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# STUDENTS TERRORISE LOCAL RESIDENTS

Written by **Vivion Grisewood**

RESIDENTS of Elm Park, Milford Grange and Oaklawns have been subjected to allegedly barbaric behaviour from a number of students living in the area, residents have claimed.

The Students' Union has condemned the actions and has said it will do everything in its power to prevent any recurrence.

The behaviour in question occurred in the first two weeks of the semester. "It was mayhem in the estates last night", said one resident. "You had students hanging from signs and breaking glass along the road all night long."

"When I rang the Gardaí, I was told they were dealing with other incidents around Milford Grange and that there was no one to come and protect us", she added. In Milford Grange, a resident with small children who could not

"I thought he was going to hit me, I really did. I was shaking."

sleep due to a noisy house party, asked the party-goers to reduce noise levels. She was called "a fucking prostitute, a fucking whore" and was threatened by a male student with glass bottles in an incident which has been described as

"particularly disturbing". "I thought he was going to hit me, I really did. I was shaking", the resident said. The students in question have been summoned before the UL Advocate. The Advocate is akin to the Director of Public Prosecutions

and overseas disciplinary hearings. He decides what action will be taken against offending students, including fines, community service or a hearing at discipline committee which can, lead to expulsion. Already this semester, some

students have been arrested for public order offences and others have been evicted from campus accommodation.

"The majority of our residents have been well behaved during their first few weeks with us", said Ellen Fitzmaurice,

Assistant General Manager of Student Residences. She stressed that a certain amount of disruption by a small number of students had caused distress but UL's policy is designed to guarantee and prioritise community safety.

"We expect all residents to act responsibly and in accordance with our code of conduct," Ms Fitzmaurice said. "We ask all residents to respect the other students living in our villages."

"What is this University coming to?" asked another local resident.

Derek Daly, SU Welfare Officer, has encouraged students to stand against anti-social behaviour. "Any students who witness such behaviour and can identify the perpetrator, should make a stand by reporting it to the University in confidence. It's important that the terms "thug" and "student" do not become synonymous.

## UNIVERSITY HONOURS CHAMPION SWIMMER

Written by **Christine Brennan**

THE University recently held a reception in honour of European Senior Silver Medallist in swimming, Gráinne Murphy.

Ms Murphy, who featured prominently in the Irish media last month, was presented a commemorative silver plate in recognition of her swimming achievements by UL President Don Barry.

Ms Murphy won the Silver Medal in 1500m freestyle and broke the national record in the 800m event. She lost out on a medal by only five hundredths of a second to take fourth place.

The 17-year-old swimmer from Ballinaboola, Wexford trains with Ronald Claes, coach of the High

Performance Swim Team based at the University Arena, home to Ireland's first Olympic sized 50m pool.

The support team and the facilities available at the Arena give some of Ireland's top swimmers everything they need to reach their full sporting potential. Ms Murphy has just completed her Leaving Certificate.

The National 50m Swimming Pool is Ireland's first Olympic sized pool. It measures 50m x 25m, allowing for long and short course training / competition, and has an adjustable floor at the shallow end, so the depth can be changed to suit the particular activity.



Gráinne Murphy shows off her commemorative silver plate, presented to her by UL President, Professor Don Barry. Image Credit: UL Press Office



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## News

# NORTH CAMPUS MAY SOON MOVE TO LIMERICK

Written by **Darragh Roche**

THE entire University may soon be within the boundaries of Limerick city, if the recommendations of a boundary report are implemented.

Most of UL is already part of Limerick. But the North Campus, which includes the Health Sciences Building, Cappavilla, Thomond and the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, is part of Co. Clare.

The Limerick Local Government Report suggests that residents living along the Clare side of the border would vote to become part of Limerick if a referendum were held. This would place the University firmly within Limerick's borders for the first time.

The issue is divisive and a majority Clare county councillors have declared their opposition to the report and will oppose any referendum on boundary changes. "If this boundary extension is granted, what's to stop another group or the Government in five or 10 years' time?" said Clare TD, Pat Breen.

The border between Limerick City and Clare County Councils has been disputed for several years. A Clare Councillor last year suggested UL be re-named the University of Limerick and Clare.

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**Finn McDuffie - Editor**

# EDITORIAL

## Isn't it hilarious when your Prime Minister does live radio on the bottle?

WHILE Bertie's most memorable faux pas came in the form of a lemon-yellow suit, Mr Cowen delivered his in what can only be described as unmissable radio.

As the Morning Ireland jingle played, a small, red light lit up over the door of a Galway studio and a polished radio presenter began to work. The Taoiseach was on air. And he was talking government, in some form or other.

Catching a Prime Minister so off guard, on air, presented an enviable opportunity. As Mr Cowen's interview

progressed, so did his colourful, emphatic tones. He became comfortably croaky as he explained the complexities of the status quo with a mixture of off-by-heart party lingo and saliva.

If you didn't hear the interview, just think of that guy in the pub who won't stop talking politics at you.

What I'd like to know is this. At what stage did that exacting radio presenter realise he was dealing with tomorrow's front pages? It would have been a wonderful situation to be in. Wouldn't you have milked it a little?

Those bumbling, greasy slips provided just enough relish to perk the antennae of every journalist in the country. Good Friday or Croke Park, Brian, or is the answer concealed in the splutter?

That the Taoiseach could treat the most important radio programme in the State so casually was a mistake on his part. A cancellation might have been prudent.

Still, at least he'll always be remembered for it.



ON the date of issue of this newspaper, 21 September, in 1964, the island of Malta obtained independence from the UK. The photograph shows Prime Minister of Malta, Dr Borg Olivier waving the Instrument of Independence to the cheering crowd at the Independence Arena, moments after being presented with the documents by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

Image courtesy of the Department of Information, Malta and the Maltese Embassy in Dublin.

## TWEAK FESTIVAL PUSHES THE BOUNDARIES

Written by **Brige Newman**

TWEAK Festival is an interactive art festival that combines computer coding, creative recycling, rewired sculptures and electronic art installations to break boundaries in the artistic world.

In its third year, Tweak's aim is to highlight global communities working together and challenging artists, and respected electronic stalwarts, to challenge their views on different media. "[The festival] operates under a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional design that aims to inspire, educate, inquire and celebrate contemporary art media," said the festival co-ordinator, Nora O'Murchu of UL's Interactive Design Centre.

This will be the last year the event takes place in Limerick city. As it evolves, the festival will re-invent itself in different locations across the world.

There will be workshops across the city and a special unveiling of the

new Tweak Cinema, which will focus on animation, short movies and other visual media. The festival takes place from 13 to 24 September.



Image credit: UL Press Office

## MILFORD HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING CELEBRATES ITS 17th ANNIVERSARY

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald, News Editor**

MILFORD Hospice appealed for the public's support once again this year for its annual coffee morning fundraiser, which took place on 16 September at the hospice. Bewley's sponsored the event, which celebrated its 17th year.

The hospice is next to UL and holds the coffee morning to raise funds for its vital care services.

The facility provides care for patients who are terminally and seriously ill and aims to improve their quality of life as far as possible. The hospice says people who use its services live longer

and that the hospice allows them to die with dignity.

"We wanted as many people as possible to take part nationwide. The more cups of coffee given away, the greater the benefit achieved for hospices and communities all over Ireland," said Patrick Bewley of Bewley's Coffee.

The hospice encouraged people to organise their own coffee morning. Bewley's provided fresh roast coffee free of charge.



## News

# UL COMES LAST IN IRISH UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Written by **Sinead Keane**

UL has been ranked last out of Ireland's seven universities in the 2010 World University Rankings list, released earlier this month. The University ranks 451st in the world this year, unchanged from last year.

While this may seem bleak, it is comparatively good news for the University. Trinity College, although still ranked highest in the country, has fallen from 43rd place to 52nd while UCD fell from 89th place to 114th.

NUI Galway has once again scored higher than last year, ranking 232nd. Dublin colleges have lost out but colleges outside the capital appear

to have improved. UL is the only exception to this pattern with no change from last year's position.

"The ranking of an institution affects its chances of corporate funding for research projects in science, health and education," Sean Flynn, Education Editor for The Irish Times, commented. "International students from the US, Asia and Europe are hugely aware of university rankings, using them to choose their host university. Academics use the list as their first port of call when researching an institution," he added.

The World Rankings Project,

conducted by Quacquarelli Symonds Limited, analyses over 15,000 universities around the world and ranks them according to several factors. Over 200,000 pieces of data are collected in a global survey of academics. Employers also have a say, with almost 5,000 identifying the most employable university graduates. Citations from academics are also included in the research. The top 4,000 universities in the world are published online each year.

The QS World University Rankings list is available online on [www.topuniversities.com](http://www.topuniversities.com).



# BOOKER PRIZE WINNER ADDRESSES UL AUDIENCE

Written by **Michael Reid**

The 2007 Man Booker Prize Winner for Fiction, Anne Enright, delivered a dramatic public performance from her award-winning novel *The Gathering* on-campus on 29 May 2010.

She delighted and surprised her audience by also reading a draft excerpt from her upcoming novel *The Forgotten Waltz*. She was invited to UL as part of the New Voices: Inherited Lines postgraduate conference.

This was the first time that the University has hosted this event. It attracted national and international

delegates from Vienna, London and Canada. Two doctoral students of English, Yvonne O'Keeffe and Claudia Reese, organised the event with the support of their supervisors, Dr. Tina O'Toole and Dr. Gisela Holfter.

The conference explored literary and cultural representations of the Irish family and how it has shaped Irish literature and culture in the modern era. The programme included Professor Patricia Coughlan (UCC), Professor Anne Fogarty (UCD) and Dr. Eamonn Hughes (QUB), scholars in the field

of Irish Studies. The conference was generously sponsored by the Ulster Bank Enablement Fund; University of Limerick Foundation; Arts Office (UL); School of Languages, Literature, Culture & Communication; Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences; Graduate School; Campus Life Services; ISKS; Limerick City Council; Women's Studies; History of Family Project; Carlton Castletroy Park Hotel; Centre for Irish-German Studies; O'Mahony's Booksellers.



Booker Prize Winner for Fiction, Anne Enright, photographed on the Living Bridge

# A NEW DAY DAWNS FOR DIGITAL ARTS

Written by **Brige Newman**

Dawn 2010 is an innovative exhibition created by UL students to celebrate digital and creative arts in different parts of society.

Interactive Media and Music Technology students from the University created the exhibition, which opened in Week One.

According to their Course Lecturer, Mikael Fernström, "The Dawn 2010 is a celebration of digital arts, and features exciting applications and creations for the worlds of healthcare, musical performance, education and lifestyle."

There are a number of innovations on display for users and visitors to use. One such innovation is a prototype for an interactive safe-driving system, which highlights the risks and hazards when driving. Others include a number of occupational therapy projects developed in conjunction with Milford Care Centre, an interactive light and sound wall and the latest intelligent fridge design.

The exhibition will run for a week, and more information is available on [www.csis.ul.ie](http://www.csis.ul.ie).



Image Credit: UL Press Office

# TAOISEACH WILL OPEN IRISH WORLD ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Written by **Darragh Roche**

TAOISEACH Brian Cowen will open the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and attend a special gala concert to celebrate the launch.

The Irish Chamber Orchestra, the Chieftains, the Fox Leviates Dance Company and Canteral will perform at the official opening of the €20m

building. Local musicians and singers will also perform at the event and there will be a focus on traditional Irish music and dance. Students of the academy's contemporary dance group will also get a chance to show off their talents.

"This new building provides a riverside space where musicians, dancers,

composers, singers, conductors and choreographers will explore together," said Prof Mícheál O'Suilleabháin of the academy.

Prof O'Suilleabháin founded the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in 1994.



## News

NEWS  
IN BRIEFClubs and Socs  
Lottery Winner

A lucky individual on campus is likely to win €5,000 this week. The top prize will go to the holder of a winning ticket for the Clubs & Societies Lotto.

The competition is an incentive to assist clubs and societies in making up their fundraising shortfalls.

The draw takes place 21 September at lunchtime in the Main Canteen. The campus community has been urged to participate in future competitions and to support the largest social network on campus.

The Classic  
Ensemble

A new orchestra group has been established on campus. The group of musicians is called the Classic Ensemble and was set up by UL music graduates, students and local musicians.

The group currently seeks new members and would like to get the word out and offer the University community an opportunity to take part.

More information can be found on [www.theclassicensemble.com](http://www.theclassicensemble.com). Search "The Classic Ensemble" on Facebook.

Looking for a  
room for just one  
semester?

Don't sweat it! You're covered! Your SU has launched an online resource to facilitate those who have a room free for a semester.

This allows people going on Co-op to post their room for the other semester, enabling them to easily find someone to take the room. The service is free. Register on [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie) to put up a post. The new addition to your SU's website comes in addition to further updates

Faulkner and Page  
Join Music Soc

UK artists Newton Faulkner and Tiffany Page became members of UL Music Society just before their Fresher Fest gig in Week 1.

