

FOOD



We Want Grades!

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We Want Grades!

University of Limerick
Students' Union Newspaper

Inside:

News and letters
Ents Preview
Clubs and Societies
+ Lots More

Hilary 1 1992 Monday 20th January

1,000 Protest at Exam Results Freeze

Friday, Week 1, saw 1,000 students assembled for an E.G.M. to discuss and protest the failure of staff to process and forward exam results, withheld as industrial action in an ongoing dispute between the M.S.F. Union and the University authorities.

The dispute in question concerns the failure of the University authorities to implement a Labour Court Recommendation which would bring the grading structure for administrative and secretarial staff in line with that of the other colleges. (See below for further background details)

The assembly listened to the University Registrar, Dr. P.L. Colgan as he explained that "progress was slow but hopefully in the pipelines" and claimed that the University management "were the jam in the sandwich between M.S.F.F. and the Government's P.E.S.P cutbacks". M.S.F. were represented by Alan Hegarty who

clearly pointed the finger at U.L. management style, blaming them for having left M.S.F. with no option other than strike action. He claimed that it was indeed ironic that despite the Registrar's claim that there

as pawns in a dispute that was not of our own making. He coyly suggested that management were to carry some of the blame - in their attitude and manner of handling industrial relations on campus and for allowing them to sink to the lowly level they are currently at. He voiced concern that if students did not openly cry "Stop Now!" we might be faced with a bigger crisis at exam time. He then read out a resolution proposed by the Sabbatical Officers"

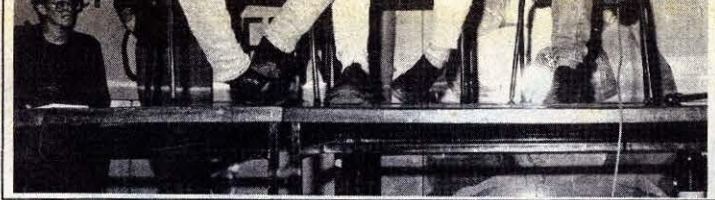
The Union "condemns outright the cynical victimisation of students in an industrial dispute between U.L. management and M.S.F. We support the governing body position in that we are sympathetic to the plight of University staff

how just the cause and further warn management and all parties concerned that this Students' Union will use every available public opportunity now and in the future to highlight the injustices that are being perpetrated on us by this actions or actions of this kind."

Mr. Croffy went on to identify a number of options open to the student body including the withholding of this year's second fee instalment, possible legal action (suing the college authorities for breach of contract, in that the service of exam results has been paid for. Mr Croffy assured the assembly that the Students' Union's solicitors would be consulted as to the viability of this option) or lastly, peaceful protest.

This latter option was promptly taken on board and the 1,000-strong contingent made their way to the Foundation building, where





4th Education Students Boycott Exam

Under the advice of Mr Billy Kirwin, S.U. Transition Officer, a number of 4th Education students refused to sit one of their exams.

The exam had been scheduled for Thursday of Week 10 but due to the strike being carried out by Academic Staff it failed to take place.

According to Mr Kirwin a notice was put up on Tuesday of Week 11 stating that the exam had been rescheduled for the following Thursday. By this stage, however, many of the class had gone home or gone on their preliminary teaching visits and could not be contacted.

Mr Kirwin told An Focal that he received a number of phonecalls from students in the class who were concerned about the

situation. Due to the unavailability of the lecturer involved, Mr Raphael Ryan, he made his way to the exam room to outline the situation and advise them 'not to go in'. Mr Kirwin then told the students that 'then the exam could be rescheduled in January easier!'

Speaking on behalf of the Student Services, Ms Breda Sheehan said that it was "unacceptable for students to determine not to sit an exam". She told An Focal that although there may have been some confusion she 'was not impressed with the S.U. representatives' actions and that at a minimum the

at U.L. management style, blaming them for having left M.S.F. with no option other than strike action. He claimed that it was indeed ironic that despite the Registrar's claim that there "was goodwill on all sides", an assembly of students were the first to know just where the current negotiations with the Government departments were at, while M.S.F. were kept in the dark.

Colm Croffy, Student Union President was next to address the throng. He aired his concern that the students were being victimised

Student Services could have been approached and something could have been sorted out. It was not the way to handle the situation and was very unreasonable'.

Ms Sheehan also said that the S.U. President, Mr Colm Croffy, 'was briefed about exams previously as were the class reps' and that he was happy with these arrangements. As to the boycott however, she said that 'neither he nor I knew beforehand'.

Mr. Croffy stated that although the manner in which the action was taken was a little 'unorthodox', given the situation there was not much else to do'.

outright the cynical victimisation of students in an industrial dispute between U.L., management and M.S.F. We support the governing body position in that we are sympathetic to the plight of University staff and call upon the government departments, U.L. management and M.S.F. to speedily resolve the issue, in the light that this dispute has its origins in Labour Court Recommendation of 1983

We urge M.S.F. to desist from victimising students in their campaigns, no matter

would be consulted as to the viability of this option) or lastly, peaceful protest.

This latter option was promptly taken on board and the 1,000-strong contingent made their way to the Foundation building, where it was understood the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr Des O'Malley was due to arrive for the "Topping Out Ceremony"

A protest that was distinctly light-hearted in character ensued. After graciously thanking Dr. Walsh for the use of his front lawn, Deputy President

Substandard Toilet Facilities

An Focal has received several reports about the conditions of ladies toilets in the college, and more specifically as to the substandard condition of the sanitary towel dispensers in operation there. The machines take 25p per towel and as most are broken or empty, women at the college cannot rely on them. Some of the women interviewed by An Focal were of the view that a survey on the matter of women's facilities would be in order.

S.U. Deputy President, Welfare and Education Officer, Donal Waide had this to say of the situation: "In a University where relevance and excellence are two key-words, it is a disgrace that even the most simple of jobs cannot be carried out efficiently. Students have enough stress and basic hygiene is a necessity." Mr Waide telephoned Noonan Cleaners, the people responsible for the upkeep of the college toilet facilities, with a message to this effect only to be treated as a hoax call.

News



Donal Waide incited the crowd to a heavy chant: "WE WANT GRADES, WE WANT GRADES"

The principal objective of national coverage was ensured when

The R.T.E. News crew arrived. Over the raucous cries of one thousand students who, in the eyes of the initiated may have appeared quite gleeful to be without their results, Colm Croffy gave a short interview

made. These recommendations were implemented in part last year when non-pensionable allowances were introduced. M.S.F. pressed for full implementation and a return to the Labour Court to discuss same. There was disagreement between both sides as to the scope of this discussion and M.S.F. issued strike notice in response to what they considered an "abuse of the conciliation process".

Current Update

As we go to press, the official line from M.S.F., the union representing the majority of staff at the college, is that results will not be processed and forwarded until the dispute with management is settled to the satisfaction of the

union. The University management had, according to Mairead Byrne, the University's Press Officer, a significantly improved offer to make to M.S.F. including the restructuring of job grades. A compromise solution between U.L. and

the Department of Education has been agreed regarding payment of allowances, but there are still some difficulties with the Department of Finance as regards approval of a remedy acceptable to M.S.F.

Open Day



appeared quite gleeful to be without their results, Colm Croffy gave a short interview as to the nature of the Student body's grievances.

Background to the dispute

In 1983, following a Labour Court Recommendation, the I.P.C. was commissioned by the University to undertake a joint Management/Union survey of the University's secretarial and administrative grading structures. Six years later, the I.P.C. survey commenced operation and a number of recommendations were

response to what they considered an "abuse of the conciliation process". The strike went ahead on November 28 despite negotiations on the 26th and 27th, where management advised the Union that it had been instructed by the relevant government departments to cease payment of the interim non-pensionable allowances pending the resolution of the strike claim. The withholding of the results is the latest piece of industrial action attaching to the same dispute.

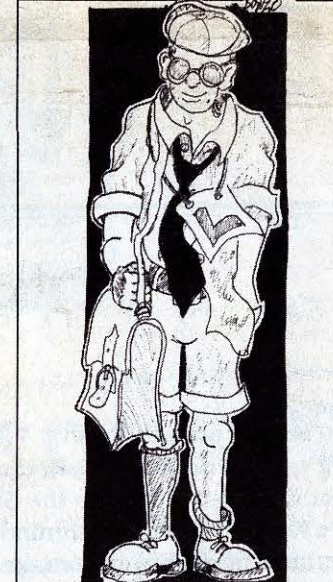
Open Day

Last Wednesday saw the arrival of 1,650 Leaving Cert. Students on campus for a pre-college open day. The students come from 850 schools all over the country to hear about U.L.'s Science, Engineering and Technology courses.

Mr. Barry Sharkey, who welcomed the students, told An Focal that the visit was split in two parts. The first was a tour of the University's

laboratories where our visitors saw practical and experimental demonstrations related to the different academic disciplines. The second was a "free flow" operation where they met faculty members and gained theoretical insight to the areas of study.

Mr Sharkey said that some 80 faculty staff were involved in "Operation Open Day".



Lit Split

After much in-fighting among the committee members of the Lit & Phil, it was announced at Wednesday's meeting that an alternative society is to be formed - the University of Limerick Parliamentary Debating Society.

Diarmuid Scully, in a prepared speech to the Lit & Phil stated that there were two groups in the society with diametrically opposed objectives and thus it could no longer continue in its present form. In a voice that was positively trembling with emotion, he informed the

assembly of the formation of the University of Limerick Parliamentary Debating Society.

The aim of this society, he stated, was to carry out some serious debates, something he felt that could no longer be done within the structure of the Lit & Phil.

The four founder, and to date only, members of the U.L.P.D.S. are Mr Scully himself, John McElligott, Derek Sheehan and Pat Hannafin.

The rank and file of the Lit & Phil were as a unit, unmoved by Mr Scully's proclamation, and sniggers and guffaws could be heard throughout. After the conclusion of the statement the four members left. John Maguire, newly elected auditor of the Lit & Phil, stated that the "split" would not affect the society, that while the "rats" had in fact left, the "ship" would never sink.

Sean Dwyer (head of the Cork Soc. and also a prominent member of the Lit & Phil) stated that he intends joining the new society and that others will also do so. However judging from last Wednesday's audience reaction, I would have to declare his prognosis doubtful.

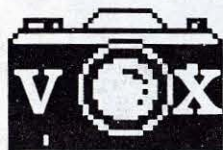
In a separate movement the Law Society has stated its plans to increase its number of debates so that now, in theory at least, U.L. has three such societies. Whether the U.L.P.D.S. can survive without money support of the Students' Union and just a handful of members is - open to debate!

