

On
ale
Edition
Quality
eved T-
rts
ar to
rew,
hite
6.50
Union
low

ours

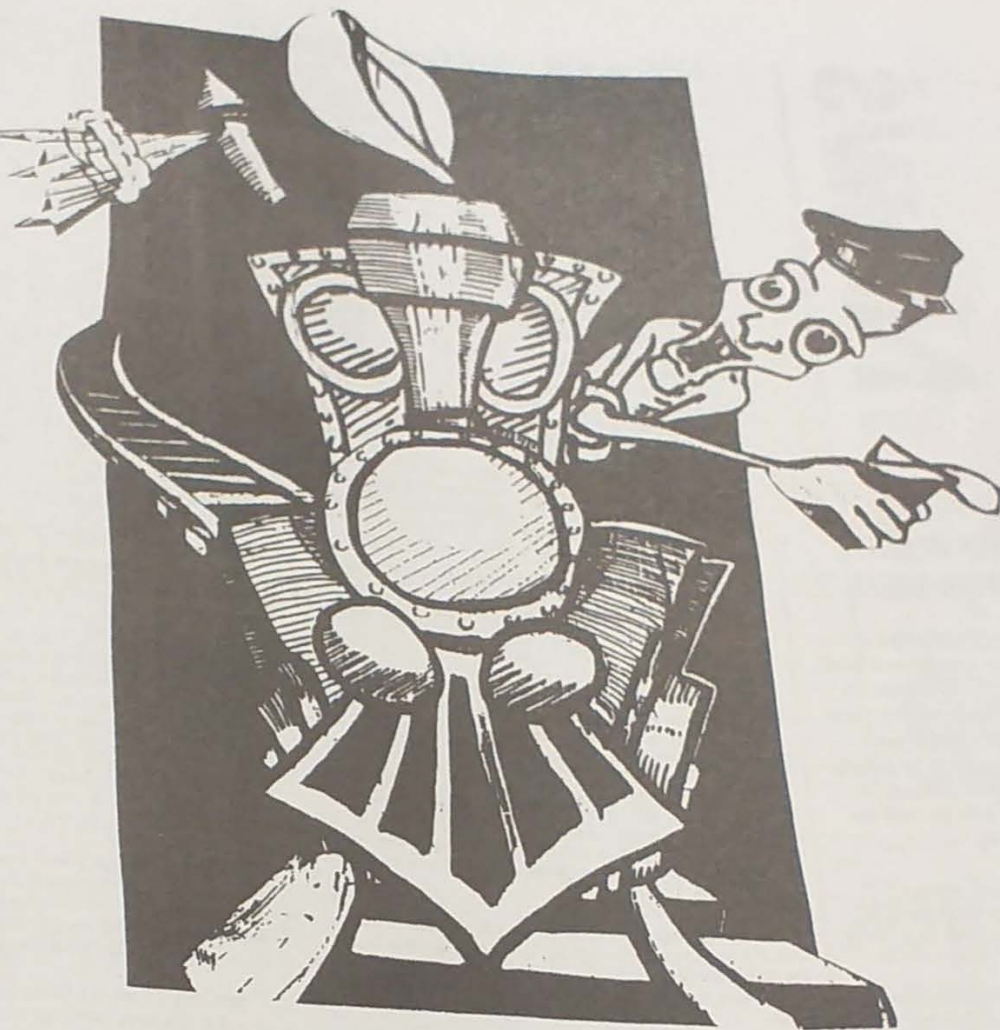
Food
each
Students

the
able at
ave a look
a of no
ill be
onnie,

irs" and
come

S

an Food



University of Limerick
Students' Union Newspaper

LOVE AND LOCOMOTION
WEDNESDAY WEEK 6

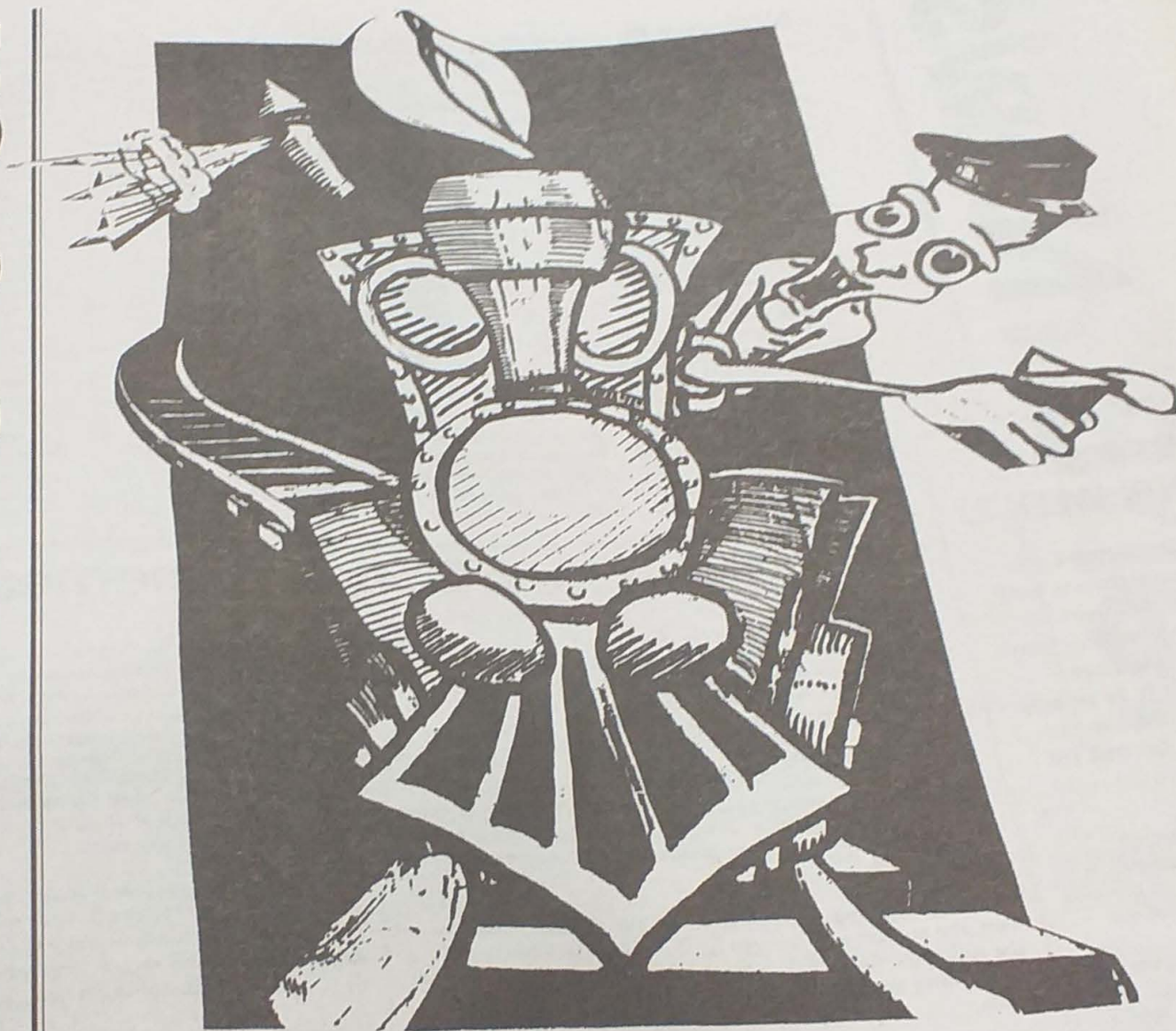
SEE ENTS PAGES

Inside:

News and letters
Ents Preview
Clubs and Societies
+ Lots More

Hilary 7 1992 Wednesday 5th February

an Food



LOVE AND LOCOMOTION
WEDNESDAY WEEK 6
SEE ENTS PAGES

University of Limerick
Union Newspaper



LOVE AND LOCOMOTION WEDNESDAY WEEK 6

SEE ENTS PAGES

University of Limerick
Students' Union Newspaper

Inside:

News and letters
Ents Preview
Clubs and Societies
+ Lots More

Hilary 7 1992 Wednesday 5th February

News

NO RESULTS UNTIL WEEK 7.

The industrial dispute continues and results will not be out for a while contrary to rumors, although it is nearly confirmed that results will be out by week 7.

MSF have rejected management proposals of last Friday week on grounds that it was done verbally.

The MSF spokesperson told An Focal that management have recently sent a written proposal which MSF

National Student Protest, Dublin

Thursday, Week 4 saw students from this college take part in a national student protest in Dublin against the recently announced decision by the department of education that E.S.F. grants will be means tested.

Maxine Brady, President of the Union of Students of Ireland, told An Focal that the march, which involved four and a half thousand students, was a success and the best turn-out for a student demonstration in years.

Ms Brady said that the U.S.I. was against all means testing of grants but particularly E.S.F. (European Social Fund) grants as these allow people to participate in third level education that otherwise would not be able to.

College heads at the R.T.C.s and D.I.T.s have said that up

to two thirds of their students could be affected by this latest measure. Further



complications may arise from the fact that the C.A.O./C.A.S. forms must be in by the end of February which may leave many

Leaving Cert students at a loss as to whether they will receive a grant or not.

Ms Brady added that the public services union, IMPACT, have stated that their members will not means test grants until their

is a restructuring with an increase in staff at the Department of Education. This may mean delays next year in grants from the E.S.F. although this is not yet clarified.

University of Limerick Students' Union President, Colm Croffy, stated that the Union's position was in opposition to any cut-backs in education and this latest measure was the first of many impending as the government aim to make savings any way they can.

Sources close to the Union describes the U.L. students' turn-out for the march in Dublin as "a disaster". Further national and local protests are in the pipeline but there are unlikely to be any in U.L. according to Students' Union sources.

Anger At New Entry Requirements

The announcement of the Universities new entry rules has led to much condemnation from Irish language organisations. Under the new rules, applicants to U.L. are required to have specific grades in English, Maths and an official E.C. language, which excludes Irish.

In reaction to this, "Comhdhail Naisiunta na Gaeilge", the coordinating body for Irish language organisations, has threatened legal action against the university. Bord na Gaeilge and Conradh na Gaeilge, as well as the colleges own Cumman Gaelach have declared their disapproval of the new entry requirements.

Due to this and pressure from the Department of Education, the subject was brought up during the last meeting of the Academic Council. The issue was postponed for discussion until a later date but will be soon referred to the individual boards.

The new rules also apply to the new B.A. being run with

One member of the academic council told An Focal that a choice was made between having an official or a recognised E.C. language as part of the new rules. The E.C. has 9 official working languages, which excludes Irish, one of the 30 recognised European languages. The choice to use the term "official" E.C. language was made due to pressure from the Department of Education. The Department put this pressure on the Academic Council of U.L. (as well as N.U.I. colleges) in the hope that future graduates would all have a second European language.

In their official statement to An focal An Cumann Gaeltach said that it "firmly believes in the promotion of the Irish language in the University of Limerick". However they would not comment on the "legal action being threatened by "Comhdhail Naisiunta Na Gaeilge" against the college.

Mr. Lillis O'Laoire told An Focal that the general feeling was that the Irish language be merely recognised by the

NO RESULTS UNTIL WEEK 7.

The industrial dispute continues and results will not be out for a while contrary to rumors, although it is nearly confirmed that results will be out by week 7.

MSF have rejected management proposals of last Friday week on grounds that it was done verbally.

The MSF spokesperson told An Focal that management have recently sent a written proposal which MSF sent to the sectors involved after which they will be in a position to have a formal response to the offer.

College heads at the R.T.C.s in by the end of which may leave many

Anger At New Entry Requirements

The announcement of the Universities new entry rules has led to much condemnation from Irish language organisations. Under the new rules, applicants to U.L. are required to have specific grades in English, Maths and an official E.C. language, which excludes Irish.

In reaction to this, "Comhdhail Naisiunta na Gaeilge", the coordinating body for Irish language organisations, has threatened legal action against the university. Bord na Gaeilge and Conradh na Gaeilge, as well as the colleges own Cumman Gaelach have declared their disapproval of the new entry requirements.

Due to this and pressure from the Department of Education, the subject was brought up during the last meeting of the Academic Council. The issue was postponed for discussion until a later date but will be soon referred to the individual boards.

The new rules also apply to the new B.A. being run with Mary Immaculate College of Education. When asked to comment, the Registrar of Mary I. Mr. Tony Bromell refused. He said that he had "no statement" to give as the issue was still "under review".

