

STUDENTS' UNION



an Focal

University of Limerick Students' Union

Exam Results on the Web - the end of queuing for results!

Semester 1
Week 15

Autumn 1996/97

INSIDE

PROGRESSION

FEATURES

CLUBS & SOCS

ENTS

At the end of the first Semester it is not possible to notify students of their results by the time next Semester

their results. This resulted in large queues (tales of queuing for 2 hours were not uncommon), safety problems (queuing on stairways) and

an Intranet). What this means is that from any networked workstation in the University, a student can interrogate their transcript at

Services to look at other services that could use this media. Look out for Term Registrations, Module Registration, correspondence requests etc. This will pro-

FEATURES
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 INTERVIEWS

At the end of the first Semester it is not possible to... starts on February 12. In the past, ITD would dedicate a computer lab to run an application for student to look up



one way to drop "E"

their results. This resulted in longer queues (lines of people) for the printer... (queuing on stairways) and inefficient usage of resources (time, people, equipment). This year ITD is announcing the introduction of a new service that will make this whole process more efficient. ITD has created a WWW (World Wide Web) interface into the Student Record Administrative System (SRAS) for students to interrogate their transcripts. For security reasons, this service will initially be only available within the University (i.e. on

interrogate their transcript of their convenience. Details on how to connect to this service will be on the notice boards in all ITD computer labs on February 17, the first day of the Spring Semester. Student Services will also post out details of this service along with next semester's timetable on February 7. The Corporate Systems support group of ITD will be working closely with Student

Registration, correspondence requests etc. This will provide a better quality service to students, increasing access to services and decreasing the necessity of queuing. Conor Cronin, C.E.O in the Students' Union welcomed this development and congratulated George Hayes, Eamonn Fitzgerald, Martin Leonard and their colleagues in Corporate Systems for their initiative in bringing this to the students.

"I" GRADES

I Grades shall only be awarded where a student:
 - has submitted certifiable evidence of medical and/or psychological illness or immediate family bereavement.

Certification:

- is only valid when it comes via University Health Services / Chaplaincy.
- where a certificate originates outside the University, the student is required to submit the certifi-

cate to the University Health Services Office within five working days of the relevant end of semester examinations.

- Properly completed certificates must be dated and include period of illness / incapacity and the nature of the illness.
- Certification on the ground of family bereavement must come via the Chaplaincy / Health Services and be forwarded to the Student Services Officer

within five working days of the relevant end of semester exams.

ALL I GRADES MUST BE CLEARED NO LATER THAN ANNUAL SPECIAL REPEAT PERIOD FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF I GRADE.

i.e. you cannot progress to the following year if you have an I grade outstanding.

All I Grades will be processed following the annual repeats.

also inside...
 extracts from "The Encyclopaedia of Sex"
 Interview with Michael Noonan, Minister of Health
 the definitive U.L. Student Guide to Academic Survival

INTERVIEWS

pushy, the media...
computer lab to run an appli-
cation for student to look up



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also inside...

extracts from "The Ency

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Open Days

From the people who brought you "Under-resourced library" and "bah Humbug who needs repeats anyway" their latest project, showing for the second time:

"Open Day before Exams"

Picture it an Ivory Tower on U.L. Campus. January 1997. A man in a place of power and his trusty assistant, lets keep them anonymous and refer to them as...Mr. Burns and Smithers. A discourse between them is recorded:

BURNS: "Okay, So they think they got the better of us with their Repeats system eh Smithers ? They think they can mess with us ?
(Smithers nods eagerly)

BURNS:Let's see how they react to this.....(evil cackle)....Let's bring thousands and thousands of their former selves from little secondary schools all over the country , you know the noisy redneck-on-a-day-out type who pretend they're interested in U.L. just because they'll get a day off school and miss double Maths.

(Smithers nods enthusiastically)

BURNS:...oh yes Smithers I can see it all coming together..They'll hate it. Girlies in short, tight uniforms wandering around campus distracting all red-blooded Engineers. a Q.C.A. catastrophe . Coffee queues longer than those for results.tee...hee..hee, I'll make it impossible for anyone to lunch in peace. Oh yes...yes ...yes....

Ok you get the picture. So why did it happen again this year ? Someone please help..

