



Get ready
for Kollege
Week

Practice Unplugged
Very nearby
Student Centre
Picture: 177



Fancy a foreign
Holiday
Uganda Feature
Page 5



An Focal Week Two Semester Two 24 February 1999

an Focal

UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK STUDENTS' UNION

STUDENT TEACHERS TAKE ON THE CAPITAL.

At present these students are required to teach for a total of 17 weeks during their intensive four year degree course. This involves attendance at a specified school from 9am - 5pm every working day for the full term of teaching practice. The extra expense during this time is phenomenal and is being totally ignored by the Higher Education Authority. In a lot of cases students are forced to pay double rent for both their accommodation while attending the university and accommodation while on teaching practice. In almost all cases students incur extra travel and clothing expenses along with having to provide new and novel methods of teaching through new resources.

In support of the issues above the Student Teachers of UL gathered at 9.30 on Wednesday morning and although the quantity of support expressed, left a lot to be desired, the 100 strong dedicated and reliable students departed in high spirits.

The two coaches left the university at 10.00am bound for Dublin and dually arrived at 1 o'clock where they were met by a police escort. Well prepared and very organised with banners, placards, a loud hailer and a petition with 5,000 signatures pasted onto 5 blackboards the students quickly took to the streets.

It wasn't long before the people of Dublin began to take notice of the demonstration as they marched and chanted from Mountjoy Square along O'Connell street around Trinity College and on to Dail Eireann with a full police escort. To the demonstrators it must have felt like marching in the St. Patricks Day parade as they found themselves on the receiving end of every tourists camera lens.

Once the march reached the Dail, a loud, high spirited but peaceful demonstration took place for about two hours with an edited rendition of James Connolly from John Sweeney (S.T.S. secretary). The party atmosphere could be heard in the lobby of the Dail and the

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STS shuts down
O'Connell St in a bid to
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STUDENTS' UNION



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK



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Funding for Political and Religious organisations

Article 10.6 of the University of Limerick students union constitution states "Political and religious organisations shall receive a maximum annually allocated grant of £1. These organisations may apply to special events funding for specific projects."

There is a myth within the students union and the student population at large that this article exists due to the fact that the students union is apolitical. This is a myth I hope to dispel.

Firstly, it should be noted that nowhere in the entire text of the students union constitution does it say that the union is 'apolitical'. In fact the word 'apolitical' or similar words are not contained within the document.

Secondly, article 2.6 of the same constitution states that one of the aims of the students union is "To work for an equitable education system in this country", which is a statement of political intent.

Therefore, to discriminate against students involved with political parties on campus, on the basis that the union is apolitical, is simply unjust.

Political and Religious societies within the University of Limerick provide an outlet for approximately 500 students, all of which pay their capitation fees, and they deserve the financial support of the students union, in essence to see a return on their money just the same as every member of club or society that does not fall under the political or religious heading.

In the last semester speakers such as Martin Mansergh (government advisor on the north), Enrique Diaz (Chilean refugee), Michael Noonan T.D, and Mitchal McLaughlin (Sinn Féin party chairperson) gave lectures on the campus, these lectures were not just attended by members of the political societies but also by students with an interest in current affairs in Ireland and in the world at large. Political parties provide a valuable service to the student population and this should be recognised by the students union. Another example of a service provided by the political parties was the cross party campaign to get students registered to vote. Over 500 students were either registered to vote for the first time or were registered for a postal vote, this campaign was run on an apolitical basis with the co-operation of all the parties on campus.

None of the political parties on campus are funded by their parent parties, but actually have to pay yearly registration fees. As well as this the situation has arose where it actually costs money to be officially recognised as a society within the university. Societies are required to submit a budget every year (even though we can receive no more than a £1) and run a stand during orientation week and during societies days in both semesters, the printing alone to do this runs well over the £1 we are allocated for our trouble.

Dear Editor,

Once again we have arrived at that time of year when UL students are coming from and going on co-op. Once again, as has become almost traditional at this time of year many of those students have already been or are in the process of being ripped off by unscrupulous landlords. As a group of students who have been on the receiving end of such treatment, we wish to bring attention to this on-going problem. While us students work in rubbishing weekend jobs in order to finance those same landlords' fancy cars and shopping trips, not to mention various playstations and other forms of personal entertainment. We are often repayed with such thanks as the withholding of deposits and being forced to pay rent for time not spent in their landlords little nest eggs. Hopefully, in writing this letter, we might ensure that due care will be taken by the various groups of students who will be moving into rented accommodation in February and that such things as leases etc are clear and fair. Take it from me that verbal agreements are not to be trusted.

(Authors' names with editor)

A Chara,

I would like to take this opportunity to commend those Student Teachers who were brave enough to march through the streets of Dublin and picket outside Leinster House last Wednesday. Special congratulations are due to the committee members who gave up their three week break to organise the protest.

Reaction on the streets along the route was supportive. Outside Leinster House they met with many opposition TDs, and had extensive chats with Joe Higgins (Socialist Party) and Senator Joe O'Toole, who both signed the petition, as well as Richard Bruton (FG spokesperson on Education & Science). The only member of the government to show their face was Tánaiste Mary Harney... but she took one quick glance over at the demonstrators and waddled across the street as quick as she could, trying her best to shield herself behind her aide!

Again, well done to all who turned out on the protest. You should be proud of yourselves! This is an important first step on the campaign for Teaching Practice Expenses. Best of luck with the follow up!

Le meas,

Ron Byrne.

UL Socialist Party

an Focal will entertain all opinions

the world at large. Political parties provide a valuable service to the student population and this should be recognised by the students union. Another example of a service provided by the political parties was the cross party campaign to get students registered to vote. Over 500 students were either registered to vote for the first time or were registered for a postal vote, this campaign was run on an apolitical basis with the co-operation of all the parties on campus.

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The craziness of the situation can be appreciated when you consider that Folk group are considered to be a religious society, and do not receive funding, because they play once a week in Milford church. And societies such as the Environmental society and Amnesty International, which by their very nature advocate political change, are not considered to be political societies. I should point out that I admire both of these societies and think that it is only right that the union supports them.

The problems most people would have with allocating money to political parties would be, the union seeming to favour one party more than another, and any allocated monies being used to campaign for the party, but in my opinion this can be easily solved by allocating the same amount to each party, and by setting up guidelines on what the money can and cannot be used for. The lowest amount allocated to any club or society this year was £500, political parties and religious groups have requested much less than this figure in the past but have always encountered difficulties in succeeding to change the constitution.

Now that the students union has promised an emergency general meeting to deal with the many problems clubs and societies have with the present constitution, I would urge the union to tackle this issue which for too long has gone unchanged, and I would also urge the other clubs and societies to lend us their support.

Sincerely,

Muiris O Sullivan, P.R.O

U.L Sinn Féin (Sean Sabhat Cumann)

Joe Higgins (Socialist) and the petition as well as Richard Brinsford (Science). The only member of the government to show their face was Tánaiste Mary Harney... but she took one quick glance over at the demonstrators and waddled across the street as quick as she could, trying her best to shield herself behind her aide! Again, well done to all who turned out on the protest. You should be proud of yourselves! This is an important first step on the campaign for Teaching Practice Expenses. Best of luck with the follow up!

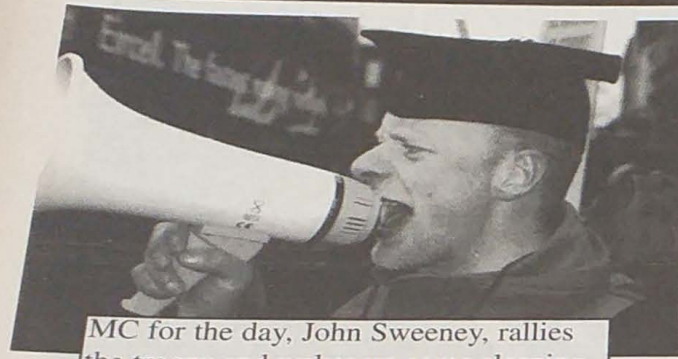
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an Focal will entertain all opinions, criticism, recommendations, cash in, brown paper bags, hatemail, views, previews, reviews, ideas, suggestions, philosophies, praise and drugs on the letters to the editor page. They don't have to be about anything serious - they don't have to be about anything at all. Just drop them into the box on the counter in the Students' Union and then we'll make you famous.



ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

Student Teachers continued



MC for the day, John Sweeney, rallies the troops and wakes up some sleeping politicians outside the Dail.

tures was presented in a bound form to Sen. Joe O' Toole and another forwarded to the Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Michael Martin. Further to the discussions held, amendments to the original questions tabled in the Dail will be prepared and passed on to the Minister for Education and Science, Michael Martin through the party representatives.

A delegation representing the Student Teachers' Society went on to

Marine House where they met with Mr. John Hayden, spokesman for the HEA and again outlined their grievances and presented another bound copy of the petition.

We would like to express our appreciation to the representatives who took the time to listen and who expressed support for our situation, especially the following; Richard Bruton, Joe O'Toole, Jan O'Sullivan, Joe Higgins, Dan Neville, Eddie Wade, Willie Penrose, Michael D. Higgins, Denis Noughton, Fergus O'Dowd, Alan Dukes,

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Pictured out and about in Dublin Last week, the Student Teachers' Society picket the Dail

Michael Ring, Brendan Daly and Tom Kitt.

