

an Foccal



University of Limerick
Students' Union
Newspaper

The Ghost of Christmas Past

inside:

Fitness
Clubs and Societies
+ 16 pages of Fun Fun Fun!

Every Fortnight - FREE

Michaelmas 1991 Monday 2nd December

On Focal



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NEWS

Strike

Last Thursday saw the campus reduced to a ghost town as the first all out picket of an Irish University took place by M.S.F.

From early in the morning pickets were placed at the entrance to both front and back gates by the strikers, in an effort to get University Management to implement in full, an agreement signed in July 1990.

The agreement arose out of a detailed survey commissioned by the L.P.C. by the University and M.S.F. from a Labour Court recommendation in 1983.

The agreement covered the re grading of various positions in the clerical, administrative and secretarial sector of the University's staff.

The University management regretted that "during conciliation the Union would precipitate action" and stated that it was sympathetic to the case of it's employees.

The Governing Body during it's meeting on the morning of the strike expressed it's sympathy with the plight of it's staff.

With the scheduled Bus Eireann busses refusing to pass the pickets, rumours were abound that Plassey Park might seek a court injunction to remove the strikers.

However picketers were scornful of the manner in which management had allowed the situation develop into industrial action and some even claimed that the genuine goodwill of management wasn't forthcoming in any of their labour relations to date.

The Students Union staff in support of their colleagues, refused to pass the pickets and the Union's operations were closed for the day.



Antics in the College

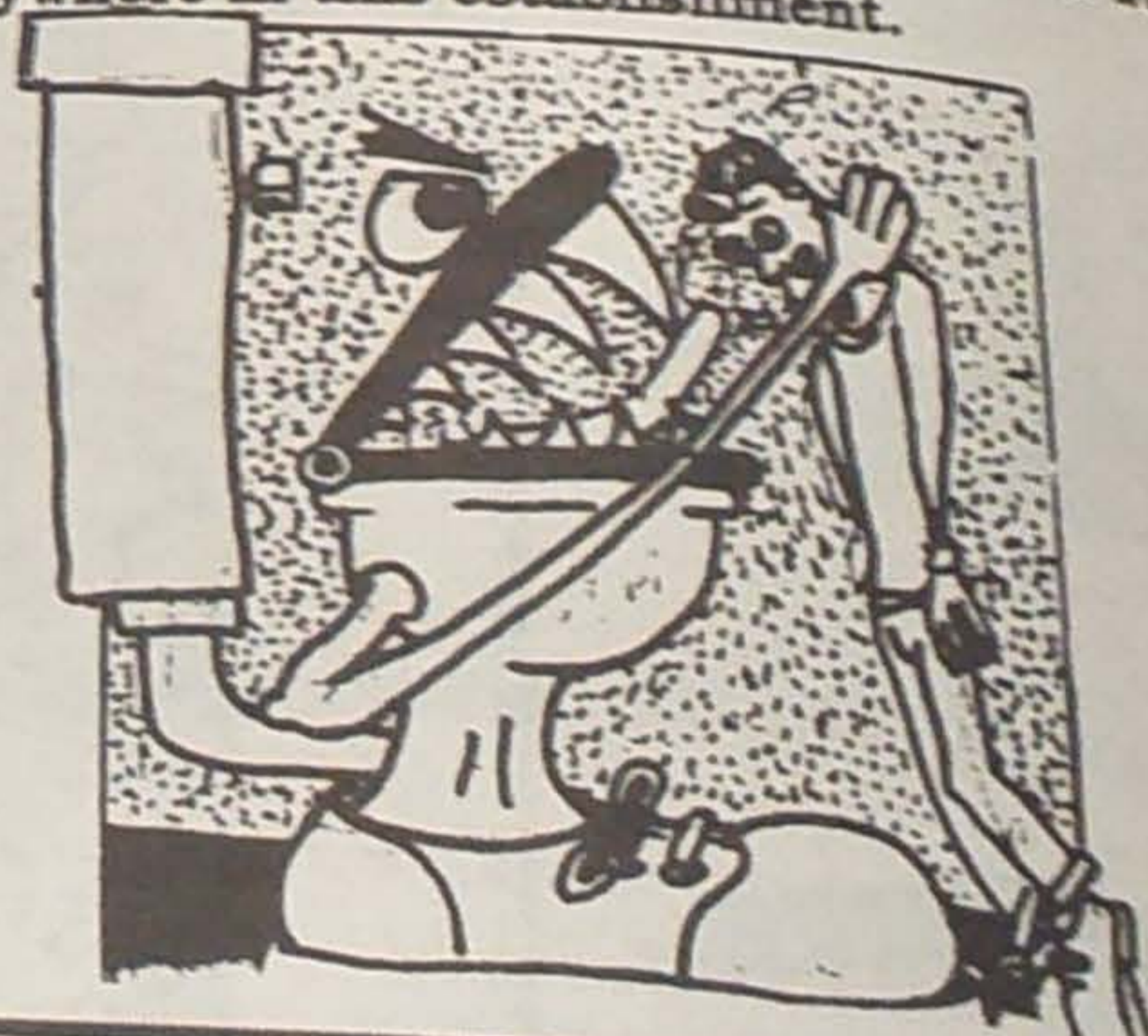
What's the line again? There may be only a few bad apples in the barrell but they can tarnish the whole barrell. And once again it's the barrell of students.

What is he on about? Very simple. Over the weekend of week 9/10 some hygiene - orientated students got it into their thick skulls that the college had too much toilet equipment. So these brave heroes, under the cover of darkness, decided to rid some of the toilets of their towel holders and soap. The soap was littered over stairways and along corridors. Very amusing, trying to create another casualty in the University of Limerick. The combined I.Q. of these individuals must surely equal the G.C.A. of a D+ average student.

Enough they did not cry and proceeded to throw chalk around the classrooms, which were so kindly left open for study purposes. Messing seemed to be the theme of the weekend.

These idiots are damaging college property, the students are complaining about fees, study facilities, lack of services yet at the same time, morons are wrecking what existing ones we have. Should they be caught they will get their just desserts. The S.U. never has and never will condone such activity. If you know who these people are remind them of the damage they are doing, not only physically but of the student image which we need to get anywhere in this establishment.

BONZO.



refused to pass
the Union's operations were
closed for the day.

Secondary Schools reject T.P. proposals.

Exam Timetable Mix-Up

by Paul Williams

As some people may have noticed exam timetabling didn't go as smoothly as one would have expected. Happily this has been resolved but an explanation of this mix-up has been given to An Focal by Breda Sheehan, Head of Student Services.

This year a new handbook is available for all teaching staff which contains all the procedural data necessary. Enclosed was a memo requesting all lecturers requiring an assessment to complete an Assessment Requirement form. This outlines the administrative requirements for the assessment plus any special requests the lecturer might have. Breda Sheehan explained that this was due to a shift to Week 10 exams. The aim, she said, was to compile a data base of assessment requirements which would merely be updated.

A memo was sent out again later in the term but evidently even this was not enough to alert some lecturers to the fact that a completed Assessment

Requirement form was expected by Week 6. That is why there was panic in Week 9 over the timetable. When one considers the constant penalising of students who don't adhere to deadlines (fines and percentages docked), one finds it difficult to resist instructing certain lecturers to practice what they preach.

This reporter is in possession of a list of lecturers who didn't make the deadline. It is difficult to imagine a situation where a missed deadline would have the same worrying implications for lecturers as it does for their students. An Focal will spare the lecturers in question the embarrassment of the said list, as we draw closer to a time of festive merriment and good will. Let's all hope it doesn't happen again.

Principals and teachers from secondary schools in the Mid-West region were not lost for words when asked for their reactions to the merger-modified version of Teaching Practice, on Tuesday, Week 9 last, when they met Hugh O'Donnell, Associate Dean, College of Education and Jim Gleeson, Head of Second Level Education, Dr. John O'Brien Assistant Dean Academic Affairs, and members of the teaching practice committee.

Among the proposals developed during the summer months for Teaching Practice was a doubling of its duration - i.e. an increase from four five week periods to two ten week periods. As the meeting went on, this issue emerged as the primary bone of contention.

Many expressed reservations about having their classes passed into the hands of student teachers for what is one third of the academic year at secondary school (the shortest secondary academic year in Europe.) They said that the response from the cooperating teachers and indeed parents was negative. Clearly, a less than competent student teacher could inflict much damage if given ten weeks to

do so. - with potentially disastrous consequences for both Junior Cert and Leaving Cert. students. A suggestion was mooted on behalf of the College of Education students' that altering from a five week to a ten week period would increase substantially the pressure of T.P. which is already top heavy. Many were of the view that what was needed by way of alteration to the T.P. placement was 'an easing off' of the academic strain that has been a prime feature to date. It was in the context of this strain that student teachers were much more inclined to become a Thomond stereotype rather than expressing their own personalities in their teaching.

Billy Kirwan Students' Union Transition Officer said of the meeting "that above all other concerns the acceptance of the schools to the new system is a major worry for all education students. It must be said that the fundamental aim of teaching practice is that the schools become partners with the system before the student teachers go on teaching practice."

Among the alternatives discussed for the implementation of a lengthier T.P. placement were:

- Two separate five week placements.
- Taking fewer periods of each class and possibly team teaching with the cooperating teacher.
- Teaching one group of classes for the first five weeks then changing to another group for the remainder.

All of which will be brought back to the Teaching Practice Committee for discussion in the near future.



A Students' Union Review of Term One by President Colm Croffy

Flashback:

Attempting to put the almost completed Michaelmas term, into a historical context and review it's trials and tribulations from the point of view of the S.U. is a trifle difficult.

Comparative to what?, (since we can't really compare what has been happening with the S.U. to anything that it has gone through before!), relevant to whom?, in response to whose agenda? all are bounced around when one begins to talk about a review.

Certainly, and at times quite naturally - the officers perspectives on just how good/ bad/ useless this term has been will be from a slightly different position than that of the canteen public. Very full class rep meetings, solid attendance by all on Executive and crowded General Meetings, have ensured that the membership has had very ample opportunity to relate to the officers their concerns and ideas on a number of topics during the term.

Again one can cite the increase in numbers of clinic work i.e. people dropping in for problem solving, for all the officers involved, in relation to the positive image of the S.U. in terms of helping as many of it's members as possible.

I think we have made better inroads, in getting our message across to members as to the level of services and welfare support that we provide this term, beginning with our improved approach to Orientation Week and holding of stand days in the cafeteria early on in term.

However we are brutally conscious that the diversification of campus and the attending periphery buildings, give us problems in getting to the widest spread of members possible which is a universal problem that faces countless organisations.

Thankfully the Information Service that is being pioneered by Billy (Transition Officer) and John (Information Officer) has made some great improvements - particularly with the publication of An Focal, which is now the new Flagship of the organisation.

On the subject of one of our biggest problems - our Main office and supporting activities - this term saw the people "manning the trenches" in the main office (Carmel, Michael & Kevin) swept off their feet. In trying to dance attendance on all our visitors. Just a few statistics to stagger you - we are the only office on campus open from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. (65 hours per week!) and on average we would deal with about 400 queries a day. That folks is pressure! - if the full time office staff are to get their other administrative work done as opposed to bringing it home everynight, we may either have to cut back on access hours or attempt to

increase staffing levels. It may be a good point to note that we are one of the most understaffed Students Union in the country! This is an area that is currently being reexamined for the start of the new year, and is why the Students Union has to withdraw from areas of service that the University should already be providing, such as the publishing of exam papers, as opposed to policing their distribution.

On the organisational front, contested Executive positions, the Class Rep Elections, the Class Rep Training Weekend, Executive training days, have seen the Union benefit from actively harnessing members energies who want to be involved and making sure that we properly address training people actively involved in the Union.

The integration of T.C.E. was never going to be easy but at least through our Transition Officer and various operations by both the Deputy President and myself, we are working jointly to ease the transitional arrangements for the College of Ed. students and their welfare.

The introduction of the concept of senior management, reporting directly to the Executive and managing our affairs in a professionally competent manner, to this organisation, is a period of change and a challenge to

everyone involved. The key appointment of our first Administrative Officer (Kevin) and the subsequent integration of the post into the workings of the Union is proceeding apace and hopefully will continue to bring a new professional manner of running to all areas.

The fifty five Clubs and Societies who completed a very worthwhile Administration Weekend presented the best budget submissions to Executive ever and such was the ambition and reasonableness of those received that we went a fraction over target.

The ongoing reappraisal of our approach to Welfare, through various new initiatives that have yet to be unleashed on an unsuspecting membership is helpful to the organisation. Donal (Deputy President), Maigs (Welfare Officer) and Diarmuid (Equal Rights Officer) are working on detailed mission statements and plans on our general Welfare area.

The support of this Union to reduce the 2.2 Honours Degree from 2.8 to 2.6 is being communicated loud and clear but again the stumbling block to the academic consensus is a Dept. in the Business College means it will take some time to get around.

We will be in a position to present draft proposals to Class Rep Council on a formal repeats structure in January and a decision will hopefully be taken by the University by the end of the academic year.

The launch of the Semesterisation debate should occur next term also.

NEWS

The linking in of Class Reps as consumers to both Library and Student Services will help to further make both these units more responsive to student difficulties.

