

STUDENTS' UNION



# *an Focal*

University of Limerick Students' Union

## MEETING TO DECIDE ON CRUCIAL ISSUES

MONDAY 7PM JEAN MONNET

### TUDENT ENTRE

The SU executive has decided to ask Mondays UGM to call for a referendum on whether or not there should be a student centre on campus. The student population on campus is ever increasing and the current SU buildings can not support the volume of students. The campus needs a purpose built theatre, which can be used for Drama, Debating, Bands and SU meetings. There is a need for another bar and cafe on campus. A permanent home must be found for the Radio station. UL is falling behind other universities which have a wide range of facilities on offer to their students. The SU President has received verbal assurance from the Finance Officer that the University will provide 50% of funding for the venture. The other 50% is the key issue. Students will be asked whether they are willing to increase the capitation charge from £150 to £180. The time span from now to completion is estimated to be three years. The increase of £30 would be for fifteen years.

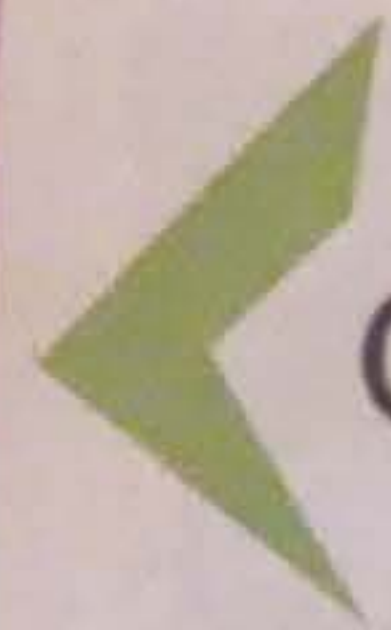
### MEDICAL ENTRE

The state of the University's Medical Service is becoming an increasingly frequent cause of complaint. The Medical Centre is too small, under resourced and consequently can not deal with the amount of enquiries it has on a daily basis. The S.U. has already made this known at Governing Body level by stating it's concern with present conditions. There is no point in having a medical centre if it can not deal with patients without imposing a waiting period that in many cases is too long. The issue is not the people who work there but rather the number of people who work there. Too few people in a centre that is too small, is unacceptable. It is time the students body took a collective decision to force this disgraceful issue on to the University's agenda. The University budget is due to be finalised in the next month, budget submissions are now being made. It is essential that students take this opportunity to instigate real change and not merely pay lip service to this issue. A plan of action will be proposed at the meeting.

It's



# YOUR



## CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of ULSU was adopted at a UGM on 25 April 1994. There were serious problems with debate over whether the meeting was quorate or not. The end result is that the students of UL are left with a constitution made up of two sections; old and new. The section that is left from the previous constitution relates to elections. It is proposed that the UGM address this anomaly so that we are guided by a clear coherent document. The proposed tidying up of the document is not a huge task. Nor does it change the spirit of the constitution. It is suggested that the two sections relating to elections be married into one. The rationale behind this move is that to do nothing would be a missed opportunity having already had two quorate meetings. This situation has remained unresolved for two years and needs to be addressed.



## LEGISLATION

The proposed legislation that deals with the make up of the U.L. Governing Body is still on the agenda. As you are aware the Students' Union has recognised the damaging effects that the proposed legislation will have on the student body. Up to the present point the campaign has been conducted by the S.U. President and the CEO in conjunction with the Staff of the University. It is time for the wider student body to officially convey its opposition to the minister's proposals.

The Student Body must bear in mind that if the Minister's plans become a reality as they are presently drafted, the Students Union representative capacity will be seriously diminished. By conveying the official opposition of a general meeting of 300 students, coupled with the staff petition which was signed by over 300 members, the Minister will receive the clearest signal yet that the vast majority of the members of the university are wholly opposed to these ill-conceived plans. The process is far from over and could prove to be long and difficult but it is vital that the issue remains uppermost in students minds.

Week 5  
Semester 2 '96

Arts Page

Budweiser  
Rag Week

Clubs & Soc's



# THE LAW EXEMPTIONS

Anyone in the vicinity of the sports building last Tuesday night beheld a strange and wonderful sight. For at about 7 p.m. that momentous evening the Law students of U.L. were seen to flock in great numbers to that veritable of track suit wearers and fit people.

