

FOOD



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OILSCOIL LLIMNIGH

BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER
VESTED IN IT BY STATUTE,
THE UNIVERSITY HAS THIS DAY
CONFERRED THE DEGREE OF

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS STUDIES

WITH

SECOND CLASS HONOURS

GRADE II

ON

[REDACTED]

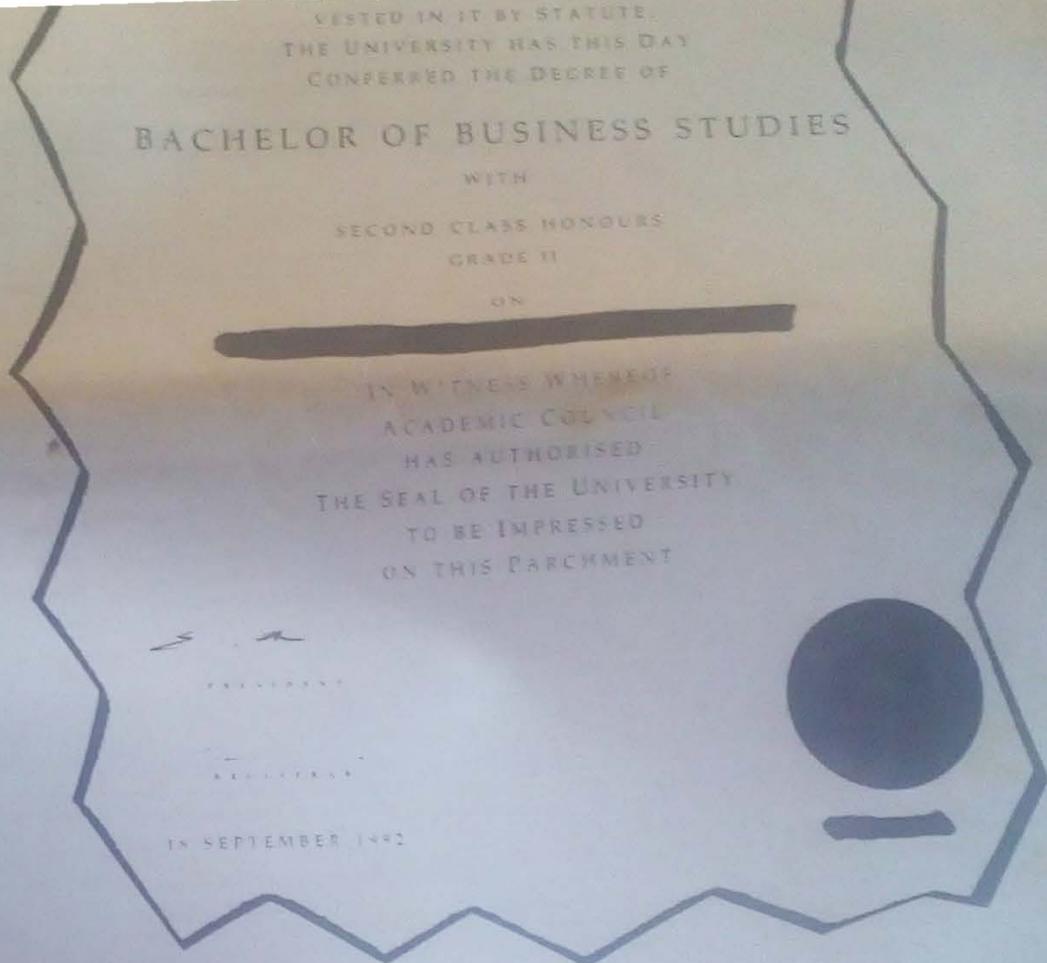
IN WITNESS WHEREOF
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
HAS AUTHORIZED
THE SEAL OF THE UNIVERSITY
TO BE IMPRESSED
ON THIS PARCHMENT

an Fo

University of Limerick
Students' Union
Newspaper

Inside:

Class Reps Elections
Ents Preview
Reviews
Clubs and Societies
+ Lots More



UL DEGREES INVALID!

Michaelmas 1 Tuesday 6th October 1992

UL Degrees Invalid?

Degrees awarded by the University of Limerick at the graduation ceremonies two weeks ago may be invalid, it was learned last week. Doubts about the validity of the degrees arise because of the failure of the Government to appoint a Governing Body for the university since the term of office of the previous one expired during the summer.

A legal source confirmed to **An Focal** last week that there were doubts as to the legal validity of the degrees awarded this year.

The University has been granted the power by law to award degrees, and since university status was conferred, the decision to award degrees has always gone before Governing Body for ratification. The 1980 Act which established the the NIHE states that the seal of the University is to be under the control of the Governing Body, but the wording on degrees presented last month states that the Academic

Council - and not Governing Body - authorised the seal of the University to be impressed onto the parchments. In addition, the law states that the seal must be authenticated by the signature of a member of the Governing Body and an officer of the University. Degrees conferred last month were signed by the President, Dr Walsh and the Registrar, Mr Leo Colgan. When a Governing Body exists the President of the University, is an *ex officio* member.

It is believed that for most students, the doubts about the validity of their degrees

will be a minor technicality after the first meeting of the new Governing Body. However, some concern still remains in relation to the future eligibility of law graduates for appointment as judges after they have served the minimum time required in the legal profession.

In recent years a number of cases have been dealt with in the High and Supreme Courts in which it was found that judges were ineligible to serve because of technical difficulties relating to their length of time in since qualification as lawyers.

In another case in which the

legal standing of a medical doctor became an issue, it was found that although he was a qualified medical doctor, he was not legally eligible to perform certain acts because of technical flaws in his registration with the Medical Council.

Precedents such as these could prove an embarrassment to the University in the future.

As of Friday of last week **An Focal** had received no news as to when it is expected to appoint the new Governing Body.

UL Golfer Selected for National Team



A third year business studies student has been selected as a member of the 5-woman Irish Ladies' Team at the forthcoming World Student Golf Championships. She was joined in the selection by College of Education Graduate, Treacy Eakin who had to withdraw because of work commitments.

The championships will be held in Mallorca, Spain in week 3. Speaking about her selection, Sandra said "Of course it was very difficult to decide between staying in UL during an exciting week 3 or heading off to the sun, sea and sand. It's a tough life but someone's got to do it!"

This is the first year that Ireland are fielding a lady's team for the championships.

The double selection for UL Ladies follows recent successes in both the Irish Intervarsity competition, and the Home International. UL won the ladies singles trophy in both of the last two years. Ms Eakin competed on the Ladies Senior team in the Home Internationals.

ACCOMMODATION CRISIS

by Maria Casey

Freshers Accommodation Mess.

Parents' of the first year students who had travelled from Enniskillen, Sligo and Eniscorthy were last month fuming when told by the accommodation office to go away and come back 'tomorrow'.

The parents had travelled to Limerick to secure accommodation for their sons and daughters following the first round CAO offers.

When asked to comment on the situation, Mr Enda Lonergan, S.U. Deputy President, said that while these parents should have contacted the University for information before embarking on such a long journey, the accommodation office did show a lack of consideration in their dealings with these people. The office was due to open for queries on September 1st and many parents of primary and secondary school children would have been unable to make the trip to Limerick on this date.

The situation came to a head when Mr Lonergan sent a memo to the University President, Dr. Edward Walsh, expressing his disappointment on the handling of the situation. He stated that he felt these parents had received a very poor impression of the University their sons and daughters would be attending for the next four years.

Mr Lonergan had been invited to speak on a Radio Limerick programme on the subject of accommodation in general. Following Mr Lonergan's memo to Dr Walsh, the interview was cancelled at short notice when the university's Accommodation Office contacted Radio Limerick seeking to have the interview stopped.

As a result of the Accommodation Office's handling, many of the first year students are now in digs in Monaleen and on the Reboge Road, having been told that these places were only a 5 to 10 minutes walk from the university.

Rent Increases Widespread.

Castletroy Landlords have decided to cash-in on the 1,400 first year students that the University has taken in this year.

An **Focal** has learned that during the Summer break a meeting of landlords was held, at which it was decided to increase rents for the coming year. Rents have increased by between £100 and £150 a month per house. In response to this increase Mr Enda Lonergan, S.U. Deputy President, contacted the Limerick Leader who subsequently ran an article on the topic. Mr Lonergan has described the increase as "blatant exploitation of the University of Limerick students."

When asked to comment on the situation, Ms Barbara

Christie of the accommodation office stated that while they are unaware of any meeting of landlords, they had noted an increase in rent across the board and were surprised at the size of this increase. "However", she continued, "this is the landlord's right."

Overcrowding on Campus.

This year's first year students outnumber fourth years by more than 2 to 1. The intake of first years last week was more than 1400 as opposed to 700 in 1989/90, when the present fourth years started. Since then, there has been little increase in space and no increase in resources. With the Foundation Building (which has been especially built for postgraduate students) not due to open its doors until January 1993 one wonders where we will be able to put all these extra students.

