


View
Arts and Ents
p9

Clubs and Socs
Reports
p 20

watch your stuff
news
p3



What's News?

Student Teacher Officer Elections	P2
Juggling Society	P2
Job Placement	P7
Sabbat Reports	P8
Poetry Festival	P18
Letters to Editor	P26

Where were you last Tuesday?

Last Tuesday saw the students of U.L. join forces with their fellow students from L.I.T. Mary Immaculate College and the Limerick School of Art and Design in Limerick to march into the City Hall in protest against the proposal to raise the Registration Fee to 1000 euro next year. Over 200 students from U.L. left the Students' Union at midday and set off to join up with the 1,200 strong crowd that had congregated at City Hall. Students are angry that these planned increases in Registration will be used for Administration purposes rather than in areas such as Student Services and the Medical Center that are in more urgent need of these funds. The protest last week certainly had the desired effect with Media Coverage on all the major news stations in Ireland as well as coverage in Wednesday's newspapers. However it is worth noting that the turnout of students from U.L. was well below average when compared with the numbers in attendance from L.I.T. Last years successful protests against the government proposal to re-introduce Fees showed how forceful a vocal and active student campaign can be and hopefully there will be a much stronger U.L. contingent in future

protests. ULSU's Communications and Campaigns Officer, Sarah Ryan, said, "We are really pleased with the way the protest went. Although the numbers were smaller than we had hoped for, everyone there was really enthusiastic. We were vehemently opposed to government cutbacks on Tuesday and it showed. The entire crowd at the protest was really good-natured and I can honestly say that every single person that I've spoken to about it since has told me that they really enjoyed themselves and were really glad they had marched." She continued, "I'd like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who contributed behind the scenes of the march, be it making banners or hanging up posters or whatever. It made a huge difference to the march. Our message was definitely very clear." "If you didn't get a chance to attend Tuesday's protest, there are plenty of other ways for you to voice your displeasure at the state of third-level funding in this country. Lobby your local representatives, write letters to your TDs, and join in when the next day of action comes along!"



A disgruntled, but very fetching, student on last Tuesday's march

For more photos from Tuesday's march, see pages 14 and 15

N e w s

Students of the College of Education Still need a Student-Teacher Officer.

The vote on Thursday for Equality Officer now leaves only one of the three non-sabbatical positions to be filled. (Seamus Ryan has been deemed elected as Community Relations Officer). It was confirmed at last Tuesday's Class Reps Council that nominations would be reopened.

Madeline Molyneaux, ULSU Education Officer, encouraged students in the College of Education by saying, "With rising numbers of pupils in Education there is an increasing need for supervision and information to be given and received between the Students' Union and the University, the position of Student Teacher Officer is essential. Concern regarding teaching practice, labs, overcrowding and timetabling are recurring issues that need to be addressed urgently. It is my hope that the elected Student Teacher Officer and I, as

Education Officer, will work together to address these areas as a matter of necessity immediately."

Nominations for this position closed on Friday. Two candidates were nominated. Aoife Conway, who is doing a link-in before entering second year of Wookwork Teaching, and William "Gerard" Dineen, a First Year Science Education student.

Elections will be held on Thursday of Week Four. Polling will take place in the Canteen (Main Building, B1) from 10:30am until 6pm. Voting is open to all registered students of the University of Limerick and is not restricted to students in the college of Education.

Simply come along to the canteen on Thursday with your UL ID in tow and Cast Your Vote!

Sculpture Inauguration on Tuesday

After tantalising students and staff alike over the past year through its plastic cover, the inauguration of the new entrance sculpture will take place at 3pm this Tuesday at main entrance to the Campus.

The Wall,' as it has already colloquially been dubbed, was designed by the Dublin-born artist Sean Scully. "Crann Soille," the official title of the sculpture, is the first public sculpture made by Scully. This internationally renowned artist was educated in London and since the mid-1970's has lived in the United States. Today he is one of the most widely acclaimed and exhibited artists in the world, with exhibitions in the Tate Modern, London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Guggenheim, both in New York, among others (For

you who don't know this are very prestigious Modern Art Galleries). In designing the wall Scully aimed, "To make a monument that connected the ancient Irish walls, the black and white severity of Irish facades, and ultimately the absolute present, in one monumental stone object."

The University has welcomed all members of the campus community to the inauguration of the sculpture and to an address given by Sean Scully in the Jean Monnet at 7pm that evening entitled, "Wall of Light." The unveiling of this sculpture is the second element of the overall plans for the main entrance of the University, which include the existing flagpoles and future landscaping of the area.

'A Vote for Spaight' sees him elected Equality Officer

The elections for Equality Officer, on Thursday of Week 3 saw a low turnout from students. Despite this the democratic process moved on, and the position was filled.

Only 380 votes were cast in the elections (4 were spoilt), this could be contributed to the low-key campaigns of the two candidates and the awareness of the elections among the student population. This election could also reflect the national trends of voter apathy. Eoin O'Brein, ULSU President, however argued that, "Though the turnout was fine, considering the campaigns. A much higher turnout was recorded in the same elections last year in week five, as the campaigns were very vocal. Turnout to elections for the year before last would have been half of what was seen this year, so overall the turnout was fair."

Despite this low turnout, a result reached; Donal O'Dirscoll received 116 votes and Derek Spight with 260 votes, a margin of 144. Speaking a few days after the vote Donal said "I would like to congratulate Derek on his success in the Equality officer election. I know he will do a fine job. I'd be lying if I said I was not disappointed with the result, particularly my margin of defeat, is quite a humbling result. What I am most disappointed about I suppose is the miniscule numbers that voted. While I can understand apathy, I think it is important to vote anyway. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with my campaign and those who supported me and voted me, and also to thank Stan Blennerhassett for all his hard work in running the election."



Equality Officer Derek Spaight

Meanwhile Derek outlined his plans for the year ahead as Equality Officer "My plans for the long-term is for longer opening hours and better access to materials. While in the short-term I want to be more accessible to students' weather a member of a minority group or not, I won't know if you have a problem unless students approach me. Also want to create awareness of Societies that relate to minority issues, such as Outreach and LGB, and I look forward to working with Dave."

David Garrahy Welfare Officer speaking on the prospect of working with Derek on Equality issues said, "I'm delighted Derek has been elected, it has shown a commitment by students' to Equality issues. I hope to work closely with Derek. Also a note of commiserations to Donal, I hope he will continue to work with the Union."

A year lies ahead for Derek of insuring the UL has an environment of equality and understanding for those who work, study and play on campus.

Goodness Gracious, Great Ball Soc of Fire!

BY KEITH WHELAN

For a tradition that has been around for 4,000 years, indeed since the time of the Egyptians, it has until now, taken a Danish Erasmus student to start a Juggling Society in U.L. Timme Rosholm, held an impromptu session of juggling in the courtyard outside the Students Union last week. We Irish seemingly, believe or believe it not as they say at the Ripley household, have a history in this field.

Here comes the history bit!

The folklore hero Cu-Cuchulain is recorder in The Tain as being able to "juggle nine apples with never more than one in his hand". Probably a pub-promotion for the Bulmers of the time if you ask me!

According to Timme though, "it's not all balls!"

"I have been doing this for one and half-years after a friend back home introduced me to it. It looked amazing and incredible. I had never seen anything

like it".

He went on to say, "I find it a great way to relax and it clears the head like meditation. It's not as difficult as it looks and within a week of starting, I had stopped dropping the items all the time! You just need to get a feel for the weight of the object you are juggling and to get your technique right". He continued by talking about the items used in juggling, like the balls and the fire-sticks. Both items can be made for only a couple of euros as the basic materials are cheap. Anyone who joins the society will be thought how to make these. At the time of talking with Timme, thirty-five people had already signed on to become members of the society. Several more were attempting, under the guidance of Timme, to juggle different items.

These people were also being helped by Joe Mc Ginley, who has been at this for nine years. "There are juggling societies in Maynooth, U.C.D and Trinity, so it



UL's new-found jugglers show off their skills

would be great if we could get one up and running in U.L. we have the perfect place in the courtyard here to do it, with plenty of space and people are having fun and getting plenty of exercise as well. He said that anyone could juggle three balls in a half-hour.

"I think it's like learning to tie your shoelaces - once you learn it once, you'll never forget."

So, if you fancy being one of the best juggler's in the world like a chap called Jay Gilligan who can juggle 11 clubs at once (show-off!), why not contact Timme at Tiro01ab@student.cbs.dk for further information.


News

STUDENTS
BEWARE, THERE
ARE THIEVES
ABOUT

Laptop €2000.....Electric guitar €500.....your music collection €300..... remembering to close your windows before you leave your room.....priceless.



A few weeks into the new college year and according to reports we've already had our first spate of break-ins/burglaries. This shows the real and present danger of a lax attitude towards keeping your room locked up. You've managed to convince your parents that a laptop is essential to your course (and not just for downloading mp3's and playing games) now you want to hold onto it. Step one in succeeding in this endeavour must be ensuring that your room is secure at all times. This article is directed particularly at first years living in the student villages and surrounding estates, those further along in their college lives have already heard the horror stories and are fully aware of the dangers of an easily accessible room, be very careful when you leave your room unattended. Your average thief only needs a few minutes and an open window to gain access to and remove all your valuables making a poor student even poorer. Common sense is most definitely the order of the day, an open window provides complete access to anything you have in your room in less than twenty seconds. The easiest way to avoid having to explain to your parents that your brand new stereo has mysteriously disappeared and you need another €350 to replace it is to make sure it doesn't disappear in the first place. Locking your door and closing your windows when you're out of your room goes a long way towards ensuring you don't get a nasty surprise when you come back from the Lodge some Thursday night.



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Monday • Manic Monday's

Monday is the New Saturday with the tackiest most singalong anthems this side of Tom Jones record collection !!!!
Free Admission to emergency services, bar, restaurant and hotel staff, hospital staff and with valid college id.
Everyone Else: €5

Tuesday • Indie Nation

in association with Mary I SU
Mary I Students host a massive Tuesday night with the ladies getting it down to a cutting edge soundtrack of r'n'b and rock while the boys struggle to catch their eye!
€6 all night long

Wednesday • Student Central

in association with UL SU
The biggest college, the best lookers and the most up for a party? They certainly like to think so and it's the biggest student party of the week!
€7 from ULSU and on the door.

Thursdays • Access All Areas

Soul Clinic is in the Red Room & Courtyard with Stevie G, Noel Phelan and Bass Odyssey among the residents and guest slots from Nightmares on Wax to Stereo MC's! In the main room, it's big dancefloor anthems all the way!
€7 gets you all in all over!

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3 rooms, 2 courtyards, 1 ultimate venue!
Our showcase nights when we throw all the doors open! Aiden Kelly's in the courtyard, Paul Webb's in the main room, Johnny & Mark are in Quarter Club and every week is full of surprises!
€10 all night long

Sundays • Trinity Classics

Guaranteed Thrillers, no Fillers! **€10 all night long.**

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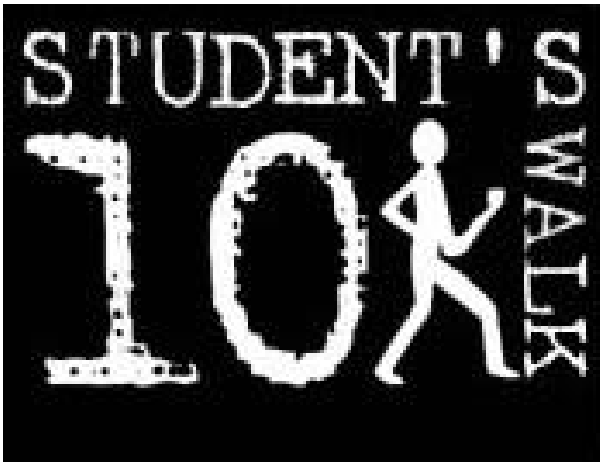
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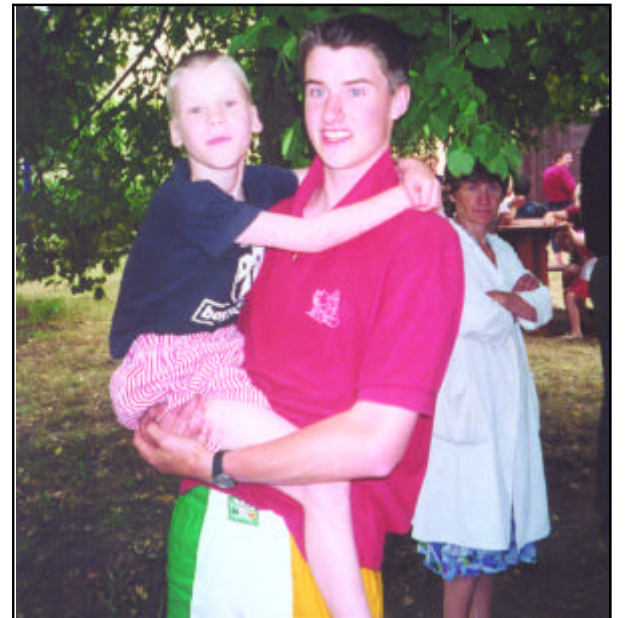
News

Do the 10K - Do your Bit!



the kids can give out to someone who effectively is a stranger. Was that cheesy? Anyway, I've mostly worked with children from Novinki orphanage. Novinki cares for 204 kids with psycho-neurological disorders. I have worked with the kids you generally see the horror pictures of in the papers etc. However, I must admit I never ever felt sad when with them. They're all hilarious and full of personality. That's what hits you most when you're in a place like Novinki, the fact the kids are so in tune despite not much if no stimulation. There are around thirty amazing children in cots like this with disorders such as cerebral palsy and hydro-cephalous. The rest of the children I've worked with are fully active and incredibly full of the joys of life.

New playgrounds, stimulation rooms, teaching and art and massage therapy programmes have been put in place in Novinki in the last five years and have made immense differences to the children's lives. Thankfully, the attitude of the Belarussian people and their government is beginning to change for the better as well. However, there's still a mountain of work to be completed in orphanages such as Novinki, as well as



Shane Cass and Aleis, aged 10

The 10K walk takes place on November 13th. Money that is collected will help orphanages, institutions and centres in Belarus where people are currently suffering from lack of basic facilities due to under-resourcing. As well as under-resourcing they are also affected by the continuing problems of the Chernobyl accident in 1986, which still has an effect on the health of every inhabitant of the affected area. You have the chance to help. Small amounts of funding can help to ensure that the suffering can stop. Please get involved.

There will be stand in the Students' Union the week beforehand where you can sign up to do the walk. Please call into me, the Welfare Officer if you are interested in helping out with the campaign.

One UL student, Stephen Cass, visited some of the orphanages and institutions in question on our behalf. Here he recounts his experiences and the effect it had on him.

Having travelled to orphanages in Belarus on four separate occasions I've been asked to give an account of my experiences there. This is not an easy thing to do, as it's difficult to convey what you see and feel onto paper. Don't get me wrong, working over there isn't a grief-riddled experience, ninety per-cent of the time it's fantastic fun.

What's difficult to get across is the love and affection



Last year's 10K walk

children's homes and adult institutions.

A month ago I travelled in a group of thirty students with 10K to work in Novinki and other institutions and

identify projects that can be undertaken this year. Thirty projects have been identified as immediately necessary. These projects include the development of teaching and care programmes for children and adult institutions as well as structural work in the institutions (the building of playgrounds, classrooms, stimulation rooms etc.).

10k, in conjunction with the Belarussian Orphanage project (a Cork based charity) are fully committed to completing all thirty projects within the next year. To make his possible a huge fundraising effort will have to be undertaken by every college in Ireland. So, whether you come on board and participate in the 10K walk or just give a few bob it really will make a huge difference in the lives of so many wonderful people in Belarus. Thanks for all your support. Oh and by the way, a certain Mary Immaculate College was the biggest contributor per head to 10K last year, let's try not let that happen again. Get out there and please please walk or do what you can.

Help Elect The Youngest MEP in Ireland

Seanán Ó Coistín, a 4th Year History, Politics and Social Studies student, has recently declared himself as an Independent candidate for Leinster in the European elections to be held on June, 11th, 2004. And he is looking for your help to get him elected as the youngest MEP in Europe.

So Who Is He?

Seanán is a soon to be 23 year old from Cill Choca, Co. Chill Dara, smack bang in the middle of Leinster.

What Does He Want To Do?

He wants to get elected as the youngest MEP in Ireland and Europe. He is fed up with the way politics are in Ireland right now and wants to offer the people of Leinster an alternative. He believes in clean, honest politics.

"I want to help the people of Leinster in the European Parliament by being an honest, disciplined, hard working MEP. I need 100,000 votes to do it."

Why Would He Be a Good MEP?

Seanán would be a good MEP for many reasons, such as:

He studies **History, Politics and Social Studies**. His main subject is Politics – mostly European politics;



He studied in Rotterdam for Erasmus and did a course on effective lobbying in Brussels – very handy for getting things; He speaks many languages, which is very important in the EU. He speaks Irish, English, French and Spanish; At 23 years old, he is **30 years younger than the average age of the European Parliament**. The youngest Irish MEP is 40 years old.

He has shown leadership all his life. Here are some examples of his leadership: He was a member of quiz teams in the schools he attended;

He single-handedly organised the debs ball in his school;

He was presented a certificate from his school as the Best Mentor on the Students' Council;

He won prizes with the F.C.Á. for **Best Recruit** in 1999, Best Team in 2000 and became a Corporal in 2001;

He represented UL on "*Challenging Times*" in 1st Year;

He was a Class Representative for his class;

He established Cumann na Gaeilge in UL and An Cumann Ghaelach in LIT in

2000.

He was the PRO of Conradh na Gaeilge in Luimneach where he forced Dunnes Stores to announce a review of its language policy all over Ireland.

So How Can YOU Help?

In order for Seanán to be successful, he will need supporters who are willing to help out with campaigning. "I need people who can help in different ways – such as canvassing, leafleting, sending emails, building websites, poster, reminding people to register. There are many ways to help me win."

If you live in Leinster or would like to help out contact Seanán at feisireorpach@eircom.net or at 9921303@student.ul.ie

Your help is essential if the youngest candidate in Ireland is to be elected. As an Independent candidate, his election will provide a better choice to voters who are fed up with dirty politics.

So help a fellow student and young person and become a member of the campaign team today.

News



PUBLIC ORDER, LITTER AND STUDENTS

Most students will live away from home for the first time when they come to college. Living with other students has many advantages, but it also brings with it many responsibilities. Below is just a guideline to what the Public Order and Litter Acts really mean for students and how to avoid prosecution on either!

Public Order Act
Drunkenness
Being drunk in public is an offence when you are a danger to yourself and others. If arrested, you can be fined and get a criminal record, which really mucks up your chances of getting a visa America. If you are found drunk in a public place with alcohol, this will be confiscated as well.
The bottom line is don't be drunk in public as it is an offence that can you get a criminal record.

Disorderly Conduct / Abusive Behaviour
This is basically being a nuisance to others. Loud noise, unruly behaviour - even playing football on the roadway, especially in residential areas can be both dangerous and anti-social to other residents. Making noise at night - between

12am and 7am is an offence. Making noise at any time is an offence if you continue to do it after a Guard had asked you to stop. On conviction you can be fined.
Abusive and threatening behaviour is when you breach the peace in such a way that you make someone fearful. This can be shouting at someone or abusing him/her in anyway. Fine and or Jail.
Remember that any noise made coming home from a pub or disco is an offence under the Public Order Act.
In any instance, if you fail to comply with what a Guard asks you to do, you are breaching the Public Order Act. This may include leaving an area when you are requested to do so by a Guard.
Only a Garda can enforce the Act. These are but a few of the offences under the Public Order Act.

