

SU angry over repeats snub SU angry over repeats snub

The issue of repeat examinations has flared up again, with SU president Mr Diarmuid Scully accusing the University authorities of 'breaking the rules'.

Maria Casey reports

Mr Scully was referring to a meeting of the University's Management Co-ordinating Committee, at which the Dean of the College of Engineering and Science, Professor Éamonn McQuade, said his college would veto proposals by a Working Group set up by the Standing Committee of the Academic Council. An Focal has also learnt that Dr Walsh has supported Professor McQuade's stand, saying that he sees no need for a structure for repeat exams. The Students' Union has no representation on the Management Co-ordinating Committee and were not consulted by it before it made its decision.

The decision to set up a Working Group was taken following a serious row last August on the issue. The grades allocated to a number of European Studies students were cancelled and the examinations described as "unofficial repeats" by university sources. At the time the SU launched a major press campaign on the issue, highlighting the plight of the students, claiming their grades were arbitrarily overturned by university management. Following a series of summer meetings between the SU leadership and the University management, it was agreed to take the issue out of the public eye and resolve the dispute internally. The mechanism agreed for this was the Working Group established by the Standing Committee of the Academic Council.

The members of the Working Group include representatives from the four colleges in the university, the Student Services Office, and the Students' Union. The Working Group had been meeting regularly since the start of the academic year. Their meeting this week is due to draft agreed proposals for presentation to the Academic Council

Standing Committee at its meeting on 10 February.

The Dean of the College of Engineering and Science, Professor Éamonn McQuade, told an Focal that he "takes full responsibility" for raising the issue at the Management Co-ordinating Committee. Although he claimed he is "sympathetic to the needs of students", he said the issue of a formal repeats structure has "resource implications" and as a manager of the University he felt these should be discussed. He said that he believed the current regulations of the university are poor, and that adding repeats to the structure would be a gross abuse of students arising from poor regulations. This is a clear reference to semesterisation, which Professor McQuade supported during his term as an elected faculty member of the University's Governing Body.

However, Professor McQuade's references to the resource issue was described as a "red herring" by Mr Scully. He said that Student Services has already agreed to resource the repeat structure and the SU has agreed to enter discussions with

Students Services on examination fees for repeats. Mr Scully said "it has never been the intention to cut the budget of any college so as to provide the resources necessary for repeats."

He went on to say that the SU felt aggrieved at the events at the Management Co-ordinating Committee meeting, and feels it has no choice but to make its voice heard at an Emergency General Meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 February at 1.30 pm in the canteen in the Main Building.

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Sligo RTC SU angry at Brennan

by Cathal Kelly

The Students' Union at Sligo Regional Technical College have held a referendum and will hold an election in an attempt to overturn the decision by former Education Minister, Mr Seamus Brennan, to appoint to the College's Governing Body a student who came sixth in the elections for SU President last March.

The student chosen by Mr Brennan, Ms Sinead Guckian, is the daughter of Mr Michael Guckian, a Fianna Fail member of Leitrim County Council.

The row arises following the passing of the Regional Technical Colleges Act last year. Under the Act the two student members of the Governing body "shall be elected by the registered students" of the college. However, this clause does not apply to the members of the first Governing Body, whose members are appointed at the sole discretion of the minister. According to Mr Pdraig Ryan, President of the Students' Union at Sligo RTC, the Department of Education have claimed that Ms Guckian was appointed under the gender equity clause of the new Act. The Vice President of the SU, Mr Shane Kelly, is male. The decision to appoint Ms Guckian was taken without consulting the SU, Mr Ryan said.

An Focal has been unable to contact Ms Guckian for comment on the affair.

On Tuesday of last week, the SU held a referendum at which they voted 650 to 7 in favour of a motion condemning the "ministerial appointment of Ms Guckian to the Board of Governors of Sligo RTC as a student Representative". An election is being held to select a woman student to replace Ms Guckian as Student Representative on the College's Governing Body.

According to Mr Ryan, Ms Guckian has indicated that she will not resign unless requested to do so by the Minister for Education. Ms Guckian was Vice President of the SU last year, and when she ran for President in March she received 53 votes, coming second last in a field of seven. Mr Ryan received 855 votes and was elected on the first count.

U.L. GAELIC FOOTBALL AGREE SPONSORSHIP

U.L. Gaelic football squad agreed a sponsorship deal with Castle T Furniture Suppliers, who supplied much of the furniture in the new Foundation building.

Mr. McSweeney, M. Director of Castle T Furniture was delighted to sponsor the University's Gaelic football team, and he hopes that they will be very successful in the Sigerson campaign.

The Sigerson Cup will display the Castle T Furniture logo on their jerseys on Wed. February 3rd when they play Athlone R.T.C. in the first round of the Sigerson Cup @ 2.00pm in Askeaton.

Buses to the game depart from the Stables @ 1.00pm.

University to Host Debating Final

The University of Limerick is to host the Final of the Irish Times Debating Competition on Friday, 5th of February at 8.30pm. This Competition, one of the most prestigious in the country is the first major competition in debate to be held on campus. The project is a joint venture between the Literary & Philosophical Society and the Parliamentary Debating Society. The Irish Times convenor, Mr. Tim O'Leary, said he was delighted that the competition could be held in UL. An Focal will carry a special report on the Final next week. The Societies involved urge all students to support this ground-breaking initiative.

Complain over suggestion boxes

An Focal has received a complaint about the University's suggestion boxes, claiming that they have been unemptied since before Christmas.

A student, who does not want his name published, complained that the notice at the three boxes says they are emptied each Monday, but that this is not the case. An Focal has spoken to another user of the suggestion box who said he had submitted a suggestion on the catering services at the University before Christmas, but that no answer has yet been received on the suggestion box noticeboard.

Cows Come Home

The number of cows still missing from Limerick artist Tom Ryan's exhibition has been reduced to three after three of the stolen works were returned to the Arts Office earlier in the week, writes John Maguire. The three returned works were not without some damage. Two of the works were returned wrapped in plastic bags to the Students' Union office on Wednesday morning, and the other piece was returned the next day in a similar fashion. One of the pieces had been defaced with graffiti and two had been folded, removing paint and damaging the surface. It is not known who returned any of the works. The Students' Union then returned the works to the Arts Office. The recovery of the pieces follows last week's report on the thefts in An Focal.

History Seminar

Dr Mary Cullen of St Patrick's College Maynooth will give a seminar entitled "Writing Womens' History Radical Revisionism?" in the Green Room, Plassey House on Thursday 11 February at 4.00pm. The seminar is open to all who wish to attend. Further details may be obtained from Dr Bernadette Whelan or Dr John Logan, Department of European Integration and Administration.

Lost to be Found

WANTED

**FORMAL REPEAT
STRUCTURE
FOR YOUNG
PROGRESSIVE
UNIVERSITY WITH NIHE
METHODS**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT DR. ED WALSH OR
ALTERNATIVELY MAKE
SUGGESTIONS AT THE
GENERAL MEETING WED. AT
1.30PM MAIN CANTEEN

ISSUED BY STUDENTS' UNION INFORMATION OFFICE

Letters

EDITORIAL

Repeats Saga

That a seemingly modern progressive Univer-
sity, graciously swanning about the country-
side with it's chest bloated on the tenents of
"excellence and relevance" could have over-
looked having a repeat system for it's students,
is stretching the imagination a little too far.

One could even be lulled into a false sense of
security thinking that with the granting of Uni-
versity status, the assimilation of T.C.E. and
linking with Mary I, that the University man-
agement has not just had the time to imple-
ment a proper repeats system in the past three
years.

Perhaps even a plausible
excuse could be; that the new
semester calender, currently
being drafted for implementa-
tion in the near future; contains
a proper repeat facility and
therefore to implement a total
new system under the current
academic calender would be a
waste of energy.

However when the stu-
dents on this campus, learn
from Union Leadership that at a
recent Management Meeting
Dr. Walsh expressed his view
that he "did not see any need for

rent old NIHE system that we
operate under. They are aware
that successive S.U. adminis-
trations rose the issue of repeats
since the early eighties.

This time around it ap-
peared as though a breakthrough
could be made - the S.U. realised
that a formal repeat structure
would have to be funded and it is
not impossible to imagine some-
one paying £15 of a Repeat Fee
- as opposed to the huger sums
involved in repeating the whole
term or even year (thus taking
the wind out of the sails of those
who claim that the system

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Dear Ed.

Not until your last issue
have I ever suffered from ink
induced intestinal disorders,
but reviewing the dubious in-
gredients contained in your
'restaurant review' of Elanas
Greek house of munch have
generated in me as much bad
gas as went into the article
itself.

**54 quid for a Greek
fry-up!!!!** - and only one bottle
of plonk!

Obviously this price tag
indicates that this review is the
product of the mind of a vita-
min deprived fantasising stu-
dent, or someone operating on
other than a student budget.

I do realise that there
may have been those who read
the flowery spew and thought -
"Heavens to mergatroid! -
must give it a go, by george!"

There may be others,
among the bean-eating student
classes, who cringe at the

thoughts of such expenditure.
Lest the recently arrived non-
natives of Limerick think that
this is the only price or form of
nourishment around, think
again.

Donkey Ford's fast-food
emporium is located in in vari-
ous parts surrounding the St.
Johns square area of town - it
tends to drift location relative to
the starvation / alcohol factor of
the pilgrim (for this is indeed a
shrine). The staff are very con-
sistent in their welcome, and the
customer observes the entire
process of food preparation. No
exotic Greco-Schmecko aromas
here, just the eternal, clinging
mist of bubbling animal fats,
emitting an aroma which is re-
putedly produced by the **same**
oils that cooked the foods of our
forefathers. The fish 'creations'
are without rival, owing to the
unique 'hands-on' method of
preparation.

As for your bottle of
wine, with that 15 quid alone I
could take three friends, of
strong intestinal constitution,
buy some sparkling jungle juice
(talk about fruity drinkability)
and multiple orgasm
fish'n'chips AND SCOFF THE
LOT- bring a few candles and
what more atmosphere could
you ask for. You may also get
to hear one of the many 'resi-
dent singers' who inhabit the
area between 11.50 - 12.30
p.m.

Please, o venerable res-
taurant critic, get real!! The
majority of the drooling read-
ers who read your article would
eat for a week on what you
spent in a night (lecturers and
staff aside). I suggest that be-
fore reviewing any more res-
taurants, your reviewer should
review their reality!
John Mc Gann, 4th Banana
Studies

THE BLACK SPOT

Dear Ed,

It was a cold, wet and

SHORT LOAN ALARMS

Dear Ed,

There has been recent dis-

JUST A THOUGHT

Dear Ed.,

If I had a pound for each

semester calendar, currently being drafted for implementation in the near future; contains a proper repeat facility and therefore to implement a total new system under the current academic calendar would be a waste of energy.

However when the students on this campus, learn from Union Leadership that at a recent Management Meeting

Dr. Walsh expressed his view that he "did not see any need for a formal repeat structure" and the Dean of the College of Engineering and Science is prepared to "veto formal repeat proposals" when they are made, we get a pretty good idea of the real picture.

It seems as though the nub of matter is that - in formally accomodating those amongst us who underperform, get it wrong on the day, screw up and yes even FAIL, the system would have to acknowledge FAILURE.

This university prides itself in it's work ethic and more importantly SUCCESS. It is undoubtedly a proud boast to the Japanese and American businessmen (willing to pump yen and dollars into the campus) that we are the only Irish University that does not have a proper repeat structure. A nice marketing ploy maybe but one that creates enormous difficulties for students and casts a serious doubt as to whether the needs of the paying consumers are evergoing to be met.

Everyone who is going or has ever been through the system knows full well the arguments for and injustice in not having the most basic right of a repeat.

University Management have no serious evidence to fob us off any longer, they are aware of the intense pressure and inherent difficulties with the cur-

operated under. They are aware that successive S.U. administrations rose the issue of repeats since the early eighties.

This time around it appeared as though a breakthrough could be made - the S.U. realised that a formal repeat structure would have to be funded and it is not impossible to imagine someone paying £15 of a Repeat Fee - as opposed to the huge sums involved in repeating the whole

term or even year (thus taking the wind out of the sails of those who argue that the system couldn't afford it).

What makes this current debacle so disheartening is that the S.U. were lobbying through the appropriate channels by use of various committees in an effort to attain consensus for change without traditional confrontation.

We realise now just naive we were - sitting and reporting to committees without power, given the run around by Management when they have no real intention of changing the Status Quo.

The manner by which this impasse has been reached is typical of the "Junta - style" approach to change and student problems but is more importantly an affront on students rights to be represented and participate in the running of this University, without ever having to reflect on the BASIC RIGHT of those around us for a second chance.

