine Gael wish to express their thanks to all that attended, especially the PSA who had a very large crowd and the 100 or so supporters of Young Fine Gael, Labour etc.

Young Fine Gael had a great time paintballing with

History, Labour and Peace societies. Hopefully it can be repeated with even more people and societies taking part. Unfortunately a number of YFG members couldn't attend due to teaching, tutoring and also the trip to Brussels. More on that later.

Time has run out for guest speakers and discussions. Members of YFG are hitting the roads and streets of Limerick with the good news, a Limerick Taoiseach! By the time of publishing a hoarde of members from across the country should have decended on Limerick city and county, a group known as the Rapid Reaction Force. The group is lead by YFG President elect, Jerry O'Connell and a massive turnout is expected. There'll be a massive party afterwards too.

All extra hands are more than welcome for leaflet dropping in and around Limerick. It's very easy to just do a few hours once between now and May 10th or whenever. Contact ulyfg@hotmail.com

LADIES RUGBY TEAM BACK ON FORM

UL Ladies back on form after loss to CIT in Colleges Rugby Final

In their first ever loss in Ireland, UL Ladies Rugby were beaten by CIT in the All Ireland Colleges final in Tralee on Friday the 22nd of March.

In a repeat of last year's line-up CIT and UL were once again pitted against one another. After a hard fought first half both team remained scoreless. UL felt the pinch of missing Irish players Patrique Kelly and Rachel Tucker due to an International match against Spain the next day.

Shortly into the second half, UL's Valerie Harty made a quick run to score. CIT reacted and their numerous attempts at a score were blocked by some great UL defense. A try in the last five minutes saw both teams on equal points. Twenty minutes extra time was called.

Both sides came out blazing, equally determined to win. CIT found a gap in the UL defense, early in extra time and scored followed by a conversion.

The tension and excitement of the last ten minutes showed the standard of Ladies colleges' rugby as both teams battled for every inch. UL's Lynn Cantwell made

a gutsy effort but saw her between the posts try controversially disallowed. The final whistle blew and CIT were declared victors with a score of 12-5.

Coach Rohan West commented on the game saying. "The day that UL Ladies Rugby always feared has arrived early. We played a team that was more clinical on the day. They had two opportunities and scored two tries. We had four and scored one."

West looked to the future saying, "we will learn the valuable lessons, regroup and come back strong for the Intervarsities and retain our title there." He complimented Emer Roche and Fiona Coghlan for their performances during the match and Pink fluffy tiara award (a.k.a. player of the match) went to Caroline Mahon for a great display of determination.

West said at the final, "Its not how far you fall, it's how high you bounce." This was certainly true for UL Ladies as they togged out again on Wednesday the 27th of March against American Ivy League, Brown University.

UL displayed they were truly back on form and dominated the visitors half for the entire match with some great play from UL.

After an enjoyable and energetic match UL clocked up

a score of 49-0 against the bewildered Americans. Full back, Lynn Cantwell led the way with four tries, followed closely by center Patrique Kelly with three. Winger Miriam Clegg made one, as did Caroline Mahon. Kicker Fiona Coghlan also put points on the board for the UL side

The friendly was rounded off by a meal in the arena bar and the two teams socialized before Brown headed to Galway for their next match against Galwegians RFC.

UL are back in training and look forward to matches against a visiting French side. They will also be competing in the Trinity hosted Intervarsities in the next couple of weeks.

New members are always welcome and anyone interested should contact UL Ladies Rugby Club welcome all new members and encourage anyone thinking of joining to come along to the Astroturf at 7.30 on Mondays to have a chat or join in the fun.

Laura Greer

MAULING AT PAINTBALLING

A Neutral Account

In a quiet location outside the metropolis of Shanagolden in west Limerick, brave young UL students battled one another and the elements at Paintballing. Paintballing is war - without the bullets - but with paint pellets that explode on impact, leaving the victim sore and splattered with paint.

The battle that unfolded essentially involved Good versus Evil. It was fought over several rounds in the depths of the forest. Rescuing prisoners of war, preventing a nuclear fallout and destroying the enemy's oil supplies were among the missions that the paintballers were assigned.

Good was represented by honest, valorous individuals such as Fiachra, Katherine, Fintan and Pat. Space dictates that I cannot enumerate them all, but their bravery

and heroism is etched forever in the hallowed hillsides and forests of west Limerick. These noble and gallant warriors never deviated from their utmost principles of decency and integrity as they sought to subdue the wicked forces allied against them.