When asked to comment on the situation S.U. President, Diarmuid Scully, (one of the 1989 '400') stated he thought it 'quite frightening'. He said it was already obvious that there are far too many students on campus for the available resources. "This is obvious if you walk through the canteen, courtyard or restaurant", Mr Scully said. He also said he is worried as to what will happen with the availability of books, library seats and study space in the run up to exams.

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Accommodation Office Disappears.

There was chaos on the CM corridor, Monday morning of week 1 when many students arriving to pay rent found the accommodation office had 'disappeared'.

It had been planned to move the accommodation office to its new location D0033 for a number of weeks. However, when the move finally came on Monday September 28th, it was done in a disorganised way. Head of Accommodation Services, Ms Kay Shanley, and her staff say that they were not informed of the move by the Registrar, Mr Leo Colgan, until the day it happened. Consequently no posters or signs were put up to inform people of the situation.

When the crowds gathering on the CM Corridor began to reach danger point, Mr Enda Lonergan, Students' Union Deputy President, intervened and put up signs.

Next issue
Tuesday
Week 4

Deadline for
letters & articles
Thursday
Week 3

UK Universities Placement Services Better Than UL's

Universities in the UK have a better graduate placement services than the University of Limerick, according to a report in the Guardian newspaper. According to a report commissioned by the paper, UK universities provide one career adviser for between 300 and 900 students. With over 4,500 students at UL and four co-op managers the ratio here is lower than the worst of the UK colleges. In addition, the co-op offices at UL have the additional task of finding every undergraduate student on one or two co-op placements, in addition to the placement for graduates, making the figures for UL seem better than the underlying situation.

The report found that in the UK 41 percent of final year students say they never use their college's placement services. According to the report, two possible explanations lies behind this figure. One is that many students do not use the services because they are cynical about their ability to provide genuine jobs. The Guardian report also suggests that many students may not be aware they are availing of their university's careers service. The report states graduate job vacancies in the UK are expected to fall by 17 per cent this year - a worrying trend, given the strong tradition of UL graduates emigrating for their first job.

The report also found that students at newer Universities, such as the University of Sussex with which UL has strong links, are half as likely to have no idea what they wanted to do on graduation as students at the older

universities like Oxford and Cambridge.

The report also found that in the newer universities only five per cent of students attended lectures with more than 150 classmates. This contrasts with the notorious UL first year modules on law and economics which have so many students that each lecture to be repeated in either the Jean Monnet or Jonathan Swift theatres. The capacity of the Jean Monnet Theatre is 300.

Computer Stolen

An Apple Mac Computer worth £2,500 was stolen over the August bank holiday weekend. The computer was stolen from the Apple Mac laboratory next to the Audio Visual Unit on level 1, behind the 'fish tank' computer laboratory. Commenting on the theft ITD Manager, Mr Gordon Young, said he was disappointed with the theft, but felt a more serious problem was the on-going theft of components such as mice from computer laboratories through-out the university.

Mr Young told **An Focal** that security in the lab had been reviewed, but that ITD were reluctant to introduce cameras. Not only would that incur a cost greater than the value of the stolen

computer, but unpleasant atmosphere. Mr Young said that a number of security have been to specify what The Laboratory are located postgraduate means of a "only with a postgraduate. The equipment was bought under a postgraduate tr

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computer, but it would introduce an unpleasant atmosphere of "Big Brother", Mr Young said. However, he did confirm that a number of other changes to security have been implemented. He refused to specify what these were.

The Laboratory in which the Apple Macs are located is restricted to staff and postgraduate students only. Entry is by means of a "swipe" lock, and is possible only with a card with a listed staff or postgraduate ID number.

The equipment in Apple-Mac Laboratory was bought with funds from the EC under a programme to develop post-graduate training.

Plassey Village Burgled

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A sixteen year old youth and his twelve year old brother were found in a house in Plassey Village by a Garda, Limerick Court was told recently. The youth appeared before the court on a charge of burglary and entering as a trespasser on August 16th last.

According to Garda evidence, the youth entered the house after a window had been left open. It was also alleged that the youths had found some money in a drawer in the house when they were found by Gardaí.

When the case came before Judge William Hartnett, it was agreed to defer the matter until October 8th next, to allow a Court Welfare Report to be prepared by the Probation Service.

Because the defendant is underage, his name may not be reported.

NEWS

Credits

Editor: Billy Kirwan
Assistant Editor: Clare A.
Arts: John Hargaden, John
Maguire, Elaine Vaughan,
Owen O'Sullivan
News: Cathal Kelly, Maria Casey
Opinion: Fergal
Societies: Mark Dowling
Ents: Ber A.
Graphics: Rachel R.
Design and Layout: Billy Kirwan
Thanks for Contributions From
Everyone who Helped Out
Printed by the Limerick Leader

Years and Years

We owe a lot to Thomas Edison - if it wasn't for him, we'd be watching concerts by candle light in the new Foundation Building.

As for Leonardo DaVinci, well, if God had intended us to fly, he would never have given us railways. Is this a mission statement?

The first vodka and orange, the first kiss, the first wing.

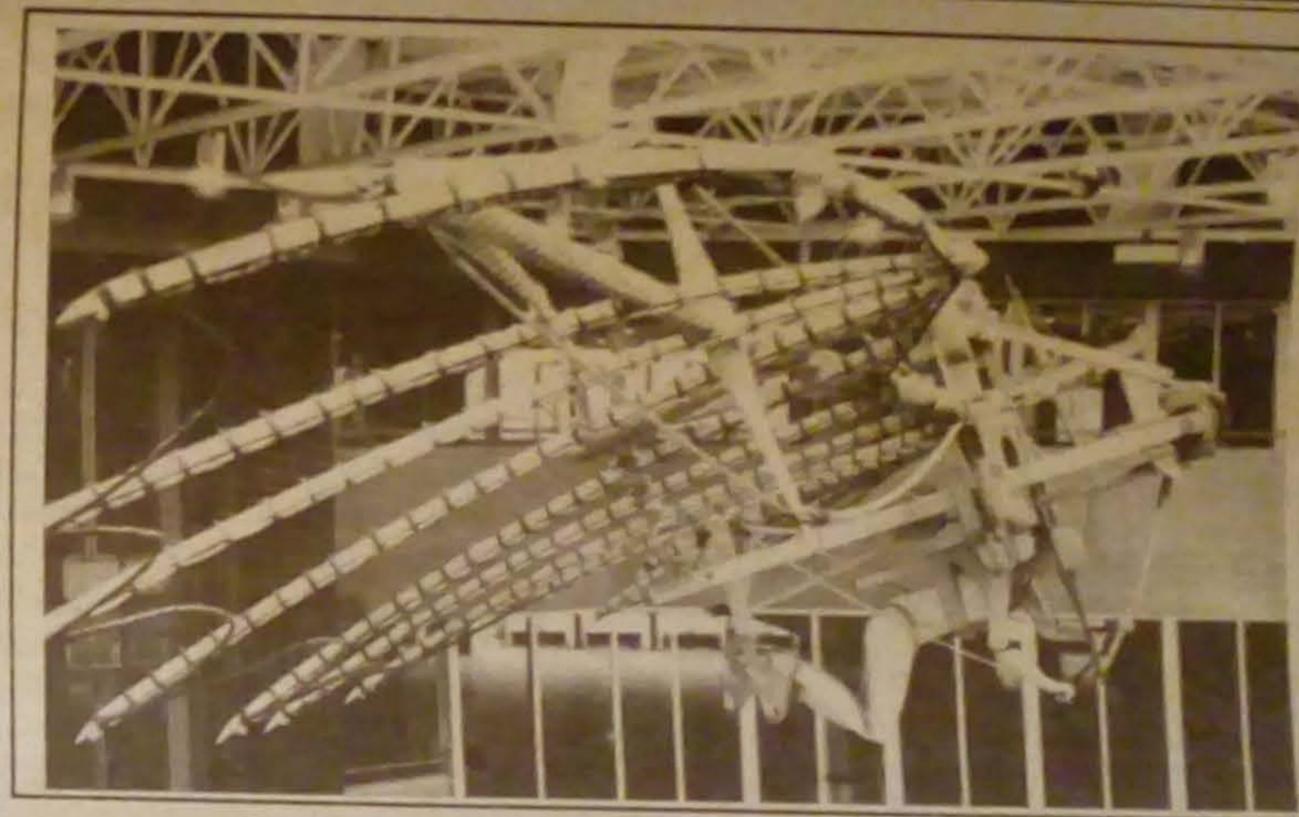
They figure language happened something like this.

One day man was walking along bare-foot - as they did in those days - and suddenly stubbed his toe. He said "Ouch".

Then he must have thought: Gee, I wonder what I meant by that?

Pretty soon he felt his toe throbbing and he knew the meaning of 'Ouch'. I personally think we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain.