Liam McCormack, President of Music Soc and Bobby O'Keefe, Vice President asked the artists if they'd like to see the Music Room in the SU Building and use it to warm up.

They quickly joined the society as honorary life members, which gives them free access to Limerick gigs and unlimited use of the Music Room.

National  
Breastfeeding Week

National Breastfeeding Week starts on 1 October and aims to raise awareness of the health benefits of breastfeeding. On Thursday, 7 October UL midwifery students will campaign in the SU Courtyard between 2pm and 4pm. The campaign seeks to involve and educate other students about breastfeeding.

SIX THOUSAND PEOPLE ATTEND  
C&S RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Written by **Triona O'Sullivan**

MORE than 6,000 people attended the annual Club and Societies (C&S) Recruitment drive, which took place on 8 September 2010, according to official figures gathered during electronic registration.

Sixty clubs and societies pulled out all the stops to entice new and old members to join their organisations and recorded all new members electronically for the first time ever.

Keith O'Neill's revolutionary sign-up system, which was also his Final Year Project, had been tested last year but was fully unveiled this year. Electronic registration was enabled primarily because of a new website ([www.registercs.ul.ie](http://www.registercs.ul.ie)), which assisted in speeding-up the recruitment process.

"Doing things electronically is something we've been looking at for quite some time," said Paul Lee, Clubs and Societies' Development Officer. "The new system means no more paper-work everywhere and a faster, more-reliable recruitment with much shorter queues."

The Outdoor Pursuits Club recruited over 400 members on the night, while the Skydiving Club attracted more than

200. Second year MMPT student, Jenni Murtagh, of Skydive UL said "I can't believe that this time last year I was signing myself up to the club and now I'm sitting on the committee attracting new members. And I must say, the electronic registration has made things so much easier." Ms Murtagh jumped from heights of 4,000km during her club's trip to France.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Peter Power, also made an appearance at the Recruitment Drive. "I'm very impressed with this new online system," he said. "I wish there had been one in UCC when I was a student there."

The Students' Union has applauded Keith O'Neill, Clubs Officer, for making the system seamless. "From cosmetics to functionality, the website has merged very easily with the SU's website. All credit to Keith O'Neill for doing such a wonderful job," said Ruán Dillon McLoughlin, SU President.

Another advantage of the new system is its ability to store health and safety information pertinent to the club or society. This allows organisations to keep track of their members' health needs more effectively.



Students register online for the first time

MAJORITY OF UL POSTGRADS FIND  
EMPLOYMENT, ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORT

Written by **Emily Maree**

The number of Postgraduate students directly employed after graduating is 79 per cent, with only eight per cent emigrating to seek employment.

According to the UL Careers Department, Graduate emigration has risen from four per cent to 12 per cent, whereas 32 per cent of students opted for further study, an eight per cent increase last year.

UL Careers Service survey shows that student work experience (or "Co-op") is of great benefit, making UL graduates

more employable than others.

The survey studied 2,500 students in full-time education in 2009. It shows the number of students seeking employment has increased to 10.8 per cent and coincides with the national unemployment rate of 13.8 per cent.

PhD graduates scored highly in the employment market this year with an 85 per cent employment rate and 64 per cent of the 500 people doing Masters Degrees went directly into employment as well.

The most popular area of employment was the Mid-West, which accounts for 35 per cent of jobs, followed by 29 per cent in Dublin. The most popular overseas locations are the United Kingdom and the Middle East, with 40 per cent and 28 per cent respectively.

The public sector appears to dominate the graduate job accountability this year with Education up 6 per cent to 30 per cent and Health at 13 per cent, down two per cent. Despite the ongoing problems in the financial

sector, the Business, Finance and Insurance sectors accounted for the second highest proportion of graduates with 24 per cent. The average starting salary has dropped, with most earning about €24,000 and 21 per cent earning more than €29,000. These figures rise substantially based upon qualification, those with postgraduate qualifications can expect to earn between €31,000 and €46,000 depending on the type of qualification, sector of employment and job.

DRAMA SOC BATTLES  
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Written by **Kelly O'Brien**

Members of the Drama Society will perform for four hundred Limerick Transition Year students as part of a new learning initiative. The Limerick City Community Safety Partnership (LCCSP) is organising the 'Safety Street' initiative from 21 September until 23 September.

'Safety Street' is Ireland's first purpose-built interactive centre. The centre hosts an expo of safety situations for Transition Year students to navigate. These hands-on sessions will conclude with informative discussions between students and adult representatives from Limerick City Council, the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána.

The aim of the initiative is to highlight individual and community-related safety issues and to promote active citizenship.



Drama Soc members have fun at their AGM



## Features

# TOO FAR FOR POPULARITY?

Written by **Sinead Keane**

USED by over four per cent of the world's population, it is the fastest-growing social tool on the planet. Facebook has rapidly become a modern life necessity. Like the mobile phone, it is never far from the minds of those who use it.

Everyday conversation has changed. You'll hear "I saw it on Facebook" and "that group on Facebook" all the time. Deemed the most innovative social tool since the telephone, Facebook is without doubt an amazing contribution to modern technology.

With Facebook's arrival comes a new mind-set in the minds of Facebook users. It's easy to see a user's thirst for popularity. There is something about others' reactions to links, photos and messages that is so important to self-esteem. That warm feeling when numerous friends 'like' your photo is probably familiar to most.

It's a nice feeling to be liked by others. A witty status I write that receives no comments or 'likes' I consider a blow to my self-esteem. But getting attention makes me feel great about myself. This petty satisfaction triggers a question. When did a website start to influence our self-esteem?

This isn't unique to Facebook. In August, Facebook administrators were

called on to remove a series of photos posted on a page dedicated to the Cliffs of Moher. The photos showed various tourists posing dangerously close to the cliff edge. A trend emerged, as more and more uploaded photos to show their bravery and daring in an extremely dangerous environment.

On hearing this story, it occurred to me how important a 'good' profile picture is to Facebook users. According to statistics, over one million photos are uploaded to Facebook each day. But those used as profile pictures are nearly always flattering, both to the person's looks and personality.

Surfing Facebook, it's easy to discover a profile photo in which someone is jumping from a wall, downing a pint or posing next to a dangerous animal. The image Facebook users construct of themselves both visually and through text is always linked to a desire to be liked and accepted by society.

Of course, it's only natural to wish to be thought of as cool, fun and daring. But has the use of an online social tool distorted how we perceive our own self-worth?

An Focal Reporter Sinead Keane examines a menace behind Facebook psychology



## DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES

### UL Languages Week - Week 4

The School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication hosts Languages Week from 27 September to 1 October.

Highlights will include readings by award-winning authors, Hugo Hamilton and Bosnian writer and filmmaker Adnan Mahmutovic. There will be much more so get involved! All are welcome.

### Green Campus Initiative Wants You!

Are you interested in getting an An Taisce Green Flag for the UL? We are!

So if you have past experience of working towards a Green Flag in school, or you are just interested, come along! 1pm on Thursday, 23 September 2010 in Students' Union, Room 3.

There will be free Tea and Coffee!

### Irish World Academy

Cruinniú is the title of an outreach initiative, which has seen many UL staff engaging in weekly classes/sessions of Irish traditional music each Wednesday lunchtime.

UL Staff are welcome. It's free. So come along if you fancy a tune! Music Rooms IW2.42 and IW2.43 in the Irish World Academy Building. 1 -2pm every Wednesday. Further details from Noel McCarthy, extension 3326.

### Farmers' Market

The Lough Boora Farm stall offers a weekly vegetable box scheme. By prior arrangement you can purchase a large basket of fresh, locally-grown organic vegetables for €15 euros. If you are interested, you can chat to them on the stall or email: loughboorafarm@gmail.com

### UL ARTS

As part of the newly refurbished EDEN restaurant the UL Arts Office has developed visUL, an on-going exhibition of staff and student photography.

If you would like to submit photography, please send high quality images. The closing date for receipt of images is 24 September. Send to pmotrish@yahoo.co.uk.

**If you would like to use An Focal to communicate your Department's message to the campus community, please contact sucommunications@ul.ie or telephone extension 2363.**



Plassey House

# TOURING IRELAND, THE ODDBALL WAY

Written by **Emily Maree**



"Tourists are encouraged to dress up as zombies and crawl through Dublin city centre en masse."

IMAGINE the 'Lovely Girls' competition or the 'Very Dark Caves' or festivals where they crown goats 'King Puck'.

Each of these hilarious excursions seems like a scene from the 'Father Ted' series. But thanks to 'Oddball Tours', we too can have the total bizarre-tour experience right on our doorstep.

Established in Galway by Jen Condon, the tour operator offers alternative, fascinating and quirky tours across the country for those who don't want the regular 'Irish experience'.

From the Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival in Clare to the Blasphemous Religious Relics Tour in Knock and the surrounding area, 'Oddball Tours' has tried to market something for every weird Tom, Dick and Harry out there. And it has succeeded.

The Murder Mystery Day Out, a personal favourite, gives groups the opportunity to dress up in a dress, wig and heels and last the day without getting arrested.

Or you can try the Blindfolded Walking Adventure, the charity fundraiser with a twist that aims to make people aware of the life of a visually impaired person. This allows them to heighten their other senses on the tour.

There are also trips planned to attend Tedfest, Tuam Jog in the Bog, and Dublin Zombie Walk. Tourists on the latter tour are encouraged to dress up as zombies and moan, shuffle or crawl their way through the streets of Dublin city centre en masse.

Although not fully established, this wacky tour certainly has a lot to offer any fun-lovers, both locals and tourists alike, and now boasts over 20 tour guides and contributors across the country.

'Oddball Tours' caters for stag and hen parties, visiting tour groups, corporate team building outings and college/student groups.

To find out more, visit [www.oddballtours.com](http://www.oddballtours.com) or search 'I love Oddball' on Facebook.



## Features

# THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF GOOD IN MALTA

Written by **Aoife Finnerty**

*"You'll enjoy every second."*

WHEN I choose a holiday location, my ideal destination has to have two things. There have to be sights worth seeing and the night life has to be good.

After that everything else is just a bonus. As it happens, Malta was a surprise holiday location but it still managed to impress me more than any

other holiday I've had in years. And I'll tell you why, by exploring the good, the bad and the worst of Malta!

There's a whole lot of good in Malta. Firstly, the quality of the food served in restaurants and pubs in Malta is exceptionally high and obviously it's far cheaper than Ireland. We were based in St. Julian's Bay, which boasted quite a selection of restaurants.

If you're clever about breakfast and lunch (i.e. eating some fresh fruit and local produce, bread, cheese etc.), then you can manage to eat and drink very well for relatively little money.

Secondly, Malta is a beautiful island. It's a veritable gem in the Mediterranean. Whether you're swimming in the Mediterranean Sea, at the edge of Valetta or on one of the famous Maltese buses, you'll enjoy every second as you soak up the island's beautiful coast.

It's a stretch to come up with something bad if you consider the amazing destination that is Malta. If I were to pick one thing that could put a dampener on the Maltese experience, it's the sun! During July the temperature during the middle of the day can hit upwards of 35 degrees. This can cause

problems if you're a member of the fair-skinned brigade, like I am. That said, it's not remotely humid or heavy thanks to the refreshing coastal breeze and size of the island. Essentially, once you set-up camp in the shade during the heat of the day and apply enough factor 20, you shouldn't get burned.

The worst thing about Malta? I had to leave.

See [www.visitmalta.com](http://www.visitmalta.com) to find out more about this beautiful destination.

## CO-OP IN THE LEBANON

Written by **David Kelly**

*"I wandered aimlessly around the street, catching my breath and praying to the heavens."*

REWIND to 2001. A small fella with goofy spectacle frames the size of Muhammad Ali's fists urges his native Tipperary on in the All-Ireland Final vs. Galway. He remembers very little of the game. Toomevara legend, Tommy Dunne, captained the side and a gigantic inflated sliotar entertained the crowd at half-time. These remain his only memories.

Sunday, 5 September was scratched into my calendar for two reasons. Firstly, I had to leave Lebanon to renew my visa. Secondly, the All-Ireland Final was on. I was etching for the game to begin and (more importantly) to find any Irish pub showing it.

After breakfast, I passed the "Dubliner Pub" (closed down), but beside it was a pub called "All-Sports" and thanks be to Liam McCarthy they were showing it. I paced myself nicely with several packets of cheese and onion crisps and a seven-up or two thrown in.

The game started and I remained the only Tipperary supporter in the pub until midway throughout the first half when I was joined by two Tipperary expats. A great start saw Tipp leading by six or so points. But knowing Kilkenny, you could be beating them by twenty points and they would still get the better of you.