Hopefully a large crowd of students at the general meeting this Wednesday will ensure that a strong message will be sent back to the White House - either they treat us accordingly as consumers, (we are paying for the service) accept the need for Repeats and work out a system that will be immediately implementable.

The University will lose a lot goodwill if it doesn't this time around!

the flowery spew and thought - "Heavens to mergetroid! - must give it a go, by George!"

There may be others, among the bean-eating student classes, who cringe at the

THE BLACK SPOT

Dear Ed,

It was a cold, wet and windy Friday evening as I trudged (rather quickly) my way to my humble abode through - The Black Spot - (i.e. the back entrance of College Court behind the Schumann). It suddenly occurred to me that the rustling of the trees was not caused by the wind but by rapists and thieves. All eager to relieve me of my 35p - my sole fortune after having to travel to Jurys to complete the Bank of Ireland Assessment tests (As the College "could not accomodate them"). Worst of all the place was deserted (it being a Friday) - Bar me and the rapists and thieves and in my despair I wondered why? why could the newly expanded College not accomodate B.O.I.? And why on why can't they take at least one light from the beautifully illuminated foundation car-park and place it where it might be of benefit to some students?

Yours sincerely,

Pamela Sheridan

4th Computer System

P.S. I will accept answers to the above questions on the back of a crisp £10 note.

SHORT LOAN ALARMS

Dear Ed,

There has been recent discussions on the campus regarding security. The S.U. subsequently put rape alarms on sale for £12. This does not help those who are on campus late on an irregular basis. I have mentioned to the Deputy President the policy of at least one UK university, which makes rape alarms available from the library on short-loan basis.

If here are people on campus interested in such an idea, go to the S.U. and lobby for their introduction.

Mark Dowling
Ind. Chemistry I

JUST A THOUGHT

Dear Ed.,

If I had a pound for each penny I found today, I'd have a pound and a penny.

Yours,
Farthead

**UNION
GENERAL
MEETING
CANTEEN WED.
1.30PM
LET YOUR VOICE
BE HEARD**

CREDITS

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an Focal is offering £10 for the best letter of the week - all letters can be handed into the Students' Union F.A.O. the Editor

Features

An Focal 2nd February 1993

Anni Horibillum -

Horrible years.

A Short End of Story: Imagine...

This week - Middle age : the bald truth.

Those of you who have followed my trip through life will notice that this weeks offering is somewhat shorter than others. There are two reasons for this, one: I didn't have the time and two: Nothing much happens between 29 and 49. These are the twin decades of non-existence. Life becomes a meaningless drudgery from mortgage payment to mortgage payment. And you wonder why every existentialist is either a teenager or a middle aged slap-head. Life, along with God, is dead. The worst years of our lives are all of them.

But enough of this, on with the discussion. Middle- age. It's bad, people, really bad. Life doesn't begin at 40. You can take it from me, nothing could be further from the truth. You can't do things like you used to, like comb your hair, or sustain an erection. There is nothing worth living for, but the majority of people are so immune to this that they go on living anyway. At least until they are eighty or so. Life and it's never ending complexities are the subjects to which many of us devote a lot of time, and never get any answers. Never let it be said that nobody told you.

So if life is so bad once you leave college, why does everyone look so happy? There are a couple of reasons for this, and none of them are in any way plausible for the cynical students that we are. Money. Success and the other catch-phrases of the 80's don't really hold much water in the dark and dismal 90's. It's bad being 20 nowadays but I'd really hate to be approaching 40 with nothing but faith in the Child of Prague to keep a roof over my head. (What's the Child of Prague? Some kind of Czech revolutionary, or a religious icon. Is the Catholic Church supporting the struggle for freedom for the oppressed new soviet republics? Answers on a postcard please) They say that you are an old person longer than you are young, and if that doesn't keep you awake at night, nothing will.

minding her own business the eye. It's an old adage, but as soon as you see 30, your disco days are over. Slippers and cocoa are about all you're good for. More importantly, as soon as you see 40 you're entering Heart Attack zone, and unless you keep a close eye on the arteries, the only dancing you do is on an operating

5 things to do if old and getting older.

1. Develop a 'mature attitude' while longing for the halcyon days of youth.

2. Tell your children boring stories about "in my day".

3. Agree with everything Gerry Ryan says on the radio. If anything is a sign of diminished responsibility, this is.

4. Think about Life Assurance and Pension Plans. (ie Death)

5. Long for a fast car.

Anything to replace your malfunctioning genitals.

hardly a more effective pointer of age than your children growing up. I know of one set of parents that, as they saw the "kids" growing up, decided to go away every weekend to celebrate their success. Unfortunately, as they were away, the teenagers, as any would, had massive parties, causing much damage to furniture, televisions and basic structure of the house. So even as they grow, you can't get away from them. Fucking children are the pits. It's all ahead of us. Just remember that you'll lose your hair and your sex-drive and after that, Euthanasia seems like a walk in the park.

We must keep in mind at all times that things never gets better, faraway hills are not greener and a stitch in time saves nothing. Cynical? Yes, maybe, but it's the straight in no messing truth. Too many people spend too much time thinking about getting older when all they actually succeed in doing is hardening their arteries. As I write this I have a cigarette in my hand, and I'm committing slow suicide. I'm 20, as I've said, but if I was, let's say 35 with a Cowboy Killer in my mouth, you could safely say that after only 35 years on this planet I have subconsciously decided to die. As we get older we release messages to ourselves saying "It's time to move on... give this space to a new person". Kind of makes you think, doesn't it? I, for one, welcome the march of time because I'm prepared. I have my Penis Vacuum set, to put back what nature takes away. My toupee, my

As an ERASMUS student, to follow the module 'English as a foreign language', isn't just a way of improving your English, but it's also a way of putting your imagination at work. For example, I'm going to show you what I imagined to do this homework.

The following words appear in the next extract from 'The Picture of Dorian Gray', by Oscar Wilde. (Can you guess what happened?)

agony bell beauty heart police-
man stain crash evidence portrait
knife servants pleasure murder
destroy cry

Write a paragraph suggesting what might have happened.

Dorian Gray was upstairs looking at his portrait. He was remembering what a beauty he was in his day... He couldn't really bear any more to see how this face in front of him had changed. He found pleasure to make with a knife any necessary gestures to destroy the painting. Then satisfied, but feeling so guilty, he ran the knife into his heart and fell down going crash on the floor.

Hearing such a loud noise, the servants worried, went up very quickly. And seeing such a horrible spectacle, they started to cry as much as they could. After a while one of them calmed down and called the police.

A few minutes later, they heard the bell. The policemen had arrived. They went up too and saw this man on the floor, in this death agony with blood stains all around him. One of the policemen said: 'What happened Sir? Weakly, Dorian Gray answered: This is evidence

theatre table. Do the Hucklebuck to that.

eighty or so. Life and it's new ending complexities are the subjects to which many of us devote a lot of time, and never get any answers. Never let it be said that nobody told you.

So if life is so bad once you leave college, why does everyone look so happy? There are a couple of reasons for this, and none of them are in anyway plausible for the cynical students that we are. Money, Success and the other catchphrases of the 80's don't really hold much water in the dark and dismal 90's. It's bad being 20 nowadays but I'd really hate to be approaching 40 with nothing but faith in the Child of Prague to keep a roof over my head. (What's the Child of Prague? Some kind of Czech revolutionary, or a religious icon. Is the Catholic Church supporting the struggle for freedom for the oppressed new soviet republics? Answers on a postcard please) They say that you are an old person longer than you are young, and if that doesn't keep you awake at night, nothing will.

So back to the middle-aged man. Bald, paunchy and impotent just about sums him up. He will attend discos drunk with his mates and attempt to "chat-up" the "young wans" with his 60's phraseology. Nothing is more vomit-inducing than seeing a man old enough to be your father, giving a 17 year old innocent

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4. Think about Life Assurance and Pension Plans. (ie Death)
5. Long for a fast car. Anything to replace your malfunctioning genitals.

theatre table. Do the Hucklebuck to that, Grandad.

Of course at about 40, you'll have your own children and, as promised you'll let them do exactly as you were allowed to. Nothing. Parenthood is probably the worst stage of our trip through life, because as they get older, you get older. There is

get away from them. Fucking children are the pits. It's all ahead of us. Just remember that you'll lose your hair and your sex-drive and after that, Euthanasia seems like a walk in the park.

We must keep in mind at all times that things never gets better, faraway hills are not greener and a stitch in time saves nothing. Cynical? Yes, maybe, but it's the straight in no messing truth. Too many people spend too much time thinking about getting older when all they actually succeed in doing is hardening their arteries. As I write this I have a cigarette in my hand, and I'm committing slow suicide. I'm 20, as I've said, but if I was, let's say 35 with a Cowboy Killer in my mouth, you could safely say that after only 35 years on this planet I have subconsciously decided to die. As we get older we release messages to ourselves saying "It's time to move on... give this space to a new person". Kind of makes you think, doesn't it? For one, welcome the march of time because I'm prepared. I have my Penis Vacuum set, to put back what nature takes away. My toupee, my Levi's for the weekends and my golf clubs. I'm not going to say anything further about golf as it's the most dismal game ever invented, but it's a prerequisite for middle-age. Welcome to senile dementia, missed putts, grecian 2000 and "Not to night darling, I've had a rough day."

man stain crash evidence portrait knife servants pleasure murder destroy cry

Write a paragraph suggesting what might have happened.

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A few minutes later, they heard the bell. The policemen had arrived. They went up too and saw this man on the floor, in this death agony with blood stains all around him. One of the policemen said: "What happened Sir?" "Wealthy, Dorian Gray answered: This is evidence I committed a murder. I will never see this picture again." And he slowly closed his eyes, for ever...

So, what do you think about this kind of imagination???

Coralie Jacqueline
(French student)



"Don't Forget The One You Love"
VALENTINE'S DAY

14th FEBRUARY, 1993

WE NOW STOCK
VALENTINE CARDS
IN THE
STUDENTS' UNION
SHOP

Features

How Not To Study

MAV ERICK INVITES AN FOCAL READERS TO READ ON.....

The human brain is indeed an amazing instrument. Nobody has yet quite figured out exactly how it works, and as I make no pretensions towards the study of medical science, I am not going to offer any theories.

However, down through the ages others have come up with some wild ideas and some very interesting ones too. For example there is a belief that our way of thinking governs which half of our brain we use, or indeed vice versa. Analytical thinkers, supposedly use the left side of the brain while more literary inclined people use the right side. Similarly it is a well proven fact that we only actually use something like 10% of our brains potential for storing facts and that if we could tap into the other 90% we could rival any Artificial Intelligence unit. Furthermore, every trip to the bar kills off hundreds of braincells as the brain is one of the organs incapable of cell regeneration. Some of the largest dinosaurs had brains the size of literally a pea, while Einstein one the world's greatest scientists and thinkers had a disproportionately small brain for a human being. Brain size doesn't count, it's the use that we make of our brains which does.

My 17 year old brother is dyslexic, and has the difficulty in reading and writing even a paragraph of English. Yet when it comes to short facts and figures he is amazing. He has the phenomena of a photographic memory. During the

Olympic last summer he was able to reel off the winners, winning times, and the names of practically all the competitors in events each day. He is a voracious reader of books like 'The Guinness Book of Records', and 'The Top 10 of Everything'. When I bought him 'Trivial Pursuit' one Xmas, it was like buying a book for somebody else. He literally read every question card, but with the difference that he automatically committed to memory every answer, thus nullifying his automatic victory in future games.

A photographic memory sounds great, but coupled with that other mystery of the brain, dyslexia, it won't ever make him a great thinker or academic. He is facing his Leaving Cert this year, and while his teachers wax lyrical about class participation, and ability to answer every question when asked, they despair over his inability in exams to commit these things to paper, and his treatment of English as a foreign language. He is a very analytical thinker and when it comes to literature cannot understand why the question "In 'Wuthering Heights', does Kathy contribute to her own downfall?" cannot be answered by a simple Yes or No. In his eyes the story of 'Wuthering Heights'

is a collection of facts, not one of the greatest pieces of literature of the last century. In the last year he has actually read a book. The autobiography of athlete Carl Lewis, which was a collection of race times intermittently spiced with pieces about his life. At this point I am sure you can guess which chapters my brother didn't read.

However, while my brother does display a genuine photographic memory there are others who have the same capacity on a more limited basis. These people abound in this College in particular - They are the Week 10 crammers.

