



Win a pair of return flights to Nottingham, fly between May and September, details on page 15



Check out the events for Latin America Week this week, Wk 10 on page 4



Find out what Clubs and Societies have been up to in pages 25-28

Edition 10 : Week 10 19th April 2005

The Official Paper of the Students' Union

E: sucommunication@ul.ie

New CCO Elected

Three of the four Sabbatical Positions now Filled

This Thursday just past Anne Sheridan, 4th Yr HPSS was elected Communications and Campaigns Officer (CCO) for the coming year, the only sabbatical position contested so far this year. She now joins Fintan Breen, President elect and Frank Fogarty, Deputy President / Welfare officer elect as the third of the four new Sabbatical officers for the coming year.

The two candidates who contested the CCO election were Valerie Gunning, 4th Yr Language and Cultural Studies and Anne Sheridan, 4th Yr History Politics & Social Studies (HPSS). Both candidates have been writing for An Focal for a number of years, Valerie since 1st year and Anne since 2nd year and either would have been more than capable of serving as Editor of the paper, both being sub editors of An Focal this semester, The Blurb and the Features section respectively.

Both candidates were electioneering since Monday last where they spent four tough, long days canvassing for students support. At the hustings held in the old smoking section in the main canteen last Wednesday, both candidates with the President and Deputy President elect hustled in front of a crowd of approximately forty interested students. Valerie's main policies concentrated on attracting new writers and keeping them writing for the paper, and improving the clubs and societies section of the paper, which is generally accepted as the least read section of the paper wrote mainly for and read by members of clubs and societies. She also campaigned to use the world-class facilities available on campus such as the Irish World Music Centre in the Foundation Building.

Ms Sheridan's policies centred on extending the scope of sections in the paper to arts, fashion and business for example and organising regular writing workshops for writers. Anne also wanted the paper to better reflect the changing cultural diversity of new UL students and their growing campus.



Left to Right Frank Fogarty - Deputy President/ Welfare Officer
Anne Sheridan - Communications & Campaigns Officer
Fintan Breen - President

Polling began early Thursday morning at 10am in all three polling stations; the main Canteen, the Scholars Function Room and the CSIS Building. Rumours were rife during the day as to who the favourite to take the position was. The election was tight all day and no one would speculate as to who might have clinched the vote. Polling closed in the CSIS building first at 4pm where only just over 100 students cast their vote. At the time only 900 students had voted for the next editor of the paper. Polling closed at 6pm in the Scholars Function Room and 7pm in the Canteen where the counting of ballots began at 8pm.

Both candidates deciding that it was better not to be present for mid count speculations went for a post campaign drink together. The result was announced much earlier than expected at 8.15pm when the Returning Officer, Joanna Griffin, announced that a result was imminent. With the total vote of 1036 and valid votes at 954 the quota was then set at 478. As one of the candidates had reached the quota on the first count the spoilt votes amounting to 82 were gone through and the result was announced. Valerie Gunning received 421 votes and Anne Sheridan 533 votes. Congratulations to both candidates who should conviction and courage in contesting the election.

The position of Education Officer will be re-opened this week, Week 10 from Tuesday at 10am until Thursday at 5pm. The position will continue to be re-opened, if necessary, until the position is filled.

The new sabbatical officers will begin a two-week handover with the outgoing Sabbatical officers in the middle of June and will sit in office officially for one year from the 1st of July.

Coca Cola Keep UL

Referendum not Quorate

The students of the University of Limerick have yet to decide the stance they take on the national Coca Cola debate as the referendum held last Thursday to boycott Coca Cola products and sponsorship was not quorum with only 1,117 students voting on the issue. As the total number of students registered this year stands at 8,581, 1,716 or more students had to vote in order for the result to be binding as decided by at least 20% of students, as per the Constitution.

The votes for the invalid referendum were counted as requested by both sides as a benchmark of how the weeks campaigning went. The invalid result was Yes 443 and No 659.

Therefore the status quo will remain and both clubs and societies and any other element of the Students' Union can still seek or accept sponsorship from the Coca Cola company and the Students' Union and its two shops can stock and sell Coca Cola products into the future.

The referendum was called in Week 7 when a motion calling for the boycott of Coca Cola products and sponsorship, within the remit of the Students' Union, was submitted to the SU President, Timmy Hennessy, by members of the Environmental Society with 200 regis-

tered students signatures, as per the constitution.

The process then began where the motion was checked by the SU solicitor and presented to the Class Representative Council on Tuesday of Week 8. Ambiguities were clarified and the question posed on the ballot paper was decided which is the extent of the role of the Council in the referendum.

A debate ensued as to the involvement of the Council and the SU in the referendum and although members of the Council expressed their individual opinion on the motion the position of the Council and the Students' Union was one of impartiality all week. The executive of the SU had decided on Monday that it was an issue for the student body to decide and until such time as a decision was made the SU should not show a bias either way.

A referendum commission was set up to coordinate the referendum in order to ensure that both sides of the referendum conducted an honest and fair campaign. The commission had three representatives from Class Representatives Council, one from the SU executive and one from the Postgraduate executive. Coca Cola were contacted and decided not to attend any of the debates

held by the Environmental Society or the hustings conducted in coordination with the sabbatical election chaired by UL's IR lecturer Joe Wallace.

The No campaign was headed by postgraduate student Daniel O' Sullivan who campaigned with his team to ensure that students were aware of a number of key issues; that the motion if passed would mean that clubs and societies could no longer seek or accept sponsorship from the Coca Cola Company, that the ban would only effect the SU building and the two SU shops, Mr O' Sullivan suggested in a negative way, and that there have not been to date any court decisions to affirm that the company had been involved in the assassinations of trade union leaders in Colombia, South America.

The Yes campaign concentrated its argument on the alleged role of Coca Cola in the gruesome cycle of murders, kidnappings and torture of SINALTRAINAL, the National Union of Food Industry Workers, union leaders and organisers involved in daily life-and-death struggles at Coca Cola bottling plants in Colombia. Anitya O' Flynn spoke of the global movement calling for Coca Cola to take responsibility for the murders taking place at its bottling plants in Columbia. She ques-

tioned whether students of UL wanted the blood of the workers of Columbia on their hands and whether they would happily accept blood money.

Interestingly, there were no members of any of the sponsored clubs representing either side of the debate. The chair, Joe Wallace, noted in his profession as an IR lecturer, that contrary to what was suggested by the No campaign speaker at the hustings in making a comparison with Coca Cola in Colombia and Dell in Limerick, that were Dell workers being murdered at work, Dell would in fact be liable.

When compared to the turnout of the Boathouse referendum in April 2003 of over 2,000 votes, the turnout of this referendum is quite low. Reasons for this include the fact that the motion was only submitted in Week 7 and therefore could only be passed by Class Reps Council in Week 8, Kollege Week, which did not give sufficient time for all students to inform themselves of the issue. Also, a reason is the low level of interest by the mass student body and the perceived high level of apathy in UL.

Hi everyone! My name is Anne Sheridan and I'm the new Communications and Campaigns Officer (C.C.O.) elect.

After a crazy, nerve-wracking week of campaigning, I can now say I really can't wait to get into office and start working!

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me. People's kindness, support and generosity over the course of the week really surpassed my expectations.

I would like to thank my campaign manager, Oonagh O'Carroll, and to all the other part-time campaign managers; to Paul Bourke who helped design my campaign poster. Especially the people who pushed me to keep going and not stop canvassing people for a single second! It was, and is the beginning of a great learning curve.

Valerie Gunning, who also ran for C.C.O., deserves a special mention. She was a great candidate, and in the end it was a very close contest (533-421). Valerie has been nominated for Colour Writer of the Year, and I'm sure we'd all like to wish her best of luck on April 20th.

The job, as the title indicates, does not just entail the management and editing of An Focal, although it does consume the most time. Sandra Gannon, the current C.C.O., is at the moment trying to downscale the job, so that I can truly concentrate on the paper and effectively publicise all campaigns, such as the elections/nominations for SU next year, and prepare for Rag Week well in advance.

As I stated in my Manifesto and on the campaign poster, what I initially want to do with the paper is strengthen the existing sections. After that, I would like to expand the paper to include a variety of new sections, such as arts, business, fashion, science and travel. Generally, make An Focal more comprehensive and have something that everyone is interested in.

Under my leadership I want An Focal to be more inclusive, especially as UL is becoming less culturally homogenous. We need to reflect this in the paper, and to do so we need a variety of writers not only from different disciplines, but also from different cultural backgrounds. If the paper is to achieve a broader focus, I need your help.

We need proof-readers, cartoonists, political enthusiasts, business experts, satirists, social commentaries, fashionists and people who make us laugh with their accurate opinions on student life. Whether you are interested in the local, national or international scene we want to hear to you. Please don't be afraid to contact me with your ideas - 0139963@student.ul.ie.

There are many incentives for people to write for the paper. It looks great on your C.V., you're in with a chance of being nominated for, and winning a Student Media Award, and you will also receive a Certificate of Recognition (gold, silver or bronze), set up just this year, for all the work that you do. More importantly, if you want a career in journalism, this is where you start.

Here's to a wonderful year and to ensuring great working relations with all people who make the job of Communications and Campaigns Officer possible,

Anne Sheridan.

Hey everyone

I put myself forward for the position of Deputy President / Welfare office for 05/06 during Kollege Week. As no other student put themselves forward as a candidate, I have been deemed elected for this position. Firstly, here's a bit about myself. I've been in UL since 1999, when I started my degree in Business Studies. After taking a year out, I began a masters in Business Studies by research last November. For my year as Welfare Officer, I'll be taking a sabbatical from my post-grad. After five years in UL, I believe that the experiences I've had, mistakes I've made and lessons I've learned will help me to aid you with any problems that you may have.

For those of your unfamiliar with the workings of the Students' Union, I'm going to give you a brief outline of what I'll be doing as Deputy President / Welfare Officer. As Welfare Officer, I'll be here to help all students with any issues that might arise as part of day-to-day student life. So, that could be anything from accommodation to sexual health or from discrimination to financial issues and beyond. I'll also be here if you would like to call in for a chat! As well as this, I'll be deputising for Fintan. Here are some of the issues that I will address as Welfare Officer.

I will work to improve library conditions during exam time. It's the time of year when all of us are faced with more than enough stress, yet without fail, for weeks leading up to and during exam time, the library is a sea of desks with a pen and refill pad or an open book which is allowed to serve as a booking system. This has to stop! I believe that there is adequate seating for everyone and all that is lacking is a proper booking system. I plan to put together a formal procedure and present it to the head of library services, so that hopefully by the January exams there will be no problem finding a seat at any time in the library.

I will strive to make myself as available and as accessible as possible to students. I feel that it's extremely important that my committee sched-

ule won't take priority over my commitment to direct student needs. So, I will let students know where I am at all times, provide set drop-in hours and for the times when I'm out of office, I will insure you know exactly how to get in touch with me.

I will lobby to improve service in both the medical and counselling centres and to shorten wait times. I think it's crucially important that students requiring either of these services are not required to wait for ridiculous lengths of time.

I will campaign for more designated crèche spaces for children of student parents. The crèche promised a 50-50 split between students' children and children of staff. Yet over the years, the weighting has shifted very much in the favour of staff. I will ensure crèche bursaries are administered in a timely fashion. I will campaign to keep the already expensive crèche costs at the current rate for the coming years.

I feel it's very important that students are armed with all the facts they need in order to make informed decisions. Unfortunately, students don't always have the resources or knowledge to access the information they need. In order to change this, I will be organising regular drop-in sessions for students with amongst others, the local community Gardaí, Threshold - the organisation for tenants and MABS, who will help with budgeting & financial issues. I will also be organising information sessions on sexual health, meditation and exam stress and many more

As welfare officer, I will be a strong leader, lobby for improved services and provide better representation for the students of UL. I will do my best to always be available and make the student the centre of my time. So, while you won't get the opportunity to vote for me, I promise to do the best job I can.

I will be taking over from Rosey in July, but in the meantime, if you have any questions comments or suggestions PLEASE, PLEASE get in touch on frank.fogarty@ul.ie

**Slán tamaill,
Frank**

So you wanna be the Education Officer? Take 2!

Right, so following the huge success of my previous article in attracting no students to the role of Education Officer, I have decided to write again so that I can persuade some of you to run for the position.

I outlined the job that I do in the last edition; Here, I'm going to talk about the actual job and what I do on a day-to-day basis.

The committees which have student representation have it for a reason - the Education Officer is there to ensure that students don't get ignored in the bureaucracy of the University. They actually do listen to student input and in many of them I have been able to influence decisions which would have affected students. For instance, the Education Officer has input in the Academic Regulations Committee which oversees all academic regulations of the University. On that I have been able to put forward the views of students with regards to different issues such as Exam Script Viewing Days, I-Grades, 3rd Class Honours degrees and boundaries for degree awards QCA cut-offs to name a few. The committees are actually interesting and you get to meet a lot of people who are able to help when you need information for a student or when you are trying to get something done within the University. There are a number of very student-friendly faculty & staff who will try to back up the arguments of the Students' Union, so it's not always a them versus you scenario.

Helping students, especially where they have been ignored by University authorities is very rewarding. I see lots of students who very much appreciate the representation that the SU can give them. Sometimes it only means a phonecall to sort out the problem. Other times, it means putting it on a committee agenda and arguing your point. The bright side to being Education Officer is knowing that you have helped these students achieve something.

A typical day will include a meeting or two, a few set appointments with students and a few drop-in student cases. Apart from that, I would spend my time ringing/e-mailing people in the University to follow up on student cases. I would also get quote a few e-mails/phone calls from students or from class reps on issues.

A lot of the job is about thinking on your feet - responding in committees or to students on the spot to issues that may arise. It's about being dynamic and responding to student issues. Yes, it's not the easiest work, but it is very worthwhile and rewarding. You get to meet with students and work directly on student issues - the issues which affect students on a day-to-day basis on the ground.

So, even if you are vaguely interested in doing this job next year or if you have any questions at all, please call into me and we can have a chat about the position.

Fintan

THANK YOU

Hopefully, many of you will already know this, but I have been deemed elected as President for 2005/06 as nobody ran against me. While I missed (again) the opportunity to campaign, I am delighted to be the person who will be representing you for another year, although in a different capacity. I'm looking forward to bringing forward some new ideas and reviving some old ones so that UL can be a better place for students.

I must thank a number of people - everyone who was willing to get involved. You are all great. From the amount of people who had agreed to help out, we would have had a huge team. A special word of thanks to my campaign manager - Deirdre and her trusty side kick Brian. Thanks for your help and support. Thanks to all those people who answered that phone call and said "Go for it." Nobody disagreed, you made my decision easy! Thanks to Cian for the pictures and Gráinne for the manifesto layout :-p. Thanks Michelle, Alan, Stuart and Seamus - the old reliables! And thanks to the newcomers this year - DeeJ (thanks for the kitchen!) and Jenn. Thanks to Gráinne and Peter, off-campus this year. Thanks to all the texts of support from the past - Eoin, Ruth, Mags and everyone else who congratulated me - ye are wonderful. I know I've probably forgotten to mention someone and I apologies to them, but there are so many names to remember.

Finally, a word of thanks to my sabbatical officers - to Timmy, Rosey and Sandra. I have had a great year working with you. I will never forget the discussions, the arguments, the debates or the agreements. The mental scars from the mountain in Kerry will never go away! Thank you for the year.

**Thanks again
Fintan**

One Sabbatical Position Yet To Be Filled

While three of the four positions have been filled, most notably after only one election, the new Education Officer has yet to step forward. The nominations will be re-opened this Tuesday 19th April from 10am to 5pm Thursday 21st. Nomination forms are available from the SU reception and must be returned by 5pm on Thursday. If you have thought about going for Education and said no but still might be persuaded take a look at who you'll be in office with and read through the more detailed role of the position of Education Officer. This position, as per the constitution, will be re-opened until it is filled.

UL Dominates Irish Windsurfing Intervarsities

-Heralding a long awaited victory

The success of windsurfing as a university sport was further advanced this month as the UL Windsurfing Club defeated nine other universities to win the Intervarsity Competition for the first time in history.

Even if you have not picked up what has been going on with windsurfing in UL in over a decade you would recognise that they have not featured very strongly in the media of late. But what was interesting about this event is that, for the first time ever, UL picked up the main prize of the contest. The massive popularity and organisation of the 2005 event has guaranteed windsurfing's place in the university's sporting calendar for several years to come.

This year's event was a grass-roots effort by the UL Windsurfing Club event organisers, after a lull in the competition the previous year. The difficulty in organising a capital intensive club, with very technical gear can take its toll on voluntary university members the length and breath of the country. This year's competition was a massive exception to this, coming on foot of three years hard work by the club's members. But it was not without hiccups, including ensuring adequate insurance cover was held by all attending colleges, and turning down one applicant from Waterford IT for lacking public liability insurance cover. This looks set to be an issue for hosts of future events as recognition of its importance grows. Risk assessments, comprehensive safety statements, long conversations (on dwindling credit) with insurance brokers, and help from the UL Sports Office were order of the day.

With special applications funding, UL Foundation/Alumni Office contributions and club fundraising efforts, this year's event had more of the flare and buzz lacking in previous events. There was an audible optimism that the club was to field a good crew of sailors that represent the future of windsurfing as well as its past. Over seventy competitors took part from nine institutions, including NUIG, GMIT, UCD, Trinity, Colaiste Dhulaigh, LIT, Queens and University of Ulster, Jordonstown. This is by far the biggest turn out for an intervarsity event in many years.



Competitors prepare for the start of a race

After nearly 2 months of patient hoping for desired conditions, a very brief window opened up for the competition the week before the event. Conditions were pretty close to perfect on the Thursday before the event and the entire team were looking forward to some pretty spectacular sailing. And spectacular indeed it was.

In the bronze division Killian Harty

(11.5 pts), Shane McGuire (19 pts) and Dave Nicholls (19pts) gave crowd-pleasing performances against Colaiste Dhulaigh in what looks to be a rivalry for years to come. In one of the early heats, Shane was piped at the post by Katie Gallagher of Colaiste Dhulaigh, only to come back in the next heat, to gain the advantage right at the finish line. The second place lady in the bronze competitor was Grainne Flannery (29pts), who successfully beat Michelle Bree NUIG; a regular Rusheen Bay sailor with considerable experience sailing in this particular location. Yvonne Plunkett, another UL Physio student competed well, but was forced out of the competition with an ankle injury.

The first day of competition at Rusheen Bay was near glassy and would have been a perfect sunbathing day if not for the contest. In what seemed a perfect match, the bronze and silver fleet was sent out in the less than fifteen knot winds. It was interesting to watch as the racers struggled with the



The bronze fleet, Heat 3, at the gybe mark

crowded starts and then were so competent at the gybe mark, frequently gaining two or more places up in the heats. Fergal Hourigan (41pts), Mark Campbell (35pts), Fiona Concannon (32pts), and Dave Colbourne (37pts) were all competitive but Eoin O'Leidhin's ability to avoid the crunch at the buoys won him the best result of the club in the silver contest (14pts), followed closely by Barry Holmes (18pts).

Brian Walsh (5pts) sailed gracefully and won fifth place in the gold division for UL. John Power came in a close seventh place (7pts). Competition was fierce in this category. The top two gold fleet winners have sponsorship deals with windsurfing equipment vendors. Gwilym Williams, NUIG, (gold fleet winner) beat Ireland's top windsurfer Oisín van Geldern in the London boat show two weeks ago, and is under SurfDock sponsorship. Some of the most consistent conditions arrived during their heats in the second day even allowing for some jumping being scored-most notably from Oliver Smith, LIT (4pts). But again, consistency is pivotal at Silver Strand and Williams showed his competition experience.

Karen Concannon, UL, was the only woman in the gold fleet division, back on the Irish circuit after three years of sailing at Ho'okipa. Whilst the wind could have been stronger for these sailors, Karen kept her streak alive sailing solid on Saturday after-

noon. Dave McCabe and Liana Leonard had the tough task of keeping horns and flags accurate, signalling the starts and end of each heat for this section of the competition.

Rusheen Bay owner, and long-time windsurfing instructor Cathal Kavanagh, expressed the popular sentiment saying, "This was probably the nicest contest I've ever been at. Because there was a great vibe and close racing over a shorter course it can be really fun to sail in than other competitions." Indeed Rusheen Bay Windsurfing was pivotal in the success of the event: running heats, tabulating results and judging the event. The professionalism and organisation was commented on by all competitors, with Gwilym Williams claiming that it was a better run event than any of the Irish Windsurfing Association competitions he has competed in, over the last few years.

Behind the scenes at Rusheen Bay were Una O'Brien, Grainne Flannery, Liana Leonard, Clare O'Sullivan and Clare Conroy, who did much of the beachmaster organisa-

tion, prize-giving and evening entertainment, much to the delight of the UCD at the evenings Hawaiian-themed celebrations.

