



AN FOCAL

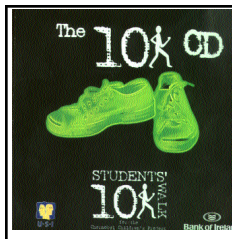


e-mail: anfocal@csn.ul.ie

THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

www.ulsu.ul.ie

TERM 1 WEEK 8



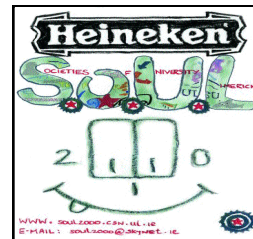
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STUDENTS SET TO PROTEST WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER FROM 7AM - 2PM

By Jennifer O' Brien

It was the meeting where the student body of UL finally managed to get riled up over something. It was the meeting where staff and students agreed an issue. It was the meeting where students even brought their own beer!!!

Yes the spectre of the Students' Union Annual General Meeting raised its head once more amid the shadows of the Jean Monnet theatre last Thursday night. The meeting has probably been one of the best advertised for some time, comparable to last years EGM regarding constitutional changes, and it is impossible for anyone not to have seen the posters. They were everywhere, even administrative offices in the main building bore witness to the



First Quorate AGM since 1997

event.

Each student entering the meeting was given a sheet outlining a proposed policy put together by the Executive, which detailed a plan of action. If passed, the student body would protest, not strike, on Wednesday, 15th November from 7am to 2pm, by slowing considerably the flow of traffic into the University and asking students not to bring their cars on campus. This would ensure that the grievances of the students were brought to the attention of the Governing Authority.

The main issue outlined on the posters was that of car parking and this was possibly not the best course of action. Through out the meeting many students raised the point that car parking is not the most important issue facing the student body, issues of security, the

medical centre and student services should take precedence. But although the executive tried to explain that in their point of view and from their dealings with the college, car parking was only the tip of the iceberg. The issue went far beyond that, the meeting was simply leading with that issue because it was this that was literally the straw that broke the camels back.

In a meeting with Management and buildings department representatives last Tuesday morning, the President and the Education officer of the Students' Union were making a last stand on the car parking issue. This matter has been ongoing for the past number of years and had yet to be satisfactorily dealt with. The disregard these departments have both for the

Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date

we're looking for opinions, comments, ideas etc

Monday Wk 9

5.00pm

new student centre,
SU -023

all are welcome

Continues on Page 4

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

Each issue, we'll give you a quick dose of what we're up to.

Its that time again! In the last issue I promised that I would give an update on the car parking – well its gone far beyond the car parking now. As far as the Students' Union is concerned: at the final meeting relating to the car parking issue on Tuesday of week 7, the University management told us in not so many words to "****** OFF!**"

Now I know that most of you think that this protest is about car parking – its not. I'm sick to death of hearing about car parking, will ye wake up and realise that the management is pulling the wool over your eyes for years and its time we, the **STUDENTS of UL** take a stand and stop the rot that has festered in the soul of the university for years!

Those in the **WHITE HOUSE** of the University have lost sight of the most important part of any University – **US THE STUDENTS!** They see us as something to be gotten around and not to be worked with! This is why so many problems exist with Student Services, the Medical centre and on and on...! The management of the University would seem to prefer spending six figure sums on two poles for the gates of the University than on basic Student facilities.

For this reason I feel we should stand up for ourselves and make our voices heard.

**DO YOU WANT THE SAME PROBLEMS THAT PERSIST YEAR AFTER YEAR TO CONTINUE,
OR DO YOU WANT TO BE THE ONES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Finally the staff, faculty and lecturers have had the same problem with the University Management in the White House, and have already protested! Together with the staff, faculty and lecturers, the Students' Union have worked in vain to resolve this and other problems over the years, but every time the Management of the University has pulled rank on all of us and tried to divide the staff and students.

NO MORE, Please I urge you to join the protest that you - the students have mandated YOUR UNION to organise on your Behalf!

Mick Phelan



Hey guys,

well it's another An Focal and this week luckily the computer didn't crash, lucky for it or for me I don't know!!!!

The staff have assured me that they are recovering from their 'clapping' problems wasn't that a typo and a half ???

Other than that I and all of the Sabbatical Officers have been really busy trying to organise the 10k walk for Chernobyl and it's been really disheartening that so few people in this college especially first years are seriously considering doing

the walk. It's a great opportunity to make a lot of friends and do something worthwhile for those less well off than us especially those children in Belarus. It's sad that so few students in this college are interested in other people enough to do this walk.

However before I go on I will say that it's not too late even if you turn up on the day and just get £5 or £10 pounds and do the walk it will help a little.

Even if you just come in and make a donation or buy the 10k Cd here in the SU it will help a little.

Make a difference! If you don't do it now you may not get the chance again!!

By the way the deadline for the next issue of AnFocal is Wednesday of Week 9 at 6pm.

If you want to have your say that's what we are here for.

See ya laterFergal.



Hi everybody,

TOM has been very busy over the last two weeks, so busy in fact he didn't get a chance to write his articles in this week's paper. You now should have gathered that I'm writing this on his behalf (Fergal that is). I'm not too sure what to write, cause I know I won't be able to do justice to the amount of work Tom has been doing on your behalf, so here goes.

Tom has been working on the Class reps system for the last few months now, and all

the committees have been set up so they should be working pretty soon.

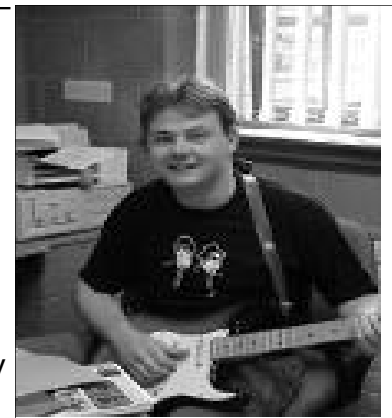
However, there is still a lot of classes that don't have Class Reps. So I urge you to get one soon, especially with the exams (sorry for mentioning them) approaching quickly you'll probably need one to sort the usual problems which happen year after, year after, year after year, yeah you get the message, so get one now.

Also the protest on Wednesday please turn out in numbers and show the College Authorities that we the Students will not take any Crap for them any more,

Later

Tom

(or should I say Fergal, on his behalf)



Siobhan's Welfare Section

Outreach...

The Outreach Society had a function in the Scholars last week to raise money, and to draw people's attention to this voluntary-work organisation. I have to say a big thanks to everyone who helped out that night to make it such a great event. Everyone who came was treated brilliantly – glasses of wine, sandwiches, *chicken wings*, and the live music entertainment provided by Brendan Gregory and Brian Phelan was really enjoyed by all. Thanks to the people who donated prizes for the raffle, and to both AIB and BOI for the sponsorship. It was a great night, and many new members joined up because of it. But the main thing was that it was fun. So you can do your good deed – your bit for others in need, **and** have fun and meet loads new people in doing so. So if you've not already joined – its never too late – e-mail us at outreach@skynet.ie

Also, in Week 9 *Outreach* has another event planned that's definitely going to be a laugh. It's a **Fashion Show** (top models from Ireland) followed by a **Slave Auction** of all the models, and the Student Union President too! It will be in the Stables Courtyard, Thursday 3pm during SoUL Week So look out for it, it will be fun.

Outreach is also co-ordinating the **Freshers Walk** (which by the way is for everyone, not just first years..) It will take place on Thursday Week 8 – in case you don't know about it, its not too late to grab a card, get a few sponsors and turn up on Thursday to do the walk. Every bit

of money collected will help, but so much more than that, it is to show that you care about the suffering of the children in Chernobyl – the amount of people that turn up will reflect this, and this will help. I am now going to let you know a bit about the cause, and show how your money can help – so please join in the walk – show that you care....

Evgeniya's Story.....

Engeniya - seven years old, quiet and very shy. She has spent six and a half years in hospitals, in constant pain. Every vein in her body is swollen.

She is flown to Ireland, by the Chernobyl Children's Project for treatment in Cork Regional Hospital. At first her doctors have to detoxify her body. It means even more pain for the little girl.

Dr. O'Donoghue attends her every morning. He gives her lots of time, affection and encouragement. Evgeniya begins to respond to her treatment. She asks the questions any seven year old asks. When I grow up will I be able to have babies? Will the babies be like me? After a time Evgeniya is able to move around her hospital ward.

More that anything else, Evgeniya wants a Barbie Doll House. Encouraged by her progress, it is decided to wait to give it to her when she leaves hospital.

Evgeniya never got to play with her toy. She died. It was not an easy death.

And then something remark-

able happened. Word of Evgeniya's death spread from the hospital to so the people of Cork. They showed up in thousands at a church service for her, the Lord Mayor, politicians, the ordinary people of Cork.

Evgeniya's mother, Ludmilla took her little daughter's body back to her homeland for burial.

Engeniya was laid to rest in a communion dress a young girl from Cork donated.

Life in the Shadow of Chernobyl

Only one per cent of land in Belarus is uncontaminated by radiation. This is life in a contaminated zone:

-Everyone must change their clothes twice a day. You cannot walk in the woods for more than two hours a month.

-Radiation charts are printed in the daily newspapers – they dictate decisions such as whether children can be allowed out to play.

-People preparing food are told to wash it five times before serving in "clean water".

-There is no "clean water" in Belarus – it is all contaminated.

-Cattle are not supposed to graze in areas where the grass is less than ten centimetres high so that their mouths don't touch the earth.

-Most people find it impossible to adhere to these and hundreds more, elaborate instructions. They simply give up trying.

The Chernobyl Children's Project.....

What they can do with £75

£75 pays the salary of an Intensive Care unit nurse for a month.

£75 buys over a year's supply of L-Thyroxine, a drug that thousands of kids need just to say alive.

£75 buys enough painkillers to help a dying child, die with dignity.

£75 buys blankets, vitamins nappies...basic necessities that hospitals and orphanages in Belarus simply cannot afford.

£185 is a lot of money..... it pays the airfare for one child to come to Ireland. One month in our uncontaminated environment will prolong a child's life by two years.

The countries affected by the nuclear accident are very poor. Despite putting huge chunks of their national budgets into tackling the problems caused by radiation, they simply do not have the money to buy basic necessities.

Remember, every penny you raise in sponsorship goes to the Chernobyl Children's Project. All costs associated with The Freshers 10K Walk, posters etc are paid by Bank of Ireland.

You can make a difference. Get sponsored for £75. Walk for 10k on 16th November. **Don't leave it to someone else. No excuses. For God's sake just do it.**

Union Policy Passed at AGM

Policy: The Students' Union, its Executive, Class Representative Council and members will endeavour to implement, promote and campaign a car-parking policy on campus.

Terms:

1. The Students' Union, considering the number of students who drive, maintain or have a car on campus and its environs and considering

that this number will dramatically increase over the next number of years, will endeavour to campaign for an equitable car-parking policy for students in the University of Limerick.

2. The Students' Union being of the opinion that the University authorities have neglected and often ignored areas of vital concern to students such as public transport, campus lighting and security, broadens this policy to encompass these areas.

3. The Students' Union considering the attitude

of the University authorities, its relevant committees and bodies and specifically the Vice-President Administration and the Physical Plant (Buildings) Department towards students on these matters, which in the opinion of the Students' Union, Class Representatives and its Executive, was and is obtrusive, un-business-like, derogatory and insulting to students, will implement this policy through the following means:

(a) The President shall communicate the views of the Students' Union regarding this policy to the Governing Authority and its relevant committees and bodies via letter and oral presentation at their next scheduled meetings.

(b) (i) Students' Union members will take part in a sit-down protest at the entrances of each University car-park on Wednesday, 15 November 2000 between 7 am and 2 pm and periodically thereafter to express the sentiments of this policy.

(ii) Students' Union members will take part in a sit-down protest at each entrance

gate of the University.

(c) The Students' Union through its representatives shall meet with staff representatives to communicate and discuss this policy.

(d) Considering the nature of (b) above, the Ents Crew of the Students' Union shall be requested to attend all areas of protest under this policy and shall provide such assistance and aide to those involved as the case may be.

(e) The Students' Union Executive and Class Representatives shall actively call on Students' Union members to come-out on the scheduled days and times, by order of this policy.

4. The Executive and student representatives will report to the General Affairs Committee and the Class Representative Council on this policy on a regular basis until such time as it is deemed by the Council to be resolved.

Adopted by Union members on 9 November 2000.

STUDENTS MANDATE A PROTEST AT THE SU AGM

Continues on From Page 1

Governing Authority of the University and for students was expressed here.

In the eyes of our elected student representatives enough was enough. Again and again the point was brought up by the executive at the meeting. This is no longer just about car parking, it is about the University's treatment of students, the attitudes of the administration of this institution to the very people who make its existence possible. It is, as the policy document stated about an attitude that "was and is obtrusive, un-business-like, derogatory and insulting to students". This is an admirable attempt on behalf of the students, to finally bring to bare an attitude that has for too long gone unchecked by students. This is a University, an institute of education and research first and foremost. It is not a corporate business that should pander to the needs of a few at the expense of many.

But many of those who spoke at the meeting didn't see this. Constant reference was made to the need to put the bigger issues first. Many of the students present felt that to protest on this issue would be to negate the power of the student body in further negotiations. But if the university does not value and respect the students then we have no power anyway. In this case we

can't keep waiting for Governing Authority to bring their subordinate departments in line, something has to be done.

Once the matter had been outlined by the President of the SU, Mick Phelan, Dave Tocher of MSF, the staff union offered the backing of the staff on the issue. Staff have also been affected by the attitude of the Management and Physical Plant Departments and these departments disregard for agreements made with Governing Authority. As Mr. Tocher remarked it was the first time any lecturer had received a round of applause in a lecture theatre and wished the Students' Union well in their protest. The matter was opened to the floor, where some sense of order was temporarily lost. There was no shortage of comments and suggestions to be made. The general feeling was that the issue wasn't strong enough, but as outlined the Students Union felt that the matter has gone beyond car parking. The repartee continued, and one got the impression that the message of the S.U. was falling on deaf ears. But with an amendment to include lighting and security in the brief the matter finally came to a vote. The amended policy proposal was passed on a 70%/30% split. The question must be asked though, did some students simply vote in favour because they heard the word protest and did some people vote against

simply for the sake of disagreeing with the Students' Union?

Once the matter was dealt with, the meeting quickly became inquorate. The sound of a hundred rumbling stomachs heralding the end of the action. With no quorum, the minutes could not be passed, the officers ratified or any other proposals voted on. This led to a speedy conclusion of the meeting, which lasted just under an hour.

Although the initial quorum had been achieved relatively quickly, the atmosphere was never really electric. There were too many queries on the soundness of the policy to get the entire body behind it. Despite the large vote in favour, the real test of UL students will come at 7am on Wednesday morning. Do the students of UL care enough about their treatment at the hands of the university to get up and get active? The university has treated students unfairly. This has gone on for too long. A protest has not been made before which could finally open the eyes of the university to the fact that yes, the U in UL does stand for University, not for anything else. This is a college, not a business and it is time that the students of this institution were prepared to defend that. The point is do enough people care?

DRUG ASSISTED RAPE – IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

By Michelle Daly

Everyone knows someone to whom it has happened to, everyone at least knows someone who knows someone that it has happened to. Very few of us can walk away safe in the knowledge that it will never happen to us because it can ...

What am I ranting on about? Drug Assisted Rape. It doesn't just happen to Girls either it's something that is becoming more and more an issue in our society.

Drug assisted rape is the consequence of having your drink spiked and eventually having sexual intercourse against your will or conscious wishes or being assaulted while under the influence of drugs or drink

It is no longer socially acceptable to entice someone into drinking or even placing 'a little extra something' in their drink to make them more pliant or more accommodating to your wishes. This ladies and gentleman is aiding drug assisted assault or rape.

This paper last year uncovered the discovery of Rhyphonol (also known as the date rape drug) on campus and that is how close this crime is to every student in University of Limerick it is here on Campus.

Not every one out on a Thursday night or any night of the week for that matter is with people that they can be totally sure do not have ulterior motives. 90% of Rapes are committed by persons who know the victim. It is a fact.

I'm not just scaremongering this crime occurs and can occur in every pub in Ireland. It is something that is barely mentioned as most victims find that the morning after they are too ill, too ashamed or too frightened to make an issue of it.

We are all guilty of perhaps having too good a night out and overdoing it with the 'drink' every now and then but should someone take serious advantage of you or commit this heinous crime to you it is important to remember that you are the victim. And it is a crime.

Being aware of the existence of individuals who would take advantage is the best prevention, if you are going out on a bender make sure to appoint someone trustworthy to ensure everyone gets home safely and securely.

Make sure to be careful of leaving your drink unattended even for one minute as some drugs are undetectable in alcohol and in an inebriated state most people couldn't tell a drugged drink from a normal one.

-Never agree to go home or to go for a walk with someone you don't know or trust

-Never go home alone even if it is only five minutes down the road.

_Always tell someone if you are leaving and who with.

-If you feel ill out make sure to tell someone that you can trust and ask them to bring you home.

More on this issue in the next 'An Focal'

UL Students Walk for chernobyl

By Michelle Daly

On Thursday 16th of november, next 30,000 first year students all over the country will take part in a 10 km sponsored walk for the Chernobyl children's project . The charity set up by Adi Roche and Ali Hewson has` gotten together with the Union of Students in Ireland to try and raise as much money as possible for children whose lives are severely affected by the nuclear disaster in chernobyl. Most of the money will go to bring medical supplies and teams of medical experts to Belarus where most of the effected people live . The rest of it will go to bringing children over to Ireland to stay during the summer months for 'rest and recuperation' . Just two weeks in Ireland can add over two years to the average life expectancy of a child in Belarus .

This charity is one of the most appealing around it is absolutely horrifying to see the \deformities and other problems that some of these children are born with , the pain that they in great numbers are suffering because of an industrial accident that happened a long time before their birth.

Most of the parents of the children in belarus were children themselves when the

accident happened in 1986 and in the next few years the true extent of the results of the contamination will truly come to light.

As someone who witnessed the arrival of plane loads of children to shannon this year to be taken off for their two weeks of rest and recuperation it was a heart rending sight . Some of the people of Belarus are the poorest in Europe they send their children to far away parts such as Roscommon , Clare, Leitrim and Cork in their best clothes. Children arrive with only the clothes on their back and the bag or box of gifts for the host family but leave full of smiles with cases of gifts , clothes and other practical items as well as toys . The foster parents eagerly await the precious cargo each monday morning and tearfully relinquish their charges when their time in Ireland is up .

These children have experienced so little joy yet are so loved and so full of joy . Where we have so much they have so little yet they are so happy to come here and experience our way of life yet they are always glad to return home to their parents .Often when one child comes to Ireland the next year their parents will send their siblings often whole families of siblings will return again and again to the same foster

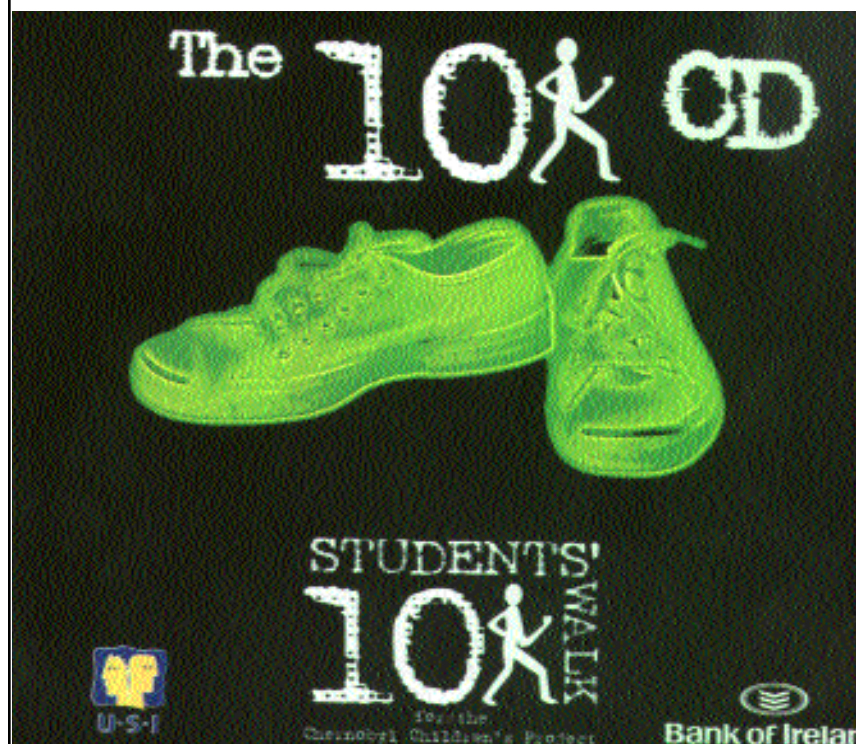
home building up a rapport between their 'Irish and Ukrainian families' .

These extremely happy and polite children incite such kindness in strangers , working in shannon I have seen total strangers unconnected with the Chernobyl children's Project go and buy 50 packets of taytos , 50 bottles of coke and treats just to make them feel more at home .The posters say what can we do to help a child die as painlessly as possible , CCP is not only in the business of helping children die but of also helping them to live . What can UL do to help ?

Well this walk is the easiest option all you have to do is collect a card from the SU office or your friendly Class rep , get as much sponsorship as you can and walk the walk . It will be leaving at 11 0, clock form Scholars end of the courtyard and hopefully UL will provide a contingent to be proud of . The other colleges in Limerick, including Mary I have already got a large number out to walk, can we do any better? UL is not a member of USI and they're certain that we won't raise a great deal of money.

Well now its our chance to prove them wrong.....

**Everyone Who Walks get
a Free CD
Read the Review on Page
25**



student banking Bank of Ireland

no bank offers more

to students of all ages

- PASS/ISIC Card in one • Free Siemens M35 WAP phone
- £100 off unison TV internet box
- £1,000 worth of discounts • London clubbing trip for £99 (+ tax) *
- Free Travelsave stamp worth £8 *
- The chance to live rent-free for a year • Interest free and discounted loans **
- No service or transaction charges
- Freephone access to Banking 365 • On-line banking

For more information drop into Bank of Ireland, University College Limerick and speak to Grainne Shanahan, Student Officer (email: grainneshanahan@tinnet.ie) or Gavin Russell (email: gavinrussell@tinnet.ie) or phone 061 330600 today.

