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3000 Limerick Students take to the streets to voice protest over fees

by Laura Greer

Over 3000 third level students took to the streets of Limerick on the 9th of October to protest over the possible re-introduction of E4000 tuition fees.

About 500 students from University of Limerick equipped with banners and umbrellas walked from Castletroy to take part. They met another 500 protesters at the Limerick College of Art and Design before reaching city centre where they combined excitedly with about 1800 students from Limerick Institute of Technology and Mary Immaculate College.

Colourful placards with slogans such as "once the land of saints and scholars, now the land of rates and robbers", 'please no fees' and '4k no way' dominated the procession and students chanted as they voiced their opposition to Minister Noel Dempsey's plan to introduce tuition



Student Protesters at the fees protest in Limerick city

fees. The march culminated in a vibrant rally at City Hall.

Carrying a placard saying 'Do they want the shorts off our Backs,' Mary Immaculate student Dan Mooney

said, "If fees go in next year I won't be able to go to college because I won't be able to afford it, my brother won't be able to go to college and where will that leave us. Students continued on page 5

by Clare Shaughnessy

In a colourfully boisterous display of solidarity and emotion Limerick students took to the streets last week in an effort to project their disdain and anger at Minister Noel Dempsey's proposal to reintroduce college fees next year.

The protest co-ordinated by the four main colleges in the city, UL, LIT, NCAD and Mary Immaculate College, drew crowds away from the lecture halls on Wednesday afternoon as they called on the government to produce a statement that would "categorically state that tuition fees will not be reintroduced next year".

Anger among students was provoked earlier this year when the minister introduced a massive 69% increase in third level registration fees putting many students under ever increased



Students march up O Connell street

financial pressure. The move was made "during the summer months while many students were working abroad and away from their colleges and without consultation" commented Eoin Ó Bróin at a rally meeting in the college earlier in the week. Outlining the opinion that Minister Dempsey cannot be trusted

O' Brion stated that no Student Union or student representative body were informed of the increase until they received a fax from the Irish Times asking them for comment.

The failure of the government to continued on backpage

President - Eoin Ó Broin

C'mere I want yis,

Thanks to all of the 400 or so of you who came and "walked the walk" into town last Wednesday. There was such a buzz as people went into the middle of the road coming up to the Parkway and then met about 500 students from the art college on Clare street before meeting 1500 students from Mary I & LIT on O'Connell Street. This is the first time in at least 15 years that UL students marched into the city (confirmation available from Ber Angley). Then the rally at city hall which made the front page of the Limerick Post (delivered direct to 65,000 homes:) and where Robbie & Fiachra from UL entertained the crowd with a song about the fees and some lessons in chanting after speeches from the presidents of the students unions of the four colleges. The impact in the national media could have been better but the main thing was a good number of students turning out(in the rain) for the first big city demo on this issue of the year.

The where to now of the fees campaign will be discussed at Class Reps Council on Tuesday. If your class hasn't a class rep yet be sure to get one soon. This is where issues that require action are thrashed out. Issues such as food prices on campus, security on campus,

community relations or whatever campaigns students suggest for the Union to take on.

On other issues I met the head of Bus Eireann in Limerick Mr. Ian Dodson last Monday and will go to the city council transportation committee meeting this Monday as an observer. On Tuesday I meet head of the library John Lancaster. I will be out in the courtyard on Wednesday from 12pm to 2pm for anyone who wants a chat. After that I hope to see Jim Page American signer songwriter in the Scholars function room. Then that night the SU have organised a debate on the treaty of Nice between Patricia McKenna MEP of the Green Party & Senator Martin Manseragh of Fianna Fáil in the Jean Monet. Other speakers will include UL students from the accession countries. Hopefully this evening will help you make up your mind for Saturdays vote.

On an unrelated note there have been some comments that the media coverage given to ULSU by the Limerick Leader is inaccurate given that they produced a quote from a UL student saying that he bought a ticket for a strip show held on the 2nd October at the Royal George hotel from the Students Union at UL for €5.



I can honestly say that no one in the union so much as even knew about this event let alone had anything to do with the organising. The editor of the Limerick Leader paper Eugene Phelan spoke to me on the phone before publishing the article. He asked me if I knew anything about the event. I said I didn't. He never asked me if ULSU sold tickets for the event but yet he published the piece. Figure it out for yourselves! As far as I can gather no students around Castletroy read the paper anyway but for the main printed media in the mid west to have any kind of leanings against students and the University beggars belief. Imagine the Irish

Times dissing Trinity College. Feel free to comment or write to them about this. I will be doing the same. The most ironic thing is that he spoke to me on the same day as I stuck up fifty photocopies of a limerick leader article praising the SU demo at the opening of Drumroe. What is going on with them?

For photos of the demos see the Photo Soc website which is linked from the SU website.

Slán agus Beir Bua!

Eoin

Welfare/Deputy President - Gráinne Heffron

Dia Dhiabh

So you should all be well settled in at this stage. I am, just about. So what have I been doing for the last two weeks? Well first of all there was the free fees campaign that culminated in a march in town last Wednesday. For all of you who weren't there shame on you but don't worry you can redeem yourself at the next big protest. All is not lost. For those of you who helped out with calling to houses, putting up posters, petitions and banners thanks a million and there will be plenty more work to be done in the coming weeks...

The other big thing on my agenda was the Financial Aid Crèche Bursaries, which were distributed last week. I will be reviewing the criteria for the bursaries as I think the system can be improved so that everyone is reasonably accommodated for. Also if you are calling to me about Financial Aid please try and call on

Mondays between 11.30am and 1pm, as that is the time I am definitely in my office. Otherwise I could be out at meetings and I know people get frustrated knocking with no response. Obviously in case of emergency you can call in anytime.

I have had a lot of questions about the Nitelink and I know that people are concerned about whether it will be up and running again. The situation is that we are negotiating with the university for funding and we will know the outcome of that by the end of the week. Eoin sits on the Finance Committee and he will be fighting the case there this week. The Nitelink is a No. 1 issue for me as Welfare Officer and the rest of the sabbats and I will be pushing hard for it. I am sorry that I don't have any more news but by the end of the week I will know the full story and you can call into the union for details.



Also Next Week is Greek Week so keep an eye out for the brochures with all the events, which include a film festival, food fair, blood drive, and a whole range of other events. There will be bungee jumping on Tues and sponsorship cards can be

collected from the Students' Union reception.

So until next time then

Slán
Gráinne

Education - Margaret Ryan

Hi Everybody

I suppose the first thing is to tell you where we are with the exam papers. They're in the process of being scanned and should be up fairly soon. A lot of people have been asking for them, so I'll just reassure you that we are working on them! I'm hoping to have them all up by the end of week 5, but that depends on availability of people to scan them for me!

The next thing is that as I write this, we're working on the plan for the Class Reps Admin Weekend. There are some class reps already signed up, but we need more from some classes. Gemma and I have been working on the plan for the weekend, and we'll be heading for Ennis on Friday evening at Six. The general plan for the weekend is to make sure that everyone gets to know eachother, so that they can back

eachother up, if that is needed. Then we will provide them with the training that they are going to need to be able to deal with everything that they are going to meet for the next year, be that problems with lecturers, students, and how meetings of Class Reps council proceed, so they know exactly what's going on and when it's going to happen. We will also provide them with the Class Reps Handbook, which we will be picking up from the print room some time on Friday, just before we leave.

As regards what I've been doing for the past few weeks, I've been to a lot of meetings, I've been involved in helping to organise the protest (but not as much as Eoin and Grainne have, well done lads), and trying to review some of the Class Reps Committee Structures. I'll tell you more about that in a few weeks when I'm finished with it.



What kinds of meetings have I been to, well, I went to Academic Council, we've had the first meeting of Class Reps Council and we've had Exec a few times. I've also been to the Student Advisors working group meeting, and all advisors have now been allocated, so if you're in first year, or you're a transferee, then check out sigma to see who your

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Breakfasts 9am to 11.30am
Lunches 12 noon to 4pm
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WEEK 2

MON DJ Eric Fitz

TUES DJ John Kelly
Champs League F/ball
Murphys Comedy Club

WED Republic Of Ireland
vs
Switzerland
Kick Off at 9:00 followed
by DJ

THURS Chart/Party Night
Erasmus Night

FRI DJ Keith Piggott
Happy Hour 5 - 7
+ Comp Finger Food

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Wed 16th Oct
MixitMoto D.J. Competition
Doors @9pm Tickets: €12

Thurs 17th Oct
Simon Fowler Acoustic Show
Ocean Colour Scene have had some strong chart success, notching up five top 10 albums, and an impressive ten top 20 singles including hits 'The Day We Caught The Train', 'The Circle', 'Hundred Mile High City'. Simon Fowler will be joined on stage by fellow-OCS member Oscar Harrison
Doors @ 9pm Tickets: €22.55

Fri 25th Oct
The 4 of Us
THE 4 OF US - spans ten years and three critically acclaimed albums : Songs For The Tempted (1989), Man Alive (1993) and Classified Personal (1999). Always a popular favourite at The Warehouse and sure to be another incredible gig
Doors @9pm Tickets: €12 Student:€10

Sat 26th Oct
Escapade
Escapade give it everything with their lively, infectious and exciting combination of covers and original material. The energy and electricity of their live performance is something worth witnessing. Be there or prepare to cry if you miss it!
Doors @9pm Tickets: €10
Tickets available in advance from Dolan's Pub, 3/4 Dock Road, Limerick
061-314483 / info@dolanspub.com / www.dolanspub.com

advisor is.

As regards the protest, thanks a million to everyone who showed up, it was great to see so many people getting out there to give out about something they feel so strongly about. There was a great atmosphere, and it passed off

peacefully, so well done. We even got mentioned in The Irish Times and on RTE News, which was brilliant.

I think that's pretty much all I've been up to for the last two weeks,

Like I said before, call in if you need anything sorted out, we'll do our best

for you

Margaret

Communications - Paddy Buckley

Hi Everybody. First of all, thanks to everyone who turned up at the registration fees protests on Wednesday afternoon. It was really great to see that so many people actually cared enough to get out on the streets and send a clear message to the government and the Minister for Education. We've all been saying for the last few weeks that fees are coming back unless something like this happens. Here's hoping that the students up and down the country emulate what the students of Limerick achieved last week. As for our next step, watch this space....

Despite all the madness with organising the protest, there are still plenty of other important issues that have to be looked after. One perennial issue is strained relations between the permanent residents and students in Castletroy. Already there have been a number of incidents in the estates which are not helping matters, ranging from the petty to the blatantly illegal. The reality of the situation is that we all live in Casletroy, so the parties on

both sides have got to make an effort to get on. As students, we've got to make an effort to ensure that we don't cause undue disturbances to people who have to get up for work in the morning, or who are raising kids. If it was your parents, what would you think of some muppet roaring "The Fields Of Athenry" at 5 in the morning?

On the issue of safety, Grainne has been hard at work on getting the Nitelink buses back in operation. This is a vital service, and the Students' Union is going to do its utmost to ensure that it operational as soon as possible. Money may be tight with everyone at the moment, but we can't afford to skimp on such an essential service.

The class reps admin weekend was held over this weekend as well. About 50 class reps turned up and everyone had a great time, so kudos to Margaret and Gemma for organising the weekend so well. Class reps are vital to the efficient operating of the Students' Union. They provide a link between the



sabbaticals and the various classes, and let us know what going on in each individual class, so if your class hasn't got a class rep yet, then make sure you get one ASAP.

Finally, the prize for the best article submitted to An Focal is up and running at this stage. The articles are

being judged by three lecturers in the college. Last weeks winner was the writer of the Response to the College Court Residents Association. So, if you fancy getting your hands on 50 euros, then get your thinking caps on and start writing.

Later
Paddy

WANNA WRITE?

Articles, Questions, Comments,
Queries & Theories to

sucommunication@ul.ie

Small Ads

Looking for a house?
Looking for a housemate?
Want to sell something?
Want to buy something?

From the next edition on An Focal will contain a small ads section. Email submissions (Max 30 words) & contact details to
sucommunication@ul.ie

continued from page 1

are out here today because they won't stand for it, it will not be put up with."

Onlooker Breda Flynn said, "I think the students are correct in what they are doing and that the government should wake up."

