

STUDENTS' UNION



University of Limerick

an Focal

University of Limerick Students' Union

LAW SOCIETY SAYS NO TO EXEMPTIONS

By Brian Synnott

The decision that all UL law students were anxiously awaiting has, unfortunately, arrived. In a press release before Christmas (21 Dec) the Law Society decided; "not to seek to change the current legal situation which exists consequent on the High Court judgement of 22nd September 1995". As has been well documented the Laffoy judgement decreed that all candidates for entry to the Society's Professional Training Course must sit and pass the Society's standards

society's opinion that they; "saw evidence that the level of coverage and examinability of the Society's syllabi in the "core" Irish Law subjects was often incomplete". At no point is this "evidence" actually stated and if this is the case one wonders what is the Society's opinion of those graduates who are now members. To an outsider the lack of faith in the Irish universities law departments is eyebrow-raising, especially as

the system has been in place for 6 years.

The issue of fairness of entry is based on the rationale that the only level playing field is one that excludes everyone. Coincidentally this also means that everyone must pay to sit the exams. While stressing the need for knowledge of "core Irish subjects" the Society also states that if applied exemptions would also have to open to EU institutions. Why the sudden interest in European Law after 6 years?

So what is the SU doing about it? Given the obvious intransigence on the Society's part it would seem that the only avenue open is the legal one. To this end we have received a verbal commitment from the university that they would fund any challenge and it is now a matter of co-ordinating with the other unions around the country. If anyone has any queries call into the union and we will try to answer any concerns.

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Semester 1, 1996

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Playboy

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The issue of educational standards is raised as it is the

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Skeleton removed from White House - Images of 25 Cromwell St. !

The ALMA (Oh what does it) MATER contribution.

**If you're thinking of doing college,
Headed for EGO10 , Awondering how and why, Read on an' chill!**

By Lorna Kerin

The S.U. have kindly donated a new liver, kidney and a rubber zimmerframe to a grad of Week 11's bygone requesting an article on student stress. To which I reply; Bah, Humbug and saucy seasons' greetings to the Stables' staff. Nav, do humanity a favour and get the

shamrock on the bishop's head together for once and all!

Exam week eh? Though the disappointment will maim many, let's skip the You think you have it bad, in our day blah blah (with much adjusting of hearing aids etc.) and the ole used to do 5 exams a day for 10 weeks sobstory that I could give you and get on to some important life issues of particular concern to UL students and survivors alike. Such as, certification of

the sane. It would certainly simplify the workload of customs men (See Welfare Officer on Inequality) who, when they're not burning bales of cannabis, are trying to decipher whether in fact you really are the crazed looking psychopath on your passport photo. Further, it would give birth to another minority group in society and no doubt enrich the rest of us gombeens in the cosmopolitan process.

Many of you will have spent much time of late sitting constipated in some bog (it's either stress or last night's visit to Uncle Arthur) reading welfare notices on the back of loo doors and wondering when graffiti went out of fashion. Like, "if you go to bed with someone without a condom, how many people are you sleeping with?"



Contd.../P6

Brian's comment

A hung-over new year to everyone and hello to all second-leveellers on campus for open day. Since this issue will be handed out to secondary students, it is like giving a briefing to battle-hardened veterans and unsuspecting cherries, at the same time. While there is a myriad of reasons to come to UL, the, rather impressive propaganda, sorry, press office can enlighten prospective students on the positive aspects of spending four years in Castletroy. This institution prides itself, justifiably, on the high levels of job placement on completion of a degree at UL. On the down side, as mentioned elsewhere in this edition, there are a number of problems encountered while studying here. UL Students' Union stands over all the concerns voiced, indeed we would not be doing our job if we did not actively pursue our members concerns. No matter which third level institution a student chooses, he/she is automatically a member of the students' union. Everything is not always as rosy as it seems and it is the unions job to ensure that students are not short-changed. Enjoy open day but try to talk to some students to see what UL life is really like.

The issue of proposed legislative changes to university governing bodies is ongoing. There has been no definitive statement from the Minister as yet. For the time being ULSU will continue the lobbying process.