One member of the academic council told An Focal that a choice was made between having an official or a recognised E.C. language as part of the new rules. The E.C. has 9 official working languages, which excludes Irish, one of the 30 recognised European languages. The choice to use the term "official" E.C. language was made due to pressure from the Department of Education. The Department put this pressure on the Academic Council of U.L. (as well as N.U.I. colleges) in the hope that future graduates would all have a second European language.

In their official statement to An Focal An Cumann Gaeltach said that it "firmly believes in the promotion of the Irish language in the University of Limerick". However they would not comment on the "legal action being threatened by "Comhdhail Naisiunta Na Gaeilge" against the college.

Mr. Lillis O'Laire told An Focal that the general feeling was that the Irish language be merely recognised by the college-it did not need to be compulsory. He said that Language is "the 1st official language recognised by the Constitution" and that this implies duties on the state and rights to inhabitants even though those rights are not recognised practically".

POSTGRADS UNHAPPY

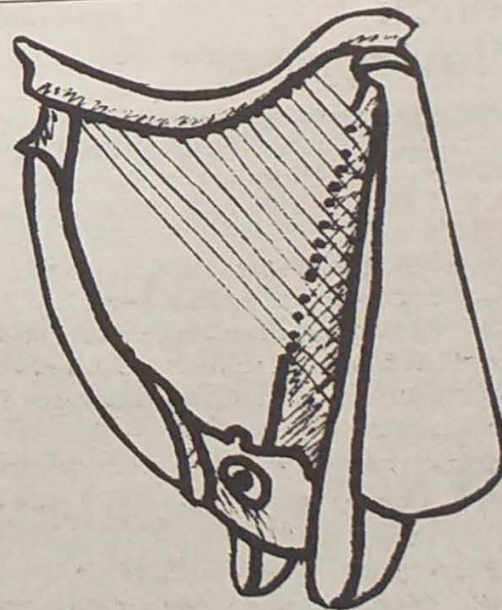
by Finola Bradley

During the meeting of the Postgraduate Students Association (PSA) on Wed. week3, a complaint was lodged as to impossible working facilities appointed to some Postgraduate students.

The postgrad who lodged the complaint told An Focal that they were allocated a room in the Schrodinger building, which contained computers in which to do their study. They were told that no one else had official access to use the room.

However some weeks later, without any warning technicians came and moved the room around. The students are now forced to work in the same room where drawing lectures are carried out.

When they complained about this they were told that the issue was basically political and not to whinge or the room would be lost entirely. The general feeling now is that they were originally given the room merely as a holding operation while full time allocation was decided upon.



SEMESTERISATION

ISSUED BY STUDENTS' UNION EXECUTIVE

HISTORY

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.

CURRENTLY

The Students Union Executive, Mon. Week 4, having discussed the matter at some length; feel that we as a Union should revisit this area of policy. In initiating policy the S.U. President begun the debate by claiming personally to support the move to a two term system; clearly pointing out however that once the membership decided

upon the issue - that Executive will be bound by the decisions of the General Meeting and/ or a Referendum.

The Executive for their part choose to state their strong support for the change (in seeking the quality of education that is being handsomely paid for and as better means of incorporating fully a proper Repeats structure for the University) by adopting the following resolution-

"We feel that the current U.L. system is incapable of providing the quality education that we are promised. We believe that changing the academic calendar from a trimester to a semester system would be one of the best ways of improving the situation. "

Clubs and Societies Council (representative

assembly of the 52 recognised Clubs and Societies on campus) also supported - despite some very strong individual reservations : the resolution at their meeting of Tuesday Week 4 .

Class Reps at their meeting last week decided unanimously to support the resolution and mandated the Executive to

a) Organise a public debate - inviting specifically Dr. Walsh to defend his current system

b) that as much information as possible be provided for students to make an informed choice and

c) to make the necessary arrangements for a Referendum (Thursday Week 6) in support of the resolution - to allow all of the membership to have a say on the issue in a democratic fashion.

Union B...

(1) Improved Quality of Education

How?

• Shift emphasis from information recall of a short-term nature to longer-term analytical approach to the material. i.e. instead of teaching us all to behave like little, human photocopiers, memorising everything we see because there isn't enough time to go into the material in any depth.

• Reduces problem of frequent exams which leads to knowledge being superseded at the end of each term.

• Reduces inefficiencies associated with three start-ups per year.

• With greater emphasis on analytical thinking rather than regurgative info. recall - the mind will be better able to use information as we progress in career fields ie. will not just mindless

robots wasted on the corporate ladder at 28.

(2) Reduces Student Pressure.

How?

• Allows choice to students as to how they will distribute their time throughout the year. Can use holidays to catch up on work which was not done due to illness or participation in campus clubs and societies.

• Allows introduction of study week or weeks before exams in which there would be no lectures or labs or tutorials.

• Allows for reduction of academic year to finish at end of May by eliminating one week's exams and shorter holidays at Christmas. Since effective teaching is not now possible in Week 10 because of the proximity of exams, effective teaching time can be retained while reducing the total time. This can be used

to allow for mid-semester breaks.

(3). Would bring us into line with the other European universities as the semester system is the most common academic calendar in operation.

(4) Should improve the service provided by Student Services.

How?

• Availability of timetables. Currently because of the short terms, student services are unable to provide a timetable on time.

• Reduced number of Student Status Committee meetings.

• Allows resources to be redirected to a set of systematic repeats.

• Reduces the number of repeat exams which would be necessary in a formal repeat system.

(5) Provide the opportunity for a formal repeat structure - like in other colleges.

How?

• Formal repeat structure for everyone is not viable in a University that operates three exam periods a year. Think of it like this. Repeat in our current system and you are talking six exams in each subject to design, implement, correct, recheck....TWICE!

• In a semester system there would be sufficient time to implement a formal repeat system for every student.

What form of calendar, so?

Start: Same as before. Classes commence early October with first of two fourteen-week terms.

Xmas Hols. Commence week before Christmas week. Three weeks holidays. Return early January to complete last four weeks of term. After which follows a week study break.

Exam Week - Mid-Feb. Term 2 Starts immediately after exams.

Easter Hols As normal on calendar.

Study Break - 1 week around end of May

Exams - First week in June

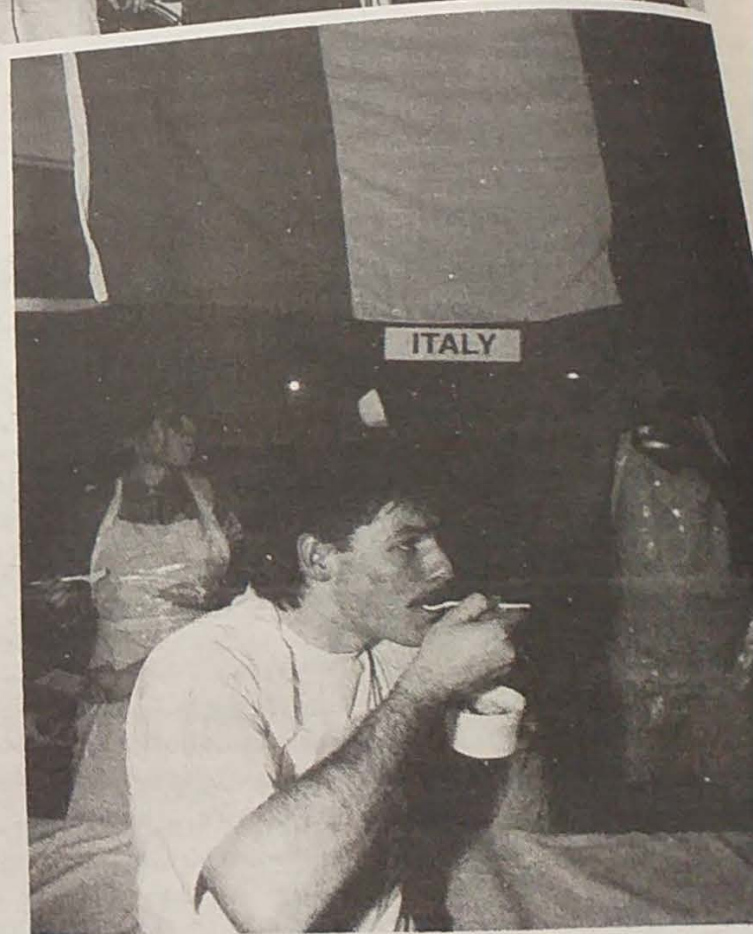
Finish - Earlier in June
Co-op Education would still be retained as in existing years but would start and finish a few weeks later.

**REFERENDUM THURSDAY WEEK 6 - BALLOTING MAIN CAFETERIA
ONLY 10.00AM - 5.00PM MUST HAVE I.D. CARD TO VOTE**

Features



Multi-Cultural



Engineering & Science Speaks

This week's column features excerpts from Gerard Buckley's short article: "A Guide of Sorts for the Successful Engineer".

It is a fact that history has produced scant few Engineer Statesmen. Consider for a moment the pattern of your average engineer. The later years see a discernible shift away from the nuts and bolts activity and more of his time spent in a

A query: Why is it that so many engineers stumble at the executive stage and fail to ever hit the big-time? Firstly, has to recognise that other cliques/professions have a vested interest in our failure. In the words of Winston Churchill, "Engineers should be on tap, not on top." But that's not all. Where the Engineer really falls down is in his lack of finesse. Faced with this

Engineering & Science Speaks

This week's column features excerpts from Gerard Buckley's short article: "A Guide of Sorts for the Successful Engineer".

It is a fact that history has produced scant few Engineer Statesmen. Consider for a moment the pattern of your average engineer. The later years see a discernible shift away from the nuts and bolts activity and more of his time spent in a supervisory role or as a middle management functionary. The situation is aptly described by Putt's Law:

Technology is dominated by two types of people: Those who understand what they do not manage,

Those who manage what they do not understand.

No, the average manager has earned his company car and parking space by learning the hard way, there's only one law in Engineering that really counts - and that's Murphy's Law: If anything can go wrong, it will. Some of the more pertinent categories of the same law include:

- (1) Always keep a record of data...it indicates you've been working.
- (2) If it jams, force it. If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway.
- (3) When all else fails, read the instructions.
- (4) No matter what goes wrong, there is always somebody who knew it would.
- (5) Teamwork is essential. It allows you to blame someone else.

A query: Why is it that so many engineers stumble at the executive stage and fail to ever hit the big-time? Firstly, has to recognise that other cliques/professions have a vested interest in our failure. In the words of Winston Churchill, "Engineers should be on tap, not on top." But that's not all. Where the Engineer really falls down is in his lack of finesse. Faced with this shortcoming, the following list in boardroom etiquette is provided as a guide to the aspiring executive.

- (1) Strive to look tremendously important.
- (2) Speak with authority; however expound only on the obvious and proven facts.
- (3) Listen intently while others are arguing the problem. Pounce on a true statement and bury them with it.
- (4) Always keep the office door closed. This puts visitors on the defensive and also makes it look as if you are always in an important conference.
- (5) Give all orders verbally. Never write anything down that might later be used against you.
- (6) Walk at a fast pace when out of the office - this keeps questions from subordinates and superiors at a minimum.

Remember, "It is better to be unborn than untaught, for ignorance is the root of misfortune".



Parade Permit from Manhattan Irish Group

New York City Hall has taken away the permit to run the St. Patrick's Day Parade from the Manhattan group that sponsored the grand march up Fifth Avenue for the past 150 years but continues to bar a gay Irish contingent from participating. The permit was turned over to the group's statewide parent organisation.

the Manhattan chapter of the Ancient Order of hibernians has been embroiled in almost continuous controversy for two years over its refusal to allow the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organisation to join the parade.

Mayor David N. Dinkins said that his action was not related to the gay group's presence in the parade, but was intended to "let the organisation hash out its internal problems."