But the splendid gallantry of Good was mirrored in the despicable fiends that thwarted them and their just quest. The chief members of the 'Axis of Evil' were Manus Bree, Geordie the Catalan and, worst of all, Bernadette Sexton. Ms. Sexton, ironically the President of the Irish Peace Society, took enormous pleasure in inflicting the greatest injury to others before collapsing in manic laughter. Should the creators of James Bond seek a villain for their next 007 epic, they would be well advised to monitor the behaviour of this Clare woman.

Alas, although fortune smiled initially on the side of

Good, the battle climaxed with victory for Evil. But their tarnished win was marred as they stooped to alarming depths of inhumanity and debauchery in pursuit of their objectives.

Battered and bruised the teams boarded the bus for home, stopped at the shop for sweets and journeyed onward. The paintballing victory may have gone to Evil, but the moral victory went to those noble and courageous members who fought on the side of Good.

Overall, paintballing represents an intriguing re-conceptualisation that can be pro-actively synergised in this post-modernist paradigm. It was organised by Fine Gael, Labour Youth, the History Society and the Peace Society.

Your objective reporter,
Fintan Tuohy



OUTDOOR PURSUITS CLUB VISITS CLIFDEN

Clifden Weekend 1st, 2nd and 3rd of March

We set off at 5pm Friday evening from outside the Stables-35 members of the OPC heading back to nature, back to our roots, answering the call-going to Clifden?!!!! Letterfrack to be exact and for those geographically challenged Clifden is located in the north of Galway about 2hours outside Galway city and Letterfrack is about 20 minutes from Clifden.

After a short stop in Galway, a broken taillight and some dodgy map work (and these "mountaineers" bring people up mountains!!) we eventually found our lodgings. This was not your typical hostel-think Fawltly Towers with an organic, back to nature Basil.

Next morning after a lovely breakfast of porridge and freshly baked brown bread we headed for the hills. Ben Ban located in the Twelve Bens, which stands at 729 metres high was the first mountain attempted. 1 large group eventually split into 2 groups with the stronger one going ahead at a

faster pace to try and get in a few extra peaks. In the second group new trainee leaders were been given the chance to lead a group for the first time. Opportunities like this are very important as it builds confidence and experience in this area. 3 other people set off that day and climbed Carrot Ridge.

We returned smelly but safe to the hostel where a lucky few who broke world records running from the bus to the showers were rewarded with hot water-the rest were doomed to freeze. That night, being the friendly OPC members that we are-we ventured into the Letterfrack local. This amazing pub/pool hall at 2 o'clock magically turned into THE happenin' nightspot complete with a square foot of dance space, flashing lights and friendly locals ranging in age from 15 to 50.

Enough said.....

We arose more slowly the Sunday morning but still willing and able to take on the

mountains(ish). Some people decided to visit the local attraction Kylemore Abbey and generally mosey around for the day. More trainee leaders got the chance to test their skills while leading the larger of the two groups on the Maamturks while 3 more people climbed Carrot Ridge. Everybody eventually got back to the bus however one group had to wait for about an hour and decided to amuse themselves trying to terrorise the passers by with their interpretation of Jaws (mountain style).

We arrived back to UL around 9pm.

Another successful weekend.

For more info check out
<http://www.csn.ul.ie/~opc> or email
opc@skynet.ul.ie

UL VOLLEY CLUB - LEAGUE NEWS

In a three week spell when it seemed like you

could do any sport on ice or snow, the International Olympic Committee still refused to allow the inauguration of Ice Volleyball as an Olympic Sport. This decision left the UL Men's Volleyball team (clearly a selection of some of the best volleyball players in Ireland) with no other option than to continue playing their Division I games in Ireland and wait eagerly for Toronto in 2006. Going back a few weeks, before this fiasco, and before the Christmas break UL Men's team travelled to Cork for their final league game of 2001, and seeking their first win on the road. An early morning start was needed to arrive in time to the Alaska of Ireland that is County Cork. And the sports hall that greeted us in Cork might as well have been an Alaskan igloo, such was the temperature inside the hall. After a 15-minute warm-up we gathered into the huddle to discuss our tactics, still freezing, with several players refusing to remove their coats. Eventually forced into taking the court, and taking off their jackets, UL started poorly and allowed Cork to take a 1 set lead. But as the second set developed, some good hitting by both Mike Hanlon and Jiri Vevoda helped UL tie matters up, one set apiece. UL dominated the third set and good setting by Ger Conway helped UL



push home the advantage and take the lead at 2-1. UL kept their momentum up in the fourth set and took a well deserved victory by 3 sets to 1.

