

an Focal

University of Limerick Students' Union

The crazy world that is known as RAG has come to UL, enter a place where normality is weirdness and weirdness is normal......

RAG WEEK KICKS OFF!!

By Duncan O'Toole

We were promised a bigger brighter and better BUD-WEISER RAG WEEK this year and if Monday Night is anything to go by, RAG WEEK seems well set to fulfil that Any one of the promise

3.000 people who were in the Rog Site on Monday will testiby to that. The crowd control worked extremely well and with a line up of good entertainment in every area of the site the crowd was well dispersed, although mild wrather made things alst easier with the fioridial area facilitating hundreds of people The munic society provided

five reasons in the scardinal areas which cutered for the tastes of those not into the dance. minute being played in the Pavillers. The student centre. had the Gutter Brother D.I's. who despite having Liquid Wheel playing live next these still attracted a bag crowd . Liquid Wheet thereselves put on as exclent performance. and went down well with the

erowd who were already searched up with 0.3. Conor Crossies providing the munic until 11.30 when Liquid Wheel made their entrance. The atmosphere was electric.

with thekets selling out for nerros sweets within a day of going on sale and a Rog fitte higger than ever hefore this BUDWEISER RAG YEARS WEEK in the best yet. The iter up for the week in brillarit. this years Rag week has atome of the tried and trusted ingredients of previos years plus some new spicier ingredients. Mud Wreathing?? for tackey day is a case in point, as is Piccipa and Prostituites inglif out and Polocrosse. Perhaps the newsat development and the most exciting is what in now christened " THE CHY TRIP" yes you got it! everyane in town for the day with a line up of entertainment happening around the city. One of the highlights of CITY TRIP for students will be the burgee jumps taking place at the back of Feathery Burkes, should be a laugh watching pale faces come nearer and nearer to you from a height of 150 feet! Other highlights include a new and improved pub race called Pub Golf, all this mused in with 2FM and People in Need doing all kinds of things will definitely result in a cool day out. 2FM will have the road caster down for the day and will have a host of celebrities doing strange things for charity. See inside this paper for more information on the city trip. WIRED 103 will keep punters up dated with what is happening during the week. In the meantime if you read this during the week enjoy the week if you're reading this after the week well done you can still read you survived!



Arts

Week 9

Semester 2 '96

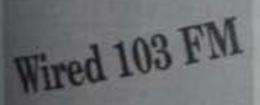
Student Centre

Science week

Monday Night's Crowd Enjoying "Liquid Wheel" in Concert at UL Rag Week '96

TEN WEEKS WORK MEANS £80,000!! What do the letters T.P. mean to you?

Probably nothing unless you are of the 350 or so students of the College of Education. For 4th tears it represents 10 weeks of worry, sweat, blood and sometimes tears. T.P. stands for teaching practice For those of you who don't know what T.P. is let me explain. Education students do not go out on coop. In 1st year 1 week's hohdays is spent teaching in a primary school. in 2nd year 6 weeks teaching 1st-3rd years



Classified

Elections

Huge Yes vote for New Student Centre

By Brian Synnott

UL students have voted overwheimingly to endorse the building and part funding of a new student centre. The final result showed 1766 Yes and 213 No or 89% Yes. The level of interest was illustrated by the high turnout, which was close enough to that of a subbati-

cal election. It is a clear answer to the accusation. that UL students are apathetic and think only of the short term.

UL students plan for the

future Since the explosion in the UL student population 4 years ago the constant refrain has been that facilities are over-used and that students are bottom of the list for recreational facilities. The huge yes vote can be interpreted as students finally taking the initiative What makes the result so significant is that students were volting yes for future ULSU members. The willing ness to ensure that future cohorts will not endure inadequate facilities is highly laudable, illustrating a step towards the re-establishment of a collective identity. In the 80's and 90's student identity has been severly damaged by the pressure of performing and the cutthroat job market. Rather than the idealism that went before this, students are recognising the need to take



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1,766 -YES 213 -NO STUDENT CENTRE TO GO AHEAD

FROM PAGE 1

concrete steps to acheive results.