Litter Act
You are basically responsible for keeping your house, garden, and pavement clean and tidy. This is your responsibility, no matter how the litter got there. The fine is €125 on the spot.

Remember anyone found littering with any type of material is liable to a fine of €125 on the spot.

UL CAREERS FAIR - OCTOBER 20th, 2003

The Cooperative Education & Careers Division is organising a major on-campus Careers Fair on Monday, 20th October. This is a key event in the graduate recruitment activity with over 70 organisations already registered to participate, making it the largest of any of the university careers fairs in the country. 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 are interested in recruiting UL graduates in 2004. Some of these employers will also have immediate vacancies to fill. Representatives of these companies will be present at the stands to talk to students and graduates about the different type of career opportunities in their organisations and to answer any questions you might have.

What companies will be present?
We will have over 70 organisations 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 2004.
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

A & L Goodbody	FBD Holdings Plc	Kinnear & Co.,
ACCA	Fidelity Investments -	Accountants
Accenture	FISC	Kostal Ireland GmbH
AIB Group	GE Consumer Finance	KPMG
Airbus, UK	Glanbia Plc	Matheson Ormsby
Analog Devices	Grant Thornton	Prentice
Aughinish Alumina	GTI Ireland	Mazars
B.I.S.Y.S. Fund Services	Hertz Europe Service	Medtronic
Bank Of Bermuda	Centre	Moog Ltd
Bank Of Ireland Group	Hewlett Packard	Monster.ie
BDO Simpson Xavier	i-to-i Ireland	Motorola Ireland Ltd
Bristol-Myers Squibb	IBEC	National Microelectronics
CIMA Ireland	IBM	Research Centre
Civil Service Commission	Institute Of Certified	ODCL Recruitment & HR
Cognizant Technology	Public Accountants	Solutions Ltd
Solutions	Institute Of Chartered	Pfizer
Coyle Hamilton	Accountants In Ireland	PFPC International
Dawn Meats Group	Institute Of Taxation In	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Deloitte & Touche	Ireland	Procter & Gamble
Deutsche Bank	Intel Ireland Ltd	Quinn Group Ltd
Diageo Irl	International Fund	Royal Bank of Scotland
Edge	Services (Ireland) Ltd	Russell Brennan Keane
Edge Hill College Of	Investors Trust Ireland	Smurfit Group
Education, UK	Japan Exchange and	State Street International
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Teaching (Jet)	(Ireland Ltd)
Ernst & Young	Programme	The College Of Law
ESL Opportunities	Kentz Group	Traventec Ltd
FAS Overseas Graduate	Kerry Group	VHI Healthcare
Programme	Kepak Group	Xilinx

- Get expert advice on what a career with a particular company might involve and how you can get the job you want
- Collect information on many of the employers involved in the Coop programme as well as graduate recruitment
- Decide which organisations 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:

- Ø Do some research on companies you want to check out. Read the company entries on the careers website or in Careers by Degrees 2003-2004. Check the company websites for the detailed information.
- Ø For help in preparing a CV, attend the seminar on 'Making Effective Applications' on October 14th.
- Ø Attend the seminar on 'Preparing for the Careers Fair' on October 15th.
- Ø Book a slot to have your CV checked at the CV Clinic on October 16th.
- Ø Take along several copies of your CV to leave with employers.
- Ø Think about your strengths and skills, and be able to tell an employer

what you have to offer.
Ø Think about what questions you want to ask them: What vacancies do they have? What are their requirements? What training opportunities do they offer?
Ø Be sure to visit the less well-known organisations also as they often have very challenging opportunities to offer.
Ø Make note of the names of any contacts you make on the day.

In summary:
Whatever course you're doing, and whatever your year of study, 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 2003-2004 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/g_rads.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.

Features & Opinion

Pride or Prejudice?

By Mikey Stafford

I went for a pint last week. Struggling for elbow space in one of our clubs and observing many of my peers thoroughly enjoying the musical fare on offer, I realised how lucky I am to be here in one of our seats of higher learning. Apart from the educational opportunities on offer, there are countless social benefits of which I can avail. On this particular evening it happened to be Irish folk tunes, the highlights of the evening being such rousing offerings as Go home British soldiers, go on home and Come out you Black and Tans. The vast majority of the crowd agreed with this appraisal and seemed positively invigorated by these two classics in particular. What a night! What an atmosphere! What a Nation we are! For holding a grudge at least.

What if I were to pen a song entitled Go home Nigerians go on home? I'd be branded a racist, ostracised by most sensible people, and probably flogged till I was bloody and malleable with a life-size cardboard cutout of Jay Jay Okocha. It's possibly a facile analogy since one song is about an archaic occupying force, while the fictional one would deal with asylum seekers hoping to gain refuge from an oppressive regime. However, it does illustrate that there exists within this country a feeling of latent hostility towards our nearest neighbours which doesn't have attached to it the usual

stigma of racism.

I can hear it now. "Those songs are our cultural heritage; the feelings they portray bear no resemblance to how we now feel towards the English people." Hmmm. That explains the hypocritical vitriol hurled at TV screens up and down the country when the English football team is in action. Steven Gerrard is a saint when he wears the Red of Liverpool (Merseyside's Protestant football club by the way) but once he pulls on that English shirt? Well, let's just hope his mother isn't in earshot. It also explains the intimidation suffered by an English couple in Santry last month, which resulted in them moving out. Doesn't it just make you feel all green and fuzzy inside?

The tragic thing is that this article should be an utterly unoriginal piece of journalism, saying nothing that we have not heard a hundred times before. But it's not. The only journalist, print or otherwise, who dares to delve into this phenomenon on more than the sporadic occasion is Kevin Myers of the Irish Times. Any coincidence then that Kevin Myarse (as he is affectionately known) is far from our most popular wordsmith? Other taboos are now being dealt with, corrupt politicians and clerical abuse to mention a couple. Maybe we'll have an "Unable to Let The Past Go" tribunal?

Because that's the crux of this issue: our inability to consign past injustices to the annals. There has been more animosity between France and Germany in the past two hundred years than between most European countries. While the French manage to resist the temptation to refer to their neighbours as "Storm Troopers", we're unable to resist the urge to label the English as "Tans" and "Huns". Could there be something inherent in our society which renders us incapable of coaxing this monkey from our back? If there is, then the history taught in our schools must be the prime suspect.

We learn copious amounts about the glorious uprisings of 1798 and 1916 and the War of Independence. No wonder people drone on about 800 years of oppression. But what were the downtrodden people of Ireland doing for the 700 odd years they weren't rebelling? The truth, when not viewed through emerald-tinted glasses, is that for the most part the Irish people got on with life, a life made more bearable by modern infrastructure, justice, health and education systems and many other benefits-in-kind of oppression. Of course we had every right to fight for our freedom and self-determination but our history is not The Lord of The Rings. Real life is not that black-and-white. Reading a Junior Cert history book, you don't always get impartiality. Maybe a smidgen of drama keeps 13 year-olds



interested, but it also keeps them misinformed.

Whatever the reason, there is certainly a potent quality to our bigotry. We harbour great animosity towards our nearest neighbours and strongest trading partners (We were unable to join the Common Market until President De Gaulle of France dropped his vendetta against Britain because it would have been counter-productive to join without them). So, despite these strong links we persist with our animosity towards "English". Individual English people are rarely targeted, but rather an idea of what it is to be English which is embedded in our psyches. Perhaps it draws on the worst characteristics of the less attractive English people; the football hooligan's mindless thuggery, Margaret Thatcher's insensitivity and Oliver Cromwell's ruthlessness. Of course, we're all saints and scholars.

In the war against terrorism, Brian Kennedy is next

Fresh from a triumphant victory in Iraq, and with one quarter of a billion dollars at his disposal come the 2004 U.S. presidential election, it seems that Jimmy Carter will be dancing the candanza on my front door step before a democrat unseats George Bush as the President of the U.S.A.

However, the chances of a former president dancing around your rose bushes in a pretty dress is of no concern to me, except to say that I hope that day never falls upon me. Before I continue, if you have done any of the following, or taken part in any of the following acts since the year 2000, do not continue reading this article

1-Taken part in any pinko/antiestablishment parade or organisation that was concerned with overthrowing/destroying/burning some part of the establishment, or indeed anything at all

2-You strongly believe that fluoride in our water is part of an incredible plot, hatched by some Eurocrat in Strasbourg to harmonise tax rates in Europe

You see, this article is not concerned with American foreign policy in the least, but with the present U.S. administrations lack of respect for the basic freedoms on which the American ideal was founded, and the basic civil liberties which ordinary Americans hold so sacrosanct. So if you've got a pair of flowery Pants, I'm sorry, this is not about Iraq.

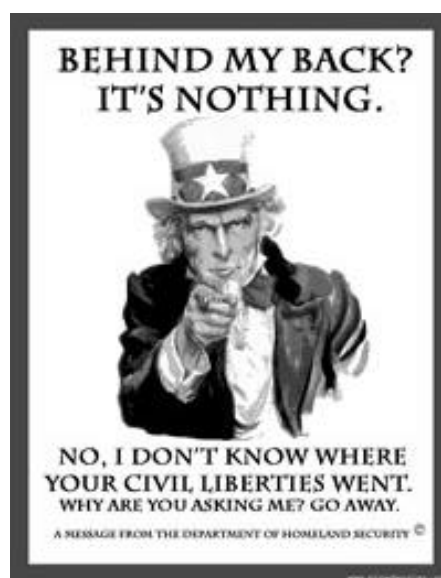
In the aftermath of September 11th, the Bush administration stressed the need to crack down on terrorist cells in the U.S. As a result, increased surveillance powers were needed for federal security organisations to locate and capture individuals who posed a threat to the U.S., and to prevent further attacks such as those on the World Trade Centre. These increased powers came in the form of the Patriot act, a piece of legislation that was passed by congress in the immediate aftermath of September 11th.

However, the Patriot act presents an over breadth with a clear lack of focus on terrorism, that any rational individual can see will not only lead to increased surveillance of ordinary U.S. citizens, but a restriction of their basic rights as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, most notably the 4th amendment which recognises "The right of people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures". This right may not be violated.

Certain provision of the Patriot act provide for the following

- Any person who commits a crime of violence will have their D.N.A. put onto a database
- Wiretaps for suspected violations of the computer fraud and abuse act
- Internet surveillance of suspected Terrorists

But who is a 'Terrorist'. Judge Andrew



Napolitano, a former Judge in the New Jersey supreme court and lecturer on U.S. Constitutional law has commented that "The president-Using standards not legislated by congress, not approved by any court, and never made known to the public-has claimed the right to incarcerate enemy combatants until the war on terrorism is over. But when will that be?...Who is an enemy combatant? Today, it can be anyone the president wants. And that is terrifying."

Over the summer, I happened to find myself sitting in the reception area of a law firm in Connecticut in the U.S. waiting for a friend to come to lunch. Waiting for what seemed an eternity, I picked up a magazine and began to read it. I was delighted to discover that I was now reading the official magazine of the

national rifle association. Inside, I was to discover that anyone opposing terrorist busting legislation such as the Patriot act was a freedom hater. Although not a political organisation, the NRA had no problem picking out certain Democrats for abuse.

But Freedom haters? Oh right, yea. I mean, I really want my library records, email, you name it provided to the F.B.I or whoever it is who may choose to carry out surveillance on me. After all, not to do so would not only be unpatriotic, but a clear affront to the cause of freedom, wouldn't it?

The Bush administration is resting on the sympathy, and of course the fear gathered after 9/11 to implement measures that are an absolute infringement of the basic civil liberties that all Americans enjoy.

If Americans deny their forefathers faith in liberty, they will one day be robbed of it entirely.

"Destroy this spirit and you have planted the seeds of despotism at your own doors. Familiarise yourselves with the chains of bondage and you prepare your own limbs to wear them. Accustomed to trample on the rights of others, you...become the fit subjects of the first cunning tyrant who rises among you." Abraham Lincoln

Features & Opinion

Graduates done Good - Mark O'Connor

Each fortnight, we take a look at how a UL graduate is doing in the real world. Just to show you that there is life after college, and that it needn't necessarily have anything to do with you degree. This edition,after much tomfoolery by me last time, we bring you Mark O'Connor.

If you know a graduate who is doing something weird, wild or wacky and who might be interested in being profiled here, drop a mail to sucommunication@ul.ie

Where are you from? Did you do any courses in other colleges, universities?

Born, bred in Limerick, the greatest town on Earth.

What course(s) did you do in UL?

B Sc. Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Design, 91 - 96

MA in Music Technology, 97 - 98

How did you get interested in recording music and the recording process?

Learned to sing in Bedford Row hospital on October 3rd 1974. Learned piano age 11. Picked up guitar 15, bass 17, drums 20. Wrote my first tune when I was 14. Released my first album when I was 28. I plan to do a duet with Francis Bean Cobain when I'm 56 and do a world tour when I'm 112...

So knowing how to play music, you realise the importance of recording it. Is there a point in writing something, if it won't be heard/played/remembered? Maybe. But let's record it anyway.

Been in lots of bands, among others namely Fingal's cave (dodge reggae band), Captain Stoobing (Nirvana MBV covers band), Veneer (played organ and guitar, see <http://www.fluידedge.ie/veneer/index.html>), Moonboot (see <http://listen.to/ngafswsw>), Tooth (bass, sang, greatest band I ever hope to be part of, www.tooth.ie). Now I do my solo thing. I was involved in recording all these bands and at least a 100 others since 1994. I've recorded on 4-tracks, 8-track ADAT UL studio, 16 track analogue, gazillion track TBMC studio, and now my own 16 track mobile studio.

Reason I love recording: Seeing the look on the face of anyone I record. Hearing them say, "Man, that sounds deadly!" Mission accomplished.

What are your aims, in respect of your recording?

The way you record is important too. How to best capture the essence of the music? How to record how the band sounds? How best to take the band where they are trying to go? How to make a million selling westlifian piece of shit album? These are all-important questions.

I don't have aims as such. I want to do the best job. To help people make the best records. There's lots of gear out there to record with. But there's only one of me. I think I've got the funky shit recording wise. That's why I pursue it and now make a living from it.

Who are you recording lately?

Recently did: Giveamanakick (next Road Relish split single), Kader Fire (All your left with, 4 song EP, available in Empire Records now), Funbobby (13 song album, soon to be released), Roper (6 song EP soon to be released), Mr Creosote (mixed 7 songs, recorded by Richard Bourke).

Am recording now: Niall Quinn and the Pennywhores (ex-Hitchers songwriter in excelsis, 6 tracks), Seratoza (solo ex-Kamiko drummer stuff), Atrophy (8 Track EP).

All from Limerick. All great.

What effect do you feel that studying in UL has on its students? Is UL a robot manufacturing facility?

You come across as a man who feels strongly about a lot of things. What advice would you give UL students?

(I'm going to answer both these questions at the same time.)

Trippy dialogue bit:

Borg Mark - NEGATIVE. DOES NOT COMPUTE. NOT ALLOWED TALK OF ALMA MATER IN NEGATIVE TERMS.

Me Mark - Ctrl Alt Del.

Borg Mark - Oh NOOO! WHAT THE FUCK IS HAPPENING?

Me Mark - I'm shutting you down UL

Borg Robot side of my brain!

Borg Mark - WHY? WHYYYYY? ALL I WANT TO DO IS SERVE MY CAPITALIST OVERLORD MASTER! ME: Yo! Your capitalist overlord is a BITCH!

(Back to normal.)

Is every brick in UL made of shit? I dunno. Is it the science lab/think tank of megaconglomerate corporations who want nothing from this world but the pennies out of our pockets? Maybe. Am I unfair on my old prisoner cellblock H Shithole University?

I for one suffered big time from loneliness in UL. Maybe folks reading this suffer too. I don't mind writing about that cos I know it needs talking about. My way out was music, cos I'm a musician. Folks who are lonely should change their own shit. Do join a shitty club, or soc. Do meet folks. Do activate your head. Don't stay on your own and let your head rot. And if you're not lonely, DON'T forget about those who are. Be nice.

In UL, most children who enter it leave it as adults. These years are the last chance for your head not to end up like a member of the audience in the Late Late Show. You'll experience things as you go. Leave your head open. Don't let your imagination die. Just remember, "all the bricks are made of shit!"

Lots of changes happened in UL. I became an environmentalist. I got political. I met my love. Drank flagons and sang with my chums in the Kate O'Brien Tower. Deafened folks in the canteen opening Rag Week one year with a live music thing. Had a snowball fight where now stands the Aeronautical building.

Lots of folks do a great job in UL. The folks in the restaurants. The security lads. The lecturers. For the record, my best lecturers were Mikael Fernstrom, Stephen O'Brien and some hot French girl who thought us French.

My considering UL as a giant piece of



Mark O'Connor, in Mexican Mood

shit comes down to my bad experiences of it and some of the captains of industry fucks who pull the profit before people puppet strings. These are the folks most UL graduates end up working for for the rest of their lives. As soon as I see evidence that they give a fuck about anything other than money and preserving the global inequality status quo, I'll think differently.

What do you feel are your greatest achievements so far in your business (if you'd like to call it that), your music and your life in general (no need to get tooo private)

Being in love. Being convinced that shit does happen, no matter how much you think it doesn't. Good and bad shit.

Being in Genoa at the G8 summit demonstrations in 2001.

Being in Sacramento at the First Tape Op magazine Conference, meeting Steve Albini, J Mascis, Mitch Easter, Jack Endino. Learning from the best.

Being part of the UL Environmental Society. Going to the climate Change conference in the Hague, Demonstrating at Fasslane Nuclear Submarine base in Scotland and at Sellafield. Objecting to the UL bridge.

Doing this interview (ish).

Being self-employed. Getting out of bed and doing what I want to do. You can do it too.

Ballsofironstudios@yahoo.co.uk

<http://mocstudios.tripod.com>

YOUR OWN STUDENT JOB PLACEMENT SERVICE.

Did you know that the U.L. Students' Union has its very own Job Placement office just for you? Already up to last Friday, in the first semester, it has secured 155 part time, temporary, or casual jobs for current students, and also introduced ten Graduates to employers for full time positions.It is located just inside the front door of the student Centre, (first door on your right), and they have many more jobs available in Hotels, Bars, Restuarants, Cafes, Night clubs, Shops and Retail outlets, leading up to Christmas, and beyond.

Before calling you should log on to their website www.sudpt.ul.ie to register as a member, which takes about three minutes, and you will receive your own

user name, and personal password, which you will use to activate membership. Then , after checking your lecture timesheet, tutorials, research time, and leisure time activities, if you need a job, to make ends meet, call to Paul O'Connor, in ROOM SU 016, with your hours of availability , and he will endeavour to secure a position to suit your needs.There is no charge for this service which is for U.L. students and graduates.

IMPORTANT SEMINAR FOR 3RD AND 4TH YEAR STUDENTS, POST GRADS, AND GRADUATES.

In working closely with other organisations in the employment agency



Paul O'Connor

sector, Paul has secured for ULSU the exclusive rights for Limerick to a seminar which will be very beneficial to

all those approaching their final years in College, or those who have already graduated, or on post grad courses.The two hour event will take place in THE CONFERENCE ROOM(formerly the POOL ROOM) upstairs in the Student Centre. on Wednesday evening the 5th November, at 6.15 pm, and the admission charge is EUR 5. Entitled"Follow your Dream Career" it will be presented by Mr. Ken Harbourne, of Working Ireland, who has vast experience of employment opportunities in Ireland, U.K.,Europe, Australia, and U.S.A. As many students from Mary Immaculate College, and L.I.T. have expressed interest in attending, please secure your tickets early, as only 100 can be accomodated.