Food Fair



Features



STABLES CLUB NEWS

You may have noticed that the Stables Club have recently acquired a new large screen which is hanging on the wall behind the stage area. It is currently being used to show sports events (soccer,

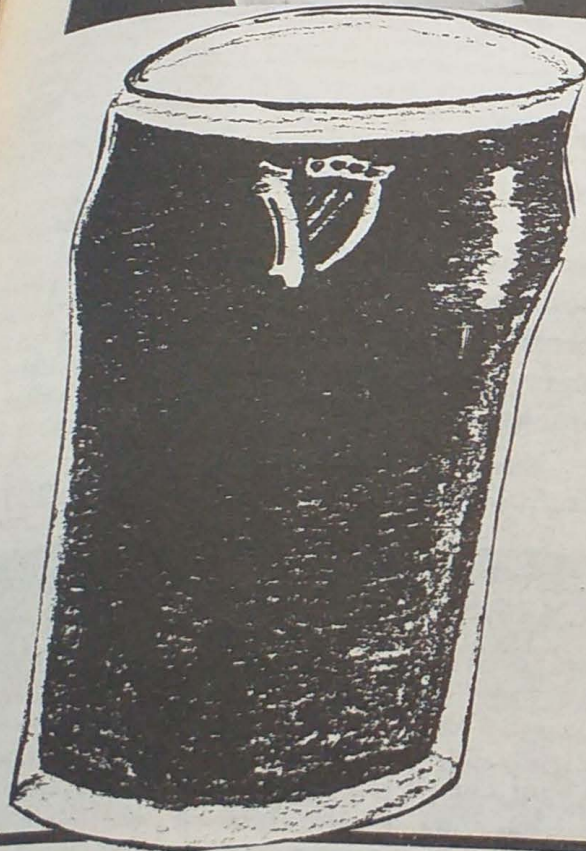
those rejoining us, if you're going to the Stables Club any night PLEASE carry your I.D. card with you. In order to keep the Stables Club a members only venue, you may be asked to show your I.D. card as you enter. S



STABLES CLUB NEWS

You may have noticed that the Stables Club have recently acquired a new large screen which is hanging on the wall behind the stage area. It is currently being used to show sports events (soccer, rugby, racing, etc) and soaps (Coronation Street, Home and Away, Glenroe). Anybody else who would like to use the screen should contact Donal or Declan to arrange a suitable time.

those rejoining us, if you're going to the Stables Club any night PLEASE carry your I.D. card with you. In order to keep the Stables Club a members only venue, you may be asked to show your I.D. card as you enter. So if you want in, carry your I.D. card!



STABLES CLUB ENTS

ENTS WEEK 5 WEEK 6

Tuesday Nuttin Yet Frontline

Thursday Shantytown

Friday Kevin Sullivan

Patrons who lose money in the cigarette machine may call on Wednesdays to retrieve their money. Money cannot be refunded "on the spot" as the machine is not owned or run by the Stables who therefore cannot open it.

CARD PLAYING

All patrons are asked not to play cards at lunch or tea time when there is a shortage of table space. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, a reminder to those who were here last term and new information to

La Vache Qui Rit

Blackbirds

Le corbeau, cet oiseau rare en Irlande me fascine et ne cesse d'occuper mes pensées. Qui-est-il, d'ou vient-il? Pourquoi aime-t-il tant ces grands sacs en plastique noirs? Son vol majestueux de poubelle en poubelle, de reverberer en reverberer me procure une sensation indescriptible et je ne puis m'empêcher de m'écrier: "Maitre corbeau, que vous me semblez beau".

Mais attention, n'essayez pas de les prendre en photo, ils ont la faculté de retrecir afin de se faire passer pour des moineaux. Les vils bestiaux! Quand je pense à la blanche colombe qui doit partager les vertes prairies irlandaises avec lui, je me dis quelle grandeur d'esprit, quel symbole!

Editorial

Hearing a word like semesterisation transports me immediately to the type of high-school scene in which one might expect to meet the likes of John Travolta or Olivia Newton John. It could be called "the American way" - book carrying youths, muscular football players, leggy cheer-leaders, in general a sort of fun filled system with no sign of any real books or study in sight.

This of course is fiction, an exaggerated version of the real story, but still something we can learn from when the semesterisation debate will become an issue for each and every one of

us on Thursday of week six.

So what changes exactly could semesterisation make on campus? Well, beside the obvious reduction from three to two sets of exams, union executive believe it will improve the quality of education, reduce student pressure, bring us into line with other European universities, improve the service provided by student services and provide the opportunity for a formal repeat structure.

If all this can be believed and, more importantly can be delivered upon then, semesterisation does

seem to be a potential rival to our current trimester, inefficient, and unsuccessful situation.

The lesson to be learned from "the American way" is that semesterisation is not the magical answer to all our problems. Semesterisation can merely afford students the choice to be "the book carrying youth", "the muscular footballer", or "the leggy cheer-leader". It can only allow us the chance to use our time more wisely - to take part in club and society activities if we wish to do so, to take a more organised approach to study

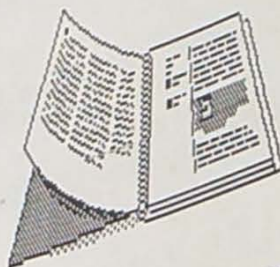
and so avoid the traditional weeks eight, nine and ten "cram", or to just doss around for a few extra weeks in the year.

While actual semesterisation will never affect you or I (as if approved will take at least three years to implement), we must remember that it is up to us to make this university a real one for the next generations of students. Whether semesterisation will make it real or not is up to you, therefore, attend the meetings, make your decision, and vote the way you feel is right.

Credits

Editor

an Focal



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 12th February:**

This of course is fiction, an exaggerated version of the real story, but still something we can learn from when the semesterisation debate will become an issue for each and every one of

If all this can be believed and, more importantly can be delivered upon then, semesterisation does

Credits

Editor: Maria Casey
Design and Layout: Billy k.
News: Finola B.
Arts: John M.
Welfare: Donal W.
Cover: John s.
Paste up: Mbad j.
Out-going Editor: Kevin b.

Thanks for Contributions From Every-
one who Helped Out
Printed by the Limerick Leader

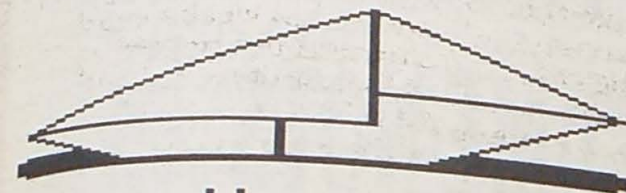
Apology

We, the editorial team apologise for two mistakes made in the last issue. Sorry to John Maguire who should have been credited for his book review on "Death of an American Dream" and sorry to the author of a letter on Kerry men whose letter of a couple of editions ago was printed once more.

Right of Reply

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



Issues at Large.

Dear Editor,

It is unfortunate that the nature of the academic year in this university leaves precious little time for living "average" lives, as we believe our contemporaries in U.C.D. and U.C.C. etc do. And although the Stables "Club" is rarely empty from Monday to Friday, the Clubs & Societies will recognise that a great difficulty exists in attracting long-standing membership from the student body at large, and so they find that they depend heavily on those few committed and active members, who consider their particular engagement quite as important as studying for their degree. I often wonder then, what entertains the minds of the rest, the non-participants, the majority who don't know the S.U. from a ham sand-

wich. Surely us "cultural groupies" take interest in the issues of the day - be it academic or otherwise. But what are the questions which the majority of hearts beg? What are the real issues at large?

It could be held that this newspaper provides an excellent opportunity to act as a "pooling ground" where such issues can be brought to the fore. Indeed, during its short life-span, "An Focal" has published some articles of the highest quality, dealing in all shapes and colours from triangles to green. There has even been one or two touches of talent along the way - Mr. Snodgrass may take a bow, as may the unfortunate student laden with public lice (a personal favourite).

The world according to you

But here I interject and face some of the realities of the day.

I sit in the canteen alone (usually) when Business Studies students enter, talking of the intricacies of "stream of consciousness" writing in Joyce, and you simply know they have never read him. I manage to ignore this youthful optimism and continue contemplation of my Mars bar, when suddenly a group of high spirited engineers sit beside me and speak in vague terms of writing theses for PhDs. Well, I'm faced with three choices. I may walk away (but why should I?) or I may violently contradict their every word, or I may simply join in (if they'll have me). So I choose none, which leaves me nowhere in particular. Nowhere in particular is a good place to be when I happen upon the following string of thoughts.

You see, these are the non-participants, the average students, the majority, the struggler who boggle the bejaysus out of each other with competition, who study from about Week 7 on. And the issues at large seldom stretch further than the pocket, the shift, the crack, the boredom of study, which leaves the S.U. issues far down on their lists of priorities. So the academic talents roaming freely around the college, form into cliques of academic societies. And the sporting talents form the teams. An inevitable spin-off of this, is the suppression of invisible talent existent in the rest. There may not be room in this institution for the recognition of talent in every single person - but there is room out in the big world. I hope those Business students eventually learn the

truth in Joyce and that those Engineers do write their PhDs; But in the meantime, the apparent intellectual gap between the talented and the non-talented, I feel, should be recognised, is mythical, and oftentimes detrimental to the state of the mental health of the student body - at large.

Niall Power
3rd Humanities.

Letters

Justice is Done

Dear Sir,

It was with the natural reactions of scorn and contempt that I read the pitiful contribution of our "2nd Wood Technician" (Hilary 1, 20th January, 1992). If he/she is to be credited with any intelligence, it would be for maintaining his/her anonymity.

The writer of this heap of excrement was brought back to mind after reading the following titles: "Towards more Successful Gardening" and "Gerry Daly does it in the Great Outdoors; (and no, the latter title is not a sordid headline from a tabloid newspaper.) Yes the connecting factors were: (1) the writer has retired to vegetating in his/her self-cooked cocoon of complacency,

(2) he/she provides his/her own fertiliser, for the purposes of vegetation, in the form of his/her writings.

Shudder the thought that this excellent section of this magnificent publication, be turned into a character-bashing column. To avoid such, I will divert my attention to poking holes in his/her misty-thin arguments, instead of doing so the writer him/herself, (as I

quite detest cabbages with holes in them)

Our anonymous "Chippie" firstly acknowledges Kerry-men as having a distinct role to play in our college. Chippie, however, surmises that "legging it" from the railway station is a flaw. He/she fails to recognise that it is both a healthy and environmentally friendly exercise and consequently quite a justifiable boast; but given their famed modesty, no Kerryman will brag about it.

Chippie banter on vaguely about Kerry-men generating rubbish referring to it as "amazing, 'disturbing', common and not recommended. Again he/she flaunts his/her capacity of a retarded four year old. no example of what he/she is referring to, is cited and I can only say that I wouldn't hang a cat on the evidence he/she has presented, nor a Corkman for that matter.

Chippie refers to Kerry-men as a "creed". "Creed" derives from Latin, "credo", meaning - I believe. Kerry-men believe in themselves, in their individuality as a culture and consequently in their higher standing among other races. The 'unique

dress' that Chippie refers to, is more commonly known as "fashion", a concept that shouldn't ever trouble the intellect of this simple-minded writer.

On a concluding note, people of Limerick should remember that they, along with their counterparts in Dublin, daily look up to a Kerryman: the splendid statue of the greatest of Kerry-men, Daniel O'Connell. So, when one meets a Kerryman on campus, do show your natural reactions; be it bowing, genuflecting or licking the ground 'ere he goes - Remember God loves us all, because we are all equal, but remember also, some of us are more equal than others!!

Yours faithfully,
Raymond Hurley,
2nd Business Studies.

sent to companies in the search for a job. This can be viewed by employers in two ways: Firstly, that the grades were so bad that you're deliberately withholding them, and secondly, that this University is on its way down the slippery slope.

To say that we were received in a sympathetic manner would be a complete lie. Mr Hegarty had the naivety to assert that it was not the aim of the M.S.F. Union to elicit a response from student's parents. "We never wanted your sympathy", he said, referring to student support for their underlying grievance. To

News on Grades

This article might justifiably have been a blank space for all the apparent action that is taking place. Although the S.U. is doing what it can, we, as a group of 4th Year Electronic Engineers, felt that the personal touch might be in order. Accordingly a small delegation consisting of Andrew O'Connell, Sohrab Nezamabad and myself arranged a meeting with M.S.F. Union Representative, Dr. Alan Hegarty on Wednesday, 29th January.

Our aim in seeking the meeting was once again to put forward the plight of the students in this dispute and to enquire as to what progress was being made. In the case of the 4th Year Students, the effect of the dispute is to prevent the completion of C.V.'s and application forms

the suggestion that it would have been much more effective to withhold the processing of fees at the start of term, he replied, "um...ah... that would probably have been a good idea. Nobody proposed it." Apparently there are 402 members of the M.S.F. Union in U.L., a sizeable proportion of these academics, and if they couldn't come up with something as simple as this, one wonders who should be teaching whom.....