Together the gold, silver and bronze fleets all sailed well enough to be dangerous in the overall tabulation of scores. After day one, the club knew it had a shot at winning the overall trophy. In the end UL took top honours keeping the pressure up for the second day of racing-coming out with the lowest score of 52.5, followed in second place by NUIG, on 78.5 points, and in third by UCD on 84.5 points. A heartfelt embrace at the prize giving showed why the club worked so hard on the event. They are very determined to show their potential to the world.



Windsurfing Intervarsity Winning Team:

Back row: B. Holmes, B. Walsh, F. Hourigan,

D. McCabe, K. Harty, J. Power, D. Colbourne,

G. Flannery, S. McGuire, D. Nicholls, M. Kenny

Front: F. Concannon, Y. Plunkett, U. O'Brien,

C. Conroy, M. Campbell.

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STUDENTS' UNION

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HOT BAR SPECIAL

Bacon & Sausage Baguette only €2.40

BBQ Rib Steak Bap €3.00

Chicken & Mushroom Pie only €1.00

Cadbury's Standard Bar
A Luxury Holiday to be won
2 for €1.00

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Fairtrade Tea, Coffee and
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LATIN AMERICAN WEEK - APRIL 2005

A CULTURAL AND FUND -
RAISING EVENT

University of Limerick
Mary Immaculate College
and Limerick Art College

In coordination with LASC
(Latin America Solidarity Centre)

All proceeds for the Children Hospital in Lima, and
the General Hospital in Chacas, Ancash. Peru.

Donations welcome: Bank of Ireland, UL Branch,
Account N- 10445257)

2005 Theme: Commodification and Cultural Loss

MONDAY APRIL 18th

13:00 Information Stand

Please come, buy your raffle and entertainment tickets; get your UL Travel Guide to Latin America and sign for our campaigns. Enter the essay writing competition based on poster exhibition. All proceeds to charity.

Venue: UL Main Campus. Canteen

13:00 Talk : 'Latin America UL Work Placement Experience'

Hear from those students who have travelled to Argentina and Mexico. Find out all you want to know before you make up your mind whether you want to have a wonderful time in this beautiful continent.

Venue: (C1-059 UL campus- Main Building)

16:30 Radio Programme: Cut Flowers (research by Cormac Griffith).

A radio show dealing with exploitation in flower growing industry in Ecuador.

Limerick Wired FM (96.8 FM, 106.8 FM)

18:00-20:00 Cuban Night: Film Poster Exhibition and Viewing of Film-Documentary: Mission against Terror
written and directed by Bernie Dwyer and Roberto Ruiz Rebo.

Event organised by Nina and Dieter Blodau (Cuban Solidarity Group)

Venue: Limerick Art College. Clare St. Campus.

18:30 Film: Valentín. Director: Alejandro Agresti. Argentine/Holland 2002.

Organised by UL Arts Office. Film Season 2005

Venue: UL Main Campus. Jean Monnet Theatre (Admission Free)

TUESDAY, APRIL 19th

10:00-17:00 Fair Trade Market (Dakini)

Venue: Mary Immaculate College: Library Building

13:00 Information Stand

Venue: UL Main Campus. Canteen

Please come, buy your raffle and entertainment tickets; get your UL Travel Guide to Latin America and sign for our campaigns. Enter the essay writing competition based on poster exhibition. All proceeds to charity.

13:00 Talk: Commodification and Cultural Loss. Jaime Arias Arias and Adriana Pumarejo

Venue: C1-058 UL campus- Main Building

Jaime is the Cabildo elected leader of the Kankuamo group. He is the son of the historical spiritual leader of the Kankuamo, Salomón Arias, (mamo or shaman), who was assassinated in 2001 by paramilitaries in Colombia. In August, Jaime's brother, Freddy, was also assassinated by paramilitaries. Adriana Pumarejo Hinojosa is a doctoral student at the University of L'Ecole, Paris researching indigenous identity and national construction in Colombia.

13:00 - 14:30 Photo Exhibition: Latin American Rucksack . Ross Killeen

Venue: C1 corridor UL campus- Main Building

"Latin American Rucksack" is a collection of images celebrating the diversity of cultures in Latin America. They were captured by Dublin-based photographer Ross Killeen during his year long trip to South America.

15:30 Limerick City Mayor, Councillor Michael Hourigan, will offer a reception to Jaime Arias and Adriana Pumarejo.

Organised by Cearbhuil Fhionnghusa and the UL Environmental Society.

Venue: Limerick City Hall. (Reception for guests only-Press coverage)

19:00 Talk: Commodification and Cultural Loss.

Jaime Arias Arias and Adriana Pumarejo.

Venue: The Granary Library -Limerick City (See details above: 13:00 Talk at UL)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th

10:00-17:00 Fair Trade Market (Dakini)

Venue: Mary Immaculate College: Library Building

13:00 Information Stand

Venue: UL Main Campus. Canteen

Please come, buy your raffle and entertainment tickets; get your UL Travel Guide to Latin America and sign for our campaigns. Enter the essay writing competition based on poster exhibition. All proceeds to charity.

Last chance to look at posters for the essay competition.

13:00 Talk: Active Neutrality: The story of the Peace Communities in Colombia.

Cearbhuil Fhionnghusa, a former UL student of Spanish,

Venue: A2-026 UL Main Campus

Cearbhuil worked with Peace Brigades International (www.peacebrigades.org) in north western Colombia near the border with Panama in 2 peace communities: 6 months in Cacarica river basin, el Choco working with Afro-Colombians, and 6 months in San José peace community in Antioquia, political accompaniment work, working with Colombian human rights activists mainly, Justicia y Paz, a very important human rights NGO in Colombia who fight

for peasant rights to their territory against multinational corporations.

18:00-20:00 Latin American Music Workshop.

Venue: UL Main Campus. Scholars Club.

Come and enjoy yourselves either singing, playing typical instruments, watching or having a go at various types of dances: a real cultural experience.

19:00 Latin American Night: Talk, singing session and Capoeira demonstration

Talk: Active Neutrality: The story of the Peace Communities in Colombia

by Cearbhuil Fhionnghusa. Brazilian songs : Gillian McCarthy. Capoeira : Mestre Piau

Venue : Mary Immaculate College. The Student Lounge.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21st

10:00 Morning of Latin American Folk Session 'de Feito Brasileiro'

Venue: Limerick: Our Lady of Lourdes School.

organised by Mary Immaculate College One World Society

13:00 Information Stand. Handcrafts and Jewellery Sale

Venue: UL Campus Canteen Last chance to get your tickets for the Salsa Party.

Venue: C0-071 UL campus- Main Building

19:00 Talk: A doctor's experience in the Andes. Dr. Jackie Pando Kelly.

Venue: C0-071 UL campus- Main Building

A Peruvian doctor working in Ireland will give us an insight of her work in Chacas, Central Peruvian Andes.

21:30 Salsa Party (finger food included)

Venue: (ARENA SPORTS CLUB) UL We also have a surprise for you this night!

Tickets:: €5 (all proceeds to charity)

FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd

13:00 Colombian Gold and Peruvian Silver Jewellery

Sale Latin American Menu and music with the UL

Tuna group.

Venue: UL Campus Main Restaurant Foyer

SUNDAY APRIL 24TH:

12:30 Sunday 12:00 Mass Limerick Gospel Choir

Venue: Milford Church, Castletroy.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29th

All day: Awareness Day and fundraising for Colombian Peace Community Venue: (Cruises St.) Organised by Cearbhuil Fhionnghusa.

21:00 Fund-raising Concert: Latin American Music and traditional Irish singing and dancing.

Organised by Cearbhuil Fhionnghusa (086-0554665)

Venue: Riddlers (Sarsfield St.) (proceeds this day to help the Peace Communities in Colombia)

OUR THANKS GO TO

All and every one of you who made this week possible: First of all our gratitude to all the students in UL, Mary I and the Limerick Art College who have helped in so many ways from organising events to taking part of them.

LASC for organising the event nationwide and hosting the main speakers of the week.

To all the people and organisations who support Latin America in one way or another:

The Sports Club UL Campbell's UL Musgraves Cash & Carry O'Mahony's Bookshop ULMedi-Care UL

Nancy & Eustorgio (Toyo) Serrano
(UL Latin America Solidarity Organisers)

Abre Los Ojos, Latin-American week will officially be salsa-ing through UL, Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Art College in Week 10. The week's events are intended to provide various opportunities for all students to learn about Latin America. The invitation to learn, participate, contribute, and to listen is extended to all students, including those unfamiliar with Spanish and Latin America. All proceeds collected during the week go to Children's Hospital in Lima and the General Hospital in Chacas, Ancash, Peru. This year looks set to be the best year yet, with highlights such as Latin American Rucksack, a photo exhibition celebrating the cultural diversity of Latin America (well worth a peep!) and the legendary salsa party which will take place on Thursday night in the Sports bar. (Tickets cost €5 and can be purchased at the information desk in the canteen.) On Wednesday, the all-singing all-dancing Latin American Music workshop will take over Scholars Function Room. This is bound to be a real cultural experience and a treat for all. For those among you who are fashion-conscious, on Thursday and Friday, there will be a stall outside the restaurant selling authentic and unique Latin-American jewellery.

This year, the theme is 'Commodification and Cultural loss' and on Tuesday there will be a talk on this issue given by Jaime Arias and Adriana Pumarejo Hinojosa. Arias is the Cabildo or elected leader of the Kankuamo group and the son of the historical spiritual leader (mamo or shaman) of the Kankuamo Salomón Arias, assassinated in 2001 by paramilitaries. In August, Jaime's brother, the leader of the Kankuamo Indigenous Organisation, Freddy Arias was similarly assassinated by paramilitaries. Adriana Pumarejo Hinojosa is a doctoral student researching indigenous and national construction in Colombia. On Wednesday, there will be a talk given by a former UL student, Cearbhuil Fhionnghusa, on active neutrality: The Story of Peace Communities in Colombia. Cearbhuil has had personal experience working Peace Brigade International in North-western Colombia. On Thursday, Dr. Jackie Pando Kelly, a Peruvian doctor working in Ireland will give us an insight of her work in Chacas, Central Peruvian Andes. Finally for those of you who are looking into co-op opportunities abroad, it may be worth considering Latin America as an option. So, come along to the meeting on Monday and hear from students who have completed UL work placements in Argentina and Mexico.

Last year the money raised through the Latin American Week activities amounted to a whopping €1,400. This money was sent to the Children's Hospital in Lima, where it was used to buy much needed equipment. In a letter thanking UL students for the generous donation, Dante Figueroa Quintanilla, Director General of the Children's Hospital, outlines the equipment that was purchased as a result of Latin American Week proceeds; a machine to non-invasively measure the oxygen in babies' blood and two optic-fibre cables. Indeed, it is wonderful to know that just by giving a little money we can make a difference. Donations are Welcome and can be made in the Bank of Ireland, UL Branch, account no. 10445257.

Enjoy Latin American Week! Information regarding all events can be obtained on Spanish notice board, programmes are available from A1071 and the information desk located in the main canteen every day during week 10.

THE WORLD IRISH DANCING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ENNIS

Recently the World Irish Dancing Championships were held at the West County Hotel in Ennis, Co. Clare. 'The Worlds' were first held in 1970 and are organised by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha (the Irish Dancing Commission). Dancers qualify at regional championships (oireachtai) all over the globe, and the championships have become increasingly international in recent years due to exposure from Irish dancing shows such as Riverdance and Lord of the Dance. The pool of competitors now includes dancers not only from countries normally associated with the Irish diaspora, such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the US and the UK, but also Germany, the Netherlands and South Africa.

Competitions are held in various fields including solo championships, céilí championships (using céilí dances selected from the three volumes of *Ár Rinnce Foirne*), figure choreography (newly choreographed team dances), and a dance drama competition (in which



teams tell a short story through the medium of Irish dancing). The World Championships are considered by some to be the pinnacle of competition, but bare in mind it is only open to pupils of schools with An Coimisiún. Other organisations have their own platforms of international competition. An Comhdháil Múinteoirí na Rincí Gaelacha (Congress of Irish Dancing Teachers) recently hosted the All-Ireland and International Championships at the Helix, DCU, Dublin. In turn, An Cumann Rince

Náisiúnta (National Dance Association, or 'CRN') hosted the Irish Open Championships. The latter is open to dancers from any organisation, but the World and All-Ireland and International competitions are restricted to An Coimisiún and An Comhdháil dancers respectively.

UL students will be happy to learn that the university was well represented at this year's championships. Mark Mc Mahon (first year) of Ennis, Co. Clare, was placed tenth in the men's 18-19 age

category championships. Dervla McGee (second year) of Dundalk, Co. Louth, was placed third in the senior ladies' céilí competition with a team from Scoil Móna Ní Rodaigh. Nicholas Yenson (second year) of Washington, DC, placed third in the men's 19-21 age category solo championship. Michelle Lawrence (first year), Cashel, Co. Tipperary, claimed first place in the ladies 19-21 age category solo championship. Also competing this year were Michelle Enright (first year) of Limerick City, and

Christine Maguire (JYA).

Anyone interested in learning the basics of Irish step dancing is welcome at Gan Ainm's weekly classes: Tuesday evenings from 6.30-7.30 held in Dromroe Village Centre, €5.00 per class. Proceeds will go towards sending a group of UL dancers to the New York City Irish Dance Festival at the end of April. For more information, contact Nicholas Yenson, dance officer, at 0301876@student.ul.ie.

Oíche Pimps & Hoes Seachtain na nGlobal

Thosaigh an oíche leis an turas go dtí na **Stáblaí Stables**, agus bhí an-chraic againn ansin. Tháinig rangiomlán an Léinn Éireannaigh ann agus duine as Teangacha agus an Léann Cultúrtha le chéile. Bhí cineál cóisir ranga againn! Bhíomar ró-dhéanach don bhus **saor in aisce free** isteach sa chathair, agus idir sin agus an aimsir uafásach, thiomáin mé isteach chuig **Seomraí na Tríonóide the Trinity Rooms**. Bhaineamar an-chraic as dul isteach sa ghluaisteán le **dlúthcheirnín CD Kíla** á sheinm chomh ard agus a rachadh sé!! Nuair a chuamar isteach bhí daoine

gléasta suas dressed up i ngach sórt éadaigh ó na **fualáin pimps** leis na hafro agus éadaí **ildaite multi-coloured** agus na **striapaí hoes** nach raibh ag caitheamh mórán éadaigh go dtí na gnáthdhaoine ag damhsa i lár an tslua. Isteach linn go dtí an bhearr chun deoch a fháil (Coke domsa, an **tiománaí driver!**) agus ansin chuig an **urlár damhsa dancefloor**. Bhí gach saghas ceoil á sheinm agus chaitheamar an oíche

ag damhsa agus **ag pleidhcíocht messing** go ginearálta. Bhuaill mé lena lán daoine istigh ann agus bhí sé an-ghreannmhar nuair a chua-mar amach sa chlós chun aer a fháil. Chuireamar **ionadh surprise** ar dhaoine agus bhí siad **ag stánadh orainn staring at us** os rud é go raibh Gaeilge á labhairt againn. Rinne cúpla duine **iarracht attempt** caint linn as Gaeilge fiú. Cén fáth go bhfuil gach duine ina

Gaeilgeoir nuair a bhíonn siad **an meisce drunk?! Nílim ag tabhairt amach ar chor ar bith, ach a mha-lairt the opposite**. Is rud deas é nuair a bíonn an **meas respect** sin ag daoine ar an teanga! D'fhágamar an club nuair a chríochnaigh an ceol agus ar ais linn sa ghluaisteán chun na hOllscoile. Oíche den chéad scoth a bhí inti, **comhghairdeas congratulations** do gach éinne a chur le chéile í.

Brendán Ó hÉamhaigh

Munster Mash Up

The Irish Peace society & the Trad Soc would like to thank everyone that braved the elements Thursday 31st of March. An outdoor concert was held to mark & celebrate Diversity Day. The event was entitled the Munster Multi Cultural Mash Up (MMM) due to the diversity of talent that assembled on a small stage in the Stables Court Yard. The Stables was a musical hotbed providing a very unique warm up to Rag week festivities. Eight bands from Limerick & Cork joined musical forces to celebrate Diversity Day. The bands members came from as far as the Congo, Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Caribbean, England & the Costa Del Dingle.

From trad to jazz, from jazz to Reggae, from Reggae to Congolese Choral music the night rocked. The MMM was a seven hour musical concert which started outdoors & slowly made it's way to the Stables stage. The night finished with the wicked tunes of **Harry J & the Down Town Crossing**, which left every student in the stables craving more & chanting "one more tune" in favour of a continuous encore.

The bands included **Sumu** an Afro funk band, our own **Gan Anim** a traditional music band, **Harry J & the Down Town Crossing** a six piece reggae-funk and with Caribbean influence. **Elykia** a Congolese based Choir



Congolese Choral Choir

and **Sangre Latino** (Latin Blood) a lively latino band not to mention the spell bounding traditional box/ guitar duo of **Seamus Begley** and **Tim Edey**. There were also acrobats there on the day to add an additional flare to the event.

The event was also used as an awareness campaign to highlight the human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The DR Congo is vast country in central Africa

blessed or cursed with limitless natural resources and yet the country is crippled by poverty. The five years civil war has caused the tragic death of some **4,000,000 people** and led to the brutal rape of some **40,000 women** (WHO-World Health Organization report).

This was our opportunity to highlight a grotesque violation of the basic human right of the Congolese people, which has been denied western media

attention. Indeed many of the talented performer that graced our campus have tragically been displaced from their own countries & homes as a result of civil war & mass murder. They are not just refugees they are your fellow student. In terms of world citizenship they are our brothers and sisters.

The members of campaign for democracy in the Congo were present at the MMM, before they performed they read out an emotional account in both French & English as to the tragic reality of life (or many cases lack of) in the Congo. We ask you as students to keep informed & stand up against human rights abuse both at home & abroad. As Einstein said: "the world is suffering not only because of those who commit crimes, but also because those who witness them and do nothing".

On behalf of the Irish Peace Society & the Gan Ainm, UL Trad soc we would like to thank the following: Declan, Brendan & all the Stables Staff, Dr. Helen Phelan & the Sanctuary Project team, Prof. Downer & Eamonn Cregan, Patricia Moriarty, UL Arts Officer and Ruairi McGovern for all helping to make the event possible.

D. Delaney & S. Keogan

Díospóireacht na Gaeilge

Ní aontaím leis na daoine a scríobh san eagrán deireanach den nuachtán seo go bhfuil gá ann leis an nGaeilge a bhaint ón gcúrsa léinn *curriculum* mar **ábhar scrúdaithe** *examination subject*. Níl i gceist ach an **córas oideachais** *education system* a athrú. Tá an cúrsa atá againn anois go hiomlán **as dáta** *out of date* agus tá athrú mór **de dhíth** *needed*. Idir na **Naonúir Shóisearacha** *Junior Infants* agus Rang a Sé, ní foghlaimíonn na daltaí an Ghaeilge ar an dóigh cheart. Foghlaimíonn siad cúpla nath cainte ar nós "An bhfuil cead agam dul go dtí an leithreas le do thoil?" agus a leithéid ach **ní leor seo** *this is not enough!* Tá níos mó spáis in intinn an pháistí le teangacha nua a fhoghlaim agus iad óg sa bhunscoil. Tá sé ar a

chumas aige rudaí nua a thógáil isteach go héasca agus ba cheart go mbeadh Gaeilge líofa ag páiste roimh deireadh a **bhunscolaíochta** *primary level schooling*.

I rith an ama ghuasachtaigh seo *During this crucial time* sa bhunscoil, ba chóir go mbeadh an páiste ag foghlaim na gramadaí (ceart, is pian sa tóin í!) agus ag cur lena chuid fhoclóra phearsanta. Ba cheart go mbeadh **béim an chórais seo** *the emphasis of this system* **dírthe ar aimed at** an nGaeilge labhartha sna **blianta tosaigh** *early years* ach go mbeadh an scríbhneoireacht **á forbairt** *being developed* **de réir a chéile** *little by little* tar éis Rang a Trí. Ceapaim go mba chóir go mbeadh dhá uair sa ló caite ar an nGaeilge, uair ar maidin agus uair

tar éis an lóin, le huair go leith tugtha **don chomhrá** *to the conversation* agus leathuair don scríobh. Ba mhaith liom seanscríbhneoireacht na Gaeilge a fheiceáil á déanamh ag na daltaí ach go mbeadh **filíocht** *poetry* agus **giotaí gearra** *short extracts* ó leabhair **nua-aimseartha** á léamh acu. B'fhéidir go bhféadfadh múinteoir **an leagan Gaeilge** *the Irish version* d'Harry Potter a léamh do na **daltaí** *pupils* fiú!