-Anon

Regarding Open-day on the 14/1/97. It is my opinion that the timing for the Open Day is disgraceful. Hordes of Students invading the library, EGO, Journals rooms etc. when people are trying to study is very bad form. Yours extremely pissed off.
Aileen O'Brien.

(Admissions Office - take heed. This is only a small sample of the feedback. - Ed.)

SILKES

11 THOMAS STREET,
LIMERICK

Letters to the Ed.

Smokers - Bandits ?? What IS

The following is a word-for-word transcript of the how the ban on smoking was announced.

"In accordance with Statutory Instrument 359 of 1995 Tobacco (Health Promotion and Protection) Regulations the Executive Board has adopted the policy that the University of Limerick will become a Smoke Free Environment as and from the start of Spring Semester 1997. Further details will follow."

Reads like an obituary, doesn't it ? They may as well have been written ;

"Here lies the right to smoke within the confines of UL, it died on February 17th 1997 - Five months after a Cigarette machine was finally installed in the Canteen."

There are several issues surrounding this problem. The decision was taken at Executive Board (- where we, the students of UL have no representation). How ? Because, the decision to implement such a staunch NO-smoking policy would - technically - only concern the Buildings department, for the element of greater safety and less fire hazards.

Question: Who stands to benefit from this (apart from Buildings and their insurance premium) ??

Answer : Take a look for yourself...

1) Us - As if UL isn't a big enough stress zone, a total ban on smoking is going to have people killing each other around exams.

2) UL Staff - Many of the departments here are understaffed anyway, with a total ban on smoking, I'd cancel appointments with any of your chain smoking lecturers

batical officers this year - all of whom smoke. And yet, with such a blatant infringement of basic social right - we're all sitting back and taking it - without any kind of fight ??

Maybe I'm an idealist, maybe I'm a cynical idealist - but after reading our SU President's article announcing the ban on smoking, I was both disappointed and very annoyed at Mr Doran's attitude to the whole thing.

He beat around the bush, slagged off Ed Walsh and told us that basically because we don't have any say on Executive Board, that's it. Nice one Seamus. This is your chance to assert your leadership qualities, your political oomph - and at the very least your chance to go on a massive power trip.....standing up to the bad guys. (Go on Seamus - Look in the mirror and say "Who'll take my place ??").

Sabbatical posts are not all they're cracked up to be - low pay, screwy hours and you get people like me writing nasty letters, instead of saying "Thanks". But I do not see our SU President doing anything that merits such gratitude. Elaine and friends organised Alcohol Awareness Week, which probably stopped a ban on alcohol consumption in The Stables from being enforced.

(Health Fascism folks -that what we're dealing with). Conor lets this be printed for all of you to read - so, where's Seamus - the great leader ??

Whatever happened to the spirit of revolution around here ?? Did it die in the battle for repeats ?? No. As pointed out earlier, this is one issue that affects EVERYONE (whatever the department!) ...

- Robert O'Meara

In Reply:

There are a number of issues in the above article that I would like to deal with. Firstly there is the issue of the smoking ban in UL. Everyone has a right to take whatever they like from any article that I write and if you are annoyed, so be it. The article in question was written less than half an hour after I first heard of the ban myself and just before that issue of "An Focal" was due to go to print so I did not have the time to consider a full response to the ban. The article which I wrote was just intended to announce the ban to UL students. Despite what is implied in the above article I have not let the issue rest and I have been working on it since.

However since the author of the above article did not raise the issue of the smoking ban at the Students' Union General Meeting which took place a week after my article was printed he mustn't have taken the issue too seriously at the time. This leads me to believe that his article has an agenda other than the smoking ban.

This becomes clear in the second half of his article which is nothing more than a personal attack on me. The author of the article, Robert O'Meara has said that I have done nothing in my term of office that merits gratitude. I could reply to this in a number of ways. I could start by pointing out that the cigarette machine in the canteen, which you mentioned in the start of your article, is there

I should "y and ask w place" - if would ask you see th Robert and agenda b attack in y stand over position wh

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Answer: Take a look for yourself...

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2) UL Staff - Many of the departments here are understaffed anyway, with a total ban on smoking, I'd cancel appointments with any of your chain smoking lecturers if I were you - every day will be a bad day.