A few weeks into 2002, and UL did not have matters all their own way against a strong DCU team in Dublin. UL's slightly depleted squad, showing three changes from the game in



Cork met a determined DCU team, keen to avenge for their 3-2 loss

against UL last autumn. This they did, with a deserved 3-1 victory. UL did fight back strong after a poor start and going two sets down, by winning the third set and pushing DCU all the way in the 4th set. On March 17th, at the UL Arena against Microsoft, UL once again started

poorly, lacking several key players through injury, and went 2 sets down. But in the third and fourth set, UL found their form and took two very excit-

'the sports hall that greeted us in Cork might as well have been an Alaskan igloo, such was the temperature inside the hall'



ing sets to push the game into a final set. Luck

was not with them in the final set and Microsoft took the victory. One week later, against top team Portmarnock in Dublin, UL found themselves involved in another five-set cracker. This time it was UL who started the brighter, building up a good lead in the first set, only to see it relinquished and Portmarnock going 1-0 up. The 2nd and 3rd sets were also close but UL played brilliantly to take both sets and go into a promising 2-1 lead. Unfortunately, for UL and their two cheering, travelling supporters, Portmarnock finished the stronger taking the 4th set

and the 5th set decider. This was despite great blocking by Albert, and excellent play on the wings from Linx and Shane.

UL finished strongly in

the league, winning their last two games, away

in Newbridge, and at home to Cork. This left UL with a respectable tally of 6 wins and 6 losses and fourth place in the league. A very good achievement considering this is their first year up in Division 1. The men's team are in the semi finals of the Championship also, on April 7th

in UL.

Congratulations must also go to the ladies team, who have qualified for the Championship semi final also. The ladies scored a convincing 2 wins from 2 games in their round robin competition to qualify for the semis. We wish them all the best of luck in their upcoming matches.

Note: The author is not certain that there are actually igloos in Alaska, but was just guessing



For information on the club, please contact 9850805@ student.ul.ie Or9942696@student.ul.ie

'as the second set developed, some good hitting by both Mike Hanlon and Jiri Vevoda helped UL tie matters up, one set apiece'

CHESS CLUB SUCCESS IN CORK

The 10th Cork Congress was on last weekend (22 – 24th March), and therefore we sent along of

team of merry people to it. It was held in the Gresham Metropole Hotel in cork city. The deputy lord mayor of Cork gave the prizes to the winners and made a rather nice speech. It

was well organised and we intend to be back next year.



The UL Chess team entered a team in the Minors and a member entered the Majors section. Well

done to Tom Cooper who won a prize for his efforts. Our team of three had a great time and gained more experience, which will helpfully come in

useful in the Munster league. As always we will

be meeting on Wednesday nights in the canteen at 7:00. All are welcome, with lessons available for beginners and intermediates and reading materials for all levels available for loan.

The Draughts section of the chess club is finally being revamped this year. A committee member has been put in charge of the section and over the next couple of years we intend to build a strong team and gather resources for training. So all draughts players who have ideas about this come along and talk to us.

*Contact: Mary Gilmartin
0038857@student.ul.ie*

SUN, SAND AND SURF WELCOME

KAYAK CLUB IN GALWAY!!

As others were heading home for the weekend, the kayak club struck off for Galway to catch some surf. We left UL before five without any setbacks, yet! All was going well and we had almost reached Clifden, when, something went wrong. Our trailer literally broke on us between Galway and Clifden, in Maamcross. Stranded with no chance of being able to fix the trailer, we rang our buddies in NUIG. Thankfully, they were very obliging and were willing to lend us their trailer. We struck off for Clifden minus trailer and gear, and arrived at Brookside hostel for half past eight. Not having eaten all day, we went in search of food, but failed. Undeterred, we went to bond with the locals or waltz with them in Jeannines case!

Early Saturday morning, Brian, Jimmy and Paul

left for Galway to collect NUIG's trailer, while the rest of us took in the sights of Clifden, a town which focuses more on outdoor pursuits than water sports. The lads arrived back before one with our "new" trailer, not as impressive as our yellow baby, but it was a trailer! Rearing to go, we headed for the coast to a little bay called Dúnlochan. There were some very impressive waves here but was too dangerous to paddle, with an undertow and a rip current going back out. We moved on to Dúnógan where it was four foot, clean and barrelling- sweet! Aidan and Ciarán braved the water in the topo duo, pulling off some acrobatic moves, while Siobhán, Val and myself went dune surfing! Burn!! We left Dúnógan around five and headed for Woodquay hostel in Galway city.

The traditional fry breakfast was greatly welcomed the next morning before striking for Lahinch, where the waves were also four foot and clean. Brian, Ciarán and Jimmy went to check out a river near Kilcolgan. Our unfortunate luck continued with the trailer when the jockey wheel fell off. Unperturbed, we continued on where we were met some boardies (surfers) heading in the



opposite direction. Slightly discouraged, we reached Lahinch, where we greeted with fog and an incoming tide. Undiscouraged, we hit the water as the fog lifted, leaving clear, blue, sunny skies and no wind. Fast shoulders meant big moves giving everyone a piece of the action. Along with silhouettes of smooth swells, a great day of kayaking was had by all. We arrived back to UL for half past six, exhausted, but happy!

