

STUDENTS' UNION



# *an Focal*

University of Limerick Students Union

TERM 1  
WEEK 5

INSIDE

PRESEDENTIAL  
CANDIDATES

HOT THINGS  
IN THE KITCHEN

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY D(uh) !!!

"Sorry love, the networks down again." If you had a crisp fiver for every time you heard one of those harassed ladies of ITD announce that you have to start your project you'd be a .....£%^"\$£\$£@>L....

So lets see, over the past two years ITD and with it UL has migrated from slow, prone to crashing Windows 3.1 to slower, doomed to crashing and - 'whoops sorry I ate your password' NT. And the result of course

countries most technically advanced college the computer system has some very serious inherent flaws.

It doesn't work.

When it does work it's bloody slow.

Even when it works

ments or samples as the print room shuts down at 6pm.

Chronic overbooking of PC labs by power trippy lab assistants who block book 30 PC's for 2-4 hours for a class of 6!

Inefficient workstations in overcrowded labs.

A chronically understaffed and underfunded print room.

ITD but they are victims themselves of a scandalous history of underfunding and lack of support from the university authorities on high according to sources.

Without proper backup and financing ITD can do little more than stick the finger into the hole and patch up the plasterwork with the odd batch of freshly minted PC's which end up



PRESEDENTIAL  
CANDIDATES

HOT THINGS  
IN THE KITCHEN

BAR CHOCOLATE

CLUB & SOCS

ENTS NEWS

DONAL DEER

CAPTION  
COMPETITION  
RESULTS

THE SCANTY  
BANTERER

.....E%^\ "\$E\$E@>L....

So lets see, over the past two years ITD and with it UL has migrated from slow, prone to crashing Windows 3.1 to slower, doomed to crashing and - 'whoops sorry I ate your password' NT. And the result of course even after two years of promises is still an appalling mess.

Now not only do we have NT, but because the network can no longer cope, the ITD dept. have "regressed" (if that's the correct term for it) down to Windows 95. Not that this matters to the average student, as the message on the screen is invariably Network error has occurred, please contact a room supervisor. Said supervisor hasn't a clue what's wrong and is under too much pressure to work it out. The end result is half the PC's can't print, one quarter can't logon, while the other 25% are in limbo waiting for the damn computer to boot up and come to life.

In this, reputedly the

countries most technically advanced college the computer system has some very serious inherent flaws.

It doesn't work.

When it does work it's bloody slow.

Even when it works slowly, the keyboard, mouse, or disk drive packs in.

If you're lucky enough to avoid all of these pitfalls you still have plenty of other obstacles in the form of .....

Email which refuses to work correctly and is down for a number of hours a day.

Computer systems all configured erratically so that fonts, drivers and applications are only accessible on certain particular machines

Internet access on only a handful of machines many of which only operate after 6pm.

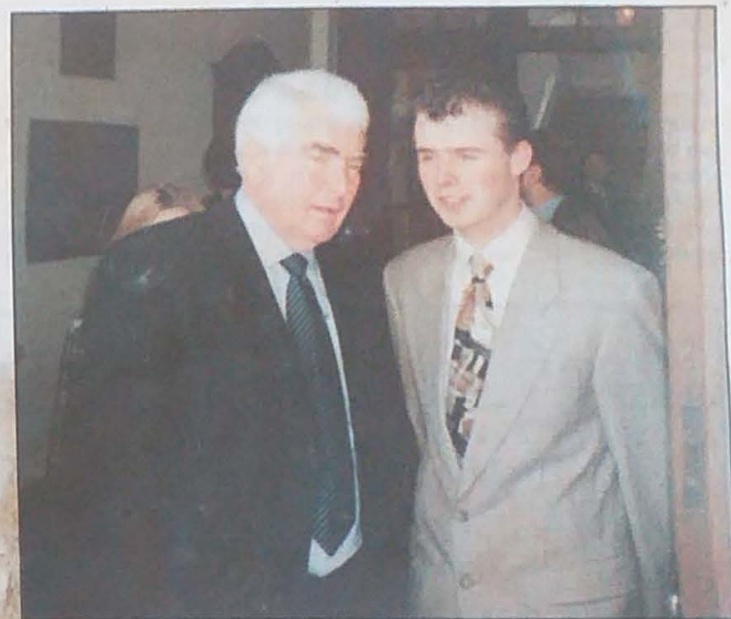
This is a particularly sore point for many final year students who have internet based FYP's who encounter difficulties in both researching on printing docu-

assistants who block book 30 PC's for 2-4 hours for a class of 6!

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**Presidential Candidate Derek Nally with  
SU President Bobby O'Connor:  
'Of course you have my vote, Bobby!'**

No 24-hour access to computer facilities.

And these are just some of the serious and pressing issues in Week 5. God help the network as deadlines approach closer to weeks 10-12 and our power trippy lab assistant will now have 2 people in lab and 40 people queuing outside for 90 minutes.

Its easy to list off a schedule of the failings of

being "appropriated" by departments for "administrative" rather than undergraduate use.

But it's the same old story. Its great to have a whipping boy but the people who are really to blame for UL's computer inadequacies probably never turn on their own top of the range model - except maybe to play solitaire.

Narky.

### **CORRECTION**

*In the last edition of 'an Focal', reference was made on the front page article to a 'secret' committee being set up to find a new president. This was incorrect, and should have read 'search'. (Bobby O'Connor has promised to improve his handwriting)*



## Ivan's Two Cents...

Well, here we are, hopefully back on track with 'an Focal' coming out when we originally said it would...though if this is late, please accept my heartfelt apologies, and rest assured that it won't happen again...blah blah blah. Here you hold, for the first time this year, a sixteen page 'an Focal'....thanks to everybody for the contributions....and sorry to those whose stuff didn't make it in. As someone relatively new to this lark of bringing out some sort of periodical, one begins to find that one gets good at it when it's too late. I think what I'm trying to say is that by the end of Semester Two, I'll have gotten the hang of it properly, so you can all look forward to that!

Anyway, on to other topics. I can't believe the lack of Class Reps that have been nominated/proposed/call it what you will. I should say that they ARE important, and for two very good reasons. Firstly, when it comes to representing your class when approaching lecturers, or approaching the Students Union. It's difficult for us (and more so for lecturers) to know everybody all the time, and what class they're in, but if one person is appointed it makes our job a bit easier, and ensures that we can place faces with particular problems. The second reason is when it comes to Class parties. Keith Pigott has been inundated with people coming into him trying to organise parties, on one particular day, he had thirteen people all from the same class wanting a party. For him, that's very trying. One person

appointed would make things a lot more efficient. Therefore, if you don't have a class rep- GET ONE. And don't necessarily wait for somebody else to do it...go for it yourself. Forms are available from the Students Union office, and, assuming that your class doesn't have one (or two, if there's more than 25 in the class) then you can be one.

So, what else did the last two weeks hold for us down here in the courtyard. The big thing over the last week or so was the Clubs and Societies Administration Weekend and then budgeting proposals. The weekend went rather well, and the refreshments afterwards were more than welcome, with certain clubs going to extraordinary lengths to prove their commitment to Clubs'n'Socs. (Hello Womens Hockey.....9 pints each and still wanting more?!?!)

I've very little else to say, except to say that at the moment I'm wrecked tired - the Guinness promotion on Tuesday in the Stables is still taking its toll (mind you I did win CD and a T-shirt, thanks to Micheal Healy's intimate knowledge of tacky 80's music), and I've got the rest of the paper to put together.

Till the next time

Keep warm

Ivan

## Letter to the Editor

### NEANDERTHAL MAN NOT YET EXTINCT

Dear Editor,  
I wish to respond to the article in last weeks Opinion by "Cinneide" in which a student who may or may not have been male, expressed

suggesting that she intimidated him both at the lecture and afterwards, is, I, believe, unjustified. I also attended this introductory lecture as did several other male students. I can confirm that this introductory lecture was interesting, appropriate and was not threatening to me and should not have been seen as

tutorials which we have attended so far, I have been impressed by the quality of the lecture material and the impartiality of the lecturers.

"Cinneide" said he wished he had not neglected to wear a pair of steel boxers to the introductory lecture. I was going to suggest he purchase a pair anyway as he is likely to need them. However, as he obviously either does not have a first name or does not have the courage to reveal

# NEWS

## PAISLEY AND ADAMS TO DANCE FOR PEACE

In another world exclusive, An Focal is delighted to announce that Mr. Gerry Adams (MP) of Sinn Féin and Rev. Ian Paisley (MP) of the DUP are to put aside their differences and embark on a nationwide concert tour to promote peace. In an interview with BBC television on last Tuesday, Mr. Reg Empey of the UUP said "We really need to get down". This call was echoed by Mr. John Hume of the SDLP during the same interview and it was with this backing that Mr. Adams and Rev. Paisley yesterday announced their plan. While very few dates have yet been confirmed, it is almost certain that the pair will include Dublin's Point Theatre and The Ulster Hall in Belfast among the dates on their four month jaunt. All proceeds from the show are to go to charities involved in the propagation of peace in Northern Ireland.

The form the show will take is still, understandably, rather sketchy although it was described by one source close to the performers to be "a sort of a 'Riverdance-ey', 'Lord of the Dance-ey' sort of thing". Another insider exclusively revealed that, once negotiations began, late last week, it quickly emerged that Rev. Paisley was keen to include a



## Letter to the Editor

### NEANDERTHAL MAN NOT YET EXTINCT

Dear Editor,  
I wish to respond to the article in last weeks Opinion by "Cinneide" in which a student who may or may not have been male, expressed derogatory and inaccurate views on the Women's Studies course. While we all appreciate a bit of humour, the stupidity of the views expressed in this article was neither funny nor appropriate. His personalised attack on the lecturer, by

suggesting that she intimidated him both at the lecture and afterwards, is, I, believe, unjustified. I also attended this introductory lecture as did several other male students. I can confirm that this introductory lecture was interesting, appropriate and was not threatening to me and should not have been seen as threatening to any other male or female student who attended it. So much so that a number of male students, including myself, have decided to join the Womens Studies course. In all the lectures and

tutorials which we have attended so far, I have been impressed by the quality of the lecture material and the impartiality of the lecturers.

"Cinneide" said he wished he had not neglected to wear a pair of steel boxers to the introductory lecture. I was going to suggest he purchase a pair anyway as he is likely to need them. However, as he obviously either does not have a first name or does not have the courage to reveal it, then he may well have nothing for the boxers to protect. Neanderthal man will never be fully extinct as long as the likes of "Cinneide" roam outside of their caves.

Edward Horgan

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The form the show will take is still, understandably, rather sketchy although it was described by one source close to the performers to be "a sort of a 'Riverdance-ey', 'Lord of the Dance-ey' sort of thing". Another insider exclusively revealed that, once negotiations began, late last week, it quickly emerged that Rev. Paisley was keen to include a Highland Fling in the spectacular, while Mr. Adams felt that the Siege of Ennis should also be encompassed. When asked if the Nationalist and the Unionist would be on the same side of the Siege, the source refused to say for certain but hinted that it was a possibility.

When we approached politicians and performers on both sides of the divide last night, their were mixed responses. Dana said that she would be delighted to perform in such an event, while Mr. David Trimble said that he would go to the show, but as "Sinn Féin-IRA are involved, I refuse to enjoy it". Commentators south of the border observed that the two men had given us all so much entertainment over the years with their ready wit and banter that, in some ways, this tour was merely the next logical step.

When asked what the show would be called, Mr. Adams replied that it was "now up to the British Government to think of a name for our extravaganza", adding that "there is only so much we can do without them giving a little". The whole island awaits.

This pile of complete bollix was brought to you by Healy & Healy Schizophrenics (Ireland) Ltd.

## Blood Transfusion Service Board

The BTSB will be in the University on  
**Thursday 6th November and Wednesday 12th November**  
from 3.30 to 5pm in

**THE STUDENT CENTRE**

*The Student Services Handbook  
containing all academic rules etc., is  
available from the Student Services  
Office and the Students Union*



## THE SCANTY BANTERER

Ordinarily I'd have no time for the politics of the North with its liberal allowance of shit-stirrers and wrinkling windbags. However, listening to Ian Paisley recently on one Radio One's "This Week" programme reminded me of the extent of blindness and hypocrisy amongst the ranters-and-ravers of the North.

I quote: "It is a difficult situation, but one which can only be had (sic. resolved?) by democracy." Democracy? The novelty of the word drove me to the dictionary... ('system of government favouring social equality'. Ox. Dic. 9e). It struck me that if Paisley - and indeed others involved on all sides-favoured social equality and embraced democracy, there wouldn't be an issue. Novel, I know...

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There is a advert on Sky One at the moment which really sickens me. "Dream Team", Sky's new lads' soccer sensation appears to be nothing more than the masturbating of a stereotype. The blatant and lurid association it makes between sex and soccer is immature, in bad taste and, at the very least, misguided. It represents, for me, the glorification of a stereotype which dictates that every young lad ought to aspire to being a shit-cool soccer-star who'll be duely rewarded with his choice of jaundised women.