Colm Jordan, President of Union of Students in Ireland said, "Students are not necessarily here for themselves, there are here because they know there are thousands of people around Limerick and around the country, Kerry, Cork, all over the midlands, the south and the Southwest who still aren't in college and still can't get in despite the fact there are free fees. We need to see a situation where people have enough money to get through college and they don't have to pay fees."

Grainne Heffron, ULSU Welfare Officer said, "Students behaved today as we knew they would. They just want to show how angry they are at the minister and say, look we're here and we're not going to go away. We're going to stick with his all the way."

Sergeant Justin Mc Carthy of Henry St. Garda Station said, "We estimate there was up to 5000 students in the parade today and everything passed off peacefully and quietly. There was



ULSU Sabbatical officers at the fees protest

some traffic congestion, but all in all everything went OK."

David Garraghty 4th year law and European student said, "Even though I am in 4th year I am doing this for my brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews and everyone who'll come after me because the re-introduction of fees would be absolutely crazy, it would be a barrier to people from all sectors of society."

Eoin O Broin thanked all the UL students for making the effort to go

out and protest as it is a situation that will affect all third level students if full tuition fees are implemented. He stressed that Wednesdays' action was part of an ongoing campaign and that ULSU would work with the other Limerick students unions to oppose Minister Dempsey's plans. O'Broin said, "What we are saying to people is to go home and get onto their Td's, get onto their parents and tell them that we do not want tuition fees. The government are spending 1.1 billion on roads and they have to cut back 37 million on education. I have to ask where do their priorities lie?"

What you said.....

David Garraghty, 4th law and European student
"Even though I am in 4th year I am doing this for my brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews and everyone who'll come after me because the re-introduction of fees would be absolutely crazy, it would be a barrier to people from all sectors of society."

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"Students behaved today as we knew they would. They just want to show how angry they are at the minister and say, look we're here and we're not going to go away. We're going to stick with his all the way."

Mike Quinn, Mary Immaculate College Student Union

"Investment in education is investment in the nations' future".

Eoin O'Broin, ULSU President

"What we are saying to people are to go home and get onto their TD's, get onto their parents and tell them that we do not want tuition fees

Eamon O'Flynn, Masters in Entrepreneurship.
"Its a bit rich of the government to cut back on education at a time when our economic future is so uncertain."

Class Reps Admin Weekend

by Gemma Nolan

Well the last few weeks have been pretty busy, I can't believe it is Week 4 already. Time flies when you are having fun I guess!! So what have I been doing? I have been training the new Secretariat Liz Healy and Marian Roche for their respective positions. They are adjusting to their roles really well and doing a great job I must say. The Secretariat can be a thankless job at times so everyone spare a thought for the two girls.

We have had our first Class Reps' Council meeting, which had a small number present, but we have built on this since and hope to have a larger number at tonight's meeting (Tues 15th). This meeting is on in Room 5 of the Students' Union at 6 p.m. by the way! I have also been at the Clubs and Societies Admin Weekend, which was a success and good craic. As I write this I am just about recovering from the Class

Reps' Admin Weekend. This involved the SU Executive Officers' and I taking the Reps' away on Friday last to the West County Hotel for an overnight stay and training session the next day. We had a few guest speakers such as John Mulcahy former Community Officer, Tom O' Donovan former Education Officer, Andrew Flood from the Workers Solidarity Movement and Dee Quinn former Secretariat. They all related their various experiences in their different roles to the Class Reps' and many thanks to all four for their valuable contributions.

We also ran a mock Council to highlight to the Reps' how the theory of a meeting works in reality. The participation was excellent, so hopefully I have a lively bunch on my hands this year. The group work and role-playing was also fruitful and fun. The Icebreakers were funny and yes we also once again received some dirt through the "Most embarrassing

moment" question, which for now will remain untalked of, watch this page however!!

All in all it seems as if most people enjoyed the weekend, even if it was just because of the singsong that went on into the wee small hours of Saturday morning, which even the other hotel residents took part in. We seem to have acquired some great singers, dancers, musicians & entertainers this year, with some deadly performances from even the SU Executive Officers' and one or two Class Reps' who will remain nameless.....NOT!! Simon Renardson, Eamonn O' Flynn, Shane Dempsey and Patrick McHugh thank you!! Ahh c'mon lads ye didn't think ye were going to get off that easily now did ye?

I would like to say a big Thanks to Margaret Ryan the Education Officer who even in the middle of her own work load played a huge part in the

piecing together of the weekend. The behind the scenes work that most people do not realise has to happen to get such an Admin Weekend off the ground. Also Thank You to all the other Executive Officers' who gave up their weekend to participate in the training bestowing their own knowledge upon the Class Reps' and generally making it good fun for all involved. Lastly thanks to the Class Reps' who came along, as without ye the weekend obviously could not have worked. I know a lot of the Class Reps' did not get to go, but this is something we in the SU plan to remedy for next year with your help. Ok that's it from me for now see you all at the Class Reps' Council tonight (Tues 15th).



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Community Relations

by Maire-Claire Butler

For nine months of the year we live in Castletroy, as student residents. We have as much right as the next person to live here; we pay our rent, our bills and attend college here. However, we have an obligation, to both ourselves individually and as a collective 'group' of college students to respect those people who live here and have lived here all their lives.

A number of issues has recently been drawn to light to the Students Union concerning incidents which have occurred over the past number of weeks in the housing estates around the Castletroy area. These incidents have included excessive noise levels late at night, litter problems and more seriously, a number of property damages have occurred. The Students Union is undoubtedly aware that these occurrences happen at the hands of a very small minority of students. We are, by no means, pointing the finger at every student that walks through the gates of the college, but still the fact remains that these things are going on and it is up to us as moralistic individuals (if anything) to try to curb these things from happening. We, as a group are taking the blame for things that are not entirely our fault. These people that do these things are a small group, but we are still bracketed together as they are members of our place in society as students. Admittedly, this is unfair, so what can we do to stop this?? We have to try and be aware of the people living around us, and also the actions of the people who are carrying out the things that are so blatantly wrong.

The primary issues are minor enough and can be rectified quite easily by us all, the issue of property damage is more serious and applies to a small few.

Litter:

This shouldn't even be a problem to begin with. We all should have respect for our environment, and there is no just cause for throwing litter. There are plenty of rubbish bins around, so no excuses!!!

Also, there have been reports of Wheelie Bins being toppled over, lads theres absolutely no point in doing that sort of thing. It's stupid to



begin with and it starts to create lots of other problems such as smell and unsightliness.

Noise:

This is something that happens every night of the week, and again can be avoided to a certain extent. We are all guilty of this at some time or another. All I can say is try and keep the noise levels as low as possible coming home at night. Its easy enough after a night out to have a sing song on the way home, that's acceptable to a point, but roaring and screaming at 3am in the morning is by no means necessary, and it is really unfair to both residents and everyone else trying to sleep.

We should be aware that there are a number of elderly people in the area and this is not good for their health. Also, people have an entitlement to a good nights sleep, and being woken up in the middle of the night by a few people screaming at each other is not fair to anyone.

Playing sport on the road:

This really is not a huge problem at all, this is just a reminder that there are plenty of greens in the housing estates to kick around a football or have a few pucks of a hurl. The road is really no place for this. Firstly, it's dangerous, not that Castletroy is the Super Highway of Ireland or anything, but the risk is still there of a possible accident happening. Also, it really is a nuisance and the likelihood of putting a ball through a window is much higher if you are on the road,

as you are closer to the houses. Plus, on the greens, you have more space!! Just a few things to think about!!

Property Damage:

This is really a serious issue. As I've already mentioned, there have been reports of damage to resident's homes, gardens and property in the last few weeks. Some of these have been relatively serious. It really is alarming to see what's going on in terms of damage. It most definately is being instigated by a very small number of students, but it shocking to think that mindless damage is being done to other people's property, with no just cause in the world. It is really difficult to even begin to contemplate the reasoning behind these acts, and

I am pleading to anyone who has ever done anything like this or if the thought has ever occurred to you to do these things to just stop and think. If it were your house at home would you do it?? Would you do it to your own stuff?? I don't think so. So have respect for other people's property, it's not yours to mess with.

The continuation of these incidents can result in a lot of implications for us students. Obviously, it creates unnecessary bad blood between residents and students. Secondly, a lot of these things mentioned are punishable by law. The fact of the matter is that you WILL get arrested, you WILL get charged and you WILL get a criminal record if you are caught damaging property. There is CCTV all over Castletroy, so if your mug (ugly or otherwise...) is captured on any of these cameras and you are found to be breaking the law, it spells BIG trouble.

Also there are a lot of other underlying implications besides the obvious. If these damages continue to occur, it could have an effect on Rag Week and other such student events. And we definately DON'T want that happening!!!

Lad's, these things that I've mentioned can be avoided. It's really easy to get along with our lives and let other people get on with theirs. We are only here for four years, and we should be able to live side by side with our Castletroy neighbours without friction or unnecessary incident..



NITELINK BUS

The Nitelink Bus Service has been delayed due to funding problems. The Students' Union are in negotiations with the college and the outcome will be known at the end of the week. As Welfare Officer I would like to apologise for the delay and I will keep you informed of developments.

Gráinne Heffron, Welfare Officer

- Visit King Johns Castle
- Get your haircut
- Don't get your haircut
- Go picking Mushrooms in the fields
- Go picking Berries along the river
- Get your bicycle fixed
- Read the newspaper
- See the dentist
- Go for a walk to the Lame Duck
- Walk into town by the river
- Go Sailing in Killaloe
- Go Kayaking on the Shannon
- Read a book in the library newspaper area
- Go for a swim
- Practise Juggling
- attend a lecture from a completely different course
- Cycle to Lough Gur Stone Circle
- See Jim Page insan Phluais.
- Play Pitch & Putt
- Go for Coffee with an Erasmus Student
- Visit Hunt Museum
- Go to Art Gallery near Peoples Park
- Check out the designer stores
- Check out Limerick's 12 charity shops
- Run on the running track
- Cycle to the Clare Glens
- Go Karting
- Don't go to Class
- Visit an old folks home
- Play Hurling
- Try to find places mentioned in Angelas Ashes
-
- Half day Wednesday should be your chance to cat
- go for it!

UL Careers Fair

by Mary Sweeney

The Cooperative Education & Careers Division is organising a major on-campus Careers Fair on Tuesday, 22nd October. This is a key event in the graduate recruitment activity with some 70 companies already registered to participate. The Fair will take place in the Sports Arena and will be open to students from 12.00 until 4.00 p.m. Many sectors of employment will be represented so there should be something of interest for students of all disciplines.

What's it all about?

For those of you who have never attended a Careers Fair (or Recruitment Fair), this provides you with a unique opportunity to meet with a number of employers who plan to recruit UL graduates in 2003. Some of these employers will also have immediate vacancies to fill. Representatives of these companies will describe their organisation and typical vacancies with a view to encouraging you to apply when vacancies arise.

What companies will be present?

We will have about 70 companies participating in the Fair. This will include large and small companies, local, national and international companies, representing all disciplines. What they have in common is an interest in meeting students who may be potential employees in the year 2003.

Why should you attend?
The UL Careers Fair gives you the opportunity to

- Make personal contact with leading graduate employers in many sectors of industry and commerce;
- Get expert advice on what a career with a particular company might involve and how you can get the job you want;
- Collect company literature and information to help you compare companies;
- Determine which organisation you would like to join.

Be Prepared!

To make the best of this opportunity you will need to be prepared. Few employers will offer you a job on the spot but if you make the right impression this will be to your advantage at the interview stage. Here are some tips to help you on the day:

- ==> Do some research on companies you want to see. Read the company entries in this publication carefully and check the company websites.
- ==> For help in preparing a CV, attend the seminar on 'Making Effective Applications' on October 14th.
- ==> Attend the seminar on 'Preparing for the Careers Fair' on October 21st.
- ==> Have your CV checked at the CV Clinic on October 17th.

- ==> Take along several copies of your CV to leave with employers.
- ==> Make note of the names of any contacts you make on the day.
- ==> Think about your strengths and skills and be able to tell an employer what you have to offer.
- ==> Think about what questions you want to ask them: What vacancies do they have? What are their requirements? What training opportunities do they offer?
- ==> Be sure to visit the less well-known organisations also as they often have very challenging opportunities to offer.

The UL Careers Fair is an ideal opportunity to make contact with a significant number of employers who have real jobs to offer. By preparing for the event, you stand a better

chance of using the time and opportunity effectively. Know what you want from the fair; know what you have to offer, and be prepared to consider everything. This is your chance to make some useful contacts and see what opportunities are out there.....SO DON'T MISS OUT!