Intervarsity Marred by Theft

A suitcase was reported stolen in Krank's Corner at 3.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 8th January. The suitcase, which contained a sleeping bag, was stolen from David Miller who was debating on behalf of D.C.U. in the Lit & Phil Intervarsity debate that Wednesday. The theft which has caused considerable upset and inconvenience to Mr. Miller, was reported to Henry St. Garda Station on the following Saturday. A member of the Gardai told An Focal that there has been no further developments and that they were looking into the matter.

Features

Ed: *To raise lots of money and spend lots of money.*



Sean O Grady: *"Train like a bastard to make the Irish team for the para-olympics in Barcelona in September in the shotput and discus. Set a new Irish record in the shotput."*



New Year's



Breda Sheehan: *"To ensure that there isn't the same state of chaos next year"*



Hugh Dockery: *"To tune into.....?"*

Where the Bong Tree Gro

"You're listening to County Vibes FM and coming up now is the Daw Doctor's splendid cover of Ewe Two's "Where the Sheep Have No Name". Keep that tractor humming baby". The bus gathers momentum. I shake my head in disbelief and gaze out the window at the fields now being vigorously whipped into a verderous blur. ".....I WANTS TO RUN, I WANTS TO HIDE.....". no legroom. I had to assume the foetal position with my nose pressed firmly into my navel. Mauuuuughhhh. Missus, if I could do this in the privacy of my own home, I'd never leave the house. ".....TEARS DOWN THE WALLS OF THE HENHOUSE OUTSIDE..." The elderly lady seated next to me, deftly rotates a rosary in one hand while the other presses a photograph into my face of the gall stone she had removed in '87. ".....TAKE SHELTER IN BORRISKANE..." "Would you like to join me in a decade of the rosary?", she enquires. ".....WHERE THE SHEEP HAVE NO NAME..." I wake up screaming.

What is it about travelling by coach? My experiences of it are far removed from those presented by fanciful chewing gum adverts on television. I'd sooner blacken my arse with coal dust and go bollick naked like a heathen through a garden fete for retired nuns before I'd believe all I see on television. I can't say I've ever turned around in my seat and offered a strange woman

my wriggly or for that matter had my passage blocked by a combine harvester. that kind of thing doesn't happen on Mutt Eireann. People just don't have the courage to initiate intercourse with their neighbour. Granny Gallstone excepted.

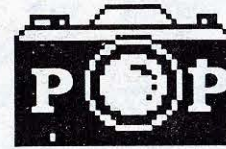
But what has always impressed me with people on buses is their inexplicable capacity to endure great suffering over an extended period. They could sit with a splintered broom handle nestled between their bare buttocks and still force one of those inane "Sure, we all have our own little cross to bear" smiles that we Irish are famed for. They never complain. they rely on the One with the resolve to take matters in hand. The One who will shatter, not out of personal discomfort, but through fear, fear of being demented by shiny, happy people beaming those shit-eating grimaces for the entirety of the trip. It's always me.

I shamble up the narrow aisle toward the front of the bus with as much grace and dignity as a human tripod can muster (you try walking with a broom handle up your arse). The bus driver's face is a hard boiled shite. A sympathetic soul would submit that his countenance is the canvas on which the image of stressful years and the mammoth burden of having the ultimate responsibility for passenger safety is painted. Me, I'd say that as an infant this hooor was either weaned on lemons or breast-fed by his father. "Excuse me, am, a

number of passengers are complaining of broom handles up their botties, would you mind turning them off please?" "Gruuggh," he acknowledges. "I suppose they'll want the thumb-screws removed as well?" "Oh, that would be lovely, when you have a chance." returning to my seat, I see the relief on their faces and hear the occasional mumble of gratitude as I pass by. Useless jaysus bastards the lot of them.

Then there's the last of God's deadly pestilences, toddlers. A word of warning. Never, ever encourage them, no matter how cute and adorable, while the bus is in motion. I recall an incident had with a child no more than two years old, (stop now, I'm not that kind of boy), cute as a button she was, wispy hair like candy floss and a smile that would light up a room. She waved at me. I replied in kind by swaying my head from side to side, gurgling, drooling and leering; you know thee usual antics of a bleary-eyed drunk perched atop a Thursday night barstool trying his utmost to impress a member of the opposite sex. She jumped up and down in gleeful innocence. I bobbed up and down in my seat. She jumped. I bobbed. She jumped. I bobbed. She stopped. Her face blanched. Her smile turned to a frown and then she puked, not just a toddler-sized vomit but this dirty, big tsunami wave of ralph that would sweep away a bamboo village in the Far East. Man, was I impressed. I hadn't seen anything like this since "The Exorcist".

Resolutions



Features



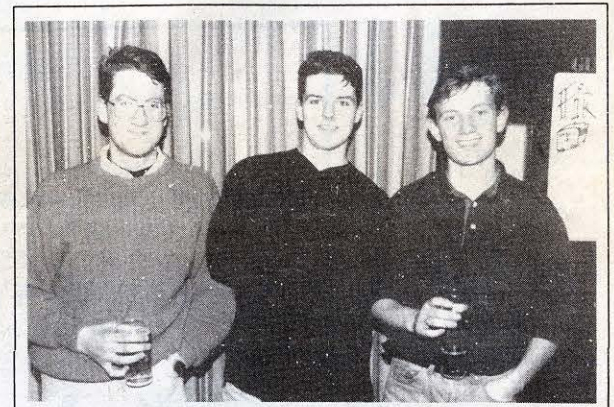
Ger Buckley: "To do as little as possible"

Jason Hogan: "To form a meaningful overnight relationship with a female student"



Jim Morrison
"More of the same"

Left to right:
Charlie: "To win the greyhound derby",
John Barry: "Stay HIV.",
Seamus Smith: "To be faithful to my girlfriend ha ha".



Jim Morrison
"More of the same"



HIV.", Seamus
Smith: "To be faithful to my girlfriend ha ha".



WS

She candy-coated her father like an M & M. In a moment of rapture, I stood up and shouted "Go on Babe, spin your head for Papa!!!" Wrap that memory in KodaColor Gold Daddyo.

At our journey's end, having braved radio stations, music for swinging swamp people, gall stones from hell and exploding children, I would like if I may, take you on a trip into the deepest reaches of Hades; the storage area underneath the coach.

I have on good authority, a tale of a petite young lass who, having clambered in to one of these regions to retrieve her belongings as her coach paused at the O'Connell Bridge in Dublin, found the luggage doors being closed firmly behind her by the driver. He, not content with incarcerating her in total darkness, returned to his seat and sped on to Bus aras. Now as a Kerryman I would think myself more conditioned than most to the extremes of human ineptitude. But that one, that one caught me off guard. I dunno. Sometimes I awake in the night and shed a tear for humanity.

Before I leave you, did you ever notice that the "fada" over the E in Eireann on the left side of the bus looks like something the Red Setter has just deposited. have a good look the next time.

John the Baptist

StablesClub

Welcome back to all Stables Club members after the Christmas break especially to all the returning co-op students - we hope you don't find re-orientation too strenuous!

ENTS WEEKS 4 and 5

Week 4

Tuesday- Porterboys

Thursday - Paul malone

Friday - Chris

Week 5

Tuesday -Nuttin Yet

Thursday - Shantytown

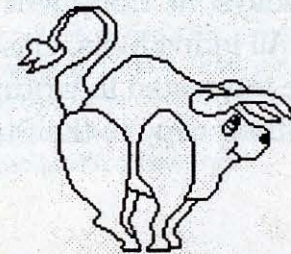
Friday - Kevin Sullivan

SPONSORSHIP

The Stables sponsorship fund has still got a few pence left so any clubs, societies etc. looking for money should obtain an application form from Michele O'Dwyer (Stables, 1-2 Wednesday and Friday) or Colm Croffy (S.U. any time!) completed forms should be accompanied by a cover letter and given to either Colm, Michele, Donal, Declan or Brendan as early as possible - before the remaining money is allocated.

BOOKINGS

Anybody who wants to book the Stables for a meal/function can get booking forms from the Stables Club barstaff. Forms must be submitted at least a week/10 days before the required date. So, if you have a 21st, a class party, a visiting team or



La Vache Qui Rit

Salut, la Vache qui Rit est de retour! Nous vous souhaitons une tres bonne annee et plein de petits a la fin d'annee (joke).

N'oubliez pas la food-fair la semaine prochaine pour celebrer notre retour a tous. N'hesitez surtout pas a mettre la main a la pate!

A tres bientot!

Editorial

"We Want A's", roared my neighbour, a merry quip so typical of the witty characters I like to keep in my company. His shout rang out with 999 others on Friday of Week 1 when we all gathered to illustrate the absolute tizzy we were in when we found ourselves without our print-outs. I met with many disillusioned students who were still wrestling with doubts as to whether Santa existed, the Christmas break

having gone by without any knowledge of their current Q.C.A.

In truth, a majority of the student body can afford to have their academic status put on hold. The most pressing issue facing the Students' Union is a settlement with the college authorities, as regards the organisational machinery that will accommodate those who will need to repeat when the results are released, without

forfeiting their co-op

placements or "academic time".

The protest was illustrative of a solidarity that was more "social" than productive, and it affirmed the prominent standing the Students' Union has achieved among the exam-crazed student throng, albeit the issue in question actually attaches to exams!

Furthermore, the principal objective of national coverage was ensured when the R.T.E. News crew arrived. Their greeting was a rousing chorus of "Charlie

Bird, Charlie Bird, Charlie Bird." The same fellow promptly collared one Colm Croffy for a short interview as to the nature of the Student body's grievances. The singing didn't end there: Dessie O'Malley's conspicuous absence was responded to en masse with a short song, the lyrics of which suggested, in no uncertain terms that the Minister in question was in ownership of a Lada.

Keep your wits aboutcha tout le monde and remember to go see MIDSUM!

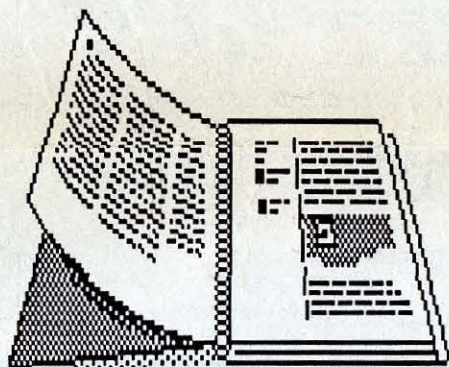
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Semesterisation Debate Underway

The Semesterisation issue is

outright. Many felt that poor debate and



We are always looking for people to help with **an Focal**. We need to fill 16 tabloid pages every fortnight.