Granted, there are people who would gladly make this their lot in life - but aren't they the minority? Reassure me that people are growing-up out there with their own lives and visions and aren't letting any herd of sheep, let alone Sky One, steal their person and their independance of thought.

Yours,  
SCANTY

## 'Them and Us'

What is the value of a college education to the people that aren't getting one? Quite honestly, I believe that those without degrees have more respect for them than people who do. In that regard, the student population, as a whole, is taken as something like a separate culture.

Certain marketing ploys are directed specifically at students, as well as travel fares, ticket prices, and pizza as a study food. All of this sets students aside. Almost like something to be revered. So now I need to put forth the question, what good is a college to a community?

For the most of my experience, a college is taken to be a community resource. That is, those that are lucky enough live near a college can enjoy the benefits

of a constant influx of speakers on a variety of topics, or musical performances, not to mention thousands of students willing to work hard for low pay. It has also been my experience that nearly every social organization has had a community outreach program as part of their charter. It was merely a way of sharing university resources with those, who typically have no access to it. It is a way of acting on the education that you have worked for. In a more glorified sense, it is a way of sharing your talents or interests with the world. Something like that can be simple as a talk show on Wired 103, or a community clean-up project through the Environmental Club.

In few weeks that I have been here, I have seen that a majority of the societies are

intrinsically motivated. Now, there is nothing wrong with that, because it protects and acts on the interests of the students. It does however, serve to remove the college from the community as a resource, creating an 'us and them' situation.

By increasing the interactions between the college and the community all parties stand to gain. The community benefits from the natural resources of thousands of intelligent students while the college receives terrific public relations accolades. If all organizations did just one thing to contribute to the community of Limerick as a whole, then a sort of symbiotic relationship can be set up between UL and Limerick. Under that sort of arrangement everybody wins.

Michael Davis

## FOURTH BUSINESS SPEAK OUT!



sheep, let alone Sky One, steal their person and their independence of thought.

Yours,  
SCANTY

# SERGEI

Hi my name is Sergei. I am 2nd year Business Studies Student here at UL and I would like to tell you something about myself and the country I come from.

I come from the Republic of Belarus.

Belarus borders Poland to the east, Lithuania to the north, Russia to the west and Ukraine to the South. I come from the city of Brest.

Up until the break up of the Republics, the town I come from was known as "the gateway to the USSR" because it was the most easterly town in Belarus.

My town is famous for what happened there during WW2. After the war had begun my town was the first place the Germans attacked in their onslaught against the USSR which started at 4AM the 22nd of June, 1941. We have a famous song which describes the events of this time. It tells the story of 'Brest Hero Fortress', which managed to hold out against the German attack for more than one month even though half of the Fortresses soldiers were away on drills when it was attacked unexpectedly.

During the Second World War Belarus suffered greatly.

The German occupation of Belarus resulted in the deaths of 2.2 million people (more than one in four of its

population), the destruction of 209 cities and townships, and 9,200 villages, and uncounted material losses.

After the war Belarus became part of Soviet Communist Bloc.

On August 25th, 1991 Belarus declared independence and on December 8th of the same year Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine formed the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Soviet Union had in effect come to an end. Today Belarus is a democratic country which holds free elections for President.

On April 26th 1986 we suffered our biggest tragedy - The Chernobyl explosion. Seventy percent of the fallout of this nuclear explosion has covered southeastern Belarus with radioactive dust. It will stay there for thousands of years.

I have been in Ireland for almost two months now and I am enjoying the experience very much. Your culture is very different to my own but I am astounded at the warmth of the welcome I have received in my short time here. I look forward to the year ahead with optimism and hope to make some good friends during my stay at the University of Limerick.

## FOURTH BUSINESS SPEAK OUT!

The fourth year Business Class has just returned from co-op. Boy! Have some things changed. Fortunately other things haven't. We decided, after a monster feed of Guinness, to compile two lists.

### 1) Some things never change.

- The barstaff in the Stables. They're fresh and enthusiastic - as always.
- UL is still the "College of Queues".
- The food - same shite, different year.
- Despite Co-op we're still broke.
- We're broke but can still afford to get pissed. Go figure!!!!
- The library. Need we say more?
- Lecturers. Has anyone ever said "Yipee - I love nine o'clocks"? Well?
- The weather. Its still raining.
- The Banklink is still called the drinklink.
- Our Friends.

To all the old mates - thanks for three wonderful years and heres to the most memorable yet. To new friends, we have just one question. What took us so long?

### 2) Whats going on?

- The barstaff in the stables. New, fresh and enthusiastic members now grace the floorboards of the pub.
- The Guinness has improved - I think. Mind you students would drink piss if its cheap enough and has a high enough alcohol content.
- The number of good looking men has improved. It's gone from zero to three.
- The majestic gates that one passed through to reach the wonderland that is the UL campus have been replaced by those goddamn awful looking yokes. Anyone who compares Leonardos fantastic architecture to those things must be on a very strong mixture of illegal substances.
- The leprosy colonies have been built. Smokers are now officially second class citizens, outcasts from main-stream society in UL. Yippee. Now theres nothing bad to worry about. Nuclear warfare? The ozone problem? Being struck by lightening? Banishing smokers has changed things so much .....(???)
- The addition of new rooms that no one can find. Theres no updated maps. This has to be the most legitimate excuse for missing lectures ever and its not even our fault. Cheers!
- We're still writing daft articles for "an Focal".
- The number of first years has increased plus they know where they're going unlike half the fourth year Business Class who are lost and keep asking for directions.
- All our friends have moved house and we can't figure out where they now live.
- Life turned nasty on our class. We miss our friends.



# BAR CHOCOLATE!!

## Criminalise Chocolate

*No, this isn't an article on dieting. Nor am I a chocoholic looking for revenge. No. This writer is calling for the illegalisation of chocolate. Why? Well, recent debate for the legalisation of cannabis got me thinkin'...*

Don't marijuana and chocolate have a lot in common? Both of them make you feel good. Neither of them is addictive. One keeps Colombians in Employment, the other Pakistanis. One makes you thin, the other makes you fat. Neither of them is too harmful to your health, neither ever killed anyone. Both are soft drugs (depending on how long they were in your

pocket). So why is one illegal and one legal? Why does Big Brother feel it necessary to protect us from pot yet it leaves us scoff down Yorkies and Caramel Wispas till we develop extra facial features? Don't politicians notice that chocolate is destroying our country? Everywhere I look I am tempted by it - in supermarkets and shops, Presidential candidates throw them at be for votes, Christ there even spiking my drink with it and they call it 'Hot chocolate'. Well I've had enough. It's about time it was driven underground.

People have the wrong idea about creating another

underground black market. They think it is bad. Well it's not. Let me explain... A recent marijuana protester (on the anti-legalisation side) argued that if marijuana was legalised then drug dealers would not leave the black market but they would change to another. You see, this implies that there is a set number of drug dealers involved in the black market. Therefore, as things become legalised and criminalised their numbers stay the same, they simply move to a different drug. Criminalising chocolate will then, cause a movement in their numbers from harder drugs to this new soft drug. Therefore, criminalising chocolate would cause a decrease

in the supply of hard drugs!

But this isn't the only advantage of criminalisation. Whenever a drug goes underground it is given real cool names like pot and smack and silage (bet you never heard of that one...). The names of chocolate bars would be given a whole new face lift - Mars bars could become known as "Black Martians", a Twix could become a "Twixie" and a Snickers could become well... answers on a postcard please.

Still not convinced? Well ponder this; think of how easy drug tests would become. No more blood tests or piss-takes (sorry, urine samples) - a simple facial flab test would do the trick. And think of

all those TV ads that will vanish - that patronising "Norm" Twix add, that Roses ad where two old grannies high on Mars bars lift a two tonne truck, not to mention those Milk Tray ads where a dark stranger feeds the poor woman's habit every night in exchange for sexual favours.

I've done my bit. Now its up to you. Please send a letter to your local politician demanding an end to this madness. Or better still, stand outside a shop door frowning at the chocolate buying public as they enter and exit. Together we can make a difference. You've got your whole future in front of you - don't waste it.

PW



# THE JOY OF LIFE

Thag chewed on his freshly cooked piece of saber-tooth tiger. As he did so he began to ponder his existence as the only person alive. He felt the need for something to occupy his evenings and so he set out on a quest for entertainment. At first, being the only man alive, he encountered many difficulties on his search for a social life. After years of self manipulation he knew that it was time to move on.

At this time Thag turned to pseudo-machoism and put himself through extreme torture, but he enjoyed it. Accidentally, as he was rubbing himself with a thornbush, Thag knocked off a rib. The rib fell into a puddle of white gunk(which was a result of his earlier self-manipulation) and so woman was born. Thag loved and respected woman and he took it upon himself to educate her. He began with Mathematics. Soon, Thag had discovered multiplication he invented interesting ways of demonstration. This discovery marked the end of womans education and the beginning of mans recreation. Thag had become a powerful new being known as MAN.

For many millions of years man enjoyed his superiority over woman. Woman meanwhile had begun to grow tired of her inferiority and so set out to get an education. Contrary to the belief of man, woman was not

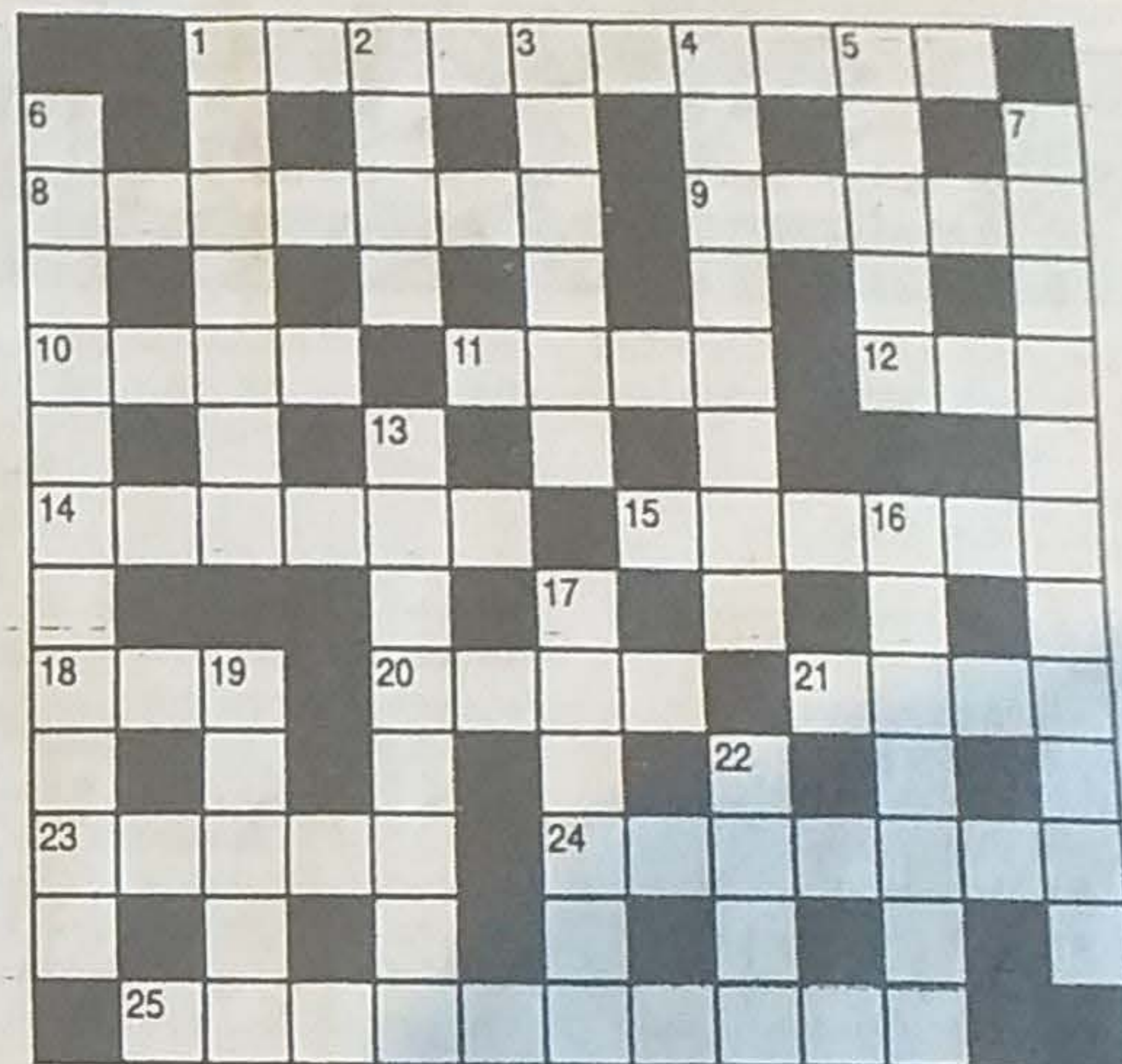
an ignorant and stupid creature. Soon she had learned to cook, knit and mud-wrestle. Woman now moved on to study Mathematics for herself.