Thanks a million to all those who attended the table quiz Monday night, where we got a brilliant response on the night. A special thank you to the Scholars and our sponsors for their generosity. Pool sessions continue on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights from 21:50 -23:00.



Ryan Adams Gold

(2001 Lost Highway)

Some are describing Ryan Adams as alternative-country. Oh how wrong! Ryan Adams Gold may have elements of country-style tunes but his heart is with rock. (That's my story anyway!) But I do understand where they're coming from – the hint of Neil Young and Bob Dylan guitar/mouth organ vibes, the sheer apparent love for his own music that Adams seems to achieve. But it's still rock for the sake of argument.

Tom Dunne, former acclaimed musician himself, introduced me to Ryan Adams. And like everyone else, I was under the impression that he was referring to the American pop-weasel of similar name. Ryan Adams was once the frontman of (here we go again...) alt-country heroes Whiskeytown. The twenty-seven year old points out that his second solo album is "what the buildings and streets look like in L.A. when the sun goes down." Oh right?! With another album already in the making, Adams has managed to build a following for himself here in Ireland. His debut solo album Heartbreaker was released in 2000 to critical acclaim. And so the tradition continues.

The video for the second single from the album, entitled "Answering Bell" features the well-known faces of Elton John, Adam Duritz and Leona Naess. The video revolves around the Wizard of Oz theme where John is a Good Witch, who waves his magic wand at the conclusion. Riveting stuff! "Answering Bell" is just one of the

seventeen tracks that grace us. The opener "New York, New York" is perhaps the best known and an excellent option to start an excellent album – "Farewell to the city and the love of my life, at least we left before we had to go." Hot Press' Nadine O'Regan put it best when she said, "songs seem to occur to him as naturally as the need to eat or breathe." Adams' aching lyrics are paramount to the overall effect of the album. "Somehow, Someday" is a song of regret – "I wish that you and I had those kids, maybe bought us that home, I wish that we were still in



your room, in your bed and you were holding me, 'cause there ain't no way I'll ever stop from loving you now." Other blinders include "La Cienega Just Smiled", "The Rescue Blues", "Sylvia Plath" (co-written with Richard Causon) and "Wild Flowers." His tunes are heart-wrenchingly effective. The magic of Ryan Adams sparkles throughout the album and an atmosphere of ultimate elation permeates each song. Adams is surely a spectacular songster. His evident talent is modestly traced in the path of Gold. A must-buy for lovers of original music.

For more info
check out
www.ryan-adams.com

-Máiréad
Moriarty

Josh Ritter Golden Age of Radio

(2002 Rural Songs)

Golden Age of Radio comes from the talented mind of twenty-four year-old Idaho-born Josh Ritter. To say that this album is anything short of pure songwriting genius would be a crime against all that is good. The album is critically acclaimed and Ritter has been spending much time touring as a result. He is also quite popular here in Ireland, between selling out clubs and small venues and promoting the album throughout March. With rave reviews from both the US and Irish press along with his 2001 Boston Music Award nomination it's no small wonder why the songwriting fellow is causing such a stir.

He has been compared to "a young Johnny Cash or Will Oldham" (Hot Press). The UK magazine Making Music describes Ritter as having the "looks of Jeff Buckley with the storytelling skills of Bruce Springsteen." On listening to the CD for endless hours I have come to the conclusion that Josh Ritter is not to be sniffed at. Although quite young he manages to exude a certain maturity and credibility that grips the listener. The opening track on Golden Age of Radio is perhaps my favourite. "Come and Find Me" reveals the already apparent incredible songwriting capabilities, with striking lyrics, "I keep you in a flower vase with your fatalism and your crooked face . . ." and simple plucking of the strings. It's so simple but incredibly remarkable.

The entire album creates an atmosphere of complete

intimacy and one feels that Josh is the guitar-plucking youngster next door who never did an honest day's work in his life and instead spent every day perfecting his talent. We all know him and love him



all the more for the hard work. He really seems to have maturity and charm beyond his years. His lyrics are Bob Dylanesque and his voice varies from Will Oldham, Bruce Springsteen, Johnny Cash, Tom Waits, Jeff Buckley to even the ever-distinctive Beck. One will not be bored listening to this album