The outcome of this meeting was a hesitant assertion that the action would be lifted next week, but there's no guarantee, if the lecturer's cared at all, they'd release their grades unofficially and to hell with the academic regulations. If the new proposal isn't accepted, one of our lecturers hinted that he wouldn't be surprised if the dispute continued until June. Looking at the M.S.F.'s 'wait and see' attitude, I wouldn't be surprised either.

Sean Killen
Class Rep 4th Elect.
Eng.

Niall Power
3rd Humanities.

ENTS

THE D.C.U./ U.L. BLIND DATE GIG FORGET-ME-NOTS

This is happening on Wednesday 12th Feb week 6. The train from DCU arrives at approx. 5.30pm then the pub crawl begins.....the three designated pubs which will all have Guinness Product Promotions (one pub having a band). Then at 8.00 everyone will be collected and shuttled to the Stables Club to enjoy the mad and crazy PETER O MALLEY & more Guinness product promotions. From 10pm approx 7 buses will start shuttling people out to The Two Mile Inn for the gig. NOTE NOONE WITHOUT A TICKET WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE BUSES. The entertainment for the night consists of 2 discos and the "The Forget Me Nots" play.

To get tickets here is what to do This Wednesday Q out side Bers office in the courtyard stables where from 1pm special envelopes will be issued one per person . In these envelopes there will be a form to be filled out . Return the envelope plus the form and £5 for a ticket from 1pm to 5pm on Thursday (back to bers office. If you haven't returned your envelope by that time your ticket will be sold off the following day in the union shop. On Monday of week 6 from 1pm - 5pm you can pick up your envelope again with the name, class, year of the DCU person who will be your guest for the day. If at all possible try and meet them at the station. For all it should be a great night out. To see what the DCU talent is like keep in tune with the Monitors in the canteen to see video shots in the DCU & UL 35 Trophy brought to you by Campus T.V.



THE FORGET ME NOTS

This 2 year old Dublin Band have a lot in common with the B52's featuring two female singers, 3 guitar players, drums and bass. They have received alot of media attraction here and in the U.K. It was this attraction which secured an international record deal with C.B.S. records. If you can remember last term they were supposed to play in Arthurs' Warehouse but due to the licence dispute were transfered to the Student Centre to meet with a leaking roof. So this is another chance to see this band with a partner from DCU and enjoy the night!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



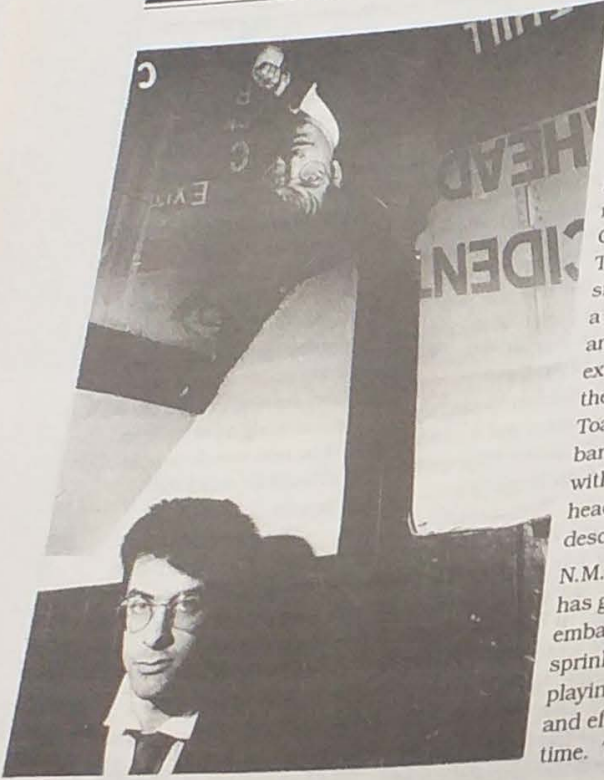


union shop. On your envelope you can pick up your envelope class, year of the DCU person who will for the day. If at all possible try and meet them at station. For all it should be a great night out. To see what the DCU talent is like keep in tune with the Monitors in the canteen to see video shots in the DCU & UL 35 Trophy brought to you by Campus T.V.

ber last to the licence dispute the leaking roof. So this is an DCU and enjoy the night!!!!!!

Toasted Heretic

The last time you would have seen Toasted Heretic was over a year ago, when there singer (Julian Gough) perched himself high in the rafters in the Stables Club. Since then Toasted Heretic has signed a record deal, had a hit record in Ireland and have recieved excellent reviews from the British Music Press. Toasted Heretic, a funny band, a theatrical band, with legend-in-his-own-head-case Julian described by this weeks N.M.E. as a person who "goes through as many costume changes as Diana Ross in one year". Their live show has gotten much more profesional- the Toasted experience involves a good ten minutes of sweating with embarrassment as the show begins and if you could imagine Morrissey with Sinead o Conner mixed and a sprinkle of James Brown thrown in for good measure!!!! They are a serious band not to be missed and will be playing in the revamped THEATRE ROYAL which has a new turbo sound system and massive stage lighting and effects. The most important thing is that the bar has a unique licence allowing us to serve after the usual time. There will also be a disco and opening act.



Photos- Aongus Mc Mahon

WHEN : Thursday 20th Feb. (doors open 10.00pm)
TICKETS : 12 - 2 pm Canteen Tue. 18th - Thurs. 20th, also Union Shop £3 (advance) £4 (on door)

SUPPORT YOUR OWN ENTS !!!

By Billy Kirwan

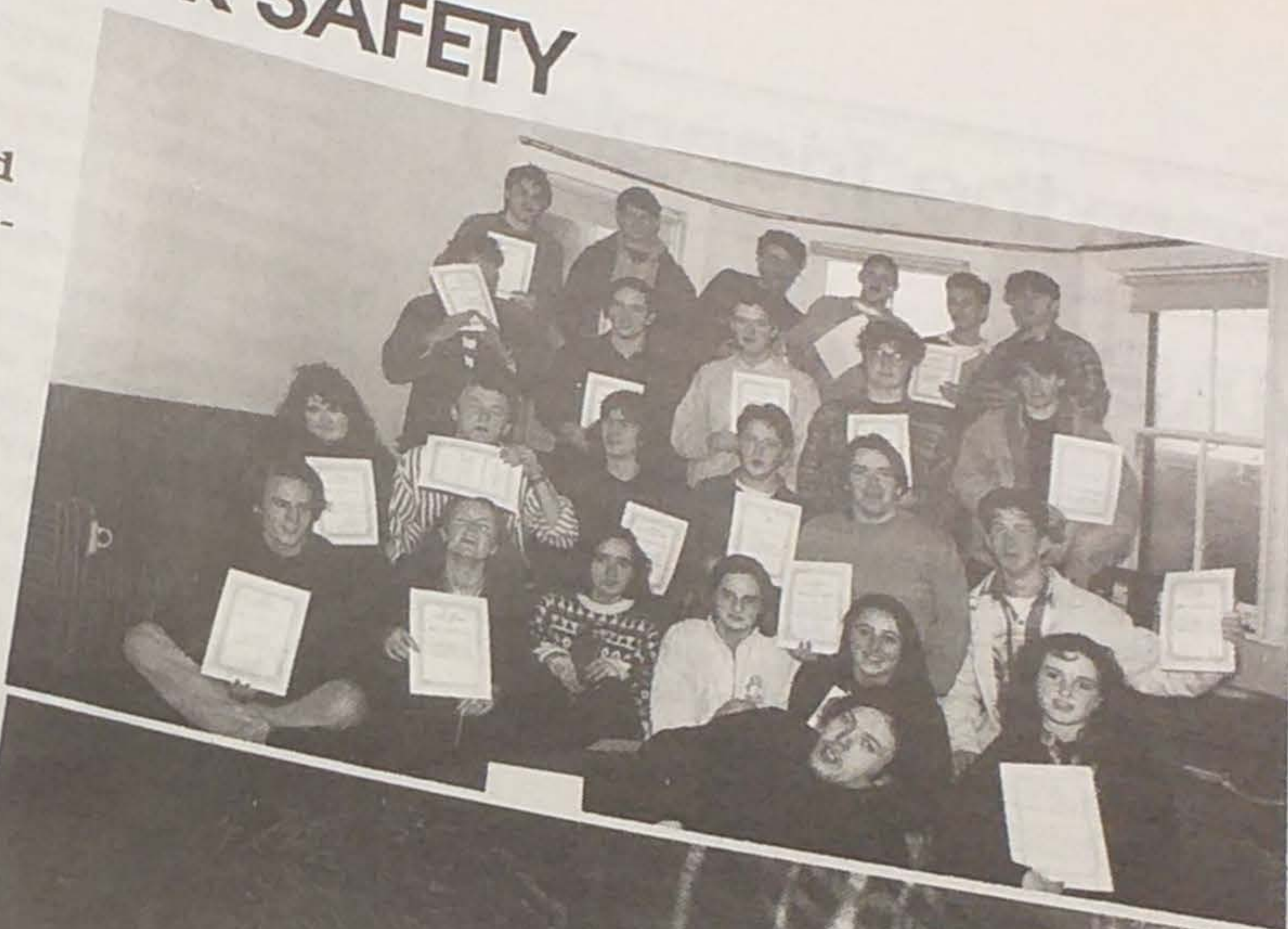
Last weekend the entertainment crew went on their training weekend to enhance their abilities to administer effectively the running of all entertainment on campus.

Items covered during the weekend included .. dealing with fellow students & out-siders under various conditions, dealing with crushes, fights and evacuation of venues, they also did a full first aid course along with many other discussions on the service we provide and past experiences. During these discussions we all became aware of the problems on the buses, at the door, before, during and after the gigs, with the venue security and management, basically 'The Good, The Bad & The Ugly' about being on ents crew.

I have just a few notes that I would like to remind you all of:

The most important is that the Students' Union Ents employ them to ensure the smooth running of our entertainments and by doing this make sure every one enjoys the nights entertainment. They also like you are students and if problems arise they are there to sort out the situation as best they can. I would appreciate if you could co-operate with the crew so we all have a wonderful and safe night.

TRAINING FOR YOUR SAFETY



Preview

END OF TERM 1 DISCO

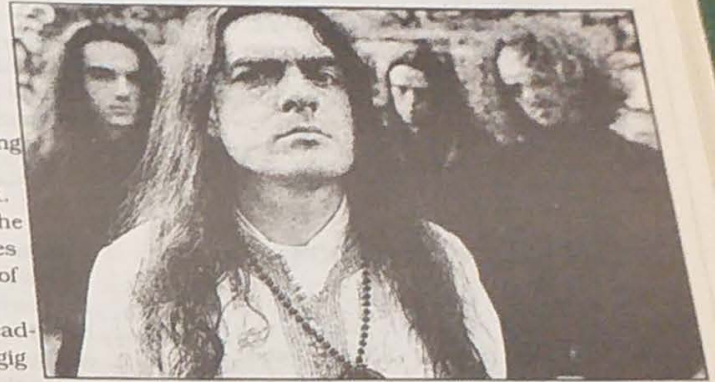
THE JOSHUA TRIO



MANU RAMIREZ

THE JOSHUA TRIO

They performed last week in the Savoy during the Co-act rag week. And now will be performing FREE in the Hurlers Wed. 9pm. Stuart Baillie joined their crusade recently and reported about the four of them within the one trio....."the door opens and in walks a guy wearing white robes, long flowing hair, Moses sandals and a massive black pendant with a picture of Bono in the middle of it. Here is Paul from the Joshua Trio and he's got the holy business to conduct.....They are the apostles of U2.....they do a country and western version of 'The Fly'.....they have softened up 'Mysterious Ways'....." If you would like to see the Trio spreading the word of the prophet Bono go to the free gig in the Hurlers WED week 5.



He moves in Mysterious Ways, indeed . . .

4th Electronics & Computer Engineering.-Beer & Badger Class Party.

Yes folks, Lazarus arose again on Monday of Week 3, and the staunch advocates of partytime in 4th Engineering shambled into action. And hey, a great time was had by all. nobody could have failed to notice the demonstrations of badger-throwing (a la Nighthawks) in the canteen in the preceding days. This up-and-coming sport is to be included in the line-up for the 2016 Olympics. you heard it here first! The party was held in Costello's with music by Philip Smith and sure, the craic was only mighty! As they say, the camera doesn't lie, and that wasn't even the best picture. Say no more, nudge, nudge, wink, wink..