The election of the Rag Week Committee will take place in the early part of second term and the pre-planning stage will happen over Christmas.

We intend presenting a final analysis of the Class Rep Seminar S.W.O.T. and proposals for long term Union planning incorporating space needs, (i.e. our new venue & bar, games room etc.) staff needs and policy areas to council in the middle of next term.

Coupled with a Constitutional Review all areas of Union policy that needs tightening up will be put before Class Reps in the form of a mission statement for the organisation.

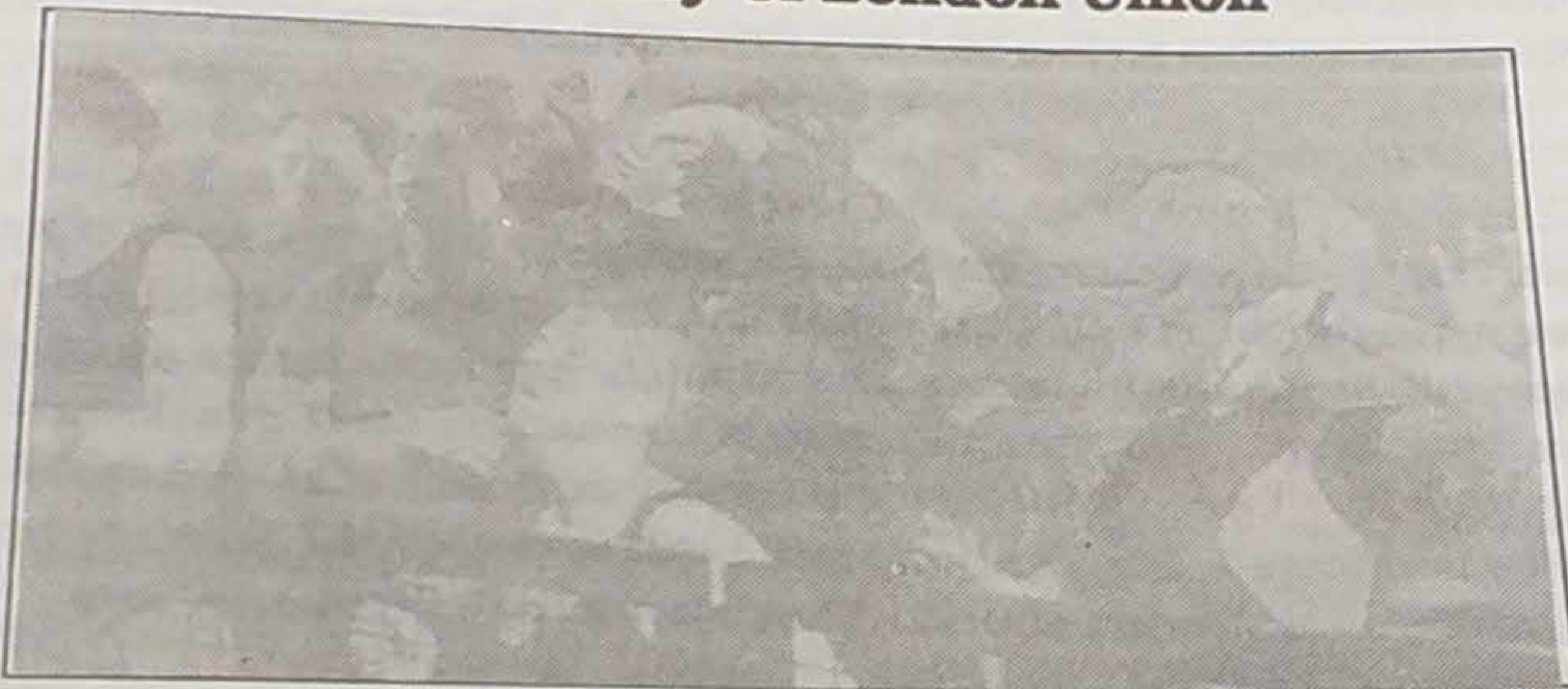
What's Happening in S.U.s Abroad

Students at Reading University have provoked widespread condemnation following one of the most violent, lawless Freshers weeks in memory.

Authorities both on and off-campus have been outraged by a litany of mindless vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The catalogue of crime began at the first Freshers' party, traditionally an occasion of high spirits. Demand exceeded supply and crowds of ticketless students tried to bribe or push their way, some resorting to smashing fire exits and breaking windows. Busloads of youths also began to arrive from Oxford in the belief that an 'all-night-rave' was being held. Amidst the confusion technical offices were broken into and hundreds of pounds worth of equipment was stolen. Police were called but left without making arrests.

In the same week scores of rowdy private parties off-campus provoked so many complaints from local residents that the Thames Valley Police switchboard was jammed for a time. Complaints ranged from incidents of "loud pop-type music" to residents witnessing 'car-walking' and finding discarded syringes in the street. Su-

Courtesy of London Student - The Newspaper of University of London Union



perintendent David Eyles responded by increasing the number of police patrols in student areas.

The on-campus response was equally direct. Dr Ewen Page, Vice-Chancellor of the University described events as "The worst start to an academic year since my arrival." adding "It is essential students realise that by indulging in unacceptable criminal behaviour they are risking the whole of their future career."

It has been suggested that the

official response reflects a concern not only for the careers of the students. The administration is acutely aware that its image, and relationship with the local community will affect its ongoing plans to increase student numbers and hence funding.

Mrs Amanda Handby, spokesperson for Reading Borough Council when asked to comment stressed the importance of a, "Harmonious relationship between the university and wider community," but

refused to speculate on the affect of this terms behaviour on future plans, adding only that, "Youth behaviour in the town is a concern to us all."

Within Reading Student Union concern has been focused on the possible repercussions for current students. As Isabelle Clement, President of RUSU notes, "This kind of behaviour only serves to isolate the whole student body from the local community. How can we expect local people to support genuine student hardship when such deliberate anti-social behaviour only reinforces negative student stereotypes." When asked about possible causes for the student behaviour Ms Clement pointed to the rapidly increasing size of the first year intake which is not only stretching resources on campus but forcing more students into private sector housing. She believes this brings local residents into contact with the less savoury side of student life.

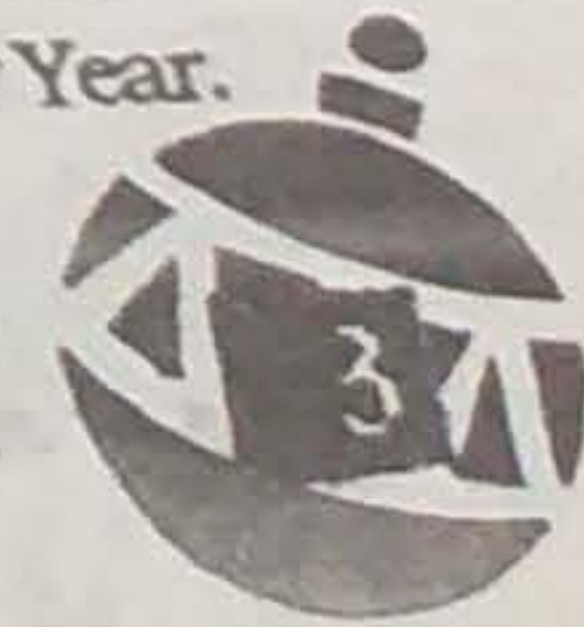
Ms Clement added that the university is "stuck in a rut". It is unable to increase resources without a larger intake of students but unable to accommodate more students on campus without increased resources.

of a mission statement for the organisation.

The above could never in any way be seen as the definitive, but it is a good indication of what we have been at and what is to come, please remember that we don't hold the magic wand to all the ills this place has to offer but By God we'll give it a good try.

I'd like to publically thank all the other Officers, Staff, Class Rep Council and you the members for being at times so patient with us and also for all the hardwork and slog that this past 13 weeks have been - believe us it has been trying term for all! Two members of our dilligent staff are leaving us this Christmas - and I'd like to thank them publically for their dedication, humour and hope - our two Co - op students - Michael Gunn and Kevin Brew.

To those going on Co - Op enjoy yourselves and remember you are still members of this Union while you are away! Have A Happy Christmas and We'll see you in the New Year.



Editorial

Taking the usual fairy godmother stance in your affairs, the S.U. bring you An Focal in order to make your week 11 a tad more tolerable. As you wade through the quagmire of study backlog and memorise your way to success we feel this swot phase should not go unbroken. Have a read of a text you need not wrestle with.

Soon you will be in the bar filling your friends with entirely fictional accounts of your pre-exam warm up, convincing them that the night before Maths was spent in Tequila, with a glue bag, feisting off paternity suits, subduing large and unfriendly dragons etc. Relish the thought, possums.

On a personal note, I would like to wish all my S.U. friends a tearful "take care" as I withdraw into shadows. My co-op has come to a close. I assure you that six months spent with the S.U. is a spiritual odyssey that brings you to the very corner of consciousness, where, as you mingle with the assembled heroes, sheisters, chancers and ego re-floats you come to view the irrelevance of sanity.

An assembly of secondary school principals have rejected the merger-modified version of Teaching Practice for the students of the College of Education. The main change envisaged during the summer break was that



An Focal

Credits

Editors: Kevin Brew
Billy Kirwan

Design: Kevin Messere.

News: Cathal Kelly

Arts: John Maguire

Layout/Graphics: John and Mbad

Thanks for Contributions From
Everyone who Helped Out
Printed by the Meath Chronicle

the duration of Teaching Practice would be increased from five weeks up to ten. Sometimes alteration is appropriate, sometimes it isn't. Maybe the increase in duration would have been understandable if the old Thomond College had been running diploma courses and these courses needed to be revamped in order to warrant a U.L. degree, but this was NOT the case. Change for no reason meets with failure. However strong the protests of the students were, the principals' objections make the newly modified TP unworkable.