Please come along to our weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 1.00pm in the Deputy President's Office. All individuals, classes, Clubs & Societies, who are interested in writing for **an Focal** should submit their copy to the Student Union Office.



**Deadline for next issue:
Tuesday 28th January:**

Semesterisation Debate Underway

The Semesterisation issue is live again - and it's official! Class reps were told at their first meeting of the term last Tuesday night, that the University had to revisit the question of its current system before summer - and that the Students' Union would have to declare a position on the matter.

Semesterisation (basically whether we would have two terms with two sets of exams rather than the current three terms and three exam weeks) last reared its head, just as the University was granted its status about three years ago, when faculty and staff governors lobbied for support for a phased restructuring of the academic calendar.

Having won the support of every faculty board and Academic Council, they reached a final stumbling block of Governing Body, where an "independent" consultant's report was drawn up to assist Dr. Walsh in advising the governors on the matter.

The Students' Union held a referendum on the issue on the same day as a disaffiliation ballot and membership rejected the idea

outright. Many felt that poor debate and insufficient information, made students make a muddled choice.

The Governing Body agreed at the time to revisit the question prior to their term of office ending and the Students' Union will naturally have to decide whether or not to support the issue.

S.U. President Colm Ctem as it is! roffy told An Focal "that whether the Governors were debating the issue or not - what students want out of a University education is more important."

"I personally would support the move outright to radically alter our calendar and I think semesterisation would make more sense. I hear students complaining about "the system" here and the lack of time for Club and Society involvement, the pressure etc., etc. I often say, "But we as a Union politically support the system as it is!" and they just laugh. At last we have a chance again to change our stance!

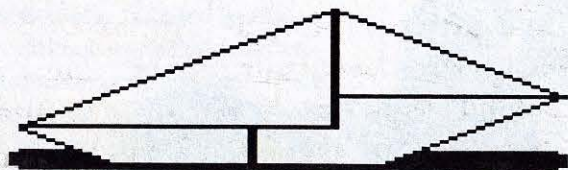
When asked what will happen if students actually reject the idea of changing the system again, he replied, "The Officers on Governing Body will vote as mandated - but one way or another people will be making a properly informed choice this time out."

Right of Reply

An Focal sees its role as a medium for the dissemination of information and opinion, which readers may require and enjoy.

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

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



The world according to you

Letters

The Men from Kerry

Dear Sir,

I feel it necessary to comment on the role of Kerry men in our college as it is a deep and meaningful in my eyes.

Firstly when they arrive to the "Big city" little do they know what layeth ahead of them. They have never used city buses and prefer to leg it from the railway station to the college whereupon they find it necessary to disrupt an innocent bystander as to where they're staying.

Secondly, the rubbish they generate and leave behind them 'ere they go is amazing. To observe such an act while not a rare thing

is often quite disturbing therefore it is highly recommended not to do so on your own.

Thirdly, and finally Kerry men are like a creed on their own. Their unique dress and culture holding them aloof from all the rest, their native tongue bring the most obvious isolating factor.

So, when one meets a Kerry man on campus do show your more humane side and try to be tolerable - Remember God loves us all no matter how diverse!!!

Yours sincerely
2nd Wood Technology

What our Dreaming Spires, Requires.

Dear Editor,

I am writing with reference to a letter featured in your issue of Michaelmas 4 18th November last, written by Mr. James Hurley (4th Elec Eng.). He made some excellent points about the semesterisation system in our University:

1. 2 terms instead of 3
2. A repeat exam system whereby students are given the opportunity to repeat 1 or 2 exams at the end of the year, rather than repeating the full year.
3. A studied revision of course content and course structure.

It is true that changes such as above may take an appreci-

able amount of time (a number of years) but could be phased in quite smoothly.

In my view the system of education at present here in U.L. is an excellent system. This definitely (sic) does not mean that it could not be improved upon both in the curricula and extra-curricula domains. Clubs and Societies should be as much a part of University life as Lectures and Tutorials. With more open minds, the ability to see the need for improvement, and the energy to set this in motion this University could go further along its road of "Excellence and Relevance".

I think that the letter written by Mr. Hurley showed that the

students in this college have got a tremendous amount to offer this system if given the chance. The system proposed in his letter if implemented, would allow for an even more valuable input from the students from all departments and nationalities (i.e. Erasmus students) to the University as a whole.
Yours Sincerely,
Joseph Duigan.
Postgrad in Electronic Eng.

Secondly, the rubbish they generate and leave behind them 'ere the go is amazing. To observe such an act while not a rare thing

Remember God loves us all no matter how diverse!!!

Yours sincerely
2nd Wood Technology

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Postgrad in Electronic Eng.

WEEKEND COACH SERVICE



LIMERICK - CORK - LIMERICK
SUNDAY NIGHTS FROM LIMERICK TO CORK



DEPART:	GEORGE HOTEL	5.20 p.m.
	PATRICKSWELL	5.40 "
	CROOM <i>TEXACO GARAGE</i>	5.50 "
	BANOUE	5.55 "
	ROURKES CROSS	6.00 "
	CHARLEVILLE <i>ESB SHOP</i>	6.05 "
	BALLYHEA	6.10 "
	BUTTEVANT <i>THE CHURCH</i>	6.15 "
	TWIN - TWO POT HOUSE	6.22 "
	MALLOW	6.30 "
	CORK	7.00 "

SUNDAY NIGHT RETURN FROM CORK TO LIMERICK

Stopping at: Mary Immaculate College : S.O.P.S. : Moylish College : University of Limerick

DEPART:	CORK	7.35 p.m.
	<i>St. Patrick's Quay (Behind Metropole Hotel).</i>	
	MALLOW	8.05 "
	TWIN - TWO POT HOUSE	8.14 "
	BUTTEVANT	8.20 "
	BALLYHEA	8.27 "
	CHARLEVILLE <i>ESB SHOP</i>	8.30 "
	O'ROURKES CROSS	8.35 "
	BONOUE	8.40 "
	CROOM	8.45 "
	PATRICKSWELL	8.55 "

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: TELEPHONE: 061 - 378119 / 316699 ANYTIME

Coach Ad

WEEKEND COACH SERVICE

LIMERICK - CORK

FARE *£6.00* Return maximum
FRIDAYS: (Lunchtime Service)

DEPART:	UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK (A18)	1.00 p.m.
	MOYLISH	1.15 "
	S.O.P.S. (St. Josephs Church)	1.25 "
	MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE	1.30 "
	RAHEEN CHURCH	1.40 "

FRIDAY EVENINGS : LIMERICK TO CORK

DEPART:	S.O.P.S. (St. Josephs Church)	4.30 p.m.
	MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE	4.40 "
	MOYLISH	4.50 "
	CLARE ST.	5.05 "
	UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK	5.20 "
	RAHEEN	5.50 "
	PATRICKSWELL	5.55 "
	CROOM	6.05 "
	BONOUE	6.10 "
	ROURKES CROSS	6.15 "
	CHARLEVILLE	6.20 "
	BALLYHEA	6.25 "
	BUTTEVANT	6.30 "
	TWIN - TWO POT HOUSE	6.40 "
	MALLOW	6.45 "
	CORK	7.15 "

FRIDAYS: CORK TO LIMERICK

(1) DEPART:	REGIONAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE	5.10 p.m.
	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK	5.30 "
	<i>(Jail Road)</i>	
	ST. PATRICKS QUAY	5.45 "
	<i>(To Limerick)</i>	
(2) DEPART:	ST. PATRICKS QUAY	7.35 p.m.
	<i>(To Limerick)</i>	

ENTS



The Little Fish

Hailing from Galway, their debut single was "The Long Grass" which was accompanied by a very humorous video, shown regularly on "The Beat Box". Their second single, "Patsy Clein", was released in November 1989. Their third single, "Waiting that I Hate", was the one that brought the band into the top thirty and appearances on "Puirini" and "Nighthawks" followed. Their latest single is "Goodbye", out on Solid Records.

The Little Fish play the Parkway on Thursday, January 23, along with three discos. Admission is £3 (no advance tickets).

Thursday 30th January will see two



The Joshua Trio

Rock meets comedy at the Hurlers bar, on Wednesday 29th January where U.L.S.U. Ents will be bringing you the Joshua Trio, The Joshua Trio were put on this earth to take the piss out of U2.. Their career is dotted with mock-pious tributes to ewe two including a "Free Adam Clayton campaign" around the time he was caught with hash, pilgrimages to their studios, an arrival to the Baggot Inn by donkey, "U2 saved my life", interviews and mock blood. They are, in fact, totally hilarious so don't miss them - it's free, and the whole show kicks off at 9p.m.with a surprise package support, St. James Band.

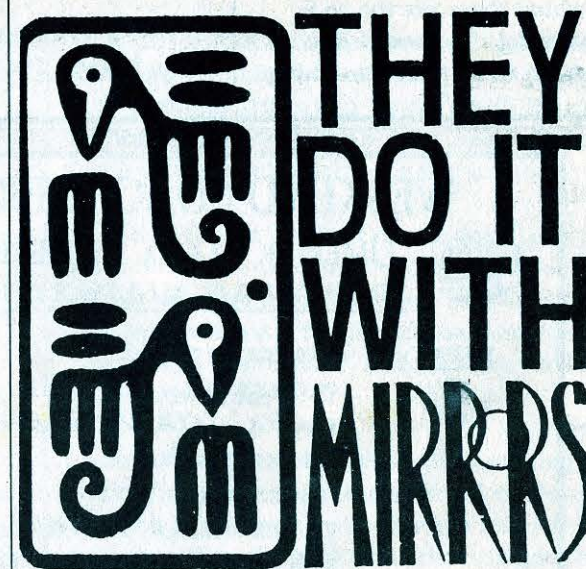
Thursday 30th January will see two of Limerick's most splendid bands, They Do It With Mirrors and A Touch of Oliver, play the Parkway.

