

AN FOCAL

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Official Paper of the University of Limerick Students' Union

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FREE

Victory in fight against fees

By Aoife Ní Raghallaigh - Editor

FOLLOWING over a year of campaigning and protests by students, it has been announced that third level fees will not be introduced.

The announcement came following extensive talks between Fianna Fáil and The Green Party regarding the new Programme for Government. 84% of the Green Party voted to accept the new Programme at the Green Party Convention in the RDS on Saturday, 9 October.

Speaking after the announcement, ULSU Deputy President Derek Daly said: "It is a momentous triumph for common sense in the fees debate.

In the depths of the nastiest global economic turmoil since the Wall Street crash of 1929 proposals were due to be laid before cabinet in the coming weeks outlining methods of funding the Irish third level sector, to include what can only be assumed to be a number of options that would have placed the economic cost of education at third level on students or their parents."

Section 7 of the new Programme for Government is entitled "A Learning Nation" and is divided in to three sections; Special Needs, Primary and Second Level and Higher Education. Using an argument employed many times by Students' Unions across Ireland the first point under the Higher Education title stated "Conscious of the economic pressures on parents today, this Government will not proceed with any scheme of student contribution for Third Level education". In other words, the current Government will not introduce third level fees in any form.

The threat of third level fees has been prominent since August 2009 when Minister

for Education, Batt O'Keeffe TD, confirmed that he was considering the reintroduction of third level fees.

At the beginning of this academic year it appeared that the reintroduction of fees was a certainty when all incoming first years were sent a letter from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) which informed them that they may be liable for fees from next year. Despite this, students and Students' Unions alike continued their campaign against fees, vowing to continue the fight until the end.

During the summer ULSU vowed to work with the other Students' Unions to form a united campaign against fees. As a result of this a full page advert was taken in the Irish Times in conjunction with the other Students' Unions in Ireland.

The advert, which appeared in the same edition as the CAO results, listed all the TDs in Ireland and their stance on fees. The advert encouraged students and parents to contact their local TDs and lobby them against fees. In the week before the Green Party Conference ULSU met with Minister for State Peter Power TD to lobby him against the reintroduction of fees. They also met with the Limerick Association of Students' Unions (LASU), which is comprised of representatives from UL, Mary I, LIT and LSAD, to discuss the most effective ways to fight against fees. As a result of this meeting a city wide human billboard protest had been planned for early November and preparations were still continuing as the Greens and Fianna Fáil began discussions. The contribution of the Sabbatical Officers for 2008/9 who worked tirelessly in their campaign against fees cannot be underestimated or forgotten. They encouraged students to take part in protests in Limerick and Munster as well



Students protesting last September

as blocking Minister Martin Cullen from crossing the University Bridge to attend the opening of the University Concert Orchestra Building.

It is certain that without their hard work we would not be celebrating today. The current Sabbatical Team would like to thank Pa O'Brien, Caitriona McGrattan, Eamonn Gardiner, Damien Cahill and Aoife Breen for all their hard work in this fight.

Speaking on Radio 1 on Sunday, October 10, Green Party leader John Gormley confirmed that plans to reintroduce third level fees have been scrapped.

He did state the decision to raise the registration fees was up to universities. Mr Daly said "This very welcome announcement

allays any fears that existed in relation to tuition fees; however we must not be complacent...We must strike while the iron is hot and negotiate much better terms of funding from government.

During the year ending 30 September 2007, the University received a recurrent state grant of just €43 million at a time when the colleges and departments, and core educational divisions such as the Library and Co-Op and Careers Service, were costing €58 million to run.

It is clear that the money must come from somewhere to bridge that gap, but our message is clear; it must not come from the pockets of students who are already under severe financial pressure."

FREE STUFF!

Vote on date of
Sabbatical Elections.
Ask your officers your questions.

ULSU AGM,
Wednesday
Week 7 at 3pm,
Jean Monnet Theatre

An Focal Digest

In Brief

Andrew Walsh R.I.P.

It is with shock and sadness that we heard of Andrew's death in a tragic road accident in Co. Galway on 4th October. Andrew was a first year business student who, as we were told at his funeral Mass in Fethard, Co. Tipperary, had filled his short life to the brim with sports and music and friends. Our sympathy goes to his parents, Michael and Anne, his brothers Paul (4th Year Law & Accounting, UL) and David, and the very many people who will miss him. May he rest in peace.

Andrew will be especially remembered in the annual Mass for deceased students and staff on Sunday, 1st November, at 7.30pm in Milford Parish Church (near the East Gate) to which all are welcome.

(Fr) Koenraad Van Gucht
Chaplain

Annual Memorial Mass

The annual Memorial Mass for deceased students and staff will be held on Sunday, 1st November, at 7.30pm in Milford parish church,
(Just off campus, near the East Gate.)

This year we will be remembering especially:

Students

Sara Ryan (Access)
Jimmy Falvey (3rd Yr BSc Physical Ed.)
Jonathan Colby (Study Abroad)
Kathy Fitzgerald (4th Yr HPSS)
Andrew Walsh (1st Yr Business)

Staff

Pat McElligott (Lero & CSIS)
John Hannon (Security)
Dermot Foley (HR)

All are welcome!

Slave Auction by ULTV

By Jason Kennedy

THE Stables will host a slave auction, organised by ULTV on Thursday of Week 7. During the event, some well known people, including the Societies' Officer, Paddy English and the Equality Officer, Gina O'Brien, will put themselves up for auction.

The highest bidder will be paired up with their slave of choice and will go for a day or night out with another slave auction couple. Also on that night in the Stables, there will be a late bar, a DJ and a live band. It will be a night of entertainment not to be missed.

A quiet success for students

WHILE I was elated to hear that the Green Party had approved the new Programme for Government, I was also slightly dismayed at the seeming indifference from students. There was no jumping for joy, no shouting from the rooftops and only a handful of Facebook updates. What shocked me even more was the amount of people who, at time of going to press, still had not heard that students had won the battle.

So where did this blasé attitude come from? Have students become so jaded with the talk of fees and politicians that they just couldn't be bothered whether fees were introduced or

not? Or is it simply a case that the Government are so shamefaced at having to do a U-turn that they've kept the decision quiet, so quiet that students still don't know?

Whatever the case I think students should stand up and be proud. It was you who shouted and protested for 14 months to air your dissatisfaction with the proposal.

It was you who stood in the rain and wind for hours to force Minister Martin Cullen to find another way to opening of the UCO Building. It was you who signed a petition against which gained over 800 signatures in fees an hour, a fact which visibly shocked Mary

Hanafin when it was presented to her. So don't take this announcement lightly and don't be modest. You saw how your future would be if fees came in; full of debt. You saw how much a degree would cost you and you stood up and said no. And you continued saying no until you got the answer you wanted.

Your voice was heard by people all over Ireland and your voice was listened to. Take the announcement as it is; students won the fight against fees. Now that's something you'll be able to tell your grandchildren when you're older.



Buses in the Foundation car park during the Open Days

And thanks to...

News Editor – Finn McDuffie

Features Editor – Jason Kennedy

Arts Editor – Darragh Roche

Sports Editor – Tomás McCarthy

Design & Print – Impression

Senior Designer – Cassandra Fanara

www.impressionprint.ie

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UL Alumni Association	Jennifer Powell
Amy Murphy	Liam Togher
Kieran Phipps	Kevin McNamara
Andrea Gallagher	James Enright
Emma Hayward	Eoin King
Jack Purcell	Daniel Bridge
Eoghan O'Sullivan	Tommy Crean
Luke Holmes	Stephen Kelly

...and anyone else I've forgotten

Next An Focal deadline is Friday, October 23 for Opinion/Features/Columns/Arts/C&S and Sport. News deadline is Monday, October 25th.. Email submissions to sucommunications@ul.ie

Quotes of the Fortnight

"I'm reclared...recliner retarded"

First Year Rep, Ciara Halliday on her issues with reclining chairs.

"That won't even cover the cost of a strap on the nappy"

ULSU Receptionist Glory Ryan when some students left a less than generous donation in the condom tin.

Clarification

The 6 October edition of An Focal neglected to credit Cian Gallagher, of UL Photo Soc, on two photos.

Mr Gallagher was kind enough to provide An Focal with the photo of Mr Don Barry and

Mr Peter Power on the front page and also the image accompanying the UL Basketball article on the future. An Focal would like to apologise to Mr Gallagher and UL Photo Soc for any inconvenience caused.

A timeline in the fight against fees



11 August 2008

Minister for Education Batt O'Keeffe announces that the Government is considering reintroducing third level fees.

9 September 2008

The front page of the first edition of An Focal shouts "NO TO FEES" with an article which quoted then SU President Pa O'Brien as saying "we will not stand back until fees are ruled out completely."

16 September 2008

Over 120 students froze in position in two locations on campus in a "freeze the fees" protest.

23 September 2008

Students from UL, Mary I, LIT and LSAD marched through the streets of Limerick in a protest against the proposed reintroduction of fees.

9 October 2008

5000 Munster students, including students from UL, marched through the streets of Cork to voice their dissatisfaction with the proposed return to third level fees.