The intensity of the game was striking. Tackles were flying. It was non-stop goal-to-goal action. But as Tipperary asserted its dominance, I became nervous. We were here before. Between the nail-biting, dancing, cheering, bickering and abuse aimed at the referee (and the odd looks from the Cypriots), I needed a break.

The heat got to me. I wandered aimlessly around the street, catching my breath and praying to the heavens. I returned. Ten minutes remained, but my tank was empty. Tipperary learned many lessons from 2009. Fellow Toomevara man, Benny Dunne is introduced, along with David Young; Young to Dunne, Dunne strikes a beautiful, five point lead.

The majestic Lar dispatches another goal and it's all over. The sheer emotion and excitement gets the better of me. But I had no time to dwell on it.

My plane was to leave in under an hour. There is an Irish proverb that goes something like "Dance as if no one's watching, sing as if no one's listening, and live everyday as if it were your last." I'm dancing now. Keep the celebrations going until December.



One of the many beautiful sights of Malta

## ERASMUS DIARY

Written by **Emma Hayward**

AFTER a few weeks in Cyprus, I'm settled in to my new home. I live in student halls with seven others. It's really nice and very cheap.

There are two campuses at this university and I live next to the new campus but all my classes are in the old campus so I have to get a bus there during the week.

There are four of us UL students on Erasmus here. It's so nice to have people who are in the same boat as you. If I were here by myself, I'd have freaked-out by now.

The Erasmus students here are so friendly and ready to party at the drop of a hat. It's a really great atmosphere and it's so exciting to meet people from all over Europe and Cyprus.

Before I came to university here I spent a week travelling around

the island with my mother in a hire car. We went everywhere. It was 40 degrees when we arrived in August, so we hit the road everyday with the air conditioning full blast and saw most of the major tourist attractions, despite the overwhelming humidity. Showering seems a bit pointless. I have never been so sweaty.

I study English here and I'm learning Greek. People find it hilarious that I came here to study English. I can see their point.

But English is the only subject taught in English! I have a lot of time to travel. I'm really looking forward to the Erasmus trips they do here.

The first unofficial Erasmus outing was a trip to Limassol. We went to a wine festival that night. Entrance was €5. But there was free wine all night.

You just had to buy your own glass. Once you had that, you had access to any amount of wine. I got a bottle with my ticket too. We went to a night club after and finally got home at 7am. It was a successful trip. I made a lot of new friends. We had our first Erasmus party the other night in Nicosia. It was at a club where we paid €15 entrance. But it had an open bar. In theory, it was a great idea. But it took forever to order drinks. Everyone seems to be enjoying Cyprus so far. I'm really looking forward to the next few months.

"Erasmus students are ready to party at the drop of a hat."





## Features

# THE UL ANIMÉ AND MANGA SUCCESS STORY

Written by **John Rainsford**

WHILE some UL societies took a well-deserved break over the long, hot summer, UL's 'Animé and Manga' society organised the hugely successful 'BROCON' - an animation and gaming convention in July.

The event received considerable media coverage with the 'Limerick Leader', the 'Clare Champion' and the 'Limerick People' all waxing lyrical about the society's innovative flair.

Sophie O'Gara, President and Rory Kelly, Vice President, also picked-up the annual award for 'Best New Society' given by the national Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) at the beginning of 2010. The society currently has 90 members.

Ms O'Gara, born in Chicago, is currently entering her final year in 'Multimedia and Computer Games Development' at UL. She explains "people think 'Animé' refers to cartoons for kids like Pokémon. But this is only a small part of the market. In Japan, adults have been drawing in miniature for generations and TV shows are dedicated to it."

Japanese Animé (animated works) and Manga (comics) now cater for a growing niche interest within UL. She continues, "at 'BROCON' we had layout spaces for vendors, war gamers, card gamers not to mention 'Costume Players' (COSPLAY) and 'Role Playing Gamers'. The vendors who attended included 'REPLY', 'Cartoon Passion', 'Tall Tales', 'Alison Cosgrave' and Limerick's 'The Gathering'."

The world famous 'COSPLAYER', Francesca Dani, from Italy attended the convention and 'Question and Answer' sessions were held with her over the weekend. Francesca makes her own costumes and travels the world doing conferences. She was an amazing scoop for the society's first ever convention.

The name 'BROCON' was intended to be a play on words and an in-joke with society members (if ain't broken fix it!). The 'Con' stands for 'Convention' of which this was the UL society's



One of many drawings available to view on Sophie's blog

first. Although, there has been a games society in UL going back over 20 years, she and her colleagues launched the 'Anime and Manga' society only in September of last year.

Sophie's animation work has blossomed as a result. "I spend an awful lot of my free time now drawing and painting under my internet brand name 'Raving'," she says. "In fact I probably spend more time doing that than gaming, despite being in a games course."

The event also had a more serious side with the society raising money for suicide prevention. A charity auction held at the Stables club auctioned material donated by the 'BROCON' vendors and succeeded in raising over €1000. Sophie was quick to praise students at UL for their charitable

work. "Being very involved in Clubs and Societies at UL, I can see first-hand just how much good young people can do. Clubs and Societies hold all sorts of different fundraisers to help both local and national charities.

These students are using time they could be spending socialising or studying to help others and to create a real community within the university. This sort of news does not sell quite as well as the few bad incidents brought into the limelight."

Sophie's artblog can be viewed at: [ravingsohma.tumblr.com](http://ravingsohma.tumblr.com) and her artistic work is also posted at [ravingsohma.deviantart.com](http://ravingsohma.deviantart.com) The 'Anime and Manga' society's website is: <http://anime.skynet.ie> and the Games Society can be found at: <http://gsoc.skynet.ie>

# FINE GAEL PLANS TO SAVE IRISH JOBS

Written by **Colm Taylor**

"It is capitalism that will save us."

People know we need to start living with less and stop demanding more and more. Some will tell you capitalism is what led us to Recession. Some claim socialism is the solution. But it is capitalism that will save us. It is the young entrepreneurs from UL who will come up with ideas that will create jobs. Capitalism is the driving force behind Ireland's third level institutions. There would be no incentive for the government to invest in universities if multi-national corporations did not seek highly educated graduates.

Fine Gael is a party of integrity and honesty. This country is on the brink. It is on the brink because of disastrous Fianna Fáil policies since 1997. The trade unions of Ireland are kept pushing for more and more concessions. There is only so much money in the country to pay wages and we can either have

a few people on a very high wage or have a lot of people on an affordable wage. Lower wages mean lower costs, which in turn will make Ireland more competitive, leading to job creation.

Fine Gael's new goal is to get Ireland back on track and working once more. The most important is 'New Era', which will invest €18bn in four years and create more than 100,000 jobs. This money will come from a number of different sources including the sale of non-important state assets and a New Era bond will be sold on the international market. We want Irish people to work in Ireland.

We don't want graduates being forced to leave these shores just to get a job. Fine Gael has the ideas and the people to get Ireland out of Fianna Fáil's black hole. Fine Gael is a party of youth. Join UL Young Fine Gael through the new Clubs and Socs website or find us on Facebook. Visit our AGM on 21 September at 7:30pm in the Kemmy Business School.



Enda Kenny, Leader of Fine Gael

# MY NAÏVE BELIEVE ABOUT POLITICAL PARTIES

Written by **David Clear**

Political parties: two words that make my blood boil. First years, learn my lesson! Don't join a political party unless you're a self-centred, power hungry individual whose sole desire in life is to be corrupt.

I am not trying to deny you an amazing experience. I was once involved with the youth wing of a political party. I was taken in. I thought it was an opportunity to bring change and stand up for others.

But I'd just joined a bunch of individuals who desired nothing more than to be the next Taoiseach.

During my short membership, I "mingled" with county councils and

TDs because, as it was so nicely put to me, it was good "to get your name out there".

Did any of these future Charlie Haugheys have any master plans to solve our economic situation or end world hunger?

No. They were all drowning in the status quo, just like Ireland's current frontbenchers. The government is nothing more than a bunch of five-year-olds playing a game of Monopoly.

And if you're an independent thinker, you needn't bother signing up. I've discovered that Irish politics is about nothing more than blindly towing the party line. Make sure you don't ruffle

anybody's feathers, especially those of the head office birds.

One thing I've discovered is that if you seek to make a difference for others in politics, you should join student politics and become a class rep. Not interested? You can always join a club or society. As long as it's not a youth wing of a political party!



## Features

# STUDENTS STRUGGLE TO FIND SUMMER JOBS

Written by **Shane Clifford**

“Planes left Ireland this summer with the usual mix of adventurers, silver-spoon kids and GAA hopefuls onboard.”

EVERY year, as the exams finish and the long summer begins, the battle to pick up those few, precious, summer jobs leaves many struggling to pay their rent. The Recession has made fewer opportunities than ever. Many students look further afield in search of a few months employment. Planes left Shannon and Dublin airports this

summer containing the usual mix of adventurers, silver-spoon kids and GAA hopefuls looking for work abroad. Those who had worked in the same pub or shop, summer after summer, found themselves suddenly unemployed. Many of us rely on the precious wages earned during the summer months to survive the long college semesters when the workload is just too heavy to consider part-time employment. With both the fear of returning to college penniless, and the naiveté that America can still answer all our problems, many picked up the late J1 deals and flew into the unknown.

England and the US, however, are not as reliable as they used to be. The when an Irishman could land in New York with nothing but the address to an Irish pub in his pocket, and find

himself hopping on a bus to work on the building sites the next morning are long gone.

Fluent English tongue is something which puts Irish students in a unique position in Europe. Full-time employment opportunities as a language teacher are plentiful for somebody holding a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certification. But certification is not always required, particularly for special summer programmes. Spain, France, Italy and others offer opportunities to native English speakers in “Full Immersion” summer camps. The only requirement is English as a first language. Some even include an orientation period which doubles as an introductory TEFL course.



# TASTE OF THE ORIENT

Written by **Elizabeth Neylon**

## Thai Red Curry

Here's something hot to warm you up when it's cold and wet outside.

### Ingredients:

One chicken breast, cut into bite-sized pieces or prawns  
One small, chopped onion  
Half a tin of coconut milk  
Three cloves of garlic, finely-chopped  
Three tbsp. of Thai red curry paste  
Olive oil  
A handful of your vegetables of choice. (Mangetout, peppers, baby corn etc.)

Remember to visit your Farmers' Market on Tuesdays!

### Method:

Heat a pan with some oil and add the chopped garlic and onions. Cook until translucent and then lower the heat and add the curry paste.

Stir well and then add the coconut milk. Simmer on a low heat. Next, throw in the vegetables and leave to simmer. It doesn't need to be cooked for too long if you want a crunch!

In another pan, heat some oil and cook the chicken until golden. Add the sauce and have a taste! I recommend a glass of milk at the ready to cool you down. Serve with rice and enjoy!

Tip: If you don't feel like wasting the other half of the tin of coconut milk just double the recipe and freeze the other half or feed your housemate!



Quick, easy and good for you

## THE BEAUTY COLUMN

# TANGO-DRASTIC TO TANGOTASTIC?

Written by **Meghann Scully**

FOR my first column, I've decided to talk about tan. Yes, the dreaded smelly orange stuff in a bottle that all the lads out there hate. But never fear, Meghann is here with some tips and hints.

While watching the beautiful tanned Kardashians on TV, I reminisced to my tanning disaster days. Yes girls, we've all been there. Now, I'm not blaming the applicator, but the tan itself. Don't be afraid to experiment with all the tans on offer.

I'll start with instant. Rimmel sun shimmer, cheap as chips but not invented for the Irish summer. So girls, keep this one for the sun holidays! Now, the ever popular Sally; she has become us girls' best friend. So easy to apply and streak free. Be warned though; it tends to look like tights and I'm not talking the sheer sexy ones. I'm talking Granny's polyester pop-socks. Here's a tip. If you have tan that's fading, throw Sally over for a quick top up! A new amazing instant (my favourite!) is "he-shi" quick and easy, one-day tan. Retailing at €16, this one's a little more expensive. But it's easily applied and doesn't run. I recommend it but do not apply after using moisturiser. You will go green.

And now to the over-night, tedious-yet-picture-perfect tans. "L'Oreal sublime" comes on lovely but the smell

would over-power a Guinness fart. "Fake bake" - the name says it all. You will look as though you had a fight with the ash bucket. That said, the finished product could be mistaken for two weeks in the sun. My last two tans are "Tantastic" and "he-shi". Each retails at €25. The easily-applied liquid comes on instant and darkens in hours. The finish is amazing and no smell means pulling in the Lodge.

A few final tips: Wash your mitt regularly! Scrub off your old tan! Moisturise the night before! Moisturise your toes and fingers for no streaks! Sun-beds are a "no!"

Happy tanning!



# PRIDE CELEBRATIONS BRING WONDER OF DIVERSITY TO LIMERICK

Written by **Declan Cronin**

LAST Saturday, Limerick hosted 'The Pride Parade'. The Parade is a culmination of a full week of gay pride events.

