



AN FOCAL

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE STUDENTS' UNION

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**Peter Sheridan
Damien Dempsey**

Kevin Wilson

Neil Delamere

The Killer Franz Kaisers

University of Limerick

Shop 'til you drop at the Scholars'!

Aoife Breen reports on the University's proposal to keep the Scholars' Club shut while relocating the SU shop to its premises.

A new chapter has been added to the saga of the Scholars' Club. The latest instalment is the suggestion of renovating its premises and turning the venue into a new location for the Students' Union shop, which is currently situated beside the Pad-docks' restaurant.

Linda Stevens, the director of Plassey Campus Centre (PCC), put forward the idea on behalf of the University to close the Scholars' Club entirely and open, in its place, a larger shop with an expanded range of stock and greater facilities for students.

This comes from a proposal from the shop, which wished to extend its premises. It now looks unlikely that permission will be given to expand the shop premises which is needed urgently to combat the space problem within the shop.

The Students' Union told An Focal in week four that the

tender for the Club's operation was to be opened up and applications from potential operators would be accepted with the plan to resume trading at the beginning of the second semester.

The most recent proposal now overwrites this plan for

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An Phluais could be transformed into 'a new intimate, warm and friendly environment in which students can relax.”

the Scholars' Club, although the SU President, Fintan Breen, clearly states that, 'nothing has been decided yet.' Nevertheless, he does admit that the Students' Union is 'looking at alternatives' for the club.

The University has proposed the closure of the club entirely because of the 'continuing downturn in student drinking on-campus and the increased trend of the alternative - consuming drink purchased at off-licences.' It has made the claim that the Scholars' is 'not viable as a club' and

'alternatives' should be considered.

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The shop could be relocating to a premises that would better suit student demands. Even if the shop received permission to expand in its current location, the effect would be minimal.
Photo: Cian Davis

Third community garda appointed in Castletroy

Increases in anti-social behaviour causing more problems in the Castletroy area

An Focal reporter

LAST week a third community garda was appointed in the Castletroy area. This increased gardaí presence in the area is seen to reflect the increase in population in the area, as well as an increase in petty crime and continued disturbances by students. Castletroy, according to one report, is said to be the fastest growing area in the country after Lucan in Co. Dublin.

The third community garda, Essie Stokes, now joins Pat Coakley who has been in the area for ten years, and Padraig Tobín, who has been stationed in Castletroy for four years. Padraig Tobín told An Focal that he does not expect there to be a continued increase in gardaí in the area after this third appointment, unless the factors mentioned above increase exponentially.

He stated that the increase in population was the prime factor for stationing a third garda in the area, but all factors were taken into account when the position was advertised in September 2005.

University officials have increased door to door calls to students who disturb the peace in the area, an arduous task given the difficulty of identifying students who cause their neighbours distress. The situation has reached such a level that some new residents in the area have quickly moved out. Furthermore, it is not only long term residents in the area who complain to both ULSU and UL officials, students also have lodged complaints with Fintan Breen, President of ULSU, on a regular basis.

One resident who attends the UL Community Forum Committee stated that "two to three per cent of the whole student body causing disturbances may not seem a lot, but when you amount that up over twenty years it's a awful lot of grievances."

Local residents are also awaiting what may prove to be increased disturbances during Christmas Days, running from December 6th-8th. Such tensions in the community inevitably hinder ULSU events such as the successful running of Kollege Week, especially in guaranteeing a marquee. One ULSU spokesperson was noted as saying "students in effect are shooting themselves in the foot by attributing to the distress of local residents and then complaining that Kollege Week takes place on a small scale." ULSU urges all students to respect local residents and their fellow students.

Campus Life Services, who run all the on-campus accommodation, have also seen an increase in students being brought before their disciplinary process, to the extent that a number of students have been evicted from the on-campus villages so far this semester. John O'Rourke, Campus Life Manager with Campus Life Services commented that "to date at least 7 students have been evicted as a result of anti-social behaviour." This is a large increase on previous years which, according to Mr. O'Rourke "averaged at one per year." He also stressed that Campus Life Services would be bringing many of these students before the University Disciplinary Committee and that their academic careers could be affected by their behaviour while at University.

The University Discipline Committee will take action against any student who is found to have breached the code of conduct and has powers up to and including expulsion.

SABBATICAL REPORTS

Hey everyone

First of all, I would like to reiterate my sympathy for the family and friends of Daithí O'Sullivan, who passed away recently. Daithí was the Students' Union President in 1979/80. Even though we never met I was deeply moved at his funeral. May he rest in peace.

Scholars - the question you have all been asking - we hope to open something ASAP. See the front page article for more info. The SU is trying to get the best use out of the venue and is in negotiations with the University on this. More news soon.

Ents

MEASevents -Rodrigo Y Gabriela were absolutely rocking. The crowd loved them and they had everyone up swaying and clapping. One of the best nights I've had recently.

Christmas Ball - tickets go on sale this week at the SU. Get yours now to have a great night out in week 12.

Kollege Week - we're starting work on this already and I have been in contact with our solicitors about licences and with residents about

security for the week. More info when I know it.

Committees

Since I last reported to you I have sat on a number of committees representing you -

Governing Authority - GA expressed their condolences on the death of Daithí O'Sullivan, one of my predecessors.

Community Forum - here a number of events in the locality were raised. Anne and I brought forward the fact that a lot of the community service (as awarded by the Discipline Committee) is being used to do clean-ups in the local estates. It is not acceptable for students (or anyone, for that matter) to engage in anti-social behaviour. It upsets and annoys residents (including other students!!!). The University is taking a hard-line attitude on this. Expect to hear about students being severely disciplined if they are caught doing anything like this.

I have also done a few other things: Met with Ailish

time that we all started taking a responsible attitude towards sex. Sex is a normal everyday part of life. There's nothing embarrassing about getting a box of condoms from a shop. It might make you feel a bit uncomfortable the first time, but nothing as uncomfortable as telling a sexual partner that you might have given them a potentially deadly disease like Syphilis. With SHAG Week, we're urging you to be aware of the danger of STI and to make responsible choices when it comes to sex.

Greetings!

I've been working away over the last few months on various funding opportunities for the NiteLink bus. Last Friday I met with the University's Vice-President Finance about the University's contribution to the bus. I'm delighted to say that the University has agreed that the shortfall for the bus service can be met through some of the excess funds from the Financial Aid fund. As a result, we will now be in a position to run an extended bus after Christmas for the reading and exam weeks.

Word has just come through of an incident in which a student and her friends were attacked off campus. I'm am urging you to be vigilant and avoid walking alone after dark, not to carry unnecessary valuables on you and to report any suspicious activity or incidents immediately to the local Gardaí 061-212400 and campus security 061-203333. The NiteLink bus service should be used where possible and personal alarms are available at cost price (€3.50) from the Students' Union shop.

Staying on SHAG Week, it should be up and running as you read this and will (hopefully) be having an impact. SHAG stands for Sexual Health Awareness & Guidelines. With the current increased incidents of STIs (more than 10,000 new cases diagnosed in Ireland in 2004) its

SHAG Packs with info on contraception & STIs and free condoms will be given out all over campus during SHAG Week. Once the week is over, condoms and lube are available free from the Welfare Office anytime....never feel embarrassed about calling in.

The student medical centre currently offers Chlamydia testing and I've been lobbying the centre for full STI testing to be provided. The medical centre assures me that its currently being worked on and its hoped it will be offered next semester. Unfortunately the waiting list for the STI test clinic

Quinlivan (UL Vice-President Finance) - with Frank where we have secured funding for the Nitelink for this year.

Went to a **Mayoral Reception for the Rowing Club** - congratulations to them on winning the various competitions. It was fitting that former SU President and current Mayor of Limerick Cllr Diarmaid Scully held the reception in their honour.

Thanks for reading - talk to ye soon

*Thanks
Fintan*



**President :
Fintan Breen**



**Welfare :
Frank Fogarty**

in the Regional Hospital is currently at least 6-8 weeks but if you have had multiple sexual partners, its good practice to have frequent STI tests.

There's been much talk over the future of the Scholars and everyone seems to have an opinion on it. The common view seems to be that people want the Scholars back as an alternative to the Stables but not as it was before. The idea of opening a smaller club, more like a small local where you go for a chat and a few drinks has been mentioned by a number of people and I think it's a great idea.

Well must get back to SHAG Week preparations!!!

Frank

Hello again,

Only another one of these reports left to write before Christmas - it will be a relief to leave this all behind for a week or so and probably a relief to get back to it too!

Campaigns

At present, I am working on an overall campaigns strategy of the Students' Union, which is going quite well, and will serve us all well in the next semester. The first Campaigns Working group meeting was held last week. Unfortunately, the four people who attended



**Communications &
Campaigns :
Anne Sheridan**



**Education :
Paddy Pratt**
To be
Old and Wise
you must first be
Young and Stupid

Well lads and lassies,

Hope your all keeping well and realise that exams are only around the corner. Yeah yeah yeah, I know what your thinking but it's my job to make sure you know that the exams are happening. Anyway not going to give my usual 400 word diary of the past two weeks, though I don't think I've actually done that.

I'm going for coffee and want you to come with me. I need to get out of the office

were all members of the SU Executive! While this was still great and their input was very useful, it would have been great if non-Union people could have attended. Even if ANYONE can't make it, then drop me a line on what would attract your attention in a campaign sucommunication@ul.ie.

Frank is launching his sexual health awareness and guidelines campaign this week (SHAG WEEK), so pay attention!

An Focal

You're looking at it, so I haven't much to say - again, this occupies most of my time. Thanks to all the writers and anyone who contributed in any way. I really hope for the next semester to have a monthly magazine supplement and am currently looking into that. The supplement would contain all the music/film/arts

and I want to talk to you and find out what your thinking. ssoooooo!!!!!! From Wednesday 30 at 10:30 I'm going to the new coffee shop in the main canteen area just off the C 1 corridor. You know the place that's selling ice cream. I'll be going there every day for two weeks.

The first 5 people in the queue behind me will get a free cuppa. How do you know who I am I here you ask, I'll be wearing my nice bright green Limerick jersey and have my head shaved. Don't ask it was for a good cause.

There are 11,389 students and while I'd love to pay for coffee for all of you, me poor old wages can't hold up that much. I want to know what your thinking, now's your chance

reviews, ents listings, blurb and fashion page. So An Focal would then really be a newspaper! For example, it would only contain campus news, sport and comment/opinion.

A classified section might also be possible if it is successful.

Website/TVs

Going nowhere fast due to technical problems! But I am working on it. Everything will be ready for the new year, even if I have to spend xmas here sorting it out!

The Union Exposed Calendar

So my first campaign is to improve the image of the Union and I am going to do it by posing quite cheekily for fun and especially for charity, as are all members of the SU Executive. I honestly can't wait to have it ready for January so please support us!

Anne

and you get coffee if your there early enough so come along and tell me what I should be doing and I'll tell you what I've done over the last two weeks.

Hope to see you there (all 11,389) and just for the sport any lecturers can come along too, but your not getting free coffee, your getting more than I am and do less. That's a joke for anyone who may take offence, well for the most part at least!!!

Look after yourselves folks and it's time to start getting the past exam papers.

Paddy

patrick.pratt@ul.ie

Shop 'til you drop at the Scholars'!

Continued from page 1 . .

Mr Breen has told An Focal that the Students' Union has decided, however, that the University's plan to shut the Scholars' completely would not be in the best interest of students:

'The proposal given to us by the University is to close the club completely. However, I feel that this would be detrimental to the overall student-scene on-campus. I am working to see if we can find an alternative venue on campus which would give students some choice.'

He continued to say the Students' Union, while admitting that the shop does need a larger environment, is committed to looking at the proposal with the view of creating a suitable alternative in An Phluais, the former function room of the Scholars' Club.

Plans have been presented to both Class Reps' Council and to Clubs and Societies Council, which would see An Phluais transformed into 'a new intimate, warm and friendly environment in which students can relax.' It would continue to pose as a venue for clubs and societies to run events but would also allow for small-scale acts and gigs on-campus. Effectively, Mr Breen argues, it would allow students to experience a 'different venue and atmosphere to the other clubs on-campus.'

Mr Breen confirmed plans that the shop would extend its range of products to include more Fair Trade items as well as expanding the shop to include more choice in food and a juice bar. Mr Breen maintains that a larger shop, such as the one that has been proposed, 'could offer lower prices and greater choice to students' while ensuring that what is offered is 'not more of the same again.'

Although the tender process for the club was expected to begin this month, the SU President has said that it has been put on hold until all options have been reviewed. As of yet, no potential operators have approached the management committee with an outline for the future running of the Scholars' as a club. Mr

Breen stated 'we are currently examining the viability of all options, but nothing has been decided yet. We are awaiting consultant reports on the shop and the club to see what is the best option moving forward.'

The financial situation of the SU shop has only begun a turn-around since January 2004 and returned a profit for the first time in nine years in June of this year. In such a vulnerable state, the financial viability of an enlarged shop must be questioned. While the President admits that the SU has 'no concrete financial projections in place yet' he agrees that it 'needs to have these prepared so that we can make a real decision on the future of the premises.'

Mr Breen also concedes that there would be a 'significant' cost in renovating the current premises of the Scholars' to convert it to a shop. As of yet, no figures have been estimated as to what the total cost of such a task would be.

However, he continued to say that, 'any cost would need to be taken into account with the price of renting the space, the long-term margins in the shop and any financial support available from the Students' Centre or the University's buildings' department'.

The suggested project would mean that the premises would remain closed while undergoing such renovations and the President is hesitant to comment on when the new shop and adjoining 'intimate' venue would open their doors to students, should the proposal be accepted and the decision to begin work on the club be made. He confirms, however, that such a decision will be made within the coming weeks and will be announced before the Christmas break.

The President declined to comment whether the new shop and An Phluais would open next semester if the proposal were to be accepted.

'Whatever the outcome, we are aiming to have the premises open as soon as possible, whether it be trading fully as a club, or as a shop with the function room set aside as an alternative venue,' said Mr Breen.

He maintained that the SU must now 'establish costs and viability' of such a project. Once these tasks have been completed, an 'implementation timeframe' can be outlined but it is the President's intention to have the premises opened as soon as possible as 'students are already feeling the brunt of this important venue being closed'.

Road works to be completed by March 17th 2006

An Focal reporter

It has come to light that the road works at the main University gate which began during August 2005, will now be completed by March 17th 2006, it is hoped.

Mr. Robert Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer who is in charge of this project, recently told An Focal the reasons for the lengthy time frame of this project. "Road-works comprise of new traffic lights junction, new cycle ways, new footpaths and public lighting. March is a reasonable completion date considering the complexity of the job and the difficulty of working in a pedestrian's

The Alcohol Policy: it's for YOU!

Aoife Breen reports on the benefits of this policy.

ONE in four patients in the accident and emergency rooms of hospitals right across the country are suffering from an alcohol-related incident. Surely, that in itself is reason enough for any University, or third level institute to implement an alcohol policy. UL's Alcohol Policy (AP) is not perfect but it is right; it is beneficial; it is there for the students.

Controversy continuously surrounds the AP and its opponents will shout that it is not doing anything for the students. Isn't that why it was put in place - for the students? Of course it's doing something for the students - it's ensuring that the University agrees that it shares some of the responsibility of the wellbeing of its students; it shows that the University cares.

The CLAN (College Lifestyle and Attitudinal National) Survey, in which UL participated, was conducted to see the lifestyles of students in third level education nationwide. The results are shocking. Total alcohol consumption amongst students is considerably higher than the national total in the 18 - 29 age group. On average, out of 100 drinking sessions, 76 ended up as binge-drinking sessions for males while 60 sessions turned into a binge for females. The survey also showed the detrimental effects that alcohol consumption had on students, with the majority reporting that it affected how they felt in class or that they had said or done something that they regretted.

Moreover, the survey shows that binge drinking is the 'norm' among college students. Male students are consuming on average over 18 litres of pure alcohol, while females drink almost

11 and students are spending up to €148 on drink alone.

Our own Clubs and Societies Quality Review showed similar results among UL students alone. We can't hide from the facts. The truth of the matter is that students nationwide, including those attending this University, are drinking more alcohol, more often. Society has proclaimed that inebriation is fashionable - perhaps

that is why the majority of students at UL, as reported in the C&S Review, choose to drink to be 'sociable.' Is it any wonder that only a mere five per cent of the student population are non-drinkers?

The UL AP is not a draconian infliction of a severe penalty. It is not a nannying policy. It is not trying to dictate the

behaviour of students. What it is trying to do is assist its students in choosing a healthier way of life. It is trying to ensure that the University plays no role in facilitating students towards their merry way to absolute blind drunkenness. It wants to show that stumbling around slurring that you don't feel too good just before you throw up the entire contents of your stomach isn't what college life needs to be about. It wants to emphasise the nonsense behind being thrown out by two bouncers for engaging in a brawl over...what was it again?

The AP isn't here to tell students what to do and what not to do. It isn't here to rule over and judge the actions of the students of this University. It's here to merely act as a guideline, to assist students in making a better decision when it comes to drinking that pint that would send you over the top. It's here to help students and to show that college life is about enjoying yourself, having a laugh, making friends, breaking hearts and maybe even getting a qualification. But it's trying to show that these can all be done without alcohol.

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What the Alcohol Policy is trying to do is assist its students in choosing a healthier way of life.

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2nd Year PE hoodies source of controversy

An Focal reporter

Following last weeks Students' Union Executive meeting, the guidelines outlined in this article were agreed by Exec in relation to the hoodies been worn on campus by 2nd Year PE students.

The Students Union will lobby the PESS Department to enforce the policy passed by the ULSU Class Reps Council with respect to the wearing of certain hoodies. This policy calls on the Students Union to discourage the wearing of these derogatory hoodies.

The University of Limerick Students Union wishes to make it quite clear to all students on campus that it does not support the wearing of hoodies or other clothing which carries derogatory statements about any members of the University community.

This is not an attempt by the Students Union to infringe upon students right to freedom of speech. However, it is an attempt to protect other students from harassment, bullying and vindictiveness.

UL Science Fair

An Focal reporter

THE Limerick Science Fair took place on 13th November. Willie O'Dea officially opened the fair with over 15,000 visitors on campus, including large numbers of school children.

The event received excellent media coverage, featuring on Morning Ireland, 2FM and RTE.

The feedback from the public has been extremely positive.

Dr Robinson flew over to the University of Limerick for a one-day visit especially for the Science Festival. He gave two keynote lectures along with making the formal presentation of prizes for the "Science in our Life" School Poster Competitions, a major highlight of the Fair. He also shared a first hand account of his recent exploits in space last July 2005. During this mission he had to complete a number of space walks, one of which was to carry out critical repair work on the shuttle 'Discovery' in order for the shuttle to safely return to earth.

A Science and Technology Industrial Exhibition took place with companies such as Intel Shannon and Boston Scientific displaying their latest technologies and innovations. This is just a glimpse of some of the technological advances shown on Sunday.

There was an extensive list of activities taking place throughout the Festival on Sunday including: The British Council exhibition, "North-SouthEastWest", Guzzler Combats Climate Change workshops and Interactive stands. These were just a handful of the activities that took place throughout the fair.

The "Giant Bubble Show" showed students soap with cubic bubbles, smoke filled bubbles and the science behind bubbles. Bubble tricks were also demonstrated.



Armoured personnel carrier at the UL Science Fair

The "Magic, Science or Mystery Show" unveiled the mysterious world of the science magician where nothing is quite as it seems.

"From Earth to Heaven" saw Robert Hill of the Armagh Planetarium taking visitors on an interactive trip through Space.

There were also many other shows, notably, "superhero science", "Amazing oceans" and the Army Ordnance Corps. 2FM and the Munster Team also made appearances, providing the visitors with some freebies!

Ms. Bernie Quilligan was responsible for organising the successful event, alongside many members of staff, postdocs and post grads who contributed their Sunday to setting up stands and sharing their enthusiasm for science and technology with our visitors.

The College of Science would like to thank the many University Departments and Service Providers on Campus who worked very hard in supporting this event. Also, Paul Boland who managed all aspects of public address and broadcasting, Ms Sheena Doyle - Press Officer, Gerald Hallinan - Facilities Manager and Ber Angley who worked tirelessly throughout the day.

Jo Slade contemplative talk on 'finding your own voice'

Janelle Eagleton reports

LIMERICK based poet and painter, Jo Slade, visited the University recently to give a talk in the Contemplative Centre. This event was organised by Rev. Patricia Hanna as part of the "Finding Your Own Voice - exploring the creativity within" programme, a series of talks by local and national artists, writers, musicians and students on how they developed their abilities and found their own individual "voice", or way of seeing and interpreting the world around them. These talks have been running since the middle of October and will continue until the 6th of December. They offer an intriguing insight into the minds of some of the most prominent literary and musical figures in Limerick today.

Art college graduate Jo Slade has recently published her fourth collection of poetry, "City of Bridges". This is her third book to be published with Co. Clare based publishers, Salmon Press. Her visit to the University was attended by some obviously longstanding admirers, but for most of us, it was a fascinating first introduction to her work.

She began her talk by describing how she has always found herself driven by a strong creative impulse, for example, she doesn't remember a time when she didn't write poetry. It was during her childhood, influenced by her parents, that she began to develop her own unique "voice", her way of expressing how she felt about the world around her.

Slade is a firm believer that everyone has a unique voice which should be valued and nurtured. Her view is that if one doesn't listen to the voice within, it will eventually fade away; therefore it is important to be true to your instincts and have confidence in your work and in your opinions. She discussed with us her view that while it is important to speak and to express yourself in as many ways as possible, it



Jo Slade

is also essential to spend some time every day in silence, just listening to one's own thoughts and ideas.

Slade's talk was extremely interesting; she is a talented and insightful poet who has a great awareness of herself and of the world around her. The "Finding Your Own Voice" series is a great idea and a powerful way of helping people to value their own individuality.

The talks run in the Contemplative Centre every Tuesday at 7pm. On the 29th of November a talk will be given by a dancer on "Finding Your Own Feet", and on the 6th of December, Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick, Michael Mayes will visit the University. Entry is free and most of the talks last for about one hour, students and staff are all welcome.

Two of Jo Slade's books, 'Certain Octobers' and 'In the fields I hear them sing' are available in the Special Collections section on the 2nd floor of the library.

Music is the answer to all your problems

Jonathan Ryan on behalf of the UL DJ Society, explains what they have to offer.

BEING stereotyped you may feel is a violation, the way it can grip people into a false understanding or impression of a person, belief, or opinion. 'Dance music' is a perfect case of falling victim to that super villain - captain stereotype.

The image of dance music today seems to be polluted by a combination of the images. Such as the crazy frog behind a set of turntables while blasting out his latest addition to the ring tone world "crazy frog remix of the sound of music" at the local teenage disco! This is not dance music. This is not what the DJ society is about.

For any aspiring DJs out there or just music lovers, no matter what level you are at, the UL DJ society is here to boot that cringe worthy stereotype.