They Do It With Mirrors

Currently signed to the Indie emigrant label, Setanta, TDIWM will have their first record, a four-track E.P., in the shops from mid March. Previous appearances have had audiences witness the lead singer's arrival by rollerskates, a guest spot that hosted a life-size cardboard cut-out of Gay Byrne and the band's "marriage" with their friends, the Hitchers. Out of such a colourful history emerge a band renowned for the originality of their speedy and freaky songs, a midget frontman with a glue-bag mentality and more dancing than you will ever need to do for the rest of your days. This may be your last chance to catch them before they move lock, stock and barrel, to London City to make more records and more friends.

A Touch of Oliver

Many a Limerick evening has seen the town venue, the Speakeasy, lacking in oxygen as the hoardes cram the place for an evening spent listening to this outfit's delicious tunes. Diarmuid



O'Sullivan, the lead singer, just shouts "WHY!!!!" - the chorus of one of their best and most chaotic songs.

Their most recent activities include the recording of an E.P. due for release early this year on the American Indie label Bar None and a quick flit over to London to play with The Cranberries, where they received a great reception. Do not miss this band!

SUPPORT YOUR OWN ENTS !!!

The Reunion Gigs

On Friday and Saturday , 27th and 28th of December, we organised

two reunion gigs, particularly targeted at the graduates. We have previously organised reunion gigs in New York, Boston and London but nowhere as successfully as these recent ones. The numbers were much bigger than we ever expected - so much so that we had to use the downstairs bar as well as the main function room in Costelloe's. Graduates who graduated as far back as eight years ago, returned to meet their old classmates. But most who attended were recent graduates. The disco itself resembled the wildest end of term gig, according to some of the graduates.

Most were working in the U.K. and the U.S. and a few in Australia, with a number of the Humanities graduates working in the Commission. (Not in Fish and Chip Shops) But the trend seems to be that graduates are getting experience in United Kingdom and are now returning to Ireland to work. I was a little distressed to find that only two grads were working in the entertainment field, one as Ents Manager in D.C.U. and the other as an accountant with the "heavy metal" merchants Iron Maiden.

Early on Friday 27th the graduate volleyballers met for a very good game in Art School . (thanks Jacinta) which you can see soon on Campus T.V.

My thanks must go to the number of post-graduates who helped to get the word around. And we can look forward to next year's Reunions on the same days(27th and 28th)

Ber



The Big Geraniums who Rocked The Parkway Last Week

Preview

The following is organised for free entertainment in both the Hurlers and the Stables. The Stables has installed a new LCD video projector , projecting an image of 10ft by 8ft, so it should be great for those football matches and campus T.V. shows. It cost just under £5,000. And the Hurlers are in the process of putting in a c.d. jukebox . All gigs mentioned start from 9p.m.

Stables

Week 2

Tuesday 14 th
Kevin Sullivan

Thursday 16 th
Micky Furey Dave Beggs.

Week 3

Tuesday 21st
Hi-Society

Wednesday 22nd
Talcon

Thursday 23rd
Shanty Town.

Week 4

Tuesday 28th
Potter Boys

Thursday 30th
Paul Malone

Friday 31st
Chris

Week 5

Tuesday 4th
Nuttin Yet

Thursday 5th
Shanty Town

Friday 6th
Kevin Sullivan

Week 6

Tuesday 11
Frontline

Wednesday 12th
Peter O'Malley

Thursday 13
One September

Week 7

Thursday 20th
Shanty Town

Friday 21st
Chris

Week 8

Thursday 27th
Porter Boys

Friday 28th
Peter O'Malley

Week 9

Thursday 5th
Shanty Town

Friday 6th
Chris

Stables Court

Week 10

Thursday 12th
Kevin Sullivan

Friday 13th
Peter O'Malley

Week 11

Thursday 19th
Shanty Town

Friday 20th
Shanty Town

Saturday 21st
One September

Hurlers

Week 2

Monday 13th
Soccer Club Table Quiz

Tuesday 13th
Noel McLoughlin

Wednesday 15th
Karaoke Comp.

Thursday 16th
Peter O'Malley

Week 3

Monday 20th
Volly Ball Club Table Quiz

Tuesday 21st
Noel McLoughlin

Wednesday 22nd
Karaoke Comp.

Thursday 22th
The Tubes.

Week 4

Monday 27th
Basket Ball Club Table Quiz

Tuesday 28th
Noel McLoughlin

Wednesday 29th
Karaoke Comp

Thuresday 30th
Peter O'Malley

Week 5

Monday 3rd
Softball Club Table Quiz

Tuesday 4th
Noel McLoughlin

Wednesday 5th
Karaoke Comp.

(Move to be see next isseu)

From the Triangle

Sex

by Cathal Kelly

A few things that happened last term served as a reminder to me of how a substantial number of non-gay people perceive the 'sex' in 'homosexual'. The first of these occurred early in term when I was with some of my non-gay friends in the Hurlers passing the evening over a few pleasant pints. I had just returned from emptying my bladder when Enda said to me: "Cathal, you must really enjoy going to the toilet". Like a fool, I asked him why. Enda's hesitant explanation was that "you know - with all those other blokes... you'd find it kind of...well - fun." He was wrong. I don't know how many people get even the slightest sexual titillation from the thought, sight or sound of other people taking a leak or dropping a load. I know I don't. Of course, I will admit that a visit to the bog can be a great pleasure, but only in those circumstances when I have not been for some time and am just *dying* to go. On those occasions the sense of relief is sufficiently great to merit the word 'pleasure', but there certainly isn't any sexual association with the pleasure.

The second occasion was a conversation with some freshers in the Stables. I was wearing one of my badges or T-shirts for which I am told I am 'notorious'. (I'm in good company. The same word

was used to describe somebody because they make a point of blessing themselves and saying grace before eating a burger.) The conversation with the three freshers followed lines with which I am now familiar. Q: Am I really gay A: yes. Q: When did I 'find out' I was gay? (I corrected that one: use the present tense "am" or "are", not "was" or "were".) A: In or around fifth or sixth class in primary school. I have mixed feelings about these conversations. On occasions I feel that I'm being treated like a performing animal, answering questions just for the entertainment of an audience. On other occasions I know the questions are put with genuine interest, and a genuine desire to understand what it is like to be gay, and to grow up in Ireland when one is gay. These people usually have the courtesy to ask if I mind being asked these questions, and use a tone of voice that indicates real interest. At times I will answer questions even if I feel that not all of the people asking have this interest. I remember the years before I knew any other gay people. I know I would have been overjoyed to hear such a conversation, to meet an ordinary person who is gay, a person with whom I might later have had a conversation myself, and to whom I would have 'come out'.

At the heart of the issue is our attitude towards sex and sexual activity. I can remember during religion class in secondary school an embarrassed Bro. Padraig discussing sex. Over a period of four classes we were given a book entitled 'Boy and Girl'. The message was standard Roman Catholic: sexual activity (i) is only permissible between a man and woman who are married to each other, (ii) is an expression of love between the couple and (iii) must always be open to the possibility of conception. In his 'chats' after we had read a section Bro. Padraig never once used the word 'sex'; he always referred to "the - ahhh - the thing". This attitude is a world away from the view one of my friends has. Over the summer his girlfriend was abroad, and on a number of occasions he slept with another girl. I asked him did

The Hard Life

Welcome back readers and a hearty 'Cead Mile Failte'. I would like, at this juncture, to congratulate you all on your achievements because, though you may not appreciate it, they are considerable. you survived the pre-Christmas mania, Christmas proper and of course the ole post-Christmas withdrawal symptoms.

I will ask you now readers to ponder your achievements of the last month or so. The first harrowing moment was the "Late Late Toy Show and that national institution, "the Billy Barry Kids. I presume they are supposed to have an "aw shucks, aren't they cute" effect on us. Quite the contrary. We are also expected to marvel at their talents at such tender ages. The only talent these squeaky little midgets possess is the talent to irritate on an unbelievable scale. When watching them, the docile become violent, bald men tear their hair out and even I, yes, your local, friendly, good-natured writer fire abuse at the T.V. screen. All U.L. students who witnessed this debacle are worthy contenders for the "Purple Heart" or some other such military decoration for injury.

Even if you were lucky enough to miss that disaster area you still deserve to be commended for surviving with your sanity more or less intact that moment when you received the present on Christmas Eve from the person you had bought nothing for. You tell them you haven't wrapped theirs yet and five minutes after their departure you're racing into town wracking your brain for something to buy them. A few quid for a pair of socks and you're off the proverbial hook.



And then there's Christmas proper where you have to look over-joyed at receiving another after-shave kit. Much overeating and dodgy films later and you're left speculating that Christmas isn't what it used to be.

And before you know it your mind is under siege from the radio and television convincing you in bombastic and unequivocal terms that this year's sale will be bigger, better, brighter than ever. You find yourself in town again being elbowed and stepped on by thrifty housewives looking for bargains in raincoats. A knighthood for all who survived the sales.

New Year's eve rolled around and there was that little altercation with the bouncer. He refused me entry on the grounds that I was under 23. At this point in our discussion I broached the topic of physical and mental age, that time and age were relative anyway and I attempted to broaden our discourse to encompass metaphysics and its relevance to this particular situation. At a certain stage I noticed it was a monologue and that his brow was rapidly furrowing. "Get away" he said "or I'll do damage to you person". I'm not sure those were his exact words but that at least was his intimation. I called him a chretin and a misogynist. However it was clear from his reaction he wasn't

sure if he had been complimented or insulted. I didn't wait for him to decide and exited "stage left". your own performance in "Dances with Bouncers" on New Year's Eve may not have deserved and Oscar but it was at least worthy of a nomination.

The last three weeks of course have been the most traumatic of all. You've been re-introduced to that savage and prehistoric race known as lecturers who believe in such outmoded, and anachronistic concepts as "hard work". I mean, I ask you friends, hard work? Puh!

So now you see why I was congratulating and commending you on your continued existence and well-being. You have come through many trials so pat yourself on the back (or better still get a friend to do it). Buy yourself another beverage. Make yourself comfortable and pay close attention to the remainder of this column.

The C.R.B.L. (Campaign for Real Books in the Library) has to date led a fairly innocuous existence but I, as its founder and (to the best of my knowledge) only member feel an obligation to give it all the assistance I can. I will begin by introducing you to its main aims.

The primary objective of the C.R.B.L. is to agitate for the installation of decent literature (or real books) in the library. At present, many are not even aware that a literature section exists, which is understandable, considering its miniscule size. Even if they were to stumble on to it, they couldn't be impressed as only a few writers are represented. The C.R.B.L. is campaigning to rectify this nefarious situation and to have some of the "greats" represented. International writers such as Norman Mailer, Joseph Heller, John Updike and Tom Wolfe. The Irish section could

Mary know about this. He said that she did. I asked what her attitude was. "It's just sex", he said. Apparently this was also her view.