I dtaobh na meánscoile, ba cheart go mbeadh níos mó béime curtha ar an nGaeilge nua-aimseartha ná ar an tSeanGhaeilge os rud é go bhfuil sí **níos ábhartha** *more relevant* agus **níos suimiúla** *more interesting* do na daoine óga. Ba chóir na scrúdaithe a dhíriú ar an **scrúdú cainte** *oral exam* agus ar an **scrúdú cluastuisceana**

aural exam. D'fhéadfadh na **scrúdaitheoirí** *examiners* ansin **líofacht teanga** *language fluency* a lorg, in áit an chórais atá againn anois leis na daoine ag dul isteach le píosaí **curtha de ghlanmheabhair** *learned off by heart* acu ar nós **marbhán leadránach** *boring zombie!*

Gan scrúdú sa Ghaeilge, ní bheadh **an tsuim chéanna** *the same interest* sa teanga, idir na múinteoirí agus na daltaí, agus gheobhaidh an teanga bás. Tá an teanga fós beo croíúil go fóill ach leis an gcóras gur luaigh mé thuas seo, d'fhéadfadh sí **ag teacht chun cinn** *come back* ar fud na tíre arís!

Brendán Ó hÉamhaigh

Student Diaries

This week Matt recalls a chance encounter with musical Ireland on his trip to Donegal, Sine tells us what Irish events she's got planned for the rest of the semester and Thanael's a year older but still coming to terms with teenager behaviour in school.

Better Than Planned

This past weekend, two friends and myself ventured up to Donegal for the weekend. We had planned to spend the weekend biking around the countryside to see rural Ireland. The past couple of weeks had been beautiful as far as weather was concerned, and we figured that we would have no problem getting a bike. And then we learned why you cannot plan everything.

First of all, it snowed. After the snow settled down a little, we found that everything was closed this past Friday morning. We had also missed the only bus out to West Donegal and we could not rent a car. Our plans were slowly starting to fall apart. So, we decided to let the weekend take us where it might. We ended up having a great time. None of us got angry, upset, or frustrated at any point. We found two great hikes, one to Lough Eske and another up Slieve League. There was one especially high note, though, and it happened by random chance on Saturday night.

After talking to some folks from Carrick, we made the decision to head to town for some music. When we arrived at small pub, we were amazed to see that it was packed to the nines with people of all ages. At the front were many people playing traditional music. When we first arrived, there was about ten musicians with mandolas, guitars, tin whistles, box accordions, fiddles - everything. Not only that, but there were extra instru-

ments strewn around the pub.

The music ranged from loud boisterous tunes involving all of the instruments to unaccompanied vocals. The amazing thing is that the music came from all over the pub. At one point, I was sitting in a corner of the pub, talking with a fellow from County Tyrone. After talking with him for about ten minutes, I heard someone call out, "Sing us a song, Frank!"

He excused himself, and began singing, unaccompanied, a beautiful song. When he was finished, we all clapped, and he picked up our conversation exactly where we had left off. Towards the end of the night, everybody in the pub, excluding us of course, had either sang or played an Irish tune.

The experience would not have been half as good as it was had we stuck to our own. We talked with many of the people in the pub and found that the audience was not restricted to residents of Carrick-not even residents of Donegal. As it turns out, this was the last night that this particular pub was to be open. I spoke with people from County Antrim to Dublin, many of who had only come for the last few nights at this pub.

Needless to say, the pub stayed open until the early morning. Between the two hikes and the night in Carrick, the weekend turned out better than anything we could have planned.

AN GAEILGEOIR

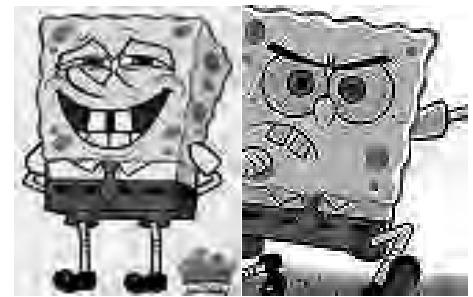
Alright a chairde,

Conas atá na cinn i ndiaidh na **ragaireachta** after the revelry coicís ó shin?! Bhuel, fad agus a bhí sibhse ag **iomrascáil wrestling** sa láib **mud** agus ag **stróiceadh na gruaige** **ripping the hair** ó bhuachaillí grua-gacha giobacha le **céir** with wax ins na Scoláirí - tá **comhbhá** **sympathy** agam daoibh lads - bhí mise greamaithe san oifig ag obair liom go **dícheallach** **diligently** ar son na Gaeilge. Is dian an obair í ach caithfear í a dhéanamh!

Níor éirigh go ró-mhaith liom **áfach** **however**. B'fhéidir gurb é an tseacláid **um Cháisc** at Easter ba chúis leis ach thit **Umar Gunge Gunge Tank** na Gaeilge ó chéile de bharr gur 'ghoid' an lucht Ents an umar romhainn; níor cuireadh mo **léirmheas scan-náin** **film review** ins An Focal; ná níor éirigh linn polasaí nua na Gaeilge a chur os comhair **Comhairle na nIonadaithe Ranga Class Reps Council** (sin ag tarlú an tseachtain seo). Drochsheachtain amach 's amach!! Ach níor tháinig **laghmhisneach** **despair** orm go fóill mar thug ceann de na filí is **iomráití** **most famous** agus is cumasaí i scríobh na Gaeilge, **Cathal Ó Searcaigh**, cuairt orm. Ok, níor tháinig sé ar cuairt chugamsa amháin...ach fós! Freisin, bhí mé an-ghafa le **riarachán** **administration** don **Scéim Chónaithe Residency Scheme 2005 - 2006**. Má tá deartháir nó deirfiúr óg agaibh le suim sa Ghaeilge acu agus iad ag smaoineamh ar freastal ar Ollscoil Luimnigh an bhliain seo chugainn, labhair leo faoi Theach na Gaeilge i **nGráig Chill Mhuire Kilmurray Village** agus na **scoláireachtaí de luach €1,500 scholarships** worth €1,500 a bhaineann leis.

Táimid ag iarraidh coisir ranga class party do na ranganna Gaeilge a eagrú **Dé Céadaoin an 20ú** ins **An Phluais ag a 9** le bia blasta agus ceol U2 agus na Frames sa **chúlra** **in the background**. Más spéis libh é, **luaigh** **mention** liom é ionas go bhfuil **sceallóga** **chips** agus **ispíní** **sausages** go leor ann daoibh agus rachaimid ar aghaidh chun na **Seomraí Tríonóide Trinity Rooms** ina dhiaidh sin - gléasaigi go hálainn mar is gnáth! Beidh ceiliúradh

Gaelach i gCuirrínín, Co. Chiarraí an tseachtain ina diaidh sin, **Déardaoin an 28ú**, le bus saor in aisce **ag fágáil ón Aontas ag 7** (eolas breise **more information** ó Éamonn ar **086 3067498** agus idir Tráth na gCeist, **ceol beo live music** agus amhránaíocht ar an seannós, beidh an-chraic ag baint leis!)



Sa bhreis air sin, tá **Maratón Spongebob Squarepants & Gearrscannán na Gaeilge** ar siúl chun **sos ón staidéar** **rest from the study** a thabhairt daoibh **oíche Chéadaoin an 4ú Bealtaine Wednesday night the 4th May** i Seachtain 12 so fág spás sa **dialann** **diary** agus **bí ann nó bí cearnógach** **be there or be square!!!** (Mo Dhia, cén cineál Gaeilge í siúd?!!) Tá seans ann go mbeidh **Seomra Caidrimh galánta an Aontais** **the Union's swank Common Room** ar fáil dúinn, arís le **sólaistí saor in aisce** **free refreshments**, agus b'fhéidir go bhféadfaimis **codladh thar oíche** **sleepover** san Aontas a dhéanamh **chun airgead a bhailiú** **to collect money** do **charthanacht** **for a charity** éigin...an mbeadh sibh in ann dó?! Beidh mé i dteagmháil libh arís le **sonraí cinnte** **definite details** go luath so go dtí sin, ullmhaígi bhur málaí codlata agus cleachtaigi **don cheistiúchán** **for the quiz!!** Slán tamaill,

Sine xox

P.S. **Comhghairdeas** **Congrats** leis na **hOifigigh Shabóideacha** **Sabbatical Officers** nua, maith sibh!

Education, Teaching Practice & Me: Have a Birthday during TP

Yes, I turned 20 on Monday. I'm no longer a teenage teacher! I don't feel any different, though, which is a pity because I need to feel like an adult teaching and controlling a class of children in order to survive this experience. The education lecturers make us concentrate on "pupil centred learning" and how to deliver an educationally brilliant lesson. But, as I discovered, you can't deliver this lesson if you have to shout over pupils or if they're not paying attention. So you must get them to pay attention before

doing anything remotely educational. This is a fact that had slipped my mind amidst all the pupil centred learning techniques I was picking up in education lectures.

But despite a rocky start, I'm developing a way of dealing with misbehaviour and keeping the class quiet and attentive at all times (practicing what they call "classroom management" in the education lectures). I'm learning these skills slowly and naturally. There's nothing really I can do to speed up the process - there's so much

to learn. The old saying "you learn from your mistakes" really holds here. Everything I do wrong changes some wiring in my brain to make sure it doesn't happen again.

I talked last article about holidays. And yes, they're great. But when school's open again life becomes slightly hectic. Even with only two woodwork classes I spend a good chunk of my week cutting out wood for their projects. Add to that all the lesson plans and post lesson appraisals (like a critical review of the lesson),

photocopying resources, projects due for week 13 and normal outside school work I do and you get an idea of how tiring TP can be.

But this is a good experience. As you've seen in previous articles I've been learning and thinking about more than just education and TP (and me). As with any life experience, there are valuable life-lessons to be learned from this. I'm grateful for such a practical course that gives me these experiences and to a God who helps me learn from them.

Features

The age-old Republican argument can no longer be taken seriously

Stories of historic moments have become the ultimate cliché in the peace process, states Donal O'Driscoll.

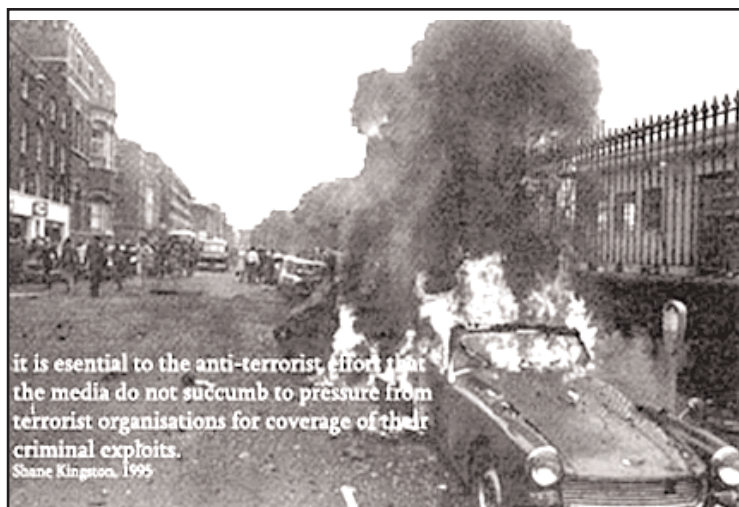
Since the birth of the peace process, we have had many stories of 'historic moments'. It has become the ultimate cliché. Wednesday April 16th, however, could justifiably be described as one such moment. There was much media speculation that Gerry Adams was about to make a 'major speech'. The term 'major speech' has also become cliché in the peace process, but there was something different about the media frenzy surrounding this particular statement.

What followed certainly could fit into both the 'major speech' and 'historic moments' categories. Flanked by the usual suspects (Caitriona Ruane, Mary Lou McDonald, Mitchell McLaughlin, Conor Murphy et al), Gerry made a statement with a significant twist. The statement, unlike any I can remember was aimed at the IRA. Gerry Adams commended the 'bravery' and 'selflessness' of the 'volunteers'. While this wording may enrage many, it is understandable in the context of the intended audience. The following text was one of the most significant passages.

'The struggle for Irish Freedom can now be taken forward by other means. I say this with the authority of my office as President of Sinn Féin. In the past I have defended the right of the IRA to engage in armed struggle. I did so because there was no alternative for those who would not bend the knee, or turn a blind eye to oppression, or for those who wanted a national republic. Now there is an alternative.'

For the leader of Sinn Féin to come out

and state that the armed struggle is no longer necessary is extremely important. Its importance in the current political climate lies in the fact that it deprives opponents of Sinn Féin of their mantra that the party are ambivalent about violence. This contention, if it could ever be taken seriously in the context of the peace process, does not hold in the context of such a statement.



The problem that has always existed with most commentators on republican involvement in the peace process, is that their analysis comes from a complete inability to comprehend the workings of the republican movement. The provisional IRA came about as a result of the sectarian state that existed in the six counties and the perception that nothing was being done to protect nationalists. The IRA did have significant levels of support in nationalist and republican areas. Many republican families have lost loved ones in the 'struggle'. Likewise, people have gone to prison for the cause. Such people will not take kindly to disbandment as a knee-jerk reaction. There has to be a calm, rational, debate on the prospect of ending the IRA. Otherwise, we run the risk of a 1969 style split, and the potentially devastating consequences of such an event. The peace process is called a process for a reason. In rushing it, you risk smothering progress, and potentially, keeping conditions for conflict alive. Instead of demanding disbandment now, people should let the IRA take sufficient time to ensure that disbandment occurs smoothly.

At the time of going to print, we do not know whether or not the IRA are preparing to disband. If they do, it will be further evidence of the IRA's commitment to the peace process and an acknowledgement that the republican struggle has moved definitively into a political stage which does not involve the use of force.

If the IRA decides not to disband, we need to contemplate the reasons why and not descend into a chorus of self-righteous I told you so and condemnation. IRA decommissioning was to come about in a context of a sequence of events, that would include other loyalist decommissioning, total reform of policing and de-militarisation.

We have not seen much progress on these fronts. The PSNI are showing some signs of going in the right direction but scepticism is still strong. Loyalist paramilitaries are not even in contact with De

Chastellain and the only group which has decommissioned anything, (The LVF) is unapologetically not on ceasefire.

In contrast, the IRA have completed three acts of de-commissioning, there has been fairly consistent dialogue with John de Chastellain, up until the recent collapse, and of course the recent offer, before that collapse, which would have completed decommissioning and ultimately led to disbandment. As far as republicans are concerned, they have always acted in good faith, only to be snubbed at the last minute. We saw this in October 2003, when David Trimble was unable to deliver his side of a deal which would have re-established power sharing, despite the third act of decommissioning, which impressed even David Burnside the anti-agreement Unionist. The DUP also stopped the last potential deal, by insisting on photos. It is often said that republicans keep getting concessions, however, republicans don't see it this way. If the IRA is prepared to make a conclusive move, others have to reciprocate.

Public aversion to the IRA is under-

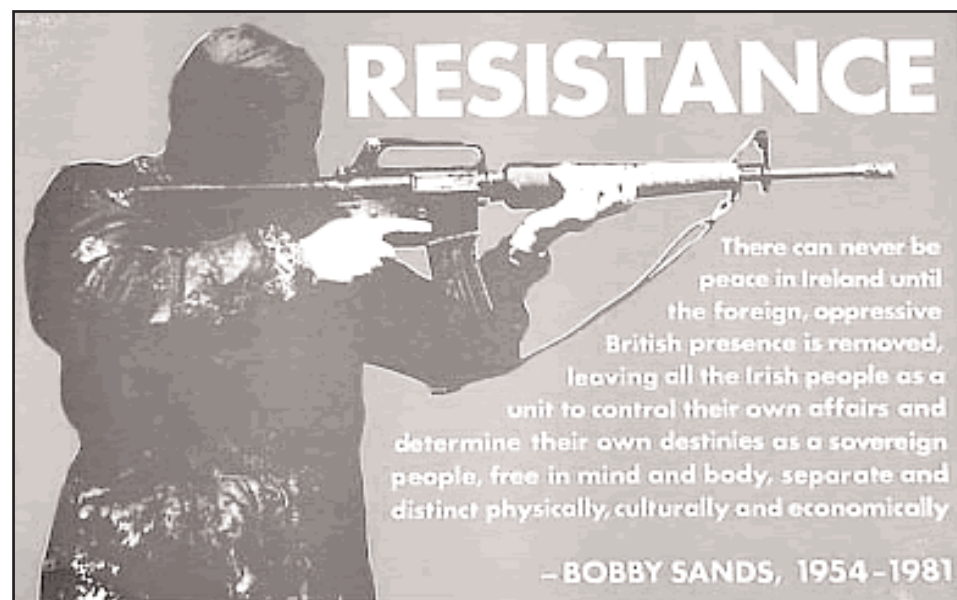
standable. The IRA did things in their campaign that were wrong. Jonathan Ball and Tim Parry were two boys shopping with their families in Warrington, they were not military targets. Even people who believe the IRA campaign was a legitimate struggle against the British occupation of part of our country, and the social conditions promoted by this occupation, have to acknowledge that the IRA were not always angels.

Recent events such as the Northern Bank robbery and the killing of Robert McCartney have been used as a stick with which to beat Sinn Féin. Nonetheless, the fact remains that no one has been charged with the former and the latter was the result of a pub brawl, although granted, a particularly tragic and vicious one. You cannot sanction Sinn Féin because of a crime where no one has been charged, nor can you hold them responsible for the actions of every republican on a night out. Incidentally, no member of Sinn Féin or even the IRA has been charged with the money laundering in Cork or elsewhere. The only man charged was a member of the Real IRA. The only known member of Sinn Féin questioned, (Tom Hanlon) was released without charge.

The political figures such as Michael McDowell, Willie O' Dea and Brian Hayes, as well as media figures like Brendan O' Connor are constantly attacking the republican movement. However, they are looking at things out of context. Their analysis of republicanism, is based on a war scenario. This is not a suitable way of looking at the peace process. Such a level of argument is not worthy of a two year old and should not be taken seriously.



The new Sinn Féin?



What next for Dublin Airport?

The Taoiseach's procrastination over the new terminal is angering more than just James Hoare.

In the Sunday Business Post on the 10th of April there appeared an article which if true would be very embarrassing for the current government. Prior to delving into the specific details of the report, I believe it is pertinent that a general synopsis be given of what is happening at Dublin Airport.



After many ad-hoc extensions to the one and only terminal at the airport it seems that the time has arrived to build a second terminal! There has been talk of building this second terminal for many years and many people will be most keenly aware of Michael O'Leary's full page adverts in the national papers calling for Bertie Ahern to finally make a decision on the second terminal. It was an election promise of the current Fianna Fail government during the 2002 general election, and indeed they promised that a decision would be made by 2003.

However, after much deliberation it seems that a decision on the future status of the terminal is to be made shortly, but as we well know with this government, there is no certainty! As has been well documented in the papers, it seems that Bertie Ahern favours the Dublin Airport Authority building and running the second terminal along the same lines as they do with the current terminal. The DAA wish to

build their terminal at the airports north apron and through this new terminal they plan to be able to cater for approximately an extra 12 million people.

The article that was in the Sunday Business Post stated that after a US engineering firm looked over the main aspects of the four main plans for a second terminal, they found that the one proposed by the DAA was the second least favourable. The report stated that the DAA proposal had the least benefits for the future expansion of the airport.

Although 13 tenders have been received for the proposed new terminal there are really only four main contenders. The first one is the one that the DAA are proposing and on top of its lack of future capacity it also suffers in other regards. It would incur the highest cost, it would have to demolish current important buildings, and it would only have one main access point (M50). The second plan is that put forward by Ryanair that would be put in the same area but would envisage a much better terminal that would have a larger future capacity. However, it would still suffer from the same setbacks as the DAA plan.

The two final schemes would be located at the far side of the runway and both would have many benefits going for them. Firstly, they would be capable of catering for a much larger future capacity. The McEvaddy plan envisages the possibility of holding 30 million passengers while the McNamara plan foresees a possible capability of 60 million passengers. Both these estimates are far in excess of projected needs for the airport for the next 30 years and so the excess room could be used for many extra developments as a means of enhancing the area. Both plans would also benefit from the ability to use the new access point from the M3 motorway which would greatly cut down on congestion that the M50 currently suffers from.



There is also the contentious issue of cost. However, *both private terminals are believed to be capable of coming in at least 50% cheaper than the smaller DAA plan and that is before public works overruns are taken account of (anyone remember the LUAS?)*

Despite all these benefits it seems that Bertie is dead set on going ahead with the inadequate DAA plan. But why? There have been many possible answers thrown out, such as an unwillingness to let competitive market forces do their work, an inability to go contrary to union fears, or the general *lack of nerve to take a decision that would greatly benefit the long term plans of the Irish economy*. So it seems that Bertie will announce the new terminal, it will finally begin construction in five years time, ten years later it may be built after running five times over budget and by that time we will need a third terminal which shall take another twenty years to develop!

People may believe that this is no big deal that it is only an airport that is used for people going on holidays, but in this day and age that is far from the case. Dublin Airport currently adds almost 1.3% to the Irish economy annually and if this key asset is not looked after properly then we will risk a demise in not only the tourist sector of the economy but almost every other area from finance through to education.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE INTELLECTUALS GONE?