We offer workshops for anyone with interest in learning how to DJ, from beginner to club spinner, basics, advanced, music production, digital DJ, scratching and beat juggling, self promotion, equipment and technological advice. We have some of the most professionally recognised people in the Limerick and Irish scene to guest lecture so that you can get the most out each session.

We have a fully interactive website in production so that any member can be kept up to date with the goings on of the society. Regular newsletters will be sent out as well as an interactive voting system and user profile page. Soon to be added is a facility to which any mix



CDs which are of a standard will be put up on the net for anyone to download or listen to whatever your style.

When you feel confident enough to play to a crowd, slots will be provided including the Stables Club as well as warm up slots for Viva music in Trinity Rooms. Nights out and hopefully international trips are also in the pipe-line.

All styles are welcome from hip hop to house, electro to your David Hasslehoff collection.

For a university of such merit we feel it is essential that an appreciation for electronic music should be present, a proper understanding in the absolute limitless world of music and how it can be expressed, created and delivered. This is your society, a chance for you to take the music you love and do something about it! At the end of the day we hope to encourage fun and free thinking in DJing and dance music. It's time to be heard.

Log on to www.uldjsoc.com for more info.

**PHONO adventures in sound.
UL DJ Society.**

Changes in the Bachelor of Business Studies

Donal O'Driscoll reports on why the changes that have taken place in the BBS

The Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS) has been a flagship course at UL, dating back to 1972. Since then it has grown from a more modestly sized course of around fifty students, to the three hundred and fifty who enrolled in the course this September.

A lot more has changed in the BBS programme than just the numbers enrolling. In 1984, the previous academic programme was reviewed and this was repeated ten years later in 1994. In keeping with this tradition of reviewing and restructuring the course, discussions began in 2002 to draw up a new academic programme. That programme was recently agreed. What this means in real terms is that students enrolling in the BBS degree from September 2006, will be entering a course which is quite different from the one currently in place.

Mr Donal Dineen, Dean of the Kemmy School of Business sums up the changes by saying "The programme is more business oriented." This increased business orientation is shown by the absence in first year of modules like Principles of Law and Business and Society. However, the major differences come in second and third year. Instead of commencing in Semester 5, major options will now commence in semester 4.

Students will have to choose one major out of Accounting, Economics, Marketing, Human Resources and Insurance. The major will now take up two modules instead of one, and will take up two modules per semester in semesters 4, 5, 7 and 8.

It is the Minor options that are most interesting. At the moment, the Final Year Project (FYP) is compulsory, but this is due to change under the new programme. The FYP will instead be offered as part of a minor option entitled Business Research Methods. This measure is perhaps the most radical within the new structure and may in future be considered for other courses. This will benefit students who are not necessarily focused on improving their research skills and are inclined more towards set

modules in which they have a practical interest.

Other new minors include, Economics of Food, Environmental Management, Sociology, Human Geography and Tourism. There are fourteen minor options in total, of which each student chooses only one. Minor options will consist of just one module per semester in Semesters 5, 7 and 8. In the case of students studying the BBS with a foreign language, the language will be considered their minor. However, should such students wish to do an FYP, they can substitute this option for the set modules in fourth year. This would mean they would study their major option, the minor language option and the FYP.

How did these changes come about? The process began in 2002, with the formation of a BBS Review Committee. The committee was chaired by Dr David McKeivitt between September 2002 and September 2003 and by Mr Jim Deegan between September 2003 and June 2004.

In all, the committee consisted of nine members. It was the job of this committee to come up with initial proposals to change the programme. The next stage was the establishment of an Implementation Committee to make the proposals a reality and formulate the new programme. Dr. Noreen Heraty chaired the ten-person committee. Once the programme had been designed, the draft proposal had to go before the Academic Programme Review Council (APRC). This was done on the 23rd September last. The programme was accepted by the APRC and was formally finalised on the 4th October.

It is hoped that the new programme will give students a very real sense of the business world and equip them for the work place.



Donal Dineen, Dean of Kemmy School of Business

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This measure is perhaps the most radical within the new structure and may in future be considered for other courses.
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Want to move mountains?

Discover your potential at the Gavin Bates Lecture - 29th November 8pm

Alwyn Kinane reports

GAVIN BATES was a young runaway turned adventurer. In the past ten years he has managed to combine exploring the seven continents, climbing the highest mountain in the world and setting up a successful adventure holiday company. He is also the chief trustee for two charities based in Kenya, helping street kids. He also provided a massive amount of employment in Nepal, where a local power station has in the past year been completed with huge help from the charity.

Gavin Bates is going to make a one night only appearance in the University of Limerick, to talk about his most recent adventures including Africa, Russia, Borneo and his third attempt on Everest. He will also be talking about the work the charity is doing and how you can combine an adventure holiday with some volunteer work in either Africa or Nepal. Or if you simply want a personalised adventure holiday you never thought would be possible come and listen to what he has to say.

If you have any questions about either the charity or his adventure company this is your chance. It was through his last visit to UL that he made me believe I could climb to the roof of Africa. An experience many know I will never forget, or shut up talking about. I don't know if there is anything else I can do to sell this but well worth the evening off study.

Gavin will be speaking in at 8pm on the 29th of November. There will be a charge of €5 all of which goes to Moving Mountains. Not a penny is even wasted on administration as it is run in conjunction with Adventure Alternative his holiday company.

Look out for posters around college, where a room number will be confirmed.



Students Unite to Reclaim the Night

Aideen Woods reports on the real message of the night

On Wednesday 16th November, Amnesty International UL organised a 'Reclaim The Night' demonstration to highlight violence against women on campus and in wider Irish society. The demonstration was apart of Amnesty's International campaign, "Stop Violence

Against Women".

Earlier this year, the Irish section of Amnesty International launched its report 'Justice and Accountability' on violence against women in Ireland. It revealed the staggering number of women who are subject to violence in our

communities. One in five Irish women will be sexually abused as adults. 79.6% of the cases dealt with by the Irish rape crisis centre were not reported to the Gardaí and domestic violence is the major cause of death and disability to women aged 18- 44 in

Europe - more than traffic accidents and cancer. The attacks here on campus last year sent a chilling reminder to all students that violence against women is rampant and is perpetrated with impunity. The purpose of the event on Wednesday 16th November was to raise awareness about violence against women and to insist that our campus is made a safe place for all women to live. Over a hundred students took part in a demonstration to voice their concerns and to show their support. Students sang, chanted and marched through col-

lege to reclaim the night and make it a safe and positive environment. The night was a great success and we at Amnesty would like to thank everyone who supported the campaign. Also special thanks to Miriam Duffy from the Rape Crisis Centre in Limerick, for her moving speech and to the Shotakan Karate-Do Club for organising a self defence class.

We at Amnesty would like to make reference to the article that appeared in the Limerick Leader. We sent a press release to the paper, which included our aims for the

night and one of our members gave them a telephone interview. However we feel the report misinterpreted our aims and created an image of the University and of Limerick city that we at Amnesty International UL do not uphold. We would like to reiterate our aims here; to encourage a positive and safe environment on campus, to highlight the issue of female student safety and the wider issue of violence against women in Ireland. Thank you all again for participating and we think you will all agree it was a wonderful night.

Student athlete culture should be encouraged, not restricted

Eoin Killackey argues that a structure UL Policy on sport is greatly needed

"I'll leave the decision up to you." "I cannot tell you that it's ok to miss classes." Such statements are often told to UL students by their coaches due to the lack of a clear policy that outlines how to achieve the important balance between academic and recreational pursuits at the University of Limerick.

The lack of such a policy impacts on all involved in Clubs in UL in many ways. The situation begs the question why has UL chosen to remain in the dark ages with regard to student athlete culture?

Take for example the annual objective of the UL Soccer Club where the collective goal of the Collingwood squad is to be the first to bring home The Collingwood Cup, the most prestigious and coveted championship in 3rd Level Education Soccer.

It is our equivalent to the Fitzgibbon, Ashbourne, O' Connor and Sigerson, our holy grail that has eluded each and every Collingwood squad that has represented UL in the last 25 years. In order to win the Collingwood this season, UL will have to beat either Magee or UCC (winners of the Cup on 4 of the last 5 years) in the ¼ Final, and then play a subsequent ½ final and final on consecutive days. Our preparation for this involves competing weekly in the CFAI Premier League and in the IUFU League Championship, where we play UCC and NUIG on a home and away basis.

However, there is an aspect of life as a UL student that restricts the ability of our student athletes to represent the college in weekly "Intervarsity" competitions, and that is the lack of a structured and coherent policy that lays down the law with regard to how our student athletes should balance the need to perform both academically and in their sporting pursuits.

It is also worth bearing in mind that our University has incorporated into its campus an alcohol policy that seeks to encourage students to become involved in non-alcohol based activities, with participation in Clubs & Societies as a key alternative to binge drinking.

Also, the results of the recent Clubs and Societies Quality Review, as reported in the week 8 edition of An Focal by Aoife Breen, clearly highlight the need for the University to put in place a system that allows for participation in both elite and recreational level non-academic activity.

Surely then we could assume that an increased desire to engage students in sporting activities, as outlined in the alcohol policy, would lead to a straight forward system for students when it comes to delegating their time between study and recreation.

The problem is that our student athletes are forced to make up their own minds on this



Clubs under increased threat

issue, and this causes numerous difficulties. Firstly, when students decide to forego their studies in order to participate in sports, they do so in the knowledge that there will be no facility for them to catch up with what they have missed, aside from second-hand notes. This can lead to strained relationships with tutors and may also lead to an academic deficit when it comes to exams. If there was a policy in place that allowed these students to both attend class and participate in sport, e.g. no classes of any description after 12 noon on Wednesdays, then there wouldn't be such a problem.

Secondly, if a student decides that he/she cannot afford to miss a particular class, then our sports teams are in a situation where they are representing us without the benefit of that students' talent. This has obvious drawbacks, and unfortunately happens a lot. Again, the lack of a structured student athlete policy leaves the student in a no win situation.

Thirdly, staff members are left in an unenviable position as the middleman. They have no duty to allow student athletes time off class, and have enough responsibility in helping the student fulfil academic requirements. If a class has been timetabled for Wednesday afternoon, then the lecturer involved must conduct the class at that time; such is the nature of timetabling in UL.

Finally, for the student that chose to study at UL because of our glowing reputation for being a "sporting campus", there is the chance that we are made to look hypocritical. For various reasons, we operate a system where no sport scholarships are available en masse to prospective students, despite the fact that the

most asked question at secondary school visits relates to the availability of such schemes.

Therefore, it is paramount that we at least offer to these students the guarantee that they will be able to successfully manage to study and compete. However, the lack of a student athlete policy means that no such guarantee can be made.

PESS lecturer, and qualified Soccer & Gaelic Football coach, Mr. Dave Weldrick, concurred with the need to have a student athlete policy in UL as a matter of urgency.

"There should be a general principle, coming from the President and The Academic Council, addressing all members of staff, that has at its core that in every reasonable way possible, our student athletes should be accommodated when they are representing UL in Intervarsity competition, or when they are performing externally in their sport at an equivalent or higher level."

This of course could not cover all of the specifics for each individual, but would be a great start. Mr. Weldrick also identified the role that the clubs would play in co-operation with such a policy, "what would also help is if all the clubs concerned were able to commit to competing on the allocated day as this has not always been the case."

The students that bring such great exposure to this college need a policy to be adopted that encourages, and not restricts, their participation in sport.

Something to warm up your Christmas!

An Focal reporter



AUSTRALIA'S Thunder From Down Under are leaving Las Vegas and coming to spice up your Christmas!

Dynamic dance routines, colourful costumes, state-of-the-art lighting, hilarious humour and hard bodies make the Thunder experience like no other male revue show in the world. Valiant hearts,

washboard abs and sensitive souls are apparent during the time the men of Thunder take you on a fantasy flight through past eras and even into the future.

The internationally acclaimed Australian male revue show and its charismatic troupe make fantasy become reality with the blink of an eye. Regarded by millions as a visual spectacular for those who appreciate the fine male form, Thunder is in one fan's words "eye candy" for women of all ages everywhere.

Their impressive physical shape and great personalities have made Thunder a favourite as guests for television appearances that include Sally Jessie Raphael, CNN, Hard Copy, Leeza Gibbons, Jenny Jones, Entertainment Tonight, the Wayne Brady Show, E! Entertainment's Wild On Las Vegas and the Travel Channel.

University Concert Hall, Limerick. Tuesday 13th December at 8pm

This December they'll be in town as the Ultimate Girlie Christmas Night Out! So don't delay, book by calling 061 331549 or logging onto www.uch.ie. Tickets are €30 or €27.50 per person for groups!

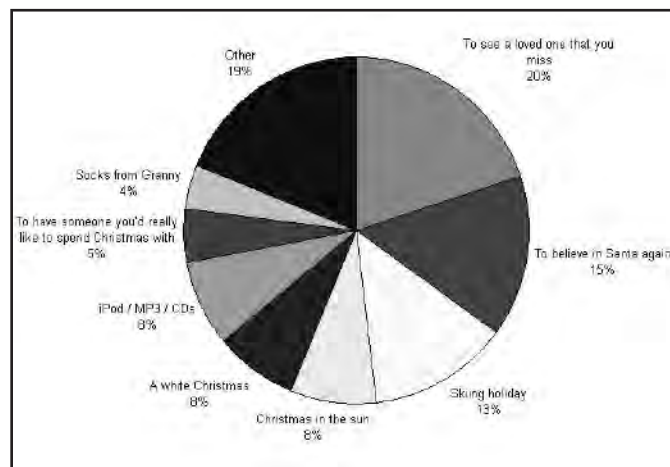
What would you most like to receive for Christmas?

Fiona Orr was pleasantly surprised by the un-materialistic nature of our student body when it came to Christmas

Now this should put a smile on everyone's face - this survey reveals the un-materialistic nature of UL students. A whopping 20% of students surveyed said that their wish for Christmas would be to

see a loved one that they miss. Next in line was to believe in Santa again - ah, if only!

Other wish lists for Christmas included a portable DVD player (4%), bling (4%), wheels (4%), a house (3%), clothes and make-up (2%), a very peaceful Christmas (1%), and cash (1%). Not a single person said world peace!



Gan Ainm takes over UL for one weekend!

Mark Cronin, Chairperson of Gan Ainm reports on their successes to date

Gan Ainm have had an extremely busy few weeks but the worst is over. Their weekly mystery session has taken off. So far they have visited Birdhill, Newtown and Garrykennedy. The idea, a brainstorm of their fundraising officers has really been accepted well by the members and membership is soaring to new levels.

Furthermore, Gan Ainm have now completed two concerts in the Jonathan Swift Theatre and plan to use the venue as much as possible.

Gan Ainm are also hoping to start teaching classes. For those of you that have the gift of playing music, but don't play anymore, we want to set up classes on campus. The teachers will be the students of the BA in Traditional Irish Music & Dance and the prices will be low. The students get cheap, easy going tuition from some of Ireland's finest musicians and hopefully the society builds up a bigger interest and creates the ability to spread its wings.

Last weekend we held our annual intervarsity festival. The venue was the Stables, the bands were Flook, Deaf Shepherd, Gráda and Críol, the tickets were cheap and the craic was mighty. This year we decided to extend our annual festival over three days as opposed to over just two.

It started on Friday night with a fundraiser for the Mid Western School for the hearing impaired. The fundraiser was geared towards buying percussion instruments for the school. Our brilliant sabbatical officer Paddy Pratt raised a whopping €1,235. Thanks must also be given to all those who shaved their heads and waxed their legs, chests and backs!!

The night then moved on with young trad act Críol bringing the crowd to a new level. Finally the evening ended with fabulous Scottish band Deaf Shepherd blasting out thrilling music with the aid of the highland pipes, snare drums, guitar, fiddles and bass pedals.

On Saturday a massive session started up in The Stables Club at about 4:30. This was then followed by our counterparts from UCC and St. Pats displaying their ability in the spotlight. Our very own BA students then went on to prove that the best music is in UL with an astonishing display of rolls and triplets. Amazing English/Irish group Flook then topped off the evening. The band are just celebrating their 10th anniversary. All four musicians are masters of their instruments and have all won musician of the year at some stage.

It was a new idea to bring a third day into the festival this year and it couldn't have worked better. The day started off at about 4pm with a singing session held in Dolan's bar. This was followed by a céilí in the Warehouse, which turned out to be very enjoyable. Our final band for the weekend then went up to perform. Like our other headliners, Gráda displayed a fabulous ability to master their instruments and grasped everyone's attention immediately after the first note.

Campus Trad has held its credibility. It was crowned Best UL event last year and by all means it should easily be put up for vote again this year. One journalist described it to me as "a festival like no other, it captures you, the ideas behind it are brilliant and the crowd are appreciative from start to finish."

Visit our new site: www.ultradsoc.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Madam,

After finishing an arduous day in UL today, I decided to go to the along with some friends Main Restaurant to get a bite to eat. Having purchased my meal I was astounded to hear my friend remark that two slices of pizza, a couple of roast potatoes and a bottle of water cost a whopping €9! YES, NINE EURO!

I exclaimed that they must have made a mistake, this could not be true! Not being the shy type, I immediately proceeded to the cash register. The kind lady there looked at me as if I had grown a third head when I requested for the price to be explained to me. She explained that it was €4.75 (I think) for a "pizza meal" - one pizza slice and some chips.

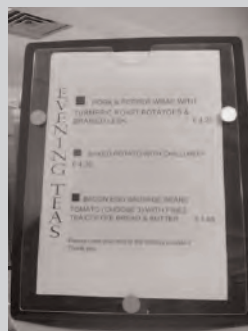
The Extra Slice and the water each cost more than two euro each. She said "the prices are all up on the board, your friend should have checked." A supervisor came to her aid as I almost choked on the thought! The supervisor pushed some buttons on the cash register and managed to come



The "meal" - a cost of €9 initially!



The "quality" food



The lack of prices for "pizza"

owners to display a comprehensive price list of food items. This law applies to all hotels, pubs, restaurants, cafés, etc. that offer food for sale and consumption on the premises.

This is unacceptable and I wish to bring this to the attention of all students, I think it is outrageous.

Having finished my dinner, I decided to do some investigative work. Low and behold, imagine what I found? NOT ONE PRICE for pizza, or pizza meal. No prices could be seen for water (or any of the other minerals), and a complete lack of clarity for prices full stop. I did, however, take photos with my camera phone to prove all of these points, just in case!

I informed the supervisor that I found this unacceptable and that I would be contacting the Director of Consumer Affairs. I also said that I believed that not displaying such prices was against the law. I have since checked and it is. The Retail Prices (Food in Catering Establishments) Display Order, 1984 requires the

*Yours etc,
Fintan Breen
SU President*



More lack of prices for "pizza"

Saudi Arabia

Dear Editor,

It was extremely distressing to read Briona Hannon's one page account of her life in Saudi Arabia ('Living with my Head in the Sand', 1 November 2005). Distressing because the article framed modern Saudi Arabia as some sort of Panglossian travel destination where foreigners coexisted easily with their Saudi hosts and got on with the business of earning large tax-free salaries in a desert idyll, oblivious to the darker side of one of the world's nastiest regimes.

Can it be that the author is unaware of the real nature of the Saudi regime? Or is it that she simply sought to gloss over the unpleasant side of the fanatical Wahhabi despotism that the al Saud dynasty practices?

Is she aware of the detailed information supplied by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, among other NGOs, relating to horrendous and ongoing violations of human rights by the regime, including the routine practices of arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, the use of secret and closed criminal trials, and grievous techniques of torture used on prisoners?

Can she be unaware of the fanatical impulses deriving from the literal reading of Islam which are at the core of Wahhabi doctrine and practice? Perhaps she is unaware of the fact that Saudi Arabia retains one of the highest rates of execution in both absolute numbers and per capita in the world? Does she not understand how women are the subject of the most oppressive patriarchal system of its kind in the modern world? Or that homosexuals face execution by beheading if they are betrayed to the dreaded Mutawwa'in (the Saudi secret police)? Perhaps she is unaware of the Saudi government's large-scale sponsorship of terrorism in the Middle East and beyond?

It seems utterly shameful to me that the University of Limerick Students' Union should allow its flagship publication be used for such an ill-judged and unthinking opinion piece.

Surely Saudi Arabia's vile regime stands in contravention of the value system which the Students Union is supposed to represent and uphold? In refusing to engage with the regime's continued and abject violation of human rights, An Focal actually becomes complicit in the degradation of human life which Saudi Arabia so fanatically pursues. That is hardly something to be proud of.

Yours etc.

Dr. John O'Brennan,

Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Limerick.


Liam Barrett

2nd year Law and Accountancy

"Yeah, I think there's a good atmosphere here. Everyone seems to get along really well"

Daniel Griffin

2nd year Biomedical and Advanced Materials

"Mostly yes, because students are happy. You don't see very many mopey students going around. There's plenty of laughter, bright atmosphere, big open spaces."


Tom Harrington

Mature student, 4th year Law

"I think there is a reasonably good atmosphere on campus. I find that I mix well with the younger students and also the mature students. The atmosphere is also created by the mature students' office, they hold these coffee mornings where we get together."


Sinead Doyle

3rd year Industrial Biochemistry

"There's a buzz around the place that you notice but students usually get used to it."



Do you think there is a good atmosphere on campus?


Michelene Doran

Mature student, 3rd year Law

"UL seems to have a lovely atmosphere from what I can see as a mature student"

Barry Walsh

4th year Law and Accounting



"When I started in first year, I thought there was more of a buzz, I don't know why exactly, maybe because I found the clubs and societies more active."

The Students' Union was more active. It just seems to have gotten quieter over the last few years. Maybe it's because I'm a 4th year and a bit more sedate and boring and I have much more to do. That's just the impression that I get."


Nóirín Duggan

2nd year Electronic Engineering

"Well, I don't think there's actually a community atmosphere, so if there is no community atmosphere then there is no kind of general atmosphere"

Steffi Frommholz from Germany
European Studies

"I think there is a huge gap between the foreign Erasmus students and the Irish students. Life on campus I think is quite nice with the stables and the cinema, but where I come from, there is more life on campus, and there is more to do on campus. But I think it is quite nice here. I really like it but I think you should bring the Irish people and the study-abroad people more together and they should put more emphasis on this"


Barry Glaisin

Post Grad in the PSA Department

"Yeah, there's a good atmosphere on campus but not really on the weekends."

Jason O'Connor

4th year HPSS



"I think it's very good, but you know the stables is a bit of a cattle mart! I think it has been good all the way up, for the four years I've been here. Yeah, very lively, I get on well

with most of the people in my course and I certainly recommend it to any of my friends back home in Kerry"


Mike Fennel

2nd year Public Administration

"Yeah, it's a good laugh. Between lectures, when you're walking down with your mates, you have a good laugh. Plenty of stuff is organised for students"

John Gomens

2nd year Business Studies



"People kinda hang around in their groups and support each other. Yeah, there is a very good atmosphere. There are people going in and out of the shops chatting, talking,

and laughing. Even at exam times, there's some pressure, but people are together"

Alison Orr

2nd year Environmental Science

"I think there is a good, friendly atmosphere and I think there is a good relationship between students and everybody is open and friendly, but I don't think the students respect the campus. There is a lot of vandalism that goes on and just general graffiti and stuff, which just brings down the mood of the campus, I think"


John Hoffler

3rd year Environmental Science



"No, it's crap"

Got an opinion on this? Send your view and anything that you think needs to be questioned and

answered to sucommunication@ul.ie.