* Applies to 18 years only. ** Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply.

we go to extremes so you can too

A Word In Everyone's Ear

Get everything off your chest!!!!

The best letter each week will receive an amazing £15, up £5 due to inflation

Sir,

I have little doubt that I am the only member of your readership to have considerable reservations about Paud Fitzgerald's letter which appeared in the last edition of this paper (An Focal Wk 6, Term 1). There are a number of aspects of the aforementioned author's letter which merit analysis, and indeed, compel a response.

Mr Fitzgerald was writing to express his disgust at the removal of a controversial "Pub Spy" article from the *Scaoil Amach E* pages on the UL web page.

The said diatribe was a feebly argued and poorly written piece that aired various allegations of misconduct on the part of employees in a business located in UL and thus concluded that students should not be employed on campus. Aside from the fact that Mr. Fitzgerald conveniently failed to mention that he is a contributor / writer for the on-line publication (thus skewing his purported objectivity), Mr Fitzgerald's letter is an unbalanced and uncalibrated missive for a number of reasons. As a student who works on campus, I was inevitably disgusted at the badly construed article to which he refers, yet unlike him, I firmly believe that the said piece contained an actionable libel. In contending to the contrary, Mr. Fitzgerald merely asserts that the piece was not libellous, and he offers little in the way of rhetoric, but rather expects us to rely on his authority on the basis that "he is a trainee solicitor(*sic*)". Any reasoned analysis of the article would seem to propose that defamation occurred, even according to most basic definition of defamation: "The wrongful publication of a false statement about a person, which tends to lower that person in the eyes of right-thinking members of society" (McMahon & Binchy *Irish Law of Torts* p609, also *Quigley V Creation Ltd.* (1971) IR 261 and *Berry V The Irish Times* (1973) IR 368). Given that all of the requisite elements to support a claim are in existence according to the above criteria, it falls to the writer of the piece to either concede the

defamatory content of the article or prove that their assertions are true. Given that the author of the original "Pub Spy" article admitted the impossibility of proving the allegations (his source refused to be named for the purposes of the article), it is highly unlikely that he would be able to summon proof in a court environment avail of the defenses available to him, those of "justification", "privilege" or "fair comment". As such, the allegations have no more validity than hearsay or idle gossip.

Mr. Fitzgerald also contended that the removal of the offensive article from the UL website was an act of censorship that "reeked of fascism" and that "contravened University policy and more importantly, the Constitution". Again, Mr. Fitzgerald's analysis, apart from being rather jaded in its "fight the power" naivety, is selective in its scrutiny of the legal issues. It is rather churlish to suggest that removing a part of a webpage as equating with fascism, especially given that their use by *Scaoil Amach E* is a courtesy provided by the University. The issue of constitutional rights was rather badly addressed also; Mr. Fitzgerald quoted verbatim from Article 40.6.1.i which outlines rights in relation to freedom of expression. He therefore believes that Mick Phelan should be running for the hills for fear of being sued for "in the order of £250,000". As a "trainee solicitor", Mr. Fitzgerald would be advised to consider that rights enumerated under Article 40.6.1.i are not absolute and are subject to limitations imposed by the conflicting right to a good name as accorded by Article 40.3.2. I also refer him to the fact that "the constitutional right to freedom of expression has always been considered too weak to have any real impact on the common-law approach to defamation" (McGonagle *A Text on Media Law* in Ireland p61). Mr. Fitzgerald would be better advised to start buying scratch cards if he is to have any hope of netting "in order of £250,000".

Yours, etc,
Michael D. Hourigan

Letter of the week

Dear Editor,

Following the allegations made about the peace institute's presence at an orange march in this paper last issue, I decided to do some research about the controversial march and other initiatives organised by this institute.

First off it should be noted that the grandmaster of the Enniskillen lodge Mr. Kells, had nine deceased victims of the Omagh bombing laid out in his shop. One may think that Mr. Kells would retreat to the hardline that many members of his organisation are known for. However Mr. Kells instead of blaming every one from the Republic for the bomb, offered his hand in friendship to the Peace Institute and invited a few members of this society to observe the orange parade. It would have been churlish for the Institute to turn down this conciliatory gesture. One could say that this gesture was the antithesis of "an unwillingness to accept change" on the behalf of Mr. Kells.

Mr. Kells is perhaps not typical of all Orangemen in the north, but then neither are those bigots and reactionaries in the Portadown lodge. If we apply the logic, that UL Sinn Fein propounded last week that the institute by attending an Orange march in Enniskillen shows support for the Orange lodge in Portadown, what does this mean for UL Sinn Fein? It means that because UL Sinn Fein's parent, the national Sinn Fein party has failed to condemn atrocities committed by an organisation linked to it (according to a decision of the Irish High Court), that UL Sinn Fein also fails to condemn these atrocities. Sticking with the logic applied in this paper last issue, UL Sinn Fein in effect condones these atrocities and violent actions e.g. vigilante attacks and punishment beatings. I would like to think that Sinn Fein doesn't condone the IRA bomb in Enniskillen in 1987, in which 11 people were killed (including friends of Mr. Kells). However if the peace institute condones the "sectarian harassment and violence the Orange Order perpetuates against the residents of the Garvaghy Road" (An Focal wk 4) by attending a march in Enniskillen, then does UL Sinn Fein condone violence by attending meetings of the Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle at which unrepentant bombers and hitmen are present (e.g. G. Kelly)? I would hope not.

Which leads to another salient point, is UL Sinn Fein really in a position to enunciate about what a "peaceful society" is, if they refuse to condemn violence committed by people with connections to their parent body. Some may say that Sinn Fein have contributed little to achieving reconciliation and integration in the North and are as welcoming to change as Fred West is to his house guests and that Sinn Fein lecturing on peace is so ironic that it makes Gary Larson's Far Side redundant, while they support an organisation containing psy-

chopathic phycopaths. However if this is unfair to Sinn Fein, then surely accusing the peace institute of having unclear motives and a dangerous political outlook is as well. The goals of the peace institute as laid out in their publications are simple "to contribute to the process of peace building in Ireland through interaction, information and development of mutual understanding". The institute aims to do this by reaching across the divide to get a different perspective on things. T

The group which went to Enniskillen was comprised of businessmen, retired professionals and postgrad students. This trip achieved a lot, according to reports from those who attended. It gave people from a nationalist background exposure to a different culture, this can be positive. By communication and knowledge people can try to understand one another a bit better. People need information from both sides to form a true picture of a conflict. The group attempted to do this.

How many people who agreed with the sentiments expressed in the letter of the week (week 4) have seen an orange march? Another initiative which the peace institute did, was to bring apprentice boys to Limerick, one member of this group said they were "treated very well by a people whom we have always been told would be hostile towards us". This one thinks is a positive step by the institute, which demonstrates their credibility as a peace seeking society. One compares this to certain elements of the Republican movement who urged a band from Southill not to attend a band festival in the north. Some members of the Real IRA gave death threats to the kids interested in attending.

The group member in the photograph was photographed not joking with members of the lodge but rather smiled for a photograph. This terrible allegation has to be cleared up, I mean to be seen talking and laughing with an Orangeman apparently signifies that this person accepts that the Orangemen are justified at Portadown. Perhaps the Institute member should have talked to the Orangeman through an intermediary. Oh no, hang on, that's not what Sinn Fein want, Sinn Fein are apparently for inclusion and integration and communication, "a society free from SECTARIAN violence" (what about the other kinds?). How often do we hear about Sinn Fein justly complaining about being ignored, about people not communicating with them, yet do they expect people to exclude the Orange Order and go against what they apparently stand for? No one should yearn for a return to the parochial isolationist protectionist Ireland of old. However perhaps Sinn Fein's name is apt - "Ourselves Alone" - for this party.

Gerard Gill

A Word In Everyone's Ear

Get everything off your chest!!!!

The best letter each week will receive an amazing £15, up £5 due to inflation

Dear Sir,

I am of the opinion that cannabis, at least in UL, should be legalised. Being a 4th Year Law and Accounting this year, there is unwanted stress in my life. Recently there have been reports on Sky News and in the papers calling for cannabis to be legalised. Apparently cannabis relaxes stressed people. If it were available on prescription I think a lot of UL students would qualify.

Its week 8 now and the library has been like a cattle mart for the last three weeks. Students are buzzing around like hummingbirds. Stress levels at this early stage of the year are reaching boiling point. Instead of issuing red bull and lucozade in the Plaza café, we should be given spliffs. Instead of water fountains in the library there should be bonges.

The Plaza café should be an area for the social smoker. They should be allowed produce quality joints for the stressed student. I long for the day when I can sit in comfort and smile across a blue haze at my classmates. Could there be a better end to a day of lectures and study?

That new meditation room near the Stables should be a congregation area for the less outgoing students who want to escape. I am not talking about complete stone heads, I mean Playstations would not be allowed. It should be a place where after studying for four hours straight a man may chill out, meditate and throw darts.

Conor Kenny

Dear Editor ,

Looking at the headlines of last weeks 'An Focal' we were very surprised to see that the actual 'Blackout' was acknowledged.

This was letter is about an incident that occurred on that dark **WET** night .

As keen followers of current affairs and not of any political party

we decided to attend a well publicised meeting about Northern Ireland in the student centre .

To our disgust however the cancellation/ transferral notice was not so well publicised . This was illustrated by the very sad fact that upon our arrival to the student centre we were left in the dark ! That was pathetic enough but even more embarrassing (as U.L. students)was the fact that we met the guest speaker , also outside the door trying to blindly search for a sign that was not there.

How do you expect to keep the good reputation of our University if you treat yur guest speakers with such disrespect .

Could our Union not afford one simple phone call?

We acknowledge that it was an unusual circumstance but for god sake get your priorities straight and act together.

We hope we stand to be corrected .

Yours sincerely ,

(Name with Editor)

Dear Editor,

Being three intelligent ,beautiful, stunning women studying in second year here in UL (did I mention stunning ?) Since we are only in second year it only took us over a year to realise that you get £15.00 for a star letter in An Focal so, we decide to put pen to paper.

We have noted that usually the star letter is by someone who complains ! As many know Women suffering from PMS are great at that, so we are in fine form to write a star letter today.

Here is our lists of Complaints

1. We are no longer free into the lodge , why is this ?
2. Your mother ringing at 8.40am to make sure you are up (yeah right!)
3. People who steal your Bin...it's not funny having a weeks rubbish in your kitchen .
4. Fuzzy T.V
5. Having to watch Tna G cause

no-one will change the channel.

6. Having no remote control to change the channel with.

7. Realising it's week 6 and you have no notes.

8. Having no-one in your class to get notes from .

9.The atm says 'insufficient funds' but you know you have £20 in the a/c.

10. Remembering that you took out £20 last night for last orders.

11. Your Ex shifting a girl right in front of you !! Like you care ...

12. **Boys** pinching your bum (This is not a turn on it hurts!!)

13. Knowing the order of the songs in the Lodge (we don't go there that often – honest!)

14. Crap chat up lines (who cares if you play for your county it doesn't want to make me play with you !!)

15. Beer Goggles (Enough said you know who ye are ye lucky devils!!)

16. So called friends who remind you of your beer goggles experiences...

17. When some guy tells you ' You're too drunk I'm going home...' Take advantage please.. 18. Bed Sore...(Why can't I have a nurse to move me ...)

19. Flash Backs (There are reasons why you forgot in the first place...)

20. Waking up on the Dance floor and not knowing how you got there...

21. The Hairdresser refusing to cut your hair because you are too drunk.

22. When people say ' eating is cheating' who can afford to eat and drink!!

23. Waiting in casualty for 4 hours to realise that the double vision and headaches are not a tumour but the result of too much drink..

24. Not enough cups in the house so we canal have a drink at the same time.

25.The Dettol company saying it's safe to eat off your kitchen table (It's not we know that now!!)

26 No clean socks and having to wear two odd ones again!

27. Being too lazy to take off your jacket when you are really hot! (Three sweaty girls here , ye want us now boys!)

28. Being so drunk that you have to check if you are wearing clothes .

29. When your friends call you into the room just to close the door, curtain , window or to turn off the light .

30. People who are pissed at 4 in the evening and who write star letters !

By now you have realised that we deserve the £ 15 and you are wildly looking for three intelligent , stunning women (did I mention stunning) You can find us in either bar every evening until the week before the exams , and then we will be in the library . Thanks for the £ 15 . (We won't spend it all on drink , promise mammy !)

Your s Truly

**Super Woman
Wonder Woman
& Cat Woman .**

(Editors note; The names of the writers have been withheld to protect the innocent , names are with the editor....., I was supposed to remove Item 17 but that's what you get for leaving letters lining so your house mates can find them, sorry girls but I couldn't give you the £15 pounds but you did make laugh thought, which has to worth something)

If you've got something to say, or even nothing to say but you can say it in a clever way, drop us a line in An Focal. You might get it printed, and you might just win yourself £15.

Either drop it in to Fergal in the office, the girls at reception, or e-mail it to

union.communication@student.ul.ie

CULINARY GRACE -

a beginners guide to gourmet cooking

I've chosen a few miscellaneous recipes this week, two main courses and two starters. I came across a very useful web-site which I think is ideal for students, it's called

www.cookingbynumbers.com

It asks you what ingredients you have in the press and then it gives you a list of recipes to choose from. Excellent you don't even have to leave the comfort of your own sitting-room to go out and get food.

BANGER AND MASH

LASAGNE

INGREDIENTS	COST
1 large onion	£0.15
1 dessert sp. Oil	£0.03
1/2lb sausages	£0.65
Small tin of beans	£0.32
225g (8oz) grated cheese or cottage cheese	£1.00
225g (8oz) cooked lasagne sheets	£1.20
2-3 slightly boiled potatoes	£0.30
115g (4oz) frozen peas	£0.30
1 carton of low fat yogurt	£0.35
1 egg	£0.10
	£4.40

SERVES: 4
PREP. TIME: 20mins.
COOKING TIME: 55-60mins.

INSTRUCTIONS

Lightly fry the onion until soft and lightly brown, then mix with the baked beans.
Lightly grill the sausages, then slice at an angle: leave to cool slightly.
Arrange the lasagne: beans, sausages, peas and potatoes in an oven proof rectangular dish with layers of pasta.
Prepare the topping by mixing the yogurt, lightly beaten egg and cheese together, and cover the lasagne.
Bake in the oven at 220 degrees/425 degrees for 25-30 mins..
Reduce the temperature after 10 mins. to allow the lasagne to cook slowly.

CHICKEN CAPRINI

INGREDIENTS	COST
1oz/25g margarine	£0.08
8 chicken joints	£1.99
1 large onion peeled and chopped	£0.15
1 tin of tomatoes	£0.35
2oz/50g mushrooms, sliced	£0.40
1 tsp. Mixed herb	£0.03
Salt and pepper	£0.02
1 tsp. of paprika	£0.05
1/2pt of chicken stock	£0.15
1tblsp. Water} + blended together	
10g flour}	£0.06
	£2.95

SERVES: 4
PREP.TIME: 0
COOKING TIME: 40-50mins.

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat the margarine and fry the chicken and onions for 10mins.
Add the tomatoes, mushrooms, herbs, seasoning, paprika and stock.
Bring to the boil and cover.
Simmer for 30-40 mins.
Arrange the joints on a serving dish, thicken remaining sauce with blended flour and pour over the chicken.
Serve with new boiled potatoes.

CABBAGE WEDGES IN

CHEESE SAUCE

INGREDIENTS	COST
1 head cabbage	£0.80
Sauce:	
11/2 oz/40g margarine	£0.15
11/2 oz/40g flour	£0.24
1 pt milk	£0.40
Salt and pepper	£0.02
2oz/50g cheese	£0.40
1 tsp mustard	£0.08
	£2.09

SERVES: 6
PREP. TIME: 5 mins
COOKING TIME: 25 mins

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut the cabbage in half and cut each half into 3 wedges. Cut away the hard core.
Place the cabbage wedges in a shallow pan of boiling salted water. Cook for about 12-15 mins, the wedges should be slightly crispy. Drain and place in a shallow vegetable dish and keep hot.

To make sauce:

Place the margarine, flour, milk and seasoning in a pan over a moderate heat. Bring to the boil, whisking continuously.
Cook for 2-3 mins. Still whisking until thick, smooth and glossy.
Beat in 1oz/25g of the cheese and ? teaspoon of mustard. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary.
Pour the sauce over the cabbage wedges and sprinkle with the remaining cheese.
Brown under grill until golden.

COURGETTES LA CRÈME

INGREDIENTS	COST
2 courgettes	£1.40
1oz/25g margarine	£0.12
1 tblsp oil	£0.03
1/2 tsp. Basil	£0.03
Sauce:	
1/2 pt of cream and 1/2 pt of milk	£0.65
2 small eggs	£0.25

Salt and pepper	£0.02
1/2 tsp. Grated nutmeg or paprika	£0.05
2oz/50g white cheese.	£0.40

SERVES: 4
PREP. TIME: 5 mins.
COOKING TIME: 30 mins.

INSTRUCTIONS

Wash and dry courgettes, trim the ends and then slice diagonally.
Heat the margarine and the oil in a large frying pan and fry slices of courgettes on both sides until golden.
Drain on kitchen paper and place on greased baking dish. Season and sprinkle with basil.
Whisk the eggs, cream seasonings and cheese together, then pour over the courgettes.
Bake in the pre-heated oven at 200 degrees Celsius and 400 degrees Fahrenheit for about 15-20mins. Until golden brown on top and the custard is set.

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POP MUSIC, WHAT IS IT WORTH?

By Nick O' Brien.

I write this wearing a Led Zeppelin T-shirt and listening to Metallica, if that is of importance to you.

The trouble, you see young man, with music these days is that it is emotionless. It is as redundant in creating feelings in a crowd as the knowledge that Colchester have just scored an away goal being announced in Old Trafford. Nobody cares.

I refer, of course, to the Five's, the Steps, The backstreet Boys of this world. This is an Irish forte, and nothing at all to be proud of. Westlife, B*witched, Boyzone at al are leading us painfully by the ear to a new era of pointless conformity, each looking and dressing exactly the same as the next, the opinions as bland as the music, dancing in synch, unable to actually

make music by playing an instrument, and barely able to sing.

This is what this generation will be remembered for, creating media yardsticks for how one should look (Britney Spears, Jennifer Lopez, Ricky Martin, and boy/girl band) that the ordinary person cannot live up to. And I'm not just saying that cos I'm ugly!

But I am not complaining about "pop" music, I would have to care to do that, instead, I am openly rebelling against it. I hate it! It is actually funny to watch the plastic talentless fools play their pretty people music (mucous music) for an increasingly less opinionated planet.

The main problem is that the music that has defined previous generations always had political meaning, always had social importance.

The 50's Jazz and jive scene was seen as the single voice of

disrespecting youth speaking out en masse. 60's pacifist rock was the soundtrack to a peace ideal, and the beginning of a body politics devotion to such. The 70's promoted freedom of expression, whatever kind it was, from Led Zeppelin to the Sex Pistols. The 80's promoted a sexual freedom in its music.

The 90's was... pointless, and this decade isn't deviating much from that message. Dance music and pop music are an expression of the omnipresent hopelessness of the neo-drug culture, the elctro-pop culture, whatever label you desire.

We have lost nothing from it, however, but direction, and the bland conformity preaching media must be changed soon, before any opinion left is censored. A quick look at the charts, and take away pop and dance, and you have the 80's and 90's timeless Rock relics U2, and pop-rapper Eminem. Incidentally,



U.S. courts are currently deciding whether or not Eminem's lyrics are too violence inciting for the public, and if found guilty, his albums will be removed from Record stores all over the country.

We need some political music again. Does anybody else feel that?

We need a pink-floyd, a Sex-pistols, a Nirvana to break down the walls of conformity, if even for the shortest time, to get rid of the "life is a clique" movement that is sweeping through the world killing impressionable braincells, and to make life more bloody exciting!

AISTE AR SON AN GAEILGE IN OL

by SEANAN O'COISTIN

Tá géarghá le Gaeilge in Ollscoil Luimnigh. Níl Gaeilge ar bith san áit. Níl sé le feiceáil ná le cloisteáil. Is mór an trua é. Tá suas le 8,000 mic léinn sa foras seo agus níl deis ar bith acu feidhm a bhaint as a chuid Gaeilge.

Ar dtús, féachaimid ar na fíricí. Níl foirgnimh ar bith san áit seo le anim Gaeilge. Tá feidhm bainte ag an AML as an Gaeilge ar Áras na Mic Léinn ach is i litreacha beaga é. Níl beartas ag an Ollscoil don Gaeilge. Níl beartas ag Aontas na Mic Léinn nó Cumann na lar-Céimithe ar son an Gaeilge. Tá alt ag AML ina bhunreacht chun an Gaeilge a spreagadh ach níl siad. Níl Gaeilge ar na comhárthaí ar fad an ollscoil.

Tá siad go léir as Béarla. Ar na cáipéisí feidhmiúl agus na cártaí aitheantas tá an anim Béarla den ollscoil go mór agus tá an anim Gaeilge beag faoin anim Bhéarla. An chóir dó bheith?

Cád is féidir déanamh? Céist maith. Tá a lán le déanamh. Tá i bhfad níos mó Gaeilge ins na h-ollscoil eile in Éireann. Nach bheiththeadh an ollscoil seo rud éigean a déanamh chun an Gaeilge a spreagadh? Nach féidir linn bheith cosúil leis na h-ollscolanna eile? Féach ar Ollscoil na h-Éireann, Gaillimh. Is é sin an ollscoil leis an chuid is mó Gaeilge sa tír seo. Tá áras sainiúl ann don Gaeilge - Áras na Gaeilge. Tá Gaeilge le feiceáil i ngach áit ann agus í

ngach RANG. Agus deireann mic léinn ar fad Éireann gurb é Gaillimh sár chathair dos na mic léinn. B'fhéidir gurb é an Gaeilge an chúis le sin. Tá a lán Gaeilge i Ollscoil na h-Éireann, Átha Cliath is Corcaigh. Tá Gaeilge le feiceáil is le cloisteáil iontu. Creid nó ná chreid, tá Gaeilge in Ollscoil Átha Cliath. Tá omhárthaí Gaeilge ann is tá a seomra féin ag an Cumann Gaelach ann. In Ollscoil an Bhanríon i mBéal Feirste tá Gaeilge le feiceáil ar na comhárthaí. Conas nach féidir le Ollscoil Luimnigh an rud céanna a déanamh? I gColáiste Muire Gan Smál, coláiste féin-rialach do OL, tá a lán Gaeilge ann. Tá Gaeilge scríobha gach áit agus tá Cumann Gaelach mór, cumhachtach acu. Cén fáth mar sin nach féidir leis an príomh láthair den ollscoil an rud céanna a déanamh?