Ali Markham is not your average UL student - shock/horror she prefers writing to drinking! Sounds like you? Then, read on...

University of Limerick, wow, sounds fancy doesn't it? We, the student body, are lucky enough to be attending this fine institution situated in the best part of the country but I must say that I'm a bit annoyed with the general apathy in UL at the moment. I will confess that I never voted last year, being a first year and not having a clue as to how anything worked around here... It's not my fault, I'm a scientist, and therefore have very little understanding of how business and politics work. However I can teach you all about chromatography, reaction kinetics or first/second order processes!

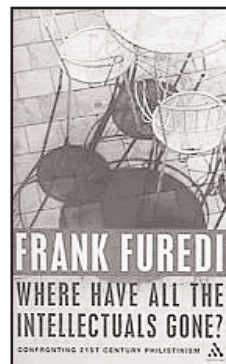
Next time I assure you my vote will be cast along with the others. But since I'm tired of sitting at home watching the constant 'sludge' of evening programming on the T.V. I decided I'd be better off to use my energy doing what I love best, writing.

Inspired by Anne Sheridan's call for mass mobilization I decided to act now! And if I can act, I assure you all, first years too, that so can you.

Do any more writers exist in UL and if so, where are you all?

But what really concerns me is that aching question among academics - "where have all the intellectuals gone"? I am one of the rare few who prefers to avoid the 'drinking culture' that's consuming the nation. That said I am not decrying drink completely. I have on occasion ventured out to throw back a few too many shots. What I really prefer to do in my spare time is write. I find it a much greater release from all life's little pressures than getting completely twisted on Alco pops.

What I'm wondering is do any more writers exist in UL and if so, where are you all? I write fiction myself and have written three books (all over 60,000 words I may add!) with those Tuesday night's



Frank Furedi's "Where have all the intellectuals gone?"

most lads spend in the Icon or in front of the TV. Next I've to find an agent and hopefully one day I'll get published!

The problem I have is to find like-minded individuals like myself who like reading, writing, song writing, art, and doing something constructive with all that negative energy that builds up in one's system. This is a University and we're supposed to be the intelligent new generation. Come on out of your shells and dare to be different! So get rid of the apathy in UL and get busy! And don't drink so much alcohol you guys, its poison. Trust me I'm a scientist!

If you think you have the answer to "where have all the intellectuals

EDITORIAL

19/14/'05

The past three or four weeks are the busiest that we've had but at the same time I'm struggling to remember what I've spent my time doing. Small mundane, menial tasks are the answer. Ordering t-shirts, hoodies, posters, flyers, tickets the list goes on. This year we have spent a lot of time doing administration and day-to-day tasks that nobody outside the building knows about or puts any mass on.

This was evident in the hustling for the CCO position this Wednesday just gone. Students questioned the candidates and the new President elect in particular why there wasn't more advertising of the elections. While a politically correct answer was given the real answer was we were too busy organising Kollege Week.

Last year's Sabbats had a tough year dealing with redundancies and debts but this year I do believe has been as tough for different reasons. Last year they made the cuts, this year we had to live by them and this was most notable with entertainments. The role of the part time Ents Manager, which we couldn't and still can't afford, was added to the already growing list of administration that the four Sabbats must also now face.

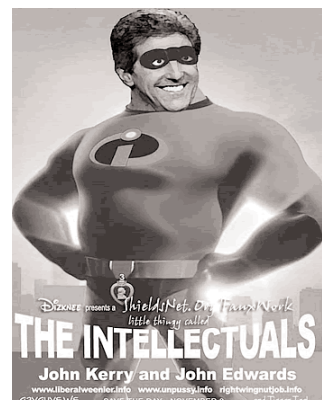
We tried to outsource our entertainment and unfortunately the company that were on board since October failed to deliver the goods, Sabbats should not have to organise Kollege Week, they never did it before and they should never do it again. Although saying that most people seemed to have had a great week, that actually makes it all worthwhile for us but something then has to suffer.

While I would not attribute the lack of interest in the positions to advertising alone there is nothing else that could have been done. When you are trying to cope with a weeklong event as enormous as Kollege Week other things have to be put on the backburner and the elections was one of them, among many others. And while I can say that in that time I have produced two editions of An Focal, including this one for Week 10, as well as attending committees most of my time has been taken up with small day to day tasks that if not done would have ripple effects, while small, on the staff of the Union.

One thing to note for next year is the timing of the elections which compared to other universities are quite late. The SU is a small business and we have to treat it like one trying to attract UL's brightest to take on the torch of representing our students. If we want these bright students putting themselves forward as serious contenders then we have to lure them with the same benefits that any other company would. The political role of the Sabbats, their menial wages and work hours in addition to the election timing must be looked at before there comes a situation where none of the positions are contested because those who otherwise would have their sights set on bold lights and big bucks in the big smoke.

Sandra

gone", then we'd love to hear your answer and thoughts on this subject!



In American politics, intellectual politicians, unlike George W. Bush, often fare worse not better with the general

Therapy Culture

Kate Nolan ponders whether the new trend of getting in touch with our feelings is doing more harm than good.

I've always felt hard done by for some reason, but I could never figure out why until a few weeks ago. While I was growing up, my childhood, though far from perfect, was always happy and secure and I never wanted for anything. My parents were (and still are) together and seemed to genuinely love each other, and in addition to that sorry mess, I always got on (reasonably) well with my younger sister. Life just isn't fair, why couldn't I have had a dysfunctional childhood? Who is there left to blame for all my faults and failings (not me, obviously)?

This so-called 'blame culture' seems to be rampant both here and in the US, whereby hundreds of thousands of people now claim they were 'emotionally damaged' as children and are consequently unable to take any responsibility for how their life turned out.



The newest findings in America suggest that while rates of teenage suicide and depression are falling, the numbers of people going to some type of counselling are through the roof. Look around, it's easy to see there's big money in the therapy industry - the weekly visit to the shrink is no longer the only option, there is also a vast array of mystics, homeopaths, agony aunts and relationship experts to take your mind off your troubles. Not to mention the influx of self-help books designed to aid you in rediscovering and nurturing your inner child, all from the comfort of your own home. What could be simpler? Soon you'll be merrily skipping down the road to inner peace (invariably with your soulmate in the bargain too), all for the low low price of \$8.99 - buy now while stocks last.

The only problem here is, there is nothing actually wrong with the majority of people per se. So increasing numbers of poor, gullible people are duped into believing their emotional growth has been stunted due to some small, usually insignificant event in their childhood, and only by going to two therapy sessions a day, five days a week for the rest of their lives (not forgetting reading every self-help book known to man) will 'cure' them of their low self esteem and teach them how to love again.

If you ask me, what these people need is a self-help book to stop reading self-help books!

During our three weeks off at the start of February I was introduced to the phenomenon of the life coach, in the form of Dr. Phil. For those of you that aren't aware, a life coach's services are usually employed by people who are crap at living their own lives. Dr. Phil gives out handy tips such as: obese people should go on a diet, or married couples are advised to communicate now and again so as to avoid getting divorced. The paradox here is that too much therapy gives you even more problems. Even the most sensible, level-headed person is transformed into a neurotic, whimpering mess within minutes of encountering Dr. Phil et al. Even Ireland is not above such criticisms; only our Dr. Phil comes in the shape of veteran radio DJ Joe Duffy, who seems to have assumed the role of the nation's therapist. Every weekday afternoon men and women of all ages call on Dr. Duffy to help them work through their feelings of anger and frustration at everything from the corrupt state of this country, to the price of a tin of beans.

What I want to know is where did this new obsession with being 'happy'

come from? It is no surprise that the advent of this new therapy culture coincided with increased economic prosperity in this and other countries nearly a decade ago. The philosophy of the twenty-first century seems to be: eat, drink, have a high-flying stressful job, buy a big car, live in an exclusive neighbourhood and be happy. It equates certain material things with success and happiness. It's a vicious cycle, the more we embrace this shallow materialism, the emptier we feel on the inside.

Next thing you know, you're lying horizontal on a brown leather couch saying "It all started when I was five when my parents didn't take me to the circus..." Everything merits a dose of Prozac and a trip to the shrink these days - the loss of a job, the end of a relationship, or a bad-hair day. Believe me, I'm not totally against the idea of therapy (honest!), but only when the occasion really calls for it. The harsh reality of life is this; we are not supposed to be happy every minute of every single day because it's just not humanly possible. Happiness is just a state of mind, not something that can be bought. Surely the best way to ensure happiness is to be con-

tent in what you already have (clichéd, I know) and grateful that life isn't a lot worse. You could be living in the Sudan or Indonesia.

With the advent of all this new age touchy feely crap, we've created more problems than we've solved. As a nation, the Irish have never really been comfortable with any kind of spontaneous displays of affection, yet now we are all expected to be in touch with our feelings, hold hands, sing songs, meditate and use healing crystals. Years of repressing our emotions makes us ill-equipped to deal with the onslaught of this talk therapy, which I think is best left to our American brethren. Besides, who really wants to hear how their flatmate feels he's made a significant step in his emotional development because he was finally able to cry for the puppy he lost as a child?



Barter your blood, sweat and tears for a place on an organic farm almost anywhere in the world...

Janelle Eagleton urges you to "Go WWOOFING!"

Now don't get ahead of yourself, I'm not suggesting you act like a dog just to travel on the cheap (that's really something best done in the privacy of your own home!). WWOOF actually stands for World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. Established in 1971 by Sue Coppard, a London-based secretary who wanted to get out into the countryside, the organisation has been providing volunteers with the opportunity to spend a few days or even weeks on host farms all over the world ever since. It works not as a placement agency, but as a catalyst between farmers and volunteers; you sign up as a member, pick the country you want to WWOOF in, and they'll give you descriptions and contact details of organic farms in that country. It's cheap and it's a brilliant way of seeing inaccessible parts of the world, and you have a chance to meet locals and integrate with communities in a way not normally available to backpackers.

Basically, the deal is this; in return for five or six hours' work, six days a week, volunteers have free room and board and the chance to learn about organic farming in some of the world's most scenic areas. Work varies from farm to farm, and can include sowing, making compost, gardening, planting, cutting wood, weeding, making mud-bricks, harvesting, fencing, building, typing, packing, feeding and even milking. Some farms are commercial producers, whether full or part time; others are

alternative co-operatives or communities.

A normal stay at a host farm can be anything from a week to six months, allowing you a lot of options in planning your ideal trip. It's quite common for WWOOFers to move from one farm to the next; you could travel across Europe, for instance, from a sheep farm in West Cork, to a market gardener's in the Netherlands, a goat's cheese maker's in the South of France, a yoga centre in Ibiza, or a bee-keeper's in Portugal.

The list of countries involved in WWOOF, either through their own national organisation or through the WWOOF Independents website, is enormous. You might find yourself on a farm in Europe, Mexico, Korea, the US or Africa, even Ireland has over 80 farms registered with WWOOF!



Spend a summer travelling throughout Europe in a unique way

Experience is not at all essential for WWOOFing, only a few hosts prefer their volunteers to have experience of organic agriculture, and there are many farms that are more than happy to take on volunteers who have never lived outside a city in their lives. The only things you really need are an open mind and a lot of enthusiasm! And you never know, you may have non-agricultural skills that could be helpful.

Some hosts also look for certain nationalities, in order to create a language or culture exchange situation; you speak English to their children, say, and they'll teach you French/ guitar/ cheese making... One of the most fantastic things about WWOOFing is that it allows this opportunity for huge cultural and international exchange. And it's a really great way of improving your second language because you will be away from the typical tourist resorts.

If you think that you would like to get involved with WWOOFing, why not check out the website, www.wwof.org? Each country's WWOOF scheme costs between GBP£5 and GBP£15 to join. You will receive details of participating farms which you contact yourself to negotiate your stay.



Feeding Chicks

Pop Goes the Century:

Icons of Pop Culture from the 20th Century

GRACE KELLY

"The freedom of the press works in such a way that there is not much freedom from it"

Every little girl dreams of becoming a princess - of finding her prince charming, being whisked away on a gleaming white steed and living happily ever in a fairytale castle. Little girls grow up however, and soon the mundane monotony of real life succeeds in bursting that bubble and bringing them crashing back down to earth. Occasionally, however, the impossible can happen, and one young woman found herself in the middle of an unbelievable fantasy...



Grace Patricia Kelly was born on 12 November 1929, into a well-off Irish Catholic family in Philadelphia. Her father, a self-made millionaire, provided comfortable surroundings for his brood to grow up in and as a child Grace was described as "a shy child, but there was a kind of inner tranquillity and quiet resourcefulness." She began her academic career in a Catholic school in 1934 and, a bright student; she graduated from high school with good grades in 1947. Though her family tried to dissuade her, Kelly dreamed of becoming an actress and fled the coop to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. To support herself, she became a model and also acted in a range of television commercials.

Once she graduated from the Academy, Grace decided to thread the boards in *The Torch Bearers* - a comedy written by her uncle, the playwright, George Kelly. Having enraptured audiences once more with her performance in *The Heiress*, Broadway beckoned and on 16 November 1949, Grace Kelly was unveiled at the Court Theatre where she began her brisk climb to the top.

Grace's movie debut came in 1950 when she won the role of a woman seeking divorce in *Fourteen Hours*. This was fol-

lowed by a minor part *High Noon* alongside Gary Cooper, although her big break came in 1953 with her role in the film *Mogambo*, where her masterful performance won her an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress. 1954 ignited Kelly's working relationship with the legendary director Alfred Hitchcock when she made the first of three films with him, *Dial M for Murder*. Hitchcock made Grace a global star and enthused that his leading lady was the perfect heroine and possessed a natural "sexual elegance." Kelly lit up the screen again in 1954 with her second Hitchcock movie, *Rear Window*, and also in *Green Fire*, and *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*. However, it was *The Country Girl* that ensured Kelly immortality when she won the Academy Award for Best Actress. Afterwards she was involved in her final Hitchcock movie, *To Catch a Thief*, *The Swan*, and the musical comedy *High Society*, which would prove to be her last flirtation with the big screen. By now Kelly's film career was of secondary concern. An impromptu meeting had made Grace one half of the most alluring couple in the world, and the entire globe was waiting with baited breath to see how this magical union would play out.

With *The Country Girl* due to be shown, Grace was encouraged to attend the Cannes Film Festival in May 1955 to promote the movie. In the glamorous and glittering surroundings, Grace met Prince Rainier Grimaldi III of the small principality of Monaco. At this point, Grace was at the height of her career and so, when the two began seeing each other, this sparked worldwide furore and mass media attention. The couple enjoyed a year-long courtship before they tied the knot on 18 April 1956 in the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas in Monaco. The ceremony was a lavish affair and Grace's dress was then the most expensive garment ever made by designer Helen Rose - it used twenty five yards of silk taffeta, one hundred yards of silk net and her veil was made from rose point lace that was over one hundred years old, with tiny pearls individually sown on it. A dress truly befitting of a princess! Upon marriage, Grace took on the greatest role of her life and assumed the title of Her Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco.

"I'll tell you one of the reasons I'm ready to leave. When I first came to Hollywood five years ago, my makeup call was at eight in the morning. On this movie it's been put back to seven-thirty. Every day I see Joan Crawford, who's been in makeup since five, and Loretta Young, who's been there since four in the morning. I'll be goddamned if I'm going to stay in a business where I have to get up earlier and earlier and it takes longer and longer for me to get in front of a camera"



Once married Princess Grace was expected to renounce her ties to Hollywood and quit her career. Although this was not her desire, she retired from acting and settled down to start a family with her new husband. Together they would have three children: Princess Caroline Louise Marguerite (1957), Prince Albert Alexandre Louis Pierre (1958), and Princess Stephanie Marie Elisabeth (1965). Without the distraction of Hollywood, Grace threw herself into charity work - she was the head of many charitable organisations (including the Monegasque Red Cross) and often travelled back to Philadelphia for charity galas and the like. Living in the fishbowl of publicity, the marriage of Rainier and Grace was so flamboyant and fascinating to the world that it

turned the fortunes of the ailing economy of the Principality and transformed it into the original millionaire's playground.

A lady possessing a natural regal quality, Princess Grace was a powerful ambassador for Monaco and garnered respect and admiration throughout the globe. She was President of the Arts Festival in the Principality; played a vital role in the planning of the new Monaco hospital that was inaugurated in 1958 and would later assume her name; was Honorary President of

AMADE, a charity associated with the welfare of children throughout the globe; and instigated the establishment of the Monaco/USA Association which fostered cultural links between the two countries.

However, in September 1982, Princess Grace and her daughter Stephanie were involved in a car accident that saw the automobile plunge down a 45-foot embankment. It was later discovered that Grace had had a stroke behind the wheel and that this was the cause of the shunt. Although Stephanie suffered only minor injuries, Grace was in a coma and on a life support machine. The following day, the machine was switched off, and fifty-two year old Princess Grace of Monaco slipped away on 14 September.

The Grimaldi marriage was like any other and stories have flourished claiming that Grace and Rainier were not happy together. Nevertheless, these rumours are generally overlooked as people refuse to let anything tarnish this living fairytale. Grace Kelly, a woman of extraordinary beauty, made every little girl's dream come true - she found her prince, became a princess and, in doing so, created one of the world's most cherished icons. Kelly was elegant and passionate with a peaceful and serene demeanour that seemed out of synch with her tempting appearance, striking blue eyes and long blond hair. The strength of her allure was still evident when, in 1995, *Empire* magazine placed her at number five in their 100 Sexiest Stars in History. Even now, mention of her name brings a smile to those who remember her talented performances and captivating story.

Princess Grace's funeral was a testament to her popularity and success. While few foreign heads of state attended her wedding ceremony in 1956, representatives from throughout the globe invaded Monaco to celebrate her memory. Equally, "entertainers, relatives and friends from around the world arrived to pay their final respects" meanwhile back in Philadelphia, nearly two thousand people attended a service held in her honour. If there is to be one happy ending to this story it is that, having never recovered from the loss of his beloved Princess, Prince Rainier is scheduled to be laid to rest alongside Grace in St. Nicholas Cathedral on 15 April, following his recent death. Although they were robbed of the chance of a 'happy ever after,' the fairytale of Grace and Rainier endures as an endearing love story, and as proof that sometimes, just sometimes, fantasy and reality can be smudged together.

On behalf of UL History Society,

Emma Stafford



Reviews

Eoghan's been Free-falling into the depths of "fire and water;" Ultan's braved the darkness of the Warehouse and found a shining light; Benny's gone 'underground' to drag up decent music for your aural pleasure; David laments the passing of an age; Ronan's been cranking up the stereo and abusing his ears with the sound of Mogwai - but only in a good way; and Niall's still trying to get us indoors despite the stretch in the evenings!

Eoghan's Classic Album

FREE: FIRE AND WATER



Returning to the emphasis on classic rock, the album up for review this week is the seminal Fire and Water by Free. Many may not be aware of the band or any of their albums but it can be guaranteed that the massive hit from this album, "All Right Now", will be known by all y'all! Interestingly, many fans regard that song as being one of the worst on the album, something that highlights the impeccable quality of the rest of this masterful recording. Written and recorded in the year 1970, the album fuses British blues influences with R'n'B and the groups very own laid back, chilled out style. This is not the most rockin or loudest of albums that will be heard but that was never the intention of the group. Like the elements of fire and water in the albums title, simplicity and expression are central to the sound of this LP. The album's relaxed and emotional vibes contrast sharply with Free's capability of rocking out with the best, a quality that their incendiary live shows captured excellently. Instead, this work appears to flow straight from the hearts and minds of this incredibly talented quartet.

As with many bands of this era, musicianship and talent was to be seen in abundance. The group quickly became renowned for their vocals and guitar playing and it was Messrs Paul Rodgers and Paul Kosoff respectively, that provided these essentials. The band was young, raw and hungry for success. Their first release, "Tons of Sobs" (1968) and "Free" (1969) were relatively slow sellers but the group had, under the guidance and tutelage of legendary producer Alexis Korner, gradually found their feet and by 1970, and the release of Fire and Water, were at the top of their game. The album, greatly aided by

the smash hit single "All Right Now", shot to number five in the charts announcing the arrival of Free to the world. The group, apparently destined for true superstardom, were fated to dissolve as the pressures of touring and the ego clashes that almost inevitably come with fame, did their work, fracturing the tight relationships that had developed between the band members. The release of "Free Live" marked the end of the first incarnation of the band, but they reformed in 1972 and recorded "Free At Last" before breaking up again. Drug abuse was plaguing the group, and Kosoff in particular. The other members turned their attentions to new projects, Rodgers with Bad Company while Frasier formed Sharks. Kosoff's star was destined to fade and he died tragically in 1976 following an overdose of heroin. The album's title track, "Fire and Water" is also the opener and it kicks off the following hours worth of rock 'n'

roll in a suitably lively fashion. A highlight throughout the album is the sheer quality of Rodgers' vocals; the man is rightly regarded as being one of the best ever rock singers, and certainly one of the finest of that era. Kosoff's steady riffage anchors the track while the bass of the then eighteen year old Andy Frasier and the drumming of Simon Kirke embellish the simplistic playing of the guitarist before he launches into what must be one of the most excellently measured and soulful solos ever recorded. One listen to this is enough to convince even the most sceptical that the man was one of the most gifted players ever.