Kevin Bloody Wilson

Kate Nolan talked to Australia's favourite comedian, Kevin Wilson, who will take to the stage in the University Concert Hall on December 3rd.

KEVIN BLOODY WILSON was born in the Australian outback, and then moved to the gold mining town of Calgoorlie. His career was launched in his home town, playing songs for his friends in local bars. This talent for making people laugh has resulted in a highly successful career as a comedy singer/songwriter.

He is now one of Australia's favourite comedians, having built a massive cult following around the globe. He has played the London Paladium and the Sydney Opera House and has sold over 3 million albums worldwide.

"I usually start a typical day at home in Australia by logging on to my website and looking at the jokes, letters and pictures (sometimes of other guys naked girlfriends!) that my fans have sent me". Life for KevinBloodyWilson is virtually stress free; in fact, he claims he gives stress, not the other way round. His attitude to life is summed up by the word DILLIGAF, Australian slang which stands for 'Does It Look Like I Give A Fuck'? This comedian considers himself to be a "professional hobbyist". He has never thought of comedy as a job as such, and so life for him is "totally stress less".

Growing up in the outback was very influential in Wilson's decision to get into comedy. Calgoorlie was a mining town, which attracted certain types of people.

"If you lived there you needed to do one of three things - fight, flee or be funny, and since I couldn't do the first two I decided to be funny."

It was also here KevinBloodyWilson picked up his legendary nickname. "The family nickname was fuckingWilson but I had to tone it down so I'd get my name printed!"

Friends also influenced his decision to get into his chosen career. Wilson had been writing songs and playing the guitar from a very young age. After he wrote the song 'Mick the Master Farter' for a mate, they encouraged him to book some time in a recording studio. Eventually he did it, and emerged in June 1984 with 200 copies of his songs on cassette with the aim of shifting them by Christmas. That year he sold 54,000 copies of his first album entitled 'Your Average Australian Yobbo'. KevinBloodyWilson's follow up album 'Kev's back (The Return of the Yobbo)' knocked Dire Straits and Bruce Springsteen off the number one spot on the Australian record charts.

Despite the phenomenal commercial success in Australia, KevinBloodyWilson still retains a largely cult following in the northern hemisphere. 'R' rated songs contain sentiments such as 'Does your Dad own a brewery?' and 'Hey Santa Claus you cunt, where's me fuckin'bike?' Wilson is unlikely to be heard on radio or seen on television. However, he is "very happy with that balance". It allows him to be a star for a few hours and then switch back to being himself. He has never harboured any desire to be famous - unlike his comedy icon Billy Connelly he is free to walk down the street without being recognised. There was no temptation ever to sell out and make his style of comedy more commercialised in order to get more airtime.

"Money was never an issue - I'm driven by the love of what I do". Wilson still writes his songs for his mates, never stopping to consider whether a particular track will sell well. Has this level of success surprised KevinBloodyWilson?

"Yeah, too right! I never thought my hobby would turn into a career that would take around the world". Fame still has the power to surprise: take the last time Kevin was performing in Ire-

land. He and his wife, Betty, were being driven from Dublin to Belfast in a stretch limo, and upon hearing that Cher had travelled in the same car the previous night, Kevin recalls "I pissed myself laughing" at the madness of it all.

There have also been begrudgers along the way who have accused KevinBloodyWilson of perpetuating the stereotypical Australian 'Lad' culture. His response to critics is simple: "DILLIGAF. I couldn't care either way. People can take out of it [his comedy] what they want; you can find someone in the songs no matter where you're from". Wilson describes his humour as "Irish wit coupled with Australian convict irreverence".

It's not hard for KevinBloodyWilson to find the lighter side in things; he's even been to funny funerals. He remembers one funeral in particular when the coffin was being lowered into the ground and a friend leaned over so much that his cigarettes and lighter fell out. Another person attending the funeral then shouts "You fuckin' idiot! He doesn't even smoke, what are you trying to do, kill him?"

The amount of time Wilson is obliged to spend away from home doesn't really affect his family. His wife Betty always travels with him, his daughter is also entertainer in Chicago so he gets to see her quite regularly, while his son works as a pilot for Qantas "so I get to catch up with him a fair bit!"

In addition, Wilson also has a policy of never touring for more than 2/3 months at a time, "it's like ice-cream, eat too much and you get sick of it". This keeps the experience fresh and exciting for both him and the audience, and prevents him from getting to a stage where he might resent being on the road. His family are also a source of inspiration, especially his son's determination to qualify as a pilot.



Australia's favourite comedian, Kevin Wilson, coming to the University Concert Hall on December 3rd.

The qualities KevinBloodyWilson most admires in people are a sense of humour and the ability to laugh at themselves, a big smile (something which first attracted him to his wife) and honesty.

Wilson's no nonsense outlook on life is paralleled in his comedy - he absolutely hates political correctness, "I think it's a crock of shit and a contradiction in terms". It is hardly surprising then that he identifies George W. Bush as the person he would most like to slap - "what a wanker! I guess we all know what the 'W' stands for..."

All in all life is petty good for KevinBloodyWilson. If he had to describe himself in one word he'd pick "Contented - that or DILLIGAF!" He is in no way sentimental, but claims now, today, is the best period of his life and "tomorrow will be even better". The only thing that keeps him awake at night is sex; apart from that "I sleep like a baby, which is bad 'cos it means I shit the bed!"

“
Money was never
an issue - I'm
driven by the love
of what I do.
”

Neil Delamere in the Jonathan Swift

Hugh O' Donohue

NEIL Delamere is not just a great guy, he's a great comedian. In the Jonathan Swift on the 14th November, UL Laughing Society brought the



comedic genius of Neil Delamere to the stage, best known from The Panel. We had also the comedic stylings of John Lynn, the guy off the McDonalds' ad in the hair salon.

As soon as Neil finished his set, I had a couple of words with the man. "The reason I got into comedy" he started "was because I killed a tramp and in the old ancient rules of being a tramp I had to go into the fathers business which was a comedy club, though I started off as a dishwasher, then finally got the gig to do stand-

up when I entertained the dish and the spoon one night."

On accidentally calling the tramps bums Neil got offended, "tramps are offended if you call them bums, and they see themselves as higher up than bums. But lower than hobos."

Seriously, Neil said his greatest achievement was doing a 'Montreal Just for Laughs' gig. What next? "Drive home, after that who knows? Some projects in the pipeline but everyone says that. I'll keep on going with The Panel and play it by decade."

Once again UL Laughing Society has delivered on its promises: great comedy for cheap prices.

On the passing of a noted student leader

Daithí O'Sullivan, SU President 79/80

"On behalf of ULSU, I would like to sincerely sympathise with the family and friends of Daithí O'Sullivan who passed away recently. Daithí was the President of the Students' Union for the academic year 1979/80. After winning an arduous campaign for president, Daithí spent a year representing students at the National Institute of Higher Education in Limerick. One of the memories of Daithí is his setting up of an alternative canteen when students were outraged about the prices being charged in the University canteen. His memory and the nature of his commitment to students and to the community stands with us in the University and Students' Union that we have today. May he rest in peace."

Fintan Breen, President.

Postgraduate News

News from the postgrad world

Tutor workshops

One of the points on my election manifesto was the provision of supports for tutors. To that extent I asked Sarah Moore, Dean for Teaching and Learning, to set up some teaching seminars and workshops for new tutors. The first one ran in orientation week, and while it was a success, I had hoped to catch new tutors and also provide a service for taught postgrads that might pick up tutorials as a way of getting extra money for the academic year. Many of the existing supports are advertised solely on ITD and as only staff and research postgrads are subscribed to ITD, taught postgrads are often unaware of supports available to them. Though ITD I received an email during the week from Ellen Fowler. Sarah Moore had asked her to meet with tutors to get an idea of the workshops that would be useful to tutors. I met with Ellen last week and we spoke for approximately an hour about some of the issues that affected tutors and their capability to deliver a good, effective tutorial. Based on the feedback that I had given her and the information that she had already gathered from other interviewees she thought that one of the best workshops to hold would be one around 'Difficult Conversations'. This would prepare the tutor for managing their lecturer as well as their class. Another point that came up was the idea of holding a type of forum early in each semester. New, inexperienced tutors, as well as more experienced tutors could come along and discuss effective solutions for managing a class. We discussed the notion of incorporating some sort of buddy system into this also. These ideas are gone back to the Centre for Teaching and Learning and I've asked for the Centre to co-ordinate with me on these plans, so I'll keep you posted. If you have any further suggestions, please send them on to me.

Chess competition for postgrads

Prompted by the new chess board in the PSA centre, a postgrad has suggested holding a chess tournament. This piece is just to gauge the level of interest that postgrads would have in such a competition. It would run in the PSA centre on a Wednesday or Thursday evening and the PSA would sponsor some prizes. It is hoped that the tournament will run before Christmas. If you are interested in entering please email me at maria.mchale@ul.ie stating what evening would suit you best.

Library services

As regular readers to this page will know, I attended a peer review session of library services in September. I also attended my first meeting of a library user group last week. One of the worst problems with the library is that people put their books on a desk and then proceed to swan off for the day. This is completely selfish and ignorant behaviour. Once upon a time there was a seat booking form in the library where a seat could be reserved for fifteen minutes and fifteen minutes only. This system never really took off, but this year, the PSA, Students' Union and the library are going to reintroduce this system and physically enforce it if needs be. If you do not have a valid booking form on your table, your books and all your belongings will be removed and your table and seat will be given to someone else. Hopefully this will give students enough confidence and a sense of entitlement to remove somebody else's belongings themselves. Some other ideas were also mooted, such as enforcing fines for mobiles going off and the permanent introduction of a returns box. I think that this would dramatically reduce queues and general user frustration. The library staff are currently calculating the costs of extending library services in the summer months so I'll keep you posted on that. The library and the PSA are currently looking setting up a focus group of taught postgrads and thus identify taught postgrads needs within the library.

College of Education

Still looking for a college rep for education ... any warm body interested?

Death of a Kettle

Thursday 18 November = the day the music died. Or at the very least the whistling of the PSA kettle ceased to be. It became problematic in its old age, cantankerous and causing the trip switch to shut down in anger too many times. Nevertheless, many postgrads retained a soft spot for the dirty cream, cordless kettle. It was synonymous with hours whiled away in the PSA, in fact it was a very postgrad symbol of procrastination and misspent life. Buildings took the plug away and delivered the sad news - the kettle would have to be put down. With a forlorn heart, I stowed it away with the

old computers and various other junk contained within the PSA cupboards. Many postgrads came into my office that day - all with the same question - 'what's the story with the kettle?' I broke the sad news to them and although they merely looked annoyed at having to microwave their cuppas I knew better. They too were grieving.

On the plus side though, the PSA was the tidiest that I've seen it since the beginning of the academic year. That being said it still proved too difficult for some people to bring their trays and dirty dishes out of the room. That would be too much like effort eh?

News just in - If you close your eyes and wish very hard, you might just hear the steam rising out of a brand new white PSA



Maria McHale, Postgraduate President.

kettle. The kettle is dead - long live the kettle!

Student Satisfaction Survey for postgrads

I met with Adrian Thomas, the Director of Quality in UL, during the week and we discussed the possibility of doing a Student Satisfaction Survey for postgrads. This survey is run at regular intervals for undergrads, but has yet to be run for postgrads. I'll keep you posted on how that pans out.



'White Hat Brigade', winners of best name at the PSA/Cricket Club table quiz



Keith Whelan, quizmaster at the recent PSA/Cricket Club event

Postgrad bulletin board

The postgrad bulletin board is finally operational! It can be accessed through the PSA homepage which is www.ul.ie/~psa and will be moderated by the PSA President. All accommodation listings and job opportunities and the like can now be posted there by registered postgrads as well as relevant ITD listings that taught postgrads do not have access to. This will hopefully reduce the amount of mailings sent out on the PSA list. This way a summary sheet of mailings can be sent out at regular intervals telling postgrads when there are accommodation listings and so on. It also will be used for general chat and to promote PSA run social events. So get registered!

Looking for the postgrad that contacted An Focal recently

Could the postgrad who contacted the editor of An Focal with a scoop about postgrads and corrections please contact me at maria.mchale@ul.ie. Confidentiality is assured.



ULSU Shop Special Offers

White Lab. Coats (sizes 34-44 available)
€15.50
Protective specs €4.95
Network cables €6.50

Disgo Classic Memory Sticks, 256MB
€40.00
Personal Alarms €3.50
Dolmio Original 2 for €2.50

Hot & Cold Wraps
Cold €3.00 (1 Meat + 3 fillings)
Hot Fajita Wrap €2.50

Chocolate, Chocolate, Chocolate . .
Cadbury Confectionery Offer 2 for €1.00
Mars standard bars 2 for €1.00

Have some free time on Wednesday nights?

COME JOIN THE UL LIFESAVING CLUB!

Beginners to advance- all levels are welcome.

Meetings last from 7-9 on Wednesday nights.

We start off with an hour in the pool, followed by an hour of First Aid. We have very friendly members and great instructors. Come prepared for a bit of crack and a lot of laughter!

We all hope to see you there!



NiteLink Bus

In association with
Courtyard Student Village, Brookfield Hall Student Village
Thomond Village, Kilmurry Village, Dromroe Village & Plassey Village

Starts Monday Week 5

Route A: On the hour
7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00

Start @ Stables Arch way
Stop 1: Dromroe Village
Stop 2: Thomond Village
Stop 3: Plassey Village
Stop 4: College Court
Stop 5: Courtyard Student Village
Stop 6: Brookfield Student Village
End @ Stables Arch way

Route B: On the half hour***
7:30 8:30 9:30 10:30

Start @ Stables Arch way
Stop 1: Kilmurry Village
Stop 2: Elm Park
Stop 3: Oak Lawns
Stop 4: Kilmurry Lodge
Stop 5: Brierfield
Stop 6: Courtyard/Brookfield Roundabout
End @ Stables Archway

***Spar & Milford Grange on request

Route C:
11:30 Only

All Route A & B Stops on Request
Please note: Route C is a drop-off-only route

The Union Uncovered Calendar

All members of the Students' Union Executive will appear like you've never seen them before!!

*On sale in semester two,
available from the SU reception.*

Give something back to the people who help you all year round!

Calendars €5 and all proceeds going to charity for Kollege Week

What's going on for SHAG Week?

Lunchtime Entertainment (Tuesday - Thursday) Main Canteen
Sexual Health Sock Puppets with Drama Soc

Tuesday @7pm Johnathan Swift
Debate with UL Debating Union
"That This House Would Allow Gay Couples To Adopt"

Wednesday @ 7pm Johnathan Swift
"Faces" (Production by Drama Soc)

Wednesday Nite: Trinity Rooms
Playboy Night! (only a Feckin' Fiver)

Thursday @7pm Main Canteen
Sexual Health Tablequiz
Loads of Prizes & Also Free Trinity Room Passes for all who attend

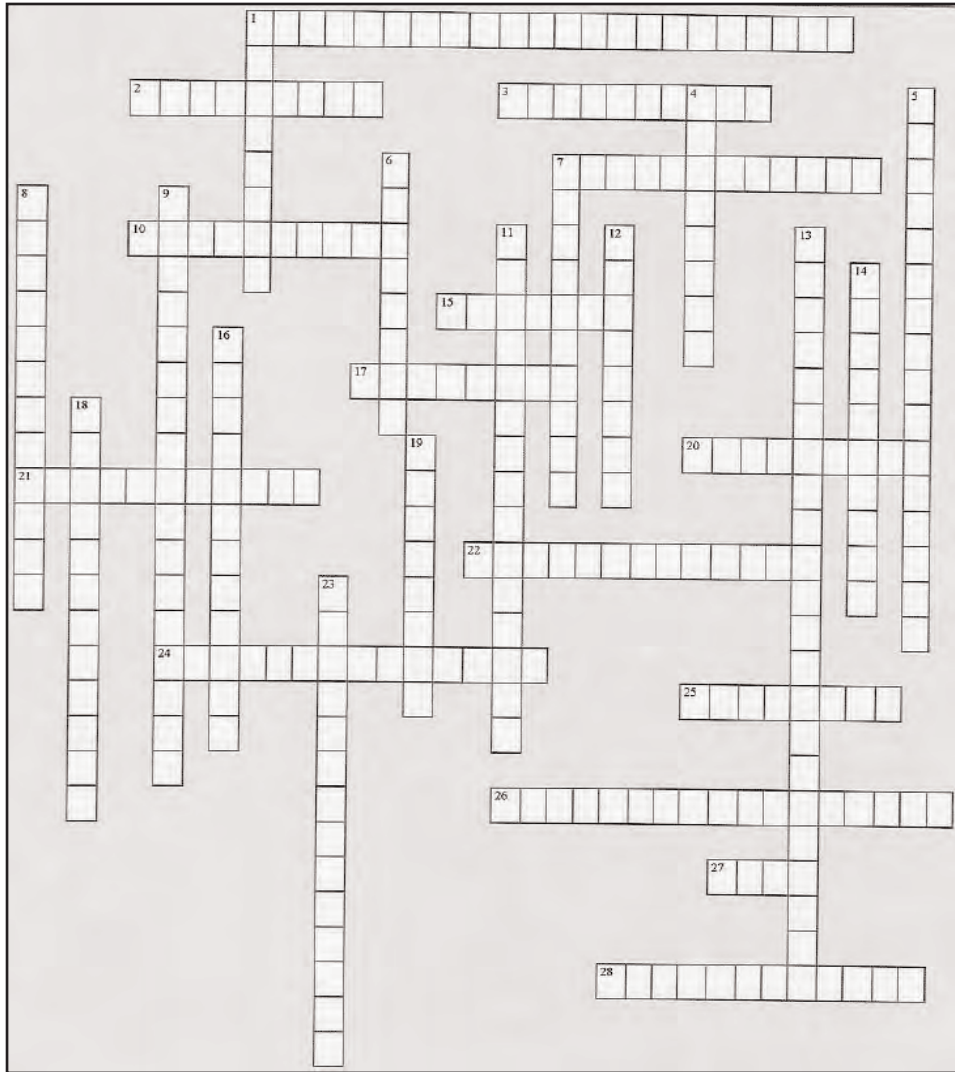
Promotions All Week:

Free SHAG Packs from the ULSU Sperms
Date Rape Campaign
Sexual Health Campaign

Shag week

(Sexual Health Awareness & Guidelines)

Sexual Health Crossword : Cryptogram Type : Complex 25.07



Across

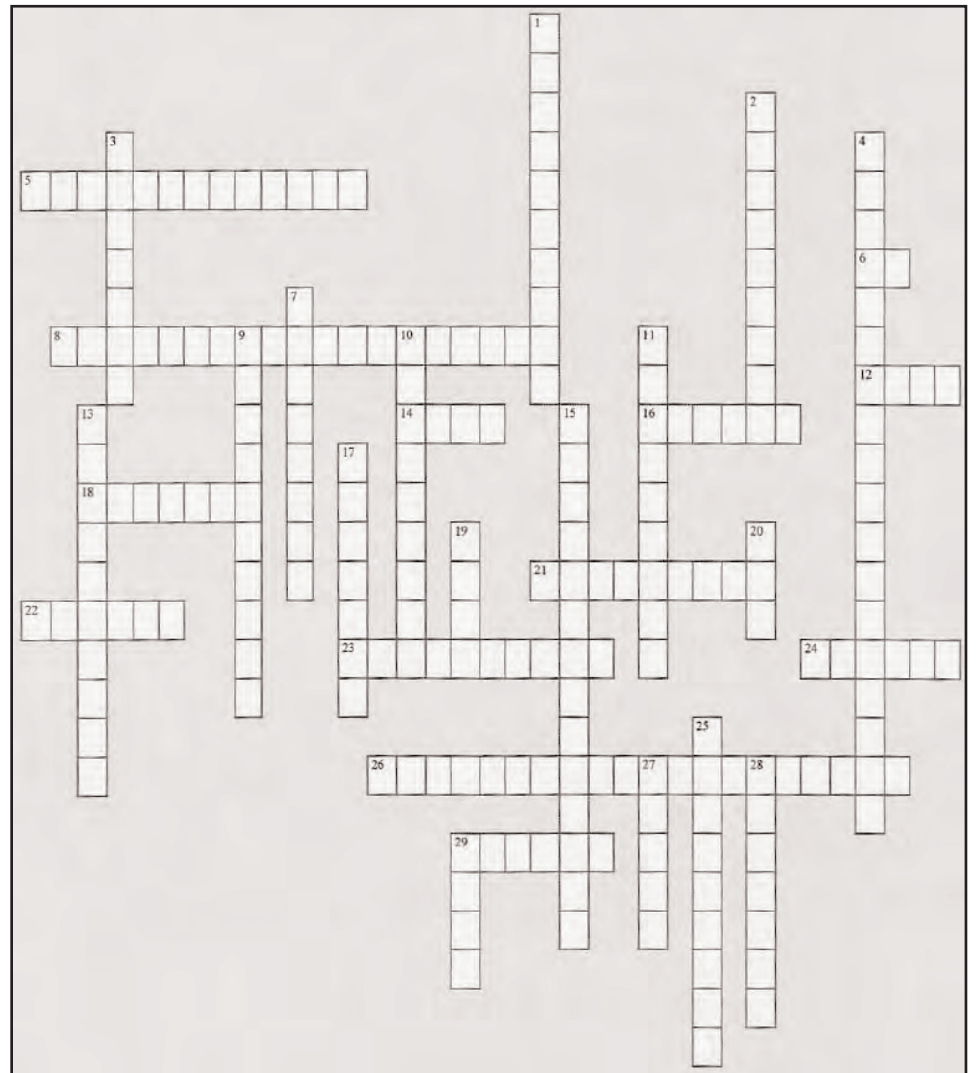
A source of useful information especially for students travelling abroad..essential for crossing national borders, produced by ULs Sexual Health Working Group. (8, 2, 6, 6)
A body of water controlled by dentistry. Form of contraception. (9)
To hold back. A chastity belt may be key. (10)
An udder word for crab. (sign of the zodiac) (6, 6)
A procedure for critical evaluation. Minus the glasses in spectacular. (10)
To agree to ..(7)
For females: a regular test, not intended to defame another. (8)
Critters on attack in the nether regions. STD (5, 4)
Contradictory medicine available with prescription. (11)
If you commit the sex crime prepare to do the time..(6, 7)
Trick not Treat..(14)
BLADDERING sets the night on fire..(8)
Speaking about making sex safer. (4, 13)
An acronym including members of this community. (4)
Nature of the Counselling service. (12)

Down

Friendship, like a sparkling drink..(8)
Available on campus, the transport connection between bedtime and morning. (8)
A tablet taken after the event which marks the beginning. (7, 5, 4)
Related to or associated with the neck. (8)
A spree involving taking liquid into the mouth for swallowing, which is linked to unprotected sex. (5, 5)
A flaw of sorts located south of the belly button. (7, 5)
Sexual whereabouts (7, 10)
Can watch films on this in the cinema, essential for early detection of this crab. (6, 9)
Rendez-vous with a statutory offence. (8)
To needle about contraceptives (13, 9)
007 which kills sperm before conception. (10)
Part of a pink gown which trails behind the wearer. (4, 8) CLUE: Education on LGBT issues.
Different Sexism. (12)
Sive Mirbus Gallicus. Ancient STD with blinding consequences. (8)
Both parents and children helped in the ORGANISATION. (6, 8)

*This crossword puzzle was created by Student Affairs Office with EclipseCrossword.
Try it today—it's free!*

Sexual Health Crossword : Type 1 : Easy



Across

Bilateral, two-sided regard. (6, 7)
..means no!! (2)
Prescriptions and wellness available on campus at this location. (7, 6, 6)
A zero score in tennis. (4)
Mass agglomeration. (4)
To be enjoyed by all, not just for men! (6)
The crowd applauded to show their adulation. (3,4)
Approaching sexual truth.(6, 3)
A viral infection which occurs in the genital region. Not to be confused with the handbag designer hermes..(6)
To be born with the wrong sex is to be a...(10)
A painful song, not sung sweetly. (6)
Student Extramarital bureau. (7, 7, 6)
Essential for pencil sketching. (6)

Down

Cherish the self. (4,6)
Opposite meaning to unconsciousness. (9)
Out and about with this UL society. (3, 2, 2)
In UL, a place to be listened to and not judged. (10, 7)
Sexuality out of harms way. (5, 3)
Irrational fear of members of the Gay and Lesbian community.(10)
An invasion of shellfish in the nether regions! (8)
An aspect of sexual health. Not the physical. (9)
ATM machines are more effective. (10)
A column in a newspaper or magazine featuring notices. Plus safety. (8, 6)
Spider spun mine of information: Student Sexual Health in UL. (7)
The Irish for GOD. Plural. (2)
Ailment, or ailments related to intimacy. (3)
Period of gestation lasting 9 months in humans. (9)
To misuse is to ...(5)
Verbal about sex. (4,3)
To gamble is to risk...(4)

*This crossword puzzle was created by Student Affairs Office with EclipseCrossword.
Try it today—it's free!*

Hand in your entry forms to the SU reception. The winner of this raffle will receive a Munster jersey.