Further Details:

Details of the participating companies are included in Careers by Degrees 2002-2003 which is available from the Cooperative Education & Careers Division at E0005. This document can also be downloaded from the Careers website at <http://www.ul.ie/careers/careers/jobfile/grads.shtml>. Links to the websites of individual companies are provided.

Any queries can be directed to Mary Sweeney, Head of Careers, Cooperative Education & Careers Division, at: mary.sweeney@ul.ie.



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Tel: 087 6863333

GREEK WEEK

Its coming..... Greek Week is a fesival staged by the University of Limerick Students' Union in conjunction with the Arts Office, the Stables and Scholars Clubs and the University of Limerick. Put simply it's a celebration of student life. The idea is simple, we want to showcase the activities on and around campus that are available to you. We have thriving and diverse clubs and societies on campus, and we hope this week will give them an opportunity to highlight what you're missing out on if you're not involved. Not only that, we have facilities like the University Arena and the University Concert Hall, which offer opportunities for rest and relaxation all year around. For more information, check out the timetable on the following page, or pick up a copy of the Greek Week handbook which will be available all around campus. Some events are listed below as well, just to give you a taster of what to expect.

UL Blood Drive

No, the SU have not turned into blood sucking vampires....but there are people who do need your blood. How better to prove that the students of UL can do something worthwhile than save a few hundred lives?! Blood donation seems to have a fear or a worry attached to it, but just look at it this way, if it was your mum, dad, bro, sis, best friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, child whose life was in danger, wouldn't you do anything you could to help!! The whole point is it could be, someday!!

The demand for blood is constantly outstripping the supply, with many operations being cancelled daily due to the shortfall. Emergency operations involving road accident victims use up a large proportion of the blood presently in storage, and emergency cases add extra strain on blood supplies that are already critically limited. Blood can only be stored for 35 days, so ye can see the urgent need for donors constantly.

All that's involved is one hour of your time, and a little generosity on your part!! Giving blood believe it or not is itself relatively painless and many people barely know it's happening. At best, you get to chill out for a while, lie down and get a cup of tea/coffee and lots of chocky bics.

After 10 minutes, ye'll all be fighting fit and ready to go again, and in the meantime, you have possibly saved a life with one donation.



The Green Fair

As part of Greek Week here in UL, the Environmental Society proudly present the Green Fair. The fair is to be held on the Wednesday of week 5, between 10am and 5pm at the Stables courtyard. The Green Fair is our contribution to the amazing Greek Week; it's an annual event in UL. A lot of you will remember the success of last year's Green Fair and this year promises to be the biggest, brightest and greenest fair to have ever been held here! So what is the Green Fair? Basically, it's a day for everyone to come view alternatives to their everyday lifestyles, to learn about various environmental issues, to have a lot of craic watching the different entertainers (jugglers, face painters) and to soak up the unique atmosphere. We hope to have a lot of different environmental and social groups present with various stalls. Some of these groups would include Amnesty, Earthwatch, Genetic Concern, Birdwatch, Ireland, LSPCA, ARAN and loads more. There will be stalls on Fair Trade and vegetarianism (with really good snacks!). There'll be a talk on sustainability that promises to be excellent.

You'll be surprised what you will find at the Green Fair. As Denise Ryan, a UL Enviro. Soc member says; "the Green Fair is a chance for a person to see it all at once and to beautify both body and soul". There will be a lot of interesting crafts there too, from aromatherapy products, cool jewellery and clothes to homemade soaps and Fair Trade Goods. Be sure not to miss the basket weaving or the beautiful pottery on display!

We hope to build a bicycle generator together at the Fair. Watch this space... The most exciting part of the year's Green Fair has to be the huge tipi that we're going to have there. Come join us for cooking lessons in the tipi or bongo sessions!

Who's going to be there?

The Green Fair is open to all students and members of the community, free admission, you're guaranteed to have a laugh and learn about some interesting stuff. Whether you want to know about organic foods, action groups or handcrafts, come along and don't miss out on the fun.

Feicimid sibh ansin!

For more info: environ@csn.ul.ie



Bungee Jumping ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH?

PROCEEDS TO CHARITY

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET 100 EURO SPONSORSHIP

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TIMETABLE

Monday

U.L. Blood Drive
10 - 5, The Students Center

Sous La Sable & Tommy Tiernan
8:00, The Jean Monnet

Salsa & Cheile Competition
8:00, Scholars

Music Society Battle of the Bands
8:00, Stables Clubs

10 Forward Film Festival
7:00, FG042 Featuring
"Seven"
"Fight Club"

TUESDAY

U.L. Blood Drive
10 - 5, The Students Center

History Soc, Professions of the Past
10 - 5, Stables Courtyard

Bungee Jumping
10 - 5, East Gate Carpark

Drama Soc - "Regency Romance"
7 - Johnathon Swift

Murphys Comedy Club
8, Scholars Function Room

10 Forward Film Festival
7:00, FG042 Featuring
"Romeo & Julliet"
"Fight Club"

WEDNESDAY

U.L. Blood Drive
10 - 5, The Students Center

U.L.ympics
10 - 5, Arena

Environmental Soc - Green Fair
10 - 5, Stables Courtyard

Josh Ritter
8 - Jean Monnet

10 Forward Film Festival
7:00, FG042 Featuring
"The Big Lebowski"
"Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?"

THURSDAY

Welfare/Information Stand
10 - 5, Main Canteen

Drama Soc - "The Gift"
8 - Johnathon Swift

Computer Soc - Retro Gaming
10 - 5, Stables Courtyard

ESN - International Foodfair
8, Main Canteen

10 Forward Film Festival
7:00, FG042 Featuring
"Star Wars"
"The Empire Strikes Back"
"The Return of the Jedi"

friday

10 Forward Film Festival
7:00, FG042 Featuring
"The Shining"
"Full Metal Jackets"

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Kayak Club - UL Descent
10 - The Shannon River

10 Forward Film Festival

Saturday
11:00, FG042 Featuring
"Duel"
"Raiders Of The Lost Ark"
"Close Encounters Of The Third Kind"
"Jurassic Park"
"Minority Report"
"Jaws"

Sunday
11:00, FG042 Featuring
"Nightmare Before Christmas"
"Beetlejuice"
"Ed Wood"
"Batman"
"Edward Scissorhands"
"Sleepy Hollow"

Trouble in the North

by James Hoare

he Northern Ireland assembly is yet again in crisis as unionists have demanded the expulsion of the Sinn Fein party from the Power Sharing Executive. These demands follow in the aftermath of PSNI raids on the Sinn Fein offices in Stormont and on other houses in Belfast. The pictures of heavily armed PSNI officers raiding Sinn Fein's party headquarters in Stormont proved to be a godsend for the majority of unionists who are determined to bring down the power sharing assembly.

It is highly suspicious as to the timing of the PSNI raids as they come in the wake of the Ulster Unionist Council meeting on the 21st September, which gave January 18th as the deadline for total disarmament and disbandment of the IRA. Considering that the PSNI has known for approximately 12 months about the alleged mole, why didn't they act sooner rather than waiting until now? Sinn Fein's theory on this is that they waited until now so that the spotlight would once again be turned on them rather than on the UUP who have been in the spotlight since their council meeting on the 21st of last month.

Pending a trial of the accused, we are still unaware as to whether they

was carried out. On Monday, October 7th, the new Chief Constable of the PSNI, Hugh Orde, publicly apologized for the way in which the police handled the raid on Sinn Fein's office in Stormont. He said that with hindsight the raid could have been carried out differently, but he added, "The search was essential. That had to be done. That's not the issue for me. It is the style in which we did it and I think we could have done it better." In response to Hugh Orde's public apology, Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams said, "It's gracious of him to apologise but it's a bit late. The raid was very clearly part of an effort to stitch Sinn Fein into whatever's happening after the UUP pulled out of the institution".

Speaking in response to allegations that Sinn Fein is to blame for the current crisis, Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness said, "We do not accept any responsibility for the crises!". Mr. McGuinness believes that "there are people out there trying to knock us down all the time within the British military intelligence and within unionism". Mr. McGuinness is not sure whether or not IRA spies were collecting intelligence materials but stated "what I do know is that for the past ten years, the Northern Ireland office have been bugging our houses, our gardens, our phones and bugging our cars. They've actually admitted it. Mo Mowlam



Martin McGuinness

are guilty or not guilty and so at the moment we can only examine the timing and the way in which the raid

admitted it, when she was secretary of State that she authorized military intelligence operatives to bug a car



Stormont

being used by Gerry Adams and myself when we were running around the country trying to save the Good Friday Agreement.

Speaking on Tuesday October 8th, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, urged the parties of peace process not to rush to judgment over the police raids on Sinn Fein's Stormont office at the weekend." It is not a time to be judgmental. It's a time, I think, for us to be fairly clear sighted, not just about the longer term, and see how we can manage this.

Three of the most important meeting's in the Northern Ireland Assembly's history are planned to take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, will meet David Trimble on Tuesday, Bertie Ahern on Wednesday and Gerry Adams on Thursday. The North's First Minister, David Trimble, has stated that his meeting with Mr. Blair will determine the next step in the current crisis. Mr. Trimble is seeking the expulsion of Sinn Fein, to agree to the expulsion of Sinn Fein. If, as is likely, the SDLP renege on taking this action, then Mr. Trimble and his ministerial colleagues will resign from the executive. These resignations will also trigger the resignation of Dr. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists. However, Mr. Trimble would favor if Mr. Blair were to suspend the executive rather than he be the one to pull the plug on the assembly. But Mr. Blair will most likely renege on taking any action until he has met with Mr. Ahern and Mr. Adams.

police searches on Sinn Fein's offices in Stormont, it seems unlikely that the Northern Assembly will last much longer; and if it does collapse, what then? In my opinion, it could take years before we refind the balance that exists in the north at the moment and that is based on the belief that peace can be upheld. It is quite evident to me that the Loyalist paramilitaries are trying to force the IRA back into fighting and if that does happen then we may have to wait for another 30 years until we get the chance for peace. But, I believe that it is unlikely that the IRA would be tempted to break their ceasefires, as the majority of Nationalists would be against such a move. If the peace process had to be renegotiated, I believe, that Nationalists would be against such a move. If the peace process had to be renegotiated, I believe, that Nationalists would not accept less than they already have because they can feel the demographic tide flowing in their direction. In my opinion the people of Northern Ireland would be best served if the political parties took a period to calm down and once their emotions have died down and clarity of judgment has broken through, they can then begin to sort out the current crisis that hangs over Northern politics like the mushroom cloud did over Hiroshima. As a British government spokesperson said during the week" It's always easier to bring things down that to build them up!"

After the revelations from last Fridays

ulsu ents

pay attention

josh ritter

@

the monnet



A student from the University of Limerick will be one step closer to being the next superstar DJ...

The University of Limerick will be hosting a regional heat for MixitMoto, a nationwide competition for wannabe DJ's on Wednesday 16th October. The fourteen-date tour will land at Dolans Warehouse where one student will be able to prove they are the daddy on the decks. Not only will one lucky lad or lass win the accolade, NUS Ents are also providing press opportunities for your readership to win their very own mobile phone.

Wannabe DJs will have a chance to strut their stuff in front of a panel of judges including music industry professionals. Yousef will also take to the decks to give union revellers a night of class tunes.

MixitMoto will push the boundaries of DJs welcoming all genres of music and encourages the use of tricks, samples, effects and showmanship in each set in a bid to find unique and entertaining new talent. DJs will be marked on originality, innovation, technical skill and ability to entertain the crowd. All winners will then go onto the final being held at a top London club where a fantastic package of prizes can be won.

Prizes for regional heat winners:

The latest Motorola handset

Place in London Final

MixitMoto goodies

And the accolade of 'MixitMoto' Regional Student DJ Champion'

Prize for Final Winner

Representation from DJ agency CODA

£500 to buy equipment

A cameo role in new film 'It's all gone Pete Tong' from producers of 'Human Traffic'

Opportunity to have featured mix on film soundtrack and soundtrack album

Opportunity to mix a cover CD for Mixmag

Opportunity to remix a Cornershop tune

And a state of the art Motorola mobile phone



Wannabe DJs should send mix tapes or CDs (max 20 mins in length) to MixitMoto, C/O NUS Ents, 45 Underwood Street, London, N1 7LG, enclosing name, university, contact address, email and phone number. Closing date is October 4th 2002., or alternatively contact the Students' Union.

