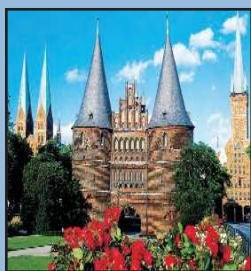




An Focal



Four lucky readers will win a pair of return tickets to Hamburg. Turn to pg 13 for details.



Seo againn Seachtain na Gaeilge! Breathnaigh ar lgh 4 do chlár na n-imeachtaí...



Check out what OPC have been up to in the Clubs & Societies pgs from pg 21-24

Edition 7: Week 4 8th February 2005

The Official Paper of the Students' Union

E: sucommunication@ul.ie

Camogie Champions Retain Ashbourne Cup

On Sunday 20th February the dreams of the UL Camogie club were realised as they beat UCD in convincing fashion to retain the Ashbourne Cup they had held from the previous year.

The Ashbourne Cup weekend, which took place in Waterford, kicked off for UL on Saturday the 19th when they met UCC in the semi-finals. The delayed start to the semi-finals, held in De La Salle, didn't help the nervous of the UL team and when the match did start it was UCC that had the better start leading by two points after fifteen minutes. UL then began to settle down and started to play some wonderful camogie going a point in front with minutes remaining in the first half before UCC drew level with a free sending both teams to the dressing rooms at half time level, six points a piece.

Once the second half began UL to show their winning ways with some outstanding displays right across the team. They led going into the last few minutes by five points but UCC weren't going to hand to it UL and came back at them scoring a goal in the lat



Camogie Captain Jenny O'Leary receives the Ashbourne Cup

minute of normal time. UL held on during the six minutes of extra time to win by two points.

The scenes of joy after the final whistle demonstrated how much the back-to-back win over UCC meant to all UL involved. With no silverware in the cabinet yet UL would still have to overcome UCD the following day.

The final on Sunday, played

in Ballygunner, was a repeat of last year's final with UCD getting off to the better start once again with a free inside the opening minute. UL drew a minute later with a free from captain Jenny O' Leary. UCD threw everything at UL in the first half: the sides were level twice more before UCD struck for the only goal of the game. UL, unwilling to give up their title easily, scored almost immediately afterward with a point from play by Aoife Lynskey to level the game again at 0-5 to 1-2, the sides traded points to go in level at the break.

The second half saw a very determined UL team send over two rapid frees from Jenny O' Leary. Both teams went ten minutes without scoring until Jenny O' Leary scored her first point from play, to be followed shortly afterward by UCD's only score of the second half. UL put in a great finish with a further two frees from Jenny while Limerick girl Aoife Sheehan grabbed the final score. The final few minutes of the final were heart-stopping as UCD tried to rescue the game but brilliant defending denied them

and the UL Camogie Club went on to make history. Their dream of retaining their cup was realised with a final score of UL 0-12 UCD1-4.

Adding further to UL's success was the when four of the UL team were chosen on the All-Star team namely: Regina Glynn, Amanda O' Regan, Siobhán Ryan and Captain Jenny O' Leary.

Not being content with being crowned both Intervarsity Ashbourne Champions and Most Improved Club in 2004, the training for the Ashbourne Cup '05 started months back under the management of two Limerick greats Tom Hennessy and TJ Moloney on the mucky pitches in Maguire's. A second win would never be an easy task, the teams dedication and commitment to training combined with the commitment and dedication of their manager Tom Hennessy, his selector TJ Moloney, Carol Murphy as physical trainer, Lynn Kelly, GAA Development Officer and Neasa O' Donnell President of the Camogie club who ensured that next year UL Camogie will be going for three in a row.

An Focal
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Sports Talk: Brendan Coffey

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Postgrad News: PSA President

Pay It Forward

by Keith Whelan

U.L. needs you! In particular, U.L. Foundation, which will in the very near future be calling upon willing participants in the need of fund-raising. The UL Foundation will be calling on graduates of this university regarding a funding drive to put some valuable currency in the coffers. Keep an eye out on the notice boards for the "call to arms" in the need of U.L. when through your powers of persuasion, you will convince those past graduates to part with their hard earned cash in the good name of U.L.

If the graduates 'pay it forward' like the movie of the same name, by investing now, the donations will be put to good use on campus.

The chance to talk to past students, some of two and some of twenty years, was interesting. To have a chat about past lecturers or about the shared experiences of the Scholars/Stables on a Thursday night! Then it was down to business! With all the charm and grace in the world, we asked people nicely to donate to a good cause. Whether the people were donating to the U.L. Annual Fund or to the development of the Centre for Academic Practice at UL, all was clearly explained and clarified. Honesty was to the core, when present and past student alike spoke about how through a donation to U.L. would enhance the status of the college, therefore enhancing that particular person's degree.

Professor Roger Downer has commented in the past "Graduates are the permanent custodians of a University. The currency of the graduates degree is only as good as the University's current reputation." Maureen Mc Greevy, Funding Development Manager for Alumni and Friends stated " it has been great working with students on U.L.'s Annual Fund as it goes into it's third year of existence. I understand it is still sometimes surprising for the alumni to



A celebratory drink with student phone reps at the close of the UL Foundation's Special Autumn Appeal.

get calls from students, but, I think both the students and the graduates enjoy the exchange and talking about how things were and how things have changed. A University's Annual Fund helps improve not only students lives but the future prospects of the whole university."

Tony Bretherton, Executive Director of the U.L. Foundation commented " It's good to invite graduates to remember U.L. and to ask them to offer something back to help enhance U.L. going forward. It's like a family - when you contribute, the link becomes stronger. Student Clubs and Societies and the Financial Aid Fund are just two of the ways funding helps

students directly.

The proof in the pudding to coin a phrase is noted by Paul Lee, Clubs and Societies Development Officer, U.L.S.U. "The support of the Universities Alumni was a superb boost to those who availed of the generous contributions from the last request for funds. Financial donations from the Alumni are an important and valuable contribution to the development of the Clubs and Societies on campus." These donations, which are used as grants and scholarships are utilised by the most important people - the students.

HEALTH PROMOTION AT UL

Public perception tends to define health as the absence of clinically diagnosed diseases or disability. The health of the nation is looked at through statistics showing the incidence of illness, death rates or causes of death. In the same way, we often think that, as long as we do not have an illness with a definite name, we look upon ourselves as healthy. A smoker, for instance, may not see shortness of breath or a morning cough as signs of ill health.

A different view of health is to see it as a wider and much more positive concept. This definition of health relates to the whole person and to such aspects of the overall pattern of life as feeling confident to cope, enjoying life and being able to adapt to change. Far more is included than simply the absence of physical or mental disease. Many people may not be aware of this but the term health is determined by a number of interrelated factors such as; the environment, socio-economic factors, work, education, housing, social networks, lifestyle factors and genetic factors. This is what makes the task of Health Promotion so important in today's world. Health

Promotion can be understood as the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their own health.

Health Promotion goes beyond health care. It puts health on the agenda of policy makers in all sectors and at all levels, directing them to be aware of the health consequences of their decisions and to accept their responsibilities for health. Health Promotion supports personal and social development through providing information, education for health and enhancing life skills. By so doing, it increases the options available to people to exercise more control over their own health and over their environments, and to make choices beneficial to health. Enabling people to learn throughout life, to prepare themselves for all of its stages and to cope with chronic illness and injuries is essential.

During the past decade it has been recognised that attention to health matters in the post-16 education sector has been largely non-existent and given that Ireland has one of the largest numbers of young

people attending third level education in the European Union; the college is an important setting for Health Promotion. Many colleges have established structures within the college to develop health promotion plans and policies and to support other topic-related work that is on going.

In UL a Health Promotion Working Group was set up as a sub committee of Student Affairs. It aims to support the development and implementation of Health Promotion initiatives on campus and to also promote the development of a Health Promotion policy at the University of Limerick. The following individuals and departments are involved on the UL Health Promotion Working Group and can be contacted for information on current or planned Health Promotion events in their respective areas:

- For **Arena Sports Programmes** contact: david.mahedy@ul.ie
- For **Life Skills Programme** contact: patricia.m.mcmanara@ul.ie
- For **Health And Safety** contact: philip.Thornton@ul.ie

- For **Chaplaincy Programmes** contact: koenraad.vangucht@ul.ie or Patricia.hanna@ul.ie
- For **Positive Mental Health Events 2005** contact: elaine.kiely@ul.ie
- For **ULSU Campaigns** contact: suelfare@ul.ie
- For **Student Health Centre** contact: niall.cahill@ul.ie
- For **Counselling** contact: declan.aherne@ul.ie
- For **Campus Life Services** contact: john.orourke@ul.ie

An Corn Collingwood

Diomá arís d'Ollscoil Luimnigh ó thaobh an sacair de! Tá an Corn Collingwood ar siúl an tseachtain seo ach ní raibh ach dhá chluiche ag foireann shinsear OL. I gcoinne UCD sa chéad chluiche, chriochnaigh siad 0 - 0 agus mar sin bhí bua ag teastáil sa chéad chluiche eile i gcoinne Dhoire. Ach go tubaisteach, chaill siad 2 - 0. Bhí sé níos measa fós os rud é go raibh an comórtas ar siúl ar an gcampus s?againne. Beimid ar ais níos láidre an bhliain seo chugainn áfach?

Cathal Byrd



Paisean Faisean na Gaeilge: Cuid a II!!!

Cuireadh tús le Paisean Faisean na Gaeilge oíche Chéadaoin an 23ú Feabhra ins An Phluais agus caithfidh mé a rá, bhí an comhrá agus an bia go hálainn!! Tháinig scata réasúnta chuig an gcrúinniú agus tar éis dóibh a gcuid sonraithe teagmhála a thabhairt dom, rinneamar cúrsaí na Gaeilge ar an gcampas faoi láthair a phlé. Admhaim gur labhair mise leo don chuid is mó ach ar a laghad tá an t-eolas uile acu ar an obair go dtí seo agus ar na pleananna atá faoi lánshéol ceana féin. Ina measc tá:

- dréachtú polasaí Gaeilge do Bhunreacht nua an Aontais;
- iarracht dátheangachas a chothú sa Seomra Caidrimh nua san Aontas;
- iriseoireacht rialta na Gaeilge ins An Focal;
- sceideal sealadach an turais go cathair na Gaillimhe ón 1cd - 3ú Aibreán;

- imeachtaí Seachtain na Gaeilge ón 5ú - 17ú Márta [Paisean Faisean Cuid a II ar an 9ú Márta san áireamh];

- láthair m'oifigse agus m'fhearas nua chun cupán tae nó caife a dhéanamh do chuariteoirí so buailigí isteach chugam!

Tá ainmneacha na rannpháirtigh fós le roghnú i rith na seachtaine chun taispeántas faiseanta iontach a thabhairt dúinn uile oíche Chéadaoin an 9ú Márta! Ní hamháin go mbeidh faisean galánta ar fáil go flúirseach an oíche sin ach ina dhiaidh an taispeántais féin - fad is atá an cailín faiseanta agus a rogha buachalla ag amharc ar scannán rómánsach éigin le chéile - beidh Oíche Chéilí&Chleamhnais ann don lucht féachana le ceol ó cheoltóirí cumasacha an Chumainn Traidisiúnta, Gan Ainm. Bronnfár greamaitheoirí stickers ar chuile duine le Ainglí Angelic nó Adharcach Horny orthu agus roghnaíonn tú do chéile rince dancing partner dá réir!! Níl an locht orainn má tharlaíonn diabhlaíocht idir na rinceoirí adharcacha uile...:p

Sine Nic an Aili

The Green Fair: Bring a bit of Colour into your Life

The UL campus will once again this week be awash with wholesome and natural products as this Wednesday the Environmental Society hosts another Green Fair.

Traditionally set up in the Stables Courtyard the Green Fair is the societies view of what a more environmental campus would involve, so they have invited people with organic vegetables, artisan producers and lots of talented craftspeople, along with some interesting campaigners to inform you why they do what they do.

The Green Fair, now in it's sixth year, as an annual event, has always had a positive response, this in fact the second fair this academic year, one was also held early last semester. Due to the success of last semester's fair and the huge response from the campus community the society hope to make it a more regular event, happening once a fortnight.

The people the society have invited to be involved in the Green Fair is a reflection of some of the views held by the society itself: promoting a better UL, for example, organic farming is much more kind to the environment than farming which uses pesticides and herbicides. Local artisan producers reflect a concern for the community, the local economy, an interest in craft and an opposition to boring multinational generic products.

The Fair also brings a real community atmosphere to the university, as it is a pleasant place just to pass by and see what is going on at

any particular time. Most of all it is good fun, the music, performed by Gan Ainm the Traditional Music Society and the bike electricity generator always bring a crowd.

So go along and see for yourself, pick your way from the olive stall to the jewellery stall, via the Fairtrade info, it is Fairtrade fortnight!, the trad band and the chocolate stall. The Environmental Society would like to extend a warm invitation to the UL community to call along and they look forward to seeing you at the Green Fair, Wednesday the 9th, from 10am-4pm in the Stables Courtyard. Bring a bit of colour into your life!



MOVING MOUNTAINS

What turned out to be an insurmountable request twelve months ago has turned in to a pretty addictive past time for UL student Alwyn Kinane as she fundraises for the children's charity Moving Mountains.

Just over a year ago, Ms. Kinane signed up for the holiday of her dreams. She had wanted to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro since she was about ten years of age but for her dreams to be realised it would involve extensive fundraising for Moving Mountains, a charity supporting street kids in Kenya.

It was no ordinary charity expedition to the roof of Africa however; she was accompanied by two young men, Peter and Kelly, who grew up as street kids in the gutters of Nairobi, Kenya. Found about ten years ago scheming to rob an innocent tourist, the innocent tourist wasn't so oblivious, and caught the two boys by the wrist and asked why they were trying to rob him. Peter, a street gang leader, only nine years of age at the time, sent his right hand man, Kelly a year older, to charm the tourists by flashing his big smile. Usually, while the oblivious tourists were distracted, Peter would remove their wallets, allowing them to eat a decent meal that night. This particular time however, they were caught and simply answered, "We're hungry".

Gavin Bates, the not so innocent tourist ten years ago, is the current chief trustee for the Moving Mountains charity. On that particular day he took the two boys to lunch. It turned out that Peter had a large infected cut on his leg from a recent gang war. He was very sick and Mr Bates took him to the hospital, where the Doctor told him there was nothing he could do except ampu-

tate. As it turned out, there was medicine available that would save his leg but was unavailable in Kenya. This didn't stop Mr Bates however, and it proved to be the impetus needed to set up a charity for street kids in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Bates himself went on to sponsor the two boys for the past ten years becoming a surrogate father to them and the charity he set up now sponsors a large number of kids and their families found on the streets.

After Alwyn returned from Africa she wrote an article detailing her adventures in the Dark Continent. However, due to a misunderstanding, there was one error, it said she had raised three times the amount of money for the charity than in was the case. Instead of trying to correct the article she instead resolved to raise the difference before she graduated.

Anybody who has been talking to Alwyn for any length of time knows she loves talking about Africa and the her experience of it, sitting for hours at a time showing her holiday pictures and telling the story behind every photo.

Repeating herself so often, she decided to have a once off slideshow and invite anyone that might be interested in hearing her recount her experiences. It also was an opportunity to fundraise, holding a raffle too. The charity ran their own official raffle and Alwyn gathered a selection of prizes for a student raffle for which River Deep Mountain High, An Oige, Figaro's Barbar and the UL OPC all generously donated prizes.

Inspired by her dedication for the charity three male friends took to the stage for the Coyote Ugly Competition later that night and won, donat-



"Starting out with an innocent table quiz, it worked up to a day of massages in the Students' Union and most recently, included three lads on stage in leopard print thongs. I'm talking about the extent people will go to fundraise." "Starting out with an innocent table quiz, it worked up to a day of massages in the Students' Union and most recently, included three lads on stage in leopard print thongs. I'm talking about the extent people will go to fundraise."

ing their prize money to the Moving Mountains fund. Extra money was raised during Christmas Daze when with buckets the Coyote Finalists managed to convince some students to give up the extra pint and throw their change in to a bucket.

The following week the Coyote boys: Darragh, Liam and Mick donned the stage a further time to raise much-needed funds. Last up, with an impressive dance routine, they got the biggest cheer and first prize, donated in full to Moving Mountains. The Scholars, so impressed by both Alwyn's dedication to the charity and her friends good will for her, choose Moving Mountains as their named charity to receive the door takings from Christmas Daze.

Alwyn has now surpassed the amount she had hoped to raise for the charity but as she says "it turned out to be an addictive feeling. Having seen the charity and how they work in Kenya I know that what I have donated will make a difference but more is needed."

Gavin Bate, chief trustee of Moving Mountains will be setting off to climb Mt Everest to raise money for the charity in about four weeks. He hopes to visit U.L. before he goes hoping to recruit people interested in going out to do a volunteer work in Africa or Nepal. More information will be provided nearer the time of the visit but do go along if your interested in an adventure holiday or if you simply want to hear some of his own encounters, and there have been plenty.