What I find difficult to understand is the fact that quite a few of the people I have written about in this article seem to have double standards about sex and sexual activity. Their approach doesn't seem to be based on a moral code similar to that I was taught in school. Neither is it based on a traditional view of what is acceptable activity during sex. Add to these inconsistent views the widespread assumption that gay sex *de facto* involves anal penetration, and one could be forgiven for thinking that many non-gay people are very mixed up indeed.

My knowledge of sex - both gay and non-gay - is drawn from three sources: personal experience, what I read and what I am told. Based on that I reckon that there is little difference between the two. There is as wide a range of views about when somebody would have sex: as part of life long relationship only, through to sex as a recreational activity. The range of activities engaged in seems to be as wide in both groups: there are those who will explore, play games and try out all sorts of ideas that your mammy didn't teach you; there are those who have tight rules about the kind of sexual activity they will engage in. I don't find gay people any more or less likely to discuss sex either in a serious manner or a jokey, adolescent way. In truth I can see only one aspect in which there is a difference. Gay people tend to have their first sexual experience at a later age than non-gay. I wonder why!

PERSONAL HYGIENE

In the midst of week 1 piss-ups, week 4 project deadlines and week 11 nightmares, we find it very easy to neglect ourselves while surviving the hectic campus schedule. We shouldn't forget that our bodies need work too, a little service on a regular basis ensures that we will not run out of steam when it is needed most. A few minutes thought on how we treat our bodies, inside and out will probably find a lot of us guilty of neglect. Here are a few basic reminders of what should be second nature to all of us, but what we sometimes forget.

Take Heed and Take Care!!

Problem Skin:

Reasons for Washing:

During the day we frequently handle objects which carry germs, money, door handles, animals etc. Unless we are careful, the bacteria we pick up on our hands, we will pass onto our food and into our mouths, causing infection and illness.

Unwashed Skin:

1. Prevents sweat glands working.
2. Causes a stale offensive smell.
3. Encourages growth of bacteria.

Skin Hygiene:

1. Wash hands frequently, particularly after using the toilet and before handling food.
2. Have a good wash daily, to remove bacteria, sweat and dirt from the skin. The easiest way to do this is to have a shower or a bath daily.
3. Pay particular attention to underarms, feet and groin as these are the areas which tend to perspire more frequently and from which it is difficult for sweat to evaporate.
4. Under arm hair should be removed to reduce odour. Use either a razor or depilatory cream.

1. Dry Skin: Use gentle care products, specially prepared for dry skin. Wear a moisturiser during the day and use a little skin cream before you go to bed.

4. Dry hands well, particularly before going into the fresh air e.g. out to the clothes line, otherwise hands will get chapped.

5. Manicure once a week.

Nails are made of hard epidermal cells. They are directly attached to the dermis. The base of the nail contains very active cells, which multiply, causing nails to grow. The area around the base, the quick, contains many nerves and injury to this area can cause acute pain.

Care of Nails:

1. Keep them absolutely clean, short and well manicured.
2. Use a nailbrush to clean nails, do not bite nails.
3. Rub in a little handcream. Toe nails should be cut straight across, to avoid the danger of ingrowing toenails.

Care of Feet:

1. Wash once a day in warm, not hot, water.

Welfare

only benefit from the inclusion of writers like McGahern, Banville and Joe O'Connor.

It's not a question of lack of funds. As far as I can see (and the leadership of C.R.B.L. are 100% behind me on this one) it's a question of priorities. I remember at the end of one of C.R.B.L.'s committee meetings someone spoke up (no doubt it was me) and posited the view that too much money was being spent on rubbish books. The sooner this meaningless muck is cleared from the shelves the better. Here is a small example of the type of stuff I am alluding to: M. Belliss, "Dematiaceous Hyphomycetes" - nobody could even pronounce the bloody thing, not to mention read it. Another such tome that caught my eye was that ever popular favourite by P. Buchner "Endosymbiosis of Animals with Plant Micro-organisms" - catchy title, isn't it?

Many find reading quality literature a chore. But that's probably caused by the profusion of unpronounceable books like those of Messrs Ellis and Lewis. One way or another it is my contention that we need a book by Charles Dickens more than we need Bergy's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology, that Flann O'Brien's work is more urgently required than Amlander and McDonald's handbook on "Biotelemetry and Radio Tracking". But for literature and culture we would still be living up trees and chasing rabbits for mealtimes. Mass reading of literature would help quell the present profusion of gommeens, half-wits, chretins and corner-boys of all denominations. Literature offers a chance for self-improvement, where even the son of a Monaghan muckraker can become a famous and respected poet. Obviously Kavanagh is and extreme example but as it stands what will a Leitrim bogman leave U.L. with? He'll still be a Leitrim bogman with nothing between his ears except the price of a bag of calf nuts and some vague mumbo-jumbo about Systemic Bacteriology.

odour. Use either a razor or depilatory cream.

1. Dry Skin: Use gentle care products, specially prepared for dry skin. Wear a moisturiser during the day and use a little skin cream before you go to bed.

2. Oily Skin: This skin is usually quite shiny and is prone to blemishes. Watch your diet, avoid too many rich or greasy foods. Wash skin thoroughly with soap and water. Use a toning lotion for oily skin (this dries up the oil.)

3. Acne: It's main cause is a change in hormone levels which occurs in adolescence. This affects the sebaceous glands, so that they produce too much oil. Bacteria on the surface of the skin reacts with the oily film, clogging pores and causing blackheads. Infected hair follicles swell up, causing pimples.

For clear skin:

1. Eat well, particularly protein foods such as fruit and vegetables.
2. Get plenty of sleep.
3. Get some fresh air and exercise daily.
4. Keep skin clean, always remove make-up before going to bed.
5. Protect skin from the weather by using a moisturiser.

To avoid spreading acne:

1. Keep skin absolutely clean - wash frequently with soap and water.
2. Never scratch, scrub or squeeze pimples.
3. Avoid greasy food - eats lots of fruit and vegetables.
4. If using medicated lotions and other prescribed preparations, follow instructions exactly.
5. Avoid using greasy creams and make-up.
6. Use an antiseptic soap.
7. Drink lots of water.
8. If acne persists, consult your doctor.

Care of Hands:

1. Wash hands frequently - using a nailbrush for nails.
2. Apply hand cream at least once a day.
3. Use rubber gloves for washing-up and protective gloves or barrier creams, if necessary, for other jobs.

cured.

2. Use a nailbrush to clean nails, do not bite nails.
3. Rub in a little handcream. Toe nails should be cut straight across, to avoid the danger of ingrowing toenails.

Care of Feet:

1. Wash once a day in warm, not hot, water.
2. Dry thoroughly, particularly between the toes.
3. Use talcum powder sparingly, it may become stale and clog pores.
4. Shoes and stockings should fit well. Badly fitting shoes and socks cause corns and bunions.
5. Stockings/socks should be changed at least once a day. Change your shoes to rest your feet.

Care of Nose, Eyes and Ears:

Nose: the nose filters dust and bacteria. Do not blow too hard or put anything into the nose as you may damage the delicate membrane lining the nose. Wash handkerchiefs frequently and boil them regularly to destroy bacteria. Paper tissues are more hygienic.

Eyes: Be sure to get enough sleep. Eats lots of food containing Vitamin A, which is good for the eyes. Do close work i.e. reading or sewing, in a good light. Use eye make-up with care, removing it completely before going to bed.

Ears: Wash daily when washing the face. Never put anything into the ears as the delicate eardrum may be damaged. To remove excess wax, pour in a few drops of warmed olive oil and wipe gently with cotton wool.

Hair Care:

1. Brush hair thoroughly every morning and night from nape to crown, to brush out dust and stimulate circulation in the scalp.
2. Shampoo hair at least once a week, using a shampoo suited to your hair type.
3. Keep brush, comb and other items used in hair clean.
4. Treat hair with care and avoid overuse of bleach perming and colouring lotions.

Lice: These are small insects which live in human hair, passing easily from one person to another. They are grey in colour and lay their eggs in the base of the hair. If you find you have lice use a special fine comb and ask your doctor for a special preparation.

Arts

midsum: U.L. wakes up !

"...meet me in the palace wood, a mile without the town, by moonlight; there we will rehearse, for if we meet in the city we shall be dogged by company and our devices known....."

Take pains, be perfect: adieu !"

I.2.80-2



After what seems eternity, but is in fact only half that long, these dreaming spires hold their breath for what promises to be the event of the year. John Hargaden *et al* have struggled valiantly in rehearsal in the previous weeks to give us their **"Midsummer Nights Dream"** in EGO10 nightly from Sunday, January 19th to Saturday January 25th.