17 November 2008

400 students faced the wind and rain to block the University Bridge, forcing Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism Martin Cullen, TD, to do a U-Turn. Mr Cullen was attempting to cross the bridge to open the ICO Building.

16 February 2009

A planned protest against Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea, TD, continues despite his no show.

26 March 2009

1087 of 2092 students vote to be completely opposed to fees in any form in a plebiscite.

4 August 2009

The Sabbatical Team for 2009/10 attend the Forum for University Students' Unions where fees featured heavily on the agenda.

17 August 2009

ULSU, along with a number of other Students' Unions in Ireland, take a full page advert in the Irish Times.

The advert featured in the same edition as the CAO results and listed every TD in Ireland, their stance on fees and their contact details.

5 October 2009

ULSU meet with Minister of State for Overseas Development at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Peter Power TD, to lobby him against the reintroduction of fees.

8 October 2009

The Limerick Association of Students' Union met to discuss, amongst other things, fees. LASU had planned a citywide protest which was still being organised until...

10 October 2009

84% of Green Party members voted to accept the new Programme for Government which stated: "Conscious of the economic pressures on parents today, this Government will not proceed with any new scheme of student contribution for Third Level education".

WE WIN!!!

Free bus service begins to Parkway Shopping Centre

By Darragh Roche - Arts Editor

A FREE bus service from UL to the Parkway Shopping Centre will begin from Monday, 19 October. The bus is provided by the Parkway Shopping Centre and aims to encourage students to shop at the Parkway. It will depart from the Stables every half an hour with the return journey from the Parkway leaving on the quarter hour.

There will be no charge for students travelling to and from the Parkway. However, the bus may refuse students who merely travel to their accommodation without visiting the shopping centre.

Parkway Shopping Centre Manager Roger Beck sees the service as a way to attract more students to the shopping centre and provide a service to students who do not have a car.

The Parkway Shopping Centre is located on the Dublin Road some distance from campus. The Bus Éireann service already stops at the Parkway several times a day but this journey

costs €1.60. The new complimentary service may be of greater benefit and less cost to students.

The first free bus to the Parkway will leave from the Stables on Monday at 4.30pm and the last departure from the shopping centre will be at 7.00pm. The Parkway Shopping Centre will also offer a bus service on Friday mornings, with the first departure from UL at 10.45am and the last departure from the Parkway at 12.45pm.

The ULSU has agreed to inform students about the free bus and if it proves to be successful the Parkway will be prepared to expand the service with the agreement of the SU.

The Parkway is the nearest shopping centre to UL and is popular with shoppers from the Castletroy area and Limerick city. The new bus service may provide students with a new place to buy their groceries and other college essentials.

Journalism Students in samurai sword incident

By Jason Kennedy - Features Editor

A SIXTEEN-year-old swung a samurai sword at his rival in Limerick district on the same day that many Journalism and New Media students were present there. The teenager, who kept the three foot weapon in his pants, was lying in wait for a member of a rival family to exit the court, which took place on Tuesday of Week 5.

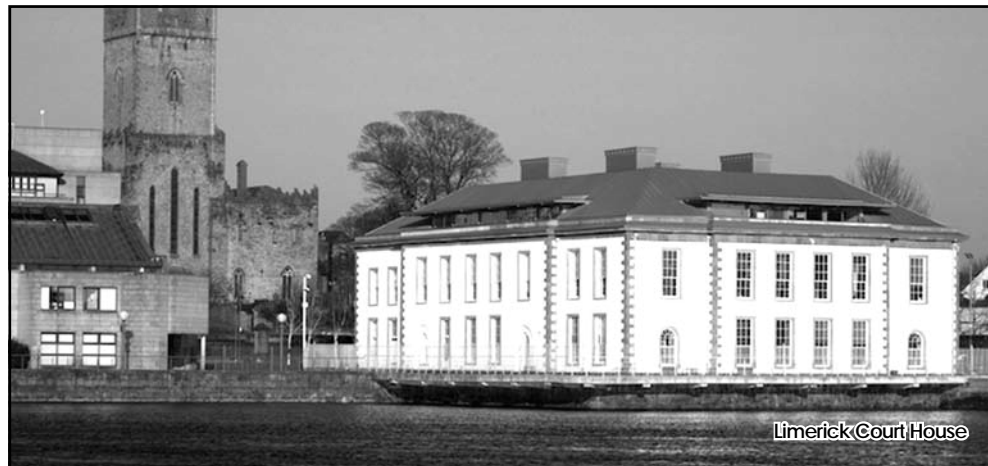
The second year students, who were there as part of an assignment, were shocked to hear of the attack, which took place just a few feet from where they were sitting. Journalism student, Trisha Murphy said she knew something had happened during the court. "A guard rushed in from the foyer and shouted: 'help here lads'. Then about thirty guards rushed out of the court hearing to break up the fight. It was absolute madness."

The attack, which occurred at midday, took place after eight members of rival families began a fight just inside the courthouse. This is when the teenager took out his weapon and began to swing it at his rival, missing his head by mere inches. Garda Tony Grey of Bruff Garda Station managed to bring the attacker down from behind, before he could injure anyone in the courthouse.

Ms Murphy claims that she was happy to sit in the courtroom and not see the fight take place. "I don't think I would have particularly liked to have seen it. It's a frightening thing to be happening in Limerick Courthouse and somebody besides the people involved could have been seriously hurt."

Despite the activity that occurred just outside the Courtroom, the hearing, under Judge Carroll Moran, carried on as normal. "He sort of ignored the whole thing. The group of guards returned in about three minutes or so." Ms Murphy said that the attack didn't put her off court reporting but it has whetted her appetite for journalism. "Personally, I thought the experience was exciting. What would put me off more was the man who beat up his five-year-old child repeatedly and only got three years in jail."

Fellow journalism student, Aisling Hussey was also surprised to hear what occurred that day in court. "Even though what occurred was an isolated incident, I was still shocked. I only found out about what happened when I arrived home. Our lecturer, Tom Felle, was right when he said courts were exciting and unpredictable places though."



Littering “out of control”

An Focal Reporter

STUDENTS are being urged to bin their litter, both on and off campus, as littering in the Castletroy area spirals out of control. The request comes after numerous complaints were received from residents in the off campus estates, but also from students availing of the Students’ Union Courtyard and Common Room.

A resident of Elm Park, who has been living in the area for nearly four years, said residents are left “under siege” by the antics of students and that they “look forward to rainy nights” so they can get some peace and quiet. She explained that students are continuously kicking over rubbish bins on their way home from The Lodge and it has now gotten to the point that the resident feels she can no longer put her bin out.

In addition to kicking over bins and leaving rubbish strewn about the area, which can attract disease carrying rodents into the locality, students are also leaving smashed glass all over paths, roads and cycle tracks. This is highly dangerous and also extremely inconsiderate. A number of complaints have been received from cyclists and car owners who have suffered punctured tires of account of smashed glass. ULSU Campaigns and Services Officer Fergal

Dempsey also explained that the broken glass poses a threat to children and animals in the area or can walk or fall on the glass, suffering serious injuries.

Mr Dempsey also spoke of the littering on campus stating that it “doesn’t do the students any favours. It makes it harder to campaign for better services or facilities when they don’t respect the ones they have.” Communications Officer Aoife Ní Raghallaigh said the littering outside in the Student Centre Courtyard and Common Room shows “a complete lack of respect for everyone.

The Common Room was refurbished for the students over the summer and by way of thanks they leave it like a pigsty every evening. Students need to show a bit of responsibility and respect for their surroundings.”

Students are reminded that littering is subject to a €150 on-the-spot fine, or a maximum fine of €3000 upon conviction in Court. This law also applies to litter thrown in the front garden of your home.

If you receive a fine and it is not paid you will be brought to Court and may receive a conviction. If you do receive a conviction you will not be able to obtain a visa for America or Australia.



British Airways CEO LASU meets to visit UL discuss fees

By Finn McDuffie – News Editor

IRISHMAN Willie Walsh will address UL this week as part of the Kemmy Business School’s (KBS) Distinguished Lecture Series. Mr. Walsh, who began his career as a pilot for Aer Lingus and later became CEO of that carrier, is currently CEO of British Airways.

The airline executive has been accredited with bringing Aer Lingus out of serious financial difficulties in the wake of 9/11 and will deliver a lecture titled “A Sustainable Future for Aviation”. The KBS, in keeping with the style Mr. Walsh prefers, promises a “more interactive session than previous Distinguished Lectures”. All students have been welcomed to the talk, which will offer students the chance to speak directly to a CEO of one of the world’s best-known airlines.

The lecture takes place on the publication date of this paper (Tuesday, 20 October) at 5pm in the main lecture theatre of the Kemmy Business School (KBG-12). Postgraduates and final year students have been told the lecture should be most interesting for them as they seek a greater understanding of their prospective career paths. The lecture will draw on world-class expertise from a “most remarkable”

business mind. Mr. Walsh was hired as CEO of British Airways in May 2005 at the age of 43 with a six-month sychronization period before the departure of his predecessor, Rod Eddington in October of that year. Since then, Walsh has led the airline through a time of unprecedented turmoil and industrial-relations problems. The KBS Distinguished Lecture Series was launched by

Professor Gearóid Ó Thuathaigh, Professor of History at NUI Galway, on October 7 2008. The inaugural lecture examined the ways in which historians deal with the challenge of identifying key periods or phases in the complex process of economic and social development. He also discussed the trajectory of Irish economic and social development since the late 1950s.