Anyway further events are in the pipeline, including the compilation of a class yearbook. So if there are any 4th elect. or Comp. Eng people out there who'd only love to write something apt (meaning obscene) about anybody, student, lecturer or ordinary nobody, pass it on to me.

Sean Killeen
Calss Rep 4th Elect.



THE FOUR LAMP SHADES



From the Triangle IMAGES

by Cathal Kelly

There are no prizes for noticing that in the last twenty years much has changed in Ireland. Much of the change has been the subject of public debate and record; the availability of contraceptives, the decision to hold a referendum on divorce, and governments promise to reform the laws on homosexuality are legal aspects of the changes. The changes have not just been legal in nature. The fact unmarried mothers are no longer automatically outcasts shows that many of these changes have reached right into Irish society and people.

Along with these open and observed changes, another has occurred about which I have mixed feelings. Gone is the old stereotype of the gay man: a delicate creature, limp-wristed, 'effeminate', and addressing every man as "dear". The automatic assumption that gay men are 'nancy boys' has died, and its demise is to be welcomed. I have my fears that it has been replaced with another stereotype, and that this can be in many ways just as damaging.

What drew my attention to this stereotype is a row among gay people in the USA about the film *My Own Private Idaho*, starring

River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves, which is currently showing there and is due for release here in March. The row centres around how gay people are portrayed in the film. It doesn't spoil the film to say that one of the gay characters is a 'hustler', a male prostitute. One of the protagonists in the row made his case thus: "I do not need the general public going to *My Own Private Idaho* and having their warped opinions about gay men being warped more". His complaint drew the following response; "So, let me take a guess..... You think that a gay positive movie will show a nice gay couple living their life? I get it now. Face the facts, the gay characters in *My Own Private Idaho* are real. I know people like that. I know people like that who actually did the same sort of thing (hustling to go from a small town to a big city). They are real."

The new Irish stereotype is that gay people are 'nice people', the Irish equivalent of the American MCWM - Middle Class White Male. This new stereotype has been formed on the model of prominent gay people in Irish society. By prominent I don't mean just those in

public life that most of us can name (which probably amounts to one person - Senator David Norris). In this context, I refer to those who appear in public when gay rights and gay people are the subject of media attention, although their names may not be generally familiar. They include those in the UCD Lesbian and Gay Society who, two years ago, drew substantial media attention when they successfully campaigned for official recognition of the society in their college. Since then, there has also been a *Late Show* special about gay and lesbian people and gay rights. The gay people who appeared on the programme are part of the emergence of this new stereotype. Last year the organisers of the Irish Gay and Lesbian Organisation in New York were the subject of attention because of their participation in the St Patrick's Day Parade. The cumulative effect of these gay people who appear in the media is the creation of a new image, an image of organised, mainly middle-class, and articulate people.

It is no surprise that our media tend to give more coverage to those who are organised. They also tend to pass over those who wish to use the media and are inarticulate, except possibly when they declare 'open season' on some politicians. It is not a big surprise that an industry concerned with communication should give little time to those who are unable to communicate well. What is more worrying is that the claim that the media has a middle class bias.

Shortly before the last general election Frank Cluskey T.D., former leader of the Labour Party, died. On the next day on which Seanad Éireann sat, a representative of each of the groups in the Senate paid tribute to him and his political service. Later that evening RTE broadcast extracts from the speeches made in the Seanad. What should have been a safe, if unspectacular, tribute to a T.D., Party Leader and Minister became a minor controversy when RTE failed to broadcast any part of the tribute made by the speaker on behalf of the Labour Party - the late Mr Cluskey's own party. The Labour Party complained, and it was strongly suggested that the reason no extract from his speech was broadcast was that he had a working class Dublin accent. RTE apologised, although the reason given for omitting the tribute from the Labour Party in the Seanad on the death of their former leader was an editorial oversight.

I would be surprised if, say, *Kenny Live* (or the *Late Late Show*, or *Bibi*) had as a guest one of the women who sell fruit

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

Better the Devil you know.

The agitators in favour of the semesterisation system blame the present tri-modular one for famines in Africa, test-tube babies, Ronald Reagan's presidency, Theresa Lowe and most other disasters which have befallen mankind since the dawn of time. Semesterisation is the mystical potion which will solve all our woes. Around Week 8 and 9 of each term, I myself am a most obstreperous advocate of the semesterisation system. Exams loom large and impending disaster leads me to a cry for change in the system: "Why must we sit exams three times a year where once is sufficient everywhere else", I ask remonstrating earnestly, "while we are locked away in our rooms, students at other universities are partying, boozing and generally making nuisances of themselves, why can't we?" It's very easy at times like this to blame it on "the system" and in the late weeks of the term. When we get that drowning sensation, we'll grasp at anything that appears to promise safety and respite. There are fundamental flaws in the system which need to be addressed. However these can be solved within the tri-modular system. Semesterisation is therefore a "red herring". I will begin in the defence of the present system by discussing the flaws in some of the arguments put forward by proponents of Semesterisation.

The first rather dubious claim made is that the longer term would allow students to gain an in-depth knowledge of the subject, that they will have extra time to spend in the library "reading around the topic", that it is conducive to real learning and

not the cramming that goes on at the present. That's pure "mullarkey" as cramming will go on as long as there are exams at all. Things will always be left to the last minute. Where would we be without cramming? Probably in a FAS course! The notion that students freed from exam pressure will spend extra time in the library researching and gaining a deeper understanding of their subjects is too ridiculous to imagine.

There would be a more vigorous participation in Clubs & Socs under the semesterisation system we are told. This is a fallacy. How can they honestly say that workloads have prevented society participation? The reality is that some people just aren't interested. Many people just aren't interested. Many people would prefer the semesterisation system we are told. This is a fallacy. How can they honestly say that workloads have prevented society participation? The reality is that some people just aren't interested. Many people just aren't interested. Many people would prefer ttraint. That is seldom the case I would argue.

The most lucrative carrot of all they dangle is the prospect of less work under the semesterisation system. Believe me readers, if I thought that semesterisation would bring about even marginally less work, I would be up on my soapbox in a minute extolling the virtues of the semesterisation system and exhorting you to vote accordingly. I am deeply sceptical at this fall off in the workload. To be realistic, which I am not from Week 9 onwards, we don't do anymore work here than in other universities. Having friends and relations in other third level institutions, I will vouch for that. Most of us in UL think we work harder and like to see our-

selves as martyrs, but this isn't the case. There is mass hysteria in other universities between Easter and Summer. Something, we manage mostly to avoid.

I've spoken enough about semesterisation, now I'll deal with the merits of our own system. In the trimester way, even if you have only studied sporadically or not at all throughout the term it is still possible to cover the modules material in about 2 weeks. After a 14 or 15 week term, the volume of work would be so great I doubt that these Houdini-like escapes could be achieved. The tri-modular system also means that if for whatever reason you flop in one set of exams you have two more chances to make up lost ground. With semesterisation, if the exams go badly 50% is jettisoned instantly.

Three terms also means a greater diversity of subjects. With the system as it stands you are not saddled with any subject for more than 10 weeks. The thought of an extended maths module makes me feel quite unwell.

I ventured in the first paragraph that the UL system needs certain reforms but that semesterisation wasn't one of them. There are 2 areas I would like to see Union spend more time on: (A) a repeat exam structure (B) a reduction in Second Class Honours from 2.8 to 2.6. These reforms would be welcomed enthusiastically by all students, unlike semesterisation which was rejected unreservedly by the students relatively recently. There's about as much chance of semesterisation being passed as there is of Ian Paisley donning a balaclava and joining the IRA.

and vegetables on Dublin's Moore Street. My surprise would be greater if she were there to speak, in a broad 'Dub-ll-in' accent, about her experiences as a lesbian growing up in inner city Dublin.

Sadly, this assumption about gay people being middle class is also to be found among middle class gay people themselves. Some months ago when I was in one of the gay bars in Dublin, one of the group I was with mentioned a man he had met the previous weekend at The Shaft Nightclub. The question was asked, "What does he work at?" The answer came back: "A bus conductor, one of the few left." This drew the response "What was the bus conductor doing at The Shaft?" The answer was simple. The man is gay, the extremely 'politically correct' man who had dated the bus conductor pointed out that if there are heterosexual bus conductors, then there are homosexual bus conductors. He continued in the style of a battering ram, producing a list of descriptions of people, pointing out that one in ten of each of the people described is probably gay or lesbian. I remember three interesting examples from his list: seventy-three year-old aunties who are nuns, bin men, and trainee supermarket managers.

In addition to the new image of gay people being based on mainly middle class role models, it is also based on people who are to some extent active in 'the cause'. Last February the *Irish Times* published a series of articles on gay people in Ireland. All of the photographs they printed were of people involved in lesbian and gay organisations: Kieran Rose of GLEN, the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network; Frank Thackaberry, editor of Gay Community News, and a group of four people from the Quay Co-op in Cork. When a team from the BBC2 Newsnight programme visited Limerick last year to prepare a report on the 'Condom Row' they wanted to include both a 'gay angle' and the subject of AIDS in their report. They contacted the Gay Switchboard Limerick, the University Lesbian and Gay Society, and the Limerick AIDS Alliance. The people that these organisations present to the media are not 'typical' of all gay people, no more than the spokespersons for Family Solidarity, Opus Dei, and the Legion of Mary can be typical of the Roman Catholic people

INFORMATION FOR BLOOD DONORS

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO DONATE BLOOD?

On arrival at the session you will be asked about your medical history and current health. It is not advisable to give blood on an empty stomach. Have a light meal within three hours before you donate. Refrain from alcoholic drink preceding donation and smoking for one hour after donation.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Between 18 and 65 years
- at least 50kg (8 stone) in weight
- in normal health
- no history of infectious hepatitis (jaundice)
- period between donations is 90 days

REGISTRATION

- name
- home address
- home phone number

SCREENING

- to ensure donors have sufficient blood to spare, a trace of blood from the donors finger is dropped into a solution of copper sulphate

- a short health questionnaire is completed and signed by the donor

DONATING

- minimum amount of local anaesthetic is sprayed on the skin at venepuncture site
- needle inserted painlessly and 425ml of blood is withdrawn
- time taken is 3-5 minutes

RESTING

- donors should lie down for at least 10 minutes after giving blood, and proceed to refreshment area when advised by Donor Attendant. Donors should relax for twenty minutes or so over refreshments.

REPLACEMENT

- the fluid (plasma) portion of the blood loss is completely replaced within 12 hours
- the red cells are replaced within 10 days, but the normal individual has a reserve which is more than enough for normal requirements.

GROUPING

- a sample of the donors blood is subsequently tested to determine the ABO and Rh Groups. The sample is also screened for the possible presence of hepatitis (jaundice) other diseases or antibodies. Blood is grouped into four types, A, B, AB or O. Each type is classified by an Rh factor- either positive (+) or negative(-). When a blood transfusion is necessary donor and patient bloods must be compatible. If not the patients body will react to the incompatible donor cells, leading to complications or even death. The laboratory will determine your blood type and send you a permanent donor record card with your blood type when you donate. Whatever type you are someone will benefit from your donation.

Donal Waide, Deputy President

Welfare

A Message or Two from the Deputy President

people, no more than the spokespersons for Family Solidarity, Opus Dei, and the Legion of Mary can be said to be typical of the Roman Catholic people in Ireland. When a spokesperson for one of these groups or a priest or bishop is quoted in the press, we are conscious that what is being presented is the 'official line'. We know that despite what their church teaches, many Roman Catholics use contraception and have voted for divorce. Just as we are aware that the Roman Catholics we see in the media are not 'typical', we should be aware that the gay people we see in the media are also not 'typical'.