Know your sexual rights

Sarah Carew

WHILE our newly acquired sexual liberalism is to be welcomed and indeed, attributed to a generation of Sex and The City followers, it means sex is no longer something to be giggled at. The advantages of this are self-evident; the down side, however is that our understanding of sexual assault has, perhaps been obscured by this new found sexual openness.

Rape is an emotive and scary word that conjures up dark images of powerlessness. However there is more to sexual assault than forced intercourse and I think it important to highlight a few of the categories of sexual assault that may not strike you as unlawful. Unlawful carnal knowledge is an offence that's a step below rape, in the same way as manslaughter falls below murder.

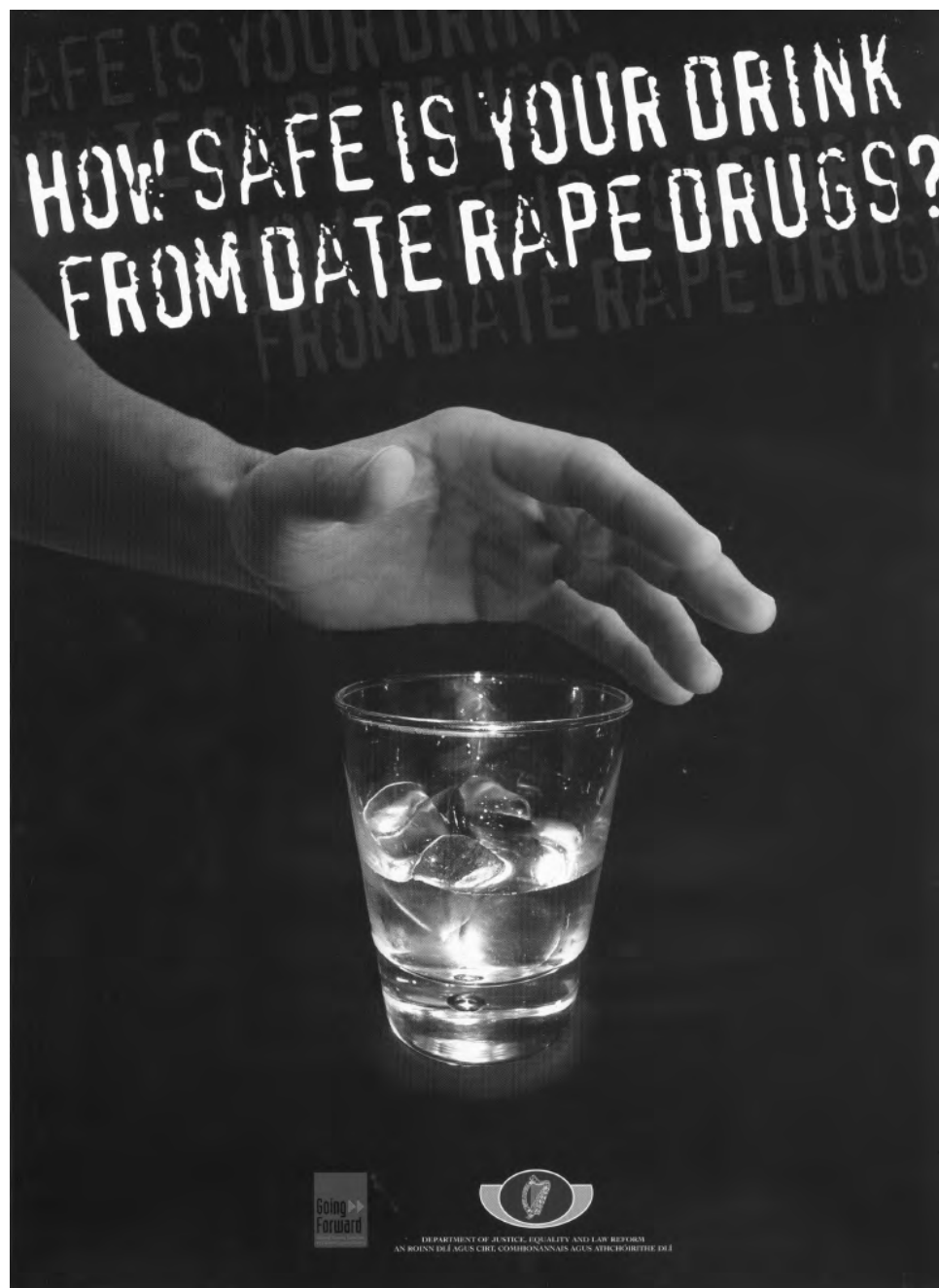
While rape is defined in the Non Fatal Offences Against the Person Act as 'penetration' (keeping in mind this need not be by a penis) Unlawful Carnal Knowledge is everything less than penetration and it is treated as seriously as any sexual assault. This act was amended in

1990 by the Criminal Rape (amendment) Act and it introduced a new category of rape under section 4 which is: "penetration (however slight) of the anus or mouth by the penis".

If you were forced to give a guy 'head' in circumstances you didn't feel comfortable with then this too is a sexual assault as outlined by law.

The purpose of SHaG week is to make you aware of your sexual health and sexual responsibility. So know your rights and know when they're being abused but most of all, be you male or female (because sexual assault is not just a woman's issue) it lies with you to say no and to feel within your rights to do so.

Furthermore it rests with you to report all and any incidents you think fall into this category. Frank Fogarty is our Welfare Officer, his door is always open and he doesn't flinch when you talk to him about girly stuff... believe me I've been asking him embarrassing questions since week 1 and he hasn't blinked yet! (At this stage it's a challenge) but go to him he knows what he's doing and it's what he's there for.



Student involved in date-rape incident

Aoife Breen reports

STUDENTS are warned to be extra vigilant and to take extreme caution when consuming beverages in public settings following an incident recently involving a female student in a city centre nightclub.

The young woman in question was enjoying a night out with her friends in the Trinity Rooms' nightclub when her drink was spiked and it is alleged that she was subsequently led away, sexually assaulted and beaten. She was found an hour and a half later in an alleyway. The gardaí have been informed and an investigation is underway.

Frank Fogarty, SU Welfare Officer, stressed the importance of taking care with drinks: 'Students need to be extremely cautious with their drinks in light of this incident. It is never ok to leave your drink unattended, even for a short while. If you do, forget about it. Your safety is worth more than the few euro that the drink cost.'

Mr Fogarty told An Focal that the drug used in this incident was rohypnol, one of the more

commonly used drugs in date-rape crime. This drug is a tasteless, odourless drug, which, until recently, dissolved clearly in drinks. Newer versions of the drug now dissolve to create a blue colour in drinks, but the old colourless tablets are still available.

Rohypnol begins to take effect within fifteen to twenty minutes of administration. Although used to treat sleeping disorders, the drug is widely used in date-rape where it induces drowsiness and amnesia as well as muscle relaxation, ensuring that a victim can be easily suppressed. However, the drug is detectable in urine up to 72 hours after ingestion and therefore it is vital that anyone who suspects that he or she may have been dosed with this drug should be tested immediately.

The Welfare Officer also said that this was the first incident of date-rape in his memory. Students are warned about the need to take caution while out with others. Drinks should not be left down without being supervised by a trusted friend. Do not accept opened drinks from strangers and never leave your drink with people that you do not know very well.

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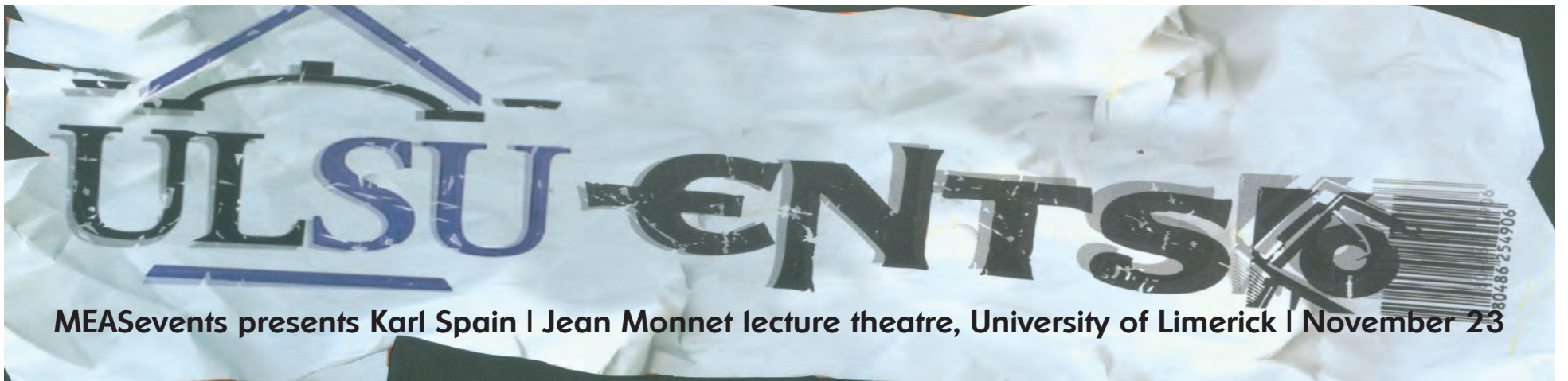
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UPCOMING ULSU EVENTS



Playboy Night in Trinity Rooms

In conjunction with ULSU's ShaG Week
Tickets €5, available from SU reception



CHRISTMAS NITES!!!

Week 11, December 6th - 8th.

CHRISTMAS / CO-OP BALL

South Court Hotel, Thursday Week 12, December 15th

One last blast before you all go home to stuff your faces for Christmas! Heading out on co-op in the New Year, but everyone's welcome. It's gonna be a full on, black tie bash. So dress up and try and use the tinsel in some imaginary ways!

Tickets €30, on sale Tuesday Week 10, November 29th.
Band: Lollygaggers. Plus magicians!

End of Term Pyjama Party

Wednesday Week 12



OPENING 9TH DECEMBER

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

NOW BOOKING!



Liam Neeson, Jim Broadbent, Ray Winstone, Dawn French, Rupert Everett, Tilda Swinton, Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, Anna Popplewell, William Moseley, James McAvoy, James Cosmo, Kiran Shah

C.S. Lewis' tale of four siblings "who were sent away from London during the war because of the air-raids," uses the grim reality the world had just endured as the point of departure for a profound tale of good's triumph over evil in a magical world filled with imagination and wonder.

The story follows the exploits of the four Pevensey siblings who enter the world of Narnia through the back of a magical wardrobe while playing a game of "hide and seek" in the rural country home of an elderly professor. There they discover an extraordinary land inhabited by talking beasts, dwarfs, fauns, centaurs, and giants. The evil White Witch Jadis, however, has cursed the once-charming and peaceful land with eternal winter. Under the guidance of a noble and mystical ruler, the lion Aslan, the children fight to overcome the White Witch's powerful hold over Narnia in a spectacular climactic battle that will free Narnia from her icy spell forever.



DOOM 2

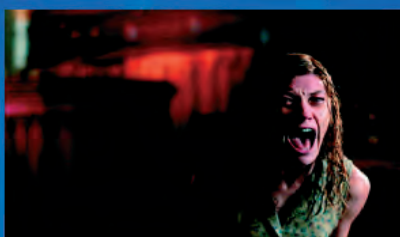
The Rock, Karl Urban, Rosamund Pike,



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FLIGHTPLAN



THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE



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Who's a pretty boy then?

Nicola Sutton reports on the male grooming craze that is even catching on with males here in UL!

I'M sure that everyone is aware of the phenomenon we call "modern man". We live in a society where the term "metro sexual" is thrown around constantly and where men are encouraged to embrace the fashionable female within. For those of you unfamiliar with the term metro sexual let me clarify.

Metro sexual - A heterosexual man who embraces the homosexual lifestyle i.e. expensive tastes in clothes, excessive use of hygiene products, etc. Usually is on the brink of homosexuality. An example of this term would be "David has become a metrosexual after shaving off his facial hair and using expensive skin products to soften his angelic facial features."

Signs that you are a metrosexual male:

1. You can't resist looking over a girl's shoulder as she reads the latest Vogue
2. You recognise a girl's outfit as being from a specific shop
3. You have a loyalty card in at least 3 clothes shops
4. You are on the mailing list to at least 3 clothes shops
5. You can't resist walking by a SALE sign in a window
6. You understand the meaning of being able to wear a specific colour
7. You own a pair of plastic gloves for tan application
8. You own more beauty products than the females in your lives
9. You have experienced the perils of waxing
10. You have a daily beauty regime lasting longer than 2 minutes
11. You have a stressful clothes viewing session prior to going on a night out
12. You have borrowed a female's hairdryer/straightener

If you can identify with more than 3 of the above then I urge you to consider the fact that perhaps you have delved a little too deeply into that feminine intuition.



With celebrities like Jude Law being classed as metro sexual for his sophisticated style and good grooming, it's obvious that men are more aware of making the most of themselves. You only have to venture as far as the courtyard to spot a male sporting a fashionable knitted scarf teamed with a fitted black coat on

these frosty mornings. This sort of behavior was certainly not existent in years gone by. Men who took any interest in fashion would have been shunned and possibly burned at the stake.

I propose that there are vast numbers of metro sexual males amongst us. For example, last year I shared an apartment with a male student who required at least an hour's extra warning before we started getting ready for a night out. The same male would disappear into his room for long periods of time to decide what outfit to wear. I have to admit that I found it a little disturbing that the girls in the apartment would always be ready and waiting for him before a night on the tiles.

Another example of men listening to that little female voice within could be seen this summer with the overnight bombardment of men in pink shirts and T-shirts. Now, whoever started this cruel rumour that it was actually sexy for men to sport pink clothes should own up before any more damage can be done!

In this day and age it is now socially acceptable for men to have an ongoing interest in fashion and they are encouraged more and



this kind of strange male behaviour. With celebrities openly admitting that they too have caught onto this new craze of grooming it's no wonder that men are becoming increasingly aware of taking extra special care of what God's given to them.

Only last week on RTE's The Panel, Dara O Brian (the epitome of a typical Irish male) admitted that he enjoyed using his designer facial moisturiser on a daily basis.

On the darker side of this male grooming issue we have the hot topic of fake tan and body hair removal. I entered a temporary state of shock recently when two of my male friends who would be heterosexuals through and through asked my advice on waxing before they went away on holidays. Being of the typical male variety they threw caution to my advice on not waxing right before they headed off to the sun, lo and behold I received a panicked phone call the day after they went on holidays asking if it was normal that they now sported matching red rashes on their arms and backs.

The other issue of fake tan is now definitely in our midst with "macho men" like Gavin Henson - and I use the term macho quite loosely - admitting that they could give any female a run for her money with their precise applications of St.Tropez!

With the male species being bombarded with all these new found ideas it's no wonder that some men can get left behind. These males can usually be recognised in their bewildered state as they hide in the changing rooms trying to convince themselves that the pink shirt on the hanger is actually incredibly macho and sexy or trying to understand the directions on the back of their moisturiser "for men".

Now I propose that we take a long look around us and see for ourselves if male fashion is well and truly alive here in UL. It could be the guy sitting in front of you in a lecture or the one offering fashion advice in the smoking area of a pub.

It's now time for the males amongst us to answer the all important question - "Who's a pretty boy then?"

more to take better care of themselves. This brings me to the more taboo subject of male grooming. To the average male, this consists of owning a can of deodorant, aftershave and the odd bar of soap. I however believe these males to be not entirely telling the truth!

A male friend of mine recently asked if he could have some Carmex lipbalm because he had just run out of his. Up until recently their peers would not have tolerated



Eusebio from Spain

3rd year English language and literature

Where do you buy your clothes?

Pennys, but most of them are from Spain, I suppose

How long did it take you to get ready this morning?

10 minutes

Do you go for style or comfort?

I'm not sure but I think maybe style

What's the cheapest and most expensive item of clothing you have bought?

Okay, the cheapest was €6, for a pair of trousers. The most expensive would be €14

Do you think the UL girls are stylish?

Some of them, but not so much.

In your opinion, what is the biggest fashion "no-no"?

I don't like worn-out jeans

Do you let your mother buy you clothes?

Yeah, when I was a child



Evan Gardner

1st year Public administration

Where do you buy your clothes?

This jacket I got in River Island and the jeans I got in Remix

How long did it take you to get ready this morning?

5 minutes

Do you go for style or comfort?

A bit of both. It depends what mood you're in.

What's the cheapest and most expensive item of clothing you have bought?

Most expensive is probably a €200 jacket and the cheapest is a few t-shirts worth €10 or €20.

Do you think the UL girls are stylish?

A lot of them, yeah. I see a lot of them really dressed up.

In your opinion, what is the biggest fashion "no-no"?

I haven't a clue. I'm not even that much into fashion so...

Do you let your mother buy you clothes?

Never

So you're going to go to India . . .

Niall Smith provides some essential advice for anyone planning to go backpacking. First of a two-part series.

OR New York, or Thailand, or China or Kathmandu for that matter. Regardless of where you are going, the fact of the matter is, that half the money you are going to spend will be spent here in Ireland before you've even set foot on the plane.

Similarly, your experience will also be based on that activity that takes place here: preparation. So, with that in mind, what I plan to cover here is a simple guide to some of the things that you should keep an eye to before you go. No matter where you go.

First, travel insurance. Basic flight cover is free if you book your flights with most credit cards, but it only covers flights and baggage trouble getting on or off the plane. It can still be a useful supplement to your own travel cover though, as if you have any difficulties you can usually spend the money you need to on a hotel and get the money back out of the credit card company in most countries where they have offices, almost anywhere in the world. As most other claims involve going back to your insurance company, this can be handy. You'll still need your own policy, but it's free and it can be a handy backup. Phone your credit card company for details.

You will still probably need separate insurance. Multi-trip, world wide, year long travel Insurance is a great reassurance to have, as much for those amongst you, whom like me have Irish mummies that wonder what would make you want to go to such back of beyond places as Cambodia and such as for those actually going there.

A good policy will include up to a million pounds worth of cover, medical air ambulance repatriation home from anywhere in the world and a whole host of other features. Be warned, activities like skiing are never covered unless you explicitly say so, and things like white water rafting can be iffy. When I last bought one the English Insurance market was much more competitive than the Irish, and were more than willing to take Irish customers. Just make sure to check that they know you are a Republic of Ireland resident and expect to pay in the region of £100 pounds Sterling. Shop around, you can save quite a bit, or find that some policies cover more activities than others.

Vaccinations: Where you are going can have a huge influence on the medical precautions you are going to have to take, both for medical and legal reasons. You need tick borne Encephalitis jabs for both India and the Czech Republic, depending on the time of



year. Also many countries with extensive public health coverage insist that visitors are immunised against anything their own public health system immunises against, the idea being having eradicated such and such nefarious illnesses they don't want someone bringing them back in. Not only that, but in some cases proof of immunisation is a requirement for the visa, so you need this done not just before you go, but before you can successfully apply for a visa to go at all. The bottom line here is, you need to think ahead, months ahead in some cases. The front few pages of your guidebook should contain all of the information you need on this point, so go and buy it NOW. Put it on your Christmas list.

Documentation includes proof you've no criminal record, medical details, proof of address, and some embassies insist this is stamped by the department of Foreign affairs (Stephens Green North, Dublin) to prove it's an official Irish document. Again, think ahead.

The stuff that goes into that bag may have to keep you going for up to a year, and as anybody who's done a few trips knows, how you packed the second time out was probably very different the first. Now this part of the plan is a lot more destination dependant, hot country / cold country, West vs East, so there is less I can be specific on. Again, consult those few front pages of the guidebook. Some countries don't use toilet roll. Think about it. Bring a decent First Aid kit, plenty of plasters, bit of bandage, a few paracetamol, that sort of thing.

If you are going to a hot country the smaller the backpack the better. Small is good. Big is bad. Very big is VERY BAD. Whatever size bag you buy, you will fill. It's

as simple as that. And you'll think you still won't have enough. An 80 Litre backpack fully loaded will easily weigh 30-35 Kilo. That's 5 stone. Put that on your back, walk for half a mile in 35 degree heat and 20% humidity and see how you feel.

Or, get a 40-litre bag, 45 at the very up most (and that includes an allowance for all the extra girly bits girls seem to think they need). It might not look like much, but believe me, for any hot country it'll hold everything you need, even for a few months, and have room for trinkets too. Plus it will fit on train beds with you, will go into Hostel security lockers if they have them, and won't break you back. I cannot stress this enough.