Alwyn Kinane is a third year student studying Physiotherapy and is and active member in the Outdoor Pursuits Club.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2005

7ú - 17ú Márta

Dé Luain: 7ú Márta

18.00: Séasúr Scannánaíochta Oifig na nEalaíon: Gearrscannán Gaeilge
Ionad: Léachtlan Jean Monnet
UL Arts Office Film Season: Irish Filmshort
Venue: Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre

21.00: Ranganna Rince le h aíonna Gan Ainm
Ionad: An Phluais, Scholars
Irish Dance Classes with guests Gan Ainm
Venue: An Phluais, Scholars

Dé Máirt: 8ú Márta

12.30: Tionól Gaelach [Ilichreidmheach]
Ionad: Teach Teoire, Clós na Mac Léinn
Irish Gathering [multidenominational]
Venue: Contemplative Space, Students' Courtyard

14.00: Féile na mBan Ceardlann Scéimhe agus Yoga [Dhátheangach]
Curtha i láthair ag Larragh Ní hÉalaithe agus Síne Nic an Ailí
Ionad: Teach Teoire, Clós na Mac Léinn
Féile na mBan Beauty and Yoga Workshop [Bilingual]
Hosts: Larragh Ní hÉalaithe and Síne Nic an Ailí
Venue: Contemplative Space, Students' Courtyard
[Nóta: Tóg tuáille/ towel leat]

21.30: Tráth na gCeist le h Ógra Fhine Gael
Ionad: Beár na Spórtainne
Table Quiz with Ógra Fhine Gael
Venue: Sports Bar

Dé Céadaoin: 9ú Márta

10.00-16.00: An tAonach Glas leis an gCumann Timpeallachta agus HairyBaby
Ionad: Clós na Mac Léinn
The Green Fair with the Environmental Society and HairyBaby
Venue: Students' Courtyard

11.00: Umar Gunge na Gaeilge le hÓgra Fhine Gael
Ionad: Clós na Mac Léinn
The Irish Gunge Tank with Fine Gael Youth
Venue: Students' Courtyard

13.00: Imeacht Sheachtain na Leabharlainne: Léitheoireacht Ghaeilge do Pháistí (dírithe ar thuismitheoirí) le Gwyneth Wynn Uí Ghaora
Ionad: Halla Ghráig Chill Mhuire. * Suíomh le cinntiú, eolas ó 061-213463
Library Week Event: Storytime trí Ghaeilge for Children. (A Guide for Parents) presented by Gwyneth Wynn Uí Ghaora
Venue: Kilmurry Village Hall* Venue to be confirmed, info from 061-213463

19.30 Imeacht Sheachtain na Leabharlainne: Rince ar an Ballaí, Mountains and Other Adventures. Léamh agus Taispeántas Sleamhnán le Dermot Somers
Ionad: Seomra an Bhoird, Leabharlann Glucksman / Ollscoil [Eolas ag an bhFáiltiú]
Library Week Event: Rince ar an Ballaí, Mountains and Other Adventures. Reading and Slideshow by Dermot Somers
Venue: Board Room, Glucksman Library [Info at Reception]

21.00: Paisean Faisean na Gaeilge: Cuid a II
Céilí & Cleamhnais le h aíonna Gan Ainm
Ionad: An Phluais, Scholars
Paisean Faisean na Gaeilge: Part II
Céilí & Matchmaking Night with guests Gan Ainm
Venue: An Phluais, Scholars

23.00* : Dathanna na gContaetha leis an g Cumann Naomh Uinsean de Pól
Ionad: Seomraí na Tríonóide (EUR7)
County Colours with St. Vincent de Paul Society
Venue: Trinity Rooms (EUR7)

22.45* : Bus na Tríonóide chuig an gcathair
Ionad: Áirse Scholars, Clós na Mac Léinn
The Trinity Bus into town
Venue: Scholars Archway, Students' Courtyard

Déardaoin: 10ú Márta

18.00: Slow Food Cur i Láthair agus Taispeántas Bianna Sláinte le hEnda Ó Conaola
Ionad: Ciarán's, Ghráig Dhroim Rua
Slow Food Talk and Health Food Demo with Enda Ó Conaola
Venue: Ciarán's, Dromroe Village

19.15: Bus saor in aisce ón Ollscoil go hInis
Áirithintí go 061-234105 roimh 16.00, 8ú Márta
Ionad: Áirse Scholars, Clós na Mac Léinn
Free bus from the University to Ennis
Bookings to 061-234105 before 16.00, 8th March
Venue: Scholars Archway, Students' Courtyard

20.30: Fáilte Romhat a Mháirtín agus Dún na mBan trí Thine (EUR10)
Léiriú Drámaíochta le Bríonglóid Theatre Group
Ionad: Glór, Inis, Co. an Chláir www.glor.ie nó glaoigh ar Bhrendán 085 1470728
Fáilte Romhat a Mháirtín and Dún na mBan trí Thine (EUR10)
Drama Production with Bríonglóid Theatre Group
Venue: Glór, Ennis, Co. Clare www.glor.ie or call Brendán on 085 1470728

Dé hAoine: 11ú Márta

10.30: Trad Chaífe
Ionad: East Room, Teach Phleasáí
Trad Coffee
Venue: East Room, Plassey House

Dé Luain: 14ú Márta

09.30: Idir na Línte: Cur i Láthair agus Ceardlann le Branar Drámaíochta Teo agus daltaí Ghaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh. [Fáilte roimh thuismitheoirí].
Ionad: Halla Ghráig Chill Mhuire, Ollscoil Luimnigh
Idir na Línte: Branar Drámaíochta Ltd Production and Workshop for Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh pupils. [Parents welcome].
Venue: Kilmurry Village Hall, University of Limerick

12.00: Forbairt TG4 agus Deiseanna Fostaíochta le Pádhraic Ó Ciardha
Ionad: CO071, Príomhfhoirgneamh (trí Ghaeilge amháin)

18.00: Séasúr Scannánaíochta Oifig na nEalaíon: Gearrscannán Gaeilge
Ionad: Léachtlan Jean Monnet
UL Arts Office Film Season: Irish Filmshort
Venue: Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre

21.00: Ranganna Rince le haíonna Gan Ainm
Ionad: An Phluais, na Scoláirí
Irish Dance Classes with guests Gan Ainm
Venue: An Phluais, Scholars

Dé Máirt: 15ú Márta

Lá Spóirt eagraithe ag rannpháirtithe na Scéime Cónaithe, 20, Gráig Chill Mhuire
Sonraí: 061-337020, r-phost Cathal 0459178@student.ul.ie nó Sorcha 0459771@student.ul.ie
Sports Day organised by participants in the Irish Language Residency Scheme, 20, Kilmurry Village
Details: 061-337020, e-mail Cathal 0459178@student.ul.ie or Sorcha 0459771@student.ul.ie

21.00: Trad Oíche le haíonna Gan Ainm
Ionad: An Phluais, na Scoláirí
Trad Night with guests Gan Ainm
Venue: An Phluais, Scholars

Dé Céadaoin: 16ú Márta

13.00: Lón le Gaeilge i gcomhpháirt le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Réigiún an Mheán-Iarthair (MWHB)
Ionad: Furze Bush, Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach
Lón le Gaeilge in collaboration with Health Services Executive, Mid-Western Region
Venue: Furze Bush, Catherine Street, Limerick

14.00: Rang Aclaíochta trí Ghaeilge le Sinéad Reddan
Ionad: Cúirt Cispheile a Trí , Airéana na hOllscoile
Exercise Class through Irish with Sinéad Reddan
Venue: Indoor Basketball Court 3, University Arena

Aíonna Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2005

Pádhraic Ó Ciardha: leas-cheannasaí TG4 www.tg4.ie
Marc Mac Lochlainn: aisteoir agus stiúrthóir Branar Drámaíochta Teo
Enda Ó Conaola: stiúrthóir an South Aran Centre ar Inis Oírr, úinéir bialainne, cócaire aitheanta www.southern.com
Larragh Ní hÉalaithe: teiripeoir scéimhe, Baile Átha Cliath
Síne Nic an Ailí: Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Aontas na Mac Léinn, OL
Gan Ainm: Cumann na gCeoltóirí Traidisiúnta, OL
Gwyneth Wynn Uí Ghaora: Breatnach Ionannithe i Rosmuc, ealaíontóir, údar leabhair do pháistí
Dermot Somers: craoltóir, údar, sléibhteoir agus dreapadóir [Breathnaigh ar chlár Somers Turas i mBaol, Iran: An Bealach in Airde ag tosú Dé Sathairn, 6 Márta 21.05 ar TG4] www.tg4.ie
Sinéad Reddan: comhairleoir aclaíochta, Airéana na hOllscoile

Editorial 8/03/'05

KW05, Kollege Week '05, the artist formerly known as RAG Week is coming soon. Scheduled for Week 8, the week of the 4th of April, this year the Students' Union hopes that, in break from the past couple of run of the mill Kollege Week's, this year will be one to remember, for all the right reasons.

Receiving And Giving i.e. raising money for charity, the whole reason behind hosting a week long schedule of events is going to be re-emphasised this year. Kollege Week should be a community event, raising money for local charities, students having great fun, local pubs, office licenses and nightclubs making enormous profits from students' binge-drinking and residents having great fun being kept up most of the night by the train of people heading to and from nightclubs. Well, that is until this year.

In a concerted effort to minimise the negative effects of Kollege Week, the Students' Union, University reps and reps from local residents groups, including a staff resident group, local pub, off-license and nightclub owners with the Garda Síochana and the County Council will put measures in place from the knowledge learned from previous Kollege Week's and from last semester's Christmas Daze.

Sounds great doesn't it. There are problems however. Most of the issues occur off campus as thrifty students stock-up at the off licenses and supermarkets instead of drinking in the clubs on campus. Who can blame you, it makes sense. The problem is while the SU and therefore the clubs have signed up to the Alcohol Policy the local pubs, offies and nightclubs haven't and don't have to and can offer the promotions the clubs can't to get students in to spend their money.

This does have a ripple effect which actually means that the type of events we can run through the clubs and the chances of getting bar extensions is a direct effect of students' behaviour, especially off campus. Ever decided to sing the whole way to the Lodge or back through Elm Park or Oaklawns through to Milford Grange and further a field? Well this is what the judge's decision for granting bar extensions is based on. Residents communicate on a regular basis how fed up they are, they complain to the guards, the university and especially to the SU. Are you contributing to the problem by doing things that you would never do at home? The resources and powers of the SU are limited and to a large extent there is very little we can do to stop students. The powers of the sitting judge when the clubs apply for extensions however, is considerable and usually does not take too kindly to some student's loutish behaviour. Everyone then suffers as Kollege Week ends at 12pm every night.

We are trying to make this years Kollege Week the best ever but instead of blaming crap acts the only reason Kollege Week mightn't be as good as expected is that we'll all be heading home early.

UL Students are always blamed, whether it's us or not. Enjoy handing in the FYP and the party afterward but remember, every little incident, every complaint is been logged against Kollege Week.

Private and student residents alike are entitled to a good nights sleep and while we expect noise and banter during Wk 8 most students would like some peace during the rest of the year. Please take this on board, Kollege Week is only 4 weeks away and these next couple of weeks will determine everything. Sandra

Student Union Shops

Special Offers

Due to the success of last fortnights promotion we are extending the following special offer

Buy any roll in the €3 plus range and get Nash's fruit Juice or a 500ml bottle of Water for only 50cent.

New range of Mars Confectionary Pouch Bags 2 for €4

Network Cables now available retailing at only €6.50

In association with Fairtrade Fortnight a range of Fairtrade products will be available soon.

Student Diaries

This week Matt, a Canadian student, and Sine, give an account of what life in UL is like for them. Also, Thanael, a second year woodwork teaching student discusses his thoughts on preparing to go on teaching practice for the first time.

Diary of an International Student

As I write this, we are now entering our third week of school. Tutorials are starting, reading that was neglected during the first two weeks is piling up, and the idea that I am attending school here, not simply vacationing, is starting to settle in. It's not as bad as it sounds. I swear.

I did come to UL on an academic exchange, and school is very much a part of that, as much as I tried to ignore it for the first couple of weeks. Now, that school is well on its way, I am starting to settle into a little bit of a routine at school, and have joined a couple of clubs. I am starting to get familiar with campus. I can get around pretty

well. To my surprise, I actually gave someone else directions on how to get to their class. Whether or not my instructions got them where they needed to be or not, I'll never know. But at least I had the confidence to think that I could. That is a lot better than two weeks ago, walking around wide eyed, confused, and late for everything.

Also, the school is starting to feel like it is my school, and less like I am just a tourist. I am starting to run into and talk to UL students that I know every day. So far, the single greatest contributors to my feeling more at home at UL are the students themselves. Everyone

that I have met from this school seems to be extremely friendly, fun loving, and welcoming. Many Irish students that I have met have made concerted efforts, and taken time out of their days, to make me feel welcome and to help me get used to life at UL. One of the best lessons I have learned here so far is that if I have a question about Irish student life, ask Irish students. It may seem straightforward, but I know that at first, I was a bit intimidated to go up and strike up a conversation with an Irish student. I was the new kid in a new place, and why should I disturb this person's conversation on account of my own ignorance?

Yet, like I said, when I did talk to them, they were more than happy to give me a hand with whatever I was having trouble with, or even to just sit and chat over a pint.

I came on an exchange to get familiar with a different school in a different country with a different culture. With all the help I have received so far and that I know I will receive in the weeks to come, I doubt that familiarity is that far off. I want to say thanks on behalf of the International Students to all of the Irish students who have made these first few weeks a whole lot easier.

Matt Chomistek

Education, Teaching Practice and Me: In the beginning

Thanael Mackarel, a second year woodwork teaching student and a regular contributor to An Focal, discusses his thoughts on preparing to go on teaching practice for the first time.

Education is a wonderful thing. I remember when I choose to do this course. I was full of ambition, excitement and confidence. I enjoyed explaining things to people, seeing the look of understanding and joy on their face and watching them improve their lives with the newfound knowledge. Sure this was what teaching was all about! Well... no, not really.

Even before I go on teaching practice I've gained quite an insight into the professional lives of many of my old teachers and how difficult the world of education is. For example, not only do we have to learn how to ask pupils questions, we have to ask them "higher order" questions as well (in other words, questions beginning with "why"). And those types of questions are not easy to make up on the spot.

In an education lecture recently the class was learning how to assess itself after teaching a lesson. "When something

goes wrong", says Carmel Hinchion, the 2nd Year Education lecturer, "Analyse why it went wrong, how you will improve it, steps you will take to minimize the chances of it happening again etc etc". "When something goes wrong"? She really knows how to fill us with optimism! But it is true; we can never expect to teach perfectly the first time we try.

Therefore it is expected that I have mixed feelings about going on teaching practice. I dread all the things that are going to go wrong but I am honestly looking forward to the "look of understanding and joy" on pupils faces and the few times that I will get it spot on. Provided I teach them properly. Oh dear...

But then there's the visits from tutors and the pupils who won't do what I ask and the ones that make up nicknames for me. The fear of landing into a school which may currently be having a pea-shooter fad, the dull conversation in the staff room, apparently all they do is talk about the pupils - more on that later in the year, and having to write out a plan for every single lesson I teach. But still the overriding feeling at the moment is that I am going to enjoy it. Heck, it's another life experience anyway.

AN GAEILGEOIR

Hey guys,

Conas atá sibh? Gafa le heagrú Sheachtain na Gaeilge aka SnaG 2005 agus scaipeadh an fhocail faoi mo phost nua agus an nuacht go dtí seo a bhí mé ón uair dheireanach gur scríobh mé **alt article** daoibh. Gabh mo leithscéal le héinne gur chuir mé isteach orthu le **turscar spam** gan chúis, Laura go háirithe!!! Míle buíochas daoibh siúd a scríobh ar ais chugam le **deabheannachtaí good wishes, ní dhéanaim talamh slán de bhriathra binne riamh I never take compliments for granted** so go raibh maith agaibh! Táim fós i mbun **bunachar sonraí contact database** a chur le chéile [234105 nó **sinenicanaili@hotmail.com** más spéis libh bhur n-ainm a chur air] agus beidh éinne atá air ceana **ar an eolas in the know** faoi imeachtaí na seachtaine seo agus na seachtaine seo chugainn. Má theastaíonn ó dhuine ar bith eile éirigh gafa leis na daoine **craiceáilte crazy** ag labhairt Gaeilge thart fán gcampas **um dtaca seo around this time**, gheobhaidh sibh **liosta na n-imeachtaí agus na n-ionadaithe uile list of all events and venues** san **eagrán edition** seo d'An Focal agus sna **cláir programmes** chorcra scaipthe ar fud na háite. Ní bheidh costas ag baint leis na himeachtaí ar an gcampas agus beidh bus **saor in aisce free** ag freastal ar oíche dhrámaíochta i nGlor, Inis ar an 10ú fiú **[áirthintí bookings** le Brendan 085 1470728].

Is iad **príomhimeachtaí main events** na Seachtaine ná **Ceardlann Scéimhe agus Chumhartheiripe Beautician and Aromatherapy Workshop** sa **Teach Teoire Contemplative Space** an 8ú @ 2; **Paisean Faisean: Cuid a II** ins An Phluais an 9ú @ 9;

Rang Cócaireachta Cookery Class ag café Ciarán, **Gráig Dhroim Rua Dromroe Village** an 10ú @ 6; agus **Rang Aclaíochta Exercise Class** le Sinéad Reddan i gCúirt Cispheile 3 san **Airéana Arena** an 16ú @ 2. Beidh céilí, ceol agus **craic cleamhnais matchmaking fun** ar siúl i ndiaidh an Paisean Faisean chun sibh a choimeád **gnóthach busy** go dtí **Dathanna na gContaetha County Colours** eagraithe ag an **gCumann Naomh Uinsean de Pól Society of St. Vincent de Paul** i **Seomraí na Tríonóide Trinity Rooms** so bígí ann! Beidh **Umar Gunge Gunge Tank Ógra Fhine Ghael** agus t-léinte le **nathanna "fionnúra" "cool" phrases** as Gaeilge ón **gcomhlacht company** Hairy Baby ar díol ag **Aonach Glas an Chumainn Timpeallachta the Enviromental Society's Green Fair** ar an 9ú freisin. Agus sure buail isteach ar sheisiún ceoil Gan Ainm oíche an 15ú chomh maith má tá **síofrógacht cheoil music charms** á lorg agaibh!

Caithfidh mé **moladh ar leith particular praise** a luaigh le muintir **Teach na Gaeilge the Irish House** - Aoife, Cathal, Cathal, Mícheál, Noel agus Sorcha - as ucht **Lá Spóirt Sports Day** a eagrú ar an 15ú, as ucht na n-alt rialta atá á scríobh acu d'**An Gaeilgeoir** [breathnaigh ar **www.ulsu.ul.ie**] agus as ucht na cabhrach a thug siad domsa go ginearálta. Bheinn cailte gan iad so míle buíochas libh lads agus le Cairtriona, Brendan, St. John agus Dave de bharr imeachtaí a gclubanna a "Ghaelú" don tSeachtain. Fair play daoibh!

Bainigí an-cheol as an tSeachtain agus feicfidh mé ag na himeachtaí sibh,

Sine Nic an Ailí x
Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Features

The Past Is A Foreign Country

Anne Sheridan on why she hopes our memories of UL, and of ourselves as hopeful / cynical students will never be alien to us.

There are moments in our lives when we look back at a certain time, a certain period and cannot relate to who we once were. The past seems alien, foreign, and the person is speaking a dialect way off your radar. Most probably the result of 'fate', the road we are on now is often not where we imagined we would be, maybe it is better or worse than we fancifully predicted. And there is a harsh sense of resignation and acceptance enforced in this dogma.

You do the best with 'your lot', try to deal with life events in a way that won't let them define you and trundle on. The library entrance serves as a constant grim reminder of life's harsh laws: *"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield"*. *"Not to yield"* - the most important part, placed last for added emphasis. As long as you don't give up, then it's OK.

So, hurrah and congratulations to the 3,000 odd bunch of 4th years who haven't given up, who have trundled on. You're still here! Bet you're happy, eh? Juggling the FYP (oh, it's due in about now ...) with nearly a dozen other assignments?

You would imagine that they [those people who give us little else to think about except college and have week numbers imprinted on our brains] would have started to wind it all down a little by now, wouldn't you? Maybe have introduced a

final year summary of a four-year course in mid-February and admitted in bated breath, that they too like us, were just too weary to go on. Another module of International Relations (IR) that completely rubbishes IR Part 1, is at this late stage more than even Kant could take. Come second semester 4th year, our brains are in permanent 6pm mode, barely able to register the complex dynamics of *Home and Away*. We are ready to go.

"Are you sure you want to log off?" is the line a 4th hears multiple times every day. And the answer is "yes, we most certainly are". Goodbye, copy and paste, it's been emotional!

It ought to be a 4th year's divine right on sit on the freshly mowed lawn outside the library during exam time, pass around a spliff, crack open a bottle of Buckie (both for purely medicinal purposes you understand), and indulge in the glorious sunshine, that is, our long last goodbye.