Man remained in ignorance of womans Renaissance. One day to mans great horror, woman learned the sacred mystery of Subtraction. Now woman had the ways and means of manipulating man. Man was driven to worshipping woman religiously and groveling at her feet. He tried to win her over with sweet-smelling aftershave and chocolates.

Woman indulged herself with the chocolates and grew repulsive and large. Man stopped his worship of woman and so she had to once again attract his attention. To do this she invented the bikini, the leather skirt and dieting. They worked and once more multiplication became popular.

Soon, Man and Woman grew tired of conventional multiplication and tried new and exciting forms. First there was multiplication with more than two, later followed Inversion, and then multiplication in illegal places. New Mathematical tools were employed to make multiplication easier, safer and more enjoyable. Man and Woman prospered.

PATRICK KENNEDY



## ACROSS

1. Sarcastically (10)
8. Bound together (7)
9. Tree with smooth bark (5)
10. Inform (4)
11. Attic room (4)
12. Age (3)
14. Snuggle (6)
15. Agree (6)
18. Tear (3)
20. Sporting group (4)
21. Drawback (4)
23. Saltpetre (5)
24. Free time (7)
25. Wagon maker (10)

## DOWN

1. Lengths of frozen water (7)
2. Means of egress (4)
3. Under a roof (6)
4. Hope for future (8)
5. Vassal (5)
6. Ice arena (7-4)
7. Drama fan (7-4)
13. Untidy woman (8)
16. Behaviour (7)
17. Paleness (6)
19. Mediterranean-style bread (5)
22. Chinese dynasty (4)



# MURPHYS LAUNCH NEW 'MANGA' AD

Last week an invite came into the office to attend the launch of the new Murphys Stout 'Manga' animation ad. Now, as most of you know, there's no such thing as a free lunch, but there is such a thing as a free booze-up - which is why we sent **Patrick Kennedy**, investigative journalist extraordinaire and general man about town to the Kitchen, in Dublin's trendy Temple Bar to see just what the hell was going on....Ah so!

## Samurai-Silliness?

By now I'm sure most of you have noticed the new "Murphy's" advertisement that we have been treated to. Doubtless to say that it will provide many interesting jokes and impressions in the Stables (especially when they attempt to close the shutters on a nights trade). It'll probably also be responsible for reviving all the Paddy-Chinaman jokes.

Yours truly had the privilege of attending the launch of the new ad. in "The Kitchen" in Dublin last Tuesday. Great I finally get a chance to test out my journalistic skills, OK so I was really more interested in the free

a gig like this can suddenly bring you up in the world. There I was standing in the queue amid all the suits and along comes a big 6'6, 18 stone bouncer.

"Its invitation only tonight son" he said with a smirk, as though to emphasize my insignificance amid all the Armani-clad shites that he was really trying to show off to. Suddenly I flashed my invitation in his face and I became instantly important.

"All right sir, right this way sir, is there anything I can get for you sir"

"Yeah show me to the cloakroom if you can fit that stupid head in the doorway after

Inside it was clear that Murphys had spared no expense. Murals were projected onto the walls and we were greeted by Samurais. Alright so they were just dressed up people that were on parole from the 'Joy, but hey people have to work.

Then it was time for the free beer. Only Murphys or Heineken, so it was to be pisswater that'll make me fart all night or black effluent that'll mess up my head for the next day or two, OK the articles not due 'till Thursday so I went the effluent. Then we were treated to food, well sort of. Sticking to the Samurai theme we were offered Sushi and prawns. Prawns were definitely a better option, especially if you like your food to be a little more dead and a little less raw.

I ate two prawns and then noticed the Armani brigade working their way through their third plate of the crap. I switched to stealth mode and moved in looking for a more revealing story. It's amazing how most of these pretentious guys act at supposedly major social events. Everyone sits in

has to do is waltz in at five past eleven and ask the barman for a drink. 's no then he can chop off his head and serve himself. Also, I thought these guys had to achieve a high state of intelligence, why then wait 'till the last minute to dash to the pub and then just order one bottle instead of five or six?

OK, I like the new ad. and it shows a departure from other

weak attempts at entertainment( i.e. the Smithwicks pub of social rejects). But what was wrong with the old Murphys ad. What the new ad. lacks is a voice, we need that demanding "Murphys!!" cry, and maybe a few of the girls that were promoting the Samurai theme in The Kitchen!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**PATRICK KENNEDY.**



**Pictured Out and About in Dublin during the week were, Patrick Kennedy ('an Focal' hack) and an unnamed beauty....(phone number with editor!)**



Yours truly had the privilege of attending the launch of the new ad. in "The Kitchen" in Dublin last Tuesday. Great I finally get a chance to test out my journalistic skills, OK so I was really more interested in the free beer, like everyone else present. Honestly holding an invitation to

became instantly important.

"All right sir, right this way sir, is there anything I can get for you sir"

"Yeah show me to the cloakroom if you can fit that stupid head in the doorway after you remove your foot from your mouth."

noticed the Armani brigade working their way through their third plate of the crap. I switched to stealth mode and moved in looking for a more revealing story. It's amazing how most of these pretentious guys act at supposedly major social events. Everyone sits in one corner, the most senior worker always sits in the middle in the most comfortable seat. The position of the others is directly related to their ability to lick up to the guy in the middle. One guy was complimenting another on the great advertisement, only to be told that it hadn't been shown yet.

Finally the time came, seemingly they were waiting for us to get as drunk as possible so that would seem so much better. Actually it wasn't bad. I think we should definitely hire that guy with the cannon to do a job on the flagpoles. Of course there was one babe in the ad., the veritable Mary I. Student turning her head at the mere sight of a man passing the window.

One thought that has been troubling me though since I first saw the ad. Here we have this mega-hard Samurai dude busting his ass in case he misses last orders. Why? All he



*I bet she drinks Carling Black Label....(Oops!)*



*Pictured Out and About in Dublin during the week were, Patrick Kennedy ('an Focal' hack) and an unnamed beauty....(phone number with editor!)*

## Kellogs Sports Scholarship

Kellogs Sports Scholarship were awarded for the first time in 1994 and each year since, The scholarships will be awarded again in 1997. The value of each scholarship will normally be in the range of £1,000 - £2,500 per annum. All students who gain a place in a programme of study at the university, at undergraduate level are eligible to apply.

The objective of the scholarship programme is to enhance the sporting development of student athletes while also providing necessary support for the achievement of the students academic objectives.

Scholarships may be removed annually subject to satisfactory academic progress.

### How to Apply

Application forms available from the **Admissions Office, University of Limerick**, should be completed and returned by **Friday 31 October 1997**



## ON-CAMPUS CHILD CARE FACILITY

At the University of Limerick, there clearly is a need for an on-campus child care facility for use by faculty and students. Other Irish Universities such as U.C.C., U.C.D., T.C.D., and U.C.G. have or are currently building on-campus child care facilities. Their construction has been funded in the main from University budgets. Current arrangements, where the University of Limerick subsidize the rent and maintenance of a local child care facility, are unsatisfactory due to the uncertainty of the situation. There is an urgent requirement for the provision of facilities due to the implementation of the Child Care Act (1997) and because of the increased demand for child care by University staff and students over the past few years.

Following the formation of a Child Care Facility Buildings Committee, plans were drawn up by architects and agreed at a meeting of that committee on 26th May, 1995. Total cost, including furnishings and fittings was estimated at £262,900. However, in the 1997/1998 Budget Submission to Governing Body it is now listed at Academic Briefing stage, which we believe is an earlier stage. Former members of this committee are now lobbying for the issue to be given priority by the University authority. We are highlighting this issue at a variety of levels within the university and we want to bring the situation to the attention of students and staff through An Focal. The following gives the rationale for an on campus childcare facility as well as describing the current creche situation. If you have views on this issue or are willing to help the Students Union in its efforts to promote childcare to the top of decision agendas please call into my office. Your support is needed.

### Rationale for on-campus child care facility

There is a need for an on-campus child care facility for the following reasons:

- Survey in 1995 carried out jointly by the Students Union and Student Personnel Services indicate that there is a requirement from students and staff for an on-campus child care facility. Of the 73 respondents 63 parents said they would use an on campus facility on a full time basis.
- There is a University strategy to increase the number of post graduate and mature students. To be successful, this strategy should be supported by the provision of an on-campus child care facility.
- A survey carried out by Students' Union in 1996 among the student population (5%) indicates that 18% of students consider a child care facility on campus is urgent, while 64% students consider a child care facility on campus is necessary / very necessary.
- There has been an increase in the numbers of lone parents, mainly women, on campus. (Students' Union have had no inquiries from fathers). These women require a child care facility. Indeed, Students' Union have received inquiries from potential students who subsequently have deferred their college place or have

opted out of college because child care facilities have not been available.

- In the past, there has been a requirement from European and International Conferences for on-campus child care facilities. This cannot be provided at the moment, and may become an inhibiting factor for the organization of conferences on campus.
  - The Financial Aid Committee have already committed £15,000 to the building of a child care facility.
  - The University of Limerick Equal Opportunities Policy, dated 11 June 1997, approved by Governing Body, states that "The University undertakes to provide a Child Care facility on a self-funding recurrent basis for the use of staff and students on the campus and will review the provision of child care facilities on a regular basis."
  - Vision 2020 People report states that: "The Working Team recommends that a higher priority be given to access and child care facilities in future planning by the University."
- Other Universities U.C.C., U.C.D., T.C.D. and U.C.G. either have or are building purpose-built child care facilities.

### Current Situation

At the moment the University subsidize by rent and maintenance a temporary facility in College Court. This facility is used by staff and students from the University. The University has supported such a facility in temporary locations for over 20 years. Arrangements with the current facility are short term, which has meant that there is no certainty about the continuation of the service.

### Plans for on-campus child care facility

A Child Care Facility Buildings committee was set up by Executive Board. Their first meeting was held on 21st February, 1995. Due to the work of this committee, architects investigated the feasibility of a site and drew up plans for a purpose-built child care facility. These plans were drawn up with reference to the regulations as specified in the Child Care Act (1997). These plans were agreed by the committee in May 1995. Building has not yet proceeded nor are we aware of any plans to proceed.

This is a summary of all efforts to date in relation to on campus childcare. As I previously said your support for our efforts will be greatly appreciated. In addition if you need information on childcare or if you are a lone parent and need support toward the costs of caring for your child please call into my office and I will organize a subsidy for you.

Elaine Kiely, Welfare Officer

## Incident Report Line Revisited

Most of you will have read or heard about the issue of community relations in the past year or so. Basically there is an increasing problem in the Castletroy area with reports of vandalism coming into the University on a daily basis. Needless to say the media have gotten wind of these reports and have started to paint a very negative image of all UL students. Headings such as RIOT WEEK NOT RAG WEEK IN UL and RAMPAGING STUDENTS MAKE LIFE HELL were reported in both local and national newspapers in the past few months.

The constitution of the Students' Union has as one of its objectives 'to actively pursue good relations between its members and the community' and has the position of Community Officer as part of Executive to oversee this objective. This years community Officer is Paul O'Neill who has already started to deal with complaints which we receive from residents. Last year the Students Union set up what we call the Student Liaison Officer scheme. Basically this consists of 8 students who are assigned to the various estates in the area. The function of these students is to deal with complaints which have been received on the Incident Report Line. The line was set up specifically for complaints which residents or students have about noise etc in the estates.

The number you should contact if you have any problem or query is 202977.

Please note that due to the increased number of complaints the university authorities and the gardai are insisting that incidents of students bringing the university into disrepute will be dealt with immediately. REMEMBER that penalties arising from students being brought in front of discipline or court can include suspension, expulsion and/or criminal records. The moral of the article is call us if you have a problem and keep in mind that there are people in the area who live here full time so please respect their right to a quiet and peaceful life.

Elaine Kiely, Welfare Officer

**Dr. Freud 'ere to help you with any problems you might have so just keep writing those letters and drop them in the anonymous box on the counter in the**

**I almost lose my breath when I'm out!**

In certain situations I get very nervous panicky. My breathing becomes very fast and I almost lose my breath. This happens when I'm in the pub, sometimes in a lecture or when I'm on a bus or train. I sometimes think I'm getting a heart attack. What is this?

*It sounds as if you're having panic attacks. The symptoms can be very frightening and may seem as if you're having a heart*



**Dr. Freud 'ere to help you with any problems you might have so just keep writing those letters and drop them in the anonymous box on the counter in the main S.U. office**

### **My Friend won't stop telling lies!**

My friend is a compulsive liar. I've often caught her out but she doesn't care. At college people laugh at her because she has such a reputation for lying. She will never be taken seriously anywhere unless she changes her ways. How can I get her to see the truth is the best?

*You sound more upset about her lying than she is herself and so, while you can see the damage this is doing to her, she does not share your concern.*

*Telling lies fulfills some need in your friend. It may get her a lot of attention from people and even though you could argue that this is negative attention, she may feel it's good to be noticed at any cost. It's quite likely that her self-confidence is low and that her lying is some attempt to be like everyone else.*

*You can't sort out this problem for her, but you can confront her with her lies as you become aware of them. Tell her what's it like for you when she tells lies and how it is damaging her reputation. In time, hopefully, she will see how senseless this is and decide to stop herself.*

### **Should I go home at weekends?**

My parents don't get on and every weekend that I go home they use me as a referee to sort them out. I feel guilty then when I don't go home although I want to stay in Limerick as I feel so much happens at the weekends and I want to stay out of it.