To me the ability to cram successfully for exams is a gift I envy and admire. One of my best friends, Benedict, (sorry K!) is able to relax for the first 9 weeks of term, attending the lectures which don't clash with his hangover or the start of a session. In week 10 he ties his hair back, gets serious, and breezes through his exams. That is a luxury which is alien to me. I can cram for one exam only and that is History, but that is only because I will quite happily read a couple of history books in my spare time and somehow writing history essays is to me as easy as signing my name. I have never yet started 'revising' for a history exam before the 'night before' the actual exam. Yet other subjects such as sociology require much reading and analysis, even more than what is on the prescribed reading list, and quite simply there isn't enough time in ten weeks for that subject alone, especially if like me, the more you delve into a thought, the further you

want to delve.

When I first entered this college the then Student's Union President Steve McNamara gave us a welcoming speech in which he hoped that we would "master that elusive balance between time spent in the Stables and time spent in the library". I know I was one of the people who never achieved that balance.

I find it very difficult to settle into the eleven week system even after 5 years. My subconscious decision to 'start next week' always carries on until week 9 or so, and by then it is far too late for some of my subjects. As I strive to cram, alien to my nature of studying, my grades die a slow and horrible death. Others around me leave it to the last minute and coast home while oblivious to remarks of 'selective retention' and 'beating the system'. I panic, stuff my head with 10 weeks work in almost as many hours, and always sit an exam with relevant facts swirling around inside my head which make no sense to me. Even a course of Study Skills did me no good at all, as I still fell back in to the trap of trying to keep up with my friends who could cram, and by week 10 I was 'stuffing my head' again. This is not the way to get a college education. A degree can't be earned in just one weeks work three times a year. Yet for some people it can. Next week I will look at the 'art' of cramming in more detail and also some other 'novel' approaches to studying. Until then, may I wish you all the luck in the world if you two are still searching for that 'elusive balance'.

MAV ERICK

THE GABLES

THE GABLES

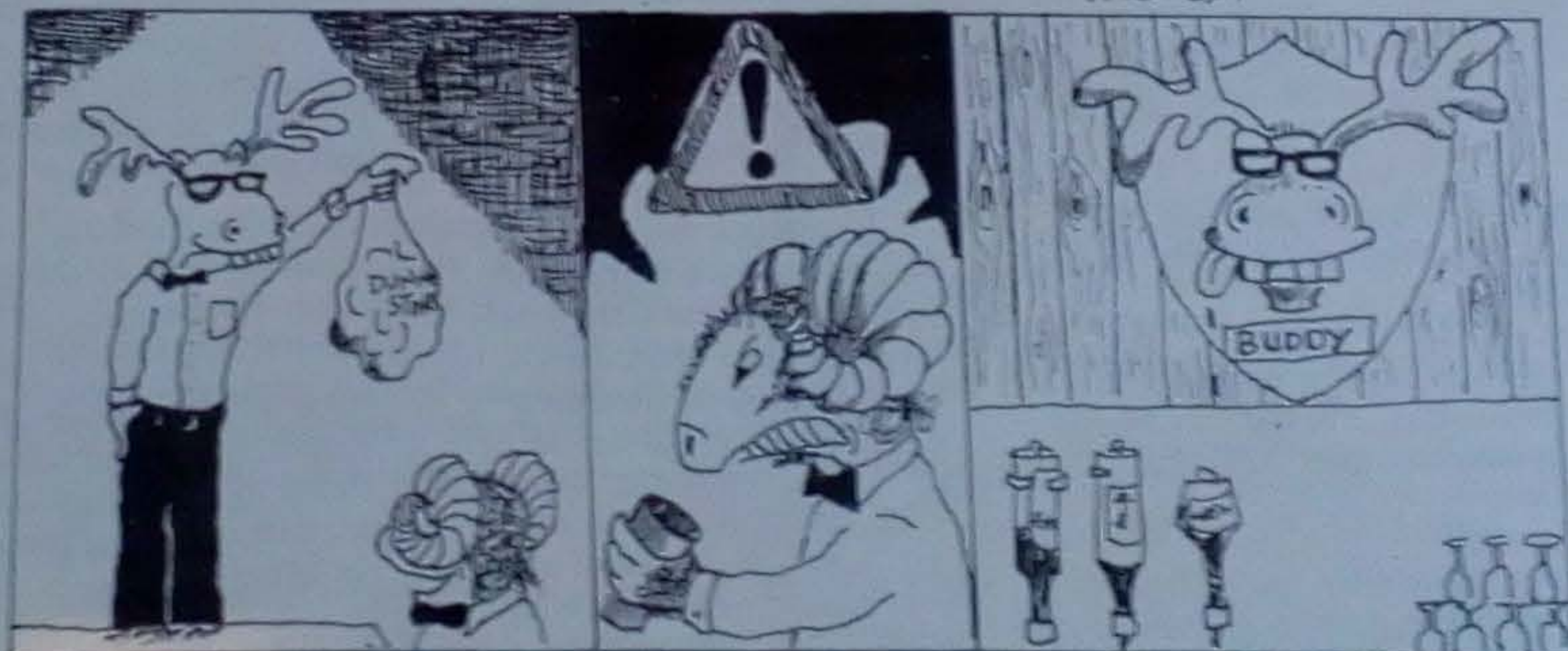
BY KVIN93



"OK LADDY COME OVER HERE TILL I SEE WHAT YIN GOT IN THE BAG!"

AHA! CANS OF BEER! I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO CONFISCATE THESE

"JAYSUS LADS I'D KILL FOR A PINT I HOPE BUDDY NABBED SOME OF THOSE BLOODY STUDENTS"
 -"YEAH, I'M F*UCKING PARCHED."



HOLY COW, HE'S AFTER GETTIN' A MOUND OF BEER

WAIT A SEC... THESE AREN'T CANS OF BEER THEY'RE CANS OF..... BEANS

ONE WEEK LATER

THE END

Comment

An Focal 2nd February 1993

All Over

by Jack Carroll

January 6, 1993

Yesterday a friend, Bill, died. He was my last longtime friend in a close group of neighbourhood buddies, and the twenty-fourth of them to die of AIDS, leaving out of consideration the guys I have been a buddy to in working with the Gay Men's Health Crisis, and casual acquaintances.

In the late 70s and early 80s there were a group of twenty-six of us who used to meet in the same local bar on weekends, hang out in each other's apartments, go to Fire Island, dance at The Saint and sleep with each other sometimes.

It began early with us in that one of our number was among the first handful of cases diagnosed and identified by the Centres for Disease Control (a US government monitoring agency). But it spread slowly among us at first.

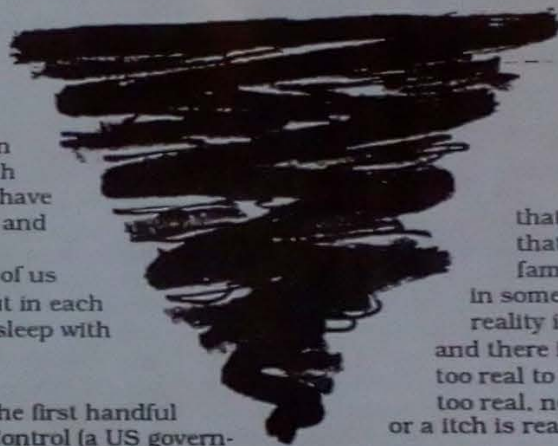
All sorts of folklore began to grow concerning the causes and cures of what was now AIDS: Poppers were the cause. Various peculiar nostrums were going to be the cure.

Ribavirin was the answer. Go to Mexico. Bootleg it into the US

I read Defoe's "A Journal of the Plague Year". It was actually comforting. Nothing had changed in the intervening four centuries. It was strangely reassuring: people were quite the same. When no one knows anything, then everyone knows everything. When there are no answers, there are no end of solutions. And the disease would be gone forever by whatever season or month was just a bit ahead of us. Simply because it would *have* to be.

1986 was the last magic year in my mind. Many, many people still hit the bars in my neighbourhood, the crowd at The Saint wasn't thinning so noticeably to make you that uncomfortable and the Fire Island Pines was as beautiful and fun as ever, even if for the first time in memory there were unrented houses. The great party which had begun in 1975 - in large part on Fire Island - was still going on with that special electric joy which has since been lost in gay entertainment, though there was the raw razor mark

From the Triangle



aren't too many of us left." Very much his sense of humour.

I had to go into the hospital briefly a few weeks ago. Bill went in for the last time during that period. When I got out I went and sat by him every other day. Only once did he know I was there. But I had said he would not die alone. On the second day I came in as soon as I reached the door he looked at me and said, "Hi Jack, how are you?" in his normal voice, but when I went over to him he had receded again into his unfocussed dementia. I was told it was the only time he had spoken or appeared to recog-

It may be something as simple as the fact that this has all been so incredibly horrible that I could only go through with the pretence that it would someday be possible to pick up the familiar things again and that they would unfold in some "natural" process of "catching up". Now the reality is inescapable: This was the natural process and there is no "catching up" to do. What had seemed too real to be true, is in fact exactly what is. It is neither too real, nor too true - simply real and true as a stone or a itch is real and true.

I am very fond of the Alexandrian Greek poet Constantine Cavafy. He was gay and lived during the turn of the century.

This is from his poem "The God Forsakes Antony".

When suddenly at the midnight hour
an invisible troupe is heard passing
with exquisite music, with shouts -
do not mourn in vain your fortune failing you now,
your works that have failed you, the plans of your
life
that have all turned out to be illusions.

...
approach the window with firm step,
and listen with emotion, but not
with the entreaties and complaints of the coward,
as a last enjoyment listen to the sounds,
the exquisite instruments of the mystical troupe,
and bid her farewell, the Alexandria you are losing.

After the past twelve years I do not think that it is possible for me to feel any more deeply personal grief over this catastrophe. Finally, it has burned out in my individual life and is at last all over. More than anything I feel a kind of pain of relief as much as any profound sadness.

...the known everything, when there are no answers, there are no end of solutions. And the disease would be gone forever by whatever season or month was just a bit ahead of us. Simply because it would have to be.

1986 was the last magic year in my mind. Many, many people still hit the bars in my neighbourhood, the crowd at The Saint wasn't thinning so noticeably to make you *that* uncomfortable and the Fire Island Pines was as beautiful and fun as ever, even if for the first time in memory there were unrented houses. The great party which had begun in 1975 - in large part on Fire Island - was still going on with that special electric joy which has since been lost in gay entertainment, though there was the raw razor mark of desperation cutting into the music and the atmosphere. But very quietly, and at a point I don't recall, I put 1986 on a back shelf in my mind to be brought down sometime, shaken out and worn again in better weather.

After a night at The Saint I used to drop my boyfriend off on the East Side at dawn and then have the taxi leave me on the West Side, a few blocks from my apartment. I would be soaked through my Levis, even my shoes would be wet through from dancing and I would walk up the street with my shirt off in the soft morning light. Everything was quiet and it provided a small opportunity to try to depressurize from The Saint. It seemed as if everything were at rest and as if life were just as it should be.

But when I turned the corner of my street, I had to forget that within the two blocks between Central Park West and Amsterdam Avenue there were 15 people sick with AIDS or dying of it while I walked past their apartments. The Upper West Side had a case rate second only to that of the Village.

After going to The Saint one night in February 1987 my friend refused to ever go again. I never went either. At the end of the 1988 season The Saint closed and that was the very last gasp of a lifestyle that had been unwilling to die for most of the decade even as its creators were dying by the thousands.

At first AIDS had crept among our crowd and guys died one-by-one but by early 1987 deaths came rapidly in twos and threes:

Billy ... Miguel ... Robert ... Tom ... Skip ... Robin ... Hal ... Gary ... Billy ... Chuck ... Tom ... Bill ... Frank ... Charlie ... Mark, Bob, James, Michael, Samson, Bob, Rick, Skip, John.

And then a couple of years ago there were only Chris, Bill, and I. Chris left to take care of a friend of his in California and Bill said rather wryly one day: "You know, Jack, there

during that period. When I got out I went and sat by him every other day. Only once did he know I was there. But I had said he would not die alone. On the second day I came in as soon as I reached the door he looked at me and said, "Hi Jack, how are you?" in his normal voice, but when I went over to him he had receded again into his unfocused dementia. I was told it was the only time he had spoken or appeared to recognize anyone in a month. *Ave atque vale*. He slipped into a coma and was heavily morphined to hasten the end. I sat by him still because there was no one else to sit by him now, and however childish it may be in the midst of this great cruelty it just seemed simply too "unfair" that he should be one of the unlucky last of us and die alone.

And yesterday Bill died.