Come 4th year, you've learned a lot, although principally un-academic fodder. You've stumbled around house parties in Briarfield as if you were having a boxing match in a bouncy castle. You've woken up completely alone and disorientated, having fallen asleep on a stiff wooden chair, at 9am in Elm Park. And sometimes you never wake up alone, sometimes there

is always a hand extended, clutching yours.

You've acquired complete disdain for amateur pompous DJ's at house parties who really do think they could rival Roger Sanchez, mainly because they have an attitude to match. Your library fine is fast approaching €400, the beans are running out and your house hasn't possessed toilet roll in well over a month. Yet, when someone asks you how things are, it seems a lie to say anything except "it's all good!" It really is.

"Pun intended and otherwise, a 4th year UL woman should already be 'on top', not mildly musing 'getting on top'."

Come 4th year the real learning is done and dusted: friends, relationships, parents, learning to live on a budget, writing a 3,500 essay on a Walter Ruttmann film in one night. Education has smartened you, but not in the way it had originally intended. It has taught you how to beat the system by thinking outside the box.

Pun intended and otherwise, a 4th year UL woman should already be 'on top', in every sense of the word, not mildly musing 'getting on top'. As for the men-folk ...God truly only knows what they've

learnt ...that they will not find the girl Mammy approves of and so desperately wants young Mikey to find, in The Lodge. It must have been a blow surely, to realise that relationships actually acquire work.

One former HPSS student, now studying for his MA in Journalism, says what he misses about UL are days spent sitting in the courtyard outside The Stables, watching the world go by and just chatting to whoever came along. He describes the university he is now in as "a factory" and "completely impersonal". A former LCS student is thankful that she never has to learn "another word of that German shite again", while another described how every day she packed her bag for college at home, then proceeded to occupy one of the comfy chairs in the Scholars for the duration, still convinced that after several pints, she would venture as far as the library. Ah, self-deluded bliss! And so it transpires that the marvellous education we have received from UL is the last thing many of us will remember.

Guard your memories, especially the good ones - in twenty years time, when you really know what stress is, you'll long to be the person you are now. So, enjoy - there are less than three months left!

Should Nazi Symbols be banned?

In the wake of Prince Harry's recent fashion faux pas, the debate over whether Europe should ban Nazi insignia has been reawakened. But is an outright ban on Nazi insignia a good idea, asks Stuart Wallace?

An inherent ignorance exists on the part of the European community as a whole when it comes to the issue of the swastika. The problem lies in the fact that very few people understand its origins. The swastika, the mainstay of Nazi insignia, which was appropriated by the Nazi regime and epitomizes the oppression of the Nazi regime, is actually an ancient symbol found in many cultures but is most strongly connected with Hinduism. Kapil Dudakia, the leader of an English based Hindu association, commented: *"What we've got to do is separate the evil of Hitler and his ideology from the symbol of the swastika which actually means something quite different."*

The symbol represents both rebirth and good luck in Hindu artwork and religious writings. This necessitates the question: would such a ban extend as far as preventing the display of artwork from Greece, South America, India, China and countless other parts of the globe? Ironically banning the swastika would be offensive to Hindus and would cause a recurrence of the very thing, which the ban would seek to avoid, intolerance of religion.



Notwithstanding the practical argument against a ban on Nazi insignia, in particular the swastika, there are also a number of philosophical arguments and democratic arguments that present themselves.

From a democratic point of view the banning of Nazi insignia would be a counter-productive move. Whether we like it or not, there is a far right movement in every European country, indeed the movement seems to be on the rise once again. One need look no further than our neighbours, the UK, and the recent successes of the right wing UK independence party (UKIP) in the local and European elections to see this.

To silence their voices, would appear to victimise them simply because we disagree with their creed. More importantly it would appear as a victory for fascists thereby legitimising their cause.

The best way to garner support for an organisation, as history tells us, is to identify a martyr with a cause. We cannot afford to make martyrs out of the swastika and other symbols of the Nazi regime. We should engage with the far right, pity them for their narrow mindedness, try to change their racist and hatred driven mantras, but not ban their symbols, nor give them the satisfaction of knowing that a single symbol, such as the swastika can still evoke so much emotion in the European population.

Not only would the ban legitimise the far right movement, but also it would represent a step backwards for Europe in many respects. While the ban is already in place in Germany, one would imagine that the Germans would be the last people adopting this course of action. A recent newspaper article in *Der Tagesspiegel* gives some indication why: *"How can German democracy actively assert itself when Nazi flags are to be carried through the Brandenburg Gate?"*

We should not try and erase the past by sweeping the symbol that characterised the worst atrocity of the 20th century under the car-



Members of NPD (Germany's far right party) protesting at the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Dresden attempt to portray it as a war crime.

pet. We ought to reflect on the time, educate people about the full horror of the Nazi regime, and ultimately ensure that it never happens again.

The people of Europe ought to conduct themselves with dignity on this issue, we have the moral high ground, and our demonstrations should never descend to the nadir of violence. We should not condescend to ban the symbols of this illegitimate movement nor engage in violence. By banning their symbols and engaging in violence it is to suggest that their movement has triumphed.

The Cult of Celebrity Lingers On

From Marty Whelan to Michael Jackson, *Kate Nolan* explains why our fascination with immortals is so dangerous.

A huge media frenzy followed the announcement that Prince Charles was finally going to marry his longtime consort, Camilla Parker Bowles. Some newspapers still regard Parker Bowles as a 'home wrecker', responsible for the break-up of Charles' marriage to



Diana. Others were of the opinion that this announcement was inevitable. While one paper humorously pointed out how Charles and Camilla's thirty year long romance was bizarrely mirrored by the relationship between Ken and Deirdre, two characters on Britain's longest running soap,

Coronation Street. It's hard to miss the similarities here: Deirdre's getting on a bit (not unlike Camilla) and is in need of a companion, which she finds in the nice, dependable (albeit boring) Ken, aka Prince Charles. The most important question here is not whether we give a damn (because it's fairly obvious from the sheer volume of media coverage that we do), but rather, why do we care so much?

Ah yes, the cult of celebrities is alive and well. In recent times, people have gone to newer, scarier lengths to get in touch (sometimes quite literally) with their favourite stars. Jodie Foster's stalker even tried to assassinate then US President Ronald Reagan in an attempt to gain the actor's attention and admiration. Just last year, a woman madly obsessed with Michael Douglas (I know, there's no accounting for taste) sent numerous death threats to his wife, Catherine Zeta Jones. Our infatuation with famous personalities has gotten to the stage where we can't even let go of dead celebrities. From the millions of people who still believe Elvis is alive, to former royal butlers who squeeze as much money as



humanly possible from Princess Diana's memory, to the rapper 2 Pac who still manages to release record after record from beyond the grave.

Nowadays, people are eager to jump onto the celebrity bandwagon and achieve their 15 minutes of fame. Children are pushed into the limelight from an increasingly early age as parents live vicariously through their kids. The effects of fame and superstardom are clearly damaging (Michael Jackson, anyone?). It's virtually impossible to name a former child star who is now a happy, well adjusted adult. But what really irritates me is, once said people have achieved their main aim in life and hit the 'big time', they bitch and

moan about a lack of privacy and the devil incarnate, the paparazzi. Obviously some of our fave celebs have yet to grasp the fact that being famous involves being in the public eye a good deal of the time.

Movie and music bosses are increasingly concerned with physical appearance and the overall 'image', with creative talents coming a mere second. Heck, we've even invented a new type of celebrity - famous for just being famous! We are fed daily images of size six models and encouraged to strive for that kind of 'perfection', never mind the fact that they're probably addicted to heroin and haven't eaten in about 10 years. I digress, back to the fundamental question of what is the allure of fame and fortune (no, I don't mean the TV game show hosted by Marty Whelan)? Do countless people participate in shows like X Factor and Pop Idol because they want money and power without any of the hard work? Or is it simply because they are emotionally crippled with an innate desire to feel loved and accepted? Definitely. My advice? Get a puppy, it's a hell of a lot easier on all concerned.

The Lodge: Charminglly Inept

After the recent backlash against our beloved Lodge (seen in the last edition of An Focal) *Gerard Fitzgibbon* asks, are UL students developing more sophisticated tastes or just acquiring some common sense at long last?

It's that time of year again folks. That blissful period that crops up every so often when the more reactionary elements of the student body begin their collective outcry against Castletroy's primary nightspot: The Lodge. For those of you who have yet to be acquainted with this hotspot of activity, the Lodge has increasingly become a fundamental ingredient of our notion of 'going on the lash'. Familiarity is at the core of The Lodge concept and its most basic appeal.

However, as students and young people in general are becoming far more influenced by ideals of what is 'trendy', we must now re-evaluate that same familiarity with the Lodge and ask is it actually that good? Or have we just slipped into a collective comfort zone that is depriving us of the yonks and yonks of style, colour and themed drunkenness that town has to offer?

The Lodge, as a physical entity, is about as appealing as being smacked across the face with a swiftly decomposing salmon. As well as the obvious flaws of its existence - two seats that are actually attached to the wall, the hilarious attempt at log-cabinesque décor, and the dance floor that is akin to trying to fit seventy-two people into a lift. Whilst drunk.



Mating Rituals: A typical night in The Lodge - what a feast it would be for David Attenborough!

The height of comedy in the Lodge, however, is undoubtedly the DJ's reluctance to part with his beloved Britney Spears collection. Likewise, the horribly pre-programmed play list does become somewhat tiresome after three years. The DJ, (whom we shall refer to as Chawkie for convenience purposes), has a reluctance to indulge in any of the musical preferences of others. This is often a source of serious discontent for those who don't take too kindly to their constant requests for Tupac being declined.

In essence, the Lodge fails miserably at providing what many would consider even the

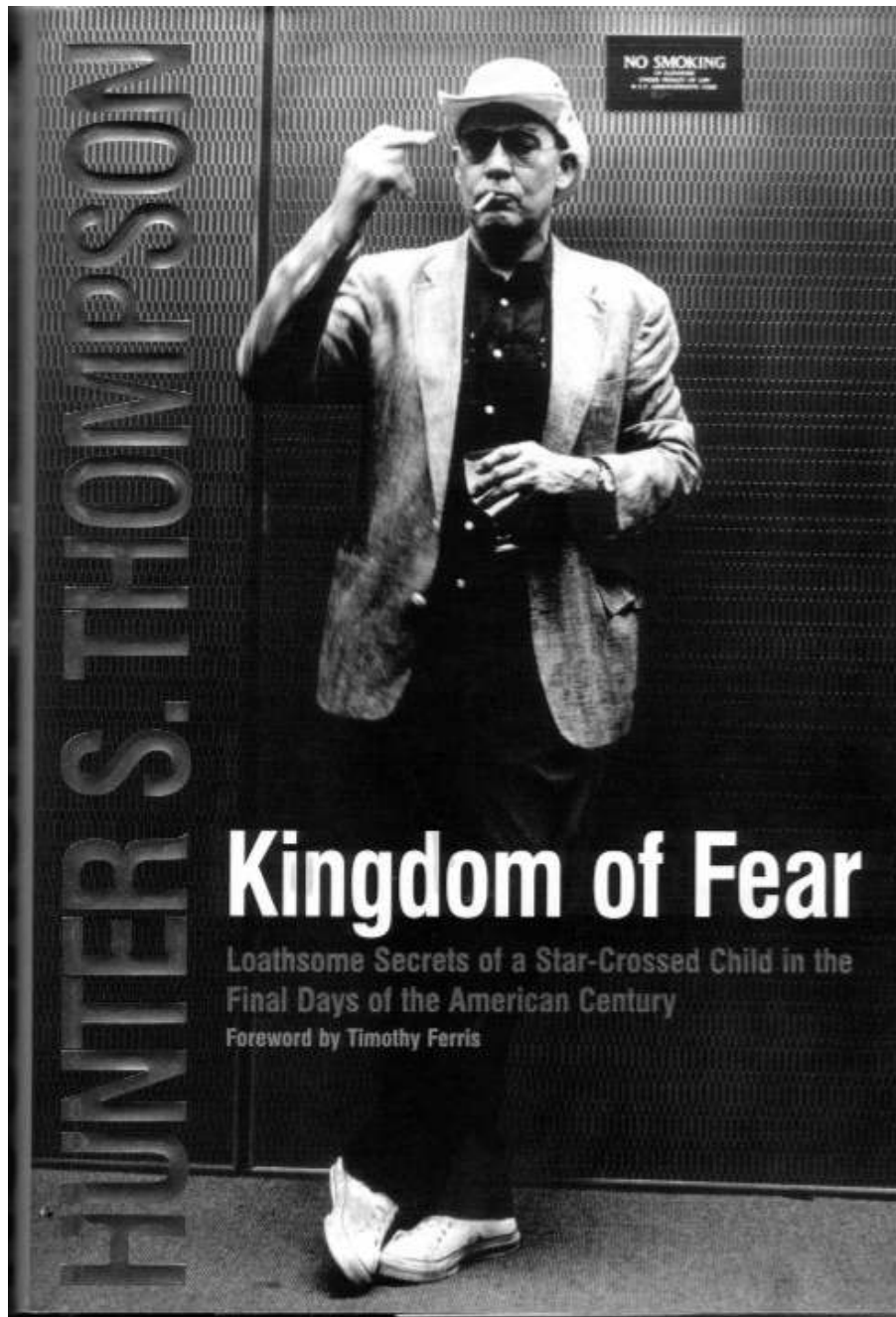
basic features of a semi-decent nightclub. But in fairness, anyone who makes their way down the angled ramp, past the prefabs and through the oh-so-narrow door expecting a sophisticated nightclub experience is clearly an idiot.

For those who are leading the chorus of disenchantment towards Chawkie and friends, the concept of regular participation at the Lodge must be bewildering when Limerick city now boasts some very appealing nightspots indeed (apart from the Market, for obvious nasal reasons). Leading the charge is undoubtedly Trinity Rooms, formerly known as Doc's for those of us old and cynical enough to remember. What about Dolans and Costellos?

We're back to whole 'trendy' issue now, and it don't get much more Temple Bar-ish than here. The dance floor at The Lodge would probably fit into the entrance ramp at Trinity Rooms. Says it all really. Rapidly alternating coloured lights greet you in an open-air courtyard, and dangerously low patio heaters provide a bit of a challenge for those of us tall enough to set our heads on fire. If you have a long enough attention span, you are now free to navigate the Labyrinthine grounds, watching in bewilderment as you witness fountains, break dancers, and stools stools as far as the eye

can see. The clientele look like the cast of The OC. A proper nightclub, you see. It has an air of professionalism that puts the comically amateur Lodge to shame. It attracts visitors who take their socialising somewhat seriously, and expect value for their beer money.

In the face of such competition, familiarity is all that saves the Lodge from extinction. One can cite poor seating, a claustrophobic layout and a joke of a DJ as flaws, but in almost unnatural irony, that is where the Lodge's appeal lies. It is a nightclub experience that doesn't really take itself seriously, and encourages you to do likewise. The relaxed vibe of the place allows for a much more group oriented nightclub experience, or 'Mayhem' as it is usually referred to. Where else could six lads be thrown out of a nightclub over a mass-brawl that stemmed from the song 'November Rain'? We all have had great nights in the Lodge, with countless stories of drunkenness to go with them. We must remember this the next time we want to bitch about it. After all, we do get to have a Dinoburger on the way home.



Hunter S. Thompson: "an avid reader, a relentless drinker and a fine hand with a .44 Magnum", by Janelle Eagleton

On Sunday, the 20th of February 2005, Hunter S. Thompson shot himself in the head at his fortified compound in Woody Creek, Colorado. He was 67 years old. His son, Juan, daughter in law and grandson were visiting for the weekend and were in the house at the time of the suicide. Thompson was on the phone to his wife, Anita, when he ended his life and she has stated that, having asked her to come home, he put down the phone, and she heard the sound of the gun.

Thompson's family have reported to the press that they do not believe his suicide was out of desperation, but was a well-thought-out act resulting from his many painful medical conditions.

Hunter Stockton Thompson was born in Louisville, Kentucky on the 18th of July 1937. His early years were punctuated by stays at 'Louisville Children's Centre' as a result of vandalism and petty crime. He was not allowed to graduate from high school because, as one friend said, "Hunter

liked to be in the action, not just read about it, which made him poor student material."

Thompson spent some time with the US Air Force, during which he worked as a sports journalist for the base paper at Eglin air base in Florida. After leaving the air force, he took several jobs reporting for myriad publications, including Rolling Stone and Playboy. It was in one such job, writing for Scanlan's magazine, that he first invented his trademark 'Gonzo' journalism.



"Great creeping Jesus, what's going to happen now?"

'Gonzo' is a highly subjective style of reporting (this means that the author's opinion is usually an important influence). It is almost always written in the first person with the author playing a central role, sometimes in the guise of a barely masked fictional character. 'Gonzo' blends real-life, fact-based adventure with heavy sarcasm and colourful exaggeration. For example, the article written for Scanlan's magazine, originally meant to be a commentary on the Kentucky Derby, turned into something quite different as Thompson, experiencing writer's block after a whiskey-fuelled weekend of misadventure, submitted only his disorganized notes, which focused more on himself than the race.

His big break came when an article for The Nation in May 1965 on the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang drew the attention of numerous publishers. He signed a contract with Random House and, in what has been described as the literary equivalent of method acting, spent a year riding, living and partying with the gang. This led to his first book, Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (1966).

Thompson later worked for Rolling Stone magazine and it was there that his psychedelic classic, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas was first serialized. Published in 1971, Fear and Loathing is a skewed take on the road trip genre. The narrator-journalist and his companion, a 300-pound Samoan, aim to cover a narcotics convention and a motorcycle race, but are sidetracked by a search for the American Dream, assisted by a colourful palette of substances (LSD, ether, adrenochrome and ibogaine, to name but a few). The book is written in the manic and comic style that defined Thompson's personal and literary reputation. It is part dissection of early 70's America, part portrayal of a drug-munching psychotic.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas was subsequently made into a film starring Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro.

Thompson was very socially aware, and was known as one of the best political commentators of his day. His book, Fear and Loathing on the

Campaign Trail '72 is a collection of Rolling Stone articles written about the election campaigns of President Richard M. Nixon and his unsuccessful opponent, Senator George McGovern. A fierce and unashamed critic of Nixon, Thompson once famously described him as "a swine of a man and a jabbering dupe of a president who was so crooked that he needed servants to help him screw his pants on every morning."

Thompson's own foray into public life occurred in 1970 when he decided that "there might be some serious fun in politics" and consequently stood for Sheriff of Pitkin County, Colorado. His campaign was based on "Freak Power". He promoted decriminalization of drugs and the sale thereof, tearing up the streets and turning them into bike paths and renaming Aspen, Colorado "Fat City", amongst other things. The Republican candidate against whom he ran had a crew cut and this prompted Thompson to shave his own head entirely. He then referred to his rival as "my long-haired opponent" throughout the campaign. He lost by only a handful of votes.