MixitMoto is the only National Student DJ competition recognised by National Union of Students (NUS UK) and the Union of Students (USI Ireland)

To find out more about MixitMoto click on www.motorola.com and go to MixitMoto



Week 2 & Week 3





The Stables Club

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

www.stablesclub.com

Week 4

Monday
The Extreme Sport Promotion
IN ASSOCIATION WITH COORS LIGHT

Tuesday
Karaoke

Wednesday
BAND: TBC 9.30pm

Thursday
PaintBall Challenge
IN ASSOCIATION WITH HEINEKEN & COMBATZONE

Friday
80's Night 9pm

KARAOKE HAS STARTED @ THE STABLES CLUB!

CALL IN ON TUESDAY NIGHTS TO JOIN IN OR JUST ENJOY!!



Week 5 - Clubs & Socs Week

Monday
BAND: Revelation Sound 9pm

Tuesday
Students' Union Gig 9pm

Wednesday
BAND: Free Beer 9pm

Thursday
BAND: DeJambe 9pm

Friday
80's Night 9pm

Ali G was in Da House last week - u never know who you ll see @ The Stables Club!



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8AM-12 BREAKFAST | 12-3 LUNCH MENU | 3-7 EVENING SPECIALS

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E info@stablesclub.com - W www.stablesclub.com
Email your photos to webmaster@stablesclub.com

Arena Sports Club

The Arena Sports Club - THE Sports Venue

The Club features a Plasma Screen TV, and Big screen showing many sporting events. Our function room, equipped with Audio-Visual facilities is also available for group bookings. We have plenty of entertainment lined up for the year - check notice boards & posters for details.



We have recently launched our newest entertainment venture here at the **Arena Sports Club**. Our Open Mic sessions have proven a resounding success, with plenty of participants each night and an enjoyable night for all!

Should you decide to come down, please don't hesitate to bring an instrument or just sing. We guarantee that we will look after you - encouragement before & plenty of applause after!

COMPETITIONS AT www.arenasportsclub.com

WEEK 4

Monday
The Greatest Music

Tuesday
Trad Session - All Welcome

Wednesday
'Open Mic' - Your opportunity to dazzle - singing, comedy or instruments

Thursday
Jamming with the Folk Club

Friday
Music Night

Sunday
Jamming & Trad Session

T: (061) 332760 | E: info@arenasportsclub.com

WEEK 5

Monday
The Greatest Music

Tuesday
Trad Session - All Welcome

Wednesday
'Open Mic' - Your opportunity to dazzle - singing, comedy or instruments

Thursday
Jamming with the Folk Club

Friday
Music Night

Sunday
Jamming & Trad Session

F: (061) 339641 | W: www.arenasportsclub.com

Tuesday Week 4: Murphy's Comedy Club**Scholar's Function Room****Paddy Courtney** →**Doors @ 8pm****Wednesday Week 4: MixitMoto D.J. Comp****Featuring Yousef, Resident Cream D.J.****Dolan's Warehouse****Doors @ 8pm****Wednesday Week 5****Jean Monnet****ULSU ents +****ULartsoffice****featuring****Josh Ritter****+****support****Doors @ 8pm****Tickets 10euro****Upcoming Heineken Midweekers**

Every Second Wednesday in the Monnet

coming to UL.

wk 5,7,9

Josh Ritter

Mundy

The Frames+

(+ frames in concert hall, tickets on sale monday week 08)**YOUR WEEKLY NIGHTS OUT**

wed @ Docs

thurs @ The Market

tickets 7/7.50 euro

including buses

UL arts office presents

AUTUMN FILM SEASON

free film in the Monnet

every Monday @ 6:30

21st October - Sous La Sable

04 November - Tears Of The Black Tiger

THE MURPHY'S DOT COMEDY

Scholar's Function Room

Tues Wk. 4

Paddy Courtney

Tues Wk. 5

Michael Mee

Doors @ 8pm

Price - Come and find out

ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM STUDENTS' UNION RECEPTION FROM THE MONDAY OF EACH WEEK @ 9AM

Harder Generation

by Timmy Hennessy

News:
Welcome to the third instalment of your dance music resource page. This week we have some gig reviews, a very quick run through nights of interest in the city, and later my chart.
But first, the major news in my world (and I'm the one writing this..) is that I've left Wired Fm. Not that this makes much difference seeing as no-one can get the station, but I'm not too worried as there is something major about to hit the airwaves of limerick soon. Watch this space.

Gig Reviews:
Techno Monkeys (Thursdays, The Globe) [Door: 8 yoyos]
Last week was the opening week, and to be honest we had hoped for a

better crowd. Hopefully the word has started to spread of the night and people will check it out, and you should. I opened the night from about 11:30 playing some proper banging Hard House to get everyone going. At around 1am Niall Burke went on the decks. As I'm not a huge techno fan it's very hard for me to describe his set, but needless to say I was very impressed with his sounds.

Soul Clinic (Thursdays, Dolan's)
When I finished my set up at the globe I was left with 2 hours to spare, so I decided to head down to Dolan's and check out the near legend of a night that is Soul Clinic.
The first thing that struck me going in is how the venue suits the music style (or should that be the other way round?), nice big open room packed (but not overcrowded) with lots of very happy people. The music style

was as always with Soul Clinic deep and soulful house, with the dj getting everything right: track selection was perfect, mixing was perfect and some nice scratching in there too. Top night.

Listings:
Techno Monkeys Are Go! (Thursdays, The Globe, Door: 8 Euro)
Hard house till 1am, Techno till 3am.
Soul Clinic (Thursdays, Dolan's Warehouse)
Gage (Fridays, The Savoy, Door: Free b4 12)
Progressive all the way from:
Jon Greenwood
Leoine
Dave Meehan

Top Of The Box!
This a quick run down of the tracks that are rocking my world in no particular order..
Nick Rafferty - Do You Want Some More (NR Recordings)
Marc Johnson & DMF - Crunchy (Elasticman)
4 Motion - Over 4 Me (White)
Jez & Charlie - Razors Edge [Reynolds & Blake Mix] (Vicious Circle)
Mark Kavanagh - Moo Moo Land 1 (Babydoll)
Alan Pullen - Get The F**k Up (Babydoll)
Andy Farley - Your Fear (Nukleuz Blue)
Ilogik & Bazooka Joe - Insomniacs [Mark Kavanagh Mix] (Elasticman)
Olly P & Sinclair - The Venue (Nukleuz)
FalloutBoy - Hallucination Generation [OD404 Mix] (Bulletproof)

The Frank And Walters

by Peter Burrows

Okay UL I don't usually shout but GET OFF YOUR ASS and check out the gigs in the Monnet happening every odd Wednesday. This fortnight's gig was "The Frank and Walters", a Cork based band that have been treading the boards of the Irish Music scene for the past decade and a bit. Supported by Bablefish and Adrian O'Connell the gig promised to be a musical treat. However and it's a big however, the sum total of 78 people in the Monnet does not a great night make.



First to the support, I have to admit of not making the gig in time to see Adrian play, due mainly to the efficiencies of the Limerick Bus service (but that is another article). Accompanied by his acoustic guitar Adrian who has reviewed many gigs in this fair publication got a chance to put his money where his mouth is, well his lyrics anyway. By all accounts the performance was more about finding his own feet than blowing away the audience but those I talked to afterwards sang his praises.

On then to the second act of the night, the aptly titled Babelfish. For those of you unfamiliar with Douglas Adams Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy the Babelfish is a creature which when place against the ear allows you to decipher any foreign language, a sort of universal translator if you will. Call me stupid but listening to this quintet I wished I had one. The band's single "Sometimes" was the highlight of what was a pretty dismal set.

The band who layer sampled sounds on top of real instruments and nauseating lyrics failed in my opinion to find their own voice, settling instead for music for musics sake. To give them their due they were all competent musicians and perhaps

the diminutive nature of the crowd contributed to their lack of enthusiasm for the gig. For this reason I would be willing to give them a second listen, but I doubt if HMV too taxed by their record sales.

What can be said about the Frank and Walters, their musical hooks and apparent affinity with pop sensibilities have infused their songs in the Irish consciousness. Even those like myself who were unfamiliar with the band prior to the gig recognized the bands hits like "After all" and "This is not a song".

Given the circumstances of the gig, the bands late arrival and the self confessed lack of a sound check, the Walters' played a fine set. Previously I have waxed lyrical about the greatness of the Jean Monnet as a venue for gigs. This time I have to admit when I'm wrong, the Monnet is a great venue for acoustic type sessions, putting the Walters in the Monnet is like OJ Simpson playing Ghandi - woefully miscast. The Cork trio's sheer energy and toe tapping tunes require a venue where the crowd can really let loose and let the melody take over. The Monnet is not that venue.

The energy of the gig is derived in no small part from the excellence of the



bands drummer Ashley Keating. I must confess to be mesmerised by his rhythms. The couple of solo runs he played were magic and reminded me of the Manics at their best. Lead singer Paul Linehan tried his best to engage the crowd but really looked uneasy in the intimate setting. While his anecdotes may need a little work his singing certainly doesn't. My only gripe with the gig was the encore that consisted of a single song. Due in most part to the bands discomfort with the setting and the lack of turn out, this gripe can be forgiven.

I'll finish with plea, with Josh Ritter, Mundy and the Frames all listed for this semester, please don't fall into the trap of student apathy, put down the books and the pints for one night and come to the Monnet to broaden your musical horizons.

PSA AGM

by John O Reilly

It was standing room only in the postgrad centre for the AGM in week 3. The focus of the AGM was to elect a new generation of volunteers to the various posts in the association. Five people were elected to the executive committee, which takes care of the day to day running of the association. Five people were elected as collage reps, these brave and patient people that listen to postgrads' complaints. Last but not least is the Social Committee which gets to organise and run all the fun events. In order to make sure the PSA caters to all any postgrad can come along to the social committee meetings and is welcome to make suggestions.

Remember that the PSA's job is to support as well as entertain. Feel free

to approach committee members about serious university related issues as well as ideas for social events. Below is the contact information for this years committees.

College Reps: These people want to hear your problems!

Education

Jarlath Munnelly

jarlath.munnelly@ul.ie

Engineering

Frances Coughlan

frances.coughlan@ul.ie

Humanities

Gearldine O' Sullivan

9741593@student.ul.ie

Business

Wenchuan Liu

wenchuan.liu@ul.ie

Informatics & Electronics

Brendan Geaney

0202878@student.ul.ie



Hide from scary first years in the postgrad centre

Science

Siobhan Curtin

siobahan.curtin@ul.ie

Receive news of all events by joining the subscription list:

www.ul.ie/~psa

Shock horror, as President of PSA goes into labour!!

by Anthony Kilpatrick

Jarlath Munnelly, president of the Postgrads association last night went into labour while queuing for a cheese sandwich in the Students' Union delicatessen. One of Munnelly's many adoring female fans finally went too far and got him pregnant confidential reports suggest today.

Jarlath has been linked with people such as Julia Roberts, Jennifer Aniston, and Hillary Clinton in the past, and close sources to the mayo-man said this morning that this was an accident waiting to happen. While Jarlath recovers in hospital after his dramatic and painful ordeal, I feel it is my duty to inform you, the readers, about his extraordinary life.

Jarlath Munnelly was conceived by Mammy Munnelly at the beginning of the 1980's. He quickly became your average mayo-man: by winning the inter-county tractor-throwing competition at the tender age of six, and also by making a much anticipated guest appearance alongside Pamela Anderson and David Hasslehoff, when the show 'Baywatch' paid a visit to a make-shift beach on the main street in Castlebar!!

As the years rolled by, Jarlath reached the big-time: a co-ed secondary school not situated up a mountain!! Throughout his second-level education, Jarlath appeared to be becoming the next Albert Einstein/



Hulk Hogan: he never got lower then an A1 grade in any examination, and he also won a Nobel prize for being just so damn brilliant!!

Being this gifted, it is only natural to assume that Jarlath received exceedingly large amounts of fan-mail/ women's underwear, which is why the band 'S-Club 7' established the 'Munnelly is lovely' fan club!! Some months later, Jarlath went on to marry each female member of the pop group (I thought that they were all women!!) and then had a grand total of 57 mini-Jarlath's, all of which still roam aimlessly around the Mayo countryside screaming his trademark saying... "HELLO!!!"