Conas ar féidir an Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm in OL? Tá rudaí áirithe ar gá dúinn déanamh. Caithfidh rialtais an ollscoil cothrom na Féinne a thabhairt don Gaeilge agus beartas Gaeilge a crothú agus é a chur i bhfeidhm. Ba chóir dóibh buan Feidhmeannach Gaeilge a phostú chun an Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm san Ollscoil. Ba chóir dóibh comhárthaí Gaeilge is Béarla a chur suas ar fad an ollscoil. Ba chóir dóibh animeacha Gaeilge a chur ar na foirgnimh uile. An bhfuil sé ró-deacair dóibh "Leabharlann" a chur suas in aice "Library"? Ar na cáipéisí feidhmiúl ba chóir go mbeidh an Gaeilge có-mhór le nó níos mó ná an Béarla.

I domhain an AML caithfear aithriú a fhe-

iceáil comh maith. Níl beartas acu ach oiread. Is mór an náire é seo. Baineann siad feidhm as an chuid is lú Ghaeilge ar féidir leo. Caithfidh mé admháil go bhfuil i bhfad níos mó Gaeilge ag an AML ná aon dream eile san ollscoil. Tá Gaeilge le feiceáil in Áras na Mic Léinn. Tá sé ar na comhárthaí. Tá anim Gaeilge ar an nuachtáin seo. Uaireanta feictear Gaeilge ar cáipéisí AML ach fós níl a lán ann. Tá súil agam go mbeidh feabhas ar seo sa toadhchá. Ba ceart do na clubanna is cumainn animeacha Gaeilge a chur ar a chuid cumainn agus beart Gaeilge a crothú comh maith. Ag na cruinnithe an AML ba chóir dóibh feidhm a bhaint as beagáinín Gaeilge. Ní rud mór é seo le déanamh agus braitheann sé go maith don AML.

Ag deireadh an dála, tá beartais agus beartanna ag tastáil ó gach dream le cumhacht san ollscoil. Is iad sin Rialtais an Ollscoil, an AML, Cumann na lar-Céimithe agus Clubanna is Cumainn. Má oibríonn siad sin le chéile chun níos mó Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm agus é a spreagadh, beidh i bhfad níos mó Gaeilge againn go luath san ollscoil. Mar sin cén fáth nach bhfuil sé ag tárlú?

GLUAIS:

Feidhm a bhaint = use

Fíricí = facts

Beartas = policy

Spreagadh = encourage/promote

Comhárthaí = signs

Cáipéisí feidhmiúl = official documents

Buan Feidhmeannach Gaeilge = permement

Irish Officer

Beartais is beartanna = policies and plans

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

Is democracy the best way to go?

For centuries people around the world have campaign for the ideal that is 'democracy' – *demos* meaning people and *krateein* meaning to rule – the rule of the people. But is democracy as good as people think it is? Maybe not. In the case of Ireland and its history can we say that democracy got us an independent state or did it come about through physical force and blood? It is an arguable point. A point that historians and politicians argue continually. Could Parnell and later Redmond achieved a Home Rule parliament in Dublin if they had been left to do so? So many questions left unanswered. Like everything it came down to the actions taken by people themselves led by people who were willing to lead.

Democracy can also be interpreted as the rule of the majority over a minority which would deviate from the ideal as decisions are made by a majority not as the people as a whole. Surely this by its very nature is 'undemocratic'. But is there any fairer way of doing

things? I don't think so. We will never reach the ideal that is 'democracy', we can only rule by majorities.

Take for example the US presidential elections that caused so much nail-biting and anticipation. It came down to a few thousand votes – nothing when you think about it. But do we not consider that only about 52% voted in the election which means that this present has less than 25% in his favour. A quarter of the United States elects arguably the most powerful man in the world, and this in the home of democracy itself.

Our elections are similar with only about 64% of the electorate coming-out for national elections and less for local elections. In reality we do not live in any kind of democracy but an oligarchy – the rule of a small exclusive class, those who come out and vote for the winners. But what happens when the people are not being heard, over an issue such as Partnership for Peace. The state does not listen. It is the same in this university. Student representatives attend university meetings on a weekly basis and are not listened to. And yet we are the largest constituent voice

that make up the University of Limerick. And what do we do? Well at the time of writing I am not sure what the student body has done. I hope it has agreed to take action now rather than later. 'They' – the people who think that they can run a university and can't – have been telling us what to do for the last twenty-five years and it is disgraceful for the past students who went through like lambs and didn't do anything about the situation, which has now built up and is really to engulf us all. It is not good enough. Something needs to be done now.

But yet I am spectacle of Irish students and the word democracy. In general students are seen as the defenders of democracy. We saw it in Yugoslavia and Indonesia and even in Prague, but not in this country? Why? Well I don't know the answer. Maybe students are better-off here than they are in foreign countries, maybe they are shy, or just maybe they like what is being fed to them because it is easier to do nothing than something. Of course there are some students willing to shout their opinion and get it heard.

Well I am going to have to cut it off here as I myself am trying to get my opinion heard about this protest which is more about students being ignored and insulted by the university rather than anything else. Let's hope that we get the desired result. As a democratic state we have the RIGHT OF PROTEST!!! Let's use it.

Burning Bibles and Foreign objects

Just a short warning that in the light of the computer crash that put

last week's edition of this paper in such grave danger, there is still a minor fault in the program that deletes occasional sentences in some articles. But don't worry, I'm sure you won't miss any So then the priest says "I thought it was a chicken!"

You know I was physically forced to write the article this week... I didn't honestly have time with numerous exams, but Mr. Editor demanded it. He summoned me to his office, and I entered hoping to explain myself, but the first thing I noticed was that the gerbil on his desk, the one who proof-reads the paper, was wearing a leather Gimp Mask and body suit, and clearly happy to see me, I agreed to do the article to avoid an impromptu re-make of Pulp Fiction.

So I write this article from the protective custody of the Witness protection program, ironically enough, like plenty of my ex-girlfriends.

The main focus of the first year week were those Meningitis injections. The queues were biblically long (Leviticus 21.3) and you begin to notice things about your surrounding environment when left in such tedium. For example, you know that your doctor is a sadist, when he brings a meat-cleaver to inject people. But in fairness, I got the injection, didn't faint once, and I told the doctor it didn't hurt at all, so he stuck three more needles in me.

Some third year students started a poll a few days ago (you know who you are) to elect a new Antichrist. The likes of Marilyn Manson and George W. Bush were in the running, but I did get the nod ahead of them both by a 40% margin. Stark realisation drew upon me that if the public saw me in such tones, my morality to be that slack, I would never be elected to any public office, and I knew I had to move fast to preserve my moral fibre and public image, and harness the goodwill and unity that encapsulates a U.L. student. I

Diary of A First Year

Nicholas O'Brien shows us that men write diaries as well as the girls can!!!!!!

used the medium of music, of course, and started a Christian Death Metal band, Moshin' with the saviour. Fans of CSMG must know now that this is a side-project and will not effect our future album plans or any of my punk-folk commitments. Don't forget, Moshin' with the saviour, coming soon to Church.

The Punk Full soc continues regardless in its endeavours (23 more members and were legal!) to pay homage to the Godfathers of Punk, by hosting a "Foreign objects in exotic orifices" night, new members welcome. We will be teaching the two handed nostril grab, and our latest home defence move, the Nostrollix. Which is a two handed move, two fingers of one hand subduing the nostrils, and the other hand on the... well, you know.

I promise with time, I will have actual real events in this diary, but until I start to get out more, a short list of things to do while queueing for those injections, to make life a fruitier more interesting experience for you and those waiting with you.

1. Turn to the person behind you with a satisfied face, and say with a lisp "I went poopies."
 2. Grab a syringe and threaten to inject yourself if the person in front farts again.
 3. Bring in numerous bibles and burn one every five minutes, in the name of George W. Bush, "The People's Antichrist."
 4. Write slogans on other peoples T-shirts. "I'm with slut —>" "Moshin' with the saviour, Sniff water, worship God," "Eat sh*t, 5 billion flies cant be wrong."
 5. Take an item of clothing off (Preferably your own) everytime someone says the word "bored", and when naked, maintain your dignity with a burning bible.
- Till next time, same punk time, same punk channel, Folk on my friends.

What are Lives Worth in UL - A Lifeguard's Story

Lifeguards in the University of Limerick swimming pool are getting paid the minimum wage of £4.40 per hour. They are responsible for the lives of upwards of 70 people at a time – and they get paid £4.40 per hour for their troubles. This is an absolute disgrace and another apt portrayal of the type of tight-fisted bureaucrats who are running this University.

The thought of anybody, with a professional qualification in the field they are in, only getting paid the minimum wage is preposterous. And just to assure everybody – it IS a professional qualification. All lifeguards have worked hard, trained hard and spent hard-earned money on becoming qualified. To be “rewarded” by getting paid less than what a glass-collector in a Limerick night-club gets, is simply an insult.

Lifeguards in council-run pools throughout the country are getting anywhere between £6.50 and £7.00 per hour. Indeed, the Roxboro Swimming Pool here in Limerick, pays around £6.80 per hour. Council pools are a standard 25M in length. The UL pool is 33M in length and wider than average – bigger pool, more people. Where is the logic in UL lifeguards getting paid less – surely they should get paid more if anything!?!

Lifeguards do just that – they guard

lives. As soon as you enter the pool, you are their responsibility. It is their job to ensure that you leave safe and well. As far as I am aware, the Normal Operating Procedure for the UL pool states that the maximum number of people allowed in the water at any one time is 70 people. I have been in the pool and counted more than 90 people in the water. How would you like to be responsible for the lives of 90 people? Furthermore, how would you like to get paid £4.40 per hour to take that responsibility?

What is even more disturbing, is that when the National 50M Swimming Pool comes on line next summer in the new University Arena, the lifeguards won't be getting much more. There is £5 per hour factored in to the costs of the new pool to pay the lifeguards but the lifeguards have been told they won't actually get £5 per hour. This will be the only olympic size competition pool in the country - 50M in length and 25M in width.

To compare even further – the Castletroy Park Hotel pay their lifeguards £5 per hour, with some of the more experienced getting an even higher rate. Leisure centres lifeguards are traditionally the worst paid. What does that tell you?

It is true to say that for the majority of the time, lifeguards do not have to make any

rescues. That's true. But that's not the point. The point is they are trained and qualified to make a rescue should it be necessary. How many bodyguards will ever take a bullet? Not many – but they will if they have to.

Just last May, the lifeguard on duty for the earlybird session in the pool (07:30 to 08:45) had to make a major rescue. He went in, retrieved a girl who was unconscious and rapidly sinking to the bottom and got her out on to the deck of the pool. She already had yellow stuff coming from her mouth. Her eyes were rolled back in her head. Her mouth had clamped shut. He and the supervisor on duty at the time performed CPR for almost 20 minutes before an ambulance arrived. When they did revive the girl, she immediately lapsed into a fit so severe the ambulance personnel couldn't even check her pulse.

That girl was a 19 year old student. She lived – thanks to a lifeguard and a supervisor who were only doing their jobs.

We're talking about saving lives here! Paying the lifeguards a pathetic £4.40 per hour is simply not acceptable.

Do lifeguards in UL deserve to get paid more? Ask that girl.

Schoolroom sentiments or horrors?

By Nicola C.

Recently with the graduation of my best friend with a B.Ed. from Mary I., I had to stop and think for myself how much things have changed in the last ten years. In a classroom in Cork, standing 5'2 and only twenty years of age (not even eligible for comprehensive insurance on her car), this girl would be teaching prayers for Holy Communion in a couple of months time. She is being called 'Miss' and awards gold stars to the best pupils. Of course her class worship her and they have every reason to. But thinking back to my own national schooldays I remember a scenario far removed from this, and I'm sure there are many students who have had experiences of this different variety.

I recall first class, spent in a small country school, where there was a 'Good' and 'Bold' list. However, this didn't seem to operate along the lines of those displaying good or bad behaviour being assigned to the different lists. Instead it was a campaign to nail any boy who so much as looked around during class. The religion obsessed female teacher would throw a tantrum, give her thick wooden ruler a few raps on the desk, and approaching the quivering rabbit-eyed six-year old, would interrogate venomously:

'Were you talking?'

'Miss I just wanted....'

'Did I tell you NOT to talk during class?'

'Yes Miss but....'

'I don't want to hear any lame

excuses. You know what happens if your name goes on that bold list again, yes that's right, there'll be no Santa for you!'

This was a regular occurrence, traumatising young boys seemed to be a speciality and hobby of this at times deranged character. Of course the intimidation didn't end there. We were all actually brainwashed into believing that the blackboard was really God's television or spy camera, and that for every sin we committed we would spend a year in purgatory (that was three times the length of a year on earth we were informed). 'You know God can see every little thing that you do, and don't think that he doesn't know about you throwing your crusts in the bin!'

This of course was a heinous crime for a rebellious six-year old to commit. What I remember most clearly about first class however was an incident involving a friend of mine who tended to be quite fidgety. He was threatened on a number of occasions with the particular punishment, and its final execution was a site to behold. After jumping out of his seat to pick up an eraser, our teacher descended on him like a prison warden and proceeded to TIE him to the chair with a skipping rope! The sight provided us all with great entertainment and needless to say he wasn't quite as fidgety for some time!

Memories of third and fourth class mainly comprise of getting away with a lot of mischief because of a dozy teacher we labelled Turkey Lurkey. Fart

Cushions placed strategically under the cushion of her chair, the placing of snails on her desk, and pretending to be sick so we could doss in the toilets all passed the time quite well for us. However, things did backfire one day when a girl genuinely needed to go to the bathroom, and after being consistently refused proceeded to pee all over the ground! Needless to say she was the target of wise cracks for the next couple of weeks with pot-ties, pampers and plastic pants cropping up at the mention of her name.

The cream of schoolday schizophrenia, however, occurred during our last two years spent with our headmaster. Among his favourite weapons were the metre stick, World Books and a straightened Hand that could dislocate a shark's tooth. Crimes such as passing bottles of Tipp-Ex to the person behind you, or 'leaving your copy at home' merited a Metre Stick experience. I still remember the long blue and white stick, comprised of some flexible material that made it bounce up and down as our enraged superior made his way towards one of us. A few belts were then received usually to the head, but the best part was that he didn't really hurt at all, and us cailini escaped it most of the time. A person who didn't escape the World Books (the wine and gold leather-bound encyclopedias) was my best friend who I referred to earlier. On more than one occasion she received a clatter of not one but two World Books on the head and

the poor girl wasn't even a troublemaker! The Straightened Hand was the most regularly inflicted punishment, when one might have lost concentration or was unable to give an answer. 'Buck up, do you hear me', was followed by a jabbing into the left or right arm, or worse the middle of the spine, by the almost razor-edged Straightened Hand. A hilarious episode stands out in my mind to this day. One of the lads arrived in after lunch break and sat in his seat. Suddenly, he caught the attention of our headmaster.

'Maher, what have you got that helmet on you for?'

The reply 'it's for protection Sir' aroused hysterical laughter among my classmates and I. We were one up.

I can honestly look back at my schooldays and say they were one of the best laughs I have ever had, despite all the semi-abuse we were subject to. And why? Because we never let them (the teachers) win. You see the more a person annoys and maddens you, the more you want to get them back and that is what we always tried to do. So now ten years on my best friend knows she doesn't have to (or couldn't!) resort to the tactics used on her. She has already won the hearts of her pupils and because of this there is no battle. Pity our teachers never realised this, but we still enjoyed their painstaking quest of trying to win control when we had vowed never to surrender!

Marian's Voyeur Column

- A fortnightly look at what's hot or not in the world



Isn't it strange the way people get attached to one particular pub; it almost becomes part of who you are, like a characteristic or something. Anyone who knows me will realise that mine is the Scholars. I distinctly remember the day it opened. It was around the time of the first semester exams last year, we'd waited all semester for it to open and when it eventually did I hated it. I know they say first impressions last but in this case it didn't happen. It was pretty packed and we couldn't get a seat so I wasn't given the opportunity to experience the delight that is armchairs in pubs. But I had a life altering experience after our holidays in February when we got our results. The Stables was absolutely packed so we had to resort to the Scholars, let's just say the armchair converted me and I've never looked back. Not even yesterday when I realised that I'd spent a total of 10 hours in there in the last two days. (Will I get a free drink for the inadvertent advertising??)

I went to Cork last week to do some research for this piece (dedicated journalist that I am) and got to visit my friends who had the misfortune to get into UCC while I was there. They (being the supportive friends that they are) agreed to take me to The Star to help me with this article. Despite the lack of armchairs it has its attractions, the DJ wished me a happy Birthday and played "Spiller" for me. The fact that my birthday is in July didn't really bother me

at the time. Apparently it's been re-vamped recently, I'd never seen it before but it's pretty cool now.

It has to be said though that aesthetic appearance isn't always enough. There are some places that you just don't feel comfortable in, no matter how many smiley faces are behind the bar, not referring to any place in particular, honest. (Sorry, Leah and Kate). It's not that they're bad pubs, they're just not YOURS.

There are times when you have to put aside your loyalties, swallow your pride and grace another pub with your presence. I've nothing against the Stables, it's just not MY pub, and I know I don't actually own the Scholars but I might as well at this stage. Anyway to cut a long story short I went there on Saturday night and once I got over the temptation to make a break for it and run across the courtyard, I had a good time. Philosophical conversations are always more fun in pubs. The complementary Class Reps admin day drinks may have helped, but just a little bit.

I would like to point out that this is only my opinion and I didn't mean to encourage or discourage any one to go to any particular pub. Although you do have a better chance of running into me in the Scholars.

You must bear in mind that what you're consuming in the pub is quite important too. Most people as well as having a pub that they

consider their own also have a drink that they consider their own. I suppose given most students financial situation, pints are probably the most popular but hey everyone to their own unless it's tequila or Jack Daniels which (to put it mildly) don't agree with me (damn orientation week, turned me against my good friend Jack for life). And as for tequila, I still can't bear to look at salt or lemons either.

Isn't it weird the way drinking habits have totally changed in the last thirty years? Gone be the days of the "pint of plain" and a sherry or a babycham for the little woman. Pubs didn't serve food (well maybe a cheese sandwich) and the entertainment left a lot to be desired. In the 80's Guinness was still the most popular drink but Heineken and Carlsberg were starting to make a dent on the market. Women got more adventurous and venture out of the "snug" but they still wouldn't drink pints, although the more daring of them might drink a half pint. Thankfully they made an effort or else womankind would have been resigned to a life of knitting jumpers in our spare time between lectures. The 90's brought more Beer and Lager and introduced "alcopops" and pre-mixed spirits. And praise the Lord (of pubs) put pint glasses into the hands of women everywhere. Who knows what the 00's will bring to us? I can only dream of what delights are ahead of us.

Have You Nothing Better To Do?

You know those headwrecking e-mails that you get from people with nothing better to do. Now and again though, a good one turns up. We're going to see if we can find one a fortnight. Tough task.

If you got a really good one send them to anfocal@csn.ul.ie

Young David Beckham is a very smart young fellow. In this following forwarded mail we learn just why he is such a prized possession at Old Trafford. Enjoy...

Alex Ferguson calls David Beckham into his office. 'David,' he says, 'I'm worried about your performance the last few games. You've been hopeless, completely off form.'

Brainy Dave and...hang on a minute that's not Posh...

'Sorry, boss', says David. 'I've not been myself lately. I've got a few problems at home.'

'Oh dear,' says Ferguson, pretending to care. 'What's up? Posh and Brooklyn okay?'

'Oh they're fine', says David. 'It's just that something is really bugging me and I'm losing sleep and everything. I can't concentrate on my football and it's really messing me up.'

Whatever's the matter, David?' says Fergie.

Well, boss', says David, 'it's pretty serious. You see I'm really stuck on this jigsaw and...'

'A jigsaw?!!!!' shouts Alex. 'You're full**ing up every time you play because of a bloo*y jigsaw?!!!!'

'Yeah, boss, but you don't understand, it's really doing my head in!' says David in that horrible whining voice. 'It's really hard and it's this picture of a tiger and it looks really good on the box and I'm sure I've got all the bits and everything but I just can't get it right and it's doing my head in and I even had my hair cut to try and cool my brain down and...'

'David, David, David,' says Ferguson. 'You've got to get a grip. It's affecting

our games and nothing is as important as Manchester United's success, other than Roy Keane's wages, obviously.'

'Yeah, boss,' says David, 'but it's this picture of a tiger and it looks really good on the box and I really want to finish it but it's really hard and it's doing my head in and it's this picture..and it's a tiger and it's hard...and I can't make the bits fit and, er, it's really hard, er, boss and, er, it's a tiger, er,... on the box...er...boss.' Ferguson waits until even Beckham realises he's repeating himself and has got nothing else to say which took a bit longer than usual.

'David,' he says, with that conceited, irritating, smug smile he uses for self-congratulatory post-match interviews. 'Bring the tiger jigsaw in and let's have a look at it. For Christ's sake, we've got to get you back to playing football.'

Oh thanks, boss,' says David, 'that'd be really helpful 'cos it's really hard and it's a picture of a tiger and it's doing my head in, that tiger is.'

So David brings the jigsaw into Ferguson's office. 'Here it is, boss.' he says, showing Ferguson the picture on the box. 'Look, boss, it's this tiger, right, and it's a really good picture and everything but I just can't do it and it's really hard and it's doing my head in and it's this picture here of a tiger,' and Beckham empties all the pieces from the box all over Ferguson's desk.