Thompson's family and friends are currently trying to arrange to have his ashes fired out of a cannon, in accordance with an his oft-expressed wishes. The author liked to joke that he was 'cannon fodder', which led to this desire to have his cremated remains blasted across the sky. The cannon he envisioned was to be a double-thumbed-fist-shaped one, 150 feet in length.

More can be read about the life and work of Hunter S. Thompson at www.rollingstone.com and at www.rotten.com

His book, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* is available in the UL library.



Pop Goes the Century:

Icons of Pop Culture from the 20th Century

THE BUSBY BABES

Following two aborted take-offs, the aeroplane was now barrelling down the runway, albeit with anxious passengers and a flight deck gripped by panic. The aircraft had reached velocity one, the speed at which it is no longer safe to abandon take-off, but was already some 200 metres past the end of the runway and was ploughing through the snow towards a house and a tree. The pilot tried desperately to lift the nose of the plane and though the craft became airborne, the left wing clipped the house and was torn from the vessel as the dwelling caught fire. The plane was sent spinning into the tree, ripping open the left side of the cockpit, and as the stricken aircraft careened through the snow the rear struck a wooden garage severing the tail section from the mangled fuselage. After the commotion of the crunching, grinding and shredding of metal died down the wreckage became eerily still aside from the crackle of the small fires that had erupted about it. In the midst of the debris some of the greatest ambassadors of the beautiful game lay cold and lifeless; the team they represented shattered beyond repair.



Babes Team

sidelines was ever more ominous. The 1948 team showed their resolve with a League victory in 1952, but they could do little to curb the onslaught of youth and the starting eleven was soon infiltrated by an army of adolescents.

In November 1951, Busby gave 18-year old Jackie Blanchflower and 21-year old Roger Byrne their first team debuts against Liverpool at Anfield. Struck by the ages of the new players, post-match reports made mention of "United's Babes" and with the adoption of their manager's name, the legend of the Busby Babes was born.

The original 'dream team' the Babes brought new flavour and character to the English game. They lit up the field with their sublime skill and were as dominant in defence as they were on the attack. The youth policy was very effective in harnessing the wild, raw talent of teenagers, lacing this with maturity and producing a team of rare, gifted and level-headed players. Although they played a sharp, fast game that gained them immense recognition both at home and in Europe, their youthful joy and passion for their sport shone like a beacon on the field. The wisdom that was instilled in them in training remained with them off the pitch and they held no illusions about the privilege they enjoyed while playing for one of England's top clubs. Ordinary lads at heart, the Babes used to get the bus to Old Trafford with their fans on match day and always took the time to sign autographs for euphoric fans as they entered the venue.

Busby saw no limits to the prowess of his Babes and envisioned a team that could win everything. They secured back-to-back League Championships in 1956 and 1957 although they were deprived of the FA Cup in the latter season because of an injury to goalkeeper Ray Wood. There was a new challenge on the horizon, however, and in the 1956-57 season Manchester United became the first English team to compete in Europe, reaching the semi-final of the European Champion's up before being knocked out by Real Madrid.

The following year they confronted the Europeans once more and disposed of Shamrock Rovers and Dukia Prague before meeting Red Star Belgrade in the quarter-finals. Although the first leg was a

fairly uneventful game, the Babes managed to eek out a 2-1 advantage inside the bastion of Old Trafford. Five days before crossing the Iron Curtain to compete in the second leg in Belgrade, the Busby Babes would play their last domestic match together - an electrifying, thrilling and devastating match that fittingly reflected the allure of the Red Devils. In the end Arsenal had to submit to a 5-4 defeat but not before upping their game in the second half to level a 3-0 deficit in just three minutes. At the final whistle the fans rose to acclaim their heroes, certain that they had witnessed something special:

"It was what football should always be: passionate, unpredictable, exciting and exhausting - but above all, magical"

- Max Arthur



Babes at airport boarding the plane

Spirits were high as the Babes boarded the plane to Belgrade and earned themselves a 3-3 draw that was enough to see them progress to the next round of the European Championship on aggregate. It had been snowing throughout the match but by the time the return flight reached Munich to refuel, conditions had deteriorated further and the runway was covered in snow and icy slush. The Football Association in England had not welcomed the participation of their teams in Europe and so threatened harsh penalties for those who allowed European fixtures to interfere with the domestic timetable. With a game scheduled against Wolves the following Saturday, there was added impetus to get home as soon as possible. After the second failed attempt at take off there was a strong air of dread in the departure lounge and many felt that the flight would be delayed until the following day. Nonetheless, all trudged aboard the doomed aircraft once more when the flight was called little more than five minutes later. Duncan Edwards had used this time to send a telegraph to his landlady: "All flights cancelled. Flying home tomorrow. Duncan." By the time that was delivered to Manchester at 5 p.m. on 6 February 1958, twenty-one bodies lay strewn amid the wreckage of BEA flight G-ALZU.

Amongst the dead were seven of the babes: Eddie Colman (aged 21), David

Pegg (22), Liam 'Billy' Whelan (22), Mark Jones (24), Geoff Bent (25), Tommy Taylor (25), and Roger Byrne (28). A further four members of the United party had perished along with eight of the nine soccer journalists on board, a travel agent and a fan. Duncan Edwards - the only player ever to make Bobby Charlton feel inferior - was in a critical condition and clinging to life by a woefully thin thread. Just over two weeks after the crash the 21 year old succumbed to his injuries and one of United's brightest stars was extinguished. The pilot, Kenneth Rayment, died the following week, bringing the final death toll to twenty-three. Matt Busby was desperately ill and a hospital statement announced that they had little hope of saving him. Last rites were administered twice but still he fought on. Drifting in and out of consciousness he inquired about the team but no-one dared tell him the truth and it was some weeks before he learned the fate of his boys. He carried a feeling of guilt with him to his grave 36 years later.

Third in their domestic league, through to the fifth round of the FA Cup, and into the final four of the European Championship - the Busby Babes were on the brink of greatness and capable of capturing a treble victory that would evade



Matt Busby Statue at Old Trafford

Manchester United for a further forty-one years. Busby himself claimed: "I felt I was in a position where I could have sat back for 10 years while they played. They were that good." But in one foul swoop, it was all taken away and Manchester United lost ten of their most promising players, Berry and Blanchflower never graced the pitch again. The myth and memory of the Busby Babes prevails as the epitome of exhilarating, intoxicating and rapturous football; their youth and potential making their passing so much more difficult to endure. A dark cloud will forever hang over 6 February 1958 and the Munich Air Disaster that persists as a constant reminder that even the brightest of flames can be snuffed out.

On behalf of UL History Society

Emma Stafford

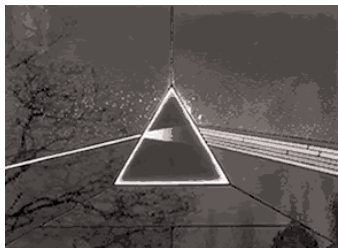


Newspaper story of the crash

From his arrival at Old Trafford in October 1945, Matt Busby strove to bring a dream to life. He foresaw a time when Manchester United would produce a consistent flow of talented, disciplined and attentive underage players who would enrich the first team with sprightly youth and heavenly flair. The boys were exposed to a vigorous training programme but their endurance was rewarded with five successive victories in the FA Youth Cup from its inception in the 1952/53 season. As the team that triumphed in the FA Cup proper of 1948 began to tire, the presence of these eager progeny waiting on the

Reviews

This week Eoghan reviews Pink Floyd, Benny's been to Dolan's with Ultan and he's also been to the Concert Hall with Keith who wished he hadn't bothered. We've reviewed a few gearrscannan, short Irish stories from the Cork Film Festival and Aoife's reviewed Greenday's new album American Idiot.



Wish You Were Here

Eoghan Clancy reviews Pink Floyd's classic album



This week the classic album under the scope is the evergreen *Dark Side Of The Moon* by the amazing Pink Floyd. This album along with the other Floyd classic, "Wish You Were Here" has long been held as one of the finest rock albums ever created and here the intention is to look at its creation and through its analysis highlight how the group pushed the boundaries of traditional rock values.

Released in 1974 this album went through an incredibly long gestation period before seeing the full light of day as a complete work. The album was recorded by what is probably the "classic" Pink Floyd line up whose main creative force was David Gilmore an interesting character famous for his genius and in almost equal measure, his arrogance! Interestingly Gilmore wasn't a founding member of Pink Floyd but was drafted in to support and eventually replace the ailing Sid Barrett. Rodger Waters provided the vocals and much of the lyrics while Richard Wright and Nick Mason created the foundation the album was built on with their steady yet always inventive bass and percussion. It has been said that it was Gilmore's volatile personality that was responsible for Rodger Waters quitting the band in the mid eighties but since the departure from the band of Barrett in 1968 the pair had been striving to realise their ideas and form a cohesive whole, a dream that finally came to fruition on "Dark Side".

As mentioned the album underwent a long creative process and it has been confirmed that the group had been playing several of the songs live for a year or more before entering Abbey Road Studios in summer of 1973 to commit their ideas to vinyl. As with The Beatles before them, Abbey Road gave "Floyd" the tools they needed to build on what was already forming in their minds and using its advanced equipment the quartet brought the album to life infusing it with a soul, a

remarkable and almost tangible feat few bands have ever managed. The rich soundscape that is to be found on the album was a huge step away from musical conventions and one would think that this might harm album sales by alienating the record buying public. In fact nothing could be further from the truth and the reception given to the album has made it one of the biggest selling rock albums ever (34m copies and counting) and furthermore it has spent a record 741 weeks (14 years) in the Billboard top 200 charts and 26 years in or around the best selling albums lists!!! The success of the album has made Pink Floyd one of the most successful groups ever; Classic



Rock Magazine has even acknowledged them as the most successful, based on many vital statistics.

The album opens with the tracks 1(a) *Speak To Me*, and (b) *Breathe*. A heartbeat is the first sound heard and this builds gradually before the band enters with a beautiful melodic piece kicking off the album on a suitably emotional level. The underlying message of the opening track is one that encourages life and independence, a message that fits with the Water's concept for the album; a circle of life. The album's second track "On The Run" serves largely as an intro for "Time" the third track. "On The Run" is a rather bizarre piece dominated by electronic synths and other sound effects cumulating with the famous ringing of the alarm clocks signalling the beginning of the third track "Time". This song is the first part of a

pairing "Time" and "Money" that Waters and Gilmore identified as the central forces at work in the lives of the masses. This song contains some of the best and most provocative lyrics ever recorded as they challenge the lives and mindset of the entire middle-class. Gilmore also contributes some brilliantly expressive guitar, which fuses with the song perfectly. This track contains several memorable "moments" making it an enduring favourite. The album's fourth song "The Great Gig In The Sky" written by Wright about death, serves to link "Time" and "Money". It features some amazing vocals by Clare Torry that were added with the specific instructions to sound like an orgasm! Also this track syncs perfectly with the tornado scene in the film "The Wizard of Oz".

Following on from this side, two of the original vinyl pressing, opens with the cash registers of "Money". Naturally enough, this track deals with greed and once again Water's lyrics are a high point, "New car, caviar, four star daydream,

Think I'll buy me a football team". Mason and Gilmore combine to provide a driving rhythm for this song, probably the most rock and roll on the album. From here there is a slowing in pace for "Us and Them" a song dealing with paranoia and insecurity. It features some brilliant saxophone emphasising the laid back feel of the song. The piano also features heavily on this track where it builds up for the soaring chorus parts. The instrumentation on the album is showcased on this song especially in these chorus parts where vocals and orchestration reach new heights. The instrumental, "Any Colour You Like" follows and Gilmore uses this flowing track to showcase his guitar-playing prowess and demonstrates the extent to which the studio effects were used on the album. The piece also links "Us and Them" with "Brain Damage".

"Brain Damage" deals with the darker sides of life mainly schizophrenia and other such illnesses. The backing vocals compliment Waters lyrics perfectly and this song contains the famous line, "ill see you on the dark side of the moon". "Brain Damage" flows seamlessly into "Eclipse" the closing song on the album. It appears to refer to the unity and insignificance of all things with the line, "everything under the sun is in tune but the sun is eclipsed by the moon". To bring the album to a conclusion we hear the heartbeat fade back in, bringing the album full circle as Water's theme intended.

"Dark side" was one of the very first and definitely the most successful concept album. It can be seen how the group took the ideas of many of their contemporaries including Jimi Hendrix and The Beatles and took a further step. These artists had made forays into the territory that "Pink Floyd" explore and master on this album. Taking the themes of life and death the band fused imaginative lyrics with superb musicianship and orchestration to create what is acknowledged as a true masterpiece. Flowing seamlessly from track to track the album is better described as a series of movements rather than a collection of individual songs. No doubt this approach was taken due to the incredible influence drugs had on British subculture at the time and Floyd themselves, as well as most of their fans would have enjoyed the way the albums feel facilitated some seriously deep thinking and general tripping out! This original and imaginative approach creates an unusual and highly appealing feel; one that has endured to test of time reaching its 25th anniversary as fresh and relevant as it was back in 1973. Give it a listen.

Leanne Harte



to the likes of **Pearl Jam**, **Jeff Buckley** and **Tori Amos**, and that's quite a great deal to live up to. Her sound is abrasive yet moves to a gentle, at times, deeply melancholic sound yet it is also vibrant and full of life.

Fair enough you say, this sounds like a very grungy-rock mix not unlike that of the aforementioned but this is an artist with a difference. She's young, hopeful and full of talent, something we can't get enough of these days. Leanne recorded her first set of ten original songs at the age of eleven and got plenty of practise in front of audiences at school

musicals and church folk masses before moving into a home studio/garage arrangement to do some real work.

Her energetic stage performances have augmented her reputation among peers and fellow artists alike. Apparently, her management have even had to refuse a major international record label's offer, the thought of which any struggling artist out there reading this would cringe at, because she refused to "sell out". A brave, and possibly foolish move for most, but Leanne seems to know exactly what she wants from her music and how to get there.

By **Benny Kupka**

Future Kings of Spain

Have you ever waited for something with a feeling of tense expectation only to be bitterly disappointed? Like a naive kid would before a big birthday party never realising he actually has no friends...

Well, having heard nothing but good things from the Future Kings of Spain and their self titled record on the infamous Red Flag label, I was looking forward to what should have been a good gig in Dolan's. Sadly, however their raw and angry "on-stage" sound did nothing for me. Their album may be more melodic, (with the exception of one very angry, opening track reminiscent of some real heavy metal) but seeing these



guys moan and scream about lost love or stupid things they've done for the duration of their performance really made me wish I'd stayed at home, watched a film or spent the night sticking red-hot needles into my ears.

All that aside, this band have an impressive record of gigs behind them and if you're into the whole American Slacker-Rock

movement they might be worth checking out. They've been doing gigs with the likes of **Biffy Clyro** and **Ten Speed Racer** (also on the Red Flag label), and have a sound influenced somewhat by that of **Pantera**.

It's tough to distinguish yourself as a band nowadays, especially with the barrage of similarly named bands around that are plaguing the contemporary music scene, but The Future Kings of Spain have managed to do so by slowly accumulating a steady trickle of loyal fans and followers which has been their main drive to success. As opposed to "banging out some catchy tunes" and cashing in on the hype.

By **Benny Kupka**

Vinyl present Kevin 'Master Reece' Saunderson

@ Dolan's Warehouse - Sat 26th Feb. 2005

Detroit native Kevin Saunderson is best known as a one third of the Belleville three, along with Derrick May and Juan Atkins, the triumvirate of seminal eighties electronic music producers who met at Belleville High school and were instrumental in changing the face of popular music and culture. He is also the main man behind the FUSE-in: Detroit's Electronic Movement music festival, previously known as the Detroit Electronic Music Festival. But, he is probably most recognisable to European audiences as the man who penned the classic dancefloor grooves that are 'Big Fun' and 'Good Life' and, more recently, as head honcho of the eponymous record label KMS records, behind such great releases of his as Ess'ray - Forces, E-Dancer - 'World of Deep' & 'Heavenly'. He is also, unbeknownst to some, a world-renowned DJ!

So it was for an extremely welcome and ultra-rare Irish appearance that I made my way down to Dolans Warehouse last Saturday evening. The night in question was being run by local promoters and house impresarios Marc O'Neill & Shane Slattery, under their promotional handle Vinyl, and so promised to be a well-run and enjoyable night of quality music. The night was started with the smooth house grooves of Shane before deck duties were handed over at eleven to another local jock Nigel Hennigar, who took things up a notch or two with a set of groovy and, ever so slightly twisted, electronic house and Detroit tinged techno, highlights of which were the aforementioned 'Good Life' and, particularly, Julien Jabre's 'War' on Elias records.

With the time approaching midnight and the ever-growing crowd now well and truly primed to explode, the legend that is Kevin Saunderson stepped up to the plate. He was to be using, in conjunction with the decks, a laptop running the Traktor software and a midi keyboard (Ozone) in an effort to give the crowd the maximum



Kevin Saunderson experience in full effect! He immediately stepped things up a gear with a high octane track that sampled the bassline from Giorgio Moroder's 'The Chase', taken from his soundtrack to the film Midnight Express, over which he then proceeded to loop a vocal sample through the midi keyboard to devastating effect and within minutes had the whole venue going right off!

After his initial dalliance with the more up-tempo side of things, he then took off in a deeper direction, dropping a couple of rather interesting, darker, more moody tracks, before heading back, via a detour of deepest German supertech, towards New York disco-house vibes. At this point the crowd were making their appreciation shown with a healthy feedback of shouts and hollers and the overall appearance of smiling faces and bodies rapt in groove heaven aptly illustrated the mans prowess. Like any master craftsman he utilised this positive energy, gradually increasing his tempo and intensity with some taut, angular, fresh machine-funk before heading off into euro-techno heaven. As the Good Life sampling riffs of

Devilfish's 'Manalive' roared around the, unusually clear (seems Dolans have finally taken notice of the different aural requirements of electronic based music), sound system the crowd whooped and wriggled in sticky disko delight and I was left with the reflection once again that this was all about to end abruptly at 2am, when we should, like our European neighbours, be dancing 'til dawn or at least until we get tired and it's time to go home to bed!

Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience to catch the man in action once again, although I was slightly disappointed that he refrained from the scratching n spinning, turntable trickery that I've seen him previously enhance such sets with, but that's a small grumble. He came, he rocked, he sent 'em home happy, and here's to many more nights like it!

By **Ultan Quin**

You can catch the Vinyl guys @ Footwork every Thursday night in Dolans (upstairs).

Also on Paddy's Eve - Wed 16th March a Three-room extravaganza in association with the Nu Killa Kru & Cheeba with House, Drum n Bass and Dub Reggae.

Upcoming international guests - Larry Heard (Chicago) Thurs 7th April (Warehouse), Theo Parrish (Detroit) Saturday 23rd April.