At the age of seventeen, Jarlath had accomplished everything: a lot more than your average Mayo-man born and reared on a farm it must be said. But Jarlath has always had luck on his side: He has a 57 storey mansion, 33 Bmw's, a Nobel prize, 2 Oscars, 5Grammy's, a lifetimes supply of Fig-Rolls, and soft manageable hair too!! Also, in a former life, he played 'Da Fonz' on the hit comedy 'Happy

Days', and was supposedly the first Mayo-man to walk on the moon reports mention!!

As you can very well see, Jarlath Munnelly is quite an inspiration figure. Can you imagine how you would feel if, while attending secondary school, arriving into your first class on a dreary Monday morning, you heard the now legendary words "HELLO!!" erupting from behind the teachers desk? Well, I got to experience this sensation while at Crescent Comprehensive last year: where Jarlath and his mentor Gus took our engineering class while being repeatedly hung over!! Jarlath was also not very fond of teaching us the theory element of our engineering class, and so always roared the words "Practical Lads" before his head would hit the desk and the snoring would begin.

Another action-packed memory I have of Jarlath came from an event that occurred only last weekend. Jarlath was returning to the Postgrads centre concluding an afternoon picnic with Holly Valance,

when news broke out about the theft of the rectifier from the Postgrads association microwave!! Jarlath appeared like B.A from the 'A-Team' when he received the horrific news: his muscles tore through his shirt, and his gold teeth sparkled in the autumn sleet!!

He hunted the culprit day and night in his top of the range Lada convertible 5 series until finally retrieving his most prized possession from the clutches of evil!! I also remember that day well, mainly due to the fact that it was the day Holly Valance became Holly Munnelly!! Now there is a tongue twister of a name for you!!

That is Jarlath's remarkable life-story told in a few paragraphs. Now Jarlath looks towards the future: he is now the president of the Postgrads association, where he gets to meet many different people: Postgrads, Postgrads, and you guessed it, more Postgrads!! At a press conference last week, Jarlath encouraged people from all years at the university to visit him for an indulgent afternoon of tea and crumpets, followed by an afternoon matinee viewing of ballet on the extreme sports channel!!

So then, that's about it. Oh wait a second; I think I might have made all of the above up!! Jarlath likes oranges, that's all you really need to know about him!! Sorry about that folks!! I have a tendency to do that when I am writing, so if I'm not fired by the weekend, you better get used to it!!

Daghda Dance the Clarion Hotel

by Maighread Neligan

On Thursday October 17th at 5.30pm, Daghdha Limerick's resident contemporary dance company, present a public performance at the newly opened Clarion Hotel on the banks of the River Shannon.

As part of Daghdha's Living Room Project series, which runs in the Limerick city area during October 15th - 18th, Daghdha present this rare opportunity to view the work of

Yoshiko Chuma in a public space.

Daghdha's Artistic Director Yoshiko Chuma is renowned for her site-specific works and has created a dance performance, which intends to transform in some way the audience's understanding of the site.

Chuma has presented site-specific works all over the world for many years, in hairdressing salons, car showrooms, bookshops and even the showrooms of designer Issey Miyake



in Japan. lobby.



On Thursday Chuma and Daghdha dancers bring their distinctive style to Limerick's newest and Ireland's tallest hotel The Clarion. 10 dancers, plus musicians from the Irish Chamber Orchestra and Irish World Music Centre, will present a snippet performance of 10 minutes in the lobby and Kudos bar area of The Clarion.

This performance is free and no booking is necessary. So come along, enjoy a drink and relax with the backdrop of the Shannon, as one of Ireland's most innovative and interesting dance companies transform your perception of a hotel

Daghdha Dance Company, one of Ireland's leading professional dance companies, is a young company that is constantly reaching new audiences both nationally and internationally.

Reverse Psychology, Daghdha's main artistic focus over the last three years premiered on Limerick streets in St. Mary's Parish in June 2001. This dance epic has since been performed in New York, St. Petersburg, Estonia, Poland and most recently closed the first International Dance Festival Ireland in Dublin.

Dancers preparing for the performance in the Clarion Hotel

U L ARTS OFFICE

AUTUMN FILM FESTIVAL

presents

MONDAY 21 October



CLARE SA SPÉIR
Director : Grainne Gavigan
UNDER THE SAND
Director : Francois Ozon /France / 2000 / 90 mins

From the director of Sitcom and Water Drops on Burning Rocks comes this mature and thoughtful portrait of personal loss and loneliness. Charlotte Rampling stars as a middle class wife whose husband goes missing while on vacation. Unable to come to grips with the fact that he might be dead, she has to face a future she must travel through alone With this beautifully directed essay on personal loss and what it means to be left alone, François Ozon continues to prove he is one of the brightest lights of recent French cinema. Featuring a brave, understated performance from the luminous Charlotte Rampling, Under the Sand is radically different from Ozon's other films. The youthful exuberance and zany antics of Sitcom and Les amants criminels (Criminal Lovers) have been replaced by a wistful maturity and deeply moving sense of pain. More personal than his other work, the film conveys profound and subtle emotional truths. Marie (Rampling) and Jean (Bruno Cremer) are a comfortable middle-class couple, satisfied with the daily rhythms and personal foibles that form the core of their life together. They are on the way to their summer house, a tradition that stretches back many years. Jean goes for a swim in the sea. Some hours later, Marie wakes from a nap to find he has not returned. She calls in the local lifeguards to try to locate him. There is no sign. Months later, Marie has returned to Paris, and although she puts on a brave face, she remains a recluse. Her friends try to get her to start dating again, but she insists Jean is not dead, that he has his reasons for staying away, that he will return. Even when a body is found that matches his description, she denies its authenticity. But soon she no longer feels his presence and, after much cajoling, begins dating a charming publisher (Jacques Nolot) who helps her rediscover herself, emotionally and sexually. Yet she cannot quite shake her conviction that Jean is alive.

STORM
Director : Clare Langan
TEARS OF THE BLACK TIGER

Director : Wisit Sasanatieng / Thailand / 1999 / 100 mins

Rumpoe and Dum first met as children. Rumpoe's wealthy family was evacuated from Bangkok during the Pacific war. Dum's father, Dua, a village chief, gave them a temporary home in the countryside of Supanburi. An intimacy soon developed between the headstrong city girl and the country boy. They develop a strong attachment to each other, and, nine years later, they meet again as students in Bangkok. Sammy Prescott (Laura Linney) lives a nice orderly life. She lives with her son in the small community where she has always lived and works in the local bank. She attends church, behaves respectfully, and even has a nice dependable boyfriend. Then, out of the blue, she receives a letter from her brother Terry (Mark Ruffalo), who she rarely sees, announcing his impending arrival which will lead to an upheaval of everything she is used to. Kenneth Lonergan makes his directorial debut with this sensitive film, adapted from his own play. A quiet, gentle affair, "You Can Count on Me" covers the emotional gamut as run by all family members and does so with an intense honesty. All the performances are excellent, with the sibling relationship in particular portrayed with poignancy and style by the Oscar-nominated Linney and Ruffalo. This is one of those films where not much seems to happen apart from the passing of time, which makes for surprisingly enjoyable viewing. While in some cases this can fail to be memorable or pleasant, here it is a warming, worthwhile experience as the characters endear themselves to you with their unfailing humanity and fallibility. Torous, gentle, and completely charming, this is a film that truly captures what family is about.

MONDAY 14 October



Aeronautical Society Report

by Ruth Bagnall

Ever sat in the comfortable surroundings of economy class, and pondered? As you soar smoothly above buildings, mountains and people below, does your mind wander? Perhaps you're thinking about work assignments, the sexy passenger in row 3, or maybe you think about other passengers flying around in the sky? What keeps the aircraft from careering into one another? The Aeronautical Society went to Shannon to find out...

14 members of UL Aero Soc visited the Air Traffic Control tower and the operations center during week 2. After climbing what seemed to be an infinity of steps, the group arrived in the tower's control station. Within this bright spacious area controllers dictate the movements of aircraft on approach and once they have landed. A controller must authorize any vehicle movement across the runways or taxiways. They are responsible for maintaining separation between aircraft taking off and those landing.

The operations center is below the tower. This is the nerve center of the whole operation. Irish Aviation Authority runs the air traffic control. Radar data is displayed on large round screens (just like on TV.) and two controllers operate each screen. There are about 15 screens. The center is responsible for all air traffic above 25000ft over all of Ireland, except Donegal! Prestwick, Scotland controls that airspace for the IAA. Each aircraft must not come within 1000ft of another aircraft. One controller speaks to the pilots while the other figures out what speed and height the aircraft should be flying at.

While most passengers believe that the pilot is in control of the destiny of the flight this is not the case. The pilot can't change direction, height or speed without permission of a traffic controller. A flight plan is submitted to operations before every flight and the pilot must follow the plan. The controllers believe that it is they that actually fly the planes. The pilots merely implement their decisions. This is obviously open to debate!!



Air traffic controllers in action

The tour ended with a question and answers session. Public Admin students seemed only interested in how disasters could occur! Others wanted to know if Shannon closed on September 11th? Well it would appear that they had to deal with an increased number of aircraft. The US was not accepting any aircraft so many returned to Europe. Outbound transatlantic flights were not permitted to take off. Fog can cause the closure of Shannon's one main runway. All in all, the trip was successful and informative.

Fokker Aircraft Company - a business in life and death, was the title of the lecture in week 3. Antoin Dalton visited the society. Slides depicting Fokker's history were shown to a captive audience. Mr. Dalton had excellent background knowledge of the rise and fall of aircraft manufacturing companies through the last century.

A trip to Shannon Aerospace Ltd. is planned for week 4. Paper Airplane making competitions, and the infamous Aero Bar eating competition will be taking place during Greek Week.

Athletics Club Report

Welcome back everyone, Hopefully you are all relaxed and rejuvenated after a long summer and ready to start where we left off last year.

Last year ended quite successfully for a number of U.L.A.C members. To begin with, many congratulations to Dave McCarthy and Darragh Graham on first of all their selection for the world juniors and second of all their magnificent performances there.

Eliz Egan represented the college, in June, in an international meet in Antrim and as usual ran her heart out to do us proud.

Four U.L athletes were lucky enough to get an invitation to a meet in Birmingham, where they competed against athletes from the American colleges of Penn State and Cornell and the hosts themselves. U.L.A.C were represented by J.P O'Brien, Orna Donaghue, Rosemary Daniels and Maria Sheehan. All had a great time and many thanks to Professor Mike Hayes for organizing the trip.

Now for news on the committee, this



UL Athletics Club in action

year sees us having four captains. The middle distance group has Ed Niland and Fiona Reid looking after their interests, while the sprints group is represented by Michael O Shea and Maria Sheehan. Sheila Buckley, Rosemary Daniel and Dermot Smith complete the committee. We would also like to welcome all our new athletes. Everyone is welcome to come down and train with us. If you are a serious athlete or just

looking for a good laugh there is something here for you. For those interested in sprints, jumps and hurdles the group meets at six-o clock on the track every evening. For the others interested in longer distances the group meets at six on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the track.

Joining the athletics club is a great way of getting fit, and staying in

shape in a friendly and fun environment.

John, Danny and Patrick have their plans set in place to straighten us out this year, Best of luck lads and thanks very much for your time and effort.

Now it's not all train and die at U.L.A.C, we also have many fundraising events in store starting with a table quiz in week four. There will be an athletics club meeting in the Arena Sports Bar next Wednesday, the second of October, at six-o clock and we would appreciate if as many people both new and old members could turn up.

Keep an eye on the notice board in the canteen and in the P.E.S.S building for more info. Looking forward to seeing you all on the track.

Celtic Supporters Club Report

There seems to be a common misconception as to just what the Celtic Supporters Club does. It is not, as many people on campus seem to think little more than a glorified drinking club and this article will try to enlighten you as to what exactly we do. Last year saw the Celtic Supporters club run many events for its 150 members. In September the Club had members in Glasgow to attend the Celtic Vs Dundee United. Then in October we were represented in Oporto, Portugal, as the Bhoys in green took on Porto in the UEFA Champions League. In Late October we had a number of club members travel over to Glasgow to see the Celts play and beat the mighty Juventus.