Finally we would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the dedicated individual students who helped make the march a very successful demonstration and represented themselves and the University with dignity and pride. Some students even got the chance visit the cinema and others managed to

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ABOUT 400 trainee teachers from the University of Limerick paraded through Dublin, this Wednesday, seeking financial support for their professional training.

They were met at the gates of Dail Eireann by a number of deputies.

Fergal Cunningham, President of the Student Teachers' Society at UL, said that none of those going were from Mary Immaculate College, as these were primary teachers, and were on a completely different course.

"We are secondary teachers, who do our Higher Diploma in Education as part of our four-year degree course," he said. "At UCC, for example, they do their H.Dip for a year after finishing a three-year degree course."

The students later handed in a petition to the Department of Education in Mount Street.

UL Students' Union president, Barry McLoughlin, said: "We, as education students, must endure 18 weeks of practical experience, over a four-year intensive Higher Diploma course, and receive absolutely nothing to support us."

"As student teachers, we are subjected to huge expenditure while on our practical experience."

"School placements are often too far away to commute, and therefore a second accommodation is often a necessity."

It adds that the presentation of lessons involved the preparation of costly procedures.

A suitably attired Fergal Cunningham gets explicit with Opposition Spokesperson for Education, Richard Bruton, TD.

for poor Gene and Roger who were totally "puzzled" on the return leg of the journey, still dizzy from the glaring lights of the media.

Thanks to the Students' Union, especially to the CEO, Kieran O'Hara who became an honorary member of the society for the day.

Thanks also to Ron Byrne (Socialist Party) for all his help and support throughout.

And one final note of thanks and appreciation to Fergal Cunningham (STS Chairman) and Gene Matthews (STS Treasurer) for their tireless work in preparation for the march over the past four weeks.

Well Done !!!

Just some of the column inches that the STS attracted in Dublin last Wednesday.

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Outside the HEA prior to presenting 5,000 signatures to John Haden, Chairman, HEA.

Student teachers to descend on Dail in claim for pay

by Neena McSweeney
Education Correspondent

CASH-STRAPPED students who work for nothing during practical experience stunts are taking to the streets this week to highlight their plight and demand pay. Up to 600 students will march in Dail Eireann on Wednesday to press their campaign for the students' Union President at the University of Limerick, Barry McLoughlin, said it is unjust that they receive no financial support for their placement stints.

As been many of the programmes, the students' Union president, DJ Moore, said yesterday's protest was supported by representatives, the students' Union and the Union of Students in Limerick. Students have not yet decided their next recourse, but do not expect classes will be resumed in the new building for at least another 10 days. College authorities were unavailable for comment last night.

Meanwhile, trainee teachers, who are demanding support while on teaching practice, yesterday took their campaign to the steps of Dail Eireann. Over 150 student teachers from the University of Limerick protested at the

gates of Leinster House, where they presented their campaign for a weekly subsidy from the Department of Education. They claim this is necessary to cover their expenses during 18 weeks' obligatory training over their four-year course.

Campaign spokesman, Kieran O'Hara, said the students teachers were more optimistic following their protest. They handed petitions to Irish National Teachers Organisation general secretary, Joe O'Toole, and TD's outside the Dail. They have promised to press their case with Education Minister, Michael Martin.

"It's intolerable that student teachers are put through a financial hardship that no other student in the country must endure. Professional training should get adequate assistance," he urged. Each year, thousands of students from third level centres across the country go out on work placement and receive financial support. Foreign students on Erasmus exchanges are also granted 18 weeks of practical experience over a four year intensive higher diploma course and receive also.

"Student teachers often pay rent on a second home, meet travel expenses and foot overheads such as photocopying. Money spent preparing materials for final assessment can also determine final grades, the union claims. The Department of Education said it was never a paid activity. It is training, not employment. It is part of the college curriculum. Those on higher education grants maintain their entitlements, said a Department spokesman."

to of Technology
Anne Aylward.

petition were also minister's office and to Education Authority. For a whole lot of just expenses. Many student teacher practice outside Limerick have to maintain a second home, pay rent and pay materials costs of between £30 and £40 a week. Our demand totals up to no more than £100 a week for our 18 weeks," said Mr O'Hara.

The Department of Education and Science said teacher practice was never a paid placement and is part of the traditional curriculum for teachers.



Trainee teachers, Gene Matthews, Tipperary and Roger Geoghagan, protest outside the Dail, yesterday, for funding while they are on placement.

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"We are secondary teachers, who do our Higher Diploma in Education as part of our four-year degree course," he said. "At UCC, for example, they do their H.Dip for a year after finishing a three-year degree course."

The students later handed in a petition to the Department of Education in Mount Street, UL Students' Union president, Barry McLoughlin, said: "We, as education students, must endure 18 weeks of practical experience, over a four-year intensive Higher Diploma course, and receive absolutely nothing to support us."

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Boogie Nights
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— EQUINOX, SLIGO 02/02, ELROYS, CORK 03/02, CLUB LA, WATERFORD 10/02 —

— ORCHARD INN, LETTERKENNY 16/02, HORANS, TRALEE 18/02, —

— LAKESIDE HOTEL, ATHLONE 24/02, U.C.G. BAR, GALWAY 25/02 —

— MAYNOOTH COLLEGE, 01/03, MEAN FIDDLER, DUBLIN 03/03 —

— DOLANS WAREHOUSE, LIMERICK 04/03, FABLES, TALLAGHT 05/03 —

Uganda Calling

Have you ever done something really worthwhile? Could you ever in your wildest dreams imagine yourself on a workcamp in sun-soaked Africa? In the first of two articles, UL International Studies post-grad James Hurley reports on how the joint efforts of Irish and Ugandan students have brought hope to orphans in East Africa.

Life beyond Western consumer society

There's something about being part of the human race that makes you want to do good, at least every once in a while. I'd call it a need. But it's not just any kind of need, least of all a consumer one. As a consumer I'm concerned solely about myself, and boy will I raise hell if the producer or service provider doesn't give me what I want!

These days consumer ethics permeate just about everything in the Western world, from the quality of the breakfast cereal you eat in the morning to the standard of campus lighting as you make your way home from university at night. The best marketing talent is employed by the wealthiest companies and institutions to convince you that you need them. Sometimes they're simply concerned with keeping your customer loyalty. Other times they tell you of needs you never realised you had: expensive designer clothes, personal car, cool mobile phone, state of the art laptop, latest software upgrades, annual holiday in the sun, etc., etc.. Either way they count on the human instinct to look after number one, and by and large they succeed.

But people are not just consumers. Endless consumption of goods—even alcoholic ones—is satisfying only up to a point. Beyond basic physical needs of eating, drinking and sleeping, all of us have social needs of friendship, society and mutual respect. And beyond that again we want to do good because it is part and parcel of being human to want to help others, especially the less well off. No consumer product can meet people's need to see justice done or to achieve equality among peoples. Yet it is a basic part of human nature—most especially when you're young—to be idealistic, to want to help change things for the better: in short, to be happy by

making others who are unhappy, happy. That brings me to the heart of what I'm writing about: CODEP's August '99 workcamp to Uganda.

CODEP development projects

Since 1992 CODEP (Claraun Overseas Development Projects) has been running development projects in Third World countries. University students from various disciplines work in educational, health care and infrastructure development projects. They work shoulder to shoulder with local people under the supervision of qualified professionals.

Students volunteer for various reasons, but all see the workcamp as an adventurous challenge, a unique chance to broaden their horizons while putting their skills and friendship at the service of others. The exposure to new skills is exciting and demanding, and many discover previously untapped abilities and talents. Read the following comments from two previous participants:

I've learned a lot of skills like brick work, manual labour skills which I never had learned before. I've learned as well how to get on with people—I taught a few classes and that was very interesting.

Anthony from Dublin (1997).

I'm one of about twenty university students who are working here on this workcamp in Uganda. We come from all over the place, from Uganda, Kenya, England, Ireland and Australia. [...] The locals here have been training us to learn new skills. I'm a pharmacist working in England, so it's something new to me to work on a building site. It's my first workcamp here in Africa; I hope it's not going to be my last.

Tim from Manchester (1997).

No less enthused by the 'whities' (bazungu) are the Ugandans who are amazed to see Westerners taking up shovels and picks:

We never expected to have such a group. Because we have already met these Bazungu, who are very rich and have these airplanes. But when these people came we were surprised: they were playing with us; they were socialising with the local community; they were doing manual work, constructing, teaching people in the villages; it was really a surprise for us. The members of the workcamp have



given a very good lesson particularly to our younger people here... Because ... the very people that they are looking to try to copy are giving them practical lessons in manual work, digging with the shovels, constructing structures.

-A local villager from Matala, Southern Uganda.

... in this workcamp I've been very impressed by the members of the workcamp from Europe, their spirit of cooperation—they have worked very hard. It has been a very nice experience for me too because I have learned many things about Ireland, about England. I've also been very amused by the way the European members of the workcamp appreciate the things that Africans take for granted: like the sunrise, the sunset

James, a young Ugandan student and workcamp participant.