These events celebrate the individual appreciating themselves and other members of their community for being different, and seeking equality independent of these differences.

The streets of Limerick were transformed into the rainbow colours of life, healing, sunlight, nature, magic and serenity.

Miss Alternative Limerick, Heidi Hotlips, hosted a Glam cocktail party at Limerick's gay bar, followed by a céile with the famous Miss Sheila Fits-Patrick.

Out in UL hosted a Treasure Hunt and barbecue. More than 20 teams roamed the streets trying to solve 30 riddles. The winning team was Dan Comerford,

Anita Finlayson and Koenraad.

"The event was a complete success," said PSA President Dan Comerford. The post-hunt barbecue and after-party allowed everyone to chill out and admire the sites.

Shane Colemon won the title of Mr Gay Limerick in a heated battle of the finest men Limerick has to offer. A concert featuring Niamh Kavanagh rounded off the week's festivities.





Student Speak

# Hello Again!

## Are you in this issue of Student Speak?



An Focal reporter Rebecca Rigney and photographer Chris Ryan took a stroll around campus in Week Two

### So people, should cannabis be legalized?

**Ciara O'Regan and Sharon Hayes**  
*"Yes, it's good for canabide receptors in the body."*



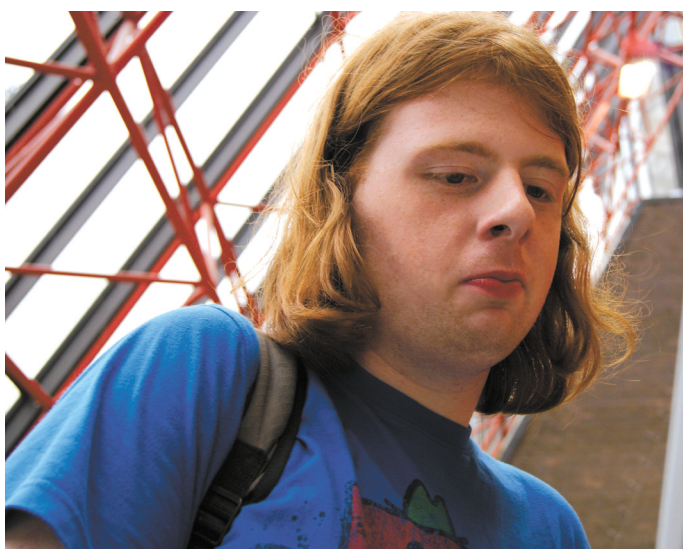
**Laura Pembroke**  
*"I've never tried it so I don't know."*



**Ilenia on Erasmus**  
*"No. Well, maybe on Tuesdays and Thursdays."*



**The boys from Castletroy**  
*"Yes, fo' sho!"*



**Shane Daphne Ford** *"Yes, it would stop people going underground, fuelling the illegal drug trade."*



**Grace Cooney and Niamh Allen**  
*"Is it not already? Ok, but only for medicinal purposes."*



**Sinead Tobin**  
*"Arra g'wan sure. Why not?"*



**James Stack**  
*"No, drugs are bad. Jesus says so."*



**Mark the Man**  
*"It won't make a difference. People will get it anyway."*



**Aisling Fahey**  
*"Yes, it should be legalised. Bring back Vicodin."*



## Letters

## AN FOCAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, UL Students' Union, Castletroy, Limerick. T: 0860435304 E: sucommunications@ul.ie W: www.ulsu.ie  
An Focal endeavours to accommodate all letters as far as legally possible. All parties have the right of reply to letters printed herein.

Sir, - I have a strange request.

There is an abandoned piglet that is loose in the Briarfield housing estate across from Superquinn.

I have been feeding it for about a week now and it takes shelter under some bushes across from my house. However, I have not been able to catch the pig as it is very quick and runs if you go anywhere near it.

It is not feasible to keep the pig in its current location long term and I am worried that eventually a car will hit it if it starts going out onto the road. I have called the ISPCA, Limerick Animal Welfare and the Gardaí and none has been able to help me. They seem to have a rule that I need to catch it myself and then they will collect the piglet.

The only way I can think of catching it is sedatives in its food so I would need the help of a Vet or Farmer. Ideally, if there is a Farmer who would be willing to help catch the pig, then they can keep it and raise it on their farm.

Anyone who is willing to help should contact patricia.armshaw@ul.ie

- Yours, etc,

PATRICIA ARMSTRONG

Sir, - The European Commission has recently approved growing GM crops in Europe for the first time in 12 years, ignoring the concerns of 60% of Europeans. But already 800,000 of us have signed up to oppose the move. I have signed a petition for independent research and a moratorium on GM crop development. With 1 million citizens' signatures, we can make an official legal request to the European Commission (more details below).

If your readers would like to learn more and join the petition, I urge them to search the link below.

[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/eu\\_gmo/98.php?CLICK\\_TF\\_TRACK](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/eu_gmo/98.php?CLICK_TF_TRACK)

- Yours, etc,

JAIME ROJAS

*The following is a truncated version of an email sent to the University President, Executive and Student Affairs.*

Sir, - My colleague Vivion Griseewood and I spent almost an hour talking to a local resident the other day. We discussed what had happened to her the previous evening, which was unsavoury to say the least.

This lady, who also has extenuating issues, was called a "fucking whore", a "prostitute", a "fucking bitch" and other obscenities by a student. She felt unsafe and a glass was broken at her feet. There was a student house party next door. She did say that, to be fair, one of the residents of the house causing the issue was relatively sober and did call to her straight away to apologise. But at that stage she had already called the Gardaí and that was too little too late.

We visited the house where the party had been on. We told the residents of the house that the lady would be sending a complaint to discipline. The main perpetrator does not appear to be a resident of the house, but was a guest. A clear message needs to be sent that:

- this is not acceptable;
- residents must be responsible in who their allow into their accommodation;
- it will not be tolerated by the University.

This lady was not in any way antagonistic, but felt very disappointed that students would be permitted to carry on regardless having engaged in such behaviour. She and her sister informed us that it is a growing view amongst the residents that the University, as the organisation with the power of reprimand, and not the Students' Union, which has no power to stop this happening must be the ones to take action and state that this behaviour is not acceptable. They must show there is a consequence to action such as this.

It was also a suggestion that the three campus clubs be permitted to run whatever promotions necessary to get students back on campus where they are in a supervised environment. I appreciate that there are pros and cons to this, as well as the University's Alcohol Policy. But we will discuss it in-house and I will bring the conclusions of that discussion to the next meeting of the

Alcohol Working Group. The residents associations are reluctant to contact the media. But if swift action is not taken (weeks not months) to dampen the abusive behaviour, they will start writing letters to the local and national press and inviting reporters to observe the behaviour.

The vast majority of students do not behave in this way, as this particular lady accepted, even pointing out one house where the residents drink in a civilised manner. The margin of civilised versus uncivilised is narrowing as there is a perception that nothing is being done about anti-social behaviour.

This would not be tolerated by NUIG or UCC as two examples of where swift action is taken in relation to these matters.

- Yours, etc,

DEREK DALY

ULSU Deputy President/ Welfare Officer

Sir, - Congratulations on the paper. It looks great and has quality content.

- Yours, etc,

COLUM COOMEY

Limerick Post Newspaper  
97 Henry St.  
Limerick

Sir, - Well done on An Focal. I had a look at it online and it looks (and reads) great.

-Yours, etc,

SARAH NÍ RIAIN

RTÉ Lyric FM  
Commarket Square  
Limerick

Sir, - Congratulations on your relaunched paper. It looks very good, especially the front page design.

- Yours, etc,

DANIEL LYNCH

Editor UCC Express

## QUITE INTERESTING

### 2000-year-old pills found in Greek shipwreck

In 130 BC, a ship fashioned from the wood of walnut trees and bulging with medicines and Syrian glassware sank off the coast of Tuscany, Italy. Archaeologists found its precious load in 1989.

On 10 September (Week One), for the first time, archaeobotanists were able to examine and analyse pills that were prepared by the physicians of ancient Greece.

DNA analyses show that each millennia-old tablet is a mixture of more than 10 different plant extracts, from hibiscus to celery.

The analysis validates the writings of ancient Greek physicians Dioscorides and Galen.

The box of pills was discovered with other medicines, still completely dry.

## OVERHEARD IN UL

*Excerpts from the hit Facebook page*

Fresher Fest Act Tiffany Page explains how she got to Ireland: "My boyfriend dropped me off at the planestation."

Garda: "Well, you're going to get a fine for this."

Student: "Aw shit. What kind of a fine? Do I get a student discount?"

Girl outside the Venus labs: "Yea, I lost a seven year old."

Guy in Red Raisins: "She had a gowl on her like Shane McGowan's mouth."

Guy 1: "I get more head than a pillow!"

Guy 2: "Well I get more ass than a toilet seat!"

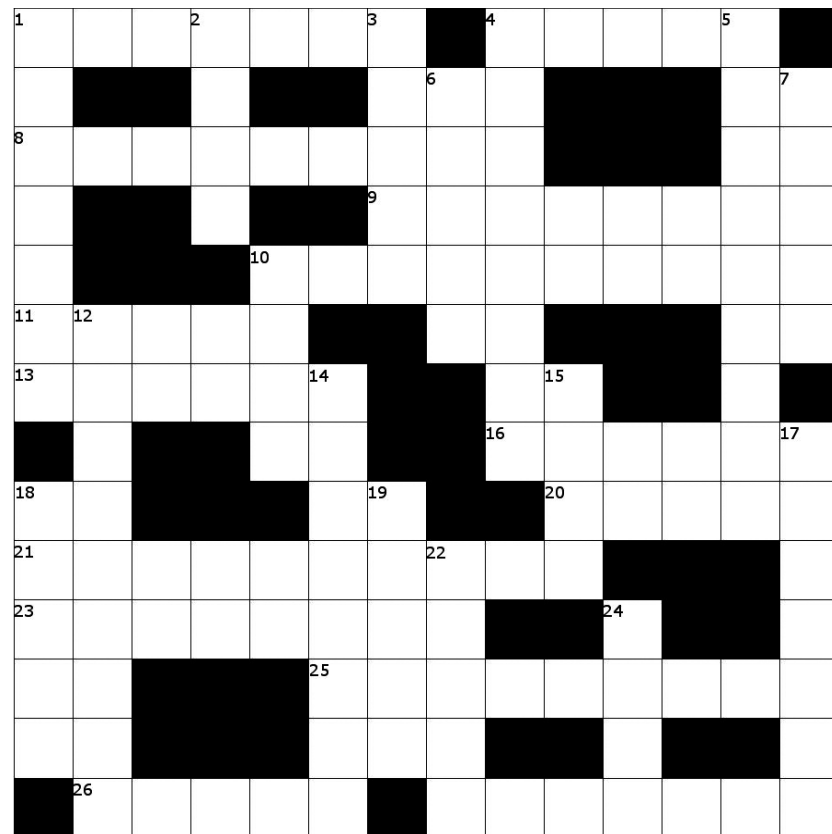
Perplexed Student: "The mad thing about weeks is like, they go Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and then Monday again! It's like a never-ending circle or something!"

Nursing Student: "Oh my God, is that a hernia?!"  
Subject: "No. That's one of my abs."

Guy in The Scholars sighs, saying: "I've only just realized but it's been ages since I've handled a turtle."



Mary Harney considers legalising cannabis for medicinal purposes. Credit to Brige Newman.



Clues:

**Down:**

- Motorcycle Attachment(7)
- Lacks Depth(4)
- Spirally Arranged Bandages(5)
- Relating To The Stage(8)
- Watcher of an Event(9)
- Era(5)
- Selfishness(5)
- Extending Down(4)
- Relating to a Particular Subject(9)
- Common(8)
- 1980's Musical Film(4)
- Family of the Queen (7)
- Sacred Text(5)
- Seemingly but not Actually(5)
- Type of Radioactivity(5)
- Lose on Purpose(4)

**Across:**

- \_\_\_ of Swing(7)
- Unfreezes(5)

- Carries Water from Buildings(9)
- Come Together(8)
- Turn Off(10)
- Make Amends(5)
- Aid, Assistance(6)
- County In Leinster(6)
- Indigenous New Zealanders(5)
- Lacks Ability(10)
- Twice a Year(8)
- Tree Trained to grow against wall(9)
- A form of Pure Energy(5)
- Unpaid Player(7)

**Answers to Crossword Issue One:**

**Down:** Decrypt; Mile; Restless; Caucasian; Anion; Wayne; Tyre; Authentic; Saturday; Nerd; Wounded; Truce; Issue; Set-Up; Ugly  
**Across:** Dismiss; Relic; Cauldrons; Literacy; Theologian; Paddy; Tutors; Seesaw; Rhino; Re-focussed; Universe; Dutch Gold; Candy; Poloypod

## THE STARS

Written by **Mystic Molly**

**Aries**

You have a wild imagination and often think you are being followed by the Gardaí. You have minor influence on your friends and people resent you for flaunting your power. You lack confidence. Beware the man in uniform!