Ok Leonardo, now that your Birdman of Alcatraz is suspended loftily in the atrium of the Foundation Building, symbolising excel-



'can be seen at a foundation building near you'

lence in education and research and superglue, let me ask you, after all these years in GPA heaven, let me ask you point blank, what do you think of students as a whole? "I think it would be an excellent idea" signed Leonardo.

First Years

Now where am I?

Reception coming in strong ... Looks like a book sale ... See boxes, price tags, condoms ... People milling around.

There's a woman with a book, taking the last one: Free to

you and me.

Where's the top to this? How much is this? This is cracked, what about a pound off? Does this work? Where's the cord to the toaster? Is this for sale? ...

Where is everybody all of a sudden?

P.S If you haven't noticed already I have recieved no letters, no statements, no luv notes, no..... Get involved & drop us a note or meet at 3.00pm every Wednesday in the student centre.



Union Brief

Just a brief note to keep you up to date with some of the things your Students' Union representatives have been doing over the summer months :

Telephones :

After lobbying by the Students' Union, the University - through the personage of Tim Crowe - put pressure on Bord Telecom to provide more telephones on campus. Five new telephones were secured. They are located as follows - two in the C1 corridor, two in the restaurant and one in the B2 corridor. Unfortunately, we could only get card phones, as Bord Telecom refused to install any more coin phones. At present the Students Union shop is applying for a license to sell phone cards and we would hope to have them in stock within the next three to four weeks.

Late Night Catering Service :

The Students' Union used its representation on the restaurant committee to persuade Campbells Catering to provide a nighttime service in the main canteen for the last three weeks of term. This involves the main canteen staying open up until 11 p.m. for weeks 9, 10, & 11. The service will be run on a provisional basis for Michaelmas term, and if successful will be continued from then on.

EC102 Repeat :

Due to successful campaigning by Enda Lonergan (Deputy President, Education & Welfare) a decision by the college not to recognise grades awarded in a repeat exam in 1st year economics was overturned. The grades have been awarded, and a number of students have now proceeded into 2nd year who would not otherwise have been able to do so.

Repeats :

The Department of Business Studies has agreed to place the discussion of a repeat structure on the agenda of their next Faculty Board meeting, on November 4th. We are hoping that all other Faculty Boards will agree to do the same. I have sent a written request to the Registrar to include the issue on the agenda for the next meeting of Academic Council.

Accommodation :

Another area of concern over the summer was the accommodation issue which caused quite an amount of grievance for returning students i.e. rent increases. This story was carried with a local newspaper. Again on the accommodation front quite a few problems were encountered by the first years and their parents when they came in droves looking for accommodation. Some of these problems were addressed immediately and others have been since. To avoid a recurrence of this problem, we set up a working group to monitor accommodation with the hope of improving the present service and increasing the level of cooperation between the Students Union and the Accommodation Office in the college. The members of the group are Mr. Pat Cashill - Asst. Registrar; Ms. Kay Shanley - Accommodation Office; Myself (Enda) - SU Deputy President; Billy Kirwan - Transition And Services Officer and a representative of the postgraduate association yet to be nominated. So if you're having an accommodation problem don't hesitate to bring it to the attention of any of the above.

Training Of Officers

The Three Sebatial Officers also went to a National Union Students Training weekend at Reading University in South London. Enda took the course in - Education & Representation and Running a Welfare Service.

Billy took the course in running an Entertainment service. And Diarmuid took the course in general running of the Union & Union Staff. They were all informative and eye opening and gave us an idea of what to expect during the coming year. Enda also attended an information weekend in Dublin given by the Womens Information Network (WIN), the purpose of which was to assist in learning about how to deal with very stressed students with personal problems such as unwanted pregnancies, rape and assault.

Hardship Fund

Much of the summer was also spent in dealing with the Student Financial Aid (Hardship) Fund. We found that around £50,000 of £113,000 is undocumented and seems to have vanished. To add to this a £15,000 overdraft is floating around the system. As a result of these findings the committee of which Enda am a member has decided on two new policies.

- It would not be possible for any student to graduate until all Hardship debts are repaid in full.

- It would not be possible for any student to receive another loan until all previous loans are repaid in full.

College backing was given to both of these. A limit has also had to be put on the amount given out every term i.e. £1,200 per month. This was decided during week 1 so unless loans are repaid we will be unable to grant any more loans until week 5. Please remember that this service is for everyone's use not abuse!

Thomond Integration :

Well the fun has restarted with the integ-problems, the first occurring week 0 when all the Education fourth years returned to the campus for a week of Teaching Practice preparation. We found that in the eyes of the college like those returning from co-op these people obviously do not need accommodation. So hopefully through the new accommodation working group this problem will get sorted out soon.

Next we had a number of students reporting to their school to find that the schools were not aware of them coming, nor aware that it would be for Ten Weeks. A lot of them found it extremely difficult to get senior cycle classes for the term.

Finally we have a major problem which is going to erupt very soon.....it concerns the Teaching Resource Centre section in the library. Since the fourth years have been allowed to borrow up to 10 books it means that there is no books left for the other years for projects and more importantly for the second years who prepare this term for their first teaching practice. The books aren't due back until January 1993 the same week as the second years are supposed to be teaching. Billy will be in discussion with the Library and will keep you up-dated.

On a final note elections to Class Reps Council for all years bar 1st year will take place this Thursday. Nominations must be in by 7p.m. on Tuesday. 1st year elections will take place next Thursday, October 15th, with close of nominations being Tuesday October 13.

The Function of your Class Rep

The class reps, who are they? What do they do? What can they do? What can't they do? Who picks them? Many of the students have often pondered on some or all of these questions. The answers are in the following article.

In the Students Union Constitution, Article 7 states the following:

UNION COUNCIL

7.1 There shall be a representative body which shall determine the policy of the union, subject to the UGM and the referendum. This body shall be known as the Union Council or UC, and this body shall meet at least three times in any one term. (*These are the Class Rep meetings held every second Tuesday night in the Student Centre*)

7.2 At least two college days notice must be given by the secretary for all council meetings.

7.3 Council may be called to session at the request of any of the following: (i) The President (ii) The Executive (iii) one third of Union Council members.

7.4 All council meetings shall be quorate, the quorum being half the sitting council members plus one.

7.5 The union council shall consist of two councillors from each class in the University, save those councillors of 25 students or less, who will only elect one councillor. These councillors shall be elected by and from the members of each class by the system of proportional representation by single transfer vote.

7.6 Any member of the union may attend council meetings as an observer but may be asked to leave if any confidential business arises. (*Any Class Rep may deem business to be confidential if he or she feels that it is so*)

7.7 Each councillor shall represent the interests and views of his or her class on the council and keep them regularly informed on the proceedings of the council. (*See below*)

7.8 In order to ensure the effective attainment of the principle in Section 7.7, each councillor shall hold a class meeting shortly after each council meeting. (*See below*)

7.9 At each class meeting, the councillor shall give a report of the proceedings of the previous council meeting and seek the views of his or her class on forthcoming issues.

7.10 Class reps are expected to keep their classes in touch with the business of the union and should form class committees to help share the workload where appropriate.

7.11 The council shall have the power to constitute at any time, any sub-committees as it may require for the better conduct of its affairs.

7.12 There shall be a union council entertainments sub-committee. This committee shall be responsible for the day to day management of entertainments and shall consist of the following:

1. Transition & Services Officer
2. Ents Co-ordinator
3. Ents Secretary

7.13 The council shall have the power to mandate the executive.

7.14 Union council meetings shall be run in accordance with the standing orders contained in this Constitution.

The main problem with class reps is concerning articles 7.7 and 7.8. These points are the main link between the day-to-day ramblings of the S.U. and the students who not members of any Council i.e. the everyday student who is not a class rep or member of Executive. Despite the fact that the Class Reps

were brought away on a training weekend this year, they still do not correspond enough, some not at all, with their respective classes.

The class reps who talk to their classes are the ones with the most input at council meetings. There is still too much apathy among the majority of classes about their reps and the Union. So what does a class rep do, or what should they do???

Ber says, "They organise parties." All very well, but how is it done. Does your class rep know? Ask him/her if you have not had a party yet this year.

But there are other issues more important to the heart. Do you know something can be done about bad timetables, bad lecturers, bad Union Officers etc.? All this is your reps responsibility. He/She is often the one who can answer a question for you if you would prefer not to talk to Diarmaid, Enda or Billy.

Class reps can have inter-class events such as pub crawls, soccer matches and other competitions. The job of your rep is also to organise this. This would normally include getting a ref, booking a pitch, jerseys etc.

There are forms available from the Deputy Presidents Office for people who are in classes without reps to become a class rep. All you need is ten signatures from people in your class. If more than one person wishes to have the position then an election is held within the class. If your class is not happy with the rep then they can be fired and a new rep elected.