The 1997 workcamp involved construction of a zero-grazing compound for cattle and a rabbit-breeding unit. The aim was to generate much needed income for the local community and to support orphan school children who number between 5,000 and 8,000 in Matala. Last year students from counties as far apart as Donegal, Westmeath, Tipperary and Dublin helped complete the construction of a primary school in Ggoli, the Mpigi district. The students built two classrooms, a main hall, library, headmaster's office and pit latrines under a Ugandan Ministry of Education supervisor.

Plans for Uganda Workcamp, 1999

This year plans are already being hatched for a workcamp in the Luwero district, 65km from Uganda's capital, Kampala. Possible

car, cool mobile phone, state of the art laptop, latest software upgrades, annual holiday in the sun, etc., etc.. Either way they count on the human instinct to look after number one, and by and large they succeed.

But people are not just consumers. Endless consumption of goods—even alcoholic ones—is satisfying only up to a point. Beyond basic physical needs of eating, drinking and sleeping, all of us have social needs of friendship, society and mutual respect. And beyond that again we want to do good because it is part and parcel of being human to want to help others, especially the less well off. No consumer product can meet people's need to see justice done or to achieve equality among peoples. Yet it is a basic part of human nature—most especially when you're young—to be idealistic, to want to help change things for the better: in short, to be happy by

from Uganda, Kenya, England, Ireland and Australia. [...] The locals here have been training us to learn new skills. I'm a pharmacist working in England, so it's something new to me to work on a building site. It's my first workcamp here in Africa; I hope it's not going to be my last.

Tim from Manchester (1997).

No less enthused by the 'whities' (bazungu) are the Ugandans who are amazed to see Westerners taking up shovels and picks:

We never expected to have such a group. Because we have already met these Bazungu, who are very rich and have these airplanes. But when these people came we were surprised: they were playing with us; they were socialising with the local community; they were doing manual work, constructing, teaching people in the villages; it was really a surprise for us. The members of the workcamp have

like the sunrise, the sunset

James, a young Ugandan student and workcamp participant.

The 1997 workcamp involved construction of a zero-grazing compound for cattle and a rabbit-breeding unit. The aim was to generate much needed income for the local community and to support orphan school children who number between 5,000 and 8,000 in Matala. Last year students from counties as far apart as Donegal, Westmeath, Tipperary and Dublin helped complete the construction of a primary school in Ggoli, the Mpigi district. The students built two classrooms, a main hall, library, headmaster's office and pit latrines under a Ugandan Ministry of Education supervisor.

Plans for Uganda Workcamp, 1999

This year plans are already being hatched for a workcamp in the Luwero district, 65km from Uganda's capital, Kampala. Possible projects are a school, zero-grazing compound, rabbit house and rain collector system. Once again it is expected that the workcamp will involve a significant Irish contingent. All you need be is hard-working, flexible, cheerful and genuinely the kind of guy who likes to do a good turn for others. Students aged 18 upward are eligible. Applicants are accepted after interview. They are required to contribute £400 towards the cost. However the total cost is over twice this figure, so additional fundraising efforts are encouraged. Nineteen ninety-nine may be UL's year to come up with the goods. If you want to do something worthwhile this summer and do some travelling along the way, don't settle for being a blood donor or spending all your money in Rag Week. Instead save it for five fabulous weeks of hard, but deeply satisfying, work and an exhilarating experience this August in Uganda.

APPLY NOW — PLACES LIMITED

Further details & application form:

Dr. Ciaran Clarke, Cleraun Study Centre, 90 Foster Avenue, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin.

Tel: 01-2881734. Email: cleraun@tinet.ie

<http://homepage.tinet.ie/~univcentres/cleraun>

Limerick contact: James Hurley.

email 8710813@student.ul.ie



Welfare

Welcome back, especially to all of you who were on Co-op. The Welfare office is in the same location and anyone who has any queries please do not hesitate to call in, even if its just for a chat!

Are you a single parent?. I so, and you want more information on the CRECHE BURSARY. Please contact Tara at the Students' Union.

Outreach Society has been officially set up this semester and its aim is to involve students solely in voluntary University and Community project. The two projects are the ULSU Unplugged CD to be dedicated to the deceased UL students and secondly the Limerick Education Initiative. This involves one to one tuition, Homework club and Clubs & Societies afternoon in conjunction with St. Enda's Community College, Kilmallock Road, Limerick. Anyone who has not put their name down and is still interested please contact Tara at the Students Union.

LIMERICK FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

27 MALLOW STREET, LIMERICK.
TEL. 061 - 312026.

- Open Daily for supplies and information on contraception.
- Cancer screening service including smear testing and breast examination.
- Medical clinics by appointment for all methods of contraception and 'morning after' pill.
- Information, advice and testing for STD's.
- On the spot pregnancy test.
- Non directive counselling.



RENTING PRIVATE HOUSING

Nearly all students stay in rented accommodation for the academic year and with this comes various kinds of problems. Last semester I encountered and heard many different kinds of stories and I am hoping that this information will be of some help to you for this semester. So keep this issue of An Focal in a safe place!!

Tenants' Rights and Duties

Tenants have legal rights and legal duties. Your legal rights derive from general landlord/tenant law, as well as from any written or verbal tenancy agreement between you and your landlord. Duties include paying your rent, keeping the place in good order, avoiding damage or nuisance and complying with any special terms set down in your tenancy agreement, verbal or written, it may be more difficult to assert your rights where you have broken the conditions of your tenancy.

Rent Books

You are entitled to, in law, to a rent book (or other document such as a letting agreement) in which all payments made to the landlord must be recorded. In addition, the rent book must contain other specified information about the tenancy.

Deposit

Most landlords look for a deposit, often a months rent. The amount and purpose of the deposit, as well as the condition under which it will be returned,

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Cartoonist Wanted
If Interested,
Contact Tara
in the
Students Union.

CITIZENS INFORMATION
54 CATHERINE STREET, LIMERICK
061 311444

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE
OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 4PM

SERVICES

FREE LEGAL SERVICE - THURSDAY 7.30PM - 9PM

FINANCIAL INFORMATION - WEDNESDAY 7.30PM - 9PM

OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE - LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 10AM - 1PM & 2PM - 4PM.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS - LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 10AM - 1PM & 2PM - 4PM

THRESHOLD - ACCOMMODATION, LANDLORD / TENANT PROBLEMS - FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH - 10AM - 1PM & 2PM - 4PM.

Tenants have legal rights as well as from any written agreement landlord/tenant law, as well as from any written agreement between you and your landlord. Duties include paying your rent, keeping the place in good order, avoiding damage or nuisance and complying with any special terms set down in your tenancy agreement, verbal or written, it may be more difficult to assert your rights where you have broken the conditions of your tenancy.

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Deposit

Most landlords look for a deposit, often a months rent. The amount and purpose of the deposit, as well as the condition under which it will be returned, must be recorded in the rent book. Generally, the landlord holds the deposit as security against your breaking the tenancy agreement. You may forfeit some or all of the deposit:

- If you don't give proper notice, or if you leave before the end of your lease or tenancy agreement
- for damage to the landlords property above normal wear and tear.
- for unpaid bills or rent owed

Advertising or reletting costs are not normally valid reasons for withholding a deposit. If you don't get the full deposit back because of repairs or replacement items, ask to see the receipts.

Inventory of Contents

Your landlord must record, in your rent book, details of furnishings and appliances provided. It is desirable (though not compulsory) to also record their condition as this can help to prevent disputes about damaged or broken items. Check the inventory carefully to make sure it is accurate - take photos if you have to!!

Leases and Letting Agreements

Any tenancy agreement you make with the landlord is valid in law whether it is made verbally or in writing. Written agreements or leases are of benefit to both sides. If you are signing a lease or agreement, it is important to read carefully and to consider what you are agreeing.

Leases for fixed periods

A formal lease or letting agreement is usually for a fixed period, e.g a year. You cannot be asked to leave during that time unless you break one of the terms of the lease.

You are entitled to formal notice of any claim that you have broken the tenancy conditions, and to be given time to set things right.

If you want to leave before the lease is up, you could be held liable for the rent for the balance of the letting period.

FRAMES

On Thursday night last, the Frames returned to the Student Centre after their two sell out gigs last year, as part of their current tour to promote their new e.p., 'I Am The Magic Hand'.



It took a while but it finally got going, and when it did, it was definitely worth the wait. Problems with equipment held the gig up for a little over an hour, but after that it was all go. *Kubrick* started the night in support, and played a great set, even if it had to be kept a little short because of the delay. The Frames then took to the little stage, caged in with candles, to play "this fucked up little room", as he calls it himself. Glen was a little out of sorts, not

least because of the beating he received from bouncers in Galway's Cuba the night before for the heinous crime of crowd surfing. Look's like the 'no fun allowed' policy of the Galway cop is rubbing off on the Galway bouncer.

Anyway, 'Turbid' started the gig, a laid back instrumental which can be found on their new e.p., 'I am the Magic Hand'. 'Plateau' was the next one on the list before the new single, 'God Bless Mom' (the main track on the e.p.) was given a loud and fast airing, with the Pixies influence really raising its head. Watch out for the video for that by the way. Then it was into the stuff everyone knows, and 'In this Boat Together' was back after a long absence from their live set. 'Monument' woke up those at the back of the student centre.