– the variety in songwriting and musical styles is astounding. One minute it's forlorn folk, the next it's sunny-afternoon-guitar-plucking, the next it's powerful and inspiring, the next it's retro with a hint of rock. Who could argue with such talented genius of songs like the title track that oozes enthusiasm and sheer talent for entertaining his audience? "Song for the Fireflies" is absolutely amazing. Lyrics such as "we both know that it's been so long, I'm not sure what to say so I hope, fireflies remember to do exactly what it was they used to do." Pure talent! Other outstanding tracks, "Me & Jiggs" (Lying on your back as the sun goes down, you know it's perfect 'cause you've got to leave"); "Other Side" ("I'm still waiting for the whiskey to whisk me away...") and "Lawrence, KS" (My debts are not like prison where there's hope of getting free, and I can't leave this world behind"), are typical of the outstanding gift that is Josh Ritter. But why am I trying to convince you that Josh Ritter's contribution to the ever-growing generation of music lovers everywhere is worth every effort? Get out there and put your hand in your pocket and find out for yourself. Believe me, you'll thank me later. You can send the cheques to...

For more info check out www.joshritter.com

-Máiréad Moriarty

Anti-tolerance and Racism

On Thursday of week nine UL Labour Youth invited representatives of minority groups in limerick to speak about the issues that relate to them on a daily basis. It was also the day that the Government passed legislation that would criminalize unauthorised traveller communities. Individuals would be liable to a 3,000 Euro fine and/or 1 month imprisonment, despite its obvious lack of understanding of the problems faced by travellers, this Bill also contradicts legal obligations to provide for them.

Those who spoke on the night were Liam Hanrahan, Project Manager of the Limerick Travellers group; Lu Edahauzy an asylum seeker from Nigeria; and Dieu Donn Ymedji, an asylum seeker from Cameroon.

Liam highlighted the areas that his work involved, which included accommodation, health, education and women's issues, however the main focus of the work is to equip travellers with the skills to speak, represent and work for themselves, thus "making up their own mind." Therefore there are many training schemes running that train travellers in key areas, like that of health. This is a major issue considering that the life expectancy of a traveller is 12-15 years less than the settled community, and that there are only two GPs in Limerick available to travellers.

In regard to education a change has occurred whereby classes used to be segregated. Instead there are now traveller specific resources, but because these children are constantly behind in terms of academic progress, they are then excluded from all but the core subjects.

Choices we have are simply not available to travellers; this in part is due to scare mongering succeeding in maintaining social barriers between "them" and "us". We all recognise the many families living on the roadside without sufficient services, such as rubbish collec-

tion. Yes they leave rubbish, but no one will agree to take it away, skips are only given with permits that also will not be issued to travellers. It's a no win situation. All these sites are over crowded and although 3,000 new units were to be provided for by 1998 only 500 have been built, they are subsequently poorly maintained.

70% of people say they have never spoken to a traveller, yet we all make judgements about them, most commonly in a negative manner. This amounts to no less than racism; as such the limerick group have made links with the Romany communities in Europe and with asylum and refugee groups. At a UN conference in South Africa in 2001, travellers were for the first time identified as a minority group. In relation to European integration, States hoping to become members of the E.U. must apply high standards and pass tests relating to human rights of minority groups. Liam doubts very much whether Ireland would pass the tests it helped to formulate. Lu and Dieu, pointed to issues faced by their minority status, which had surprising commonality to that of the travellers: "we" don't know who "they" is the point they make about our society and in turn the need to break down social prejudice. Both these people when they left their respective countries were in third level education, yet when they arrived in this country they became charge of the government until their application has been processed. In some cases this is up to three years, but the by that time only 8% are successful in attaining refugee status, this is the lowest figures in Europe.

Daily life is difficult: on a an income of 19 Euros a week, buying cloths and visiting friends near impossible; working is not permitable nor is formal education; food is provided by hostels which do not consist of their own cultural food. Language barriers and a lack of information and preparation for our community as a whole further stifle integra-

tion into society.

These people have fled countries where "if you are in charge of the gun you can do what you like" they go through painstaking efforts to arrive in Ireland then to be treated here as if in a "glorified prison." Isolation in this way manifests through society, impinging negative attitudes towards foreign people, a reflection of this is that racist attacks are on the increase. These educated, skilled people want to work in order to put back into society, they would rather earn their money rather than receive it controllingly from the Government and have the opportunity to mix freely with the community they have been assigned to.

A change in attitudes like that of Noel O'Flynn TD who referred to asylum seekers as "spongers and freeloaders" are regressive, and again fuels racism in Ireland toward the most vulnerable and is therefore unacceptable. Instead a positive and inclusive approach is what is required at policy level addressing the unsatisfactory current situation. The Labour Party believes a three-point programme can achieve this: 1, A new immigration policy that would offer realistic opportunity to people to come to Ireland and work and demonstrate the generosity and openness of our society. 2, Action to deal with the asylum and refugee system to include a system to deal with the backlog of asylum application, with clear time frames for new applicants. 3, A meaningful integration policy to address cultural, education, housing rights and a campaign to combat racism and discrimination.