As you may have read, the decision by the Law Society is disappointing, if predictable. For students entering into their final year the issue is of particular relevance and if legal action proves to be the only option we will be moving as quickly as possible.

Before the break I mentioned that we are currently working on a mission statement for the union so as to provide some direction and continuity in policy. Please feel free to drop in contributions and suggestions.

Lastly let me wish you well in exams and good luck to all those going out on co-op, stay in touch.

Brian Synnott

Open Day

U.L.? Are UL in the head?

A message to all visiting pupils from schools all over the country, read it and weep! These are words of advice from students who have been there, seen it and bought the T-Shirt.

If ever a U.L. student is feeling a bit bored and in need of a bit of a laugh picking up a copy of this University's prospectus is probably the best thing they could do. It's hilarious, you begin reading the first few lines and chuckle then as you read on the reading becomes even more comical until you reach the stage half way down the first page where you're rolling around the ground in knots of laughter. who said this University lacks imagination, we have some of the best fiction writers U.L. has ever seen since Ed Walshes P.R. secretary first began sending out press releases. I want to shake the hand of the person who wrote the prospectus obviously doubly employed by Ed for writing hilarious scripts both for the University Prospectus and the Simpsons.

Anyhow after reading through some of the information in the University publications An Focal decided that a few comments and words of advice should be sought from current students in the system

so as to give visitors to this college a more enlightened view of the University.

Below is a list of selected quotes from Students....

1. Do not under any circumstances come near the Library Reading, Rooms or Journals collection during your visit here. If your guide wishes to bring you there, refuse, call in sick, say you're allergic to books, fake a life threatening illness. Failure to comply with this may lead to your exposure to harrowing scenes of suffering, over crowding, panic, heartbreak and mindboggling stress - You may also be disembowelled a tetchy silence loving third year (like myself).
2. Don't succumb to Ed Walsh's advances
3. Don't bother studying anyone can buy a degree
4. Be loose - it's the best chance you'll get!
5. Do not under any circumstances trust any of the organisations in U.L. to do what they're required to do e.g. Student "Services", Co-op Office, Erasmus Office etc.
6. If you want to get laid - please use a condom- AIDS is pretty nasty as far as diseases go. (As is Gonorrhoea, Herpes and Unwanted Pregnancy)
7. Remember that University management have a bad track record regarding
8. Get on the Pill (Ed's note if you are male this does not apply).

treatment of staff and as a result a lot of offices and departments are under resourced leaving the student in a lot of cases with inadequate resources.



Law Students beware...

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Law Students beware...

As you may have read in a related article in this paper at the time of print no law student weather current or future will be exempt from the first set of exams in Blackhall place in order to become a solicitor. Present Law students were told that they would automatically proceed to the second part of exams in Blackhall Place if they got a Law degree in U.L. At the moment the situation now is that students will first have to sit an exam to decide wether or not they can become solicitors. There is approx. a 50% passing rate for this exam and it is widely thought that this will be used to cut down on the large number of Solicitors qualifying each year.



Students Queuing for the Sho

Mary Immaculate College located in the City Centre

Where are the Women?

By Lorna Kerin, Deputy President

I thought UL would be different. A haven of equality where young women and men could learn, discover, realise, create and understand new concepts. One thing that young women and men will not discover by UL's employment or promotional example is that women and men are equal and therefore are entitled equal opportunities. Seeing as how the UL PR machine kick-started the concept of this University as THE young, progressive, contemporary University, I assumed that equality would not be an issue. Think again. 50% of undergraduate and postgraduate students are female. Ever met a female Dean? Ever seen a female professor in UL? Unless you were taking illicit substances, I doubt it, because there are none.

So there are no female professors or deans. There are roughly 3% female senior lecturers. Women make up 15% of the permanent full-time academic staff. Women in UL have about 1 in 17 chance of being promoted to senior

lecturer level whereas men have a better than a 1 in 3 chance. During 1991-1994 96% of senior posts went to men. Is there any reason to believe this will change? It strikes me as a bit strange that the only other educational establishment that has such a comparable poor track record is Maynooth. Hardly progressive to ape an institution whose founding ethos embraced the exclusive, male Catholic era whereby women's most public appearance were as church cleaners.