By Aoife Ní Raghallaigh – Editor

THE Limerick Association of Students’ Unions (LASU) met for the first time this academic year on Thursday of Week 5. LASU is comprised of the Sabbatical Officers from UL, Mary I, LIT and Limerick School of Art and Design.

LASU meets to plan campaigns and events that will be run between the four colleges and also to allow the Students’ Unions to engage in general discussion.

The most recent meeting of LASU saw seven representatives sitting down to discuss a number of issues including what was a continued threat regarding the return of third level fees.

The Officers looked at a number of different ways to highlight the dissatisfaction amongst students on the issue including holding another protest march in the city centre. It was also proposed that, if a march did take place, it would be an idea to hold demonstrations on the individual campus in advance to boost morale and educate students on the issue.

While protests have been an effective tool in the past, the members of LASU felt that marches are no longer as effectual

as they had once been. As such a number of different ideas were proposed including sending letters to the editors of national and local newspapers and presenting petitions in person to TDs. The group eventually agreed that “human billboards” would be the most effective tool.

The idea behind the human billboards is that two or three students would stand on all the major routes and junctions around Limerick holding anti-fees placards during the morning and evening rush hour.

While there is no longer a need for a protest the plan can still be implemented to raise awareness for another student issue in future. LASU also discussed the possibility of throwing a joint Halloween Ball between the four colleges.

In previous years this had been standard practice but recently the decision was made to hold separate events.

Details for this year’s Halloween Ball must still be finalised but as soon as details are certain they will be available on www.ulsu.ie

Movember gets men talking



The Blizzards took part in Movember last year

By Aoife Ni Raghallaigh – Editor

MALE students are being encouraged to grow a moustache during the month of November to raise money for “Movember”, a charity aimed at raising awareness regarding Prostate Cancer and other men’s health issues. The event will begin with a “shave off” in UL on Thursday, 29 October. SPIN Southwest have also kindly agreed to broadcast live from campus for the event.

Movember is a month long event which first began in Australia in 2003 in response to the lack of ways for men to actively engage with their health. The event encourages men to grow a moustache to raise money and awareness for men’s health issues. Men can grow a moustache as a solo effort or they can compete to grow the best mo’ as part of a group. Students in UL can join the UL team by signing up online. The UL team name is “UL Movember Campaign 2009”. Students on the UL team will be competing against teams in UCC, LIT and the colleges in Dublin. At the end of the month the team will

be treated to a Gala party where one lucky man will receive an award for the best mo’. There will also be an overall prize for the team who raised the most money, and for the team with the most participation.

Women can also get involved by registering as a Mo’sista. Mo’sistas raise awareness for the cause by asking men without a mo’ why they aren’t growing a ‘tache. The UL MedSoc will also be running a “buck-a-suck” campaign where the mo’sistas will offer a lucky male a suck for a buck, i.e., a lollipop for €1.

The Movember campaign has gone from strength to strength since it began in 2003. To date it has raised over €30 million and every year more and more people get involved. If you wish to donate to the cause please visit ie.movember.com/donate. You can also pick up some dapper merchandise from the site.

Students who wish to get involved with UL Movember Campaign can visit ie.movember.com/get-involved.

Officers Meet Local Minister on Fees

By Aoife Ni Raghallaigh – Editor

ON MONDAY, 5 October, Sabbatical Officers led by President Ruán Dillon McLoughlin met with Minister of State at Foreign Affairs Peter Power TD.

The meeting was quite informal in nature, but left the Minister in no doubt as to the position of ULSU and its members. The meeting lasted approximately 45 minutes, during which time the Officers informed the Minister of the hardships on the ground in comparison to previous years and the devastating effects of the downturn on student living conditions that have been pouring in since the beginning of the semester.

Minister Power conceded that in an ideal world that fees would not even factor in the discussions; however he countered this by reminding the Officers present that the current situation whereby any spending that is not payroll or social welfare is borrowed. That is unsustainable in any context and he stated that compromises would have to be reached.

Minister Power posed the question of which alternative stands up, citing a loan system. Officers countered this by stating that although it was the only system that did not prevent access to third level, the government of New Zealand has been left with NZ\$10 billion of debt on its national balance sheet in unpaid loans since a loan system was introduced there in 1989. Credit, the Officers said, was not the answer to a crisis created by credit, and that furthermore this had the societal impact of graduates not being able to afford pensions or families for many years due to the crippling debt of the €46,000 full-economic cost of the average four year Bachelor of Arts at UL. This would be more than a mortgage for many of the parents of current students.

When faced with the option of means testing the Officers cited the farce that exists with the

current grant system whereby the very wealthy circumvent the limits through creative (and expensive, though perfectly legal) accounting practices. The Minister accepted that there are many people who are legitimately in receipt of the grant whose circumstances suggest that they should not be.

The Minister seemed particularly interested in receiving the views of the Officers and made some brief notes which he in turn gave a commitment to raising with Minister for Education Batt O’Keeffe, however the view of the Officers after the meeting was that Minister Power was not sure whether he would support fees or not given the circumstances, but that in principle he is an individual opposed to third level fees having been through the third level system when it was fee paying in the 1980s.

ULSU President Ruán Dillon McLoughlin urged the Minister to take a broader more foresight inclined view when making his decision on the matter and to separate the issue of third level fees from the short-term financial woes we are currently experiencing.

ULSU emailed all 5 TDs in the Limerick East constituency on the 20th of August. ULSU has received replies from Minister for Defence Willie O’Dea and Minister of State at Foreign Affairs Peter Power. Replies have not yet been received from the remaining 3 TDs.

Since officers met with Minister Power in Week 5 the spectre of fees has been lifted from the agenda. We would like to thank all of those who joined in our various campaigns over the last 14 months and to those who took our views on board.

It seems the view of Education as an investment has been re-enforced and for that we must give thanks to those who lobbied for it within government.



Peter Power TD

Inaugural ULAA alumni & student debate a success

ON SATURDAY, 12 September, ULAA hosted the Inaugural ULAA Alumni V Student Debate as part of the newly enhanced 2009 UL Alumni Reunion Day hosted by the University of Limerick Alumni Association (ULAA).

The Debate pitched Graduate Speakers against Student Speakers and was chaired by special guest, UL's Founding President, Dr Edward M Walsh. With a well-chosen motion "That This House Believes That Our Student Days Are The Best Days Of Our Lives", the debate lived up to its promise of being a lively and well-contested affair.

Proposing the Motion, the Alumni Speakers were Aoife Finnerty, a recent graduate of Law & European Studies and current Education Officer at the UL Students' Union who says she was a ballerina in a previous life; Barry McLoughlin, a BA Law & European Studies

graduate of 2000 and former Students' Union President who describes himself as Offaly's biggest Munster fan; Colm Flynn, a BTech Production Management graduate of 1997, former Auditor of UL's Debating Union and someone who says he has spent the last 12 years trying to give up debating and finally, Diarmuid Scully, a BBS graduate of 1995, former Students' Union President and sitting City Councillor who says his proudest moment as City Mayor in 2006 was welcoming the Heineken Cup to Limerick for the first time.

Opposing the Motion, the Student Speakers were Una O'Grady, 2nd year student of Civil Engineering, Auditor of the UL Debating Union who describes herself as someone who likes building bridges; Stephen Egan, 2nd year student of Law Plus, Convenor of the UL Debating Union who says he likes winning; Maurice Cotter, 4th Year student of Law &

European Studies, Speaker Development Officer of the UL Debating Union who says he has a passion for International Law; and finally, Darragh Roche, 1st Year student of English and History, Schools Convenor of the UL Debating Union and who describes himself as someone who compulsively likes to correct other people's grammar.

The three-person Adjudication Panel was chaired by UL's Vice President Academic & Registrar, Prof. Paul McCutcheon. Joining the Vice-President were Student representative, David Hartery 2nd Year Law Plus Student and PRO of the UL Debating Union as well as Graduate representative, Deirdre O'Brien BEng '00, former Board Member of ULAA and currently District Secretary for the UK and Ireland of Toastmasters International.

Following their deliberations, the graduates were announced as the winners and the motion

was carried. So, yes, our student days are the best days of our lives.

Speaking after the debate, alumna Majella O'Connell, Executive Director of ULAA said "Firstly, I want to express sincere gratitude to all our speakers today and a special word of thanks to Una and her colleagues at the UL Debating Union for their enthusiastic participation. We were honoured today to have Dr Ed Walsh join us and bring his own inimitable style to proceedings. And we are also grateful to Prof Paul McCutcheon and his fellow Judges for their time and input. I believe they made the right decision."

Following the success of this first debate, ULAA will make this a stand-alone event and will host the 2nd Annual Alumni V Student Debate in Second Semester, perhaps as early as February 2010. Suggestions of possible motions are now welcome.

20 confirmed cases of Swine Flu on campus

By Aoife Ni Raghallaigh – Editor

THE University of Limerick Student Health Centre has only treated 20 confirmed cases of Swine Flu since September, but has seen over 50 suspected cases, according to a report presented by Dr Niall Cahill at the Pandemic Working Group during Week 5.