The majority of class reps on council tend to come from First year. Does this mean to say that all interest in the S.U. is lost once you get your first set of summer results. Is there too much work to do that you can't represent your classes views at a Council meeting. Or is there goings on in your class that you'd prefer other classes not to know off! It is the job of the final year reps to organise yearbooks. Does your rep know of the Unions financial involvement in this? The class rep is, as I said before, an important cog in the Students Union wheel so please tell us what you want so we can do it for you. The reps this year are better than last years but not by a long shot. There is still loads of room for improvement. So come on classes get your rep working for you.

SPONSORSHIP.

Hello, my name is Harry Goddard. I am in 4th Year Applied Maths and I represent Guinness Group Sales on Campus. As a result of this I can offer you sponsorship from Guinness, Smithwicks, Bud, Carlsberg, Harp, Furstenberg and Kaliber. Examples of sponsorship are the Carlsberg Tuesday Night Gig and the Bud In Town gig in the Savoy on Fridays. Please feel free to contact me in the stables from 12.00-2.00pm on Wednesdays,



or you can leave a message either on the canteen notice board or behind the bar. Please try and give me as much notice as possible before the event, depending on the type of sponsorship, I may need up to two weeks notice.

STABLES CLUB NEWS

The Stables Club Barstaff and Management would like to welcome back everybody who managed to get away for the Summer (it's good to see the old familiar faces again!). We'd also like to think you've managed to find your way around the Stables by now!!!!!!

ENT WEEK 2 : Thursday - Kev
 Friday - Slobhan

ENT WEEK 3 : Thursday - Shantytown

Last year we had a serious problem with people who "borrowed" our glasses, cups, plates, cutlery and anything else they could carry. We don't want to take more people to the Disciplinary Committee - so please, if you've got itchy fingers, take them home with you - EMPTY!!!!

Every year we allocate sponsorship money to Clubs, Societies etc.,

who need to purchase equipment but don't have funds to do so. If you want to apply to the Sponsorship Committee you can pick up a form from the S.U. or Michelle O'Dwyer - Club Liaison Officer (Wed 8.00 or Friday 1.00-2.00 in the Stables).

At the start of every year we remind people that the Stables Club is theirs - damage caused comes out of your pocket. Anybody found damaging Stables Club property will find out that this is something we treat VERY seriously.

ERASMUS IN BERLIN

I am a student at U.L. studying Business and German and have spent the last year in Berlin studying at the F.U. (Freie Universität). Having been asked to write a report about ERASMUS, I would like to both encourage the students of U.L. to take a year option abroad and also to highlight the difference and advantages of the system here in Berlin.

It goes obviously without saying that your language improves immensely and it's a great feeling to recognise that your fluency is improving. It's actually enjoyable to talk in German and the optimum sign of achievement is when you realise that after a couple of months you can actually converse like you would in your mother tongue.

Then obviously there is an awful lot of other attractions here to look forward to. Firstly the variety of cultural and entertainment activities here is immense and most importantly affordable. There are an endless amount of museums, cafes, restaurants and beer gardens, theatres, operas, and the ultimate selection of live bands here. Another attraction which isn't so common in Ireland is the open air cinemas in summer. These are absolutely fabulous, 40000 people in the Wald Buhne and it is more like a party than a film. Obviously only the classics are shown here and due to the fact that the crowd already know the story they know exactly how to react with water pistols, rice, flour and toilet paper.

For the Rocky Horror Picture Show for instance, about 25%

ing agencies at the various colleges. During the semester jobs are absolutely to come by whereas during the semester holidays it's like a horror trip. The agencies offer jobs lasting between one and seven days or more. The minimum wage is 12DMs (£4.50)-so as already mentioned if you're willing to work and are not too fussy it's no problem to keep your finances nicely liquid. Jobs range from housekeeping to production work and are well paid.

Each Erasmus student takes part in an Erasmus German Course lasting between four and six hours a week depending on the level of your German. Before the Uni. starts there is an exam and your hours are located accordingly. In my case the class was most enjoyable and we also did alot of sightseeing etc. together. Another advantage to the German Uni. System is that you can put your own timetable together. There numerous lectures in each subject and all you have to do is choose which ever time suits you best. In this way you can easily find time to work. The lectures and tutorials are however one and a half hours but you only have one of each

lem here in Germany and to facilitate Erasmus students the European Commission have allocated specific "Wohngemeinschafts" (like Plassey except much bigger) for the Erasmus students. Here one lives with about seventeen other people per floor shared kitchen and toilet facilities at an overall cost of £160 per month. In each wohngemeinschafts there is a club which organises gigs etc. The campus also has a cafe, restaurant, and music practice room. This is a great opportunity to meet people and is also cheap. Other possibilities are either a private apartment or to live with a family. The latter is what I chose and would also recommend others to do so as it provides an excellent opportunity to speak the language as well as becoming more familiar with German culture and way of life.

The most important thing is that you don't only get to improve your German or whatever language you study, but also get a chance to meet Germans and get to know and understand the different customs and behaviours of the relative races. At the end of the day I think that nobody

LOG

Wednesday

I have made a dental appointment for 2pm tomorrow afternoon. my first in many years, being truthful its seven years since I last sat in that unsafest of chairs. I am wondering if it is proper for me to have feelings of apprehension and fear. I think not as I don't suffer from dental anguish and this will only be a check-up. What do I have to fear from the man in the blue cloak for he uses the most modern of techniques to extract from us wisdom and he is after all a master engineer in canal and bridge work. I had trouble going to sleep all the same.

Thursday

Dentist mania struck and frankly it was not a pleasant sight, not that I could see. I survived the ordeal, the prints on my shoulders soon fade. He claimed to extract tartar from my teeth. I can't tell the difference. His word against mine. Filling was the most interesting. I dread the idling gaps in my teeth. liquid metal type especially when loperis grey in people not really are white-ish of the popula

beer gardens, theatres, operas, and the ultimate selection of live bands here. Another attraction which isn't so common in Ireland is the open air cinemas in summer. These are absolutely fabulous, 40000 people in the Wald Buhne and it is more like a party than a film. Obviously only the classics are shown here and due to the fact that the crowd already know the story they know exactly how to react with water pistols, beer, flour and toilet paper.

For the Rocky Horror Picture Show for instance, about 25% of the people dressed up as either lesbians, gays, or transvestites and the atmosphere was only electric. The Mexican wave, dancing, and singing along to the classics is all part of the enjoyment.

It's also enjoyable to go to the cafes or beer gardens for a change without having to be weary of the weather. The actual variety that they provide here is amazing and it's just enjoyable to be able to enjoy yourself differently for a change without having to rely on the Stables for every night out. (Transport to the relative sports is also no problem as all over Germany they have got these under and over-ground tube networks!!).

Money is for a change no major problem thanks to the work-

German. Before the Uni starts there is an exam and your hours are located accordingly. In my case the class was most enjoyable and we also did alot of sightseeing etc. together. Another advantage to the German Uni. System is that you can put your own timetable together. There are numerous lectures in each subject and all you have to do is choose which ever time suits you best. In this way you can easily find time to work. The lectures and tutorials are

however one and a half hours but you only have one of each per week. Possibly the only fault with the F.U. was the lack of a S.U.- although for 60000 students, it's almost impossible.

The lack of the S.U. means no organised college gigs or parties etc.

-although now and again a faculty/dept. organises a party but due to the size of the college, they're black and not so good. However like everywhere there are of course specific pubs and cafes where the students meet so getting to know people is no problem. Each Uni. in Germany has a "Mensa" which provided cheap and edible food. They offer three different hot meals a day along with salads and desserts.

Accommodation is a big prob-

family. The latter is what I chose and would also recommend others to do so as it provides an excellent opportunity to speak the language as well as becoming more familiar with German culture and way of life.

The most important thing is that you don't only get to improve your German or whatever language you study, but also get a chance to meet Germans and get to know and understand the different customs and behaviours of the relative races. At the end of the day I think that nobody can become extremely fluent in a foreign language without visiting the country and Erasmus is there to offer you the chance.

That's about it - There's not much more to say except that it was an excellent year and if it was possible to extend my stay here I'd do it without further thought. Erasmus is both a break from the normal schedule of college in Ireland and a brilliant experience. If at all possible I'd advise you to do it - obviously you have to cover the same courses as the students in U.L. but it's on a pass/fail basis whereby your grades are not calculated for your Q.C.A. so the pressure isn't that bad.

Sin a bhfuil.

Orla Dunne. U.L. Stud.

Dentist mania struck and frankly it was not a pretty sight, not that I could see, but I survived the ordeal, the knee prints on my shoulders will soon fade. He claimed to extract tartar from my teeth but I can't tell the difference so it's his word against mine. The filling was the most upsetting. I dread the idea of plugging gaps in my teeth with a liquid metal type of cement, especially when the interlopers grey in colour, do these people not realise that teeth are white-ish in the majority of the population. This gross matter does little for my variety I'm never again going to yawn in an open space. The gleam off the infernal thing could be mistaken for landing lights. The bxxxxd also told me to floss.