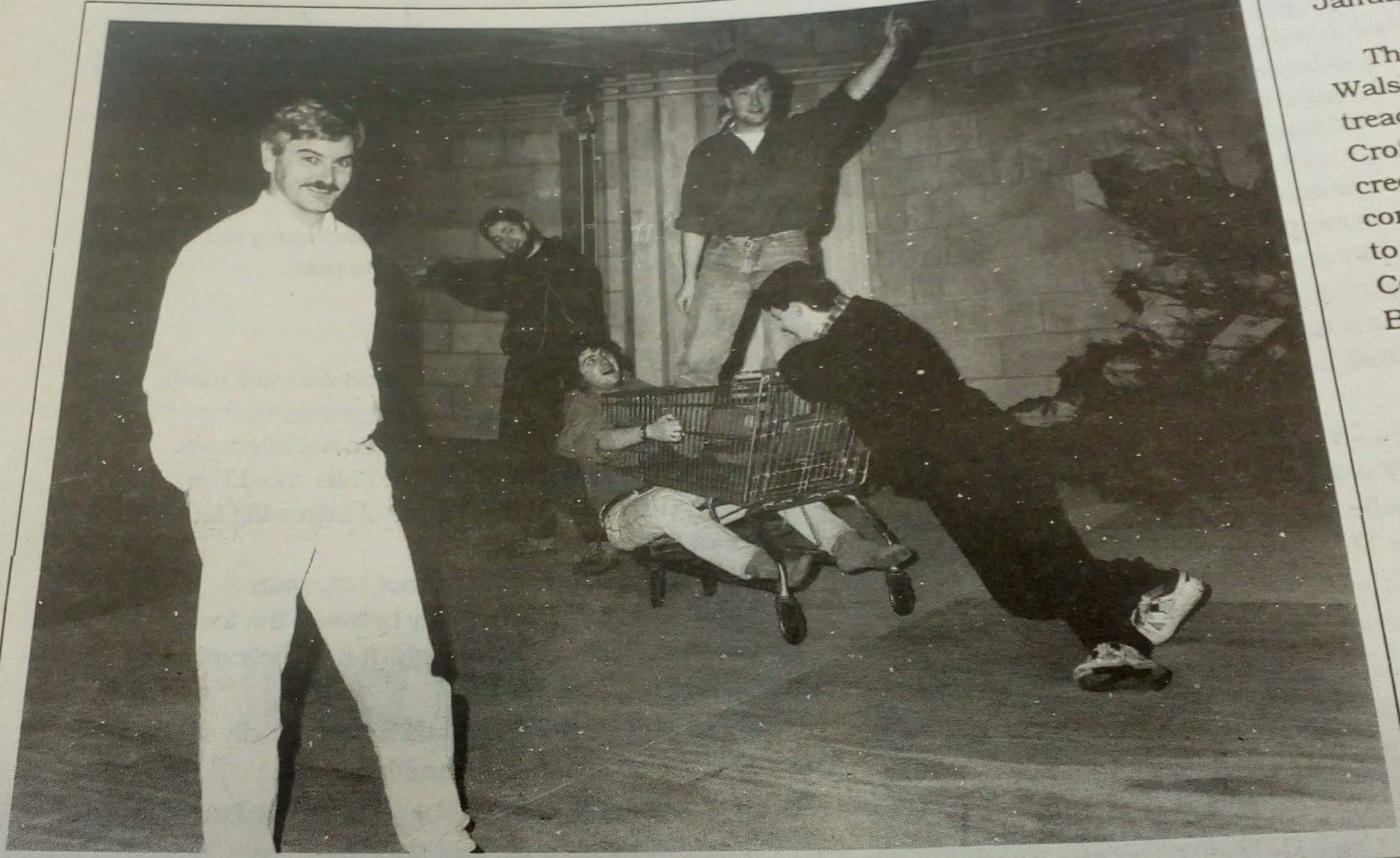
The President of the University of Limerick, Dr. Edward Walsh and the Students Union President, Colm Croffy will tread the boards together on Monday's performance. Mr. Croffy is no stranger to the footlights but Dr. Walsh's acting credentials are as yet unknown to us. Sharing the stage and competing for glory will be the Registrar, Leo Colgan, hoping to impress the students and staff with his thespian finesse. Colm Croffy gets to play the arse all week in his role as Bottom.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare's most accomplished comedy play is full of star-crossed lovers, actors and presidents: what more could you ask for? The production set consists of one large pool, 150 trees, 23,000 dead leaves and one large petal. In addition there is live music to accompany the on-stage shenanigans. By all accounts the whole shebang comes with marvellous reports filtering through the actor's camp. The production will run nightly at 8 p.m. from Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th January. Tickets are at the ludicrously reasonable £5 and the amazing £3 students. Booking details are available at 061-333644 ext. 2327.

-Midsum
January

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Members of the Cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream in Rehearsal



actor's camp. The production will run nightly at 8 p.m. from Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th January. Tickets are at the ludicrously reasonable £5 and the amazing £3 students. Booking details are available at 061-333644 ext. 2327.

An Focal ARTS advises patrons to book early as seating is limited. No better theatre could possibly be found (it says here).

Members of the Cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream in Rehearsal

ARTS DAYS '92

**A cornucopia of Bohemia previewed
by John Maguire**

**And so the time comes round again,
for the citizens of U.L. to break from
curricula and artistic oppression and
wear the artist's cap. Too long have
we pondered equations of engineer-
ing and the business of business.
This years cavalcade of whimsy
brings us all that is best in the world
of the Arts thanks to our noble and
esteemed Arts Adviser John Har-
gaden.**

The official launch takes place in the east room of Plassey House on Monday, 20th January at 5 p.m. and later that evening the University presents A Midsummer Night's Dream in EGO 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets available in the student shop, at £3 for

students, also available on the door. Telephone bookings at 061 333644 ext. 2327.

Exhibitions

This year sees more exhibitions than ever in this University. Exhibitions being a marvellous opportunity to witness the cutting edge of the Art world. This year Plassey Arts Days concentrates on talents within the University. Brenda Andrews from Personnel presents an exhibition of paintings and drawings in the Main Gallery above reception. This Lady's exhibition is entitled "That's Life" and her subject matter is almost entirely figurative.

On level M, block D, Sean Reidy a Business lecturer exhibits his landscape photography and the Industrial Design Students exhibit their Blink II housed on level 1 block C for the duration. This (if last year is anything to go on) is a lively and individual exhibition, with something for all, Art lover or nay.

Finally, as far as exhibitions go, Prof. Evan Petty exhibits the oddly titled "Superbowl", an exhibition

of this persons extraordinary skill in the Art of woodturning. This can be seen in the Restaurant. If any of these shows are somewhat off your beaten path it would be worth a detour just to see what this college has to offer the Art world. All open on Sunday, January 19th.

Daghdha Dance Performance

A major scoop for our Arts Days is the world premier of Daghdha Dance company's new show "On Time With Pigs." The Dance company, resident at the University of Limerick will give one performance of the new show on Monday, January 20th at 1 p.m. in the Gym of Thomond. The performing company for the show comprises of Mireia Aparicio, Myles Breen, Paul Healy, Anita Mc Ginley and Tania Tempest-Hay. It's directed by Mary Nunan. The central theme for the show is Time-clocktime, daytime, lifetime. Music for the show is by Jules

SONGS OF THE DOOMED: More Notes on the Death of the American Dream by Hunter S. Thompson.

It cannot be repeated too often in America. Where there is no vision, the people perish. James Baldwin.

The King of Journalism, the emperor of words, Hunter S. Thompson returns. This book, his epitaph for America tells the grim and frightening tale of corruption, of fear and of doom. Thompson becomes Ellijah. This from the man who opines it's best for journalists to steer a course headlong into the political maelstrom. Thompson describes himself as "happy with whatever ripples I caused in the great swamp of history." This book is the litany of corrupt and gnarled politics that have crippled America and, Thompson reasons, crippled the ideals held dear to Americans. One of the ripples Thompson writes about in *Songs of the Doomed* is the Florida trial of the strung-out cocaine-whore Roxanne Pulitzer. This gutter-bible has, he claims carved the last inscriptions on the tombstone of America, the land of opportunity becoming the wasteland of the dead society. The black underbelly of the damned age. The rich have adopted the laudanum ethos. Playgrounds becoming massacres. "The smart say they can't understand it and the dumb snort cocaine in rich discos and stomp to a feverish beat." There is no escape from this doom, living in the new age nineties where society, and it's members have become even more disposable, more high-tech, low-smart. "We are into a very nasty decade.....that will not be a very happy time." Thompson speaks the Truth, and as I see it, every media outlet claims to speak the truth; they must.

Intellectual mendacity

The whole business of American journalism is

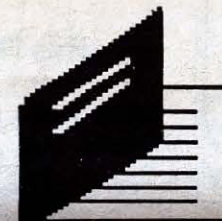
discovered however that Truth has become a commodity, a piece of stock, to be bought or sold to the highest bidder on the whirling stock-market of morality. An academic would dub this process intellectual mendacity. Thompson calls it objectivity. Hunter S. Thompson writes from the gut, yet he knows that every editor must follow the line, must remain objective. Accurate. Thompson would tell you that the truth can be changed at a price. "Ask anybody, It's the truth vs reality." Thompson purports to write the real truth, and not the administrative truth. The overlap in the truths has been dubbed Gonzo. The king is gonzo. This has become the screen behind which he will tell the truth. Writing on the Clarence Thomas media circus fiasco He found words like "Brain dead " and "water wit " in the pages of the New York Times editorial. A tiny triumph.

As *Songs of the Doomed* so spectacularly illustrates, Thompson is the first American writer since John De Passos to tap the eroding and elemental fury within the American Dream and make the compost picture of American society in the last decade of the 20th century. Thompson scares the bejaysus out of Conventional Wisdom because he uses the prophets pen, and it is dipped in poison.

"dance with the doom"

Thompson is the saviour of all the constitution holds dear. In the Eighties all Thompson had to do was aim his satellite receiver at the heavens and pull the networks of lies into his front room. He sat and watched Dan Rather turn the American Dream

Loathing had turned America with a vengeance that shocked even Thompson. The weird had turned pro, and carried their wooden crosses from the Las Vegas casino to casino and the holy-rollers had converted the Philistines in a charismatic national anarchy. Those who had "reaped the whirlwind and rode the Tiger" in the Seventies had been left to "dance with the doom" of the Eighties. Thompson had tapped a vein in the American Psyche so strong, with his books, *Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas* and *Hells Angels*, that by the time he hit Nixon and the campaign trail he could only portray the realities as he saw them. The thrust of *Songs of the Doomed* is a collection of his newspaper articles and personal anecdotes so beautiful and horrifying at once that to read it means it will change the way you view the U.S.A. It's an adventure novel, political Atlas and a telling deathknell for the opulent society. Get rich quick changes to Get sick quick. Challenge has left America, and power and greed has arrived. Yet we could not be trusting freedom in safer hands. Doctor Thompson will persevere. Read how he will.



and it's members have become more disposable, more high-tech, low-smart. "We are into a very nasty decade.....that will not be a very happy time." Thompson speaks the Truth, and as I see it, every media outlet claims to speak the truth; they must.

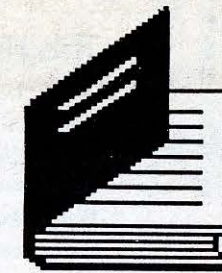
intellectual mendacity

The whole business of American journalism is based on the certainty of truth. Thompson has

bejaysus out of Conventional Wisdom because he uses the prophets pen, and it is dipped in poison.

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ARTS DAYS '92

Maxwell who is also Musical Director for the Midsummer Night's Dream. See this.

Norioko Ogawa- in concert

Following her recent performance at the National Concert Hall Norioko Ogawa makes a return visit to the Jean Monnet Theatre as part of the Arts Days extravaganza. This Lady will be remembered as a joint-finalist in the controversial Leeds International Piano competition, with Limerick's Hugh Tinney. A music critic said of that occasion, "How much more Ovchinnikov (1st Prize) has to offer, how much more to develop, is hard to forecast. A very bold jury might have gambled on the exciting promise of Noriko Ogawa." So there you have it! Tickets for this special performance are priced at £6 with a concession of £3 for Students. Members of the Limerick Music Association are also offered tickets at the price of £3. This concert scoop promises to be a post- Christmas treat to enchant all music lovers. Further information available at the office of John Hardigan in the University of Limerick. Tel: 061-333644 ext. 2349.