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KIERAN HALPIN

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tickets: www.ticketmaster.ie, Empire Music and Record Rack Ennis

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VINYL IN 3 ZONES 17 - FOOTWORK 18 - GEORGE MURPHY / BLOOD SUGAR
19 - DUBLIN CITY RAMBLERS / STONE ROSES EXPERIENCE 23 - JAZZ W DANNY HEALY & HOUSE BAND
26 - VINYL 27 - LA BOUTIQUE 31 - FOOTWORK/THE BLIZZARDS W THE MARSHALL STARS

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8 - JOHN SPILLANE 11 - RODRIGO Y GABRIELA 12 - RODRIGO Y GABRIELA (PLUS EARLY ALL-AGES SHOW)
16 - BELLYT / CLIVE BARNES 17 - THE CROOKED STILL 19 BELLYT 22 - ALBERT LEE & HOGANS HEROES
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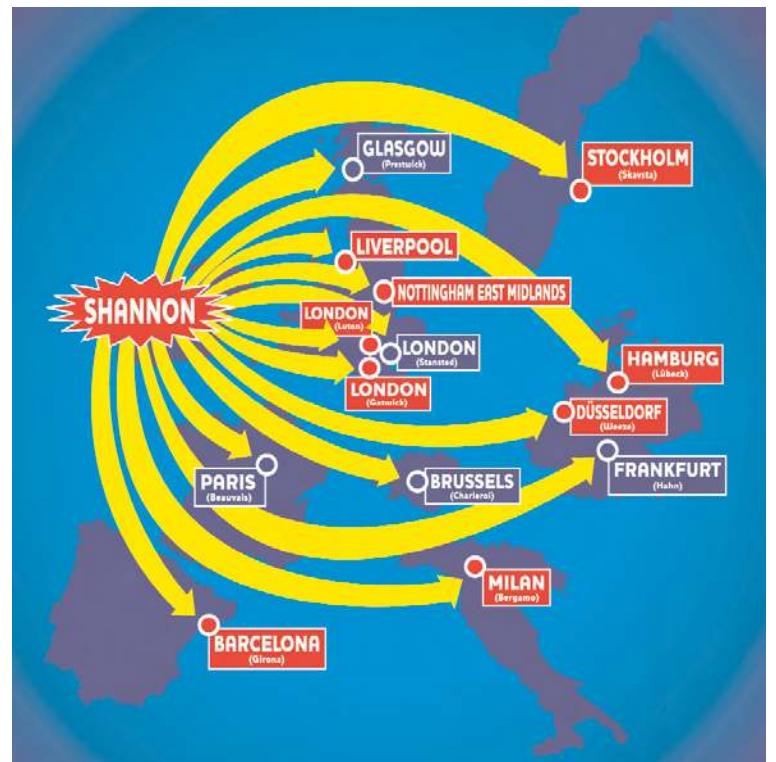
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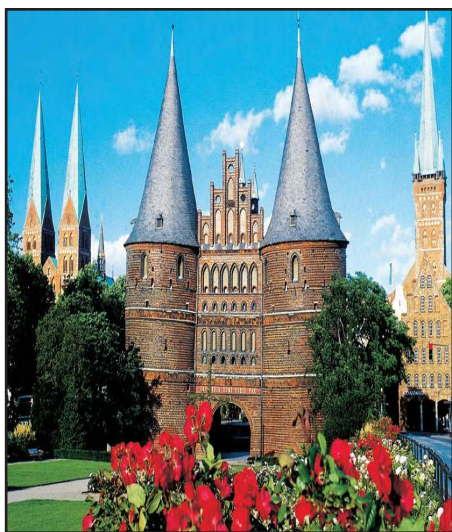
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PAT
SHORTT

D'unbelievable! Pat, you didn't get away with it in UL!

By Keith Whelan

Pat Shortt recently visited U.C.H to perform a week long run of his show "You won't get away with that here!" Audiences in U.C.H are used to seeing a wealth of Irish comedic talent with the likes of Tommy Tiernan and Dara O'Briain visiting recently so Pat wasn't going to get away with a less than fantastic show in UL.

Unfortunately, this was a show lacking in what the other two had - humour! I was un-impressed, nothing I haven't seen before. Rehashing work done over ten years and creating new characters around the "culchie" persona did not challenge me to a chuckle! Don't get me wrong, he had the audience in stitches but, then again this was their annual outing for comedy and the only real person laughing was Pat Shortt himself...all the way to the bank!

Pat Shortt utilised the title of his show and to a certain extent did get away with it. The show is

based on the final night in the hall in the fictional town of Rathmuff before it's due to be demolished and the locals decide to show a film. The local characters turn out in force to bid a fond farewell to the hall and all the characters are rolled out in front of an expectant audience.

There's Patsy the caretaker and local gossip monger who patrols the aisles in the hall to make sure nothing dirty goes on in the back row and Sheamie the builder, who comes to demolish the building and plays to the stereotype of having a big behind and favours having a cup of tea to working.

This show had all the hallmarks of a D'Unbelievable show...and not in a good way. I've seen several performances over the years and how long can you flog a dead donkey while trying to invigorate a new show with new characters. Everything we've seen before only done in a different way. His

homage to "Peig" with a re-enactment was poorly done and didn't come off well. The use of the video screen to show fictional advertisements for services in Rathmuff was one of the better things about the show. The use of the air-hostess character was overdone even though we could all associate with such a person on our flights out of Shannon. The show only ran for little over an hour so it wasn't even great value for money. At the same time, there were at times, the hallmarks of good comedy, for example, the lyric used in one of his songs, "I bought you the ring and you gave me the finger" and "I can't get over you until you come out from under him".

For a man who has in the past been labelled a comic genius by the Irish Times, he needs to extend himself a bit more to graduate to that level of praise on a regular basis.



In The UCH

Thin Lizzy is a band at the pinnacle of the Irish Rock scene who have forged out a name for themselves with all the perfectly polished rock sounds of a well tuned music making phenomenon. Decades of hard work on behalf of these brave soldiers on the front lines of music's rock battlefield have left us scarred, with some pretty decent classic songs to boot. They've even managed to make a huge impact on the airwaves in the United States rather than drowning in a sea of obscurity like so many others (no subtle hints about certain annoying pop acts here!)

Having reformed recently, they have been busy during February touring all around Ireland culminating in an amazing end of tour gig in the UCH on the nineteenth, little over two weeks ago. It was a mind-blowing performance which left the, sometimes crazy, audience begging for more. The band then came out to do the usual encore only replacing their normal favourite song "Whiskey in The Jar", with a much more soothing rendition of



two other great tunes from previous performances. For each gig on the tour Wicklow based band "H*ilyw*d" performed a blistering opening set truly worthy of the thirty-minute opening set. Slot, also a great up-and-coming band well worth looking out for, added further to the mounting atmosphere before the big occasion kicked off properly.

Now for the history lesson: Thin Lizzy were formed in 1969 by Phil Lynott and Brian Downey in the heartland of Dublin while attending the same school. It was from these humble beginnings that they went on to achieve true greatness in their selected genre of rock releasing thirteen albums throughout their reign as kings of rock and scoring an impressive fourteen "Top 20" European hits.

Their most well known songs include hits like "Whiskey in the Jar" (which was their first top ten hit in 1972 and propelled them to fame), "The Boys Are Back in Town", "Jailbreak", "Cowboy Song", "Waiting on an Alibi" and "Chinatown" among

many, many others. If you've never heard of them by now then please do me a favour and slap yourself!

After Phil Lynott's tragic death in 1986, however, the band could no longer stay together and each of the members went their separate ways. Reforming briefly in 1994 to do a series of tribute concerts honouring their founding member, the band realised that the crowds still have an overwhelming love for their music and decided to get back together once again in 2000 to record a new live album "One Night Only".

The newly reformed group includes Scott Gorham and John Sykes, (from the original set-up), Marco Mendoza, (from Blue Murder and Whitesnake), and Michael Lee on drums, (from Lenny Kravitz and The Cult). From the decision in 2000 to reform onwards, the legacy of Thin Lizzy has once again been reinvigorated and any lover of good music will be looking forward to seeing more of them soon, as will I.

By Benny Kupka

LIPSERVICE

Paul Mercier

Éire | 1998 | 18nóim | 35mm | Dath



Lipservice is set on the day of the Oral Irish exam in a north Dublin community school. It is a bizarre day when everyone is speaking a language they don't communicate in.

Students are learning Irish phrases by the dozen hoping that some of it will make sense - what's 'stressed out' in Irish?

Lá Bhéalscrúdú na Gaeilge i bpobalscoil i dtuaisceart Bhaile Átha Cliath. Lá ais-teach mar go bhfuil gach duine 'ag labhairt na Gaeilge' ach tá focail agus daoine ar iarraidh! Cén Ghaeilge ar 'stressed out'?

CLARE SA SPÉIR

Audrey O'Reilly

Éire | 2001 | 20 nóim | 35mm | Dath



Gan aird ag an saol uirthi agus í sáinnithe i ngnáthamh an tsaol, cinneann Clare tabhairt faoin spéir! Ach cá bhfágann sin an teaghlach a fhágann sí ina diaidh ar talamh?

Taken for granted and stuck in a rut, Clare, a housewife, decides to take to the skies. But where does that leave her family that are left below?



Is albam den scoth é *American Idiot*. Cinnte, ba fanaiceach mór *Green Day* mé sular cheannaigh mé an t-albam ar chor ar bith ach d'ainneoin sin, bhainfeadh éinne le pioc céile i dtaobh an cheoil an-taitneamh as. Ní gá fiú éisteach leis na focail, cuir ar siúl é agus lig do scéith. Le hamhráin ar nós *Boulevard of Broken Dreams* agus *Holiday*, ní bheidh diomá ort!

Réalta Stars: 4/5
Aoife Ní Mhaolchathaigh

ÉIREVILLE

James Finlan

Éire | 2002 | 24 nóim | Beta | Dubh & Bán

Is bleachtair é Lemmy Cúramach a tháinig chuig Éireville, cathair sa todhchaí. Is é a aidhm ná teacht ar an gceannasaí mailíseach, Patrick Von Pearsemann, agus é a mharú.

Lemmy Cúramach, private detective, enters the futuristic metropolis of Éireville. His mission: to locate and destroy the evil ruler Patrick Von Pearsemann.

NEASA HARDIMAN

Éire | 2003 | 11 nóim | Beta | Dath

Scéal grá óscoil cailíní. Cailín uaigneach í Deirdre, nó go dtagann Olive, cailín in aon rang léi, i gcabhair uirthi - toitíní, gadaíocht, etc! Ar an ól dóibh, cailíleann Deirdre cara, ach tagann sí uirthi féin.

A romance set in a girls' school. Deirdre is 15 and lonely until her classmate Olive teaches her how to smoke and takes her shoplifting. Then they get drunk and Deirdre loses her new friend... but finds herself.

Síneach a fhágann duairceas a tíre dhúchais ar thóir an dea-shaol. Tré sheans is go hÉirinn a thagann sé, áit a dtugann sé faoin bpríomhtheanga oifigiúil a fhoghlaim. Mór a iontas, mar sin, gan í a chloisint nuair a thugann sé faoin bpríomhchathair!

Yu Ming wishes to escape his dull life working in China. A spin of the globe leads him to choose Ireland. He learns the official language of Irish but upon his arrival in Dublin, Yu Ming is puzzled to find that nobody understands a word he says!



Síneach a fhágann duairceas a tíre dhúchais ar thóir an dea-shaol. Tré sheans is go hÉirinn a thagann sé, áit a dtugann sé faoin bpríomhtheanga oifigiúil a fhoghlaim. Mór a iontas, mar sin, gan í a chloisint nuair a thugann sé faoin bpríomhchathair!

The Blurb

This week Val and her posy discuss the art of texting, a FYP student's nightmare, the influx of Leaving Certs in our library and trying to hide your school identity from cool college friends amongst other things.

Sex and The College

To text or not to text!

In today's society is it wrong for a girl to text a guy first? The first text, in my opinion is very similar to a marriage proposal. Is it therefore not the job of the male to text that first text?

Last week, with the help of alcohol and the Lodge, Victoria met up with a 'cute' guy. In the space of a few hours, they were very comfortable in each other's company. Last week in the midst of boredom, I asked Carol what she believed it was to be comfortable with someone and she gave me the following definition:

Comfortability Is:

- Expelling 'nasty air' in your beloveds company, (as Zig and Zag christened it: 'letting a ruddy!')
- Using lavatory facilities while your beloved remains in the same proximity
- Showering together
- Or wearing toothpaste to bed (a great trick to get rid of those post-menstrual spots)

Victoria did one of the above, so one can only assume she was feeling very comfortable with her 'cute' guy. (I will refer to him as Cutie from here on) Cutie and Victoria did not exchange numbers but was this Cuties attempt in playing the relationship game we all love, 'hard to get' or was he genuinely not pushed on a reunion? Victoria sought out his number from a mutual friend and decided to make first contact. Here is where the problem begins.

What do you write in the first text? How do you get across that you are not a stalker but just happen to have stumbled across his number through pure coincidence? The first text should be: flirty (but not flirty to the point of looking like a nymphomaniac) and short (even though texts are expensive, there should be no making use of those extra characters when 'the first text' is in question)

Males are hopeless when it comes to replying to texts. They have no comprehension of the humiliation a girl suffers from 'text-rejection'. They may leave it hours or even days before they decide to reply to a text. Meanwhile the poor girl has spent the last few days checking her phone on a regular basis, even during coffee dates with her friends and stimulating lectures! Some girls convince themselves the message did not deliver and will even text again. While other ladies may happen to text the 'Oops.... did I just send that to you' message.

Boys just don't understand girls and their minds. When we text we expect a reply. Take the following into consideration boys:

- Always text back, you may never know when you need her 'company', exam time is very stressful and you don't have time to be out trying to 'pull'
- Always text back, she may have nice friends
- Always text back, IT'S POLITE.

E.S.

NEWS IN BRIEF...

- Person asking "how are you?" doesn't really care one way or another
- Podge and Rodge refuse to become UL mascots
- Fourth Year under impression she still had two years left
- Student's pointless web browsing interrupted by FYP work
- First year makes 9am lecture
- Unexpected happens

FYP crisis: student unsure which binding option to select

The rapidly approaching FYP deadline had sent fourth year student, Fidelma O'Shaughnessy, into a state of "absolute panic" as she has realised she has just days remaining to select the form of binding in which her completed work will be submitted in. Despite finishing her ninth and final draught almost two months ago, the student had left her final decisions as to presentation to the last minute, resulting in severe stress.

Miss O'Shaughnessy puts her dilemma down to poor planning. "I had it finished nearly two months ago", she admitted, "but didn't get my act together about how the finished article should look." "Now I'm totally f*cked," she declared.

The extent of the situation dawned on Fidelma while visiting the print room recently. "I saw a sign with binding options and prices," Miss O'Shaughnessy reminisced, wincing slightly, "then it hit me, I had no idea which option to go for. They say looks aren't everything but frankly I don't believe a word of it."

Mystified and panicking Miss O'Shaughnessy has been "pulling all-nighters" in the library in an effort to research the best form of presentation.

She is expected to have a major crisis about which font size and type to use for her main text at some point on the next few days.

Valerie Gunning

Reclaim our Library ... there is still time!

It's that time of year again; the pres are in progress which means they are on their way. Oh yes the Leaving Certificate Students are about to embrace the UL library once more. Imagine the scene, you are a stressed out, FYP hating fourth year and you are desperately searching for a seat in the library only to be confronted with rows and rows of occupied desks. Now these seats are not full of your hardworking fellow students. All that is there is perhaps an unopened school bag or if some effort has been made some past Leaving Cert papers in Geography or Home Economics strewn about. The actual 'students' are preening themselves in the girls' toilets preparing for a day of loitering outside the Stables in the hopes that they will be mistaken for an actual college student. But at least they actually leave the library instead of sashaying noisily around the bookshelves trying to walk in high heels. Now I have great sympathy for anyone doing their Leaving Certificate and for those trying to navigate the nightmare that is the CAO but this year (because now I'm the irate fourth

year) something has got to change. So I call on all students to deal with the infestation of Leaving Cert students and I've thought of a few ways to welcome them to the UL library. As they are rarely at their desks you will have plenty opportunity.

- Move their books to the identical seat on the floor above or below.
- Casually ask them for I.D.
- Hide their chair.
- Take all their books out of their bag; turn their bag inside out and then stick their books back in.
- Slip a library book into their bag...once the alarm goes on their way out they will never return.

Or on the other hand, you could do the fourth year equivalent of the Leaving Cert students and just use the post grad reading room.

Lisa Egan

Limerick Limerick

There is a room called
Ego 4,
with no windows and
just a door,
Jesus could appear in
the Plaza Square,
but there's no window
to look through and
stare,
no oxygen makes time
stand still,
just a little window with
an optional sill.

Jean Kent

Rock On Nibbler!

A warm sensation washed over me as I entered Superdine, my craving for alcohol had long since been replaced by that for a pie supper, as I studied the menu with weary eyes and tried to piece together another night in the Lodge I felt a ominous hand on my shoulder and with no time to respond came the words that sent a shiver down my spine: "Rock on Nibbler". Snatched from my tipsy haven of blissful ignorance I turned and recognised my drunken assailant who had confirmed my worst fear, one I had harboured since first taking the cross border trip to university: My nickname had somehow managed to track me to Limerick!

I detest the nickname Nibbler, born out of the paradox that is my less then intimidating stature yet penchant for anything edible it has followed me since primary school. Yet I have always played down my distaste for the moniker as nicknames work much like a finger trap, the more you struggle the more they stick. And yet as I stood in Superdine my despair matched only by the now oncoming bout of vomiting I mused it could be worse.

Vergimon' was the cross borne by an anonymous friend of mine for three whole years. It originated in part due to the Pokemon craze that was sweeping the globe at that time but mostly owed to his lack of a certain extra curricular activity. Fate can be cruel but not I have found as cruel as stoners with too much time on their hands and an inexplicable urge to brand their friends with these nicknames It didn't get any better for my hapless chum as when he did finally achieve the means to discard the tag he was Re-Christened Minutemon due to the reported speed in which he had carried out the task.

Still there is a certain degree of skill in concocting suitable nicknames, unfortunately this is one area where I am quite abysmally lacking and I blame it all on my London upbringing. The cockney imagination is notoriously shallow when it comes to the invention of nicknames and I believe best summed up by the Nick Hancock line: "When the Tottenham players found out about their team-mate Stefan Freunds hidden background in the German secret police they came up with an ingenious and witty nickname... Freundy". Perhaps it is this inability to label others that has led to my own tagging, (then again it could be down to me chewing my arm in my sleep).

I stared gloomily in to my rapidly cooling chips, it was cold outside but I'd have to leave soon. How long till everyone addressed me by my self-loathed alias? Months? Weeks? Days? "Well" I thought, "for every Tiger, razor, or chopper there has to be a vergimon, nibbler, or Monkey Ass Sarah to balance it out." There was no point fighting it, better off to accept it even embrace it. I got up from my booth and made my way to the door, head held high, and as I braved the infamous Limerick rain I heard a voice for the second time that night and this time it warmed me to the core: "Nibble on Nibbler, nibble on".