The Frames continued to keep the Student Centre bouncing for another hour so it went on from there, with the title track to the new album (which comes out in March) 'Dance The Devil', and the title track to the last one 'Fitzcarraldo', keeping the ball rolling, as well as a low key take on

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An encore was of course expected, and given. Four songs, the first another instrumental taken from 'I am the magic hand' called 'Early Riser'. The brilliant 'Star Star' worked into 'Say It To Me Now', and the night finished with the music lover's love song, 'Red Chord'.

DUENDE.



"It's nice to be back in this fu@ked up little room. We're all a little frail tonight, er...I got beat up last night by bouncers in Galway so we're all a little frail. So if you'll be nice to us, then we'll be nice to you."

-Glen Hansard

The Frames dc



TALL PAUL

A VERY BIG
DJ, DESTINED
FOR BIG
THINGS - LIKE
UL'S KOLLEGE
WEEK.

Get Ready for
KOLLEGEWEEK, Not
Now, But Right Now

IT'S TERM 2 AND IN ENTS TERMS THAT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING.

"KOLLEDGE WEEK"

THAT WONDERFUL WEEK WHEN WE ALL LOSE OUR INHIBITIONS, MINDS, CLOTHES AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT HASN'T BE LOST TO THE WORLD ALREADY. FOR ALL YOU FIRST YEARS WHO HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED THE PHENOMENON THAT IS UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK, KOLLEDGE WEEK THEN GET INTO TRAINING NOW. FOR EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN HERE A WHILE THEN GET READY FOR THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST EVER. SO SET THOSE CLOCKS FOR MONDAY WEEK 8 AND GET ON THE ROLLERCOASTER THAT IS.

CHARITY

DESPITE WHAT MOST STUDENTS THINK THE REAL REASON WE GO THROUGH THE PAIN AND EXCESSES OF KOLLEDGE WEEK IS TO RAISE AS MUCH MONEY AS IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE FOR CHARITY. LAST YEAR WE MANAGED TO RAISE £17,000 FOR LOCAL TRADITIONAL CHARITIES, IT WAS A MASSIVE INCREASE ON ANYTHING THAT HAD BEEN RAISED IN PREVIOUS YEARS BUT WE ARE AIMING TO BEAT EVEN THAT AGAIN THIS YEAR. WE ARE SETTING OURSELVES A TARGET OF OVER £20,000 FOR CHARITY. THIS IS A VAST SUM OF MONEY TO RAISE IN ONE WEEK, BUT IF EVERYBODY GETS INVOLVED AND GOES OUT AND DOES THEIR BIT THEN THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T MAKE THAT KIND OF MONEY. SO WE'RE ALREADY THE BIGGEST RAG WEEK IN THE COUNTRY BUT THIS YEAR WE'RE ALSO AIMING TO BE THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO CHARITY, LETS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ALL THE OLD STUFF PLUS SOME NEW STUFF.

THE NEW STUFF

BLONDEATHON
BACK TO SKOOL PARTY



THOSE CLOCKS FOR MONDAY WEEK 8 AND

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ALL THE OLD STUFF PLUS SOME NEW STUFF.

THE NEW STUFF

BLONDEATHON
BACK TO SKOOL PARTY
THE PSYCHO SWING
GIANT TWISTER
LOADS MORE ON THE WAY!!

THE OLD STUFF

BEACH PARTY
FOAM PARTY
PIMPS & PROSTITUTES BALL
ORGASM COMPETITIONS
BLIND DATE & EVERYTHING ELSE.

THERE'S LOADS MORE I JUST CAN'T THINK OF IT RIGHT NOW BUT THE DAYTIME SCHEDULE IS ELSEWHERE ON THIS PAGE.

ACTS

SO FAR ALREADY CONFIRMED ARE TALL PAUL, PICTUREHOUSE, WATERCRESS, ZAK POWERS. WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF BOOKING LOADS MORE SO KEEP TUNED TO THIS SPACE FOR MORE DETAILS, BUT ALREADY THE HIGHLIGHT IS LOOKING LIKE TALL PAUL FOR THE RAG BALL IN THE MARQUEE. IT SHOULD BE A GREAT THURSDAY NIGHT. LAST YEAR MARK KAVANAGH DID A GREAT GIG IN THE MARQUEE WITH A MASSIVE REACTION FROM THE CROWD - SO TALL PAUL SHOULD IN REALITY BE ONE OF THE BEST NIGHTS EVER. LIKE I SAY STAY TUNED TO THESE PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS. THERE WILL BE LOADS MORE!

Music Sec.
Raft Race
Mud Wres
Giant Ker
Wine Drin
Car Wast
Iron Stor
Stocks I
Greasy

Thursd
-a littl
Cucur
The G
Proof
Inter
Slav
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Rag
Big
Big
M

KOLLEGE WEAK '99 SECEDURE

An Focal Semester Two Week Two Page Nine

Daytime Schedule

Tuesday

Love is in the Air & its a Bad Hair Day

Music Soc. Showcase - TBC

Blind Date - Guest Presenter - (Jason Byrne, Patrick Kielty)

Condom Blowing

Orgasm Competition

Yard of Coke

Pass the 'Utopia' parcel

Hot Chili Beans

Shaveathon

Blondeathon

Condom Dunking

Wednesday

-Wet & Wild

Music Soc. Showcase - TBC

Raft Race

Mud Wrestling

Giant 'Ker Plunk'

Wine Drinking

Car Wash (Volunteers Please)

Iron Stomach

Stocks (Sabbaticals first)

Greasy Pole

Night-time Schedule

Home & Away

Monday

Abbaesque & 70's Disco
Bar Extension

No Off-campus events

Tuesday

Watercress
& Skin 'n Bone

Pimps & Prostitutes - Docs
Tribute Band - Dolans

Wednesday

Soulfinger (The Joules)
& Radars
& DJ
Bar Extension

Rag Ball 2 - Docs or Dolans

Thursday

Tall Paul
& Bud DJ

Foam Party - The Gallery
Dolans - Live Act

Friday

The Frames & Support
Bar Extension

Dolans - Picturehouse
& Support

Back-up \ Alternative Events

Beach Party - Venue Problems

Tramps Ball - New Event (UCC)

Rag Trip - Ennis \ Charleville \ Tralee

They think it's all over - It is now !!!!!

The Cellar Comedy Club.

A new comedy club for Limerick starts on Saturday, 6th March @ the Lodge Nightclub. Tickets are available at the door and some of Ireland's foremost comedians are already confirmed.

Saturday 6th March

Barry Murphy

Presenter and writer of "The End" (RTE), writer and performer of "Apres Match" during the '98 World Cup. Also featured heavily in RTE's "Couched" and in the Cat Laugh's tour.

Michael Mee

He has at least one thing in common with politicians Pat Cox and Willie O'Dea - He gave up his day job as a law lecturer at UL to be a professional funny man. "The brightest comedy talent of recent times" (Irish Times).

Garry Laval

A comic impressionist doing the voices of Bertie, Dave Fanning, Daniel, Dinny, Gaybo.... To name but a few.

Saturday March 13th

Jason Byrne

Catch him while you can. With appearances already in "Gas", "Farther Ted" and "the General", a new sitcom for Channel 4 as well as a Whoopi Goldberg film in the pipeline, this first rate comedian is about to go inter-stellar.

Wine Drinking
Car Wash (Volunteers Please)
Iron Stomach
Stocks (Sabbaticals first)
Greasy Pole

Thursday

-a little bit of everything
Cucumber Attack
The Gunge Tank (this year it's Barry Proof)
Intervarsity Boat Race
Slave Auction
Yard of Ale
Rag Debate - UL v UCC
Big Mac Comp.
Riverdancing Competition
Music Soc. - Human Jukebox

Friday

-Life really is a beach!!!!
The Psycho Swing n The Ideal
Hangover Cure
Mega Twister
Limbo Competition
Blind Beach Volleyball
Hula Competition
Cocktail Crazy
Bar Body Surfing
Pizza Competition

Bar Extension

& Support

Back-up \ Alternative Events

Beach Party - Venue Problems

Tramps Ball - New Event (UCC)

Rag Trip - Ennis \ Charleville \ Tralee

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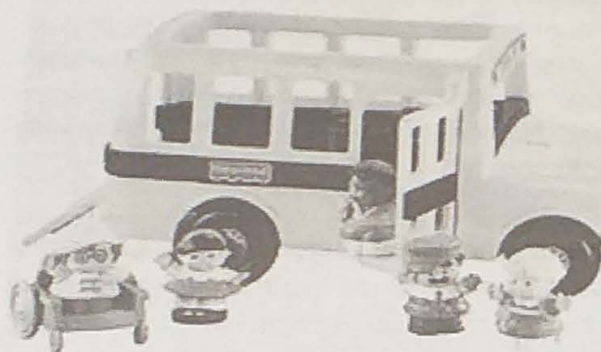
Picture House, scheduled for the Friday of Kollege Week.