Clusters appearing at the University are not out of the ordinary, however due to testing the University has confirmed cases, whereas institutions not testing are still just as likely to have cases, but they cannot be confirmed.

Mr Cahill also stated that there has been a significantly higher amount of flu like illnesses presenting at the Health Centre for this time of year although this may be due to people being more aware of the risks of Swine Flu rather than an increase of infections.

A high proportion of students with the common cold have also been presenting to the Health Centre fearing that they have contracted the Swine Flu virus.

The Student Health Centre has noticed that a number of patients with suspected Swine Flu are reluctant to leave campus for fear of infecting relations at home.

In such cases they are advising that students who do not wish to return home should remain at a one to two metre distance from

other people in their accommodation to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. UL also has the highest proportion of on campus accommodation of any college in Ireland and as such the Health Centre is asking students living in on campus accommodation to be particularly vigilant to avoid the spread of the virus.

Students are also warned that many of the symptoms listed by the HSE manifest themselves in a much less severe manner than people might think and as such people are asked to again be vigilant and use the HSE hotline (1800 94 11 00) as the Health Centre is already under pressure.

Overall the Swine Flu virus is not as severe as many might expect and most cases that have presented to the Health Centre are back in their normal day to day routine in three to five days.

The age profile of the campus is also a factor which will mean that severity is unlikely to be of panic proportions, though there may yet be a serious case, so students should be mindful of symptoms of the virus.

The campus community will be notified when the H1N1 vaccine is available and high risk individuals, as outlined in the HSE guidelines, will have priority access.

UL falls in 2009 University rankings

By Finn McDuffie – News Editor

UL WAS the only Irish University to lose rank in this year's world University rankings. The institution dropped from 394th place to the 401-500 global ranking, matching National University of Ireland (NUI) Maynooth for the first time.

NUI Galway made the biggest leap, moving from 368th place to 243rd. Trinity College Dublin is ranked highest in Ireland at 43rd place and University College Dublin jumped into the top 100 world Universities for the first time, at 89th place.

This year's Times Higher Education/QS World University Rankings, a highly regarded international league table, was published on 8 October. The report is compiled by academics and employers. Rankings are decided based on peer academic review; employer review; international faculty ratio; international student ratio; student faculty ratio; and citations per faculty. A 40% weighting is attributed to the peer review criterion.

The Times Higher Education uses an admittedly "broad" classification system, intended to "capture teaching, research, employability and international appeal, to produce an overall indicator of institutional standing."

Martin Ince, Founding Editor of the rankings survey, said it focuses "on [each institution's] size, scope, and research intensiveness. We first divide the field into small, medium and large Universities, depending on [the number of students], with a threshold of 5,000 for a medium-sized institution and 12,000 for a large one."

The academic scope of each institution is also assessed. Universities are broken into

"comprehensive" and "fully comprehensive" based on activity in all five areas of scholarship – science, technology, biomedicine, social sciences and the arts and humanities. Institutions active in all five fields, but lacking a medical school, are termed "comprehensive".

A final criterion is the amount of research a University has produced in the past five years. Harvard University was ranked the number one University in the world with a score of 100%, followed closely by Cambridge and Yale respectively.



Union Debrief

Postgrad News

WELCOME to Week 7 and Happy Halloween. First things first; Halloween parties! The PSA in conjunction with **The Treehouse** @ Bentleys of O'Connell Street will be holding a **Halloween Party** with a difference. Get your day-glo costumes and get ready to dance your head off for **Limerick's first Black-Light Party**. There will be a mountain of freebies on the night; glow-sticks are the only **freebies** I can mention here and it's all just €5 before 12. Go to www.postgrads.ie/events for more info.

The PSA Student Parents Working Group in coordination with ULSU will be holding a Halloween party in the PSA common room for the children of students. There will be games, sweets and scary tricks and treats. Go to www.postgrads.ie for more info. Pre-registration may be necessary so check the site and your emails. In other events news, the PSA held a wine reception in the Common Room on Thursday of Week 5 and a table quiz on Friday of Week 6 with the International Soc. and, judging by the crowd, this will be the first night of many.

Moving away from events, over the last few weeks the working groups have begun to meet and have elected chairs. A list of the Chairs and contact details are available on the site. The Student Parents Working Group still has some space so contact me to get involved. A meeting of the Silver Apples Crèche Committee has been held and was a great success. If you are interested in using the facilities in the future then please contact me and I can furnish you with contact details or you can call into them directly.

The Student Teaching WG has begun to write up a report on the current state of Student

Teaching in UL which will be presented to the President Don Barry among others. If their concerns are ignored then the report may have to go before Governing Authority. Again if you are interested then please contact me and check the site regularly – www.postgrads.ie.

As the first semester crosses over into the second half I'd like to remind everyone to contact me if they are having any problems or need support. There is a possibility that ASIST, the suicide prevention training course, will be held on campus for students in the near future. If plans go ahead it will be well advertised and full details will be available from the website.

Have a happy Halloween,

Michael.



Michael, PSA President

Policy Explained

Transport Policy

Ruán's Rundown

(in his absence) Ruan's rundown this week is brought to you, not by Ruán, but by **Derek** while Ruán is away sunning himself (grrrrr...***** rain).

You may have read in the last edition how the Deputy President/Welfare Officer stands in for the President when he's not around, so here I am. Right!

You are now getting into the thick of things. It's the time of year when Co-Op interviews are in full swing, FYPs are beginning to creep onto the horizon and you're wondering why the hell you didn't go on ERASMUS for the pass/fail semester! Fear not, for Colin Murphy was around with Laugh Please in Week 5 to give a bit of comic relief and we have more on the way.

- **Week 10**
PJ Gallagher (of Naked Camera fame)
- **Week 11**
Neil Delamere (hilarious little guy)
- **Week 12**
Jason Byrne (the ginger one)

Tickets for all of them are available at your Students' Union NOW at the bargain price of €10! We are also providing Trinity Rooms tickets for big acts (like the recent Ferry Corsten and Eric Prydz), generally at a reduced price compared to the door (depending on the act).

Members of the University Executive and Governing Authority have expressed their delight at the top class event that was the Boathouse opening since we thanked you in the last edition of An Focal.

Union AGM takes place Wednesday of Week 7 (That's tomorrow for those of you who picked

An Focal up hot off the presses, or it's probably over for those of you who have waited a few days to read our insights). It's YOUR Union, so have your say. Come along, I'm not going to say it'll be the most exciting meeting of your life, but it might give you a sense of some of the more interesting meetings we go to on your behalf.

On the Sky in the Common Room (yes we have had queries!!), we're waiting on Sky to send us new cards for the Sky boxes. Who'da thunk it'd be so difficult to get Sky!!

Mary I graduations will be on next Thursday and Friday (22nd and 23rd) so either myself or Ruán hope to attend them on your behalf, but FUSU (Forum of University Students' Unions) is on in Maynooth on Friday so we'll both more than likely be out regardless.

Our illustrious President has also decided that you will be getting a new feedback mechanism soon in the form of SUFeedbck@ul.ie. This will be administered through the Union Admin Secretary, so your complaints will be confidential and raised at a level which will allow them to be properly dealt with. It's for complaints about us, our staff or our services so get moaning or nothing's going to get any better.

Ruán, before he went away was at such fascinating meetings as Plassey Campus Centre, ULSU Services Limited.

Finally... We met as your Union with Minister Peter Power on the Fees issue (see page). Following on from this we had a meeting of Limerick Association of Students' Unions (LASU), but since then the fees threat has all but disappeared. Watch this space!

THROUGHOUT the years a number of policies have been passed by the student body, particularly through Class Reps Council. A policy motion can be brought to Class Reps Council and needs a proposer and seconder. A policy motion can propose a change to an old policy or the implementation of a new policy. A student can object to a policy, but a seconder is needed also. If there is an objection the policy goes to a vote. If there are no objections the policy is deemed passed by the Chair and this policy is then adopted by the Students' Union.

One such policy is the Transport Policy which was originally brought before Class Reps Council in May 2006 as the Car Parking Policy and was renewed in April 2009. After a general review of all policies it was amended by Council in October 2009. The policy noted the number of UL students who drive a car and believed that this number would only increase in future years. It also believed that the

University often neglects areas of vital concern to students, such as public transport.

The policy resolved to liaise with staff representatives, the University and its Governing Bodies to promote the policy and to lobby Bus Éireann and other public transport providers to provide adequate public transport to UL. The policy also mandates the Campaigns and Services Officer to lobby local authorities to provide more cycle and bus lanes in the area and to encourage students and staff to avail of other means of transport.

The changes which were approved by Class Reps Council were minor. Class Reps simply approved a change of name from the "Car Parking Policy" to the "Transport Policy" as the policy content did not actually relate to car parking. It also clarified ownership of the two final points.

A copy of all the ULSU policies is available on the website, www.ulsu.ie, or from the Communications Office.

Union Debrief

Clubs and Soccs Council

CLUBS AND Societies (C&S) council met for the third time in Week 5. Representatives at the meeting discussed a number of issues including online membership, the new logo and vehicle usage.