You have no idea how many people I have seen with backpacks the size of themselves, and day packs they brought with them that are now loaded with extras they've picked up along the way. They are actually physically in tears because they have to go another two hundred yards to the next hotel or hostel because the first two closest to the train or bus station are full and the third place was the best in town anyway, simply because they have been on that train for 14 hours and are broken with tiredness and heat exhaustion. I advise 40 litres, 45 at the absolute most. Not one more. Also, avoid bags with detachable daypacks. They lean back too far. Lots of small pockets on the outside / top / sides are cool, for the guide book, visa, water bottle and all the other 100 things other you'll need to have in easy reach.

Other gear includes a double sized treated Mosquito net. You may be on your own, but a lot of cheap hostel beds are doubles, to fit more people in, and a single net won't fit the bed. Treated so that the eggs mosquito's

lay near warm body smell don't climb out on the inside of the net tomorrow night, and a spare bit of string, a good length, so you can always tie it up no matter what. A water bottle holder is a cool piece of kit and a simple little shoulder strap that holds a litre or so sized plastic water bottle.

Now personally I never liked money belts or wallets - they're an obvious target. But some people swear by them. I prefer a good pair of light combat style shorts or trousers with plenty of different sized pockets to spread everything around. Obviously this all depends on your clothing. It must be cotton or linen, nothing synthetic. Go on, strap a load of polyester plastic to your belly while you lug that bag in 35C! Unbelievably painful sweat rash follows, and now where do you put your money / passport / credit cards etc?

Also if you are using one of these, keep a reasonable supply of cash in your pocket at all times and extra if you are going to the train station or wherever, enough for the ticket. Defying local taboo and opening your wallet with two years wages inside (local economy equivalent), every time you need a bus ticket or even just a bottle of water is not clever.

Would you open a wallet with two grand in the middle of Bus Áras in Dublin? No, neither would I.

Your wallet or money belt is cool for your passport and traveller's cheques, or big denomination bills, but keep plenty of small stuff handy.

INTERVIEW

My Life in Brief

Peter Sheridan

"How would I like to be remembered? As a great man to have around"

Peter Sheridan, 53, is one of Ireland's major contemporary playwrights, as well as a novelist, screenwriter, actor, and film director. Sheridan's two memoirs, '44: Dublin Made Me' and 'Forty-seven Roses', feature tales of his Dublin boyhood. He is married to Sheila and has 5 children. He lives in Santry, Co. Dublin. He is working on a new book, provisionally titled 'Capricorn Cancer'.

"My day begins with an incredible struggle to get out of bed. I'm not a morning person at all. I've struggled getting out of bed all my life. I remember my mother coming up to my bed and pleading with me, "Peter, please get up for the 12 o'clock lecture", when I was a student. Over the years I've tried the early writing thing, on the advice of my friend, the writer, Deirdre Purcell, because you can't ring people at 7am and you can't be making phone calls. I find that really good but I'm still lucky if I get out of bed by 9.30am.

For my first book I started getting up at 6.45am and would start writing by 7.30am. If I am writing a book I might find lots of little things to do - like the hood of the cooker needs cleaning or the bin is full of ants, so I better do something about it. I'm not really interested in the ants; I'm interested in putting off the writing. I'm a master of that, but the other side of the coin is I'm also very disciplined. I tend to answer the phone if it rings, rather than letting it go on to message, which is a bad habit. Around 3pm I take a break for up to two hours. I might watch a bit of TV for a half hour - something really inane like Ricki Lake or Oprah Winfrey. Or sport. But I try to avoid getting into racing during the week.

I eat very simply. For breakfast I'd have freshly squeezed orange juice, cornflakes or porridge, tea and two slices of toast. Lunch for me is a sandwich. Sheila is a bit more adventurous at lunch - she finds me boring because I'm just a sandwich person. Dinner is always something special. Very seldom we'd have a take-away. Sunday evening we could have ten to twelve people around for dinner - all the family and friends come around and we have a blast together. I love cooking as a diversion from writing and as a way to un-fry my head. My speciality is tandoori chicken - a Delia Smith recipe I learned twenty years ago when the kids were small and they loved it! So, I have that as my repertoire.

I eat a good bit of fruit. I don't drink alcohol. I don't smoke - I gave that up in the mid 80s. Thank God, I know I'd be in trouble if I were still smoking. Very occasionally I'd have a cup of coffee. Tea is my drink. I absolutely love tea. Tea and bread are my favourite foodstuffs in the entire world. It wouldn't be salmon or caviar; it would be white turnover bread, butter and a cup of tea. That goes back to my childhood.

At the weekends if I'm really into a book I might do two hours of writing, because I find stuff is still in my head and I don't want to keep it on ice until Monday. I love theatre and

the cinema - it would not be unusual for me to go to see a film or a play every night of the week. I thought Crash was the movie of the year - brilliantly directed, brilliantly acted.

Saturday is the day when I really take it off and indulge in all the sports that I love. I love backing horses. I love screaming at horses on the telly. I bet on soccer and golf as well. I'm just sport mad at the weekend. We were a mad horseracing family. My father couldn't get enough of the horses. He was an indeterminate gambler but also a bad loser. He could get into a temper and you might get the blame for bringing him bad luck or putting him off winners. I didn't like that when I was a kid. When we get together, the Sheridan's, we talk about horses, about gambling. Every Friday night I talk to my brother, Paul, about what bets we're going to have that weekend. We had greyhounds at home as well. We'd gamble on anything - even two flies walking up the wall.

I loved my father's way with words when he wrote things down. He got the style when he wrote that was kind of unusual for a man who was a clerical officer. If he was sending me for something he'd say, "please supply the bearer of this note with", and at the end "yours sincerely and oblige." People don't write letters like that anymore. He was also powerfully good at telling stories, like The Old Man and The Sea, the Allie Baba stories, Cúchulain, even films. I knew the plots of films before I'd even seen them because he would emotionally engage

you so much. I inherited that gift from him, both as a writer and as a storyteller.

I think that being a good director or a good writer is about being a communicator. I'm desperately trying to communicate with the reader on a very primal level. I've developed my own voice...that's the secret of a good writer. What I am more than anything else is a teacher. I've always been good at demysti-

fying things that seem complicated for people. If you're going to be an artist or a writer you're in for a long apprentice. I was an overnight success after twenty-five years. My first book meant that I had money for the first time ever, and that was 1997/8. It's a long haul. We lived from hand to mouth for many years, not knowing where the next pay cheque would come from.

My style has always been 'get in there', and that's my father all over again. He always made sure we mixed with kids from the flats and broke down barriers, rather than building them up. I've always tried to sow peace and harmony as opposed to discord. I don't like games or egos; I just want to get on with the work.

Jim and I worked together for the first twenty years of our careers so we never saw ourselves as separate. We used to be known as the Sheridan brothers in the theatre world in Dublin. I'm not trying to prove myself against him - I'm trying to prove myself against myself. People say to me "it must be a pain in the arse having a successful sibling", but in fact it's the opposite. His success fills me with joy and has been nothing but a blessing to me.

We've a place in Spain and we go there as often as we can. I love the whole sense of freedom and expression and outdoor culture and life. It does something to your psyche. We do a lot of reading down there, no telly, play a bit of scrabble and eat out all the time. Rome would be a big favourite of ours. The first time we went there we both fell in love with the city instantaneously, in a way we never did with Paris. It's just that experience you have sometimes from the get go. It's got the ancient and the modern side by side. It's phenomenal. And of course, New York. As soon as I hit New York I'm in NY time, I don't have to think how many hours we are behind.

I never ever go to bed before midnight. I always do the Irish Times crossword at night - sometimes with Sheila, sometimes separately. At the moment we're into SoDuku, so that's something we might compare notes on about at twelve or twelve thirty."

Interview with Anne Sheridan



Peter Sheridan at the Helix Theatre in DCU. Photo: Anne Sheridan

Students, exam time is approaching, so for the sake of us all please learn libretiquette!



Kate Nolan reports on the problems of the library, or more specifically the students who occupy it.

As a HPSS student I spend my entire college life in the library - when not watching daytime TV, obviously - and consequently I am an authority on its inner workings. For the benefit of all library users I have drawn up a simple set of guide-

lines - libretiquette (library + etiquette = libretiquette) if you will - to address a number of problems that have come to my attention.

Firstly, the signs in the library are there for a reason, my favourite being 'libraries serve knowledge, not food'. I speak from experience when I say there is nothing more irritating than someone eating a kiwi - you'd be surprised how slurpy they are - chewing right into your ear as you frantically try to meet that ever-looming essay deadline.

There are also certain people (you know who you are) who believe that it is acceptable to chew hard

sweets in the library - it is not... like rocks in a washing machine ... For the sake of your teeth and my mental well being please stop.

I always had this funny idea that libraries and silence went hand in hand, oh how wrong I was. A handy tip here is a stage whisper does not constitute speaking quietly, nor has it ever. In addition to this, loud "whispered" conversations in the library are usually along the lines of: "Oh my God, I've

sooooo much work to do its unreal. I've nothing done, absolutely nothing. I really should get started" - then why don't you? However, students are not alone when it comes to breaking the 'silence is golden' rule, not that I'm thinking of any one white-haired member of security in particular - I personally find a repeated "Shhh!" sound quite distracting.

It doesn't take an An Focal article to uncover the appalling lack of books in the library, especially in the humanities section, so we just have to act fairly and responsibly to ensure everyone gets access to the

resources they need. All it takes is the simple act of returning books as soon as you're done with them. I know your m a m m y says you're "special" but remember there are several oth-

ers who really need that book you've sitting in your bag for the last two weeks (this rule applies to history books in particular).

If the thought of fellow students frantically looking for all the books you've hoarded doesn't deter you, remember there is a fine every time a book is returned late, and the University won't allow you to graduate until all library fines are paid! A basic respect for

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I always had this funny idea that libraries and silence went hand in hand, oh how wrong I was.
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library property goes a long way - particularly not highlighting library books. Many's the time my corneas were left stinging after opening page covered in neon yellow ink... business students are repeat offenders in this instance. It is also always, always wrong to steal, hide, or rip relevant pages out of books, no matter what your circumstances are.

Another serious breach of libretiquette occurs during reading and exam weeks. In week 12 panic sets in, along with the realisation that a whole semester's work needs to be done in the space of 1 to 2 weeks. Some inconsiderate people, obviously not acquainted with standard libretiquette, come in early, dump their stuff on the nearest desk, then feck off back to bed for themselves, leaving poor souls to hopelessly wander round the library in search of a seat. A sheet of paper and a pen should not indicate that a seat is taken for the entire day. In a library such as ours, which is short on space, it's just not fair and is one of the most heinous crimes committed.

On a lighter less preachy note, even An Focal's investigative skills could not discover (a) how exactly the pane of glass on the stairs got cracked, or (b) when it will be repaired.

If we all abide by the rules of libretiquette the library will be a much happier environment for us all to work. Now I'm saying that will mean you'll get more work done, I'm not a miracle worker...

Photo : Blissful solitude of the library during the summer.
photo by Anne Sheridan

Imagine

Sean O'Carroll reports on the wall that imprisons 100,000 people.

IMAGINE one day you wake up and a nine metre concrete wall surrounds your city. Imagine you try and go to University and the one gate that you are allowed use is closed and the single soldier at the gate will not let you through. Imagine that you cannot get food or water. Imagine that your families' farm is being destroyed and you cannot get to it. Imagine that your are divided from your family and friends by machine gun towers, electrified fences and armed soldiers. Imagine that you and 40,000 others live like this everyday. This may be difficult for us to imagine but unfortunately this is the daily reality for people in Qalqilyah in Palestine.

November 9th to 16th marked the 3rd International Week against the Apartheid Wall. In 2002 the Israeli government began construction of this wall in the West Bank under the pretence of "ensuring security", however the Apartheid Wall is built on Palestinian Land and divides Palestinian communities from each other. The Wall is not build on the internationally recognised border between the Occupied Territories and Israel. In essence the construction of the Apartheid Wall is an exercise by Israel in annexation of land,

destruction of property and agriculture and denial of basic human rights.

When completed the Apartheid Wall will be over 786 km in length. It will vary in height from 2.5 metres to 9 metres. That is twice the height of the Berlin Wall. In places the concrete wall become a series of electrified fences with sentry towers, which house machine guns fitted with motion detectors. When completed, the Apartheid Wall will completely surround 42 towns and villages and imprison over 100,000 people. When completed the Apartheid Wall will annex 47% of the West Bank. 343,000 Palestinians currently lie between the Apartheid Wall and the international-

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The Apartheid Wall being constructed by Israel is just the latest manifestation of the evil occupation of Palestine.
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ly recognised border: The Green Line. Palestinians can only pass through the entry/exit gates at scheduled times, which in some places amount to periods of 15 minutes three times a day. Access to schools, universities, hospitals etc is severely restricted.

When the Israeli state began construction of the Apartheid Wall in 2002, the Palestinian people and their representatives placed their belief in the international community and the belief that the world would not let the ghettoisation of Palestine

occur. Consequently, the Palestinian people took Israel to the International Court of Justice. In July 2004 the ICJ delivered the ruling that the construction of the Apartheid Wall is illegal. The ruling states that:

"The Court finds that Israel must respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and its obligations under humanitarian law and human rights law. Israel must also put an end to it's violation of it's international obligations flowing from the construction of the wall in Occupied Palestinian Territory and must cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall and dismantle forthwith those parts of that structure situated within the Occupied Palestinian Territory."



This wall must fall

However, over a year later the construction of the Apartheid Wall continues unabated. The next phase of construction will see the Wall being extended along the Jordan valley totally enclosing the West Bank. The world stands idly by. People may not realise but Ireland is playing a role in the construction of the Apartheid Wall, the Irish company Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH) is involved in the construction of the Wall.

The Apartheid Wall being constructed by Israel is just the latest manifestation of the evil occupation of Palestine. Join us and mark the international effort to stop the wall. Apartheid policies and practices cause indignity and hardship and the Apartheid Wall is a racist tool of occupation.

THIS WALL MUST FALL

THE

BLURB

Student drops tray in restaurant

LESS than one hundred students from the entire college showed up for the student's union AGM in week 5 to decide the fate of the Scholars club. The few students who cared enough to attend then proceeded to grumble about "What is it with student apathy?" and "Why did I bother coming?" Many wondered where this apathy had sprung from.

"Alcohol and related drugs are certainly known to stem from apathy and to, in turn, generate more apathy", says doctor Igor Strobel, "but it seems to be this very apathy which is keeping the Scholars (a known drinking establishment) closed. That's almost as ironic as the Brookefield Hall bus having 'school bus' plastered all over its rear!"

"Student apathy is becoming the scourge of UL, and slowly threatens to destroy our student lives."

The closure of the Scholars is the latest in a wave of cutbacks to go unnoticed by students this year. Julian Roberts, a student, says: "Next they'll be telling us that one of the reception desks is closed in the library or that they're going to build another new building without increasing parking spaces...what? They've done that already? I need to stop drinking..."

While the fate of the scholars is as yet unknown, one thing is certain: Student apathy is becoming the scourge of UL, and slowly threatens to destroy our student lives.

"Make love, not war"

Thanael Mackarel reports on another great invention - the hippie movement.

WHAT'S the first thing that comes into your head when you think of the sixties? Why, hippies of course! Free love, war protests, great music - where has it all gone? And why did it exist in the first place?

"Free love, war protests, great music - where has it all gone?"

From an American perspective, the sixties were a troubled time. Communists were greatly feared and persecuted in society. This fear partly caused America to start a war in a far off land, helping that country rid itself of the communists who were trying to take it over. The Vietnam War was a perplexing war, and is still difficult to understand today.

Young people were being sent away to fight in that war by the "masters of war" as Bob Dylan called them. At the same time, the music these young people were listening to was protesting the war, and highlighting the trouble with such a conflict. Thus started the hippy movement, whose most memorable slogan was "make love, not war."

So where did the Hippy movement go? Why today is there not a nation-wide movement of students interested in changing things for the better? Is it because we're so well off now we don't need to protest anything? These hippies were no poorer than you or I. They had enough money to attend concerts and buy records, as well as attend college. But unlike us, they were oppressed.



those numbers today to protest a war, which shouldn't be happening?

Until we live in harsher conditions we'll never get off our asses. But we'd never choose to be oppressed, would we? We'll just continue to let the few people at the top do what they want, while the majority of us sit here too lazy to move until someone pulls the chair out from under us. Man's greatest invention was the hippies - born of a necessity, which is missing in today's society.



Dear Mr & Mrs M,

I'm a first year Law & Accounting student living in a housing estate near UL. It's one of the older estates and my house isn't the nicest... when I say that, I don't mean it doesn't look nice... it looks fine. But if we leave the hot water on, it rains down through the ceiling. If we cook in the kitchen our food smells of gas - and we don't turn on the light switch because there's a spark behind it. Besides, thumping the wall usually makes the light go off, so there's no need for it.

Anyway, on to the reason I'm writing to you. My landlady,

a creepy old woman who smells of cat pee, has recently taken a liking to me. Such a liking, in fact, that she's decided to leave her (equally creepy) husband and move into the house with me, kicking my friends out. On the plus side, I'd get to live there rent-free for the rest of my college life... but, well, on the minus side, she is old and she does smell of cat pee. And I don't think my girlfriend would like it.

However, as a disciple of the Great One (Eddie Hobbs, to the plebs out there who can't do sums), I really do feel that, on a cost-benefit analysis, this is too great a financial opportunity to pass up...

What should I do?

Sean,
69 Champignon,
Milford Strange.

My dear Sean,

Firstly let me tell you that, while I find your thriftiness sweet - in the way that baby rats are sweet - it is not an aphrodisiac. Is your girlfriend also of the Eddie Hobbs persuasion? If so, she may be turned on by this sort of miserliness. If not, she may be placated by you spending all your savings on her.

If your older paramour were to find out the reason for your change of heart regarding her advances, you probably would not have much lifetime left in which to spend the money you have saved on rent. As I believe I may be acquainted with your landlady (an ill-fated venture on a gentleman's club - from where did you think the stain on the living room carpet came?) I would hazard a guess that she would have no qualms about cutting you up into little pieces and feeding you to the aforementioned cats.

If I were you, Sean, I would go with the cost-benefit analysis - put out and shut up. It's only for another three years.

Avec amour,
Mrs M

Well Sean,

Let me simplify the situation here both for your sake and mine. You are living in a crap house for free. The landlady is coming on to you and you have managed to keep your girlfriend. Well done on juggling that situation for so long but you were right to give us a call.

First of all congrats & commiserations for 'doing' the landlady (if you are). It's like riding a scooter, great for a while, that is until your mates find out. Just a bit of useless info: do you know what the Chinese symbol for trouble is? Well it is two women under one roof. It is a valuable lesson that you are learning now: a man must never let his wife and mistress meet, which unfortunately is a feat which I haven't quite mastered yet (or have I?).

I think that I would have to go with gut instinct here and say stick it out (or in as the case may be) for a while until the necessary documentation is filled in i.e. the giving of her estate to you. I do not promote violence but "don't kill her" wink. Then if you can keep those damn CSI police off your back you are home free.

Enjoy your new house in Milford Strange. It ain't called STRANGE for nothing.

Mr. Milford

Student apathy reinforces Scholars closure

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The closure of the Scholars is the latest in a wave of cutbacks to go unnoticed by students this year. Julian Roberts, a student, says: "Next they'll be telling us that one of the reception desks is closed in the library or that they're going to build another new building without increasing parking spaces...what? They've done that already? I need to stop drinking..."

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Why I Return to College

I hate my pending return to college,
After a summer of my mind being free,
On me the shackles of restraint are put,
The only holding factor being a degree.
Why put myself through this social pain,
I don't want to work a nine to five,
Where people trample on a person,
And I'd be doomed never to thrive.
So I pack these books to go,
Get my background rubbed in my face,
By those who have too much or not enough,
Only with a degree can I clean my slate.

© Alison Markham 2005

Just 17

but all the things i've seen
so many throats slit open
so many necks broken
when I see war on
television
I don't know is it real
or a film.

Anthony Higgins

Medical Care Makes Me Sick!

The Government's got me going berserk
Even sedating me isn't going to work,
How stupid can these people be,
Holding back vaccines from babies?

Our medical care needs some revisions,
What ever happened to EU concessions?
Meningitis in children is no power game,
When they're suffering /dying I know who to blame.

And what of special needs care
I'm not sure if it even exists here?
And minister or voter can surely see
That like this Ireland cannot be!

For our high standard of living
The priorities should be the children,
They are the ways of the future,
Most of you'll be dead then so you don't care!

© Alison Markham 2005

All humans are animals underneath

Laura Potter reviews Zoo Story at Impact Theatre, a play about the similarities between animals and humans

IMPACT Theatre presented a wonderful vision of how two different classes react when confronted with each other. An adaptation of Zoo Story by the American playwright Edward Albee, it was a humorous play which analysed the social differences between two men in New York, set in Central Park, using only a bench and some leaves to depict this.

Jerry was the convincing poor, lonely young man and Peter did a good performance of a middle class man oblivious to the outside world. The sirens in the background give a real feel of New York city.

It tells the story of a poor man Jerry who comes into contact with a middle class man on a bench in Central park. They have a number of disturbing conversations which leads them into a series of confrontational scenes.

Jerry is experimenting to see are all humans alike. He wants to know are all humans just animals underneath it all. It shows us the differences between the two men. They live in completely different worlds in the same city. Jerry lives in the west of Central Park and is obviously disturbed by past experiences and his life in general. Peter lives in a nice house with his wife and children and seems to be living

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Invalidate a persons space and they will retaliate by demanding their own space back

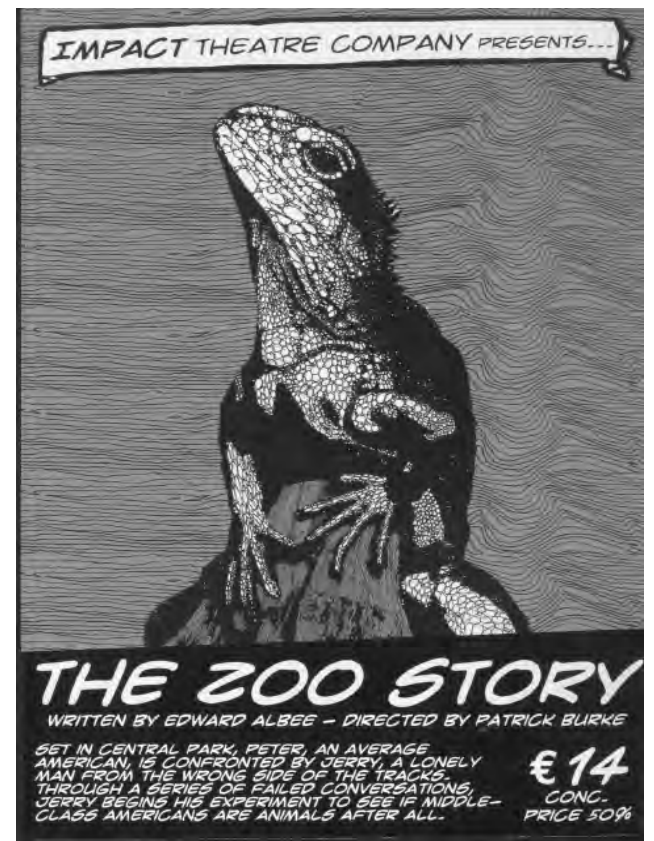
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the American dream. He seems to be quite peaceful reading until his life is turned upside down by the lonely young man. Jerry wants to show that even though Peter has a family and a nice house he is still as bad as Jerry. He wants Peter to stoop as low as him so he can prove his point that all humans are animals. He wants Peter to stop living in his

fantasy world and start feeling what someone else feels. He wants him to know what it feels like to be the lowest of the low.