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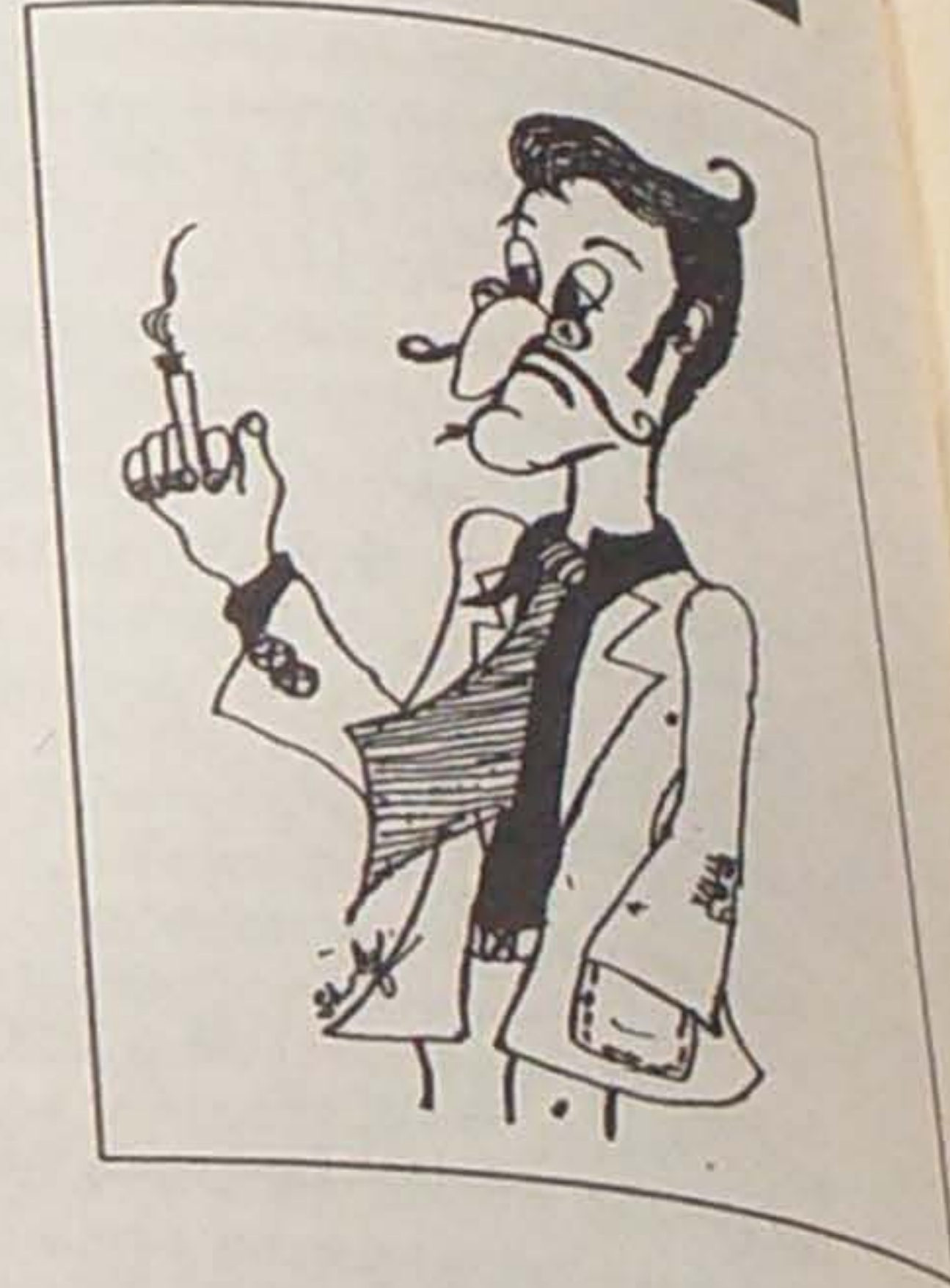
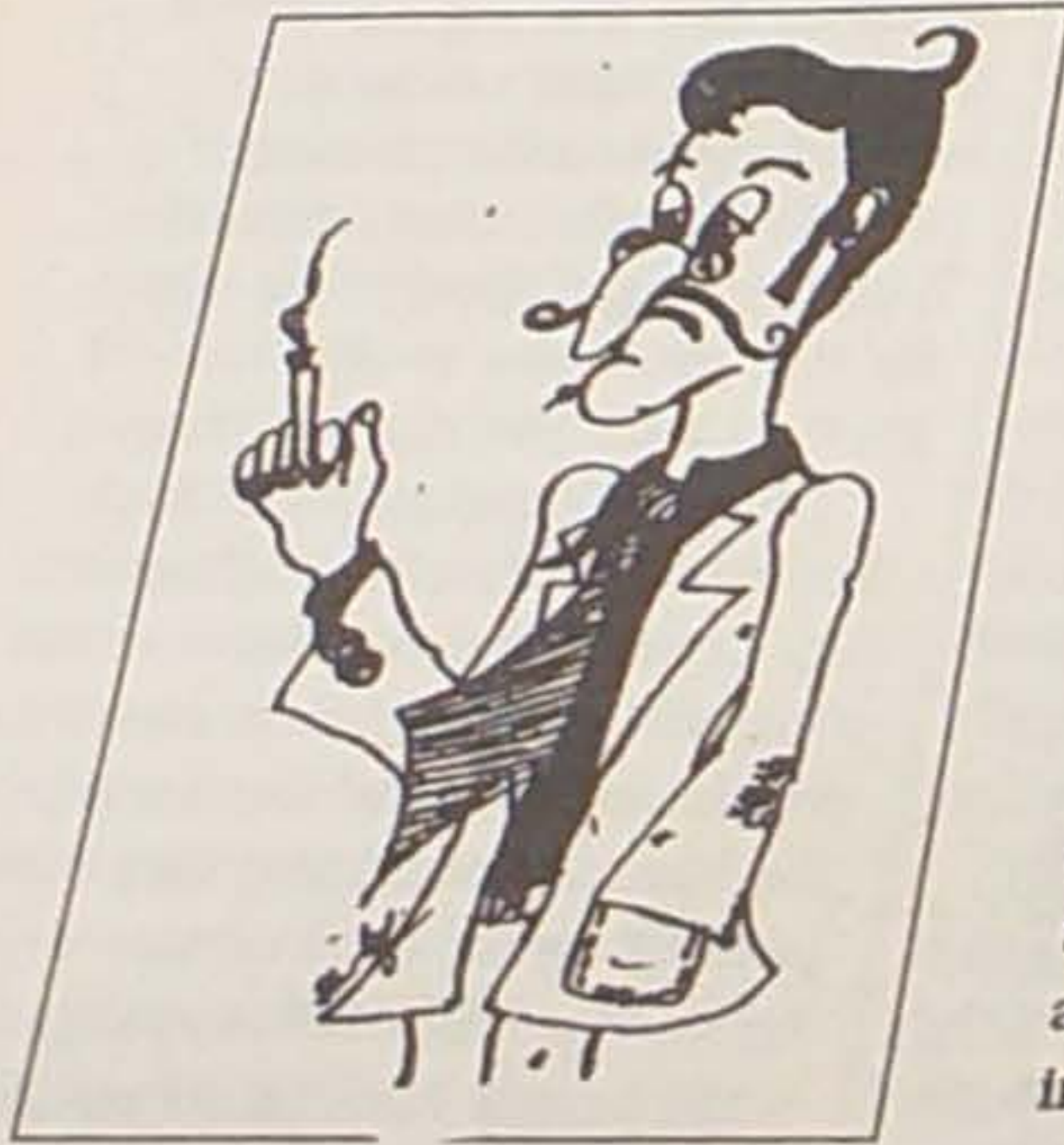
Right of Reply

An Focal sees its role as a medium for the dissemination of information and opinion, which readers may require and enjoy. Inevitably, in spite of our best efforts, we will make mistakes but we wish to ensure that we correct such mistakes as promptly and as fully as possible. We therefore offer readers who feel they have been unfairly treated in the An Focail a right of reply, subject to reasonable length and the laws constraining press freedom. We also undertake to publish corrections, on being informed of errors.

I am utterly fed up with my 'so called friend' James from 3rd engineering! Each time we go to an ents disco he asks me which girl I fancy and would like to talk to. Then He goes up and dances with them, and eventually shifts them, I hate him for it! This happens every night and I inevitably end up walking home on my own feeling sad and dejected. What can I do?
Martin 3rd Business

Mr. MOTHBALLS SAYS.....

What the bloody hell are you doing at discos anyway, what about your study?! James may be out enjoying himself, having a laugh, getting off with girls etc...., but look at what you have got! Piles of projects to do, essays to write, books to read, seminars to present, exams as often as possible, no friends and unsightly spots! Ask your self who is the luckier one? It's James isn't it? I think discos are crap anyway. I once went to the parkway and they had blokes stood out side calling themselves bouncers! Bouncers indeed, I threw one off the flyover once and he never bounced, he just made a splattering sound. They should call them splatters instead, that'd be more appropriate!



REMEMBER STUDENTS !

TROUBLES? QUERIES? MORAL DILEMMAS?

WELL IF YOU WANT A CARING OR UNDERSTANDING ANSWER THEN TRY SOME OTHER NEWSPAPER! MR. MOTHBALLS IS OUR AGONY AUNT AND HE'S 100% TOTAL GIT, THIS MAN MAKES SANTA CLAUSE LOOK LIKE A SOCIAL WORKER! BUT IF YOU STILL WANT TO SEND YOUR PROBLEMS IN THEN BE IT ON YOUR OWN HEAD. THE ADDRESS IS :-

MR. MOTHBALLS, AN FOCAL, U.L. STUDENTS UNION, UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK, PLASSEY, LIMERICK.



All opinions stated on this page are those of individual students and thus do not necessarily represent those of the Students' Union



The world according to you

In Defence of Debate

Mr. Editor,

Upon reading the latest offering of Simon Snodgrass in An Focal, I feel compelled to write.

I am a member of the Literary and Philosophical Society, a non-speaker, a non-participating audience member, though not one without his views, not a person who goes to the weekly debates with the misconception that I am attending the "let's sit back and watch some fucking idiots make fools of themselves and others' society."

The problems regarding topic for debate motion deviancy and inter-personal arguments have all been discussed at length by thr members of the house on numerous occasions. It has however, unfortunately been to no avail. These problems still persist, but why? I venture my opinion. Motions proposed for debate are proposed by members of the house and voted in by these members - it is their personal choice. Motions can be on any topic, touch any issue and be phrased in any way, at the discretion of the proposer. However, I feel that it is wrong to categorize these motions as humorous or serious. A motion is only as humorous or serious as the individual speaker wants it to be. It is the individual interpretation of each speaker which determines for them the level of lightheartedness implied, the opinions of the auditor and of the house, in relation to this issue should have no bearing. I see part of the problem with enticing in maiden speakers lying at the door of this issue. Many feel that the ability to make the audience laugh is a prerequisite for excellent debating. I am but a novice slowly learning the intricities of this art and while personally I see this view as ridiculous, the fact is that it still provides a major deterrent.

On the point of humour at the expense of disregarding the motion. This is a feature of the debating within the society which is becoming more predominant and I feel more destructive also. Private members time is the time for miscellaneous humour however upon taking the podium one cannot simply digress from the motion for the sake of laughter. Humour is one of the fulcrums around which the art of debating turns. Indiscriminate

"sin bin" and then immediate expulsion are, I feel, the only effective deterrents to such behaviour. If enforced rigidly and and of paramount importance, with unwavering equity then it will, I feel help eradicate these problems.

The Literacy and Philosophical Society for me embodies wittiness, erudition and verbosity, not the shamefully petty displacements we are often forced to watch. Immediate action must be taken before the crumbling society is levelled to the ground.

Yours Sincerely,
John Baird 1st European Studies.

Nay, Nay and thrice Nay

Dear Editor,

I was selling a magazine that myself and a friend do called "Nay, Nay and thrice Nay." around the Stables at the "Therapy" gig a few months back. Most people who I offered the magazine to seemed not to understand what it was all about, so I'll tell ya all what the reasons behind "Nay, Nay and thrice Nay" are:

Have you ever been annoyed at the bias and patronising approach of much of todays media. Whether it is local or national papers, music press or magazines, there's so much that media avoid. Censorship or fear of contra-

versy (real controversy) seem to hang above so much reporting in todays press.

So if the media won't handle certain issues, we must do it ourselves- that's you and me. "Nay Nay and thrice Nay" is a 20 page magazine out every couple of months, sells for 30p, and has music (A lot of punk and indie), reports on the issues like Animal Liberation and Anarcy Worldwide, and a fine blend of humour. I'll be selling the next issue in the stables soon after Christmas. Have a read of it.

Peace & Peanuts

Troll

Letters

In Defence

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to see the continued inclusion of the From the Triangle page in "An Focal". Far more than a society page, it airs a refreshingly alternative viewpoint not usually seen in other publications. Also I feel it contributes to U.L. students' acceptance of the gays and lesbian amongst us in the college.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Hayes

Legitimate Sexism!?!

Dear Sir,

In response to Ms. Finola Bradley's article in the

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Cross auditorium squabbling personal insults and other such infringements of debating etiquette need to be dealt with in the firmest possible manner. It is the big auditor's responsibility to see that these leeching features on the life blood of the Literacy and Philosophical Society be cut away. A warning confinement to a

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An Extract From the Magazine

EMI own HMV, EMI build engines for nuclear bombs. buying records from EMI or HMV finances the arms race. use your head. support the independant record label. EMI = BOMBS and we don't want that do we? DIY not EMI. the arms race threatens you with extinction. EMI fuel this obsenity. BOYCOTT EMI and HMV.

We are still looking for a Sports and Societies editor. We also seek two news journalists for our news team. Please come along to our weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 1.00pm in the Deputy President's Office. All individuals, classes, Clubs & Societies, who are interested in writing for *An Focal* should submit their copy to the Student Union Office. Please send all letters and articles to Editor, *An Focal*, c/o Students Union, by Monday Week 9



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Yours sincerely,

Mary Hayes

Legitimate Sexism!?!

Dear Sir,

In response to Ms. Finola Bradley's article in the Michaelmas 4 edition of *An Focal*, the Windsurfing Club wishes to clarify the fact that the infamous "stamp" was not "taken" from the S.U. office" but was obtained through the legitimate channel, i.e., "the person in the shop".

With regard to our provocative (and extremely successful!) advertising campaign, the aim was not to emphasize "the cattle mart ethos of discos", but merely to achieve the objective of U.L.W.C., as stated in our constitution: "To encourage students and staff to take part in and promote windsurfing and enjoy it as a sporting and recreational activity". Draw your own conclusions!!!

Claudia King
Windsurfing Club P.R.O.

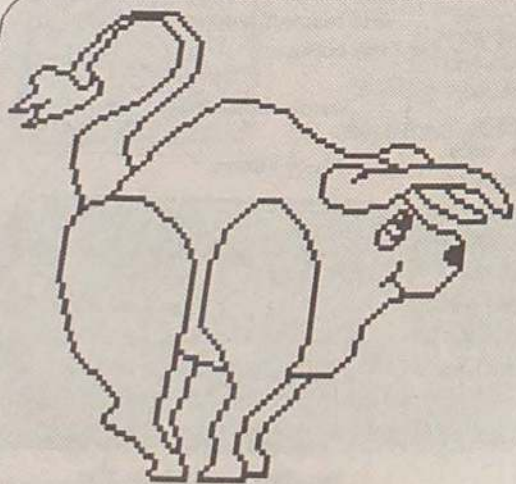


Features



"MAGIC"

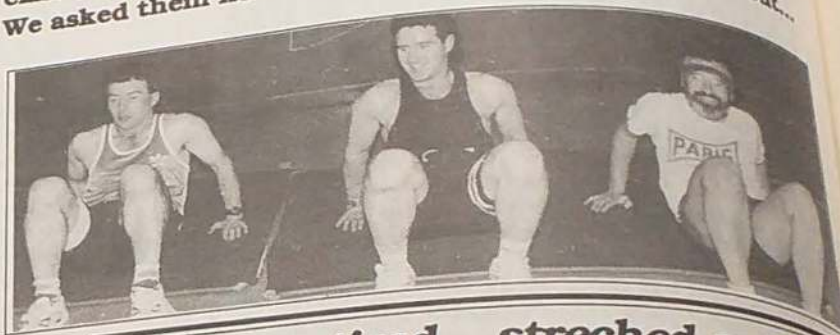
"more fun orientated than work orientated"



La Vache Qui Rit

"La Clique

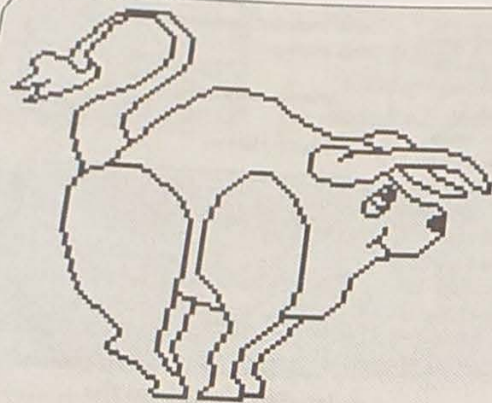
Over half of the students at UL take part in some sport or physical exercise regularly. The competitive sports such as football have a high profile, but over 1000 students take part in fitness training which is not competitive. The Sports Office provides 14 graded fitness and exercise classes each week. An *Focal* dropped in on some of these classes and caught some of the participants in action. We asked them how they felt at the end of their workout...