I have never truly faced the fact that since the dying, as experienced in my life, became a juggernaut - around early 1987 - that it was not only friends that were passing away, but an entire lifestyle and time itself that was hurtling irrevocably forward.

In those moments when I allowed myself to imagine a respite, it was always in my imagination a re-creation of a time which was ineluctably gone. Yet I did not acknowledge that fact. Somehow, when I became disencumbered of this plague I expected to simply pick up 1986 from the shelf where I had put it, and move - at double time surely - through those years I had "missed" since then.

that have all turned out to be illusions.

approach the window with firm step.

and listen with emotion, but not with the entreaties and complaints of the coward, as a last enjoyment listen to the sounds, the exquisite instruments of the mystical troupe, and bid her farewell, the Alexandria you are losing.

After the past twelve years I do not think that it is possible for me to feel any more deeply personal grief over this catastrophe. Finally, it has burned out in my individual life and is at last all over. More than anything I feel a kind of pain of relief as much as any profound sadness.

As is no secret among many of my colleagues and acquaintances, I have nothing but distaste for that part of the Christian tradition which would make itself out as especially exemplary, much less unique in meaning. But there are moments in its traditions and scriptures which look beyond the usual parochial mirror to those experiences all men have and seek with such difficulty, but unceasing earnestness to express ... and in these places Christianity has some fine expressions of our great confused, godly, yearning, giving, wondering, striving humanness.

One such instance is from one of the Christian Old Testament books, *Hosea*.

"I will entice you into the desert and there I will speak to you in the depths of your hearts."

This epidemic, this plague, has been such a time for me - and in no way am I alone in this experience. Now, most especially with Bill's death making the past something of a varnished icon, I feel this strongly.

But through these last twelve years all my sense of direction, my attempts at making new maps for my life have come from just these places. And in some way that I cannot explain it is appropriate and even peculiarly comforting to recognize that once again I am in such a place listening.

Jack Carroll was born in a rural village and moved to New York City after graduating from Syracuse University in 1960. He has lived there ever since. He has been a member of the administrative staff of The City University of New York for many years.

CONTRACEPTION

It is extremely easy to get pregnant. Few people realise how fertile they are and most imagine that it is very difficult to conceive. With considerable surprise they say "I didn't think it could happen to me" or "we only did it once". ONCE IS ENOUGH! It is important therefore to understand some basic facts about the methods of contraception available. Even if you are not immediately intending to make love it is a worthwhile precaution to be prepared and informed. With the existence of right-wing 'Catholic' pressure groups, the availability of contraception has been restricted. The Students' Union does, however, stock quite a wide range of condoms at very low prices. All profits go back into student welfare. At the moment all contraceptive methods are available in the family planning clinic and single people are especially welcome.

Johnny, I Hardly Knew You!



THE CAP (DIAPHRAGM)

The cap must be used with spermicidal jelly, cream or foam. It is a soft rubber dome with a rim which fits over the entrance to the womb (cervix), acting as a barrier against sperm. The cap can be put in hours before intercourse, for example before going out for an evening. You can do what you like with the cap in place - it will not affect your

is different and the individual choice of contraceptive will always depend on circumstances. Individual medical assessment is required for women of all ages before embarking on the various contraceptive pills.

ADVANTAGES

- Very reliable
- Reduces the possibility of breast cancer and ovarian cancer
- It does not intrude on love making

- No artificial substances remain in the system
- Gives some protection against Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- May protect women from cancer of the cervix

• Available in different colours, shapes, flavours etc.

DISADVANTAGES

Some people find that wearing a condom dulls the sensation for them. For

YOU CAN GET PREGNANT
IF YOU HAVE SEX *ONCE*!
YOU CAN GET PREGNANT
THE FIRST TIME YOU DO IT
YOU CAN GET PREGNANT
IF YOU DO IT DURING YOUR PERIOD
YOU CAN GET PREGNANT
EVEN IF HE IS 'CARELESS'

at least within 72 hours (3 days), although some doctors consider it should be used within 48 hours (2 days). 50% of women experience nausea for a few hours after the treatment. You are given 2 anti-sickness pills to counteract this. Another side-effect is breast tenderness. Both the nausea and the breast tenderness disappear within 24 hours. The morning after pill is highly effective in coping with a crisis but it is not recommended as a method for regular continuous contraceptive use. The failure rate for this method is very low, less than 5%. The morning after pill is available through the Students' Union and any Family Planning Clinic.

THE COIL (IUD or Loop)

The coil or IUD is a small plastic object which fits the interior of the womb. It is not yet clear exactly how it works but its presence causes a change in the interior of the womb which probably renders it hostile to sperm if fertilised. It is regarded by many as the most effective contraceptive. It is about 97% effective.

ADVANTAGES

- Very efficient
- Works from moment of fitting
- You don't have to remember anything at the time of intercourse, as it

THE CAP (DIAPHRAGM)

The cap must be used with spermicidal jelly, cream or foam. It is a soft rubber dome with a rim which fits over the entrance to the womb (cervix), acting as a barrier against sperm. The cap can be put in hours before intercourse, for example before going out for an evening. You can do what you like with the cap in place - it will not effect your going to the toilet, etc. If you have intercourse more than 2 hours after insertion, use a pessary or more spermicide without removing the cap. The first fitting must be done by a doctor or nurse, and the user will be able to see her/him as often as she wishes until she feels happy about insertion and removal. Insertion is very simple, much like inserting tampon and most women need only appear on the return visit to show they have mastered the technique. The cap used with spermicide is 95% effective.

ADVANTAGES

- Very reliable if used correctly
- completely harmless
- No interference with pleasure for either partner during intercourse
- No 'artificial' substances remain in the system
- May give some protection against cancer of the cervix

DISADVANTAGES

- The cap must be fitted by a doctor or a nurse
- Some people find insertion and care of the cap troublesome

THE PILL

The contraceptive pill is the most effective reversible method of birth control available now. If a woman follows the directions for taking it correctly, it is virtually 100% effective. If taken according to instructions a couple can have sex without risking a pregnancy. For many women the pill is exactly what they want. It is simple to use and does not interfere with making love. It is estimated that 100 million women have used it during the course of their reproductive lives. Each person

is different and the individual choice of contraceptive will always depend on circumstances. Individual medical assessment is required for women of all ages before embarking on the various contraceptive pills.

ADVANTAGES

- Very reliable
- Reduces the possibility of breast cancer and ovarian cancer
- It does not intrude on love making
- No internal examination is needed on first visit to doctor

DISADVANTAGES

- Some women may have unwanted side-effects. Doctors in the family planning clinics will advise you of possible risks, side-effects and advantages, according to your medical history.
- In pregnancy women can become prone to certain conditions, including thrombosis. However, risk of thrombosis is very slight and less than was previously thought.

CONDOM (sheath)

This is also known by a variety of slang terms including 'french letter' and 'rubber'. Its use is simple, hence its popularity. The man or woman rolls the condom of thin rubber over the man's erect penis before love making and this catches the semen when the man ejaculates. Thus no sperm reaches the vagina. Sperm is often released before actual coitus takes place, thus any close genital contact during foreplay may permit sperm to enter the vagina. As an added precaution, the woman should always use a spermicide (see next section), as the failure rate is quite high for a condom used on its own. There are condoms now available with additional spermicides. Condoms and spermicides used together offer an efficiency rate of 97%. If condoms burst 'Post-coital' contraception is available.

ADVANTAGES

- PREVENT AIDS
- Easy to obtain from family planning clinics
- No prescriptions needed

- No artificial substances remain in the system
- Gives some protection against Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- May protect women from cancer of the cervix

- Available in different colours, shapes, flavours etc.

DISADVANTAGES

Some people find that wearing a condom dulls the sensation for them. For those with a rubber allergy, 'durex Allergy' condoms are available.

SPERMICIDE

There are substances - cream, jelly, pessaries, gels or foams - which either halt the progress of sperm or destroy them before they enter the neck of the womb (cervix). They should only be used in conjunction with a condom or cap as there is a high failure rate if they are used alone.

ADVANTAGES

- Easy to use
 - Easily available - no prescription needed
 - Considerably increase the effectiveness of other methods of contraception
 - No 'artificial' substances remain in the system
- #### DISADVANTAGES
- Some people find spermicides are messy to use and some find insertion troublesome.

POST-COITAL ('morning after') CONTRACEPTION

Occasionally in a crisis, for example, after unprotected intercourse, condom burst, cap slipped, pill not taken properly or rape, a woman may ask for the 'morning after' pill to prevent her becoming pregnant. The morning after pill discourages the lining of the womb (uterus) from accepting a fertilised egg. For this treatment a higher dose of hormones is required than is contained in the normal daily dose of the pill, and therefore needs to be prescribed for this purpose by a doctor. To be effective, the treatment has to be started AS SOON AS POSSIBLE after sexual intercourse, and

THE COIL (IUD or Loop)

The coil or IUD is a small plastic object which fits the interior of the womb. It is not yet clear exactly how it works but its presence causes a change in the interior of the womb which probably renders it hostile to sperm if fertilised. It is regarded by many as the most effective contraceptive. It is about 97% effective.

ADVANTAGES

- Very efficient
 - Works from moment of fitting
 - You don't have to remember anything at the time of intercourse, so it doesn't intrude on live making
 - You can use the coil for long term
- #### DISADVANTAGES

- Periods may be heavier than normal to begin with. Occasionally the coil can be expelled without the woman realising it. Women who have a history of pelvic inflammatory disease might be advised to choose an alternative method.
- Costs around £30 including check up visit.

COITUS INTERRUPTUS (withdrawal)

This is definitely NOT recommended as a method of birth control, as the failure rate is very high and it also tends to generate tension within the relationship. The man must withdraw his penis from the vagina before ejaculation and he must not allow the sperm to come into contact with the woman's genitals. Considering sperm is often emitted before actual coitus takes place, this method is extremely dangerous. If couples do find themselves making love without any protection, this method is better than nothing (and note post-coital contraception).

RHYTHM METHOD

This simply means that the woman and man do not make love on those days of the month when the woman is likely to become pregnant and so rely on the 'safe period' of the woman's cycle. Even with the utmost care, more unplanned pregnancies occur with the 'safe period' method than with the cap, pill or condom methods of contraception.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY

Squad List: Martin Lacey
Ciaran Jacob
Colm O'Loughlin
Brian Creedon
Damian Bennett
Barry Herterich
Barry Fanning
Ray O'Malley

Manager: Brian McSharry
Coach: Pat Massey

Maurice Ferriter
Sorley McCaughy
Chris Stewart
James Hiney
Andy Smith
Gerry Harrington
Ronan McLachlainn
Kevin Morgan

IRISH UNIVERSITIES SOCCER AND THE "COLLINGWOOD" STORY

Bertram J. Collingwood, Professor of Physiology at U.C.D. and a nephew of Lewis Carroll, author of "Alice in Wonderland" presented a trophy for competition among Irish Universities in 1914. Only two World Wars and differences between the Football Associations North and South prevented the tournament from taking place every year since then and 1993 will occasion the 73rd time on which this unique All-Ireland soccer tournament has been played.

The original trophy - U.C.D. were the first winners in 1914 - disappeared mysteriously in the late twenties but was replaced in 1940 by a new cup which was officially named the Collingwood.

From its modest beginnings in the early years of the century the Collingwood grew in stature and prestige and is now accepted as being probably the most gruelling intervarsity event in any sport. A team may have to play five matches in five days to win the tournament.

Originally U.C.D. and Queens, Belfast dominated the competition but in the late sixties and seventies names such as Dublin University, U.C.G. and U.C.C. appeared on the trophy.

The Collingwood plate was first played in the 1970/1971 season to cater for teams who failed to qualify for the final stages of the tournament. The Collingwood cup again vanished in 1972 but turned up after an absence of three months in a Dublin Hotel and no later than 1990 the cup was retrieved from the river Lee in Cork again having mysteriously vanished.

The "Collingwood" has the proud distinction of being the longest established All-Ireland Soccer Competition in existence.

In 1993 twelve teams from all parts of the country will compete in this tournament which is as much a test of character, endurance and courage as it is football skill.