Campbell Catering: Okay - less smoke in their workplace, but you can bet that there will be a dramatic drop in their revenue from Tobacco sales, which I can't imagine them being ecstatic about.

Now - we have not one, not two, but three different groups there, who could finally be united on one issue (and work together against it). We also have three sab-

we don't have any say on Executive Board, that's it. Nice one Seamus. This is your chance to assert your leadership qualities, your political oomph - and at the very least your chance to go on a massive power trip.....standing up to the bad guys. (Go on Seamus - Look in the mirror and say "Who'll take my place ??").

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Whatever happened to the spirit of revolution around here?? Did it die in the battle for repeats?? No. As pointed out earlier, this is one issue that affects EVERYONE (whatever the department!) in UL. And now that the implementation date has been changed from January 1st to February 17th

- lets use that to our advantage.

One more question. After February, when Dr Tony Ryan or Lewis & Loretta Glucksman stop by to see how their library is coming along, whose going to tell them - the millionaire tycoons;

- "Extinguish that Panama cigar!"? Go Figure.

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What IS going on ??

I should "Look in the mirror and ask who will take my place" - if I was cynical I would ask myself whether you see this being yourself Robert and if this is the real agenda behind the cheap attack in your article. I will stand over my record in this position which the students of

UL entrusted to me last year to anyone who wants to come down to my office to question me on it. I will not however accord the same to someone who cheaply attacks me in an article laced with personal agendas.

- Séamus Doran.

O p e n D a y s

From the people who brought you "Under-resourced library" and "bah Humbug who needs repeats anyway" their latest project, showing for the second time:

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SILKES

11 THOMAS STREET,
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Interview

An Focal Term 1 Week 15

What is the
National Alcohol
Policy and how
does it tie in
with ULSU
Alcohol
Awareness
Week?

Cian

McCormack

spoke to **Michael**

Noonan,

Minister of

Health for **An**

Focal.



AF

What is the National Alcohol Policy Document about?

MN

Well, I think we are only the second country in Europe that has such a Policy. It addresses all the difficulties that people have with alcohol and like yourselves at your awareness week it provides moderate drinking rather than abstinence. Alcohol is a good thing if used in moderation but lots of people use the drink badly and when it is used to excess it is seriously damaging someone's health.

So can you tell me what the Policy Document's aims and goals are?

To make people conscious of the relationship between alcohol and ill health, and then to encourage people that if they are drinking to drink more moderately and to be aware of the fact that alcohol can damage one's heart. Certain cancer is related to alcohol, but what astounds a lot of people is the statistics that out of 25,000 persons in our psychiatric hospitals in any one year about 3,500 of them are there as a result of over use of alcohol.

Do you think that certain sections of this Document are applicable to students themselves?

Yes, they are. I think that the general message is very important but as well as that we did a survey of the 18-25 year olds and they tended to drink on a regular basis. A college student drank more than young people at work. Also we found out that mixing alcoholic drinks, which is a very bad practice, was a common practice among college students and some engaged in the

"I would laud what you are doing and encourage you to continue because moderate drinking can be very pleasant and enjoyable and sociable but excessive drinking causes all sorts of health difficulties."

practice of mixing drinks deliberately intending to become drunk quickly. So it is quite clear that among some young people there is excessive drinking and some young people are showing signs of early alcoholism already. I would laud what you are doing and encourage you to continue because moderate drinking can be very pleasant and enjoyable and sociable but excessive drinking causes all sorts of health difficulties.

To those students who drink in excess what would you see as the dangers and health risks of alcohol to them?

Various depressions and psychiatric problems first of all. Secondly then as they move through their 20's they would become dependant on the drug which is alcohol and they would become alcoholics and have to have intensive treatment before they could quit the habit. As well as that of course, it makes a very large whole in your pocket. In later life people who drink to excess right through their lives are risking a whole lot of illnesses which persons who drink moderately or do not drink at all are not risking.

So finally Minister do you think the idea of an Alcohol Awareness Week is an idea that could be practised by other third level institutions in Ireland?