OBITUARY

It's a sad day in hip hop as people around the world are mourning the loss of one of it's finest. Big L who's real name is Lamont Coleman was tragically murdered in Harlem [Uptown] New York City early last week. The details surrounding his shooting are still sketchy. Big L for those who don't know was a stellar member of the Digging In The Crates Crew and was best known for his enticing raps about life on the streets of New York. A few years back he had a couple of underground hit songs called 'MVP' and 'Street Struck' on Columbia records. He never quite blew up in a way that reflected his talent, but '99 looked to a year in which that all changed having just released his single "Ebonics" on his own label and was finally receiving some much deserved recognition. . Big L will undoubtedly be missed. Our condolences go out to his family.

-If rap was a game I'd Be MVP. The Most valuable player in the industry Big L Rest in Peace

Nitelink Returns



The bus used in the film Speed, aka Nitelink resumed normal service last week and will continue to run right up to week 14 servicing all the housing estates from Kilmurray to Park Lodge and every where in between, every night from 7.00pm to 11.30pm - and all for free too!!

ARE YOU A
SWAT?
IF NOT THEN
YOU SHOULD BE!

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE

SAY IT

**Summer
Work**

GIGOLO RING UNCOVERED IN UL

The Gimps Column has in in-depth investigation, uncovered an organisation known as 'the Knights of the Brown Ring'. This society is allegedly involved in providing the college with an apparently much needed gigolo pay as you play service. The exposure of such an organisation is perhaps the largest state scandal since the Haughey scandal.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993 legalises buggery between consenting adults. The gigolos therefore have no legal worries on the grounds of their homosexuality. However the 'Knights of the Brown Ring' have come under Garda scrutiny due to the fact that money is alleged to have changed hands in exchange for sexual acts; prostitution is illegal in Ireland.

The Knights are facing several legal actions from individuals within the university. One diligent metal work student claims that he has suffered severe trauma as a result of being told of the telephone service provided by the Knights. He is devastated that the operation has been shut down as he has just returned from co-op with money and rubber to burn but his chance to dial 1550 - cum was thwarted by Gimps' thorough investigation. He is also claiming an earnings loss due to the fact that he is a skilled manufacturer of sex games accessories. The case is looks unlikely to succeed.

One thing is for sure, the outbreak of this scandal has created a number of sexual suspects around college. It is still unclear on how and where the ring operated but it is thought that a telephone service was used. This offence seems to have occurred in campus residence. The Gimps have questioned Paul Lee, Societies Development Officer, and he has categorically denied any knowledge of the Knights of the Brown Ring. SU President, Barry McLoughlin refuses

YOU SHOULD BE!

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE

SAY IT

J1 Summer Work And Travel

PROGRAMME

**THE USA IS WAITING FOR
YOU!**

**AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT - BOOK TODAY
£100 DEPOSIT SECURES A PLACE**



Student And Youth International Travel

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- SAYIT, FREEPOST, 78, GRAND PARADE, CORK.
- E-Mail: enquiries@sayit.ie
- Website: www.sayit.ie

**BOOK THROUGH
DES RYAN
TRAVEL
55 THOMAS ST.
061 419999**

A Limited number of J1s are still available

investigation due to the fact that he is a sex games accessories. The case is looks unlikely to succeed.

One thing is for sure, the outbreak of this scandal has created a number of sexual suspects around college. It is still unclear on how and where the ring operated but it is thought that a telephone service was used. This offence seems to have occurred in campus residence. The Gimps have questioned Paul Lee, Societies Development Officer, and he has categorically denied any knowledge of the Knights of the Brown Ring. SU President, Barry McLoughlin refuses to comment on whether or not this organisation has got any Students' Union funding. Paul Lee suggested (strangely putting his hands in his pockets) that the organisation would have been entirely self-financing.

The only solution seems to be to set up a tribunal. Meanwhile the gossip is raging in the Stables and students seem to be congregating in a strange linear fashion around college, arguments over whose arse is to be better shielded by the wall have even been overheard.

Having studied long and hard in every toilet facility on campus in search of a winner, the Gimps can reveal what they feel to be the most heart touching poem to be found on any toilet wall

And the winning poem is -

To shit-house poets when they die,
should be erected in the sky,
a fitting tribute to their wit,
a monument of solid shit.

Hi there,

Just a message to update everyone on Clubs & Societies goings on so far in Semester Two.

At the first C&S Council Meeting of this Semester which took place on Tuesday 16th-Feb in the Schumann only 40 of the 70 plus C&S were represented, with apologies from three. To those that did not attend or give reasons for non-attendance you will only have yourself to blame when your budgets start to diminish next year. Attendances have been strictly recorded this year and will be adhered to in terms of rewarding those who make the effort for C&S on the whole.

Despite this the support was positive in terms of the proposed Structural Reform and will be discussed further on Saturday 27th of Feb in the Jean Monnet and attendance is compulsory on all C&S (10.00am start). The proposed EGM will take place in Week Five to ratify the proposals which if quorate (as anticipated) will be binding on all Clubs & Societies whether you choose to be involved or not. On a separate issue I would actively encourage any and all Clubs and Societies to get involved with the Limerick Education Initiative as discussed by Tara

mc Cabe (Deputy President/ Welfare Officer) at the C&S Council Meeting. To recap this is an initiative backed by Dr Roger Downer where C&S are asked to help disadvantaged schools in the area once every three weeks (1-2hrs) for the Second Semester, in return the C&S individuals will receive a certificate of recognition from UL President Dr. Roger Downer and in addition Mr Pat O Connor will arrange for Junior Rotary Membership for all who participate. I would appeal to all C&S Committee members to get organised and arrange for some coaching or whatever it is that you do under the guise of Clubs & Societies for those less fortunate than you. This is an extremely worthwhile cause and for many of the sporting organisations whose seasons are effectively over I would hope that you could organise some coaching on the fields or in the gym during this time. Already the Basketball Club, Athletics Club and the Aikido Club have all expressed a willingness to participate. Please take time out to consider this opportunity to give something back to the community of Limerick. Address all enquiries to Tara on Ext. 2519 or leave a message with myself or the SU main reception (EXTN 2324).

CORRECTION

The Clubs & Societies Ball will take place on Tuesday 20th April and not Tuesday the 13th as previously stated and the venue is to be confirmed but it is more than likely the Limerick Inn. We are trying to increase the prestige of this event amongst all C&S to make it an annual event worth getting involved in but this can only be done with the involvement of all C&S. For those who would like to reward members or committee members you are entitled to use part of your budget to subsidise this event as needs be. Everybody is welcome and the more the merrier.

Finally congratulations to the Rowing Club stalwarts Colin Byrne & Anouk Delimata on the recent birth of their daughter Loren from all involved in the Clubs & Societies Office (all that to-ing and fro-ing finally paid off!!!)

Congratulations also to Mr & Mrs Bob Struntz of the Sub-Aqua Club on their recent marriage. Best wishes for the future.

Paul Lee.

Clubs & Societies Development Officer.
Paul.lee@ul.ie
Tel. 202832

On a separate notice board actively encourage any and all Clubs and Societies to get involved with the Limerick Education Initiative as discussed by Tara

community of Limerick. Address all enquiries to Tara on Ext. 2519 or leave a message with myself or the SU main reception (EXTN 2324).

Paul Lee.

Clubs & Societies Development Officer.

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Tel. 202832

University of Limerick Picos Caving Expedition 1998

From July 18th to August 7th, 10 cavers from the University of Limerick travelled to the Picos de Europa Mountains in the North of Spain. The Picos mountains attract cavers from throughout Europe due to their outstanding beauty both above and below ground. For many of the group the trip served as an introduction to expedition caving at the same time as furthering valuable skills for future exploration.

The first week was spent in an area called Cantabria where the group explored surveyed caves around the town of Ramales de Victoria. Despite many hours spent searching for cave entrances, a wide range of systems were explored. Perhaps the highlights of the first week were the cave paintings discovered in Cueva de Ramales de la Victoria and the impressive cave entrance to Cueva Mur. The sheer scale of the entrance, clearly visible from miles around, contrasts sharply with cave systems in Ireland where entrances are usually on a smaller scale and concealed by vegetation. The group had the good fortune of meeting, Jose Antonio Rodrigues, an experienced local caver, who guided through some of the more challenging caves and impressed all with his confidence and relaxed manner.

Travelling over to the Picos mountains in the second week, the group teamed up with Oxford University Caving Club (OUCC) who have had a well established reputation of exploration there since the 1970's. Base camp was at an area called Los Lagos, popular with tourists, and therefore most activity took place at the main camp at Vega Ario, a plateau at 1500 metres. Views were spectacular especially in the evenings as the camp was above cloud level. The main objective of the Oxford expedition was in extending a cave called Pozu Jultayu, which has been surveyed to a depth of 810 metres. Pushing this cave involves teams descending for approx. 4 to 5 days and camping at a ledge above a streamway at approx. 800 metres. As space is limited to 6 pits or beds a high degree of organisation is required so that there is always enough equipment and food for cavers digging at the extremities of the cave.

For the Irish cavers, this was a rare opportunity to experience camping underground and caving at depth and to observe and learn from a superbly coordinated expedition. Much experience was gained which will prove invaluable for future University of Limerick Expeditions. Sincere thanks are due to the OUCC and the group's sponsors who included Dr. Edward Walsh, former president of the University of Limerick, The Stables Club, The Studentsí Union, O'Mahony's Bookshop, The Paddocks, Usit, Campbell's, Dunnes Stores, River Deep Mountain High, Spectra and the Speleological Union of Ireland.