"O.K. very tired....stretched out"



"more fun orientated than work orientated"



La Vache Qui Rit

Même si nous partons sans T-shirt en France, nous n'oublions pas de souhaiter un Merry Christmas et une Happy New Year à nos camarades ERASMUS.

Ceci dit, l'aventure continue après Noël et nous aurons le plaisir de vous retrouver (ou presque) au cours de l'une de ces innombrables parties dont nous sommes si friands.

Au fait, pour le mois de Juin, il va falloir penser au bob ERASMUS, nos bobs ricard sont out of order.

Allez, sans rancune et soignez vos rhumes. Nous viendrons, tan tan! CIAO de gland!

Conseil de jour: Si vous avez a dealer wiz une certaine Eileen O'Ducon fuyez malheureux!

"MAGIC"



The Stables Club CHRISTMAS "CELEBRATION"

Congratulations to those of you who managed to survive the Wednesday Week 10 annual U.L. Christmas bash - for some it was touch and go right up to Saturday morning! Commiserations to anybody who didn't win one or more of the Stables sponsored prizes (the bar tabs...the cash giveaway) - it's gonna be a long hard end of term.

A brief reminder to all of you celebrating the beginning of exams/ end of exams/ end of term/ beginning of holidays/ Christmas/ New Year etc. etc. - please remember that this is an extremely busy time for barstaff, a little bit of patience will go a long way.

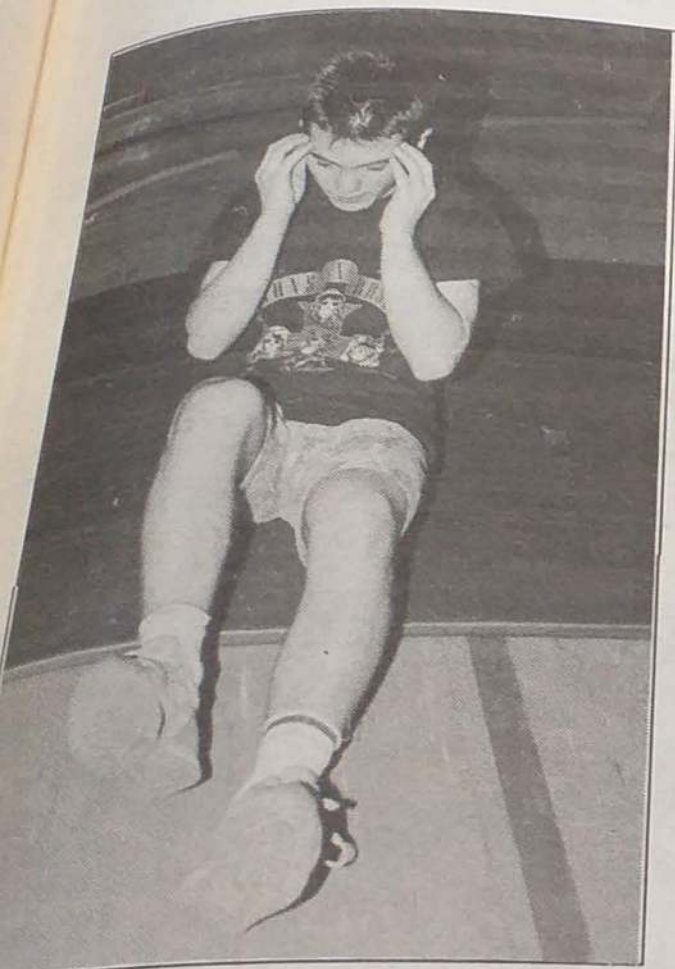


NEW YEAR'S EVE

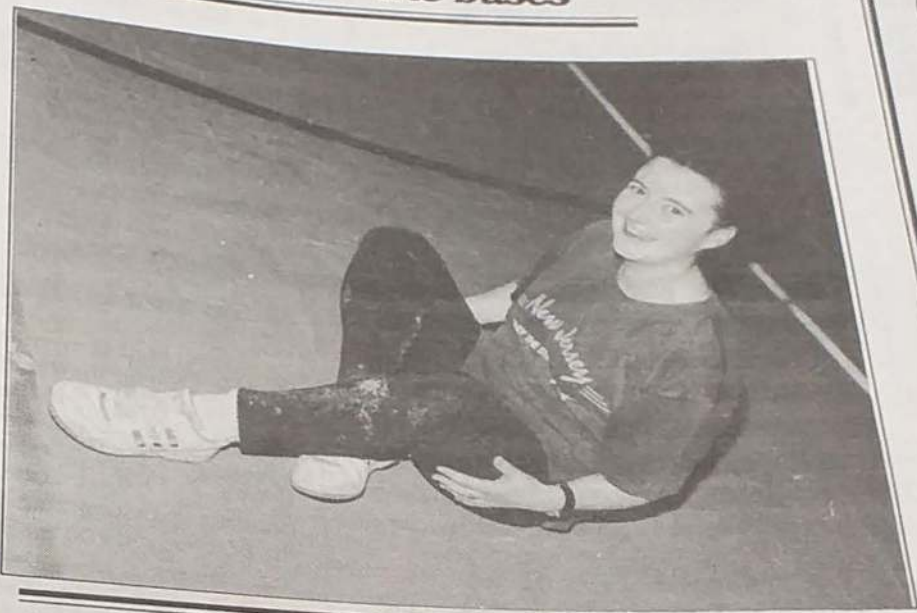
Tickets for the New Year's Eve "party" in the Stables Club go on sale Week 11 and can be had from any of the barstaff at a discount price of £8 (for U.L. students) until 6.00 p.m. on D-day. Tickets on the door will be £8 for U.L. students and £10 for non - U.L. students. Music will be provided by the Boombabies and a hot supper will be served.

Physique"

"makes me feel good. It's not like swimming - you're dry after it. The great thing about is that you can do it on your own."



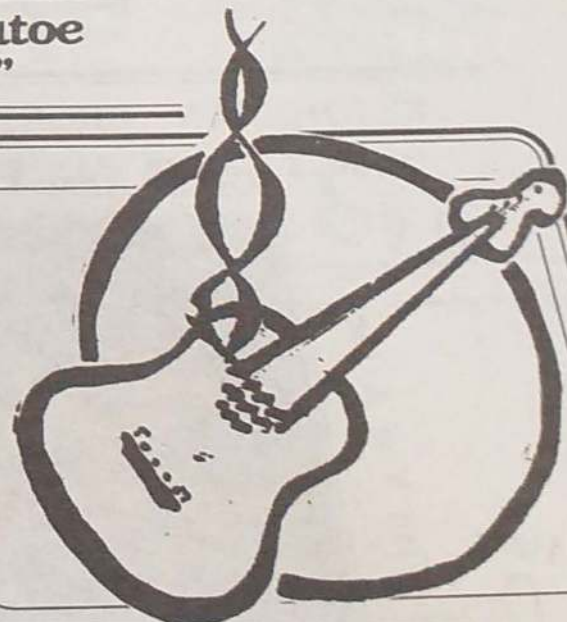
"So I can run for the buses"



"not turning into a couch potatoe but I'm not training for sport."

The Claytons

Last time: Diamond won the lotto and restored the family fortune. Geoff went through an identity crisis and discovered he was Dick and then revealed he was really a wood cutter's son; A mad axeman turned up at the front door and frightened the family. That's where we take up the story. Constance looked into the eyes of the awesome bloke at the door and, steadying



Features



"the music is brilliant"

until 10.00 p.m. Get your tickets early - the past years have been a sell-out.

STABLES CLUB ENTS.

WEEK 11
Thursday: Peter O'Malley
Friday: The Boombabies
Saturday: One September

WEEK 12
Thursday: Shantytown

WEEK 13
Friday: Chris (6 - 8)

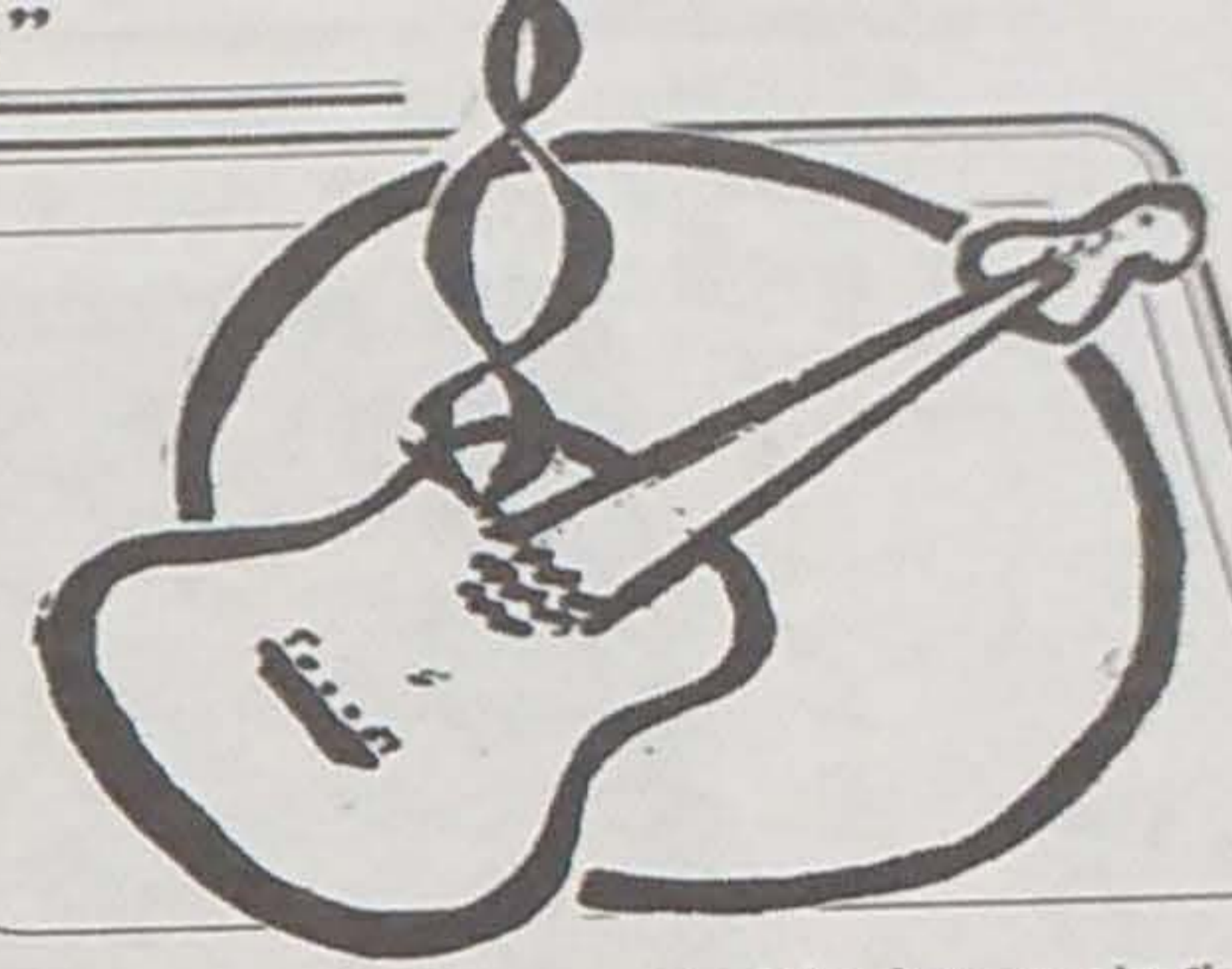
Finally on behalf of the staff in the Glentworth Hotel and the Castle Oaks House hotel, the Stables club would like to wish everybody a very "merry" and prosperous Christmas and New Year. To those of you we won't be seeing again in January - be careful out there!

The Claytons

Last time: Diamond won the lotto and restored the family fortune. Geoff went through an identity crisis and discovered he was Dick and then revealed he was really a wood cutter's son; A mad axeman turned up at the front door and frightened the family. That's where we take up the story. Constance looked into the eyes of the awesome bloke at the door and, steadying her nerve told him they didn't feel like being slain today and closed the door with a pleasant "Good evening" to the chap. The family were relieved and hoisted her up into the air and ran up and down the great stairs with her perched aloft, chanting Constance the Axeman Killer (totally unbelievable really). Clay, her loving husband cut his prize marrow from its stalk and prepared it for the celebration feast.