**Taurus**

You have a large task ahead of you. It won't be easy to do, but knowing your dogged determination, you'll fly through it. Shame you'll leave all your friends behind, though.

**Gemini**

You're a quick thinker. People like you because you are bisexual. You're inclined to expect too much for too little. When these are combined, it makes you a sex god. Try to stay away from Freshers.

**Cancer**

You are sympathetic and understanding of other people's problems, which makes you a pushover. You're always putting things off. That's why you'll always be on the dole.

**Leo**

You consider yourself a born leader. Others think you're a Troglodyte. Most Leos are bullies. You're vain and cannot abide criticism. Your arrogance is disgusting. Get over yourself.

**Virgo**

You are logical and hate disorder. Your pedantic attitude sickens your friends

and co-workers. You're cold and unfeeling and often fall asleep during intercourse. Virgos make good bus drivers and pimps.

**Libra**

You are the artistic type and have a difficult time dealing with reality. Chances for employment and monetary gain are nil. The stars indicate failure.

**Scorpio**

You are the worst of the lot. You're shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. You'll achieve the pinnacle of success because of your total lack of ethics. You're too perfect. Most Scorpios are murdered.

**Sagittarius**

You are optimistic and enthusiastic. You have a reckless tendency to rely on your luck since you have no talent. You quiver next to Scorpios.

**Capricorn**

You are conservative and afraid of taking risks. You generally achieve nothing. There's never been a Capricorn of any importance.

**Aquarius**

You have an inventive mind and are inclined to be progressive. You lie a great deal. Try not to make this obvious. A good liar has a good memory. You might consider a career in Irish politics.

**Pisces**

Quick to reprimand, impatient, and full of advice, you bother people. So take it easy and chill. There's nothing cool about being a pedantic fiend. Look out for red objects as Mars indicates a surprise.



## Union

THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
COLUMNWritten by **Ruán Dillon-McLoughlin**, ULSU President

Here's a quick recap of some of the projects I've been working on over the summer. The main concept behind much of the work we've been doing is to structure the Student's Union to allow it develop over the next five to 10 years. Here's a quick summary of some of those changes:

The SU plans to put a formal structure in place for how it operates. This will include work breakdown structures, work distribution structures and reporting structures. The SU has also set goals and objectives that are governed by a list of core guiding principles.

House parties are now allowed in on campus accommodation upon request.

The website will be developed to include the new Grinds Register and a new one semester room advertisement. A new feedback mechanism and a jobs section will also be launched.

The SU will appoint a full-time Events Co-ordinator to replace the usual system of external contractors. The SU will employ a HR consultant to ensure efficiency in staffing ratios in the SU shop and ensure best practice in the SU.

WELFARE  
WATCHWritten by **Derek Daly**, Welfare Officer

SO The Welfare Watch is coming to you from a bitter and pedantic place this week. You may ask why? Is it the reams of paperwork, or the endless emails? Well, no!

What's getting at this sabbat this week is a recent article: "Plans to raise college registration fee by at least €1,000, says USI" from The Irish Times on 24 August. I've googled extensively and can find just one other reference to this.

I will gladly assist Viv in mounting a protest in Week 1 of semester 2 if the Student Service Charge is increased in December, but for now, as last year when the same hysteria permeated before the Budget, I will do the same – Carry on regardless.

Take the case of the University of Limerick, assuming conservatively that 3,267 students receive a grant of some sort; it would cost the state €3.267 million to raise the charge by €1,000. In the current it is safe to assume the numbers in receipt of a grant are only going to be going one way! You do the maths.

On a brighter note, I'm still plugging away at finishing my section of the report on our trip to the UK in July. It's been so busy that I just haven't had a chance to finish it.

ENLIVENING  
EDUCATIONWritten by **Aoife Finnerty**, Education Officer

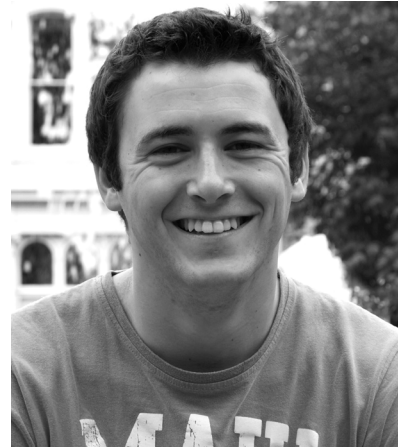
IT'S Week 3. Having run out of money and realised the number of classes you've missed, it's time to make like an ostrich. Bury your head in the sand and hope for the best, right?

Wrong! Everybody falls behind in classes at some stage. Some find the material too difficult so avoid class. Some can't quite drag themselves out of bed for their 1pm, never mind their 9am. You can avoid this if you get help early. It could mean the difference between repeats and smooth sailing.

Ask for help! Most academic staff are happy to help and give tips or explanations of tough material in greater depth. You can also contact me on [Aoife.Finnerty@ul.ie](mailto:Aoife.Finnerty@ul.ie) or [sueducation@ul.ie](mailto:sueducation@ul.ie) or the PSA President on [psapresident@ul.ie](mailto:psapresident@ul.ie) if you think you may need grinds. Visit our new grinds register at [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie).

See if there's a Learning Centre that can help you with your particular area. Trained tutors (often tutors or lecturers in the university) are available at certain times to assist you. The best bit? It's free!

Just remember that help is here. If in doubt you can always visit me in the SU.

CAMPAIGNS  
BRIEFWritten by **Vivion Grisewood**, Campaigns and Services Officer

AGAIN, I'm focusing on Community Spirit this issue because of some isolated but damaging incidents in Castletroy in the early weeks of the semester. (See the front page news story).

As a full time officer, elected to represent students, I find the behaviour of some, disgusting. Those students who terrorise innocent residents do not deserve representation or the benefits it bestows.

I have had phone calls from residents recently. One told me the following story. "A first year student was attacked after being refused admission to the Lodge on Thursday night. He sought my help in the early hours of Friday morning in an utterly distressed state with injuries to his ribs and face. After talking to him, he explained that he had been left by his friends alone and on the walk home was attacked by a number of young men who stole his phone and broke his glasses. He was obviously out cold for a number of hours and had struggled to find help as he was completely disorientated and unable to see without his glasses. He was most grateful and appreciative for our help."

This can't go on.

WORDS  
FROM THE  
PSAWritten by **Dan Comerford**, PSA President

MORE people than ever have been using the PSA Common Room. At the beginning of the year, more seats were installed to increase capacity by ten per cent and more will be added in the near future.

To all of those submitting their theses: best of luck with it and your future plans in life. Hopefully, you've truly enjoyed your time in UL.

The PSA AGM will take place in the next fortnight. An email will have all the details you need. I encourage you to get involved! This is your chance to improve your CV and ensure that when you leave the University next year, you are employable. Join the PSA Executive, become a Class Rep, join the PSA working groups or even join a club or society.

If you have any queries, feel free to email me. My address is [dan.comerford@ul.ie](mailto:dan.comerford@ul.ie) and see [Postgrads.ie](http://Postgrads.ie) for more information.

CLASS REPS PLAY AN  
IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE  
STUDENT EXPERIENCEWritten by **Daithí MacGabhann**

WHY does a class need a Rep? The obvious answer is to order hoodies and organise class parties. There is so much more to it than that. Your Rep is the link between you and the Students' Union, and ultimately between you and the University.

They work on your behalf to ensure that your time in UL is as enjoyable and as safe as possible. They lobby on your behalf to ensure lecturers are doing their job. They meet every second week and they play a large part in various campaigns such as Charity Week, Road Safety Awareness Week, Equality Week and others.

They are also there to help you. Your Rep can point you in the right direction

when you need financial support, counselling, or even just someone to talk to. There services available to students in the Students' Union and the University that your Rep can help you to find.

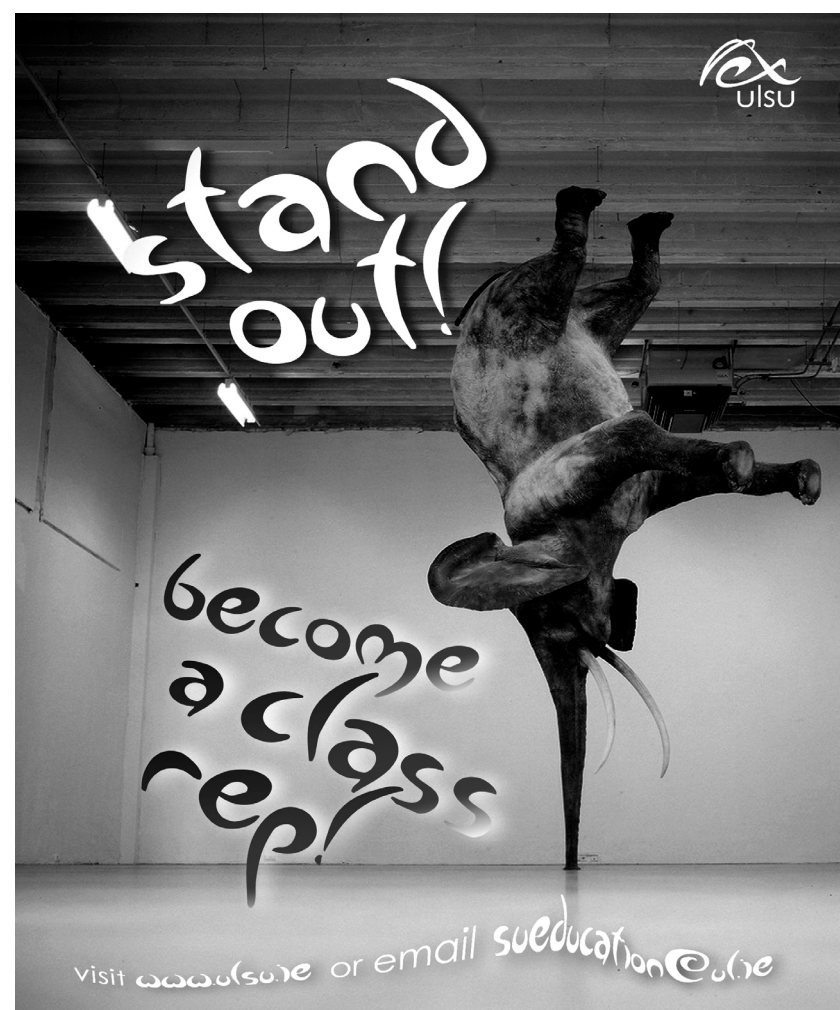
First years will find that they'll need help and advice on many things such as sending e-mails, checking timetables, registering, and even on how exams will work. Many of you will want to understand how your QCA works and what it means: all questions your Rep can answer.

Many Reps play a leading role in Clubs and Societies, helping to make the sporting and social lives of students' better. They can direct you if

you want to get involved with a club or society, and tell you who to talk to.

If you choose to become a Rep they can do so much for you. They are incredibly friendly people who help each other to better serve their classes. They are some of the best people you will ever meet, and are always there to support you when you need it. I couldn't recommend the job highly enough.

If you are interested in becoming a Class Rep, contact the Education Officer Aoife Finnerty at [aoife.finnerty@ul.ie](mailto:aoife.finnerty@ul.ie).





## Entertainment

# THE ROLE OF HYPE IN NEW MUSIC

Written by **Liam Corcoran**

In recent weeks, London minimalists The xx won the UK and Ireland Mercury Music Prize. With such a high standard of contenders this year, it was expected that the winner could do very well for themselves off the back of free publicity. Sure enough, The xx broke into the top ten. But the overall results were nowhere near as stunning as 2008 winner Elbow, whose victory finally signalled a successful commercial breakthrough after 18 years.

Music awards seem to have little relevance to new bands anymore. What's more important these days for the band's publicity is how much online interest they garner. Take Best Coast for example, a California based indie-pop trio fronted by a woman who appears barely able to play guitar and routinely makes immature references to her love of cannabis online. The band has about 12,000 Twitter followers and quite a lot of appeal to many 'retro' American

music bloggers. In the space of a month, their debut album, 'Crazy For You' had reached number 36 in the American Billboard 200. It was the operation of the most powerful asset the internet can offer musicians that got Best Coast to where they are now; a gut-wrenching ride on the rollercoaster called hype.

Online hype can be a powerful shared tool at the fingertips of the discerning music listener. Thanks to the idea of streaming, listeners can hear an album, even if they decide not to buy it, without costing the band anything. Certain bands will also offer a free track in exchange for marketing. So, music fans get to hear more music free and collectively decide whether or not a certain act makes it.