There was a reason for this madness of course as crunch time has come for the law exemption case and some big decisions had to be made.

As things stand there is a court case pending (once the application goes through on Monday) in the High Court at which the universities of Limerick and Cork will definitely be represented and possibly U.C.G. (they have yet to commit themselves at the time of writing).

The meeting on Tuesday night was highly successful with a turnout of about two hundred law students present to hear Brian Synnot and Duncan O'Toole outline the story so far and answer the questions of those concerned.

Bryan gave a synopsis of the action taken to date and explained the steps that were to be taken in the coming weeks (making a fine job of pronouncing the technical legal terms involved - interlocutory wha!!!).

Duncan then went on to talk about the costs involved and this seemed to be the main cause for concern among those present. There was much relief when it became that the actual monetary outlay for the student will be very small if indeed anything at all as there is financial backing from the University and we are in receipt of free legal aid.

For obvious reasons nothing was disclosed as regards the nature of the arguments to be put forward on the students behalf but the senior counsel representing us does express optimism

as to the end result feeling that we have a very strong case and stand a good chance of succeeding.

In the end then no-one had any qualms about signing the proposed agreement and putting the wheels of justice into motion.

Any signatory Law student who wishes to communicate with our counsel may do so through Brian or Duncan

who are on a committee with direct access to him.

That's all for now but I will keep you posted of any developments through the medium of An Focal so keep an eye out..... and pray!!.

Duncan.

## EDITORIAL

Last Thursday night a student was going home to his accomadation in Limerick. On his way home he got the taxi he was travelling in to drop him off at the local late night shop to get some munchies before hittin' the sack. The guy wasn't even out on the tear, on the contrary he was returning from work. On his way from the shop to his home he was attacked. He was attacked by a group of six people who beat him so badly that his skull was opened after a repeated strike with what seems to have been an iron bar. The walkman he was wearing and the wallet he had were left with him and nothing was taken physically at least. It's times like these that you begin to despair, times when a student who by all accounts is a nice easy going guy, gets the shit beaten out of him by six heros with a bar! What the fuck is wrong with these people? I mean what the fuck makes someone that pissed off that they will come close to killing a guy in such a brutal fashion. This is not an isolated incident, there is a history of such beatings against students for years. So what is it? and what can be done?

Well first it is not a campaign against students however easy a target they seem to be, beatings are unfortunately a fact of life almost every where in the world however accepting this and seeing it as something to avoid is not the way we should be operating. People are content to avoid certain "areas" because they're "rough" and as long as this continues alls well and what you don't know won't hurt you. If you keep out of trouble you'll be fine. If you keep away from certain places you'll be fine! What kind of a solution is that, the fact is we are strangers in a place that will be our home for four years, the fact is we couldn't really care about the poverty, lack of recreational facilities, lack of job opportunities in these "rough areas"



# EDITORIAL

Last Thursday night a student was going home to his accomadation in Limerick. On his way home he got the taxi he was travelling in to drop him off at the local late night shop to get some munchies before hittin' the sack. The guy wasn't even out on the tear, on the contrary he was returning from work. On his way from the shop to his home he was attacked. He was attacked by a group of six people who beat him so badly that his skull was opened after a repeated strike with what seems to have been an iron bar. The walkman he was wearing and the wallet he had were left with him and nothing was taken physically at least. It's times like these that you begin to dispair, times when a student who by all accounts is a nice easy going guy, gets the shit beaten out of him by six heros with a bar! What the fuck is wrong with these people? I mean what the fuck makes someone that pissed off that they will come close to killing a guy in such a brutal fashion. This is not an isolated incident, there is a history of such beatings against students for years. So what is it? and what can be done?

Well first it is not a campaign against students however easy a target they seem to be, beatings are unfortunately a fact of life almost every where in the world however accepting this and seeing it as something to avoid is not the way we should be operating. People are content to avoid certain "areas" because they're "rough" and as long as this continues alls well and what you don't know won't hurt you. If you keep out of trouble you'll be fine, if you keep away from certain places you'll be fine! What kind of a solution is that, the fact is we are strangers in a place that will be our home for four years, the fact is we couldn't really care about the poverty, lack of recreational facilities, lack of job opportunies in these "rough areas" these are the reasons for this crime, this is what fuels the emotions of people in "rough areas" and if we as students couldn't give a shit about them or at least don't seem to show that we give a shit, well who are we to expect them to give a shit about us. There is no denying that we as students are in a position to help. In a position to help the city we are guests in or were brought up in. I remember a student at the start of term saying they didn't have time to help in a project that aided deprived areas in Limerick to which the volunteer worker who had a nine to five job replied through grinded teeth "okay". To say you don't have time is very hard to swallow, I mean when will you have time, when you leave here and get a job from nine to five or later still when you've kids.