This play shows that when you become too close to a person by invading their space, they will retaliate and demand their own space back. They debate about the concept of love and the misinterpretations that go along with the act of love.

They show that animals are like humans they need to be understood and loved also. Jerry is crazy and Peter doesn't fully realize this until the end. Peter seems to have it all intelligence, wit and kindness. However we see that the two men are not too different in the end. Although they come from different backgrounds and one will return home to a nice house they are still the same. It ends with a petty fight for the bench in which Jerry is killed by the knife he carried. He has proven that at the end of the day all men are the same no matter where they

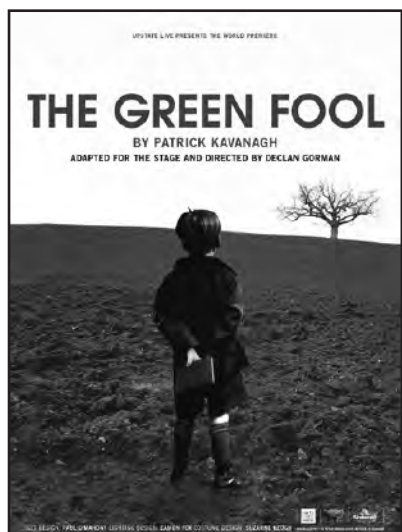


live or what they have. They are all animals who are just waiting to be set free. Peter returns to his nice house in his middle-class neighbourhood and will never return to the

bench again. Jerry does not go home to his miserable household where he belongs he is finally going to a place where inequality and social differences does not exist.

Acting the Fool

Dave O'Mahony reviews The Green Fool at the Belltable Arts Centre.



IF I were to list the Irish writers, whose works I enjoy, Patrick Kavanagh would be very close to the bottom. I imagine only his namesake, Richie Kavanagh, would be below the writer whose agricultural imagery was the bane of my secondary school life. So it was with great trepidation I went along to the Belltable Arts Centre, on the night of November 8th, to see the Upstate Theatre Company's adaptation of The Green Fool.

Upstate Theatre Project is a professional theatre and arts organisation formed in

Drogheda in 1997. It is known for its innovative productions and its exemplary local arts and education programmes. Upstate's Declan Gorman, responsible for this dramatisation of Kavanagh's novel, admits he was initially wary of such an undertaking.

"While I know the book and have always considered it an engaging work, my sense was that it is not inherently dramatic and might not lend itself to a conventional page-to-stage transfer."

Gorman began to form the idea of contextualising chapters from the book within another story, that of the poets continuing life and his subsequent attitude to the version of himself and community, which he wrote at a time, when, he did not yet know himself.

The Green Fool has, until now, remained one of the best-kept secrets of Irish Literature. It is primarily an episodic adventure through pastoral life and its customs in Patrick Kavanagh's native town land

of Mucker. This stage adaptation of Kavanagh's novel is concerned with entertaining exposition and storytelling rather than authentic social documentation. As with any adaptation, the need for dramatic compression and coherence means that many episodes from the original book are omitted.

This is an amazing production. The humour and sorrow, the frustration of an older wiser Kavanagh struggling with his younger self in the search for truth and beauty, the horror at the poverty and isolation awaiting Kavanagh; is all so superbly acted it leaves one with a new appreciation of the life and works of Kavanagh. I left the theatre, literally, with shivers down my spine. I felt an overwhelming gratitude towards the actors for staging this production, I felt them deserving far more financial reward than the 40 to 50 audience members could bring. I felt them deserving of far more than the three curtain calls their powerful portrayal brought, I felt them deserving of the one thing missing from their perfect production, an audience.

Maria Full of Grace

The film season in the Jean Monnet keeps offering excellent viewing, says Nick Cotter

HALF six in the Jean Monnet is getting to be one of my favourite times of the week. This week, the excellent viewing on offer was 'Maria full of Grace', an acclaimed Colombian film about a young drug smuggler. The film's leading lady, Catalina Sandino Moreno was nominated for an academy award for best actress. Had there been nudity, I dare say she would have got it. The appreciative audience of international students (the only ones who bother with subtitles), were treated to a well made journey through the heroine's eyes.

"Show this to school kids as an anti-drug film and they will never touch another condom full of junk again."

The film begins with Maria working in a job she hates. The supervisor doesn't like her (translation: she isn't very good), and she doesn't love her boyfriend. Not usually a problem, but then she finds herself pregnant. She quits her job and goes to find work in Bogota, hitching a lift with Frank. Frank puts her onto a drug dealer, who wants her to become a 'mule' - someone who gets paid to chug dozens of baggies of drugs and smuggle them into New Jersey - a small town outside New York.



Catalina Sandino Moreno in Maria Full of Grace

The drug dealer doesn't even ask her if she speaks English, by the way.

Maria goes home, practices swallowing grapes and tries to prevent her best friend Blanca (the typical important-for-the-plot dumb sidekick) from also becoming a mule. The day arrives. She swallows around seventy 'pellets' - any of which, if they break, could kill her.

They get to the States, and low and behold, there is trouble. The writer (also the director, Joshua Marston) gets Maria out of this nicely. Out of the frying pan into the fire, as Maria and Blanca go on the run - due to yet more trouble. In a more Hollywood film, they would be dodg-

ing bullets and sleeping with each other for some reason by now, but Maria finds it difficult enough to find a place to stay-the apartment of a dead colleague's sister, calling home, and getting an ultrasound done.

The film ends with Maria and dumb-dumb giving back to money, not getting killed by the mean drug smugglers, and Blanca going back to Columbia. Despite all of this and the fact that Maria couldn't decide which emotion to portray at any given moment, it somehow was a very good movie. Show this to school kids as an anti-drug film. They will never touch another condom full of junk again.



Bill Whelan The Irish Chamber Orchestra Zoë Conway Colin Dunne

IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

presents

Postcards from Connemara

An Evening of **BILL WHELAN** Music

Monday 5 December at 8pm
University Concert Hall

David Jones conductor
Katherine Hunka leader

Zoë Conway traditional violin
Morgan Crowley lilter
Colin Dunne dancer
Catherine Leonard violin
Michelle Mulcahy harp, concertina

Programme
Bill Whelan *Inishlacken* for violin, traditional violin and strings
Bill Whelan *Carna* for lilter, dancer, traditional violin and strings
Bill Whelan *Errisbeg* for harp, traditional violin, concertina and strings

Join the Irish Chamber Orchestra and a top line-up of soloists for a terrific evening of music by Limerick-born **Bill Whelan**, Grammy Award winning composer of *Riverdance*. The programme features a trilogy of works by Whelan for the Irish Chamber Orchestra inspired by the landscape and sheer beauty of Connemara. This ICO performance features a world premiere of *Errisbeg*, his latest postcard from the West of Ireland.

Tickets: €20, €15, €10 with concessions available

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THE IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA presents POSTCARDS from CONNEMARA

An Evening of Bill Whelan Music

An Focal reporter

Don't miss out on a fantastic opportunity to join Limerick's own Irish Chamber Orchestra for a feast of music by Limerick's own Bill Whelan, Grammy Award winning composer of *Riverdance*. on Monday 5 December 8pm at University Concert Hall, Limerick.

The programme features a trilogy of works by Whelan written for the Irish Chamber Orchestra based in Limerick for the past decade. David Jones will conduct the orchestra under the leadership of Katherine Hunka. The evening features

a top line-up of Irish soloists including Catherine Leonard violin, Colin Dunne dancer, Zoë Conway traditional violin, Morgan Crowley lilter and Michelle Mulcahy harp, concertina.

The programme includes *Inishlacken* for violin, traditional violin and strings, *Carna* for lilter, dancer, traditional violin and strings and a world premiere of Whelan's latest composition for the orchestra, *Errisbeg* for harp, traditional violin, concertina and strings, his latest postcard from the West of Ireland.

The sheer beauty of the landscape, of the West of Ireland and, more specifically, Roundstone in Connemara (home to Whelan in latter years), has been the inspiration for Whelan's

journey into classical music. In his compositions he has married traditional and classical music with resounding success. His full-time commitment to composing new works has seen this talented Limerickman put aside his film work, some of which have made a huge impact on the international screen including scores for *Some Mother's Son* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

Born in Barrington Street, Limerick, Whelan has gone on to great things musically and this fantastic evening provides an opportunity to celebrate Whelan's music with composer and friends in his home city. Come along, join in the festivities and meet Bill Whelan over a glass of mulled wine after the concert.

The ICO continues its Kids Go FREE promotion on selected concerts. This concert provides a wonderful opportunity for you to share the gift of music with your kids. Take advantage of these special offers - Kids Go Free - **Receive 2 free tickets for kids under 16 with every adult ticket purchased and finally**, Student tickets - **Only €** All information on these offers on 061-331549/314314 or 1890 923543.

Tickets on sale now on **061-331549/314314 or 1890 923543**.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Dress

Deirdre O'Shaughnessy

THE Ross O' Carroll-Kelly series, which continues to appear as a column in the Sunday Tribune, is a popular and accurate satire of Celtic Tiger society. Written in the mangled Hiberno-English of Dublin 4, it may take some getting used to for the uninitiated, but the effort is worth it.

This book, the most recent of five, continues to recount the life-journey of Ross, a typical D4 rugby player, as he ambles through a charmed life, surrounded by a menagerie of stereotypes. The blurb on the back of the book describes Ross as 'a man of the people - if the people are basically birds with great top-tens and drop-dead fucking gorgeous', while Wikipedia calls him 'dimwitted, vain and a heartless womaniser'.

The book begins where PS I Scored the Bridesmaids left off - amid the ruins of Ross' wedding to Sorcha, a hapless eco-warrior who can't see the wood for the trees where her beloved is concerned. Despite Sorcha's best efforts, the wedding has

become something of an unmitigated disaster, due to the unwarranted appearance of an old flame of the groom - a Northsider, nonetheless. The revelation that Ross has a secret son living on the Northside causes obvious problems for the couple, the opening chapter sees Ross taking up residence in the Berkeley Court Hotel, venue of the ill-fated wedding.

Like the other books in the series, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Dress* takes a satirical look at the Ireland of schools rugby, the Northside/Southside divide, the Dublin 4 'AA Raidwatch' accent and, most strikingly, 'scanger' culture. Ross' seven year-old son, Ronan, a mini-General, has all the characteristics of your typical inner-city 'scanger'. Despite their differences, they have a lot in common, not least an eye for the ladies - with Ronan doing better than his old man on several occasions.

However, if it appears from this account that Ross has matured, never fear! There are plenty of episodes

bringing you back to his early years - particularly when he gets a job coaching rugby at his alma mater, Castlerock College. The inimitable Father Fehily is as rabidly fascist as ever and the boys a pale reflection of Ross during his own glory years. Sorcha is as ditzzy as ever, Erika as evil, and his parents too dimwitted to notice how much they are shelling out in support of their lay-about son.

This is the fifth book in an immensely popular series, and Howard is said to be considering putting the character to bed after the next instalment - the format is one which won't be funny ad infinitum. However, for the time being it couldn't come more highly recommended - we all know a Ross (or at least the Limerick equivalent), and the laugh-out-loud moments in this book are plentiful. Good bus reading if you don't want anyone to sit next to you!

Art Now 2005

Dave O'Mahony went to the Hunt Museum to view the latest additions to their collections

CURATED by The Hunt Museum in collaboration with Taylor Galleries Dublin, Art Now 2005 represents the work of some of Ireland's most distinguished and leading contemporary visual artists. Through landscape, abstract, and participation work, the exhibits reflect the diversity and vitality of contemporary Irish culture.

Director of The Hunt Museum, Virginia Teehan, said of the works, "The museum is continuing its practise of bringing work of international standing to local audiences. It is very exciting for us and we are privileged to be able to display such innovative works here at the museum. As all the works are for sale this exhibition will bring the commercial elements of the museum's work to a new standard of excellence."

As with any exhibition in Limerick, the work for John Shinnors is featured with two new pieces. As an admirer of Shinnors, it was a pleasure to view these paintings in his typical style. As a benchmark of his standing, Shinnors's

work was the most expensive on display and had already sold.

While this is a challenging exhibition it is far from inaccessible. Of note are the excellent pieces Rock with Mussels, Bernadette Kiely and

Mary Lohan's Atlantic, series. Both display a surreal quality using such ordinary and earthy subjects. I was particularly impressed with Lohan's Atlantic, a panoramic Atlantic view broken over five small canvases. There is a spiritual quality to the work and it captivated me, I found it far more approachable than some of the exhibitions more difficult work.

Art Now 2005 is well worth a visit. It is open to the public now and continues until 4th December. For fur-



Art Now 2005 at the Hunt Museum

ther information contact Naomi O' Nolan 061 490084 or email Naomi@huntmuseum.com.

Finally, if any reader feels like buying me a Christmas present, Mary Lohan's Atlantic (oil on canvas) comes at €3,200 each of five, and I promise to be your best friend.



Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Tony Sheridan finds that diehard Harry Potter fans will not be disappointed with this sequel

WELCOME back to Hogwarts, a school with such a shameful record of appointing teachers who are actually murderous demons in disguise that it should have been shut down by now.

Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) is now in his fourth year, and the malevolent minions of Voldemort are once again plotting to give him a few more scars to match the one on his forehead. In addition to the back to school blues, Harry has many other obstacles to overcome. This year Hogwarts will be host to the Triwizard Tournament, in which a student representative from three different wizarding schools will compete in a series of increasingly challenging contests.

The two other schools competing against Hogwarts arrive in the form of the jeunes filles from France's Beauxbatons Academy (much to the delight of Ron Weasley) and the Durmstrang Institute's crew-cut storm troopers. Three finalists from each school are chosen by the Goblet of Fire, but then the Goblet spits out an unprecedented fourth name: Harry Potter's. This is against the rules, since you have to be 17 to compete in Triwizard Tournament, and Harry is only 14. However despite the impending danger to Harry's well-being Dumbledore's hands are tied: What the Goblet wants, the Goblet gets. The question is who entered Harry's name into the goblet of fire, since Harry says he didn't?

As the tournament commences, Harry has the unenviable challenge of fighting dragons, sur-

viving an hour long underwater rescue mission, facing the attack of the Death Eaters, and asking a girl to be his date at the Yule Ball. On top of that Voldemort's Death Eaters are gaining strength and the creation the 'Dark Mark' in the sky following the Quidditch World Cup tells us that the Dark Lord is ready to rise again and Harry is in great danger.

The Verdict:

The Goblet of fire is the most gratifying film of the series. It's the first one that's been made as a distinct entity in its own right, as opposed to a scene-by-scene reenactment of the source novel. J K Rowling's notoriously elaborate mystery plot has been pared back to basics, so although the book is a lengthy 630 pages, the film never feels as bloated as the previous instalments.

The action set pieces are genuinely thrilling and the scenes with acting and drama rather than broomsticks and dragons are equally as enjoyable.

Director Mike Newell made no bones about sending his young stars to acting classes, and it's a move that has definitely paid off as our core trio of actors - Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint - continuing to hone their vastly improving thespian skills.

The movie forgoes the happiness and frivolity of the previous movies and replaces it with teen problems, epic action sequences and hilarious comedy. Brendan

Gleeson is brilliantly over-the-top as "Mad-Eye", a vicious old dark wizard catcher assigned to be the new Dark Arts teacher.

The humour has grown more adult, which fits the growing audience better. Sexuality and excellent writing replace most of the silly physical humour of the previous potter instalments. Mind you, the idea that Hermione might fancy Ron seems a lot more convincing in the book than in a film where, frankly, she's way out of his Quidditch league.

The movie is close to three hours, but chances are you'll spend most of it either laughing or terrified. Harry's round with the dragon is nothing less than amazing. The maze task is intense and slightly scary, echoing classic Kubrick horror 'The Shining'. The finale displays some excellent dramatic acting from the young cast.

Unfortunately, diehards who want every sub-plot of the book included will be disappointed. There are some faintly recognisable gaps in plot continuity, but nothing truly detrimental to the film as a whole.

Mike Newell and company have crafted a whirlwind adventure that will definitely appeal to those who aren't the least bit familiar with the books. I'm pretty sure it will fare well with the hard-core Potter loyalists, too.

Kinky Boots

Tony Sheridan discovers that Kinky Boots is enjoyable, but not spectacular

CHARLIE Price (Joel Edgerton) has long been expected to take over the family business, Price and Sons, a traditional shoe factory in Northampton. However Charlie does not share his father's passion for shoes and when his fiancée Nicola (Jemima Rooper) gets offered a promotion and relocation, the happy couple make preparations to leave behind Charlie's birthright and escape the dreariness of the midlands to pursue a new life together in London.

The sudden death of Charlie's father throws the couple's plans into disarray and the prodigal son is forced to return to the Midlands to assume control of Price and Sons.

Business is far from booming and the company loses one of its largest orders to a foreign company. Charlie has no choice as bankruptcy looms but to reluctantly sack 15 of the workforce, in the hope that he can cut costs and drum up new orders to save the business. Otherwise, Price and Sons will have to close its doors once and for all leaving the entire workforce and Charlie himself unemployed.

Charlie becomes desperate to find a way to improve sales and desperately needs inspiration. During a night out in London, Charlie visits The Angel Club, where he witnesses drag queen performer Lola (Chiwetel Ejiofor) whipping the punters into a frenzy with a show-stopping rendition of I Want To Be Evil. Talking to the feisty drag queen, Charlie learns that finding fabulous female footwear in larger sizes is almost impossible for a drag queen in need of reliable and comfortable footwear. Charlie begins to see that he could have identified a

niche market for Price and sons.

"Kinky Boots challenges the audience to see the prejudicial world through the eyes of a transvestite and examine our own preconceptions."

The Verdict:

This comedy is a life-affirming modern day fairy-tale about two very different men who discover that you can only succeed in life by putting your best foot forward, preferably in a stiletto. Kinky Boots is yet another take on that 'little guy surviving against the odds' theme.

The warm-hearted movie from the producers of Calendar Girls employs a similar air of sauciness to its predecessor, this time emanating from the glamorous world of the Soho drag queen.

Kinky Boots is inspired by the real-life story of shoemaker Steve Pateman, who saved his ailing one hundred year old family business by turning his back on tradition. Screenwriters Geoff Deane and Tim Firth nurture this seed of an idea, and embellish it with brassy humour, romance and gentle nods to gender and sexual politics.

It's underpinned by a show-stopping performance by Chiwetel Ejiofor (Dirty Pretty Things) as a transvestite who is more uplifting than a nine-inch stiletto. Comedic turns by established British character actors like Nick Frost and Linda Bassett add to the texture of the 'fish out of water' story, and Joel Edgerton (from the Secret Life Of Us) puts in a convincing performance as the factory boss.

But this is very much Chiwetel Ejiofor's movie.

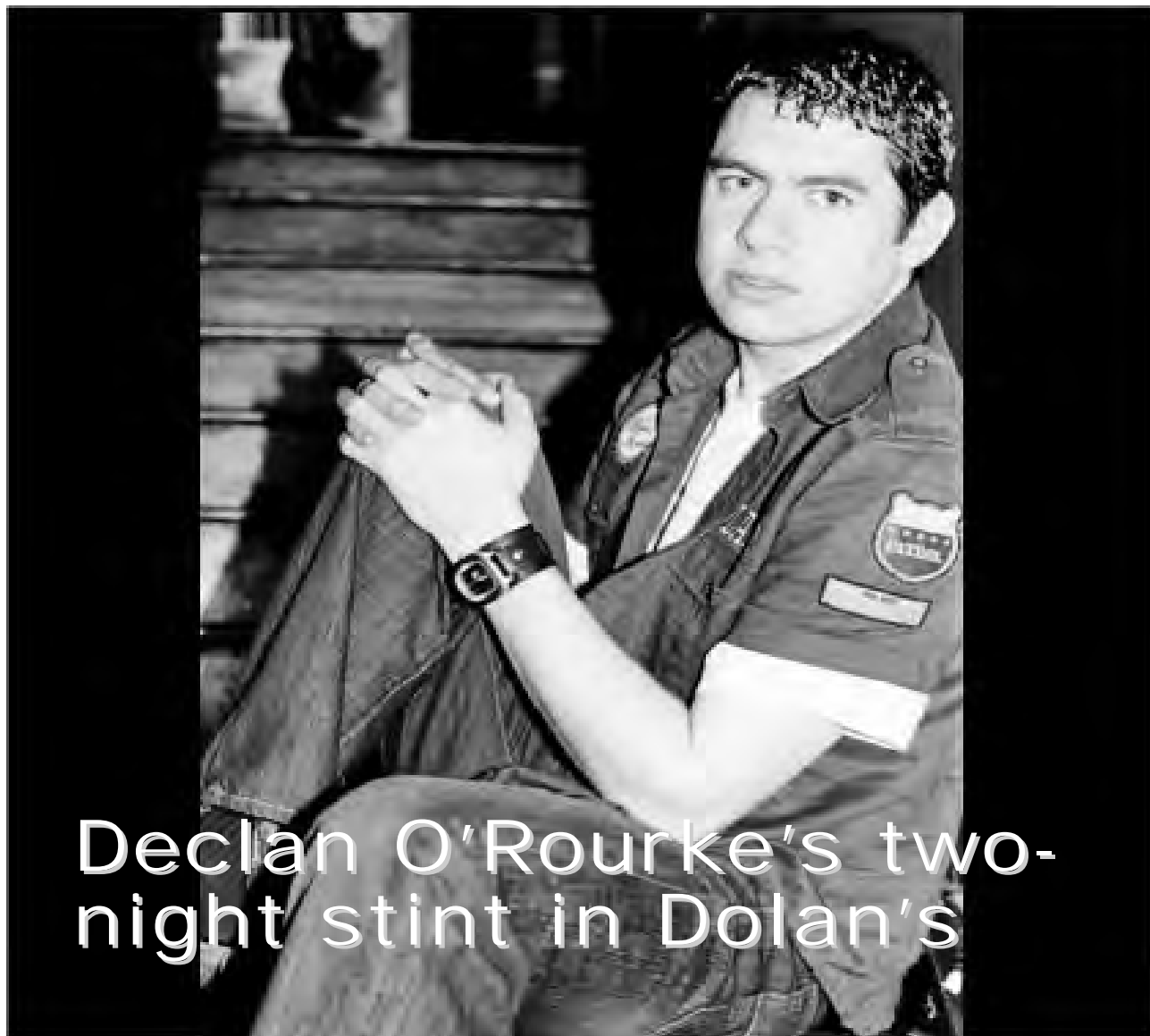
Ejiofor gives yet another diverse but brilliant performance, lighting up the screen with ease, grace and charm. Definitely destined to become a big star, with three films in the cinema in the last month (4 brothers, serenity and Kinky boots) and now the man even looks stunning as a woman. His sensational performance brings sparkle to every frame, strutting from high camp musical numbers to intimate moments in which the diva reveals the deep emotional scars of her past.