Friday

Paranola has replaced rnia. The flossing is causing problems. I find putting hands and a ball of string in my mouth all together a difficult, hence the paran. I can't floss, plaque will build up and all my teeth will rot. This is of course true but how do I convince you of this, I have recourse to actions. One, let my t

Opinion

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

The Summer of '92 will be remembered for many things - the downpours which wasted away the tans acquired in early June, the mass migration of Students to Germany and France, the mad weekend at Thurles. It was also the Summer of the Barcelona Games. The Olympics had a strange effect on me. For hours on end I was camped in front of the T.V. screen staring at sports I didn't have the slightest understanding of. The only consolation was that the commentators didn't either. Watching Fred Cogley commenting on ladies diving technique was unilluminating. Not quite perpendicular was all we could get out of him. It is a pretty wishy washy sport though! The divers that scored 60 points didn't seem to differ significantly from those which scored 30 points. Perhaps they got extra points for nice swimsuits!!!!

Gymnastics was another sport which was new to me. I would have thought a pommel horse belonged in an equestrian event. Gerry Kelly however had

a fair grasp of the sport. He seemed to know his flik-flaks from his tumbles.

The track and field events were probably the most interesting sports of the Games. On the Barcelona track strange named fellows like Ondieki, Akabussi and my personal favourite Moses Tanui entered the vocabulary even if its unlikely that they will be household names. Of household names there were plenty, Lewis, Christie, Fredericks, Marsh and Young all secured their places in sporting history through a few seconds running. In the womens events Devers, Cuthbert, Drechsler and Torrence were prominent. Though the absence of Katrina Krabbe must have prevented millions of male viewers worldwide from turning on..... their T.V. sets? Kevin Myers posed some interesting questions in the "Irish Times" - asking why black American runners dominate up to 400m and not beyond and why black Africans annex all the medals in the higher distances. It

wouldn't have done a negro slave much good to run 200m at a fast pace. Rather greater distances would be required were escape on his mind. These are interesting questions but there are others. Why is it that coloured people dominate athletics and boxing and yet have made no impression in swimming or say equestrian events?

The Irish performances in Barcelona '92 were varied. Some of the Irish had success, some went down fighting, others just went down. In the end it was the boxers who came home with the glory. Out of a team of 6 they brought home 2 medals and the entire team boxed with distinction with the exception of our super heavy weight contender Kevin McBride. Contender for what I had to ask????

Watching the super heavy weights I got the impression this division isn't taken too seriously. Pot bellied men trundle around the ring, only occasionally throwing punches. Mostly resting on each others considerable

shoulders. I suppose though if my arms weighed 40lbs each I wouldn't lift them too often either!!! In truth these boys were more over weight than heavyweights.

Carruth and McCullough boxed with class and distinction. It appears that the latter will soon be trading blows for big bucks in professional boxing. Carruths victory was regrettably overdone in the press. The simple joy and passion of the unforgettable moment was buried under the never-ending newspaper columns and features. The sight of another article on the Carruth family will almost certainly lead me to firebomb D'Olier Street!!!!. And then abruptly the whole Olympics Carnival ended. There was a vacuum where once the "dream team" Sonia O'Sullivan, and dare I say it, Fred Cogley had been. I was so bored for a while there I thought I might look for a job. In the end I overcame my Olympic fever by spending longer in bed, by sitting still for prolonged periods and eating plenty of greens!!!!!!

I mBeal an Focal

“More first years, no new facilities.”

Ta míle cuig chead mícleinn on gcead bhliain balaithe le cheile anseo i mbliana. Sin meadu uafasach mhór o anuraidh agus blianta eile. Ach ca bhfuil na h-aiseanna nua? An bhfuil leabharlann nua le feiceail nó bialann nua? An rud is measa, dar liom, faoin sceal, na an “Foundation Building”. Nibheidh baint ar bith leis an bhfoirgnimh nua seo ach as na “post-grads”. Ta se seo tabhachtach, go ndeanfaí an “Research” seo, ach níl muid, na gnath plebs, ag fail oideachais ceart. Labhair an Spailpin Fanach faoin “Money racket” ata faoi lan tseoil ag Ed Walsh cheanna agus bhí fearg orm arís nuair a b’eigean dom beagnach dhá mhíle punt a íoc. Ta se in am duinn ar fad bru ceart a chur ar Aontas na Mícleinn agus ar an Ollscoil!!

“Nine Lives of a Cat”

Gabhaim chomh bhroin le Enda agus Billy i ndiaidh Craobh na hEireann san

Iomaint. Ach caithfidh me a chur in iúl daoibh go raibh athas an domhain ar an “gCat” seo nuair a thóg muintir Cill Chainnigh Com Liam Mac Catharaigh abhaile leo go Cathar Cill Chainnigh.

“Freshers The Elite”

Cuireann an Spailpin Fanach Faighte Uí Cheallaigh roimh na Freshers ar fad. Leis an taithi beag ata foghlaimithe agam le bhlianta beag anuas, molaim daoibh dul amach agus bainigi taitneamh as bhur dtreibhse anseo. Im-eoidh se tapaídh go leor.

Freisin, deanaigi dearmad ar an rameis mar gheall ar an “Elite of your generation” a chuala sibh ó Ed. Níl se fíor in aon chor. Nílimid píoc níos fearr na einne eile.

Bígi pairteach ins na gclubanna agus eile agus bíodh se soleir dos na bucks mora sa teach Ban go bhfuil suim agaibh i rudai eile níos tabhachtai na an staideir amhain.

I'M TIRED

Yes I'm tired for several years I've been blaming it on middle age poor blood, lack of vitamins air pollution, sacchari, obeity, dieting, under arm odour, and other maladies that make you wonder is life really worth living.

But I found that ain't that.

I'm tired because I'm over worked.

The population of this country is 4 million. 1 million are retired, that leaves 3 million to do the work. There are 1 million in schooland that leaves 2 million to do the work.

250,000 are unemployed & 750,000 are employed by the government that leaves 1 million to do the work. 200,000 are in the armed forces which leaves 800,000 to do the work. 200,000 are



employed by the County Council, leaving 600,000 to do the work. There are 420,000 people in hospital & 179,998 in prison.

That leaves 200,000 people to do the work.

And you are sitting on your ass reading this.

NO WONDER I'M FUCKING TIRED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FUTURE FOR STUDENTS

Four years after a good hard slog at College (NOT!) what's the future? Well if you're into Humanities the future of arts students will be the topic of Saturday morning 11a.m. - 4p.m. in the Boole lecture Theatre at U.C.C. Speakers.....

However according to Christina Murphy, Irish Times the amount of apprenticeships for students is scarcer than the amount of College places. Taking this into mind, the Education Minister Sean Brennan met the heads of Irish Students Unions on the 16th of September last to chat about Universities role in the economy - "seed bed" of enterprise in the economy. Some Colleges have a better future than others, such as guess who? U.L. of course. According to the Examiner 18th of September - 23% more U.L. students get jobs than other Universities with 12% higher salaries than other graduates. Maybe swotting isn't so bad! Co-op gives them an advantage, among others B. Dunne, Electronic Engineering, Gold Medal for outstanding student of 1992. Crowded auditoriums, crowded Stables, as we all know crowded due to the increased intake of first years this term. Along with U.L. many other campuses have taken on more students than they can cater for because more leaving certs accepted places than was expected. Take Galway R.T.C. which plans to divide up the gym area of the R.T.C. to provide room for the 400 extra students!!!! As overcrowding remains, ac-

commodation availability has become a HUGE problem!!! As round 3 offers offered a minimum number of degree places (381 altogether) it is fair to say that there are still a number in R.T.C. and D.I.T.'s. However it's comforting to know that British Colleges can still offer copious arms of degree courses in Engineering Technology, Science, Construction and Arts courses, (provided they have the points that is!). It's quite nice to know that contrary to my own belief, that I was in fact a bit of a broccoli brain when it came to figuring out how to even READ my grant application form, the actual grant system has received a much needed slaking during the week. On the 21st of September, at the Co. Waterford VEC meeting a speaker declared one would have to be an "accountant" to fill in the form and Christina Murphy of the Irish Times declared that it needed reform desperately. Too right!!!! As 1st years were encumbered and burdened by huge piles of endless handouts, students in Kevin Street, College of technology were handed stuff of a different kind. Due to a toilet lock-out by College authorities, where condom machines were installed, students were handed them free of charge by the Students Union outside the loos!!! The College Authorities argued that the machines violated

Family Planning Laws despite widespread support of their installation by all the students. The hotly debated issue of abortion came to the fore again in this weeks news. Life Interest an anti-abortion youth group plan to represent themselves in the 41 Dail Constituencies. They claim to oppose abortion in all circumstances in Ireland, but does not oppose the "freedom of travel". In Belfast the plight of those in lower income brackets who want abortions became clear as a programme called "Dilemma" illustrated last week. Those who can't afford it must make do with back street abortions, which are both illegal and unsafe. Midweek witnessed a statement by Niamh Nic Mhathuna, leader of Youth Defence, another anti-abortion group, that Mr. Reynolds was "pro-abortion" because he was prepared to make arrangements for the carrying out Garda P.J. Nash has been a regular at Felle for the past 3 years- not as a slamming Neds tee-shirt clad youth, but as a Garda on duty. This week he slated those who attended Felle '92 who "walked through Thurles oblivious to the smell of urine and beer, through empty beer cans and glasses" in a sheer state of "drunkenness and rudeness". Sure isn't that what Felle's about!!!!!!
YVONNE O'HARA (1ST LAW)

IT SAYS HERE

The column by our man in the Journals Room .