Yes, I think is a very good idea because it is difficult enough at a National level or a Health Board level to get the attention of young people in colleges but I think that college students themselves through Students Unions will get the kind of attention that is necessary and young people are likely to listen to their peers than anybody else.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Award Equivalent</u>	<u>Quality Point Value (QPV)</u>	<u>Credits Awarded</u>
A1	First Honours	4.00	Yes
A2	First Honours	3.60	Yes
B1	Honours 2.1	3.20	Yes
B2	Honours 2.1	3.00	Yes
B3	Honours 2.2	2.80**	Yes
C1	Pass	2.60	Yes
C2	Pass	2.40	Yes
C3	Pass	2.00	Yes
D1	Compensating Fail	1.60	Yes
D2	Compensating Fail	1.20	Yes
F	Fail	0.00	No
NG	Fail	0.00	No
G	Audit -		No
I	Certified Illness/Immediate Family Bereavement		No




Need a study desk? We found them all stacked up nice and neatly away from the grubby paws and pencils of students. Let students use them? Perish the thought!

THE ONLY PLACE WE'RE GOING IS UP!

It's that time of year again when you are trying to make the grade. Hopefully you will make as much progress as WIRED103FM is! Tirelessly continuing to broadcast throughout the break from our newly opened studio at the RTC in Moylish, programmes will be even more diverse and varied with our new crew members willing and able to get involved. You too can give your time and opinions to WIRED, after all it is your radio. In your time out tune in and be part of the success whether it be chat, hip-hop, dance, indie, or cupla focal - 103 is the frequency to be on. The first two weeks of the break will see normal broadcasting schedule continue, with the same mixture of chat from 4pm to 7pm and non-stop music from 7pm to 10pm. The week before ULers come back will be RTC Rag week and broadcasting hours will be extended. We will only be taking a few hours to sleep during this week and you can find all you want from 8am to 3am Monday right through to Saturday on your very own WIRED 103 FM. The one and only student radio for Limerick. Hope the exams went well or at least, went! Enjoy the break!

TUNE IN AND GET TURNED ON



wired

1 0 3 • F M
STUDENT RADIO FOR LIMERICK

APHRODIZIAC FOR THE EAR

Extracts from "The Encyclopaedia of Sex"

Alcohol

Dorothy Parker once famously remarked: 'One more drink and I'll be under the host'.

A further revelation concerning the connection between alcohol and physical intimacy was provided by John B. Keane in *The Power of the World*: 'Of course I'm a heavy drinker,' wrote the Irish playwright. 'Even as a baby I was a nipple tippler.' The objection that the young Keane's behaviour may have been in some way unusual is overruled by evidence from a children's hospital in Norwich in 1632 which suggests that the average child there consumed up to two gallons of beer per week.

Anililagnia

Nothing to do with the anus, anililagnia is sexual attraction experienced by young men for older women.

Armpits

A tradition in Newfoundland, Canada, says that to capture the heart of a lover one must take an apple, stab it all over and then wear it in the left armpit before giving it to the object of the affections.

Arse

In America, the phrase 'Kiss my ass' (or arse) indicates anger. In occult tradition, however, the osculum infame is the name for the practice of kissing the arse of the devil as part of an initiation. In Shakespeare's *Henry VI Part II* the French Dauphin is referred to as Monsieur Basimecu, an obvious pun on the French baise mon cul, meaning 'kiss my arse'.

Autoassassinatophilia

The sexual gratification gained by the staging or imagining of one's own murder.

Desire

The word pheromone comes from the Greek pherein, to carry, and horman, to excite. Pheromones govern many of the body's responses to smell and are said to be the reason why females spending a lot of time together often end up with the same menstrual cycle.

Aidoiomania means an abnormal desire for sex, from the Greek words meaning vulva and madness.

According to the poet William Blake (1757-1827): 'Those who restrain Desire, do so because theirs is weak enough to be restrained.'

The Irish name Connor or Conor means 'high desire.'

Droop

Brewer's Droop is the slang term for a man's inability to achieve an erection due to excessive consumption of alcohol.

A cure for drooping breasts was offered by Rennie MacAndrew in 1928 in *Life Long Love: Healthy Sex and Marriage*; '...a good tip for the wife with fallen breasts is what might be called the Right Arm Trick. The arm is brought up under the bosom so as to raise it and make it firm. This makes the husband feel he is in the arms of a young girl with firm breasts, thus taking him back in memory to the happy early married days.'