With regard to online membership, the new online sign up system was demoed. The online membership hopes to stop paper wastage by phasing out the old sign up books. A committee member will be required to sign members up using the online system which will also create an automatic mailing list.

Discussion also took place regarding the proposed wULfhounds logo. The students present expressed

disappointment that they were being presented with the logo again despite being shown it last semester. In response it was stated that Council had been asked to give feedback or ideas on the logo last semester and again in Week 3 of this semester but none had been received.

It was also announced that a proposal on vehicle usage will be brought to Council in Week 7. Before this happens Council members are asked to please provide feedback on vehicle usage.

Finally it was announced that the C&S Lotto was not being promoted sufficiently by Clubs and Societies. At the time of print the jackpot stood at €3600.

Class Reps Council

The third Class Reps Council of the semester took place on Thursday of Week 6. Council had to be moved from Tuesday, when it is usually held, to Thursday in other to accommodate students who left campus for the Open Days. Council ran much smoother and quicker than in previous weeks and was dominated heavily by motions and policies.

Communications Officer, Aoife Ní Raghallaigh, explained to the Reps present that she had been reading through the current policies and found many of them to be in need of updating or no longer relevant. As such she proposed to withdraw the Alcohol Policy, the Withdrawal from Alcohol Policy, Bebo Policy, Nuclear Energy Policy, Equality Policy as there were two, and the USI

Consultation Policy. A commented was posed to Ms Ní Raghallaigh about the need for a Nuclear Energy policy to which she responded that the current policy was outdated but any rep is welcome to bring a new policy on the subject, or any subject, to Council for consideration.

Ms Ní Raghallaigh went on to amend a number of policies. The Alcohol Guidelines Policy was updated to note the previous Withdrawal from Alcohol Policy and also to allow advertising on campus by companies promoting alcohol. The Bouncer Policy was updated to include ENTs crew, meaning that any complaints against a member of ENTs crew must be investigated by the CSO. The Car Parking Policy was updated and renamed the Transport Policy. The content of the policy only had

a minor change. Finally the Equality Policy was updated to state that the Equality Officer, or the Welfare Officer in his/her absence, will take ownership of certain actions. All amendments were passed. All policies, both old and new, can be found on www.ulsu.ie. A number of policies will also be presented at the next meeting of Council.

Reps were also asked to approve the motion for the Annual General Meeting which takes place tomorrow (Wednesday, Week 7). They were also asked to approve the wording of a motion which will see the date of the Sabbatical Elections take place no later than Week 10, rather than Week 9. This is so that RAG Week can be held as late as possible in the year in other to get the best weather possible.

ULSU Nitelink

Timetable for Academic Year 2009/10

Route A 19:00, 20:30, 22:00,

Stop 1: Dromroe Village
Stop 2: Thomand Village
Stop 3: Cappavilla Village
Stop 4: Plassey Village
Stop 5: College Court
Stop 6: Groody Student Village
Stop 7: Courtyard Student Village
Stop 8: Brookfield Hall
Stop 9: Parkview Hall
Stop 10: Park Mews (Kielys)

Returns to UL via Flag Pole Entrance

Route B 19:45, 21:15, 22:45,

Stop 1: Kilmurry Village
Stop 2: Elm Park
Stop 3: Oaklawns
Stop 4: Kilmurry Lodge
Stop 5: Brierfield (Back of the Estate)
Stop 6: Woodhaven
Stop 7: Annacotty (Synotts)
Stop 8: Spar (Dublin Road Bus Stop)
Stop 9: Courtyard/Brookfield
 Roundabout

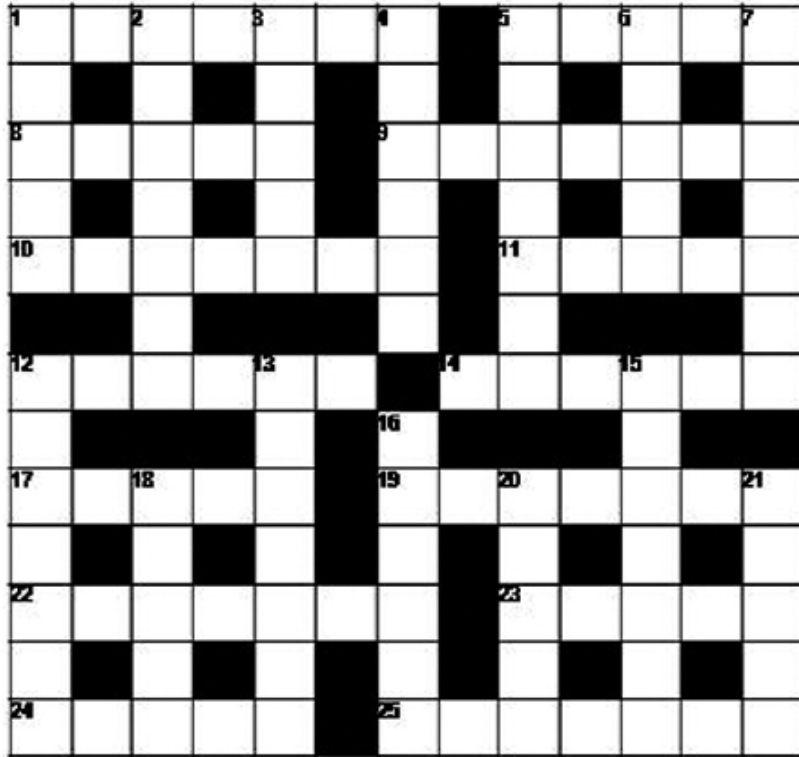
Returns to UL via East Gate entrance

Route C 23.30 Only

Route A+B Stops on Request
Drop off only

Fun Page!

Crossword

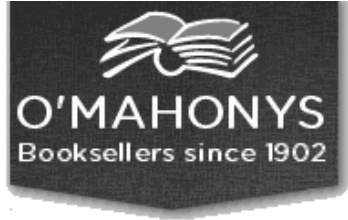


Solutions to Tuesday, 6th October puzzle:

Across: 1. Acquire, 5. Ghana, 8. Brace, 9. Closest, 10. Entitle, 11. Titan, 12. Simile, 14. System, 17. Latex, 19. Obvious, 22. Codicil, 23. Legal, 24. Turin, 25. Sedated

Down: 1. Amble, 2. Quantum, 3. Inert, 4. Exceed, 5. Ghostly, 6. Adept, 7. Antonym, 12. Solicit, 13. Lexicon, 15. Thought, 16. Yodels, 18. Tudor, 20. Valid, 21. Solid.

Sponsored by:



Across

1. Ironed
5. To move insidiously
8. Matter, topic
9. Lamp, beacon
10. Line touching a curve; off-topic
11. Consumed
12. Aspirations, goals
14. Presuppose
17. Strength, force
19. Supported, prevented from falling
22. Coaxed
23. Alarm, warning beacon
24. Shuddersome
25. Inhabited

Down

1. Publish
2. Fragrance, perfume
3. Famous Ennis dance
4. Erase
5. Moves like equine animal
6. Appoint, pick
7. Spiritual penalty
12. Diminish
13. Reclaim (anag)
15. Refereed
16. Arachnid
18. Dihydrogen Monoxide
20. Desert haven
21. Feasted

The lucky winner will receive a €20 voucher to spend in

O'Mahony's Booksellers

or online at

www.omahonys.ie

For all your college needs

Submit entries with name & ID number to the entry box in SU reception by 28th October 2009

In Numbers

7
The amount of weeks left until exams!

Over 1.2 million

The amount of people who voted Yes in the Lisbon Treaty the 2nd time

523

The number of Green Party members who voted to accept the new Programme for Government

10

The amount of weeks left until Christmas

133 hectares

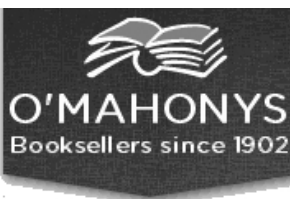
The size of the UL campus

14 months

How long students campaigned against fees

Sudoku

Sponsored by:



9	2					8	1	
				2		7		5
7		3					4	6
	6		4					
8	4		6		5		2	9
					1		6	
2	3					9		1
4		7		3				
	9	6					3	7

Instructions:

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow in a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- * Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- * Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- * Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

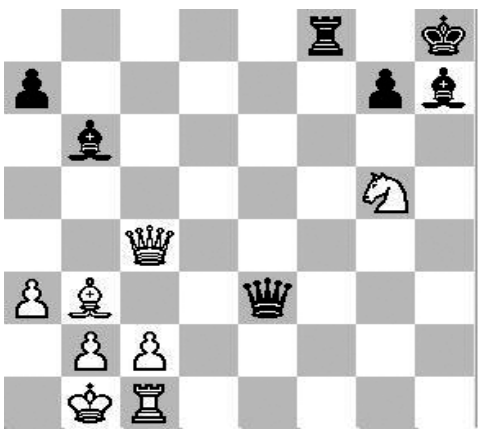
The winner will receive a €20 voucher to spend in

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For all your college needs

Submit entries with name & ID number to entry box in SU reception by 28th October