"Oh I Wept", the second track, sees the group delve into the depths of their emotional wells. Once again the honey-coated vocals are a highlight and Kosoff provides yet another weeping guitar solo. This sub-

lime offering is followed up by the track, "Remember" a song, which is incredibly Summery in sentiment, a definite feel-good track despite the wistful and lonely lyrics. The fourth track is certainly a contender for best song on the album. "Heavy Load" drips with feel and emotion yet manages to contain a catchy chorus, made all the more enjoyable by the subtle harmony lines - another Free trademark. The exquisite, delicate piano playing that abound on this track helps suck in the listener, while the song weaves and almost hypnotises, such is its brilliance. Yet again, Kosoff's guitar playing appears to melt, so smooth and weighted is every note. The track builds gradually to a climax, the tightness and interaction between the band members being in evidence here.



of the album. The guitar contributes excellently to this, with the playing being noticeably more upbeat in tempo and more aggressive in tone. The outro of the track features the finely honed bass playing talents of the young Frasier working sweetly in tandem with Kosoff. "Don't Say You Love Me" is the penultimate track and it embodies the groups R'n'B leanings. It begins with Rodgers' vocals dominating a softly composed backing before the introduction of the drums and the more upbeat chorus section. The vocals dominate this track, expertly complimented by the remaining band members, forming a song that flows beautifully from beginning to end. "All Right Now" rounds out this masterpiece album. This track writes the rulebook for catchy rock and roll hit singles, checking all the right boxes and, in typical Free style, not wasting a second. The riff is

perfect, simple and catchy, the lyrics loud and loaded with attitude and rebellion, with a chorus that is possibly the most catchy and singalongable ever written. This track is a microcosm for the entire album; its sense of emotion conveyed expertly by the mastery of the players. As on the entire album, Rodgers contributes personality and flair, swathed with depth of feeling - traits that only Free could bring in such abundance to Classic Rock.

Free have come to be recognised by many as one of the finest British Rock bands of any era, their talent and originality marking them out from the rest of the sixties and seventies blooze-rock crowd. Not to be confused with bands such as AC-DC or even Led Zeppelin, Free bring an altogether different sound to the pantheon of rock. The subtlety and sheer emotion of their music needs no flash production, overcooked guitars, fancy themes and concepts, or layers upon layers of vocals. They stripped their sound down to the bare essentials and this album is all the better for it. It can often be argued that less is more and in this case, that expression fits the bill perfectly. It is hard to describe the feeling that the listener gets from this album; it is certainly different, somehow deeper and more significant than those feelings evoked by other "classic rock" offerings. Perhaps listening to Mozart or Beethoven may get you to the same general neighbourhood? "Fire and Water" is an album that should contain something for most. This album, through its natural and simplistic approach, has the ability to awaken something inside, a feat that could only be achieved by a very, very special collection of music.



This was a gig that I had been curious about since it first appeared on my radar a couple of months ago. Back when I was a resident of Dublin's fair city this duo were resident house band in the sugar club, a late night drinking emporium on Leeson Street that myself and some friends frequented, probably more regularly than was healthy, as one of our group worked there. They were also to be seen busking on Grafton Street, always with a fascinated crowd and even then, there was a sense that they were a bit too good to be doing this. It almost seemed like a bit of a secret, something you'd show when someone you wanted to impress came to town but one that you knew would eventually, and rightfully, get out. Well now it certainly seems like everyone else has caught on and they are finally getting their long delayed dues, as three sold-out shows in Dolan's, to add to sold out shows in Cork, Belfast, Galway and Dublin, can testify.

So anyway back to the story at hand, I amble into Dolan's around quarter past eight to be pleasantly surprised by an almost full and already buzzing venue. It's nice and dark with low subtle lighting that lends an intimacy and community to an already expectant crowd. We're greeted by the sultry, and surprisingly powerful yet somehow strangely shy, voice of Aminah, ably assisted on guitar duties by Brendan, who came to us from Dublin's the Liberties via London and Malaysia, with a fascinating collage of musical influences that translates very well to the welcoming environs of Dolan's. A refreshingly friendly invitation for anyone to approach her for a chat is very enjoyably realised when I bump into her later on my way to the bathroom and, with an album that she wrote and co-produced - 'Caravan Trail' available on her website at the moment, she is definitely a lady to watch.

Following on quite briskly is the inimitable Clive Barnes. An Enniscorthy native and proponent of the horizontal, or 'lap', slide guitar technique, made popular

Rodrigo y Gabriela

Dolan's Warehouse, Monday April 11th - 8pm
by Ultan Quin



Roderigo y Gabriela

by the blues greats, he plays quite a short bluegrass crossed with jazz n country styled set, that I find reminiscent of Springsteen in his quieter moments. This is, as per usual, interspersed with his trademark amusing asides on life, one particular, and surprising, song dedication, I find very amusing. As he finishes he announces that he is to be playing upstairs in Dolan's this coming Saturday 16th April, [last Saturday to those of you reading this] so maybe this explains his rather brief appearance. He has several albums out, the most recent being Goldtooth Cinnamon, all of which are available from his website and, if you like a bit of blues in your grass, well worth checking out.

And now to the main event, as the

bar closes a welcome hush descends on the warehouse (it never seemed less like one), and all eyes focus on stage, and there they are - bathed in spotlight and perched on two stools, nylon strung guitars in hand. They begin with the gently climbing melodies of Capitan Casanova, well known, to any fans, and from that we're soon into the powerful intro of their take on Metallica's thrash uber-ballad 'One' that evolves - with some really rather remarkable string manipulation from Rodrigo that has me checking the stage for effects pedals - into the Dave Brubeck Band's 'Take 5', recognisable from, the now defunct, Network 2 to late night viewers of a certain age. As the last strains die out to jubilant applause Gabriela addresses the appreciative crowd with enquiries about a lost pint that she'd requested but has not yet received!

Even at this relatively early stage it is all too apparent that they have made the transition to larger venues and higher billing with consummate ease and nowhere was this more evident than in the swagger of their stagecraft. In complete and impressively complimentary synchronicity, they're deep into their stride and playing with rhythm and tempo with an almost nonchalant ease. As the performance unfolds, the tracks, to a certain degree, seem to bleed into one as the structure rises and falls through peaks and troughs yet is all the time underpinned with a constantly evolving, almost spiralling rhythmic arrangement that never overpowers but ultimately, upon realisation, delivers a serious punch. This is music that moves you, with a power and a force that almost stuns, leaving you suddenly aware upon it's ceasing or softening

that you've been holding your breath! Particularly when Rodrigo takes the lead Gabriela's rhythm is faultless using her eerily phenomenal hand speed to sketch out rhythms on differing parts of her instrument and her foot as bass drum when that extra bit of oomph is needed.

So we reach the end and the crowd is altered, as inevitably happens when you go through something as impressive as this together, I think the silence that is mostly observed helps to facilitate this, with no-one in conversation as it were, on or off stage, all attention being where it should be, on the music. Rodrigo asks if we want more, but it is more statement than question, and we are treated to an encore of what is, to my mind, the most impressive performance of the evening - a magnificently intricate version of Metallica's 'Master of Puppets' that fades into 'Stairway to Heaven amid tumultuous roars, all pretences towards silence gleefully abandoned. This is one of the finest performances, of any description, that I've seen in a very long time and far surpasses the live album 'Live Manchester and

Dublin', which you should probably buy a n y w a y, because by the time you read this all gigs left on the tour will be sold out. Make sure

you go see them next time they're anywhere!!

You can get further information on these acts, their releases, live dates etc. on their respective websites:

Aminah - <http://www.aminah.org>

Clive Barnes -

<http://www.clivebarnes.com>

Rodrigo y Gabriela -

<http://www.rodgab.com>



Tired of those bands that come and go quicker than an April shower? Crave something with a little more substance? Fear not, Benny Kupka's got just the tonic you need! Good taste requires you listen to:

Lou Reed and The Velvet Underground

In 1967 the groundbreaking album "The Velvet Underground & Nico" was released under Polygram records and it indicated that Lou Reed was to become a major influence on a large variety of artists for decades to come. The artwork on the cover was by the "endless dabbler and self promoter" Andy Warhol, who was also known at the time for his artistic contributions to society. This album is a fusion of raw rock n roll and Reed's own personal avant-garde mix of feedback drenched guitar parts and harmonic vocal arrangements. All this thrown in with the heavily accented voice of European singer, Nico, led to one of the most influential album of the sixties. With songs like "All Tomorrows Parties" and "I'll Be Your Mirror" Nico established herself as a strong voice, yet the group seem to

have quickly shelved her after this album in favour of John Cale's abusive Viola playing and their second album was a flop. This record also includes hits such as "Heroin", an epic ballad about struggling a drug addiction to some kind of mysterious substance...heroin perhaps, which features heavily throughout Lou Reed's lyrics and is a running theme for him. "Heroin, It's my life and it's my wife..." This is the type of album any decent fan of music needs to have, even if you don't like it - it more or less sets the standards for the genre from 1967 onwards and is completely unmissable.

In 1972, Reed released a legendary solo album under the production of David Bowie that was to mark him with the label of "Icon" from then on. This album, called

"Transformer," was to spark a Top 40 hit with the song "Take A Walk On The Wild Side" in which he explores the everyday underground comings and goings of normal life in an upbeat, verging on the jazzy, type of way. This album also includes the proto-punk song "Viscous" which features some signature jangly guitar/feedback sounds as well as the typical dark lyrics about the usual drugs, sex, and girls topics. If you buy only one Lou Reed album in your lifespan, make it this one! You get all the best of the Velvet Underground sound in a more polished package and not a measure less of the integrity. It also has some of his more famous tracks, such as "Perfect Day" which was re-re-released many years later for charity with the likes of Bono singing on it. Also the newly cov-

ered "Satellite of Love" can be found in its original, reasonably poppy format. So, in other words, you will not be disappointed by this album unless you're a complete philistine and are only interested in the likes of most of today's pop acts out there. They are but a flash in the pan - Lou Reed is irreplaceable. He influenced countless major bands and is a testament to what an open imagination can do for you in the world of music.

Notable Albums:
The Velvet Underground & Nico,
Transformer



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I PITY THE FOOL THAT CANT RUN A TRIATHLON!

UL TRIATHLON
April 20th
In aid of Milford Hospice

The 3rd Annual 'UL Triathlon' in aid of Milford Hospice run by the 2nd year Sports Science Student will take place this year on the 20th of April.

The event is open to students and staff of the university and will be held in and around the UL Arena, beginning at 1pm. We advise all competitors to enter a.s.a.p as numbers will be limited.

Registration forms can be picked up throughout week 10 in the Sports building or contact 0340332@student.ul.ie for information. We look forward to seeing you there.

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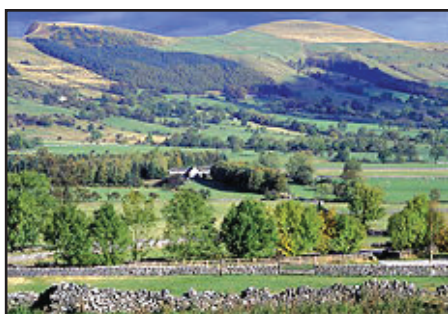
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The Killers Are No Friends Of Mine

David Studer reveals an acidic view of the modern music industry



The Killers are one of the latest bands to hit the big time with their album *Hot Fuss*. It was voted album of the year on Tom Dunne's *Pet Sounds* on Today Fm and has been getting rave reviews in the music world since its release. They have been in the top 5 of the Irish charts for 45 weeks and are currently number 1. *Somebody Told Me*, *Jenny Was A Friend Of Mine* and *Mr. Brightside* are all over the airwaves at the moment. For all intensive purposes, The Killers are the new Franz Ferdinand. Wait a minute... Franz who? Weren't they the small Scottish band that took the world by storm last summer? This time next year we will be saying the same about The Killers. Just another rock/pop band striving desperately to individualise themselves that will never make it. Like Franz Ferdinand, The Hives, The Rapture (and I'm pretty certain Scissor Sisters, mark my words!), the Killers will fade away, destined to be played on bank holiday Monday radio and on one hit wonder compilations. A perfect example is *Crash Test Dummies' Mmmmm* or *Peaches* by The Presidents Of The United States Of America? Great songs, but the bands are long forgotten.

The decline of bands that can last more than one or two albums before disappearing into obscurity has never been so apparent. What spurred me to write about it has been the recent spate of cover versions of classic songs. Boyzone started it by covering Cat Stevens classic *Father And Son*. They butchered it! If you have a weak heart or cry easily please don't read on. I am about to remind you about Puff Daddy's cover version of *Kashmir* by Led Zeppelin, Five covering *We Will Rock You* by Queen, Westlife covering *Uptown Girl* (that one was particularly dreadful), some really dodgy funky disco version of The Who's *Behind Blue Eyes*, Scissor Sister covering the Pink Floyd classic *Comfortably Numb* and now the final nail in the coffin has come. The song that has been given iconic status since its release 30 years ago: *G4* covering the immaculate, the divine *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Why did they have to do that song, the stupid tarts! It's like getting Cliff Richard to cover *Stairway To Heaven* - it's just not done!

Some will argue that cover versions have always been around for example, Deep Purple started out by covering Hush and The Beatles covered *Twist and Shout*. These bands however, went on to bigger and much better things. There are, of course, bands that have been forgotten in the 60's and 70's as well. Who, for example would know that The Turtles played that really cool song *Happy Together* if it wasn't for that Heineken ad with Jennifer Aniston? But there were also bands like The Beatles, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, The Who and so forth that stood out from the rest. These are bands that stayed together for more

than one or two albums while also maintaining a great standard of music. Today there are very few of those groups left. REM have long given up the ghost of being a credible band. Their last two albums *Reveal* and *Around The Sun* were below average, especially from the standard that they set in the past. U2 have also morphed into another rock/pop outfit. I mean, *Vertigo* is a good radio song, but it doesn't compare to *One*, *With Or Without You* or *Bad*. But because of past standards, they too will always have hardcore fans to buy their music. Radiohead are another example. After *OK Computer* Radiohead decided to go experimental. If Radiohead fans were honest with themselves, they will admit that the first time they heard *Kid A* (the follow up to *OK Computer*) their hearts sank with disappointment. There are, of course a few notable exceptions. Blur seem to have done what REM couldn't do and improve with time. Their last album *Think Tank* shows how much they have grown from their humble Britpop beginnings.

What many bands are doing today is selling out to the tastes of the masses. The Strokes are a prime example. All their songs sound the same. When *Room On Fire* was released all the



The Frames

songs were similar to those on the first album. Very few bands make songs that they want to make any more - they make songs that the record companies want them to make. It is no coincidence that one of Ireland's leading bands, The Frames, have their own record label and can therefore release what they want to. The Frames were once with Island Records, the record label that The Killers are currently with, but they parted company over musical differences. Now the Frames are on the verge of breaking America and they have done it their own way. The test of time is the biggest test for any band. The Killers will almost certainly follow *Crash Test Dummies* down the road of obscurity because they are simply not good enough.

MOGWAI - GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS (BBC SESSIONS 1996-2003)

Reviewed by Ronan Lawlor

Being friends with Franz Ferdinand and Snow Patrol is about as close as Mogwai are ever going to get to mainstream popularity, however this compilation of session recordings for the Beeb from the past few years serves as a gentle introduction to the qualities of the band. There is nothing gentle, however, about the rip-roaring 18-minute version of 'Like Herod', a song from Mogwai's debut album *Young Team*, which typifies their early quiet-then-loud sound. The first time you hear the album version of 'Like Herod', you never expect the violent guitars that kick in circa the 04:30 mark, it really makes you jump, and it's always fun to frighten unsuspecting friends with the song's transformation from hushed to havoc! The version on this album is no different; however it's completely unnecessary length of 18 minutes is a real struggle for the listener. The novelty of this shock-and-awe approach does eventually diminish, so thankfully Mogwai have since progressed into a far more intricate, at times subtle, musical outfit while still retaining their ability to rock.

The difficulty of Mogwai's music is that it is impossible to describe. How is a pretentious music critic such as myself supposed to illustrate in words the metaphysical beauty of the mashed up sound of vocoder gibberish, haunting guitar riffs, and multi-instrumentation in 'Hunted by a Freak'? He's not, just believe me when I say it's an aural masterpiece.

R u still in 2 it is a delicate instrumental version of another *Young Team* tune and the absence of the Glaswegian vocals that define the album version, give rise to the minimal guitar work and heavy piano chords. The presence of the piano is also strongly felt on 'New paths to Helicon part II', whilst both 'Stop coming to my house' and 'New paths to Helicon part I' sonically develop into rapturous crescendos. Stuart Braithwaite, the band's reluctant vocalist - he hates singing, especially in a live environment - even manages to stretch his vocal chords on 'CODY' and 'Secret Pint', and he's not bad!

Mogwai are one of the few great live bands of recent times never to have released a 'live in concert' album, despite popular demand. This collection of live session performances should appease this demand. It is apt that the late John Peel, a DJ who truly championed innovative bands such as Mogwai, opens the album with an enthusiastic introduction for the band in Maida Vale. *Government Commissions* is by no means a definitive 'best of' compilation, however it is essential listening for Mogwai fanatics who want to know what these Scotsmen would sound like if they played in their sitting room! *Government Commissions* is also a great starting-point for the novice Mogwai fan and curious neutral alike, and is a useful overview of Mogwai's repertoire. Check it out.



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No more digging through the papers to decide what to see in the cinema - Niall Murphy's been keeping a close eye on what's on and what to look forward to as the tease of an Irish summer crawls slowly closer.

Previewed: Fantastic Four

Release Date:
July 4, 2005

Starring:
Michael Chiklis,
Ioan Gruffudd,
Chris Evans,
Jessica Alba, Julian
McMahon, Maria Menounos, Kerry
Washington, Hamish Linklater

Plot Summary: When an experimental space voyage goes awry, four people are changed by cosmic rays. Reed Richards, inventor and leader of the group gains the ability to stretch his body, and takes the name, Mr. Fantastic. His girlfriend, Sue Storm, gains the ability to turn invisible and create force fields, becoming the Invisible Girl. Her little brother Johnny Storm gains the ability to control fire, including covering his own body with flame, like a Human Torch. Pilot Ben Grimm is turned into a super-strong rocky Thing. Together, they use their unique powers to explore the strange aspects of



the world, and to foil the evil plans by the likes of Doctor Doom, which is who the villain of this film will be. Even as they

deal with the various threats that arise to threaten Earth's peace, the Four must also deal with the pressures of fame as the world's most famous superheroes, and the realities of being a super-powered family.

Preview: Another summer, another superhero movie. It appears that Marvel haven't yet run out of steam on the old superhero front. This time round we get an X-Men style group of supers only they're a family. Incredibles anyone? There's a lot riding on this movie, the Fantastic Four are "Galaticos" of the comic world and as such have a firm fan-base. Satisfying these enthusiasts will be a fiendishly tricky affair as comic book geeks are notoriously picky. Before the movie is even released fan-boys are up in arms about the casting of Jessica Alba (personally I don't get it!) and about Michael Chiklis' insistence that The Thing not be a CGI creation but rather a body-suit - I get this, The Thing is supposed to be made of rock and from the trailer it looks a bit soft. Director Tim Story's previous movies include

Barbershop and Taxi so it'll be interesting to see how he tackles a big budget picture and potential franchise. The show-stoppers are reported to be an early rescue on New York's Brooklyn Bridge and the final face-off between Doom and the Foursome. Story, however, warns that he has held back somewhat because the main fight comes during the last part of the movie - although it will still deliver plenty of what summer audiences expect, lot's of things blowing up. How the movie will turn out is still up in the air. It's the kind of thing that could go either way, but at best may end up being on par with the mediocre Daredevil. However, because no-one really seems to think it will be good it might end up surprising a lot of unbelievers.

Official Website: <http://www.fantastic-fourmovie.com/>

Reviewed: The Ring Two

The longhaired girl, who climbs out of a well, comes through your TV, gets water all over your floor and then literally scares you to death, is back with a vengeance. But don't be too alarmed. The creepy novelty of a videotape that kills you has definitely worn off.

Story

It's been six months since journalist Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts) and her ashen-faced, sunken-eyed son Aidan (David Dorfman) outsmarted the sinister Samara and escaped that darn cursed tape. Or have they? They've moved to a new town and are trying to get on with their lives, when Rachel discovers evidence at a local crime scene, including an unmarked videotape, which makes her fear it might not be over. Aidan suddenly starts behaving even more strangely, scratching at walls, saying things like, "She can't hear us when we sleep," as his temperature drops dangerously below normal. He even has detrimental effects on the animals in the area. Hmmm. It indeed seems like Samara isn't quite done putting the pretty blonde and her son, through the ring. Rachel must now try to save Aidan's life for the second time, and finally send that demented well dweller back where she belongs.