The government proposal to means test the E.S.F. grants is causing considerable debate in the Limerick County V.E.C. , reports the Limerick Leader of September 26th. Fine Gael senator, Mary Jackman, describes the new system (whereby students in E.S.F.-Funded courses would have to satisfy a means test to get a maintenance grant.) as "extremely discriminatory " whereas C.e.o. Sean Bourke regards it as "caring and conscientious". Chairman, Cllr. Jim Mc Carthy observes wearily that ,under the proposed system, "there are times more work would be involved". Action against this proposal is stepping up. In the Cork Examiner of September 29th, Cork R.T.C. S.U. president, Ger Scrivan, outlines the current U.S.I. campaign. This campaign uses the 1191 Supreme Court ruling that students may register to vote both at their college address and at their home address. "We", says Mr. Scrivan, will be getting our members to vote against any T.D. who supports the means testing of E.S.F. grants.

The Limerick Leader devotes quite a lot of space to U.L. in its' September 26th issue, giving editorial space to comment on Dr. Walsh's plea to academics and unions to forego inflationary wage increases in order to ease unemployment. The Leader pats him loudly on the back and compares him favourably to "our so - called leaders ".

The Leader also features Joan Keating and her appointment as P.R.O. of the Belltable Arts Centre. Ms. Keating is a Public. Admin. graduate and has served as D.P. of our union and ents manager in D.C.U..

Two pages are also devoted to the listing of this years U.L. graduates.

Opinion

OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL FOUND

By Sitric Hogan

Upon my first visit to the University of Limerick as consultant architect to the Irish Olympic Council I was disappointed. The facilities at Thomond college had generally been let run to waste. But disappointment quickly turned to delight upon turning the corner of the Foundation Building. There I spotted Ireland's first Olympic, fifty metre swimming pool. But don't be fooled by appearances; our Olympic pool is artfully disguised with fifteen fountains.

The car parking facilities are to be supplemented but id

at their college address and at their home address. "We", says Mr. Scrivan, will be getting our members to vote against any T.D. who supports the means testing of E.S.F. grants.

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Across the water, The Sunday Times (September 20th) reports on Cambridge University's screening of student applications in terms of english literacy and basic maths. A survey has shown that of science students: more than three quarters either mis-spelled "occurrence" or confused "its" and "it's"; half didn't grasp the difference between "affect" and "effect" or couldn't spell "independent" and one eight couldn't use commas correctly.

Finally, a mention to Dr. Colm O hEocha, president of U.C.G. who, the Irish Times of September 30th tells us, recently received the title "Commander of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland" in recognition of his contribution to the education of polish students.

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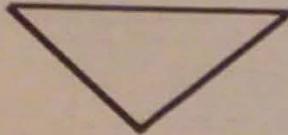
But disappointment quickly turned to delight upon turning the corner of the Foundation Building. There I spotted Ireland's first Olympic, fifty metre swimming pool. But don't be fooled by appearances; our Olympic pool is artfully disguised with fifteen fountains.

The car parking facilities are to be complemented but I'd especially like to convey my appreciation to the pioneering architects who took the bold step of leaving the pool uncovered. I'm sure the sicy temperatures will keep our athletes on red alert. This radical departure, training in freezing waters should, I'm told, ensure at least 8 gold medals in the pool next olympics .

The outdoor changing facilities behind the trees next to the pool should help keep the overheads of the pool to a minimum. However, I still haven't seen any of our Olympic swimmers use the new pool. Isn't three feet of water enough? Will the fifteen ceremonial shores at the sides of the pool be left untouched? Is this pool to be another monument to the misuse of public money? I think so.

It's Not What You Say, It's the Way That You Say It

FROM THE TRIANGLE
by Cathal Kelly



Homosexuality used to be "the love that dare not speak its name", but a lot has changed since EM Forster wrote *Maurice*. One of my friends recently suggested that it should now be called "the love that won't shut up". He has a point.

In the last month RTE have broadcast an Irish language programme entitled *An Saol 'Gay' - the Gay Life*, covered the Vatican letter on discrimination against homosexual persons in its opening programme in the new series *Rant*, and newspapers have covered - in a variety of tones - President Robinson's invitation to the lesbian and gay community to visit her at Aras an Uachtarain in December.

Add to that, the coverage the topic gets whenever a journalist or opposition TD asks the Taoiseach when the government intends to comply with the European Court of

visit be an embarrassment to the government, the papers asked. The same question was not asked when representatives of the Travelling Community visited President Robinson last week, nor were questions about the government's lack of real commitment to Irish women asked when the ICA visited her last month.

Gay people in this country are presented in terms of problems. If the topic does not inherently have a problem (like the forthcoming visit to President Robinson) then a controversy is found in the reaction of those opposed to us.

Some gay people are now beginning to question whether or not we should participate in such media coverage. The objection is not that the media reports our problems, but that it reports *only* our problems. Why, for example, could the Presidential visit not have been presented as the achievement we felt it is, without distorting it with suggestions of a hidden agenda on President Robinson's part?

other sexual matters.

It is true that gay people in Ireland still face problems. The problems arise not because of our sexual orientation, but because of *other people's* difficulty with our sexual orientation. Among the problems we face are family pressure, difficulty in getting employment, and the risk of assault or 'queer bashing'. These problems do merit media attention, but they are not the only things about gay life worthy of air time or newspaper space. Unfortunately, it is proving difficult to get anybody - RTE, newspapers, schools - to portray homosexuality in any way other than associated with problems.

This presents lesbian and gay activists with a dilemma. As a society, we can do nothing about the problems unless attention is drawn to their existence. However, when attention is focused only on the problems lesbian and gay people face, a grossly distorted image develops. That fact has already been exploited by

IT SAYS HERE

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newspapers have covered - in a variety of tones - President Robinson's invitation to the lesbian and gay community to visit her at Aras an Uachtarain in December.

Add to that, the coverage the topic gets whenever a Journalist or opposition TD asks the Taoiseach when the government intends to comply with the European Court of Human Rights judgement against Ireland's outlawing of sexual relations between men. Homosexuality in Ireland is a long way from not daring to speak. One could be forgiven for thinking that Ireland's gay community should be delighted with the coverage we get in the media. There is, however, a difficulty.

A closer examination of why we receive media attention shows how all is not well for Ireland's lesbian and gay people, despite the relatively high profile. The *Rant* item occurred because the Roman Catholic church issued a letter to its American bishops stating that discrimination against homosexual persons was justified in employment as teachers, sports coaches and in the armed forces, and also justified in the adoption of children and the provision of housing. The programme *An Saol 'Gay'* was part of a series looking at people who face problems in modern Ireland. And, of course, the Taoiseach's comments remind us that the removal of the criminal status in which we currently live is the lowest item on his agenda.

Even the forthcoming presidential visit was presented in terms of a problem - will the

in such media coverage. The objection is not that the media reports our problems, but that it reports *only* our problems. Why, for example, could the Presidential visit not have been presented as the achievement we felt it is, without distorting it with suggestions of a hidden agenda on President Robinson's part?

News coverage is only part of a broader picture. Throughout our society, homosexuality is either seen as a problem or ignored. None of RTE's soap operas (*The Riordans*, *Glenroe*, and *Fair City* for example) have had an openly gay or lesbian character, although for thousands of families around the country the presence of a gay son or daughter is a fact of life.

In our schools, the topic of homosexuality is not mentioned. This censorship is not restricted to religion classes or subjects like personal development and life skills, but extends across the entire curriculum. In the present climate, it would take a very brave art teacher to draw her students' attention to the homo-erotic nature of some of the paintings by the gay artist, Michelangelo. Likewise, few English teachers would be willing to consider what insights (if any) can be gained about Oscar Wilde's work if one considers the fact that he was gay.

This 'glossing over' can no longer be attributed to completely ignoring anything related to sex or sexuality in the school curriculum. Shakespeare's plays are no longer butchered to remove references to two-backed animals (ie a couple copulating), or

sexuality in any way other than associated with problems.