Multi-cultural Food Fair

This year, as in other years, the University of Limerick Overseas Students Society has promised a culinary experience that you cannot afford to miss. As a gesture of solidarity in 1992, the society has decided to run the food fair for two days, in the evenings starting at 7 p.m.. If last years fair is anything to go by, this promises to be a delight for weary taste-buds. A huge number of countries are taking part, so there will be something for all. Any queries or suggestions (or cheques) can be made to Carmel Ryan, c/o Students Union in U.L.

Other events of note

The Literary & Philosophical Society will hold a Debate of some Artistic merit on the Wednesday of Arts Days in the Charles Parsons Theatre at 7.30 p.m. All welcome. No admission charge.

The Film Society of U.L. present Hidden Agenda, a film by Ken Loach, 1990, U.K. in the Jean Monnet Theatre on Tuesday Jan. 21st, at 8 p.m. What is the effect of the British in Ireland ?

Also the Film Society present Ay Carmela, Carlos Saura, 1990, Espana, in the Monnet, at Eight on the Thursday of the Arts Days. Tickets for both performances are £1.

Peter O' Malley make a welcome return to the Stables Club on Friday after eight. A strange mix of music and comedy from the bearded one.



Clubs & SOCs

Cumann Gaelach

Clar na Seachtaine
(Weekkk 4)
De Luan
Ceolchoirm (concert) sa
canteen: Jimmy Brady
(T.B.C.)
Bord Quiz sa Stablaí
Sessiun Ceoil, Nancy
Blakes
De Mairt
Diospoireacht idir Ollscoil
(Intervarsity Debate)
Ceili Mor sa Student
Centre
De Ceadaoin
Comortas Sraidceoil
(Busking Competition)
Oiche Gaelach sa Stablaí.
De Deardaoin
Toraíocht Taisce (Treasure
Hunt)
Comortas Cartai (45 Drive)
Oiche Filíocht agus Ceoil,
The Olde Tom
S
Seachtain na Gaeilge 1992
is not for fluent Irish speak-
ers. It is for everyone on
campus. Whether you are
fluent, or just have the "cupla
focail" or even no Irish at all,
you will enjoy yourselves. All
the events will be as bi-
lingual as possible so join in
the craic agus bigi linn

This Film is on

Michaelmas term was very
successful for the society.

Engineering & Science speaks

Warmest of welcomes to the first edition of "Engineering and Science Speaks". The emphasis on modern technology and its importance for all of us, is something that runs right through the University of Limerick. It touches us all: academic staff, administrative staff and students as a whole:

Reader's Forum - Purpose of Technological University

I would hope that this section in its capacity as a "Reader's forum" would itself in time develop two very important themes. Firstly that of Modern Technology: how relevant is it? What function does it perform that is essential to the progress of University life; the life of the students; and Irish and European life in general? Moreover what rate should it develop at? Secondly that of the modern technologically-oriented university: What significant role or otherwise does it play now or will it play in the future in an Irish or European Society? Is it educating young Irish people to work and contribute to Irish society at home, or, to work for themselves abroad?

Course content - Lecturing Standards - Job Opportunities

Specific topics like: How relevant is my course to the job I want? How relevant is the module content to the aforementioned course? and furthermore how relevant is what my lecturer is saying or attempting to cover in lectures, labs, tutorials to the module?

Career/Co-op/Project Information/

Thus the short term objective is that "Engineering and Science Speaks" would provide a forum for the expression of student opinion on the subjects of Engineering, Science and Technology. Furthermore, it is hoped that information, news and deadlines with regard to career applications, co-op applications or project presentations and/or reports should also be included. In order to provide that information, it is essential that Class Reps and others approach the editorial staff with such information in good time before each edition.

Long-term objective of Engineering & Science Magazine

The long term objective is that this "Engineering & Science Speaks" section should lead to the establishment of an Engineering and Science Magazine with more detailed contributions on a number of levels.

EUROTALK

EUROSOC has launched a regular weekly EUROTALK session in A1062, (corridor beyond the fishtank) on Tuesdays from 1-2pm. Coffee and biscuits will be provided FREE to members and students can feel free to bring along their own sandwiches or buy them at them from Campbells. If this time causes major problems for members' timetables, it can be changed if people let us know.

The idea behind this is to provide a regular forum for discussion in an informal atmosphere.

Eurosoc's existing contact points are: the Canteen Noticeboard and TV Monitors; the weekly Activity Sheet; Posters; our Union Pigeonhole; E-Mail Suggestion Box and Conference Facility. EUROTALK will be an effective supplement to these channels of communication.

A full list of the Committee is displayed on our Canteen noticeboard - this will be updated after a forthcoming EGM to reflect Co-op departures. Watch this space!

P.S. E.G.M. Friday of week 3 at 1 p.m. / see posters for details.

P.P.S. Just a quick reminder for your diary that Week 7 this term is EUROPE WEEK. This will include events with a European

Stanley Kubrick's "Lolita".
Last year's films tended to be

boneyard" and poet Allen
Ginsberg who went even



The Literary Society

that much maligned bohemian bunch require poets and story writers to write for their Annual Publication, *VOICES*. All submissions should be made by the end of week 4. Please contact John Maguire in An Focal for further details. Last years magazine was a resounding success and this year a bigger and better publication is in the pipeline.

Games Society

The G. Soc. machine is now fully in gear again after the various excesses of Christmas. All the games are up and running in Week 2 so the hacking, slaying and general blood-letting have once again entered this strange dimension called U.L. which is both real and unreal.

Last term many die-hard G.Soc. members traveled to Gaelcon, the national games convention which was held in Dublin. One G.Soc. pilgrims got an award for awesome courage under enemy fire.

This Film is on

Michaelmas term was very successful for the society. Among the highlights were Rappeneau's "Cyrano de Bergerac", Hal Hartley's "The Unbelievable Truth" and

Stanley Kubrick's "Lolita". Last year's films tended to be dominated by the American directors, so the purists, such as Marlon Brando, who called Hollywood "a cultural

boneyard" and poet Allen Ginsberg who went even further and maintained that "Hollywood will rot on the windmills of Eternity", will be pleased to see an impressive line-up of excellent European films in this term's programme.

If you're looking for a reason to attend on a Tuesday or Thursday, consider what Brando, again, said about film in a 1976 Rolling stone interview, "An extension of childhood, where everyone wants to be freer, everybody wants to be powerful, everybody wants to be so overwhelmingly attractive. Or wants to have comradeship and be understood" and contrast it with what John Wayne said in 1975 "Motion pictures are for amusement", then turn off the TV, tune out the Stables and drop in to the Swift at 7.30 pm, a £7.00 investment can net you around 25 hours of comedy, sexual politics and congress, thuggery, beatitude and enlightenment. £7.00 in the Stables will just get you insulted.



Forthcoming attractions include LUGCON and Killer. LUGCON is the Limerick University role-playing game CONvention and RPG nuts from all over the country will be taking part. It's running during Easter (Sat-Sun Week 0, Term 3) and we're confident that it will beat the socks off GAELCON.

Also planned for G.Soc. members (and non-members) is

a weekend skirmish in Wicklow and Live Role-Playing in the Limerick area.

Anybody that wants to observe the G.Soc. in action can tag along to EM010 any weeknight after 7.30. If you like what you see (and there's no reason why you shouldn't) then you can join. New members are always welcome.

D.R. and Quinch

reminder for your diary that Week 7 this term is EUROPE WEEK. This will include events with a European flavour, such as: Debates, Quizzes, Films, Food & Drink, Competitions, Cultural Events...or anything which you feel strongly enough about that should be included.

Drama Society

"Big Maggie", Week 4.

From the society that brought you last year's highly acclaimed "Importance of Being Ernest" and "Waiting for Godot" comes a stunning production of John B Keane's "Big Maggie". Powerful, tragic very funny- this play is arguably Keane's most moving and insightful. The brilliant production by the UL Drama Society is pure entertainment and not to be missed. A real classic more accessible than Shakespeare- it's the best drama production you'll see this term.

Wednesday and Thursday, Week 4, Jonathan Swift Theatre

Curtain up at 8pm
Entrance £1.50

Archery Club

For all those who are interested in having a shot at Archery, there is a beginners course commencing Tuesday, Week 4 at 8 p.m. in Thomond Gym.

The home intervarsity takes place on 23rd February in Thomond. Please come and give your support. It should be great craic.

The Hilary General Meeting is on the way, so all members and potential members keep your sights on the Archery Noticeboard. the main two items on the agenda are Intervarsities and fundraising. (there's a disco to be organised soon also.) Tuesday, Week 7 at Cheers.



U.L. Judo Club

The Previous Two Weeks
In the weeks coming up to the end of term the Judo Club held its first grading of the year, 7 members graded with 5 attaining yellow belts and 1 attaining orange and 1 attaining green. All members who graded are to be commended on their hard work and preparation

U.L. Hurling Club

On Saturday, Week 9, U.L. Senior Hurlers travelled to Waterford R.T.C. to play the final games in the Division 1 League, having already qualified for the play-offs semi-finals, though a number of players were unavailable due to injury and club commitments. U.L. started well with the aid of a strong breeze and scored 2 points. However Waterford began to stamp there certainty on the game when they scored a goal and five points without reply, to leave the half-time score 1-6 to 0-2. The second half was rather unexciting mainly due to the fact that both teams had already qualified and the U.L. players found it difficult to motivate themselves so late in the term.. After exchanging a few points the final whistle sounded with Waterford winning by a margin of 2-9 to 0-6.

On Sat Week 11 the Freshers Hurling team were defeated in the play-offs for a place in the All-Ireland Quarter Finals by CoACT. U>L> were missing six of team due to exam pressure and unfortunately the exams took their toll on the players. In the first half, CoACT had the advantage of a stiff breeze and led by 0-6 to 0-2 at half time. U.L. applied all the pressure in the second half but they couldn't make their dominance count on the scoreboard. Shane O'Neill scored an excellent goal with ten minutes left to leave U.L. two points behind. However CoACT added another point to leave the final score: CoACT 0-2 U.L. 0-2

Athletics Club

Welcome back to all our members, we hope you had a brilliant Christmas and hopefully some training was done. We wish everyone a successful new year on the Track and off it.