In practice however, we run into a problem in that most of these 'music fans' consist of image-obsessed narcissists to whom style or use of artsy synthesizer matters more than

musical ability or substance. Consider The Drums, an indie band from Brooklyn who haven't produced a great deal, but are reasonably musically able. Unfortunately for them, their hipster connotations have made them unpalatable to many potential fans, who will now forever see their music as being tainted with the spectre of lensless, horn-rimmed glasses, very tight jeans and Starbucks coffee.

It remains to be seen how far-reaching an influence this listener-driven hype has. Last month Best Coast got to the stage where they were considered mainstream enough to be nominated for the breakthrough band category of the Venus Magazine awards. It won't matter whether or not they win, but it might bring them a few new Twitter followers.



Mercury Music Prize - Winners, The xx

## SUN SHINES ON STRADBALLY

Written by **Caitriona Ní Chadhain**

HOPES were high for a weekend of sunshine, good music and "devilment" when Electric Picnic kicked off in Stradbally recently. The long waits and hauling of bags, tents and booze were made more manageable with the sun shining. After emptying our picnic baskets, we set off with a spring in our step to explore the madness and miscellanies of Electric Picnic Land.

Laura Marling was an easy choice to start off. Her beautifully mellow set confirmed her position amongst the great songwriters in my eyes. From there it was over to the Main Stage, in time to see Modest Mouse kicking off a good set. But they didn't show their full potential. Later, Public Image Limited's 'Rise' got every going in true Johnny Rotten fashion. On the Saturday those of us lucky enough to stumble upon the surprise Villagers' acoustic set on the Body and Soul main stage were treated to a display of undiluted musical and song-writing ability in its purest form. LCD Sound system took over that evening, giving it full throttle and leaving the crowd whiplashed by jump around highlights such as 'Losing My Edge' and 'Someone Great'. Then it was over to Gil Scott Heron for a little

cool down with the Godfather of Hip Hop. The National was the highlight of the weekend for many. Kicking off with a punchy 'Anyone's Ghost', lead vocalist, Matt Berninger gave it all the gusto a good frontman should, and thanked his Irish fans for being there long before most others caught up. The creeping rain clouds held back slightly until Massive Attack braced themselves to grace the main stage on the Sunday evening, unleashing a torrent of rain

which sent a large portion of the crowd scrambling for shelter. Those of us still left standing in the muck were happy to splash about in the knowledge that warm showers weren't so far off.

All in all it was a weekend of great music and mischief. As we packed up our picnic baskets again after a predominantly sleepless night, it seemed like a long trudge home. Thoughts of drive-thru's, warm showers and a proper bed carried us through.



# The UL Orchestra

**ULO is now recruiting players of all orchestral instruments.**

The orchestra performs in 2-3 concerts per year, at Christmas and in Spring/Summer in the University Concert Hall.

We rehearse every Tuesday evening starting 21 September 2011 from 7:30pm to 10:00pm in the Irish Chamber Orchestra Building on the UL Campus.

For any queries contact:  
[universityoflimerickorchestra@hotmail.com](mailto:universityoflimerickorchestra@hotmail.com)



dolans warehouse

Thurs 23rd	Arthurs Day Redneck Manifesto - Codes - PANIC! DJs	7pm €2.50
Fri 24th	Brendan Benson of The Raconteurs	8pm €15
Sat 25th	Micronite TWEAK Upstairs	10pm €10
Wed 29th	Le Disko Bloodbath	10pm €10
Thurs 30th	Dead Cat Bounce MC Karl Spain - Followed by PANIC!	8pm €13
Sat 2nd	Limerick Live Fight Like Apes - Supermodel Twins - WSBD	8pm €12

[www.dolanspub.com](http://www.dolanspub.com) 061 314483



Entertainment

# Rain fails to stop students rocking out at Freshers' Fest

Written by Kelly O'Brien

TIFFANY Page, Newton Faulkner and Ocean Colour Scene rocked UL's highly anticipated Freshers' Fest in Week 1, despite the poor weather.

UL's Bob O'Keefe, an active member of Music Soc and a man who seems thoroughly inseparable from his guitar, showcased his unique instrumental and vocal skills, playing original songs mixed with some covers.

Brit pop/rock songstress Tiffany Page, beer in hand, lured the crowd right

up to the barrier with her infectiously sexy and husky voice. Not even the poorly timed power failure during her Cyndi Lauper cover could upset her or her band. They finished to thunderous applause.

The rain conveniently stopped and expectant students slid out from under whatever shelter they had to join the throng for Newton Faulkner. Faulkner took in the applause and played some of his most popular tracks. He also

performed his one-man-remix of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody.

Brit band Ocean Colour Scene (OCS) were next to grace the stage. Although many students hadn't heard of them, any misgivings were quickly forgotten. OCS came out as a highly-harmonized, five-piece band that put the finishing touches on a truly epic night of live music. Fresher Fest 2010 has set the bar extremely high for all the upcoming events of this academic year.

# Not Another Exorcism

Written by Róisín Peddle

I was convinced this would be yet another sequel or prequel to the infamous 1973 shocker *The Exorcist*. But this movie has nothing to do with that. Although, it does feature a girl whose head spins 360-degrees.

Directed by Daniel Stamm and produced by Eli Roth, a fake documentary team follows the Rev Cotton Marcus who travels the Deep South performing exorcisms. But Rev Marcus hasn't believed since medical science saved his son's life. He now conducts exorcisms to soothe the psychosomatic symptoms of hillbillies - all for cash, of course.

Patrick Fabian portrays his character, Rev Marcus, as both sleazy and concerned. No mean feat. He gets a letter from a widowed farmer whose teenage daughter Nell has been acting strangely, killing livestock and speaking in tongues. Rev Marcus and the documentary crew drive to the backwoods of Louisiana and perform a seemingly successful exorcism, before hotfooting it to a motel with a wad of cash. When Nell turns up in the filmmaker's room in the small hours acting strangely, the Rev can't resist going back to give curing her another go, and that's when things start to go

wrong. The wide-eyed Ashley Bell portrays Nell ably, swinging from sweet to demented in seconds. There are a few jumpy moments for the easily scared. And it's unusual to see any criticism of Christianity in a mainstream American movie.

We've seen it all before. It's harder to scare moviegoers these days. But rehashing old films is not the way to do it. The only people who are going to be shocked by *The Last Exorcism* are those who have never seen a horror movie before.



The wide-eyed Ashley Bell portrays Nell ably, swinging from sweet to demented in seconds

UL Music Society presents:



STABLES

**8th September, FREE!**

Free pint with music soc membership!

**HOT PRESS** - "These are highly accessible, superbly structured songs played by a band which has clearly been studying how to deploy catchy winding melodies" 8/10

**IRISH INDEPENDENT** - "Effervescent, youthful energy that is difficult to ignore."

[www.weshouldbedead.com](http://www.weshouldbedead.com)



OUR LITTLE SECRETS



Java's

**14th September, FREE!**

Rhob Cunningham has spent the last few years playing in every venue imaginable in Ireland. He has been chosen as special guest to join some Irelands finest on tour this year, including Cathy Pavey, Lisa Hannigan, James McMorrow and Villagers. Rhob has just returned from London where he played again as special guest for Villagers for their sold out London debut. The response has been striking.

[www.ourlittlesecrets.ie](http://www.ourlittlesecrets.ie)



Dolan's Upstairs,

**16th September, FREE!**

-After first Society meeting in SU!  
-Free bus to gig!

One of the most alluringly aggressive and addictive sounds on the Irish music scene, Last Days of Death Country are a four-piece group that spibe honesty and intensity with great effect. The result: a distinct, pulsating, and unreservedly raw brand of alternative post rock.

[myspace.com/lastdaysofdeathcountry](http://myspace.com/lastdaysofdeathcountry)



LAST DAYS OF DEATH COUNTRY

+CHASER



Baker Place

**30th September, FREE!**

Hailing from Dublin with an infectiously savage sound and a pretty unique outlay of chaotic alt-rock, they play it hard, loud and dark, and have been compared before to sounding like Queens of The Stone Age turning south to tell tales from the scorched earth. It's quite an onslaught.

[myspace.com/reddancerscometh](http://myspace.com/reddancerscometh)



FANCY DRESS BAND NIGHT!



Baker Place

**28th October, FREE!**

Dress up fun, and head to Baker Place, Tait Square Limerick for our infamous Halloween Shindig, a well known spot for mental gigs, expect 12 or more Music Soc bands to play at this annual event, more information later in the year. Most exciting thing is that half the bands will have formed this semester!



Java's

**14th November, FREE!**

"After a long absence the Limerick ex-The Driven frontman has made a triumphant return to music in the shape of his deeply personal, profound and pastoral self-released, solo album 'False Witness'. Recorded with Cranberries drummer Fergal Lawler, Markham's debut is an album of great craft, warmth and emotion that is relentlessly engaging. He'll make the hairs on the nape of your neck stand up."

-Limerick Independent

[myspace.com/brendanmarkham](http://myspace.com/brendanmarkham)



BRENDAN MARKHAM

UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL LISTINGS	
<p><b>Thursday, 23 September 2010</b></p> <p>Irish Chamber Orchestra Anthony Marwood Director/Violin</p> <p>Milhaud Chamber Symphony No. 5 Beethoven Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21 Beethoven Violin Concerto in D Major, Op.61</p> <p><b>Thursday, 7 October 2010</b></p> <p>Irish Chamber Orchestra Jörg Widmann Conductor/Clarinet</p>	<p>Mozart Idomeneo Overture K366 Widmann Ikarische Klage Weber Clarinet Concerto No. 1 Mozart Symphony No. 40 in G minor</p> <p><b>Bookings</b> Limerick: 1890 923543 or 061 331549 €20 and concessions.</p>

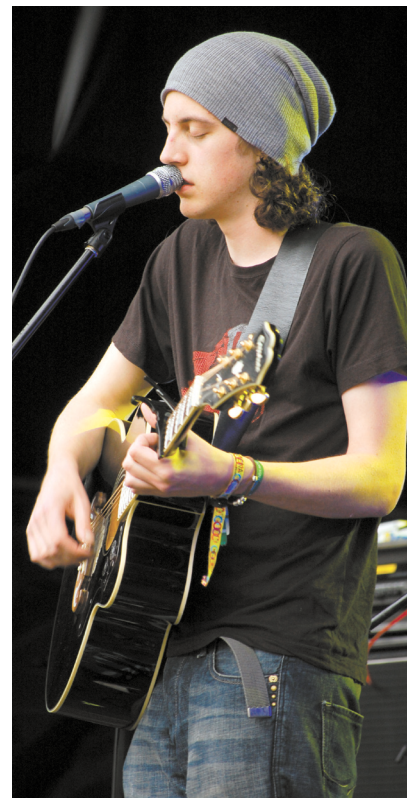
CAMPUS LISTINGS	DAY	WHAT'S ON	WHERE	TIME	TICKETS
<b>WEEK 3</b>	Monday	Open Mic Night and DJ	Stables	7pm	FREE
	Tuesday	Battle of the Bands (Music Society)	Stables	8pm	FREE
	Wednesday	Deleronts, Chapters, Riptide Movement + Champions League	Stables	7pm	€5
<b>Ents Highlights</b>	Wednesday	Johnny Flynn	Jean Monnet	8pm	€8
	Thursday	Arthur Guinness Day (band, djs)	Stables	All day	
	Friday	International Postgrad Party Night	Stables	9pm	FREE
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Monday	Open Mic Night and DJ	Stables	7pm	FREE
	Tuesday	Battle of the Bands (Music Society)	Stables	9pm	FREE
	Wednesday	Karaoke	Stables	8pm	FREE
<b>Ents Recommends</b>	Thursday	TRAFFIC	Stables	8pm	FREE
	Friday	International Postgrad Party night	Stables	9pm	FREE



*Fresher Fest*

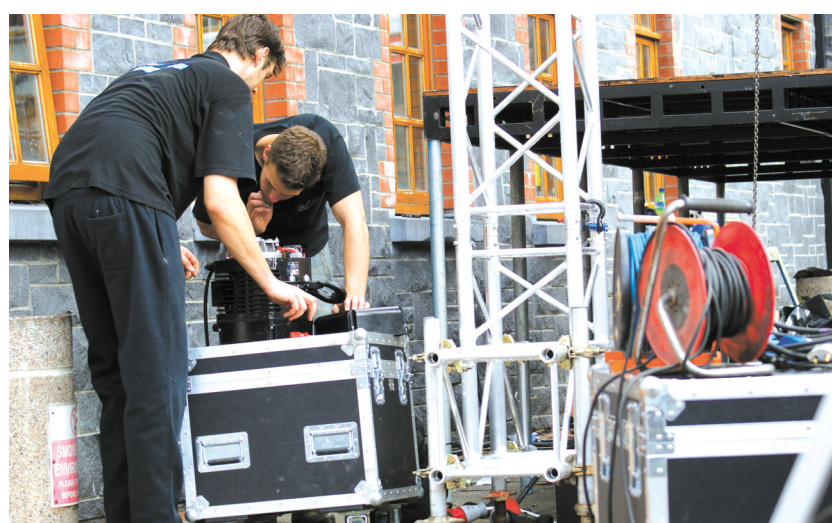
# Fresher Fest 2010, In Focus

Were you there? Let An Focal take you back to UL Music Soc, Tiffany Page, Newton Faulkner and Ocean Colour Scene, who rocked the SU Courtyard on Thursday, Week One. The event was brought to you by ULSU Ents and Ulster Bank.