Information Campaign For the week preceding the poll, the SU conducted a cam-paign to make students aware of the issue and ensure that the electorate realised that the project was not a pipedream. The biggest problem was generating momen-tum behind the effort. Two General meetings were called, headline articles were placed in An Focal, house calls were made

Same

METHIC ROOMS

INDIO STATION

FIRST FLOOR

REA = 2100m mg

SOCIETY ROOMS

and a leaflet was produced. The real surge did not come until the two days of polling where the cru-cial factor was the amount of peo-ple who helped canvass, urging people to exercise their right to real the Thursder it is the people to exercise their right to vote. On the Thursday it was this physical presence which ensured the victory for the Urion. The sight of the UCC SU President walking around in a vote Yes T-shirt helped to persuade some and intimidate others.

ROOM

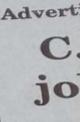
Planning stage The next step is to establish a small committee of University and

SDuits

TOLETS

ULSU personnel to look at site locations, funding and to set up a timetable for the design plan of the project. It should be noted that most of the summer will be that most of the summer will be spent on start up procedures and that students will be given ample opportunity to give suggestions for the design from September on. The University, and the Finance Officer in particular have been very enthusiastic about the pro-ject. The formal ratification is still to be given by the Governing Body, but the initial outline received a favourable response. received a favourable response.

COMMON / PARTY ROOM

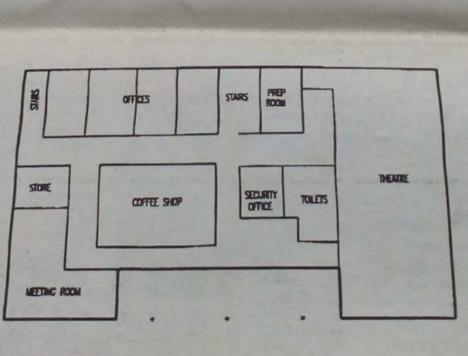


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GROUND FLOOR AREA = 1,905m sq.

A draft plan of the New Student Centre

A draft plan of the New Student Centre

Brians Comment

I had a good night last Thursday, the 28th I think it was. Got totally wasted on Carling and Bushmills, with the odd splash of rum thrown in. Why was that I hear you ask. Well, as you know the referendum to part-fund a student centre was passed. In three years time UL students will have a £4m building dedicated to their needs. I know that some people are still uncomfortable about the fact that they're paying for it unseen but the only real answer to that is why didn't we do this five years ago. When you graduate from university a strange afliction befalls your vison. A rose-tinted mist descends and you'll find yourself making nostalgic pilgrimages back to Castletroy. Where better to hold that class reunion than in the new Student Centre that you were responsible for?

Rag Week '96

The only angle that is left to cover on Rag Week is that you should pace yourself. That advice has bugger all to do with alcohol - on that front do what you will - instead it relates to the many amazing events that you are in danger of missing out on. Even if you do secure that hallowed corner in the Stables, within easy reach of the bar, make sure you stagger occasionally to the pavillion and beyond. Events only work with a crowd, so meander down to the riverbank for the raft race or up to the mud-patch for the first ever on campus horse event. Other than that let me just thank Keith Pigott and Ruth Scott for the trojan work they've done - all will become apparent as you witness a great week unfold.

Elections Week 11

After Rag Week and Drugs Awareness week brace yourself for the sabbatical elections. To all candidates best of luck, you know what to do, to all helpers beware and to all voters USE IT!

SABBATICAL OFFICERS ELECTIONS

THURSDAY 25TH OF APRIL 1996.

For the positions of: President Deputy President (Welfare) Communications & Education

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Nominations Week 10 Monday 15th of April 9.30 am. Close 5.00 pm Sharp Friday 19th of April. All completed nominations to be handed to Gerry Barry returning officer with £20.00 deposit.