But the problem with this kind of provincial feel good film is that it doesn't offer any surprises any more. You can tell exactly how the plot is going to resolve itself right from the start, and you get the feeling that you have seen this plotline unfold on screen numerous times before.

Apart from that there is no denying that Kinky Boots is a warm and very entertaining movie. It certainly examines the drag queen world far more competently than the likes of Connie and Carla or Priscilla Queen of the Desert. It also challenges the audience to see the prejudicial world through the eyes of a transvestite and examine our own preconceptions.

I recommend this film highly to those fed up with the Hollywood blockbusters. It's a refreshing alternative to the car chasing and explosion laden films we see so much of. This little British gem is not spectacular but rather just enjoyable, and you will happily follow Charlie and Lola as they totter nervously to the catwalks of Milan.





Declan O'Rourke's two-night stint in Dolan's

Simon Burke
reports on the gigs

DECLAN O'Rourke's two night stint in Dolan's Warehouse was something special. The three time Meteor award nominee and Hot Press Readers Poll "Best Debut Album" winner 2005, for his debut offering "Since Kyabram", performed to near packed house on both nights, showing his growing popularity and ever-widening fan base.

Along with being in the front row for both gigs I was fortunate to spend some time quizzing Declan about his career so far and what the future holds. While the two of us sat on the landing outside the dressing rooms in Dolan's, Declan told me how he wanted his first album to be "an introduction" to what he's about and how he doesn't want his sound to be categorised in the same genre as his musical influences such as "Dylan and Springsteen". When questioned about his growing fame and popularity Declan is quick to down play it saying, "it doesn't seem the same on this my end". A cause of Declan's growing popularity maybe put down to the airplay given to his songs from people like Ray D'Arcy and Tom Dunne who Declan describes as "absolutely fantastic" while also adding that "you can gig till fucking kingdom come but

you're only going to pick up a few more along the way.... airplay is the key".

Speaking of the song writing process Declan explained that "inspiration can come to you anywhere and it's important to isolate yourself and be creative with your ideas". This creativity is certainly obvious in the album from the near cinematic quality of his lyrics. In songs like "No Place to Hide" and "We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea" Declan creates a scene where the smallest emotion and detail is captured. This eye for detail in his lyrics is a continuous aspect throughout the album. On such songs like Galileo and the Tom Crean inspired "Marrying the Sea", Declan's detailed lyrics emanate from his interest in subjects such as philosophy, science and history. Declan himself puts this down to a desire "to fill my

head full of knowledge", knowledge which he skilfully uses in his lyrics.

Both nights in Dolan's were electric, with the Sunday nights gig surpassing even Declan's belief. He cited the Sunday nights performance in Dolan's as "one of [his] best five gigs" of his career, and if you were there you could understand why. Declan and his band, made up of long time friend Jack Maher on guitar, new drummer Robin Cassidy, Paul Moore on bass guitar and the beautiful Mason sisters on violin and cello, played through the album. While also unveiling some new material such as "To Be Friends" and the high octane "Red Rag", along with some very well chosen covers.

From the start to its multi-encore finish the crowd made the night very special. At times it was hard to distinguish Declan's voice from the tumultuous voice of the crowd on songs like "Galileo", "1 Way Minds", "No Breaks" and "Your World". The Sunday night seemed at times to be a

mass sing-along, while the Monday night performance was as Declan said himself "quiet in a good way". On such songs as the slow jazz infused "Everything Is Different" and the haunting "Marrying the Sea", which Declan performs acappella, the electricity in Declan's voice came across the silent huddled mass.

On both nights Declan's full range of skills were displayed. Apart from being one of Ireland's most talented singers and lyricists, Declan is also a tremendous guitar player. This was evident on both nights as he switched effortlessly from his acoustic Maton guitar to his new Fender telecaster. Declan skilled guitar work came to the fore on covers of "Dire Straits", "Money for Nothing" and Bob Marley's "Waiting in Vain". Not even a broken string could hamper Declan's skilled soloing.

The Declan O'Rourke live experience is something special. Declan fed off the crowds' enthusiasm and on both nights we were treated to a performance that signifies a lot more is to come from this man. The only sad thing is that if Declan keeps increasing his popularity and fan base such nights will become a thing of the past, as the Dolan's venue just won't be big enough to accommodate the crowd.

The roads don't love you but who does?

Benny Kupka reviews Gemma Hayes' gig in Dolan's Warehouse

THE first thing that springs to mind about Gemma Hayes' performance in Dolan's Warehouse, and her performances in general, is the light-hearted feel she brings to the Irish music scene. This scene is usually associated with the dog-eat-dog world of ruthless competition that makes it impossible for many a talented act to earn a living by performing here. She tends to joke around about her past, growing up in Limerick, and the upbeat tempo of her songs such as Hangin' Around and the old Cadbury's Caramel Chocolate song (tastes like chocolate never tasted before...) create a great, friendly atmosphere that reflects her bubbly nature.

Another face of the artist comes through when she plays the more serious songs about life and its struggles in Back Of My Hand or Lucky One. Her band on the night was a different version to the one she used to tour with before, stemming entirely from Los Angeles, where she has apparently been spending a lot of time writing and recording new material for the new record. They no longer have Paul Noonan on drums for example, he of BellX1 fame who had been involved mainly with Damien Rice in

Juniper until their respective launches into solo careers.

Apart from the change in line-up, there was no noticeable difference to the Gemma Hayes we've all grown accustomed to since the release of her first album, Night On My Side. We were still treated to an interesting set, which covered most of the album as well as a few new tracks that went down as well as you'd expect from an audience comprising mostly of devout fans. For those of us who were merely there on business on the other hand, the set did leave a little to be desired in the end. There are those artists who play their songs live like you've never heard them before, Headgear being an optimum

example, and there are those that play the exact same way you hear the tracks played on the record and ultimately let you down in waves of boredom, such as the Killers (who were rubbish at Oxegen). Gemma Hayes doesn't really fall into either category perfectly but, sadly, leans slightly towards the latter.

That is not to say the gig wasn't any good, it actually was, but if you want to hear the real Gemma Hayes at her best than my suggestion would be to buy the record before going to the gig so you can get a feel of what the music is about before getting there not sure of what to expect.



GEMMA HAYES
NIGHT ON MY SIDE

Singing all his cares away

Denise O'Donovan
met Damien Dempsey
in Skibbereen, Co.
Cork

DAMIEN Dempsey is a Dublin singer-songwriter whose music is one part reggae, one part trad / folk, and one part uniquely his own. His music is described as being heavily influenced by Sean Nós, a traditional style of Irish music. Of course Dempsey has a long list of other singers that have played a major part in influencing his music, like Luke Kelly, Christy Moore, Jimi Hendrix, Noel Redding and Bob Marley. At present the singer said that he was listening a lot to the seventies English legend Nick Drake while on tour.

With the subject of touring on the table, Dempsey jokingly spoke of the first few occasions he played at gigs in the nether regions of Ireland. He said that at one gig in West Cork, about five years ago, only he and the soundman turned up. Dempsey said he did find on occasion that his Dublin accent did not go down well with some Irish audiences. In the UK he felt, the audiences were more uni-

versally accepting to it. Of course this wouldn't deter the singer from playing at home. He has already played host to a long line of venues for this tour alone and will be doing so for another few months to come.

He described going on tour with Morrissey last year as being "one of the best experiences of [his] life". He continued by saying that "I feel I could do anything now" after confronting what he had originally found "a terrifying experience". "To be honest he was a bit of a recluse, I spoke

with him in depth only once or twice throughout the entire tour".

I asked Dempsey how he reacted last year to the news that his album "Shots" went in at number one at the Irish albums chart. He admitted that

he was expecting to see the album hit the top spot in the Irish charts. His previous album "Seize the day" had made it to number five the previous year and since then a growing fan base was securing around him. However when he did find out the news, his first reaction was to pick up the phone and tell his mother. He added, "The great-

est thrill was seeing 50Cent being knocked off the number one slot, that was a great buzz".

Although touring is taking up a lot of the singer's time at the moment, Dempsey said that he does try to write whenever he gets the opportunity. The songwriter is well known for his confrontational lyrics on the social climate in Ireland. He told me that in his forthcoming album, he would like to pay particular attention to the problem of cocaine for young people in Ireland. "Drugs are flooding the country and are creating spiraling problems in violence and crime. If this situation continues, the problem could increase tenfold over the coming years". However, he also hopes to have a few love songs included in the next album.

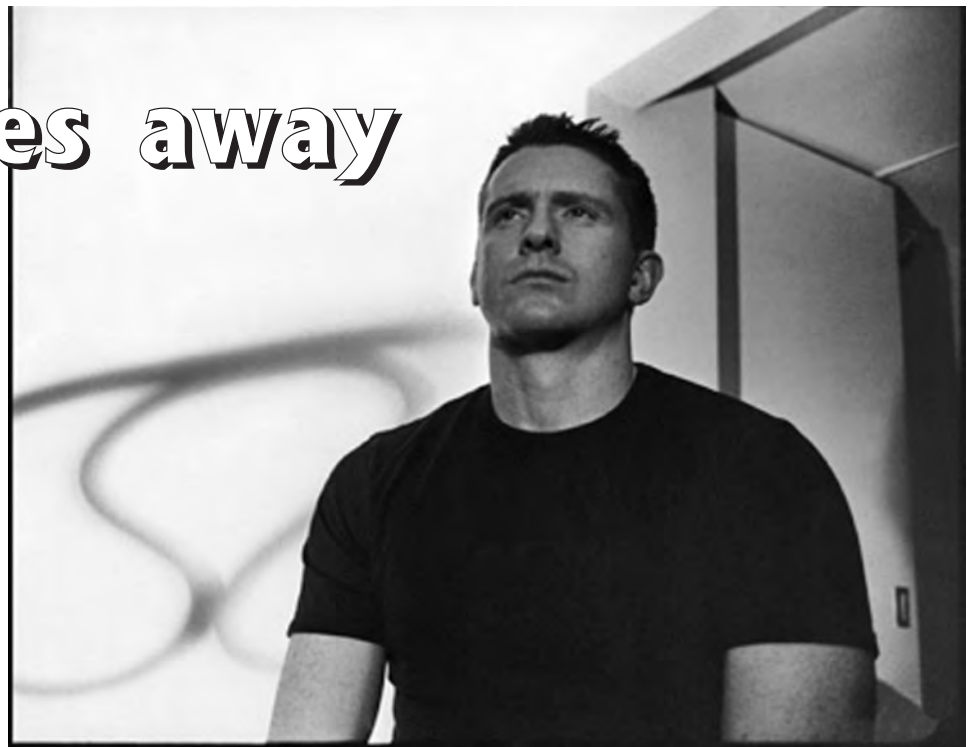
Dempsey concluded the interview by giving some words of encouragement to any young aspiring singers. "You have to really push yourself; start by sending your songs around to production companies. We all know the industry is a difficult one to get into. You have to do it because you love it". And it's pretty obvious that he does love it, he roared, smiled and laughed during the gig. He played a fantastic set taken mainly from his two major albums "Shots" and "Seize the day" and even gave an encore for four more songs after crowds sang a rendition of the chorus to "Patience".

exactly, subtracting from what was really interesting about this song. He continues this irritating habit in many of the other songs.

Plastic Gift is the most intelligent song on here. It is instrumental, with the two guitars finally being used to a fuller potential, with one complimenting the other. The drum work is skilled, but not as showy as in the other songs. The Bass is intricate and adds to the overall sound.

The press release states "their live shows were...pure aggression, it was passionate and exciting". It's quite true, the band are worth listening to for their energy and obvious optimism about their future. One quote from track 6 by a band member embodies the band's spirit: "We're playing with this band called 'U2', we haven't really heard them yet. But I'm not really bothered about them". Incidentally, Franz Ferdinand is a fan of the group, and covered "Get up and use me".

Other parts of the press release are obviously searching



Benny Kupka meets The Killer Franz Kaisers

GETTING to grips with modern pop/rock music is hard to master today in the world of sex, drugs and Dublin, and these guys are at the pinnacle of it, having

All shook up

recently released all three songs from their hit album as singles and seeing them shoot straight in at number 1 in the Irish Folk Album Charts for two consecutive days this summer... One wonders how they managed to take out time from their busy schedule of touring in arse-end-of-nowhere pubs and "packed out" Smackers Anonymous (Local drug rehab) parties, in order to talk to me in a world exclusive interview from behind a skip.

Benny: So guys, how'd you get together as a band?

Jacque: Y'know man, me an Anto was in school together right an den dis udder guy came along an told us to, y'know, start a band man.

Benny: Ok, what kind of music would you like to focus on playing?

Anto: Wha?

Cedric: I think what Anto means is that we like to play some Techno/Jazz fusion mixed in with some powerhouse electro reggae on the record. This particularly comes through in track 2 entitled "Oh Baby-Baby, I Love You Baby my Baby".

Benny: Ok, so what kind of instruments or equipment does that involve?

Jacque: Eh, well we got loik a big black box an shit.

Benny: I see, so do you play any instruments?

Anto: Wha?! (Starts trembling)

Cedric: No instruments

Benny: So, what's in this box?

Jacque: Who's askin man?

Anto: Whoa... elephant fairies...

Benny: Is he ok?

Cedric: Uh... yeah, must've been some bad yoghurt or something.

Anto: Wha?

Jacque: C'mere ya goul an I'll claim ya!

At this point the interview gets interrupted by my running away, but if you want to hear more from the band you can catch them gigging in Leitrim some time next year, pending bail applications.

Codex Teenage Premonition

Thanael Mackarel reviews the new album by the *Fire Engines*

CODEX Teenage Premonition is a compilation of live recordings and studio outtakes by Fire Engines, a short lived punk band from the early eighties. They lasted for 18 months before burning out. The music here was recorded at their very first live show in 1980, and while the audio quality is lacking in places the full power of the band is present on most of the CD.

Codex Teenage Premonition jumps from the starting block with the very loud "Sympathetic - anaesthetic". It's a mess of frenzied guitar flailing and interesting percussion reminiscent of the opening of Yes' Close to the Edge album.

"The band are worth listening to for their energy and obvious

optimism about their future"

The first song to feature lyrics, "Get up and use me" is equally as discordant as "Sympathetic Anaesthetic", yet the vocals are even less soothing and the lyrics inaudible. Davy Henderson, the lead singer, has plenty of charisma but regularly puffs into the microphone while singing. The effect is invigorating, but musically lacking. The rest of the album continues in the same vein.

"The untitled one" stands out a little. The guitar work is excellent - a rocking melodic chord progression. The tune Henderson sings is a suitable counterpoint to what the band is playing, but the drummer is simply copying the strumming rhythm of the guitar



for compliments: "Jagged guitars clashed with Burn's frantic drumming while Henderson randomly screamed and yelped undecipherable lyrics over the whole glorious noise". If that sounds good to you, and you can handle poor recordings of early punk that might just be best left in the eighties, by all means buy Codex Teenage Premonition.

**



The Kaiser Chiefs



The Chalets Check In

Thanael Mackarel
reviews their new album

THE album sleeve opens out as three cardboard pages. On the right hand page the CD is held securely behind a picture of a heart-shaped pillow. On the left hand page the sleeve-note booklet is disguised as a passport, which is slipped into a picture of a chest pocket.

This is all in keeping with the airport theme of the album. It's certainly one of the most novel sleeves I had ever seen, but I was a little worried that this would be the limit of the band's creativity. Not so!

The Chalets are an interesting band. From the outset we are greeted by some refreshing sounds. The music is a mixture of pop and punk - but this isn't as annoying as you may think. I personally am not a fan of either genre,

but when the Chalets mix them together the results are startlingly good. There are three vocalists: one guy and two girls, and they alternate throughout the songs. Frequently the girls (Pee Pee and Pony) sing together and one provides harmony for the other, while occasionally the guy (Chris) joins in and we are treated to a very intelligent three-part harmony section. Which leads me to another refreshing thing about the

chalets: Their approach to music is solidly melodic, rather than being simply rhythm-driven.

The lyrics throughout the album are generally conversational and witty ("Come on boys, you're just stupid freaks"), and some are absolute gems ("Every summer gets shorter", "you never thought I'd tell your wife"). Humour permeates the album, and most of the songs betray a real sense of the fun and care-

free nature of the band - as if the sleeve notes weren't enough!

The band is made up like any other normal band: Guitar, drums, bass, keyboards. The only out-of-the-ordinary instrument they use is the glockenspiel, played by the girls. But they've pulled out some encouraging innovations with the tired set up of the normal instruments. The bass lines are complex, but rhythmic - meaning the drums don't have to invade the mix too much. Despite being a guitar driven band, their guitarist (Enda) knows when to play and, more importantly, when not to play. Reserving his licks and chords for certain times in each song allows us to feel their full impact and keeps the band's sound relatively clean.

There are no acoustic songs on the album. Although usually a fan of acoustic music in general, I feel that an acoustic song is frequently just a gimmick to disguise lack of originality. By not playing acoustic, the Chalets prove that all their songs are high quality and don't need a change of style to make them

interesting.

There are certain songs that stand out on this album. "Theme from Chalets" is a perfect way to start, introducing us to almost all the elements of the Chalet's style. "Two chord song" gives the impression of a gimmick to be avoided at all costs, but is actually a triumph of the three vocalists' swapping ability, the minimalistic nature of the guitar playing and the originality of their harmonies. Finally, "Peach Blanket". They waited until the end to spring their best tricks! Expert togetherness and counterpoint harmony by Pee Pee and Pony throughout, and a wonderful minimal/full band alternation between verses and chorus. And when it's all over it's possible to play it again from the first track and it feels like the album is just continuing.

All in all, Check In is a solid album released by a solid band. Dismiss any bad thoughts you had about pop music and embrace it - they won't be around forever.



Rodrigo y Gabriella in the Jean Monnet

Thanael Mackarel

FIRST things first, I had never been to a Rodrigo y Gabriella concert before. My only sources of information about them were a poster I saw two years ago and their Re Foc album. Just enough to make me hungry for more!

After an hour of waiting we finally got inside. My impatient wait granted me seats close to the front with a few friends and we chatted until everyone else was inside. Every time a sound guy crossed the stage I almost asked "Is that Rodrigo?", "Is that Rodrigo?", "Are we there yet?". Thank goodness I didn't - as soon as Rogrigo and Gabriella walked onstage there was uproarious applause. Rodrigo looked like a typical European and wore a Slayer T-shirt, the perfect metaphor for the duality of Rodrigo y Gabriella - Spanish guitar merging with rock and creating something wholly new and amazing.

After a ten second tune-up, they were off! As far as my meagre knowledge of the pair goes, they started off with 'Diem' and kept my eyes (and ears) wide open from the outset. 'Capitane Cassi-

nova' followed, eloquently introduced by Gabriella before she knocked over her microphone!

The sound of Rodrigo y Gabriella almost defies definition. Their styles are completely different, but their skills are matched - perhaps matched only by each other. Rodrigo sounds like a Spanish guitarist, but he plays as fast as a classical guitarist. Gabriella, on the other hand, more frequently upholds the rhythm of the songs they play, but is well capable of firing out a tune. The each have their little tricks, too.

Rodrigo is a fan of muffing the strings, especially when playing particularly quickly. Gabriella understands the merits of guitar as percussion, and can produce many interesting sounds by drumming on different parts of the guitar. From the bass-pounding of her bridge thump to her snare-like fret tap (all played in between strums), she's an expert.

Towards the end of their amazing show, we were introduced in song to their new producer, John Lakey. They talked a little about how much of a legend

he was and then assured us that he was crazy! So they called the song 'Juanloco'. I feel like I've met the man!

That was followed by ten minutes of 'take five', the famous jazz piece in 5/4 time. Halfway through, Rodrigo started playing the base melody of the song. Gabriella improvised over him, frequently alternating between the two normal time signatures: 4/4 and 3/4. At this point I gained a new respect for the duo. Not only could they take an already brilliant jazz piece and transport it to Spanish guitar, but they could improvise on it more skilfully than jazz musicians themselves!

Needless to say, there was a standing ovation and a very loud encore. Rodrigo played a few bars of melody, and Gabriella played the same thing in her own style. He continued with more of the melody, and again she repeated what he played. The resulting duelling banjos style crescendo made the crowd go wild, but before we could cheer loudly enough they swiftly swung into ten seconds of 'Seven Nation

Army'! So we went even crazier!

Then the climax of the evening - Rodrigo was strumming something very softly, and we quietened down to hear it properly. It dawned on everybody at exactly the same time - he was playing the intro to Pink Floyd's 'Wish you were here'! With a hand gesture at the right time he encouraged us to sing the song - he didn't have to ask us twice! A remarkable number of people in the Jean Monnet knew the words, and all had the pleasure of singing along with one of the greatest live acts around today.

There was another standing ovation before the pair really had to leave. On their way out they shook hands with a couple of obviously huge fans, and the lucky guy got a hug from Gabriella! It was a very enjoyable night and I plan to go and see them time and time again.

Campus Sport

UL TAE-KWON-DO A Beginners Point of View

James Patten



Clarence Wimple discovers that a home-study course in the martial arts is more difficult than he originally anticipated.

AS a first year I was keen to sign up for some of the various clubs and societies offered in UL. I have always wanted to learn a martial art. As is often the case, the first that sprang to mind was Karate. What really changed my mind was my sister. She has been a member of the UL Tae-Kwon-Do club for over three years. I'm not sure if she was the club PRO at the time, but she sold it to me and I'm so glad that I joined.

As with all new things, the first night

at training was a little intimidating. A lot of things went through my head. Would I fall on my ass and make a fool of myself? Would I get my ass kicked by the guys and girls who had on the full "costume"? Or would this really help me be able to touch my toes? I've almost kicked my own ass a few times! As for my toes, let's just say that I'm getting closer every day. As with all things worth doing, giving it your full attention really pays off. The training is great for clearing your mind of all the mundane everyday things. You really get a chance to see how far you can push yourself under the guidance of our instructor Mr. Fox (3rd Dan). After

you have been to a few classes, you can practice the various techniques at home.

I do not believe that I can stress enough the benefits I have felt since joining the UL Tae-Kwon-Do club. I know that in my case I often have often taken my body for granted. No more than if it was your girlfriend, taking your body for granted is bound to lead to trouble! Tae-Kwon-Do helps you push the limits of what you think your body and mind are capable of. If you want to take part in sparring you can, or if that's not your thing you can just practice the traditional techniques. Either way, giving Tae-Kwon-Do some time and attention, you will be sure to

see the benefits. The club is also a great place to meet new people and there are lots of social events organised throughout the year. On any night out, what better way to feel safe, than to be surrounded by black belts? I have no doubt that the club will go from strength to strength. For me, joining the Tae-Kwon-Do Club was a really great choice. Why don't you try it out and see for yourself. New members are always welcome.