1. Qg8+BxQg8 2. Rh1+Qh3 3. RxQh7+Bg7 4. RxBg7++

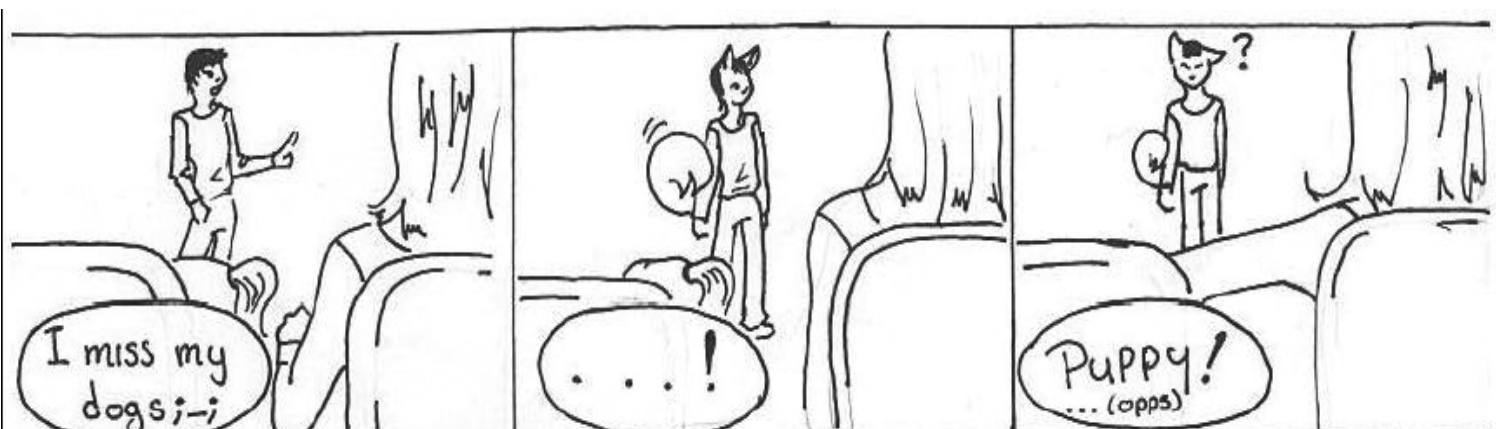


Illustration: Amy Murphy

Graduate Article:

Mark Sheahan

Mark Sheahan is former University of Limerick student who graduated with a Bachelor of Business Studies in Business and French in May of this year. He is currently an entrepreneur and runs his own website, 5050.ie. Here he speaks to An Focal about what life has been like since he graduated, his work, and what he misses most about UL.

Mr Sheahan began by stating that what he missed most about UL is “the great atmosphere around UL that is to be had every day. Students of the college can relate to it as there is always something happening and there never really is a dull moment” but that he didn’t miss the early morning lectures.

When asked what he most enjoyed most about studying Business and French in UL, Mr Sheahan stated: “What I most enjoyed about my course was my Co-Op as it was a great eye opener to the working world and also provided me with great experience working in a field of top class professionals. In UL I most enjoyed the nights out in the Lodge, RAG Week, Christmas Daze, the craic that was had on campus, the facilities that we had great use of and the people that I met.”

Due to the current economic climate a large number of students who graduated this summer have opted to return to education. Mr Sheahan explains why he didn’t choose this path.

“I decided against going on to do further study at the moment even though many of my friends are undergoing Masters in UL and other Universities. Instead I decided to set-up my own business with my brother and see if we can make a success of our company and a name for ourselves in Irish Business.”

Mr Sheahan currently runs the 5050.ie online store which provides consumers with the latest products and technologies from around the world. Mr Sheahan explains what his work on the site entails: “As any entrepreneur knows the early stages of a business are often the most important in securing a foundation to build on.

We now have a foundation in place and I now spend most of my time researching and meeting companies whose products are of interest to us for the Irish market, attending trade shows and exhibitions around the world, handling the company’s finances and accounts, updating the website with new products and prices, regular discussions with suppliers,

strategically setting our objectives and targets, selling our corporate range of products to Irish companies and overseeing the running of the business on a day to day basis.”

When asked why he decided to start 5050.ie and what sort of work went into launching it Mr Sheahan stated: “Entrepreneurship and owning your own business is something that has been in my family for years. We identified the growth of the internet and the constant increase in worldwide on-line sales as something that we wanted to be a part of and therefore decided to set-up our own website that provides people with great products and a first class service at extremely competitive prices.”

He continued: “A lot of work has been put into setting up the website not just by me but also by my family, business advisors and friends.

Such work includes securing finance to establish our business, deciding on what name and tagline to go with, where to host our website, what back-office team to select, deciding on how we wanted to create and lay-out our site, what pricing to go with, what shipping system to put in place, what payment partners to go with, what products we had to take stock of and many other jobs.” Mr Sheahan also stated

that UL was extremely beneficial to both his career and personal life. “UL has benefited me greatly in that it has provided me with a first class education in business.

UL gave me the basics on how to set-up and operate my own business where I can apply what I have learned and hopefully create one of Europe’s leading on-line stores. During my time at UL I have made some great life lasting friends both in Ireland and abroad. Thanks to UL I have developed and matured as a person, I have attained an excellent level of French and I have identified personal strengths that I hope to use to the best of my ability.”

In conclusion Mr Sheahan gave current students of UL some advice. “My advice to current students of UL is to look beyond what the expected route for a University Graduate is and to not think that because they are young and inexperienced that they do not have the capability to run a business.

Some of the worlds most successful businesses started off in University such as Google and I hope that 5050.ie will have its own success story.” He also reminded them of the “great savings to be made by buying online with 5050.ie”



Mark Sheahan

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a UL student I was left bemused when the venue for the proposed Young Wolfe Tones concert in The Boathouse was changed to The Stables. I feel this raised issues with ticket sales and refunds and in turn raised the issue of concert organisation and promotion in UL.

Approximately 50 tickets were sold initially for the Wolfe Tones gig at The Boathouse circus tent to mark its opening. These cost €12 each. There were also a limited number of combo tickets for the The Blizzards (who played the night before) and Young Wolfe Tones. These cost €20. On the day of the Tones concert it was decided that the Derek Warfield band would play in The Stables with free admission for all students. A dilemma arose as to what to do with the students who had already bought tickets. I'm sure it wasn't widely known at the time, but the Students' Union did offer a refund on the night. The refund offered was two free drinks at The Stables. Some considered this questionable.

Anyone who got this was presumably just glad to take it but questions have been raised as to sufficiency of the refund. The Stables kindly offered to sponsor the drinks vouchers but I believe it was understood that a €10 refund would also be provided per ticket sold. A source from The Stables was shocked to find there were no such payments made. Consequently, students who entered free on the night were better off than those who had bought tickets for the gig in the first instance.

In an overall sense I feel The Boathouse opening celebrations didn't go to plan. As well as the problems with the Young Wolfe Tones gig, the attendance for The Blizzards fell below expectations. Original projections of 1,200 didn't materialise as the crowd was believed to be closer to 700 or 800 mark. Although the atmosphere was good at both gigs there were evidently plenty of empty spaces. I think this calls into question both the marketing and the ticket pricing of these events and also the overall attitude of the Students' Union towards students themselves who wish to attend these events.

It's true that the number of students affected in the Wolfe Tones case was small but that is missing the point. The principle of it was very wrong and it leaves a sour taste in the mouth. It is an incident that the Students' Union should learn from and should never let happen again.

Yours,
Tomás McCarthy
4th Year New Media and English

How are ya Tomás,

Just to sum up what you said in your letter, it is true that ULSU has suffered the same plight as the GAA, FAI, MCD, IRFU and other large organisations around the country; we didn't sell out one of our events. On account of the Wolfe Tones gig not selling out at the Boathouse we moved the gig to the more intimate setting of the Stables. From here students that bought tickets for the gig were sent to the SU where they received two drinks vouchers and a very humble apology for there was unfortunately nothing more we could do. The lack of publicity surrounding the gigs is something we can improve on. We are constantly trying to improve how the Union gets its message across. The fact that this correspondence is the first a lot of people are hearing about the gigs, three weeks after they've happened, is something that's not lost on me. This comes down to us being more organised with in our planning. We have a new website, www.ulsu.ie, posters all over campus, people calling around to houses and all student emails going out but we are still not doing enough and we acknowledge that. Any suggestions by people to better get our voice heard are more than welcome: sucso@ul.ie.

As of the drinks vouchers for people inconvenienced it was the best we could do at short notice. We were able to do this with the support of the Stables.

"In an overall sense the Boathouse opening celebrations didn't go to plan". Now that, my friend, is a sweeping statement. The opening of the Boathouse was to highlight what students can do. We built a state of the art, one of a kind building on campus to benefit student Clubs. I think everyone now knows that the Boathouse is open and the people involved in this project over the past 10 years enjoyed themselves. The opening ceremony was praised by Residents, County Council, Students and Garda. Our good friends the Blizzards rocked all of Castletroy; nothing new there and the students that turned out for the gig, all 864 of them, had a massive night.

A quick note on the ticket pricing, 1,400 of the tickets for the gig were free. You can't really do better than that.