This presents lesbian and gay activists with a dilemma. As a society, we can do nothing about the problems unless attention is drawn to their existence. However, when attention is focused only on the problems, a negative public image develops. That fact has already been exploited by Family Solidarity in their campaign against law reform. They claimed that gay relationships are unstable and gay people are likely to have a high number of sexual partners. Such 'facts' are a twofold distortion of reality. They ignore the many long-term stable relationships among gay people. They also ignore the unstable one-night stands that begin in Ted's or at discos in the Savoy (are heterosexuals inherently promiscuous?), and the failed marriages and separated parents to be found in every town and townland in this country.

When we are faced with the option of little coverage, or automatic linking by the media of our lives with problems and difficulties, we need to ask questions. We are citizens of this country. Those of us who have jobs pay taxes, and most of us are television viewers or newspaper readers. We are Irish and we belong here. We are beginning to make vocal our expectation for more honest portrayal of our lives in our media. We have responded to the recent Green Paper on Education, pointing out that our schools choosing to ignore a very real fact of life for ten percent of their students is no longer acceptable. The time when homosexuality can be seen in terms of problems is over.

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THE STUNNING

The Stunning are back again to active service after their sell-out show last term and a triumphant appearance at this year's FEILE festival, where they performed to over 90,000 people.

On October the 5th "Mr. Ginger", one of the crowd and Radio favourites from their new gold album, "Once Around the World", will be released on Solid Records. The cassette version will feature "I Wish We'd Never Met",

a new Joe Wall song, and "Turn it On", recorded live at FEILE 1992.

The CD Version featured a Bonus Acoustic track, "Tired Of All That".

The Stunning will be doing a show for us as part of their "Rocking With Mr. G" tour on Thursday the 15th of October at the Two Mile Inn. Tickets costing £5.00 each will be available from Monday 12th of October from 12 to 2pm at the Ents stand in the canteen. They will continue to be on sale at the same times every other day, depending on demand.

Club Harlem

SOUL - FUNK - BLUES



Every Sunday
Buses from
Stables 11.00pm
Savoy Top Floor
Soul
70's
Funk &
Lots More

HOSTAGE HELD IN THE BELLTABLE

The Limerick Theatre Group comes to the Belltable Arts Centre with "The Hostage" for one week from Monday 12 October to Saturday 17 October. Following the success of "Home Is The Hero" last December on the Belltable, Limerick Theatre Group have chosen yet another hit, "The Hostage" by Brendan Behan. It was with the enormous success of "The Quare Fellow" in 1956 and "The Hostage" in 1958 that Brendan Behan achieved international fame. Paul Brennan and Kay Walsh have worked together to produce an excellent interpretation of this fine humorous play.

"The Hostage" is based around a young Cockney soldier held as a hostage in a Dublin lodging house for an IRA man who is to be hanged in Belfast. He is accidentally shot in a raid on the house by Civic Guards. As well as being a witty and often profound comment on Anglo-Irish relations and on the Irish themselves, it is also superb entertainment which is full of rollicking comedy diversified by ballads and satirical songs.

Limerick Theatre Group was officially launched in May 1990, by Alderman Jim Kemmy T.D.. Despite their short years, they have picked up a number of awards. When they chose "The Hostage", they were well aware that it would be a major challenge to undertake. However, they have produced the play to a very high standard (with Neville Bourke as The Hostage) and look forward to staging it in the Belltable. Early booking is advisable at 061 - 319866.

James Brown/ The "Stars" of the Commitments/ Rob Strong

[Inaugural Theatre, Dublin, September 26] by ZEN ZUCCHINI

"THE GODFATHER OF SOUL", "THE HARDEST WORKING MAN IN SHOW-BUSINESS", "THE PRESIDENT OF FUNK" and many other epithets have been applied to James Brown, usually by himself. This legend of soul came to the attention of many in Ireland through the film "The Commitments". With the complete "Commitments"-overkill here at the moment, it made perfect sense that the "Stars" of the aforesaid film would make their appearance. Rob Strong ("father of Andrew") opened proceedings with his own R&B, soul and funk set. This veteran has a far better set of tonsils than his more famous son, and his set was well enough received. Then it was time for what was probably the highlight of the evening for the surprisingly young crowd. The "Stars" of the Commitments played the more well known songs (other peoples' songs) from their repetoir. Only Angeline Ball and Maria Doyle were recognisable from the group; who were notably missing Andrew ("son of Rob", "the COCA-COLA kid", etc.) Strong.

His father sang with them for a while, a case of "I must be about my son's business". However, although the backing group (doubtless featur-

ing ace session musicians) were tighter than usual, the night took on a cabaret/revue style that was not to my taste. I had great apprehension that it would degenerate into "SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE GAIETY"-type self-parody. My fears almost proved correct when "SOUL BROTHER NUMBER ONE"'s band came on - minus James Brown. The band worked out with the backing singers, all showing their paces on the instrumentals; as well as a bizarre gospel version of the "The Way We Were".

When, after half an hour, the man himself still wasn't there, I began to wonder why I was. Then, all of a sudden, he appeared. Introduced by his lead guitarist and band leader, he bounced onto stage to "Living in America". Through "Try Me", "Please, Please, Please", "Get on the Good Foot" and a brilliant version of "It's a Man's, Man's, Man's World"; James Brown showed that at 64, he's still every bit the showman, egotist and funk-master that he's always been. The show was padded out by frequent long instrumentals while the Man went offstage; but the band were fabulous, with the best brass section I've ever heard.

The capacity crowd (very

young in general) in the Point lapped it up, even going for the schmaltzier aspects of the show; such as when he started doing dedications to such dead legends as Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, and even live ones such as B.B. King! Yet, there is no doubt that the old bugger can still do it, and there are 8600 others who will agree with me.

Three years ago he was in prison on an assault charge. Two years ago he was driving a schoolbus (!) as part of his parole. But on Saturday night he sang, he danced, he changed costumes; and he cut his world-class band loose and cranked the atmosphere up all the way. When he came to the two songs that almost everyone was there to hear, the place exploded. "I Got You" induced auditorium-wide contortions reminiscent of St. Vitus' Dance.

"I want to get up and do my 'thang". These words produced mayhem. "You know, doin' it. Like a SEX MACHINE?" When they played this, you might have thought you were in the midst of a tempest. The tempest continued through three curtain calls, and then he was gone. But he'd been, he'd conquered, and maybe he'd showed that life begins at 60.

The Van

Roddy Doyle

There are two ways of looking at Roddy Doyle- you may think he is a brilliant gifted socially aware novelist or you may think that he is a foul mouthed bastard whose pretensions to the Booker throne are spurious to say the least. So if you take the time to read it, "The Van" is a funny, sporadically thought provoking book.

"The Van" is a far cry from "The Commitments" but not dissimilar to the "The Snapper". "The Commitments" was much funnier. "The Van" will depress at times, apart from the Rabbitte families occasional 'moment' whilst enjoying their stable diet of chips, eggs and saussages. About the funniest thing about the household is the demented dog Larrygogan ("The Snapper" explains that 'no-one but no-one is allowed to call the dog 'Larry' - always 'Larrygogan' - or else he won't know who he is'). A few cringe moments when Bimbo (yes Bimbo!) and Jimmy snr. go clubbing down Leeson Street in Sid the sexist mode, and details on Jimmy snr's lustful musings on the "young wans" passing by.

There are more serious undertones here (if you care to pay

attention to them) e.g. the hopeless soul-deadening tedium of unemployment, the relationship between two essentially 'macho-show no emotion' men and the notion that anything is possible if you're willing to get off your arse and do something. Is it worth a read regardless of your literary tastes? - "Oh yeah-defny."

JFK

Starring Kevin Costner, Donald Sutherland, Joe Pesci. If you have'nt heard of this, you must inform me of what drug you are taking. This film is full of good acting, clever camera work and excellent use of flashes from the past. A little long (perhaps overlong) and can be a bit confusing at times (not one to watch after a night out on the town and the eight pints). Incidentally, Jim Garrison (the person whom Costner plays in the film) does appear in the picture as Mr Warren (of the Warren Commission).
Final Verdict: Entertaining and engaging, as long as you're following what is going on. Don't get this one out as light entertainment however, or if you are a follower of the Warren Commission.

9/10

UNFORGIVEN

Starring Clint Eastwood,
Gene Hackman, Morgan
Freeman, Richard Harris.

What is perhaps the most effective part of the film is that Eastwood has avoided the normal 'goodies vs baddies'. He also has avoided using Indians. The basic plot is that a prostitute is badly beaten up and her friends believe that the sheriff let the attackers off too lightly. When Eastwood hears about the bounty, he grabs his gun one last time and joins his partner Morgan Freeman and heads off to kill the men. Standing in their way is Gene Hackman as the local Sheriff.

There are a number of very funny moments and the film seems to take itself seriously at the very end.

Final Verdict: An excellent film, overall possibly Eastwood's best. Watch out for this one in next year's Oscars. It has everything - senseless violence, humour, believable characters and crisp dialogue.

10 / 10

Literary & Philosophical Return.