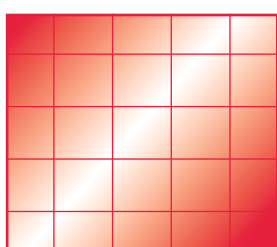




Fresher Fest







# The Grid

## A new tool, exclusively for Clubs and Societies.

For years, Clubs and Socs have used An Focal to communicate with the wider campus community. But it has always been difficult to accommodate everybody. This new page gives each Club and Society a dedicated section, allowing each to communicate an essential update or piece of information to An Focal readers.

Attention C&S PROs! Send content for The Grid to [sucommunications@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunications@ul.ie) before Monday, 27 September.

Clubs	<b>Handball</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registers.ul.ie">registers.ul.ie</a>	<b>Rowing</b> No submissions received. Meetings: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 6pm UL Boathouse	Societies	<b>History</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>
<b>American Football</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Judo</b> No submissions received. Meetings: Monday 7:30pm to 9pm at Claughan Club, Childers Rd, and Thursday 8:15pm to 9:45pm in the PESS.	<b>Sailing</b> No submissions received. Visit: <a href="http://sailing.skynet.ie">http://sailing.skynet.ie</a>	<b>Anime and Manga</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>International</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Archery</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://www.ulac.tk">www.ulac.tk</a> or email <a href="mailto:ularchery@gmail.com">ularchery@gmail.com</a> .	<b>Karate Shotokan</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Skydive</b> No submission received. Visit <a href="http://www.skydiveul.org">www.skydiveul.org</a> Email <a href="mailto:info@skydiveul.org">info@skydiveul.org</a>	<b>Architecture</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Law</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Athletics</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Kayak</b> Don't forget our pool sessions every Tuesday night from 9:45pm -10:45pm in the arena pool. Also our Fresher, Out-Back River sessions run every Wednesday from 3pm - 5pm and 5pm - 7pm. Sign up! Visit <a href="http://www.ulkayak.com">www.ulkayak.com</a> .	<b>Soccer</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Christian Union</b> No submissions received. Meeting: Monday from 8pm Contemplative Centre	<b>Medical</b> No submissions received. Email Mary Randles at <a href="mailto:ulmedsoc@gmail.com">ulmedsoc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Badminton</b> No submissions received Visit <a href="http://www.skynet.ie/~shuttle/">www.skynet.ie/~shuttle/</a> or email <a href="mailto:ulbadmintonclub@gmail.com">ulbadmintonclub@gmail.com</a> .	<b>Krav Maga</b> No submissions received. Meetings: Monday and Wednesday from 7pm PESS building Email: <a href="mailto:kravmaga@skynet.ie">kravmaga@skynet.ie</a>	<b>Softball</b> No submissions received. Training: Wednesday and Friday from 2pm to 4pm Astroturf behind the Arena	<b>Computer</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Music</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>
<b>Basketball</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Ladies Hockey</b> No submissions received. Tuesday and Thursday from 6:15pm to 8pm Astroturf pitch next to the Tennis courts	<b>Sub Aqua</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://subaqua.csn.ul.ie">http://subaqua.csn.ul.ie</a>	<b>Cumann Gaeilge</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Ogra Fianna Fail</b> Meeting: Monday from 6pm SU Room 2 or 3
<b>Boarders</b> Look out for the Halloween Surf Trip, 31 October to 1 November. Visit <a href="http://ulboarders.com">ulboarders.com</a>	<b>Ladies Rugby</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://www.ulladiesrugby.com">www.ulladiesrugby.com</a>	<b>Tae Kwon Do</b> No submissions received. Training: Monday from 6:50 pm, Wednesday from 9pm, and Thursday from 6:50pm PESS Visit <a href="http://tkdo.ul.ie">http://tkdo.ul.ie</a> Email <a href="mailto:ul.taekwondo@gmail.com">ul.taekwondo@gmail.com</a>	<b>Debating Union</b> Meetings: Monday from 7pm SU Room 3 Debates: Thursday from 7pm Jonathan Swift Visit <a href="http://www.uldebating.com">www.uldebating.com</a>	<b>Out in UL</b> No submissions received. Email <a href="mailto:outinul@gmail.com">outinul@gmail.com</a> Facebook – OutinUL soc Outinul.wordpress.com Visit <a href="http://twitter.com/outinul">twitter.com/outinul</a>
<b>Capoeira</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Men's Rugby</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Tennis</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Development</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Photographic</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://www.photo.ul.ie">www.photo.ul.ie</a>
<b>Chess</b> No submissions received. We meet twice a week. Monday nights in EGO10 at 6pm. Thursdays in SU Room 3 at 6pm.	<b>Mountain Bike</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Trampoline</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>DJ</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://www.uldjsoc.com">www.uldjsoc.com</a>	<b>Poker</b> No submissions received. Find us on Facebook! Email <a href="mailto:ulpokersoc@gmail.com">ulpokersoc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Dance UL</b> Meetings: Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30pm, Tuesdays from 6pm to 7pm, Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm Dromroe Village Hall Visit <a href="http://www.uldance.ie">www.uldance.ie</a> or search "Dance UL" on Facebook	<b>Outdoor Pursuits (OPC)</b> We offer Caving, Climbing, Hill Walking, Mountaineering and Orienteering. Keep up to date with our activities. Join us and check the club message board. W: <a href="http://www.ulop.com">www.ulop.com</a> E: <a href="mailto:Info@ulop.com">Info@ulop.com</a> .	<b>Ultimate Frisbee</b> No submissions received. Training: Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm Maguire's Playing Pitches Visit <a href="http://www.ulnijas.com">www.ulnijas.com</a>	<b>Drama</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Socialist Youth</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://www.socialistyouth.wordpress.com/about/">www.socialistyouth.wordpress.com/about/</a>
<b>Fencing</b> Meetings: Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm (practice), Fridays from 6pm to 7pm and 7pm to 8pm (coached training). Main Hall, PESS Email <a href="mailto:ulfencing@gmail.com">ulfencing@gmail.com</a>	<b>Parkour</b> No submissions received. Email <a href="mailto:Ulparkour@gmail.com">Ulparkour@gmail.com</a>	<b>Water Polo</b> No submissions received. Training Monday and Wednesday Arena Pool Email <a href="mailto:ulwaterpolo@gmail.com">ulwaterpolo@gmail.com</a>	<b>Enterprise &amp; Finance</b> No submissions received. Email <a href="mailto:info@ulefsoc.com">info@ulefsoc.com</a>	<b>ULTV</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>
<b>GAA</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Pool &amp; Darts</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Windsurfing</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Games</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>	<b>Young Fine Gael</b> No submissions received. Visit <a href="http://registerscs.ul.ie">registerscs.ul.ie</a>



C&S

# TRAMPOLINING CLUB WILL HOST IRISH INTERVARSITY

Written by **Trampolining PRO**

THE UL Trampolining and Gymnastics Club will host the Irish Trampolining Intervarsities this November. The club has a new captain and committee and is prepared to make this year one of the best ever. During the summer, several members did coaching and judging courses. One member has qualified for Nationals and competitions like the Munster Open. The club also held the Intervarsities two years ago.

Trampolining holds events throughout the semester, including the ever-popular County Colours Night, which was held in the Stables last week.

This semester will be busy and the club has enjoyed an enthusiastic interest from Freshers, a trend, which will hopefully continue.

If you'd like to see how it feels to reach new heights and you haven't had the chance to contact us, just drop in to training in the PESS Main Hall on Tuesdays from 7pm to 10.30pm or Wednesdays from 7pm to 8.15pm. You can also contact us and keep up to date with all club events and competitions by logging on to our website <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~trampoline/> or find us on Facebook.



UL Trampoliners enjoying the C&S Drive in Week 1

# DEBU HOSTS GLAMOUROUS DEBATE

Written by **Mairead De Faoite, Auditor ULDeBU**

The UL Debating Union is held a Glamour Model Debate on Thursday, 16 September.

The debate discussed whether the promotion of glamour models or "page 3 girls" is empowering to women or a degrading practice. There are those who believe that this phenomenon allows women to celebrate their sexuality while others are of the opinion that it merely leads to women being viewed as sexual

objects rather than rational, intelligent beings. The event featured glamour model Laura Lacole and Agent Tina Calder as well as celebrated feminist and journalist with "The Guardian" newspaper Julie Bindel.

The debate will be opened up to the floor and members of the audience will be invited to offer their own points of view or to ask questions.

# UL WATER POLO IS THE MOST FUN YOU CAN HAVE WEARING A SPEEDO

Written by **Water Polo PRO**

THE UL Water Polo Men's Team became Intervarsity champions this year, defeating Trinity College in a close final.

The team also just fell short in its attempt to win the league and settled for second place.

The Women's Team had a disappointing year, finishing fourth in their league and third in the intervarsity competition. The disappointment was

brief and four UL women were chosen to compete on the Irish team at the Celtic Nations competition.

The Men's squad visited Cologne, Germany last year. The trip included training and a friendly match against University of Cologne.

The team visited the Olympic History Museum for some inspiration, followed by an excellent training session and the eagerly anticipated match. The game

was intense and ended in a decisive six all draw.

The UL Water Polo trip to Cologne was instrumental in the team's preparation for the intervarsity.

Training is on Monday 9:45pm and Wednesday 9:00pm for both the men's team and the women's team. All are welcome.



The Water Polo team in the UL Arena



A UL Windsurfer enjoying Castlegregory over the summer. Image Credit: Brian Stewart

**ULSU AGM** Thursday Week 4. Visit ULSU Facebook or [ulsu.ie](http://ulsu.ie) for time and place.



## Sport

# CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE BOASTS SOME PREDICTABLE RESULTS

Written by **Paul Carty**

The competition that has pitted the female and male housemates of UL against each other is back. An Focal is here to guide you through the Group Stage of the Champions' League.

## Group A

This year's Champions League sees Spurs take part in Europe's Premier Competition for the first time since 1961. Reigning Champions Inter Milan has stumbled under Rafa Benitez. Dutch Champions Twente has regrouped following the departure of Steve McClaren and could pose some tricky questions to their supposed peers at home

## Group B

Lyon, Benfica and Schalke will travel to qualify as Israel's Hapoel makes up the numbers. Lyon has added Yohann Gourcuff and is expected to qualify quite easily considering their European pedigree. The runner up spot is likely to be quite competitive and the Germans look set to make a fight of it.

## Group C

Manchester United is expected to coast through. Scottish team, Rangers, poses no threat to them. The Spaniards face a battle for the second qualifying spot with surprise Turkish League Champions Buraspor. The Turks have made a blistering start to their League campaign and this solid but unspectacular team is quietly expected to pip Valencia.

## Group D

Hot favourites Barcelona should sail through this incredibly poor group. The reliably harsh Russian winter should enable Kazan to overcome the decidedly average Copenhagen and Panathnikos.

## Group E

Claudio Ranieri's AS Roma and German powerhouses Bayern Munich are likely to carve this group up between them. It's not hard to see them eviscerating the likes of Cluj and Basel. Unfortunately for the latter two, they're only making up the numbers and won't be giving Bayern or Roma sleepless nights.

## Group F

Spartak Moscow is the only team that may plausibly cause Chelsea to pause for thought, and even at that they'll rely on that vicious Russian winter to rough up the Stamford Bridge residents. It's certain that Chelsea will be at the top of their game when this group reaches its conclusion. The Russians may take the remaining spot.

## Group G

This is the group of death. The Cirque du Freak has a new ringmaster in José Mourinho. Milan has become a collection of fossils from La Liga: Robinho, Ronaldinho and Pato will thrill one night and remain anonymous on others.

## Group H

The far reaches of Europe await Arsene Wenger's boys but this is a group the team should win easily. Home games against all three opponents are almost certain victories. Arsenal should overcome its limited adversaries. The Portuguese team surprised many last year by qualifying for the Champions League and then overcoming a very decent Sevilla team in the qualifiers. Watch out for their spectacular home Stadio Municipal de Braga which is carved into a cliff side.

# GRAEME MCDOWELL TUNING UP FOR NEXT MONTH'S RYDER CUP

Written by **Michael Reid**

US Open champion Graeme McDowell teed off at the Austrian Open last week. Admittedly out-of-practice, the Portrush golfing champion used the opportunity to tune up for next month's Ryder Cup.