University is not about QCA unless ofcourse you want it to be, there's more important things to learn out there! And to Paul Whearty our thoughts are with you and we wish you a speedy recovery.



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON REPEATS

**What do I need to progress from one year to another under the new system?**

A QCA of 2.00 and no F grades

**How many exams can I repeat in each year?**

Four exams in an ordinary Academic Year and Two exams if you have only one semester in that year

**How much is a repeat exam?**

Each exam cost 64 pounds to repeat.

**What grades have to be cleared before going from one year to the next?**

F's, NG's and I's. D's and D+'s can be repeated to bring up QCA to the progression limit (2.00).

**Which modules can I repeat?**

All except those specifically stated for certain reasons, all students will receive notification of any modules they can not repeat.

**Can I repeat D's and D+'s even if I am over 2.00?**

Yes, except in 4th Year anybody who can graduate after the last set of exams will graduate and will not be given an opportunity to repeat D's and D+'s, unless they can't graduate. If you repeat any subject the higher of the two grades (original and repeated) will be the one counted.

**With the change over from the old system to the new which rules will be applied to me this year?**

If you are 1st year the new set of rules will apply.

If you are 2nd year (excluding 2nd level education) the new system also applies.

If you are 3rd year student (excluding 2nd level education) the new rules apply for this year and the following special provisions are for F's/NG's/I's from last

academic Year (94/95):

All such grades are to be cleared by this september. The last chance to repeat Spring Modules (uncapped) is this term so register now if you haven't already. Another opportunity to repeat these will be in September but these will be capped.

F/NG's/I's from Autumn semester modules will be available in September as uncapped repeats.

\*3rd Year Arts students (May 1) are an exception they will have uncapped repeats from 2nd year in September.

If you are a 4th Year student, then the Graduation discretion still applies, as stated earlier you can not avail of repeats in D or D+'s if you are fit to graduate after the Spring exams.

F/NG's/I's from other years have to be cleared and special provision for this year only are as follows:

All such grades are to be cleared by this september. The last chance to repeat Spring Modules (uncapped) is this term so register now if you haven't already. Another opportunity to repeat these and modules run in 3th Autumn semester, will be in September but these will be capped.

**What about 2nd Level Education Students in 2nd and 3rd Year?**

For 2nd year students, current regulations apply and F/NG's/I from last year, will be repeated during semester (uncapped) or in September (capped).

For 3rd year students in 2nd level Education the current regulations apply.

\*Capped Repeats means no higher than a C grade will be awarded for the repeated exam.



# OUT AND A...BOUT WEB FEAT

An Focal is online. This makes it the first Irish student newspaper to be put onto the World Wide Web, on the Internet. It is also - you read it first in OUT AND A BOUT - the first Irish-titled online student newspaper on planet Earth. An Focal, as Robin Hood Said to his merry bunch as they were about to spring an attack on the Sheriff of Nottingham and Co., take a bough ! A word on the Peace Process. In light of John Major's predilection for a certain small green legume, as revealed in the Spitting Image series on television, it might be appropriate to rename the whole thing the Peas Process. Perhaps not. All the talk of derailing and twin tracks, has reminded me of heretical rumours circulating in connection with Iarnrod Eireann. It concerns the recent purchase of new diesel locomotives from the continent. In Ireland, as in a lot of ex-colonies, the railway tracks are wider than elsewhere. The term wide gauge is

applied. You've guessed what's coming. The consignment arrived over. Alas, all were fitted with narrow gauge wheels, too small to run on Irish tracks. The trains had to be sent back. Its also interesting to note that, according to the '95/96' Intercity train timetable, the Dublin-Belfast railway line is to be rebuilt at a cost of, wait for it, £88 !