Kate, being a spoilsport enformed the crowd of screaming yobbos that the axeman had not been killed by Constance but was still outside the door. the family were disgusted at Kate for spoiling their fun and refused to listen to her. She was presently forced to lay prostrate on the floor and have a spasm because she was being ignored.

Then it happened. The door burst upon. The shouting stopped. the family quaked in their boots. Gerard, being the butler rushed forward. the rest being the family rushed backwards. The axeman took a swipe at Gerard with his axe and lobbed off his big toe. Gerard fell into unconsciousness and the axeman ran around the room lashing the rest of the family and leaving



them for dead. He ran out of the house singing "no more Mister Nice Guy" while skipping off into the sunset.

He of course didn't do the job very well because he hit them all on the head and as they don't have one functioning brain cell in their collective heads. And any electrical impulses were too weak to be mistaken for a thought. So be still and keep your anticipation at bay for the Claytons live and will return provided the ratings are sufficient and I can stir up enough enthusiasm to be coerced into performing the labourious task again.

Yours faithfully,

Michael O Dongasesy

P.S. Any suggestions as to who the Axeman is would be appreciated, drop into the S.U. An Focal in-tray and you could win a most impressive prize a week's free trip to Bally Bog to visit the studio where the Claytons film is currently, and you can be Buck for a day and hide under the stairs too. Merry Christmas.



EVENTS

End of Term Preview

Thursday 5th December.

Massive 3 End-of-Term discos at the Parkway, featuring chart music, oldie music, and indie music. Advance tickets are £3, (£3.50 at the door).

Friday, 6th December.

GIG A

We feature a Caribbean Tango Artist - Manu - (i.e., a one-man K.L.F. with South American percussion) alongside 2 discos in the Parkway. Tickets are £3 in advance and £4 at the door.

GIG B

It's the revenge of Tin City, see advert!!

Saturday, 7th December.

We feature one of the hits at the Halloween Ball, "The Beatles" along with 2 discos in the Parkway. Tickets are £3 and £4 on the door if available.

Tickets will be sold in advance from Tuesday, 3rd December in the canteen between exam times (11am-12pm & 2pm-4pm each day and 2pm-6pm Saturday). As this is normally the biggest end-of-term period, it is advisable to buy tickets in advance, as they may not be available at the door, if they sell out. As was the case for a number of gigs already this term.

AND WHEN THE TERM IS OVER

Tuesday, December 10th

Softball/Postgrad disco in Costellos. Admission: £2.

Thursday, December 12th,

SORRY !! ANDREW STRONG GIG IS CANCELLED

Friday 27th & Saturday 28th December

Reunion Parties in Costellos. Adm £2.50 (no glg bus)

"The New Year's Eve Gig"

Now an annual event in the Stables Club on the 31st December, starting at 9 p.m. (you must be inside by 10 p.m. and have a ticket), with a disco, then "The Boom Bables" and a disco again. Tickets can only be bought from Bar Staff in the Stables at £6.00 each (with I.D.). Numbers are limited. This would be an ideal option for local students, as most places in town are far too expensive on that night.

BEATLESS

Parkway 7th December

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
LESBIAN & GAY SOCIETY
DISCO

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER
STUDENT CENTRE
ADM. £3.00
8.30PM TILL LATE

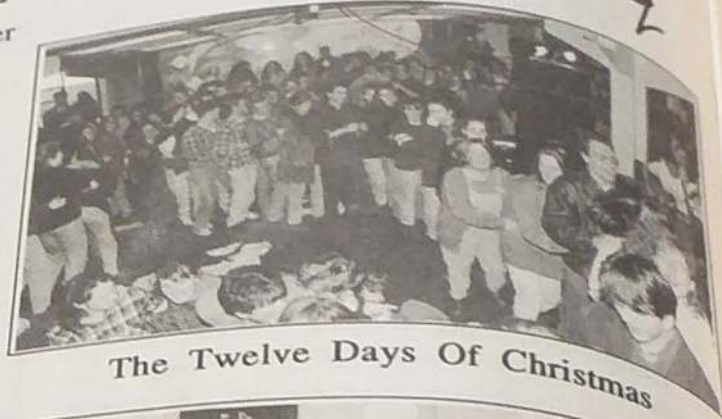
between exam times (12-1pm Saturday, 4pm each day and 2pm-6pm Saturday). This is normally the biggest end-of-term period, it is advisable to buy tickets in advance, as they may not be available at the door, if they sell out. As was the case for a number of gigs already this term.

Numbers are an ideal option for local places in town are far too expensive on that night.

.....CAMPUS CHRISTMAS.....

God Rest You

War Is Over



The Twelve Days Of Christmas

Gather Around



Up on The House

Hark The Herald

In The Bleak winter

We Wish You A Merry Xmas

eck The Halls



I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus

Last Christmas



Once In Royal David's City

I'm Not Really Naughty

Oh Come All Ye Faithful



The First Noel

While Sheperds Watched



Santa Claus is coming ail over town

The Fairy Song

SUPPORT YOUR OWN EVENTS



1971-1991

Twenty years ago, you left us.

Even if some of us honour your with a less conventional fashion, everybody remembers of you. James Douglas, the said "Jim Morrison" is born the 8th December 1943 at Melbourne in Florida.

He has a brother, Andy and a sister, Anne ; Clara and Steve Morrison's son.

In 1956, his family is settine up house in Californie ; he writes some poems which have been sung later.

After the University of San Diego (alone the Philosophy learning interests him), he registers himself to the Cinema University of UCLA at Los Angeles.

In 1967, singer of the group "The Doors", Jim becomes a "rock star" at the first out of his album (Light My Fire), five more albums will be out with the same success.

JIM MORRISON

Cimetière du Père Lachaise - 6° division



This success will carry away him towards alcohol, drug. In 1969 Jim was at a standstill ; released on ball, he is setting up house in ARIS.

Admirer of the poet , Arthur Rimbaud : "Everything concerns the chaos, the revolt interest me" he said, qualified of "Rimbaud of black leather".

And, suddenly it's the tragedy : The 3th July 1971, in his flat of the "17 rue Beautrellis" in Paris, Jim was found dead in his bathroom. The rumours went at full speed.

Overdose? Heart attack? Mafia plot? C.I.A.? The mystery is in-touched.

His girlfriend, Pamel. Courson, declared his death to the American Embassy.

He was 27 years old...
Twenty years ago !

L.C.

This is an ode to one of the greatest if not most tragic of musicians ever lived. Jim Morrison was famous for his eccentric behaviour on stage. Unfortunately, a lot of it was drug related. The actual ode itself was written in french and translated by the same poet.

Jim Morrison is buried in Cimetiere du Pere-Lachaise in East Paris. His grave is constantly occupied by drug addicts, winos, musicians and curious individuals. This curious individual went along to see the great man's grave. There , you will find grafiti in every language known

honouring Jim Morrison. The dope smokers and wine drinkers are more than willing to offer you their many delights. Many people believe that Jim is not dead, and actually is one of the winos or dope smokers at the tomb. Once again we will never know.....Mr Mojo Rising may have been more than a lyric from one of the many popular Doors songs.

There are many other famous people buried in this graveyard in the sixth arondissement. People such as Sarah Bernhardt, Frederic Chopin, marcel Proust, and Oscar Wilde to name but a few. Each grave is individual in its own right. One plays music, one contains many stories for reading, and so on. As one guide book put it, ' It doesn't have to be a winter's day for you to get the feeling that this is no ordinary cemetry.'

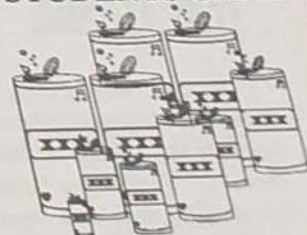
Music

44 hectares; 100,000 tombs; 1,000,000 burials since it's opening surely constitute a visit to Pere-Lachaise when you next go to Paris.

Donal Waide

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK STUDENTS UNION
PRESENT

TIN CITY



AT ARTHURS WAREHOUSE
FRIDAY 6th FROM 11.00pm
CONCESSION 300p



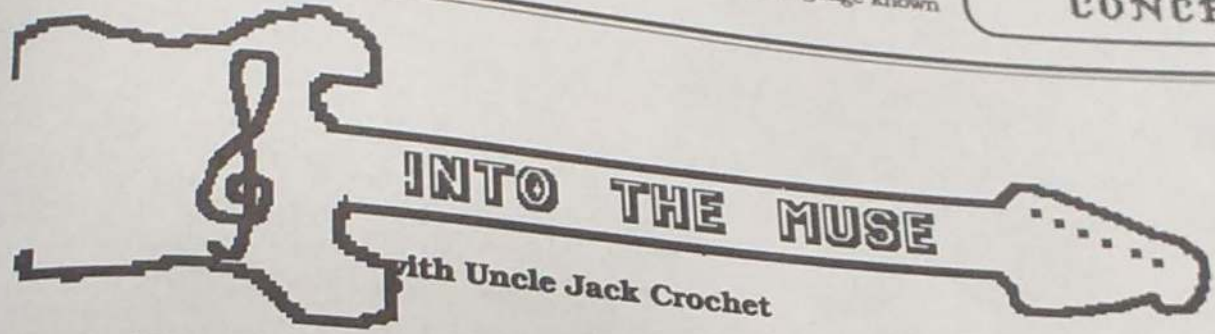
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UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK STUDENTS UNION
 PRESENT

TIN CITY



AT ARTHURS WAREHOUSE
 FRIDAY 6th FROM 11.00pm
 CONCESSION 300p



with Uncle Jack Crochet

A Touch of Olver, the Limerick four-piece, will be releasing an E.P. so far untitled after Christmas on the U.S. indie label Bar-None. This release will contain six songs, most of which are included in their current live set. The band's steady build-up is rapidly gaining recognition nationwide so keep an eye out for them! With songs like "Why", "Candy Bottle Green" and "Golden Valley Reserve" your journey will be handsomely rewarded.

COMPETITION TIME

This week, FM Music on O'Connell St. in Limerick are offering "The Commitments" sound track and "Ringo Starr's all-star band" as prizes for the questions below. So whether you're a soul buff or a good time Rock 'n' Roller, give it a go. Answers in S.U. office before noon on Wednesday.

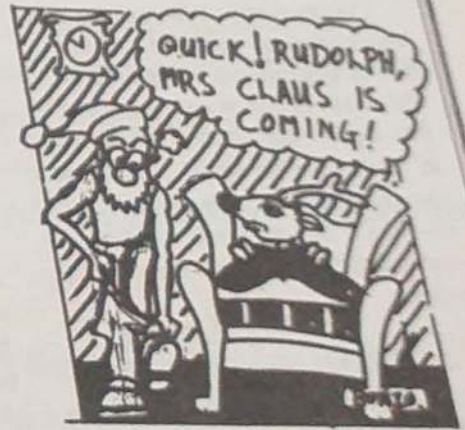
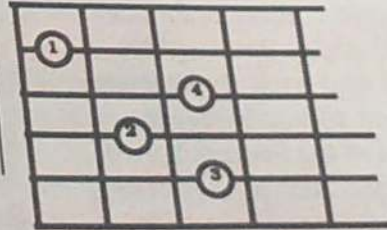
Q.1: One of the three backing singers in "The Commitments" is also a member of what well known Irish rock band, currently on tour?

Q.2: Was Ringo Starr the original drummer in the Beatles? True or False.

Whilst in FM music last week I was surprised at the varied selection of music available... everything from deep heavy metal to Irish Traditionalon view. There's even a soundtrack devision and perhaps the best blues collection in town. --The live sex machine concert of James Brown can't be ignored!! Well worth a visit.

CORD OF THE WEEK

This cord is C7. Its really just an easy inversion on C major by adding in your Fourth Finger on the G(3rd) string. It's a handy chord to know especially if you're playing songs in the key of Bb.