Hustings : Wednesday the 24th of April Jean Monnet 2.30 pm.

Elections Thursday 25th of April Polling stations open 10.15 am, Close 7.00 pm. Nomination forms, job descriptions, procedures & regulations, available in the Students' Union Reception office.

Issued by Gerry Barry Returning Officer FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Wannabe a DP? by Lorna Kerin Deputy-President & Welfare Officer

A lot of people seem to think its a fun or part-time or year out or voluntary type of position. It isn't. It's paid and a 'real' Graphics, the Shop etc.) you'll learn a smattering of business skills, gain a understanding of mana ment, accounts, person and you'll witness cont

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Wannabe a DP? Deputy-President & Welfare Officer

A lot of people seem to think its a fun or part-time or year out or voluntary type of position. It isn't. full-time, paid and a 'real' Job. Here's what it involves

As a Welfare Officer, you'll deal with people's personal problems. You could be dealing with bereaved parents of students, abortion arrangements, harrassment incidents, evicted tenants, irate residents, grant authorites, single parents, injured students, students in financial hardship, lonely students, students with disabilites, gay/lesbian/bisexual students,the list goes on and will depend on who needs you and when.

On a policy level as a Deputy President & Welfare Officer, you will be involved in lobbying for students rights and improved Welfare services on & off campus -The issues can range from childcare, to equality issues, community relations, campus safety, drug awarenss, legal rights, insurance, medical facilites, abuse awareness and whatever other welfare issues you feel central to students' well-being.

As a director of ULSU Ltd (the company that oversees the SU businesses like Ents,

MATION ONLY

Graphics, the Shop etc.), you'll learn a smattering of business skills, business skills, gain an understanding of management, accounts, personnel and you'll witness concepts like negotiation, communication, accountability, transparency etc. being put into action.

You'll experience 'Committee Culture' which is a fascinating experience of double-speak, political wranglings, assorted agendas and endless memos. You'll have the privilage of to learning from other committee members who are usually two or three generations older than you, and at the peak of their careers. committees of this year were: The Campus Watch, Governing Body, Financial Aid, Creche, Equal Rights, SU Executive, Chairs, Stables Club. Assessment, Discipline, Community Education, 'I' Grade, Faculty Board, Vision 2020, Rag Week and ULSU Ltd.

In terms of serious CV stuff, the job will enable you to develop confidence and experience in areas such as public speaking, journalistic writing, political representation campaigning, & research presentation, debate, public relations, goal

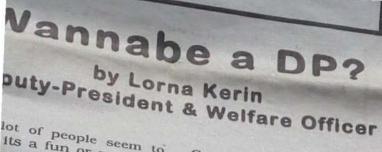
easier by pretending) The interview process who may ask whateve your C.V. which must A selection of the panel your reliability under p rhetoric and sweating In ever decreasing c After the selection p

successful candidate

*After twelve month going on but nobody

setting, event orga sponsorship deals terms of persona the variety of peop be dealing with, an dom of the welfare give you opport revise your ideas meaning life, deat dents!!

Personally, I t ning for election in year or as a pos sensible thing to a you're older, grad don't have to w stepping on the ple's toes. Add fact that, statisti couple of sabb returned to their actually gradua up to you. I'm for election, ar an interesting liberating year educational e reccomend it! that wants to in finer deta than welcom me in the V the Student



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who may ask whatever the hell they like. Each membe merview process takes place over 4-5 days. The your C.V. which must consist of a list of acheivements A selection of the panel will assemble, the day before t your reliability under pressure. This meeting, known as thetoric and sweating - two skills that are prerequester During the final day of the transition in the scientificary p After the selection procedure each candidate must g successful candidate - its only started baby!

*After twelve months in this plum role you still won't going on but nobody will be any the wiser.

setting, event organisation, sponsorship deals etc. terms of personal growth, the variety of people you will be dealing with, and the freedom of the welfare brief, will give you opportunities to revise your ideas about the meaning life, death and students!!