Sabbatical Officers

This is a temporary home for the sabbats' reports this edition. Don't worry, they'll be back to pride of place at the arse-end of the paper next edition.

PRESIDENT - EOIN

Hey!

Thanks to all of you who came on the Demo last week. Although numbers were half that of last year (no we didn't get 1,000 in case you are wondering) it was a great day out and got great coverage in the Media. Did you see Sarah on Network2 and TG4? As we said the issues were fees down, grants up and stop the cutbacks in Third level Education. I actually stated in my speech that I didn't think Noel Dempsey was fit to be a Minister of Education and I will stand over this as long as he continues to make things difficult for Universities and Students'. Ask yourself where are Dempsey's measures leading to?



More power to Liam Quinn (1st Law & Euro) and David Delaney (3rd Business) for keeping the chanting going all the way into town. Next stop with this campaign is a national demo on budget day in Dublin on December 3rd.

Since our last transmission I have attended the Sports Arena Board of Directors (chaired by none other than Eddie Keher the legendary Kilkenny hurler) - all well there, the Campus Development Committee where progress with the developments on the Clare Campus were presented plus some discussions about other projects such as phase two of the library for which funding has yet to be secured and Academic Council where we had questions in relation to procedure in the School of Nursing.

We have put together a joint University/Students' Union submission to Limerick City Council on their proposed Cycle lanes. We supported the proposal for bike lanes out the canal and riverbank to the University but stated that they should not be the primary route to the University. We stated that this must come via Clare St. and the Dublin Rd.

That's it! If you have any legal issues you need clarified call in, make sure to elect a Student Teacher Officer next Thursday and go to the unveiling of the Black & White Wall - "Ceann Solas" next Tuesday at 3pm to see how the University spend your money.

Slán,
Eoin

DEPUTY/WELFARE - DAVID



For most students this is about the time that they start to feel a bit strained when it comes to money. The surplus of money from the summer starts to fade and grant payments may not be coming through as quickly as thought.

Also buying books, going out, fees, rent and all the smaller costs really add up to make college life very very expensive.

Sometimes the best way of avoiding the problems of being short of money down the line is setting down a simple budget of your income and expenditure and trying to balance the two figures. The USI (Union of Students in Ireland) has calculated that the average expenditure for a student living away from home is about EUR700 a month. This includes an average of EUR60 for groceries, EUR40 for your mobile, EUR30 for clothes, EUR20 for books etc.

If you cannot balance your income to your spending then there might be a problem. Don't panic. You can sort it out. Do not ignore the problem - if you tackle the problem now you'll have time to explore every option open to you. Small cuts like going out one less night per week or cutting back on luxuries can help. Shopping at Lidl in Raheen (take the 308 bus) or Dunnes/Tesco can save a lot of money in comparison to local outlets. Also vhihealth.com, O2.ie, Vodafone.ie and oxygen.ie offer free texts from computers. The Students' Union operates a second hand bookshop for course books.

If your budget is not adding up no matter what cut backs you make it's time to seek some help. Please call into me for advice as to how to best manage your money and weekly expenditure, we also administer a Financial Aid Fund which can help out depending on the circumstances. I can also advise you on other entitlements. Otherwise there is also an organisation called MABS (Money Advice and Budgeting Service) at 90 O'Connell Street who can help with budgeting and managing your finances. They can be contacted at 1800 418088 or limerick@mabs.ie

Last piece of advice...budget, budget, budget!!

suwelfare@ul.ie

EDUCATION - MADELINE

Hello all,

I hope that you're settled into your 1st semester back in U.L. Lots of things happenin around campus. We had the demo against the fees, which went really well. I want to say CHEERS to those who made the effort to come out and protest! Its good to see that some students won't let the government get away with anything that takes their fancy.

The Student Status Committee cases were also held. This committee is where students go to apply for internal transfers, re-admission, leave of absence and exemptions. I also sat on Academic Council and the Faculty Board of the I & E college. I've also had lots of students in to me looking for advice, which is really good to see.

Just a few reminders for all of ye:

You should have registered online by now for this semester and next.

Bus Eireann tickets are available from the SU Reception on Fridays.

The bookshop is taking in and selling books for ye daily.

Congratulations to our new part time Officers Derek Spaight who will represent your views on Equality issues and Seamus Ryan who will be your Community Relations Officer. This week will see the election of the Student Teacher Officer. So get out there and vote on Thursday in the B block canteen. Also this week in Class Reps Council we will see the election of 1st year rep and Class Rep Chair. These part time Sabbats, your 4 full time Officers, Peter Burrows, your Societies Officer, Dymrna Nolan, your Clubs Officer (both elected at the Clubs N Socs weekend) will make up your Executive team.

On that note I'll give you another 2 tidbits of info (one of which I was asked to reprint so sorry to all those waiting breathlessly for 2 new tidbits)

There is a Maths Learning Centre located in A2018a, which is open 10am - 12pm & 2pm - 4pm daily for anyone that's stuck or has a question.

You are all paid-up members of the Irish Times website (I know this info is very handy for you FYPers out there!)

Log on and enter **ulireland** as your name and **times231** as your password.

After all that, I hope ye've a fab 2 weeks,

Behave and take it easy schmeers,

Madeline



COMMS & CAMPAIGNS - SARAH



Hello again boys and girls,

What another mad fortnight it's been. An Focal has, as usual, been pulling me in every direction but forwards, and looming like a big scary cloud at the end of the fortnight. (I love it though, so I don't really mind.)

Anyone who applied for membership of the clubs in orientation week or week one should have been elected as members by now and can collect their stickers from the desk beside the Students' Union Reception in the evenings between six and eight pm. If your name isn't on the list, it means that you haven't been elected yet and that you need to apply at

<http://www.clubs.ul.ie>. You can also check the list at this address to see if your name is on it. Simply click on the members list, press Ctrl and F together and type in your name. If it comes up, then you're good to go and get your sticker. If not, then you'll need to hold on for another week or so, until we have another election to make you a member.

You'll need to bring proof of age with you when you come to collect your sticker, along with a €1.30 membership fee.

In other news, well done to everyone who took part in the March into Limerick to protest at the planned raising of the registration fee. Everyone who took part was much appreciated. We made our point with aplomb and had a great time doing it, and that's what student activism is all about. A special thanks to the people who stayed in the Union until all hours at night to help make posters, placards, banners, slogans, phonecalls, chop wood, hammer tacks etc etc. Thank you! The fact that you care makes our job a lot easier.

The next way that you can show you care is to get out and vote in the Student Teacher Officer elections in the Canteen on level B1 on Thursday. Polls are open from 10:30am to 6pm. Bring your UL ID card with you so that you will be permitted to vote! Go and Vote kids, because voting is Fun!

And as I prepare to stay up all night to get an focal ready to go to the printers yet again (and on my birthday no less!) I bid you all enjoy weeks 4&5, try and live outside the castletroy bubble, and play safe so you won't be sorry!

Email sucommunication@ul.ie with queries, complaints or birthday wishes!

End Transmission

View

An Focal's Arts and Ents Section

N ews

P reviews

R eviews

I nterviews



Movie View

FRIDA

It's Wednesday the first of October and I'm sitting in the Belltable Film Club as the crowd begins to trickle in. It's ten past eight when the lights go down and the movie begins. 'Frida,' is the story of a young female artist in 1920's Mexico. The movie chronicles the life of 'Frida Kahlo,' as she strives to create her art in a world of politics, love and torment. Only eighteen years old, 'Frida,' is badly hurt in a bus crash and must live her life in constant pain from her injuries. The movie is visually stunning with the director Julie Taymore (acclaimed director of Titus,) making full use of every piece of equipment, in order to give a very clear account of this story in the form of a biopic. The portrayal of 'Frida,' by Salma Hayek is dramatic, sincere and allows the audience to be drawn into a world of artistry and passion. 'Frida,' a strong-willed and intelligent woman has known pain but strives to lead a life of love and happiness. This leads her to the male artist Diego Rivera portrayed by Alfred Molina. He is already a leading artist employed by the Mexican government after he was forced to leave Stalinist Russia. The movie was a big hit with the audience who interacted fully in the tale of humour, pain, anguish, love and passion. With a running time of two hours I can safely say the movie did hold the attention of the crowd with an intelligent and often surprising storyline. Brought back to the Belltable by popular demand, 'Frida,' is a film of understated genius, compelling and inviting, a story of struggle and constant hope in the face of often overwhelming odds, this is a masterstroke for film-making and perhaps mirrors the future of modern cinema.

NED KELLY

Gregor Jordan earlier this year brought us the simply brilliant 'Buffalo Soldiers' which showcased a director at his peak, with 'Ned Kelly' it appears that this peak was short lived as it retains none of the deftness of touch that made 'Buffalo Soldiers' such an engaging movie. A re-telling of the Australian outlaw's story with Heath Ledger in the role played by Mick Jagger in the 1970 version, 'Ned Kelly' takes the bones of reality but adds an overdose of romance and ends up making a right old mess out of the story. Northwest Victoria, 1871: Ned Kelly clatters a policeman who has the sheer cheek to accuse him of



stealing a horse, earning himself the enmity of the local force and a lengthy stint in prison. After serving his time - and growing a ridiculous beard - he comes home to find his mother and his numerous siblings being harassed by the police. It's not long until Kelly has shot four coppers, is on the run and has turned into an outlaw (with an even longer beard) and bank robber. As far as scriptwriter John M McDonagh is concerned, Kelly's not bad so much as misunderstood. No common thief him, rather the Robin Hood of Australia, a man of principles who really wants the freedom of the people and, in a fictitious and harebrained sub-plot, the posh married Naomi Watts as his own Maid Marian. Clumsy and awkward, 'Ned Kelly' has the feel of a film edited in desperation in a last-ditch attempt to make the most of a good, though frequently wasted, cast. Essentially an Australian western, 'Ned Kelly' is given a firm sense of place by the cinematography of Oliver Stapleton, who captures the magnificent beauty of the Australian landscape and wildlife. Although it has its moments, particularly during the Kelly Gang's final doomed stand, this is not the film that the Ned Kelly legend deserved

***(3 Stars)

BAD BOYS II

A veritable assault on your sonic sensibilities, 'Bad Boys 2' is louder, brasher and a whole lot badder than its predecessor. As one has now come to expect of a testosterone-fuelled actioner from Hollywood's resident megalomaniacs - Michael Bay and producer Jerry Bruckheimer are the duo behind 'Bad Boys', 'Armageddon' and 'Pearl Harbour' - the entire 2 hours 26 minutes of this film is an exercise in gung-ho balls to the wall all out action.

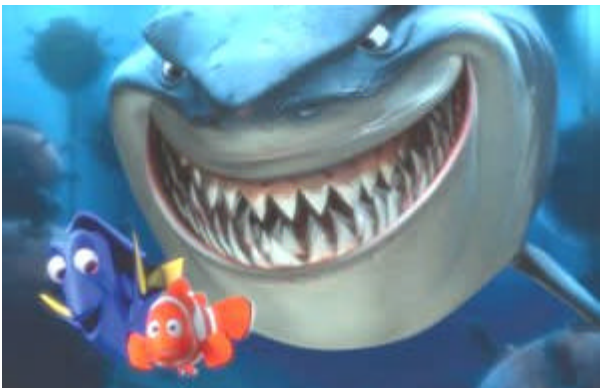
The plot involves our squabbling duo bidding to take down the evil Cuban drug lord Tapia who has been using his undertaking business to traffick ecstasy



hidden inside the dead bodies. And just in case we don't think Tapia's evil enough, we learn that the drug money bankrolls Castro - having firstly been laundered through the Russian mob and the Klu Klux Klan. Four car chases - one of which involves a decapitation - and eight shootouts later, Mike and Marcus finally figure out his evil scheme. At this point things are further complicated by the fact that Marcus' sister is working undercover to foil Tapia. It turns out she's also Mike's latest love interest - a further point of bitching between the bickering buddies. To cap off a truly ridiculous plot, Bay tacks on a fourth act that involves Cuba, a kidnap, a yellow Hummer ploughing through a shantytown, yet another shootout and Guantanamo Bay. Following the disappointment of 'Pearl Harbour', perhaps Bay was looking to return to the action movies with which he made his name. However, its endless explosions and epic car chases show a truly 2-dimensional director. The boys may be bad, but then so is the film.

** (2 Stars)

FINDING NEMO



Those creative and funny folks at Pixar are back with their fifth movie. With the 'Toy Story' movies, 'A Bug's Life,' and 'Monster's Inc.,' they set a new standard for both animated art and humour. With 'Finding Nemo' the trend continues. After losing his mate and all but one of their 1,400 eggs to a predator, Marlin the Clownfish is fearful of almost everything in the ocean. That makes him overprotective of Nemo, his son. When Marlin overreacts to Nemo's adventurous spirit, Nemo purposely goes out too far into the ocean, where he gets caught by a scuba-diving dentist. Marlin sets out a desperate journey to find and rescue Nemo. Soon, he's joined by Dory, a happy Regal Blue Tang fish with a short-term memory problem. Together the pair work their way through miles of water on their

hunt for Marlin's son. Along the way, they confront three sharks trying to become vegetarian, and a 150 year old turtle named Gill who talks and acts like a young surfer. Meanwhile, Nemo is making fish friends of his own and trying to figure out how to get back to his dad. 'Finding Nemo' is a great film. Fish and the underwater world of the ocean are perfect subjects for Pixar's colourful and digital computer-generated animation. Far from the murky depths, 'Nemo's' ocean world is ablaze with colour and filtered light. The fish themselves often look just like real fish, with shimmery scales and realistic movements. The story itself is a grand adventure, buddy-comedy, and (sorry) fish-out-of-water story. The reality of the underwater danger for a couple of wee fish in a big ocean makes the adventure in 'Finding Nemo' that much more rousing. And the nobility of a formerly cowardly father risking all for his lost son brings an emotional connection to the colourful pixels on the screen. In all, 'Finding Nemo' is a swimmingly good movie.

****(4 stars)

FREDDY VS JASON



About 10 years ago, the residents of Springwood ended Freddy Krueger's legendary reign of terror by drugging the town's teens to prevent them from dreaming and locking away the ones who wouldn't forget the master of nightmares. But as Freddy points out, "being forgotten was a bitch." In order to emerge from his purgatory, Freddy needs to put the fear back on the 1400 block of Elm Street--and he thinks he has found his ticket with the hockey-mask-wearing serial killer Jason Voorhees. Taking the form of Jason's dead mother, Freddy invades Jason's dreams and instructs him to leave Crystal Lake and head to Elm Street to do some slaughtering. The plan actually works and as the town becomes fearful once more, Freddy is able to prey on their vulnerability. But whom will Freddy torment if Jason slashes all the teens in town. The buildup and tension that made 'Nightmare on Elm Street' so eccentrically frightening is gone and Freddy is brought down to Jason's level, forced to fight physically rather than use his manipulative mind power. Watching the two malevolent entities hacking away at each other, Freddy and Jason have almost been reduced to standing jokes. If you are not a fan of either franchise, be prepared to sit through a shoddy story that is missing the tension and buildup so prevalent in Wes Craven's original 1984 thriller 'A Nightmare on Elm Street'. If you are devotee, the melding of Freddy and Jason on the big screen is a pretty delicious treat, but the battle's outcome may ultimately frustrate fans. 'Freddy vs. Jason' is not as fear-provoking as Wes Craven's unconventional horror thriller 'A Nightmare on Elm Street' and its sequels, but it is more clever than all the 'Friday the 13th' installments put together. Seeing the two horror icons come together for an ultimate showdown is definitely fun to watch, but the outcome of the most-hyped villainous face-off ever proves to be a bit of a letdown. Add another star if you are a fan of either.

** (2 stars)

Comedy View

DARA O'BRIAN

"NOT A BIG BEAR OF A MAN...RIGHT?"

First off, let's get this out of the way. I am a fan of the man. Nothing of course to do with him telling me the best filthiest joke I have ever heard (meet me in The Scholars tonight and I'll tell ya!) I like his stand-up shows and his performances on T.V. (with the exception, as he concurs himself, of Echo Island!...more of which I'll touch on later) I like his rapid-fire wit and his ability to drag his audience along with him on a rollercoaster journey of personal experiences of his own and his audience. He is a live-wire comedian and trying to grasp a hold of his energy on stage, you will get burnt in the process. burnt through a vast array if stories of his unfortunate experiences of swimming with dolphins and going on a safari in Africa. The Jean Monnet was full to capacity for a man who is currently on our screens and is most popular at the moment for the show, "The Panel" on Monday nights on Network 2.

All credit is due to the man, who drew blood from a stone, in getting the audience to participate. In all fairness, they relaxed after a while, especially when the lights went

Down and O'Briain could shine his torch of comedy onto the unsuspecting eyes of a First year who was a rabbit in headlights.

He continued by regaling us stories to be apprehensive about buying a house in England as may place dwarfs in the corner of said house, waving at you, to give it a special feel or indeed the state funeral of his granny who died in World Cup summer of 2002 and had her coffin draped, as you do, with a tri-colour, only this one having "Come on You Boys in Green" and Roy Keane's face scowling across the front of it!

His embarrassing experience of presenting Echo Island, was compounded by the revalation of an audience member that they had indeed appeared on said show.

This gave Dara no end of ammunition to fire at past co-presenters and RTE's idea for childrens entertainment.

On meeting him afterwards, he started off by telling me about his idea of what an Irish sense of humor is. "it's definitely the old sense of humour dressed up. It's still storytelling. We come from a Bardic tradition. My own sense of comedy performance

Is sometimes a ranting incomprehension and I like to feed of what the audience give me in material. No more free stuff of my own! haha"

When asked was it a natural progression for a comedian to go into T.V. or t.v. advertisements, he commented that most comedians find it difficult to commit to one thing and don't want to be stuck on one thing and that they have way-ward minds.

He went on to talk about the boom in Irish comedy in the last decade. "I came in at the end of it and the road was already set ablaze by the like of Ed Byrne. The media have now jumped onto another flavour of the month. It is worrying now that there is alack of talent coming through. There is a still a place for new acts."

He feels the format of his current show on the box, The Panel is working well. "It's me, with a bunch of friends, who do me the favour of coming on and being funny live and the dice is loaded in the favour of opinion as a panel."

Next up is a the presenting role on "Have I got news for you?" on the BBC as well as continuing touring on the live circuit. He has already done 24 TV shows this year and 250 live shows. Not bad for man who started out in the Debating Society in Ucd and found out that his jokes where going down better with an audience than his arguments. The English media have described him as a "big bear of a man" in comic circles, something he doesn't particularly like. He may not see the analogy but, he claws away at the audience until both get what they want - a joke and a laugh.

"I WON'T SAYS I I'M FINE"

JON KENNY IN UCH

The concert hall was packed to the rafters on Tuesday October 7th for the second night of the three night run of Limerick's very own comedy legend Jon Kenny of D'Unbelievables fame. De madness was well and truly back as Kenny showed he was ready for action after thankfully recovering from his cancer scare.

"For those of you with mobile phones, leave them on because someone might ring and we'll have great craic" That was Jon's prophetic message at the start of the night, and sure enough some poor gobshite was unfortunate enough to receive a call at the start of the show. Quite possibly that man has lost contact forever with that particular caller as the loony Limerick man took full control of the conversation, another misfortune found himself caught at the end of the night, for crying out loud lads, if ye end up going to see Jon somewhere else on his travels, don't learn the hard way, switch off your phones!