This man came to a halt in a cloud of steam on a lonely country road - the engine again. He got out of the car, lifted up the hood and, though he hadn't a clue about cars, in time honoured fashion, he proceeded to look all the same. None the wiser, he cursed the car and, exasperated, laid his head against the roof of the car. All of a sudden, a voice called out in a slow God-like voice:

"Reconnect the leads !"

This he did almost automatically, as if it were preordained, such was his

The Ents crew will always shout at the people at the front of the crowd to move back, even though there is about 200 people standing behind them in

shock at hearing the voice and his resulting desire to get the hell out of there. Struggling into the car, he glanced to where the voice came from: a black horse with a mischievous twinkle in its eye. The man sped off down the road - a new machine. He stopped at the nearest public house and knocked back three brandies in as many minutes. The barman, bursting with curiosity, made his way over towards the man and proceeded to polish some glasses near where the man was seated. The man recounted his tale about the bizarre incident. The barman probed further:

"It wasn't, by any chance, a big black horse"

"Indeed it was.", he enthused.

"You're lucky", the barman added, "there's usually a white horse in that same spot and he hasn't a clue about cars."



# Ed's Laws

Gathering around the college, I thought of perhaps a few more Ed's Laws which would perhaps strike a cord with others.

## The Paddocks

There will always be a queue the size of a Russian bread queue when you want to have a meal in the Paddocks.

There is always tables when you go into the Paddocks but never any after you have bought your meal.

You will always if lucky get a seat beside the door, which seems to have a brass monkey chair factor or -SOC blowing through it.

You will always get stuck beside someone who seems to be in a race to make twenty cigarettes as quickly as possible.

## The Stables

Just as you want to order a pint, everyone else in the Stables just happens to have the same idea.

The barman will always leave your change in a pool of beer on the counter, which instantly soaks your pocket when you put the change in and proceeds to weld itself to the material afterwards.

You always seem to get served by Ugh the pig farmer who thinks that yesterday's Guinness from the slop buckets is still alright to be served.

The barman will always smash your pint down on the counter, splashing out half its contents and giving you a fingerprint of his thumb in the head of the pint just for good measure.

The drink promotion will always have ended just two minutes before you order the drink that was on special offer.

The bar that has just taken you half an hour to struggle towards will always have a helpful barman who explains to you that the main bar isn't serving the special promotion.

You will always get splashed by some prick who thinks that it is smart to hold his drinks above his head so that they don't get spilled.

Five pints can not be carried by one person.

You will always be wearing a white shirt and never a black shirt when you stick your elbow into a pool of beer on a table in the Stables.

On arriving late into the Stables, you will find the only free place to stand is beside the cigarette machine and you will proceed to get a continued blast of not so fresh air from those hippie people who believe using deodorant under the arms ruins the ozone layer.

If you arrive late, you will always end up standing beside the fire escape doors and have pricks knocking on the windows of the doors all night trying to get in.

The night you forget to bring along your University I.D. card, is the night that they check all students before allowing them into the Stables.

## Ents

The Ents crew will always shout at the people at the front of the crowd to move back, even though there is about 200 people standing behind them in

the queue.

When there is a crush to get on the buses, the Ents crew always decide its much smarter to teach all the people at the front of the queue a lesson by closing the bus doors, and means someone ends up with a tyre imprint on their face, as they are crushed against a wheel.

Buses for Ents never arrive for an hour and then arrive in either two's or three's.

Someone in the middle of the crowd always has to relieve himself as he can't move to the nearest tree and everyone afterwards thinks their best friend stinks as they don't realise that the river of beer flowing under them really isn't beer.

The stamp you get when you go to an Ents Disco will either not last to the end of the night or else won't go away for a week afterwards.

The night the stamp wears out is the night that no-one is stamping anyone's arm on the way out and the Ents crew won't believe your Mother Teresa impression that you did to try and convince them that your were at the Disco.

The empty seat on the bus is always surrounded by Christie Moore Wantabers who try to out shout each other when singing "Ride On", when all you want to do is to go to sleep.

The mucky stuff under a table at a disco is always someone's dinner - its just a pity that they have already ate it.

You will always be standing beside a speaker in a disco when Ber decides to do his announcements for the night.

The night that God decides that Limerick should have all the rain it missed out on over the Summer is the night the Ents bus doesn't show up for an hour and all you are wearing is a t-shirt, it was hot when you left the house.