Personally, I think running for election in your final year or as a postgrad is a sensible thing to do, because you're older, graduated and don't have to worry about stepping on the wrong people's toes. Add to that the fact that, statistically, only a couple of sabbaticals have returned to their studies and actually graduated. But it's up to you. I'm so glad I ran for election, and if you want an interesting, varied and liberating year's work in an educational establishment, I reccomend it!! Any student that wants to discuss the job in finer detail, you're more than welcome to call down to me in the Welfare Office in the Students' Union.

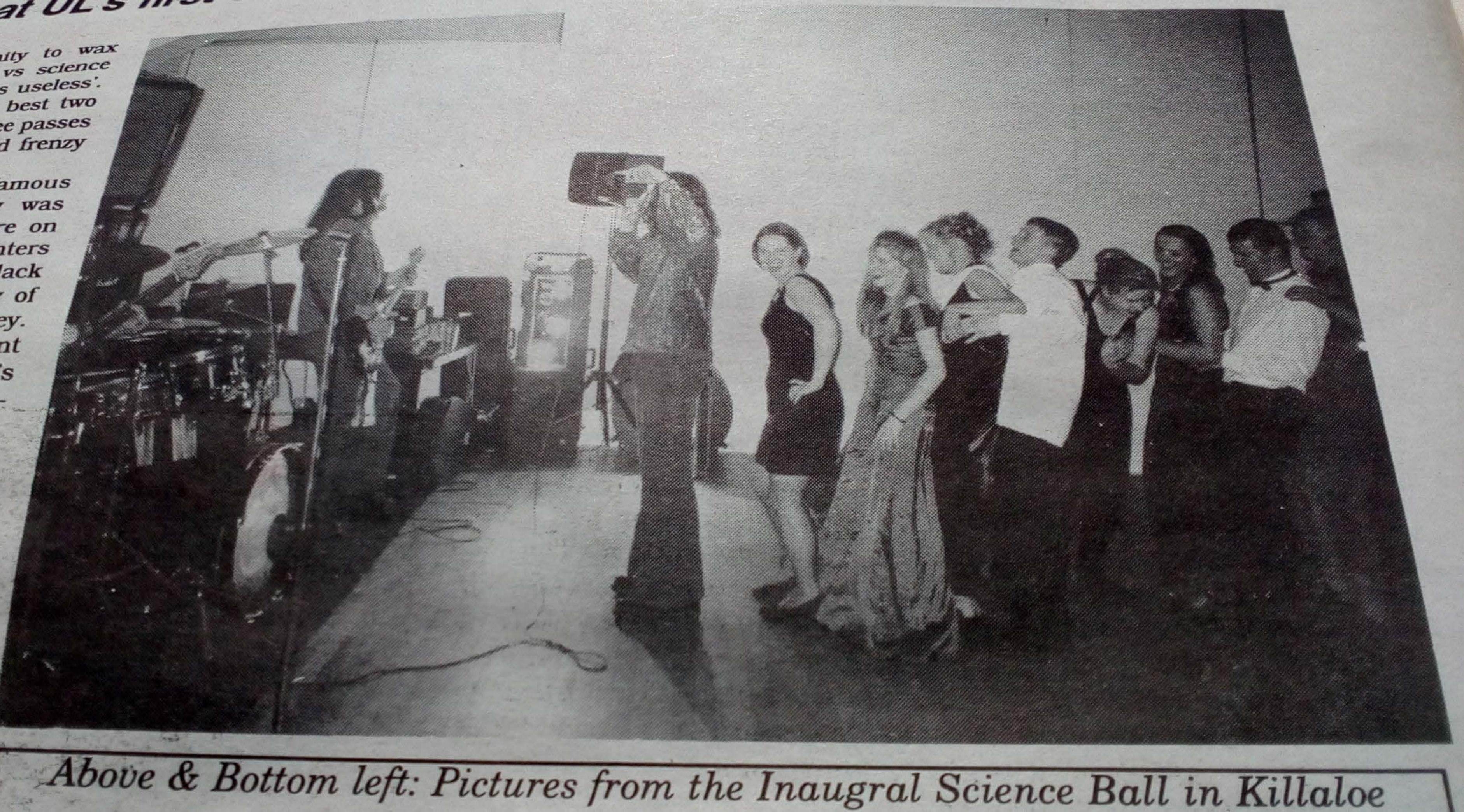


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CITY TRIP '96 UL RAG WEEK COMES TO TOWNIII

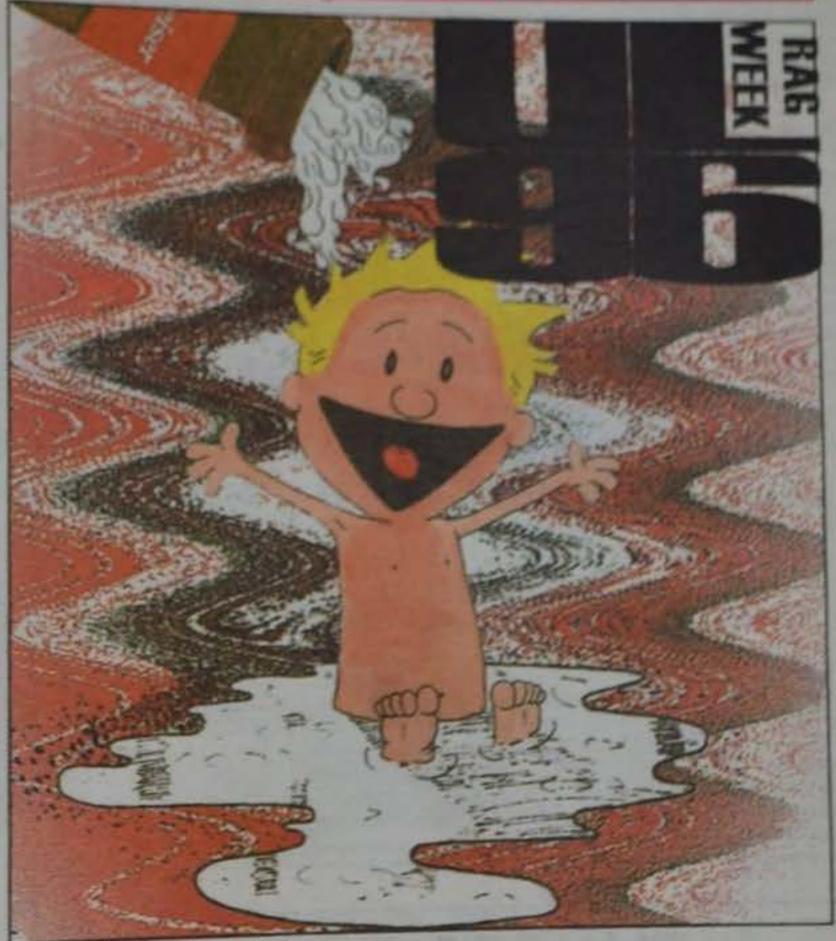
Make sure that you are nowhere else apart from Limerick City Centre on Saturday April 13th - CITY TRIP. Have some fun today and believe you me that they don't come any more thrilling than BUNGEE JUMPING! Den't worry about damage because these jumps are 101% safe. How it works is like this: each person is weighed and then the corresponding lenght of elastic is attached to their ankles with a safety harness attached to their waist. Then comes the fun part - you go up in a crane to a height of 150ft, that 's right, 150 feet!!!. Up you go until you can go no higher and then the real exciting stuff happens - you will find yourself standing on the little edge of a platform of the crane with nothing between you and the ground other than a length of elastic! Ready steady and go...weeeeeee! 150 feet later and some serious bouncing you will find your feet back on solid ground - although they maintain that people are so hyper afterwards that they will wobble a little bit! Sponsorship forms have been available in UL Students Union and some people have already raised colossal sum of money which will go to charity.