*Trust your instinct and stay up at the weekends when ever you feel it's right. You cannot be responsible for sorting things out between your parents. They have to take responsibility for their own relationship and by not going home every weekend, you may in fact help them to do just this. With you not there, it will be harder for them to avoid what's going on between them. You need to get on with your own life and I'm sure they would both want this for you. So go ahead and make your plans and try not to worry too much about your parents.*

### **I almost lose my breath when I'm out!**

In certain situations I get very nervous panicky. My breathing becomes very fast and I almost lose my breath. This happens when I'm in the pub, sometimes in a lecture or when I'm on a bus or train. I sometimes think I'm getting a heart attack. What is this?

*It sounds as if you're having panic attacks. The symptoms can be very frightening and may seem as if you're having a heart attack. To be reassured about it, go to your GP just to be physically checked out.*

*Usually, this kind of anxiety is a sign of some underlying concern or worry - is there some reason why you are anxious at the moment? Counselling will help you to control your symptoms and also get to the bottom of your anxiety.*



## **LIMERICK FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC**

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Tel.: 061-312026

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- Information, advice and testing for STD's
- On the spot pregnancy test
- Non-directive pregnancy counselling



## THREE OUT OF FOUR AIN'T AS GOOD AS UCD!

University of Limerick students will have to settle for just three representatives on UL's new Governing Authority, one fewer than UCD and TCD on theirs. **James Hurley** reports.

SU elected officers Bobby O'Connor (President) and Elaine Kiely (Deputy President) will be joined by a post-graduate representative (the new president of the Post-Graduates Society) on the new Governing Authority. The new post-graduate position is a first for UL, as it is for most colleges. If last week's plug by the Post-Grads Soc for Seanad Éireann representation is anything to go by, the holder of this position could play a highly effective lobbying role in decisions concerning the future of UL students.

Graduates' postal vote Alumni (graduates of UL, Thomond College, Mary Immaculate College, etc.) representation is less straight-

forward. Through graduates' receipt of completed ballot papers is 6 November. The count will take place on 7 November. About 15 to 16 thousand graduates should have received ballot papers, which were issued on 6 October, though some may have arrived late. To vote graduates must return:

- 1) completed ballot paper in a specially provided ballot paper envelope, along with a
- 2) signed declaration of identity.

Both ballot paper and declaration form are to be returned within a larger (also specially provided envelope) to the Registrar's Office. The bad news is that graduates will have to foot the bill for postage themselves. A spokes-

person for the Registrar's That brings us to staff candidates. On the professors panel, Eamon McQuaid, Donal Dineen, Mícheál O'Súilleabháin, Stuart Hampshire and Cyril Burkley will have to battle it out the traditional way: i.e. the top two vote-catchers will get two of the seats. The remaining seat is reserved (so that no one loses their balance, especially not their gender balance) for the lone female candidate, Geraldine Sheridan. As one male professorial colleague put it, "people could vote for her", but that may not be strictly necessary.

The gender-balancing approach takes its cue from Seanad Éireann's equal representation for candidates running for the Cultural and Agricultural Committees. At least one female candidate disagrees with the rule. While agreeing that women have been underrepresented in the past, Library Assistant Bríd Frawley refers to the Women's Political Association's view that there

interest in adult and second chance education.

Joe Wallace, a lecturer in industrial relations, has a very detailed election manifesto outlining his past record on the Governing Body, amongst other things. He stresses the importance of a knowledgeable staff input into agreeing statutes in a range of areas affecting the conditions of employment of staff. Responding to questions by an Focal as to the relevance of the Governing Body to students, he answered that it had "been enormously influential, particularly in taking the decision to build a library instead of an equestrian centre, which was the proposed alternative". He supports "the need for gender balance", though "in the

future some technical anomalies related to voting may need to be addressed". He promises to continue working closely with the students union.

Eoin McCann was very prompt in sending on a copy of his manifesto to the SU office. His manifesto does not contain as lengthy a past personal record as Joe Wallace's (and as a result is probably easier to read). His first priority is to ensure "that every contribution a staff member makes at the University (e.g. teaching, research, admin and service) be taken equally into account for promotion and advancement". He favours the introduction of "basic facilities for staff" such as a crèche.

X

RANK XEROX

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JOHN CURLEY & ASSOCIATES



Seanad Éireann representation is anything to go by, the holder of this position could play a highly effective lobbying role in decisions concerning the future of UL students.

Graduates' postal vote Alumni (graduates of UL, Thomond College, Mary Immaculate College, etc.) representation is less straightforward. Though graduates were asked to update the register back in August (and so enable themselves to vote) and notice of elections appeared in the Irish Times and Irish Independent on 10 September, most graduates are totally unaware that elections will take place. Those that do may wish to be reminded that the deadline for

specially provided ballot paper envelope, along with a

2) signed declaration of identity.

Both ballot paper and declaration form are to be returned within a larger (also specially provided envelope) to the Registrar's Office. The bad news is that graduates will have to foot the bill for postage themselves. A spokesperson for the Registrar's Office was at pains to point out that neither UCD nor DCU had provided their graduates with the convenience of a postal vote - instead they had to vote between 2 and 4pm at their respective alma maters. (For info on who's running, see last week's edition of an Focal.)

**Staff elections**

The gender-balancing approach takes its cue from Seanad Éireann's equal representation for candidates running for the Cultural and Agricultural Committees. At least one female candidate disagrees with the rule. While agreeing that women have been underrepresented in the past, Library Assistant Bríd Frawley refers to the Women's Political Association's view that there should be no enforced gender rules. However, she hastens to add that there are very fine female candidates running this time round who are well worthy of election. She herself is campaigning for non-academic staff needs, views and expectations in the strongest possible manner. She also has a particular

the decision to build a library instead of an equestrian centre, which was the proposed alternative". He supports "the need for gender balance", though "in the

be taken equally into account for promotion and advancement". He favours the introduction of "basic facilities for staff" such as a crèche.

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# STUDENTS UNION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### TUESDAY NOV 4 - 6.30pm

## JONATHAN SWIFT THEATRE



# PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

It is difficult, sometimes, to realise that the people who govern us, the people who make the policy decisions which affect our lives, the people who pass our laws, are just that; people. Unless we know them on some personal level, our politicians seem to be different, out of the ordinary, above mere mortals, or, some would say, beneath us. On Tuesday, October 21st, we were

the rights and the general lot of students, mentioning issues which would have been equally apt coming from a candidate for SU president. These were the issues of student accommodation, student welfare and voting rights, with particular reference made to the fact that many students will be unable to vote due to the fact that the poll will be held on a Thursday. It should be said, though, that this

Through her work with the Chernobyl Children's Project, Ms. Roche has shown in practice her commitment to the human rights of children from that area and, indeed, from all over the world. The charity, of which she is the founder, has already sent over £8.5 million worth of aid to the region around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. She told us how she intends to set up a Children's Commission which will report to the president on issues concerning children and young people in Ireland and their role in society and would be funded using half of the presidential paycheck. She sees the president as a servant of the people, pushing that "I don't want to be a president for the people, I want to be a president of the people. It couldn't be any other way for me". Ms. Roche went on to say that she makes no apologies for championing the rights of the downtrodden, of children, travellers, students, refugees, drug addicts, HIV and AIDS sufferers, and the homeless. "The floor of our society", she said, "is a slatted one, and there are many who fall through the cracks of our concern". There can really be no doubt that these are genuine concerns of a woman who has devoted much of her life to the service of others.

Asked about her role as Commander in Chief of the Irish Army, and how that would lie with her peaceful ethos, Ms. Roche pointed out that the Irish Army is known, world-wide, through their operations in the Lebanon, the former Yugoslav states, and

elsewhere, as an effective force for peace. She also informed us that it is the Army which accompanies the aid convoys which her charity sends to Chernobyl.

After she left the UCH, I was afforded a few minutes with Adi Roche in her campaign bus. You could sense the air of urgency in her entourage as we were herded onto the bus and to a "conference room" in the middle thereof. This was like no Bus Éireann coach I had ever travelled in, though that's exactly what it was. "Very swish!" I commented on entering the inner sanctum of what must, by now, be an electioneering machine under some strain. Adi agreed adding that there's even a toilet at the back. I must confess that I had always thought Adi Roche to be a little frantic, or scattered, or highly strung, or something. Speaking to her face-to-face, all that I found was someone who is very committed. She is a woman of strong beliefs and when I asked her about her backing by political parties, coupled with her insistence on remaining an independent candidate, she stressed that her agreement with the People's Alliance was conditional on that independence. She said that her stance on the issues close to her heart had not and would not change for a political party or for anyone.

During her speech in the UCH, she had admitted that the president has no real power. I asked her how, bearing this in mind, did she intend to achieve all she claimed she could. There I was, thinking I had her, but then, there's a reason why

she's running for president, and I'm in the fifth year of a four year degree. Within ten seconds, I was nodding in agreement with her, swung around to her view that it was in this lack of power that the real power of the president lies. The fact that the president has so little power allowed people to identify more with the holder of the office. The "president of the people" could be seen as one of us, not solely as the head of state, but as one of its citizens also.

I put it to her finally that she had entered the campaign as something of a one-issue candidate and asked her if she felt this image had been dispelled. I based this on the fact that most people would only have heard of her through her work on behalf of the Chernobyl Children's Project. I was once again put in my place as she informed me that the Chernobyl issue was one which encompassed economic, agricultural, humanitarian, and health issues, not only in Chernobyl, but all over Eastern Europe and the world. She went on to say that, for over a decade, she has been lecturing in schools throughout Ireland on the benefits of peace and that this lesson has now been adopted into the school curriculum.

While she was answering this question, a member of her campaign team came in and told us our time was up, and just as I was about to hit her with the "Who's your favourite Spice Girl?" question too. Ah well, maybe next time.

Micheál Healy

## Who the hell do the presidential candidates think

The last few weeks have seen a Presidential campaign with plenty of slurs being thrown about. One candidate has been accused of being a Stalinist, another of being a Marxist Provo and a third of holding views that are somewhat more right wing than Genghis Khan's.

The candidates seem to have been on every television show except for the weather forecast. Despite this, not one of the candidates seems to have set the public imagination alight with the delight we saw in November 1990. As a result of this, like many others, I was extremely interested in seeing the Late Late Show, featuring all five candidates together for the first time.

The five potential presidents were presented the best way that their political handlers could have them, with a rainbow of colour from left to right of red, purple, blue-grey, black and cream (well, this is the type of rainbow we have in Cost). Mary Banotti seems to have her advisors telling her the same thing that Sinead Kennedy was expressing on Bobby O'Connor during the USSE elections last May - "they recognise you for the red jacket, so wear it until you're elected". I sincerely hope that Mary Banotti, not having the limitations of a student budget, has purchased two red jackets, or at least had the courtesy not to hand said item into the laundry after wearing it non-stop for four weeks (I should point out that Bobby wore his for only three days and we've not seen the flash of crimson on her beloved Flavour since) Mary McAleese's personal groomer got an award after the show for making her look so presidential that one would be forgiven for thinking she was returning for the office. Derek Nally had the appearance of a Ganda who had presented Garda patrol for most of his years on the force. Adi Roche managed to make it very obvious she was reading a speech that had been carefully typed with lots of commas and still couldn't manage to keep her speech under the allotted two minutes. And then there was Dana. What can I say about Ms Brown-Scallan? I'll be diplomatic and say nothing.

I'll say this much: Gayle has lost it. After 35 extremely professional years in broadcasting, he managed to spend twenty minutes asking the candidates "Would you sign a bill that admitted Ireland to NATO?", "Would you sign away Articles 2 and 3?", "Would you sign a bill that gave the right to abortion on demand?", which at each

to refuse to sign a bill. He then dismissed a question that an audience member asked on changing legislation on the fact that the President doesn't get the ability to change any laws.

As Mr Brown pointed out during the course of that show, "the only thing to happen". Does this mean that he isn't coming at the end of the current broadcasting year?

Just for the record, all candidates agreed that they would serve the full seven years. Meanwhile Dana stated that she might resign if presented with an abortion bill. So unfortunately, the Late Late failed to meet expectations. Gay Brown is due to be seen standard as his Gerry Adams interview a while back and I doubt that any casual viewers could make a hell of a decision based on what they saw Friday of last week.