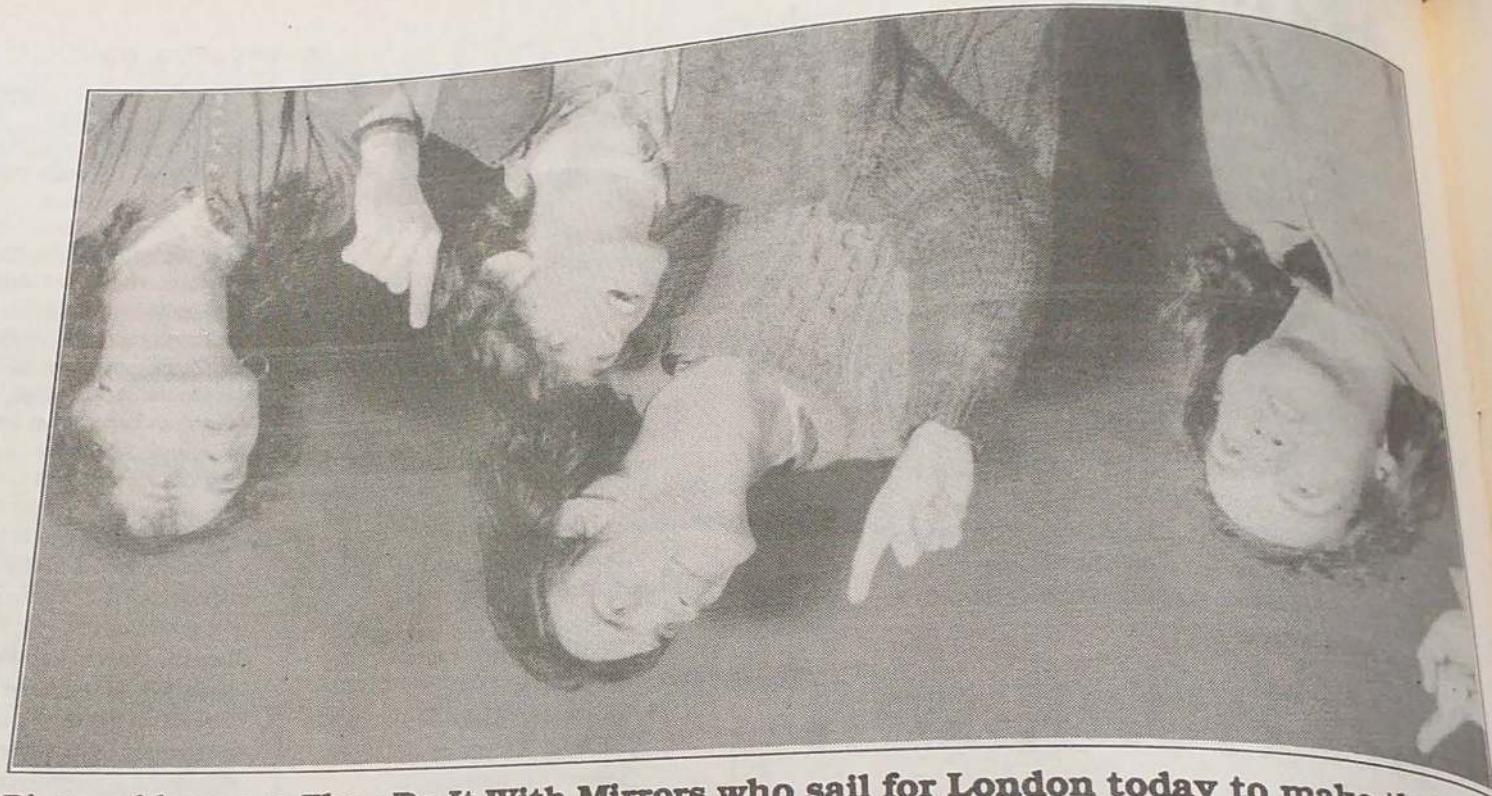


EVENTS



THE TUBES

All members of this band are from the College of Education and



Pictured here are They Do It With Mirrors who sail for London today to make their 1st record, a 4 track EP which will be released on the indie emigrant label, Setanta. We are promised four coolstop starty songs, clever guitary bits, words that make no sense but do it well and drumming that says "wiggle!" to the most serile of bottoms. their music is loud and clever. Their slogan is "we will be biggest." Live they make friends with freak antics and speedy songs. The band move to London to record EP no. 2 in January. TDIWM wish their friends presents they want for Christmas and tearful toodle doo before they depart. Catch their Christmas gig in the Glentworth DEC. 21st.

THE TUBES

All members of this band are from the College of Education and include B.J. Kelly on Bass, Redmond O' Hanlon on Drums, Noel Ward on Guitar and Declan Askin on Harmonica & Vocals.

This band was formed in 1989 with there aim to enter a talent competition which they went on to winning. There has only been one change in the band since the early days and that was the replacement of B.J. Kelly on bass to the former Paul Hardiman. The type of music played by them orbits around Rythem & Blues and is influenced by J. Geils Band, The Blues Band, Sonney Boy Williamson, Little Feat & Perry Como to name a few.

They have played in almost all the local venuesStables, Hurlers, Speakeasy, Two Mile Inn, Limerick Inn along with alot of other counties throughout Ireland. They also can claim to have played in London (okay so, one place in London), (alright a very small place in London!!!!!!)

Declan Askin tells us that the band have no political (or any other) statements to make about - the state of the world, war, peace, bin tags or the QCA - "which most of us can't even spell". Their main concerns are usually centered on economic factors such as the price and availability of any type of "jolly juice".

The Tubes hope to record a demo of their own songs either over Christmas or early new year and are expecting a £3.27p record deal from island records any day

2 in January. TDIWM wish
toodle doo before they depart.
Catch their Christmas glg in the Glentworth DEC. 21st



now - all the band members having told Alan Parker to "shove roles in the 'Committments' up his arse".

It must be said that until they become famous and ignore us all they are available for college gigs, birthday parties, class parties etc.....at a nominal fee of £7,400/ night. An Focal (as were all who were present) were impressed with there recent conquest of the Fosters Talent Competition held in the Hurlers and wish them the best in the future.**Look out for THE TUBES.....**



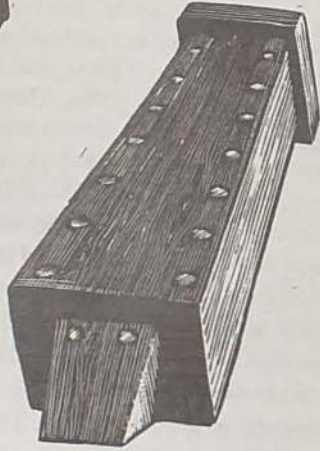
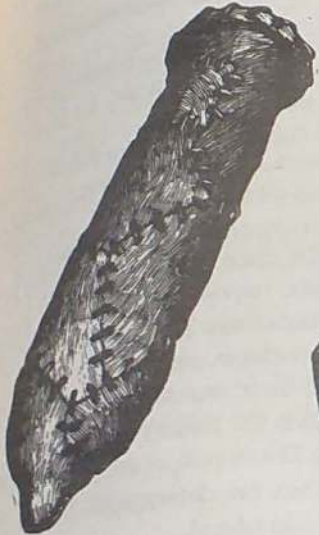
Did You Know There Are at Least EIGHT Methods of Birth Control?

While you think about this let's answer a few questions:

WHY USE CONTRACEPTION

The attraction between a man and a woman can be one of the most powerful emotions. Not all people who make love want to have a baby. However unless family planning methods are used, sooner or later the woman is likely to get pregnant. Today's methods of family planning make it possible for a couple to choose whether or not to have a child. Advice is free. It's worth knowing about. There are several family planning methods to choose from. By making sure that you or your partner are using an effective form of contraception, you will be able to relax and enjoy sex much more. And if you do decide to plan a family, you will know that that baby will be wanted.

JOHNNY, I Hardly Knew You!



LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT

You will hear a lot of foolish tales about contraception which are not true. So whatever you've heard here are some of the *real facts*

- Breastfeeding may not prevent pregnancy
- Pregnancy can occur even if the woman does not have an orgasm i.e. comes
- Intercourse in any position can result in pregnancy

- Pregnancy can follow first intercourse, and can occur without male penetration
- Pregnancy sometimes occurs when intercourse occurs during a period
- Douching, however soon after intercourse, will never prevent pregnancy and can be harmful
- Withdrawal, 'being careful' can result in pregnancy

Welfare



LET'S TAKE OUR TIME
RUB OIL ON OUR BUTTOCKS,
AND I'LL SIT ON
YOUR FACE

IS THAT SAFE?
BETTER CHECK
THE PAMPHLET

And now the eight different methods.

Method	Failure Rate	Comments
Combined pill or there is sickness or severe diarrhoea, when extra precautions must be used. Some drugs may stop the pill working - a doctor will advise.	<1% - 2%	Prescribed by a doctor. Does not work if taken over 72 hours late. Pill users should try not to smoke.
Progestogen daily or no more than three hours late. Sickness, severe diarrhoea and some drugs may stop it working, and extra precautions must be used. Pill users should try not to smoke.	1% - 4%	Prescribed by a doctor. Must be only pill taken at the same time.
Injectable offered to women for whom other methods are unsuitable. Opinion differs about its value. Noristerat is only available as a short-term method of family planning.	<1%	Prescribed by a doctor. Depo-contraceptives Provera should only be used.
Intrauterine type IUDs are usually replaced about every five years. Women can check the device is in place by feeling for the IUD threads high in the vagina. Tampons may be used.	1% - 3%	Inserted by a specially trained device (IUD) doctor. Depending on type.
Diaphragm (which inactivates sperm) must be used with the diaphragm. Caps - cervical, vault or vimule - which are smaller devices which cover the cervix, are also available.	2% - 15%	A spermicidal cream, jelly, cap + spermicide pessary, film or foam.
Sponge and how to cover the cervix properly is recommended. The sponge should not be left in place any longer than 30 hours altogether.	9% - 25%	The sponge can be bought from chemists. Instruction in its use.
Condom touches any part of the vaginal area, and held in place any time the penis is withdrawn. All approved condoms carry the standards mark on the cover of the pack. Not prescribed by doctors.	2% - 15%	Must be put on (using a new one each time, before the penis is withdrawn).
Natural Methods sympto-thermal (double check) method is the most reliable natural family planning method. Some people choose to use a barrier method during the fertile time rather than abstain.	2% - 20%	Method must be learnt from a specially trained teacher.
Female Sterilisation any doubt. Counselling is important. New surgical techniques mean a hospital stay of less than 48 hours. Day-care operation possible.	0.001 - 0.005%	This is a permanent method. It should never be undertaken if in any doubt.
Male Sterilisation any doubt. Counselling is important. Can be carried out under a local anaesthetic at a clinic or surgery. Operation takes only 10-15 minutes.	0.001%	This is a permanent method. It should never be undertaken if in any doubt.



Actually, that depends. If that's all they do then it is perfectly safe, but if they plan following their kinky game with activities involving a condom then there is a risk. Oil causes the rubber in condoms to perish. They should consider using a water based lubricant such as KY Jelly. Alternatively they could try jam or marmalade - it's a safe (if sticky) substance to play with when using condoms.

World AIDS day. Sunday 1 December 1991

Think Safer Sex. It's fun, and it will save your life.



Opinion

From the Triangle

A Letter from Mam

One of the members of my friends recently told his mother he is gay. A short time later he received a letter from her, which he showed me. I've been given permission to publish it on the basis that the names in it are changed.

My Dear John,

I've been meaning to write to you all week but just didn't get round to it.

Your news was a bit of a stunner, as you may have gathered, but nothing to get really worked up about. I love you dearly and have always found you admirable and trustworthy even if a bit stubborn at times. I wish you peace, happiness and contentment in your future and hope you will never be too far away. That's how I feel. The same as before.

I can't speak for anyone else but I would like to talk it over with you if I may.

There's no news from here. Jacinta rings regularly. She's got herself a part time job....[other family news omitted].

I haven't read the book yet. I forgot about it for a while, and I'm also rather busy, or should I say occupied with a skirt I'm trying to make. The material ravelled extremely easily so I have to hand stitch all the raw edges to keep it from falling apart.

I'll say goodbye for now
all my love, Mam xxx

I think there is little to be said after that. Some days the world is a wonderful place.

Outside The Pearly Gates

Not many of us would think of Castletroy as a "rough" area but according to members of the travelling community who were parked outside U.L.'s gates last year, this is exactly what it is. Due to discrimination based on prejudice their stay was far from trouble free.

Wanton vandals often attacked their homes, spraying messages, yelling insults and terrorising their

children. It was not unusual to find a brick or rock hurling through the window in the middle of the night and slashed tyres were certainly no stranger to the travellers. Because of this prejudice action, the travellers were very wary and cautious.

Many of the residents were very annoyed at the traveller's presence and wanted to see them removed. Yet does this excuse the vandalism, the ruined property and the hardships forced on these people? Residents may argue that the travellers should never have been allowed to park at the gate of the university and ought to have found somewhere suitable. The travellers' answer to that would be that there was no proper halting site available at the time. Isn't everyone entitled to clean water, sanitary conditions and a safe place to live? Obviously, this only applies to a lucky few. And what advice can we give the travellers next time? Settle for what you can get!



TIME TO GET COURAGE

Sunday was World AIDS Day.

We were reminded that in the coming years, millions and millions of human beings will die of AIDS. It is a world-wide scourge. It is an epidemic of misery and pain and death.

World AIDS Day was marked here in Ireland as it was elsewhere. In Ireland, people will not die of AIDS. They will die of hypocrisy.

They will die because we live in a country where murder is illegal, where abortion is illegal, where billions of pounds are spent annually on a health service, but where politicians are too afraid to tackle the condom issue.

Condoms are not the answer to the AIDS problem. But there is little doubt that they contribute to the disease among the sexually active.

We have pressure groups in this country. They claim to be Christian and caring. They don't want abortion because they say it is wrong and it kills babies. But AIDS kills babies too. They don't want divorce because they said it harms families. AIDS harms families too.

Generally speaking, those who oppose abortion and divorce also oppose the use of condoms. They say condoms are sinful. They say condoms are wrong. They don't seem to care that their unreasonable opposition to condoms which has the politicians scared, will cause death and suffering. These people are determined to get to heaven. They are determined to live the lives of every one of us on this island.