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WATERPOLO INTERVARSITIES

- BALLINA

(Seamus O'Connor & Adrian Cosgrove)

A convoy of cars left Limerick on Saturday 13th February at the unnatural time of 7.00am. Our destination was Ballina. The draw was not favourable to the mens team with the first match against the hosts NUIG. Home crowd decisions were in evidence but despite this UL took a 1-0 lead. Numerous chances fell our way which were not capitalised on. This proved costly as NUIG won 3 - 1. The mens team now set their sights on winning the "plate" competition. The final of the "plate" saw UL face old rivals UCC. The game was hard and physical with UL showing the benefits of numerous training session and having a big squad. We eventually won 2 - 0.

The UL ladies team, weakened by defections to foreign lands (no thanks to Oisin and Seamus M), were drawn against a fancied team. They lost the game and now also turned to the "plate". In the semi-final they also faced UCC. The game had it all - goalmouth action, missed penalty (Sarah!), hitting of the post on numerous times, sending-offs (Cait!). The game proved to be the most exciting for the large number of spectators. UL eventually won with a late, late goal. The "plate" final was against Maynooth. Tiredness had set in at this stage and the the girls were overpowered 4-0.

With the competition out of the way the serious side of the weekend -socializing- was upon us. The Down Hills Hotel provided the setting for the gathering of the finest athletes from the Universities of Ireland. Heads were turned by the UL table (Fergals Shirt revealing). Our treasurer Louise went about getting to know members of the other mens team on a personal basis!!.

The treasurer tried to have an emergency meeting with our club chairperson but the outcome is not known! (We believe you Ozzie).

Dancing lessons were given by a member of the ladies team to a member of the mens team, but the part-time life guards offers of A.R were turned down.

Kayak Club

On the first weekend of the 3 week break(Jan29th-30th) a group of dedicaed paddlers all met in the town of Bundoran in south Donegal to do some kayak surfing & to celebrate the end of the exams once again.

The weekend began on a Friday when a few brave souls went on the water to try their hat at Kayak surfing. It was quite difficult for all involved as some waves were quite large(10 feet approx) but by the end all got on well, Even one local paddler was shown how it was done by some of UL's best.

It was then into the warm shower & straight to the Pub where all paddlers met and had a few Jars. Surprisingly enough no scandal was created or so we are led to believe, just a few people got a little incoherent.

Next day all paddlers went to the little town of Rosnowlagh which has a mile long sandy beach. The setting was beautiful but the surf was not as good as was needed so we all headed back to Bundoran beach. The whole evening was spent surfing even though there was 20-25 people on the water fighting for a place on the perfect wave. These comprised of Kayakers, Surfers, Body-Boarders & the lone surf-ski. No major brawls occurred was some person was saved by their "Big Boat".

The next event was the pub crawl of Bundoran which comprised of some unusually sexually explicit names(cannot name for publicity reasons) which had very easy to drink beer for most people. We were entertained for a couple of drinks by Mel "The Gambler" who was bursting to break out in song but was prevented numerous times by the guy who was being paid to entertain us all. Many new & old acquaintances were made, with some more intimate than others, lets just say Homefield Hostel had a few more guests staying the night than it had 4 hours before. All that can be said is that a late night was had by all. Next dat the sun was shining & the surf was pumping. We were all up bright & early for a kayak surf competition organised by the CANI and kicked off @ 11:00 am. The competition had 30 compeditors & took place in Tullan Strand. The venue was changed to Bundoran Beach @ 2:00pm due the frighteningly huge waves in Tullan. Some people would have liked to stay watching every paddler getting hammered but safety comes first. The competition finished up with The world No.2 strutting his stuff on the 12 feet waves of Bundoran Strand, a sight that had onlookers in awe.

That finished up that weekend & all paddlers went home tired & exhausted wondering when the next trip away is.

OUR NEXT TRIP AWAY IS TO THE INTERVARSITIES IN CORK @ THE END OF WEEK 2. SEE NOTICE-BOARD FOR DETAILS (Hope to see ye all there).



VOLLEYBALL (DRINKING) VARSITIES '99

During the holidays UL men's volleyball team (plus a few dedicated female drinkers) descend-

T.E.F.L.

Universities of Ireland. Heads were turned by the UL table (Fergals Shirt revealing). Our treasurer Louise went about getting to know members of the other mens team on a personal basis!! The treasurer tried to have an emergency meeting with our club chairperson but the outcome is not known! (We believe you Ozzie). Dancing lessons were given by a member of the ladies team to a member of the mens team, but the part-time life guards offers of A.R were turned down.

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VOLLEYBALL (DRINKING) VARSITIES '99

During the holidays UL men's volleyball team (plus a few dedicated female drinkers) descended upon Belfast for the 1999 Volleyball Varsities hosted by UUJ. The lads (Brendan, Declan, Gerry, Ciaran, Mike, Dave and J.P) put up a good show against tough opposition on the first day. A combination of a late first night, an excess of alcohol, a barefoot stroll through Belfast and (of course!) excellent opposition meant UL lost to DCU (Plate winners) and Sligo IT (Cup finalists) by two sets to none.

Day two saw a dramatic improvement in play with UL beating both UCC and Carlow IT 2 - 0 and advancing to the plate semi-final..even though the supporters club had been seriously depleted due to the previous nights excesses - we were high in spirit...but it was vodka I think!! On Thursday while J.P strutted his stuff on the dance floor, Dave had mysteriously abducted by an older woman (and I don't mean Gerry!) and Norah fell asleep standing up without spilling a drop of her pint (Thanks Fi!) - who ever said volleyball wasn't exciting????!! Even the alcoholic supporters made it to UUJ on Saturday to watch the semi-finals, where the boys made a brave attempt against Trinity, a team of National League players who are well used to playing high standards of volleyball. Tall Mike was missed (cos' hey Mickey, you're so fine...) but each set was closely contested and the final score was Trinity - 2, UL - 0. Best hitter goes to Ciaran who (despite his bandy knees) was invaluable in holding the team together. Best setter - to Brendan, who has a lovely touch, doesn't mind getting to the ground and wears colourful socks on the court - sexy!. Best legs has to go to Gerry 'cos I know I'd be proud of them!!

So congrats lads - ye all deserve a pint, but I won't be buying them!. Thanks to Toni, Fiona and Siobhan, the loyal, sober supporters who proved there's life in the womens club yet - we'll get them next year...Looking forward to the upcoming mixed tournament in Galway - who knows, maybe we'll win this one, or if not, we'll get pissed!.

Norah Nelson, Club sec

Current Training Times (watch this space):

Tuesday: beginners @ 7.30pm - 8.30pm : men and women @ 8.30pm - 10.30pm.

T.E.F.L.

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An Focal Glas

The environmental society have put together a leaflet for UL students called "Getting Earth Friendly". It features tips on ways to treat the environment better when shopping, in the home, in the university plus some transport and recycling tips. Some of the issues are dealt with in more detail on the back of the leaflet. It is printed on recycled paper and will be delivered to all houses in Elm Park and College Court Kilmurray Village and Plassey.

The highlight of last semester was the visit of Eanna Dowling to the college. Eanna is a full time activist with Earthwatch and is famous for defacing the "Smurfit" School of Genetic Engineering in Trinity with a "say no to GMO's" slogan. The presiding Judge in his case threw the case out of court saying that he admired this young man's keeping up of the time honoured tradition of protest. Maybe he thought that the rest of us are letting the powers that be away with far too much. Anyway not bad in a world where corporate rights are increasingly taking precedence over citizens rights.

Eanna spoke on the current state of affairs with Genetic engineering and transport. Things were progressing smoothly until a member of the audience who turned out to be doing a PhD on "Genetic Engineering, Consumer reaction to it and consequential government action" started correcting Eanna on some of his points. Debate ensued with the forces of evil..... only joking! At least there was debate and not the usual round of back slapping that takes place at most political gatherings. The main thread of Eanna's argument was that genetic engineering was an unnecessary experiment with humanity being promoted by corporate interests for their own profit while the graduate thought it was an exact science with possible benefits for a wider field than just food.

The transport issues focused on the need for people to avoid unnecessary car journeys and to car pool and to encourage more people to cycle as it is fun and it saves money and it gets you fit. An interesting development which Earthwatch has begun is to encourage

room in their cars can save money and get company by leaving their phone number and destination on a noticeboard in the college. The highlight of the semester should be green week. We plan a green fair plus talks & debates with Limerick County Council on recycling initiatives e.g. community composting, transport issues plus other less well known issues such as fluoridation in the water supply.