It is welcome that the image of the gay person as a limp-wristed man is no longer taken seriously in Ireland. The image that has replaced it is one that many people regard as 'more acceptable'. Nonetheless, I still feel dissatisfied with the new image, the new stereotype; of a gay person as an articulate middle-class male. It is an image that a substantial number of people fail to fit on three counts, and many more on two or one. There is nothing wrong, per se, with being middle-class, or articulate, or activist or male - or any combination of these. (Neither, for that matter is there anything wrong with being 'limp-wristed' or 'effeminate'. The discomfort many people feel when they meet a man who is, is a fault of theirs and not his.) No, what annoys me about the new image is that it is still a stereotype. It hides the truth - the ordinariness of lesbian and gay people. When we can accurately sum up 'ordinary people' with a single image - an image that encompasses the range of attitudes found among ordinary people, an image that includes the full scope of behaviours among ordinary people, an image that includes the extremes and everything in-between - when we have a single image to sum up the ordinary person, when we will have an accurate 'stereotype' of gay people.

A Message or Two from the Deputy President

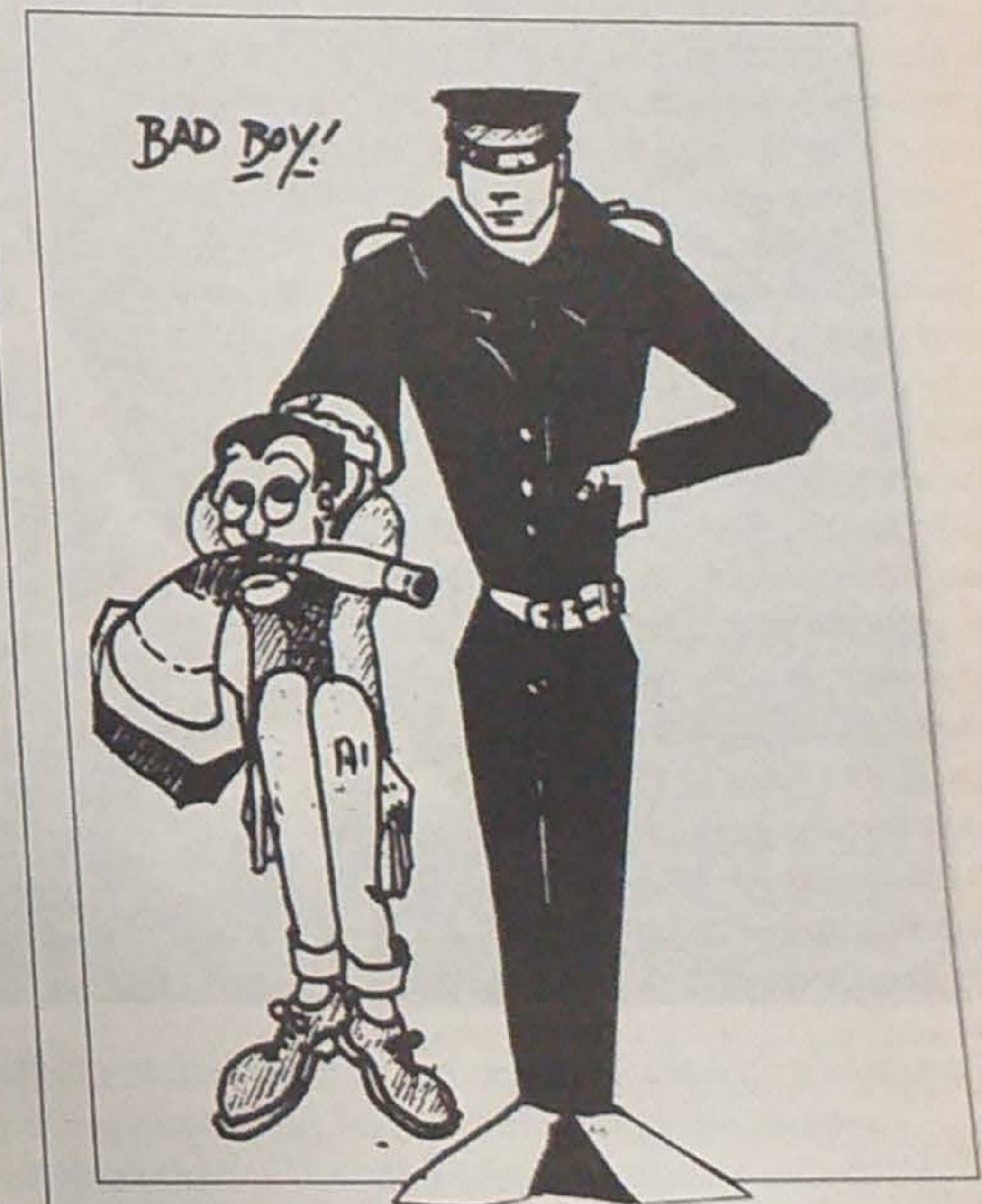
I am receiving an increasing number of complaints from residents, especially in the College Court area about noise and destruction by students. The Residents Association are getting extremely browned off at the moment and are threatening to report students to the Discipline Committee as opposed to the Students Union. There is only one solution for this. Keep quiet if you are having a house gathering and please refrain from wrestling in the lawns, seeing who can sing the loudest etc. as it is you the students who will end up in the proverbial big one.

As for mindless vandalism i.e. removing and destruction of property there is no awards for "Most traffic Cones in my Bedroom" or "Quickest Student to break 43 windows in one term." So keep in mind that if there is an emergency precious seconds can be lost by an ambulance going to the wrong address because there were no signposts.

Also there seems to be some students who won't shell out for bin tags and have found a new dump across from the back gates. If this refers to you then get your act together. Are you that stingy that you won't spend 33p for a bin tag so the rubbish can be collected in the normal way. Remember there is always something that will trace back to you and the repercussions might be slightly more expensive than 33p.

Other things of relevance is the increasing number of disappearance of belongings from the Stables and other areas around the college. Anybody caught robbing property will end up in deep trouble. So please keep a vigilant eye on all your belongings.

On a final note, there seems to be a communication problem with many students at the moment. The main canteen S.U. noticeboard is overloaded with pink message forms. We will leave these messages up for one week only. Could you please check the noticeboard on a regular basis. This especially applies to fourth years who may have interviews. Remember you are never too old to get a message.



Arts

The Hard Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World.

by Haruki Murakami, translated by Alfred Birnbaum.
reviewed by John Maguire.

Japanese culture has jumped straight from pre-modernism to *postomodanizumu*. Entering a Japanese department store in the middle of Christmas an American Tourist was amazed to see, among the tinsel and the fairy lights, a row of crucified Santas. Red coat and all on a wooden cross. Apocryphal, perhaps but it does go to show the crazed americanism and parody that has shown that Japan is closer and further away than we think. Derrida would be upset, theres nothing left to deconstruct.

five minutes in the future

The whole culture, according to their most popular novelist Haruki

Murakami, is both amazingly fluid and static. This man (the Stephen King of the oriental world) opines that that Japan is awash with off-beat whimsy and state of the art pastiche. The hard boiled wonderland and the End of the World is as exhuberantly unlikely as it's title. Set in Tokyo, just five minutes into the future, this double-decker narrative divides gracefully between Sci-Fi and it's distinct genre Fantasy. In one narrative a bemused security Agent, hired by a mad old scientist and his beautiful granddaughter is caught up in a high-tech info war: while in the other a newcomer to the city at the end of the world find himself living among

unicorns and his protesting shadow.

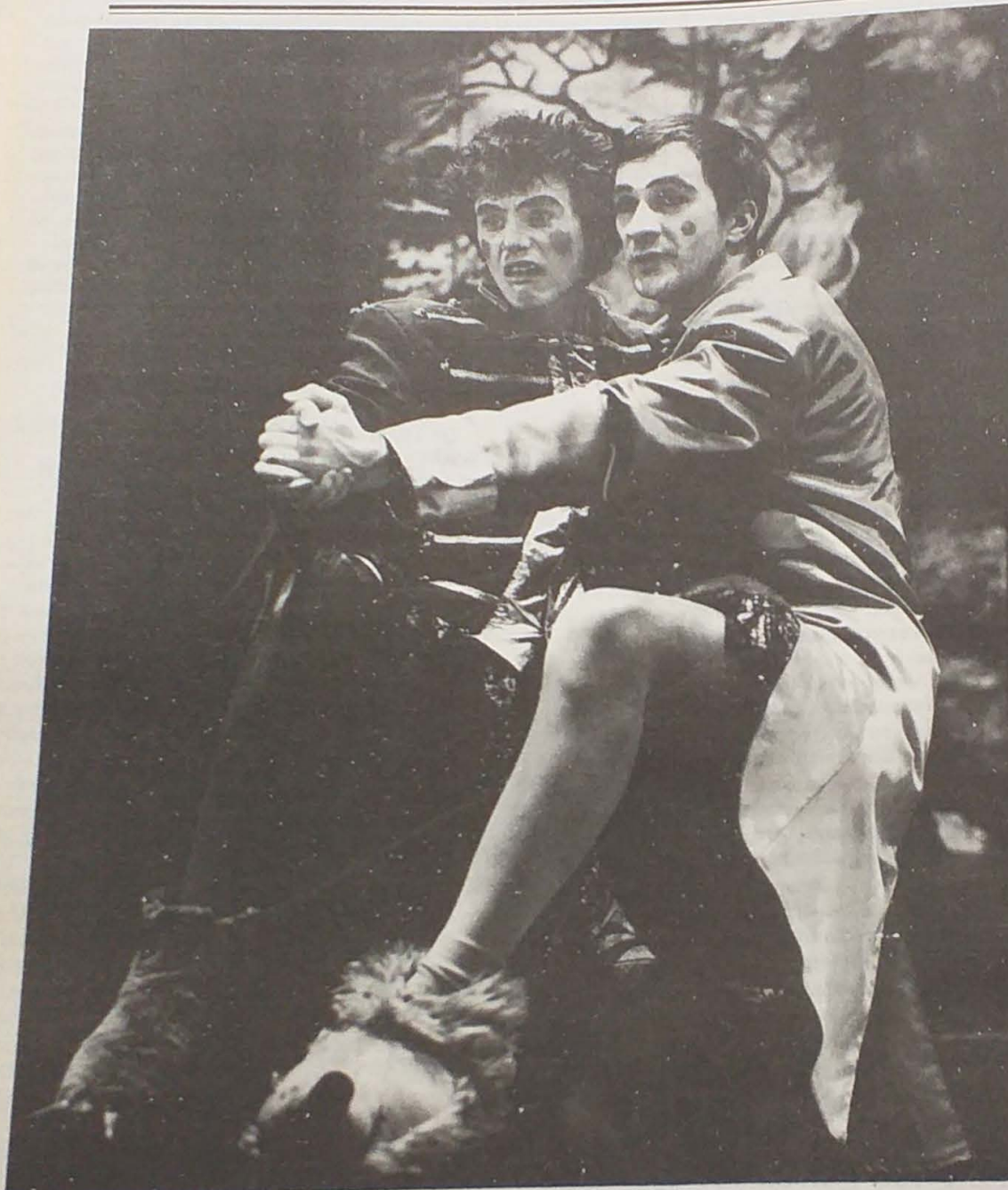
the top

Bruce Sterling has recently celebrated Murakami's "bold willingness to go straight over the top", but *Wonderlands* brand of Science Fiction owes more to the cartoonism of Kurt Vonnegut than the dirty cyber-punk -virtual-reality of Sterling and William Gibson. This book reads like a history of one mans mind, a man that can narrate the dreams of every man on the subway.

This book is fresh, witty and most of all eclectic. Ever been wired up to a madmans brainwave? Murakami's novels sell in unimaginable millions all over the eastern world. He hasn't really caught on over here yet except among

the long haired wierdos that spend their lives glued to another computer world. This is unfortunate because he is a lot more accesible than this genre would usually allow. Colloquial and humorous, appropriating popular genres like Sci-Fi, Horror and Fantasy, their work plunders the toyshop of international culture.

The tension between Japanese and Western literature may have been one of the main themes of japa-nese fiction for a quarter of a century but this tension has now snapped. It will be some time before any western writer can match Murakami's singular amalgam of original pastiche and traditional innovation. This book will not be easy to find, but if you do, buy and read.



Fairytales, Fairytales 1-2-3

by the Dolphin Company

L-R Luke Griffin as "Ratty"
Kieran Hurley as The Big Bad Wolfe

This show is an adaptation of three classic fairy tales - Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk.

Showing in the Belltable from the 12th to 15th Feb - evening shows 8p.m. Matinees 10 a.m. and 12 midday.

Voices- the return.

The Literary Society are requesting Stories and Poetry for their annual publication "Voices" to be published by the Society Press in week 7 of this term. All poems and stories should be submitted to the An Focal office by the end of week 6. Contact John Maguire, Arts Editor for further details.