**an Focal welcomes all the
teams & supporters to UL.**

**We would like to congratulate
the organising committee
on a wonderful job.**

**Dave Mahedy, Jacinta
Duffy, Cora Carrigg, Philip o'
Reagan, Paddy Walsh, John
Jordan, John Murphy, Harry
Godard.**

Good Luck UL.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Squad List: Paul Mc
Michael
John An
Frank W
Eamon
Brian N
Sean H
Pat O'C
Johnny

Manager: John
Coach: John

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Squad List: De
Jol
N
Ed
Al
D
E
J
l

Coaches: J

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

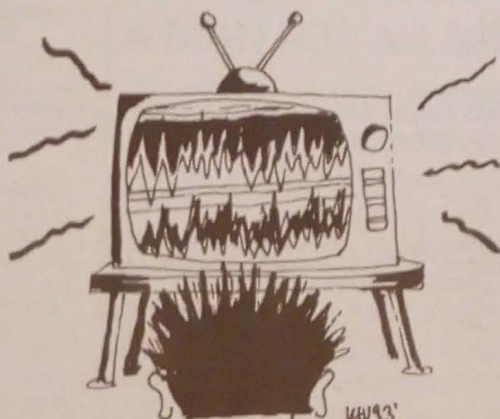
Squad List: Paul Deehan
Ian Miller
John Chute
Mark Rogan
Noel Ahern
Dave McKenna
Nick Eustace
Andrew Tierney

Manager: Jim Redmond
Coach: Jim Sherlock

Alan Moss
Dermuid O'Malley
Daniel Gill
Jack Crummie
Kieran Gill
Ronan Kelly
Paul Whealan
John Quinlan

Television

Television, the drug of the Nation



By Mike Teevee

SEX AND DRUGS AND ROCK AND ROLL.

Now, you must admit, we've all done it; come in after the pub, half drunk, switched on the television and watched the most unbelievable shite for about three hours, while trying to ring for a pizza.

Recently I've been doing this watching 'Asian T.V.' which comes on after Sky One stops transmitting. Fortunately the presenters do speak English, not that it makes much difference to me if they didn't.

'Asian T.V.' is always good for a drunken dance around the kitchen; You always find some form of Hindu music that has a thumping bass and enables you to sing (in your inebriated state) in fluent Hindi.

In opposition to 'Asian T.V.' last night we had 'The most Beautiful Woman in the World' a film concerning an alien prince and his quest to find the perfect woman. Why the prince looked like a fat Elvis in Las Vegas is a matter of debate, but the woman was beautiful. As the film was made in about 1978, she had the perfect Farrah Fawcett-california girl haircut and professed a scant knowledge of "Politics, language, diplomatic skills and how to throw a good party,..... I guess". I managed all of ten minutes, guessed the ending: Girl gets caught by aliens, brought to the planet, initially

hates the prince, slowly falls in love with him eventually becoming the power behind the throne, and gets him out of the white flares and gold medallion. Typically Hollywood.

Now speaking of Fat Elvis, 'The Best of the Worst' (Channel 4 Wednesday night) is looking good. We've had the Las Vegas "Little Motor Home of Love". In short, one gets married in the Motor Home, on the move. The wedding is performed by a short fat woman whose only qualifications seem to be the fact that she owns the Motor Home, and she's short and fat. If you are lucky, for another \$25 you get an Elvis impersonator (not that fat). He doesn't seem to sing (or speak for that matter) but if you are in love, what difference would it make? The groom wanted the ceremony because "It's not normal, and I'm not a normal person". That would be the perfect cue for the bride to get as far away from the groom as possible. I've become slightly sceptical of the Great American Dream.

I took an overdose this morning of that great drainer of the soul, 'Morning Television'. The naughtiest children in Britain, two five year olds apparently set their mother on fire while she was in bed and put their goldfish in the toaster. "We shouldn't laugh" said Judy. Damn right

you shouldn't.

The runner up had only sold condoms to his classmates for a penny each, as balloons (he was eight at the time).

Now, totally beside the ethos of this article, I was dragged away from the television last week. A band, who shall remain nameless, because they haven't got a name, played in the Stables. They've got a ten minute set which consists of three songs straight in no messing "kick ass". It left me pondering that question that I know many of us worry about "Why do I still watch 'Top of the Pops'?" and "Was it ever any good?" and "Why is this week's the worst programme I've ever seen?"

That other eternal debate is "can I watch 'Beverly Hills 90210', 'Noel's House Party' and 'Blind Date' all at the same time or am I only fooling myself?". The answer all depends on the quality of your remote control.

Anyways I only like the bit in 'Blind Date' where they come back and nip pieces out of each other; directly after the first and second breaks. I only watch 'Noel's House Party' for NTV and as for Beverly Hills, I may be only pretending that I like it. What happened to Don's gammy leg?, more next week. Same Bat time, same Bat channel.

FRIDAY JANUARY 29TH

R.T.E 1

NETWORK 2

10.30 Family Matters	2.30 Bosco
11.00 Teletalk	3.00 The Den
12.00 News	6.00 JMTV
12.30 Review of the Week	6.30 Home & Away
1.35 Sons & Daughters	7.00 Nuacht
2.05 CP	7.05 Cursal
3.00 Live at 3	7.30 Coronation Street
4.00 The Sullivans 8.00 News	
4.30 Sorrell & son	8.05 Blackboard Jungle
5.30 A Country Practise	8.30 Cup Basketball

4000 Students and 1000

academic and associated

staff see this space every

week

Television

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2

R.T.E. 1

NETWORK 2

10.30 Booklines	2.00 Aerscoil
11.00 News Headlines	2.30 Bosco
11.30 Santa Barbara	3.00 The Den
12.00 News Headlines	3.05 Mother Goose
followed by	3.20 Happy Birthday
Where in the	3.30 Tricé agus Traicé
World	3.45 Foofer
12.30 Options	4.15 Don on the Den
1.00 News and	4.30 Batman
Weather	
1.30 Aertel Financial	5.00 Wool!
Pages	
1.40 Spaceship Earth	5.30 Tiny Toons
2.05 Perry Mason	6.05 JMTV Magazine
3.00 Live At Three	6.30 Home and Away
4.00 News followed by	7.00 Nuacht
Kate and Allie	
4.30 Gloss	7.08 Cursai
5.20 Out of Limits	7.35 Perfect Strangers
5.30 A Country Practice	8.00 News and Weather
6.00 Angelus & News	8.05 Crossroads
7.00 Fair City	9.00 The Bill
7.30 Head to Toe	9.30 News followed by
	ENG
8.00 It's Bibl	10.30 News and Weather
8.30 Check Up	10.50 Yum! Yum! Yum!
	11.20 Rich Tea & Sympathy
9.00 News and	
Weather	
9.30 The Tuesday File	
10.00 Film - Conan The	
Barbarian	
12.15 Late News	

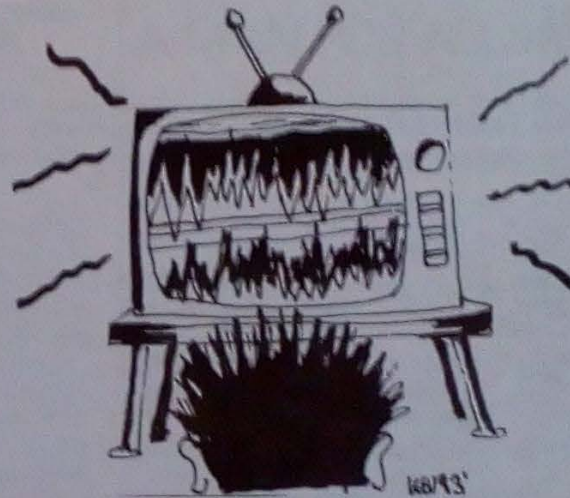
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3

R.T.E. 1

NETWORK 2

10.30 Taking Stock	2.00 Aerscoil-
11.00 News Headlines	2.15 Aertel
and Teletalk	
11.30 Ollscoil	2.30 Bosco

Television, the drug of the Nation



By Mike Teevee

SEX AND DRUGS AND ROCK AND ROLL.

Now, you must admit, we've all done it; come in after the pub, half drunk, switched on the television and watched the most unbelievable shite for about three hours, while trying to ring for a pizza.

Recently I've been doing this watching 'Asian T.V.' which comes on after Sky One stops transmitting. Fortunately the presenters do speak English, not that it makes much difference to me if they didn't.

'Asian T.V.' is always good for a drunken dance around the kitchen; You always find some form of Hindu music that has a thumping bass and enables you to sing (in your inebriated state) in fluent Hindi.

In opposition to 'Asian T.V.' last night we had The

hates the prince, slowly falls in love with him eventually becoming the power behind the throne, and gets him out of the white flares and gold medallion. Typically Hollywood.

Now speaking of Fat Elvis, 'The Best of the Worst' (Channel 4 Wednesday night) is looking good. We've had the Las Vegas "Little Motor Home of Love". In short, one gets married in the Motor Home, on the move. The wedding is performed by a short fat woman whose only qualifications seem to be the fact that she owns the Motor Home, and she's short and fat. If you are lucky, for another \$25 you get an Elvis impersonator (not that fat). He doesn't seem to sing (or speak for that matter) but if you are in love, what difference would

you shouldn't.

The runner up had only sold condoms to his classmates for a penny each, as balloons (he was eight at the time).

Now, totally beside the ethos of this article, I was dragged away from the television last week. A band, who shall remain nameless, because they haven't got a name, played in the Stables. They've got a ten minute set which consists of three songs straight in no messing "kick ass". It left me pondering that question that I know many of us worry about "Why do I still watch Top of the Pops?" and "Was it ever any good?" and "Why is this week's the worst programme I've ever seen?"

That other eternal debate is "can I watch Beverly Hills

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3

R.T.E. 1

NETWORK 2

10.30 Taking Stock	2.00 Aertscoll
11.00 News Headlines and Teletalk	2.15 Aertel
11.30 Ollscoll	2.30 Bosco
12.00 News Headlines Know Your Sport	3.00 The Den
12.30 Next Step	6.05 JMTV
1.00 1 o'clock news	6.30 Home & Away
1.35 The Encircled Sea	7.00 Nuacht
2.00 Winds of War	7.08 Cursal
3.00 Live at 3	7.30 Coronation Street
4.00 The Bean Goose	8.00 Lotto
4.15 FILM: Miles to Go	8.05 Blackboard Jungle
6.00 The Angelus	8.30 Ecu Ecu
6.01 News	9.00 Murphy Brown
7.00 Cartoon Time	9.30 Northern Exposure
7.10 Jake & the Fat Man	10.30 Network News
8.00 Waterways	10.50 History of Europe
8.30 Family Matters	11.20 Tales from the Darkside
9.00 News	
9.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot	
10.30 Marketplace	
11.00 Brides of Christ	
12.00 Late News	

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4

R.T.E. 1

NETWORK 2

10.30 Check up	2.30 Bosco
11.00 Teletalk	3.00 The Den
11.30 Santa Barbara	6.00 JMTV
12.30 Routes	6.30 Home & Away
1.00 News	7.00 Nuacht
2.05 The Saint	7.08 Cursal
3.00 Live at 3	7.35 Glenroe
4.00 Emmerdale	8.05 Baywatch
4.30 Ace of Spies	9.00 The Bill
5.20 Out of Limits	9.30 Knots Landing
5.30 A Country Practise	10.30 Network News
6.00 News	10.50 Town & Country
7.00 Fair City	11.50 Time Out
7.30 Opening Nights	
8.00 It's Bibbi!	
8.30 Radharc	
9.00 News	
9.30 Prime Time	
10.10 Challenging Times	
10.40 Booklines	
11.10 Paper Man	

not that it makes much difference to me if they didn't.

'Asian T.V.' is always good for a drunken dance around the kitchen: You always find some form of Hindu music that has a thumping bass and enables you to sing (in your inebriated state) in fluent Hindi.

In opposition to 'Asian T.V.' last night we had 'The most Beautiful Woman in the World' a film concerning an alien prince and his quest to find the perfect woman. Why the prince looked like a fat Elvis in Las Vegas is a matter of debate, but the woman was beautiful. As the film was made in about 1978, she had the perfect Farrah Fawcett-california girl haircut and professed a scant knowledge of "Politics, language, diplomatic skills and how to throw a good party..... I guess". I managed all of ten minutes, guessed the ending: Girl gets caught by aliens, brought to the planet, initially

Motor Home, on the move. The wedding is performed by a short fat woman whose only qualifications seem to be the fact that she owns the Motor Home, and she's short and fat. If you are lucky, for another \$25 you get an Elvis impersonator (not that fat). He doesn't seem to sing (or speak for that matter) but if you are in love, what difference would it make? The groom wanted the ceremony because "It's not normal, and I'm not a normal person". That would be the perfect cue for the bride to get as far away from the groom as possible. I've become slightly sceptical of the Great American Dream.