Ferguson looks at what's on his desk and the faint dusty cloud now hanging over it. He looks up at David Beckham. 'David, put the full**ing Frosties back in the box.'

Hitchhikers Guide to the World-Wide-Web

Bored? Of course you are! (Sure why else would you even attempt to read this article?) Here's an idea, instead of incessantly searching the Net, why not try out a few variations with your computer off-line! Is this blasphemy? Is it sedition against Big Brother who monitors every e-mail, scans every cookie file on your hard disk to see what sites you visit (so he can develop a psychological profile of you; your likes/dislikes etc.)? Or have I just flipped out from over-exposure to cathode radiation from the monitors?

No, I'm just bored too! I'm sick of staring at the SAME screen with the SAME design and the SAME icons (subliminal messaging getting to you yet?) every time I log on.

Ever seen a cat walking around on someone else's Taskbar and wanted to know how anyone could design something so innovative? Wanna have sheep or oranges running around on your screen? Wanna see a bouncer say "I'm sensitive"? Indeed, there's no reason why you can't have your own zoo of Deskmate animals, among other characters, just interacting with each other, while you just sit and observe.

In searching the Web, I noticed that in terms of search engines, only one site seems to keep coming up! Under the various guises of www.oska.com & www.tahni.com

www.deskmates.com claims to be the best around, and were I not so thorough, maybe the article would end here! However, the characters of Oska the koala and Tahni are ridiculously complicated to install for anyone who doesn't know any DOS, especially since you shouldn't NEED to! Besides, there are funnier, and more varied types of Deskmates around (most of which are listed later on in the article-so keep reading!) and they're easier to install. Believe me, even if you do succeed through trial and error, it's NOT worth it! In any case, if you want the full demo, it'll cost ya!

The only reason in my opinion that this site is "apparently" so popular is that most websites I visited in the course of researching this article didn't seem to know there WERE any alternatives! Many sites claim to offer Deskmates, but only provide a link back to one of the three sites aforementioned. That's not good enough!

Students in UL seem to know better at least! From what I've seen and heard, most of you are already acquainted with Felix, the product of the first featured website. Hopefully, you've gotten the original, virus-free version, and if not, here's where to get it (and maybe find some new upgrades too!)

Therefore, I'd like to start auspiciously with the source of the adorable Felix program, as well as many others that have been floating around the network all of last year. The Philosopher's Stone of Deskmates is to be found at www.adtoolsinc.com. Hardly a conspicuous or easy-to-remember URL, but trust me, it's well worth pasting THIS link into your browser if you want to liven up your Desktop.



This site is the official author of deskmates such as:

**Bruce Lee
Felix
Bouncer
Deathwish Dog**

As well as their newer products, which are marketed on www.screenmates.com.

**Guitar Willie
Rock Hard**

**Kamikaze Kat-Long time companion of
Deathwish Dog
Granny Klump
Dino
Puppy**

I prefer the last three, especially when you run Dino, Puppy and Felix all at once! It looks cool, and might keep you off the Net for a bit! Don't forget to check out the archives here too. You'll find the "Anti-Santa" of Fr. Ted fame, as well as some snowboarders, and a Ministry Of Sound-inspired clubber who looks remarkably like a Docs veteran!

If you'd rather something a little retro, try www.gitd.de/en/gitddownload.html.

The main attraction here is the Lava Lamp, but the site also offers a Tetris game for your Desktop, as well as a starfish reclining on a tropical island, and a game entitled LOOP, which is supposed to allow you to compose your own music!

If you REALLY like animal deskmates, try www.basementnoises.com/pstemf/

Although this is one of those sites that just collects any deskmates they find, I'm recommending it for the sheer volume of selection it offers. No doubt you'll see a lot of repetitions, Not only does it have Felix, but also some useful extras, of which I name but a few of my favourites:

**Sheep
Oranges
RSPCA Fox-& possibly its family too!
Maggie Simpson
Angel
Tiny Elvis**

It also features an up-to-date lava lamp with a choice of seven colours. It's bigger than the original too! The liquid doesn't move quite as fast as the original lamp in the GITD website, but the choice of colours more than makes up for that!

However, since I'm here, now's as good a time as any to recommend a few ways to vandalise your desktop with the other programs available within this veritable treasure trove of seditious software!

Basketball-Now you can play basketball in the library! Pull off that incredible hook shot -ok maybe not, it's only it's a click and drop game-, but the cheers of the crowd and the bounce of the ball still sound realistic, even if your shots aren't up to NBA standard! You'll need earphones to appreciate the true depth of this game's atmosphere.

Stress Reliever-Are you p***ed off that the Internet takes too long to load up? Well, if you've downloaded THIS baby onto a Zip disk beforehand, you can vent your frustration on the Desktop While-U-Wait! Featuring a 9-weapon arsenal of everything from a chainsaw to a paintball gun, you can publicly deface a monitor, "and they can't touch you for it!" Very handy for those "rare" rainy days we get in Limerick! Heat.exe-Save THIS on your desktop as a shortcut! If you need to camouflage a website from prying eyes, click on this and the screen appears



to melt! Perfect for visiting sites you shouldn't be, or just for preserving the Official Secrets Act!

Although there is a link to www.messagemates.com

from one of the aforementioned sites, this one isn't quite in the same category! The difference here is that, although the programs run on your desktop, as if they were any other deskmate, these ones are specifically designed to be included in e-mail! Proof of this is to be found in the categories under which all of them are filed in the archives, many of them are themed so as to be sent to friends at certain times of the year! Also, they do not run indefinitely, they complete all their routine and then finish, while most deskmates just run through their repertoire continuously in a random manner. However, that doesn't mean that they are rubbish, indeed it was THIS site that got me interested in deskmates in the first place! Last year, I'd never even heard of Tahni of Oska (despite their online popularity), and if it wasn't for getting a messagemate from my room-mate by e-mail, perhaps I'd never even have thought of the material for this article! I certainly wouldn't have been able to research as much as I did otherwise!

In terms of categories (I'm not going to recommend any specific ones, there's too many!) but definitely check out the following:

Astrology signs-Even if it's not your own one, check all of them out! The Scorpio one is especially put together (if I do say so myself!), as it follows a continuation from one gag to another. Send one of these to someone whose birthday is coming up soon!

Cartoons-Even if you don't still watch Den2 (electing instead to opt for the razor-sharp wit of Jerry Springer and insightful proclamations of Jerry's Final Thought which rival Plato himself-yeah right!), give these a gander. At least be grateful there's no Pokemon here!

Aliens Visit Scotland!-just when you thought the Viagra joke had finally flopped, this one will make you lose your head!

Armageddon-Thought the film stunk? This shows what SHOULD have happened! (pity there's no Titanic version!)

With most deskmates, if you right-click on them, you can get them to perform their sequences in whatever order you choose. It doesn't work with messagemates though.

Also note that many of the programs here (including deskmates) have sound capability, so have your earphones at the ready!

Finally, I'd like to leave you with what I think is perhaps the best choice for a wallpaper or screensaver that I've seen in a while. Although www.mtld.com/fun/fun.html has plenty of programs available (ignore all the Zip files at the top, they're only a selection of fonts), if you scroll down you'll find a classic entitled MICKEYM.ZIP, under the heading of Monday Sucks! What's good about this particular wallpaper is that it also features sound capability. If only I could broadcast that song every day from a computer terminal in the library!

Happy 5th Birthday to Wired FM



By Tommy Finneran

This winter sees the fifth anniversary of WIRED FM. For those of you who are new to the college or perhaps a little confused, WIRED FM is a Community of Interest Radio Station, which started broadcasting in 1995 with one studio in Mary Immaculate College. Since that humble beginning, the station has expanded to cover both Limerick Institute of Technology and the University of Limerick.

With a very limited budget Wired struggled at times with technological imitations but thanks to perseverance and dedication by staff and students, Wired is now proud to be able to look back on 5 exciting years and look forward knowing the station is now sounding better than ever.

Nessa McGann took on the difficult task of managing the station this year. The station manager is the only full time staff member of WIRED FM. Nessa has brought a new sense of community and teamwork to the station and operates on the mantra that together we're better.

For UL especially, this is a special year. Over the summer we were fortunate to finally abandon our reception problems with a new transmitter. Now broadcasting on 106.8FM in the Castletroy area, WIRED can be heard loud and clear in and around the college. A frequency was not the only move as the new Student's Union centre provided modern off and on-air studios. From our little cabin in the Canteen we've now moved to the less impeding location of the first floor across from the pool room door.

However, there's no use in having Montrose if you haven't got the right people. This is where the UL Radio Society plays an important part. Recruiting new members from the first days of the year, the Radio Soc. provide an environment where new members can learn from old and where a spirit of teamwork and friendship quickly develops. Sharing information, projects and ideas, it is at this point that the shows for WIRED are born and the personalities that run them come together.

WIRED FM broadcasts Monday to Thursday every academic week of the year and UL shares one third of this airtime. Whilst Mary I. would traditionally be the source of some of the best researched and most in-dept programming and L.I.T. the source of the best in music and information, we can be proud of our share.

So What are the Shows Like.....

Tuesday Morning

The Breakfast Show

Wake up early on a Tuesday morning and The Breakfast Show presented by Claire Rode Kelly, Brenda Barrett and Shane Hughes will set you up for the day with a healthy mix of news, chat, fun and of course music. With the return to air at mid-day you should probably be sitting down as DOS and Vicious present Class 1 Laser product. Not since man invented fire has anyone experienced anything like this. Alternative might be an understatement but fun is a must and if you survive, this show will definitely put you in good form.

The Junk Show

Presented by Bob Jackson and Walter Claus, these lads provide one of the few Jazz and Funk shows around. The hour is one of the coolest on Wired FM and the lads are a welcome alternative to the usual dribble on our radio.

Wednesday

Saor Am

An Irish show comprising of the best chat, interviews and reports all in our own tongue. Laura Kelly, Michelle Carty and Kate O'Berine are the talented presenters who also add a little flavour to their show with music from the best Irish Artists and Brian Kennedy!

Sports Weekly

is the only place you'll get a complete round up of sport news in UL as well as news of interest to all who love sport. The ever smiling Eimear G, the ever-accurate Kevin McGrath and the ever-sporty Angeus O'Malley tog out to tell it like it is every week.

Fargo

follows with Adrian "I still have it" Nestor and yours Truly. Quality music (Kila to Laurent Garnier), quality chat (Latest gigs and happenings) and quality fun. (What Paula's up to and the latest from the American general election- exclusively!) It's all the quality we could engineer!

Ascension

The only other man in the world with the power to edit this, Fergal Fennessy presents Ascension, Deccie Houlihan from 7-8 each Wednesday. With the most uplifting sounds and sweet mixing the decks are always dusted and shining waiting for Ferga & Deccie.

Crazy, Sexy and Cool

D. O'Keeffe is Crazy, Sexy and Cool. Playing music from the best Soundtracks as well as requests from around the city, be sure to give him a call. Thomas Keegan and Brian Cunningham have been known to man

this spot also with the most alternative and stimulating music in existence.

Beats and Rhythms

follows with the most rich and varied Hip-Hop tracks for one hour. Killan O'Neachtain and Martin Kelly are Hip and Hop respectfully.

Thursday

Side View

Thursday in UL Land starts at 6.30 with Side View presented by Michelle Daly, (I think she writes some poems or something in An Focal sometimes), Ger Holand and Ciaran Duffy. Current affairs from around the Campus are reported on here. Side View is always topical and even provocative at times.

Pop is Dead

and Des Docerty and Edel Gallagher killed it. Don't worry, these two are veteran's at this stage so you can be sure their interviews and featured artists will be of a standard that the rest of just strive to get a glimpse of. Daniel Butler and John O'Shea follow with Boys and Girls. Once again music is key as we move into Thursday evening and you pop in and out of the shower. Boys and Girls will set you up for any good night out.

Talking Headz

Finally, Talking Headz with Adrian de Cleir and Brian McSweeney serves us handsomely with everything from Trance to Jazz to Metal. There's no better way to finish a Thursday evening than this, trust me!

Of course, Wired is about much more than what the UL radio Society nurture so make sure you have a listen throughout your busy week. Just move your Walkman to the end of the FM band and listen out for the daily breakfast show when walking into college or check out the easy listening fun lunchtime shows.

Wired FM is not just a Radio station, it's YOUR radio station so it's important you get involved. Requests are always welcome, as are suggestions, comments or ideas. If you would like to produce or even present a once-of documentary on something you feel strongly about then please get in touch, you'll be assisted and helped in whatever ways possible.

WIRED FM is a service for you. We pride ourselves in providing promotion on upcoming charity and college events. You'll be seeing a lot more of WIRED FM from now on around the campus. Soon we'll be available on the Internet so you can listen anywhere in the world and with events like Live Wired in association with the Musical Society, Ascension with Wired FM DJ's and SOUL Radio you can't avoid us! Watch this space for news on Wired 106.8FM each and every fortnight. The times they are a changin'.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:30-10:00	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!!
12:00-12:30	Seachtain Whattan at Castle	Class A Laser Product	Body & Soul	Soundbyte
12:30-1:00	EX- TEMPORANDOUS		Left of field	
1:00-1:30	Pulse	The Junk Show	Alternative World	Last Splash Dance
1:30-2:00	Dis Harmony			
4:30-5:30	Activate	..... Inkblots	..... 4 To the Floor	Documentary 4 To the Floor
5:30-6:00	Timewarp	The Arts show	Sports Weekly	..... Vortex
6:00-6:45	Plastered	..... Sceitimini	..... Fargo	..... 4 To the Floor
6:45- 7:30	Big Sack	..... In Focus	Ascension 7-8pm	..... Side View
7:30- 8:00	Common People	..... Dead Air		..... POP IS DEAD
8:00- 9:00	..... Anything Goes	The Pat & Mike Show	Crazy Sexy Cool	BOYS AND GIRLS
9:00-10:00	CREEM	Evil monkeys In Space	Beats & Rhythms Dance show	TALKING HEADZ
	Composition of Sound			

The Queen of Diaries

Everyone has an hour (or three!) that they have to spare between lectures. But most of ye don't spend them sitting at the bar in the Scholars. That's what I'm doing now. And I'm getting strange looks at the same time for scribbling away at one o'clock in the afternoon. But this is what student life, whether we like it or not. Our parents don't pay for us to go to lectures, sit exams and get a first class honours degree. All that cash is for coffee and beer and playing "Yellow" and Groove Armada on the jukebox!!! Play that funky music, white boy!

No wonder I am as I am. I've found myself getting slowly but surely more insane since the start of the semester. It's only seven weeks but it has gone so fast. So much going on and even more to do for the next few weeks! I was told that college life was great. I

was going to "find myself", have a fab time etc.. But all I seem to be doing is nothing. And while doing that – thinking of all the work that has to be done, and whether it's going to be done or not! Oh – the pressure!

Furthermore, would somebody please tell me what this whole co-op deal is about!!!! I think it's unreasonable that I'm expected to go on work experience in the second semester of second year. I mean I'm just getting used to actually being in college and then I'm being sent away again! First of all, my course is so broad, it's hard to know at such a young age what direction I want my career to follow. Some might say that that's immaturity on my part, but let's face the reality of being students. We're not able to make those kind of decisions yet. All that alco-

hol. Caffeine and nicotine has managed to kill what few brain cells we actually have. And they want us to enter a working environment?!?!?!?

Co-op is such a scary thing to me! I know and appreciate the fact that it's all for our own good and all that, and it's meant to give us experience of our chosen field in the professional world. But has anyone ever objected to going on co-op coz they simply want to stay in college?! If not – I'm putting it on the record. I'd much prefer to stay here in UL and have my Scholars coffee every day and the chat with everyone there. I want to keep writing for the paper. I want to have familiar faces around me all the time. I want to be a student. I want to stay in bed all day if I want. I don't want to have to report for duty every morning at 9am. Yeah

– I'm scared of leaving a familiar place. But that's only natural.

Now that that's all out of my system – let me get down to other stuff. Nicky Boyo – the cheek of you! You know what I'm on about! I definitely want to meet you now! E-mailing just isn't the same!

I have to mention the 10km Charity Walk for the Children of Chernobyl or I'll be castrated! It's taking place Thursday of Week 8, leaving from the Scholars at 11am. If you can't take part yourself for some reason, at least grab someone and sponsor a pound or two. It won't break the bank! After all it's all for a good cause!! I think that's it – enjoy SoUL Week in Week 9! It'll be a blast! Take it easy. Study and be well!

By Mairead Moriarty

Whispers From a Far

¡Hola todo el mundo en U.L! ¿Que tal?
Me llamo Niamh Ryan y estoy una estudiante Erasmus en la Universidad de Alicante, España! Right !- I suppose I'd better translate my very complex Spanish introduction for the benefit of anyone who's been unfortunate enough to have been victim of 'a brain-cell homicide' in 'the Stables', 'Scholars', 'Lodge' etc, and have therefore been robbed of all sense, meaning or logic for an unspecified period of time!! Okay, here we go then!- My name is Niamh Ryan and I am an Erasmus student (...from the University of imerick) in the University of Alicante in Spain!-got all that??!Oh!-and before I go on, UL Spanish tutors note HOW MUCH Spanish I've learnt in the time I've been here !!? Admittedly, THE BEACH AND CHEAP ALCOHOL(50P=BOTTLE OF BEER!!)HAVE WORKED WONDERS!!...okay, okay!!- I'll turn off the caps- button!... wouldn't like to strain anyone's eyes!?? I also have to say after lying on the beach absorbing rays of SPANISH sun after only a few days, the difference is just amazing!! (linguistically of course!!?)...but to be fair,and give my Erasmus comrades and

myself due credit!- it does take a lot of effort and dedication and this regime...as we've noticed, (!!!)has to be adhered to everyday(front and back!!?) to see results!!!?!- ah well they never told us it was going to be easy!?!...but, we've set ourselves a routine now !!

....and we're pleased to report to you, our U.L. counterparts and future Erasmus students, that yes!- it does get easier with time!!??!

On a more serious note, I have to say, I feel very lucky to be getting the chance to complete my Erasmus placement in such a beautiful place. Alicante city itself is located right by the ocean, and I have to say I have absolutely fallen in love with it! We have the most beautiful beach right on our doorstep!!(only ten minutes from our apartment!!...jealous - anyone???)... and get this!- you can actually sunbathe(I think that word is somewhat of a joke in Ireland at this stage!) on it and go swimming there WITHOUT getting frost-bitten!!- which in Ireland, is now just something I've learnt to accept as part of the bargain for a day at the beach!

As regards the university... it's absolutely

massive!(over 40 000 students!)-unquestionably amazing from an architectural point of view but a little daunting when one is but a 'humble Irish Erasmus student'!

The next thing I'm going to divulge, is going to shock and horrify all you U.L. students(well those of you who aren't pioneers) and basically anyone Irish!(and probably prompt you never,ever even CONSIDER coming to Alicante on your Erasmus Placement!)...get this!...there's NO STUDENT BAR !!!!!...

hello??!!My fellow Erasmus students and I have to say we are just mystified....we have no words to describe how we feel !- our pain, heartache etc, etc, etc. especially when we have to cope with knowing that all you lucky things in U.L. have free, unlimited access to... (NO, not the internet...all you computer-nerds reading!!) 3 STUDENT BARS!!...the unfairness of it all! Well all I can say is, (...and this is a warning!!)

-we'll be making up for it in February, when we once again grace UL with our presence!!?! Well I've got to rush to a lecture now!- they go on here until 9p.m.!!...Vive U.L.!

Until next time, Adios, Niamh.

ATTENTION ALL FEMALE STUDENTS R.A.P.E DEFENCE TM COURSE

Real. Attack. Prevention. Effectively

DATE:25th NOVEMBER @ 12.30pm SHARP
VENUE: UL SPORTS BUILDING GYM
PRICE: £ 10 PER STUDENT



UL Tae Kwon-Do School instructor Mr. Philip Fox will be holding a one day (4 hour) course for all female students on effective self defence techniques. This course has been designed specifically for women by one of the world's leading martial artists.

In this course Hollywood and gymnastic type moves are discounted and we get down to the nitty gritty on what really works. You will learn where to attack to disable your attacker - contrary to some opinion, the groin strike is not always the

best method of self defence! During this course you will also learn how to use the bodies natural weapons effectively - which do not require years of practice to develop.

R.A.P.E tm Defence will give you true awareness and confidence knowing that you will not become a helpless victim. Take action and control by enrolling in the R.A.P.E tm Defence. Remember today's preparation leads to tomorrow's rewards, and in this case, it could mean your personal safety

FOCAIL EALAÍNE - Arts Section

Although this is the time of year normally associated with hibernation the opposite seems to be the case in UL and Limerick. Societies are beginning to prepare in earnest for SoUL, the Bourn Vincent is hosting an exhibition of landscapes by Paddy Lennon and the IWMC continue their free lunchtime concerts with performances by MA students in Classical String. As part of this series on **NOV 30 UL CHOIR** will perform in aid of "Home and Hope" for Children.

The programme will include Renaissance, classical, modern and Irish choral works. Other concerts include renowned fiddle player Matt Cranitch on NOV 28. The IWMC also continue their Weds seminars – on **NOV 22** the place of Music Education in the world of arts will be discussed by Dr Martin Barrett, Frances Shanahan and Jean Downey, and on NOV 29 the topic will be Traditional Music performance in 3rd level Educational contexts.



Bourn Vincent Gallery (Foundation Buidling) hosts an exhibition of landscapes by PADDY LENNON.



Cave
1998, Charcoal
112cm x 81cm

Bourn Vincent Gallery hosts an exhibition of landscapes by PADDY LENNON. In some of his most powerful pieces the landscape is kept to a minimum and is merely suggested by glimpses of field and rock and sky. Lennon says "...Colour hadn't been a very important part of my work, light certainly, but colour was very much the second cousin to form. It was while in Mexico that I first discovered the lesson of sun, the lesson of Cézanne, that form is at its maximum when colour is at its maximum. Through a balance of colour, the light of the sun can be transcribed into painting. Matching its brightness is impossible, but we can make our eyes receive a similar stimulation through the vividness of hue, if not exact, at least intense illumination. The visual exuberance of the landscape, the richness and the rhythm of life, are essential to my art. What I seek in painting is a sensation of rest, of peace, of awe..." The paintings, with titles like "Pool", "Below Water", "Bogscape", are all available for purchase and the exhibition continues to JAN 6.