Kenny then proceeded to demonstrate the golden rule of comedy. If you need to capture your audience, whip out the frilly pink shirt and leather pants. (oh and two ping pong balls, don't ask, just don't ask) Yes we were treated to the musical sensation that was Fergus 'Pablo' Moloney a native of kilteely, now strutting his stuff on the Spanish cabaret scene. Hurling fans were treated to the pessimistic rants of 'the Moaner' fresh from bringing Glengooly to Junior B county hurling glory. This was refreshing for those of us who thought the

proud Irish tradition of begrudgery was on the way out. After the audience refreshed themselves with a nice cup of tea or coffee (or a shot of the hard stuff) we were welcomed back by the 'Caretaker of the hall, who warned people to take note of the safety regulations before treating us to a video of a truly unique trip to work. Then we had the second golden rule of comedy,. If you want to KEEP your audience's attention, engage in a little bit of transvestism.

The appeal of Jon Kenny is that it's so close to the mark. Perhaps the jackeens or cosmopolitan yuppies among you may not identify with the characters, but for those of us in the west or south west of the country, whether in the countryside or small towns will know all too well the types of people portrayed in this show. All Kenny does is merely exaggerate the very real eccentricities of Irish people, and he does this brilliantly.

Apart from a slightly pointless monologue about the craic you can have with wind, (and even this character wasn't totally unrealistic) Kenny's show was 'fair good'. Finishing up with the classic 'I won't says I I'm fine' sketch and displaying his singing talent with a rendition of that's life, Kenny proved he was back to his brilliant best. Even though I'm one of many people who believes Kenny was ever so slightly the weaker link of D'unbelievables, he certainly does not need Pat Shortt to make him funny. I for one hope that Kenny will keep us rolling on the floor with laughter for many more years to come, and who knows? Maybe, Kenny and Shortt will team up again for one last hurrah as D'Unbelievables. (Well we can always dream)

ULartsoffice

In Association with Ten Forward

Autumn Film Season

Venue: Jean Monnet Theatre

Time: 6:30pm



Monday 13 October

> 101 REYKJAVÍK

Director : Baltasar Kormakur
Iceland / 2000 / 96 mins

> *ONE HOUR PHOTO

Director : Mark Romanek
USA / 2002 / 96 mins

Dreamy, immature and stone-cold unemployed, Hlynur is an Icelandic slacker with a beauty of a sexual dilemma. At 28, he lives with his mom, doesn't work and spends his evenings getting hammered in the local pub. After bedding a fiery flamenco instructor, he discovers that she's his mother's lesbian lover -- and may be pregnant with his child.

Lanky and nearsighted, Hlynur watches porn and assiduously avoids commitment to his girlfriend, Hoffi Mom, an overindulgent pot smoker, never pressures him to find work, and the inertia that comes from living in Reykjavik ("like some backwater in Siberia -- even the ghosts are bored") has left him cynical and stuck.

Edward Guthmann
San Francisco Chronicle



Monday 20 October

> RABBIT-PROOF FENCE

Director : Phillip Noyce
Australia / 2002 / 96 mins

> *THE PIANIST

Director : Roman Polanski
UK / 2002 / 105 mins

At the beginning of the last century, the Australian government instituted a policy of forcibly removing Aboriginal children from their families if they were "half-caste" and taking them away to a briskly Anglican education camp for training as domestic servants. Theoretically, this was for their "own good" - but it quite plainly emerges here as a grotesque project to contain the evidence of miscegenation.

Three such children escape from the camp and walk 1,500 miles back home across featureless scrub, taking as their path the giant rabbit-proof fence which stretches from coast to coast, and followed by the Aborigine tracker, Moodoo the enigmatic figure of whom we will come to be afraid as much as Butch and Sundance feared their pursuers...

Peter Bradshaw
The Guardian

Upcomings

Here are some acts, shows and sundry interesting things that are happening around and about over the next fortnight. If you've got something going on that should be included, email sucommunication@ul.ie

ACT	VENUE
OCTOBER	
14 Russian Ark (Belltable Film Club)	Central Cinema (Bedford Row)
15/16 Macbeth (Long Overdue Theatre Company)	Belltable
15 Dot Comedy Club - Kevin Gildea	Dolan's
16 Roesy	Dolan's
17 (AMC) FeverDream, The Kyboshi	HighStool
17 Sharon Shannon	Dolan's
18 Batt O'Connor (Album Launch)	Dolan's
21 (AMC) Jetplane Landing (+Throat & Atrophy)	Highstool
21 (GAM) Roper, Kader Fire, Blessed Darkness	Dolan's
21 Lilya 4Ever (Belltable Film Club)	Central Cinema
22 Dot Comedy Club - Adam Hills (Australia)	Dolan's
23 Richard Fearless (Death in Vegas) dj set	Dolan's
24 Kader Fire + Guests	Limerick Boatclub
24 (AMC) Berkely, Jet-Sol, Hatch 77	Highstool
25 Alternative Miss Limerick 2003	Dolan's
26 Jerry Dammers (the Specials)	Dolan's

For further info, check out www.theamc.net, www.dolans.ie, www.uch.ie, www.belltable.ie or visit the city and check out the posters!

Where's Ben?

The Journey Continues...



The Heineken Brewery

Ben's off in Amsterdam this week experiencing the highs, and well highs of the city! Now, where to find a dwarf Hooker!

Nersh



The Scholars Club

Week 4 Ents

- Monday**
Dj John Kelly 8pm
Games Night, Pool and Card Tournaments
- Tuesday**
DJ James Kavanagh 8pm
Hip Hop, Funk and House fresh from Ibiza
Karl Spain plays the comedy club 9pm
the **Comedy Club** is back
- Wednesday**
DJ Frawls House 8pm
in the Main Bar
- Thursday**
"OUTSIDERS"
Live in the MAIN BAR 9.30pm
- Friday**
"Deep Sounds" Chill out in the Main Bar from 8pm
Hungry Hour!! ???? :)
Complementary Finger food 6-7pm
- Sunday**
Breakfast Club
Chill out with comfy couches, candles and the Sunday Papers. Breakfast served from 12 – 4

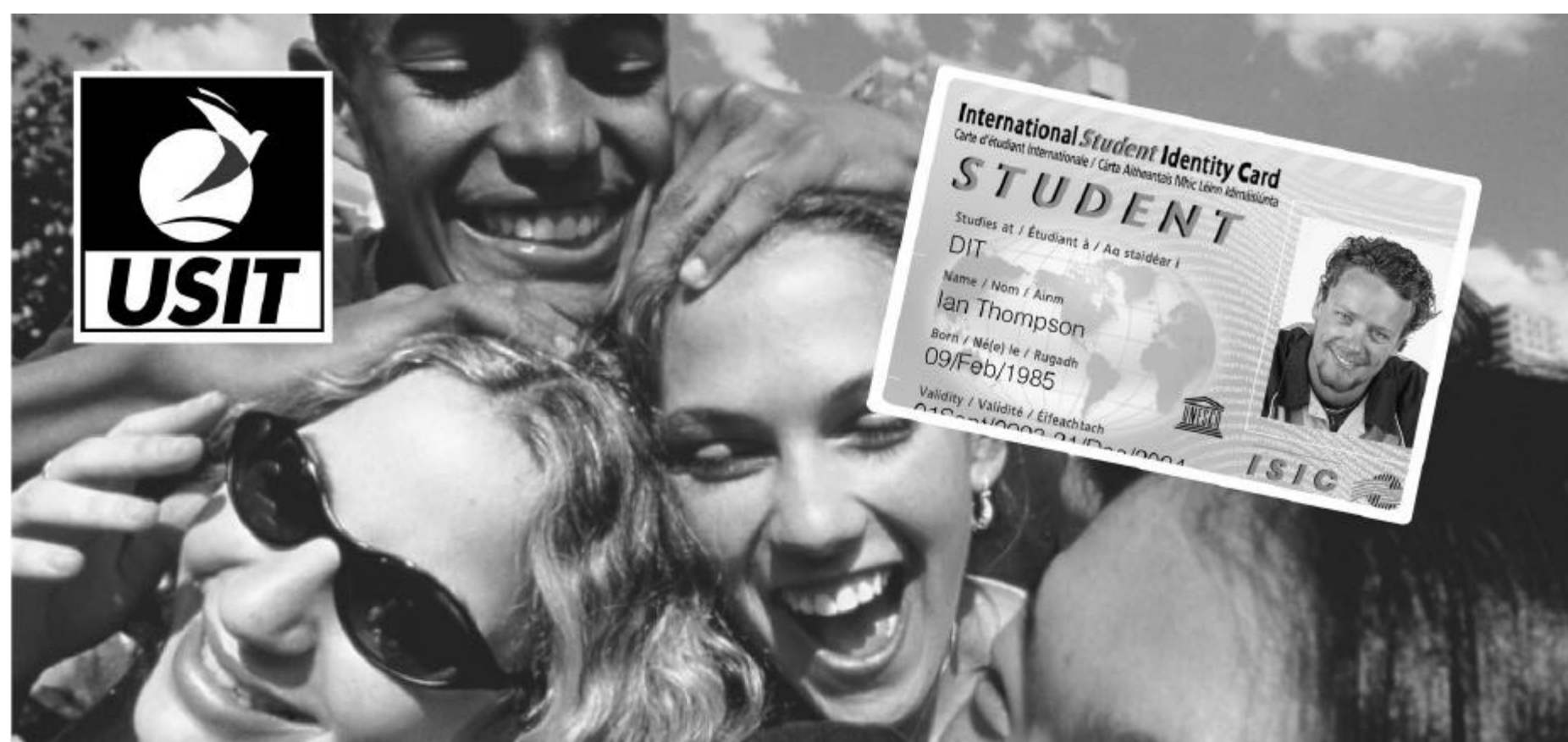


The Scholars Club

Weekly Food Specials

- Early Bird breakfast menu before 9:30 that's a mini breakfast for only €2.50
- Tea and Coffee for only 50c** before 11:30.
- Any dinner from the **Lunch Special** menu and a mineral can of your choice for only **€5**
- Choose from our **Full Fresh Salad bar**
- Fresh Evening Menu** from 4 pm

View



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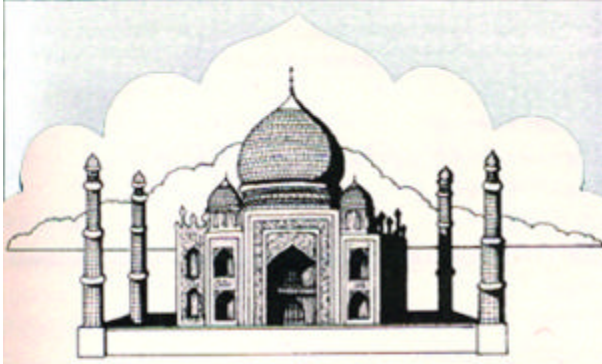
USIT - Central Buildings, O'Connell St or on campus at UL

www.usit.ie

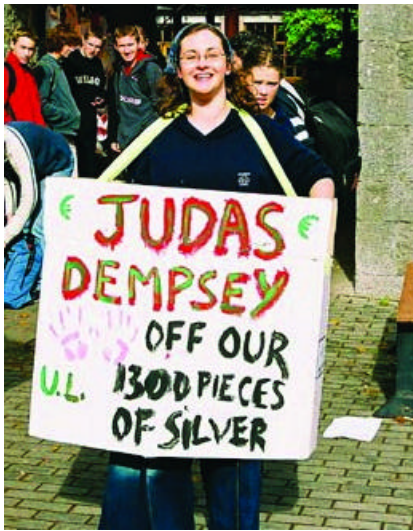
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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE IN THE SU
BEFORE OCTOBER 23RD



U L S U
Ollscoil Lúimnigh

THE STABLES CLUB

**University of Limerick
Students Union**

presents **Week 4 and Week 5**
entertainment at
The Stables Club

WEEK 4 (Oct 13th - Oct 19th)
Mon Music Soc
Tues Karaoke Nite
Wed BAND: Dreamchild
Thu Noel McLoughlin
Fri Video Jukebox
Pool tables Fri-Sun

Membership
Please ensure that you
have completed your
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www.clubs.ul.ie
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Proof of membership
will be required for you
to avail of club facilities

WEEK 5 (Oct 20th - Oct 26th)
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Tues Karaoke Night
Wed BAND: Free Beer
Thu DJ Aidan
Fri Video Jukebox
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entertainment
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U L S U
Ollscoil Lúimnigh

Week 4 & Week 5 Ents

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Music View

MUNDY

JEAN MONNET, OCTOBER 1ST



The Jean Monnet theatre was the glorious backdrop graced by Mundy on Wednesday October 1st. Supported by Mairead Neilligan, the night opened on what looked to be a promising musical performance.

On arriving onstage, Mundy immediately empathised with the audience and was evidently at ease with both himself and his musical persona. Yet, to use his own lyrics, he was very much a "one man band with an empty open hand", and my heart could have bled for him if he had just been able to use the distortion pedal properly, or even work the amp that proceeded to ruin the only song (July) that got a murmur of appreciation from a lack lustre crowd. Hmm....

To keep my eyes from being gouged out, however, I must admit his handling of the whole "Doh I can't work the amp" situation was really quite good...really. However, his set list was brutal. Nobody - around me anyway- knew half the lyrics to any of the songs he opened with...or continued with for that matter. Those we did know (that being the Royal "we" of course) were somewhat hastily squeezed in to an ear bashing final few minutes at the end - at a stage when any bit of atmosphere that had been in the place was chewed up and spat out.

To be honest, I was more inclined to the PJ Harvey like Mairead Neilligan than I was to this, though obviously talented, character. Sorry, but he just didn't do it for me. He should really forget his ideology of the moon being "a slice of lemon and a gin and tonic sky" - although nice metaphors (the boy can write) - and take his head out of the clouds, down to the more realistic horizon.

THE GIN PALACE/THE HELLS

HIGHSTOOL, OCTOBER 4TH

It's Saturday the fourth of October and the crowd in the backbar of the HighStool is beginning to grow. We're anxiously awaiting the arrival of London based ArtRocker label mates, The Gin Palace and The Hells. Both bands are on the third date of their Irish tour which takes in Cork, Limerick, Dundalk and Dublin. At ten-fifty, the Gin Palace takes to the stage. As the band stride purposfully up to their equipment, there is a slight wonder at the lack of instruments. Jon Free plays guitar, Meaghan Wilkie is on vocals and Stuart Bell plays drums. Lacking a base or even a second guitar, the sheer volume overwhelms the audience and soon any doubts about musical quality are thrown aside. This band have an aura about them, something which immediatly draws the crowd into the music and shakes the foundations of its very soul. Meaghan has an unmistakable presence whether it's shouting loudly into the crowd or standing drunk on one foot upon the railing in front of the stage. With songs like, 'Lady,' about drunkenness and arguments, Meaghan's powerful screaming voice makes me think of a crazier, female version of Jim Morrison. "I loved the Doors when I was thirteen," admits Meaghan but claims to have grown away from them. The guitar playing of Jon Free is absolutly stunning, powerful and unique, it's hard to believe one guitar can have such a wide range of sound. The drumming of Stuart is essential to the sound of the band in laying down heavy drumbeats which allows Meaghan to place her remarkable voice upon the track like the very darkness of her inner soul screaming to escape.

Next up are The Hells looking cool as ice in their red and black outfits. Ippy Shake singer/ guitarist from La Coruna has a voice like melted gold, beautiful and

stunning while Kevin from Philidelphia has a voice of gravel, grungy and torn. This sounds strange but the variation works to great affect. Two singers who play guitar, male and female, it's different, it's enticing and make no mistake this band are unique. With drumming provided by Jeff Watson, the trio make a lot of distinct noise. Kevin insists, " We're not very good players," but this band possess something few bands can ever hope to replicate, they connect. On-stage they interact with each other, they interact with the crowd and people love it. They are great players and their timing is perfect, the guitars infuse with each other to create a sound which no-one can hope to debate is intensely unique. The band are committed, " The band is all I've got," argues Kevin but they say over and over again they see no future for the band. They argue that it's the wrong time for them to sign to a major label with Ippy only conceding, " If they buy me a tour bus." The variation in their songs and the professionalism is something to be admired. The songs are inventive and well-worked. The band are confident, well rehersed and nothing can take from the quality of this gig. This is a band who want to make three albums and breakup on the roof of ArtRocker in London with one last gig. These bands are part of an ever growing underground movement in London and get a good response from the Limerick crowd. Both have mini albums available on the ArtRocker label and info can be found on www.thehells.com and www.ginpalace.net. To leave you with a quote from Kevin and Meaghan from the time they worked together in a well-respected bar, " We played and sang Nick Cave drunk at the top of our lungs, in a room full of people who weren't Nick Cave fans."

FRANK BLACK AND THE CATHOLICS :

VICAR STREET, OCTOBER 3RD



The Pixies are regarded as one of the most influential bands ever. Curt Cobain wanted to be in them, and the story is that everyone who saw them live wanted to start a band. But seeing as they are defunct, the closest thing would probably be a frank black gig.

And I think that's why some people left last Fridays gig in Vicars street were so disappointed, they expected frank black he-who-used-to-be-in-the-pixies, what they got was frank black no-I'm-not-singing-debaser.

This concert was all about Frank black and the Catholics, and as long as you recognise that then you'll have appreciated what a great gig it was.

With no support band Frank and the Catholics strode out onto the stage and launched into a rendition of "dirty old town". From then on they played 90% frank black and the Catholics material, with such classics as "Headache" and "freedom rock" and "veloria" (the version with words) mixed in with lesser known songs such as "Bartholomew" and "abstract plain".

But even if you didn't know the songs it was impossible not to appreciate how good each one was, from fast-paced moshing rock songs to slower swaying numbers each one was in my opinion pure gold.

Despite the huge Frank Black and the Catholics content of the set, we were obliged with a few pixies songs, including "Cactus", and the fan favourite "Where is my mind", with the crowd replacing the parts sung by Kim Deal.

While some left disappointed, the majority stayed on well past the single encore we were given, the whole of Vicars Street stayed a good twenty minutes after the

lights came back on, baying and hollering for another appearance from the band.

That at the end says a lot about the quality of Frank Black and the Catholics, long after most other fans would have gone home or back to the bar, we were still there in the vain hope that we would be given another encore.

That's a sign of a quality band.

FOE, AMERICAN HERITAGE AND

THE ART OF BURNING WATER

HIGH STOOL, OCTOBER 9TH

Thursday, the ninth of October in the High-Stool and the gig looks set to be a failure. Three bands play tonight, Foe, American Heritage and Art Of Burning Water. Currently on the first date of their, ' Combined Stupidity,' tour, the ' House Of Stairs,' label-mates are worried and slightly drunk.

First on the stage are 'Foe,' a two piece power duo from London. The band consists of drummer, Paul Westwood and guitarist, Jason Carty. Having recently lost bassist, Crawford Blair, the band are without a third member and as a result their music lacks the pure substance they were trying to create. This band are a heavy, dark-rock, instrumental piece who wield their way unmercifully through their half-hour set, strangling frets and pounding drums. Paul Westwood is probaly one of the most impressive drummers you can see playing live. His drumming adds a unique blend to the group as he ranges from heavy to light, falling away on drum solos and picking up only to intersect in double quick time with the inventive sound of Carty. The songs are long pieces and the variation from heavy to light does add to the power of the playing but something clearly is missing. The duo conclude they have no plans to incorporate a singer into the line-up, arguing their sound is tight and that's all you need.

Next up are Art Of Burning Water. They are a three-piece heavy-metal band with Geith Ai-Robei on guitar/ vocals, Khyam Anami on bass/ vocals and Michael Mckenna on drums. The songs are quite long and definently possess enough energy to hold the audience as they reach into t he depts of the soul and force you to come to grips with the coldness and torment of their music.