The Lit & Phil returned last Wednesday to considerably better form than the members left in June. The House was a picture of health, brimming with humour and happiness. Provocative and entertaining debates in front of an audience in excess of 300 people provided an excellent hors d'oeuvre for a year which will be dedicated to the constant development of all speakers.

There were many hilarious Private Members motions throughout the night, including Hugh Gallagher The Red proposing that the House do unpleasant things to the group ABBA. There were many reasons for this including the bands paedophilic secrets, and their devil worshipping history. Evidence was produced by the said redhead that if you played "Waterloo" backwards you heard, "I Love Satan, God's a Wanker!". There were sundry motions to the effect that "The most corrupt thing in Irish Politics is the electorate" & "All freshers are Green, Ignorant & Bashful" - GIBies. All Motions were defeated.

The First Main debate of the night was billed as a battle of the sexes. "That Women's emancipation has killed romance", proposed by Matthew Hamilton and Myles Staunton, and opposed by Lorraine McDaid and Derena

McDermott. The Lads were trounced by the elegant and eloquent ladies. Mr. Hamilton, in his polemic about the sweaty atr of sex was urged by Hugh Gallagher "not to knock it until he tried it." Myles talked about Hyperbole, Derena called it Hyperbollocks. The votes showed the gentlemen to have been destroyed by the "fairer" sex.

The second motion was that "The most disorientating thing about Freshership is orientation week". Speakers were Lord Brian Farrell and Ray "Walt" Hurley, Adrian Lynch and the already far-too-mentioned redhead from Ennis. (Mr. Gallagher). This motion raised the difficulties of budgeting 90% beer, 10% food, and understanding why we drink in the stables. Lord Brian said his first experience of feminism was when Cow 17 attacked him. Mr. Gallagher's contribution was when confronted with a lesbian a country boy would ask what part of Lesbia she was from. Walt Hurley could only say how much he missed the "Malla Mart" and the rump hoggetts. (sheep, I think)

The Lit & Phil : Wednesday : 7.30 pm : Parsons Theatre :

Come early to ensure a seat! Membership now available for the year at a mere £2. Join the best society on campus. To-day.

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"So mum, this is what the college looks like...neat isn't it...want a look around?...me too, I've only been here a few days so it's all kinda new to me too...let's take a left and explore! So John and his mum wandered down dim corridors admiring the fine college John had chosen, their footsteps echoing from walls steeped in tradition and 20 feet of concrete foundation. Then it happened.

From the area that would be revealed as block E, level G, they heard the Voices... "I'm stabbing the b****rd in the back, and I don't care who knows!" "Fair 'nuff if you can just fly up to the ceiling and do it, then fairplay." "Well I say we just nuke him from here, we haven't toasted anyone in ages!" It was with trepidation and not a little fear that John and his mother sought out the source of these strange utterances. They were coming from an obscure room called EG006 and escalated to screams and howls of "Not until we're out of range you stupid moron!" and "Right, that's it, I want the mage's testicles!"

And then they took the final step, they pushed open the door and entered the mysterious world of the Games Society, where mayhem, magic and moonstruck madness govern all. The rest is history... John left and his mother stayed and went on to be President for four years...

So what's that crap all about?? The Games Society is a very active society in the college which is dedicated to the glorious pursuits of Role Playing, tactical and any other kind of game. Name the system and we've got it (a lie, but hey, this is propaganda... and close to the truth) and if you've never played, don't worry. They are easy to play and highly addictive. Why not come and find out for yourself, at EG006 at 6.30pm tomorrow (Wednesday 7th) or call to the stand on Societies day (Thursday, Cafeteria) or any evening from 7pm in EG001, 002 or 006. We don't bite, really, well maybe a little nick... THE INNER CIRCLE.

"Whether the University of Limerick Parliamentary debating society can survive without money support(sic) of the students union and just a handful of members is open to debate

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.....the words of an unknown
An local reporter week 1 Hilary
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An focal reporter week 1 Hilary

"92. we are please to say that the Parl. deb. soc. has outlasted the fame of that optimistic An Focal reporter.!

The first meeting of the societies 2nd session took place in a very full John Holland Theatre on Tuesday of Week 1.

The first speaker to propose the motion

"that Irish Life is the acceptance of apathy and insularity" was "red" Sarah Hartnett. Sarah in her first speech in the parl. deb. soc. defended the motion at the objection of John Mc Elligott who accused the honourable lady of spewing "left wing dogma".

He is one to talk about "left wing dogma " !!

Opposing the Motion was Derek Sheahan,

who seems to have come back from Paris, a new man, or maybe just a man. Nevertheless his opposition to the motion was just as sophisticated as his sophistry.

Ms. Sheila O'keefe, a Long time debating adversary of Derek Sheahan, could not accept dear argument Dereks, lack of shall we say, any insight to the argument. Needless to say Derek got very angry indeed at this. However before things started to look as if the ladies, cut of all points made by Messrs Sheahan and Mc Elligott, something the entire crowd was waiting for happened.

John Mc Elligott, darling of the crowd and master debater par excellence stood up to speak. damning the proposition for naivety and incompetence he masterfully cut through any arguement put before him, even challenging the bold Sheila O'Keefe that he would "take her later"?! Needless to say the motion was carried by a very large majority, against the best wishes of Mr. Mc Elligott. Before the debate Mr. Scully (U.L.S.U. President) welcomed the audience and broadly set out the societies aims, which are broadly speaking "To debate and not prevaricate". This term we have an incredibly packed schedule.

Activities Forthcoming:

WEEK 2 : Election of Committee

DEBATE : "That this house regrets the influence of America as the Worlds leading democratic power"

WEEK 3 : Freshers debate - **FIRST PRIZE £50** sponsored by - Bank of Ireland

WEEK 6 : Intervarsity -V-U.C.D. including guest speakers

Don't forget the Parl. Deb. Soc. are holding a disco on Wed. Week 3 in Costelloes, Admission £2.

MEETING : Every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. John Holland
John McElligott- Outgoing Secretary

THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY -

After a very successful orientation week in terms of recruitment for the European Society, we can't wait to get going again. Last year saw the rebirth of the Society and not only did we make a huge impact on Campus life, we also won the prestigious award of "Best Improved Society" of U.L.. What we attempt to do is captivate your attention and focus it on the vital issues that are currently taking place in the European Community. We do it in as informal a manner as possible (No Lectures!). Debates, videos, cooking demonstrations of various European cuisines, quizzes, beer tasting competitions, discos, ceilis and much much more are regular events organised by your hardworking and cheerful committee. The More O'Ferrall era (which was not without its contraversies!) has ended and relations with the Students Union are looking healthy (not that I'm insinuating that this has any-

thing to do with the aforementioned auditors departure or anything). Among guest speakers last year were Peter Sutherland (Former EC Commissioner), Des O'Malley (Minister for Industry and Commerce) and Liam Connellan (Director General CII). This year our aspirations are even higher. The Euro. Soc. is alive and well but like all Societies, we need your support. Keep an eye out for meetings etc... and regular articles in An Focal. Looking forward to seeing you soon,

THE COMMITTEE

The European Society is an independent organisation set up to promote the discussion of European Unity and is committed to increasing awareness and interest in greater European Integration.

CONTACT : Myles Staunton
2nd Euro (Law)

FINDING FEET AND SETTLING BACK

September. It's that time of year when a thousand plus new bodies are trying to find their feet on Campus and the rest of the student body settles back in for a new academic year. Welcome to the dreaming spires of Limerick!

One of the big issues for first year students at a personal level is making the break with home, and living away from parents, brothers and sisters for the first time. On the positive side, this can be exciting and challenging, as well as a chance to slip the old parental vigilance for a while. On the down side it can be a bit bewildering to find oneself in huge classes (where are the old familiar faces from 6th year?) and not know anyone. Missing contact with family, and the daily routine at home that was so familiar last year, can make a new student feel very isolated and lonely. These are some of the difficulties

students experienced repeatedly over the last few years. To try and help individuals deal with some of these issues, this year we are extending the popular Study Skills Course to include transition from home to college. So we'll be looking at practical issues such as note taking and changing from secondary school study to university learning approach. On top of this we'll be addressing some of the social and personal kind of problems that arise in the early weeks in college, e.g. 'My room mate studies till 2am and I can't get to sleep', or 'The guy in the next room keeps practicing the guitar/basketball/karate and I can't study.'

Indeed dealing with conflict

Venue
John Holland
Lecture Theatre
times
12am Monday
12am Tuesday

and developing good study skills are not just issues for first year students. The course is open to anyone who wants to attend. Details of what's on offer are on this page and you can get further information by contacting Student Personnel Services at CM072.

William Stone
Student Counsellor
LOCATION AND TIMES OF AVAILABILITY OF COUNSELLOR

- Declan Aherne : CM070
Monday - Friday ext : 2332
- William Stone : C2055
Wednesday - Friday ext : 2446
- Maggie Tierney :
C2058 Tuesdays
ext : 2446

Note : Room C2058 is at the top of Tower Block C.