Fenton, Dusty Rhodes, Michael Cahill and Barry Lang have kindly allowed us to sell them as part of the celebrity auction! This will take place on Cruises St. during the afternoon so don't forget to bring your pennies and you too could have a 2FM DJ in your front room for an hour or so!

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RA.

Even more celebrities around the place then as the 2FM Roadcaster, the new and improved and even bigger than before Roadcaster will pe taking to the streets of Limerick city centre as Lorcan Murray takes to the airwaves from 2 in the afternoon to 6pm. The Roadcaster will be parked outside HMV on Cruises St. so come along and play some requests for your friends and relatives who may not be lucky enough to be in Limerick on Saturday April 13th!



Don't forget that that's what Rag Week is about - raising money for local charities by having good fun. This year UL have chosen seven charities and one of the charities which is Saturdays' special charity is Limerick's People In Need Thanks to them we have a helicopter for our 2FM celebrities who are flying into the city on Saturday afternoon. Yes, that's right. Tony If you are concerned as to how you would like to go to town we present to you the Great UL BED FUSH will means that a bed will be pushed all the way into town which means that for about seventeen sweaty people doing the pushing one lucky person will be able to lie down for the duration of it all. Come out and give the bed pushers a drink of water to keep them going as they slog it out!

Once you get into town then watch for the Cruises St. -Rio De Limerick here we go! There'll be a mini carnival there with music from UL music Society busking, street performers including jugglers from the Theatre Royal Juggling Workshop, hair wrappers and face painters. Aspiring bands out there feel free to come along and sing your hearts out to an audience of several thousand (for probably the first time in your life!) Don't forget that in the audience you'll be able to see all the 2FM DJ's. It could work wonders for your career!

And speaking of wonderful careers, REMIX, Limericks' answer to you-know-who, will be singing and dancing on Cruises just the day after their launch in Athlone. Come to Cruises St. and see them perform.

Then of course there's the Golf Pub Chailenge. Don't worry if you haven't got a notion how to play golf, or worse still if you hate it, you'll love this version. It involves drinking a glass of beer in nine pubs and then again which makes eighteen -as in eighteen holes of golf and the winner is the team with the lowest score.

And if you still have energy after all of that then you will want to come out to the UL Showcase of bands compliments of the UL Music Soc. To finish the night and inded to finish Rag Week '96 with a BANG we have the Lorcan Murray disco, a tradition in itself when it comes to UL and Rag Week.