I took an overdose this morning of that great drainer of the soul, 'Morning Television'. The naughtiest children in Britain, two five year olds apparently set their mother on fire while she was in bed and put their goldfish in the toaster. "We shouldn't laugh" said Judy. Damn right

messing "kick ass". It left me pondering that question that I know many of us worry about "Why do I still watch 'Top of the Pops'?" and "Was it ever any good?" and "Why is this week's the worst programme I've ever seen?"

That other eternal debate is "can I watch 'Beverly Hills 90210', 'Noel's House Party' and 'Blind Date' all at the same time or am I only fooling myself?". The answer all depends on the quality of your remote control.

Anyways I only like the bit in 'Blind Date' where they come back and nip pieces out of each other directly after the first and second breaks. I only watch 'Noel's House Party' for NTV and as for 'Beverly Hills', I may be only pretending that I like it. What happened to Don's gammy leg? more next week. Same Bat time, same Bat channel.

FRIDAY JANUARY 29TH

R.T.E. 1

NETWORK 2

10.30 Family Matters	2.30 Bosco
11.00 Teletalk	3.00 The Den
12.00 News	6.00 JMTV
12.30 Review of the Week	6.30 Home & Away
1.35 Sons & Daughters	7.00 Nuacht
2.05 GP	7.05 Cursal
3.00 Live at 3	7.30 Coronation Street
4.00 The Sullivans	8.00 News
4.30 Sorrell & son	8.05 Blackboard Jungle
5.30 A Country Practise	8.30 Cup Basketball
6.00 The News	
7.00 Cartoon Time	9.30
7.10 Murder she Wrote	10.30 FILM: Tangled Web
8.00 Bon Voyage	
8.30 Winning Streak	
9.00 News	
9.30 The Late Late Show	
11.35 News	
11.45 Shrinks	

4000 Students and 1000

academic and associated

staff see this space every

week

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you.

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extn 2324 or 3032

Film Review: **RESERVOIR DOGS**

Directed By: Quentin Tarratino.
Starring: Harvey Kettel

The title refers to a band of ruthless criminals recruited to perform a diamond heist in Los Angeles. Given the importance of the robbery the cast are known to themselves only by their colour coded names i.e., Mr. Orange and Mr. Blonde. Unlike other heist movies 'Reservoir Dogs' concentrates on the aftermath of the bungled robbery where they return to their rendezvous point - a deserted warehouse. At this point the movie clock is slowed down, to a speed resembling reality, to allow the characters to conduct

Fluffy-poos loves his bunny-ears!

Next week An Focal invites YOU to send in your Valentine message to your loved one. Messages cannot exceed 15 words. To place YOUR message fill in the form below and drop it into the An Focal office, SU Graphics Shop in the Mall, before Thursday, February 4th. There is a prize for the funniest message recieved. Get Lovin'!

An Focal Valentine Message.

Only messages recieved on this form will be printed. Please try to keep them relatively clean. Totally obscene messages will be passed on to the Serious Crime Squad.

CUT

their witch hunt for the police informer among themselves.

The realistic time span and the terribly claustrophobic confines of the warehouse trap the audience into becoming a partaker in the film rather than a viewer. This is especially so, in a disturbing scene, where Mr. Blonde tortures a hostage with a razor while singing to Stealer's Wheels " Stuck in the Middle with You ".

Although well publicised and commented upon, the violence of 'Reservoir Dogs' is still nasty and quite shocking. The disturbing fact is that in the context of the film the violence is utterly enjoyable and some cases hilarious. It says a lot for a film of the 90's when audiences have become accustomed to violence. On a lighter side however, there is much humour and animated dialogue throughout the movie. The ultimate effect is a stylish, macho, crime story which breaks the convention of both the thriller and heist movies alike.

An Focal 2nd February 1993

O'MAHONY'S

THE BOOK PEOPLE



What Am I Doing Here ?

Bruce Chatwin Picador 1990. (£5.99)

reviewed by: John Maguire.

Bruce Chatwin began his working life with Sotheby's. Then he left to write on Travel for *The Sunday Times*. 3 years later he announced his "sabbatical" in a telegram to the Times, reading, "Gone to Patagonia for six months". This trip inspired his first novel, 'In Patagonia'. Other Bruce Chatwin books include, *The Viceroy of Ouidah*, *Utz* and *The Songlines*. *Utz* was short-listed for the Booker Prize in 1988. He died in 1989.

This collection of stories, anecdotes and incidents is one of the most interesting and enjoyable books I have read in quite a while. This is his last book, a "personal selection" of essays, portraits and other unclassifiable forms of prose was put together during the final year of his life. It contains the choicest anecdotes of a well-traveled time. All of the writing in this volume represents Chatwin's dislike for ordinary things. The only things that interest him are weird and wonderful things. Wherever he was he reacted to strange occurrences around him, like the wolf-child of Sultanpur. He read an article about this child in a newspaper in Benares. The next day he had travelled to Sultanpur. Most of us would have said, "interesting", and turned the page. Chatwin was a journalist, and curious, so he brings us with him. "My whole life", said Chatwin in 1983, "has been a search for the miraculous". There have been few writers who could be better qualified to distinguish the fakes from the genuine articles.

"What Am I Doing Here?", (the question Rimbaud asked in Ethiopia) tells us more about himself and his friends than anything else he wrote. He writes about his father and his tete-a-tetes with Andre Malraux and Nadezhda Mandelstam. Usually he just gets excited about something, like the aforementioned wolf-child in India or a Chinese *fengshui* geomancer in Hong Kong or the idea of going to look for a Yeti. The effect of all this should be disjointed or incomprehensible, yet an insatiable wanderlust ultimately knits all of this together into an absorbing whole.

Bruce Chatwin was an original. An original who produced vastly enjoyable books. Consider this, "In the Summer of 1986 I completed my book, *The Songlines* under difficult conditions. I had in fact picked up a very rare fungus of the bone marrow in China." (extract from the book) One sentence juxtaposed with another in a truly unique way. It is the dream of many to travel, yet the reality of even more to be content just reading about it. It is an insatiable and instinctive urge to meet new people. Chatwin, in this collection introduces us to many interesting people, artists, archaeologists and writers. He lived what he wrote.

The span of this book is immense - from 1973 to 1988 - from China to Peru to Russia, and all points in between. Chatwin is not simply describing other cultures, he is also making cautious assertions about human nature. It is an eclectic mix of history, sociology, psychology and invention. Chatwin never deviates from the path of this book without telling us more of what we want to read. I found it difficult to believe that this man had done so much in his life while I have little to remember. This thought brought me great sadness, yet mixed with a desire to do something, anything, that I could remember as "memorable", in the greater sense of the word. These essays and short tales cover the whole of his writing life, and seem to get better and better as he went on. The pieces written in the last year of his life are the best of all. Sartre wondered, towards the end of his life, why people still write novels; in his words the form was dead. If he had read Bruce Chatwin he might have found something new. Prescribed reading for anyone who enjoys life and still wishes to live.

VARIETY SPICE IN THE BELLTABLE

The college Players take the Belltable by storm this week with their production of Sean O' Casey's 'Juno and the Paycock'. In this classic play, O'Casey drops us into the political period of the 1920's and the Civil War. The story of 'Juno and the Paycock' revolves around a Dublin tenement and the failing fortunes of the Boyle family who reside there. the link between the Boyle household and the raging war outside can be witnessed through the son, Johnny Boyle. Regarded by many as O'Casey's finest piece of theatre, the play advances one of literatures most anti-war thesis.

O' Casey extracts the elements of poetry, wit, rhythm and colour of slum speech and uses it to form a composite picture of tenement life during those times in Dublin city. O'Casey himself lived along with thousands of others in the grinding poverty of tenement houses. The squalor of the tenements was to become the crucial experience of Sean's life. 'Juno and the Paycock' combines high comedy with tragedy to wonderful effect. This production runs for one week only, February 1st to 6th.

The 'Brendan Grace Show' which is on the national circuit stops off in the Belltable for one week, from February 8th to 13th. Grace is a brilliant observer of life, and draws most of his material from everyday situations. His appearance on BBC TV with Terry Wogan brought instant success throughout the UK. He has proved that his brand of humour can travel, and has had audiences from New York's Carnegie Hall to the Sydney Opera house in the palm of his hand. Brendan, who is also an accomplished singer has won many awards, including Ireland's Variety Performer of the Year. Magician Pat Fallon accompanies Brendan on this tour and with a full band, a wonderful show can be expected. Booking is open on 061 - 319886.

The Ray

Hurley File

Permit me to pontificate a bit on the subject of Co-op, given that "QCA/repeat exams" arguments have been surgically analysed at great length, even though all the issues thereof will never be exhausted. I risk alienating myself from 75% of students, because I can only deal with the Business and European Studies experience. Nevertheless, I believe that most of you will agree with the main thrust of my arguments. Everybody is aware that these are recessionary times and even if we don't understand that big, sibilant catch-word, we still know that it means fewer jobs. This doesn't help the efforts of the Co-op office who see a contracting jobs market coincide with annually expanding student numbers. Therefore, for our first six month placement, many of the jobs offered little by way of relevant experience, little by way of money and in the cases of campground couriers and EuroDisney - lots by way of multi-national, conglomerate exploitation. At most, the foreign placements gave the experiences of language improvement, culture appreciation and living in a different environment. The situation remains bleak for our next six month period, beginning in July. The extent of this can be seen in the way that the safety valve of the Erasmus programme is being stretched to the inconceivable exchanges with Holland, Portugal, Greece and Sweden are becoming the craze. By no means interpret this as a negative development, I am sure many students will benefit greatly from such. My main bone of contention isn't what we are offered, but what is advertised in internal and external publications vis-a-vis, "typical Co-op placements". Prospective candidates for U.L. are impressed with the idea of relevant placements at home and abroad. Of particular note is the situation with regard to Spain. This year's 3rd Business class were the first to take the Business Studies and Spanish degree course. The college propaganda at the time spoke of co-op job opportunities in both industry and business environments in Spain - such jobs are not forthcoming now, for those students who want a relevant, business work-experience in a Spanish environment. I do not say with whom the fault lies, but I cite that example as typical of many students' dissatisfaction with the inept fulfilment of the very promises that drew us to this college. The college must promote itself in the best possible fashion, but I would have thought in an honest and truthful fashion, also - y something that costs us so much and concerns our careers.

On that subject of cost: why, oh why, are we paying so much money, to be set-up with jobs, where we end up cleaning toilets in Southern France or serving popcorn in Mickey Mouse land? Certain administrative and overhead costs are obviously incurred by the Co-op office, and I don't see why a reasonable, cost-related, nominal fee couldn't be charged to the student, instead of extorting another exorbitant installment on the concert hall and supporting fountains. Why should a student who doesn't get a job through the Co-op office, have to pay fees for his co-op period? Multiple excuses are advanced to justify this - but sorry, I just don't buy them. So many students are here trying to make ends meet and at the same time, pay for their degree. Co-op offers itself as a spring board, an interim financial relief that will see them through to graduation. Try telling such a student, "sorry, we've no job for you, but that will be £931, all the same". It is high time for certain authorities to get their house in order and also for the Students' Union to do so - this is an issue that we want sorted out; they are our representatives and what are they doing about it?

Opinion

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS?

ZEN ZUCCHINI

What can you say about Bill Clinton? Let me guess: you are probably saying: "Oh no, he's not on about American politics again, is he?" But some might accuse me of a obsession with that subject: you must admit that they are often more interesting than our, domestic side-show. Barring a few (dis) honourable exceptions, our own POLITICOS come across like cheesy cattle salesmen ("Second Hand Friesian. One Careful owner. Engine within".) in silly Committee Chairperson - with their hands very obviously in the cookie jar.

The Americans on the other hand, while also obviously crooks; seem to be good at their thievery, and give it a certain grandiosity. As long as we're being ripped off and taken for a ride, it may as well be done with style. A more obvious reason to cover American politics is that, very much like our own situation, it is, in most cases a triumph of style over content. Our politics is similar in tone to America's, in that it is generally personality driven rather than issue driven.

Like the Americans we understand, or rather are susceptible to rampant populism. It doesn't matter what they have to say, whether they've contradicted themselves a dozen times or even if they're caught barefacedly lying. How did they look? Did they push the right buttons and make the right noises? Does it really matter if any of their solutions to our problems sound viable? Not really, seems to be the answer, as long as they touch on the trendy issue of the day (and make it sound suitably heartfelt).

Which brings us back to Bill Clinton (for these who dozed off during my paranoid attempt to justify my infatuations - my apologies). He appears to be in the enviable and very tricky position of having a foot in both camps at all times. Can he defy Mark Twain's old maxim, and "fool all the people all of the

and to establish a pattern for his Presidency could be difficult. At his inauguration he had such noted cominter-culture figures as Jack Nicholson and Bob Dylan. Yet no less an establishment scion as the Reverend Billy Graham gave the initial prayer address.