## The Toilets

If you are dying for a crap, the only cubicle that you can find is the one that has no lock on the door and involves trying to balance yourself so you hit the target and at the same time have one foot wedged against the door.

The time you forget to check to see if the seat lid is dry to sit down on is the time someone before you has sprayed the seat with something else and it isn't water.

Always check that there is toilet paper left before you go to the toilet as

the time you don't is the time that there is only two sheets left on the roll and you don't have any tissues left in your pocket.

The day you decide to take an attack of diarrhoea is the day that the cleaners decide to clean all the toilets in the University at the same time and have helpful little notices on all the toilet doors.

For lads, the night hat good old willy wonder decides not to perform is the night that you end up standing at the middle urinal with people on either side smiling at your failure with you saying I didn't really have to go anyway.

## Library

The book you want out on long loans, will always have a reservation stamped on it already.

Someone will always kindly hide sorry misplaced that one important reprint.

After queuing for the photocopier for around half an hour, you will never have enough units left on your photocopying card to photocopy all the notes you want to.

The one important book in the long loans will always be honestly misplaced somewhere in women's studies by total accident.

The library will always have the recommended text by your lecturer in stock unfortunately, the recommended text is the 9th edition and the one in stock is always the 1915 smelling of vomit 2nd edition.

## In General

The time that you don't have a card for the card phones is the day, that the 3 card phones in the mall are free and the coin phone has a queue of five people.

The other queue in student services will always move faster than the one you're in.

No-one is the right person when you go to them to get a form signed and it is always someone else.

The free pass you have for a disco in Limerick will always apply to some other night.

You will always have less money in your bank account than you think you have.

The exam that involves writing five essays in two hours is the exam where you take a cramp after five minutes of starting the exam.

Anthony Smyth

# McELLAGOTT COACHES

Clarina, Co. Limerick.

Tel.: 061-353477 or 353019. Fax: 061-353035



# Hold On

Wednesday the 13th March (week 5) sees the world premiere of Matt Hamilton's new play "Hold On". Being staged by UL Drama Society, the play will preview in the Johnathan Swift on that evening, before heading off to ISDA (Irish Student Drama Association) the following week and returning to UL in week 7.

Obviously as writer/actor/producer, Matt is very much the central figure behind this venture. Artsing Around managed to get him to take some time out from his busy schedule to talk to us about what it is like for a UL student to take on such an onerous task. We hope that this will be the first in a series of such interviews with students who have used their time in college to realise their ambitions. So without any further ado we present 'dream-chaser' number one : Matthew Hamilton.

First off Matt, could you briefly outline what the play, is about ?

Matt: Essentially it is about the

same for me as for most students.

You wrote the play yourself. How did you find that process ?

Matt: Most of the real "work" is just thought. For the first six months I only actually wrote about two pages of dialogue. Everything else was written in the form of a constantly evolving structure of the play, ideas for different themes/plot strands and the odd sentence that I could write a scene around. Once I had enough ideas and a clear enough structure I spent the last three months writing and rewriting dialogue.

Are you happy with the result ?

Matt: Yes. I am very pleased and given the quality of people involved in the production am confident that the play will turn out to be something I'll be proud of.

You say your pleased with the people involved. Who are these people ?

Matt: The play is the directorial debut of Rob O Meara (president UL Drama Soc.) and he has been doing a great job in getting very fine performances from the cast members. Mark

Matt: Yes. A lot. Particularly because there seems to be a general unwillingness to bring original scripts to ISDA. Last year UL was the only competing university that brought a new play (Tom Pius' "Easter") to the competition. Given that there is no real price of failure (beyond embarrassment !) at college level drama, it is a real pity that more people don't avail of the opportunity to put on their own show.

At the moment you are in the rehearsal/production phase. How easy/difficult is it to put on a play in UL ?

Matt: Very easy. The Drama Society are very eager to put on plays. If anyone has a script (their own or somebody else's) they would like to see produced, just get in touch with anyone in the society. They will put you in touch with the right people in the Drama Soc to give support and encouragement. There is so no need to be sheepish - we want plays to be put on. So now you know you've no excuse !

Finally, when can people get to see "Hold On" ?