So what consequence does this have for students? Mary Robinson once summed up 4 barriers to women's success - Cash, confidence, children and change. How confident can a young, female academic be when all her role models are male, when her employment prospects are lower than that of male academics of the same level, when policy is dictated by male values and experience? It is only in recent years that it has been realised that male historians forgot to acknowledge the presence of women and their contributions throughout history. So young women learn all about the great things that great men have done throughout time. Great!

Opinion

The Girls Play with Playboy

How to meet women of the nineties..... The Dick Clinic..... The Power of Pam.... and something to keep me sane, Johnny Depp. All this and more was contained within the pages of January's playboy. I never imagined, that being of the female sex that I would find anything that would interest me in this particular magazine but I am always open to further education. To my surprise I found reading (i.e. not looking) Playboy enjoyable to say the least, especially the Johnny Depp interview (I always new he was a nice guy!). My boyfriend claiming never to have seen Playboy before wanted to have a

look at the magazine but jokingly I refused to hand it over without first of all taking those pictures of Pam out to which he replied "sure its no good so", well I want to say this is not true. I found the articles more than readable, the pictures!??? (well I suppose they are not that bad) and that's just my opinion!!!!

P.S. The biggest surprise I got (not that it bothered me) was that you had to turn seventy pages before you came across any nudity...

Rosie Healy

Exam Papers...Exam Papers.....

Well after loads of scanning in to the early hours of the morning towards the end of last term as many exam papers as possible were scanned onto the network. The original plan of getting all exams in their computer form had to be abandoned as only a fraction of departments gave us exams on disk so we scanned papers on to the computer network. This took a lot

- HIT THE ICON (MONSTER) WITH EXAMS WRITTEN UNDER IT
- TYPE IN THE RELEVANT COLLEGE
- TYPE IN THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENT
- TYPE IN THE RELEVANT MODULE CODE

In some cases the paper you

Okay, so I'm dubious about declaring this in public but I have perused the famous first-time-in-Ireland "Playboy" and funnily enough it was more like an issue of "The Farmers Journal" or maybe even "GQ". Granted there was the issue of several scantily clad women which although only quarter of the way into the magazine were plentiful enough. Maybe the "Farmers Journal" would have something to say about that, and do naked animals count anyway?

So I say "Farmers Journal" but to give it some credit the articles weren't all bursting with proverbial juices and exuding pheromones. My approach to reviewing this 204 page tome was a direct inversion of the method by which one "reads" Hello magazine. You know, look at the pictures first and then read the articles when you're bored. So I went for the articles first and perused the pictures -

fairly briskly - afterwards. Well what self-respecting heterosexual female would be caught looking at girlie pictures? (Yes, I do consider my self self-respecting, heterosexual and female!)

The articles were, dare I say, interesting and marvellously witty. Anyone who does a complete piss-take on Baywatch is a friend of mine! Interviews with real men...exsqueeze me?! Yup, Johnny Depp. And not your usual mindless questions that you expect to see in a seventeen year old's magazine. It was oh so wonderfully new-mannish and not too unwholesome for the first few pages and I was actually thinking of "Playboy" was maybe even an alright publication. Then came the two articles on opposite pages; one on women, the other on men. Man's article called "The Dirty Dozen", woman's article "Sex and How To Get It". Ah! I see. So they are trying to be all macho'n'stuff.

Classy man v. shaggy female. Hmmm, some things never change!

The "Playboy Advisor" was most readable especially the enquiry as to whether the juice of celery and pineapple would alter the taste of her husbands' semen. Not guaranteed but a sure cert for preventing outbreaks of scurvy! Other handy hints in the mag included on how-to-stop-hair-loss ads, (butch) whiskey ads, Better Sex videos and Playboy jewellery - yes, it does exist!

Next month's content outline includes four features on males, two on females (Hillary Clinton and Courtney Love) and lots of mannish stuff about canyoneering, grunge and chairs! Don't be fooled. Despite the mannish exterior the interior in (G)-spots will make you cringe for whatever reason. I don't care. I'm off to read Hello.