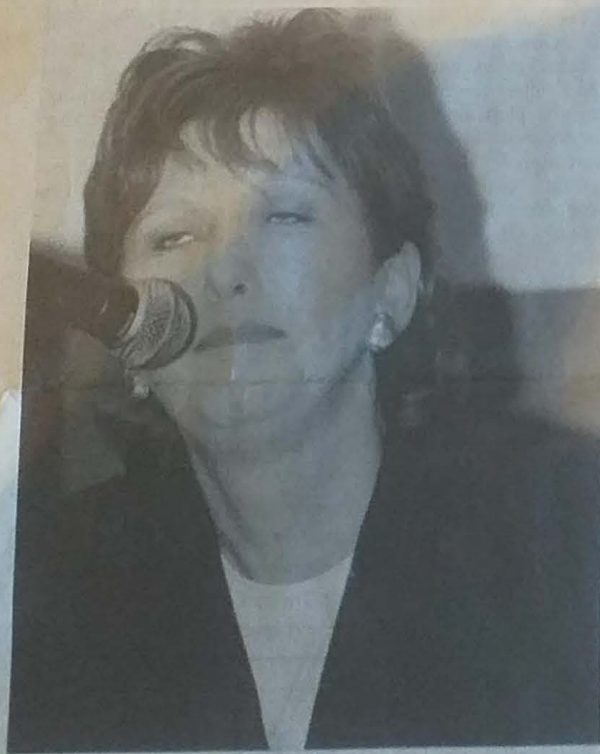
Writing in Thursday, the choices are as follows: Mary Banotti, who spent much of her youth touring the South of the U.S. of A, wondering why she didn't get served while standing at the back of the queue. She's currently a member of an off-the-beat parliament somewhere in Brussels which provides its members with huge expenses then some.

Mary McAleese, who is apparently a Quaker. She's been sponsored by Padraig Cunniff, who can only Flavour Fall together to support her candidacy. She does not make a career out of Flavour Fall candidates happy, as a quick cup of tea with the Queens could result in much needed funds for a new food factory in County Longford.

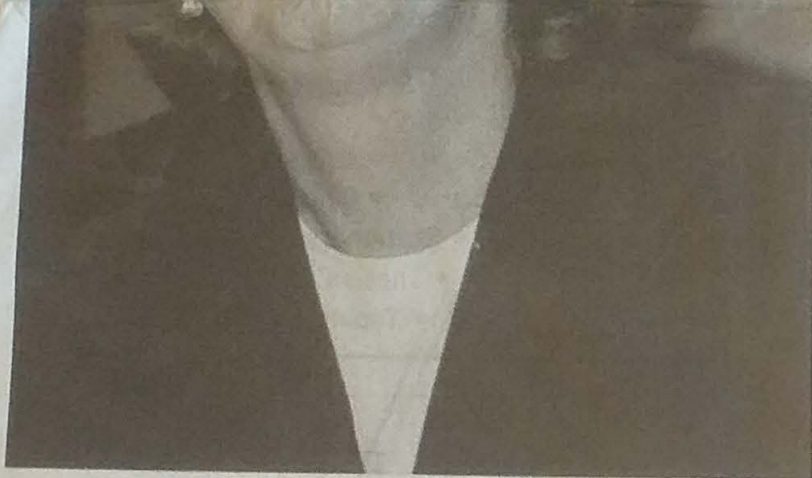
Derek Nally, a cop who got the sudden notice to run when it occurred to him that the nearest duty to be the best man in the room is to be the only man in the room. Someone wants to put a bullet in his head, but oddly enough, they won't say who.

Adi Roche, a happy treehugger. In her own words, she's an "independent" candidate, which doesn't explain in any way why Dick Spring is following her around like she's the Messiah returned.

Rosemary "Dana" Brown-Scallan. Most of you may not know that the once, with a virgin competition for Ireland. If she gets elected, I will not only be an ambassador for Ireland, I will also be the National Airports Authority.







given the opportunity by the PSA, or the Postgraduate Students Association (to give the Postgrad Soc its proper title), to see two of the candidates in the forthcoming presidential election "up close and personal" so to speak. Introduced by Eddie Punch of the PSA, the first of the candidates to speak was Adi Roche. Ms. Roche is an independent candidate although her nomination has been endorsed by, among others, the parliamentary Labour Party, Democratic Left and the Green Party under the combined banner of the People's Alliance.

The forty-five minutes or so which Ms. Roche spent in the University Concert Hall consisted of a speech, followed by a question and answer session with the capacity crowd providing the posers. Ms. Roche began her speech with a reference to the late Jim Kemmy and his concerns about

was not an address which was tailored for its audience. Adi Roche told us why we should elect her president, not because she would do things for Limerick, or for students - she made no attempt to feign extreme concern for our problems - but because she has a proven record as a doer, as a negotiator of some experience and expertise and as somebody who would bring the qualities of honesty, integrity and the ability to communicate to a job which very much requires such traits.

She stressed that the presidency must cease to be seen as "a trophy, a passport to power or a political life-jacket" to be squabbled over by the twin powers of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. She expressed her disgust at the smear campaign being mounted (from wherever) against Mary McAleese, pointing out she too had been through the same thing.

"The floor of our society", she said, "is a slatted one, and there are many who fall through the cracks of our concern". There can really be no doubt that these are genuine concerns of a woman who has devoted much of her life to the service of others.

Asked about her role as Commander in Chief of the Irish Army, and how that would lie with her peaceful ethos, Ms. Roche pointed out that the Irish Army is known, world-wide, through their operations in the Lebanon, the former Yugoslav states and

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**Micheál Healy**





# CANDIDATES VISIT UL

## Who the hell do the presidential candidates think they are?

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Voting is Thursday - the choices are as follows:

**Mary Banotti**, who spent much of her youth touring the Deep South of the US of A, wondering why she didn't get served while standing in the black queues. She's currently a member of an ineffective parliament somewhere in Brussels which provides its members with more expenses than sense.

**Mary McAleese**, who is apparently a Unionist Shinner. Her campaign is being sponsored by Pedigree Chum, who paid many Fianna Fáil deputies to support her candidacy. This does not make a certain other Fianna Fáil candidate happy, as a quick cup of tea with the Queen could result in much needed funds for a dog food factory in County Longford.

**Derek Nally**, a cop who got the sudden notion to run when it occurred to him that the easiest way to be the best man in the race is to be the only man in the race. Someone wants to put a bullet in his head, but oddly enough, they won't say who.

**Adi Roche**, a hippy treehugger. In her own words, she's an "independent" candidate, which

on the above, please get out and exercise your right to vote. That is, if the unlikely happens and you are at home this Thursday. Dundalk RTC Students' Union organised a postal vote for all students there, something that ULSU were sorely lacking in not thinking of.

Seamus Ryan

## View from the Crew

"Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to crew the concert hall during the McAleese-Roche gig." "Wow, this is the big time. It's not your average Docs on a Wednesday night event, now is it? Bounce for the concert hall...hell, we might even get paid!"

With images of Clint Eastwood 'In The Line of Fire', rushing to our heads, we arrived promptly at the concert hall at 2pm and were promptly let in at 2.30. First disappointment was that we were not getting any special radios or walkie-talkies - we would just have to shout and yell at each other as normal. After poking around for bombs we were disgusted to discover there were none whatsoever - and I really wanted something for the lads in the house...a little anti-personnel number perhaps. Stern instructions were issued - candidates were not to be asked for ID at the door or molested (as if!)

Larger and fiercer crew members were warned not to throw out any media types as this might be 'bad'



Dressed in slacks and sporting the latest in trendy boots, Mary McAleese motored masterfully through her Concert Hall appearance, stalling only at an unexpected question raised during an interview afterwards with James Hurley.

Over a thousand people packed UL's Concert Hall to see the Fianna Fáil Party's presidential nominee put her boots to the floor as she wove her way around suggestions that she had exaggerated her Unionist support, understated her Republican sympathies and, if that weren't

gifts that they have, and be able to reflect back all their energy and their concerns in the kind of world that hopefully we're going to enter over the next seven years ...". Moreover, one of the groups she would "like to see represented on the Council of State is young people. I want to see young people speaking with their own voice on the Council".

She was sad that voting was on Thursday instead of Friday, but was hoping that people would make the necessary arrangements to vote by the supplementary register or by a postal vote. Regarding UL Seanad representation, she acknowledged that the present system was "anomalous", "divided unevenly" and in need of review and being "looked at equitably". "A series of grannies" were the greatest influence on her life (though presumably not on her choice of dress!). Going for the presidency had not led her to compromise her beliefs: "Quite the opposite, I've synthesised them. I think they are sharpened, they are pulled into real relief by this campaign".

### Unexpected question

When then asked whether she would be prepared to invite members of Women Hurt By Abortion (a support organisation for women who have suffered



limitations of a student budget, she purchased two red jackets, or at least has the courtesy not to hand said item into the laundry after wearing it non-stop for four weeks (I should point out that dirty were that for only three days and we've not seen the flash of crimson on our beloved Führer since) Mary McAleese's personal groomer got an award after the show for making her look so presidential that one would be forgiven for thinking she was rerunning for the office. Derek Nally had the appearance of a Garda who had presented Garda patrol for most of his years on the force. Adi Roche managed to make it very obvious she was reading a speech that had been carefully typed with lots of commas and still couldn't manage to keep her speech under the allotted two minutes. And then there was Dana. What can I say about Ms Brown-Scallan? I'll be diplomatic and say nothing.

I'll say this much: Gaybo has lost it. After 35 extremely professional years in broadcasting, he managed to spend twenty minutes asking the candidates: "Would you sign a bill that admitted Ireland to NATO?", "Would you sign away Articles 2 and 3?", "Would you sign a bill that gave the right to abortion on demand?", when at each asking, the candidates explained that when you are President of Ireland, you don't get the option

to give parliament somewhere in Brussels which provides its members with more expenses than sense.

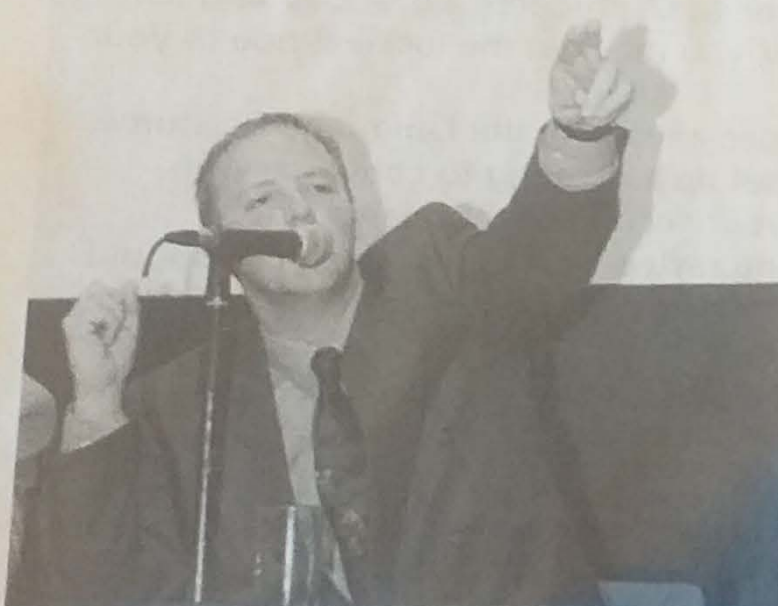
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**Derek Nally**, a cop who got the sudden notion to run when it occurred to him that the easiest way to be the best man in the race is to be the only man in the race. Someone wants to put a bullet in his head, but oddly enough, they won't say who.

**Adi Roche**, a hippy treehugger. In her own words, she's an "independent" candidate, which doesn't explain in any way why Dick Spring is following her around like she's the Messiah returned.

**Rosemary "Dana" Brown-Scallan**. Many of you may not know that she once won a singing competition for Ireland. If she gets elected, she will not only be an ambassador for Ireland, but she can sing the National Anthem at functions as well.

So if you can distinguish the candidates based



With images of a faint Eastwood 'In The Line of Fire', rising to our heads, we arrived promptly at the concert hall at 2pm and were promptly let in at 2.30. First disappointment was that we were not getting any special radios or walkie-talkies - we would just have to shout and yell at each other as normal. After poking around for bombs we were disgusted to discover there were none whatsoever - and I really wanted something for the lads in the house...a little anti-personnel number perhaps. Stern instructions were issued - candidates were not to be asked for ID at the door or molested (as if?)

Larger and fiercer crew members were warned not to throw out any media types as this might be 'bad'. No-one was to mention the two 'rifle' microphones on the balconies to Mary McAleese (she's very sore on the point apparently).

People streamed in at an alarming rate, and soon the place was packed. One of the crew had a problem with a hairy, swarthy type who insisted he had to get in. After a lot of hassle and aggro we let Deputy Spring in when he proved his credentials by dropping his mobile phone twice under pressure.

Adi Roche came in and gave a 'touchy-feely' performance, with the aid of an equally tactile chairman. The smell of political bullshit was so strong that many people passed out at half time (through the doors y'understand!). Once the spell of normality ended Mary McAleese began by marvelling at our fine campus (she likes small libraries apparently) and sympathised with our difficulties voring on a Thursday - but of course it was our own bloody fault for missing a mysterious s'upplementary register', whatever that was!

My verdict?.., a very boring gig to work for. No stage invasions, no serious heckling. Not even a last minute appearance by Gerry Adams on stage. And all I really wanted to do was stand front of stage, talking into a hidden microphone (as if I had terminal halitosis), saying 'Area 2 - Secure', or 'Damn it Spring dropped the phone again.