We train twice a week on Mondays (18:45 - 21:00) and Thursdays at (18.45 - 20:15) in the Old Sports Building (behind the Lonsdale Building).

Poor start for the UL Golf Club in the Irish Colleges Golf League

Tom Kennedy

THE University of Limerick Golf Club began its Irish Colleges League campaign over the past two weeks with matches at home against Queens at Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort and a trip to Salthill to play NUI Galway at Galway Golf Club. With exams approaching several solid players were unavailable.

Queens University brought a strong team down to Adare for our match on the 10th of November and the previous night's inter-college bonding didn't seem to have any affect on the quality of golf played as most matches went the full distance of 18 holes.

Unfortunately for UL the Queens team proved to be quite resilient and came away from Limerick with the full points after a fine victory. The result really could have gone either way but the undoubted quality of the Queens line-up finally told over the closing holes as the majority of their Irish internationals came away with victories at vital times.

The trip to Salthill to play NUI Galway at Galway Golf Club on November 17th was another tough task as many of their winning 2005 Intervarsity team were still representing the University and we were under no illusions as to the magnitude of this challenge.

It again proved difficult to assemble what would be our most formidable team and as we left Limerick at 8am that morning we knew we would be up against it as we were yet again forced to play with an under-strength line-up.

All the lads that represented UL on the day fought hard on what was a course in fantastic shape for the time of year but the unquestionable class of the NUIG team, which boasted many Irish internationals, prevailed even though we did manage to give some of their best players a shock or two along the way!

The UL Golf Club now has a break from the Bus Eireann Irish College Golf League with our next match coming away in Dublin against Trinity College in late January 2006 - a further test of our ability to challenge the best and brightest in Irish collegiate golf.

We will conclude the league stage with two home games against UCD and Cork IT so hopefully our next three games will give us a chance to show our real worth on the golf course. The panel that has represented UL in the College Golf League so far are as follows: Cian O'Brien, Gary Rainsford, Ted Vaughan, Cian

O'Donnell, Philip Browne, Tom Kennedy and Niall Gleeson.

With the break from our outside commitments we hope to stage an outing before the end of the semester along with a Golf Club Christmas Night Out on the evening after the golf - keep checking your emails and the college noticeboards in relation to this. Any ideas are encouraged from members about possible venues for both the outing and the after golf festivities - make sure to give us a shout at the Golf Club about this - remember its YOUR day and night out so why not tell us what you want to do!

Our Membership Recruitment Meeting on November 15th also went well with the club signing up yet more enthusiastic golfers from every spectrum of golfing standards. A warm welcome to all new members and a reminder to all those still wanting to join that we are only an email or a phone call away!

University of Limerick Golf Club
Mobile: 087 9735922
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Adare Manor golf course

Disappointing semester for UL Hockey Seconds Team

Rosie Clarke reports that all is not yet lost

THE seconds' season has so far got off to a very mixed start. The team are lucky to have a new coach for the season, Amir from Pakistan, who has introduced a new formation, which although worked shakily at the start, is now proving a lot more successful with practice.

The first match of the Munster Ladies division 4 League was an away game against Waterford in Newtown. ULII managed a draw thanks to a goal from midfielder Sandra Rossiter. The result wasn't bad but it was a disappointing start to the season.

The second league match was at home against Dungarven and was a much faster game with 8 goals being scored in total. ULII put up a strong fight with our Captain and Vice Captain, Maria Garrett and Sharon Sterritt respectively, each claiming a goal and Jen Moore hitting the backboard from a fast short corner. However Dungarven came out top in the end with a late goal and we suffered our first defeat of the season.

Saturday 22nd October saw the 1st Round of the Irish Junior Cup match versus Pegasus, the team from Belfast with an intimidating reputation to say the least. We trained well the week before and benefited from a motivational talk given to us by Marias' Dad. Saturday morning we were psyched and gave Pegasus a run for their money, the backs had to work incredibly hard and cleared the ball from the circle numerous times to prevent a score. Emma Jane Morrissey our goalie made some impressive saves and wasn't afraid to dive when the ball was

out of her reach. Although the result was in favour of Pegasus a late UL goal ensured we came off the pitch in high spirits, ready to enjoy our first social evening; a meal in the lodge, as a team. The next day, Fermoy were our next adversaries, they were tough in more ways than one but we dominated the game throughout coming away with a deserved 2-0 victory.

We faced Church of Ireland in the first round of the Combined Cup and although we were threatened once or twice we had control of the game and played it at our pace which way out speeded theirs. Niamh Kiely made some terrific runs up the left wing and it was one of these runs that resulted in Maria sweeping it with her reverse onto the backboard, another goal ensured us a comfortable victory.

We faced Bandon in our next league match a slightly fitter squad thanks to the intensive sprint training we've started with Henry Kiely on Tuesday nights.

We played a stormer in the first 10 minutes with UL in the Bandon half for the majority of the time; however they proved dangerous on the break and stole a goal after about 12 minutes. Things went downhill after that and allowed Bandon to come out looking the better team.

The next round of the Combined Cup will be the weekend of the 3rd of December against Fermoy, with at least one league game in the run up to this challenge.

Bright Start for UL Rowers

NUIG Head of the River on October 5th saw UL scullers Ger Sheehan and Scott Murphy winning the Men's intermediate sculls and novice sculls respectively. The strong headwind that would normally favour heavyweight rowers proved to be no obstacle to the lightweight scullers as they cruised to victory. The victories were well earned in very tough conditions that worsened during the day, resulting in the eventual abandonment of the competition.

Fears of gale force winds in the lead up to the next event of the rowing calendar, Neptune Head, proved to be unfounded as a clear calm day dawned at Blessington Lake on Saturday November 12th.

The large number of entries promised tough competition for the UL rowers competing in the Women's Intermediate eights and fours, the Women's senior double and the Men's Intermediate sculls. After a shaky start in the first Head, the UL WI4+ of Frances Judge, Amy Judge, Cliodhna Jennings and Orla Hayes, coxed by Edel Sheahan, displayed great determination and strength to power to victory in their event with UL's other four of Pamela Walsh, Debbie Rooney, Fionnula Crowe and Sharon Bowen, coxed by Siobhan Moloney came in 2nd place after an excellent row that saw them narrowly beaten by their team-mates. The newly formed combi-

nation of Cora Conneely and Linda Kennedy raced well to secure 5th place in the Senior double sculls competition.

The women's Intermediate 8+ and another Intermediate 4+ were in action in the second Head of the day. The eight battled hard and rowed well but lost out to a very strong and experienced Trinity crew. Confidence remains high however as some excellent times were recorded and all crews are now looking forward to Muckross Head on December 3rd.

ULRC Honoured

The Mayor of Limerick, Councillor Diarmuid Scully, honoured ULRC with a civic reception in City Hall on Friday November 18th, to acknowledge the multiple wins at last season's National Championships, Henley Royal Regatta and the Homes International Regatta. Also present was UL President Professor Roger Downer who praised all those involved in the club whose hard work has led to success both on the water and off, the latter manifesting itself in the new UL Boathouse, which after years of campaigning and planning has now become a reality with construction due to start in the new year.

The ISBT arrives in the University Arena

Elaine O'Connell

On November 5th and 6th, the University Arena played host to the second Irish ISBT. Otherwise known as the 'International Student Badminton Tournament', this type of sporting weekend takes place all over Europe.

Having participated in numerous foreign ISBTs, including Rotterdam, Newcastle and Norway, past and current UL Badminton Club members thought it was time to introduce the ISBT to some Irish hospitality, and in November 2004, it arrived.

Following on from its debut appearance last year, organisers felt a repeat performance was in order and the wheels were set in motion. With UL graduate Conor Flatley at the helm and with the assistance of the Badminton Union of Ireland's Mary Browne, nearly 200 badminton players from at home and away, enrolled

for the weekend.

The tournament itself followed regular ISBT format; it operated on a Swiss ladder system with random partners. There were four grades, A, B, C and D, catering for the three different disciplines, singles, doubles and mixed.

With almost 30 players participating from UL, there was definite hope of some home victories. We would like to congratulate some players on their achievements over the weekend; Fintan McEvoy, Eric Nelligan, Ivan O'Brien, Deirdre McGettrick, Deirdre O'Brien, Ann Clohessy, Ger Fitpatrick, Shane O'Sullivan and all who participated and supported this weekend. Thanks to all the organisers for their hard work during the weeks and months before the tournament. Special thank you to Ann Clohessy from UL.

UL: 2-12
WIT: 0-07

UL Ladies got their league campaign off to a flying start with a comprehensive victory over Tralee.

They continued this good run with another win over W.I.T. on the 14th of November in the club grounds of Ballygunner in Waterford. UL looked threatening from the beginning with points from Mairead Kelly and Sinead Egan.

Once UL were settled the forwards displayed some lovely moves. Niamh Keane broke from the half back line and passed an inch perfect ball to Laura Walsh, who laid the ball off to Mairead Kelly who slotted the ball over the black spot. Brid Stack and Michelle Glynn mopped up any loose

balls and the WIT full forward line found them very hard to break down. The half back line was also very dominant and they were marshalled by centre back and Captain Angela Walsh. Mid-fielders Norita Kelly and Marian Ryan gave a plentiful supply of ball to the forwards and they both managed to notch points on the scoreboard.

WIT were a tough physical side throughout the field but just could not make use of the possession they had. UL introduced substitute Marie O'Neill who also added a point to the UL scoreline.

UL: 1-08
NUIG: 2-11

The UL senior lady footballers played their 3rd league game against NUIG in Limerick on Wednesday 16th. The girls had a huge advantage playing in Limerick in front of the home crowd and they started off the same way they finished against WIT. From the throw in they were dominant all over the field.

UL quickly settled with two early frees from Geraldine O'Flynn and points from Laura Walsh. Mayo and Galway inter-county players were

the backbone of the NUIG team, with the likes of Cora Stauton, Claire Egan and Edel Concannon. However, NUIG were not in the game at all. Niamh Keane won an amount of possession in the wing-back line and Sile Burns was one of our key players in the full forward line. Linda O'Connor was moved out to mid-field to pick up the breaking ball and she picked out Maria Kelly on several occasions, who made valuable use of the possession. UL were five points clear at the half time whistle and it looked as if the second half would be plain

UL Ladies Football

sailing.

However, this wasn't the case, and unfortunately the same UL team did not take the field in the second half. Cora Stauton was moved full forward and she became very dangerous and she had a personal score of 2-04. UL gave away vital possession which NUIG capitalised on. Also several scoring opportunities were not taken due to inaccuracy and NUIG's strong defending.

Hopefully UL can learn and improve from this performance and get back on their winnings ways when they play UCC on Wednesday November 23rd.

LADIES FRESHER BLITZ

UL Fresher Ladies travelled up to Maynooth on Friday November 18th with two teams. UL's first team had their opening match against NUIG's second team. Although it took the girls a while to settle they ended up winning the match quite convincingly.

Unfortunately, UCD were determined to stop UL Ladies on their winning ways. It was a very tight game with UCD coming out with a very narrow four point victory. UCD went on to win the cup and UL's 1st team were entered into the Shield competition. They were lucky enough to get a bye into the semi-final.

However, there they met a very strong UCC team. This was also a very close match but the UCC team were more evenly spread throughout the field, consisting of both Cork and Kerry inter-county players. Despite the great efforts of the UL Ladies, UCC always had the upper hand. UCC then went on to win the Shield competition. UL Ladies second team also did not have luck on their side. They played Trinity and NUIG and were leading in the first half of both these games but unfortunately they did not continue this good form into the second half.



Brendan Coffey sees Sir Alex as a modern parent

"Words are like leaves and where they most abound, much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found."

Pope Alexander might not have had football punditry in mind when he wrote An Essay

on Criticism but he should have.

Down at the MU Glazer White Sox last week Sir Alex Ferguson's face looked like boiled beetroot. Hyperactive children wielding red felt tip markers would struggle to inflict so flush a shade on a vulnerable strip of white wallpaper.

There's so much bullshit in football punditry these days

that when someone actually dares to give an honest assessment, i.e. fulfil whatever job requirements there are, it prompts the authorities to destroy the evidence as though it offended all decency and teetered on the brink of an x-rating, containing scenes of nudity and it might have been interesting if the film censor had taken a look at the video containing Roy Keane's com-

ments on Manchester United versus Middlesbrough. Would he have given it an 18s certificate?

Maybe it's not surprising that the video was destroyed. At times you'd swear the Premiership was the reserve of spoilt children, and no responsible adult would entertain notions of the kids sitting down to watch a copy of Roy's Rage 4: Attack of the Killer

Alex Ferguson and David Beckham

Tongue. Sir Alex Ferguson has always been hailed as some sort of father figure to his players. Whoopee. Striking a blow for disaffected parents everywhere, take a bow Sir.

In fact Sir Alex should consider publishing his own guide to parenting; he's established a lot of the ground rules for modern parenting;

1. Get the kids out of the house before they become too much of a nuisance. (Paul Ince and David Beckham).

2. Make sure you set them up with a place of their own and that they stay close to each other if possible. (Bryan Robson and Steve Bruce both have nice places in Birmingham).

3. Make sure they get a good education. (We found a great school in Yorkshire for Liam Miller).

4. Don't be afraid to spoil the kids every so often. (We increase their pocket money if they've done well).

5. Don't be afraid to give them a clip round the ear every so often

6. Don't worry if they go through strange phases, they'll grow out of them. (Rio got

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*At times you'd swear
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children*

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plaits in his hair recently but he'll grow out of it, we've been through it before with Beckham). either.

As for the rest of his advice, I think a video might be in order.

Eddie Guerrero 1967-2005

Jason O'Connor

'I lie, I cheat, and I steal'. Perhaps not the motto one would expect of a fan favourite in professional wrestling, but such was Eddie Guerrero's popularity, his tragic and untimely death on Sunday morning Nov 13th was mourned greatly among the wrestling community. Wrestling may only be a glorified, predominantly male orientated soap opera, but Eddie Guerrero's life itself was a real soap opera.

Born into the first family of Mexican wrestling, Eddie strove to emulate the achievements of his father the legendary Gory Guerrero. Eddie wrestled in Mexico and Japan before making a name for himself

stateside in Extreme Championship Wrestling (ECW) before moving on to the Ted Turner owned World Championship Wrestling (WCW) in 1995. It was here fans first saw Eddie's character develop in the form of a fiery, passionate, technically superb Latino who was desperate to get his shot at the big time and break the establishment who had supposedly kept him down, in the form mainly of the likes of Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair and 'Macho Man' Randy Savage. Fed up with the backstage politics of WCW and realising the company was on its last knees, Guerrero along with his great friends Chris Benoit, Dean

Malenko and Perry Saturn took a risky move to the WWF (now WWE) in 2000, in an effort to further their careers.

Along the way though, Eddie encountered many personal problems. An addiction to pain killers and alcohol saw Eddie suffer two near death experiences, the first when he was involved in a drink driving accident, which many believed he was lucky to walk away from in 1998, the second being a drug overdose during Christmas 1999. Eddie hit rock bottom in 2001 when he showed up to a WWE event in 2001 high on marijuana and was fired by the company. As well as this

his marriage to his wife Vicky broke up, separating him also from his two daughters (they would later reconcile in 2003). Eddie was forced to rebuild his life from scratch. The real test of a man is how he copes with adversity and in this Eddie passed with remarkable results. Rehired by WWE in 2002, Eddie moved back up the ladder winning the Intercontinental, United States and Tag Team titles before achieving the ultimate glory in February 2004 when Eddie captured the WWE Championship in a memorable match with Brock Lesnar at No Way Out. In doing so Eddie had indeed proved that there



Wrestling Legend, Eddie Guerrero

was 'a way out'.

Eddie leaves wrestling fans with some great memories: his cheeky win over Kurt Angle at Wrestlemania XX, his feuds with Rey Mysterio, Chris Benoit and JBL to name but a few and also for his great charisma (Latino Heat) whether it be

in trying to do absolutely anything to win or driving a stylish low rider to the ring. Hopefully his story will be an inspiration to those who have suffered from drug or alcohol abuse in their lives. 'Viva La Raza'.



The downfall of Irish rugby?

Irish rugby is heading in the wrong direction, says Michael Toomey

LAST season, the Autumn Internationals seemed to signify a real breakthrough as regards the fortunes of the national team. Ireland beat South Africa, USA and Argentina and were hotly tipped to bring home only our second ever Grand Slam triumph in the Six Nations.

Fast forward to 2005, and the team is looking into possibly the biggest crisis since the defeat to Argentina in the 1999 World Cup. The 45-7 annihilation by New Zealand and the defeat the following week by one of the worst Australian teams to visit these shores in recent memory have had many pundits predicting a bleak Six Nations campaign for Ireland.

The rot actually set in during the last season, when Eddie O'Sullivan's charges struggled through their first three games against weak opposition, before being decisively beaten by the only decent sides they played. Following this, many of the sides top players went on tour with the Lions, of whom only Simon Easterby (and to a lesser extent, Donnacha O'Callaghan) could claim to have emerged with their reputations enhanced. Meanwhile, the 'A' side was recording facile victories against minnows on their tour of Japan.

To be fair, very few players not dressed in black did themselves justice on the Lions

tour. However, the Autumn Internationals have displayed quite clearly how poor the present state of the Irish team is in.

A lot of the criticism for this must be aimed at the manager. Eddie O'Sullivan has constantly picked under performing (Geordan Murphy, Malcolm O'Kelly, Peter Stringer) and completely untalented players (Girvan

Dempsey). One may also ask, why has O'Sullivan left it so late to test any of the young Munster or Leinster players? Robert Kearney, Jamie Heaslip, Tomás O'Leary, Jerry Flannery and Mick O'Driscoll were all ignored for selection for the New Zealand and Australia games.

In a move that reeked of politics, he selected eight players in his squad, from a

side that has yet to beat any decent opposition this season (Ulster), for the game against Australia. Of these, only three would appear to have the required talent to play international rugby. Even more inexcusably, O'Sullivan has ignored throughout his tenure experienced, in-form players such as Shaun Payne, David Wallace, and Trevor Brennan. Despite being regarded as

one of the best second-rows in the French League, Brennan has not been selected in a green jersey since 1999. Whatever he has done to piss the manager off must have been pretty big. Ditto Wallace, who would have appeared to be the player Ireland was crying out for in the wake of the humiliation at the Millenium Stadium in the last game of last seasons Six Nations. Fast, strong, and with the unmatched ability in the Irish team to break first tackles, Wallace has slipped down the pecking order to about eighth in the list of Irish back-row forwards.

However, they remain outside the fold, as they have again been left out of the panel to face Romania. Tactically as well, O'Sullivan has been found wanting, as against an organised New Zealand defence we looked like creating nothing. Only Denis Leamy and Gordon Darcy caused the All Blacks defence any problems.

The interlinking and quick passing of the New Zealand backs showed up our antiquated style of play for what it was. To paraphrase George Hook, it was twenty-first century rugby against twentieth century rugby. The players too must shoulder their fair amount of the blame, as vaunted superstars and Lions seemed quite unable to string two passes together without

spilling the ball or knocking it on. Some of the passing and handling errors in the two games were truly atrocious, and would not have been seen at an under-14 match. In fact, if an under-14 was to fire as inaccurate a pass as that which Geordan Murphy threw at Tommy Bowe with the line at his mercy against Australia, he would have been substituted immediately.

At the time of going to press, four extra players have been called up to the panel to play Romania. Included in this was Trevor Hogan, a fourth-

choice second row for Munster. O'Sullivan has ignored several more deserving players. Whatever the result of this match, Irish rugby is headed in the wrong direction. Without serious surgery, we will be facing another two disappointing seasons.

Eddie O'Sullivan has flattered to deceive ever since the departure of Declan Kidney from the international set-up, with a number of dismal competitions sandwiching his one triumph, the 2004 Triple Crown success. New people need to be brought in, including back-room staff, unless a nightmare road to the 2007 World Cup is to be avoided. This truly is a bad time to be an Irish rugby supporter.

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Roy Keane and the Old Trafford Legacy

Gerard Fitzgibbon tells us why Manchester United will go on despite the loss of its totemic leader and talismanic captain

MANCHESTER United, more so than any other football club, is beset with icons. The legacy of Old Trafford is and always will be underpinned by the memories of those men who fought, and even died, for their cause.

This is not to say that United are alone in this sentiment. Yet for United, these legacies of passion, glory and tragedy run through the very veins of the club. For the fans of this great team, names such as Duncan Edwards, Sir Matt Busby, George Best, Bobby Charlton and Denis Law will forever be etched into the foundations of Old Trafford.

It is the legacies of these men, and others like them that are the true heritage of Manchester United.

At the time of writing, this club has just lost one such champion. The bitter circum-

stances surrounding the departure of Roy Keane have fuelled a huge debate about the egos of Keane and Sir Alex Ferguson, the apparent quagmire of underachievement at the club, and a sense of malcontent that has seeped through the cracks of this once great empire.

A groundswell of criticism now threatens to engulf Manchester United. Without Keane, there can only be despair. Without its leader, this team will implode. Without its voice, the good of Manchester United will falter.

"The club will live on. But what now for United? Well, we do have Wayne Rooney."

As the radio announcements of Keane's resignation/sacking/everything in-between seeped through one was immediately dragged back to the summer of 1997 when the great Eric Cantona retired at the

height of his powers. It was hard to fathom how the club could go on once its leader, its heartbeat, had left. Yet go on it did.

Skip forward eight years. The same news is being relayed in an almost identical fashion. United's captain has spectacularly left the club. Yet for many United fans, there is no despair.

Keane is a different breed of player to Cantona. He was as much the heartbeat of the team as his predecessor as captain, yet his uncompromising and brutally honest attributes endeared him to the Stretford End unlike any other. Whenever Keane lambasted his under-achieving fellow players and even his manager, he was echoing the will of every true red that holds dear the great legacy of this club.

When people talk of United's icons, its history, it will be hard to find a moment more fit-

ting of this man than when he headed the ball past Angelo Peruzzi in the European Cup semi-final six years ago. It was an act of defiance, a refusal to accept failure; what Roy Keane is all about.

Yet there is no despair now, as we watch our captain walk away from the club which he helped transform into an empire. For even in his final, ultimately fatal act of defiance, he was speaking as the voice of the United faithful. His malcontent was ours; his disgust at watching the Manchester United shirt be exhibited by inept men devoid of passion echoed our own sentiment. Even though it cost him his job, Keane would not relent in his distaste for the current direction that the club is taking. For that, if nothing else, we must salute him.

Ultimately people must realise that Keane, through his own faults of stubbornness and pride,

would never go peacefully like so many timid professionals before him. There has been a degree of inevitability regarding an acrimonious departure such as this.

Yet the club will go on, much as it did eight years ago, much as it did in the wake of the Munich disaster of February 1968. Whatever the future holds for Manchester United, be it for better or for worse, it will be forever rooted in the heritage of its heroes. The name Roy Keane and the legacy attached to him has been etched into that same heritage, where it will thrive eternal. The club will live on. But what now for United? Well, we do have Wayne Rooney.