UL student to take on such an onerous task. We hope that this will be the first in a series of such interviews with students who have used their time in college to realise their ambitions. So without any further ado we present 'dream-chaser' number one : Matthew Hamilton.

First off Matt, could you briefly outline what the play, is about ?

Matt: Essentially it is about the relationships between four very different people and how these relationships unravel after a dangerous assault. It involves grief, infatuation and the success/failure of differing types of friendship.

So it's a comedy ?

Matt: Not exactly.....The play has a serious theme but in order to make the whole thing bearable there is a fair sprinkling of lightheartedness. I feel very lucky in that the cast (particularly Katerina) possess great comic flair. Thus even the simple situations have been rendered quite humorous by acting talent alone.

Seeing as the play is written by a student about four students, do you think that a UL audience will easily identify with it ?

Matt: I would think so. People who have read the play tend to respond well to it for that reason. The things I am interested in writing about have been shaped by my experiences. Given that university has provided the most important experiences in my life for the last five years, I think there will be the

Matt: Yes. I am very pleased and given the quality of people involved in the production am confident that the play will turn out to be something I'll be proud of.

You say your pleased with the people involved. Who are these people ?

Matt: The play is the directorial debut of Rob O Meara (president UL Drama Soc.) and he has been doing a great job in getting very fine performances from the cast members. Mark Hewitt plays Sean, the central character, and has managed to bring both vulnerability and intelligence to the role. Tracie Keenan is a wonderfully perky Aisling, while Katerina Karavatou is reveling in her role as the Greek temptress Elena Illium.

The play has been selected to represent UL Drama Society at ISDA. Is that something your looking forward to ?

Matt: Very easy. The Drama Society are very eager to put on plays. If anyone has a script (their own or somebody else's) they would like to see produced, just get in touch with anyone in the society. They will put you in touch with the right people in the Drama Soc to give support and encouragement. There is so no need to be sheepish - we want plays to be put on. So now you know you've no excuse !

Finally, when can people get to see "Hold On" ?

Matt: Well, the preview is provisionally booked for Wednesday of week 5. In week 6, we're off to ISDA in UCC and in week 7 we return to UL several more performances.

Sounds like a busy schedule. The best of luck at ISDA. I for one am looking forward to seeing it.

Matt: Thanks.

# Arts Days 1996

As we go to print, those busy little beavers in the Arts Office are putting the finishing touches to the programme for Arts Days 1996. details of events already lined up can be found in the Arts Diary on this page. At a glance the obvious highlight so far is the poetry reading by Pat Ingoldsby on Tuesday 19th at 1pm. There is little to say about this gig. The man is a prophet, a shining star. Don't miss him. Further details on Arts Days 1996 in the next issue.



# Artsing Around

## Arts Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time/£</u>	<u>Key</u>
Thur 7th	Peter Browne & Peadar O'Loughlin	Bourn Vincent	1.15pm/free	M
Thur 7th	Funny Bones	Jean Monnet	7.30pm/£1.50	F
Fri 8th to Sat 4th May	EV+A96	everywhere	all day/mostly free	FA
Fri 8th & Sat 9th	International Performance Art	Belltable	11am to 5pm	FA
Sat 9th	A Masked Ball	Workshops	£10 (unwaged)	
Sun 10th	Colonel Chabert	Concert Hall	8pm/£13,£15,£17.50	M
Mon 11th	Christine Tobin	Belltable	8pm/£3	F
Mon 11th	Saturday Night Fever	City Gallery	8pm	M
Tue 12th	Christine Tobin, Phil Robinson, Steve Watts & Paul Clarvis	Baker Place	11.30pm/£3	M/D
		Bourn Vincent	1.15pm/free	M
Tue 12th	Exotica	Jean Monnet	7.30pm/£1.50	F
Tue 12th	Nigel Rolfe (Arts Speak)	King Johns Castle	8pm/£1	FA
Wed 13th	Hold On	Johnny Swift	7.30pm/£1.50	T
Wed 13th	National Symphony Orchestra	Concert Hall	8pm/£8,£10,£12	M
Thur 14th	Claire Keiville & Liam Lewis	Bourn Vincent	1.15pm/free	M
Thur 14th	The Hudsucker Proxy	Jean Monnet	7.30pm/£1.50	F
Fri 15th	The Hollies	Concert Hall	8pm	M
Sat 16th	International Drill & Dance Team Competition	Concert Hall	11am/£2	D
Mon. 18th to Sat 23rd	Stepping Out	Belltable	8pm/£3	T
Mon 18th	Suzanne Murphy	Concert Hall	8pm/£8,£10	M
Tue 19th	Pat Ingoldsby	Student Centre	1pm/free	L
Tue 19th	Hibernia String Trio	Bourn Vincent	1.15pm/free	M
Tue 19th	Hoop Dreams	Jean Monnet	7pm/£1.50	F
Tue 19th	Vincent Woods (Arts Speak)	King Johns Castle	8pm/£1	T
Tue 19th	Limerick International Band Recital Competition	Concert Hall	8pm/£4	M
Wed 20th	Pat Bracken	Student Centre	1pm/free	P
Wed 20th	The Alternative Guide to EV+A	Bus Stop	2pm/free	FA
Wed 20th	Emma Christian & Peter Cubberly	Bourn Vincent	1.15pm/free	M
Wed 20th	Schindlers List	Jean Monnet	7pm/£1.50	F
Thur 21st	Maire Smith & Hamish Moore	Bourn Vincent	1.15pm/free	M
Thur 21st	Nigel Kennedy	Concert Hall	8pm	M
Thur 21st	Mind Your P's and Q's	Jean Monnet	8pm/free	M
Fri 22nd	Ceri Matthews & Julie Murphy	Bourn Vincent	1.15pm/free	M
Fri 22nd	Nicholas Ross	Jean Monnet	8pm	M