**Spike**

Dressed in slacks and sporting the latest in trendy boots, Mary McAleese motored masterfully through her Concert Hall appearance, stalling only at an unexpected question raised during an interview afterwards with James Hurley.

Over a thousand people packed UL's Concert Hall to see the Fianna Fáil Party's presidential nominee put her boots to the floor as she wove her way around suggestions that she had exaggerated her Unionist support, understated her Republican sympathies and, if that weren't enough, collaborated with a right-wing political party as well. Mary McAleese was having none of it. As far as she was concerned, she simply grew up in a Unionist community, never was a Sinn Féin supporter and did not accept that Fianna Fáil is a right-wing party. Responding equally vigorously to a question about Southern attitudes to her Northern roots, she dismissed what she saw as the idea that there was "some extraordinary contamination that sets us [people from the six counties] apart from the rest of the Irish nation".

The President of the University Dr Edward Walsh, who must have felt chuffed by Prof. McAleese's high praise of his own presidential role, directed the unrelenting traffic of questions from the floor.

### An Focal interview

In an interview with an Focal, Prof. McAleese said she hoped that, if she were elected, UL students would "gain someone who is very comfortable working with students. (I've spent the last 25 years of my life working with students.) Someone who understands them, someone who understands the effort they make and the problems that they face, and also the great

system was "anomalous", "divided unevenly" and in need of review and being "looked at equitably". "A series of grannies" were the greatest influence on her life (though presumably not on her choice of dress!). Going for the presidency had not led her to compromise her beliefs: "Quite the opposite, I've synthesised them. I think they are sharpened, they are pulled into real relief by this campaign".

### Unexpected question

When then asked whether she would be prepared to invite members of Women Hurt By Abortion (a support organisation for women who have suffered trauma through having an abortion) to Áras an Uachtaráin, she reacted defensively at first:

"I'd be - what's wrong with Women Hurt By Abortion? Sorry, ...". (Her reaction was perfectly in keeping with her comments published last May in a book called *Swimming Against The Tide: Feminist Dissent On The Issue Of Abortion*, in which she argued that it was a "myth that to be feminist is to be pro-choice".)

Having regained her composure, she towed her bridges into place, moved back up a gear and began again to drive smoothly over them (the bridges), saying: "Let me indicate to you very very clearly, just in case there will be other groups that you'd want to mention there. I've talked about a presidency that will build bridges, and I think it would be absolutely invidious of any president who wanted to build bridges to say that any group would be excluded."

I think if you want to be a bridge-builder you're inclusive, and people, whatever organisation they belong to, whatever their views, whatever their religion, whatever their colour, their gender, all will be embraced by this presidency."



## ATTENTION

**RUGBY PLAYERS**

**GARRYOWEN F.C. U.20's**

**Munster Champions,  
All-Ireland Finalists Last Season**

**WE NEED NEW PLAYERS  
FOR THIS SEASON!!**

**CONTACT:**

**Mark O'Donoghue (Coach)  
(087) 621750 / (061) 310022**

**Shane Whelan U.L. (Captain)**

# FOREIGN STUDENTS IN U.L.

Every year U.L. invites Erasmus and Study Abroad students to study here. Foreign students come here to experience Irish culture. And, what better way is there to get that experience than interacting with Irish students. If you have yet to associate with foreign students there are plenty of ways to do so.

Common interests are the best introductions. U.L. offers

## **BAR STAFF WANTED**

**Part Time Bar Staff  
Wanted  
For**

**Bedford Oaks  
Bedford Row**

**Ring: (087)583-481**



## BAR STAFF WANTED

Part Time Bar Staff  
Wanted

For  
Bedford Oaks  
Bedford Row

Ring: (087)583-481

**NOW**



### Baker Place

BAR • RESTAURANT • NIGHTCLUB

Mon 27th & 3rd: Car Wash & Beer Promotion

Tue 28th & 4th: Ruby Tuesday's

Wed 29th & 5th: Panic/Siobhan O'Brien in Bar

Thur 30th: Generations-Mama Doo in Bar

Fri 31st: HALLOWEEN-Freddy's Revenge Two  
With The Alvin Purple Experience

Sat 1st & 8th: The Oven/Easi-Singles in Bar

Sun 2nd: The Circus with Bottle Beer Promotion  
Breezer in Bar

Fri 7th: Pulp Friction

Sat 8th: The Oven/Easi-Singles in Bar

Sun 9th: Strange Daze

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Common interests are the best introductions. U.L. offers numerous clubs and societies from the Debating Union to the Overseas society. And, everybody and anybody is welcome to join. You are sure to find a club or society of interest. If not, start your own.

Of course, places like the Stables and pubs and niteclubs in city centre are breeding grounds for social contact. Keep an eye open for trips offered to all students e.g. A Day at the Races. You never know, you may get the luckiest ride of your life. (What???-Ed.)

If language is a barrier, check out the Language Resource Area in Block A. And, set up a meeting to converse with someone who speaks your second or third language.

Any Irish students interested in studying overseas should contact the Erasmus/Socrates Office P2-03 to study in Europe or contact the Admissions Office in Block D to study in America. And, for those that think Americans are "simple" and/or slow on the sarcasm you should get to know one before you make that judgement.

Most Irish students I talked to said that a knock on the door is all it takes. So, give it a chance and if nothing else a good laugh will be had about the differences in culture. It all makes a difference.

**Nancy Cunningham**



# LIBRARY UPDATE

We are all looking forward with great anticipation to the opening of the new Library and Information Services Building. The opening is scheduled for early 1998. Until then we will use this space to keep you up-to-date with developments, let you know what's going on and what you can expect to happen in the coming months.

### Building works

The building is now at the final stage of construction. Work is currently in train to complete the installation of the main staircase, fitting of lighting

points, emergency evacuation signs and floor coverings. Once building work is finished, fit out of furniture and shelving and work on telecommunications network and

services points will commence.

The Move and how it effects you We are scheduling the removal of book stocks and public service points to occur during the break between semesters one and two. For the duration of the move the current library will be closed and an alternative service point will be set up to provide access to newspapers, photocopiers, networked information sources, interlibrary loans, an information desk and study space. Further information on the removal schedule and emergency services will be available soon.

Stocks and Services Organisation The new building comprises four floors with an outline organisation of stocks and services as follows: Top Floor (Floor2) will house Education, Humanities and Business collections, both books and journals, an information point and issue desk, short loans, photocopying area, individual study spaces and group study rooms.

Floor 1 has a similar range of services and facilities along with the Informatics, Electronics, Science and Engineering collections.

The Ground Floor contains a reception and quick reference area, inter library loans, information commons, training rooms, special needs area, individual study spaces, group study rooms, newspaper and

popular reading area and cafe. The Garden Level will contain some Information Technology Department activities including audio visual services.

### Further Information

Further information on the building fit out, removal schedule and organisation of stocks and services will be reported here as it becomes available. If you have specific enquiries or suggestions send them to me via the University's internal mail service or the Students Union Office.

Gobnait O'Riordan  
Project Co-ordinator  
Library and Information Services  
Building

# Scandal in the Stables

A big thanks to all the faces new and old that we've seen in the Stables Club over the last 4 weeks.

So far this has been the best term opening that the Stables has seen. We've had more bands, discos, promotions and prizes than ever before and from now the term gets even better.

Watch out for CHRISTMAS DAZE - THE NEXT CHAPTER, the annual Stables/Students' Union Yuletide Extravaganza. This year we'll be running it over 2 days with bands, discos, acres of promotions and spot-prizes and more mistletoe than your tongue can handle. There will be loads of posters to keep you up to date right through to the event.

## COMPETITION COMPETITION COMPETITION

The new restaurant in the Library building will be opening soon under Stables Management.

The Stables Club are running a competition to name this new hostelry.

Contestants have until Nov. 18 to come up with a suitable sobriquet. The winner will receive a £100 pound food voucher for their troubles and of course immortality.

Send your entries to 'Don't call it baps competition' c/o An focal

Thanks to everybody for their cooperation during the first few weeks of term. Due to the huge numbers now on campus we had to restrict the numbers partly for safety and also to ensure that everyone at the venue is comfortable.

Rather than cram everyone in we've decided that the priority is that everyone who is in the venue has a good time.

Thanks again and see you in the Stables for the second leg (of the match)

Brian Synnott



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# THE SOLITARY SWIMMER

I lie awake in the stillness of the night, whilst the weary souls sleep. I am boring holes in the darkness with my eyes. Something is stirring inside my body. A million thoughts race around my head. What time is it? Time to sleep. Something is holding me back from slumberland. Restlessness grips me in it's twisting and turning. My heart is beating in anticipation at what I am going to do.

Silently, I get out of my warm bed. I move towards the wardrobe and take out my red ankle length satin dress. I take off my pyjamas and slip the dress over my head and onto my body. It feels like silk. I brush my hair and leave it loose, cascading

over my shoulders. Now I'm ready to go. Without making a noise. I descend the stairs and slip out the back door.

It's a cold clear night. The stars are winking their special language. I shiver as the cold air impacts on my skin and shackles my bones. I start to walk in the direction of the river. I walk past all the white houses. Not a soul is awake even the birds are silent. The leaves make a rustling sound in the gentle breeze. The moon smiles it's sad smile and colours silver, the tears that are silently falling on my cheeks.

I quicken my step. My bare feet must be numb at this stage but I don't feel anything. I feel alone, tired

and weary. Like I've travelled a million miles without resting. Like I've gained the wisdom of the world and I'm sickened to the stomach by it. I feel like I've been fighting in a black battle for years and now my body has run out of energy and hope and it just can't go on anymore. I've reached the edge of the earth and fallen over. I've been tumbling blind headlong in the darkness, not knowing where I'm going. Have I reached the bottom now?

I cross the small wooden bridge and walk along the path parallel to the river. Trees border each side of the path. They look slightly forbidding in the backdrop of the night. I walk onward

towards the larger bridge. The sound of crunching pebbles is muted by the cushioning of my soles. I eventually reach the larger bridge. I walk towards the centre of it. The river flows underneath me. The never-ending flowing river. It never sleeps, never rests, just keeps on moving. Twisting and turning and flowing onwards to the sea. Oh, how I wish I could be like the river. I let out a sigh and relieve the burden that has been lodged on my shoulders.

I slip out of my long red satin dress and stand naked in front of the moon. I mount the cast iron railings and dive in to the cold clear water. The shock of impact

and the waters iciness chills me, but it doesn't matter I am already numb. My hair so black and my thin body so pale are greeted with strange stares from the silver fish. But they soon lose interest in this strange specimen invading their waters and swim away. The trees keep my secret and hide my body from intruding human eyes.

A solitary swimmer on a cold winters night. I swim deeper and deeper until I am almost on the riverbed. I think I've lost my breath somewhere along the way or maybe my breath has lost me. Now I'm alive, now I've found myself.

*By Birdi*



## VIDEO WON'T KILL THE RADIO STAR!

It's now four years since the quiet and unassuming Donal Dineen led his ever-so-polite attack on the airwaves, challenging Joe Soap (and indeed Josephine Palmolive), to listen to more than Atlantic 252. **Paul Donegan** caught up with him and asked him where saw his show and indeed Radio Ireland going....and does he really want to play football for Kerry???

Some years ago while enjoying a few beverages in the Rock Garden Dublin I bumped into Donal Dineen. I congratulated him on his work with the "No Disco" programme, giving him praise on what I saw was an new departure in music television. He was quick to deflect my plaudits instead seemed more interested in what I, as a fan thought of it and more importantly where I suggested the show should go to sustain its popularity and credibility. Interviewing Dineen this week his modesty still prevails despite the mass critical acclaim for his latest music programme "Here comes the night" which broadcasts weeknights on Radio Ireland. Throughout the interview he is at pains to distance himself from the music and media and comes across as contented, despite the problems which have put Radio Ireland on the brink.

Donal Dineen surfaced in 1993 as presenter of a weekly music programme on RTE called "No Disco." Although broadcast after the TV watershed its success is unparalleled in the sense that four years on it is still running

personality in front of the camera.....I was involved in it purely because of the music." He claims that it wasn't difficult for RTE to accept "No Disco" on its schedule owing to its late night slot. Despite his doubts about television he claims that RTE were "very helpful" with the show but he maintains they should "be catering for minority interests to justify their position." When I put to him the importance presently of "No Disco" in the way it has filled a TV music niche which caters for alternative, dance, and rap music he modestly states that he has "not assessed its importance... but more taken a back by its success"

Last year Dineen jumped mediums to take up a job with Radio Ireland. He admits that beforehand he was "not a huge radio fan" but saw no future in television because as far as music on the small screen is concerned it only amounted to something crass and soulless. "The whole MTV thing is really a twentieth century charade..... as far as I can see no purity exists in TV." His show "Here comes the night" has enjoyed enormous critical success, which owes a lot to its creativity and variety of music. Each weeknight one is exposed to soul, dance, hip-hop, cabaret, folk, jazz and rock. It is without doubt a musical odyssey. Although this sort of adventurous programme reflects as a whole what Radio Ireland is trying achieve, the results of the latest MRBI poll indicate that Radio Ireland enjoys less than 5% listenership nation-wide. Dineen is quick to defend his employers stating that "Radio Ireland is more in touch with people than it's given credit for., while adding that "...for me I can't believe that the listenership is as poor as is being shown." Furthermore he feels that

medium..... it must live with the age of advertising and commerce and what Radio Ireland is doing is ambitious but difficult in the nineties." He trenchantly rejects any notion that the station will go down the road of becoming a supermarket radio station (98 fm etc.) and is he is amused with his colleague Eamonn Dunphy who calls the station "Radio Free Ireland." He concludes that he is "optimistic" for the future of Radio Ireland and given the hard work gone in he would be admittedly "devastated" if it ceased broadcasting.