Anyone with other issues is welcome to write to the e-mail address below or come to our meetings at 7:30pm on Mondays in the main canteen. We find the Internet an excellent source of information. For information on corporate issues go to <http://www.essential.org>. This is a site run by two guys who have a serious problem with their country's treatment of other peoples and countries. They use the GIS to keep their information up to date. The site below has links to a wide range of general environmental issues and groups. www.oneworld.org

A recurring question one hears is "What can I do for the environment?" and "What difference can I make?". It also happens that from time to time people suddenly become aware of themselves and the way in which they and everyone else is impacting on the environment. This new found awareness can quickly lead to disillusionment when one realises the enormity of the task. It is true that we can't change everything. Only Bill Clinton et al have the power to make the real decisions at the moment. That still leaves the question "What can I do?". Well possibly the best thing each and every one of us can do is change our way of thinking and our attitude to this planet. To do this one has to examine the consequences of our actions. All our actions and how they effect ourselves, the planet and future generations. If we do this saving and cleaning the planet will come naturally. This and just one other thing - eat Brazil Nuts. The more Brazil Nuts that are eaten the more Brazil Nut trees will be left standing!

Contact: 9807055@student.ul.ie or nancy.l.serrano@ul.ie

INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE

debate and not the usual round of back slapping that takes place at most political gatherings. The main thread of Eannas argument was that genetic engineering was an unnecessary experiment with humanity being promoted by corporate interests for their own profit while the graduate thought it was an exact science with possible benefits for a wider field than just food.

The transport issues focused on the need for people to avoid unnecessary car journeys and to car pool and to encourage more people to cycle as it is fun and it saves money and it gets you fit. An interesting development which Earthwatch has begun is to encourage business's to manage their employees own transport. It is shifting the onus away from the county council to the companies themselves. If business and technology can come up with new products and services all the time why shouldn't they be able too come up with solutions to the traffic congestion problems. While we did not quite reach our target of 500 in attendance there was some good heads there we would like to thank them for coming.

This semester we will be trying to do something about the excessive use of disposable cups & cutlery in the college. We are also attempting to find a spot for a transport board where people with spare

There's Nout as Queer as Folk

To the Senate and People of UL, greetings from the LGB Soc., in case you have forgotten this does not stand for "Ladies and Gents Basketball" as some shocked mucker thought last year. Oh no for 'tis a far more wondrous thing - the gay society. Anyway following the much more liberated and less fascist views of the typical UL student

this year I am happy to announce that meetings will recommence in SG015 on Wednesdays at 8pm. Since so many of you lot have been gone away for so long it seems only fair to warn you that Limerick has changed a lot in the past 9 months or so - Limerick is now the gay capital of the west! Marvellous isn't it! (don't you just love Graham Norton).

Anyway there is a truly fabulous gay bar in town where even the GAA are welcome, (we don't expect the favour returned), and one of our sources, Denice (formerly Denis) tells me that Bubblicious is open on Saturday as well as Sunday nights.

So come one come all on Wednesday night, but if you aren't sure just write to us at heaven_ul@hotmail.com and we will sort you out.

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Fitzgibbon Cup Campaign 1998/99

That's semester one over!! And what a term it was. It's hard to believe that the Fitzgibbon is over for another year. Every team needs a bit of luck, something we didn't have this year. The senior campaign was an eventful one. It all started with a loss down in Buttevant against Cork IT. Lads, remember the session after?? Would what happened then happen now?? I don't think so. Tralee ambushed us a few weeks later. However, given their display in the Fitzgibbon against UCC, they were, and are a fine team. And Jack was back. But the real fun only began after Tralee. Signs became ominous that we had a problem. Was it lack of interest, bad management, the weather, scheming or devious behaviour (he has to go, he has to go) that were leading to low morale in the camp? A meeting of players sorted everything out. A change was asked for. Was it right or wrong? That's up to you to decide.

Ger and the lads took over for a while. We had a morale boosting draw over UCC and our first night out together as a team. A couple of kegs were drank, a few songs sang in the lodge and a spirit began to develop. That day was the turning point. We beat Mary I before Christmas, a victory at last. After about two weeks of meetings and discussions and phone calls and more meetings, Ciaran O Loughlin was asked back. He brought the Viking with him. Ger gave us a shock. He was the key, invaluable. He was going no-where.

The law was laid down to everyone. You're in or out. Everyone was in. In the wind and the rain it was hurling, hurling, hurling. Thirty three players attended training on Dec. 28th and 29th, the same on January 2nd. There is something special about these men. More victories were achieved over Galway and Athenry. A team was taking shape. The spirit was rising. Then the exams. Three weeks of hell and very little hurling. Lahinch offered a breather, a break. The nights in the Spinaker and McGanns will live long in the memory. This has to be an annual event. Now we had a team. Maynooth were brushed aside.

Templemore. Six points down, ten minutes to go. These great men restored pride in the jersey by forcing extra time. An epic game, hard, fast and fair. Extra time taught us that in hurling you have to take your chances. Devastation ensued. However, heads were held high. We fought the law, but the law won. No recriminations, no one's fault. We discussed the game at length on the way home. We found one common denominator. We had 16 wides. There were no hurling goalposts available in UL for the two weeks leading up to the game. No goalposts for the GAA. Damn that rain. We'll remember McDaid's for a while too. Songs of lore and legend. Our spirit had peaked. We were out. 34 great men. Paradise lost.

That was the first semester. The second, I promise you, will be better!!

Thanks to John Lenihan and Lenmac. To Murphy's Brewery, the Lodge. Thanks Ciaran and Cormac. Good man Michael Kelly. The grounds men are excellent, even if we forgot the "water". Thanks to our supporters. And to Ger Cunningham for keeping the ship afloat, even if the canoes did sink, for his time on the pitches, the diving pool, the gym etc., etc.,...sound man

I said in week three that when it's all over, we will look back with pride, that we will have earned respect. We have. Thanks lads.

Freshers

The Freshers were surprisingly beaten in their semi-final against Galway IT. The score was 1-8 to 1-5. This was a disappointing defeat given the effort that the team and trainers had put in. However this is a talented team, with no less than five making this year's Fitzgibbon. I'm sure this group will bring a long overdue cup to UL in the years to come.

Meeting

Hurling Club meeting in the Sports Canteen on Thursday Week 2 at 6.00pm.

Karl Quinn

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An Indifferent season for Ladies Soccer.

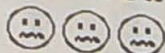
The ladies soccer team played the last of their three league matches during the three weeks off. The first match was away to Colaiste Ide from Dublin. This match was scheduled for the Sunday but had to be postponed until the following Thursday because of a unplayable pitch. The mid week fixture was not favorable for UL. However even with a team of ten for most of the match UL still managed to score 5 goals. The scorers for UL were Niamh McLaughlin, Catherine Burke, Rebecca Rush, Siobhan Stenson and Sylvia Gee. UL were by far the better team and this showed in the final score of 5-0.

The following Sunday UL again traveled to Dublin to play UCD. UL played well against their rivals but they were beaten by a 3-1 score line. The final score did not reflect the UL performance and the team knew that they should have at least got a draw from the fixture. The final game of the league was once again in Dublin against DCU. UL traveled up with a almost full squad. The game was very tough with both teams giving it their all. It was a single goal scored by UL's Sylvia Gee that was the difference between the two teams at the end of the ninety minutes. This result left UL in the lower half of the league table. Congratulations to Waterford IT who won the premier league title after a close battle with Tralee IT. The next task for the UL team is to play Sligo IT in relegation playoffs early in March. After that the team will be going to the Intervarsities with the intention of retaining the title that they won last year.

CELTIC HARMONY

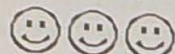
The winter break obviously worked wonders for the Bhoys, as a string of outstanding performances and results have confirmed that the hunger for success at Paradise is as strong as ever. Be it in league action or cup fare, everyone knows who the form team are. From the calm an composed Jonathan Gould in goals, through the ever impressive Moravcik, up to the raw brilliance of Larsson, this side would surprise no-one if the League and Cup trophies were resting at Celtic Park come the end of the season. Central to this present show of form has been the removal of many off the field problems. The attempted takeover has died down, Marko Viduka is in full training and ready to enter the fray and Mark Burchill has signed a contract to protect his future at the club. Add to this the revival of Harald Bratbak up front, the partnership between Henrik and Lubo and the meanest defence around and you have some combination. On the home front, the next Supporters Club trip will be to the Dundee Utd. Game on the 27th of this month. Places are still available for this trip which includes a stay-over in Glasgow after the match. Contact anycommittee member through the pigeon hole in the Clubs and Socs Office, or by calling 088-2732565. Non members welcome.

What happened when you worked abroad this year?



I got lost at the airport
After a week, I got a flea infested room
I worked in a sweat-shop factory
I couldn't mix with the locals

OR



I was met by locals at the airport and
brought to a party
My flat was organised for me
I worked in a leading firm, in a job
relevant to my degree
I made lots of new friends

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Contact: Aideen	9856641@student.ul.ie
	9856641@student.ul.ie
Patricia	9847057@student.ul.ie
	9847057@student.ul.ie
Ciara	9839348@student.ul.ie

Con Colbert UL Fianna Fáil

Our aim for the first semester was to expand our membership and to increase the Cumann's profile around the campus. In order to achieve this we held an information stand in the canteen during SoUL week. The highlight of our SoUL week activities was the visit of Dr. Martin Mansergh special advisor to an Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and the hot whiskey reception which followed. Dr. Mansergh's visit was a great success with a large turn out even though it was a Thursday night. The whiskey night was a memorable occasion. We hope to make it into an annual event. A trip the Ard Fheis in the RDS on the 21st November was also arranged and a number of our members travelled up to this event together. To round the year off on a high note we held a Christmas party in O'Riadas pub on the 15th of December.