The event signified his only competitive event before appearing at Celtic Manor. His mind would have been somewhat refreshed, having had to get used to the demands placed on him after his victory at Pebble Beach

three months ago. The 31-year-old allegedly informed his personal website graememcdowell.com that although he had not played competitively since Whistling Straits over a month ago, he was hoping to be sharp enough to compete at the Austrian Open.

He assured fans he was in it to win it. McDowell has been overtaken as leader of the Race to Dubai, which will determine Europe's number one golfer, by Martin Kaymer after he won

the US PGA. The German's win at the KLM Open extended his advantage at the top to €498,483 and even victory for McDowell at the Diamond Country Club this week would only make a dent of €125,000.

McDowell was joined by fellow Irishmen Damien McGrane, Gary Murphy and Simon Thornton.



Graeme McDowell is originally from Portrush, Co. Antrim



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## Sport

# HOW MUCH DOES PREMIER LEAGUE SUCCESS COST?

Written by **Lorcan O'Neill**

“The hyperinflation in players’ value has caused exponential growth in club-spending.”

The Beatles once sang “Money can’t buy you love.” But the pertinent question in modern soccer is “Can money buy you success?” One of the most important points of this question has been the financial rejuvenation of certain clubs in the English league. The media has concentrated on Manchester City. They have been accused of ruining the beautiful game and destroying the concept of a “team”. And they’ve done this by bringing together the most talented (and expensive) footballers they can tempt with exorbitant wages and huge signing-on fees. Fans of the club have become pariahs. “Real” football supporters and analysts devote a disproportionate amount of time to deciding whether or not the Manchester City “experiment” works.

Wealth in the Premier League is unbalanced. Teams other than Arsenal, Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester United do not have the money to tackle the “Big Four”.

Fulham, who reached the Europa League final last season, has only made an extra €10m from UEFA. This pales in comparison to the €45m Manchester United made from being eliminated at the quarterfinal stage of the Champions League.

The nature of the transfer market has been perverted. Fresh cash injections for other clubs in the Premier League can only lead to greater competitiveness rather than a predictable top four come. It is alarming to think that €15m was

considered an enormous transfer sum in 1996. The hyperinflation in players’ value has caused exponential growth in club-spending. If one were to examine the spending since 2000 of some of the larger clubs in the world, some interesting patterns emerge. Chelsea has spent €650m on players between since then. But since people like to dismiss Chelsea as another buyer-of-“success”, perhaps a more appropriate example would be Barcelona. The most successful team in the world in 2009 (winning a stunning six trophies), Barca has spent €713m on players since 2000.

This is tiny in comparison to their neighbours in Madrid. Real Madrid has spent more than one billion euro on players in the last 10 years. It would appear that a club needs to have a history of pedigree to justify splashing out on players. Is it legitimate for a club to try and jostle these heavyweights out of the way, not sharing their chequered histories?

It’s entertaining to examine the clubs that Manchester City will compete against for Premier League glory this season. Manchester United has managed to spend in excess of €100m over the last four years with a number of other transfer fees remaining undisclosed. Arsenal has kept things rather more sedate at around €50m to €60m, while Tottenham Hotspur has approached the €100m mark.

The real jewel in the crown is discovering that Rafael Benitez managed to spend €220m on players during his tenure at Liverpool. This is the Liverpool side that finished seventh last season, even if they managed to make two Champions’ League final appearances in the same time period. This is akin to Barcelona’s dominance over Real Madrid. It has to be asked whether it is acceptable to try and buy success. And if it is, does it work?



Rafael Benitez has spent 220m Euro on players during his tenure at Liverpool

# MORE GOALS PLEASE: IRELAND AND THE EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS



Kevin Doyle of the Irish Squad

Written by **Aubrey O’Connell**

ALMOST a year later, grumblings can still be heard about “Henry” and what happened in Paris. But with our nemesis gone to play in New York and the French team in disarray, maybe it’s time to move on. Besides, we’ve got a new campaign to get behind in the form of the Euro 2012 Qualifiers.

That campaign kicked off earlier this month with a visit to the distant and blisteringly hot Armenia where the Irish beat the “30-plus” temperatures. Not to mention the Armenians. We clenched a 1-0 victory from Keith Fahey’s first international goal. Three points secured and the perfect start set us up nicely for our home match against Andorra.

With Andorra being such a small force on the international stage it seemed there was more focus on the fact that it was the first competitive match in the new Aviva Stadium. People got whisked away in the hype and almost forgot it was a qualifying match. Our shiny new stadium hosted well save for a few glitches. What was an upset for many was Christian Martínez’s goal for Andorra. It ruined the night for any punters hoping Ireland would come away with a clean sheet. Besides the annoyance of conceding to the weakest of our opponents in group B,

the combined efforts of Kilbane, Doyle and Keane secured another three points in a 3-1 victory.

At time of print, Ireland tops group B with six points, ahead of Slovakia on goal difference. The question is where we go from here? Never having been a side to win by large margins or lead a group for very long, Ireland has some way to go. But there’s a sense of optimism to be found amid the Ireland camp. This is a good sign as we have

“October will be a pivotal month for Ireland”

often given too much respect to the more successful teams, allowing them to control matches and eventually get a result.

October will be a pivotal month for Ireland’s campaign when we face Russia and Slovakia, both seeded higher than us and teams we are at risk of again giving too much respect to. The deciding factor in these fixtures will be whether Trapattoni continues the slightly freer, attacking play we

have seen so far or if he will revert in caution to the stingy, defensive style that we experienced in the World Cup qualifiers. When first drawn in Group B the consensus was that we got off with an easy draw with Russia being the weakest of the top seeds. However both Il Trap and Tardelli were quick to play this down. They noted there are no easy international teams anymore. But if you look at Russia’s recent defeat to Slovakia at home, the fact that they do not travel well to matches and the uncertainty surrounding their manager Dick Advocaat, it seems we may have been right in our initial thoughts. On the face of it Russia doesn’t seem to be anywhere near a top seed and looks very beatable. If that were to happen, it could very well become a two-horse race between Ireland and Slovakia for the remainder of the campaign as Russia struggles to catch up.

Many will disagree but even four points from our next two fixtures would be a very good result and could go a long way in securing that coveted top position. But then again, I’ve heard complaints already that our current six points from a possible six is only ‘OK’, that we “Could have got more goals”. There’s no pleasing some people.



## Interview

# Big Balloons, Lost Lyrics and a Welsh Breakfast

## Newton Faulkner talks to An Focal

Written by **Kelly O'Brien**

A lot of people have an idol; someone they look up to and admire. Most go their whole lives without meeting this person but last week, I finally met mine. Newton Faulkner is a British born singer/songwriter now based in London. If you're a fan, then you probably went to see him rock the ULSU courtyard in Week One. I caught up with him beforehand.

The term 'cool, calm, collected' suits Faulkner perfectly. Add in a red beard, elbow length dreadlocks and piercing, almost black eyes and then you'll have some sense of the man sat before me. Newton shot to fame after the huge success of his first album 'Hand Built

by Robots' (a title derived from a car advert) which went to UK number one. When questioned about this achievement, Newton remarks on the lack of celebration one would expect to follow a number one album. "When I got the news I was in Wales having breakfast with a mate. I read a text message saying 'Dude, album's @#1'... and I didn't say anything. I just stopped. My mate asked what was wrong and I showed him the message. He said "Oh Wow" and after a few seconds we both just kept on eating. There was no big party or celebration at all."

After a brief stint on the piano, Newton, real name Sam, picked up the guitar at

the tender age of 13. After forming a group called 'Half a Guy' which later disbanded, Newton decided to go solo and began gigging throughout Ireland and the UK. He remarks that in all that time, not once has he played in front of Irish students. "I've played for Irish audiences before in Dublin and Belfast but this will be my first university gig. I'm really looking forward to it."

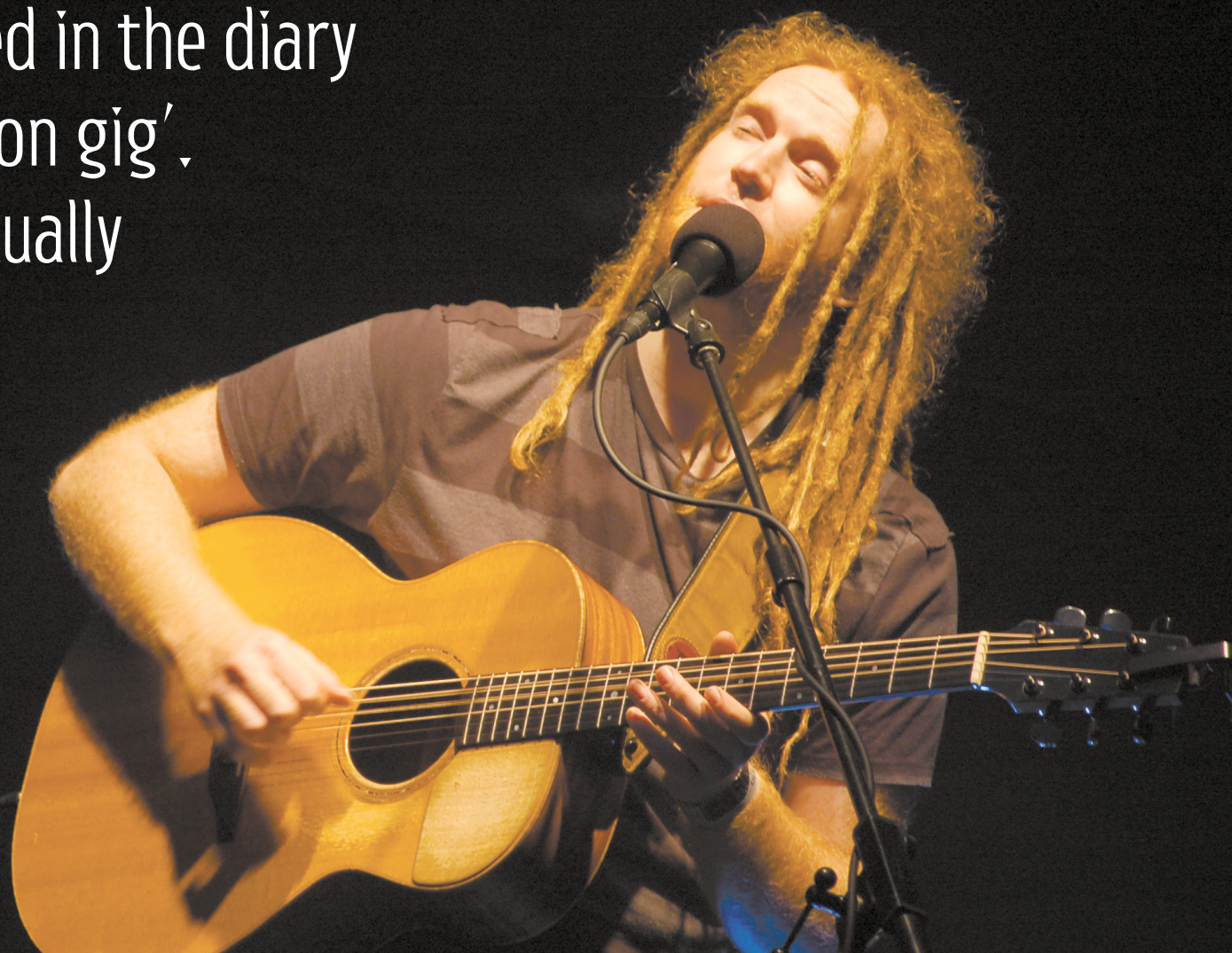
When I enquired about his reasons for making UL his first ever college gig, Newton reveals he has a hard time refusing people. "To be honest I'll play anything that comes up. I'm terrible at saying no. I get myself into some tricky situations that way! I remember this

one time where I looked in the diary and it just said 'balloon gig' and I had no idea what that meant. Turns out it was actually in a hot air balloon. It was crazy. It was quite big actually. When you think of a hot air balloon you picture a little wicker basket with three people in it but it was completely the opposite, it could hold up to sixteen people. And it wasn't bumpy at all, you couldn't feel anything, it was like being a part of the wind."

After following some random talking points for a while, the conversation eventually came back to UL. Newton urges our budding singer/songwriters to practice especially hard at performing

live. He explained. "You could have the best voice in the world. But if you can't pull off a stellar live show then you'll let yourself down. And whatever you do, don't forget your own lyrics! I played a live version of 'Dream Catch Me' and I got the order of the lyrics messed up. Turns out I sang 'Do anything I want, do anyone I wanna do.'" He concluded "I think everyone thought it was deliberate."

"This one time I looked in the diary and it just said 'balloon gig'. Turned out it was actually in a hot air balloon."



Newton Faulkner plays in the SU Courtyard. Image Credit: Mark Delaney

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