Key: D = Dance F = Film L = Literary M = Music P = Puppetry T = Theatre VA = Visual Arts



# INTERNET OR INTERNMENT ???

Last week I read a couple of articles about that awful story:

A Danish student committed suicide in the States and we also heard that they were members of a neo-Nazi death cult from Norway. I was really shocked and could not make sense of it.

But now I think that we should focus our attention on the regulations concerning the Internet.

Are there any regulations whatsoever?

Is it possible to prevent users from having access to destructive programs?

Should each country set a number of rules and make sure that everyone is following them?

I have heard that the Germans had decided to protect young children by not allowing some companies that send X-rated programs to operate in Germany. Is it possible to censor programs at all. I wonder, but maybe those of you who are so hot with computers and so on, you can tell me how it works.

Although I am fully for freedom of speech, I find it hard not to accuse people who send degrading/disturbing/sickening programs of committing serious crimes.

But now why is it that everytime a new means of communication is created, it ends up in sex and/or violence.

Something quite similar happened to the French Minitel. This creative and very practical inven-

tion was first used as a phone directory, then more services joined in e.g. for bookings of all sorts, buying and selling etc... then games from TV channels and radio stations appeared.

Finally they got what they call "le Minitel rose", a service to link people to each other to have sexy talks.

Several times however things went further, i.e. one of the callers gave his/her address to the other one and was attacked by that same person.

It has not stop French people from using those lines anyway but it has taught them to be more careful.

So what do you think we should do about the Internet?

Should we censor political and ideological propaganda on the grounds that it might disturb some of the users???

Should we let people decide what is best for them and hope that no more people will commit suicide after joining a group on the Internet???

Should we punish those who sent those sick programs inciting to warfare and other gruesome behaviours?

It would be nice from those of you who are regular Internet users if you could drop us a line to tell us if you have encountered weird programs, or what you think needs to be done about possible regulations of the Internet.

See you all soon! And I hope that I got you thinking too.  
BB



**an Focal:**

**The Newspaper of the University of Limerick Students' Union**

**Tel.: (061) 333644 ext 2363/2447 Fax: 335033**

**Editor:**

Duncan O'Toole

**Design & Layout:**

Anne O'Connell

**Advertising:**

Gearóid Prendergast

**Clubs & Societies:**

John Reilly

**Sports Editor:**

Dave Conway

**Arts Editor:**

Billy Madden

**Photographer:**

John Reilly, Gisela Gnirke

**Editorial Team:**

Greg Tynan, Sinead Maher, Gary Halpin, Fiona Hynes,  
Ruth Scott, Joanne Mara, Padraig Fox, Anthony Smyth,  
Breanda Kilgannon, Eoghan O'Meara, Brian Synnott,  
Lorna Kerin, Damian Maloney, Sinead & Emer.