All Female Limerick "Shakers" for the Belltable.

A hilarious start to the Spring Theatre season is provided by the Granary Players who have chosen a highly exciting and very unusual modern comedy as their spring production. Granary open at the Belltable with SHAKERS on Monday 3rd and run to Saturday 8th February each evening.

SHAKERS gives a wickedly funny glimpse of the world inside the oh-so trendy cocktail bar name (what else!) SHAKERS, four long suffering waitresses (beautifully played by Judy O'Connor, Jacinta Hastings, Dierdre Kiernan and Mary McCarthy) provide us with a fascinating view of its clientele from the yuppies to the local lads droolling at the thought "of a long slow comfortable screw". SHAKERS is written by Jane Thornton and John Godber and directed by Margaret Hough and could be called the sister play of BOUNCERS which played to packed houses at the Belltable a few years ago.

SHAKERS is a show not to be missed. Bookings at 061-319866.

The Abominable Quiz

set by Tadhg

An Focal presents you with a quiz to occupy those lazy days over the coming weeks. The topics covered include literature, music, science, politics, famous people and other odd pieces of general knowledge - although it is not always clear which of these, if any, a given question is referring to.

We are offering a prize of £40 for the best entry received. If you can answer half the questions you are doing well, so don't let the number of questions you haven't answered deter you from entering. There will also be points under the heading "good try but wrong" for some of the more obscure questions. Entries can be the work of individuals or teams

The competition is open to all members of the University: students, staff (including contract staff), faculty, governors, and Ed. Your entry, in an envelope addressed to "The Abominable Quiz", must be received by the Students' Union by 5.00pm on Friday week 7 1992. Members of the Editorial team of An Focal, are not permitted to enter. The Editors decision is final.

1 Name the literary works (and their authors) which open with these words:

- The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way towards the lagoon.
- 'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
- riverrun, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodius vicus of recirculation to Howth Castle and Environs.
- Hail to thee blithe Spirit!
Bird thou never wert,
That from heaven, or near it,
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.

2 Their first production was out of control, and also told stories for boys. Of their subsequent productions, one seemed to be somewhat noisy, while another might indicate an interest in conflict. Their latest production demands attention. Who are they, and what are the productions referred to?

3 If Tyndall is first, and O'Brien second who is 13th?

4 Name:

- The Famous Five;
- The Birmingham Six;
- The Seven Deadly Sins.

5 An ordinary chessboard has 64 squares and could obviously be covered exactly by 32 dominoes of the correct size. Suppose that two diagonally opposite corners of the chessboard are cut off, leaving 62 squares. This would only need 31 dominoes. Present either a diagram showing how this can be done without mutilating the dominoes, or prove that it can't be done.

6 Translate the following into english:

- SIDA
- CLG
- Ldkr
- T.V.A.
- q.e.p.d.

7 Which house

i) in Ireland was named after a battle in Nadia district, Jalpaiguri division in that occurred 1757?

ii) which "acquired its name because its white-gray limestone contrasted with nearby red brick buildings" was burned in 1814?

iii) has the same name as one of four portions that are called fifths, got this name from the duke who built it, and lies on a street named after the earldom the duke also had?

8 What are each of the following more usually known as?

- Frederick Bulsara;
- The Duke of Cornwall;
- Sir Michael Morris;
- David John Moore Cornwell.

9 Who received the second honorary doctorate conferred by the University of Limerick?

10 Why is Sura Al-Tawba, the ninth, different from the other 113?

11 They come in varieties called up, down, strange, charm, truth and beauty (or top and bottom), although nobody is believed to have actually isolated one. What are they, what is the Irish literary connection, and the connection with a German foodstuff?

Arts

12 Identify:

- Boyles Law;
- Engels First Law;
- LA Law;
- Buy's Ballot's Law;
- Coles Law.

13 In the 1989 general election to Dail Eireann who received

(i) the largest number of first preference votes;

(ii) the number of first preference votes which was the highest multiple of the quota they needed to be elected;

(iii) the lowest number of votes?

14 Who decided to catch a Heffalump?

15 Locate

- Koch's Island;
- Wernicke's Area;
- Stadium of Bunimovich
- Islands of Langerhans;

(v) The Killing Fields; (vi) a Killing field.
Happy hunting, and have a safe hunting

Asgard 2

THE ART OF SAILING Sail Training in Ireland

The sail training scheme is operated by Coiste an Asgard on the Irish Sail Training vessel "Asgard 2". Young people over the age of 16 are given the opportunity to go on sea on a traditionally rigged sailing ship. While on board, trainees will learn much about the sea, sailing and themselves. During a cruise trainees live together in the confined space of a vessel which at times, especially during bouts of sea-sickness can be quite unpleasant to say the least!

Life on Asgard 2 is never dull since there are countless tasks to be performed to maintain the smooth running of the ship. These duties include the initial nerve-racking task of climbing the mast to the even more exhilarating task of cleaning the "heads" (toilets) especially since they tend to become "clogged up" quite easily!

The aim of the Sail Training Scheme is to give young people the confidence and ability to face new challenges while at the same time teaching them to mix well with other people from all walks of life and generally giving them a greater appreciation and understanding of others. On board "Asgard 2" the word teamwork takes on a whole new meaning. "All hands on deck are needed to turn the sails even if it is during the night and you are snug and warm in your "coffin bunk".

Other unforgettable events that take place during cruises are court cases which result in the guilty victims being sentenced to walk the plank, also transvestite weddings can take place in which case the captain performs the rather mixed ceremony, mingling funeral and wedding rites, and there are countless other strange events!

Cruises are usually of a 7 - 12 day duration which is never really long enough as

life-long friendships blossom aboard "Asgard 2". Plenty of tears are shed on disembarking but there is always the opportunity to meet again at the annual "Asgard 2 reunion" which is usually held every January.

Tall Ships Race

The city of Cork welcomed the Tall Ships after the first leg of the Tall Ships race from Milford Haven to Cork in July of last year. After the race finished in Holland, our own "Asgard 2" brought home the Cutty Sark trophy which is presented to the ship that promoted international friendship and goodwill during the race. There could not have been a more worthwhile recipient in the year that the Tall Ships race paid her maiden visit to Ireland.

I'm sure that many a tear was shed and head held high as past trainees looked back with terrific nostalgia as the "Asgard 2" led the "Parade of Sail" out of Cork Harbour on July 19 1991.

Kathy Kirwan.

C i n e m a c o r n e r

"Shattered" by Lisa O'Grady.

"A murder he can't remember, an affair he can't forget."

This is one film which is sure to send a shiver down your spine. No matter how well you manage to disguise your emotions, you are sure to give way to your true sentiments at some stage during this particular film.

Directed by Wolfgang Pearson, this film is a classic suspense in true traditional form. It will keep you guessing right up until the last moment when all is completely revealed.

"Shattered" stars Tom Berenger as Don Merrick, an architect of great renown, who is supposedly involved in a serious car accident. He is nursed back to health by his wife Julie (Greta Scacchi) who has also survived the crash. Yet, things are not quite as they appear and despite occasional bouts of amnesia, Merrick is haunted by flashes of certain events from the past, to the extent that he fears for his life. In his desperation to piece together his past, Merrick hires a detective. As to the remainder of the storyline, me dearies, you will have to go along and have a cardiac arrest for yourselves! You'll be sure to come out saying, "God, imagine being married to someone like that!" So you have to see the film if you know what I mean!

The effects of the accident are rendered through pervasive imagery of explosion and fragmentation and the pieces of shattered glass (hence the title) which symbolise an equally shattered life, will remain long in your mind long after the closing scenes.

Environmental Society

Well done to all those who gave of their time and energy on Wednesday 22nd last in a clean up of the Shannon Banks. 21 bags full of debris were collected including numerous items of clothing, (anyone lose a parka jacket lately?!!), footwear and other rather dubious fragments of material..... one wonders what people get up to down by the Shannon anyway! There was of course the usual plethora of bottles, cans, containers, paper and plastic amongst a horde of other unrecognisable rubbish. Good sport was had by the enthusiastic green gang as muscles pumped to dewy drops of "Cold Porter"!

7.30 Wednesday night saw the screening of one among many videos on environmental issues to be shown in the viewing room throughout the term. Entry is free of charge and all are welcome.

Environmental Society meetings take place on Monday at 8 p.m.: see noticeboard for venues.



Volleyball Club

7 P.M. Thursday 16th January marked the departure of 30 dedicated U.L. students, where we were bound and to what cause were we dedicated, one might ask? The big metropolis was our destination and our mission was to return home with the Varsity Cup! Although winning we journeyed home empty handed. The question as to who was at fault is still very much an issue - was it Trinity, the organisers or U.C.D. the cup holders.

It was a promising start for our women's team with a testing walkover against Coleraine. The night before had

proved too testing for the Northerners! Things didn't go quite as easy in our next pool match against U.C.G. our friendly rivals. Gaining victory in that match assured our coming out top of the pool and thus a place in the quarter finals.

As for the men, they were not as lucky in there pool draw, having to face stiff competition against old rivals like Jordanstown, the cup holders. Maynooth proved to be no match for them but they had a challenging game against U.C.C. and unfortunately on this occasion they succeeded. Unfortunately our U.L. men were now out of the running for the cup but they got the

upper hand against D.C.U. which put them into the plate quarter finals. Alas, that was where it ended. Their skill, strength and mobility didn't allow them to enjoy a 2nd victory over U.C.C. It was the U.C.D. men that became the deserving champions of the cup.

All was not lost for U.L. as the first six women, Captain Sally Rawat, Sarah Stevenson, Emma Garvey, Cathy Mullen, Grainne Conlon, and Claudia Scapigliatti took a breather for the second set of the quarter finals against the D.I.T. and let Denise Twomey, Michelle Cashman, Teresa Curtin, Olivia

Dillon Sara Toft, and Una Doyle takeover. Due to this victory we had the semi finals in our sights. Friday nights entertainment, although hectic, did not affect our performance on Saturday against D.C.U. Even though our first team played with as much skill and enthusiasm as always in the second set our captain decided to employ a new tactic of fresh players - Treasa, Denise and Olivia. Victory was ours once again with a score of 2 - 0. The final was played in new surroundings - Trinity Sports hall. Everything went well for us that day.
Olivia Dillon P.R.O.



The Softball Club

Softball the game similar to rounders and baseball, with upto 250 students and staff played last summer. The softball tournament will happen again 3rd Term.

This time we hope to accommodate upto 350 people if we can get the places to play.

On saturday Week 7 between 2 and 5pm. We will be playing softball indoors, and will be teaching people how to play. we have a very good teacher Missy Landers (the Basketball Club coach). For further details watch the information system in the canteen or contact Willie O'Brien (Schuman Building) Treasa Curtin (chemistry) or Ber Angley (S.U.)

eraine. The night before had

for the cup



i soc

when the earth wants us to return
and
when the people want us to return
and
when we can return
we will.
wait.....
we have never left,
we have not forsaken our people
we have not left you to the mercy of
the liars

we have not left you
we have not left you.
Be patient.
Overcome.
Persevere.

INTERVARSITIES HERE WE COME!!!

Trinity College are hosting the 1992 Windsurfing Intervarsity Championships. Dromineer is the venue, and the dates are Sat. 29th Feb and Sun 1st Mar. Hopefully we'll be blessed with wind this year!

In preparation, U.L.W.C. has arranged special training weekends for competitors: end of Week 4 and end of Week 6 at Dromineer. In addition, race

technique evenings are being held on : Tues 7.30pm (weeks 4 - 8 incl.) at EG002. (This year we'd like our teams to be at the starting line when the races start !!)

For members who don't wish to brave the "frost bite" conditions at the end of week 8 - a superb "piss-up" is guaranteed

Claudia King P.R.O.

Clubs & Societies

have noticed our information stand in the canteen on Tuesday of last week. For those of you who did not catch us or were too shy to come over and ask some questions, let's try and redress some of the more common misconceptions about the sport that we've heard so far.

NO, it is not the slowest game on God's green earth. The average West Indian pace bowler delivers his missile a good deal faster than the average Boris Becker serve and the unfortunate batsman who must receive this delivery has mere seconds to decide how to play any ball.

...not a horrendously difficult game to learn. You are given a bat and the idea is to hit a ball with the said bat as hard and as far as is possible when it is thrown in your direction. To perfect any game takes practice, but that's the challenge of any sport.