In Limerick both the travelling and asylum community experience discrimination, this can mean being turned away from shops, restaurants, clubs and pubs. So after the talk, we were delighted to invite our guests for a drink and have a bit of craic!!

Katherine Harford, UL Labour Youth

History made as Political Parties get funding

The latest Student Union UGM signified a major success for political parties on campus in a drive initiated by YFG and LY to allow funding of political and religious parties on campus, giving them equal status with all other clubs and societies. An amendment to the Student Union Constitution was required in order to facilitate the change, and as such a vote of over a 2/3 majority of a curium of over 200 people was needed on the night.

It was passed! Many previous attempts had been made to get the amendment but had unfortunately failed at the last hurdle. A comprehensive campaign prior to the UGM was undertaken by the two parties, which included lobbying for support from the clubs and societies council; the politics department; and the union. Many lectures and tutorial groups were encouraged also to come along on the night. Each case involved outlining the key issues as to why funding should be given, laying to rest some previous assumptions and fears:

- Student branches of the parties to not receive funding from their "mother" parties.

In fact members (who pay capitation and have the right to avail of areas of interest to them, like any other club or society) previously paid out of the own pockets to facilitate campaigns on campus, locally and

nationally. These have so far included voter registration; anti war; improvement of grant payments; landlord registration; issues relating to globalisation and anti racism for example.

-This will not mean that we the societies will be giving money to the "mother" parties or that extreme parties will be able to mobilise on campus.

The amendment insures that political and religious societies have to come under the same budget scrutiny as all the others, whereby past performance of member participation, events, committee development and expenditure, to name a few areas, are all taken into consideration.

Student apathy is forever increasing, the political societies can be used as a channel to lobby on issues that students genuinely care about, and the societies also encourage the participation of those who want to do something about it.

So for these reasons and the positive effect of these societies on campus appears to be the reason this amendment was so overwhelming passed, this brings the situation inline with all other colleges in the country. Thank you to all those who turned out and supported the cause!

Katherine Harford, Labour Youth

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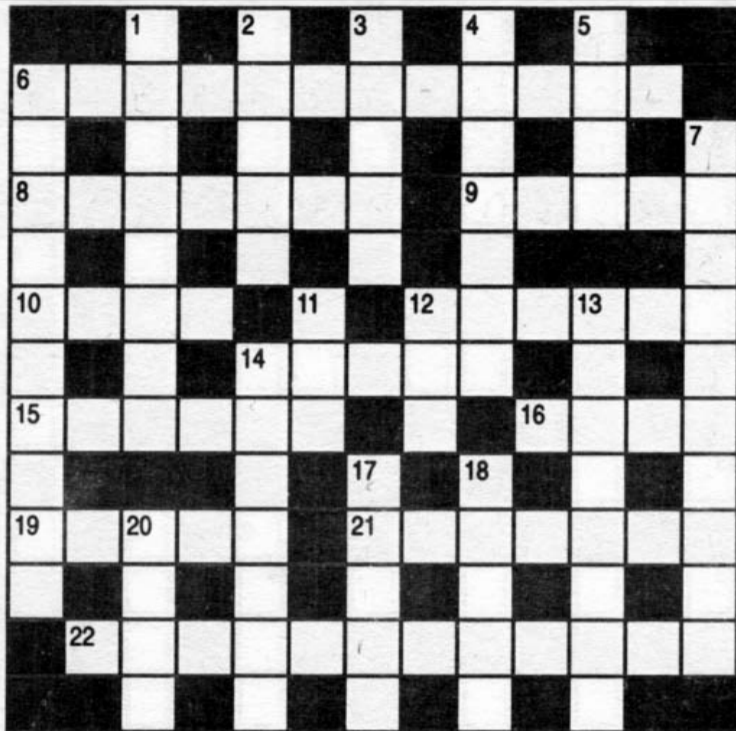
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LIMERICK'S LIVE 95FM

Weekly Crossword



ACROSS

6. In ABC order (12)
8. Springing into the air (7)
9. Main artery (5)
10. Proceeds (4)
12. What the "D" stands for in "A.D." (6)
14. Amplified light generator (5)
15. Value highly (6)
16. Noel (abbr.) (4)
19. Subject (5)
21. Worker with water supply systems (7)
22. Unmarried French lady (12)

DOWN

1. Obvious (8)
2. Madly excited (5)
3. Hold royal office (5)
4. Spears bull from horseback (7)
5. Set of two (4)
6. Somewhat brisk (mus.) (10)
7. Cake shop (10)
11. Amateur radio operator (3)
12. Young "Sloane Ranger" (3)
13. Motionless (8)
14. Moved with bar (7)
17. Ghost (5)
18. Pop (5)
20. Test (4)

Last Weeks Solution

ACROSS:- 1. Malefactor. 8. Taxicab. 9. Tithe. 10. Gamy. 11. Bent. 12. Per. 14. Fallow. 15. Pogrom. 18. Ilk. 20. Neat. 21. Scan. 23. Heave. 24. Scuttle. 25. Salmonella.