During Greek week we had a function in the Stables when we presented the band Oisin to UL. This night also saw the launch of our club merchandise, which has a club crest, which was designed by our club members. The crest is a merging of both the University crest and the Celtic Football Crest. In November 52 hardy souls made the long trek from Limerick to Glasgow, and watched as the Celts beat the other Scottish club with Irish roots, Hibernian, 3-0, before a crowd of 59,415. The weekend of December 3rd saw another 52 people take the bus on the journey to Paradise to Watch Martin O' Neill's treble winners defeat Dundee 3-1 before a crowd of 58,679.

During the three week break after the exams again 52 people travelled over to Watch our Bhoys in Green and White play Dunfermline. Among our group were six youngsters from an initiative being run by the access office, called sport for success, and their two minders, which our club sponsored on the trip over to see



Members of the Celtic Supporters Club in Glasgow

their idols playing in the flesh, and they were even fortunate enough to get to meet some of the players after the game, Henrik Larsson included. The Club saw this as being in keeping with the charitable ideals of Celtic Football Club, and it is after all why Celtic was founded in the first place. Celtic was formed to look after the poor and the needy of Glasgow's east end and the UL Celtic supporters Club was delighted to be able to give something back to people who might not be as fortunate as the rest of us. They really enjoyed their weekend, along with the rest of us that travelled.

The game resulted in another convincing win for the Celts, who rattled in five goals without reply. In Semester two of this year we ran a coach to the Celtic Vs Dundee United game on March 16th and to the Aberdeen game also in March.

So what have we in store for this season? Well this season the club has purchased some season tickets from Celtic park, which basically mean that there will now be tickets available to the club for every single one of Celtic's home games this season, it also gives us the opportunity to apply for tickets to away games and also be included in the ballot for tickets to any cup finals which the club might reach, something which we could not have done previously. The Club will make these season books available to any members who might wish to travel over to Glasgow on their own initiative, as long as they give the secretary at least 2 weeks notice.

We have secured 2 signed Celtic shirts which we plan to present to the school which the Access office deals with in its sport for success

programme, as we see any initiative which encourages children from disadvantaged backgrounds to strive to attend third level education as being more than worthy of our support.

On October 6th the Club will be represented at the Old firm game against our ancient rivals Rangers for the first time, which was brought about as a result of our decision to purchase season tickets from Celtic. In Semester 1 this year we will be running a trip for 52 people to the Celtic versus Aberdeen game at Celtic Park in Glasgow on the weekend of November 2nd, and we will run a trip for 52 people to the game against Motherwell on November 30th. We will be having a band on campus and a raffle for a signed shirt with the proceeds going to charity in Greek Week. In second semester we will again have people at the second Old firm game and trips for 52 people to the games against Livingston on February 8th and Hibernian on March 1st. We will also have limited spaces available for the trip to a game after the league splits in two, which we will fly over to. We will also have an end of year club function.

We will also be attending numerous Provincial and nation meetings of the Association Of Irish Celtic Supporters Clubs, of which all of our members are affiliated to. The AICS is a body which represents over 3000 people from over 100 clubs throughout the four provinces of Ireland. The Club will also attend the AICSC annual charity dinner in June in Dublin, when members of the Celtic first team and management are present. Over the past number of years this event has raised many thousands of Euro for charities both in the republic and Northern Ireland. So as you can see the Celtic supporters club is far from being a glorified drinking club and plays an important part in the social lives of many people while they are on campus here in the University of Limerick.

If you are interested in joining the supporters club, travelling to Celtic Park with us, or purchasing some of the Supporters Club Merchandise then drop an e-mail to ulcsc@eircom.net and we will do what we can to accommodate you. Here's hoping for another trophy winning year, the future's bright, the future's green and white.

Hail ! Hail !
UL Bhoys



Some of Celtic's younger supporters

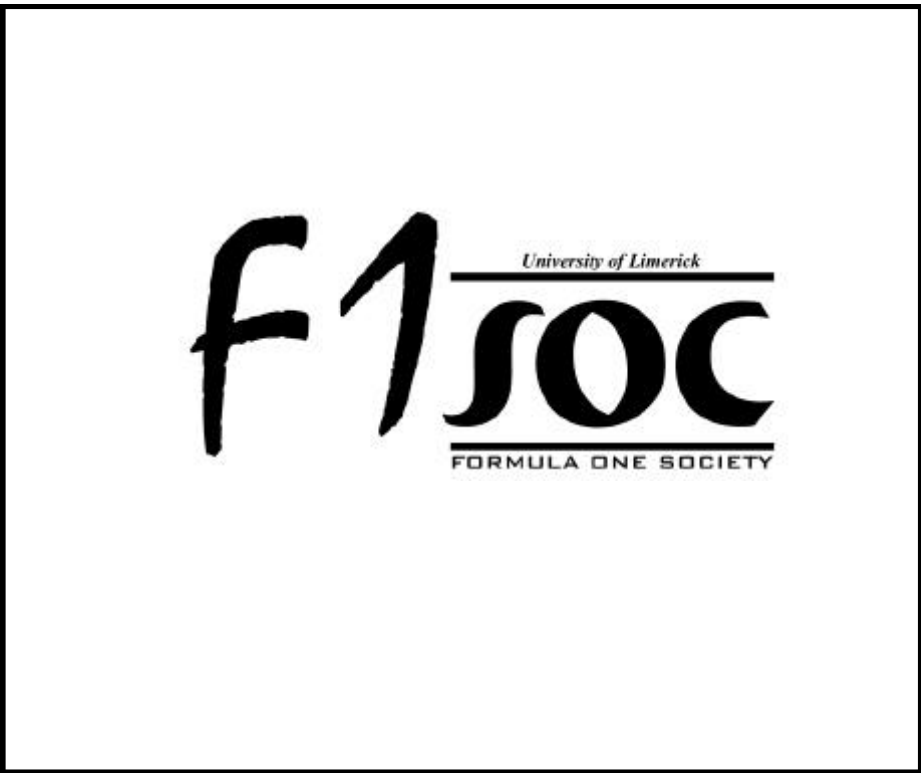
Formula 1 Society

by Luke Curley

On behalf of the UL F1soc I welcome everybody back for another year, and I hope that all the new students are enjoying themselves. I trust you all had an enjoyable summer break.

We have an enjoyable year planned for all members. To jump-start the year we have a karting trip organised for Greek Week. This will take place at the Kilcornan circuit in Limerick on Wednesday 23 bus leaves @ 14:00 from outside The Stables. Numbers are limited (25) so it's a case of first come, first served; it will cost 48 Euro each. This will be the first of many karting trips organised this year.

Future karting events like the trip to Kilkenny in December, UCD Karting Intervarsity in February, Kart City event in Dublin, and a large Intervarsity is planned for April to finish the year. Please note that karting is available for everyone and no prior driving experience is necessary. I hope to see all the engineer students joining up!



Of course there will be the viewing of the Grand Prix, throughout the year. This will take place in one of the bars on campus, when the time of the GP coincides with opening hours. Out of hour GPs will be arranged in due course.

The start of the 2003 season in

Australia on the 09 March will coincide with Week 4 of Semester 2. An F1soc night out, Fantasy F1 competition, and hopefully some Ozzy stuff will help kick start the season.

Also throughout the year there will be PlayStation 2 / MS Xbox F1 racing tournaments. These events will be

advertised around the college, so keep an eye out.

The plan for Rag Week, yes it is a long way off, I know, but we plan on a Scalextric F1 Challenge and a cardboard box race, shaped like F1 cars. All will come clear hopefully in the weeks leading up to Rag Week.

In relation to the TXT Message service which was introduced last week, to help inform our members. I wish to apologize for the inconvenience caused and say that the mobile phone company is currently looking into it and it is out of our hands.

For more information on the UL Formula One Society, F1soc please contact us via our web site www.csn.ul.ie/~f1soc/

Drama Society Report

by James Fitzgerald

Hello Renegades.... Those intrepid voyagers of the UL Drama Soc have returned to bring some joy into peoples lives or else, some irritation, (whichever way your mind works).

So far so good, our last meetings were pretty darn successful and everybody has been having an great time, basically its just like revisiting Kindergarten once again, (always a good thing in my book), and all our meetings have been an absolute blast, we had Madame Ciarda Tobin of Limerick Youth Theatre fame in the house there on Monday for a voice workshop (i.e. shouting as much as possible), which was great fun altogether. Our meetings are on in the Johnny Swift up in B1023, every Monday and Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m.

What will be getting up to next week? Funny you should ask that, next week we should indeed be doing all of the following.....

Preparation for Greek Week, during

week 5 we'll be holding a play called Insignificance directed by the mighty Adrian Crowe, which auditions took place for on Wednesday the 9th of October, best of luck to all who auditioned for it, may they all get their chance to shake their asses on stage with the best of them.

Also we will be heading out on to the streets to take part in the Greek Week celebrations, there will be workshops concerning fire-dancing held by Elaine Enright in the Jonathan Swift next Wednesday at 8pm, and two polish gentlemen, Janek and Vitek (who people may recognise as the gentlemen who drop the groove in a tribal style outside Brown Thomas) will be coming along also giving drumming workshops, and another young gentleman by the name of Kevin O'Malley shall also be coming along performing alongside us during Greek Week. He shall be indulging fine-arts of fire-breathing (all the pyromaniacs listen closely) so its not to be missed. Basically be afraid, be very afraid. Coming up also there will be

Fire Dancing workshop Wednesday week4 at 8pm in B1023
Fire Dancing performance Tuesday Greek week at 7.30pm in the SU courtyard.

And oh yeah, before I forget, well done to the following, Aimee Kerrigan (Sandy), Kevin O'Leary (Ed) and Diana Diamond (Mary), who will be appearing in Regency Romance which is and I quote from my cohort Ella Daly "Regency Romance is a play about two ordinary women stuck in ordinary lives with ordinary men. Sandy and Mary survive their humdrum days with the escape provided by a large collection of trashy romance novels. As the play progresses we see them create their own fantasy complete with dashing young hero Edward the Malevolent Marquis of Inglewood. The play is filled with clichés, from the Rhett Butler style kissing scenes to the flowery prose and in this lies the humor of the piece, its so bad its good and a must for every woman whose ever leafed through the pages of a cheap paperback love story." Don't miss it, its only €3 (for members of D. Soc its only €2), miss it at risk to your life.



Anyway, enough stuff for the moment, but oh yeah we have a website at <http://www.uldramasoc.com> , so visit it please, we will keep it updated as much as possible so keep an eye out for it. Well that's my piece for now, but hey we'll be back soon. As usual contact us at the following 9925961@student.ul.ie (Ella), James (mememememe...0127329@student.ul.ie) or else Adrian Crowe at 0143138@student.ul.ie. See you all later..... James of the Fitzgerald brigade (happy 20th birthday to me)

OPC - The Burren Trip

Only a few days after they had all signed up, 50 members of the UL Outdoor Pursuits Club assembled themselves at the Stables to depart for the first trip of the year: The Burren. We won't dwell too much on the Erasmus students who were found wandering around the Scholar's or those looking for "where the horses are kept".

On our arrival in Clare's unique landscape and arguably the only unique thing in Clare, groups departed to go rock climbing and caving as a hardened multi-national group of 22 Swedes, Irish, Germans, Finns, Americans another flavours headed off hillwalking to tackle the small but nice Sleibh Elva (344m).

Hillwalking:

There was a long road walk in to avoid the holes, hollows, pits, trenches, heather and general nastiness that alpine flowers and botanists love but ankles hate. Nonetheless it gave those who skipped breakfast the chance to stock up on blackberries even though they'd have to face the wrath of their mummies complaining about the state of their faces when they got home.

What our international group of explorers couldn't forget either was that it was Ireland. They weren't let forget because Ireland did what Ireland does best. It rained. Lots. Then little bits. Then it realised that there was a lot of Erasmus students in the group and rain would look bad for tourism. So the rain went away and found someone else to make wet.

It had stopped raining by the time the group had climbed the first 200m at which point we had lunch and split from the road and made the 100m summit attack up the hill. There was good walking on steady ground to the top where people hugged, rejoiced, photographed and ate some more.

We made it down in good time hoping that if we were good we'd get the bus to pick us and thereby skip some of the road we had to walk in the morning. But communicating with Base Camp Climbing Group courtesy of the Meteor network told us we should "shove off and walk out you lazy wasters". So we did.