University Athletic Club to hold 1st ever Intervarsity Indoors. The athletic club is hosting the first ever intervarsity National indoor Track and Field Championships. As Ireland has only one indoor arena, this is at Nenagh - hence this is where the Championships are being held. The date is Friday, Week 4 (31st Jan 1992) and your support and help would be welcomed. The Athletic Club will have a team competing and maybe we can be the most successful club overall there.

There will be more information in the next issue of AN FOCAL and notices will be displayed in the College as the event draws near, so do keep your eyes open.

Intervarsity Cross Country Championships As this is Trinity 400 years, TCD are holding the Cross-Country event during the first weekend in March, again the Athletic Club will have teams competing.

Talent Show Yes folks on Wednesday Week 5, the Athletic Club hosts it's annual Talent Show, a carry on from the old Thomond Athletic Club, in the past this show has been very successful and hopefully this year will be no different.

UL ON TOP

UL's mens' basketball team is currently placed on top of division one of the national college league. Victories away against DCU and UCD with a win over RCSI here in Limerick has given them leader status.

After the Xmas break they have four games to play (mostly at home), and with the results so far they are confident of a place in the playoffs in Athlone ??? on the 29/30 February. The following week, 5-8 March, sees the team competing in the intervarsities, which are being held in Dublin, with Trinity acting as hosts.

The club would like to extend their thanks to Ned

Clay from Boston, who returned to the USA at Xmas after contributing to the teams' success to date. Thanks also to Seamus Woods who continues his role as coach.

The ladies team, coached by Missy Lender, have also achieved joint leader status and are confident of a repeated success story like last year when they won both.

The club is having a pub quiz on Monday Week 4 in the Hurlers. Teams of 5 and £10 per team. The money will be used to sponsor players competing in the intervarsities.

More details later.

Clubs & Soccs

and 1 attaining orange and 1 attaining green. All members who graded are to be commended on their hard work and preparation.

The Next Two Weeks

The Judo Intervarsities will be held in Trinity on Feb 8th. Therefore for the next couple of weeks the club will be training very hard for competition, which will mean a lot of tough physical training as well as competition practice.

Aisling Moran, Club P.R.O.

Windsurfing Club

The U.L. Windsurfing Club is currently recruiting new members. We sail from Dromineer on Wednesday: 2 -6 p.m. and Sat/Sun: 10 - 5 p.m.. We are also organising numerous social (?) activities.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Jim Ryan (AM049) or attend one of our weekly outings.

N.B. Intervarsities are being held at Dromineer, Feb 29th - Mar 1st. WE NEED YOU TO WIN!!!

Claudia king P.R.O.

ten minutes left to leave U.L. two points behind. However CoACT added another point to leave the final score: CoACT 0-9; U.L.1-3

with Trinity acting as hosts. The club would like to extend their thanks to Ned

competing in the intervarsities. More details later.

U.L. Gaelic Football Club

Wednesday, Week 10, Term 1. The Freshers Footballers played the final match in the league on Wednesday, Week 10, against Tralee R.T.C. In the first half U.L. played with a strong breeze and lead by five points at half-time, 2-5 to 0-6, after goals from G. McGrath and John Breen..In the second half, Tralee, aided by the wind, came more into the game and kept in touch with a few points and then scored a goal to leave 3 points between the teams. U.L. had their chances to put the contest beyond doubt but their forwards missed a few good opportunities and in the last five minutes, Tralee scored 1-1. It took a last

minute equaliser from Gary Mc Grath to earn U.L. a draw with the final score being 3-7 to 2-10. U.L. are now in the quarter finals of the All-Ireland Freshers.

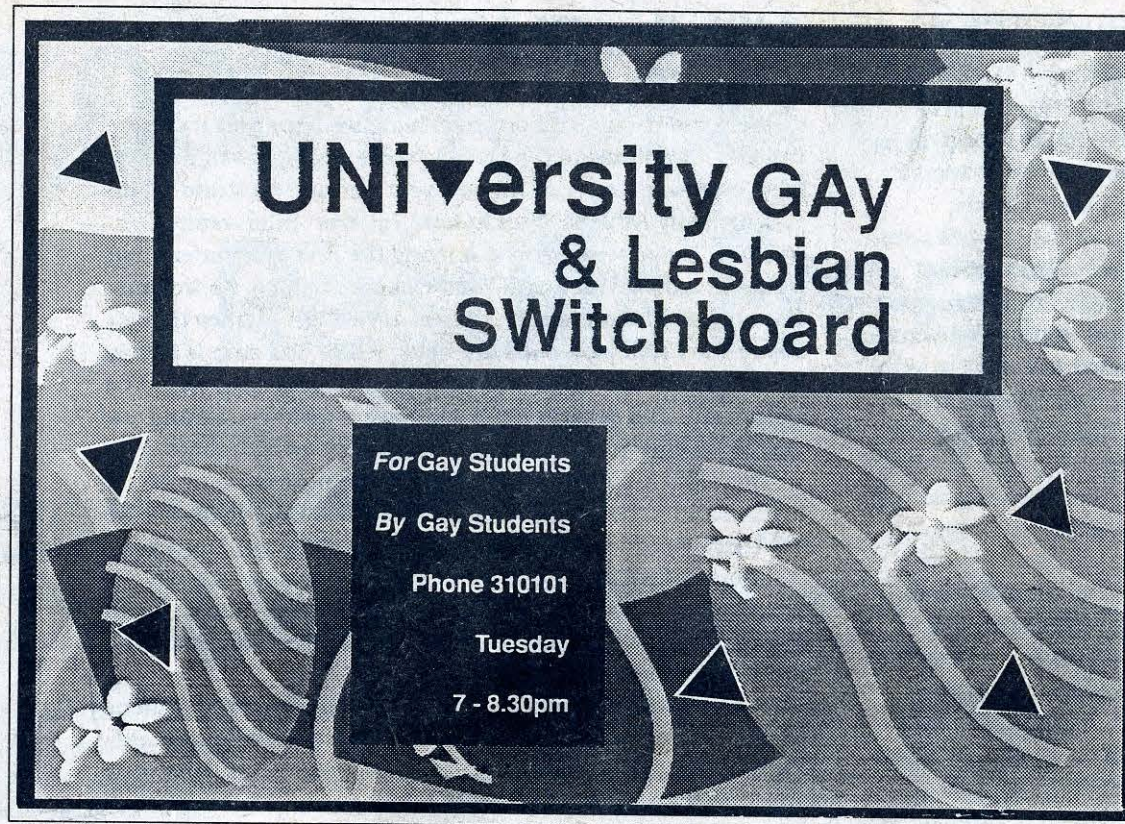
On Thursday, Week 10, the U.L. senior football team travelled to play Athlone R.T.C. in a crunch fixture with U.L. needing to win in order to qualify for the play-offs. U.L. were missing a number of first team players due to injury and exam pressure but nevertheless battled bravely. In the first couple of minutes they lost Tom Harris through injury and from then on had to battle hard for every score. Athlone scored an excellent goal after fifteen minutes and then added a

few more points to leave the half-time score 1-7 to 0-3 in favour of Athlone. U.L. battled back in the second half when Ray Silke an opportunist's goal to give U.L. a lifeline, but Athlone fought back and added another goal and four points to leave the final score at 2-11 to 1-6 in favour of Athlone.

On Wednesday of Week 12, the Freshers played Galway R.T.C. in the quarter final of the All-Ireland league and came tantalisingly close to reaching the All-Ireland Semi-final. In the opening minute U.L. scored a well worked goal which saw G.McGrath finish it off but for the next fifteen minutes Galway totally dominated

and scored 1-5 without reply. M. Tuomey scored a point for U.L.. Disaster struck when U.L. failed to clear the ball and Galway scored a second goal for U.L. to leave the half-time score 2-7 to 1-4. in the second half U.L. dominated for long stages and slowly began to repay the deficit with points from Enda O'Regan, G. McGrath, M. Hassett, K. Durkin (2). With five minutes left, Galway led by two points and looked certain to win when G. McGrath hit the post from fifteen yards. W.Allen added a point for U.L. but when the referee blew at the stroke of full-time with U.L. losing by one point, the final score being: U.L. 1-12; Galway R.T.C. 2-10.

Notices



**UNi▼ersity GAY
& Lesbian
Switchboard**

For Gay Students
By Gay Students
Phone 310101
Tuesday
7 - 8.30pm

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Limited Edition
Good Quality
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Similar to
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Looking for Sponsorship?!

If so the person to contact is Harry Goodard. I am the current representative in the college for Guinness. As a result of which I am in the position to offer cash/kegs for your class party or social outing.

I can be contacted in the Stables on Wednesdays from 10.30 to 12.30 or through any of the bar staff or by leaving a message on the canteen notice board.



USA



SUMMER '92!

Around The World in 48 Hours

Feeling hungry? Come along to the Multi Cultural Food Fair on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd at 7pm each evening in the Canteen. This event is the Overseas Students' Society's contribution to Plassey Arts Days.

You'll be able to sample food & drink from around the world at just 50p per portion. (Vouchers will be available at the doors on the night.) At the same time, why not have a look at the national displays and meet fellow U.L. students of no fewer than 20 different nationalities. Some of them will be there in national dress - we may even find out what Ronnie, our Scottish member, wears under his kilt!!!

Musical entertainment will be provided by "Celtic Airs" and there will be a display of Spanish dancing.

The two nights promise to be glorious mayhem - so come along and join our Tower of Babel!



USA



SUMMER '92!

Summer Work & Travel
Programme to the US....

Programme applications accepted from
January 21st - book your air fare **NOW!**

RETURN AIR FARES FROM

£295

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★ BUMPER PRIZES TO BE WON FOR EARLY BOOKINGS ★

For more information contact:

Usit, Central Buildings, O'Connell Street, Limerick

Tel: 061-45064 or your local Usit or campus travel shop

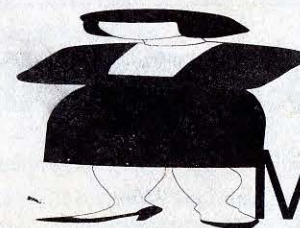


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U.L. DRAMA SOCIETY PRESENTS
JOHN B. KEANE'S



BIG MAGGIE

JONATHAN SWIFT, WEEK 4, WED & THURS 8.00pm. £1.50

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