DOWN:- 1. Maximal. 2. Loch. 3. Fibbed. 4. Citation. 5. On top. 6. Stage-fright. 7. Gerrymander. 13. Moonbeam. 16. Ricotta. 17. Raisin. 19. Koala. 22. Cull.

Submit correct entries to the Editor (him being Patrick) before 5pm Friday Week 10 and you could win the CD of the week courtesy of Limericks Live 95FM

ULSU Graphics Department

Remember the Students Union are still the cheapest in the university for photocopying and also provide a wide range of other services including binding, typing, faxing, ticket layout and printing. Call today to Aisling, Patricia or Mary at the reception desk in the Students Union.

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



U L S U
Ollscoil Luimnigh

Charity Quiz proves a great Success

A few months ago a couple of characters thought it would be a great idea to run the 2002 London Marathon and take part in the fabled "Hell of the West" triathlon in Kilkee.

As well as all of the training we also decided to raise a few quid for charity along the way.

So on a cold monday night in Week 2 over 100 people turned up in the Scholars function room to support a charity table quiz, the entire proceeds of which would go directly to the Red Cross/Crescent International.

The night was a great success raising 400 euros for the Red Cross Afghanistan Appeal.

Twenty two years of war and frequent natural disasters (like the recent earthquake) have left Afghanistans twenty million people in grave need of assistance. Last year it suffered a severe drought which reduced already vulnerable people to a situation of extreme poverty and malnutrition. The current crisis has caused many people to flee their homes and seek shelter in refugee camps or struggle against the bitter winter with closed down supply routes.

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Table Quiz and to the Scholars Club for the room.

Derek, Kevin, Paddy and Eamonn
ECE Dept, UL

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

Dear Barry (and Dave),
I am confiding in you to help me with a serious problem I've been having recently. It is beginning to affect my course of study. The problem is that everyday I'm finding myself more attracted to a lecturer of mine. This is very serious as I find it very difficult to concentrate with the big one in my trousers giving me hassle. I can't think straight at all. I just sit there and fantasize about both of us together. I'm considering approaching the lecturer but am unsure how he will react. I consider myself to be a nice young man, but I doubt he will have the same feelings for me. What should I do? Is there any advice you can give me? Do you think spiking his drink with date rape drugs is a good way of getting his attention?
Yours later on behind the SU (if you're up for it),

Distraught UL Student.

Dave: I think a blow to the head would have a better chance of getting his attention, due to the memory loss side effect of the drug, plus it's far cheaper.

Barry: Firstly, to get him to notice you, sit up front in his lectures and stare at him while licking your lips, stroking your crotch and moaning loudly. Now you have his attention, start throwing balls of paper at him with your name and phone number on them while whispering "call me" at him in a loud voice. Instant romance awaits.

Dear current advice guru,

I have come to you with my problem because I know I can rely on your non-judgmental and objective advice. My dilemma is a common one but I just can't decide. When I was a wee first year virgin, smartass and all-round asshole. I met a beautiful girl and straight away we hit it off. We shared the same sense of humour and we were never short of things to talk about. She also had a cracking pair of tits, which made her a hit with my drinking buddies even though they were strictly against that "gay girlfriend crap". I don't understand why I'd be gay for having a girlfriend. I think they are insecure about their sexuality.

I'd play it cool and treat her badly but that just made her more interested. I was mad about her so I kept treating her like my bitch and manipulating the crap out of her. I turned her against her friends whom

I suspected disliked me. All was going great, I had gained complete control through emotional bullying. Ah my first love.

Then things started to wrong she started getting too serious she wanted me to meet her parents and she turned up on my doorstep to meet mine. What the fuck was happening? After sex she'd tell me she loved me. I'd pretend I was asleep. She started demanding public displays of affection for fuck sake, I'm one of the lads I'm not going to be all lovey dovey in public with my girlfriend. The summer came, we went home. I'd see her every couple of weeks and I was getting tempted by local pussy. The next time we met up I got hammered and broke up with her. I had no excuse, wasn't even sure I wanted to. I told her I was too young to get serious. She just cried.