The UL ORCHESTRA

continue to rehearse every Tuesday in the Kilmurry Village Hall at 7.30 pm. This staff/student organisation is conducted by John Davis and led by Delphine O'Brien. The orchestra give one concert per semester with a wide ranging repertoire embracing classical and fun music. They often incorporate local choirs in their performances.

All instruments are welcome and at time of writing they were particularly seeking cellists. The orchestra also organise a seasonal concert and Christmas brunch and an afternoon concert in the Listowel Arts Centre. For details of forthcoming events check Focal Eile.

Hit the ground running with The Marlborough Group

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THE MARLBOROUGH GROUP

Out & About -

Watch out the Photo Soc's About



Don't Do anything We won't do.....



Lionáin
1999. Oil on canvas.
457 x 356 mm

**Paddy Lennon - Bourn Vincent Gallery
(Foundation Building)**

DAGHDHA DANCE COMPANY



DAGHDHA continue their new programme under the artistic direction of Yoshiko Chuma. Daghdha's autumn tour 2000 is SIOSCARNACH, a production comprised of 3 distinct choreographic works. Three artists, each sounding their own frequencies of choreography, have created works which challenge audiences and dancers through incisive explorations of pure physicality. Yoshiko says "... During this my maiden voyage in Ireland, I would like to introduce you to the work of three friends and colleagues who share my life and journey. My old friend, Steve Paxton, my colleague Terry Creach and my new associate Mark Baldwin, have all touched my life in different ways. I invite you to join with me in experiencing their creations..." Daghdha perform at the Belltable Arts Centre on NOV 24, 25. The Sat performance has a special " pay what you can" concession. Pay what you can tickets are available on stand-by basis only, half an hour before performance time.

Belltable News

The Belltable has an impressive programme of events for the winter, introducing the new Sat " The Tap" late night sessions – the best in live acoustic sessions with performance DJ Paul Tarpey making music upstairs/downstairs.

NOV 18 features the FABULOUS CAPPUCCINOS with gospel singer GWEN SWAMPI and on NOV 25 the sample based quirky rock group HEADGEAR perform.

Gwen Swampi and Helen Lane will lead workshops on gospel singing and improvisation on NOV 18 and 19. Anyone feeling the need to stretch their vocal chords, here's a chance to learn old and new songs and chants from all around the world, especially African and central American songs. Workshops take place at 2 – 3.30pm and 4 – 5.30 pm on Sat and at 11.30 am on Sun. All workshops are £3. The theatre hosts the Quarry Players production of John B Keane's THE CHASTITUTE, directed by Michael Carney. A chastitute is a person without holy orders who has never laid down with a woman. A rustic celibate by force of circumstance peculiar to a countryside where the Catholic tradition of life long sexual abstemiousness is encouraged and free sex is absolutely taboo.

John Bosco who hasn't the makings of a decent sin in him, is a bachelor farmer and all he is searching for is a plain decent woman to share his life. He nearly got there a thousand times " but nearly never bulled a cow".

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL plays host to Baroque specialists MAYA HOMBURGER (violin) and MAL- COLM PROUD (harpsichord)

On NOV 18, As leader of The Chandos Baroque Players and Trio Virtuoso Maya performs regularly with Malcolm. In addition to their work with these ensembles they have collaborated as a duo on a number of occasions including a recording of the six sonatas for harpsichord and violin by Bach. This concert is presented as part of the Music Network/ESB's expanded Musicwide programme designed to provide subsidised concerts to over 100 of Music Network's partner promoters and to ensure good quality chamber music performance and employment opportunities for Irish or Irish based performers and composers.

DETAILS OF ALL THE ABOVE EVENTS ARE LISTED IN FOCAL EILE

Focail Ealaíne book reviews, concert reviews, event listings should be sent to Room S1 – 22 , Schuman Building or patricia.moriarty@ul.ie.

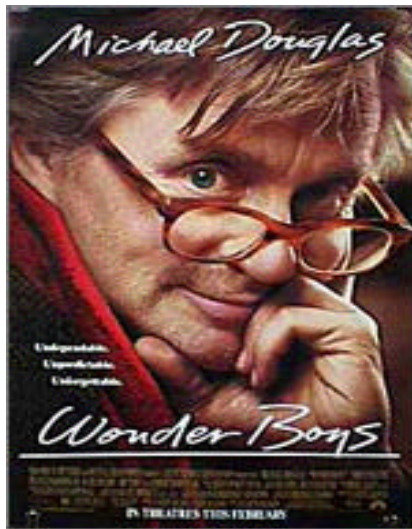
The newspaper comes out on a fortnightly basis and any reviews article etc should be forwarded by these dates – NOV 6, NOV 20, DEC 4.

Focail Ealaíne FREEBIES will give free passes to Venues on and off the campus Focail Ealaíne in return for a review. If you are interested contact the above address, bearing in mind the copy deadlines above.



THE BACK ROW

(Now Showing at a Cinema/Theatre Near You...)



THE WONDER BOYS

Curtis Hanson was once known as a competent director of undemanding, profit-making stuff like *The Hand That Rocks The Cradle* and *The River Wild*. Studio folk knew he could be trusted, allowing him a little freedom to make a film like *LA Confidential* and astound and enthrall many. He thus turned from Hollywood hack to Hollywood 'wonder boy' in one leap, making his next film cosily fitting.

Wonder Boys centres on Grady Tripp (Michael Douglas), a University professor of English who achieves 'wonder boy' status with his first novel, by all accounts a life-changing masterpiece. Unfortunately, it's been seven years since this success, and the wonder boy is starting to be seen as an aging, pink dressing gown-wearing stoned boy who seems to have "blocked up". His life is largely populated with people spanning the scale from established successes and prospective wonder boys to one hit wonders and the terminally sh*tte, circling like vultures and fraying his nerves. His eager editor (Robert Downey Jr.), whose greatest success has been with Tripp's novel and for whom the has-been dumper also beckons, is in town and desperate for the follow-up, once a simple novel, currently in its 1261st page. Tripp's wife has just left him and his married lover (Frances McDormand) is suddenly pregnant with his child. His students include Katie Holmes (of *Dawson's* fecking *Creek* and *Go*), living and flirting under his roof, and pathological liar Toby Maguire, a wonder boy in waiting who pushes the boundaries of morbidity and Tripp's patience. Also high on the head-wreckometer are successful, prolific novelist and egotist Q (Rip Torn (Artie from the late, great *Larry Sanders Show*)), McDormand's relentless bore of a husband (John Boy of *The Waltons* infamy, sensibly disguised in a beard) and their blind but evil and very annoying dog.

Hanson expertly navigated a condensed version of James Ellroy's complex *LA Confidential* and here he guides Michael Chabon's novel with ease. Despite the themes of artistic and social decline, mirrored by rich blacks and dark blues, rain, snow, and the

antiquity of the surroundings, the film is defined by its warm and witty humour. Hanson's approach to film-making harks back to an adult Hollywood of the 1970s before *Star Wars* changed everything. There's no easily marketable concept – God lies in the details, as God knows who once said. Much joy comes from the attention to detail in the story and by a uniformly excellent cast. Some supporting characters are so fleshed out and enticingly interesting that you may wish to once see the story unfold from their point of view.

The film is currently being re-released in America where, on its first run and despite glowing reviews, five men and a dog showed up to watch it. This failure has been blamed on the original poster campaign, which unwisely amplified Michael Douglas-ness in its most intense, full-on and generally in-your-face extremity. One can only wonder how the marketing department failed to account for the widespread modern cultural phenomenon which, for our purposes, we will term 'Michael Douglasophobia'. This condition can be traced to certain sources, including the following: The sprawling array of slimy, sleazy dirtbirds he has played very convincingly throughout his career, that misogyny classic, *Fatal Attraction* That infamous V-neck sweater worn in that club seduction scene in the offensive and offensively bad *Basic Instinct*, a film notable for providing two career-defining/likeability-lessening moments, the second of which features...

His arse. Some *Basic Instinct* viewers/victims can never look at their own arse again, never mind anyone else's, never mind Michael Douglas's.

In the mind of the Douglasophobe, his roles are closely related to his personal life, especially the 'sex addiction' and the impregnation of C Z Jones, an act conjuring the image of himself and d) above (now a decade older and without Hollywood arse make-up), huffing, puffing and fumbling awkwardly as...sorry.

Fortunately, I've never been troubled by this condition. In Douglas's defence I offer the following:

As producer he brought *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* to the world in the mid-'70s, making himself a one-time wonder boy The sprawling array of slimy, sleazy dirtbirds he has played very convincingly throughout his career. It takes a certain courage to eschew the lucrative cuddly hero path, and he has been wonderfully uncuddly in more than just the aforementioned crap e.g. as the embodiment of corporate evil and personal greed in *Wall Street*; embracing unattractiveness as a petty asshole in *The War Of The Roses*; treading good guy/bad guy ambiguity in *Falling Down*; allowing Douglasophobes the pleasure of witnessing his relentless descent into the nightmare reality of David *Seven/Fight Club* Fincher's preposterous but criminally undervalued *The Game* And finally, putting on weight and a comfy pink

dressing gown and smoking his freshly grown man-breasts off in *Wonder Boys*. Here his weed intake makes red-eyed icons Cheech and Chong look like...someone you'd never expect to smoke grass...I don't know...Westlife or whatever. Anyway, his Grady Tripp ambles and (thanks to above mentioned annoying dog) limps stoned through the film, greeting each new obstacle with wry bemusement and a fat spliff, dangerously skirting the boundaries of (believe it or not) *lovability*. It makes for an endearing whole. Dead good.

Next up (November 19th) at the **Belltable Arts Centre Film Club 2000** season is *Guantanamo* (1995), which belongs to probably the greatest of all cinematic genres, the road movie.

By John Murray

Soul Week

Monday of week 9 sees the highlight of the societies year in UI. Yes that's right Its SoUI time again. Soul for those of you who don't know is a week dedicated to the Memory of Mike Sadlier a previous societies officer which allows societies to show case their activities. This year the timetable is looking particularly healthy with events running from 1pm through till the wee small hours. Look out for the big annual events – The International Food Fair, Live Wired etc. but also keep an eye out for smaller events such as the inter society twister competition, the Aeronautical society Aero bar eating competition and Ten Forwards pub dash. Sprinkled among these events will be Singalongs in the courtyard every day from 3.00pm till 5.00pm.

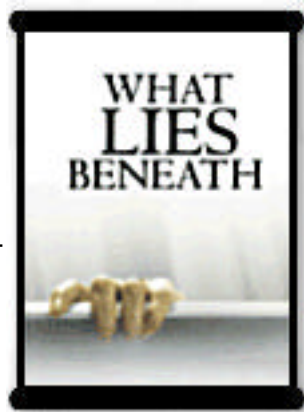
The majority of the events will be held in and around three central areas. The Stables Courtyard, The Scholars Club Function Room and the SU Building other specialist events will be held in and around the main campus the Film Society for example are holding there 25 year celebrations in the Jean Monet on Monday night with Two 70s films. Some societies are also having after events in the Lodge and in the case of Radio Soc in the Globe.

Alot of thought, time and planning has gone into the organisation of SoUI week not to mention a lot of money so a big thanks to our sponsors (Heineken and Independent newspapers). And also the Scholars club and the Stables club for providing the majority of the space. International society would like to thank Campbells for giving them the use of the Canteen.

On a final note all I want to say is enjoy yourself and don't forget this is just a small sample of what Societies of UI offer on a weekly basis. Societies are not just for SoUI week they're for life!

WHAT LIES BENEATH (2000)

Jump-in-your-seat scares emerge from a tightly wound psychological and supernatural mystery. Unlike *The Sixth Sense* last summer, which relied on the magic of revelation, *What Lies Beneath* builds up to a scare fest so intense that it took us well into the closing credits to normalise our adrenaline levels. Veteran director Robert Zemeckis, who brought us movies like *Forrest Gump*, *Contact*, and *Back to the Future*, tailored every aspect of the film to maximise the surprises in an ingeniously scripted psychological horror mystery. Even the film's trailer, which had been played to the point of convincing us what the movie is about, miscued our expectations in order to deliver an overwhelming dose of shock at the plots unraveling.



What Lies Beneath opens in an idyllic setting of a sprawling lake house inhabited by the Spencers, who are still very much in love on the day they drive their daughter off to college. While Norman (Harrison Ford) dives back into the fulfilment of his life's work as Professor and Research Physician ready to announce his breakthrough genetic product, Claire (Michelle Pfeifer) stays home grappling with severe empty nest syndrome. Strange things start happening at the house, but Norman dismisses Claire's fears as the lonely mother's need for attention, which he is far too busy to provide. The presence of an evil minded young woman's ghost soon becomes obvious. Claire, although perturbed, begins to follow the clues that might explain the seemingly tormenting reasons for the ghost's appearance.

As is the case with all good ghost movies, here as well, the ghost only appears evil, and *What Lies Beneath* creates a brilliant double mystery. Claire must find out who the ghost is and what happened to her, but she is unaware that the answers lie in a mystery blocked from her own memory. The way Claire gave up being a concert cellist, women who give up the passion of a successful career for an alluring husband and then end up pretending they are happily married often force themselves to keep the illusion going. The ghost is there to help Claire remember what lies beneath her idyllic life. In a masterful craft of cinematic symbolism, the clues Claire follows to learn more about the ghost really represent her eagerness to unlock her own delusions. Such is brilliantly illustrated as she dives to the bottom of the lake to bring up the locked box of mementoes. Finally, the real terror comes not from a ghost, but from knowing the truth.

The set-up and pay-off of various plot details is designed with dexterous ease. Every element plays a crucial part, but many are underemphasised to look like mere exposition. Note the side comment of Norman's lab assistant about a breakthrough discovery of a crippling anaesthetic that allows for consciousness to be maintained. Note the frequent mention of a car accident. Note the story in the restaurant about Claire's past. When all of these details come together in the end, we can't help jumping in our seats from terror even when we anticipate what might happen next.

Michelle Pfeifer and Harrison Ford's significant screen chemistry becomes the driving force of the later surprises and shocks. Their acting together is a delightful discovery that will hopefully be repeated. Also, a lot of expectation is riding on our perception of Ford as the action hero, but in *What Lies Beneath*, he crosses into a new character range that is as exciting as it is refreshing.

This movie offers a magnificent blend of true horror and psychological mystery, and if you dare to be scared, by all means, don't wait.

JEAN KENT

GHOST DOG



initially thought that a movie called *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai* about a pimp-limping gangsta-ninja would have all the appeal of a cherry-topped bucket of crap. But about this I was wrong (which I believe is referred to as a "making a mistake," but I'm not entirely sure, not having ever done it before). With *Ghost Dog*, writer/director Jim Jarmusch has amalgamated a plethora of genres (mobster movies, westerns, and samurai flicks paramount amongst them) in

a highly original and rare film that's able to satisfy your more civilised yearnings without boring your inner-Neanderthal.

Ghost Dog (aptly played by Forest Whitaker, for whom the part was written) is a studied samurai who lives in solitude upon a rooftop with a fleet of passenger pigeons, which he uses to communicate with the man who saved his life as a youngster, Louie (John Tormey). Louie happens to be a card-carrying member of the local mob, and he capitalises on the devotion of the mysterious Ghost Dog by employing him as a hitman. All is well in this arrangement for a while, until Ghost Dog blows away a baddie in the presence of the mob boss's daughter, an act that earns him a hefty price on his head. Thus the chase is on between the mobsters (their eyes on purchasing that blinking Rudolph yard-ornament for Christmas, no doubt) and our Ghost Dog – who can kill who first?

Not complex stuff, but it's well-gravitated by the performance of Whitaker, whose underplaying of the ghetto-bred samurai effectively avoids the potential ridiculousness of the character. Look at the way Whitaker gives a farther dimension to Ghost Dog through his tired eyes. Eyes not tired from want of sleep, no, but tired of being an anachronism. Tired of living amongst fool old men (the mobsters, whose arrested mental-state is symbolised by their constant viewing of ultra-violent cartoons) who think "Indians, niggas, same thing" but are still influential in his neighbourhood by virtue of their reckless, violent nature. An important and not-so-subtle theme here is how terribly we chafe our society when we combine selfishness with power, which isn't exactly a revelation we should notify the Pope about, but Ghost Dog's dweller-on-the-threshold manner of coping with his corrupted world is certainly worth contemplating.

Noted indie-amateur Jarmusch moves this ride slowly but assuredly - the movie moves like a man walking along a tightrope, which does well to allow your eye time to absorb the beautiful grit of the Scorsesean skank-joints the film takes you to. Also, it seems Jarmusch realised it wasn't going to be all that exciting to see a young, well-trained samurai wipe out a sleaze-ball troupe of aging gangsters, so he planned a few guerrilla ambushes of humour to keep your attention.

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai is a refreshing aberration - highly cerebral and a high body count. This dog's got bark and bite, if you miss this one you're...um, how do you say it? Ah yes, "making a mistake."

-Lucas McMillen

Bedazzled



Bedazzled is the brainchild, if indeed any part of a brain was used in the production of this film, of the man who brought us *Caddyshack* and *Groundhog Day*. Correct me if I'm wrong but *Caddyshack* is funny and so is *Groundhog Day*, why then is this film a poor follow up to either?

Elizabeth Hurley, chosen for her acting skills, plays the part of the devil, her performance being greatly augmented by her lack of apparel, and Brendan Fraser is her slightly dopey victim who squanders six of the seven wishes bestowed upon him in a vain attempt to win the heart of his co-worker.

Sadly it takes no longer than the first wish for the audience to figure out exactly what

is going to happen. This predictable story line leave the

audience free to concentrate on other aspects of the film such as the average special effects and unimpressive, humour (think as loosely as possible for that one). If you were feeling especially profound, however, you could argue that there are spiritual overtones, overtones that might even pass as moral lessons.

These include the evil nature of the Devil and that barter with the afore mentioned Devil will end in nothing less than mayhem-who'd have thought?

Strangely and blasphemously enough God is portrayed as the cigarette smoking chess partner of the devil which I'm sure sparked off a world of debate in the Jehovah Witness camp. This film, though, is

not conducive to profound thinking and is more likely to numb the brain to the extent that remembering your own name becomes laborious.

By the way if the thought of Elizabeth Hurley brings any lewd thoughts to your minds, I'm afraid the sexual innuendo is not beyond the comprehension of the average ten-year-old on the street, who no doubt will be the only ones who populate the cinema for the showings of this dull film. There is a kind of straight to video or even worse a midweek movie vibe clinging to this film which is made worse by the fact that the only apparent alternative showing in our cinemas at the moment is *Blair witch 2*. Stay home and study.

Jean Kent

Three days of rain - At the Belltable



Three days of rain has to be one of the most impressive plays I have seen this year not because its was a master piece of lighting or stage craft not because it was magnificently cast and scripted (all though many of these things could be said about it). No it was impressive because it was an accurate description of How life just is. Set in New York partly in the

Sixties and partly in the nineties it covers two generations and highlights the difference in a Child's perception of its parents life can be. Though not side splittingly funny nor tearily tragic it left a deep mark on its audience by having an overall hint of sadness just because that's how life is. The Cast consisted of three very young very vibrant Irish actors Peter Hanly as Walker/Ned better known as Ambrose in ballykissangel, Anne Byrne as Nan/Lina and Darragh Kelly as Pip/Theo and was excellent in that the actors acted within their capabilities I would highly recommend catching it in a town near you as it's a truly memorable play in its simplicity.

Its plays in Town hall Theatre in Galway from 14th to the 18th of November and in the project Theatre Dublin from the 22nd of November to the 16th of December

By Ella Daly

Open Your Mind - Book Reviews

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The FENG-SHUI JUNKIE author: Brain Gallagher

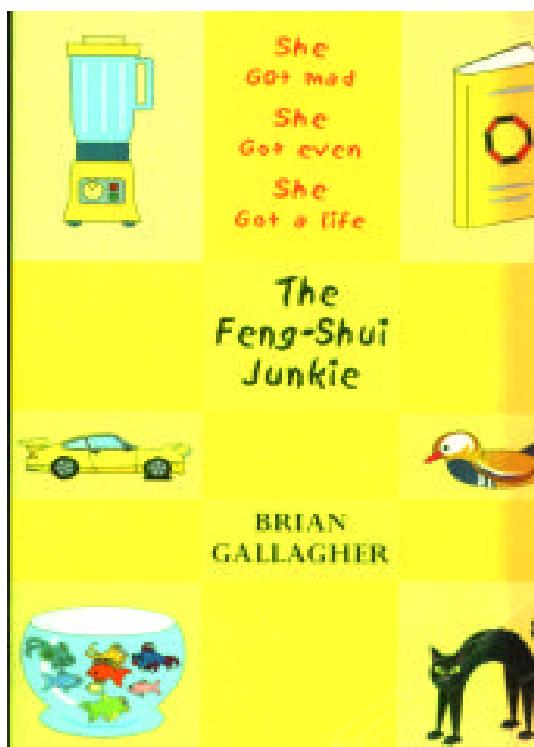
The last time I laughed out loud while reading, I was flicking through a hand-book of Irish curses and had just discovered some brilliantly vicious ones. The Feng-Shui Junkie made me shake and squeal. Hell hath no fury like Julie, who finds a lemon Wonderbra on her doorknob, and her husband with a floozie in the marital Jacuzzi. So Julie formulates her Plan of Action: Revenge. Crush his lemon phallic symbol porch. Kill his tropical fish. Destroy the slapper who lured away her husband. There is however, one slight problem – said slapper, aka Nicole, is impossible to hate.

The plot is never going to knock you out. There are no unexpected twists. You can knock me over with a feather duster, and I'll eat all my millinery if this book ever gets any literary mention, but the author's a barrister so I'll not slag it off any more. If you forget about the plot's crying cliché and the real lack of a story line you'll see to things. Firstly Brian Gallagher succeeds in writing as a woman (really he does), and this is no mean feat. Secondly and most importantly he has scripted some sparkling (if occasionally stilted) dialogue. It harkens back to name calling in the playground and makes you wish we never descended into adult respectability. Nicole: Can you play (the piano) by ear? Julie: I normally use my hands. And Sylvana: Don't talk with your mouth full. Ronan: At least I talk with my mouth.