His wife appeal could be down to several factors. He has, in his time of severe economic hardship, seemingly (I stress that word) demonstrated to his country that the mystical "American Dream" still exists. Clinton himself is the product of a broken home, an alcoholic father and an impoverished background. That the "little man" can still make good and become President strikes a chord with a certain sector of the American public. His 1990's "new man" image also undoubtedly won him a sizeable section of the female vote. He readily acknowledges his wife's influence and capabilities; and his intention to utilise these while he is in office.

Nevertheless, it must be pointed out that only 44% of the voters chose him. With a turnout of around 50%, that means about a quarter of America voted for Bill Clinton. As well as being an epitome of the "American Dream", he is a confessed draft-dodger, dope-smoker and adulterer. Al Capone also lived the "American Dream", and it will be interesting to see if he was

the American is on the other hand, while also obviously crooks; seem to be good at their thievery, and give it a certain grandiosity. As long as we're being ripped off and taken for a ride, it may as well be done with style. A more obvious reason to cover American politics is that, very much like our own situation, it is, in most cases a triumph of style over content. Our politics is similar in tone to America's, in that it is generally personality driven rather than issue driven.

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He is pro-choice on abortion, and in favour of capital punishment. He is "the first Rock and Roll President", and also overtly religious. He advocates the rights of Ethnic Minorities, Homosexuals and Women. The Cabinet he has appointed is the most balanced in American history, with regard to sex and race. In addition to this, he has supported the re-opening of hostilities with Irak.

He places the "veto". He doesn't displease the hardliners. Yet what does this tell us? He has consistently sent out contradictory signals, or none at all;

and to establish a pattern for his Presidency could be difficult. At his inauguration he had such noted cominter-culture figures as Jack Nicholson and Bob Dylan. Yet no less an establishment scion as the Reverend Billy Craham gave the initial prayer address.

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Will youth succeed in changing the world, or more correctly, changing it for the better? The similarity with American Politics and our own continues there: for have we not opted for a similar change ourselves. Dick Spring seems to be our talisman of youth; to transform our society into a late nineteenth century democracy (or at least some progression). Will it happen for us, and them? Hard to tell at this juncture; but at least Clinton's voice isn't as irritating as Bush's was.

We Irish have no Pride.

Cén sórt Ollscoile atá againn anseo nó an cheist ba cheart dom a shiafraí diom féin ná cén sórt daoine atá ag stadéir nó ag obair anseo i Luimneach? Thosaigh mé ag machnamh dom féin nuair a léigh me tuairisc faoi chlár radio a rinne John Waters le déanaí don B.B.C. (Clár Sasannach dár ndó). Bhí an t-Usual Waters agus cara leis ó Oileáin Arann in áit eigin nuair a bhuaileadar le fear a bhí go láidir ar son na Provos. An rod a bhí suimiúil faoin scéal ná gur cheap mo dhuine ó Arainn go mbeadh beagáinín Gaeilge ag an Prove. Ní raibh, ní raibh sé in ann cúpla focal a chur le chéile. Ar an dtaobh, cheap an Provo go dtabharfadh an fear ón Oileán tacáiocht don I.R.A. mar gur Gaelgeoir, G.A.A. agus feirmeoir é. Níor thug. Bhí sé soléir go mbh'fearr leis an Oileánach comhartha a mhéar fhada a tháisceáint don Provo.

Ag machnamh dom féin, thuig mé cuid den scéal - cén fáth nuair a scríobhann duine a ainm i nGaeilge - nó níos measca fós, ná labhrann sé cúpla focal - go gceapann daoine timpeall air nó uirthi gur "Sinn Féin Fellow Traveller" é?

Ach sin mar atá cúrsaí go ginearálta sa tír ar fad de bharr iarrachtáil na "Revisionists" mar

a thugtar orthu. Grúpa a bhfuil ag éirí leo dearcadh na tíre ar fad a athrú. Ní thugtar omós do Pearse, nó Griffith agus a léitheid anois. "Fumbling Terroists" a b'ea iad. Anois i 1993, seachtó seacht bliain i ndiaidh Éirí Amach na Cásca agus i mbliain Chomóradh Céad Chonradh na Gaeilge, nílimid bródúil as ár dtí féin nó as na laochra a throid ar

I mBéal an Phobail.

ár son. Sa lá atá inniu ann, ní féidir leat seasamh suas ar Luan Cásca agus a rea go bhfuilimid brodúil as na gaiscí a rinneadar i 1916 gan na "bucks" ag tabhairt amach fút.

Táimid anois beagnach réidh Ailt 2 agus 3 i mBrunreacht na hÉireann a schriosadh mar go gcuireann sé isteach ar na "Unionists". Ach nuair atá an tír seo réidh le géilleadh do bhrat an Chomhphobail Eorpaigh agus do bhagairt Paisley agus a chairde, níl seisean agus a chairde sásta a "Jingoism" féin a fhágaint taobh thiar. Cad mar gheall ar na Francaigh nó na Meiriceánaigh? Is cinnte nach ndéan-

faidh siad dearmad cé h-íad agus cárbh as dóibh.

UL - An Irish University.

In Ollscoil Luimnigh, tá rudaí níos measa, níl Ed nó éinne eile sa "White House" ag déanamh aon iarracht bród (pride) a tháisceáint i neamhspleáchas ár dtír féin, ár gcultúr, ár dteanga agus ár gcluichí. Cad atá mí - cheart tóineacha na Meiriceánad, na Seapánad agus gach éinne eile, b'fhearr dúinn a tháisceáint go bhfuil féin - mhúinín againn.

Caithfidh é seo a dhéanamh, - feiceann na h-eachtranaigh ar fad nach bhfuil féin-mhúinín againn agus mar thoradh air seo, ní sheiceann siad tír neamhspleách láidir ach paca "Whingers".

Tá sé in am dúinn seasamh suas ar ár gcosca féin agus gan a bheith ag brath thar sáile i gcónaí. Cén fáth nach féidir linn tosú anseo agus tháisceáint go gciallaíonn "Excellence agus Relevance" in Ollscoil Luimnigh go bhfuil gach éinne ag staidéar agus ag obair anseo sásta gach iarracht a dhéanamh ar son na hÉireann, ár múintir agus ar son ár ndúchais.

Beir Bua

An Spailpín Fánach.

The Ray Hurley File

Permit me to pontificate a bit on the subject of Co-op, given that "QCA/repeat exams" arguments have been surgically analysed at great length, even though all the issues thereof will never be exhausted. I risk alienating myself from 75% of students, because I can only deal with the Business and European Studies experience. Nevertheless, I believe that most of you will agree with the main thrust of my arguments. Everybody is aware that these are recessionary times and even if we don't understand that big, sibilant catch-word, we still know that it means fewer jobs. This doesn't help the efforts of the Co-op office who see a contracting jobs market coincide with annually expanding student numbers. Therefore, for our first six month placement, many of the jobs offered little by way of experience in the cases of campground couriers and EuroDisney - lots by way of the experiences of language

Clubs & Socs

Club & Soc News

Film Society News

The following are the presentations for week 5, 1st - 5th February

Tuesday 2nd: "Boyz in the 'hood"

This debut film from 23 year old writer/director John Singleton was of a high enough quality to make him the youngest recipient of a best director Oscar nomination ever.

The film packs an enormous emotional punch telling the story of the lives of three different adolescents in the gang-rule killing fields of South-Central LA, and when tension finally spills over into a pointless, inevitable killing, attention is focused on the grieving family rather than the act of murder itself.

Singleton portrays the residents of the 'hood' as an autonomous, dignified people - like anyone else in LA, but less wealthy. People who see the need to solve their own problem their own way.

As a first work from such a young director, this film is nothing short of remarkable.

Thursday 4th: "Hearts of Darkness"

Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now" was the first major film to deal with Vietnam, appearing as it did in the seven-

results in a very high human embryo death rate. While such research does not take place at present in Ireland on a wide scale, St. James' Hospital Dublin does provide a 'test tube' baby-facility for infertile couples.

Thanks to all those students who signed our petition condemning the death sentence pronounced on Salmon Rushdie's life. At time of writing 1000 signatures have been collected. Representations are made at government level and it is hoped there will be a positive response to this initiative.

M. McEroy
Educational Officer

University of Limerick CHRISTIAN UNION

"Salvation does not begin in the merit of God but in the mercy of God. It does not begin in the life of man but in the love of God. It does not originate in the goodness of man but in the grace of God. Salvation is not an attainment, but an obtainment. It is not a goal to be achieved but a gift to be received."

grub, transport, participation fees and accommodation in a 4 STAR HOTEL!!!! Bimbos of both sexes will be supplied free of charge by 8 other colleges from all around the country! Willie, Oisín or Peter Keogh will be more than delighted to take your money! Remember you don't have to be a windsurfer to come along, as long as you qualify as an alcoholic you'll fit in perfectly!!

A Little Aside:

According to a long researched survey carried out by John Scott, 'Lilt' is the ultimate hangover cure. Talking about Scots, (not John Scott now mind you!) did you hear that to find out if someone is a true Scot, you should stick your hand up his kilt, and if it's a quarter-pounder he's got to be a Mc Donald!! - that's according to a survey carried out by the flab, sorry fab four - Cróna, Linda, Tracey and Elaine!!
Sinéad Hurley.

Gaelic Games Update

Week 3 was a busy term for the GAA with a number of teams involved in league semi-finals and challenge games.

On Wednesday the Intermedi-

Doolin Bound

Weekend 5 will see masses of Outdoor enthusiasts gather together for the OPC's National Weekend. The OPC is affiliated to the Scouts and Guides association of Ireland and in the past went under the name of SAG (Scout & Guide club). There are SAG clubs in most of the other 3rd level colleges in Ireland including UCC, Cork RTC, UCD, TCD, and Maynooth. Every year the clubs take it in turn to host a national weekend for the purpose of meeting members from other colleges, engaging in outdoor activities and swapping stories, drinks and each other. We have held our weekend successfully for the last two years, heading to the Burren each time. This year will be no different and should see 70 to 80 energetic and rowdy persons gather in Doolin. It's tough at the best of times to cater for such a large group but the motto on these weekends is "the more the merrier". Here's an itinerary of the weekend.

Friday 5th feb. :

- 20:00 Groups arrive in UL reception
- 20:30 Talk and slide show by John Murphy on "Trekking in Nepal & Tibet" in the Charles Parsons. Also open to those not going on the weekend
- 22:00 Drink and craic sa Stablaí

Saturday 6th Feb. :

- 08:00 Early morning rise and shine
- 09:15 Buses to Doolin - the earlier the better
- 10:45 Doolin, quick change for activities - caving, hillwalking and rock climbing (in Fanore not "France"). Packed lunch provided.
- 18:00 Return to hostel
- 19:30 Dinner
- 20:30 Down the road to Gus O'Connors and time for stories, songs, stout and staggering

Sunday 7th feb. :

- 08:00 Early and sore "Rise and \$*!%"
- 09:15 Buses to Killaloe
- 11:00 Shannonside activity center for a days orienteering
- 19:00 Arrive back in UL. Críoch.

grieving family rather than the act of murder itself.

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As a first work from such a young director, this film is nothing short of remarkable.

Thursday 4th: "Hearts of Darkness"

Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now" was the first major film to deal with Vietnam, appearing as it did in the seventies. Production of the film was drawn out and laborious, to say the least. Uncooperative middle-east governments, eccentric leading actors, cash-flow problems - and the whole project was not helped by a very cold shoulder treatment from the Hollywood studios.

However the end result is a gem of a film, and what "Hearts of Darkness" is is a fly-on-the-wall type of documentary about the extraordinary behind the camera scenes as seen through the viewfinder of wife Eleanor Coppola. Witness Martin Sheens heart attack on set in front of his young son Charlie, Robert Duvall's recollection of a day's call-sheet which simply read "Seize the unknown", etc. This documentary shows us at least something of how the transcendental 'unknown' was achieved.

All films are in Jean Monnet, 7:30 p.m. Admission is £1.50 for non-members.

U.L. Students For Life

The society were happy to welcome Dr. Miguel D'Arce, Senior Experimentation Officer in Dept. of Genetics TCD. Dr. D'Arce spoke about Human Embryo Research. The selection process of implanted embryo

Limerick CHRISTIAN UNION

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Angel Martinez

Come and find out more about us: Weekly Bible study, Mondays 4pm in the Meditation Room.

Thursday 4th February: "What does being Born Again mean?" a talk by Tony Davidson in A1065 at 6pm.