They play long intros and throw short solos into their playing to add to the blend of hard-rock styling. They rarely usae vocals but when they do, the double screams, fearful cries and angered mutterings are something to be admired. with lots of feedback usage the band try and use their guitars to mimick their cries to create something different but at this stage the crowd just doesn't care. The room is emptying and the tension is growing among the bands. The sound is pretty good and the musicians are obviously talented, but that doesn't change things. " Buy everything that's on the stall please I beg you," Mike pleads to the crowd, but to no avail.

Last up are the awaited American Heritage, a four piece screaming metal band. They are Adam Norden guitar/ vocals, Scott Schellhammer second guitar/ vocals Ray Donato bass and Mike Duffy drums. As soon as the band play there is a change in the room, these guys have the songs, the vocals and the impressive playing. they jump around the stage, running from place to place, playing solos every so often. The second guitar allows for the solos of one guitar to be placed over the riff of the second guitar as the double vocals allow the music to fall into a trance-like state and the Melvins influence comes through. The music lives within them, in their bodies and in their souls running through their instruments into the small crowd.

The bands are working on albums at the moment and more info can be found at www.houseofstairs.co.uk. The bands are very-talented and love what they do, but their style of playing isn't loved by the people tonight, which creates a bad atmosphere for the bands. They play Dublin on the tenth and head to Britain for a nationwide tour. Some people may not like this music but like Mike Mckenna says, "ya man, that's intense rock."

Music View

THE DUDLEY CORPORATION
HIGH STOOL, OCTOBER 10TH

The tenth of October in the HighStool sees the triumphant return of The Dudley Corporation supported by Waiting Room. As Waiting Room, the Cork based melodic three piece, take to the stage, the crowd begins to grow. These guys are well respected tonight and their set is the perfect intro for Dudley and the boys. With quite riffs suddenly breaking into a storm of fast paced drums, the band is watched with eager anticipation as the crowd moves in response to the inventiveness of the trio. Asked if he felt people understood their music, Nigel lead singer/ guitarist replies, " Sometimes I think it's too quite." They contend some people are not ready for unique music in Ireland but state, " Our music has definitely changed, we're not trying to limit ourselves." This band is unique, doing something different, something they feel is very important. They try hard to involve the crowd into their music and through their quite lyrics and melodic riffs intertwining with heavier and faster infusions of musical clarity, the band are very much in a musical world of their own. According to Nigel, " I don't think music can be described in one sentence."

Next up are The Dudley Corporation, a Dublin based three piece comprised of Joss Moorkins on drums, Pat McGauley on bass and Dudley Colley on lead vocals/ guitar. These guys are highly professional, they crave music and the crowd craves them. They have a blinding energy on stage matched only by Dudley's vocal range. They open their souls inflamed with passion and draw the crowd into a world of inspiration. With their second album recently released entitled, ' In Love With The Dudley Corporation,' the band are on fire tonight, playing a blistering set of songs from their new album and from their debut, ' The Lonely World Of The Dudley Corporation.' With both albums produced by Andy Miller at Chemical Underground Studios in Glasgow the band describes Andy as, " Very nice, assertive but not in your face." The band have been plagued with problems in the past, " Some gigs were badly organised." Probably the highlight of their ill luck was on their U.S. tour when according to Joss, " We borrowed a van and after three days it broke down." The band continually play Limerick which they believe along with Cork is probably the best place in Ireland for a gig. Dudley likes Limerick, " a hell of a lot," because of the crowds who come, " to see a band not drink," and the presence of the AMC who he says, " are always honest and treat us very well." The band is a favourite among many Irish musicians who see the band as an amazing live act and an importance presence within the Irish music scene. With such classic songs as, ' She Falls,' ' Score,' and ' What A Human Does,' the band can only receive greater praise and a place among Ireland's greatest bands. On-Stage in the HighStool, the band overwhelm the crowd who clap, shout, laugh and cry in a dazzling fury and demand an encore from this group of amazing musicians. This is newness, this music is to be praised for it cuts away from, what should be and offers much more. It's unique; it's real music by real professionals, which the crowd can't get enough of. To The Dudley Corporation connecting with the crowd is most important, in Dudley's words, " We played in Galway and there was two-hundred and fifty people and that was a glorified practise, because no-one was into it." Dudley believes the music, " has progressed," "that it's a lot more subtle." They don't believe in the idea of hype of controversy, which Pat describes as, " just a way of selling papers." Joss believes music moves in cycles as a result of the press, " a scene you build up and knock down, they did the same with Nirvana." They do seem concerned that, " many good bands struggle to record," and absolutely understand the intricate, internal politics of music and genre. This band is amazing and hopefully will continue to grow in popularity over the next few months. If you don't know this band, I strongly urge you to check them out at www.thedudleycorporation.com. To leave you with an alternative idea for the, ' What A Human Does,' video, Dudley says, " It was going to be set in a ship with village people."

Moloko Sing It Back in Trinity Rooms



Heineken Green Room Sessions are bringing Moloko to Trinity Rooms on Tuesday October 28th and it is definitely a gig not to be missed. Moloko's lead singer is Dublin-born singer Roisín Murphy who also co-writes the bands songs with partner/friend/ex-boyfriend/producer Mark Brydon. The relationship between the two is the foundation of the group and it's good for fans that they have continued to pursue their creative partnership even after their break-up. It's hard to describe Moloko as fitting into any one genre, they have such musical ambition and creativity that they rarely stick to one formula for long!

Moloko are probably best known for their song "Sing it Back", the dance remix of which rocked Ibiza and dance floors all over Europe. The success of this hit single launched them into the public view, where they released their third album, "Things to Make and Do" and another cracking song, "The Time Is Now". Many people were disappointed with "Things to Make and Do", as Moloko are more experimental pop and not the disco stalwarts that their success implied. However, if you take the time to listen and go through their music there's gold in them thar hills. There is a lot of lyrical

depth in Moloko's music as well as catchy, off kilter beats. They have their own unique sound, and gone are the days when they were referred to as a second rate Portishead. This is very apparent on their last album, Statues, which they are currently promoting on tour.

Statues is a great album, with no cheesy attempts to cash in on the success of their disco hits. Tracks such as "I Want You" and "Over and Over" show a newly grown up, melancholy attitude but there are still plenty of dance-friendly songs like "Familiar Feeling" (Statues' first single) and 100% to appeal to the club posse. It's a truly great Moloko album, the record they've always meant to make. Slick, polished, beautifully crafted - Statues is nothing short of wonderful. However, Moloko's sound is not everybody's cup of tea so give a listen before you buy, or better yet, try to avail of Heineken's generosity and head along to see them in Trinity Rooms!

How can I get tickets you ask? It's invite only and the tickets are free, so go to www.heinekenroomsessions.ie and sign up to be in with a chance to see Moloko at Trinity Rooms. Approximately 750 tickets will be made available. Once you have registered, you will be notified week-ending 19th October, if you have been successful in scoring a Moloko ticket for yourself and two guests. This event is the sixth of seven invite only gigs that Heineken has been doing as part of their Green Room sessions. Previously, they have brought Lemon Jelly to Cork, Groove Armada to Galway and Morcheeba to Kilkenny, to name but a few. See you there!

Album Reviews

THE FIRE THEFT

The Fire Theft, formally known as Sunny Day Real Estate, are a three piece band from Seattle. The band call this self-titled album, "a place where bleak visions stew, desperately searching for a crack of light; despiration divided by desire." The album opens on a meloncholic note with 'Uncle Mountain' and sounds like a cross between Radiohead and The Frames. It then takes a turn for the worst as the second track, 'Waste Time Segue' sounds like elevator music and 'Oceans Apart' is constrained and painfully drawn out, making it difficult to listen to.

'Chain' is the best song on the album, probably because the riff sounds like it was stolen from 'I believe in a thing called love' by The Darkness. It has good rythm and, unlike the rest of the album which sounds remarkably like Granddaddy (nice but boring), holds your attention throughout. Unfortunately though, although thereare some fairly good tracks on this album, it's mainly background, soprophitic, elevator music that you'd barely notice listening to and forget you heard it afterwards.

The most annoying thing about this album, apart from the music, is that it is equipped with XCP, extended copy protection. This means that if, like me, you play music on your computer, you cannot do so with this CD. It also means that you might have difficulty playing it in car stereos, DVD players and games consoles. It's a slap in the face of modern technology if you ask me, especially when most CDs nowadays have special features for the PC such as a video or a photo gallery of the band. That said, I could only review the promotional CD so lets hope that the real one will be a bit more generous.



THE ALBUM LEAF/ ON!AIR!LIBRARY
A LIFETIME OR MORE

This album is a split release. Split releases are schizophrenic. That's the only way to describe it. The Album leaf is a guy called Jimmy LaValle and On!Air!Library is the trio of Alejandra Deheza, Claudia Deheza and Philip Wann. And the result is two similar yet very different half albums mashed into one. The first 3 songs are The Album Leaf, and these are good. The three songs are very chilled and relaxed. They sound good and make excellent use of electronically enhanced and manipulated music. And there are no words.

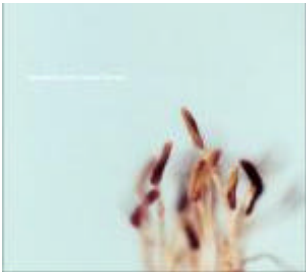
This is the best part, as usually the only kind of words that fit these kind of songs are pre-recorded sound bites, see God Speed you Black emperors "Blaise Bailey Finnegan III" or Boards of Canada that have little or no relevance to the song, but sound cool.

This is exactly where the second half of the album falls down. Music that's close to the quality of the first 3 songs is the backing the toneless gibbering of some mad Germanic buffoon and his army boot wearin' female counterpart.

Behold the pearls of wit and wisdom that these people think that we need to hear: "Caught in a landslide/offer me a hand-up/coughed up a fur ball/couldn't get our lines right/falling out on yesterday/want to be friends again.." and so on they pick phrases at random and intone them in a manner that would make Stephen Hawking blush.

To see something that could have been so good ruined in this fashion makes me want to buy guns. I wish many guns. Floating around me. Controlled by my murder thoughts.

But I digress, anyway I cannot recommend this despite the quality of the three Album Leaf songs, but I'm sure that they can be bought online, or make-up a standalone work by Jimmy LaValle.



Arts View

West End Smash Hit at the Belltable

Following from a massive Belltable sell-out in May, with *Twelve Angry Men*, Lane Productions return to Limerick on the back of a world tour with West End hit comedy *Stones In His Pockets*.

The play is set in a rural part of southwest Ireland somewhere in County Kerry, where the scenery is spectacular and the area has been the location for several Hollywood films, most notably John Ford's *'The Quiet Man'*, starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. The local population has enjoyed the rewards of acting as extras in these films.

A film called *'The Quiet Valley'* is in production at the moment, and we are introduced to two of the extras. Jake Quinn (Jean-Paul Van Cauwelaert) is a local man, related to most of the village, and has just returned somewhat dispirited from New York, where he went to seek his fortune. He has dreams of becoming a 'movie star'.

Charlie Conlon (Martin Jenkins) is from Ballycastle in Northern Ireland, and has recently abandoned his small video shop, which lost business when a large hire store opened a branch in his village. At the same time he was dumped by his girlfriend, and decided to make a break and tour Ireland to see what may turn up. He saw the sign "Extras wanted", applied, and here he is happily earning £40 a day. During his time in the shop waiting for customers, he decided to try his hand at writing his own film script, and now feels that all he needs is for one of the professionals to read it, and he'll be on his way.

The play opens during a meal break for the extras; Charlie is trying to get an extra pudding from the chuck wagon, but is not having much luck. He complains to Jake, who - it turns out, knows all about Charlie from the previous night in the pub, when Charlie had had too many gins.

The stars of the film are Caroline Giovanni and Kurt Steiner. Caroline is having difficulty with her Irish



Stars of 'Stones in His Pockets'

accent, and in the pub that night, decides to flirt with Jake, and use him for some authentic, local dialect coaching. Jake however, thinks he has scored with her, and sees his dream of becoming a movie star coming true.

He is very disillusioned when he realises that he is being used, and becomes angry when a young relative of his, Sean Harkin, dies tragically. Sean, a waster and a drug addict, had been turned down as an extra, and committed suicide after being thrown out of the local pub for bothering Ms Giovanni, and seeing Jake go off with her to the hotel.

Together, Jake and Charlie decide that their story - from an extra's point of view, would make a good film, and despite discouraging advice from the professionals, decide to try. From a feeling of hopelessness, with no future, they find that there is hope, and that they can succeed.

Marie Jones has received the Laurence Olivier and The Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy for *STONES IN HIS POCKETS*: a special Award for her Outstanding Contribution to the Cultural Life of Northern Ireland from Belfast City Council and the Literature Award from the Irish Post. The production received a Drama

Desk Special Award and a Special Achievement Award from the Outer Critics Circle in New York.

Stones In His Pockets has recently celebrated its third year in London's West End and has recently completed a world tour of America, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Austria, Canada, Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay, Turkey, Italy and South Africa.

The director is Ian McElhinney, nominated for a Tony Award, set design by Jack Kirwan, with lighting by Graham McClusky. *STONES IN HIS POCKETS* was initially seen at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast in April 99. The comedy is set in a village in County Kerry where a Hollywood film is being shot. The actors play 15 different roles - the extras, the spoilt star Caroline, the crew plus various locals. It is partly based on Marie Jones' acting roles in films shot in Ireland. The original cast, Conleth Hill and Seán Campion, played seasons at the Gaiety Theatre Dublin and Lyric Belfast from February 2002. They were both nominated for Tony Awards for the Broadway season. Conleth Hill won the Best Actor Laurence Olivier Award for his role as Charlie. Appearing at Belltable are actors Gavin Armstrong and Denis Foley.

Performance Times: 8.00pm
Running Time: 2 hours 10 mins
Belltable Art Centre, Limerick
Oct. 20th - 25th
Box Office: 061 319 866
Prices: €20/€18

BELLTABLE

Something for Everyone! 2003 Cuisle Poetry Festival

Children's workshops, exhibitions, illustrated talks, poetry readings at "the local" and a pinch of Shakespeare for good measure - Cuisle Poetry Festival is making sounds for its 2003 festival in venues throughout Limerick City October 15th - 18th.

Cuisle '03 features a strong programme of events for children and Limerick's own Mae Leonard sets the tone for this year's festival with Creative Writing Workshops in Limerick City Library on Oct. 15th. Mae a children's and fiction writer, poet and broadcaster has won the C. Day Lewis Award and The Gerard Manly Hopkins Award. During the following two days Children's Writer Gillian Perdue who's books include *Adam's Starling*, *Conor's Cowboy Suit* and *Conor's Concert* gives workshops to School Groups. Other happenings taking place early in the week include six performances from The Long Overdue Theatre Company, a touring company from English who specialise in producing works of Shakespeare for schools - great for those studying the play and already tickets are flying for this one! Tel. Belltable (061 319 866).

Limerick audiences will be interested in the launch of The Stony Thursday Book in Limerick City Gallery on Thurs. 16th. The revived "Stony", edited by Mark Whelan and Kevin Byrne, is an annual publication featuring Poetry by new and established writers. John Liddy & John Burke founded Stony Thursday in Limerick in 1976. For art lovers Mary Coll is curating a selection from the permanent collection of Limerick City Gallery of Art on the idea of 'text', which runs throughout the festival at LCGA.

Poetry Readings take place at Limerick City Gallery at 8.00pm with an impressive line-up of Louis De Paor and Mary Dorsey on Thurs. 16th and Tom McCarthy,



Louis de Paor will read on Thurs 16th

John Liddy and José María Álvarez on Fri. 17th. De Paor was short-listed for the Victorian Premier's Award for Literary Translation and a recipient of the Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award 2000, the first poet in Irish to achieve this distinction. Dorsey won the Rooney Prize for literature for her short story collection *A Noise from the Woodshed*. Her best selling novel, *Biography of Desire* (1997) received critical acclaim and has since had its third reprint. She has published three volumes of Poetry: *Kindling* (1982), *Moving into the Space Cleared by Our Mothers* (1991), *The River That Carries Me* (1995) and *Like Joy In Season, Like Sorrow* (2001).

José María Álvarez is a social poet at the forefront of forays into living culture. The central characters of his poems are not revolutionaries, not the bourgeoisie, but the common people who love the 'bloody' struggle. This is the same person that is represented in his public appearances, a poet with a love of literature and struggle. His life in/of/for literature, and for art in general, makes him a poet of significant relevance, a poet grappling with the struggles that are part of our everyday culture.

Liddy grew up in Limerick and keeps in constant touch with his home city. He founded the Stony Thursday Book with Jim Bourke and has read and lectured widely in the USA and Spain, conducting writing workshops in many Universities. His books include *Boundaries* (1974); *The Angling Cot* (1991); *Song of the Empty Cage* (1997); *Wine and Hope* (1999); and most recently *Cast-A-Net*, with illustrations by Limerick artist Gavin Hogg. Prior to his reading Liddy will launch *Cast-a-Net/Almadraba* at O'Mahony's Bookshop at 6pm. Thomas McCarthy has published six collections of poetry, fiction and a memoir. His awards include The Patrick Kavanagh Award, The Alice Hunt Bartlett Prize, The Annual Literary Award, American Irish Foundation, and The O'Shaughnessy Poetry Award, Irish-American Cultural Institute.

Lunchtime events at Limerick City Gallery take place on Friday & Saturday with Dr Fred Freeman. Freeman gives an illustrated talk on *The Complete Songs of Robert Burns* and pays tribute to poet, songwriter, soldier, collector, academic the late Hamish Henderson, one of the great cultural figures of 20th century Scotland. Cuisle winds down with a Public Poetry Reading at 4.00pm in Nancy Blake's Pub on Denmark Street. A little something for everyone! Following Cuisle, Children's Book Week continues at Limerick City Library Oct. 15th - 23rd. Highlights include Spring Onion Puppets with a new show "Painting the Princess" and readings from Author Marie Louise Fitzpatrick. Lots of activities to take part in, throughout the week, including workshops, illustrated talks and more. Details from Limerick City Library.

Throughout the Festival the Limerick City Gallery will feature Extracts from The Permanent Collection; An exhibition curated by Mary Coll on the concept of 'text'.

Miscellaneous View

Games

SECRET WEAPONS OF WW2 EA GAMES FOR PC

Secret Weapons of WW2 is the second add-on for the most excellent Battlefield 1942. Having exhausted all the arenas of battle in the original game, and its first expansion, The Road To Rome, the developers have decided to use the incredible secret weapons projects of WW2 as their template.

First off the expansion does nothing new for all the original features; the graphics, controls and sound are unchanged, which is no bad thing, as the engine is still looking quite well and will probably be the top of the pile until Doom 3 surfaces. Likewise the controls are as good as they are going to get, and are intuitive enough to allow you to jump straight into the action.

What Secret Weapons offers are 8 new battles, new hardware on both sides, and the opportunity to play as the German elite or British Commandos. The new additions are a mixed bunch. The good additions are the jet planes and motorbikes with sidecars(for both sides) the Sherman with rocket battery (Yanks) and the FlackPanzer (Germans). The Bad are the new aerial assault maps such as battle of Britain, which confound the computer AI so that they never really pose a challenge, and the New Super tanks for both sides. Also the Jetpack, despite sounding like the best thing ever, is pointless in the extreme.

The other big inclusion is two new armies, the British and German Special Forces. These also get a slightly different weapon set, the German sniper getting an automatic rifle, and they engineer gets a Mauser grenade launcher. While the British engineer gets a shotgun and the medic gets a silenced machine gun.

Despite the cosmetic change the only real difference is in the case of the German sniper and both sides engineer, who now play slightly differently with their new weapons, but the new armies really add very little to the game.