That they cause death and misery is of no concern to them. Their eyes are fixed on the promised land and they don't give a damn who they step on in their quest to get there. If the Bible had been, not 2,000 years ago, but now, there would be no mention of Pharisees.

No. Their place would be taken instead by the selfish, who try to carve out their path to salvation by forcing others to die a slow painful death.

Our politicians will hopefully get the courage they need to tackle the AIDS problem the way it needs to be tackled. Yes, monogamy will help. Yes, addicts avoiding dirty needles will help.

So too will condoms. And it is time we found the moral courage to do something about it.

My Heart

Jian Zeng
4 October 1991

O heart,
Why are you still
To keep me not

O heart,
When did you
To bring me
To lock me
human wo

O heart,
When w
To let n
To sen

O h
My

T

S I M O N S N O D G R A S S

THE TROUBLE WITH PEADAR

It was a warm July evening and Larry had spent all day working in the bog. It wasn't that he needed to work there, he was after all one of the richest men in Ireland. However lately thing had taken a decided turn for the worst, Goodman International was on the rocks, tribunals loomed ahead. "Still", he thought, there's nothing to relieve shh-tress, like a day in the bog. Just, then he's spade struck something decidedly unturfilike. Larry had just uncovered the corpse of Peadar.

"Jabeus Chrise" he spat "I've found a boggy". And to tell the truth, he was nearly right, he had found a body. Larry did what any Irish entrepreneur would do in that situation, he seized the opportunity. A month later Peadar was processed, packaged and sold to the EC as prime Irish Beef cuts with the "dinky" little Q for quality stamp placed on the packet.

Three thousand years ago, Peadar of the fair tongue was born, first son of Seanie of the hairy armpits and Maire of the ingrown toenails. He spent all his life in a little village called Weela-Weela-Wank which was the stronghold of the vegetarian Ballooby-shoobydooby tribe. This was a county not yet ravaged and plundered by the Vikings, the Normans or Irish Businessmen. However, one day while strolling the hearth chewing a sprig of lettuce had the misfortune to meet a warrior from the WhankerKnacker Tribe, who resided in an area, today the site of Southill. The hostile WhackerKnacker felled him there and then, and Peadar sunk to the turf clutching he's lettuce.

There his body lay for three thousand years, preserved by the particular mix of various chemicals and agents found in an Irish bog.

The rain fell in torrents, darkening the pavement and depressing the populace of the capital. Simon Snodgrass, fresh from the success of his Jacob's award for "Most Outstanding Person", raced for the corner of McDonalds. In response to deep rumbling sounds emanating from my stomach I decided I would eat. I ordered a burger and found a seat. Just as I was moving the burger toward my mouth I heard someone say "Don't". I glanced over my shoulder but no one seemed to be addressing me. Just the usual McDonalds crowd sucking their milkshakes and admiring the tacky furniture. I lifted the burger again "Don't eat me" it said "I'm a bogger". "No you're not" I corrected. "You're my burger". I'm Peadar of the fair tongue", the assembled mince seemed to say. "You can't eat me" he said. "Yeah I can, I've just paid for you". At this point reluctantly, I left him on the table. The spirit was willing but by now my stomach was weak.

"I'm on a mission", he said, after telling me he's story. "To spread vegetarianism throughout the civilized world and to Ireland as well.

"That's understandable, considering your position", I commented. "With my good looks and your personality we could go far".

"Less of that", I said "or you'll finish up in the nearest bin, besides how do you propose spreading your message".

"You'll write an article, of course", he continued. "With your lightening wit, colourful metaphors, inspired phraseology vegetarianism can't help but catch on".

"You forget", I said, "that all they want to hear about is exams, they've no interest in garden vegetables".

"Just write it and they'll listen Simon", he said. "You're the greatest thing to hit the English language since Bill Shakespeare".

"There you go again", I said, choking back tears of righteous indignation, "underscoring my talents!".

The End.

Simon Snodgrass would like to wish all his readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and to thank them for all the cards, money, presents, etc., they've sent which were held up in the postal strike. I look forward to their arrival.



My Heart
Jian Zeng
4 October 1991

O heart,
Why are you still beating,
To keep me endless working,
To keep me non-stop worrying.

O heart,
When did you begin to beat,
To bring me this terrible world,
To lock me inside this painful
human world.

O heart,
When will you stop beating,
To let me end my every worrying,
To send me into the heaven
— which is shining.

O heart,
My heart

THE GREAT WHITE HUNTER

Lush Grass,
November Air,
Waxed Boots,
Cropped Hair

White Rabbit-
Easy Prey.
Gung-ho, Gung-ho,
ung-ho.

believable.

NO WORDS CAN SAY!

How to start to tell
Those feelings you don't understand?
How to share yourself with others
When they cannot read your mind?
A simple sentence can begin,
But your lips will not open,
It runs around inside your head,
But cannot come out,
It's been said before,
You're heard yourself talk,
Yet it gets no easier,
At any time, at any stage,
It's all so easily explained
If only you could start,
It's only you could start,
It's all so clear and simple
and locked inside head,
A friendship means so much,
To ope up and say those things.,
Things you thought you'd never say,
Till you met your friends - who helped,
Still your left alone with your memories,
On a dark night, in a dark place,
They come back and haunt your dreams
Till you scream aloud
So that no-one hears
Those words....-
I've been ABUSED.

Ode To Peace

The students chant and dance
They sing "Give peace a chance",
While on a street in Belfast
People are hurt in a blast.
Some condone it for the cause,
They can't see there own flaws,
Condemnation echoes from
Church and state
As they hide from there own hate,
I am horrified at what I see,
It has become a part of me,
I wish I could somehow flee,
From all the goddam hypocrisy.
Keep on dancing.

Purple Haze

Midsum



Volunteers are needed for
a production crew for A
Midsummer Night's Dream
January 19th - 25th

Are you interested in
helping in any of the follow-
ing areas?

- Set Construction
- Set Management
- Front of House

Are you available during
the period January 2nd to
25th?

If you are interested
please complete the form
available at Student Person-
nel Services by Friday,
December 6th

Arts

THE DINAWAY SOUL - HAROLD BRODKEY

Unbelievable.

THE RUNAWAY SOUL : HAROLD BRODKEY

REVIEWED BY: JOHN MAGUIRE.

The pathetic blurb on this disappointing novel tells us that Harold Brodkey is "AMERICA'S GREATEST NOVELIST." The capital letters are theirs. My personal blurb is unprintable. The frustrated copywriter goes on to tell us that this book is the "most eagerly awaited first novel of all time". Sadly, it's just the most overweight first novel of all time. To get rid of my vitriol in the first paragraph, the 800 pages of *The Runaway Soul* are plotless, graceless and meaningless. As entertainment this novel is a non-starter. As a meaningful narration on the state of America to-day, Brodkey's input is negligible.

a disrespectful pose

This novel is supposedly a major contribution to American fiction. However it merely serves as conclusive evidence of the death of that form. Brodkey is not a post-modernist, and has learned nothing from the European and Latin American novel. Having started writing stories for *The New Yorker*, Brodkey would be well advised to return to his beginnings and re-think his ideas of what a novel should be. The truth is that the Great American Novel, in the fifties, had not yet been written. Faulkner couldn't do it, neither could Twain or Hemmingway. Now, 30 years later, Harold Brodkey fails also. In American fiction to-day, with the dubious exception of Thomas Pynchon, there is no great novelist. Pynchon's "Vineyard" tells us more about the state of America and her people than this bloated, disrespectful pose of a book.

The narrator of *The Runaway Soul*, Wilkey Silenowicz, appeared earlier in Brodkey's short story, "Innocence" (1973). In this story he has a sexual relationship with the beautiful Orra Perkins. In my opinion this is one of the more aesthetically painful stories, with lines like, "to see her in sunlight was to see Marxism die". In this book, Brodkey returns Orra

to Wiley, but this time spelt as Ora. We find the couple copulating on a window-sill, and this time Marxism meets it's end at "the dinner table". Ora is at her best however, in the bedroom, where Brodkey gives us over 100 pages of their sex and their sexual dialogue in a single night. Characters in a novel never have to get up in the morning, it would appear.

The mashed potatoes of fiction

The *Runaway Soul* is boring, inaccessible and repetitive. This book, 25 years in the writing tells us nothing, supports nothing and answers nothing, "you probably wouldn't like me if you knew me closely", he tells us after 700 odd pages. This is indeed true. My main gripe is that we don't get to know him at all. He gives us no enigma, no questions. The fact that he narrates what he feels to be reality, without giving us a glimpse of the outside world, is my main gripe with this novel.

Wiley gives us strong and stark accounts of his sexual prowess with two girls, Ora and Leonie, and two boys, Daniel and Remsen. (The novel is staunchly bisexual). Wiley is a boorish and irritating lover, yet in his eyes his lovers do care for him, no matter what an obnoxious arse he is. It surprises me to read that Wiley has no knowledge of A.I.D.S. This section was probably written in the '60's, although one would think Brodkey could change this. I imagine he was fantasizing about his step-sister. More about this interesting facet later.

This appalling book is greedy in that it really never leaves Wiley's flat. The ego would not allow this. Wiley is jealous and narrow-minded. The book has nothing of the generosity and colour of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, or Umberto Eco. It's rather like expecting a feast and eating bread and water. Bland, colourless and boring. It's the mashed potatoes of fiction.

Wiley claims rather unconvincingly that he "is interested in the world beyond the not-entirely glass wall of my existence". The book, however tells us nothing of this world, just Brodkey, or rather his alter-ego Wiley. Just Brodkey, his monstrous self-love, his pitiful emotion. Virtually everything occurs inside, behind closed doors. The hero's portion of *The Runaway Soul* traces and retraces his education at the hands of his adoptive family. He wants to capture "the real moments" of his past, before they enter the waste-basket of his mind. We could liken him to Schwarzenegger in his "Total Recall", but he's not worth the effort. He sees himself as a genius, a virtuoso, a maestro. I could however, find more choice words to describe this sorry monologue. Wiley is a tragic figure who can't break out of his cerebralism and self-obsession. The saddest part of it is that these traits are Brodkey's also.

To a solpist like Wilkey, the only external object espousing reality is his step-sister, his symbolic nemesis. Nonie. She has a love/hate, life or death relationship with Wiley. She is his embodiment of evil, the demon. As a narrator, he reports with nauseating satisfaction that she suffered a terrible death. This prompted him, probably, to write this terrible novel. It's a shame that a writer of importance like Brodkey had to inflict this self-loving novel on the literary world. It is said that he had abandoned it many times during it's lengthy writing. *The Runaway Soul* is shameful writing from the "American Genius".

Are you available during the period January 2nd to 25th?

If you are interested please complete the form available at Student Personnel Services by Friday, December 8th.



Clubs & SOCS

Michaelmas to Christmas With the Outdoor Pursuits Club

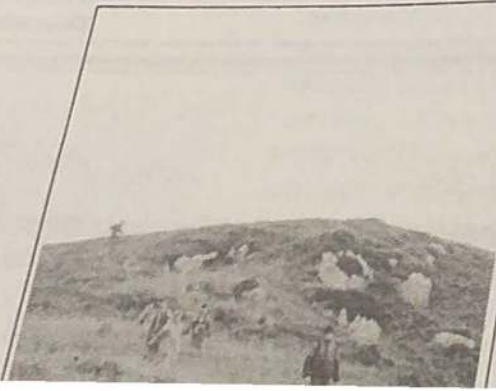
So my friends the term is at an end, the dreaded exams are about to drive all of us around the bend, and all that there is to look forward to is a month of sitting on spreading bums. This then may be as good a time as any to review what has been achieved in the past three months.

Well we started the term with the little bit of a walk on Keeper Hill.

A good introduction to the days to follow; hills, more hills, drizzle,

more drizzle and of course rain and more rain. But do you know it was brilliant for all that. For, as I said in the first article, at the bottom of every good hill there is a good pub, and every good pub has an open fire to dry out in front of.

The highlight of the term has got to have been the trip to Cappanalea. We went there with the intention of doing Mountain Skills 1&2, and



ended up with An Introduction to Mountain Safety, but such is life. Anyway a brief summation of the weekend: We arrived Friday evening, as the Kerry drizzle came down, for eternity it seemed. A quick bight, before hiking four miles to the nearest pub-The Rowan Tree Inn. Now this public house is in the middle of nowhere, but surely be included in the Pub Guide for next years S.U. Handbook! The Guinness that flow from the old and worn taps is truly the wine of the Holy Grail! It was beheld with reverence, enveloped in abundance and

with satisfaction!
Then we hiked all the way back home!

The next morning awoken by the clanging of Johnny Foley's sausepan lids we began the weekend in earnest. Navigation, how not to get lost in the



get lost". Not everyone was successful, but at least everyone made home. Good thing too or they would have missed an excellent session in The Forge Inn - Kilorglin. I know that one particular Dutch girl was very impressed. And if you think that we let the night end in a drunken stupor then you are badly mistaken. Furniture gymnastics was the order of the night, climbing tables and chairs, falling flat on drink-numbed faces and doing it all again. Sunday, ropework- how to tie yourself up in knots, and enjoy it!