NO, it is not sacrilege for the average Irish person to indulge in this "foreign" game. The Irish are peculiar in the world when it comes to having a chip on their shoulder about this one. Our Australian and West Indian counterparts seem to have no such problems.

NO, we don't sit around all day wearing panama hats and eating cucumber sandwiches. I for one would like to know where this particular story started.

YES, anyone, male or female can learn this lifetime sport. Throughout the year, right up until June (unlike many clubs) we will be having competitions for both the beginner and the more serious player. The intervals are in T.C.D this year and we have drawn Waterford R.T.C in the first round of the Munster Cup. However, there will also be a fun mixed six a side competition (each game lasts about forty minutes) which will be run off next term.

At the moment, until the weather improves, we play indoors on a Wednesday in the gym from 5-6 and from 11-1 on a Saturday morning in the sports hall. Now is the ideal time to learn the basics before the "summer" comes, so come on down, everyone is welcome!

Badminton Club

The Badminton club are due to play U.C.C. on Feb 19th in Cork. Any member wishing to travel please contact Donncha O'Gorman, 3rd Business or Simon Carroll 1st Rural Science.

3- legged Race

On Feb 19th, we are holding a sponsored 3-legged race on the cross country track in Thomond. It promises to be great fun with substantial prizes. Anybody wishing to participate, please contact a Committee member.

Badminton Hours
Wed: 6 - 8 p.m. Sports Hall
Thurs: 6 - 7 p.m.

Athletics Club Notes

Talent Show & Disco

The talent show is being held in the Jonathan Swift Theatre on Wednesday Week 5 (5/2/91) at 8pm and admission is £2.50. Later on that night there will be a Disco in the Savoy and again the admission is £2.50 or £4 for both. Buses to and from the Savoy and the Tickets will be on sale in the Canteen next week.

Table Quiz

On Monday Week 5 (3/2/91), there will be a Table Quiz in the Hurlers, its £10 per team and teams to consist of 5 members, there will be prizes on offer so please do support this worthwhile event.

Events

We wish all those competing in the indoors in Nenagh on Friday the very best of luck. The M...



U.L. Wado Karate Club

The coming month promises to be the most eventful in...

European Society News



U.L. Wado Karate Club

The coming month promises to be the most eventful in recent history for U.L. KARATE CLUB. Thursday 30th sees the departure of Johnathan Mangan and his brother Nigel to the finals of the European Wado Karate championships in Portugal. Both brothers have been called up to the National Junior Squad to represent their country at the highest level. This is the first time that either have received this honour and no doubt points to an exciting future on the international scene. Johnathan would like to express his most sincere gratitude to Colm Croffy & Jacinta Duffy who, on behalf of the S.U., provided considerable financial support towards his travel expenses.

February 8th will see the U.L. KARATE team competing in the Karate All-Styles Intervarsity championship in Belfield sports complex. This promises to be a thrilling event with competitors from all over the country competing for coveted titles on both team and individual events.

The 2nd All-Ireland Mens Inter-Collegiate Karate Challenge will take place on March 7th. This prestigious event attracts a large gathering from colleges throughout the country. This year will see the U.L. Karate Club entering for the first time. Unlike the Intervarsity tournament which has distinct competing categories. This competition will see karatekas of all grades competing against each other. Anyone who wishes to support the team on either is welcome.

(Karate classes are held on Tues 7 - 8 p.m. & Thurs. 6 - 8p.m. under the expert tuition of Mr. John Fitzgerald. Beginners are welcome to join at any stage of the academic year.

Athletics Club Notes

Talent Show & Disco

The talent show is being held in the Jonathan Swift Theatre on Wednesday Week 5 (5/2/91) at 8pm and admission is £2.50. Later on that night there will be a Disco in the Savoy and again the admission is £2.50 or £4 for both. Buses to and from the Savoy and the Tickets will be on sale in the Canteen next week.

Table Quiz

On Monday Week 5 (3/2/91), there will be a Table Quiz in the Hurlers, its £10 per team and teams to consist of 5 members, there will be prizes on offer so please do support this worthwhile event.

Events

We wish all those competing in the indoors in Nenagh on Friday the very best of luck. The Maynooth Road Relays are on Saturday Week

European Society News

All members of the Euro. Soc. would like to congratulate the winners, runners up and everyone who participated in the first Euro Soc. Table Quiz held in the S.U. Centre on Wednesday. The winning team, John P. Moriarty, James Looney, Dermot Tuomey, Dave Slattery each received a large bottle of whiskey. The runners up, Ber Harte, Cliona O'Mahony, John McCarthy, Mike Nolan who received a £30 bar tab for the Stables. the night was a great success with 26 teams taking part. Bet ready for many more events from the E.S. in Week 7 - Europe Week.

Anyone interested in the society is welcome to the weekly Eurotalk every Thursday A1062, 1-2 p.m.



Overseas Soc.

If you had been anywhere near the canteen last Tuesday or Wednesday night, you would have seen lots of people stuffing their faces with food from all over the world. It was the annual Multi Cultural Food Fair.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped make it a great time, but there is one person who deserves most of the credit and didn't get it.

One of us received a letter of thanks and congratulations today and realised that we got our thanks on those two nights because it was such a success.

One person did more organizing, shopping and planning than everyone else combined and, without her, there would have been no Food Fair. The entire event would not have been possible without Carmel Ryan. She was the backbone of the whole Fair, as well as being its heart and soul.

If you see us (Ronnie and Lisa) wandering around the college and want to thank us, thank you, but we hope you get down to the Student Union office and tell the most deserving person, Carmel, thank you and congratulations.

On behalf of the rest of the college and all those who feasted last week, and especially us, THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS, CARMEL!!!

O.S.S. says "Thank you, Carmel!"

**x
S
O
C
S**

Notices



What is the connection with Europe Week (Week 7, University of Limerick)?
ONE CASE OF BAILEY'S
 for the first correct answer received by the editor. Prize will be presented by Mr Desmond O'Malley, minister for industry & Commerce on Friday 21st February.

Please give blood

It won't hurt
 but it could help
 save a life

EGO-10
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
 Mon. 3rd February
 Tues. 4th February
 Wed. 5th February

10.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon
 and
 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
 each day.

ACROSS

- 8 Inward.(8)
- 9 Male relatives.(6)
- 10 Deviation from the main route.(6)
- 11 Unfriendly or opposed.(8)
- 12 The summer we hope to have in autumn.(6)
- 13 In the state of natural unconsciousness.(8)
- 15 Joy,gaiety.(4)
- 17 A cure-all.(7)
- 19 Adds on a piece at the end.(7)
- 22 Be gloomy about the future.(4)

- 2 Spanish miss.(8)
- 3 Violate a law or neglect
- 4 See pill that is oval.(7)
- 5 Stone used for smoothing skin.(6)
- 6 Be sparing or stingy with money.(6)
- 7 Held back,forced to stay.(8)
- 14 Every fourth one is pail.(4)
- 16 Is the male hobbling?(4)
- 18 Union by marriage,

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN BEE-BOPS

Presented in association with Campus T.V. and the Drama Society, Snow White and The Seven BEE-BOPS is a combination of live action on stage and film. This production has some 24 people involved. The story begins when snow White is left

by the wood-cutter outside the Schumann, only to be found by the 7 rasta speaking bee-bops.....This show will be performed on one night only Monday week 6 for two performances one at 8pm and 10pm. Admission £1.50

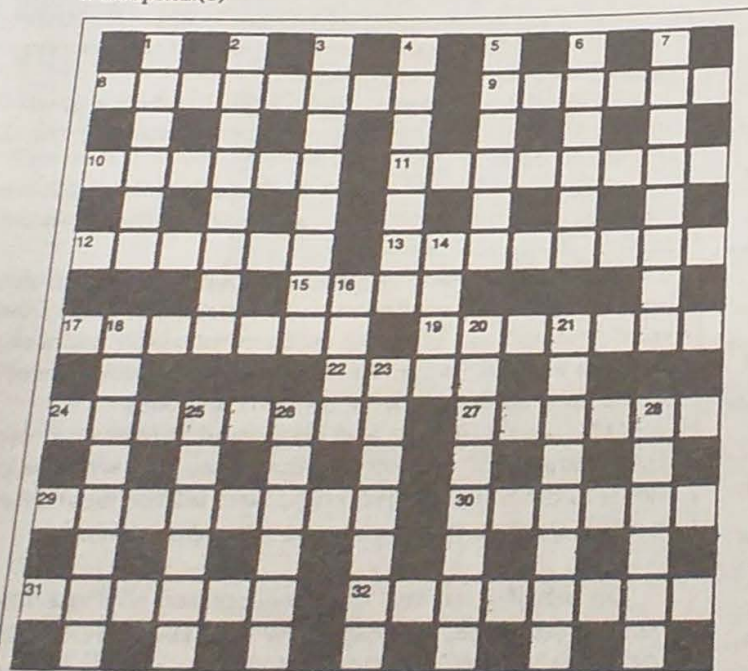
ACROSS

- 8 Inward.(8)
- 9 Male relatives.(6)
- 10 Deviation from the main route.(6)
- 11 Unfriendly or opposed.(8)
- 12 The summer we hope to have in autumn.(6)
- 13 In the state of natural unconsciousness.(8)
- 15 Joy,gaiety.(4)
- 17 A cure-all.(7)
- 19 Adds on a piece at the end.(7)
- 22 Be gloomy about the poem.(4)
- 24 Monastery or convent.(8)
- 27 Lump of gold perhaps.(6)
- 29 Main goal could be a flower.(8)
- 30 Undone by being united.(6)
- 31 Injure,hurt with invective(6)
- 32 Disgusting,provoking a sick feeling.(8)

DOWN

- 1 Resident assistant doctor in a hospital.(6)

- 2 Spanish miss.(8)
- 3 Violate a law or neglect
- 4 See pill that is oval.(7)
- 5 Stone used for smoothing skin.(6)
- 6 Be sparing or stingy with money.(6)
- 7 Held back,forced to stay.(8)
- 14 Every fourth one is pail.(4)
- 16 Is the male hobbling?(4)
- 18 Union by marriage,treaty.(8)
- 20 Swinging weight for regulating clock.(8)
- 21 Then I gee up this number.(8)
- 23 Makes inroads into making one a priest.(7)
- 25 Inborn.(6)
- 26 The plougher might also steer the boat.(6)
- 28 Sure be in hell.(6)



SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN BEE-BOPS

Presented in association with Campus T.V. and the Drama Society. Snow White and The Seven BEE-BOPS is a combination of live action on stage and film. This production has some 24 people involved. The story begins when snow White is left

by the wood-cutter outside the Schumann, only to be found by the 7 rasta speaking bee-bops.....This show will be performed on one night only Monday week 6 for two performances one at 8pm and 10pm. Admission £1.50

Student Counselling

Developing Human Resources

Drop-In-Centre
Daily 11.00 - 12.00 p.m, without appointment.
For advice, information, appointment or just a chat.
We're at: Student Personnel Services
Room CM070 Ext.:2446 (Declan)
Room C2058 (new office) Ext.: 2446 (William and Maggie)

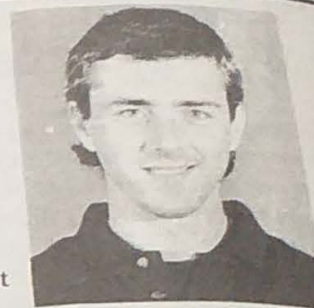
Facilities include

Individual and Group Counselling. Personal Development. Stress Management. Study Skills. Specialist Workshop and Support. Groups on request.

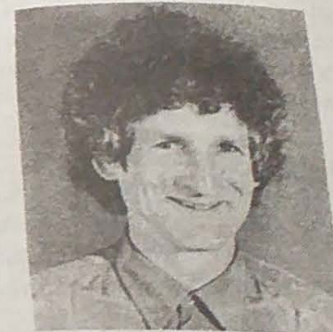
We are a team of professional Counsellors committed to working with students in dealing with the struggles of being human. Nowhere does this struggle become more challenging than for students at University today. Whether it be anxiety or panic, career uncertainty or plain confusion, why not avail of this service which is provided specifically for you.

We look forward to meeting with you during your time at University of Limerick.

THIS IS A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE.



Declan Ahern



William Stone



Maggie Tierney