The biggest gripe I have with Secret weapons is that it breaks the theme of its parent game. While never pretending to be a realistic shooter, there was a lot of atmosphere and authenticity which came from careful attention to the subject matter. With Secret weapons, that has been lost with the inclusion of fantastical ideas that never saw the light of day. The biggest draw of Battlefield has been lost to the inclusion of some shiny, but mostly useless toys. And to add salt to the wound you can download the desert combat mode for free online, which is a thousand times better than this.

Score: 3 stars
The Lord Of Cheese

Television

"CORONATION STREET", SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 (AKA "THE ONE WITH THE GAY KISS")

Irregular couplings seemed to be the order of the night on Coronation Street on Sunday. It started off with Bev, who's about eighty-four, and Ciarán(Keith Duffy), who's a few years older than when he was a crap teenage singer living off Ronan Keating's singing, feeling all embarrassed for their shenanigans the night before. They come to the conclusion that it is perhaps not true love, which may or may not have something to do with the fact that Bev says she feels like Vivien Leigh, and Ciarán hasn't a clue what she's on about. Later on, Sunita, Ciarán's girlfriend, comes into the Rovers, and says things like "Ciarán told me all about what happened last night....that he slept on the couch" and "I had visions of him in bed with some tart." Needless to say, Bev is a bit uncomfortable with it all

The other unlikely couple is of course, Nick and Unsure-of-his-sexuality-Todd, who are common-law brothers-in-law. They've really gotten to know each other over the past few weeks and when Nick makes some comment like "You can tell me anything", and then, when Nick's eyes are closed, Todd is in like Flynn and throws the lips on him, a very tame effort compared to what the media were touting Corrie's first gay kiss to be Needless to say, Nick is a bit uncomfortable with it all.

On a totally unrelated point, I'm beginning to fear that Gail may be an alcoholic. She is out in the back garden putting clothes on the line when she sees Angela Harris, who still has the hump because her daughter is after shacking up with Martin. Gail says she was just going to open a bottle of wine and asks Angela if she'd like to join her. But what if Angela had said no, would Gail have polished off the wine herself? The first step is admitting you have a problem, Gail.

Bo/SELECTA WEDNESDAY C4 10:35-11:30

Highly original comedy sketch show, which invites the viewer into the weird and wonderful world of celebrity stalker Avid Merrion. It is pretty much a one-man show, with low budget costumes transforming Merrion into Michael Jackson (chamon muthafucka!!) Other celebs taken off include: Davina McCall,Richard and Judy,and a very camp Ant&Dec and many more. Though these are repeats,the show is still funny no matter how many times it is viewed. The premise is that celebrities actions as portrayed in the media are grossly exaggerated,and in general the celebs are given a merciless ribbing. Merrions' Craig David impression,is so out ther and strange,it is one of the funniest things on t.v.

Random News Bits

The next two in the MEASevents series of gigs in the Jean Monnet are Paddy Casey (Wednesday Week4) and Colin Murphy (Wednesday Week 5). Tickets for these gigs are available from the Monday of that week at the Students' Union Reception. Tickets for the Frames gigs in the Concert Hall on the 8th and 9th of December are already available though, and are selling quickly, so get them while you still can! These tickets can also be bought at the Students' Union reception.

'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' star Alyson Hannigan is joining the cast of 'That '70s Show'. Hannigan will have a recurring role as a new police recruit at the academy where Ashton Kutcher's character Kelso is also enrolled. Her part in 'That '70s Show' will mark her first major TV role since 'Buffy...' ended this summer.

Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl is to release the long-awaited album from his Probot side project in February. Probot finds Grohl teaming up with legendary metal vocalists like Motorhead's Lemmy, King Diamond, Voivod's Snake and former Sepultura frontman Max Cavallera. Billboard reports that Grohl plays all the instruments on the album. A video for the Lemmy track, 'Shake Your Blood', will be shot next month and the album will also feature a bonus track with an as-yet-unnamed vocalist.

'The Sixth Sense' director M Night Shyamalan is in talks to bring Yann Martel's Booker Prize-winning 'Life of Pi' to the big screen. The Hollywood Reporter says that the film would be the first time Shyamalan has committed to a movie not based on his own original work. 'Life of Pi' tells the story of Pi Patel, the son of a zookeeper who survives a shipwreck on his way to Canada and is found in a lifeboat with a zebra, a hyena, an orang-utan and a Bengal tiger for company. In the book Pi comes from Pondicherry, India, which is also Shyamalan's home town.

A total of eight director awards will be handed out at this year's Cork Film Festival which takes place from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 October. The UIP Directors Awards are the largest of their kind in Ireland, with a prize fund totalling €30,000. The presentation to the winning directors will take place in the Cork Opera House prior to the 8.30pm gala screening of 'Love Actually' on Saturday 18 October. The UIP Director's Award is aimed at emerging feature film directors to help them develop their careers. This year's qualifying directors are John Crowley for 'Intermission', Liz Gill for 'Goldfish Memory', Johnny Gogan for 'Mapmaker', Robert Quinn for 'Dead Bodies' and Conor McPherson for 'The Actors'.

Irish singer-songwriter Damien Rice has won the prestigious Shortlist Music Prize in the US for his debut album 'O'. He saw off competition from the likes of The Streets, Cat Power, The Black Keys, Cody ChesnuTT, Floetry, Interpol, Sigur Ros, The Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Bright Eyes. Rice was presented with the award and later performed live at the ceremony in Los Angeles last night.

80s group Tears for Fears have reformed and will release a new album next year after inking a record deal with Arista. The duo of Roland Orzabal and Curt Smith made their comeback last Saturday at a charity concert in Las Vegas organised by Andre Agassi. It was the first time they had performed together in over a decade. Tears for Fears came to fame in the mid 1980s with their 1985 album, Songs From the Big Chair, spending five weeks at the top of the US charts and spawning the No 1 singles 'Everybody Wants to Rule the World' and 'Shout'.The follow-up, 'Sowing the Seeds of Love', was released four years later to acclaim but Smith then left the group in 1991.

Details of this year's Children's Book Festival have been announced. The festival runs from 16 to 31 October with 500 events scheduled to take place across the country. Among the authors attending the festival will be Eoin Colfer, Malachy Doyle, AVI, Kate Thompson and the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, who will be reading from her new book 'Little Red' in Easons on Dublin's O'Connell Street on 16 October. This year's events also include a competition for young readers to design a bookmark for next year's festival and the chance to win €1,000 worth of books for their school. More details are available at the official website, childrensbooksireland.com.

RTÉ has announced the appointment of Noel Curran as Managing Director of RTÉ Television. Mr Curran will take up the post with immediate effect, replacing Cathal Goan, who has been appointed Director General Designate. From Co Monaghan, Mr Curran joined RTÉ in 1992, working as a reporter, producer and editor in RTÉ Television, most recently as the Editor of Current Affairs in the News Division. He holds a BA in Communications from Dublin City University where he specialised in broadcasting policy, with a focus on Public Service Broadcasting.

Director Andrew Davis (THE FUGITIVE) has been in discussions to take over THE MAN WHO KILLED DON QUIXOTE, Terry Gilliam's former movie project. QUIXOTE was filming when a troubled snafu involving Depp injuring his back, freak storms delaying filming and complicated insurance issues delayed and then grounded production. "I'm thinking of doing DON QUIXOTE," said Davis. "Terry Gilliam tried to do it. I talked to someone who's involved in it, and he still wants to do it...it's very complicated. But I'm in talks.If I got to make it, I'd like to make it with someone like Jon Voight you know, or someone like John Leguizamo -- who probably aren't big enough stars to get it greenlit. If Johnny Depp said he wanted to do it again right now, we'd get the money. We'll see." A documentary chronicling Gilliam's troubled shoot, LOST IN LA MANCHA, is now out on home video.

Clubs and Societies

UL Peace Society - National Conflict - Israel and Palestine

Bernadette Sexton (out going President, Peace Society), Elaine Byrne (Peace Society & YFG) and Barry Walsh (YFG) were selected as part of the Republic of Ireland delegation for the EU/Israel Conference on "National Conflict-Israel and Palestine" held in Glencree Centre for Reconciliation in Wicklow, Dublin, Belfast, Derry and Omagh at the end of September.

Mrs. Melanie Verwoerd, the South African Ambassador to Ireland, spoke ardently on the South African post-conflict experience with specific regard to the Truth Commission. The Israeli and Palestinian delegates found the Ambassador's address difficult to accept initially, particularly regarding issues on the right to return of refugees/displaced, political prisoners and a declaration to the end of the armed struggle. The Ambassador instilled the delegates with the words of Nelson Mandela, 'everyone is a leader.' Everyone must accept responsibility for peace.

The Conference provided the opportunity for Jews, Muslims and Christians from Israel and Palestine to meet without fear. Although living just minutes from each other, it was only after a five-hour flight to Ireland that many first shared a taxi as Palestinian and Israeli.

Trust was initially very difficult to establish between these groups. There was a very obvious lack of understanding for each other's position. Many assumptions, perceptions and dogmatic beliefs persisted despite being challenged. Certain issues assumed ghost like form, haunting discussions in different forms ensuring inevitable stagnation and absolute frustration. People could not listen, others could not talk. It wasn't because they didn't want to, but because they could not. Their life experience forced them not to. Hadas is 23, I'm 24. Hadas has a will. I don't. Hadas has attended ten funerals of ten friends in the last month.

A vicious circle of violence and downright rejection to talk ensured the circle of violence and politics becoming more hard-line and stubborn. To talk was initially regarded as a symbol of weakness, to admit failure.

Enivar sent me this email about last weeks bombing.

Two hours ago 18 people, who were just trying to have an ordinary lunch in a restaurant in Haifa, were murdered. In the first year of the intifada, I used to watch the news for hours after bomb attacks and read every single detail in the newspaper. And it was relatively easy; because these were people I didn't know. But two years ago, and some of you know it, my aunt was murdered by a terrorist, and it changed everything. I can't sit and watch TV now, because it's just too much for me. These are not 18 anonymous names anymore.

These are 18 families who are going to go through what my family has been through for the last two years. I'm well aware of the hell they are going to experience from this moment on, and it brings everything back to me - the moment my mother told me she was murdered, the funeral, the talks with her children who lost a mother, with her husband who lost a wife, seeing the strongest people in my life breaking down, the sleepless nights, the huge amount of tears, everything. Everything 18 more families are going to experience. Just like that. So many lives ruined. And why? Not for a noble cause. Because of pure hate.

I feel really bad saying this, but at moments like this you don't care about what the other side feels, what they're going through. Because there is no excuse for murder. At moments like these you just want your country to be safe. You don't have the energy or the mental strength to think about anything else.

There are other emails. Too many. Emails about other bombings. Emails about assassinations, about checkpoints, about poverty. A month after the conference, that's all they've become, other emails. The circle gets wider, you get used to it, you become more hardened and less willing to contemplate, to even talk. Enivar believes this can't continue and wants peace, needs peace so she can be 23 again. But the circle widens, trust is ritually sacrificed and hope is no longer part of the vocabulary.

Ofer and several Israeli and Palestinian friends stayed with my family in Wicklow for several days. Ofer was in the Israeli Defence Forces for three years. He has recently returned to college and is a student of history. Two days later he returned to Jerusalem. He went to meet friends for a coffee and a bomb exploded. His family thought he was dead. This is his email the night of the bombing.

I appreciated all of their calls and their concern, but they irritated me. They prevented me from making some phone calls of my own to friends that I was worried about. People kept calling us and inquired for our well being.

My friend was very anxious because he still had not managed to get hold of his sister. He lost a cousin in a suicide bombing six months ago. After many phone calls to relatives and friends which did not yield any results, we decided to go to his sisters house and see if she is there sleeping so sound as to not even hearing the phone ringing. My friend was too worried to speak. As we reached the doorway of her house my friend received a phone call informing him that she was at a wedding of a friend, the noise of the phone was so loud she did not hear it ring. The expression of relief on his face was very clear. It was almost theatrical. It seemed that in a second his entire being altered. I did not sleep last night.



Elaine, Salem (Palestine), Halem (Israeli Christian) and Bernadette

Gardenia is from Jenin, like many of the participants she used humour to disguise and to distract from what she felt inside. During the workshops she withdrew from the group and became very quite, frozen and removed. If she had wanted to cry, I don't think she could any more. This is her response to Ofer's email.

Ofer I really feel sorry for what u have been through maybe u r not use to it but it is our daily life all the time we have this feeling and each time something happened we start counting each other to make sure that every one is there that's why I really feel sorry cause I know exactly this feeling and I also know much more I hate bombing as much I hate tanks and solders and F16.

Let me tell u a little story about my last week trip to Jenin. When I reach Jenin it was closed and tanks were every where I just stopped at the borders of Jenin in a village called Bergen there was no way to reach my house but I insisted and start walking through mountains, I run away from tanks and solders hiding from time to time

I succeeded to get to my house. I spent Thursday night and Friday in closure. Many neighbour's houses were occupied and they damaged there all furniture on Saturday at 3:00 am when it was so dark I was afraid that the closure will stay for longer time so I decided to run away from Jenin. I was afraid to lose my job after all it was my only income and it helps my family a lot in living this ugly life

I was walking alone in this dark hearing only the voices of tanks and actually I hate dark and I hate to walk alone in dark but I had no choice. I walked and walked till I reached the nearest village where the driver was waiting for me and left Jenin. It was very frightened night for me. We are in fear every moment in our life when we don't be afraid about our relatives and friends we are afraid to lose our income and jobs and be apart from our families for so long and think hundred of times before we deciding to go for one day visit. It is only simple thing of what we face when we just decide to do simple things. We are living in horror movies in every act we wanna do. Take care all of u. I think we need louder voices and real actions. Talking only does not bring peace. Peace needs hard workers. Take care my friends. I hope all of us live in peace.

There are too many emails. Emails, begging us, as young Irish students, to help. I haven't responded to any of the

emails yet. I don't know what to say. What can I say?

The conference facilitated informal meetings with various representatives from political parties in the Dáil and Stormont. Two things became evident from this. Many people in North and South are so far removed from the Northern conflict/peace process due to geography, economics, education, social and other factors to the extent that they just don't care about it. They don't want to know. From my personal experience, I have been to Mostar, Sarajevo, the Ivory Coast border, Northern Ghana, Beirut, Auschwitz, but never to the Falls or the Shankill until now. You don't have to go to these places to care about them, but Northern Ireland, for me was always, 'up there' and I lived 'down here.'

From the workshops with the different community leaders on the Falls and Shankill it became evident that both communities have a lot more in common than in difference. Our Jewish and Muslim friends were very confused about this. For them Protestant and Catholic are part of the Christian faith. There are a million Christians living in Israel. At the end of the week they asked us to identify what religion each of the Northern and Republican Irish belonged to because they didn't understand who was who or why we were different to one another, if we were different to one another.

Facilitated by Joe Camplisson & Barney Mc Caughey, a workshop with the group and ex-paramilitaries from the IRA and UDA consolidated this thesis. Tommy and Eddie spent considerable time in the Maze prison for taking the lives of during the course of The Troubles, before being released under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

At the end of the workshop both men stood together and complained about the weather. During the workshop they complained about the poverty their communities experienced.

I guess to apply a childish logic to it all; I asked Tommy and Eddie if they had a wish what it would be.

The silence became louder as they turned and looked at one another.

www.peace.ie
Elaine Byrne
PRO Peace Society

Clubs and Societies

UL Windsurfing Club - Speed Dating (A New Wave)

On Tuesday September 30th the Windsurfing Club organised a "Speed Dating" event. My housemate is a member of the club and he informed me about the event, so I decided to go and see what the whole thing was about. Of course there was the possibility that I might meet my knight in shining armour or be swept off my feet by a wave of romance!

As I entered the function room I was immediately impressed with the set up. Firstly, you had to sign your name on a sheet along with your email address and give your mobile number if you so wished. There was a separate list for the both girls and boys. Each person was given a badge with a number that corresponded to the number beside your name on the list.

Once the simple procedure was completed you were free to mingle with

the crowd and check out your options!! There was a great sense of excitement and wonder. There were some romantic touches with candles placed strategically on each table and of course songs of love playing gently in the background.

So how did it all work?

The MC Graham Breenan smartly dressed in suit and tie, welcomed the 27 girls and 27 guys and told us to sit at the table number corresponding to our number. I was number 1 so I sat at table number 1. I was the first girl there. The rest of the female competitors decided to be fashionably late. We had two minutes to talk to each person. When the bell rang, the guys moved on to the next seat. It was a very simple and effective system.

So what did we talk about in two minutes?

Well, the aim is to try to get to know as



much as you can about the person in two minutes. So questions like: 'What course are you doing?', 'Where do you come from?' and 'What music do you like?' were quite common. I myself liked to put the guy on the spot with questions like 'If you were to invite three people to dinner, anyone at all even from history, who would you invite?' Or 'What would your dream holiday be?' Ok, you probably think I was taking it a bit too serious but everyone was there for pure fun and enjoyment!! And fun it was! We were able to take a break for 15 minutes which gave people a chance to relax. During the break, a raffle took place. Each person got a free raffle ticket and there was a chance to win two prizes.

When the event came to an end, we all had the option to write on a form the

numbers of three people that we liked. Your choice!! This confidential information was handed over to the safekeeping of the Windsurfing Club Committee. They process the information and if you are lucky, you receive an email revealing an admirer or many admirers you may have impressed. Who knows maybe I might be lucky!?

So all in all, it was a great way to meet people. The two precious minutes might have been just enough when talking to certain people, and yet you may have talked all night with others. I found "Speed Dating" to be lots of fun and a great way to practice your flirting techniques, social skills or whatever. Just a good bit of clean fun, that may lead to a bit of romance!

Rebecca Hadrill.



'So, what course do you do?' The speed daters in action

UL Kickboxers attend seminar by Klaus Nonnemacher



Nonnemacher practising on former UL student Sean Keane

It takes a special person to become a World Champion once so Klaus Nonnemacher must be something really special as he has won seven world titles in no less than five martial arts. The martial arts that he trained in vary quite considerably, ranging from amateur pionsfghting to professional full contact kickboxing. He started his career in combat sports through karate but has always remained open to other types of combat sports. He has fought in other disciplines for example Taekwon Do, Shotokan-Karate, Kojokoshinkai-Karate, Thai boxing and Light contact kickboxing.

There was a great excitement when it was announced that Nonnemacher would be giving a seminar in Newcastle West

on Sunday 5th of October. This was an opportunity that was not to be missed by three members of the UL Kickboxing club, as all three members will be competing in the upcoming WKA World Championships starting on the 15th of October in Killarney.

Here is an athlete who is a front runner. Even though Nonnemacher is now the world director of the WKA (World Kickboxing & Karate Association), but this level of responsibility does not stop him from training rigorously and organising or being present at up to fifty competitions per year. He is the ultimate role model for all martial artists who aspire to become supreme athletes in their chosen field.

The UL Kickboxers who attended were

very impressed with the day. Nonnemacher's love for combat sports really shone through especially considering that he spent two hours more than had been intended on the training session. His knowledge of these sports is wide ranging and he is a definite advocate of taking what works for the individual and applying it to their own training.

Tim Murphy who currently holds a WKA World title commented, "The seminar was very informative and covered a range of very practical techniques". Debra Donovan who hopes to improve significantly on her bronze

medal from Italy last year felt that he was an excellent motivator. Kathy Dunne, who is making her first appearance on the stage of world kickboxing, was impressed with his wide range of excellent techniques.

Lastly four members of the UL Kickboxing club will be competing in the WKA World Championships, which will be held in Killarney, Co. Kerry this year. Best of luck to Tim Murphy, Debra Donovan, Kathy Dunne and Brenda Cremmins who will begin the competition on Thursday 16th. We're expecting great things!!