Dominic (Nibbler) Hewson

STUDENT WAS "UNBELIEVABLY SOBER" LAST NIGHT

Snorting with hilarity between sips of Mocha over lunch in the canteen, UL socialite Beam McInerney recounted her tall tales of the previous night. "We so totally didn't get twisted last night", she told the eager throng gathered round "I was not even tipsy the entire night, it was so funny!"

Following this lack of downing of alcohol at a house party, the pub crawl of which McInerney was part of then proceeded to visit many of the city's drinking establishments. At every one shots of vodka were not downed and no one "downed" anything "in one". Excitement broke out when pub crawl leader, James 'Jimbo' Dodd announced his intention to knock back a pint of Lucozade, McInerney commenting that "he's totally mad, that Jimbo!" By the time the final public house had been reached, the mood of the group was described as "sober as a

judge. I mean, seriously un@nkered. Nobody was off their faces. Total absence of carnage". Hilarity was occasioned by pub crawler Steve 'Stevy' Murphy's lack of projectile vomiting on Cruise's St.

After the pub crawl every student involved walked down O'Connell Street in a perfectly straight line. Conversation was difficult owing to the non-slurred, clear speech of the pub crawlers, but raucous laughter was provoked when none of the completely rational students fell over in slapstick fashion outside Supermac's. Upon reaching The Icon Niteclub, despite the handicap of having minuscule levels of alcohol in their bloodstreams, all of them managed to queue up and enter the club without incident. "When Jonners got down there, found the right money, paid and walked in, remaining vertical throughout, I nearly died laughing", recounted McInerney.

Inside The Icon the riotous sobriety reached epic heights. McInerney herself drank neither a double vodka, beer, or pint of cider and then kept all her clothes on and did not dance on the DJ booth. Unprecedented levels of non-lashage amongst the group meant none of them ended up in a random scoring situation, Jimbo and long-time crush Samantha 'Sammers' Eustace generating much gossip by going home separately at the end of the night and not engaging in any sexual activity.

Summing up an eventful night as "seriously wicked", and boasting that she could "remember absolutely all of it, even after I hadn't drunk that fifth pint", McInerney further emphasised that she was "honestly, just totally sober" throughout and was suffering badly from a total lack of hangover.

In the article on the SU shop in the previous edition we incorrectly stated Ms. Doyle's new role in the SU Shop. She is continuing on as chairperson of the board of directors and acting in consultation with the new shop management. PJ Moloney has succeeded her as shop manager and has been working hard with his dedicated team of shop staff to ensure that the highest standards of customer service is maintained.



Sports Talk

Otherwise known as the toy department where those who weren't good enough to make it criticise those who are and generally sit around watching Sky Sports all day. Interested? Read on.

Cheltenham 2005 Preview

By Cathal O'Flaherty

Well folks it's that time of year again as the Irish invade Cheltenham, and with the addition of a fourth days racing this year the bookies will be rubbing their hands with glee as the punters try to cash in. This pundit lays no claim to being clairvoyant but here's a form guide for the big races of the meet, and as always, good luck!



Henrietta Knight with Best Mate

Gold Cup

The question on everyone's lips is whether Best Mate can claim an historic fourth victory on the bounce. The feeling here is that he will. Strange as it may seem he represents good value at 3/1. If the going is good or better look for him to win handily, while soft ground shouldn't hamper him unduly it would make for a tighter finish. The main challengers are Kingscliff and Irish hope, Beef or Salmon. Kingscliff is two for two at Cheltenham but his suspect jumping may come against him here. Beef or Salmon beat Best Mate at Leopardstown but unless the ground is

extremely soft he won't have the class to take it. Sir Rembrandt, second last year, will also need soft ground to make an impact, while of the others Pizzaro at 33/1 looks good each way value.

Prediction: Best Mate 3/1

Champion Hurdle

The Irish will be hoping Hardy Eustace can repeat last year's triumph, and I see no reason to oppose him. He's in better form than 12 months ago and is capable of winning anyway you like. Harchibald is the favourite but is more of a flat horse and the hurdles won't suit him. Back in Front is the main challenger and will give a good account of himself. Inglis Drever (14/1) is the best each way value.

Prediction: Hardy Eustace 9/2

Champion Chase

The racing highlight of the festival, this is a three horse race. Moscow Flyer, Azertyuiop and Well Chief have all beaten each other, with Azertyuiop the defending champion. If Moscow Flyer stands up he'll take some beating but he fell here last year, Azertyuiop is solid but could tire coming up the hill. I'm siding with Well Chief, as the blistering pace won't be a problem for the youngest of the three horses, who may well sneak past the other two close to home. Oneway at 25/1 represents the best each way value.

Prediction: Well Chief 3/1

Stayers Hurdle

French horse Baracouda is the class act of the field with Tony McCoy on board, and with his only real rival Rule Supreme eyeing the Gold Cup, looks unbeatable. Emotional Moment at 10/1 and Westender at 16/1 both represent good value.

Prediction: Baracouda 5/4

Arkle Chase

War of Attrition has the class to see off all challengers and he's my banker of the festival at 4/1. Ned Kelly (9/1) and Mariah Rollins (14/1) will give a good account of themselves.

Prediction: War of Attrition (nap) 4/1

Supreme Novices

Wide open race, with Irish horse Justified the favourite, but the tip here is Publican at 10/1, with Chilling Place (20/1) is one to look out for if the ground is quick.

Prediction: Publican 10/1

Champion Bumper

Last years big gamble, Kerry horse Total Enjoyment, misses out this year through injury and in her absence it's a lottery, but Rasharrow at 14/1 has a good track record and could sneak it. Carrigeenroe at 16/1 could also show prominently.

Prediction: Rasharrow 14/1



Beef or Salmon prior to winning the Hennessy Gold Cup

Triumph Hurdle

Another race where anything is possible, but the 20/1 shot Carte Diamond has won 2 of his 3 hurdle starts and has a real chance. Penzance at 8/1 should also be in the final mix.

Prediction: Carte Diamond 20/1

Sun Alliance Hurdle

Ambobo is the standout horse and the American raider is good value at 5/1. Racing Demon at 16/1 is the each way value.

Prediction: Ambobo 5/1

Sun Alliance Chase

Ollie Magern is the hot favourite but may have peaked too early in the year and could well be turned over by either Lord of Illusion (8/1) or Trabolgan. The tip here is that the ever-improving Lord of Illusion will win a squeaker.

Prediction: Lord of Illusion 8/1



Liverpool: Better off without Stevie G?

Gerard Fitzgibbon

I'm sure that the heading alone already has some Liverpool fans disgusted and muttering something unpleasant under their breath. But the reality of the situation at Anfield means that this summer Steven Gerrard will have serious offers on the table to leave Merseyside and venture to pastures new. Some Liverpool fans may shudder to even think about the prospect of their team being without a player who is their leader, their drive and their heartbeat all rolled into one. But the sale of Steven Gerrard would go a long way to securing the revival of the club in the face of mounting pressure from disgruntled scouers.

Both on and off the pitch Stevie's departure would have a galvanising effect not too dissimilar to what happened at Liverpool's Mersey neighbours Everton when they shipped out Wayne Rooney. Gone would be the media depictions of a 'one-man team', weighing upon the mental strength of the rest of the squad. The realisa-

tion would set in that Liverpool would now be counted upon to win games as a unit, rather than relying upon their talisman. Being without a player of Steven Gerrard's ability would force the remainder of the team to work harder to achieve victory, something that came to fruition in their recent 3-1 Champions League win over Bayer Leverkusen, arguably their best performance of the season and achieved without Gerard.

Steven Gerrard, partially due to the jingoistic English media, has been hyped up way beyond reason. He is not the best midfielder player in the world. If Liverpool was to gain £30 million from his sale, it would represent a wonderful deal for a player who cost them nothing. Yes, Steven Gerrard can explode onto a game. Yes, his darting runs from box to box can punish any opposition. But can he dictate the pace of the game? No. Can he calmly organise and marshal those around him into a cohesive, efficient foot-

balling unit? No.

In Xabi Alonso Liverpool have a player far more akin to midfield titans Roy Keane and Patrick Vieira in his football awareness and ability to run the middle of the park.

Alonso arrived at Anfield last summer in a move that was widely considered a coup by new Liverpool boss Rafa Benitez. While Real Madrid dithered with Patrick Vieira and Manchester United chased Wayne Rooney, both let slip a player who would have added strength, composure and mettle to their respective midfields. Alonso encompasses a role far more suited to European football today: the deep-lying playmaker. The basic characteristics of this position rely more upon interception and defending from deep, but also emphasises bringing other players into possession and shaping attacks through intelligent positioning and passing. So far, Alonso has been forced to occupy a basic holding role

in Liverpool's midfield, leaving his captain to rampage forward at will. This is detrimental to Benitez' desire to play patient, organised football akin to his previously successful stint at Valencia. If Gerrard was to leave, Alonso would be handed the midfield general's mantle and would provide a far stronger embodiment of his manager's ambition.

The shock factor of Gerrard leaving the club may be enough to frighten and depress Liverpool fans in the short term but in reality it would signal the final departure from the one-dimensional football of Gerard Houllier, a process that began in earnest when Michael Owen left the club last summer. Nobody at Liverpool, let alone Benitez, doubted Owen's pedigree. Nobody doubts Gerrard's. Yet both players are embodiments of Houllier's single-minded approach to direct play that saw far too many uninspiring performances ground out with marginal displays of any intelligence. Benitez wants to change this, but to do so he must remove the burden of a world-class player whose presence at the club is arguably damaging the team as a whole.

A Sport or a Game...That Is the Question

By Tomás Burke

There is an unspoken athletic hierarchy, barely perceptible amongst the general public, but prevalent amongst sportsmen and sportswomen. It lies dormant for long periods of time, resurfacing intermittently at various sporting events. Perhaps the largest showcase for the hierarchy is the Olympic Games, the pantheon of sporting endeavour, where the general public are asked to look at synchronised swimming and curling on the same level as soccer and athletics. It is at this point that all sorts of prejudices arrive that we didn't even know we had.

What is a sport? We used to look to the aforementioned Olympic Games as a barometer but this has largely been abandoned amidst the guffaws of the dressage and the leering of the beach volleyball. Some look for guidance to the sports channels, but then you'll have monster-trucking thrown into the mix. Even within the mainstream sporting world, 'proper' sportspeople disparage other 'proper' sportspeople for lacking different aspects that make up athletic prowess. Contact sportspeople-rugby, American football and ice hockey connoisseurs-laugh at cycling and gymnastics for their lack of physical contact. Ball sports frown upon rowing and athletics for their lack of balls. And swimmers laugh at soccer players because while the swimmers spend around eight hours a day honing their bodies to perfection, soccer players wander out for one short kick around before returning to their day job of buying cars and dating celebrities.

Perhaps the crux of the matter is the amateur/professional divide. There is a certain unspoken affinity between athletes, rowers, swimmers, - sports with little or no money, brutal training regimes and little glamour. These guys are in it for the ancient, innate glory of it all. Their reward may amount to only a handful of major championships throughout their career, if even that. They are the inheritors of the Grecian sporting tradition in search of nothing but honour and a simple laurel wreath. Their bodies are temples, untainted by drugs, alcohol or rich foods for months, years, or even lifetimes solely for the love of the sport. It is little wonder that they might smirk slightly at the thought of

high living, cocaine-snorting, beer chugging soccer players as sportsmen.

Yet what of skill? Running is running. Swimming is swimming. Surely sport should incorporate both the physical and the skilful - the first touch to bring down the sixty yard pass, the deftly stroked backhand, the inch-perfect grubber kick. Privileging the skilful over the physical certainly would seem to balance the sporting excellence scale in favour of professional sports. Yet if professional sportspeople open up the door for this definition they will find themselves in the company of all manner of jokers in the ranks of sport. Someone will say 'golfing' and we will get a little apprehensive. Someone will say 'snooker' and we will laugh nervously. And then someone will say 'darts' and the dam will break and we will be flooded under a wave of ridiculous past-times calling for sporting recognition. The 'not-quite-physical-but-oh-so-skilful' brigade will be led by poker players, followed by flower arrangers with the bingo players coming up the rear.

This worse-than-death future may not be as far away as we imagine. The example of darts might prove crucial. Darts holds the questionable honour of counting Andy 'The Viking' Fordham amongst its former world champions. Perfectly nice but morbidly obese, Fordham used to regularly go through twenty bottles of beer per match during the days when they were allowed booze during the championship matches. The 30 stone, mullet-sporting goliath-in every sense of the word, once passed out mid-match. The walk from the dart-line to the dart-board combined with the house lights proved to be too much exertion for the finely-tuned world darts champion. Then again he was encumbered with several pounds of shiny rings and chains at the time. Yet, in a stroke of hilarity at the recent world championships, Simon Whitlock donned a step-counter as part of his campaign to get darts recognised as a sport. Stand up and take a bow you elite steppers, traffic wardens, janitors and farmers, apparently you are our underrated sporting giants.

So in an unashamed attempt to root out unworthy pretenders to the title of 'sport', I attempted my own definitions, starting with 'a widely played competition that pushes your body to

the limit at some stage during it.' It seemed alright, including endurance and power sports, team and individual, while excluding the likes of Formula 1 (Schumacher's pulse rarely goes over average sitting pace) and golf (surely the swing is more fluid than intense?) However, then I heard that Tiger Woods can bench-press around 120kgs. Suitably impressed, I decided to lay off the golfers and so discarded the definition. Though the experience clarified things and brought into focus what I had been skirting around: we want our sportspeople to be buff. Why try and dress it up in any other language. I want to be able to bounce euro coins off the ladies asses and the guys to be able to beat me up. Problem solved? Alas, no.

If we are to adopt this understanding, the Grecian analogy goes out the window. Surely that first 26 mile run from Marathon to Athens must count as one of the seminal feats of sportsmanship. Yet marathon runners, as we all know, are streamlined, toned and light as a feather. Buff they are

not. Yet it would be a harsh judge that would discard them from the sporting world.

So we are back to square one arbitrarily ranking sports by criteria that few of us can define. We rank them subconsciously, judging their validity by how much screen time we allow them during the Olympics: high diving, high jumping, archery and judo. Perhaps the problem lies in the fluidity of sports.

In peeks and troughs their popularity moves. At the moment extreme sports are in vogue, whether it is snow-boarding or skate-boarding, each can put forward a sound claim for sporting recognition. After all tug'o'war once bore the prestigious five rings of an Olympic sport. Therefore we should resign ourselves to controversy concerning the eternal 'sport or game' debate. It is a healthy sign. Sport is at the forefront of public consciousness. It can quite rightly take its place among the great debates of our time such as 'Dylan: poet or musician?' and 'Twix: bar or biscuit?'

Spot the sportsman: (clockwise from top left)
Maurice Greene, Andy 'The Viking' Fordham, Johnny Wilkinson and Ken Doherty



Sports Quiz

- Question 1** Who is manager of the Dublin hurling team?
Question 2 Who is manager of the French rugby team?
Question 3 In what league do teams compete for the Stanley Cup?
Question 4 Who holds the record for the quickest ever goal scored in the English League Cup Final?
Question 5 Who are current All-Ireland Junior Ladies Football champions?
Question 6 Who won the 2005 Masters snooker tournament at Wembley?
Question 7 Which player holds the most number of Gaelic football All-Stars?
Question 8 Who has taken over as stable jockey to Aidan O'Brien?
Question 9 Where do Limerick FC play their home league matches?
Question 10 Name the four teams competing in the AIB All-Ireland club championships on St. Patrick's day.

Answers at bottom of the page

Cúrsaí Iomána

Tá moladh tuilte ag iománaithe sinsearacha na hOllscoile as ucht feabhais a gcuid imeartha go dtí seo i gCraobh Mhic Ghibiúin. Tá an lámh in uachtar faighte acu cheana féin ar DCU agus GMIT agus tá a n-aghaidh á thabhairt anois acu ar WIT sa chluiche leath cheannais. Dár ndóigh 'siad fir na Déise a bhuaigh an comórtas anuraidh agus beidh sé sách deacair iad a bhualadh. Tá an cumas sa bhfoireann seo an corn a thabhairt leo agus guímid gach rath orthu. Faoi stiúradh Ger Cunningham níl aon dabht ach go mbeidh siad ullamh go maith. Go n-éirí libh a bhuachaillí! Tá moladh tuilte freisin ag mná na hOllscoile a thug Corn Ashbourne leo le déanaí. Maith sibh agus go leana sé!

Noel P Ó Murchadha

Answers:
 1. Humphrey Kellegher 2. Bernard Laporte 3. NHL 4. John Arne Riise 5. Kildare
 6. Ronnie O'Sullivan 7. Pat Spillane 8. Kieran Fallon 9. Pike Rovers Sports
 Ground 10. Portlaoise and Ballina Stephenites (Football); St. Mary's, Athlery
 and James Stephens (Hurling)

An Corn Harding

Bhí an **Corn Harding** *Harding Cup* ar siúl an mhí seo caite ón 17ú go dtí an 20ú Feabhra. Comórtas sacair na céad bliana a bhí ann do gach ollscoil in Éirinn agus d'fhreastal foireann sacair **OL UL** ann le **flúirse féinmhuiníne** *abundance of self-confidence* acu. Cuireadh gach foireann díreach isteach **sa cheathrú cheannais** *in the quarter finals* agus bhíomar ag imirt i gcoinne DCU. **Bagairt** *threat* mhór a bhí iontu ach ar deireadh, **bhainamar an bua amach** *we won 2 - 1*. Cluiche an-deacair a bhí ann, go háirithe le **drochstaid na haimsire** *the awful state of the weather*. Bhí gaoth láidir **ag cur bac orainn** *hindering us* agus bhí an bháisteach ag titim go trom. Bhí an cuma ar an scéal go raibh an liathróid san aer an t-am ar fad! An rud ba thábhachtaí, áfach, ná gur shroicheadar an cluiche **leathcheannais** *semi-final*. Bhí **OC UCC** ós ár gcomhair amach ansin agus cé go raibh ár n-aighe dírithe ar an mbua, ag an am céanna bhí a fhios againn go raibh **dúshlán** *challenge* amach romhainn. Bhain OCcúl **tubaisteach** *disastrous* amach, cúl **amaideach** *stupid* dár linn, agus ina dhiaidh sin chuir siad gach **imreoir** *player* taobh thiar den liathróid. Rinneamar an-iarracht **cúl an ghéibhinn** *the crucial goal* a bhaint amach, ach bhí sé soiléir gur lá OC a bhí ann. Chuamar abhaile i **ndrochaoibh** *bad form* ach caitimid díriú isteach ar an mbliain seo chugainn.