I honestly have to say I don't understand what you mean by "the principle of it was very wrong". To put this in perspective; the gig was moved but people got to stand from a foot to twenty feet away from the band; if you had purchased tickets you were given two free drinks vouchers as a sort of apology. If the SU didn't care about students we would have pulled the plug completely.

I am truly sorry you feel so aggrieved by the circumstances of the gig. I hope I have answered your questions. If not I am always available on sucso@ul.ie. I was also there on the night to deal with any major issues but thankfully none arose.

Once again on behalf of ULSU apologies to all put out by the moving of the gig. We will try harder next time.

Ferg – Campaigns and Services Officer

Editors: 'In This Light and On This Evening'

By Eoghan O' Sullivan

EDITORS reputation precedes them. Sadly, not in a good way. From the very beginning of their career they were dubbed 'Joy Division II'.

If that was not a hefty enough burden to lug around, they were adjudged to be plagiarists of Interpol as well. And yet, despite all these cries from critics and music fans alike, Editors have carved out a nifty little career in the process. They first appeared on Irish shores in 2006 supporting Franz Ferdinand on their Irish tour and anyone who was there in the Point (as it was then known all those years ago) will remember that they blew the headliners off the stage. If that was too long ago however, perhaps the recent sold-out show at Dolan's in Limerick is

proof enough of how good a live band Editors actually are. And now, we get our hands on 'In This Light and On This Evening', the third long player from a band few would have expected longevity from. The sad matter to be drawn at the end of 'Walk the Fleet Road' is that one can't imagine the band continuing on to a subsequent album.

Lead Singer Tom Smith (Edith Bowman's boyfriend if anyone is keeping score) et al. have decided to tackle the hecklers straight on and morph into a fully-fledged Joy Division tribute band. Very little innovation is on display on this album. The title track-and opener- sounds like it was recorded directly after listening to Fever Ray's debut album such is the vocal styling of

Smith. Of course one can argue that a band is always defined by another band's sound: Arctic Monkeys are The Smiths incarnate; Oasis are (were) Beatles wannabes etc. With Editors however, they really do sound like they want to be singing 'Love Will Tear Us Apart' rather than creating their own tunes. The example of second track 'Bricks and Mortar' is a case in point. It smacks of Joy Division throughout. Keyboards in the same key of 'Love...' is a step too far I am sure you will agree. Editors do big very well. They are capable of epic songs such as 'The Big Exit' here. Sadly, it does not happen on a regular enough basis.

I really wanted this album to quieten the naysayers and put Editors plagiarists' White Lies

(plagiarists of plagiarists of plagiarists?) in their place, but this album is a smattering of ideas and sounds gone if not totally wrong, then not quite right. First single 'Papillon' does not know what it wants to be. 'Like Treasure' sounds like a b-side on a bad single. The oddly monikered 'Eat Raw Meat = Blood Drool' sums up this album in less than five minutes: 'I give a little to him/ I give a little to her'. It comes across as a reference to all the artists the band has borrowed from in the making of this album.

'In This Light and On This Evening' is a major disappointment. One of the few good things that it elicits is a desire to listen to Joy Division to remember how the masters did it!

4/10

Badger, badger, badger

By Emma Hayward

STUMBLING upon a badger sett in my childhood was a memorable experience. My brother and I had been exploring the woods along the river bank, picking our way carefully through prickly briars and skirting around stinging nettles on our adventure through the woodland.

I remember emerging out of the would-be jungle into a large, less dense part of the wood. There were trees dotted around here and there but there was a much clearer view. We found ourselves surrounded by holes in the ground; entrances to some creature’s home.

I had a sense of being where I shouldn’t, a sense that something lived here and I wasn’t supposed to be visiting. Of course, being children, we had to make our discovery known so we ran back to the river to tell our parents about our find.

Once we returned to the site my father informed us that they were badger setts. The badger, native to Ireland, is a stout, omnivorous mammal with a reputation for being aggressive if cornered. The badger is one of Ireland’s best known mammals.

They have a black and white head and a mostly grey body and belong to the Mustelidae family along with the Weasel. They are nocturnal creatures which was disappointing news for me at the time of our discovery because, having had a hamster at the age of eight, I knew that this meant they were likely to be boring during the day and inconveniently active when I was meant to be in bed.

However, there was still much exploring of the chain of sett entrances to be done. You may have stumbled across an entrance in a field or wood before as they are much bigger than rabbit holes and quite numerous. Since the early 70’s badgers have been blamed

for contributing to the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis and, as a result, many were culled in order to prevent further spread of the disease. However, there is much controversy over the need for such a radical and devastating measure. As a result of the culling there are many unused badger setts around the country but other mammals, such as foxes or rabbits, make good use of these ready made homes.

A simple way to tell if a sett is being used by badgers is to look for a pile of leaves, moss or other plants just outside the opening to the sett. This is their bedding which badgers change or air out every so often. Badger setts can be extensive with multiple entrances. Some setts are known to be centuries old with many interconnecting tunnels, entrances and chambers.

I was enthusiastic at the suggestion that we come back to the sett at night to try and see a badger and, if that failed, the idea of staying up past my usual bed time was an exciting one. Just as the sun was setting, my brother, my parents and I set off quietly on the trail back to the clearing. Equipped with torches and dark clothing (for our stealth) we were ready to try and find a badger.

When we got there we were quiet and still, waiting for any signs of life. Our patience was rewarded - in a way. We never actually saw a badger but soon after our arrival we could hear one, quite near by, foraging around for worms or berries on the ground.

It seems that they are not worried about predators and don’t mind making a lot of noise as they rustle through the undergrowth. If I hadn’t known that it was a badger, I might have found myself more concerned and (with my active imagination) worried about some sort of night-time creature thrashing around, only a few metres from where I stood.



This badger may look cute but you don't want to get too close

Diary of a First Year

By Amy Murphy

GUYS, I know I've already mentioned the whole mid-life crisis lark but will someone explain to me where in God's name is the time going? Auden style, "As I walked out one evening", I realised that it was in fact Week 5 and that I do, in fact, have an English essay due next week. I still haven't started it; I have the plan but no action. Panic ensues, procrastinating follows. Isn't it funny that no matter how many "been there done that" people tell us "don't panic, don't procrastinate, do!" we still curl up under the same trap, like that warm blanket you can't peel yourself from for 9 a.m. lectures?

Clubs and Societies are fantastic for procrastinating. They often make you feel like you're doing work. For example, the anime screenings (in Japanese) help me feel like I'm studying. Every time I hear the word konnichiwa I think to myself

"wh00t! Study points!" I have that sinking feeling I won't be able to cash them in though. Maybe I should do those readings due for tomorrow instead, though it's a bit depressing when every time I open my UL student mail I find out there's yet another resource on SULIS I have to study.

What's even more depressing is when the pre-registration link disappears from your student portal. I really don't have extra money floating around to be piddled away on Student Academic Administration especially when I've already sent them two emails asking for help and they still haven't replied. Then, of course, I can't find an office number for anyone in SAA. So you know what, I'm going to open my Engessay.doc and have a good cry for awhile. Stay tuned for next fortnight's episode when you'll find out if I'm still in one piece!

Postcard from Co-Op

By Kieran Phipps

AFTER the psychological torture I endured at the camp in my last entry I bode farewell to my school last week with Claire "Fitzzy" Fitzpatrick (Ents girl with curly blonde hair, kicks you out of places when you're drunk) by doing the Immersion Camp dances with groups in the square of the school.

"My degree didn't prepare me for this!", I cried, as I got the dance to Soulja Boy wrong for the millionth time in front of a group of 60+ pupils. One thing for sure about working in Argentina is that they certainly like to dance, and they do it very well at it, so having two left feet and lacking a sense of rhythm or co-ordination doesn't do me any favours.

My new school is certainly a welcome change. It's certainly no walk in the park but it's a challenge and once I can get a boost of energy and motivate myself to take on this group I'll take the bull by the horns. It is nice having my voice back though but

seeing those poor faces when they had to do a test on irregular plurals really made me feel for the pupils, especially when I didn't even know half of the answers myself.

The new living arrangements are a dramatic change too. Never in my life would I have thought that I would be living in a gated community where Boca Juniors player, Juan Riquelme's, family lives. Giant houses and scarily perfect gardens, enough said.

At long last I'm going to have a week off to renew my visa. There's no concrete plan but heading to the south of Argentina is certainly on the cards and I'm going to make a great effort to befriend people who only speak Spanish for the sake of keeping up the language. Anyway I must end this; I'm currently in Retiro Station about to take an overnight bus to the south of Buenos Aires province to start a 3 day "Amazing Race" Immersion Camp with teenagers.

Til next time!

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PJ Gallagher

Wednesday Week 10, November 4th

PJ Gallagher has become one of Ireland's best-loved comedians. Following the huge success of his role as Jake Stevens and many others in the hilarious and sometimes outrageous hit TV show *Naked Camera*, PJ rarely has time to be himself these days as he prepares for yet another TV series based in the USA.

PJ Gallagher is a Vicar Street regular, he has played the venue more than 10 times already this year. He has appeared at the Cat Laughs festival in Kilkenny. Electric Picnic. He is also a graduate of the Gaiety School of Acting, with appearances on *The Late Late Show*, *The Miriam O Callaghan Show* and *Tubridy Tonight*, building the name of this brilliant, energetic young comic.