Action

When Naomi Watts made The Ring, and agreed to do a sequel, she had no idea how the sleeper hit would turn her into a major star. But it did. Now, with an Oscar nomination under her belt for her searing turn in 21 Grams, Watts is reprising her Ring role. While she looks a little uncomfortable doing it, Watts' tortured performance undoubtedly makes the film. Her talent is evident as Rachel, a mom who knows she isn't perfect but is trying desperately to make good for her past mistakes. As for the sullen Dorfman, if you thought he was the least bit annoying in the first Ring, with his hollowed look and doom and gloom proclamations, he is doubly so in The Ring Two. Poor kid. It's not really his fault he's being set up to be the terribly irri-



tating "old soul" who knows far more than he should. Then there's the doomed supporting cast. They include Simon Baker as Rachel's new journalist friend; Elizabeth Perkins as a concerned psychiatrist who believes Rachel may be abusing Aidan; and Sissy Spacek, making a return to horror as a mysterious woman who holds a key to Samara's past. Cue the ominous music...

Direction

Right from the start, The Ring Two is at a disadvantage. We already know the hook. We already know what the menacing videotape can do and the urgency in finding out its origin, all of which made the first Ring so oppressive and terrifying. So where do you go from there? Hiring director Hideo Nakata, who helmed the successful Japanese versions of The Ring films, is a promising start. The Ring's director Gore Verbinski was too busy filming other movies, including The Weather Man and preparing the sequel to Pirates of the Caribbean, but that's OK. Nakata certainly knows the material and has a handle on using effects to build tension, including a rather disturbing scene in which Rachel and Aidan are attacked by antlered bucks (similar in feel to the horse scene in the original). But ultimately, The Ring Two can't keep up the momentum. Having Rachel once again race around, this time to stop Samara from possessing her son, just doesn't instil the same fear. And, just once, it would have been cool to see how Samara actually dispatches her victims by turning them into life-sized versions of the famous Munch painting, "The Scream." Oh well.

Bottom Line

Everyone really wants The Ring Two to be as frightening as the original. But unfortunately, Samara's deadly videotape does not hold up to repeat viewings.

Léamh Filíochta | Cathal Ó Seacaigh

Rinne Cathal Ó Searcaigh léamh filíochta dátheangach iontach a thabhairt i measc ealaíon álainn na Dánlainne Bourn Vincent Dé Céadaoin le linn Seachtain na nGiobal, mar aon le rogha dá chuimhní cinn nach bhfuil fiú foilsithe go fóill a roinnt linn. Tá cáil bainte amach ag Cathal as ucht a aerachta a cheiliúradh ar dóigh úr agus beoga ina chuid filíochta agus tá filíocht ghrá den scoth scríofa aige. D'fhreastail Cathal ar an lucht éisteachta uile, ag athrú ó Ghaeilge go Béarla agus ar ais arís, idir dhánta anghrácha faoin gnéas homaighnéasach agus haikus gearra gleoite ó Nepal. Dhíol sé lámhleabhar de na haikus scríofa aige féin agus ag Janak Sapkota, file óg ó Nepal, leis an lucht féachana ar €5 agus rachaidh an t-airgead chuig na boicht sa tír chéanna so bhí fiúntas carthanachta ag baint leis an ócáid chomh maith le fiúntas ealaíne. Mheall a ghlór muid chun ceol filíochta na dteangacha i gcónaí agus bhí an tráthnóna gealgháireach, greannmhar agus suaimhneach ag an aon am amháin. Ár mbuíochas ó chroí leis an bhfile caoin féin, táimid ag súil go bhfillfidh sé arís!

Anocht agus tú sínte síos le mo thaobh a chaoín mhic an ceana, do chorp teann téagartha, aoibh na hóige ort, anseo tá mé sábháilte
cuachta go docht faoi scáth d'uchtá: sleánna cosanta do sciathán
mo chrioslú go dlúth
óir is tusa mo laoch, an curadh caol cruaidh a sheasann idir mé agus uaigneas tíoránta na hoíche.

Laoi Chumainn

Homecoming / An Bhaile 'na Bhaile

Scéim Chónaithe na Gaeilge 2005 - 2006

Daoibhse nár chuala trácht ar an Teach Gaeilge i nGráig Chill Mhuire roimhe seo, déantar idir 6 agus 8 scoláireacht de luach €1,500 a thairiscint do lucht na céad bhliana agus do lucht na hiarchéime gach bliain. Caithfidh iarrthóirí agallamh a dhéanamh i rith an tsamhraidh lena gcumas sa Ghaeilge a léiriú agus má éiríonn leo áit sa Teach a bhaint amach, tá sé de dhualgas orthu imeachtaí éagsúla a eagrú i rith na bliana chun freastal ar lucht na Gaeilge ar an gcampas. Cé nach bhfuil sé oscailte don dara, tríú ná ceathrú bliain i láthair na huaire, is deis iontach é do dheirfiúracha nó do dheartháireacha óige agaibh atá ag smaoineamh faoi freastal ar Ollscoil Luimnigh i ndiaidh na hArdteiste. Sábhálfaidh siad cúpla míle euro ar chostais lóistín na bliana fad 's atá deis acu a dteanga náisiúnta a chur cinn, nach mbeadh an t-ádh leo! Tá foirmeacha iarratais ar fáil uaimse (suas staighre san Aontas agus ar chlé) agus aon eolas breise ag Deirdre Ní Loingsigh in oifig C1074. Caithfidh na foirmeacha a bheith istigh roimh an 20ú Bealtaine so scaipigí an scéal!

The Blurb

Aoife explains the K for Kollege Week conspiracy and Val reports on Coca Cola's boycott of the SU, hey hey, and Jean writes a Limerick for her favourite sub editor Val, ah!



I suppose I could ramble on about the antics of Kollege Week 2005 but to be honest, if you were present in the Stables' courtyard any day during Week 8 or ventured out any night, each and every student would have gathered their own tale to tell and eventually it would become a little repetitive to hear revisited memories over and over again. So, I shall abstain from informing you of my own personal escapades and discuss matters that are more serious and meaningful. Kollege Week '05 has left a deeper imprint in my mind. Not only was it my first experience of such a phenomenon, me being a tootsy first year and all, but for me it was a thoroughly thought-provoking experience that left me in a sincerely pensive mood. So pensive I almost found myself trailing to the library for a good old-fashioned think. Almost.

Okay, so Kollege Week (or the

K is for Kollege

Aoife Breen

week formerly known as RAG Week) is all about having fun, drinking too much, laughing at the chap who admitted to viewing the My Little Pony official website while hypnotized and not turning up at lectures, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. But what about the deeper meaning behind Kollege Week? What about beyond these surface, meaningless activities? Ah yes - you nod your head in acknowledgment - the raising and giving part; money for charities and all that malarkey. Well, er, yes...but...what about the K?

The K. The K. Yes, the K. Why is it that 'Kollege Week' is spelt with a 'k' and not a 'c'? What message is ULSU trying to give across to the thousands of students that it represents? An Focal contacted a spokesperson for the Union, but when asked why such an important week of the year was incorrectly spelt, he merely replied, 'No komment.' This is a farce! An Focal has sent me to investigate and once more I have been left to

soak in my own puddle of thoughts and ponder on the true meaning of the use of the k in 'Kollege Week.' I can only speculate that something deeper is at play here.

Initially, I felt angry. Does the Union not have enough respect for the student population to treat them with the dignity that they deserve and spell 'college' correctly? Does it not think that the student population is intelligent enough to recognise the spelling mistake? Or is it making a mockery of the educational standards that each and every scholar has reached to make it to a third level institution of such prestige as UL?

Then, I felt that, oh, wait. It's the Union. It's just a typo. Hey, all the greats make mistakes from time to time - why not our very own Student Union also? It's very possible that very competent personnel in charge of College Week simply made an error and pressed the K instead. Hmmm ... I suppose it's a bit hard to fathom that one would overlook a 'k' in place of a 'c' in so

many noticeable places.

And so this led me to my final conclusion. The 'k' is deliberate! Yes, my chums! The 'k' in Kollege Week is a deliberate misspelling! I know, I also found it hard to believe, but really, there is no other excuse. The zaniness! Who knew that our very own ULSU could be so inventive, creative, vivacious, wild, and so unregulated by the norms and standards set by today's society! It's like our own mini-revolution on campus - ULSU daring to cry out for non-conformity on the very conformed UL campus.

So, when you wear your navy hoody or white t-shirt embellished with the luminous orange words "I survived...", think not of the wild adventures that you embarked upon during Week 8, but rather of the true meaning of Kollege Week. Think of the kapital k.

'Limerick Limerick'

There once was a really bad writer,
whose sub editor loved to spite her,
with no sense of shame,
she keeps printing my name
and now I'm not sure I like her.

Jean Kent



SHOCK AS COCA-COLA ANNOUNCE BOYCOTT ON ULSU

In a dramatic turn of events, international drinks corporation Coca-Cola today announced a boycott of all ULSU products and services, a radical reaction to ULSU's recent referendum on banning Coca-Cola products.

"They think they can boycott our products, well two can play at that game," a spokesperson for Coca-Cola told An Focal. "From now on our company will be advocating a complete ban on ULSU. None of our employees will be buying Students Union products or merchandise from or enjoying food from the SU shop; no longer and they will certainly take their photocopying needs elsewhere. Take that, ULSU!"

"I predict with this kind of radical reaction, ULSU will soon

realise what they're missing and put our products back in their fridges," he added whilst setting light to a ULSU trendy hooded sweatshirt. Coca-Cola employees are also being urged to write to their TD to alert them to the 'injustice' of ULSU practices.

Current ULSU president Jimmy Fennessy, however, seems unconcerned by recent events. "They'll



soon change their minds," he spoke out confidently at a SU meeting last Sunday night (at which no employees of the Coca-Cola corporation were in attendance). "After all, a Diet Coke Break is one thing, but

there's only so long you can go without a hot chicken roll, no butter, from the SU shop before the craving kicks in."

An Focal then ventured out around campus in an attempt to dis-

cover just how far the reverberations of this turn of events had affected the student population in general. When asked for his opinion, first year mechanical engineer Joe Coggs did not seem particularly shocked by news of the boycott, although he did express surprise at being told he was a member of ULSU, asking "ULSU? What's that?"

A third year language student also commented on the ban. "I think the Coke lads are right to react like this. ULSU should stop the boycott, it's gone on far too long," he remarked. "Anyway, what do I care if Coca-Cola are immoral capitalists bent on making money even at the cost of human life? I like Fanta."

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Mary Nduko in her classroom

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Kelly, Pete and Clare Kind, a volunteer

NEWS IN BRIEF...

- Excessive election flyering results in paper cut epidemic
- Bicycle develops "mind of its own" through Elm Park
- English lecturer still "mildly bothered" about un-submitted essays
- "Beware Thieves" sign stolen from library
- Student prepares for tutorial
- Campus gardener turns over new leaf

Sports Talk

Otherwise known as the toy department where those who weren't good enough to make it criticise those who are and generally sit around watching Sky Sports all day. Interested? Read on.

Field of Dreams or Far Afield?

By Tomás Burke

Will the imminent reconstruction of Lansdowne Road be a catalyst for the GAA to readdress Rule 42 or herald a new era of Irish sports fans travelling abroad for their home fixtures?

If your student credit card is maxed out, surely you can't find yourself incurring further debt - bar, of course, the niggling collection of interest? Apparently you can, as on April 1st, in a belated Christmas splurge, the Government helps itself to €40 stamp duty...on your tab. And while falling a few months short of the 'big bad world' and its ensuing tax hike, I feel this little taste of the state's generosity to itself allows me to have a dig at what my 'tax euros are spent on'. This topic of conversation is usually the preserve of cranks with too much time and not enough information. This, of course, is the case here. However, when I say this new-found interest in taxes corresponds uncannily with the imminent reconstruction of Lansdowne Road, I'm sure that GAA supporters will know where I'm headed.

You see the €40 that the government will somehow squeeze from my already barren AIB account echoes somewhat conveniently the €40 million that the government gave to the GAA late last year. It takes the total public funding of the refurbishment of Croke Park to €110 million. This, of course, is a noble venture, benefiting hundreds of thousand of taxpayers as they enjoy the spectacle of Croker in the summer, that is for those lucky enough to make the yearly pilgrimage.

However, this image could not be in greater contrast to Lansdowne Road on a grey March afternoon. As Irish rugby seemed to be living up to its reputation during the defeat of England, the magic on the field was undeniably diluted by the surroundings. The camera pans from right to left, revealing the

downy north and south terraces, awkwardly straddling the skyline, looking like relics from the inaugural match in 1878. However, even this national embarrassment will pale in comparison to the years to come when there is the very

real possibility that Irish supporters will have to make a pilgrimage to Britain to watch their home games.

Now, at this point, many within the GAA world will quite rightly ask 'what has that got to do with us?' Gaelic games has a larger support base, they manage their funds in a professional manner, why should they be forced to dish out charity to less popular sporting organisations? There is a mountain of reasons for keeping Rule 42. Probably the most worthy of these is the army of amateur sports people in the thrall of a potential trip to Croke Park - driven by the purest sporting instinct. The one day in the sun. The glory. They may never be remembered beyond their parish but they have a claim to fame that no £100,000-a-week soccer player can boast of.

However, this excuse is invariably dusted off solely on occasions when the more pressing 'gotta-keep-the-Brits-out' excuse doesn't quite cut it (e.g. Prime Time and when talking to Brits). Yes, there can be no doubting but that it is the



Where is the future of Irish rugby and soccer in the years to come? Field of dreams or far afield?

Above: Croke Park, Dublin.

image of the Saint George's Cross fluttering atop the flagpole at Croke Park that is the greatest barrier to the disbandment of Rule 42. It is an image that sends a cold shiver down the backs of the traditionalists and would have Jim Cusack

spinning in his grave. He would rise from the dead, wreak havoc, and while he's at it, personally dispense with Phil Coulter and every recording of 'Ireland's Call' known to man. After all, the last time the Brits were allowed into Croke Park was 1922 - and we can all agree that that didn't go too well, what with them opening fire on the crowd and all.

However, the decades have rolled by to the extent that we are now not far from a hundred years since these heights of barbarism. To maintain these grudges and to hold fast to antiquity is undoubtedly backward. However, it is also principled. While not agreeing with Rule 42, I can sympathise with the sheer bloody-mindedness of it - indeed, in much the same way as you could sympathise with the folks in Portmarnock Golf Club for not allowing women. It is so politically incorrect, that it's nearly a relief. Clearly there are a thousand other golf clubs where ladies can play. Why can't there be one, just one haven for posh old men, free

from the constraints of the 21st century? In much the same way, it is not too difficult to empathise with the idea of 'these are Irish sports, they are integral to Irish identity in an increasingly homogenised world, and god-damnit they're not going to share their home.' Why can't there be one, just one haven for pure Irish entertainment?

At this point, I've almost talked myself out of the original point of this article which is that Rule 42 has to go. Yet that is the lure of this strain of patriotism. It is so easy to slip into it. The fact of the matter is that the Union Jack has more or less already flown over Croke Park during the compromise rules series. The capital was not enveloped in flames. There was not a single sighting of Jim Cusack. The crux of the matter seems to be whether we feel secure enough in our Irishness. Perhaps this can justify the current trend of Northern county boards overwhelmingly voting in favour of retaining Rule 42. As an outpost of Irishness under British rule, those up North understandably enough feel they need to draw the line under any further erosion of their Irish identity.

However, the truth is that real patriotism accepts that we have one of the great world stadia sitting on our doorsteps and, at the moment, instead of being proclaimed as such, it is shrouded and concealed. This is not to say that the GAA ought to whore the stadium out to all and sundry. Rather, on exceptional occasions when the prestige of the nation can be greatly improved, one of the nation's biggest showcases should be opened to the world. The greatness of Ireland is the concern of every sportsperson, soccer, rugby, but most especially GAA.

Lions Squad 2005: A few surprises, not too many shocks

By Gerard Fitzgibbon



Like many other rugby fans with more opinions than sense, I recently predicted who would make up the bones of the 44-man Lions squad for this summer's tour of New Zealand. Last Monday, Head Coach Sir Clive Woodward and Manager Bill Beaumont finally unveiled their selections. Let's just say I was off a bit. Initial reactions would suggest that Sir Clive has placed undue reliance upon his England old boys who ground out the Webb Ellis trophy two years ago. However, once you scratch the surface it becomes clear that Woody has sought to augment the two traits that this team will need if they are to win the test series against the All Blacks: ability and experience. The quality needed to win lies within the Welsh and Irish contingents. The mental toughness and experience of having beaten the kiwis lies with the English old guard. The union of the two is what Sir Clive and his management team will strive for. To rely solely upon the flashy extravagance of the Welsh style of play would be suicide.

In numerical terms. The tour is comprised of 20 English, 11 Irish, 10 Welsh and 3 Scots. While this may seem top heavy towards England, the fact of the matter is the eventual test side will have a far more even balance. Even so, Perhaps Sir Clive, aware that the Welsh have a tendency to get homesick and unruly on Lions tours, has sought to limit Celtic participation to challengers for test places, whilst relying upon English depth to make up the mid-week games.

As for the runners and riders, the exclusion of Jonny Wilkinson may rile the English press, who predicted that the golden boy would be on the plane if he had a pulse. However, the decision to omit him was indeed the best outcome for both the tour and the player. Stephen Jones can now prepare for the test matches without any undue pressure from a player who exudes hype but has



hardly kicked a ball in 18 months. Jonny can now concentrate on saving his career rather than satisfying any malignant expectations of the fans and the media.

Brian O'Driscoll was the obvious choice for captain, due to both a lack of viable competition and the fact that he is the only guaranteed test starter. The 'Paul O'Connell for skipper' lobby will be disappointed, but this is a tour too soon for the Munster man. Looking down the squad list, a few surprise names do stand out. The inclusion of the great English back row of Hill-Dallaglio-Back will provide a fantastic example both on and off the pitch. In their twilight years perhaps, but nonetheless tremendous rugby players who will instill a bedrock for the other talented but relatively inexperienced back row forwards. Michael Dawson and Will Greenwood are included solely on their touring experience. Neither will be test starters, but they will act as guideposts for less experienced players such as Dwayne Peel and Gavin Henson. The exclusions of Jason White, Mark



The new Lions captain - Brian O'Driscoll

Cueto and Chris Paterson, previously tipped by many to be test starters, points to a need for versatility on the tour that they cannot offer.

From an Irish point of view, there are positives after a poor Six Nations. John Hayes' solidity is generally unrecognised outside of Ireland, yet his inclusion is a smart move. Ditto Shane Horgan. Andy Sheridan's inclusion as impact-prop at the expense of Marcus Horan was a close call, but we may yet see Horan on the plane depending on if the front row injury crisis deepens. Donnacha O'Callaghan's inclusion, along with Paul O'Connell and Malcolm O'Kelly, ratifies the fact that Ireland boasts the finest collection of lock forwards in the world, and the bushy cork man's tribal ferocity will be a key asset to the tour. Denis Hickie, Gordon D'Arcy and Geordan Murphy will push hard for test places, as will Shane Byrne. Though you do get the impression that Ronan O'Gara can hope to be a mid-week Lion at best.

So what do the Lions need to do to conquer the All Blacks for only the second time since 1888? The kiwis will definitely be physical challenge, and the kicking game of Dan Carter and Aaron Mauger will test the Lions back line. Likewise, Doug Howlett and Joe Rokocoko will ask questions of the defensive capabilities of Josh Lewsey and Gareth Thomas. Up front, Sir Clive must try and quell the threat that Ritchie McCaw, the best number 7 in the world, will pose at the breakdown. The key to beating this side lies in the weak kiwi front five. If the scrum and the lineout dominate, the Lions will have every chance of victory against the All Blacks. However, the touring experience prior to the tests must be as smooth as possible in terms of injury and morale. Sir Clive will be under no illusions about the gravity of the task facing him, and he must mould this Lions squad to conquer both the on and off field demands of New Zealand.

Can Lee Bowyer find one last chance?

By Dominic Hewson

Two men sit at opposite ends of a bar. One lifts his head from the hard damp wood and inspects the numerous empty shot glasses in front of him. "Pour me another one Jimmy; you know I'm good for it." The barman doesn't even look up. "Sorry Lee you know the rules, cash only." Jimmy's worked here a long time, he knows promise is nothing in this place here you have to deliver. Lee Bowyer screws up his face, digs a hand deep in to his pocket and drops a fistful of change on to the bar. "I used to be a real somebody!" he slurs. Jimmy sifts through the shrapnel unmoved; he's heard it all before, Best, Gascoigne, Sharpe, Bosnich; if he had to listen to Whiteside describe his cup final goal one more time... He pours the measure and places it in front of Bowyer. Suddenly the gentleman at the other end of the bar looks up from his drink the tension rises as Bowyer catches his gaze but then trouble is averted as he throws it back, back to his drink.