Debra Donovan, Klaus Nonnemacher, Tim Murphy and Kathy Dunne

Clubs and Societies

UL Games Society

Wanted: committee members, must supply own Iron Fist.

Yes, oh ye faithful, it's that time of year again.

No, the virgin sacrifice has been put on hold indefinitely due to the logistical problems of finding a virgin in UL, but we're talking about the G~Soc AGM.

Yep, it's the time of year when some of our glorious leaders are permanently, and often forcibly, retired in order to make way for some fresh new people.

If you are at all interested in helping us keep this society going, just turn up to the AGM, which is on Tuesday the 14th of October in SU meeting room 4, at 7pm and you too can terrorise your fellow man with G~Socs' approval.

More people will come if they think there'll be punch and pie!

No, we have no punch and pie, but this meeting has one other purpose, and that is to sort out those who want to go paintballing this year.

If you do want to go paintballing on the weekend of week 6 then you must turn up to the AGM and you must also bring the EUR30 deposit.

Meanwhile in an abandoned warehouse!



G~Soc isn't done yet, our next Lockin' is scheduled for October the 22nd, and we'll be contacting our membership about it soon.

But for those who prefer their entertainment to be set in the worlds of Vampire: the masquerade, or maybe Dungeons and Dragons, then worry not. We haven't forgotten you. Our RPG's will be starting soon, and all members will be notified by E-Mail about this.

Join us

If your not a member of G~Soc and want to join us, you can E-Mail us at ulgsoc@skynet.ie or visit our website at www.gsoc.net

Until next time remember:

"Don't make friends with a midget who has a learning disability, its not big, and its not clever."

The Lord of Cheese

UL Rugby Club

The first training session last week was a great success with a record number turning up to get training underway. Over 50 people turned up with a large number of beginners included in that number. The new coaches, Sarah Belton and DJ Collins, seemed to settle into their new role without any difficulty with a very enjoyable training session. Training continues every Wednesday on Maguire's pitches from 3 to 4p.m. New players are always welcome, including beginners. Training caters for all levels.



Plans are already underway for this year's trip to the Ovalies competition in Paris. The trip will be taking place in the



second semester but we are starting to get organized for it now. The club sent 13 players to France to compete in the annual Ovalies competition in Paris. Being the only Irish team competing they were slightly outnumbered by the French. However the team was not fazed by this, qualified to the knock out stages and then went on to win the competition. Unfortunately last year the men's team were unable to make the trip over for the competition but all going well the club hope to have both a ladies and men's team representing UL in Paris in April.

With the matches starting in the next few weeks it would be great if everyone made an effort to turn out to training for the next couple of weeks. And don't worry training will go ahead hail, rain or snow.

If you wish to join a club or society, call into the Clubs and Socs Office upstairs in the SU. Someone there will sort you out.

UL Men's Hockey

The UL Men's Hockey club is back in full swing, and under the chairmanship of James Hoare, Esq., looks to be a major hit on campus this term. Last year was a bit of a non-event for the club, but in the lean period since Christmas last year, a major recruitment drive has seen all committee positions filled by vastly experienced individuals from the four corners of Ireland. From the horses and travellers of Ballinasloe, to the sandy beaches of Tramore, and the university town of Maynooth, UL Men's Hockey won't be beaten for it's geographical spread, combining the experiences of each officer from their own particular area, and culminating in a thoroughly revitalised club.

Eoin Fenton awaits all those first years, eager to get out of their houses and into some real sessions on campus. Tadhg Cronin will be your representative at all those clubs and socs meetings, getting enough money to provide UL Men's Hockey with the right kit, management and all other essential items to make sure this is one of the best clubs on campus.

Under the tutelage of James Hoare, a vastly experienced hockey man, of many talents, not least his unwavering commitment to hockey in UL, this club is on its way to the top. Training under the watchful eye of Andrew Kingston, your experience in UL Men's Hockey will be one of the most positive and rejuvenating on campus this year.

Training two nights a week, Tuesday at 6 and Thursday at 5.15 on the astro turf pitch, this club has success written all over it. Don't be afraid to join in.

Coming up in semester one:
A Band Night-around the 27th October
Fancy Dress Match against the Girls-30th October
Table Quiz-TBA (Fenton get your finger out)
Hockey-Lots twice a week
Intervarsities in Dublin-Coming Soon

UL Kayak Club - Trip tp Lahinch

Last week I wrote about ULKC's adventures in the Alps this summer but that's not all the club got up to this summer. Most weekends during the summer I travelled down to Limerick and no matter what weekend it was there was always something happening among the members of the kayak club! The first thing on all of our minds is whether or not there will be surf? Armed with tents and sleeping bags we would head in the direction of Lahinch and search for surf along the many beaches the west coast of Co. Clare has to offer. After a day of surfing we'd set up our tents and hit the great pub of o looneys and then on to the coast nightclub. The next day generally ends up being another search for surf and then as evening hits we all make our way back home. However that's how a weekend goes when we have surf except we aren't always lucky! But because of the nature of kayakers we generally don't sit on our asses and do nothing and so we're always doing something. There are many examples so I'll just give you a taste of what we've got up to when there's lack of surf.

One weekend when surf was nowhere to be found we decided to go kayaking with the dolphin in Fanore near Doolin. We paddled out to where dusty the dolphin is usually sighted. I had never seen a dolphin up this close before and I thought it was amazing! She was really playful and would race us all over and back and skirt in front of our boats. More people started arriving and soon Dusty had an audience! She loves bright colours so if we left our paddles on the



Sun, sand, surf... and a funny-shaped boat

water she would take them with her nose and swim off and play with them! She provided everyone with great entertainment when she took Homer's paddles and took them beneath the water and hid them in the seaweed so he couldn't get them! Eventually with much pleading from Homer she gave them back! In the end she got so comfortable with us that we could pet her on her nose and belly! I will never forget that day!

Other days to remember are the crazy days that the lads decide to go cliff jumping! It usually involves some insanely high cliff, very deep water and a lot of courage! The lads managed to jump off some crazy-ass cliffs this summer and we have the photos to prove!

These are only some of the activities we got up to during the summer

but they were the ones that stuck in my memory! As a club we had an eventful summer and now that we're back to college we hope to make this year just as jam-packed with events as always! Our river sessions on Wednesday have already begun. They take place usually around 2.00 on Wednesday afternoon and anyone can sign up for them at the pool sessions. And how could I forget to mention the most important event...! LAHINCH 2003! This is always one of the best weekends of the year! It's taking place the weekend of week 4. It's only €30 for 2 nights accommodation, food and bus! If you want a weekend of kayaking, craic and lots of madness then bring a €10 deposit to the pool sessions Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9.50. Hopefully I'll see you all there! Seona Dillon McLoughlin.

Clubs and Societies

UL Mountain Biking Club



Yet again our new semester has got off to a great start with 50 members signed up already, 25 of whom turned up for the first cycle the Sunday of week 1. A new club committee has been elected, the website's been updated (<http://mbul.csn.ul.ie>), new club T-Shirts are being designed and posters have been posted, not that this matters... What matters is that the mountain bike club has been extremely busy over the past year covering everything from casual events such as our evening and weekend street, trials and stunts sessions, followed by video watching/partying in various locations, to more organised events, such as entering three four man teams in the Saab Solomon Mountain Mayhem 24 Hour race in Birmingham last June.

Each of the last two years the UL Mountain Bike Club (MBUL for short) acquitted themselves well against the whole spectrum of British and world mountain biking, this year placing a respectable 88th 117th and 219th out of a field of over 250 teams, some made up of professional mountain bikers. These results are even more impressive considering almost half the people who travelled over to compete barely had a year's pedalling experience. We fought off stiff opposition from amongst others, 'Team Sperm', 'Britney s Spheres' and the infamous 'Dead Men Riding'. Of course, the craic of the course was nothing compared to the craic at the campsite. Thanks to a full trade village and a few club members who travelled just for the fun of it there was more than enough going on to keep everybody busy for the race weekend. We also travelled Ireland to Kerry, Sligo, Wicklow and other counties for both competitive and social cycling events. Expect more of the same this year J.

Returning to our UL based fun, we're still doing what we do best in and around Limerick, namely cycling every Sunday, meeting outside the PESS Building in



UL at about 11:00am to cycle as far as Cratloe Woods, hammer some trails, talk a load of rubbish, slag each other, hit the shop in Cratloe (Downhill all the way from the forest to our favourite Shop), climb back to the forest for more trails if the weather is good and then go home with around 30 miles on the clock, mud freckles and an ear to ear grin. For the more experienced cyclists (Those with better suppressed self preservation instincts) we also cycle most Saturdays as far as Killaloe for some killer climbing, screaming descents and serious mileage.

Midweek cycles are also being arranged, but due to timetabling constraints they get organised on a week-by-week or even day-by-day basis by whoever is

free. All this can be organised by visiting the club forum at <http://mbul.csn.ul.ie/phpBB2> - All you need to do is register a username, suggest a time and ask who's free. The club can supply high power lights for hitting the trails after dark too, an experience I'd recommend to anyone with a bit of basic biking experience. Club bikes and helmets can be booked on a first come first served basis too. They were all in use for the past two weeks, so get your booking in early. Send any questions, queries and membership requests to mtbclub@skynet.ie or post them on the club forum.

As always, happy trails!
Cormac Eason - MBUL PRO.

UL Music Society

Ah, music. Inflamer of emotions, catalyst of passion and food for the soul.

Or so they say. I don't know anything about that stuff, but I like to strap on a guitar and create some cool wailing noises (anybody see Mundy in the Jean Monnet recently?).

The UL Music Society exists to please the likes of myself, as well as any drummers, pianists, saxophonists, mouth-organists, air-bass players, singers, Gregorian chanters and other miscellaneous musicians that might exist in UL, and indeed to those who are in the market for learning a new instrument. The Society (21 years old this year) offers practice space, equipment, lessons, meet-a-musician facility, live gigs, and celebrity guest speakers to its lucky, lucky members. This year looks like it.s going to be our biggest yet.

The most exciting thing to happen to the Music Soc this year is the long awaited soundproofing of our own Music Room (SU-121), now agonizingly close to completion. Once its done, we can jam away in blissful loudness all week long, without incurring the wrath of cleaners, UL employees, and the Scholars, as has happened before. We have lots of cool shiny instruments and audio equipment for our members to make wibbly noises with and we.ll be buying more this year. For the cost of joining the society (4 euros) this is incredible value for money and will save many musicians big bucks.

The Monday night slots in The Stables are continuing this year due to the success of previous years. Usually it.s Open Mic. Talent is optional but



appreciated. You can also expect to hear plenty of homegrown UL talent in there this year too. We actively find gigs at decent venues where our members can play. This service, along with the provision of rehearsal facilities and equipment has proved to be a helpful leg-up for bands starting out. Keep an eye on the website or posters around the place to see what.s on every week.

We held guitar and drum lessons last year for the first time and will of course be continuing them, adding other instruments if there is enough demand. All lessons are at a low price and are taught by professional teachers. Equipment is provided. We.re currently planning some interesting events for the coming year. American singer/songwriter/bass player

Rachel Loshak (www.rachelloshak.com) will be playing the Scholars function room in November. Our annual Unplugged Competition will take place in Greek Week. The prize fund currently stands at eur1600. First prize up for grabs will be a superb Emerald semi-acoustic guitar, handcrafted in Donegal and worth eur1300 (www.emeraldguitars.com). Also planned is the Band of the Year competition, some celebrity guest speakers and possibly some intervarsities later in the year. Watch this space!

Anyone interested in joining should check out the website at <http://musicsoc.skynet.ie>, email us at musicsoc@skynet.ie, or simply call down to the Stables any Monday night. The Music is gonna get you! Niark!

UL Christian Union

Week 4 and things are up and running with ULCU! Our first two Monday night meetings have taken place and what a group there is this year! After a very successful two days at cubs and socs recruitment we have seen more people come our way in the interim. Each Monday we meet for praise and worship led by our excellent musicians (Christian music is the fastest growing genre in the world (USA Today), come and find out why!), for prayer and bible study with guest speakers.

Monday week 4 we will have Jim Schmidt, pastor of World Outreach Christian Centre in Limerick city, speaking about the importance of having a sense of purpose and destiny in our lives and how JESUS provides that for us. Monday week 5 we'll begin a series at looking how JESUS shows us that destiny and helps us reach it!

Thursday week 4 see the beginning of our discussion group "Inquiry". Over a 6/7 week period we will be taking an informal look at who JESUS why did He die, what evidence is there for His resurrection etc. If your curious about the Christian faith or want a firmer understanding on your own Christian faith come along. Other than that everyone is welcome! It will start 7pm Plassey Village Hall, refreshments will hopefully be provided and it wont last all night so plenty of time for goin out afterwards!! The first discussion will be looking at the factors that influence our beliefs, the need to examine our beliefs and a look at the central themes in Jesus' message as told in Marks gospel.

Any info can be got by emailing ulcu@hotmail.com, and remember **THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE, HE'S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!**

Clubs and Societies

Drama Soc - A Little Shop of Horrors

It may only be week 4, but already, Dramasoc has been a hive of activity. In an attempt to get every member involved in the organisational side of things, four different groups have been set up to deal with different aspects of the society. The four groups are: Marketing, which deals with publicity and general marketing of the society, Charity, which organizes charity events on behalf of Dramasoc, ISDA, which is there to help with preparations for the ISDA awards in NUIG next March and finally Digital media which deals with the more technical side of the arts.

Dramasoc went Little Shop crazy in week 3. Firstly on Monday night we showed the video of Little Shop of Horrors in "An Phluais", which proved very popular despite being delayed due to 'Technical Difficulties'. Then on Tuesday we had auditions for our own production of Little Shop which will be taking place in LIT next February. Over forty people turned up for the auditions, and every one of them talented, without a You're a Star Chancer in sight! Adrian had a very hard job trying to pick his final cast and at the time of writing this article the cast had not been finalised, so they will be announced in the next issue. Dramasoc and those who had the job of picking the cast would like to sincerely thank everyone who auditioned. Even if you didn't get picked, fair play to ye for giving it a lash and remember we have more plays coming up, so ye may very well have your chance to tread the boards yet.

Tuesday of Week 4 is a very important night for Dramasoc. There will be a general acting workshop, followed by a unique make-up workshop, which is not to be missed. If that still hasn't convinced ye, there will be thirty free tickets to the Halloween ball, but you have to be there on the night, if you're not there, you'll have to dip into your own pocket if you want to go, so ye are well advised to turn up, and ye certainly won't regret coming along to these very interesting workshops. So another busy week ahead for Dramasoc, and we hope ye will come along.

UL Law Society

We're back and we've more fun and frolics in store for you this year. In the last two weeks we have elected our new committee and started our moot trial workshops. We have loads to plan including the law ball, which is scheduled for week 8 this semester, and moot trials, which will be dotted throughout the year. So Tuesdays @8 in the main canteen will be our usual slot and we will be continuing our moot trial workshops and discussions on future events. All are welcome so feel free to drop in!

UL Saint Vincent de Paul Society

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, is up and running for a third consecutive year. As we are a student run branch of volunteers operating on campus we are always in need of people willing to help the marginalized of Limerick and become involved in our many projects.

Activities around Limerick

- Ø Soup-run
- Ø Drop in centre for the homeless
- Ø Home decoration and clean up
- Ø Paired reading
- Ø Homework club
- Ø Home visitation
- Ø Prison visitation
- Ø Swimming
- Ø Fundraising
- Ø Church gate collections
- Ø Hospice visitation

Trip to Haiti

Last year was our most active yet when, in June we sent ten members of the S.V.P

UL to the Caribbean country of Haiti. It was equally the happiest, saddest and most humbling experience of their lives. While there they were involved in a range of projects, working alongside the Milot branch of Saint Vincent de Paul, they painted the community centre, distributed food, helped the street children, assisted in the local hospital, befriended the orphans and worked directly with the children in schools helping to teach them English.

Although Haiti was a great opportunity to lend a hand to a foreign country in desperation it is not to say that any one of us couldn't help right here in Limerick. This year is set to be another action packed one and our first meeting Tuesday night was a great success with many of you turning up eager to volunteer. We are a great society with a true sense of teamwork. Last year, as well as the activities mentioned above

we had a 24 hour food appeal in Super Quinn, raising £2000, cleaned up a house making it habitable for Christmas, took 40 kids to the aqua dome in Tralee, organised the County colours ball in Docs which turned out to be one of the best nights out of the year and much more! This year we plan to help many more people and organise new projects such as Maryborough hospice visitation.

You can make a difference!

Joining SVP is a chance to really make a difference, all our activities have a full training programme and you can commit yourself to as much time as you feel comfortable with so don't be afraid to get involved. This really is a chance to work with some fantastic people and make new and great friends. If your curious as to what any of our activities involve why not Email us at svp-ul@hotmail.com, look up our web site www.csn.ul.ie/~svp

UL Outreach Society

So, who's got an hour somewhere in their week that's just being used on daytime television and perfecting that groove in the couch? Almost all of us have at least one free slot in our timetables that we could be using to do something worthwhile. Not just for the sake of leaving the living room either; it's much more fun than wishing you had a remote control to change that channel, and you can satisfy the Home and Away addiction in the evenings. Whilst Outreach have been keeping a low profile this year, we're still here, we've got plans for this year and it's going to be bigger and better than before.

Speaking of which, let me tell you a little bit about what we did last year. Outreach is an unusual society, in that everyone joins with basically the same interests at heart, but we end up doing entirely separate projects. There's something for everyone and you can be as involved (or not) as you want. So, the first thing I signed up for was the 'Sports for Success' programme. Children from local schools are brought to University Arena after school, and basically, we help them with their homework for an hour and then groups of PESS students organise different sporting activities with them before they go for dinner in the Sports Bar. Now, as unsure as I was about spending Wednesdays reminiscent of third class doing homework from 'Busy at Maths', these children are genuinely great fun to be around, and they warm to you instantly. So when you turn up the next week and they fight over whose table you'll be sitting at, it's really quite rewarding. And no, it's not hard, even the least gifted of us can manage multiplication and word games.

After this success for one semester, I decided to try my hand volunteering for 'Junior Achievers'. Now, this programme seemed a little daunting at first, as it involved standing in front of a class of children and conducting a class for an hour. Now, I'm not usually shy about talking to new people, but going into a class full of tiny new faces that look up



Share a Dream

to you is different. There are different age groups in the scheme and each class has its own programme-basically the aim is to encourage children in 'designated disadvantaged schools' to stay in school, learn, and find out what their options are if they do. This was my favourite part of the week last year. If you have the mentality of a nine year old it helps. If you get excited about building your own little town (possibly moreso than the girls) that's great too. But by the end of the six weeks, when you have a whole class wanting to clean the board for you, give out the worksheets for you, share their lunch with you, sing and dance for you (seriously, they're talented), you won't want to leave. Junior Achievers are running a secondary school programme that we'll be getting involved in this year too, with a little something sporty for the lads and a travel and tourism class too. Keep an eye out for posters about the information night this week, we'll be showing a video to let you lot see what it's all about.