It's childish and bitchy and stupid and I loved it.

This book has all the essential qualities for a ballbuster – the arrogant two-timing hubbie, the sardonic mother-in-law, and the caustic man-eating best friend. Throw in an ice pick, a crystal decanter, a baby grand and a black cat called Max, and serve to any woman who's ever had any reason to hate men. The Feng-Shui Junkie is (darkly) humorous and will make you roll out the banners for sisterhood, as you're given loads of new reasons to hate men. This is definitely one for the girls.

Sinead Gormley



O'Mahony's Bestseller List

BESTSELLERS LIST

WEEK ENDING 23/10/2000

Paperback Fiction

1. A Star Called Henry - Roddy Doyle, Vintage
2. Timeline Michael Crichton, Arrow
3. Girls' Night In Various, HarperCollins
4. Just Friends, Robyn Sysman, Penguin
5. Three Times A Lady, Sarah Webb, Poobeg

Paperback Non Fiction

1. 'Tis: A Memoir, Frank McCourt, Flamingo
2. The Dublin & Monaghan Bombing, Don Mullan, Wolfhound
3. Mister Are You A Pries, Edward Daly, Four Courts
4. Big Brother: The Unseen Story, Jean Ritchie, Boxtree
5. A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, David Egger, Picador

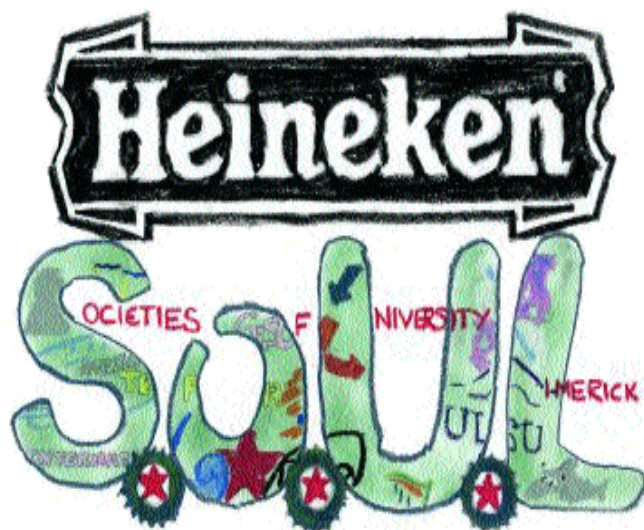
Original Fiction

1. Sushi For Beginners, Marian Keyes, Poolbeg
2. The Last Precinct, Patricia Cornwell, Little Brown
3. Someone Like You, Cathy Kelly, Poolbeg
4. Scarlet Feather, Maeve Binchy, Orion
5. Roses Are Red, James Patterso, Headline

Hardback Non Fiction

1. One Voice: My Life In Song, Christy Moore, Lir/HodderS
2. The Beatles Anthology, The Beatles, Cassell
3. An Unsung Hero: Tom Crean, Antarctic, Michael Smith, The Collins Press Survivor
4. Whatever Green Is Worn, Tim Pat Coogan, Hutchinson
5. Father and I, Carlo Gebler, Little Brown

Soul Week - Week 9



WWW: soul2000.csn.ul.ie
E-MAIL: soul2000@skynet.ie



Soul has now been in existence for five years having started back in 1995. SoUL 2000/2001 is basically a showcase for the Societies of the University of Limerick to show everybody exactly what it is that they are capable of. It has over the years developed into a very popular festival with a large number of fixed events run each year that are guaranteed to draw a crowd and this is added to each year with new events cropping up and proving to be just as popular.

When first set up in 1995 it was an event that was endorsed by Mary Robinson the then President of Ireland

"Active participation in University life outside of formal studies programme is vital for students who wish to get the most from their time at college. The range of activities is enormous and student societies provide excellent access to this extensive range of extra curricular options...The SoUL festival is a wonderful initiative on the part of student societies in the University of Limerick and I congratulate the organisers on their imaginative approach. The thoughtful students who respond will form friendships and interest that will stay with them for life"

And also John Bruton who was Taoiseach at that time as well "Student societies play an extremely important role in extra-curricular college life embracing as they do a wide range of sporting, cultural and social activities. Indeed it could be said that third level education would not be complete without exposure to the on-campus ambience created by those societies"

As is evident from these endorsements SoUL is an essential part of campus life here in UL and well supported by its student societies. Whereas clubs have organised governing bodies and high media profiles that radiate down to its grass roots which incorporates its student Clubs, societies are devoid of such exposure.

SoUL is the University of Limericks unique expression of societal promotion and an event dedicated to the memory of Mike Sadlier (Societies Person of the Year 1996).

Monday

12.00pm-2.00pm
1.00pm -5.00pm
1.00pm-2.00pm
2.00pm -2.40pm
2.40pm-3.00pm
3.00pm-5.00pm
6.00pm - 8.00pm
6.00pm - 8.00pm
7.00pm- 11.00pm
8.00pm- 10.00pm
11.00pm-12.00pm
10.00pm- Till Late

History Guillotine
G.Soc Registration for Killer
Omega "Who wants to be a mathematician"
Drama
Soc v Soc (Twister)
Music/Radio/Folk (Sing-a-long)
Film Society - "Getaway" (Steve Mc Queen)
Debating Union- Colours Match UL v's UCG
Music Society- Live Wired
Film Society- "Grease"
Dance Society- Salsa Performance
Film society 70's night/disco

Venue

Students Union Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Jean Monnet
Scholars- Function Room
Stables Club
Jean Monnet
SU Conference Centre
Kilmurry Lodge

ON-GOING EVENTS

Computer Society - SoUL Cam
Photo Society - Dynamic Gallery
Radio Society - SoUL Radio

Stables /Scholars/ Student Centre

Tuesday

12.00pm-2.00pm
1.00pm -5.00pm
1.00pm-2.00pm
2.00pm -2.40pm
2.40pm-3.00pm
3.00pm-5.00pm
6.00pm - 8.00pm

7.00pm-8.00pm
8.00pm -10.00pm
8.00pm-10.00pm
8.00pm-10.00pm
8.00pm-10.00pm

History Guillotine
G.Soc Registration for Killer
Omega "Who wants to be a mathematician"
Drama
Soc v Soc (Twister)
Music/Radio/Folk (Sing-a-long)
G.Soc - Sega Lock On
Role Playing Game
Omega Society - Blind Date
Fine Gael - Women & Politics Debate
German Society- Film (Schtonk)
Radio Society/Ten Forward - Table Quiz
Dance Society Belly Dancing Workshop

Students Union Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Ego 6
Scholars Function Room
Scholars Function Room
TBC
Stables Club
SU Conference Room

ON-GOING EVENTS

Computer Society - SoUL Cam
Photo Society - Dynamic Gallery
Radio Society - SoUL Radio

Stables /Scholars/ Student Centre

Wednesday

12.00pm-2.00pm
1.00pm -5.00pm
1.00pm-2.00pm
1.00pm-2.00pm
2.00pm -2.40pm
2.40pm-3.00pm
3.00pm-5.00pm
7.00pm - 8.00pm

7.00pm - 9.00pm

8.00pm-10.00pm
10.00pm - till late

History Guillotine
G.Soc Registration for Killer
Aeronautical Soc "Glider Competition"
Folk Group
Drama/Law- Moot trial
Soc v Soc (Twister)
Music/Radio/Folk (Sing-a-long)
Aeronautical Society
Guest Lecture "Gerry Humpries - Ex. R.A.F. Pilot"
Debating Union- Freshers Run-Offs (Round One)
International Soc- Multi Cultural Foodfair
Radio Society DJ Competition SoUL Train

Students Union Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
New Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Venue TBC
Main Canteen
The Globe

ON-GOING EVENTS

Computer Society - SoUL Cam
Photo Society - Dynamic Gallery
Radio Society - SoUL Radio

Stables /Scholars/ Student Centre

Thursday

12.00pm-2.00pm
1.00pm -5.00pm
2.00pm -3.00pm
2.40pm-3.00pm
3.00pm-5.00pm
5.00pm-7.00pm

7.00pm - 8.00pm
7.00pm-8.30pm

8.30pm-10.30pm
8.00pm- 9.30pm
7.00pm - 9.00pm

9.00pm-10.00pm

7.00pm-9.00pm
10.00pm- Till Late

History Guillotine
G.Soc Registration for Killer
Environmental Soc - Drumming Workshop
Soc v Soc (Twister)
Music/Radio/Folk (Sing-a-long)
"Pub Dash" Ten Forward

Drama Fire-Dancing
African/Irish Film
"Emancipation Day" and a "Musical Tour of Ghana"
German Society -film "Lola Rennit"
Fianna Fail Speaker & Hot Whiskey Reception
Debating Union- Freshers Run-Offs (Round Two)
Debating Union- costume debate
This Society is God" feat'
Celtic Supporters / Ten Forward /Drama/ Law / History / Radio
Music Society - Band Showcase
Celtic Supp'- Music with "Clare Celts" and Raffle

Students Union Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
Stables Courtyard
New Courtyard/Stables /Scholars
New Courtyard
SU Meeting Room 4
SU Meeting Room 4
SU Conference Room
Scholars Function Room

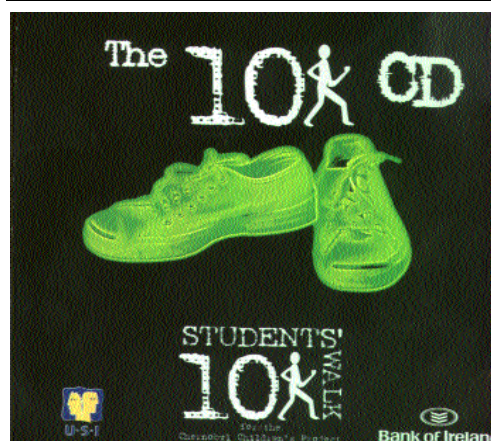
Stables
Hurlers

ON-GOING EVENTS

Computer Society - SoUL Cam
Photo Society - Dynamic Gallery
Radio Society - SoUL Radio

Stables /Scholars/ Student Centre

Music is the Answer - Reviews & Interviews



10KM Walk CD Review

The 10 k Cd - More than just the music....

The 10 k cd is to be given away free next week to every person who walks the feshair / fresher 10 k walk . An 11

track album it encompasses the very best in modern contemporary music, with such famous names as ' The Walls ' , ' Kila ' ' Juliet Turner ' and ' Picturehouse ' . Also some little perhaps known but definitely upcoming sounds like ' Green ' , ' Brilliant Trees ' and the excellent ' Sack ' .

The CD is more than it would seem don't let the fact that it is to be given away free take the precedent it is a worthy CD and well worth the hike you may have to take to receive it .

The SU will also have a few copies available for sale at the generous price of £1 so if you can't walk you could give that for a copy, all monies received for the album will be given directly to the charity .

It's not in anyway full of depressing tunes and soft music you might expect of a charity album especially one for a charity as poignant as this one .

It's pretty lively with easy listening being the key to all of the songs upon it . All the artists involved gave their time and their effort for the very worthy cause of the Chernobyl Childrens Project and the result is an album that will only add to any selection . Besides where is your sense of value for moneyget out there and walk for one of these great CD's .

Michelle Daly



Spice Girls Forever (Virgin)

The Spice Girls are back in action, and although they're down one-fifth of their legendary team, four is still a good working

number. Forever, the group's first album since the 1998 departure of Ginger Spice, is a frothy soufflé of an album, heavy on the groovy dance beats and go-girl goodwill, light on profundity.

Fans worried about a bland, Ginger-less Spice should rest assured-there's still plenty of attitude. Granted, there's no real kick-but t anthem, a la "Wannabe," but the 11 tracks here are still booty shaking, albeit in a slower, more sensual way. Indeed, Forever is heavy on the ballads and emphasises Sporty Spice's dulcet vocals. Such songs as "Oxygen" and "Time Goes By" are dreamy bits of longing with such lyrics as "tell me softly that you love me, too."

Also any worries that the Girls' spirit has suffered any permanent damage are quickly dismissed on the upbeat "Right Back at Ya." With nod to a "friendship that's stronger than before" the song not only acknowledges Ginger's exit, but the fierce competition from the likes of Christina Aguilera and All Saints. They've already scored another No. 1 song with the album's first single, "Holler," so the lyrics to "Goodbye" ("You thought we wouldn't make it far / So we proved you wrong again") ring pleasantly true.

Rachel L.



Amstel Champions League Competition

Win yourself a Party Pack of Amstel to get you through the next Champions League game.

1. Who scored for Man U. in the 1999 Champions League Final?
2. How many times have AC Milan won the European Cup?
3. Who is the Former World Player of the Year, now playing for Marseille (former Man City player)?

Drop your answers into the main reception in the Students' Union, in the new Centre, along with your name, ID number and a contact number.

Last Weeks winner - Lorraine Ryan, 3rd Year European Studies

University Concert Hall - News & Reviews

The IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

will perform under the baton of American conductor Rachel Worby, currently Music Director of Wheeling Symphony and Pasadena Pops Orchestra. The diverse and exciting programme will feature three new works including a new piece by IWMC's Michéal Ó Suilleabháin. These compositions combined with the music of Morton Gould and Kernis will provide ICO enthusiasts with a varied evening's entertainment. The concert will also feature pupils from Laurel Hill who will sing "Wait and See" by Elaine Agnew.

Conductor: Rachael Worby

Soloists: Fionnuala Hunt, Zoe Conway (Violin)

Roisin Ni Mhannain (Dancer)

Programme:

O Suilleabháin:

Hup! (Sean Nos Dance & Strings)

Kernis:

Musica Celestis

Whelan:

Inishlacken

Agnew:

Wait and See (Children's Choir & Strings)

Gould:

Stringmusic

Thursday 23rd November at 8.00pm

Tickets £10.50 Concessions £6.00

Presented by ICO



GABRIEL'S MESSAGE - A Concert for Peace & Reconciliation



The Irish Peace Institute presents A Concert for Peace & Reconciliation featuring well known Limerick Mezzo Soprano Shirley Keane, winner of the 1999 Margaret Arnold Bursary awarded by the Arts Council of Ireland. Also partaking in this special event will be Concert Bands from Northern & Southern Ireland and The Millennium North-South Youth Choir. The Compere for this evenings performance is Martin Barrett and accompanist is Frances Kelleher (Piano)

- Saturday 25th November at 8.00pm

Tickets £5 Concessions £2.00

Presented by The Irish Peace Institute

Emmylou Harris



The pure Emmylou Harris remains uncorrupted in the world of country.

Emmylou Harris the multi Grammy Awards winner comes to UCH on the 28th November. With hits like "The Wrecking Ball" album, and each of her first nine albums having passed the half-million mark in sales, she has a remarkable achievement in an industry steered by conformity.

Her legion of fans are in for a night to remember when she performs songs from her latest album "Red Dirt Girl" released in September.

Tuesday 28th November at 8.00pm

Tickets £25 & £23

Presented by Folk & Blues Revue

The NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Under the baton of the acclaimed conductor Alexander Anissimov returns to UCH with the world renowned pianist Joaquin Achucarro. Joaquin has performed in 5 countries, with over 160 different orchestras and will perform Rakhmaniov's Piano Concerto No. 2 as part of a stunning programme of music which also includes works by Bernstein and Tchaikovsky.

Gould: Stringmusic

Conductor: Alexander Anissimov

Soloist: Joaquin Achucarro (Piano)

Programme: Bernstein: Candide, Overture

Rakhmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 2

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6

Wednesday 29th at 8.00pm

Tickets £6, £8, £10.50, £12.50

Concessions Available



**Tickets available
from UCH Box
Office, Telephone:
061-331549
061-314314**

Focal Eile - Arts Event Guide

Any information on forthcoming activities of Societies and Clubs should be sent to Room S1 – 22, Schuman Building or patricia.moriarty@ul.ie

BOURN VINCENT GALLERY (Foundation Building) NOV 9 – JAN 6 2001

NEW WORK BY PADDY LENNON

UL PHOTO SOCIETY

are holding a seminar on NOV 23 at 2.00 pm. Contact PHOTO@CSN.UL.IE They will photograph your event, Club activity. Minimum 1 week notice period desirable – these are busy guys.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK ORCHESTRA

rehearse every Tuesday in the Kilmurry Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

DANCE CLUB

host Salsa Classes with a professional teacher every Mon in the Conference Centre, Student Centre. 2 classes 6.00 – 7.00 pm and 7.00 – 8.00 pm. Beginners and experienced Salsa fiends catered for. The programme of instruction is being extended to include belly dancing and flamenco.

UL DEBATING UNION

meet every Mon in the Function Room of Scholars for a lively debate on topical issues with a cross section of UL Students. Debate and discursion are promised, resolution is hoped for, lollipops are guaranteed.

HISPANIC SOCIETY

meet every Mon at 6.30 pm in the Language Resource Area for the screening of Irish and Spanish based films.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK CHOIR

rehearse every Weds from 6 – 8 pm in the Music Rooms of Block C. Regularly performing in venues on and off the campus the student/staff choir always welcome new members.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK TRIBAL SPIRIT DRUMMING CLASSES

with John Bowker – Absolute beginners are absolutely welcome to join in these weekly sessions in the Students' Union on Weds from 7 – 10 pm. A small fee of £5 (or less), student rate of £3 (or less) ensures an evening of rhythm and celebration.

FOLK GROUP

meet every Weds at the Salesian Hostel at 8 pm. New members are welcome. The group also perform at the 7.30 pm Sunday Mass in the Salesian Church.

IRISH WORLD MUSIC CENTRE NOV 16 Students of the IWMC's MA in Classical String Performance.

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

NOV 21 Manus Maguire (fiddle), Gary Ó

Brian (guitar)

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

NOV 23 Chamber Concert featuring students of the MA in Classical String Performance

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

NOV 28 Matt Cranitch (fiddle)

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

NOV 30 UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK CHOIR

FREE Time 1.15 Performing Arts Centre, Foundation Building.

UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL

NOV 23 IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £ 10, Concessions £6

NOV 24 DAVID PARKES – " In His Time "

Time 8.00 pm Tickets £12 Presented by Rebuild for Bosnia

NOV 25 GABRIEL'S MESSAGE A Concert for Peace and Reconciliation

Time 8.00 pm Tickets £5, Concessions £2 Presented by the Irish Peace Institute

NOV 28 EMMYLOU HARRIS

Time 8.00 pm Tickets £25/£23

NOV 29 NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Time 8.00 pm Tickets £12.50/ £10.50/ £8 / £6

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE CHAPEL

NOV 22 BARBARA DAGG (Harpsichord)

FREE Time 1.10

LIMERICK JAZZ SOCIETY

NOV 23 RICHIE BUCKLEY(tenor saxophone), Joe O'Callaghan (guitar), And John Daly (drums) TBA (double – bass)

Time 8.30 pm doors open 8.00 pm Tickets £7 Special Student rate £3 Kilmurry Lodge

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK

NOV 18 MAYA HOMBURGER (violi)
MALCOLM PROUD (harpsi chord)

Time 8.00 pm Tickets £8, Concessions £6

GLENSTAL ABBEY

NOV 26 BACH 2000

to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the death of the composer the six suites for solo cello will be performed at Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, Co Limerick by the internationally acclaimed cellist FERENC SZÜCS Nov 26 SUITES 3 & 4. Refreshments are served and each concert will be introduced by monk and author Mark Patrick Hederman.

Time 4.00 pm Tickets £5, Concession £3

HUNT MUSEUM (Rutland Street)

2,000 original works of art and antiquity.

Admission £3.20 Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 5.00 pm, Sun 2.00 – 5.00 pm

LIMERICK CITY ART GALLERY (Pery Square)

NOV 3 onwards LEAVING CHEYENNE –

Mixed media installation by Michael Timpson – Performances NOV 2 8.00 pm, NOV 3 and 4 at times to be confirmed FREE Mon – Fri 10.00 am – 6.00 pm, Thurs 10.00 am – 7.00 pm, Sat 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

CHRIS DOSWELL'S PRINT GALLERY NOV 18 – DEC 23 LIMERICK SMALL PRINT EXHIBITION 2000

Selected by paul O'Reilly
FREE Mon – Fri 9.00 am – 5.30 pm (closed lunch 1.00 – 2.00 pm), Sat 11.00 am – 3.00 pm

BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE (69 O'Connell Street)

THE BELLTABLE FILM CLUB

NOV 19 GUANTANAMARA

(tomas gutierrez, 1995, 102 mins)
Time 8.00 pm

NOV 19 REFLECTIONS – IRELAND (short film)

(Patrick carey, 1978, 20 mins)
Time 8.00 pm

NOV 26 AFTERLIFE

(Kore-Eda Hirokazu, 1998, 118 mins)
Time 8.00 pm
More details from 319866

NOV 16, 23 FILM HISTORY

– Lecture given by Tony Treacy (Former Education Officer, Irish Film Centre) more details from 211258

VISUAL ARTS

NOV 2 – 25 Thomas Delohery – DRAWN FROM WORDS OF WARNING - exhibition of drawings and painting

THEATRE

NOV 20 – 21 SHOWCASE 2001

Presented by Centre Stage Theatre School
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £6

NOV 25 – 26 SIOSCARNACH.....PSS-WSSH!

Presented by Daghdha Dance Company
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £10, Concessions £8
NOV 24 SPECIAL RATE PAY WHAT YOU CAN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NOV 27 – DEC 2 THE CHASTITUTE

by John B Keane
Presented by The Quarry Players,
Directed by Michael carney
Time 8.00 pm Tickets £7, Concessions £5

YOUNG BELLTABLE

NOV 26 SLEEPING BEAUTY –

Presented by The Lambert Puppet Theatre
Time 2.00/4.30 pm Tickets £5

" THE TAP " LATE NIGHT SESSIONS

NOV 25 HEADGEAR

Followed by DJ Paul Tarpey
Time 11.00 pm til late Tickets £6



Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Societies on campus. Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Centre, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.



Hi I'm the societies officer for the Students Union and my job is to coordinate the Societies of UL and ensure they provide quality events for their members- you the students. In order to do this there is a societies executive consisting of myself Ella Daly the societies officer, Eimer Griffen PR rep, Fiona Earls the marketing rep and Chresten Andersen the finance rep.