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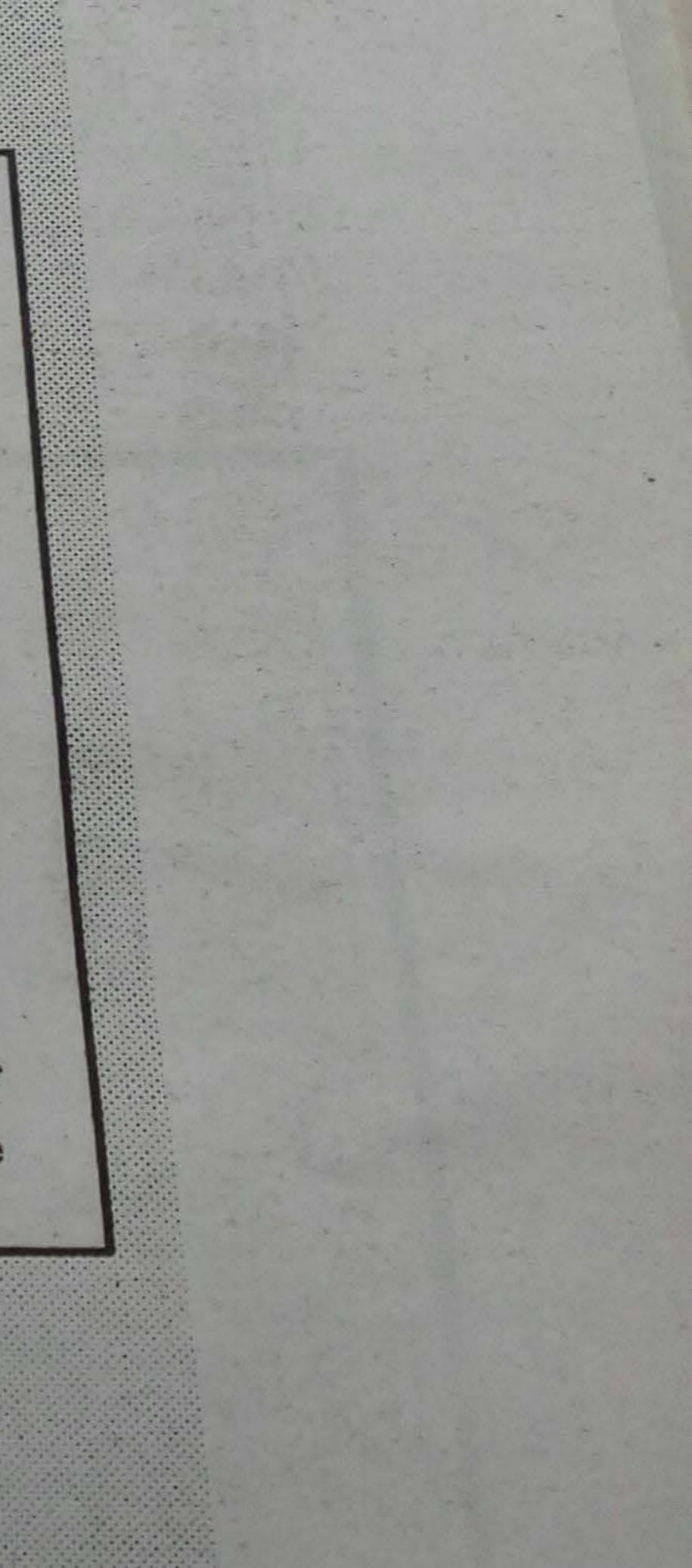
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A CHARITY EXTRAVAGANZA

MILFORD HOSPICE

The Little Company of Mary first established Hospice Services in Milford in 1977 through designating nine beds as a specialist Hospice unit geared towards providing a wide range of Hospice Support Services in the Mid-West region for patients with a terminal illness.

For any patient coming to the Hospice, there is no fixed charge, and payment is on a voluntary basis only. Milford hospice is the major force in the hospice movement and acts as a resource centre for staff in the treatment of cancer. The services provided in the Milford Hospice rely heavily on fund raising and the generous support of people in the region. Any money raised in Rag week '96 will go far to allow the people of Milford Hospice to continue with their developments in providing the Mid-West with one of the best Hospice and resource centres for cancer treatment in the country.



ELECTION FARCE!

Dear Editor,

We were under the illusion that this college is in a democratic scoiety. This is obviously a FARCE, we witnessed today (wed 27th) a biased and unjust election in which the only available result could be a YES vote.

Apart from the idea of students having to cough up £30 a year (subject to inflation) Most of the present students won't have the use of this centre. We couldn't give a toss about future students we are talking about here and now. Immediately results are all that we are concerned about, and knowing the Student Union track record as regards money and finance, this project won't be completed till the year 2000.

This wasn't a balanced election, since when are people allowed POLL for a YES vote on election day. The result of this election is a joke and shouldn't be allowed stand. There was no voice from the NO vote therefore this election is a farce.

Sincerely, Where's wally

ED's Note:

Where were you for the two student General Meetings when the Student Centre was discussed or why didn't you make your feelings known through your Class Rep or by coming down to the SU? while anonymous letters to An Focal are grand they don't serve the purpose too well after the referendum. The Student Centre is planned to be complete in 1999.