Radio Ireland aside he maintains that 3rd level "is a good and interesting experience which can be stimulating and interesting." He admits that when leaving college his interest was primarily in film "but music took over.....and its followed me ever since." Furthermore he doesn't consider himself a DJ in the normal sense as he confesses that he isn't comfortable talking about the music on air and would rather let the music do the shouting and screaming part. When asked about his favourite Sunday Morning record he cites Astral Weeks by Van Morrison as his preference not just on the 7th day but every other day.

Its nearly time to go on air and so coming to the end of the interview I suggest other avenues he may wish to go down. "I enjoy music purely because it entertains so hopefully I can continue to do this as long as possible." He also harbours ambitions to play for the Kerry football team but modestly admits that its most unlikely!

**Paul Donegan**



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Donal Dineen surfaced in 1993 as presenter of a weekly music programme on RTE called "No Disco." Although broadcast after the TV watershed its success is unparalleled in the sense that four years on it is still running strongly, which is an achievement for an Irish produced music programme. "I was asked to get involved by Colm O'Callaghan and only did so if I was given certain assurances." These guarantees amounted to a totally musical emphasis whereby the music would do all the talking and he the presenter detached or cast to the periphery.

"I didn't want to develop a cult about the

music. Each weeknight one is exposed to soul, dance, hip-hop, cabaret, folk, jazz and rock. It is without doubt a musical odyssey. Although this sort of adventurous programme reflects as a whole what Radio Ireland is trying to achieve, the results of the latest MRBI poll indicate that Radio Ireland enjoys less than 5% listenership nation-wide. Dineen is quick to defend his employers stating that "Radio Ireland is more in touch with people than it's given credit for., while adding that "...for me I can't believe that the listenership is as poor as is being shown." Furthermore he feels that people should be patient as "loyalty is built over along time ..... and it's fair to say that people are only beginning to discover Radio Ireland." The plight of Radio Ireland, I put to him, highlights how artistic integrity and commercial viability cannot go hand in hand with radio particularly with stations which are independent and non subsidised. He concedes that although radio is an "enduring

about his favourite Sunday Morning record he cites Astral Weeks by Van Morrison as his preference not just on the 7th day but every other day.

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**Paul Donegan**

#### Apology

*In Marie-Claire Douglas' article on 'Angelas Ashes', gremlins caused an unfortunate mistake. The article stated 'McCourt is in the tradition of Dickens for his story telling quality - you simply want none'*

*This should have read 'you simply want more'. We would like to apologise for Mr McCourt (and indeed Mr Dickens) for this unfortunate mistake.*

## MOVIE REVIEW

### The Game

So, what do you give the man who has everything?? The answer, if you're Conrad van Orden (Sean Penn) and your brother Oliver (Michael Douglas) is such a man, then you get him a game. But not any

ordinary game. Hell, this isn't one of those expensive limited edition games of Monopoly, this game is a way of life, in fact it becomes van Ordens life, and very nearly drives him to the edge. Reviewing the movie is difficult, in that to get the best from the movie,

you've got to watch it unfold in front of you (a la The Usual Suspects). The director, whose last outing was the much acclaimed 'Se7en', builds the tension quite well. For example, and without giving too much away, van Orden goes through a rigorous

physical examination, only to be told that he is 'unsuitable' for the game. However, later on we see that he indeed is part of it. At one stage, drinks are spilt on him in a plush restaurant, and the waitress is fired on the spot. Van Orden thinks noting of it, until he receives a message 'Don't let her get away'. It's moments like this that leave one saying 'Blimey!'....and from there

on in, the game is afoot! 'The Game' isn't as good as 'Se7en'....the whole premise of the movie is totally unbelievable, but for the hour and three quarters that it lasts, it does manage to hold attention. Final verdict: If you can suspend belief for the duration of the movie, then I would contend that there are far worse ways of spending a few quid.... **Grumpy Spice!**



**GUINNESS®**



http://www.guinness.ie

Bloody Presidential Candidates taking one of my pages this week. What a cheek you'd swear that people were going to vote or something.

Oh yeah ! Hi there this is Keith (it wasn't that I didn't have my article finished or anything.)

Well its now Week 5 and things are racing along pretty smoothly. Numbers are well up on last year and all I can do is thank you for supporting UL Ents gigs you've been turning up in big numbers week in week out and making the gigs a big success.

Between now and Christmas things are really going to pick up with lots planned for SoUL Week, Welfare Week and Christmas Daze these weeks include loads of FREEBIES so get ready to party...

**XS**

Our new dance club opens up this Thursday Night upstairs in the Gallery. The club aims to promote student DJ's and local DJ's catering for everyone from House to Techno. So get accessed to XS on Thursday Nights upstairs in the Gallery



# HEINEKEN SoUL WEEK

SoUL Week is proud to announce that Heineken will be the Official Sponsor the Week. The full line-up of daytime events is available elsewhere in this all- encompassing publication but here is the official night-time line-up.

## Monday 17th November

7.30 Murphys Campus  
Comedy - Jean Monnet -  
Free Gig  
8- 10 Murphys Instamatic  
Promo & DJ - The  
Courtyard  
10-til late - Ceol Batucada -  
Samba Rhythms - Free  
Gig

Massive Coors Light  
Basketball Blitz Promo

## Wednesday 19th November

7pm - Clubs & Socs Table  
Quiz - Loads of Prizes -  
The Stables  
8pm-Close - Heineken  
Slumber Party - The Stables  
9.30- Close - Easy Singles -  
Right Good Tunes - The  
Courtyard  
11 - Buses leave for DOCS

## Thursday 20th November

7pm - International Food  
Fair - tastes and Sounds -  
The Canteen  
7.30pm - Joules (Blues

absense of pound signs (except the mystery tour) So  
Tune in next time for the  
final details.

## Class Reps

If you want to organise a  
Class Trip then collect a  
Class Party form from the  
Main SU Office and drop it  
back to my office having  
filled it out. If I'm not there  
then just slip it under the  
Door

Thats all for this week see  
you soon BYE !!!!!!!!!



Between now and Christmas things are really going to pick up with lots planned for SoUL Week, Welfare Week and Christmas Daze these weeks include loads of FREEBIES so get ready to party...

# XS

Our new dance club opens up this Thursday Night upstairs in the Gallery. The club aims to promote student DJ's and local DJ's catering for everyone from House to Techno. So get accessed to XS on Thursday Nights upstairs in the Gallery



## Class Reps

*If you want to organise a Class Trip then collect a Class Party form from the Main SU Office and drop it back to my office having filled it out. If I'm not there then just slip it under the Door*

**Thats all for this week see you soon BYE !!!!**

announce that Heineken will be the Official Sponsor the Week. The full line-up of daytime events is available elsewhere in this all- encompassing publication but here is the official night-time line-up.

### Monday 17th November

7.30 Murphys Campus Comedy - Jean Monnet - Free Gig  
8- 10 Murphys Instamatic Promo & DJ - The Courtyard  
10-til late - Ceol Batucada - Samba Rhythms - Free Gig

### Tuesday 18th November

6pm Mystery Tour Departure - The Stables - Massive Heineken Promo at venue!!  
8pm Music Soc Showcase - The Courtyard  
9.30pm The Hitchers - Live & unleashed - Free Gig

Massive Coors Light Basketball Blitz Promo

### Wednesday 19th November

7pm - Clubs & Socs Table Quiz - Loads of Prizes - The Stables  
8pm-Close - Heineken Slumber Party - The Stables  
9.30- Close - Easy Singles - Right Good Tunes - The Courtyard  
11 - Buses leave for DOCS

### Thursday 20th November

7pm - International Food Fair - tastes and Sounds - The Canteen  
7.30pm - Joules (Blues band) - The canteen  
8 til close - Heineken Experience Big Promo - The Stables  
8 til Close - Quadraphonic (Red Box, Dublin) - The Courtyard (Free Gig)

We hope to add more but this should keep you happy for the moment and note the

absence of pound signs (except the mystery tour) So Tune in next time for the final details.

### Class Reps

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Thats all for this week see you soon BYE !!!!!!!!!



# WOLVES

e v e n t s



## the hurling club

### Welcome

UL Hurling Club would like to welcome all freshers and Hurlers to the University of Limerick. If you would like to join the Hurling Club at any stage of the year then just keep an eye out for our Posters with training times, particularly in the main canteen near the Pass machine.

Turn up with gear and you are more than welcome to join in. First years and new members are particularly welcome over the next month or so as trials and training will be picking up speed. So if you haven't hurled for a while or tried the college scene come along and give it a go. You have nothing to lose.

### Congratulations

The Club wishes to offer its congratulations to its players who achieved great success with their Counties this year. David Forde must come top of the list with his massive contribution to the Clare cause. His impact in all Clare

matches this year was vital to Clare's success scoring in all four championship matches and causing havoc in defenses at vital stages in each match.

Rory McCarthy collected his second Leinster medal this year with Wexford. This added to his All-Ireland medal last year is a remarkable achievement for such a young hurler. Cork's defeat of Galway in the All-Ireland U21 final has also meant that Brian O'Driscoll, Breandan Coleman and Donal Murphy have collected medals at the expense of Galway's and UL's Michael Healy, Rory Gantley, Fergal Healy and Alan Kerins. Sadly Alan Kerins has departed for Trinity College Dublin and will not be available to us this year.

Congratulations must also be extended to Mick O'Leary centre back on last year's Fitzgibbon team on his victory with Wexford in the Leinster under 21 final. This was again earned at the expense of two other UL hurlers, Ken

O'Shea and Jimmy Coogan who played for the losing Kilkenny team. Finally a mention for Ollie Broughton who played with Clare in their historic victory in the All-Ireland winning minor campaign. Apologies to anybody who may have been omitted.

A special congratulations must also be extended to the UL Football Club on their winning of the Limerick County Senior Football Championship and hope their success can be continued through the coming year.

### GAA Development officer

John Kelliher has been appointed as GAA Development officer in UL. John was previously the Development officer in Tralee RTC for four years.

Under John's guidance Tralee made great strides and to UL's cost, defeating UL in the Sigerson Football final last year. It is hoped that the Club will progress and develop with John's help over the

coming year. Already UL Hurling club has shown progress with the development of a second UL Freshers Team in the All-Ireland Freshers competition. This is the first time in UL's history that we will have a second first year team competing. Further developments will be announced soon.

John can be contacted in the GAA Development office in the Sports Building or on Ext. 2854 or from outside the College on (061) 202854.

Any ideas or suggestions can be bounced off John and he is more than willing to listen. A full profile of John will appear in an upcoming edition of An Focal.

### Stack is Back

Sean Stack has accepted the job of manager of the UL Senior Hurling team for the 97/98 League and Fitzgibbon campaigns. Sean brings a wealth of experience with him both as a player and as a manager.

Having played for Clare for a number of years at centre back and wing back and was named on the team of the seventies although his career as top class Hurler extends in to the late eighties. Most of his success as a giant of Clare hurling were achieved with his club Sixmilebride, winning an Munster club championship in 1984 along with a host of Clare senior championship medals. Sean continues to play for his club at intermediate level. He also trained the Toomevarra senior hurling to which reached the final of the All-Ireland club competition in 1993, and the Clare Under 21 team this year who were narrowly beaten by Cork, eventual winners of the All-Ireland title.

Late last year Sean took control of the senior hurling panel in UL and brought a new attitude towards training in to the camp. Hopefully with more time to develop his squad of players this year and prepare for a tough Fitzgibbon campaign we will have more success than last year.

Training/trials have already begun and will continue until the end of the Fitzgibbon campaign.

*Ciaran O'Loughlin*

## OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Australian absail (absailing while facing the ground). Everybody felt a quick pint in Kate Kearneys was needed to calm our nerves before we went back to Killarney. Between cooking the dinner, showering etc., the hostel was in a state of pandemonium for a while; but it wasn't long quieting down again when we all left for the pub and afterwards onto a disco. The words 'Come on





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lost, defeating UL in the Sigerson Football final last year. It is hoped that the Club will progress and develop with Johns+ help over the

League and Fitzgibbon campaigns. Sean brings a wealth of experience with him both as a player and as and manager.

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Ciaran O'Loughlin

# OUTDOOR PURSUITS

The Outdoor Pursuits Club had a successful start to the 97/98 College Year. With four day trips and a weekend away already under our belt the coming year looks to be an eventful one.