Cathal Byrd

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 web: <http://appliedmaths.ucc.ie/diploma/index.htm>

Postgraduate News

Dear Postgrads,

The Postgrad Ball is all set for April 7th that's a Thursday night in the Limerick Strand Hotel. We are all meeting at 7.15pm in Nestor's Bar on O'Connell Street for a champagne reception first, then a bus will take us all to the Limerick Strand Hotel for a fab four course meal. The night's entertainment includes 2 live bands & a DJ. After that for those that are still up for it, there will be a party afterwards again in Nestor's, which is just a five minute walk from the hotel. There will be a serious raffle on the night with fab spot prizes like travel vouchers, a TV etc to raise money for Milford House. All this is included in the price of the ticket at only €30. The tickets are on sale late next week, Week 4 but the numbers are limited as the hotel can only facilitate 140 guests. With 20 tickets reserved already, purchase ASAP to avoid disappointment. It will be a mental night, one not to be missed.

In addition to that, the Postgrad St. Paddy's Day Party will be held surprisingly enough on the 17th. We are heading to Nestor's at 7.30pm. There will be live trad music followed by a DJ, there is also finger food being provided. The tickets are just €1 and they are

on sale from the PSA from Monday the 7th onwards. The €1 covers free bus in at 7.30pm to Nestor's, live trad band, free finger food, DJ AND MUCH MORE!

HAPPY DAYS! PLS SPREAD THE GOOD WORD ABOUT BOTH EVENTS.




**Post grad
St. Patrick's Days
Party**

**March 17th, buses leaving at
7.30pm.**

Vouchers, finger food, bus into town,
live trad music followed by DJ
all for only €1.
You'd be mad to miss this.
Tickets from PSA Centre
from the 7th March.

Postgrad Workshops

Post grads please be aware of the following workshops being provided for your benefit:

*Week 4: Wednesday, 9 March, 3:00-5:00 pm,
Venue C1 060 (main Building)*

Good Practice in Research (including Research Ethics)

Dearbhail Ní Chárthaigh, Assistant Dean Research, College of Education

*Week 5: Wednesday, 16 March, 3:00-5:00 pm,
Venue C1 060 (main Building)*

Research Design and Methods

Jill Pearson, Kemmy Business School
Jean Saunders, Statistical Consulting Unit

*Week 6: Wednesday, 23 March, 3:00-5:00 pm,
Venue C1 060 (main Building)*

Making the most of your Library

Patricia O'Donnell, Library

*Week 7: Wednesday, 30 March, 3:00-5:00 pm,
Venue C1 060 (main Building)*

Academic Writing and Publishing Your Research Results

Sarah Moore, Dean, Centre for Teaching and Learning
Gary Walsh, College of Science

*Week 8: Wednesday, 6 April, 3:00-5:00 pm,
Venue C1 060 (main Building)*

Career Planning and Preparation, 30 March

Mary Sweeney, Careers Service

Fred the Band

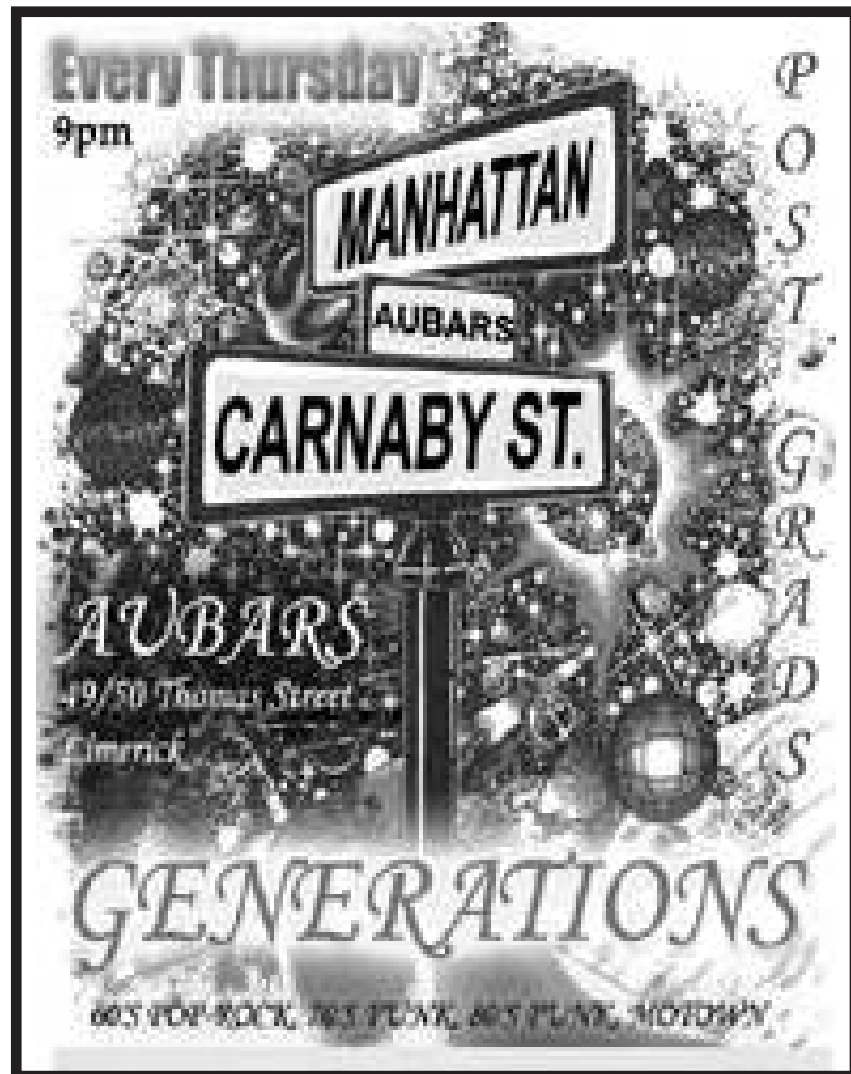
Fred the band gave a wicked performance Wednesday last, the 2nd March, upstairs in Dolan's pub. Despite the fact that town was empty that night, there was an incredible turn out for Fred's gig. A galvanized atmosphere ensued upstairs due to the intoxicating music of Fred and the incredible interaction between band & audience. Fred's funky beats and combination of acoustic/electric guitar together with sneaky little admittances of flute and keyboard created a sound that provoked the crowd to move, which they did! The band performed brilliantly, smiling throughout the entire performance thoroughly enjoying their own music and the positive vibes generated from a lively audience. People fumbled respectfully over one another in an attempt to emerge at the front of the crowd. There, girls enjoyed a Zoolander type "dance-off" to the

amusement of Joe, the lead singer with the band

The band interacted with the crowd on a whole new level. As Joe carried Jamie, the guitarist on his shoulders both joining the crowd in a sit down sing along, (much funnier than it sounds I swear) we all sat on the ground together chanting, clamping & singing. This whole episode generated real energy as both the audience & band sang & laughed together. It was truly a unique performance that one could immerse him or herself in.

The band played tracks from their old album, "Can't stop I'm Being Timed" and their new album "Stanley Super 800" which they are presently promoting.

It was one of those concerts where time flew by; one you wished had not ended so soon as it had. As the proud owner of both albums, they are a must for any house party. If you get a chance to see Fred the Band live, jump at the opportunity and don't forget to bring a headband! They rock in all senses of the word.



Every Thursday
9pm

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Clubs & Societies News

UL Law Soc

Hi all,

It was a busy week for the Law Society; in short, it involved a murder trial, an insane man and a walking stick. Can you fill in the gaps? Well, simply put the Law Soc visited the Four Courts this week and witnessed the trial of a man who beat his mother to death with her own walking stick. Apparently, she was a demon! Although we say this quite flippantly, the case itself involved a set of facts that were both graphic and disturbing. The defendant was a paranoid schizophrenic and suffered a myriad of delusions: he believed the television liked to talk to him, his wife was having several affairs and his mother was poisoning his food. It was this last delusion that led him to kill the victim resulting in blood on the floor, walls and even the ceiling.

The Society were lucky enough to be present for the tail end of the case involving the examination and cross-examination of medical

experts, summations, directing of the jury and the verdict. What struck those who attended was how the Judge forcefully directed the jury. He told them that should they not find the defendant 'guilty but insane' their decision would oppose all the medical evidence heard thus far. In fact, he questioned whether or not they even needed to leave the jury box. The jury did, however, leave to deliberate but were gone less than 10 minutes. The verdict was in fact 'guilty but insane' and the defendant was remanded to the Central Mental Hospital until such as he is fit for release.

In other news:

LAW BALL TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE, HOWEVER, DUE TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE WE ADVISE YOU TO BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MICHAEL MCDOWELL WILL VISIT THE LAW SOCIETY ON MONDAY WEEK 4 AT 6PM IN FG042. ALL ARE WELCOME.

UL Enviro Soc

Hey all, well, the Enviro Soc is up and running again this semester and there's loads of stuff going on! Last Monday the 28th of February, we had a successful clean up in Milford Grange - the Green was unrecognisable afterwards, with help from the local kids and loads of support from the community - so much for the image of students as lazy and dirty!

There's going to be a Green Fair this Wednesday the 9th in the Stables Courtyard (see the article in the news section) - we really want to green up the campus! As well as all that lot, we have loads of plans for, in no particular order: A debate on fox-hunting, a film season, regular fortnightly Green Fairs, a talk on the Scandal of the Corrib gas field, a debate on the planned M3 through the Tara/Skryne Valley, Fairtrade Fortnight, our very own vegetable plot and a clean-up of the river bank.

If any of these things interest you, or you have some other ideas that you think we should be doing, then contact us at ulenvirosoc@care2.com, come to a meeting at the new time of 6.15pm on Wednesday in the SU or look out for the posters around the college! See you soon!

UL Debating Soc

Have you an issue that you want discussed? Or do you simply want to have a roomful of people pay attention to you for five minutes? Whatever your reasons come along every Monday night to Scholars function room at 7pm. There's a lot to talk about and failing that, there's lots to organise! With our annual Debating Intervarsity competition on the horizon we're hunting for sponsorship, liaising with nightclubs and generally laying back relaxing while talking about what we should be doing. There's also a school's competition taking place in April, with secondary schools from both Limerick and Ennis participating. We all know rag week is on in Week 8 so watch out for all the crazy mad stuff we're planning there too! You may remember the Simpson's Table Quiz we held in the Sports Bar Wednesday or Week 3? Well thanks to everyone who came along, and a special thanks to the organisers of this successful event! So it's Scholars function room, Mondays at 7pm. All are welcome! Hope to see you there.

Trad Soc - Gan Anim

Hello again from Gan Ainm Irish Trad. Soc. A meeting was held on Feb. 22nd regarding the organisation of events for this semester. Our Vice Chair Kieran Munnely stepped down and was replaced by newly elected Aidan O'Donnell. Aidan, who was also Chair last year, has a lot to contribute to the society and is already discussing a possible trip to Dunkineely in Donegal some time in late April.

The trip to Cavan, which was mentioned in the last edition is taking place from 18th - 22nd of March. March 31st is Diversity Day, organized by the Peace Soc, and we will be helping them out by playing a few tunes so please support the event. We are still running our weekly dance lessons in Sean nOg's and Set Dancing every week at 21.00 in An Phluais in The Scholars Club. Qualified dance instructors are teaching the classes which are being provided at a knock down price as the instructors have kindly waved their fees. Our weekly trad session follow the classes at around 22.00 so turn up if you are interested or just fancy a bit of a laugh.

We are now taking deposits for our Gan Ainm hoodies. A hoodie costs €20 with an initial deposit of €10 required. Don't forget, we also have Gan Ainm t-shirts available and a CD containing music from Campus Trad '03.

If you have any questions, want to enquire about events or you just want to get your hands on a hoodie, call down to the session on Monday nights or send us an email at ganainmul@hotmail.com. Alternatively, you can look us up our website to see some funny pics and get some info (www.skynet.ie/~ganainm/)

UL Vikings

Defending Shamrock Bowl Champions, Dublin Rebels won the opening game of the 2005 IAFL season with a 30-0 victory over the UL Vikings in Limerick. The Vikings Cheerleaders were in attendance, cheering us on despite the freezing conditions, thanks girls. The more experienced Rebels team started the game quickly, putting two touchdowns on the board through quarterback Andy Dennehy. The Vikings then drove down the field but were

UL Drama Soc

Dear Audience,

Drama Soc is under new management as we have a new president. We are happy to inform everyone that we think we know what is going on, but that usually means someone has changed the rules.

As ever we seek new volunteers. Anyone who has experience in drama, theatre, singing in the shower or public speaking is going to be head hunted by us, headhunters also required. For those with no experience, I include myself in this group, if you enjoy movies, TV, stand up comedy or singing in the shower then you are also required in abundance.

Any wood workers or engineers reading this, we have props and a back ground to build so do come along. In the pipeline is a three piece showcase, of which two plays have been written by UL students, the inspiration achieved at 5.30am is a beautiful thing, and in production at the moment and in need of stage hands is the play *Fallen Angel*, written, directed and played by students.

Keep an eye out for posters going up soon. Also look out for our regular posters telling of our meeting every Tuesday at 7pm in the Jonathan Swift, B1023. If you have any questions or an answer to how they get the fig in the fig roll e-mail me at 0446866@student.ul.ie.

Christian Union

Christian Union is a place for Christians and their friends to meet up, praise God and study his word together. Everyone is welcome to come to any of our events. We meet in the Contemplative Centre every Monday night at 8pm. For more info contact cu@skynet.ie or visit the website at: <http://www.skynet.ie/~cu>

unlucky to have a pass intercepted near the end zone.

The Vikings defence improved in the third quarter with some good plays from Matt Sheehan and Conor Rooney. Running backs Erik Butzek and Daniel Levy picked up some yardage on the ground and receivers Liam Ryan and Glenn Carr had a couple of receptions, however the Vikings offence was unable to convert that good play into points. We hope to have those problems sorted for the next match. The next league game is on March 6th when the UL Vikings visit the fast improving Belfast Bulls.

UL YFG Soc

Welcome back to all the Fine Young Gaelers for Semester Two

The first meeting of semester two for UL YFG was held on the 10th of February in the Students' Union. There was a large crowd in attendance, including the President of YFG Patrick O'Driscoll and the Vice President, Lizzie Munnely. Also in attendance were Maurice Fitzgerald (Munster Regional Organiser) and Connor Gresham also on the YFG Executive.

Denis Hurley (UL YFG Chair) started off by welcoming back all the students from Co-op and welcoming all our guests. The meeting was then quickly kicked into action, as there were vacancies on the committee due to a number of students going on co-op. The positions that were vacant were Vice Chair, as Martin Ryan is on co-op, and the position of PRO, due to Martin Clancy also going on co-op, there was also a new position of Assistant Secretary which needed to be filled.

First was the election of Vice Chair. Catrina Burke was the first to be proposed. With a surprise addition to the nominations, Colm Murray was also proposed. The Chair wasted no time and the voting took place. While this vote was counted the election of Assistant Secretary was conducted with Carol Madigan being appointed un-opposed. After a speedy count, Colm Murray was deemed elected Vice Chair and this in turn left two open positions for PRO. Catrina Burke and Eric Keane were both appointed unop-

UL Hurling Soc

Week 1 saw the Fresher B team claim the mighty scalp of T.I.T in an entertaining tie played in St Patrick's. The team played as a well-knitted unit throughout the game and is tipped for further success. The Freshers A team were playing GMIT at the time of going to print but were minus some of their central figures who were resting for the Fitzgibbon Cup which was scheduled for the weekend. The Fitzgibbon team is in the penultimate stages of their competition and are very much underdogs going into the game. However, while lacking in experience, the work has been put in under Ger Cunningham and Cian O'Neill, and hopes are high for success.

posed.

After the speedy elections had come to a close it was then time to discuss the up and coming events for semester two. Next week is Seachtain naGaeilge so watch out for posters to see what we have up our sleeves!! We are also planning to hold a table quiz in the coming weeks, more on that in due time. The 16th of March is the date of the Clubs and Socs Ball, which should be a very enjoyable night if last year is anything to go by!! Until next time, have fun!

Bhuel mo chairde, is fada ó scríobh mé chugaibh! Tá Seachtain na Gaeilge tagtha chugainn arís agus tá rudaí speisialta á ndéanamh ag Ógra Fhine Gael anseo san Ollscoil ar a son. Tháinig Richard Deasy anseo anuraidh le labhairt dúinn faoin nGaeilge san Aontas Eorpach. Bhí an tOllamh Seosamh Mac Muiri ó Rannóg na Gaeilge ann freisin. I mbliana, beidh Umar Gunge againn agus daoine ar leith ag dul isteach ann ar son na Gaeilge agus cúis mhaith acu! Beidh sin ar siúl ar an gCéadaoin 8ú Márta agus níos déanaí an oíche sin, beidh Tráth na gCeist againn i mBéarlann an Spóirt. Táim féin ag déanamh na gceistean-na anois don ócáid sin faoi láthair!! Beidh coicís an-Ghaelach ann agus molaim daoibh páirt a ghlacadh sna himeachtaí éagsúla. Ar ábhar eile...fáilte romhat a Shíne!! Tá sé an-deas an Ghaeilge a cloisteáil san Aontas agus tá súil agam go mbeidh sí ag obair go dian ar son na Gaeilge. Beir Bua!

Catrina Burke. PRO

Brendán Ó hÉamhaigh, Oifigeach na Gaeilge

UL Softball Soc

The softball club is currently preparing for the next leg of the intervarsity which is to be held on the weekend of the 12th and 13th of March in UCD. To prepare for this, the club has organised a warm-up blitz on the 5th of March against the reigning Softball Premier 1 Champions, the Dodder Dynamoes in UL.

Having come so close to beating them in last year's Irish International Invitational Competition, we are hoping to show yet again that UL is one of the strongest teams in the country. With less than two weeks left to the next intervarsity leg, training is continuing at the normal times which are: 7.00pm Mondays and Wednesdays on the Maguires pitches and 2-4 Wednesdays and Fridays on the Astro turf.

UL Trampoline Club

Away we SSTO

Our bouncers have just returned from a weekend in the wonderful city of Edinburgh. We sent seven members over to compete in SSTO (The Scottish Student Trampoline Open), but they did much more than compete. Christine Adolph even made the trek all the way from Germany to take part in this famous event, the biggest student trampoline competition in the British Isles! Flying out from Shannon last Thursday afternoon we arrived in Edinburgh later that evening and we wasted no time in getting to know the city and also our compadres from the other Irish colleges. Friday evening it was down to the serious matter of the bouncing. There was a warm up session in the University of Edinburgh to give us all a chance to refine our routines before Saturdays big competition. Then on Saturday morning our seven competitors, three of whom were also judging competitions on the day, psyched themselves up and made their way out to the University. All that can be said is that they did us proud! Christine Adolph qualified for the second round of the novice competition, eventually finishing a very admirable 12th out of 110. Simon Flannery's score in the elite competition helped Ireland to win the Federation Cup, which was a competition between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Well done Simon!

We train every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 10 in the PESS Building.

UL Women's Rugby

2005 has been a busy year so far for UL Women's Rugby. 2004 ended on a high note with a hard-fought win over the Garda College in Templemore, and despite losing numerous players to Coop and international duty, our winning run has been maintained thus far.