All making it back alive we boarded bus and dropped into a hotel in bachelor festival Lisdoonvarna to get some much need rest and recuperation. It's a shame that the camera film was gone by the time we had to tell the waitress that we were about to bring 50 people into her domain. The words "your what?" stuck in my mind. To summate all was good, everyone was happy and we'd punched in our first trip of the year at the end of Week 1.

Caving:

Six of us went on by bus to our meeting point with Tom the experienced and enthusiastic caver who was our guide for the day. After a half-mile walk up a small country lane we got kitted out in our caving gear, complete with hardhat, lamp and wellies, suitable for any catwalk. Tom led us to the hole in the ground that was to lead us into the other

world we would inhabit for the next three hours. He gave us a safety talk and asked us to describe our surroundings, this was curious but it wasn't until later we discovered why. The entrance seemed just a crack in the ground that led down into complete darkness, except for our headlamps. The scenery completely changed, instead of sky above us there was only rock, instead of earth beneath us there was only rock, instead of views around us there was only rock, that's a lot of rock! But soon we discovered water, as the path we took was in fact a flowing underground river, wellies do come in handy. Tom pointed out many rock formations and explained the different reasons for the shapes we saw around us. We all felt we were like explorers breaking new ground in this strange environment, completely natural and unspoilt but so foreign to us. As we got further in and deeper down the formations turned spectacular with stalactites and stalagmites, straws and pillars and even scallops. Our feet almost felt the way as we frantically tried to capture all the details around us. The limited lighting made us use all our senses as we moved through the water. Tom was a font of knowledge as we progressed, sometimes walking sometimes crawling sometimes gingerly straddling deep looking pools and sometimes climbing to new levels. The caver at the front kindly tested the depth of the water for us allowing us to avoid it, though providing them with a few wet moments and us with a few laughs. Sadly the time came when we had to return in order to meet the others. As soon as we reached the

entrance we realised why Tom had asked us to notice the surroundings before we went in. Everything seemed new and fresh our senses were heightened to a new appreciation, the colours, sounds and smells all radiated a vibrant energy. After getting back in to civvies and feeling invigorated with the experience we were treated to an impromptu Tai Chi lesson in the wilds of Clare, much to the amusement of the passing motorists.

Rockclimbing:

About fifteen of us went to a crag (area where there's rockclimbing) called Ballyryan. While the routes were being set up the new members were being shown the basic techniques for climbing. They were also shown how to use the gear properly and about safety while climbing. Thankfully (some say miraculously) we had barely any rain so they then got a chance to strut their stuff and have a go on the three routes set up. Everyone did very well-so well in fact after lunch we went to another crag called Ailladie. The routes here are higher and more difficult than in Ballyryan. Three more routes were set up while the gang psyched themselves for the challenge ahead. Great attempts were made on these routes and suitably tired we packed up the gear we headed back for the bus.

After a quick stop at a local public house for refreshments we made our way back to UL tired but content.

Any queries or questions contact opc@csn.ul.ie

LGB Society Report

Another academic year and our society is growing, more members are joining. The LGB (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual) society is helping more and more LGBs to come together and help each other to deal with their own sexuality. The society also provides a support network for its members, to deal with all the problems that relate to homosexuality, coming out, homophobia etc. Our members meet every week, to talk, and organize nights out in Limerick, and other places around the country. The society also takes part in national events organized by other colleges and the U.S.I.

Last year we participated in a few

events, which helped to spread awareness to all students, both UL students, and all LGB students across Ireland. Last November we joined up with all universities and colleges across Ireland through U.S.I and held an ever-growing event called "Pink Training", which took place in Galway. The event covered different topics, such as how the law in Ireland deals with discrimination and homosexual relationships. There were also seminars, which dealt with problems such as coming out, and how to deal with negative reactions. Pink training also serves as a networking event where students from all over the country can get to know each other, organize joint events etc. This year Pink Training

takes place in Belfast mid November. Last year, the National University of Ireland in Mynooth organized "Fag Ball" which was a good event to get to know more people from other colleges, especially who couldn't make it to Pink Training. This event will take place again this year; dates have yet to be confirmed.

This year our society is planning to run it's own event. We are planning to host an event in Limerick itself. We are hopping to get students gay, bi or straight to go on a night out here in Limerick. We are planning it with the help of one of the venues here in Limerick. This event along with "The Alternative Miss Limerick" should be one of the biggest LGB events in the

west of Ireland. We are hoping to promote sexual safety, also to have an event in the west where all LGB students can catch up on what happened during the first semester. This event will take place sometime the end of January beginning of February.

This year we plan on making the society more accessible and open around campus. If anyone wants to get in touch with the society check out our website at; www.skynet.ie/~lgb, or e-mail on lgb@skynet.ie.

Music Society Report

Are you all ready to have a rockin' mashed potato time? The Music Society have begun one of their best years in recent memory with a bang, a smash, a wail and a few powerchords. A new committee was elected in week 2 and we are working hard to ensure the feet of UL students keep tapping for the next year. So what do the music soc do?

We own a nice bit of shiny noise-making stuff including a Pearl drumkit, PA system and lots of amps. We plan to buy more during the coming year too, as our drummers cannot get enough shiny stuff. Our members have the use of the Jonny Swift theatre to rehearse and jam in, and we encourage em to meet up, form bands, practice hard and get gigs in and around UL, a musical dating service so to speak.



The Stables have kindly given us time on monday nights to show our talent... Open Mic night was on last monday with great success, expect to see live bands for the next few weeks and an Unplugged Competition during Greek Week. Our trad and acoustic musicians will appear in the Sports Bar on Wednesday nights, Rumours Bar on Thomas St have also given us time to do our thing on Wednesdays so for anyone into decent music, its definitely worth checking out, call into the Stables on Mondays, or the Sports bar or Rumours on

Wednesdays if you wanna see us perform!

For those who don't wanna face the bright lights and the mic from the scary end we will have lots of other activities during the year, including music lessons for the first time ever, and we'll be doing some busking to keep the masses happy. And for those who eat their greens and practice hard, free demo recording time will be available in an excellent recording facility. A compilation CD is also on the cards for later in the year.

So anybody into decent music who wants to foster ULs virtually nonexistent music scene (I'm sorry people, but the Frames are not the only band in the country... could someone tell the Ents people that?), whether you are influenced by Alanis Morissette or Angus Young, the Smashing Pumpkins or the Smiths, Cradle of Filth or Carly Simon, we want you in our society! Check out www.skynet.ie/~music soc or email us at music soc@skynet.ie

Tennis Club Report

by Barry Mc Mackin

Greetings to you all. I want to commend all those who turned up for training in recent times. The sessions have been very encouraging so far; the turn out has been good despite the poor weather on the Wednesdays and overall enthusiasm shown so far by the new members is excellent. Well done to you all for making the effort. Remember the club will continually be taking in new members so if at any stage you want to join up, just call up to a training session or contact the club at ultennis@campus.ie. You're all very welcome.

Just a few updates on the goings on so far.

The UL Tennis Club League
You may have noticed either through e-mail or the tennis club notice board in the canteen that the league is under way. You have all received the information regarding the league in an e-mail but if you haven't please e-mail the club at ultennis@campus.ie and just ask for the information. Our monkeys at the computers will be more than happy to give it to you. So please all start challenging people in the league because as you know all the teams for competitions and competitive trips away will be picked mostly from this league table. So I hate to cause a panic but as you know there is a trip to Galway for the National Open Championships on the 25th of October and the top four men and women in their respective leagues will all be guaranteed a place on the travelling team. So get out onto the courts. There are contact



numbers on the notice board for the competing members. Don't be afraid to call them. And remember to report all scores back to the club otherwise the match would have been a waste of time.

I plan to put the scores of matches into this article in future so you can bring a cutting home to mom or put in your scrapbook or just to cringe at the beating you received. So best of Luck in all of that.

National Open Championships, Galway

Ok so as I've mentioned, the Tennis Club will be going to Galway to compete in these championships. There will be a total of twelve travelling. That's six from each sex. Hermaphrodites have no place in Galway this time out. A detailed outline of the competition will be given to those participating. Just for you all to know, the tennis club offers everybody the opportunity to play in

competitions. The majority of players that travel will be taken from the league table but also there will be positions made for first years and beginners. But I want to encourage you to take part in the league and have the opportunity to travel with the club and represent the university at competitive level. This club is really only finding it's feet and many of it's players are inexperienced so don't expect those at the top of the league presently to be any good, they're not! You all have the chance, and if you can walk, you've the ability to get your name up near the top and be travelling to Galway.

The Galway National Open Championships will take place from the 25thOct- 28thOct (Bank Holiday Weekend)

Training Times

Again training times are as follows:

Wednesday

Beginners- 2pm - 3pm

Improvers- 3pm - 4pm

Advanced 4pm - 5pm

We are currently negotiating with Limerick Lawn Tennis Club for the use of their floodlit courts on Monday evenings and you will be notified straight away when we have the go ahead with that.

So there you have it for this week. I can think of nothing else to tell ye. Remember to contact the club should you have any questions, queries or just want to find out the name of the beautiful blond, leggy brunette or athletic fella you were spottin on the courts the last day. We're here to help!

Also I'd like to know if there's anything you'd like to see or put into the Tennis Club article in An Focal in

the future. I hate having to waffle so I welcome all your suggestions.

There will be a digital camera in use soon so watch out for that. I know all of you are very photogenic and beautiful, but in times of competitive strain, the over expressive face can be a hideous thing! And they'll also be on display in the article. So again you can frame them, send them to vogue, esquire, fhm magazines and there's another few pound for ya. Turlough (tennis coach) had a brief spell in modelling before he said or was that a brief spell in a model. I don't believe him anyway.

Good luck for the coming week, try getting yourself down to training and getting crazy on the league table.



Rowing Club Report

by Amy Judge

Hee hee hee, but wait till you see what ULRC have in store for you!!! Oh it is indeed a funny business, all this rowing. You have to experience it to believe it, and then you don't believe yourself, so you don't know where you're at. Before I loose the run of myself, a big WELCOME to all the new Club members! And congratulations for choosing ULRC, you are indeed a wise bunch.

So, what are we about? Well, rowing for one, a bit of land training, loads of craic, and lots of "cool" stuff , made out of "spandex", as Rosamund fondly calls that tight-fitting crap that goes knobbly, and that is supposed to make us look like Superpeople. We all had issues with it once upon a time (I reckon even Superman felt more comfortable as Clarke Kent), but we got used to it. As Hiro said "I need time".

Last weekend was the first weekend back on the water for ULRC, and it looks like a good year is in store for us as we have a great crop of New Novices, and we also seem to have nabbed a few people with rather vast rowing experience. As Mr. Montgomery Burns might say "Eeexcellent". We also have a good land training programme lined up, starting nice and easy for New Novices, and which more experienced sportspeople can build upon to suit themselves. Keep in touch with the website, and check out the notice boards in the Arena and the Canteen to be up-to-date with what's going on! Or else!!!! Coaches have also been organised for water work, and we're hoping to get things together in time for the Galway Time Trial on October 26th. So what have we been up to since last we sent in the cúpla focail to "An Focal"?

Well, the summer saw us compete at the National Championships of 2002, two events that will undoubtedly be hashed over many a time, over many a pint, and probably with many a tear. UL regrettably walked away from the Champs with none of the prized pots, but this is not to say that many a noble performance was not put in by our valiant oarspeople.

National Rowing Championships of Ireland - 2002

ULRC's first bid for a national championship title this year was at the Irish National Junior/Novice Rowing Championships, held in Iniscarra, Co.Cork on the 12th and 13th of July. Although none of the treasured 'pots' came back to Limerick, the experience and the participation of UL crews at the event are all signs of the club's growing strength on the domestic rowing scene.

For the women's entry, UL sent a Novice 4+, composed of Marie O'Neill, Kerrie Crowley, Amy Judge, Edel Sheahan and Patrick Meskell (cox). This particular crew had a highly successful year with wins at Nottingham, the Intervarsities, and Galway but was plagued by line-up changes and injuries late in the season, which they managed to successfully overcome in time for the championships. By all accounts, the women's novice category has risen sharply in standard with several high quality crews, and the UL women, after winning their heat, finished a respectable fourth in the final behind Trinity (winner), NUIG, and Commercial RC.

ULRC also sent a men's novice sculler, Ronan Egan, in a bid for the Novice single scull's pot, but unfortunately luck did not prevail with him and he was stalled in the heats. An unusually large entry of 19 men's novice scullers went in this year, a sure sign of the rising competitiveness and standards within the category.