Apart from all the regular things we did-meeting with Derek (our new Equality officer, Congratulations Derek!); reading books on to tapes for the Disability Liason Office; shadowing, where you take a senior secondary school student around for the day so they can see what your course is like; going to South Hill school and teaching English to refugees-we had one project that a group of us were involved in that was particularly special. Share A Dream is a foundation set up by Shay Kinsella to make sick children's dreams come true. They've done things like bringing a girl to a

concert to meet Robbie Williams, hiring a castle for a day (servants and all) to make a little girl feel like a princess, and every year they have one big party that they invite hundreds of children to, which is where we came in. This year was the first time that children with all kinds of disabilities and sicknesses came to one big event. Performers from TV series 'You're a Star', local groups and singers and a special appearance from Snow White were the main focus, but the lead up to the event was huge. Volunteers put together bags with food, drinks and a present for every child, security was put in place, stage managers and performers and volunteers and street artists swarmed around the arena, as well as us, fully kitted out in huge, bright, bouncy costumes, (Thanks a million to Pat McGann in Patrickswell who kindly sponsored us by giving us the costumes free of charge for the weekend) sprayed hair, curly wigs. Despite the looks of terror on some of the children's faces, we took Shay Kinsella's advice when he said to think of these kids as your little brothers and sisters who you haven't seen for a long time. Take them out, play with them, dance with them (easier said than done in a costume with hula hoops around the waist and legs!) spoil them, make a fool out of yourself, do whatever, but keep them happy, make them laugh. Look at the picture, we made a lot of people laugh. As well as knowing that we made their days and becoming minor celebrities thanks to the Japanese television crew, we got away with going slightly crazy ourselves under the pretence that we were doing it for their entertainment.

So here's to an equally good plan for this year, with a few new things on the agenda. We're always looking for new members and new things to do so ideas are welcome. It's never too late to join: send an email to [Elaina O'Neill at outreachul@hotmail.com](mailto:Elaina.O'Neill@outreachul@hotmail.com), or contact the committee from the list outside the Welfare Office.

Clubs and Societies

Outdoor Pursuits Club

“Climb Every Mountain” Week 1
Chrissy Dertinger

This past Sunday, UL’s Outdoor Pursuits Club welcomed its members, new and old, with an excursion to the Burren in Co. Clare for some rock-climbing, hill walking, and caving. At 9:00am Sunday morning, a tired flock of outdoor enthusiasts, and some people who had no clue what they were getting into, gathered together outside Stables to wait for the bus.

In less than 2 hours, we arrived at the Burren and filed out of the bus to put on extra layers for the day’s journey. However, this very act of preparation quickly revealed the experienced

Just before the bus arrived, the hill walkers and rock climbers were given a demonstration when two senior members of the club scaled the slippery rocks on the ocean’s edge despite the bitter cold.

The end of our day included some food and a few pints at a local pub followed by the fabulous musical stylings of our club president on the bus microphone. The day was long and tiring, but invigorating and amusing as well. I think that all the members had a great time and look forward to the next trip.

OPC Trip to Mt Brandon Week 2
Stephen Rigney



Mount Brandon

outdoors person from the clueless. While many applied their splash pants, hiking boots and raincoats, some of the less informed stood amazed, and freezing, in runners and jeans. Nonetheless, prepared and unprepared alike, split off into three groups: the hill walkers, rock climbers, and cavers.

For my part, I chose to do a little hill walking seeing as it was my first time out, and that sounded like the most basic of the three options. Basic it was, easy it was not. At the start of the walk, we were informed that since it was the first trip, we were just going to take a moderate pace and not push ourselves too hard. Well, within minutes many of us were amazed and frightened by this “moderate” pace. One German student remarked that it was not hill walking, but hill running! However, soon enough we all settled into the pace and were blessed with beautiful, sunny weather to observe the rolling hills, ocean-shore, and the many cows of the Irish landscape.

After a brief lunch, we started the real hill walking. Up until this point we had been walking along narrow roadways, but now we hiked the remainder of a 344m. Sleibh Eilbhe through a lovely terrain known as bog. For those who are unfamiliar, bog is a sort of wet, spongy, surface covered by long grass. Nevertheless, after a slight struggle at a fence and few minor falls, we all successfully reached the summit. Once atop, we enjoyed a brief moment of rest and celebration around a tiny pond and a cement monument where we proudly snapped photos of ourselves. Then came the realization: we have to walk back down. Yet, at the end of a couple hours of walking through sun and random patches of rain, we arrived back at our starting point to await the bus.

Nine o’clock on a Sunday morning is not my ideal time to visit the Stables, but I dragged myself there this Sunday for the sake of UL’s Outdoors Pursuits Club’s trip to Mount Brandon in Co. Kerry. It started out as a lovely morning, whatever about the bus driver’s predictions of soft weather, and the busload of us set off in high spirits and clean hiking boots.

Mount Brandon is one of the best places in Ireland to be on a fine day, with magnificent views over the Dingle Peninsula and out onto the Atlantic Ocean. At least that is what is says in the guidebook; the driver was right about the soft weather, so that the only views we had were for about three metres into the fog. Mind you, I don’t know whether “soft” was originally intended to describe a mountaintop in a wind that is blowing as many hailstones from beneath your feet as from the sky.

The truth be told, though, if you climbed Irish mountains with the sole intention of seeing the vistas, you would become very disillusioned very quickly. Climbing up the mountain is where most of the fun lies, and slogging up a mountain when the weather is doing its best to push you back down again is one of the most exhilarating experiences I know. When I finally stood beside the cairn that marked the top I knew that I was right to drag myself out of bed that morning. All 44 people on the trip reached the 951m summit of Mount Brandon. Of course, the very best part of the hike was coming off the mountain into a nice warm pub, a few hot beverages and a sleep on the bus as the driver took us back to Limerick.

Gan Ainm - Trad Music Soc

Hey all ye trad heads,

So with us all back in U.L, we look back on what the summer of 2003 held for Gan Ainm. Milltown Malby, Glencolumbcille Fiddle Week are trad music events that we were proud to be part of but, undoubtedly the greatest memory of the summer for us was performing on the Guinness Gig Rig at the All Ireland Fleadh in Clonmel. An exciting part of the performing this gig was that it was broadcasted live over the Internet. We experienced many highs throughout the Fleadh with some of our members achieving major success in the competitions. Tadhg Maher (no stranger to success at the Fleadh) won the Senior Liltling competition and Thomas Johnson and Fionnula Rooney were part of the triumphant Senior Trio.



You can’t beat a few tunes!

We also had the honour of performing at a highly prestigious event in Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, where our honourable chairperson "Dunkineely" met An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahearn.

Gan Ainm is currently focusing a considerable amount of its attention towards hosting the upcoming traditional Irish Music Intervarsity that takes place in November. We acknowledge its importance as for the first time in traditional music history; all the third level trad societies in the country will be united. The events will include a concert on Friday night featuring an outstanding line up of musicians, which will be

broadcasted live on Lyric FM. TG4 will be covering an on-campus convention that will take place on Saturday morning. Young Irish musicians will congregate to discuss developing music via the medium of third level institutions. Many concerts are planned for Saturday- the most important being the TG4 Awards taking place in the UCH. These awards recognise the talents of the crème de la crème of young traditional Irish music musicians.

Classes will be commencing shortly in a wide variety of instruments. For enquires contact Aodhán on 086- 1051116 or email ganainmul@hotmail.com.

Gan Ainm would like to encourage all trad lovers to come along to the Sports Bar every Monday night at 9.30pm for some Ceol, Craic and a Carlsberg!!

Shauna Mullin
Niamh Fenton

UL Environmental Society

Hey all,

Great to be fully back into the swing of things, and UL Environmental Society have been working hard to make the campus as clean and as green as possible! We're working on a load of different ideas at the moment, including sorting out the Green Fair, Critical Mass Bike Rides, Posters to promote Recycling, a possible trip to Belgium and loads of other stuff!

The Green Fair is an annual event the EnviroSoc run as part of Greek Week, and this year we intend to make it the best one yet!!! We have drummers and other musicians, an amazing range of gorgeous food, information, entertainment such as face painting and dressing up and that's just the beginning :-)

Mark down the 5th of November in your diary and keep it free!

As I write, we are preparing for the second Limerick Critical Mass of 2003 today (Thursday). Critical Mass is a Bike Ride through town to promote cycling as an enjoyable, healthy and environmentally sane alternative to the dreaded Traffic Jam! This is going to be a regular event, every second Thursday, with the next one falling on Oct. 23rd, at the Scholars Arch at 5.30pm. We're not Blocking Traffic, WE ARE TRAFFIC!!! Hope to see you there!

Colin has been busy making up some excellent posters for the college Restaurant and Canteen, to promote recycling of all suitable waste, and we

would encourage anybody who eats in either of these places to separate and recycle their waste.

Basil Boyce, the outgoing environmental superintendant for the university, suggested this when we did a tour of the recycling facilities last Monday week (nice link, eh!) He showed us what's done with UL's massive weekly output of waste in a very interesting and informative talk. We would all like to extend our thanks to Basil for his sterling work over the years, and wish him all the best in the future.

We also hope to take a trip to Belgium for a demonstration at a NATO base called SHAPE (Strategic Head of the Allied Powers in Europe), and a mass trespass that takes place in late October. Watch this space. We are organising this in conjunction with Gluaiseacht, an all-island Environmental and Social Justice grouping, and some of our members are cycling(!) out to the meeting in Dromcollogher this weekend.

I suppose that's all for this week, just to say keep at it, enjoy it and keep the faith!

Yours with the planet,
St.John Ó Donnabháin

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Letters Page

A chara

On arriving at UL a couple of weeks ago, I was delighted by the beauty of the campus, with its wonderful trees and lovely riverside situation. However, one thing that has caused me anger and dismay is the quantity of rubbish strewn about the place. Every

Lovely Lovely Litter

time I walk into college from my house in College Court, I see more of it (I know there's more because I pick some of it up on every trip and put it in the bin, where it should have been put in the first place) - cans and bottles, cigarette packets, fast-food debris...

Such behaviour is inexcusable. Who are the selfish and antisocial characters who demonstrate their contempt for the rest of us by their wilful pollution of our common environment? I would urge all UL students: if you see someone dropping litter, express your disapproval and ask them not to do it; these litter louts surely know that what they are doing is unacceptable, but it might encourage them to refrain if more people confronted them. Is there any system of fines or naming and shaming policy in place? Perhaps there should be.

Le meas.

(Gan ainm, le do thoil).

Dear Letters Page,

Hey, what's the story with that black and white giant checkers board at the gates to UL? Someone told me it was art - what's with that? If I wanted to see art I'd go to a museum or gallery or something. I came to UL to go out, get hammered, get laid (

Art, eh?

and I suppose get some education along the way) - not to be force fed shite art. I have culture enough thank you very much, I don't need some hoity-toity telling me what I should be thinking about life.

Name withheld.

A Chara,

As the defeated candidate in the recent equality officer elections, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Derek Spaight on becoming equality officer for the coming year. I know he will do a great job and hope he will be judged on his ability rather than his disability. I am naturally disappointed to have been beaten, especially

Thank You from Donal Ó Driscoll

by such a margin, (260 votes to 116)but what I am mostly disappointed with is the poor turnout. I must admit to not being overly enthralled by student politics myself, and I can understand why the Election wasn't exactly the major topic of conversation, but nonetheless I think it is important to vote, if we had the right taken away from us I don't think anyone would be to happy. I would like to thank Stan Blennerhassett for his competent running of the election, along with his two helpers from Mary I. Most of all I would like to thank the small but dedicated group that helped me out with the campaign. Namely: Paddy Healy, Kevin Cashman, Debbie Hurley, James Lawless and Rory Deegan as well as Dave Corley who designed my flyers. They were a great help to me in a nerve racking week. I also wish to thank everyone who voted for me or supported me in anyway. Best of luck again Derek, but if you slip up I'll be there pointing the finger:)
Is Mise Le Meas
Donal O' Driscoll

Resident: "One who resides in a particular place permanently or for an extended period"

Now that I am probably not the only person (at least I hope I'm not the only one) who is writing to the student rag about the article on the so-called "residents association".

Residents

Their letter to the students in the area, which by all accounts is incredibly arrogant and truthfully it made my blood boil as I have had experiences with "holier than thou" resident associations.

The first paragraph, "...welcome to **OUR** area 1st years and those returning to UL with a word of warning"(as far as I know the college was here before the so called "*residents*"). Its like a welcome mat with spikes! In this line alone and throughout the whole of the letter, the "*residents*" are already distancing themselves from the student newcomers, making the whole student population their enemy. I can imagine them all now sitting at home complementing themselves on a "job well done", with their "operation: threatening letter ". Patting each other on the back and saying "that'll teach them scummy students to mess with us the all powerful residents association". We stand for all that is good! Hurrah". What a crock of shit! There's a hint of George

W Bush there somewhere. (What a role model eh?)

Its funny though isn't it? This is a faceless organisation, has any student actually had any communication with this residents association? Has any student been treated with respect with the writing of this letter? I think not! To have a "letter" shoved in the door and for them to expect that the student population should accept such arrogance and disrespect from an organisation, who demand respect and don't even show it themselves?

Has any student been offered a chance to join the residents association? Have they even offered us a seat on this association? Then again I am forgetting the ignorance of these people, and the simple fact that students are not considered to be really "living tvhere". Most of the students who live there will go on to live there for the duration of their four years (now that is not a short time) in college, yet the "residents" still look down on them.

Now I've had experience with a residents association living in town. A party was held at our house and yes it did get out of control and by god did we pay for it. But we took it and we went to every house in the area and apologised (to their faces I might add) for the behaviour that went on. After listening to our neighbours they seemed understanding and afterwards I felt that we might be now accepted into the area.

HAHAH! What a fool I was. My mother's car was broken into and my brother's car was broken into numerous times along the street. Where were the do-gooder residents association then? Not one neighbour offered to give us any information whether they had seen anything or anyone suspicious. And one particular time after a few "scumbags" had wrecked my brother's car door and broken a window a neighbour two doors up came over to my brother and said that he had been outside and saw the scumbags breaking into the car but didn't want to call the Gardai because he didn't want them to attack his house!!! I mean where the hell is the community spirit that they all seem to cling to so much? Where was the community alert of the area then? Not one of the residents phoned the Gardai, it was a passing taxi that eventually phoned the Gardai.

The bottom line is, that the "residents association", in College Court, Castlebrook and in a lot of areas, have no respect for the student population and categorise them all in the stereotypical image of drunken louts. This is terribly unfair to those that do behave themselves. One way I suggest to solving this problem is to try and get into these associations, perhaps the student union can help with nominating representatives of an area? Would this not help relations with the "residents"? To at least give us a voice on their associations so as we are not treated like dirt..

Or else we could go spying on the "residents" and call the Gardai when a piece of paper falls out of their bin.... Hmmm

I'm not anonymous
I'm omnibus_x

Something getting your goat? Someone rained on your parade? Something about the last issue of An Focal that you cannot let pass without comment? Trying to be funny to impress your friends? Never fear! An Focal's Letters Page is here. Vent your spleen here on whatever topic you like. Just e-mail your letters to sucommunication@ul.ie

Back Inside

Mistake of the Fortnight

Last edition's Mistake of the Fortnight was a howler. Fancy renaming Michael Moore's 'Stupid White Men' as 'Angry White Men'. Maybe they were angry because we called them stupid? Oops! Thanks to Denis Hurley who spotted that one. If you spot any major errors in this edition, email sucommunication@ul.ie

An Bainisteoir
as imparted to Brendan Coffey



This week, in an exclusive from An Bainisteoir, the man who revealed Sean Kelly was an arsehole, gives you the lowdown on the modern young people in Irish society. Reading the recent Irish Times Youth poll prompted An Bainisteoir in to doing some research of his own, and having sat in on a lad's night out, An Bainisteoir discovered the following. Lads are a distinguished human race, in that they are neither boys nor men, but do contain traits of each. Boys run away from girls, men run away after they've had sex, and lads are the former when sober, the latter when drunk. Lads incorporate different aspects of boy and men races, but ultimately have no defining criteria. A lad can exist when sober, but most lads are simply shy boys drunk. A lad that exists when sober has certain characteristics; he won't mind farting or burping in front of members of the opposite sex, and will probably think it hilarious. This type of lad has one really defining characteristic-his ability to strike up a conversation with anyone, but his distinct inability to get anybody to enjoy his company. However, the positive thing about this lad is that he is instantly recognizable by his Dublin accent.

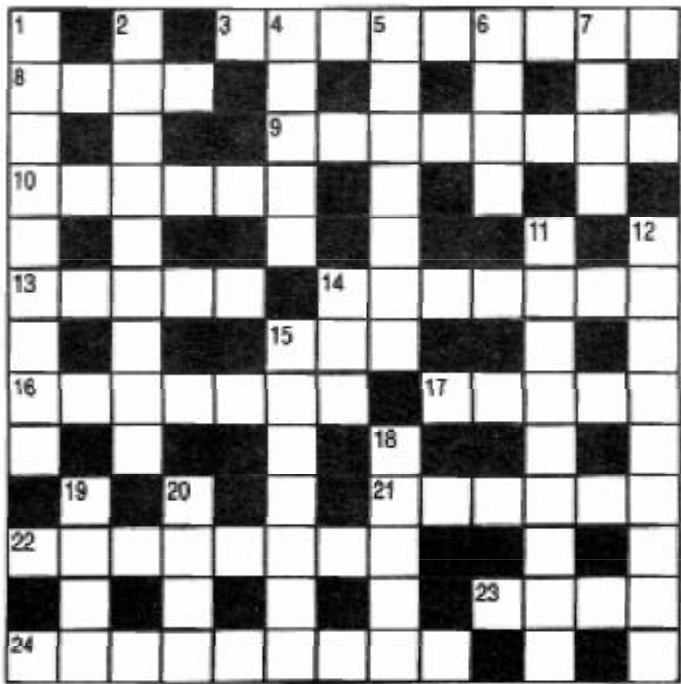
The other type of lad is the one who only exists periodically, i.e. every Friday and Saturday night. This type of lad is quiet enough during the week, either studying arts or just lazing around-not much difference really.

During the week, this lad will give the impression of a nice, quiet young fella just minding his own business. This type of lad does share some traits with men, namely that they are out of the house, 9-5, Monday to Friday, but in actual fact do fuck all. To make this shy boy into a lad, just add alcohol. Some creamy pints of Guinness will result in mild lad-: talking shit but harmless. Lots of pints of beer will result in lad-: talking shit but looking for sex. A naggin of whiskey, beer and brandy will result in ultimate lad-: unable to talk, unable to get an erection and unable to stand, but the irony is that he will want a deep and meaningful conversation, sex and a fight.

Without wishing to dwell on the analysis of lad, AB would like to make the comment that the increase in availability of lad products, such as Breakfast roll and fake ids probably account for their population rise.

As for females, An Bainisteoir felt that in the circumstances, it would be unwise to engage in a discourse of this particular social icon. Primarily for the reason that An Bainisteoir failed in his attempts to get two girls to kiss, when doing his research. An Bainisteoir is only too well aware that in such circumstances, ultimate lad will neither be interested in anything An Bainisteoir has to say, and as is his want, may be prone to some bouts of violence. As you can gather from the picture, An Bainisteoir has had enough damage done to him already.

An Focal Crossword #3



- No. 201
- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 3. Large church (9) | 1. Rallying cry (9) |
| 8. Psychic emission (4) | 2. Original model (9) |
| 9. Everything taken into account (3,2,3) | 4. Ease up (5) |
| 10. Cord once used in tennis racquets (6) | 5. Median (7) |
| 13. Crone (5) | 6. Make a slight hollow (4) |
| 14. Out of control (sl.) (7) | 7. Suffers from illness (4) |
| 15. Plaything (3) | 11. Distance, roughly 1100 yards (9) |
| 16. Breach (7) | 12. Sophisticated male (9) |
| 17. Hard hit (5) | 14. Garden implement (3) |
| 21. For each one (6) | 15. Learner (7) |
| 22. Of a father (8) | 18. Fake (5) |
| 23. Solo in an opera (4) | 19. Animal's ruff (4) |
| 24. Curved gently (river) (9) | 20. Sea-bird like gull (4) |

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