But what societies are there? There are 38 societies in UL and this ranges from political parties (Fianna Fail, Fianna Gael, Sinn Fein and the Socialist party) to special interest groups (Mature Students, Postgraduate Students Association, lesbian Gay and Bisexual society) they cover everything from belly dancing to debating and several other subjects in between.

Most societies run weekly or biweekly events although some prefer to concentrate on holding 4 or 5 events in the year, which require greater organisation on their parts. For example the drama society meets every Wednesday in the Jonathon Swift at 7.30 for a workshop and Ten Forward have showings every Tuesday and Thursday in Meeting Room 4 at 6pm, whereas the Law society

concentrate on holding lectures when ever they can and on organising the law ball and dinner. Debating Union run both weekly events and specialist events

At present student participation in society events is a little disappointing, in order to address this situation, the marketing members of both the Clubs and Societies execs have put together a questionnaire to find out why. This will be published in a future issue of An Focail and your input would be appreciated. If we know what you expect and require of Societies we will endeavour to provide it. In the mean time I'll be writing this every week to let you know what's coming up and have a look at the Soul week page and see what's planned for then.

OUTREACH SOCIETY HOST GREAT NIGHT OUT.



Well it was said, by one and all, that the Outreach society pulled out all the stops, to provide everyone with a very entertaining night. However, what the society was hoping to achieve on the night was publicity for the societies activities and in this respect it surpassed all expectations. None of this could have been achieved however without the tremendous support received by the society when organising the event. Namely, from John in the Edge, Marian in O'Mahonys bookstore, the law society and Brian in the Scholars for all their contributions, as well as Bank of Ireland and particularly AIB for their financial contributions. The biggest thanks has to go to Miriam Casserly, Majella Regan, Edel Maher and Niamh Gallery who organised the whole thing.

Well, let me take this opportunity to tell you all a little more about the Outreach society. The society was founded last year, its main objective being to get involved in community work in the Limerick area. Members of the society took part in a joint education venture with St. Enda's school in South-hill, where each member gave up just 1 hour a week to visit the school and help assist in teaching the kids reading, writing and maths skills. This proved to be a very rewarding experience for everyone involved.

This year the society is expanding into many other activities, as well as visiting St. Enda's, the society is looking into getting involved with St. Gabriel's school for the mentally and physically handicapped in Dooradoyle and St. Kierans school. From the Outreach society function in the Scholars, where we managed to get 150 students who expressed an interest in the society, to join the society, we hope to get involved in other areas, such as visiting the elderly and fundraising for charity over the Christmas period. There has been a huge interest shown in the society, what we want you to do is to contact us. You can do this by calling into Siobhan O'Connell's office in the S.U. or you can e-mail us at

outreach@skynet.ie, please leave your name and I.D number, and where possible an area of work you're interested in or any new ideas you might have. We'll get back to you promptly. Even if you want to get involved but are unsure in what capacity, just send us your name and I.D 'cos we've got plenty of activities for everyone to get involved.

Finally if you are available on Thursday the 16th of November, there is a charity walk in aid of the Chernobyl's children foundation. Please call into the S.U where you can collect a sponsorship card. It should be a fun day out for all and it's for a great cause.

Radio Society Has Soul

SOUL week will be the busiest ever for WIRED FM as well as the UL Radio Society. As always UL Radio society provide one of the most visible events in the week with SOUL Radio. As well as broadcasting during the normal schedule (see timetable) UL Rad Soc. will be broadcasting SOUL Radio filling all the hours between the wee hour of 8.30am to the weeest hour of 4am.

New DJ's, new programmes, music features as well as features on the week's events

Also the Radio Society are taking **Ascension**, one of their Weekly Shows on Wired FM, to the Globe, Wednesday Week 9 (Soul Week). This night will be DJ Showcase, the Best DJ on the night will get a DJ set in the Marquee next Semester. The Night will be recorded and then Broadcasted on Wired Fm over the following few Weeks.

Tickets Available including Bus tickets to and from gig Available from Ivan Flemming, 0876522264 or e-mail Fergal at anfo-cal@csn.ul.ie -

The Law Society Debate - Law & European Studies vrs Law & Accounting



"That this House would save the life of a Drowning Law & Euro Student before that of a Law & Accounting Student"

Proposition Speakers: Clare McCarthy and Steven Boggs

Opposition Speakers: Tadhg O'Shea and Dave Keary

It was a big night for the Law Society on Tuesday of Week 7 which featured "The Big Debate". Not only were the committee kept busy trying to keep the opposing sides from killing each other, we also held a raffle for outreach and had to select those lucky members who get to go to France absolutely free, gratis, pay no money now nor ever!

The debate was a great success with many "intelligent" (ahem) arguments made by both sides....

Among the arguments for the proposition were that the Law and Accounting students are a waste of college resources i.e. library seats AND engineering resources as "that's where they hide the law materials" (the mystery is solved!). It was also claimed that the course forms too much of a clique as they find it more efficient to talk in binary,

leaving all "normal" people perplexed. The members of the course were also attacked as only studying law to make money and then accountancy to save money. The proposition also stated that the reason why all the library materials go missing is that THEY are too cheap to photocopy them. The high point of the Law and Euro argument was Clare's final anecdote: on graduation day she decided to approach a group of Law and Accounting students so she could finally talk to a "laccie" only to happen upon much excitement...what, she asked, could the commotion be all about, only to her disgust she discovered it was over the new Sharp calculator catalogue!!!!

The Law and Accountants were not to be outdone however, claiming to be qualified in two professions while Law and Euro students will be found pontificating in coffee shops in 5 years time. They also rebutted the claim that Law and Euro students had a wider range of intellectual experience, as studying one foreign language does not qualify them as international intellectuals. In fact it was claimed that the only use it will have is when the student in question is liv-

ing in France/Spain/Germany they will be able to ask for the dole in the native language! The Law and Accountants then also made the somewhat controversial claim that they were worthier beings as their course required more points. Mr Keary left us all quivering in our boots with a final threat that not only would he audit us all but our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, cats...you get the picture!!!

Although there were some close shaves the night passed without any GBH being caused and a good time was had by all.

Despite most of the support voiced from the floor being in favour of L&E, when put to a vote L&A won the day (for no reason of bias at all) and the panel of adjudicators reinforced the decision of the floor.

Disclaimer: The Law Society would like to state that none of the speakers can be held liable for their statements due to intoxication

The raffle for outreach was a great success and thanks to all that supported a good cause.

Finally the big moment arrived as Catherine O'Keeffe, Katerina Zanzerdoyferova and Richard Higgins were selected from a hat (well, a white plastic bucket) to be sent to France in Wk 11 for a week of much merrymen and entertainment. Needless to say, they were thrilled. Will keep you all informed of upcoming events, right here in An Focal so join us next time...at the very least you may get your right of reply to some of the culprits ..em, dammit...I mean speakers.

Aeronautical Society Trip!!

Wednesday last UL's Aeronautical Society (Aerosoc) visited Shannon Aerospace maintenance facility (SAL). The group were taken on a tour of the hangar, which housed Airbus A320's, MD80's, Boeing B737, 757 and 767's. To see an aircraft taken to bits like they are in SAL gives you a new outlook on flying. We were let board a stripped cabin. No galley's, no seats, no soft furnishings, just plain floor panels and lots of cables and wires. Seeing the technicians climb all over these narrow bodies was amazing. Harnessed to a wire they climb on to the roof of the aircraft to do repairs.

There was a busy atmosphere in the hangar with men and women in blue overalls running around trying to get airplanes out on time. There were six aircraft in the hangar. One was an emergency repair to landing gear and some skin after an A320 made a heavy landing.

For some it was the first time touching the outside of an aircraft, or looking into the wheel-well. We climbed the docking up to the tail where some APU (Auxiliary Power Unit) repairs were taking place.

Visiting the Engineering department wasn't quite as exciting – a few desks, computers – usual office stuff. We quizzed a UL grad-

uate in Aeronautical Engineering, mostly about his salary really!!

All in all it was an excellent trip and reminded us why we are here! We finished off by having lunch in THE SCHOLARS – most enjoyable!!!!

P.S. A team of 3 are flying to London on Thursday for a competition run by the Royal Aeronautical Society called Aerochallenge 2000. Hopefully you'll be hearing more about that in the future. Wish them luck!



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIR

The International Food Fair will take place on Wednesday, November 22nd (Week 9- SoUL Week). Venue is the MAIN CANTEEN from 8 till 10pm Food from twenty different countries will be prepared by many of the world 's greatest (though sometimes unrecognised) chefs. Every continent is going to be represented. Some culinary delights are expected to come from even further afield such as Romulan Ale, which we are led to believe cannot be made on earth due to certain atmospheric conditions. Fortunately, it can be consumed here.

Every year, the Food Fair attracts large numbers of students, staff, visitors - generally gourmands. This year should be bigger and better than ever. There will be information about the participating countries available to everybody. Music will be provided by the Music Society.

The International Food Fair is organised by the UL International Society (www.csn.ul.ie/~internat) with the cooperation of ULSU, the University and the kind people from Campbells. Our main aim in the International Society is to assist the integration of foreign students into Irish life and to help them gain an understanding of Irish culture. We try to make the foreign students' experience unforgettable. Also, this broadens the awareness of our Irish members to the variety of cultures outside Ireland.

So, come along and enjoy the good food and the international flair.

The Law Society - Solved & Unsolved

The sleeping beauty uncut

Once upon a time, in a not so distant ghetto known as Elm Air, lived a King and his well endowed drag queen. They had tried *long* and *hard* for a baby but unfortunately due to obvious technical difficulties they had failed. One morning as Queen Olga was shaving, she spotted some movement beneath the Cabbage leaves. To her great joy and disbelief she realised it was not her husband (holding cabbage leaves covered in snail trails) but a little bundle of joy (who are we kidding!) twitching in the undergrowth.

At the christening soiree all the prominent nobility and their personal attendants (i.e. their fluffer girls) attended. Twelve fairies each bearing their gifts and themselves arrived. Each bestowed their individual gifts on the child.

Then suddenly before the twelfth fairy had made her appearance, the doors burst open and with great gusto the wicked witch of the southern Hills, riding her piebald, tore into the banquet hall. Pissed at her lack of invite (and other things) she dissed the child, citing;

'Listen to me here boy (She was originally from Cork.) You dissed me and the Mammy's not too happy neither. So now your spurts gonna die on her 16th birthday!!! Ha Ha Ha (said in nasal tones!).

The guests recoiled in horror. From the shadows of the room bounded the twelfth fairy.

'I was going to bless the girl with a bounteous double d busom, but now I see you will be better serviced by my curning of the severity of the previous curse. The child shall not die but on her 16th birthday (we at the Law society do not condone underage drinking, it is illegal and immoral!) shall fall into a deep sleep for a hundred year and shall only be woken by a kiss' she said.

With this the guests departed.

Sixteen years later.

The prophecy came true and the whole of Elm Air fell into a deep slumber. Every now and then some local knacker would hear the tale and go in and chance his luck, and not getting anywhere (as per usual) would fleece the place.]

After a hundred years had passed and miraculously no one had gone south, a handsome young thing from Cork heard the tale of woe and decided to help. Finding his way into her chamber, he bent over and laid one on her, breaking the spell and causing the Princess to wake.

The End.

what is the moral of the story?

What offenses, if any were the follow, guilty of?:

The King and Queen.

The fairies

The Witch

The 'Local's'

The fine thing from Cork

Answers to

solvedandunsolved@ student.com

Answers to last weeks problem.

Julian cannot retain any of Willy's property as looking after the poodle is not adequate consideration. (see O' Neill's case. You cannot put monetary value on love and respect)

The moral of the story is; Don't bother feeling anyone's pain just feel them!

Thanks to guest appearance by Saz.

We apologise for the suspicious content of this weeks article!

Maths & Stats Society - Brainteaser

Four Maths students sitting in the Scholars one day have the following conversation:

Maggy: I'm drunk

Robert: I do pure maths

Ross: I do applied maths

Gillian: I'm sober

Maggy: Ross does pure maths

Robert: Gillian is drunk

Ross: Robert does applied maths

Gillian: Ross is drunk

Knowing that:

1- Pure Maths students tell the truth about what they think

2- Applied Maths lie about their beliefs


3- Sober Maths students beliefs are correct

4- Drunk Maths students beliefs are incorrect

Describe Maggy, Robert, Ross and Gillian (without looking in the Scholars).

Hint: A drunk Applied Maths student lies about a lie so ends up actually telling the truth.

Send your solutions to
omega@skynet.com



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UL Badminton Club - Aiming Hgh and Getting Smashed!!!

It's now the beginning of November and as every Badminton enthusiast will know, this is when the going begins to get tough and the heavy training starts. At the start of the season it was decided to continue on last years excellent results to enter a second team into the Limerick city and county league. The second team was set up to enable the intermediate members to partake in the very competitive grade 4 league. After three very tough trial sessions in which over 50 players tried out, the final squad of 12 was decided, they are:

Men

Conor Flatley
Conor Smyth
Declan Bolger
Michael Kennedy
Gavin Quilivan
Ger Mullally

Women

Susan Gilmore
Brid Walsh
Sandra Hedigan
Claire Doran
Rachel Mordan
Deirdre McCarthy

Following last years excellent performance by the club Grade 2 team in winning the highest limerick league level and narrowly loosing out in the Munster final we decided to re-enter a team at this level. Unfortunately half of last year's

team have now left the college, however the arrival of Limericks most promising underage player (Gillian Holmes) and the arrival of some good foreign students (Roman Wink) have strengthened the team. The final Grade 2 team is as follows

Men

Eric Nelligan
Alan Nelligan
Shane O'Sullivan
Ronan Walsh
Roman Wink

Women

Andria Beazley
Fiona Farrell
Gillian Holmes
Brid Walsh
Susan Gilmore

A quick look through the events calendar for the next six months shows that there will be over weekends taken up with Badminton. As well as that the Grade 4 team will have a minimum of twelve mid-week matches to be played between now and the end of March, while the Grade 2 team will have a minimum of eight mid-week matches.

The first round of league matches will start in the next week or so; so all players are expected to turn up to training (especially ALAN). The full fix-

tures are available on the web on

<http://badminton.csn.ul.ie/>.

The new training times, which take place in the new Sports Arena, are as follows;

Monday; 9.00pm till 11.00pm (open to all club members.8 courts)

Tuesday; 7.15am till 9.00am (for the teams only...4 courts)

Wednesday; 9.00pm till 11.00pm (open to all club members....either 4 or 6 courts)

The club is looking forward to another successful year ahead with plenty of good nights out. The first club night out for the year took place on Wednesday the 1st of November in the lodge, but if you missed it don't worry, there'll be plenty more of the remainder of the college year.

We'd like to thank all our sponsors to date: The Stables, The Lodge, O'Mahonys Bookstore and Miller. And don't forget to check out the clubs website for all the latest news and fixtures on:

<http://badminton.csn.ul.ie/>

UL FC Junior Soccer "the story so far...."

The league campaign started back in August and with a vast amount from our pool of players still enjoying the end of the summer in places all over the world we had to call on some members of the UL inter-firm team. Fortunately we found players of the calibre and experience in Paddy Gunnigle, Eoin Reeves and Jim Deegan. Our opening game was at home on the hallowed Maguires turf against Athlunkard who finished in joint third position with us in the league last season. The result was a satisfactory 3-2 win with goals from Rob (2) and Darragh McMahon. We then faced a tricky assignment, an away trip to Cals Park to play the mighty Hyde Rangers. A very composed and determined performance saw us take all three points with late goals from Darragh McMahon and the evergreen Paddy Gunnigle. The next match was another away trip, this time to Ballylanders. With the return of Mark Holland and Damien Carroll we were optimistic of our chances of securing the points. Unfortunately we turned in our worst performance to date and were defeated 3-1 with Darragh McMahon grabbing a consolation goal. It was time for a break in the league program as we entertained Newport Town in the TSB cup. A poor turnout saw us line out without a full compliment and subsequently bowed out at the first hurdle by a score-line of 1-4 with Jason Begly getting the goal. Back to the league and we faced Ashling Annocotty at the UL grounds, goals from Padraig de Burca and Jim Deegan secured the points on a 2-1 score-line. Another cup saw us drawn away to Limerick Utd, after a tough encounter we emerged victorious on penalties after a 3-3 draw. Our marksmen on the day were Padraig de Burca, Fergal Fennessy and Shane Hanna. A return to league action saw us take on St Patricks in Maguires in very trying conditions. A hat trick from Kevin Murphy and an Eoin O'Mahony strike saw us take the spoils by a score-line of 4-3. Our most recent game was at home against Kilteely and a hard earned 1-0 win kept our good start going Damien Carroll grabbed the all-important goal on that occasion. Our league record stands as:

P	W	L	D	F	A
7	5	2	0	14	10

We are pleased with our start as this gives us a chance to contest for the league title. There have been some really good performances by players such as Eoin Reeves, Dave Hudson, Damien Carroll and Mark Holland. Martin Hayes must be thanked for getting this team together and our good start is mostly down to the gaffer and his organisational abilities. Support would be welcome and we will be putting posters up of the times and dates of the games.

UL Enviro Soc

The UL Enviro Soc travelled to Dublin last weekend to attend "Living on the Edge: A Conference on Trade, Poverty and Sustainability", which was held in Trinity College. The weekend long conference was organised by Trocaire for various third level societies and a total of thirteen colleges took part. Fourteen members of Enviro Soc attended as well as members of Mary I's One World Society.

The weekend kicked off with a debate on whether "This House Believes that Current Government Policies on Refugees/Asylum Seekers are Draconian". Unfortunately the PD representative could not attend, so it was left to Conor Lenihan to defend the Government's policies and he only managed to persuade three people in the audience to agree with him! After the debate, a night of world music and tribal sounds took place in Mother Redcaps.

Saturday began with a session on the talk on human rights issues by Colm O Cuanachain from Comhlamh, and UL student, Eoin O Broin spoke about his experiences in Prague at the IMF demonstrations in September. A wide range of workshops followed this. These covered issues such as the arms trade, workers rights, Aids and fair trade, and also various countries, notably Liberia, Iraq, East Timor and Colombia.

The weekend was very informative, with speakers from numerous organisations, such as Trocaire, AFRI, ICTU as well as citizens of the countries examined. A series of actions has been started. Look out for ICTU and Trocaire joint Toy Campaign, which is focusing on three companies; Mattel, Hasbro and McDonalds and will be launched this month.

Huge interest was declared in attending the COP 6 Climate change conference in Den Hague at the end of November, especially after the weather we endured this weekend. UL Enviro Soc is organising a bus to travel there and there are still some seats left. Anyone interested should contact envirosoc@csn.ul.ie

Ps... free fuel logs available at the bottom of the John Murphy tower to help cope with the terrible weather!!!

UL Hurling Club Progress So Far.....

SENIOR TEAM UL V CIT 1-15 1-13 SAT 14TH OCTOBER

The UL senior hurling team opened their campaign in impressive style with a win against CIT in Cork .

On a beautiful autumn day UL were quickly into their stride with a blistering start. After fifteen minutes UL had scored 1-5, with Eoin Dunne scoring 1-3. In fact Dunne could have added further points but missed the target from very close range. UL were left to rue this missed score as CIT began to dominate proceedings and in fact went into half time with a two point lead, 1-7 to 1-5.

UL made some swift changes for the second half introducing Eoin Fitzgerald and Danny Sweeney for Austin Salmon and Mike Stritch respectively. While Eoin Dunne and Sean Ryan were brought to midfield. Both sides were evenly matched during this period with scores hard to come by. It was left to Jimmy Coogan at full-forward to get the scores for UL and he duly obliged with some fine scores from play. At the other end of the field CIT failed to take the scoring chances that came their way, which in part can be attributed to the pressure put upon them by the UL backline. At the full time whistle UL had edged their noses in front by two points on a final scoreline of 1-15 to 1-13.

Peter Horgan may be a bit disappointed with the

goal but played well throughout. The full back line of Bugler , Fitzgerald and McDermott stood firm throughout, while the half backline of Connolly, Reale and Forde were very good throughout. Eoin Dunne started like he was going to win the game on his own but faded (or else CIT actually started marking him) towards end of the first half, played well at midfield in the second. UL were very reliant from Jimmy Coogan for scores but all the forwards contributed.

Team: P Horgan, J Bugler, N Fitzgerald, S McDermott, C Forde, P Reale, M Connolly, A Sammon, M Stritch, E Dunne, D Forde, C Earley, S Ryan, J Coogan, B O'Brien. Subs E Fitzgerald, D Sweeney, N Brodeick, C McGann.

FRESHER A UL V UCC 2-13 3-12 WED 1ST NOVEMBER

The UL Fresher A Hurling team made a bad start to their campaign when they were narrowly defeated by a strong UCC team in the Farm on Wednesday 1st November.

The general opinion of this crop of first years was that they had great potential and a good management team of Stephen Mason, David Forde and Billy Murphy added to this theory. However UL made quite a timid start to this game and found themselves 1-3 down after only

seven minutes. Lack of competitive matches could be the reason for such a tentative start with many players not on the same wavelength as their teammates. In contrast UCC were attacking in waves with Eamon Collins in fine form for the home team. UL finally clicked into gear with Brian O Mahony scoring a couple of points and Eoin Costello adding another. With the sides 1-5 apiece UL's hopes of victory were dealt a blow when UCC scored a second goal just before half time.

After an ear bashing from Forde and Co at half time UL's performance improved in the second half. After a quite first half Ritchie Murray became a major influence on the game, while the half back line of Eoin Lynch, Martin Maher and John Corcoran also played well. However despite UL's best efforts UCC were two points ahead with five minutes to go. UL tried valiantly for the goal that would snatch victory and a shot from Ritchie Murray hit the crossbar in the dying seconds. It wasn't UL's day and UCC ran out winners on a final scoreline of 3-12 to 2-13.