According to teammates he was inconsolable. Tears washed the sweat off a face racked with shame, shoulders slouched kit still unre-moved. And there Kieron Dyer sat eyes fixed on the tiled floor wondering if his already stuttering career had been brought to a premature and shuddering halt by the 15 seconds of madness on the St James's Park pitch. A monumental talent, Dyer's early potential has only been realised in fits and starts; he is however no stranger to trouble with authority and this latest fiasco may just spell the end. Yet you sense that Dyer still has a success story inside him. Perhaps a run of controlling magical displays that his gifted feet have long promised, perhaps a wonderful performance in a vital match for club or country, fists clenched, jaw locked, toes inspired, against the odds. Maybe not but perhaps.

If those teammates could have emitted any meaningful consolation into the surreal atmosphere of the home dressing room that day it would have been to tell Dyer it's still all in his own hands.

Lee Bowyer is different. Like Dyer he was blessed with talent but peaked early at Leeds during height of the O'Leary/Ridsdale dream. There he

took first the Premiership and then the Champions' League by storm, mixing ferocious tackling with explosive support play. He was regarded in the same esteem as Keane, Scholes, Gerrard and Poyet often supplementing his extraordinary work rate with goals both crucial and sublime. Then like his club it all dramatically fell apart. An assault charge of which he was eventually cleared resulted

in a move from Yorkshire to East London and his boyhood team West Ham. Shortly afterwards the Hammers were hit with relegation and Lee left his beloved Upton Park jumping ship to Newcastle. Early signs were that he wouldn't settle but things seemed to be steadily improving until that fight. As he sat there facing reporters in the hastily arranged press conference afterwards forced like a naughty school boy to apologise for his shameful actions Bowyer and his career stared in to the abyss. Flashing bulbs and managers



Lee Bowyer is a player that has gotten more attention for his off the field antics than on.

prompting hand on back Bowyer issued forth his apology with a blank expression in stark contrast to the snarling frothing contortion that had to be dragged away from Dyer, and like his teammate he awaited the inevitable repercussions. Newcastle fined Lee Bowyer a maximum six weeks wages (around £120,000) and he has been

banned for four games, but that's not the end of it. Rumours abound that the club will wash their hands of him in the summer, and with a list of career highs more marijuana (of which Bowyer tested positive in 1995) then Maradona and career lows that read like a criminal record (assault, misconduct, drunken disorderly) what manager

would take a chance on him.

Wham! The shot glass meets the bar with an audible thump. Lee slouches forward as Jimmy wipes down the counter. "Promise is nothing in this place here you have to deliver." The main question raised by the events of St James's that day and the resulting fall out is while Kieron Dyer may be slumped on a stool sipping dangerously at his pint, has Lee Bowyer slammed his final shot in the Last Chance Saloon?



Trouble seems to follow him.



Dyer: Quest for Fire

The SPL is Sh**e

By Cathal O'Flaherty

First off, a profuse and heartfelt apology to all Celtic and Rangers (are there any?) fans for the misleading nature of my previous article on this topic. I didn't realise how much I must have hurt your feelings with the gross inaccuracies that I spouted...there is actually one Old Firm derby left this season!

Now anyone who read what I wrote last month will already know how I feel about the religious aspect to the fixture, but the more pressing issue in my view is the quality, or lack thereof, of the football that is played. The Old Firm carp on about wanting to play in the Premiership, and I think that's fine, two more mid-table clubs are just what England's already overcrowded top flight needs! Make no mistake about it; Scotland's Big Two are the original big fish in an extremely small pond.

Celtic's main men up front are a classic illustration of how foreign players unable to make the big time at home have moved north to further their careers. Chris Sutton, who looked good at Blackburn when playing alongside one of the all time greats, Alan Shearer, played horribly when signed by Chelsea, yet has thrived in the SPL. John Hartson, let go by Arsenal, Wimbledon and West Ham (where he memorably tried to



Would Celtic and Rangers be mere mid-table clubs in England?

decapitate Eyal Berkovic) finally found a club where he looked good. As for Craig Bellamy, he's no doubt a good player, but anyone who can make themselves persona non grata in Newcastle is clearly a founder member of the Headcases Hall of Fame.

It's no coincidence that Alan Thompson couldn't nail down a regular place at the

mighty Aston Villa but looks like Ryan Giggs in Celtic Park on an average Saturday. You have to admire the job Martin O'Neill has done with them, but surely the inability to win even one Champions League away game in the last five years is a sign of where this team is really at?

As for Rangers, the fact that they were swatted aside by a lethargic looking Manchester United both home and away a few years ago tells its own story, as does the fact that Liverpool reject Gregory Vignal was the hero of the last derby. The less said about Barry Ferguson's Premiership efforts the better. Any player with even a modicum of ability is soon snatched away, witness Liam Miller, Jean Alain Boumsong, and Henrik Larsson, who surely wasted the finest years of his career in a league virtually ignored by those beyond Scotland's borders.

The harsh truth is that the SPL is a joke. Remember Shelbourne going 3-0 up against Rangers in 1998? Remember St.Pats holding Celtic to a 0-0 draw in Celtic Park a few weeks later? Remember Bohemians beating Aberdeen, the Old Firms supposed contemporaries, over two legs? Now ask yourself, 'Is the SPL a good league?' I thought so.

The Lions-What a Load of Crap

By Brendan Coffey

I'm not so sure. Four teams against one; one empire against a former colony and thousands of supporters on a beer swilling junket to New Zealand.

I just don't get the Lions. Maybe it's because I've never played rugby or was never versed in the ways of the game at my local VEC but it's a load of crap.

If England can beat every other team in the world on their own, what's the need to send three of her sisters along for the ride? New Zealand are always producing the finest of men granted but come on, if the best players from Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland can't beat New Zealand they might as well pack it in.

They're a sham, off on a tour of the Pacific, picking up honours that'll probably amount to numerous zeros in the back account in 20 years time, when these 'heroes' are paraded at after dinner speeches everywhere regaling the tale of one team and their mission impossible.

The Lion isn't even a creature

of European creation; it's just a superimposed North European myth that prowls the surface every four or five years.

Why don't they just call them what they really are, the British Isles all stars. That way we could acknowledge the best 15 players, and not this crap of 44 Lions. If there's 44 places, and what 60 players between the first 15 of each nation, well there's a pretty good chance of making the selection. There's no elitism in it which would make this in someway plausible. It's just a pandering to a tradition that seems completely out of place in a professional game. A group of amateurs thrown together to face the might of New Zealand is a task worth talking about, this isn't.

If they want to do rugby a favour they should tour the Lions around Argentina and other less well off regions where the game is in dire need of a boost if it's ever to become anything more than an eight nation sport.

SPORTS QUIZ

- Question 1
- How many times has Tiger Woods won the US Masters?
- Question 2
- Who was the last Irishman to captain the Lions before Brian O'Driscoll?
- Question 3
- Name the winner of this year's English Grand National.
- Question 4
- Name the current NHL champions.
- Question 5
- What is held annually in the Cooley Mountains?
- Question 6
- Who managed Chelsea before Jose Mourinho?
- Question 7
- Which Irish boxer was known as the Clones Cyclone?
- Question 8
- What do the letters 'lbw' stand for in cricket?
- Question 9
- What team does Mick McCarthy currently manage?
- Question 10
- What do Real Madrid and the Welsh rugby team have in common?

Here's what won't happen (probably) but in the esteemed view of the An Focal sports team, these things really should happen.

An Focal Sports' 10

- 1) Ronan O'Gara decides to give up rugby and take up the position as head stylist at Peter Mark. Apparently Peter Mark are keen to get the Irish star on board because of his amazing ability to maintain static clean hair for the entirety of six nations matches. "With hair this good it'd be a shame to waste my time playing rugby", said O'Gara at the press conference announcing the move.
- 2) Miramax have announced a film remake of the 3 Stooges. Starring Alex Ferguson, Arsene Wenger and Jose 'The Special One' Mourinho, the plot will deal with hard hitting issues such as who drank the last of Fergie's Pinot Noir, Arsene's ongoing struggle with blindness, and Jose's hilarious attempts to appoint God as his assistant manager. The film will be partially subtitled to facilitate viewers unable to understand Ferguson's gibberish.
- 3) In a related matter, Alex Ferguson has been appointed head reindeer by Santa Claus. In a press conference at the North Pole Claus revealed 'Alex's nose is the perfect shade of red to lead my team on Christmas Eve'. Reports that Rudolph has been arrested outside Old Trafford while carrying a weapon are as yet unconfirmed.
- 4) In a shocking turn of events, a GAA manager actually told the truth in a post match press conference. Speaking after beating Tipperary, Clare manager Anthony Daly said 'They're sh**e, the worst Tipp team in 50 years, hope we get them in the Championship cos' we'll give them an unmerciful hiding.' Several journalists were treated for shock after the incident.
- 5) Brian O'Driscoll has revealed that his dream as a child was to be a pimp rather than a rugby player. The Lions Captain said, "Well as you can see from the way I'm whoring myself out to every company that will have me, I'm a natural at selling myself, and I always hoped to go professional at it. As soon as I retire from rugby I'm hitting the streets"
- 6) Instead of removing rule 42, the GAA decides to introduce some new rules at its annual congress. The most controversial being the Dublin proposal that any player lining out for a schools team can be assumed to be a banger if she has a beard. A similar rule also applies for the boys.
- 7) Galway propose that in future, junior football championship matches shall be deemed null and void if the combined age of the full forward line exceeds 150.
- 8) After the Carlow hurlers shock win over Offaly in the National hurling league, Offaly manager John McIntyre says, "I've seen the future of hurling and it's not Carlow".
- 9) The Carlow hurlers reply in style by beating Kilkenny in a low key challenge game, thus securing a wild card entry to the Liam McCarthy cup and breaking their 1000 year hoodoo, Carlow win the Leinster championship.
- 10) Brian Cody decides to wear sun block for the 2005 championship. After the embarrassment of losing to Carlow his face reaches a previously undiscovered shade of red.
1. 2. Ciaran Fitzgerald 3. Hedgehunter 4. Galway 5. All-Ireland Poc Fada 6. Claudio Ranieri 7. Barry McGuigan 8. Leg before wicket 9. Sunderland 10. Both have players named Michael Owen
- Answers to Sports Quiz :

Postgraduate News

Postgrads literally have a ball and raise lots of money for Milford Hospice.

Post Graduate Student Charity Ball

The Post Graduate Student Charity Ball was held last Thursday April 7th. It was a huge success with over €1400 being raised by the postgraduate students in aid of Milford Hospice.

The night went without a glitch, from a champagne reception in Nestors to the four course meal in the Limerick Strand Hotel. I can only speak for myself & those I spoke with everyone agreed that the night was such mighty craic. With quality service, incredible people & excellent entertainment there was nothing about the evening I could fault.

After a fabulous meal, Gan Ainm, the UL Traditional Music Society entertained the crowd with lively jigs and reels, haunting songs and even some solo step dancing by Cillian O'Dállaigh which had the enthusiastic crowd on its feet.



Pictured Left to Right

Dr. Kevin Johnson -CSIS, Angela Quinn-Milford Hospice, Dr. Derek O'Keeffe- ECE, Elaine Sheahan-Nursing, Liam Quinn-Milford Hospice

Lively tempo was maintained throughout the night when top Cork band, "Fred the Band" graced the stage to rock the Strand Hotel into the night. Tables full of Energade drinks ensured that all Postgrads had the energy to boogie into the wee hours.

Fred the Band maintained great interaction with the audience which ensured everyone was part of the

music. Highlights of the set even saw Fred's guitarist Jamie Hanrahan perform solo riff on the shoulders of lead singer Joe to the amazement and delight of all on the dance floor.

DJ Fiasco, aka Ian from Cork ended the evening with a funk groove and soul set which eventually got the Postgrads to their feet.

I would like to thank the follow-



Enthusiastic students at the Ball

ing for their generosity and support: O2, Superquinn, Dunnes Stores, Medicare, Ryan's Jewellers, Keane's Jewellers, UCH, Prof. Downer, Paula at the Bank of Ireland, Ciaran's Café, Campbell's Catering, Sports Bar, Jenny at USIT, Flowers for You, O' Mahony's Book Shop, Neasa at the Sports Arena, ECL department, Derek O Keffee, Kevin Johnston and Andrea Devrill.



All smiles for the camera



Fred the Band have everyone on the dance floor



Postgrads enjoying the night



Elvis himself made an appearance

Clubs & Societies News

UL Badminton Club

Having successfully earned themselves a place in the Limerick League final, the U.L. grade 3/4s were unlucky to be defeated against a strong Effin team. Winning the men's singles and doubles and losing the ladies, it was 2-2 going into the mixed. The third mixed was an easy win for U.L. but the first and second games proved more difficult and Effin took victory with the final score reading 4-3. Despite losing in the final, U.L. still continue in the league and represent Munster in the grade 4 division in a few weeks time.

The Division 6 team remained undefeated this season with a 4-0 victory against Foynes in the Limerick County semi-finals held in St Clements Hall. Claire Concannon notched up another impressive singles victory (11-6, 11-6) in her match to put us one up. Dave Ronan dominated his men's singles match against strong opposition and also won in two sets (15-9, 15-3) to put us two up. Deirdre O'Connell and Mary Carmody scored an impressive victory in the ladies doubles winning the first set on a tie breaker, losing the second set on a tie breaker and finally securing the victory in the third set (17-15, 15-17, 15-9). This put us three up going into the men's doubles where James English and Ray Egan battled from 13-7 down in the first set and 12-7 down in the second set to win both sets (15-13, 15-12) and secure a 4-0 victory.

Well done to all who played, especially because it was on during Kollege Week. Lets hope our winning ways continue when we play the county final next week against Shuttle/Analog.

The division 5 team played their semi final against shuttle in St. Clements Hall. Both teams had beaten each other in the group stages so it was always going to be a tight match. Enda Hogan pulled off a great win beating a player who had beaten him on the two previous occasions. Claire Concannon was less lucky losing her singles. In the doubles U.L. felt was an opportunity to take two wins and did so with Damien Flynn and Barry Gleeson winning a tight match and Catherine O'Connell and Caroline Kenny winning theirs also.

This left U.L. in pole position going into the mixed, needing only one win from three matches. In the first mixed Barry and Claire were

beaten in two sets giving Analog some hope.

The second mixed was also won by Analog with Damien and Catherine very disappointed to lose. This left it down to the last game where Enda and Caroline played together. They won the first set easily and had a good start to the second set but Analog clawed their way back to bring the match into a third set. Analog had a great start to the third set and won the match leaving U.L. rueing their missed opportunity to progress to the Limerick final.

With the season over thanks to all players who played for the team and maybe we'll have better luck next year.

UL Debating Soc

Well, the last couple of weeks have been very busy indeed for the proud institution that is the UL Debating Union.

Friday & Saturday Wk 7 saw us host the Annual UL Intervarsity Debating Championship, and what a competition it was. Thanks to Four Star Pizza for the yummy pizzas provided 'free gratis', and to all our other sponsors who made the welcome packs so... interesting! Teams came from all over the country to compete in the contest. To the relief of many, a certain Dublin University - which shall not be named - refrained from any gross vandalism of our "beautiful campus" (quote from impressed DCU journalism student) this year. Debates covered subjects such as: imposing gender quotas in debating; random drug testing by employers and, in the final; the right to die.

Said final was hotly contested by UCD, NUIG, and two hybrid teams, "The Girly Brothers" and "The Abstinence Club". Judges (including our own Paddy Buckley and Diana Diamond) found the decision difficult, but the day was won by Steve Nolan and Eoin Kelly, competing on behalf of NUIG.

Post-final celebrations took place in Molly's, to whom thanks are due for ensuring such a great night was had by all!

Kollege week had the Debating Union take part in an unprecedented collaboration with Drama Soc; a sock-puppet "Sockstravaganza" which took place in the B1 canteen on Thursday. Sponsored by the Student Affairs Office, the mission of the show (which included such classics as "Gonorrhoea with the Wind", "Sex and Sensibility" and "V.D.: The Extra-Terrestrial") was to promote sexual health and awareness.

The annual Ciaran Treacy Competition for all UL debaters taking place at 7 o'clock in An Phluis on Monday Week 10. Come along for the laugh even if you don't want to compete!

UL Law Soc

The past few weeks have been rather quiet for the Law Society after the very successful launch of Law Week 2005 but by the time this article is read there will have been an enormous transformation to the society. As of the AGM on Wednesday of week 9, there will have been a newly elected committee to carry on the work of the society into the next academic year. As well as that, as one of very last events this year, the old committee in collaboration with the new committee will receive the highly acclaimed Professor William Binchy from Trinity College Dublin in Week 10.

The final guest speaker in the Law Society calendar to date is Mr. Justice Moran who will be addressing the society on the Monday of Week 11. As with all of our events all students are welcome to attend. Look out for the posters around campus closer the time for more exact and up to date details.

UL Cricket Club

Fancy being part of something new in U.L.? Then why not join the U.L. Cricket Club! Even if you are not Ian Botham, Brian Lara or Don Bradman, all are welcome.

Please contact
Zulifikar.Dhokawala@ul.ie
for further information.

UL Windsurfing Club

As the final weeks of the semester draw closer, UL Windsurfing club is still very much active. We all had a chance to remember some of those moments from the Intervarsities at a very impressive slideshow two weeks ago. Many of the pictures defiantly captured the great atmosphere of the weekend and certainly the wonderful sunshine we witnessed! Credit must go to Mark and the photographers for bringing it all back to us.

Following a very successful winter stay in Rusheen Bay, we have now switched base and transferred all equipment back to ULAC in Killaloe. Some people have

U.L. Bhoys on Tour (Dunfermline Game)

The UL Celtic Supporters Club headed yet again for 'Paradise' for what proved to be a very entertaining game with "The Bhoys" winning 6-0. Many were Glasgow virgins and hoped to be in 7th heaven by the end of the trip.

For a change we had a very smooth crossing and arrived in Stranraer Scotland on schedule. A further two hours on the bus saw us reach Glasgow by 08:30. When we reached our hotel surprisingly enough everybody was fairly anxious to get off the bus and get "toggled out" for the game.

Tickets were handed out and then it was time for the fun to begin. As we headed in the direction of Celtic Park many of the group went their separate ways to get food, buy hats, flags and scarves and some even went to the pub! Following the previous weeks victory over Hibernian the Mighty Celtic support were in great form. From there it was on to Celtic Park for the match. On arrival in the ground we found that we had got some great tickets and were situated very close to the "away" fans. Our young fans that were with us were enthralled by the size of "Paradise" and by the chance of seeing many of their idols up close.

We were hardly seated when big John Hartson touched home a vicious in-swinging free from Alan Thompson. Aiden McGeady extended the Celt's advantage to all but kill off the unambitious visitors in the 62nd minute. Bellamy made a great run to give McGeady room to cut in from the left channel to fire a low right-foot shot past

Stillie and into the corner from the edge of the area. Hartson wrapped up the points with his second of the game in the 69th minute when he turned in Bellamy's cross from close range. The goals continued to flow and three minutes later Petrov got his name on the scoresheet when he arrived in the area to sidefoot another cross from the on-loan striker. The Bulgarian claimed a second for himself moments later when McGeady sent him away and a defender got back to stop his initial effort close to the line before he slotted home the loose ball. Hartson came close to scoring his hat-trick in the 75th minute but he watched as his effort went just past the upright. With two minutes remaining substitute Craig Beattie continued his remarkable scoring record by nodding home Ross Wallace's cross to make the Celtic supporters more than happy.

The Dunfermline fans had already left Celtic Park to strains of "Your not signing anymore" and "Can you hear the Dunfermline sing?" sent the Dunfermline home as they streamed out of the ground. We stayed for a few more minutes to soak up that unique atmosphere that is Celtic Park in full voice. We had witnessed a goal fest and we were going to enjoy ourselves!

A great trip was had by all, especially the new bhoys. For those of you that were there, you made it a pleasure to run the trip and for those that missed out make sure get your name in early for our next trip.

Hail, Hail

UL Waterpolo Club

Many of ye might have noticed last week the activity that was going on in the Arena. The Irish Senior waterpolo cup was been played out and some very competitive matches took place over the 3 days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week. The eventual winners were Half moon from Dublin who won the men's cup. Cathal Brugha from Belfast took home the ladies Cup in winning style. A big thanks was noted to Sandra and Dave from UL waterpolo who helped out over the competition.

The UL men's team played Galway Bay last weekend, and had an impressive win, 7 - 4. Kevin, Brian, Colm, Mark and Dave scored goals. The men

UL YFG

The last few weeks for Young Fine Gael on campus have been as hectic as ever, to say the least! In week 7 we had one of our biggest events this semester as the branch hosted a public awareness meeting on suicide. Speaking on the topic was Dan Neville T.D; a representative from 'Aware' and two speakers from 'The Samaritans'. The meeting was a great success with all speakers giving their own thoughts on the current problems that have not been highlighted to date.