The year opened with a trip to Cork to play CIT, last years league runners-up. Once again however, UL's superior organisation and speed out wide paid rich dividends as UL ran out winners by a score of 68-0. This match also marked the return to the team of players who had been missing due to teaching practice in the autumn, and the

UL Windsurfing

Semester 2 is well and truly underway for all those involved with UL Windsurfing. Things began in earnest with a bit of a reunion for all members at our first meeting in week 1. However, many of our members were very active during the post-exam break, whether it was setting the wheel in motion for the organisation of the up-coming intervarsity events or taking some time to tackle the waters at Rusheen bay.

The inter-varsities are scheduled to take place in Galway on 19/20th March with individual events for the different levels involved scheduled to take place at Rusheen Bay and Silver Strand. Already numerous other colleges are pencilled-in to take part. This much-anticipated occasion will be of great importance to the UL club as it the first of its kind in several years. A lot of work has gone into co-ordination and its hoped that an eventual success will lead to bigger and better things in the future. We await wind, waves and lots of fun. For more up-to-date- information check out the clubs website at

<http://www.skynet.ie/~winds/>

debut of two new visiting students, Kim and Teresa.

The final match of the group stages took place on February 23rd with the visit of Waterford Institute of Technology. For this game we welcomed back Jeanette Feighery, who had missed the previous game due to Ashbourne commitments: congrats to all the camogie players on another great win. Jeanette scored four tries in an impressive team performance, which included tries from Rachel Tucker (3) Gillian Bourke and Laura Guest as well as sixteen points from the boot of Orla King.

There are plenty of games left and plenty of time for any new players to join up. For more information contact Orla at 0363804@student.ul.ie

UL Kayak Club

Wales 2005

Early Saturday morning we set off on our week long Wales Trip. First we made our traditional stop at the River Inny, Co. Longford. This river is where we brush up on our river skills before we hit the white-water of Wales and our freshers get their first glimpse of what's ahead. After this fun run, we headed to Dublin to catch the ferry to Holyhead. After a three-hour ferry journey and a long bus journey we arrived in the hostel that would be our home for the next week.

In true Wales tradition, we were all woken early Sunday morning and brought to the Dee which is a short section of river which has stoppers, waves and slalom gates. This river was a perfect spot for demonstrating river-reading skills. During the day, we gathered a lot of video footage thanks to Mike Sweeney and his head cam.

On Monday, due to a lack of rain, we headed for Shrewsbury, England. This was a long drive so we stopped once or twice to admire the scenery.

ULKC, never a group to sit around and do nothing, headed mountain biking on Wednesday. We completed a trail of 12.5k through Betws-

y-Coed. This turned out to be an excellent day with plenty of carnage. The best bit being: we have it all on camera!

Over the next few days we visited a local playspot in Bangor and rivers such as the Conwy and the Tyweryn. We could see the freshers improve and put in more effort everyday. Our intermediate paddlers also benefited greatly by learning important river leading skills.

The trip was a great success: integrating workshops on river communication and leadership; team-building games and in general having the craic!

If you want to get involved call down to the Arena pool between 9:50-10:50pm Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday or check out the message-board on our website: <http://kayak.csn.ul.ie/>

Early Saturday morning we set off on our week long Wales Trip. First we made our traditional stop at the River Inny, Co. Longford. This river is where we brush up on our river skills before we hit the white-water of Wales and our freshers get their first glimpse of what's ahead. After this fun run, we headed to Dublin to catch the ferry to Holyhead. After a three-hour ferry journey and a long bus journey we arrived in the hostel that would be our home for the next week.

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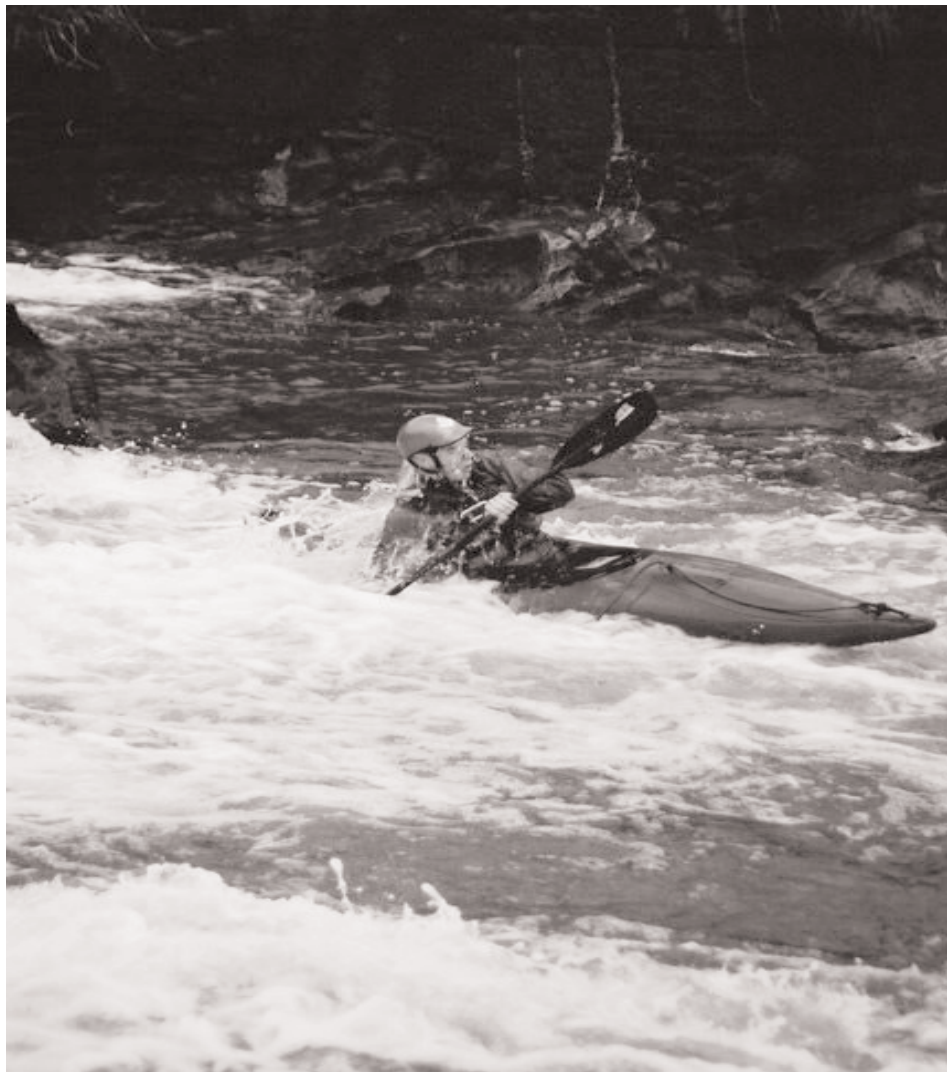
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UL Badminton Club

The Limerick County Badminton League has well and truly re-commenced after the three-week break. Following the Division 5 Team's unlucky defeat against Analog in Mungret College Hall last week, the division 3/4 team were back in action this week, with two matches scheduled for Monday and Wednesday.

A home game against great rivals, Effin Badminton Club, saw UL taking the honours with a score of 4-3 to UL. Having already played against Effin on their home ground during last semester with a poor outcome, the win was a great boost for the team. Narrowly loosing both the ladies singles and doubles, it was neck and neck going into the mixed doubles, with UL winning both the first and third games.

Although the Division 5 Team was unfortunate in losing their match against Analog Badminton Club, a score of 3-4 was a great achievement for the players. With both men and ladies singles lost, as well as two mixed doubles games ending in a narrow defeat, the match itself was all over with only the aggregate score to play for. UL were adamant they would collect some points and did so by deservedly winning men and ladies doubles, as well as second mixed.

The Division 6 team were also in action during the week. They remained undefeated this season with an impressive 5-2 victory over Foynes Badminton Club in the Arena. They were narrowly defeated in the mens singles and the first mixed doubles. All in all, a deserved win.

On the 11th of March, members of the UL Badminton club will travel to Galway for the annual intervarsity. A great weekend of badminton and craic is definitely in store. Best of luck to all involved!

Motion Picture Soc

There will be a table quiz in the Sports Bar on Tuesday of week 4. It's on after the Chelsea match so if you're going to watch that please do stay for a bit of craic afterwards! It won't be a movies table quiz particularly, but will have one or two movie-specific rounds. Watch this space for information on any films the society may be showing soon. Also, contact mopic@skynet.ie for any info, membership queries or even suggestions of films you'd like shown.



UL Sub Aqua Club

With the weather beginning to improve ULSAC travelled to Kilkee to get in some training dives for the Red Sea trip next month and, importantly, my first open water dive after several months of training in the Diving Pit every Thursday night.

After two morning dives and lunch we returned to Kilkee Dive Centre to tackle Newfee Reef for my first open water dive. After a struggle with the wetsuit we kitted up and were on our way across the bay hopping off waves in our boat.

When my turn came to enter the water, I felt Scuba Diving off the west coast of Ireland in February wasn't really such a good idea, but not to be outdone by the girls, I took the plunge...

Fortunately, within a minute of entering the water I had warmed up, as I took my first look at this new world as we descended to the sandy bottom. Next with excellent visibility, given recent bad weather and waves overhead, we began our tour of West Clare with a difference along Newfee Reef.

The most exhilarating experience I found was the feeling of weightlessness outside of the confines of the pool and I was quick to race ahead determined to see as much of the reef as possible on our short dive. While our pace kept us from feeling the cold waters it was to my detriment as I scared away the Irish fish stocks, except for an enormous crab that clearly wasn't afraid of all my splashing around. But the lack of marine life, which had been abundant on the previous dive 30 minutes earlier, was more than compensated by the beauty of the rocky reef and the occasional spiked sea Urchin that we stumbled upon hiding within it.

Once again, thanks our instructor Declan for spending hours in the cold water.

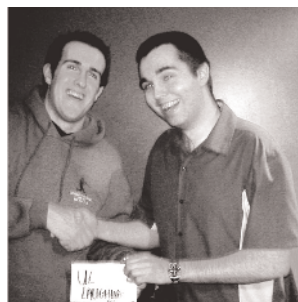


UL Laughing Soc

Laughter is the best medicine. We're still keeping our promise and providing the students of U.L. with cheap comedy gigs. Since the last edition we've had Simon O' Keefe and Andrew Stanley entertaining the UL fans. Both guests kept the crowd in stitches for the length of the show and it was well worth the €2. Tuesday of week 4 we will be launching our comedy DVD and cd in the Scholars Function room at 10pm after the Champions League. Entry is FREE to all, where there will be a first showing of the DVD which will be retailing at €4 (€5 non-members). Tuesday of Week 5 the legendary Dave McSavage will be entertaining the UL crowd in Scholar's Function

room, the show starts at 8pm, also for the same low price of €2. Come along and have a laugh.

UL LAUGHING SOC OFFICIAL T-SHIRTS are now available to the public for the small sum of €4 (non members €5).



Eoin O'Kelly & Simon O'Keefe

The Judo Intersivity 2005

On Saturday 19th of February the All-Ireland Judo Intersivity Championship was held in UL. Months of preparation and planning of the event paid off as over 150 competitors descended on the campus.

The first event of the day was the men's team event and UL were pitted against NUIG in the first round. The UL team of T.J. Davitt, Liam Halby, Stephen King, Sean Heelan, Alex Lorestani and substitute Paddy Casey took to the mat to get the action under way.

UL put in a dominant first round performance sweeping aside the NUIG team in a 4-1 winning performance. The win consisted of several nice throws and an unfortunate armlock incident. After the win UL advanced to face DIT in the quarterfinal stages. Another solid performance saw UL win 3 matches by ippon to book their place in the semi finals. The semi finals were almost a carbon copy of last years event in Coleraine as one again UL faced Trinity, but UL took the honours this year! The highlight of the match, and what many considered the throw of the day, was UL's Stephen King drilled his opponent into the mat to set up UL's victory. UL marched onto the final to face UUU, ironically these



A UL participant in the Judo Intersivity

two teams had meet in the first round at last years event with UL taking the win 3-2 that time. Unfortunately, this year Jordanstown turned that result on its head to win the winners trophy.

In the men's lower kyu UL was well represented with our four top beginners all in action. Stephen and Alex threw and choked their way through the competition to face each other in the finals of an event which 40 fighters entered. In a hard fought match Alex picked up the victory with a hold

down. Sean was unlucky not to make it a UL 1,2,3 as he lost out in the play off for the bronze. In middle kyu action were Ger Kelly and David Coleman who, despite picking up some wins, were unable to garner medal positions. The upper kyu saw TJ and Liam in action and both were quick to assert themselves in front of the home crowd and advance towards the medals. Liam lost out in the bronze match with TJ losing in the finals in a hard fought contest.

In weight division action we added a few more

medals to our tally with TJ taking third place in the -73kg division. Ian Sherlock marked his return to competitive judo with a dominant performance in the mens -100kg division coming in first. The finals of the women's +78kg division pitted two of UL's best against each other in a thoroughly entertaining bout with Gillian Bourke scoring the win via ippon over Laura Guest.

The awards ceremony took place in the Kilmurray Lodge with special awards given too Scott Mayne and Eva Lauper for male and female player of the day and the Hegarty award for best Judoka going to Luca Daminelli of NUIG.

The club would liketo thank all the organisers of the event and all those who helped out on the day, in particular to Eilish, TJ, Colm, Michal, and the rest of the UL crowd for ensuring everything went smoothly. Another big thanks to both CUSAI and the NIJF. Lastly we wish to thank our sponsors: Superquinn, Musgraves, Richardsons, UL Arena, Stables Club and the Sports Bar.

Club training times are Monday 9-10:30 and Wednesday 6:45 - 9 in the Old Sports Building and all are welcome to attend.



The Judo Intersivity 2005 which was held in UL

UL Ladies Football



UL Ladies Football O'Rourke Cup Champions 2005

The girls travelled to Galway to take on Sligo IT on Friday 18th February in the final of the All-Ireland League, Division 1. UL has not won the O'Rourke Cup since 1996 and so was travelling this time hoping to win some silverware. Sligo played with the wind in the first half, and went three points up (Sligo:1-2 - UL:0-2) after 15 minutes. However the UL team settled and with goals from Valerie Mulcahy and Sile Burns, went in ahead at half time (Sligo:1-2, UL:1-3).

In the second half, Sligo IT wasted their chances with too many wides, however UL

upped their performance in the second half with great displays by Eimear Enright, Laura Walsh and Jenny Johnson, and took home the O'Rourke Cup on a scoreline of 5-6 to 1-4.

Both the Senior and Intermediate teams are preparing for their championship matches, which take place this week, week 4. UL Seniors face UCD in the quarter final of the O' Connor Cup at a home venue, while UL Intermediates take on Dundalk IT in the quarter final of the Lynch Cup at a halfway venue. The girls have been training hard the past few

weeks, and a great effort has been put into both teams. They face tough challenges this week, with UCD seeking revenge after losing out to UL in the O' Connor Cup semi-final last year, and Dundalk knocking out the Garda College on route to the quarter finals.

The UL-UCD match is fixed for this Wednesday, Week 4 at 3pm on Pitch 1. This is the most important match of the season for the girls, as it is the decider for a place at the O' Connor Cup weekend in Jordanstown. It promises to be an exciting game so come out and show your support!!



Valerie Mulcahy receiving All-Ireland League Cup Div 1 from Adrian Hassett HEC Committee.

We were told it'd be tough, and as I glimpsed the summit marker through the driven snow and the icicles on my eyebrows, I couldn't really dispute it. Our climb to the highest point in the British Isles, Ben Nevis at 1344m had meant an early start, eyes being rubbed as we stumbled onto the bus. Hiking into the valley, we could feel the tingle of the southerly wind reddening our cheeks and as we progressed further into the snow, the value of our preparatory jaunts up and around Carrauntoohil, and the days spent acquiring the techniques for moving in snow and ice became apparent. Our instructors, Graeme and Jonathan had taken us through our paces in the Aonach Mór and Glencoe ranges, and showed us how to negotiate steep and icy terrain.

The intimidating buttresses of the East face of Ben Nevis rose to our right as we trudged to the head of the valley, Darragh kicking steps in the snow and Alwyn pushing the group from behind. Our goal was far above us, and to reach it, our route required us to mount a saddle and zigzag up the steep and exposed southerly end of the Nevis range. Halfway up the slope, conditions became such that crampons were needed and

SVP is as busy as ever. Our homework and swim club are up and running. Our other activities such as soup run, home and prison visitation and paired reading are also in action. We are always looking for volunteers and if anyone is interested please do get in contact with us via the e-mail address at the end of the article.

We held our first fundraising event last Tuesday (Week 2). We organised a bouncing castle outside the SU. It was a great success and great craic for everyone involved. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support.

Our biggest and most exciting fundraising event of

SVP

the year is taking place in week 4. We are calling all of you who are county proud to take your jersey out of the closet. Yes, the County Colours Ball is back so get ready to have another night of fun, excitement and county rivalry. The ball was an unbelievable success last year and we expect this year to be even better! The ball will take place in Trinity Rooms on Wednesday of Week 4. Tickets are a very reasonable €7 and this includes the bus, which will leave from the Stables archway at 10.30 and

11.30 pm. The tickets will be sold by volunteers around campus in the coming few days. They are also available in the SU from Monday-Wednesday and in the canteen Tuesday and Wednesday 1-3 pm during week 4. The ball was sold out last year so it is vital that you get your tickets early. County Colours Ball is vital for keeping all our activities running and to help the forgotten, disadvantaged and marginalised in society. It has a reputation of being one of the best nights in the college year so make sure you are there!

Contact us: svp_ul@hotmail.com or www.ulsvp.com



SVP's Caitriona and Mark

UL Outdoor Pursuits Club



Summit of Stob Ban

the decision was made to dig a ledge each and strap the unwieldy ice-gripping slippers on.

The teamwork on this trek was a sharp contrast to the competitiveness in the bunk-house, both over the cramped cooking conditions, and the games of chess played to while away the evenings.

Traversing onto the south slope, we were buffeted by the

wind and stung by spindrift, which reduced visibility considerably. Damien and Naomi had their work cut out for them trying to keep Mark from running off over a cornice, with his camera trigger-finger twitching, and getting everyone to focus on the task in hand, that of crunching our way up the ice to where the slope dropped-off, and the surprisingly short dash to the summit. A quick

three-minute break was all anyone wanted, as we fumbled some food into our mouths, frozen gloves making even this simple task difficult. A bearing was taken to bring us safely past the cliffs on both sides of our path for our descent of the mountain, a challenge that really tested the mettle of our little fellowship, and where Oonagh's and Ciara's perseverance and tenacity shone.

We dropped through the clouds, and the banter recommenced, John asking Mícheál how it felt to be outdoors, Mícheál replying with an enquiry as to whether John needed another rest. The emotional high experienced by everyone was tangible as we hobbled onto the bus, collapsing into the seats and then being ordered outside for a photo. We eventually got back to the bunkhouse.

All in all, it was a fantastic week, culminating in one of the hardest days I've ever spent on a mountain, but well worth the preparation and effort. Special praise and thanks due to our leaders and organisers, Scobie the bus-driver and everyone involved.

Michael O'Donnell