Ruth Scott



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**Thorston Becker receives a cheque for £ 150 for winning the
AIB freshers Debating competition**

Ents

Rosie Healy **The Four Foot Colossus**

Rosie, our clubs and socs co-op, will shortly, sorry shortly be leaving us. For the past six months she has been the acceptable face of the union to all clubs and socs members and perhaps even beyond. Responsible for co-ordinating budgets, she became outrageously popular and yet managed this fame with modest charm, coyly telling everyone where they could stuff their money. Where she really came into her own was at the clubs and socs council as she deftly turned the minutes of each meeting into an accurate account of the events that should have happened. Not content with these achievements Rosie, at an early stage, decided to run for the title of most unflappable union member, and duly won. Calm down Healy, that's a compliment.

Thank you for the amazing level of commitment and for working all those unpaid hours..... sorry didn't you realise? Good luck next semester and all the best for the future.

Goodbye Norita

For anyone who has entered the S.U. Main Office in the last six months, they will remember Norita. If she is not putting down the phone after arranging the finance for An Focal or S.U. Handbook or any S.U. publication she is busy chasing some creature.

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No title yet. Sorry, but inspiration is in big demand and short supply

And so it was that on the eleventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me...blahdy blahdy blah. Some are lucky to have gotten one pressie this festive season never mind twelve. And anyway, who wants a milkman, tarts and a menagerie when the only vacant space is that one in the shed behind the central heating system (which has long since gone to the great central heating system I the sky...)

I myself was quite pleased with my assortment of Christmas presents - mainly the embossed

handkerchiefs; even if it was with the wrong initials it's the thought that counts (obviously they thought about it and couldn't be arsed to cut off the offending embossed corner). The multi coloured pyjamas aren't really conducive to a good nights sleep. The rucksacks under my eyes are testimony to another nights tossing and turning in the bed dreaming that I'm Christmas tree from Chernobyl.

"So why didn't you tell them what you want for Christmas you silly girl?"

Em.....mum, you know how I've been learning to drive all last term?....well, I could do a lot better if you gave me the car. So she did. A lovely machine if you're into model model-T's! She did give me something to keep me going until then. In the meantime the two furry dice will have to remain taped firmly to my forehead for the on-the-road feel as I run down the road shouting "Nyeooww."

Ruth Scott

for the position in that February of 1986. He, John Giles and Liam Tuohy were the candidates. However on the night of the poll which had 18 FAI executives as the electorate another name was thrown into the ring; Bob Paisley, a hugely successful ex-Liverpool manager. The candidate had to win by 10 'for' votes and after both Giles and Tuohy were eliminated due to failing to reach the quota, Charlton emerged the victor having received all of Giles's transfers. And so began the Charlton era on a 10-8 victory. Jack

Hanover: European Championship - 1988 - Whealan scores against one of the top teams in the championships that year. The goal against the USSR will probably be the most spectacular goal of the Charlton era.

Genoa Italia '90 - Bonner saves in the penalty shoot out and O' Leary drives his penalty past the helpless Silvua Lung to put us into the quarterfinals of the championship of all champion-ships - The World Cup.

New Jersey: USA '94 - Houghton serves us another memory that most

Irish Censor Rejects Showgirls

The Irish Film censor has, it was learnt last week, rejected the controversial film Showgirls. Showgirls has been sweeping a cross America leaving very little behind probably because it didn't stay long in most cinemas. The film is set to be a flop and has not yet broke even on investment. The film contains a gang rape scene

and a scene involving two lesbians. Being in the country we are, it's hard to know which scene resulted in the censor blocking the film coming on to the Irish market. However having read an add for the film with the slogan "Zips down, tissues out.." you have to wonder if there is a plot in the film and on what merits the film is being sold.

Panic at the Panto

On Thursday night last, armed men raided the Belltable Theatre when a pantomime was being staged in the theatre. The raiders got away with an estimated £1,000. All this money was going to charity. People inside the theatre were unaware that a raid was going on outside in the reception and thought that any outside noise was part of the Pantomime. January is known for the Panto season so there was no doubt that the raiders were fully aware that the money they took was for charity. The word from the Belltable is however that the show goes on so anybody that hasn't visited this years Pantomime which is Snow White, should get take an exam break that won't give you a hang over the next morning, by going to the Pantomime.