On Tuesday of Rag week at McGuire's pitch, we took on Fianna Fáil in our traditional play-off. We played them in soccer and "touch" rugby. Our team consisted of Denis Hurley, Liam Quinn, Liam Hally, Eric Keane, David Finn, Patrick Slevin and Damien Lennon and was ably managed by our manager-in-chief, Colm Murray. We got off to a great start in the wonderful game of soccer winning 3-2. The game of "touch" rugby didn't go in our favor though. This resulted in a penalty shoot-out where unfortunately the "opposition" took the game shambolically in the end!

Over the next few weeks our calendar is booked up, yet again as on next Monday night we are debating against Ogra Fianna Fail in a head to head battle at 7pm, look out for the posters for the location. On the 21st of April we have the one and only Enda Kenny visiting the branch. This is being held at 6pm in FG042, Hope to see you there!

have 2 more matches to play in the national league, playing Grads of Belfast this weekend. The women's team is also in action this weekend playing St. Vincent's of Dublin on Saturday.

A big thanks most be giving to Colin McNamara who organised the gear for the club, we are all appreciate the work he put in to kit us with some lovely fleeces and t-shirts. Also any new members or beginners who want to join UL waterpolo club just come on down to training in the Arena Mondays 10-11pm and Wednesday 9-11pm, (9-10pm swimming session). You can contact the club through Clare at 0465933@STUDENT.ul.ie

UL Kayak Club



Kayakers in Sligo

On the 1st April, 30 members from ULKC took off for sunny Easky in Co. Sligo. We knew it was going to be a good weekend as old and new members met for one of the first times. Early Friday morning we packed the trailer and went on our merry way. We stopped at the famous Tuuuuam hole in Tuam Co. Galway, where we began our weekend of paddling! The first years, as per usual, gave it their all paddling relentlessly against a wave and surfing it to the other side...It really was great fun and the first years learnt lots of new skills such as ferry gliding, bracing and how to surf a wave! Some members even learnt how to shake that kayak on a party wave! It was super, well done to everyone! It was a great beginning to the weekend!

After a little bit of a lie in the next morning, ULKC headed off to the coast in search of surf, and oh my God, was it surf we got! The waves were big

and a few nervous paddlers still braved it! Into their boats they got and on those waves they surfed! The weather was a major bonus, and we took breaks relaxing in the sun. There was a really relaxed atmosphere in the air, everyone's spirits were high and smiles were plentiful.

We awoke early Sunday morning as there was more paddling await-

ing the group. As there was no surf to be had, we headed back to Tuam hole for more fun and antics! At this stage the first years were well capable of battling it out on that wave! Unfortunately a few of our more experienced paddlers had to swim to shore, but they were safely rescued. Another great day was had and we happily got back onto the bus after a very

satisfying weekend.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the great ULKC then you should come along to our pool sessions Tuesday-Thursday 9.50-11.00pm. Or visit our message board on <http://http:kayak.csn.ul.ie/> Peace out dudes and dudetts!

Cumann Con Colbert Ogra Fianna Fail

Hey all,
Hope everyone enjoyed Kollege Week. The highlight of the week for the Cumann was its victory over Young Fine Gael in a three match tournament. We had a shaky start losing the Soccer 3 goals to 2; however we recovered in the touch rugby winning 3 points to 1. Due to the bad weather we were unable to play a match of Gaelic Football and decided to settle it with a penalty shoot out where we retrieved our victory. Thanks to all who took part and condolences to Young Fine Gael.

The Cumann recently held its AGM, where a new committee was elected as follows:

Chairman

Anthony Moloney

Vice Chairman

Patrick Kennedy

Secretary

Brian Stokes

Vice Secretary

Brian Fitzpatrick

Treasurers

Dennis Murphy & Donnacha

Mac Aidhir

P.R.O.

Maria Reck

Webmaster

Tadhg McGrath

Senator Tim Dooley spoke last week about the recent developments and future proj-

ects in the transport sector in Ireland paying particular attention to road, rail, and air travel. He acknowledged that the East Coast's infrastructure is well above the standard in the West and expressed his wish to see developments in the West. He believed that improved inter city links and accessibility to Shannon would attract both businesses and tourists alike in a bid to decrease unemployment and improve the standard of living in Ireland.

UL Sub Aqua Club



Week 8 saw the return of 16 members of the UL SAC after a week-long Scuba Diving expedition to the Red Sea. During the week, 320 dives were completed by our members without incident, which is a testament to a well organised trip by Bob Strunz and Pepijn Van de Ven. I think everyone would like to say thanks to both of you for your commitment in organising this trip.

In the next An Focal issue we will have a detailed account of our Red Sea trip including input from first time Red Sea divers and more experienced divers who can't keep away.

All Pool sessions are Thursday at 5PM in the Old Sports Building Diving Pit..

On the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of April the third leg of the softball intersarsity took place in Limerick. The University entered three teams the 55's, the Dt's and the Ori-Ginals. Here is how each teamed faired in the competition over the weekend.

The 55's started off their weekend with a game against a very competitive Waterford side. Despite some superb performances on both sides the score ended with a 6-3 victory to the 55's. Their next encounter saw the 55's take on UL WIT. Some impressive batting by John O'Brien and Brendan McKenna helped the 55's to dominate the game. The game ended on a score line of 21-1 in favour of the 55's. The final game before lunch saw the 55's take on the UCD team the Silver Foxes. The Silver Foxes proved no match for the strong fielding and batting shown by the 55's and the 55's came out victorious on a score line of 14-4.

After the break on Saturday the 55's faced their

main rivals the UCD Yellow Jackets. This was the grudge match of the day. The UCD team began the game with high hopes but started off the game poorly. The 55's on the other hand were anxious for victory and solid batting by Stephen Kasper and Michael Sullivan paved the way for a convincing victory over the intersarsity champions on a score line of 14-2 in favour of the 55's. Our next game us take on the Blue Devils. Tony Miller played superbly and aided the 55's in winning the game on a score line of 18-0. Our final game saw us take on the spirited DT's this was by far the most enjoyable game of the weekend. The game ended in a score line of 16-5 in favour of the 55's.

The Sunday started off with a match against Trinity. This game proved to be by far the most closely fought contest of the weekend. Trinity fought hard and won the game on a score line of 9-8. Our final group game saw us take on the experienced Ori-

Triple Success for UL Softball

Ginals. The Ori-Ginals eager for a good performance were unlucky as they were no match for the consistent batting of the 55's team. They came out defeated on a score line of 19-7 in favour of the 55's.

With seven wins in hand we reached the cup semi final against Waterford. A solid performance by Amy Thornton helped the 55's edge into the lead. Waterford despite a strong and determined performance were no match and the 55's ended up clear winners on a score line of 11-4. The cup final saw us take on the UCD team the Yellow Jackets yet again. The UCD team started off slowly and were unable to gel together while players like John O'Brien, Amy Thornton and Mikey Dore were playing fantastically for the 55's. Some superb fielding and batting by the 55's kept the UCD team

scoreless in five of the seven innings. The score ended up in a 21-6 victory in favour of the 55's. MVP's for the 55's were Tony Miller and Amy Thornton.

The UL DTs weekend of softball got off to a rocky start with defeats to both the Ori-Ginals and the Yellow Jackets. Despite this the team regrouped and a few positional changes against Trinity made for an extremely entertaining and enjoyable game. Lead off Aisling Kelly inspired the team and was followed in by runs by Eoin Kelly and Mary Beehan. However the DTs struggled to come back from some mistakes in the opening innings and Trinity were the winners. UL DTs came back strong after lunch with a closely fought game with WIT Sox. Some excellent batting and fielding by the DTs brought the final score of 10-9, unfor-

tunately in favour of WIT Sox.

The UCD Blue Devils were the next challengers with the UL DTs finally putting it all together to get their first victory. The game was closely fought with UL DTs finally achieving victory with 11-8. The final game off the evening was against the UL 55s. The 55s batted a very strong first inning with 12 runs scored. This left the DTs with a mountain to climb and the 55s were comfortable winners in the end. UL DTs proved that they are not morning people yet again struggling in two games on Sunday morning against UL WIT and UCD Silver Foxes.

With all group games finished the UL DTs qualified for the bowl final against UL WIT. The DTs got off to a strong start with 9 runs scored in the first inning. Some excellent fielding by Dave Hughes, Amanda Hampton and Mark Carrigg helped the DT's go from strength to strength. Most stylish home run must be awarded to Eoin

Kelly. Pitcher, Ada Rossbach, held the UL DTs defence strong, keeping UL WIT at a safe distance and leading to the UL DTs bowl victory. Home run king for the DTs this weekend was Stephen Creen. The MVPs were awarded to Eoin Kelly, Ada Rossbach and Amanda Hampton for their great performances and high spirits over the weekend.

Overall the weekend was a roaring success for the University Softball Club as the club scored a treble of trophies winning the cup, the plate and the bowl trophies. Also with that two of our players got MVP awards for the tournament. John Ryan won MVP for the men due to his superb displays throughout the weekend and his commanding leadership of the Ori-Ginals while Amy Thornton won MVP for the women for her domination of first base and her consistent batting performances throughout the weekend.

Karol Wojtyla and the dignity of human life

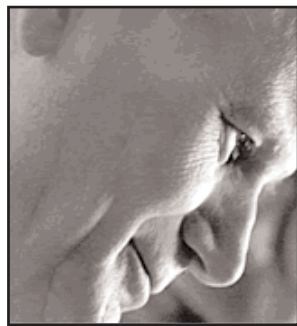
For some reason, Karol Wojtyla (better known as John Paul II) seemed to have a strange sense of urgency for something very special in the last couple of weeks before he died. What was it?

I think the answer can be found in a phrase I read a few days ago in an article reflecting on his death: "A master of theatrical timing to the very end....".

Aware of John Paul II's great love for drama since he was a teenager, the author of this phrase was bringing to the reader's attention the fact that Terri Schiavo had died two days earlier than John Paul II, and the big contrast between the two of them: "the one the latest victim, the other the most prominent opponent of what John Paul II himself called culture of death".



One day he found his father dead in bed. His sister had died before he was born, and his brother died while finishing his PhD in medicine. Thus, at the age of 21, Karol Wojtyla was alone in a country occupied by the Nazis, and later on by the communists. He lost many close friends under these totalitarian regimes. He was shot twice (for-gave his attacker), developed Parkinson disease, lost his voice and sensitivity in his face...



With the attractive example of his whole life, John Paul II has built a very culture of life in the heart of many people, young and old.

I think this is really inspiring not just for Catholics, but also for any person of good will. I guess this explains why millions of people all over the world honour today the life of Karol Wojtyla

Rafael Guzmán
(UL Life Soc)



UL SVP Soc

It's been an unbelievably hectic week for SVP. As usual all the current activities such as home and prison

It's been an unbelievably hectic week for SVP. As usual all the current activities such as home and prison visitation, soup run, paired reading, homework and swim club are taking place.

An enormous amount of fundraising took place during Kollege week. First of all we held the Nuns and Vicars hockey match in association with UL Hockey Club. It was a great match and we would like to thank their Hockey Club for the wonderful generosity and support.

The most painful but most enjoyable fundraising event to watch took place on Wed afternoon in the Scholars. It was of course the waxing. . . A great number of brave men gave up their hairy legs for our cause. We even had two brave men who provided us with great entertainment when they got their armpit and bottom waxed. We would like to thank the Scholars for letting us hold the event. Also the beauticians from Sheer Perfection, Annacotty were really great to us. They would like to let all students know that a 12% discount is available for all their treatments when a UL student card is presented. Thanks to all the lads who donated their hair and their bodies. We had a great day and managed to raise over €800.

We would also like to send our thanks to the UL Softball Club who kindly donated their takings from the Bean in the Jar competition.

Our volunteers were out back packing this weekend in Harvey's Quay. It was hard work but everyone seemed to enjoy him or herself and luckily there were no broken eggs! While some were slaving away bag packing, ten other SVP members attended the SVP national young adults weekend in Kildare. Once again it was a fantastic weekend.

SVP would like to thank the Anthony Walsh of The Lodge and Tom Ryan from the Sports Bar for their huge generosity, kindness and support over the year.

On a final note SVP is having its AGM on Wed of WK 10 in R3 of the SU at 8.00 pm. We would love if all members could attend and there will be drinks and finger food after in the Scholars. It promises to be a great evening, see you there!

Last but not least SVP would like to offer their warmest congratulations to our wonderful President Frank Fogarty... Frank has recently been elected Deputy President Welfare Officer. Frank has been a hard working, enthusiastic extremely dedicated and amazing President for SVP. He has dedicated his life unselfishly to SVP this past semester and we would like to thank him very much for this. We wish him the best of luck in his new position and we know without a doubt he will be a great success.

UL Palestine Solidarity Society

To mark the first anniversary on April 21st, of the release of Mordechai Vanunu from prison after 18 years for revealing Israel's secret nuclear arsenal, the UL Palestine Solidarity Society will show an interview conducted with Vanunu in February 2005 in Jerusalem. In this interview Vanunu speaks openly about his time in prison, his motivations for acting and his hopes and fears for the future. Vanunu gave this interview despite restrictions placed upon him on his release, such as (1) restrictions on travel (2) restrictions on communications (3) banned from speaking to foreigners (4) banned from entering embassies (5) banned from leaving the state of Israel. Despite these restrictions Vanunu has continued to give interviews to the media and has been arrested three times since his release. On April 12th he was informed that all the above restrictions were being renewed for a fur-

ther period of twelve months. In his own words, he is being kept in an open prison.

It is hoped that after the screening of the interview, Vanunu will talk by phone to the audience. Details of location and time will be circulated soon.

Limerick City Council is considering a proposal to declare Limerick a Caterpillar Free Zone. Effectively calling on contractors and traders to stop using Caterpillar products in Limerick until such time as this company reviews

its policy of selling bulldozers to the Israeli Military, machines which are then militarised and used in illegal house demolitions in Palestine. This proposal has been developed by members of the UL Palestine Solidarity Society and the Limerick Branch of the IPSC. Our next move is to try and have UL declared the first Caterpillar Free University in the World.

Also, wk 10 is Palestine Awareness Week, for more information please email zoe.lawlor@ul.ie or maria.escribano@ul.ie



Vanunu and Maria 19 Feb 05

UL Athletics Club

It is not too long now until the Outdoor Intervarsity Championships. These will take place in Dublin on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd of April and they have taken on special significance in the wake of the slightly disappointing results of the Indoor Championships before Christmas. Both the men's and ladies teams were shaded by UCD and UU respectively but the overall title still returned to the UL Arena trophy cabinet. However, we will be gunning for a trinity of trophies at the Irishtown Stadium and so would encourage all who are fit to run, or throw, or jump or walk to turn out to training in the last few weeks coming up to the Championships.

The Varsity dinner has been declared 'semi-formal'. However any who wish to continue the tradition of fancy dress would be greatly encouraged. The Intervarsity weekend has never failed to be a great laugh so a big team should be going. All members who want to come along are welcome.

UL Vikings 0- Belfast Bulls 14

The Belfast Bulls earned a tough victory on the road against the Vikings this weekend. The Bulls defeated last years Shamrock Bowl champions the Dublin Rebels in their previous match and can be regarded as a top team in the league. The Vikings were undaunted however, and started the game well. The Vikings 'D' shut down the Bulls running game for most of the first half but the Bulls eventually scored on a two yard run with a few minutes left on the clock. The Vikings offense moved the ball well but turned the ball over at critical stages of the game. Mark Helferty had three key interceptions of Vikings QB Andy Gordon. RBs Jake Earp, Eric Butzek and Daniel Levy moved the ball against a strong Bulls D-line that included former NFL Europe player Jereon Egge.

The second half was a similar story with the Vikings and Bulls defences shutting down anything thrown their way. Matt Sheehan and Liam Hayes had very strong games at linebacker and the Vikings secondary moved up in run support. The Bulls had a long touchdown pass called back for a holding penalty. Then in the fourth quarter the Bulls put together a lengthy running based drive and RB Erin Wagner crashed over on a short run.

The loss was the Vikings first in four games and we hope to secure our place in the playoffs next week away to the Cork Admirals. A week of tough training will be needed to win that game and I ask any Vikings reading this to get to training all this week.

UL Sinn Féin

about the issue of "Citizenship", was taken up with a full frontal, vein bursting, attack on Sinn Féin.

Following a period of soft and curtailed questioning that for the most part resembled a "love-in", Minister McDowell was asked a number of challenging questions by members of ULSF whilst leaving the venue. Why after all the huff and puff and accompanying inspired spin by certain media elements several months ago, had not a single member of either Sinn Féin or the IRA been charged for a whole series of alleged offences? Would perhaps, like the Northern Bank furore, the non-existence of any evidence against Republicans be the issue?

In addition, McDowell

was asked whether he now regretted making his wreckless comments about the new All-Ireland newspaper Daily Ireland, just before it was to go to press for the first time. His comments, comparing the newspaper to pre-WWII Nazi propaganda, accompanied Unionist paramilitary death threats against the newspapers staff and have been criticised by the National Union of Journalists (NUJ). McDowell's reply; "I have no time for either unions or journalists" speaks volumes of his particular brand of democratic justice.

ULSF meetings will continue until the end of the current semester so contact ulsinnfein@yahoo.ie get involved in the fastest growing political party in the country, and play your part in promoting an Ireland of Equals.

Following its re-establishment late last semester, the UL Cumann of Ogra Shinn Féin continues to attract new members. Unlike some other youth political groups on campus that seem more concerned with continuing an "entitled" family hegemony and maintaining hierarchical structures, ULSF meets regularly to discuss in a relaxed yet informative way real issues that face students and the wider public. New members are encouraged to get involved and participate. ulsinnfein@yahoo.ie

The appearance on Campus a number some weeks ago of Minister for Justice Micheal McDowell and his comments received scant coverage. Up close and in the flesh it was depressing to remind oneself again just how dangerously right wing and reactionary this man is. Approximately 90% of his speech, supposed to be

UL Sailing Club Come 4th in National Championships

With a lot of training UL's sailing team pulled off a good fourth place in the National Intervarsity recently at a weekend in Courtown, Wexford. The overall winners of the event were, the ever successful Dublin Business School, with Cork Institute of Technology winning the silver fleet. UL's second team won approximately half of their races, eventually coming fourth in the silver fleet. Whatever the results it was a great four days with two houses of UL sailors on the rampage. With pippy-long-stockings, prostitutes, priests and some creature called "plue" making appearances for the "p-theme fancy dress" night.

A team of mostly Limerick sailors showed off their college-acquired skills the following weekend in the Irish Team Racing Association / Irish Sailing Association's National Championships held in Dun Laoire. The team consisted of Conner Byrne, Oisin Froire, Zach Coelius, Helena Walsh, Paddy Cronin and Clodagh O'Sullivan. Well done lads!

The National Intervarsity weekend was also a very sad occasion; it being many of ULSCs members last event with the club and with FYP times dawning probably the last full social event of the club. Needless to say, there have been many emotional good-bye e-mails being sent around since the event.

On behalf of present and future ULSC members I would like to issue the club's heart-felt gratitude to all those who sacrificed their degrees for the organisation and success of the club. I



Sailing Club Members at the National Intervarsity in Courtown, Wexford

know that the club will continue to attract the same fun-loving cowboys that make it the club it is. With that I offer you next years preliminary outline schedule:

- Collanmore beginner's weekend - end week 3
*** (not to be missed)

- Westerns varsity held in Killaloe - end week 5 (Halloween)
- Alumni day - end week 12 (Christmas)

***** Many more unscheduled events not to be missed!**



UL Outdoor Pursuits Club

UL Outdoor Pursuits Club

On Sunday of week 8 the OPC got another 32 people to the top of Ireland, Carauntoohill. As the days are getting longer, the trek was at an easy and relaxed pace. The weather was great and there were even some views from the top, which you can take from me are a real rarity. Everybody had a great day and forgot about their sore legs when they reached the summit of Ireland's highest peak. There was even some snow at the top which inevitably led to a snowball fight, well maybe a snowball massacre

because only those who reached the summit first got the snow while those who lagged behind didn't have a chance. Both old members, who never tire of this peak, and new members, who've never walked it before, had a great day. Another successful trip.

At the same time, eight members headed up to the Burren to do some rock climbing. As the weather was great and the days are long, they got loads of routes done and the more experienced members taught various rock climbing skills like how to set up

top ropes properly, thanks Liam.

If you've never tried climbing before, come down to the climbing wall in the Old Sports Building, just past the information desk. We're open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 7pm to 10pm. All the gear you need is provided and members of the club supervise it.

Also, visit our website with loads of articles, photos and videos at: www.skynet.ie/~opc/

John Sadlier