I've tried it with others since but there's always something wrong: talks to much, has nothing to say, looks terrible without makeup, fat hole when she's on the pill etc. Anyway my problem now is 2 years later I realise she was the love of my life. I don't know how she feels as we haven't spoken since we broke up. Her friend tells she still likes me. If I get back with her if will prove that I'm serious which means the emotional blackmail I used to make her love me won't work anymore. I'm kind of religious, she's not. A lot of my friends have rode her since so it'll look really bad. I think she's an alcoholic. I kind of like these little imperfections and I'm no saint myself.
Any suggestions?

Jim



Daves Favourite Band

Dave: I hate people like you, ruddy conformists, always giving in to the whining voice of the masses. You don't try to embrace the bohemian revolution that's sweeping the world, you need a serious kicking in the spleen.

Barry: Your friends are right, if you had stayed drinking with

them you would have avoided all that gay girlfriend crap and you never would have found the "love of your life". Bet you feel stupid now!

Dear advice-monkey,

I was pleasantly surprised to see that last week's problem page featured collaboration between yourself and some other guy. I was, however disappointed when I found that your new partner is a foul-mouthed cunt. His blatant vulgarism is not worthy of your all-knowing advice-monkey powers. Anyone with a real problem (and you seem to know a few people like this) would be too intimidated to seek the benefits of your wisdom. I recommend that he be sellotaped to the roof of the Hurlers during a trad session as a lesson to all,

yours,
Los Thous Emate

Dave: Sticks and stones may ricochet off my skin, but Irish music makes my skull implode.

Barry: I couldn't agree with you more, but under new a new government act I must have a side-kick doing my page with me at all times. And from experience through trial and error with Dave, stapling him to the roof works better than sellotaping.

Dear Barry and company,

I feel your pain, I also have a cactus with a giant erection. I also used to have girl friend but I found her one morning impaled on a cactus. I don't know what to do; should I hide the body some how, should I start preparing an alibi for me and my cactus, should I burn the evidence or return the desert plant to the window sill were I found it, will I be held responsible for the actions of my cactus? Please, I need help and chocolate.

Thomnus Can

Dave: Fire will work on the corpse. Cacti however contain a lot of water, I suggest some kind of super fire.

Barry: Your cactus is the most important thing right now. Prepare an alibi for the two of you and frame your housemates for the murder. They never liked you anyway.

An Focal

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by.....

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Enviro Society Objections heard in Court

Top UL building and development official Mr Brian Hand has revealed that he does not believe that agreement can be made over the contentious UL bridge outside official proceedings. In an interview with An Focal, Mr Hand outlined his belief that the environmental society has a "democratic right to make their objections known" but said he was "very disappointed that the university could not demonstrate to the Environmental Society that they had dealt with the project both sensitively and professionally". Claiming that the objections have already cost the project valuable time and over €160,000. Mr Hand believes that the objections made will not be upheld by An Bórd Pleanála "a substantial case supported by scientific evidence". Mr Hand claims that it will be recognised that "the bridge as proposed will not do irreparable damage to the environment".

However this is not a stance supported by the opposition. Although concerned parties including the Shannon Fishery Board and Mulcahir Anglers Association have come to agreement with the university and withdrawn their objections the determined environmental society have held their ground.

Inviting experts and local residents to speak at the oral hearing with An Bórd Pleanála, the society are also confident that they are making a real case while expos-

ing certain facts that may not have been public knowledge previously. With concern over the proposed site of development being a PSAC (proposed Special Area of Conservation) the society do not feel that such a large-scale project is acceptable for the site. However Mr



Hand claims that the responsible authority, Dúchas, have already accepted that the bridge would not cause "irreparable damage".

During the hearing it, unexpectedly emerged that the site where Drumroe is built on is in fact an SAC, however when questioned about the implications of this fact Mr Hand explained that development within a SAC can be made as long as certain provisions are made by developers.

Speaking on a more personal note at the hearing local resident Mr Dan O'Neill, said the bridge and new student residence would destroy the wildlife, which included otters, waterfowl, foxes and owls. "Animals will move, I will move. Nobody will be able to live there with the noise and pollution. That big concrete slab of a thing will not fit in there no matter what you do with it" However Mr Hand feels that the development is a truly positive one which will lead to an integrated campus that would be well thought out in every respect "we have to be careful because what we build now will be there forever"

A decision will be made in early May.

-Claire Shaughnessy

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TUES DJ Eric Fitz
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Thurs Water Polo Strip Night
FRI DJ Keith Piggott
Complimentary Finger Food
SUN Brunch 12pm-4pm

WEEK 10

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Murphys Comedy Club
WED Heineken Kollege Energy Live
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DJ John Kelly
THUR Tae Kwon Do Table Quiz
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