Upcoming Hurling Fixtures

Tuesday 14th November GAA Pitch 1
UL v Tralee IT Freshers A

Thursday 16th November GAA Pitch 1 UL v UCC Inter/Senior

Check out the Hurling Club web page at www.ul.ie~hurling

UL CAMOGIE TEAM GET OFF TO A VERY POSITIVE START

UL Vrs UCC

The UL camogie team got the 00/01 season off to a very positive start with a convincing victory over UCC. After tactically choosing to play into the wind and for the first half, the score line saw UL trailing the visitors by a three-point margin. The match was quite a physical one, which necessitated several reshuffles of the team due to injuries sustained on the pitch. The first incident occurred when midfielder Aine Power received a blow to the hand resulting in a broken thumb. She bravely lasted the first half however, not realising the extent of the damage, Fiona Ni Chorcain also received a blow to the hand, which meant she was sidelined for much of the first half but returned for the second half. Fiona's substitution meant that first year Eimear Creagan was brought into midfield, while Paula Cronin dropped back to fill the centre back role which Fiona's absence had vacated. The sole UL score had come midway through the half from a brilliant goal by corner forward Aoife Neary. UCC had scored six solitary points during the half.

Half time saw a significant reshuffle of the UL team. Fiona Ni Chorcain returned to the centre-back role and Sharon Carty was introduced into midfield as a result of Laura Mahoney having to be substituted due to an injury. Paula Cronin then moved into the half back position. The second half saw a complete turnaround, giving UL the upper hand, with UCC scoring only once during the half. Carty and Cregan combined well in the middle, delivering quality ball into the forward line. Scores from Fiona Ni Chorcain (two frees, one from play), Siobhain Ryan (also two frees and one from play), Claire Delaney (one goal) and Caroline Murray (two points) brought the final score line to UL 2-8 UCC 1-6.

UL Vrs WIT

The second senior match of the season was also contested on the home grounds, and was equally as successful as the first. This time the UL camogie girls hosted a team from WIT. This time we played with the wind for the first half and quickly gained an advantage, Aoife Lane opened the scoring with a characteristically classy point from play. Although the defence was tested, UL were always in control; goalkeeper Louise Ryan making some excellent saves and full back line of Laura Connolly, Eileen Hanrick and Niamh Harkin all putting in tight defensive performances. Eimear Cregan and Sharon Carty our 'dual hockey and camogie stars' continued their dominance in midfield with Eimear notching over a fine point from play in the second half. UL's next point came from a free, which Siobhain Ryan converted easily. Although pitch conditions were poor in areas and the Waterford girls were quite physical, UL clocked up two further points from play through half forward Caroline Murray.

Half time saw the visitors with still no score to UL's four points. Siobhain converted another free before that changed. Sixteen minutes into the second half WIT scored a point from a free, indeed all four of their total tally came from frees. Siobhain then completed what was to be a hat trick of frees and the scoring was completed with a point from a very narrow angle by Claire Delaney [Final score: UL: 0-8 WIT :0-4.]

UL Vrs LIT

The intermediate team kicked their league campaign off with a match against LIT. The girls held their own for much of the second half, with Trish Nihill scoring two excellent goals, however the IT girls overcame the home team in the second half to secure victory. Despite the scoreline the girls played well in bad conditions. The next contest the Intermediate girls face is an away fixture to GMIT so we wish them the best of luck.

SENIOR WOMEN'S HOCKEY: MATCH REPORTS

U.L. 2 NUI Galway 0

On Saturday the 5th of November we played the 1st round of the Irish Senior cup in U.L. against NUI Galway. This time, however it was the U.L. girls who got their names firstly on the scoreboard with an opening goal from right winger Eveanne O' Reilly. This goal came as a result of a broken down short corner, in which Eimear Cregan pushed the ball to Cara Weldrick on the right side of the circle and she took a direct shot towards the goal. Eveanne got the final touch to register her second goal for the season so far. In the second half a stylish performance by U.L.'s u-18 international and centre forward Eimear Cregan provided the second and final goal for the U.L. girls. This goal came as a result of a cracker of a shot from the top of the circle. There was no come back now for the Galway girls despite best efforts by their team captain Rachel Mckeown.

The U.L. squad for this year is as follows:

Ciara Ronan (gk.), Sallyann Mc Cauliffe, Sonia O' Dwyer, Lisa Smith (capt.), Fiona Murray, Mairead Murphy, Cara Weldrick, Elaine Mc Hugh, Brid Kilbane, Sandra Hedigan, Eveanne O' Reilly, Keely Cantrell, Eimear Cregan, Lorna Kingston and Niamh Mc Cauliffe.

UL Young Fine Gael Visit Dail Eireann

On Wednesday the 8th of November, the UL branch of Young Fine Gael paid a visit to Dail Eireann at the invitation of Senator Mary Jackman (Limerick East). We arrived at the Dail soon after 11.30 am and were met by Senator Jackman. She escorted us to the Public viewing gallery of Dail Eireann, where the Wildlife bill was being debated between Fine Gael Deputies, Ulick Burke (Galway) and Deirdre Clune (Cork) and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Sile De Valera (Clare).

Deputy Donal Carey (Clare) showed us around the Houses and explained some of the history of the Dail and Seanad to us. The Clare T.D. then brought us to the Seaad where the Minister for the Marine, Frank Fahy was present.

As lunchtime approached and hunger set in, we proceeded to the Ministers Restaurant, where we were wined and dined and made to feel like stars as we spotted all the various Ministers and Deputies coming and going. We were introduced to Fine Gael Environment spokesperson, Ivan Yates (Wexford), Fine Gael Leader in the Seanad Maurice Manning (Dublin South) and we were welcomed to the Dail by Fine Gael leader Deputy John Bruton. We also spied Sports minister Jim McDaid Agriculture Minister, Joe Walsh and we encountered Tanaiste

Mary Harney on her way to the Dail chamber.

Being the dedicated Party followers that we are we decided to make our trip as worthwhile as possible and attend Taoiseachs question time, resisting the strong temptation of adjourning to the Dail Bar! At Question Time, Fine Gael Deputies, Jim O' Keefe (Cork South West) and John Bruton (Meath) and Labour Deputy, Liz Mc Manus quizzed the Taoiseach about the Abortion issue and the likelihood of a referendum in the lifetime of the current dail. The Taoiseach was typically evasive and would not give a commitment one way or the other.

After the intrigue of that argument we decided to carry on our own debate on the subject and others in – the Dail bar! While there we met a host of T.D's and senators and realised that the life of a public representative is not at all different to that of a student – they have been known to enjoy a tippie in the middle of the day also!

The one big difference being their considerable surplus of money compared with the poor student! There we met Paddy Sheehan (Cork South West), Jim Higgins (Mayo), Tom Enright (Laois-Offaly), Senator Tom Hayes (Tipperary South), Dan Neville (Limerick West), Minister Mary Hannifin and the infamous Jackie Healy-Rae (minus the cap – not a pretty sight let me assure you!)

We reluctantly dragged ourselves away to catch our bus back to Limerick, after an exciting day touring the Corridors of Power. Dail Eireann we will be back if you think you can cope with us!!

Ella Daly's Really Thin Gossip Column

This week sees two gossip columns, as Fergal did not receive the first one I time for the last deadline so I can update you immediately on all the Goss.

Headlining this weeks scandal is once again My lost love Fergal Noone and his vampire master Mike the dark one Whoreigan this little band of vampires has expanded to include the impressionable Thagh O Shea who's transport to the dark side was kept a secret until this deadly trio caused havoc at the Students union Agm last Thursday night. The tiresome threesome arrived just before the start of the meeting and hid in the back left corner drinking the blood of their newest victims from Red Square bottles and began shouting and generally making their presence known. All I can do is advice those worried about this vampire uprising is to stay home at night and keep the garlic close at hand and for all you young virgins I should worry the lads couldn't pull when they had a pulse there's not much hope from them now.

Those of you old enough to remember the early issues of this column will remember Meavey and that Old timer Seamies plans to elope well they've changed tactics and decided to stay in Limerick and sicken us all with their smooch behaviour

A certain Tae Kwan Do fan of my acquaintance has been brought to my attention amid claims he's to run off and become a librarian I wonder what that's about Angie... Speaking of running off it seems that I'm to loose one of my Favourite Drama Society members as Olivia King is in the midst of preparing to disappear with a certain Third Year Hpss student currently employed in the Gallery. It must be all those late night closes together.

A note on John Mulcahy the newly elected Chair of Class reps who says if I ever print his name in this column hell....."Do unspeakable things to me "surely theirs some constitutional issue with a member of the Su exec threatening another member with heavy handed tactics?

Speaking of Su exec members Mr Steven Driver the clubs officer has been doing an awful lot of trips to Dublin lately I have it on good authority he's doing a line with the train driver (geddit? driver?) a 6 footer called Bob whos interested in Friendship and possibly more

Which leads me nicely to the last item on the agenda Mr Aengus O Malley who has been serenading me all week long in the hopes that Ill keep his name out of the gutter too late Aengus the games up now Id say goodbye to luscious Lucia...

BLIND DATE SoUL week



**Tuesday week 9 @ 7 pm
Scholars Function room
Free drink & prizes for the lucky couple.**

**If you want to take part
Email omega@skynet.ie**

**Or simply turn up on the night
<<http://www.csn.ul.ie/~omega/files/bd02.jpeg>>
Remember last year?**



A Few Announcements

ULFC TABLE QUIZ

Think you should be in the hot seat with Gaybo?
See yourself as a bit of a Mastermind do ya?
WELL PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR
MOUTH IS!!!!!!

Venue:Scholars Club Function Room

Date:Thursday 16th November

Time:9.00

Price per table of 4: £12

Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Spot Prizes Galore

Who wants to be a
Mathematician?



General Knowledge Quiz
Monday/ Tuesday SoUL week
Week 9, 1-2 in the Scholars courtyard
Test your wits against the Chris
Tarrant
of the Maths Department.

Loads of drink to be won !!!!!

If anyone is looking to speak to the
campus Garda Seamus O'Neill, he will be on campus every Tuesday
evening Between 6pm and 10pm. Call into ULSU reception between
those times to
contact him.

Ω

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The An Focal team

editor	<i>Fergal F.</i>
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features	Mystic, Sinead, Nicholas, Grace, Seanan, Marion, Dave Flem, Nicola. C
show me the money	Becky
c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.)	Paul & CO.
phancy photo's	Fergal F. & Photo Soc.
Gig goers	<i>tommy f.</i>

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meeting of
Alcoholics Anonymous
every Thursday
in room E0019
at 6.30p.m

If you want to drink that's your business, if
you want to stop that's ours.

Has your life been affected by
Alcoholism
Violence
Gambling
Or
Any other addiction or dysfunctional behaviour.

If so
You are welcome to meetings of Adult Children of Alcoholics and
Dysfunctional Families.

When: every Friday Night

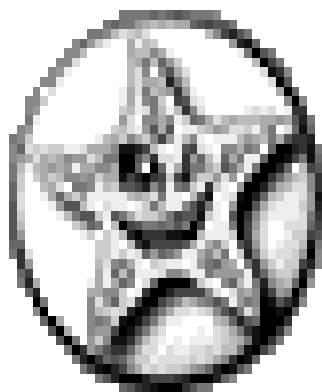
Where: Bishops Place,
Nicholas Street, Limerick.

Time: 8.30p.m

It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Scorpio 23 October – 21 November
If your birthday is around the corner, you're in for a good one! Celebrations galore! A close friend will confide a secret in you. Just be sensitive as to how you react.

Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December
You've been feeling disconnected from someone lately. All this will change as you are appreciated by way of a delicious and romantic meal.

Capricorn 21 December – 19 January
Your zany personality is at an all-time high. You just can't help yourself. All you want to do is get down and party!!!

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February
You're loving life at the moment, despite the minor upsets. Nothing is gonna make you sad down. You're determined to make it all good.

Pisces 19 February – 19 March
Don't listen to others. Make up your own mind. Follow your heart. Trust your better judgement as regards the fun side of your life this week.

Aries 20 March – 18 April
You've been under a lot of stress lately. So, what you really need is a great big night on the banter. Go on! You deserve it.

Taurus 19 April – 19 May
My, how quickly a mood can change! But this time it's a change for the better! Someone has shown you the light. The world is beautiful!

Gemini 20 May – 20 June
There will be some dramatic change in your life soon. But the real test is how to deal with it! Whether you embrace or reject change is all about you and what mood you're in.

Cancer 21 June v- 21 July
You don't seem to be feeling your usual self at the moment. What's up?! Everyone feels down at one stage or another but you will get over it.

Leo 22 July – 21 August
Relax. Your life is a tad hectic these days. You deserve some time to yourself. Even light some candles! Eat some popcorn. Listen to some quiet music.

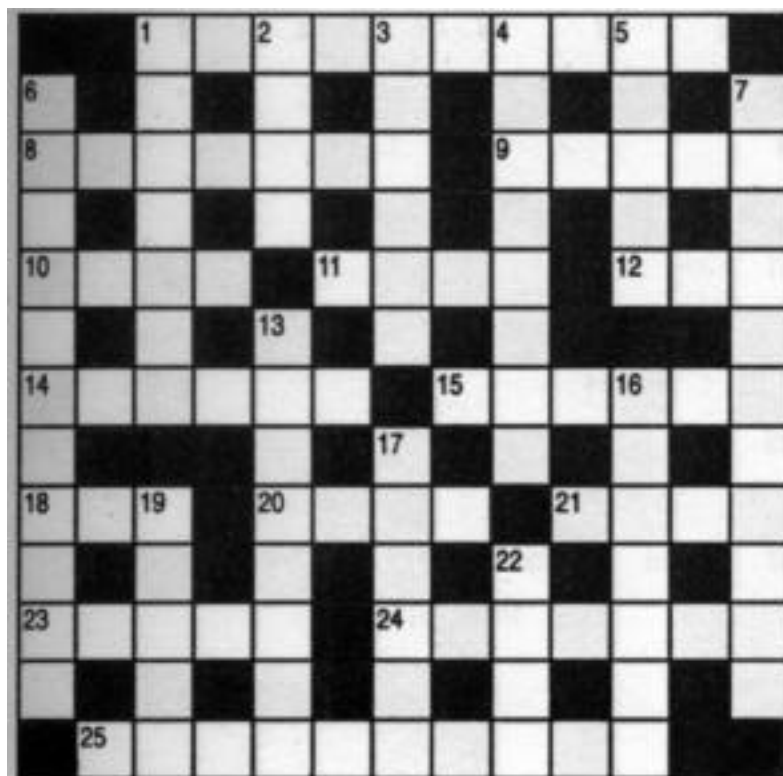
Virgo 22 August – 21 September
A friend needs your comfort and solace at some stage during the next week. Just be patient though – the problem may not be solved instantly.

Libra 22 September – 22 October
Have trust in that special someone to carry out a particular task. They are more capable than you realise. Remember – you weren't always there.



Drop the correct answers into the New 95 Fm &

Win yourself a few CD's



ACROSS

1. Make stretchable (10)
8. Give in to pressure (7)
9. In that place (5)
10. Opposite of go (4)
11. Illustrious warrior (4)
12. Married woman's title (abbr.) (3)
14. Simply (6)
15. German liqueur (6)
18. "And the rest" (abbr.) (3)
20. Prattle (4)
21. Provide at a price (4)
23. Become subject to (5)
24. Cut off (7)
25. Unlucky (3-7)

DOWN

1. Puts up tents (7)
2. Wake-robin genus (4)
3. Pill (6)
4. "Roman —" (religion) (8)
5. Unit of heat (5)
6. Hallucinatory (11)
7. Landlord (11)
13. Public notices (8)
16. Attendant aboard a ship (7)
17. Place for yachts etc. (6)
19. Man's name (B. de Mille) (5)
22. Half of eight (4)

le scribble box

Last weeks answers

ACROSS:- 1. Entry, 7. Decimate, 8. Knoll, 10. Laceration, 12. Obliging, 14. Anon, 16. Rick, 17. Ordnance, 20. Alienation, 23. Noble, 24. Tinkered, 25. Smart.
DOWN:- 1. Eskimo, 2. Reel, 3. Fete, 4. Dinar, 5. Malignant, 6. Peanon, 9. Laugh, 11. Elections, 13. Nor, 15. Union, 16. Realty, 18. Expert, 19. Inlet, 21. Then, 22. Norm.

Life through a Lens

- Sinead's view of Life



I am once again left bitterly disappointed by Limerick's appalling weather. At the time of writing we have no floods to speak of, unless you count the omnipresent muck puddle at the East Gate. This week, as I sat watching people being ferried from their rapidly submerging homes, on our scrambled Network2, I felt really jealous. I wanted a spin in a dinghy. It would have been all the better as it wouldn't actually be *my* house that was filling with water, and I've an upstairs bedroom, so all my *object d'art* would be safe from harm. I'd just have been rescued by big burly men in blue uniforms, and off we'd sail like the owl and the pussycat. I really thought that I could rely on six feet of rainfall in one day. But no. What happens while the rest of the country slowly fills up with water? We have a nice dry spell in Limerick, usually the wettest and most sodden of all the God forsaken Irish counties. I am outraged the whole of Ireland is stealing our thunder. Obviously this is what happened: Someone from Limerick took a nationwide tour, and brought the weather with them. Now I'm sure my flippant approach to this state disaster is a cause of mush angst to all of you God fearing and right minded people, but as always, there is a reason behind my reasoning. *Run with me on this one...*

As the weather Shannon side is ordinarily ten thousand times worse than that of anywhere else in Ireland, once I saw the RTE broadcasts of bursting banks and underwater cars, I assumed that it wouldn't be long until we were dragging out the inflatable life-raft and the scuba-gear. More to the point, I also had an epiphany. Now here's where you have to let go of your senses and rationale and work with me. If Limerick were to be totally submerged, drenched, soaked, saturated, we would, I believe, have cause to lobby for a great, big protective casing to be constructed overhead to save us from our climate. We could mount a campaign for the provision of a mammoth mackintosh. A society could be established called CAP (Cloak us Against Precipitation). But we can't ask for one now as everyone else in the nation would believe himself or herself more worthy on account of one week's fairly damp weather. There wouldn't be any point in trying to have a national brolly, as we'd never be able to agree on the colour – Kildare would want a white one, Galway a maroon one, Donegal a green and gold one. There'd be no consensus. So for the meantime, I'll keep my (black) umbrella at the ready for the rain's imminent return, because

it will be back.

There was one other thing I couldn't let pass without giving a few words mention, one of my personal favourite commercial holidays – Halloween. I sincerely hope that yours, like mine was a truly tacky, shameless affair, involving scandalous amounts of Tia Maria and red lemonade (witches blood). The one night in the year when you can dress like an extra from a Michael Jackson video, and pretend that you're possessed and NOT be arrested. Just a thought – how does Marilyn Manson dress for Halloween? What could he wear? Where would he find a dress hire shop with garments more ghoulish than his own wardrobe? Answers on a postcard please... Sensitive people skip this line - Home & Away reference coming up: Maybe Marilyn does the same as Edward, and to be "different" he dresses in *normal* clothes.

For anyone who is interested in magic, in particular, white magic I found this brilliant book, full of seemingly innocent, if bizarre spells on how to ensnare a boyfriend; how to keep him; how to make him propose; how to get rid of acne, pass exams, attract money, become more beautiful etc. How would that one go "Hubble bubble toil and trouble give me longer legs and a flatter tummy? Scary stuff, eh? They all involve taking showers and sprinkling the contents of your spice rack onto the floor, in a circle - obviously (penatagonals are bad) and chanting a mantra again and again until words lose all meaning. Of course you could try the less mystical yet probably more fruitful suggestions like revising to pass exams and getting a job to make money, but where would be the fun in that? I combed the book, to no avail, for spells that dabbled, even slightly in black magic - not that I wanted to resurrect headless hesians or dark angels, I was just *looking*.

My thoughts also turned to the Ouija Board. "Stop you daughter of Satan!" you are all saying. The next sentence will cause the Freudians among you to say "ah, that's what happened to her." Every Halloween at my National School we used to "play" with a roughly constructed Ouija Board. It was usually the reverse of the wooden-jig-saw map of the World or Ireland, with the alphabet and "yes" and "no" scrawled, in chalk, thereon. We never managed to make contact with the other side, despite years of trying, someone always moved the glass, then denied it and spent weeks trying to convince everyone else that we'd reached heaven or hell or wherever. Maybe the lines were just busy from seasonal overload. But if you were the freak of the afterlife why would you want to talk to inarticulate school brats, who asked stupid questions like is it going to rain on Saturday cause it's my birthday? We tried on occasion to locate deceased pets, what did we think they were going to say? (Especially the goldfish.) Spookily enough the time we asked if Donegal would ever win another All Ireland, it said no, *twice*, and I swear I didn't push the pointer.

I didn't go trick or treating this year, everyone said it would be too dangerous. What did they think I was going to do, sacrifice chickens outside the houses that gave bad treats, or write

my name in goat's blood on the wall? Where would I get goats or chickens in the middle of an urban area? Actually, I used to hate going trick or treating when I was younger. My neighbours gave crap "treats" like apples and nuts. I wanted mini Mars bars and Viscounts. Needless to say my "goodie" bag was always crammed with a few treats for my inconsiderate neighbours. Have you ever wrapped dog mess in newspaper and set on fire at someone's front door, rang the bell and ran, then hid in the bushes, as they jumped on the bundle to put it out? I haven't either I was just wondering. I always wanted to toilet paper trees and soap windows. The worst I ever got up to was throwing home made stink bombs at laden clotheslines and writing in salt on gardens (note: if doing this it is not wise to write your name and/or "thanks for the Granny Smith you stingy cow").

We had this other little tradition at school too. We told ghost stories trying to scare the bejayus out of each other, mainly involving banshees and gambling men with cloven feet and an open grave or two. This in retrospect wasn't the brightest of ideas as the school adjoined the church and graveyard, but children as we know are stupid. We were also forced to make pathetic masks from Cornflakes boxes and bits of string. The teachers actually believed we would wear them trick or treating. What child in its right mind is going to don a cardboard mask when there is a perfectly good rubber one with hair waiting at home? Teachers, perhaps, are more stupid than children.

Trick or treat, banshees and rubber masks aside it will please environmentalists and animal lovers alike to know that no creatures great or small were sacrificed in the research undertaken for this piece. I tired to catch the cats at the rubbish bin next door but they were too fast for me. Anyone interested in forming a Satanic society for the purveyance of general evil, and ritualistic murder can contact me via the editor or the Ouija Board.

PS. I'm only joking.