The first trip was organized for Sunday, Week 1. We originally planned for a Hillwalking and Rock Climbing trip to the Burren, but we had to change this on the day due to a forecast of rain. We ended up in the heart of Kerry a few hours later climbing Carrauntoohil. After splitting into two groups we set off on different routes aiming for the same peak. A few hours of sweating and the faster group made it to the summit, only to find that we had a view of less than 10 meters. The other group went no further than the Devil's Ladder due to high winds.

Wednesday, Week 2, the Cavers headed off to the Burren for another adventure down a hole. As every, getting wet and muddy was all in a days fun. On Sunday a group of 30 headed to the Burren for mainly rock climbing but with a little Hillwalking and even a trip to the Cliffs of Moher thrown in for good measure. The group took over a small pub on the way home which was made very interesting when an old man started patting

the ass of a member in our group (he wants to remain nameless for obvious reasons). After a bit of laugh he admitted to enjoying the attention. He must have got a bit of a shock or else there is no way to explain how he lost an arm wrestle with a girl only minutes later...

Week 3 saw our first weekend away to Killarney. Departing Saturday morning we eventually made it to our hostel and dropped off some of our gear. The group split in two at the Gap of Dunloe, with mountaineers heading for Purple

mountain and the rock climbers staying put (they didn't want to be too far away from Kate Kearney's cottage). The weather was fabulous; its not often that you get sunny clear skies the MacGillycuddy Reeks. Due to a late start the mountaineering group split, with one group willing to take things a bit more relaxed. The other group went to the summit of Purple mountain. Some of the rock climbers got a bit adventurous and tried a hair-raising

Australian absail (absailing while facing the ground). Everybody felt a quick pint in Kate Kearneys was needed to calm our nerves before we went back to Killarney. Between cooking the dinner, showering etc., the hostel was in a state of pandemonium for a while; but it wasn't long quieting down again when we all left for the pub and afterwards onto a disco. The words 'Come on Barbie, lets go party..' were being muttered for the next few days and verses from just about every song could be hear throughout the hostel that night. Next morning bright and early; after some production line breakfast cooking (rashers were lovely!) the rock climbers again went into the Gap of Dunloe while the real hardy men and women set off for Caher mountain and then across the ridge onto Carrauntoohil. The wind on the ridge was dangerously strong and we were all relieved to see no one carried over the edge! A quick stop off in Killarney for food and gear and a tired but happy group headed back for the reassuring sight of UL. All agreed it was a very successful weekend.

We look forward to seeing members, new and old, on our up-coming trips (check club notice board) and down at the climbing wall. OPC PRO



## Squash Club Notes

Training commenced on week 2 with a large number of new players in attendance. The increase in female players was a promising development especially with the 35's approaching. On Saturday of week 3 we held a competition that was well attended by both members and non-members. The competition was played by forming two leagues and the top two players in both groups qualified for the semi-finals. The overall winner was Conor Coughlan and the runner-up was Niall. There were some great matches with many going down to the wire.

Unfortunately there was one casualty on the day as Patric slipped and sprained his

ankle in the middle of a great match. However the free beer in the student centre afterwards compensated for the demands of the day. Not surprisingly there was a good attendance and plenty of beer to go around. Patric returned on crutches and had a few well deserved drinks. Preparations are currently underway for the 35's against DCU and teams are in the process of being selected. Club training takes place every Wednesday at 2:00 for beginners and 3:30 for improvers. New members are welcome. Our next competition will be held in week 9 and its open to members and non-members. Any inquiries may be directed to 9637974@student.ul.ie.





## DEBATING UNION



Deebating UnionWeek 3 at the Debating Union featured the motion "That UL students are being victimised by Castletroy residents". This was an extremely topical motion with relevance to all UL students. Proposing the motion were Marcus Lynch and Caroline Timmons. Opposing were Gerry Caulfield (chairman of the Milford Grange residents association) and Micheal Healy. The debate was attended by both students and residents and also by Fionnuala Sheehan. This was the first opportunity ever for a public forum on the issue where students, residents and other interested parties could voice their opinions. The motion was defeated by a substantial margin.

The motion for week 4 was "This house believes that politics has become

sexualised". Fiona Clandillon and Tracey Cooney proposed and Nick Kiersey and Claire McCarthy were the opposition. The motion was defeated. The event was followed by an amount of Heineken being consumed by everyone who was at the debate.

This Wednesday, DCU will be travelling to UL as part of the 35 Trophy, so come out and support your university. The details of the debate have yet to be finalised, so watch noticeboards.

Workshops for new speakers have begun. For anyone who is interested in joining the group, come along to any debate, or e-mail [debate\\_union@hotmail.com](mailto:debate_union@hotmail.com)

UL Debating Union is sponsored by Heineken

## The Postgraduate Students Association says Thank You.

The Postgraduate Students Association (aka The Postgrad Society) would like to take this opportunity to express their thanks to the many people who helped make their hosting of Presidential candidates Adi Roche and Mary McAleese such a success. It is impossible to mention everyone but an attempt is made below.

A big thank you to;

The Candidates

Leo Colgan, Callista Bennis and all the University staff who helped ensure that it would be possible for the PSA to hold the event

Fran O'Donnell, Niamh Barry, Gary Sciascha and all at The University Concert Hall for bending over backwards to facilitate the event.

Bobby O'Connor and the ULSU.

Keith Pigott and the Ents Crew.

Everyone who attended and to those who asked questions  
To those who didn't get a chance to ask a question.. we apologise but time was against us.

The two students who obliged us by moving seats... you know who you are-Thanks Lads

And last but by no means least the Postgraduate Students Association executive and in particular Eddie Punch, Ashley Beston and Padraic De Burca.

Finally we would like to apologise to the hundreds of people who were turned away, unfortunately the safety of those already in the hall had to come first

PS. A Number of other events are in the pipeline so keep an eye out for the "Postgrad Society" posters.

# Drama Society



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## Drama Society

UL Drama Soc got underway on Wednesday of week 1 and the following were elected - President: Leah Wallace, Vice-President: Sarah Maunsell, Secretary: Matt Cannon, Treasurer: Tracie Keenan, P.R. Officers: Jilly Hughes and Joan O'Sullivan and First Year Officer: Klaire Maguire. Workshops are to be held every Monday at 7pm in the Jonathan Swift Theatre. What do we actually do at these workshops? Well, a little bit of everything really - roleplays, games, monologues etc. Members are encouraged to bring along their own work or to perform their own sketches. So if you're a budding poet, playwright, comedian, social revolutionary - whatever, this is the place for you. Auditions were held on Wednesday of Week 3 for "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" directed by John Bacevicius. So John, in this play we have Einstein, Picasso and Elvis all sitting down together drinking coffee - Explain please - "Well, obviously it's a verbal comedy but since it was written by Steve Martin there's also a lot of room for physical comedy. It's taking three of the greatest twentieth century icons, putting them together and seeing what happens". And when can we see it? "We're aiming for the first week in December". So now you know. There's plenty more plays, shows and outings planned, this year is going to be the biggest, it's going to be the best for the Drama Soc and guess what, you lucky people you can still join! So even if you don't feel you can jump up on stage and start singing Baa Baa Black Sheep to Guns 'n' Roses while juggling oranges on a unicycle - just yet, then you can always come along to watch. Remember 7pm on Monday, the Jonathan Swift Theatre. See you there. BYEEEEEEEE

Joan O'Sullivan

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PS. A Number of other events are in the pipeline so keep an eye out for the "Postgrad Society" posters.

## Radio Society

If you're Donal Dineen's brother, or Dave Fannings sister, then we want you and your relatives record collection in the U.L. Radio Society. If you're not and you still want to join, then that's O.K. too, but we can't promise as much love and affection. Through the U.L. Radio Soc., you can become involved in Limerick's only student radio station, Wired 103FM, home of teen spirit in Limerick, and covering subjects ranging from the Discies to Pizza Parlours, from horoscopes to Howie B, and from book reviews to the Backstreet boys. C1058 on Tuesday nights is where and when we bang our heads together, so that's where you'll find us if you want to join and be a STAR!!!! This Tuesday, we'll be laughing and joking about the new studio which is in the canteen and which will be up and running soon, and which means Wired 103FM will soon be able to extend its broadcasting hours of 4-10pm. We'll also be talking about Soul Week, which is happening in week 8, and during which we'll be broadcasting from 8am - 3am every day for that week, and for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before it. That's not too far away, so give us a shout on Tuesday in C1058, and remember to keep the wireless stuck on your station, Wired 103FM.



# The Last Word

AN FOCAL TERM ONE WEEK FIVE

**PeeConDee** wasn't too impressed when he saw U2 slugged off on the internet. Instead of jumping to their immediate defence, he went to the show. Here's a report from PopMart (since nobody has written much 'bout the American leg of the tour)

There I was the other night scanning the internet when I was supposed to be writing and I came across this sentence posted by some guy in a discussion of U2;

*"... the PopMart tour whimpered to a stop... in Boston..."*

Could I be mistaken? Is this the PopMart tour that I saw? O.k. he says Boston and I saw it in Foxboro Stadium, which is like 20 miles away and maybe that's what he really means. But either way this is U2 we are talking about right? ">This"> I know. Well let me tell you something, the last word I would use to describe any night of this tour is "whimpered".

Now we all know U2; we've heard or seen them somewhere or sometime. And I never saw The Joshua Tree tour, but I did see Zoo TV - and from what I heard and saw myself nothing, none of that, can hold a match to PopMart. This was -and still is if you can catch it - the biggest spectacle ever, ever, ever ever put on anywhere. Ever. And believe me, I've seen some tours.

Some big tours. I saw the Stones at Shea (NY), the Who, Bob Dylan, Sting, Sinéad O Connor, Micheal Jackson in Cork. I've read and/or watched on t.v.

Madonna, Pink Floyd and that floating pig. I'm telling you nothing was, is or will be like this. PopMart? WOW! That's the only way to describe this.

And I couldn't have seen it in a whiter, more "Irish" (read: Irish-American) setting. As we walked in under the stand we found ourselves, my Greek American friend from Chicago and I, amidst 8-10 shirtless, green-white-and-gold flag-draped male followers chanting rebel anthems on their way to hear their messianic leader tell them like it is. These boys came to HEAR Bono.

The lights dimmed, spotlights spun around the crowd, finally coming together in one spot about the middle of the Astroturf based football field. A trippy techno version of the very pop-y Pop Music' began to rumble up from the huge sound system. The crowd rose. There they came!

Bono bringing up the rear in his boxing robe, all punching the air and jousting. The three others walked on ahead. Setting up shop at their respective instruments, waiting.. waiting until Bono had sucked it all up, until the adulation had reached crescendo. Then they boomed into 'MoFo' off the new album. It was a sight to behold. The newest, latest, most expensive



**Four scruffy lads pictured before a U2 concert.**

and expansive version of U2 the world had ever seen. WOW! Lights, video, sound - more electricity than most of Munster uses in a single day! This was something else.

And I've heard all the criticism, that its too big, that it takes from the music, that they are not as good. Rubbish! Sure these aren't the flag waving boys we knew. Nor are they the very earnest 'musicians' that blew America away at the beginning of the 90's.

These are the more mature, much more rich, much much more removed reinvented version of that quartet. And Bono this time thanked us all for being there, for staying with

them, for buying the new album much more than ever before.

And for once he really sounded sincere. He told us that this spectacle was for us, this is where our money had gone - well there and to Mother Records and the odd new house and a hotel in Temple Bar which he forgot to mention, but who's counting.

They gobbled up the big corporation before it gobbled them up, he declared.

Ok...how should it go?...? U2 - 1 Million Served???" Right.

And he played all the big hits anyway - Sunday Bloody Sunday, I Will Follow, and a surreal version of Streets Have No Name - the signature U2

chord.

We've witnessed Bono grow and change and become bigger than Dublin itself, we saw him preach, wear that bogus black hat, smoke those thin cigars, and champion every cause that was cool at the time.

But think what you want, say what you will, PopMart is the biggest and best concert ever put together. Like seeing Ireland beat England or Clare win an All-Ireland or the Kerry footballers of the 70's and 80's you must, you have to; you owe it to yourself and your descendants to see this. PopMart...the last word I'd use is "whimpered."



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# Caption Competition

The Photo Soc took 5 rolls of film last Tuesday, so we may as well use as many as possible. Your job? Again, supply a witty caption.

Answers, name and **ID No** to the SU office...ASAP

The winner of the last competition was Adrian Goggin, fourth year (who didn't supply an ID no) who came up with the rather simple; Ed: (singing) - "I'm in the money"



## Credits

Editing and Grumpy Spice: Ivan Moran

Advertising: Rebecca McLoughlin

Hob-Nobbing: Bobby O'Connor

Mommy Bear: Elaine Kiely

Court Jester: Keith Pigott

Typing: Majella Toomey

Photography: Alan Hickey, Gemma Collins, William Lyons

### Usual Suspects:

Paul Donegan, Paul Weekes, James Hurley, Nancy Cunningham, Michael Davis, Micheal Healy, Marie-Claire Douglas, Patrick Kennedy, Joan O'Sullivan, Barry McLoughlin, Seamus Ryan

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