Next semester promises to be even better with many more activities planned. We will be visiting the Dáil on Wednesday of week 3, where Willie O'Dea T.D. minister for youth affairs will be available to meet us. After our tour of the Dáil we will join up with the Kevin Barry Cumann of UCD for a humorous debate and a social evening. This should be a great day out so we hope that a large crowd will go with us. Tickets are only £6 for the day and will be available at our stand in the canteen on Societies day (Wednesday week 2) or from any committee member alternatively feel free to e-mail 9750746@student.ul.ie. Also planned for the semester is a celebrity debate here in UL with many high profile political figures taking part. We also hope to invite the candidates for the forthcoming Europe elections to address the Cumann in the near future. Any new members wishing to join the Cumann should visit our stand on Wednesday of week 2 in the canteen or come along to our next meeting which will be held at 6 o'clock on Tuesday of week 2 in A1055.

We would like to wish everyone who has gone on co-op the best of luck and also to welcome back those members who have returned from co-op.

Denis Duggan

Chairperson

Socialist Party's Football Charter

There is a mis-perception among many "students of life" that the socialists party's interests do not extend beyond the politics of class conflict. In a bid to counter this myth the UL branch of the socialist party will endeavour in this and up coming copies of *an Focal* to highlight the all encompassing and

patricia

Ciara

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Socialist Party's Football charter

Standing areas to be re-introduced at all grounds

Bond schemes to be scrapped and replaced by proper democratic membership schemes

Ground improvements to be carried out in every stadium to make every ground safe and comfortable. The necessary money to come from the return of tax revenue from football and the profits from the pools. (pool companies should be taken into public ownership)

Admission prices to be reduced, the prices to be decided by the fans, with minimal charge for under 11s, half price for 11 - 18 yrs old, OAPs and the unemployed. Same price for away fans.

Stop fascists from distributing or selling literature outside or inside grounds.

Full facilities for disabled fans at all grounds.

Free creche facilities for all children whose parents require it.

Provide decent facilities for all fans, to maximise enjoyment with particular attention paid to improving the inadequate facilities that exist for women.

Clubs to be taken out of the control of big business and to be brought under the democratic, elected control of fans, players, club staff and locally elected government.

Deine Genosse.

semester is a celebrity debate here in UL with many high profile political figures taking part. We also hope to invite the candidates for the forthcoming Europe elections to address the Cumann in the near future.

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Chairperson

U.L Sinn Féin Society Sean Sabhat Cumann

Welcome back to all our members, hope you enjoyed the three week break. The Sean Sabhat cumann has plenty of events and trips planned for the coming semester and we hope you continue to give the same support as you did in the previous semester.

On the 26th of March we will be travelling to Belfast, where we will tour the city and visit the murals, cemeteries, and other places of interest to republicans. That night there will be a session in Felonís pub, before getting up bright and early the next day to visit Portadown and the Garvaghy road residents. Finally on Monday the 29th we will attend an open sitting of the Northern assembly and tour the Stormont building, before heading back to Limerick. This trip is open to anyone interested in travelling, you do not have to be a member of U.L.S.F, simply call along to the Sinn Féin stand in the canteen next Wednesday the 24th.

We hope to have Martin Ferris (SF European candidate for Munster) in the university for a debate with the other candidates. We also intend to have a resident of the Garvaghy road come to U.L for a public meeting. There are more trips and meetings being planned so keep an eye out for posters! For anyone interested in joining Sinn Féin you can contact any of the committee through the clubs and societies office in the sports building, or call along to our stand in the canteen on Wednesday week 2.

Tiocfaidh ar La

On behalf of U.L Sinn Féin \ Sean Sabhat Cumann

Muiris O Sullivan, P.R.O

Spread the Word...

Welcome to the world of urban legends late 90's style – easily accessible, fully digital, where schoolyard farytales elevate themselves to a new plateau on a global scale. According to the internet newsgroup alt.folklore.urban, "An urban legend appears mysteriously and spreads spontaneously in varying forms. It usually contains elements of humour or horror. The horror often punishes someone who flouts society's conventions. Hear the one about the person who wakes up after a one night stand to find his or her lover gone and a message *welcome to the world of AIDS* scrawled on the bathroom mirror in lipstick? Thanks to bulk e mail the shotgun approach to sending Internet messages from person to person – urban legends can spread at a rate faster than ebola in a stalled elevator. "Mailing lists on the web are groups of people with common interests," says Andrew Warinner, an archivist for the granddaddy of urban legend sites www.urbanlegends.com. "They're like bridge clubs. So there's more of a willingness to take what is said at face value." Unfortunately, the misinformation spread on the web often fans the flames of hysteria and prejudice. So websites such as urbanlegends.com and www.rumoursrumours.com publicly post the rumors with the point of having "experts" either confirm or deny the veracity of the stories. In response to the notorious "Lights out Gang" myth in which a murderous posse roams the highways with their headlights off, then hunts down and kills the first person to flash his brights at them, alt.folklore.urban posted this public statement from Lt. Pat Greaney of the Massachusetts State Police: "We have confirmed it is a hoax. We have no incidents." So while wired folks may be prone to the propagation of untrue stories, they also have access to the best debunkers around.

Much of what's below may sound familiar, and if not why not perpetuate the rumour the next time you're in the pub with your mates. Here's the real deal (I think) behind some classic urban legends.

Kidney Thieves

Myth: Guy picks up girl at bar. After drinks back at his place, he passes out, only to wake up hours later shivering in a bathtub full of ice. A note taped to his chest reads "Call 911, you've had a kidney removed."

Truth: Possibly fueled by reports of organ selling (not stealing) in impoverished Central America countries. Real incidents with the date raps drug Rohypnol add to this urban legend's seeming possibility.

Microsoft Word is racist

Myth: While using Microsoft Word version above 5.1, type the sentence "I'd like all niggers to die." Highlight it, then go to tools>(Language)>Thesaurus. This message will appear: "I'll drink to that." This is proof that least one Microsoft programmer, if not Bill Gates and the entire corporation is racist.

Truth: Actually, this yields an "error" message. The programs thesaurus cant find a word that starts with "I'd like all" so it suggests a similarly



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Truth: Actually, this yields an "error" message. The programs thesaurus can't find a word that starts with "I'd like all" so it suggests a similarly spelled phrase as a possible correction. If you write "I'd like all racists to be executed," the thesaurus will also respond with "I'll drink to that."

Gerbil incident



Myth: An emergency room doctor has to remove a gerbil from a man's rectum. The man and his boyfriend sheepishly admit that they had been "gerbling". They had inserted a Habitrail tube into his ass and - just for kicks - slid their pet gerbil inside. Actor Richard Gere has been cited as the "patient"

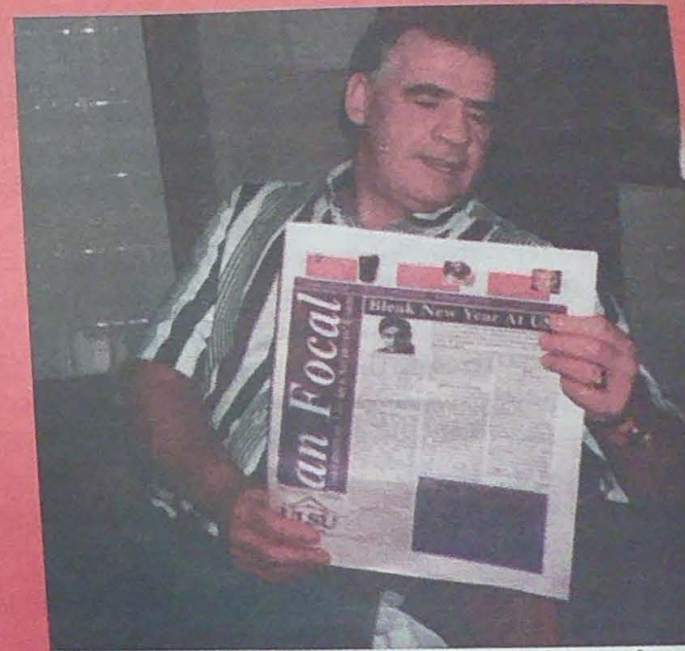
Truth: Not even the National Enquirer will say any of this is true.

Toothbrushes on vacation



Myth: Family goes to Paris. After eating dinner in a restaurant they return to their hotel room to find that it has been broken into. Oddly their expensive camera isn't missing, it's resting on the bed next to their toothbrushes. Back home, they develop the film and are horrified to find various photographs of a hotel bellboy posing deliriously with their toothbrushes in a variety of positions.

Truth: In 1992 a guy named Perry Pederson posted a message on the newsgroup at alt.folklore.urban claiming to have met a woman who said this had happened to her family and showed him actual photographs of men posing with toothbrushes in said location. However, she provided no proof that the men were not paid models.



If he's not driving the ladies wild at a show or doing depraved things to Radiohead songs, Joe Dolan likes nothing more than to sit back and relax with everyone's favorite reading matter, the pride of UL, *an Focal*. And who can blame him!!!