The hard work was not yet completed though, as National Senior and Intermediate Championships loomed ahead, on the 9th and 10th of August in Blessington, Co. Wicklow. This highly anticipated event was to test the largest ever entry of senior/intermediate rowers to come out of ULRC, and with entries in the men's inter fours, eights and single sculls, as well as a women's inter four, hopes were high for all crews. The highlight of the weekend had to



be the Men's Intermediate 8's race. Occasionally, in the course of rowing, a heart wrenching performance leaves the spectators as gutted as the competitors, and this race was no exception. UL, in lane 5 lead from the start, and held their advantage over the first thousand. However, their persistent nemesis, Commercial (lane 4), cranked up the rate for a huge push which took them slowly but surely through the UL crew shortly after the thousand and into first position. UL, to their credit, remained cool, gutsy and fast, challenging Commercial and staying beside them in a tense race that left the rest of the field lengths behind. Alas, it was not enough and Commercial managed to take the win by just half a length. It was indeed a brilliant race, a gutsy performance, quality stuff that could only leave spectators wallowing in extremes of emotion: wild jubilation or profound misery. The crestfallen, bitterly disappointed faces of the UL Crew as they came in told it all: it was a great race, a tough race, and they rowed their hearts out. They did ULRC proud.

Our young sculler, Brian O'Connor, managed to get into the semi-final of the men's inter sculls and finish in it. This highly competitive event stumped many a seasoned sculler and we eagerly anticipate more fine performances from "Our Kid" in the future.

The Inter fours resulted in a 4th place for the men, in a performance upset by a Skibbereen crew that shocked the whole field. The women finished 4th on a good row, the crew having undergone a slight crew change since the novice Championships,

while showing that competing at the higher level has proved to have been a great learning experience.

On to the real news, the post race party at Commercial, which left many a Dublin rower puzzled, and rather shocked by unique Limerick dance moves (which require great dexterity): those Pale-faces were obviously unfamiliar with the ways of the Wild West. They should have come to The Party ... at The Lads House. I believe Morgan went to Cambodia in search of shot-down aeroplanes to get over the shock of that one.

Indeed, all in all, a job well done, and more funny business yet to do. All that's left to say is:

BRING ON THE CHAMPS 2003!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(Visit our website at <http://rowing.csn.ul.ie> or e-mail us at irow@ul.ie)

Last weekend: first time out for the new Novice rowers.

Campus News

by Valerie Gunning

ECSTATIC LOCALS EMOTIONALLY WELCOME BACK RETURNING STUDENTS

The residents of Castletroy took to the streets in their hundreds to welcome students returning to U.L. during week 1. There were emotional scenes as locals greeted undergraduates arriving back in Limerick.

Crowds thronged the platform of Limerick station waving handkerchiefs hysterically at trains arriving. Many residents held placards emblazoned with slogans such as "Welcome back students- this is your home and we are your family". Some students were presented with gifts of flowers and local delicacies.

"It's wonderful to see them once again," declared one local resident "They are heroes, every one," she added close to tears.

Another local resident echoed these sentiments. "Since the students left in May they have been through some terrible ordeals," he explained. "Not only have they had to adjust their lives to compensate with the presence of their family but many have even had to engage in employment over the summer." "Truly this would have been a traumatic experience for them," he assumed, shaking his head wisely.

Most residents are glad that soon their lives are back to normal once again. One Castletroy native commented, "I just love hearing the cheerful chirps of their mobile phones and watching the young lads out playing football."

FRESHER ANGER OVER FREQUENT "KNOWING LOOKS"

Angry first years have spoken out against a so-called "conspiracy of experience", saying they are being continually "put in their place" and "looked down upon" by other years. It appears that repeated "knowing looks" between second, third, and fourth year students are proving deeply unsettling to the new intake.

"I'm sick of it," whined first year William Power, who still hasn't been inside the Lodge. "I was in the canteen and the conversation got around to Greek Week: when I asked if it meant we'd be studying the history of Ancient Greece the older ones just looked at each other in a really knowing way. On of them even rolled his eyes."

Fellow 'new kid on the block' Sheila Browne, yet to sample the food in the Paddocks, was also upset: "We were all planning a shopping trip in town, and someone suggested Thursday morning. I cut in and

reminded everyone that we have a lecture on Thursday morning - and then the two second years who were with us exchanged this knowing look and shook their heads slightly. It was very belittling."

Also eager to speak out was engineering first year Brian Logan, who asked a third year student about finding the best indie and alternative rock clubs in Limerick. "He was with a friend," sniffed the young Mr. Logan, "and they both just looked at each other...you know, in a very 'knowing' way...as if they were thinking 'he'll learn'."

The university authorities have stated that this escalation of knowing looks is damaging to a first year's feelings of security and inclusion and plan to establish a "Knowing Looks Policy" at their next meeting.

ATTRACTIVE RICH WHITE MALE MIDDLE-CLASS PARTY-GOING RUGBY-PLAYING ATHEIST "SETTLING IN FINE"

Dominic McArthur, has told his close friends and relatives that he is "settling in fine" at U.L. "I had heard all these scary stories about college being cliquey and unaccepting, but I've had no trouble fitting in," he declared.

"I thought it might be hard making new friends at first, but straight from the start people seemed drawn to me," said the tall, dark and handsome Mr. McArthur, who spent €300 on drinks for his new friends during orientation week. "I wasn't sure how people would react to me offering to buy drinks for them. Surprisingly, they were grand about it."

He went on to explain how he found many sympathetic ears for his uncontroversial and rather vague views on the existence of God: "I just say live and let live, and most people seem to agree. Like, people question whether there is or isn't a

God but I'm like, whatever, there are more important things in life."

"I wasn't sure how my passion for dodgy niteclubs and cheap wine would go down with my new college friends", admitted Dominic. "Here in Limerick I thought I might become some sort of social outcast. Thankfully, everyone seems really understanding and up for the same sort of things."

The production management student has also found friends on the sports field. "Rugby was another area where I felt I fitted right in. I didn't know how well my loud, brash; wittily obscene attitude would go down with the rest of the squad. I needn't have worried though: I didn't feel out of place at all." Mr. McArthur pointed to a hazily remembered sing along in the Stables Club as a key moment to getting to know his new friends "deep down, beneath the surface."

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM - 2,000 GRADUATES RELEASED INTO THE WILD

University authorities have expressed cautious optimism over the future of the approximately 2,000 graduates that were released from U.L. this September. Having completed training programmes designed to prepare them for the real world, the graduates are now expected to fend for themselves and carve out their own place in the wild.

"God bless 'em," cried Professor Duncan O'Reilly, who once covered his grandmother's tablecloth with wax crayon. "We've done all we can and it's down to them now. There might be one or two sticky moments, but I think most of them will be okay," Professor O'Reilly then wiped a tear or a speck of dust from his eye before adding, "God bless 'em, every one."

The students have been carefully trained in the art of beans on toast, making conversation with complete strangers, and gazing dumbly at textbooks. "We've treated them like the fragile creatures they are," explained tutor Mary M. Marriott, "but now they're ready for the next step. If they can carry four pint glasses in two hands, then they can certainly get a job wherever they want."

A three-month documentary is, as yet, not planned.

1st Year Diary

We've come a long way...

For the past year, I have been living a privileged life. I was a 6th Year. We were cool. We ruled the corridors with an iron fist. Many's the time I skipped the queue in the school shop such was my reckless abandon. Non-6th Years fled from our wrath in a most undignified manner. We were as shepherds, leading the flock. Though, time had taken its toll on our enthusiasm; we had grown cynical and restless over the years. It was time to move on.

Who could have prepared for Week 0 - Orientation Week over the short yet sufficiently moist summer between the Leaving Cert and 1st Year here in UL? I believe I was first brought down to size early on Tuesday upon entering the The Stables. I opened the creaking door, and like cowboys in a hostile western saloon, three older and infinitely wiser students turned slowly around in the high stools to stare. I half expected one to growl 'we don't want your type trespassin' in these parts, you... first year'. Hence paranoia set in for the remainder of the week. I felt as though a giant neon sign had been following over my head - 'FIRST YEAR' or simply 'LOST' was how it may have read. Although, I could have passed myself off as a savvy 3rd Year student by purchasing a painfully yellow t-shirt from Penney's, I deemed this as the even more embarrassing way to spend my Orientation Week.

Feeling more confident as the week progressed, and feeling very sure that I was unlikely to be cornered by a group of 2nd Years asking for my lunch money, I decided to venture around the campus to get to know the place. Perhaps find out where in the name of God 'PI-025A' was (I think it's the late bus from campus to Raheen), but gave up upon encountering the vastness of 'The Slanty Building' (aka, 'the main building' for all those in the know). So

I gave up and let my orientation guide take over (thankfully not a 1st Year cleverly disguised in the yellow Penney's t-shirt), but I do still cling to the faint hope that The Slanty Building and I won't be seeing much of each other in the next four years.

I have made sure to start college life on a good note academically speaking. I attended course meetings on the day of my enrolment, though I must admit this was simply to gauge the overall level of eagerness among my fellow classmates. Judging by all the frantic nodding, question-asking and note-taking, I rate it somewhere between high, and just plain unhealthy. Armed with this discovery, I plan to adopt a new 'eager' image, complete with pen and perhaps some form of paper to avoid the hassle of borrowing these each morning for the next four years.

I decided to put pen to paper in this attempt to voice the 1st Year experience, both for all you college 'vets' who've become too cool to remember, and for all my 1st Year colleagues who thought they were alone. However, just in case we did happen to yearn for the old school days again, we're all going to be stepping out next Tuesday in school uniforms for The Freshers Ball. Groups huddled in the nightclub's toilet cubicles for a quick smoke and people shouting abuse at the bus driver from the back seat on the drive into town are of course added for extra nostalgic effect.

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Your Stars

by Mystic Meg

- Aries: (March 21—April 19)**
Every day, in every way, you're getting better and better. But at this rate, you won't be good enough for 64 more years.
- Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)**
Wednesday will be a good day to make business decisions. Business decisions made on any other day will cause the Nikkei index to plunge.
- Gemini: (May 21—June 21)**
You've never thought of yourself as an innovator in livestock genetics, as you have regular sex with them just like anybody else.
- Cancer: (June 22—July 22)**
You've long been familiar with Marshall's theory of the Marginal Disutility of the Laborer, but you've just figured out that it means you'll now have to deep-fry stuff for 40 hours a week.
- Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)**
Everyone wants the world to love them, but not everyone tries to win the world's affection by baking it an enormous pie.
- Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)**
There's something the stars have been meaning to tell you about large oncoming buses, but you'll soon find out for yourself.
- Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)**
Drugs and alcohol are not the answer to your problems. Then again, hard work and self-reliance are, so drugs and alcohol will have to do.
- Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)**
People will finally lose patience with you this week when God announces He's been finished with you for years.
- Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)**
After years of zoological study and careful consideration, you've decided that what separates us from the animals is a clever system of ditches and barriers.
- Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)**
This week, you'll deliver triplets in an elevator, even though they aren't due for three months and the elevator isn't stuck.
- Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)**
You'll fail to deal with a personal tragedy this week, wasting all of your time trying to determine whether you deserved it.
- Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)**
Your future is wide open, an endless ocean of possibilities, as long as you do nothing that takes more than three days.

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carry out appropriate consultation evoked much unease in the countries student population, which was further heightened by hints that Minister Dempsey planned to reintroduce third level fees next year. However earlier this month he ruled out any such plans but the trust is no longer there. It was for this reason that over 2,000 Limerick students felt they must act now rather than later. With a good turnout from all the colleges it had been hoped that UL students could have made an even greater impact on numbers however many failed to brave the poor weather conditions. Those who did joined up with the NCAD and converged on Limerick city with style and vigour calling for "Minister Dempsey's head" as the confluence of students from LIT and Mary Immaculate came in sight the protesters were jubilant at the turnout. The group then marched up O'Connell Street proceeded down Henry street before crossing the Shannon converging outside Limerick Court House.

Grainne Heffernon, Vice President of ULSU congratulated everyone for coming out, which was followed by speeches from the presidents of the



And the winner of the best protest poster is.....

various student unions. Mike Quinn of the Mary Immaculate College Student Union asserted that students must sustain their rights "investment in education is investment in the

nations' future". As the crowd dispersed emotions were high with talks of more protests on a local and national scale to

follow. One thing that cannot be "taken for granted" is that the students of this country can be!

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