Committee: Dáire Killian
4th Bus. Helen Burke 4th Euro.
Rosemary Bowen 4th Euro.

WINDSURFIN' NEWS

Last weeks EGM was nothing out of the ordinary really - surfers emerged afterwards with starry, bloodshot eyes and flushed faces. Really, it's NOT what you think! The hot flushes were due to what our esteemed comadore called 'sangria' and 'champagne'. We do things in style in the Windsurfin' club, because only the best (i.e. £1.17 a bottle) is good enough for our members!!

Anybody with any photos of club outings please bring them along to our next meeting, which will be on Tuesday week 6. We're hoping to get a good collection of photos together for contribution to some windsurfing mags and some local newspapers!

The Intervarsity week-end coming up in week 8 in Dungarvan is ONLY going to cost you £45 + £20 deposit. That all includes

and if it's a quarter-pounder he's got to be a Mc Donald!! - that's according to a survey carried out by the slab, sorry fab four - Cróna, Linda, Tracey and Elaine!!
Sinéad Hurley.

Gaelic Games Update

Week 3 was a busy term for the GAA with a number of teams involved in league semi-finals and challenge games.

On Wednesday the Intermediate Football team qualified for the league final after they defeated U.U. Coleraine by a score of 0-9 to 1-5 with good performances from Tague Breslin, Paul Murphy, and Mike Twomey. U.L. will meet Dundalk R.T.C. in the final.

On Saturday the Inter. and Senior Hurling teams travelled to Dublin and Galway respectively to play in the league Semi-finals. The seniors played U.C.G., on a day when conditions i.e. rain and wind were at their worst, and were defeated by 6 points, 2-3 to 0-3. The intermediate team defeated U.C.D. with a scoreline of 2-12 to 2-7 and will play either U.C.C. or U.C.G. in the final.

The senior football team played two games at the weekend of week 3. They travelled to Tullamore to play Offaly seniors in a challenge and won by 3 points, 2-11 to 2-8. On Sunday, they played Tipperary seniors, and won with a scoreline of 1-7 to 1-6.

On Saturday of week 4 they play the Gardai in the league semi-final, and on Wednesday of week 5 they play Athlone R.T.C. in the Sigerson cup. Buses to the game on Wednesday will leave the Stables at 1.00 pm, anyone interested in going should leave their names with Michael Frain in the sports building. Both games are taking place in Askeaton.

The camogie team were defeated in the quarter finals of the Purcell cup on Saturday week 3 by a very strong St. Marys side; they expect, however to do well on the 6th / 7th in Athlone when they travel there for the Purcell cup weekend.

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08:00 Early morning rise and shine

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10:45 Doolin, quick change for activities - caving,

hillwalking and rock climbing (in Fanore not

"France"). Packed lunch provided.

18:00 Return to hostel

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20:30 Down the road to Gus O'Connors and time for stories, songs, stout and staggering

Sunday 7th Feb. :

08:00 Early and sore "Rise and shine"

09:15 Buses to Killaloe

11:00 Shannonside activity center for a days orienteering

19:00 Arrive back in U.L. Crioich.

This weekend will cost £15 and places are limited. So hurry down to the P.E. Sports Office with a £5 deposit before it's too late? On Friday night the SAG'ers will probably be staying in the Salesian Hostel and UL folk are welcome along to shorten the night if no one minds sleeping on a hard floor. The photo shows activities on last years weekend.

Forthcoming events:

Hill walking in Connemara : Weekend 6 should see us heading by Bus Éireann to Galway on Friday. Saturday will involve a bus to the 12 Pins and a good days hill walking, overnight stay in Connemara followed by orienteering or rock climbing on Sunday if feasible. If not we'll head back up into the hills. More details at a later date.

U.L. KARATE CLUB

The Karate Club has resumed training. Any members returning from Co-op are welcomed back and new members are invited to participate. The club has regular training times of Tues & Thurs 6-8pm.

There are two karate competitions scheduled for February. The first of these is the Intervarsity which are being hosted by U.C.G. on Feb 6th. Later on in the month, Feb 28th, the Intercollegiates (mixed styles) are being held at Dublin Airport. WUKO rules apply to both these competitions. Extra training sessions are being held currently on Wed & Sun 2-4pm to prepare for these events.

For up to date information check the noticeboard in the Sports Building or contact any committee member.

Good luck to all competing in Galway!

Yvonne Ward, PRO.

an Focal needs people to start a nation wide sports news column. If you are interested please attend the an Focal meeting at 2.30pm Wed. sports building

Remember to hand in material for these pages by Wednesday for publication the following Tuesday

Notices

An Focal 2nd February 1993

Classified Advertisements

The classified ads are compiled by Anthony Denver. Contact An Focal if You have an Ad For inclusion in next weeks issue. All ads must be received by Wednesday afternoon. This service is free to UL Students and Staff.

For sale

Drumkit 5 piece maxwin by PEARL. Contains: 1 Bass Drum, 2 Tom Toms, 1 Floor Drum, 1 Snare Drum. (including hi-hat stand) Excellent Condition - circa £350. If interested call - 229710-12pm-6pm

2 Tickets for Bob Dylan Concert Feb 5th in Point Depot. Contact: **Fergus Hennessy**, 15 Heidelberg, Milford Grange.

Mega-drive games for cash-
E-mail 9117482

Wanted- Data-settle for C64
Email 9116931

Accommodation

1 male required to share double room, 5 mins from college, oil heating, T.V./video. £22 per week. Call to 1 Eldorado, Milford Grange, between 6 and 7 pm.

Single Room available, 4 Harvard Close, After 6 pm. £95 per month.

1 male required to share a room.
Call to 2, The Paddocks, Briarfield, after 6 pm.

1 male or female wanted to share a room.
Call to 25, College Court Drive, after 6 pm.

Lost & Found

At Barn dance Wed Wk 3 - dark Brown Leather Jacket
Reward if returned. Contact: **Kevin Galvin**, 104 Elm Park, Castletroy.

In main building Week 4, A girls suede jacket Contact **Linda at: House 29, Plassey Village.**

A set of Shannon Aerospace notes were found in town.
Contact **Roy at: 6, Carriage Court, Dublin Rd.**

Calculator found in Canteen on Thurs 21st Jan. Contact **Ger at: 2, Stanford Close,**

whine a lot. P.O. Box 747

Rugger Hugger needed for young Garryowen player who likes to drink with his "males" and has use of Daddy's T.V. van. Experience in brutally swindling customers out of T.V.s an advantage but not essential. P.O. Box 90.

Wanted, very furry and very dumb poodle for genuine reasons. No questions asked: P.O. Box 6.

Grinds

Improve your French: contact Sebastian, House 11, room 8, Plassey Village.

Private Classes in Spanish: Contact Francis, 12 Heidelberg- Milford Grange

Chemistry Grinds: Adrian at
Extn: 2448, U.L.

A Native can Help with German!- Bettina, 8 Carysford Ave. C/Court.

French? No Problem! Correction, Grammar etc. We will help you- Eveline & Natalie 8 The Conifers- Briarfield.

Noticeboard

CLASS REPS COUNCIL

Class Reps Council met on Tuesday last. The main topics for discussion included the repeat system or rather lack of, and our wonderful Co-op system. Tues Feb 9th is our next scheduled session of council. After the meeting Mr Michael Horgan, director of security will address council and any member of the University who wishes to attend the matter of Campus security.

DO YOU HAVE A DRINK PROBLEM?

Would you like to join with other students in tackling this problem? For details: Contact Student Councillor NOW CM070

INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP

Monday Week 5 (1st Feb)

3.00 - 4.00 pm

In: Meditation Room
Register with S.R.S. (CM072) beforehand.
Contact Student Councillor for Details.

USIT CARDS

USIT Cards still available at S.U. Office but please remember they are only available between 2 and 3pm.

Lost & Found

If You have lost anything please call to the main officeto see if it has been handed in. Especiallly Glasses or Coats. Everything remaining will be donated to Charity in week 9, so hurry.

An Focal needs a news reporter to assist the news team. If YOU are interested call to the An Focal Office at 1.00pm every Wednesday

Students' Union E.G.M

For sale

Drumkit price max by
PEARL/Coltaco: 1 Bass
Drum, 2 Tom Toms, 1
Floor Tom, 1 Snare
Drum, including hi-hat
stand. Excellent Condition
Drive 3000. If interested call
330710-12pm-6pm

2 Tickets for Bob Dylan
Concert Feb 8th in Point
Deputy. Contact Pergus
Hennessy, 15 Heidelberg,
Milford Grange.

Mega drive games for cash.
E-mail 9117482

Wanted: Data-settle for C04
E-mail 91140821

Accommodation

Dormer Flat to let
Self-contained - suitable for
2-3 persons sharing
2 bedrooms, bathroom,
kitchenette. One and a half
miles from U.L. Ph: 336517

Luxury Accommodation
available for one. Near
Parkway - Brand New All
Mod Cons £20 per week
Contact Seamus - 2nd Ind.
Chem. Or call to 4 Carriage
Court.

1 male or female wanted to
share a room.
Call to 28, College Court
Drive, after 6 pm

Lost & Found

At Barn dance Wed Wk 3 -
dark Brown Leather Jacket
Reward if returned. Contact
Kevin Galvin, 104 Elm
Park, Castletroy.

In main building Week 4,
A girls suede jacket. Contact
Linda at House 22, Plassey
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A set of Shannon Aerospace
notes were found in town.
Contact Roy at 6, Carriage
Court, Dublin Rd.

Calculator found in Canteen
on Thurs 21st Jan. Contact
Ger at: 2, Stanford Close.

Personal

Night life required to Friar
Tuck's for Garlic chips and
other necessary nourish-
ments. No miserly gifts
please.
P.O. Box 405.

Wanted for marriage, a con-
frontational, unpleasant,
disruptive male (blonde) who
constantly tests the bounds
of lecturer's tolerance. Must

Grinds

Improve your
French: contact Sebastian,
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Village.

Private Classes in Spanish:
Contact Francis, 12 Hel-
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& Natalie 5 The Conifers,
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General

U.L. Postgraduate/Erasmus
Hilary Ball February 16th at
the Castletroy Park Hotel
Ticket Price £16, includes 3
- course meal, disco and
jazz band. Tickets available
from Jan 20th. Contact
Michael Kearney or Ed
Doherty (34 or 22 Plassey
Village or through the Euro-
pean Integration Office,
C107B)

Students' Union E.G.M.
The main subject to be
discussed will be the
University who wishes to
attend the matter of Campus
security.

DO YOU HAVE A DRINK
PROBLEM?
Would you like to join
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For details:
Contact Student Coun-
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If it has been handed
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at 1.00pm every
Wednesday

Students' Union E.G.M

All students are asked to attend the
Union General Meeting, tomorrow,
Wednesday The main topic for
discussion will involve the Repeats
issue. It's something that affects us
all and is demanding action. The
meeting will be the start of a major
campaign on repeats. Please
support us.

An Focal Crossword No.26

ACROSS

- 1 Bridal collection. (9)
- 9 Fanatical partisan. (6)
- 10 Repair or recondition. (8)
- 11 A slow gallop. (6)
- 12 Incense, infuriate. (6)
- 14 Small limbless creeping creature. (4)
- 15 Line of hills. (5)
- 16 Complete self-assurance and confidence. (6)
- 18 Desert, forsake. (7)
- 21 Make an effort, undertake. (7)
- 24 One who lives in solitude. (6)
- 26 Cracks, fissures, clefts. (5)
- 30 French gentleman friend. (4)
- 31 Even A1 could get a raising agent. (6)
- 32 Hurry along, step on it. (6)
- 33 One quarter of a circle. (8)
- 34 Nations' fleets at sea. (6)
- 35 Continued resolutely in spite of difficulties. (9)

DOWN

- 2 Narrow steep-sided valley. (8)
- 3 State of commotion or pandemonium. (6)
- 4 Quenched, thirst perhaps. (6)
- 5 Let. (7)
- 6 Reconstruct to make something else. (6)
- 7 Raised flooring or stage. (8)
- 8 Ascribe or accredit. (9)
- 11 Skilled occupation or a small boat. (5)
- 13 Cover with gold or something like it. (4)
- 17 Dog with long body and short legs. (9)
- 19 Used to remove something by scratching
and grinding. (8)
- 20 Many times. (5)
- 22 Carry, lug, transport. (4)
- 23 Curt and blunt in manner. (7)
- 25 Wild goats. (6)
- 27 Rasts on the surface without sinking. (6)
- 28 Cavalry swords. (6)
- 29 Meeting for communication with spirits. (6)