And speaking of being tied up, our german friend Erwin will remember his birthday in Ireland for a while, having been tied up and left hanging, by his own hands, then...

home, tired, wrecked in fact, and slept.

So now, the end of term is being marked by our first caving excursion to Clare. We leave Saturday evening after that final brutal bitch of an exam.

A few well poured pints in one of the Doolin hostelries, to quell the claustrophobia. Then into the darkness of the caves!

A quick word on what will be coming up next term, we intend to open the term with information stands in the Main Building and the Sports Building, where we will be explaining the type of events that we take part in, such as rockclimbing and orienteering etc., and where possible giving demonstrations! Also our

Clubs

that. For...
 article, at the bottom of...
 good hill there is a good pub,
 and every good pub has an
 open fire to dry out in front of.

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 Then we hiked all the
 way back home!

The next morning
 awoken by the
 clanging of Johnny
 Foley's sausepan lids
 we began the
 weekend in earnest.
 Navigation, how not
 to get lost in the
 mountains, bearings,
 back-bearings,
 saddles, lakes and
 bogs. After all the
 theory, on with the
 boots and away for a
 brisk walk to find out
 just how much was
 learned. "Pick a route
 lads, and try not to



then you all...
 Furniture gymnastics...
 order of the night, climbing
 tables and chairs, falling flat
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 doing it all again. Sunday,
 ropework- how to tie yourself
 up in knots, and enjoy it!

And speaking of being tied
 up, our german friend Erwin
 will remember his birthday in
 Ireland for a while, having
 been tied up and left hanging,
 by his suspenders three feet
 off the ground, a mountaineer-
 ing tradition. Where was I? Oh
 yes ropework, so anyway,
 having learned the difference
 between a bowline and a
 granny knot, it was again time
 to put all of our vast knowl-
 edge to practice. Having a
 belay is handy, in case you fall
 you know. Then we came

be...
 intend to open the term with
 information stands in the
 Main Building and the Sports
 Building, where we will be
 explaining the type of events
 that we take part in, such as
 rockclimbing and orienteering
 etc., and where possible giving
 demonstrations! Also our
 intervarsity is being held in
 Week 3 of next term, probably
 in Doolin, Co. Clare.

We hope to see many more
 of you taking part in activities
 in the new year.

To the rest of you we say
 "Have a mountain of food, a
 lake of drink, and a very merry
 Christmas".



i soc

the i loves you all,
 i want you to love me too.
 i need to break down the invisible walls of the
 uninitiated mind.
 hello to our legion.
 let this message spur you to greatness .
 i want to be the laughter in the woods.
 the devil in the sky, looking down and prompting.
 i am your dream of tomorrow, and your taste of today.
 please don't let me die.
 freshness i my craving.
 i can taste the blood of freedom.
 i can let you be what they call nothing.



Martial Arts Extravaganza

On Wednesday, November 6 the Martial Arts Club of the university held a special event to promote these sports in the College. The Karate (Wadu-Ryu style), Judo, and Taekwondo Clubs demonstrated their styles, while Kung Fu, Kickboxing and Self Defence were also shown. An excellent attendance of over three hundred and forty was present.

The University is home to three Martial Arts clubs - Karate, Judo and Taekwondo. Training in each art normally consists of learning basic techniques through repetition of each movement until it is perfected (as well as increasing basic physical fitness - strength stamina and flexibility). Most arts practice sparring whereby each student can learn how to apply his or her techniques in a controlled combat situation. Patterns are often taught as a means to increase students' understanding in each discipline, as well as providing a safe way for adepts to perfect techniques too dangerous to try out on fellow students.

The extravaganza began at seven thirty with all participants coming out onto the demonstration area. Aidan McMahon (Taekwondo) and Kieran Earls (Judo instructor) were commenting. All groups initially carried out their different warm-ups on the floor for about ten minutes. The Karate Club, led by their instructor John Fitzgerald, were the first group to display their talents. After showing the basic karate movements they went on to display some typical self defence methods and free sparring. Later on a spectacular demonstration of weapons use in Karate was carried out with the Bo Staff (a six foot long wooden staff) and Tonfa (on which the police nightstick in the US is based).

We were very lucky to have Paddy Moloney (Third Degree) with us to improve our demonstration. Firstly some hand and foot techniques were shown, moving up and down the mats. This was followed by a demonstration of two of the Taeguks (patterns) Won-Hyo Tul (a pattern for coloured belts) and Choong-Moo Tul (the pattern performed for the Black Belt exam). These patterns allow the students to measure their ability in Taekwondo and are believed by many practitioners to be the most important measure of an adept's proficiency in the art. One step sparring ensued, where a student demonstrates his ability to cope with an attack, by blocking and initiating a suitable counter-attack. Free sparring was then shown with one student defending himself against an attack from two aggressors. A destruction display followed where Paddy Moloney performed four directional power break (using one inch thick pine boards). A speed break was then demonstrated by Richie McDonald where two of the boards were suspended and broken with a two punch combination. One of the most spectacular points of the demonstration followed when a soft drinks can was kicked off Ali's head, with a jumping reverse turning kick.

Mike Teran aided by Richie performed a Kung Fu pattern showing how great concentration can be learned whereby one can perform a pattern whilst being struck quite hard by a "helper" (a demonstration of mind over matter). They then demonstrated some sparring methods useful for self defense purposes.

John O'Keefe and Andy Coughlan then did a Kickboxing demonstration. Firstly they demonstrated some power kicks into a focus pad. They followed this up with a short fight over three two minute rounds. A very good fight was enjoyed by one and all. Well done lads.

The final demonstration of the evening was undertaken by Donie O'Sullivan and Aidan Sexton, who quickly demonstrated a variety of self defence techniques taken from both Judo and Taekwondo. Strikes, sweeps, throws and locking methods were shown. Here some possible responses to about eight different attacks were demonstrated first in a slow manner, in order to show clearly the basic movements involved. A speedy demonstration followed with movements being shown at a realistic speed.

In conclusion, the event was a great success. A very high quality performance was given by each group. Each club was very pleased with the evening. I would like to express my thanks to those who took part in the extravaganza and to those who helped organise the event (particularly Donie O'Sullivan). The instructors also deserve a word of gratitude for preparing each group of participants. The Badminton Club must also be thanked for allowing us to use the Sports Hall for one of their scheduled sessions - Thanks a million lads! We would like to see more ladies taking part in the demonstrations in future (about half the members of the martial arts clubs in the college are lady members)!!

Aidan Sexton

U.L. KAYAK CLUB

It's raining again. What a bummer. But down in the prefab near the pool room there is a stir near the canoe store. Yes folks, the season of the canoist is just starting. These colourful looking creatures with woolly jumpers, red akirts and skin tight blue suits can be seen marching towards the back of the Sports Hall with their paddles in hand, looking out the

especially, from all over the place take over this quite village for a few days in question. there is great surf on Rossbeigh

Clubs & SOCS

most spectacular points of the demonstration - punch combination. One of the drinks can was kicked off Ali's head, with a soft turning kick.

BUD, BATONS AND BART SIMPSON

American Football Match Report

by **RONALD MacLENNAN**

The US of A came to Limerick on Saturday, November 16th in the shape of two American College Football teams: Fordham from New Jersey and Holy Cross from Massachusetts.

The Overseas Students' Society organised a party to go along to the Gaelic Grounds to see the Game. This was partly for the benefit of its homesick American members but also for other students (Overseas and Irish) who wanted to get away from essays and experience the razzmatazz.

Your correspondent hails from Scotland and was - even at the end of the afternoon - still a little hazy as to the finer points of the game. But that didn't really matter! there was



so much going on at the game that the play was sometimes the least of it. Both teams had brought along their bands, Bart Simpson made an appearance and troupes of cheerleaders willed their respective teams on.

At Full Time, it was the Holy Cross cheerleaders who had most to cheer about. Holy Cross won the game by 24 - 19 to keep their unbeaten record for the season intact.

U.L. KAYAK CLUB

It's raining again. What a bummer. But down in the prefab near the pool room there is a stir near the canoe store. Yes folks, the season of the canoist is just starting. These colourful looking creatures with woolly jumpers, red skirts and skin tight blue suits can be seen marching towards the back of the Sports Building with their equally colourful, sleek looking craft. The rain only means bigger water, bigger waves and more fun.

On other occasions they just cram in to their twice weekly pool sessions where they earn from the basics to the arts of handling their craft. From freshers to post grads they capsize, roll, capsize, hand roll, scull, slap and the list goes on.

In Week 3 twenty of us landed down to Lahinch to find a mere two to three foot surf. yes we do surf in our canoes and we don't like the boardies taking our waves. We meet U.C.G. Kayak club there, all forty of them. They have one of the biggest college Kayak clubs in the country. Forty odd canoes at a time fighting for what little surf there was looked a touch overpopulated. Our surf skies proved a great attraction on the day. Almost half of the gang from our club were first timers on surf so they were quite happy with two foot waves. Plenty of swims quickly teaches you how not to capsize

and how to catch the wave properly and ride it in. Cries of 'lean back, lean back on the wave' were heard through the roar of the waves as they broke. We joined the U.C.G. crowd for grub and a few jars afterwards and of course some talk of the amazing rivers, drops, gorges that the gurus among us had done recently.

Those interested in improving their flat water paddling with some white water stuff, should keep an eye on the club notice board for trips being run on Wednesdays or Saturday mornings on the Shannon out the back. The only way to get better is get out on the river, get the simple things (like paddling in a straight line.) and then you can progress to the more exciting stuff.

Speaking of exciting stuff, New Year's in Glenbeigh has become a major canoeing event in recent years. College clubs



especially, from all over the place take over this quiet village for a few days in question. there is great surf on Rossbeigh Beach, three increasingly difficult stretches of water on the river Carra and Fungl lives just across the bay. We are of course sending a 'party' to the event to do their bit.

Next term we plan numerous trips away - Lahinch, Glenbeigh, the intervarsities in Dublin, the river Inry, the Castleconnell stretch of the Shannon, the Corrib and Spiddle rivers in Galway are all on the list of possibles.

Also next term, members will be awarded Intermediate and Basic certificates depending on the amount of paddling they have done. the requirements for these certificates can be seen on the club notice board.

Finally, belated birthday wishes to our hardworking and capable captain, Mr John Evans, alias Oggy and our equally hardworking equipment officer, Colm Phelan (he's the strong but silent type). Paddles up!



Noticeboard

Library notes

• The 15-minute rule holds in the library as well as in the reading rooms. If you leave your desk for longer than fifteen minutes someone else is entitled to that desk.

• As of the start of next term library fines for late returns will be increased to: 30p per day for first 5 days

60p per day thereafter
In fairness, two weeks is enough time to read anything! Think of your fellows.

Welfare:

Pregnancy testing kits are available from Donal Waide or Marguerite Fleming at Donal Waide's office.

Reminders to those going on co-op.

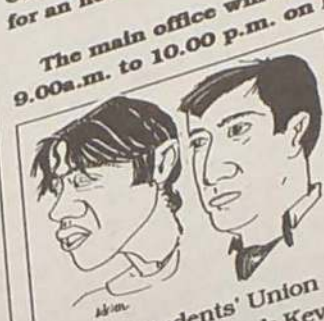
(1) Clear out your lockers. Why? Because it gets done automatically during summer months. So spare yourself the ordeal of frantically searching in vain for "missing" stuff.

(2) Take back any books not sold which you left into S.U. shop to be sold. Any books left after 9 months will be disposed of.

(3) Check for post and photo developing. Get your USIT card before Xmas and in Week 1.

Students Union Christmas Holiday Arrangements

From Monday 9th of December to the 20th the Main Office will be opened from 9.00a.m. to 6.00p.m. Closing for an hour for lunch (1 - 2 p.m.)



The Students' Union would like to thank Kevin Brew and Michael Gunn for their great assistance while on coop in the S.U.

Both the Officers and Staff of the Students Union would like to wish all students and staff of the University a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Across

- 8 A series of things following in order.(8)
- 9 Marcel, French novelist.(6)
- 10 Plates could be part of a basic diet.(6)
- 11 Centaurs from ancient state of Northern Italy.(8)
- 12 Agree to.(6)
- 13 Go illegally onto another's land.(8)
- 15 Covering for the foot.(4)
- 17 Strong grass used in rope-making.(7)
- 19 Eight planet from the sun.(7)
- 22 B, in Greece.(4)
- 24 Believing and following established religious doctrines.(8)

DOWN

- 1 Type of tank for sewage.(6)
- 2 Order to appear in court.(8)
- 3 Catch or hold the attention.(8)
- 4 Met me? No, just had a reminder.(7)
- 5 Thinly Scattered.(6)
- 6 Throw a coin to decide.(4,2)
- 7 Hired killer.(8)
- 14 Money paid for use of property
- 16 Tramp, vagrant.(4)
- 18 Trying or fighting

Greeting From Dr. Walsh

Faculty and staff join with me in sending greetings to the student body. We wish you, your parents and families all that is good this Christmas and the health and enthusiasm necessary to make your ambitions a reality in 1992.

Co-op Notice

All those intending Co-op passengers if they would like to leave their name and Co-op address with the S.U. main office we will try and include you in our An Focal Mail out which should be about once a fortnight.

Crossword