Other people talking.....

"For a man who ambushes people as they go about their everyday business, makes them uncomfortable and mines their embarrassment for laughs, there is something strangely appropriate about PJ Gallagher's route into comedy."

"Gallagher's encounters with the unsuspecting public are not only hilarious but also crackle with and edgy energy."

Neil Delamere

Wednesday Week 11, November 11th

Neil Delamere is one of the top headline acts working in the Irish comedy scene today. Having performed on 5 continents, he staged his debut solo show in the Edinburgh festival in 2004. His latest show at the Edinburgh Fringe 2007, 'The Viking Show' attracted rave reviews.

His live stand-up set was then recorded for the BBC comedy series *One Night Stand*. Presently working on *The Panel* the RTE comedy news show alongside Ed Byrne and Colin Murphy, Neil is also a regular on the *Blame Game*, a topical television show for the BBC. Neil released his first ever DVD in October of last year 'No Message'. The unstoppable star of Irish comedy achieved platinum status with this DVD, a fantastic achievement for his first release!

Hailed by the Irish Independent for his countless MC skills, Neil is the regular compere at several gigs round Dublin. He has performed all over Ireland as well as at the prestigious Kilkenny Cat Laughs festival,



the Montreal Just For Laughs Festival and the Adelaide Fringe Festival. He featured in both series of *Liffey Laughs*, RTE's stand-up show in 2005 and 2006 as well as *The World Stands Up* for Paramount. 2007 saw Neil return to Montreal to perform in Just for Laughs Festival while also presenting the RTE television series covering the festival, Just for Laughs, for the second year in a row.

Other people talking.....

"One of the funniest things you'll see at the Fringe this year."

"Neil Delamere is beginning to emerge as a contender, his sweet, faux-naïve style a refreshing contrast.....the rising star of Irish comedy, a wryly brilliant live performer".

"No TV camera could accurately measure the lightning speed of Delamere's wit".

Jason Byrne

Wednesday Week 12, November 18th

One of the most exciting comedy performers and hailed by both the national press and public alike, Jason Byrne is the 'must see' comedian for the new Millennium. Jason's inspired, original brand of high-energy lunacy ensures that there is no other comedian presently like him. His fast, free-wheeling style, fused with an array of offbeat props, makes his act a helter-skelter of a show, where the audience are promised the ride of their lives. He has been one of the fastest selling performers at the last 11 Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, where his sell out shows have attracted Best Headliner Chortle Award in 2007, a nomination for 1998 Perrier Newcomer Award, and then a much revered Perrier Award Nomination for his outstanding 2001 show. He was also winner for the 2004

Forth One Fringe Award and continues to play to packed houses through Ireland & the UK. At this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Jason became the top selling comic ever in the history of the Festival.

With a strong international profile, Jason has performed in New York, Boston, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brussels, Milan and Paris and is currently preparing for more national tours around the UK and Ireland.

As well as his debut live DVD Jason Byrne – *Out Of The Box* (filmed in late 2006 in Vicar Street to a sell out crowd), Jason is about to begin recording the fourth series of his hit television series *Anonymous* (RTE2).

Other people talking.....

"If ever a show deserved more than 5 stars it is this one. Not only is it the funniest show on the Fringe, it's the funniest show I've ever seen."



Jason Byrne



**THE
BLACK &
ORANGE**

HALLOWEEN BALL



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Student Speak

Jason Kennedy takes to the Student Centre to find out your most embarrassing moment in UL this year.

"People getting the message mixed when I talk about my 'clap'"



Triona O'Sullivan & Jennifer Cleary
1st year Business & Business and French

"Falling on the treadmill in front of everyone."



Jill Franze & Fiona Franze
1st year Journalism & 4th year Applied Language

"Falling up the Library stairs and screaming at the same time."



Michael Deasy & Will Cuddihy
Sports Science

"Getting sick in B1023"

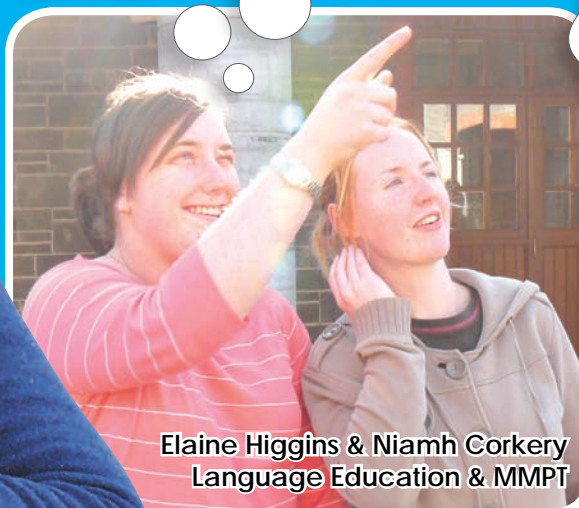
"I have no embarrassing moments. I'm an angel."



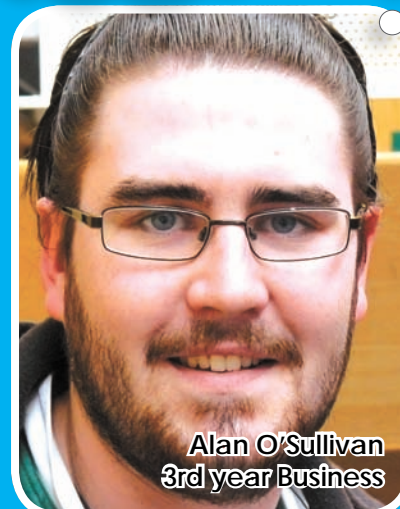
Lorcan Duffy & Fergal Carolan
New Media and English & English and History

"Falling out the door of a car...I'll do anything for a laugh."

"Actually wearing a hair band in public."



Elaine Higgins & Niamh Corkery
Language Education & MMPT



Alan O'Sullivan
3rd year Business

Naomi Barrett
3rd year Industrial Biochemistry

Keep WAGS out of Irish Sport

By Eoghan O' Sullivan

WHILE in conversation with a fellow male the other day, I discovered that he had no idea who Amy Huberman is. And it shocked me. I don't know why it shocked me either. For those of a curious disposition, let me explain how the dialogue developed to this rather awkward point.

We were talking about rugby. A man's game through and through. A game in which if someone does not get punched in the face and stamped on, at least a couple of times per match, then it is considered a failure. Specifically, we were talking about Brian O' Driscoll, the perennial Leinster player who has done much to forward the game in this country in the last ten years. And then, without even realising it, we were discussing Amy Huberman, Brian's belle.

How it happened is beyond explanation and it took about two minutes into the explanation before I actually realised what I was doing. I don't even care who she is. Why, therefore, did I feel a need to explain her to my friend? The only logical explanation is that this couple is attempting to replicate the success that Victoria and David Beckham - or Posh 'n' Becks if you are so inclined - have had in England.

The media, it seems, thinks that the only way for a sport to progress in this country is if there is a couple who can make the front pages as well as the back pages. And the couple to do this job is the lazily labelled 'The Bod' and er....Amy. Shouldn't she have a nickname to

be in the tabloids every day? "Who is she?" I hear some of you ask. Well, she was in The Clinic on RTE, if that means anything to anyone out there. Apparently it was Ireland's answer to E.R. in America. She also appears on Jason Byrne's new comedy show, 'The Byrne Ultimatum' on the same channel.

The problem with trying to make these two "celebrities" into a power couple is that nobody in Ireland actually cares. Munster people dislike O' Driscoll and don't want to see his fat, muscley face every day. And he certainly could not be described as a fashion icon in the same vein as David Beckham. Unless he claims to have popularised the wearing of sweatpants everywhere.

And nobody actually wants to be known as an "Irish Posh and Becks" anyway. They are no longer known for singing or football which is how they first, respectively, made their claims to fame. They are expected to do other things: wear sarongs; lose lots of weight; be ridiculed; have stupid accents; and, last but not least, name their children stupidly. Somehow you just cannot imagine any Irish "celebrities" doing the same thing. They are more conservative. Can you imagine the backlash and the mocking if they called their future children something like Paris or Venice? They would be forced into changing the names or face extradition from the country.

Ireland simply does not need an Irish version of any celebrity couple. We have Rosanna

Davison, O' Driscoll, Huberman, and maybe Daniel O' Donnell. That is more than enough Irish celebrities, thank you very much. If any of them went global they would more than likely embarrass us as a nation. I mean, look at what happened with Bono. Find me one person in Ireland who actually likes Bono and I will show you a liar and a fool.

Essentially, what I am trying to get across is that we should focus on the important things in life: playing sport, and watching sport. That is it. Everything else should be disregarded. Well, maybe not everything. I mean, we do need food... What we don't need is to hear Huberman's name every time we hear O' Driscoll's.

Any mention of a WAG should be stricken from the record. The fact is that we get more than enough from the English papers. So please, all of the men, women and children of Ireland, never let a talk about sport descend into a discussion on what Amy Huberman was wearing last night.

I implore you to distance yourself from Rosanna Davison and any other Irish "celebrity" poseurs. Never speak of Daniel O' Donnell again. Ever.

If we end up discussing these people every day; dissecting their clothes like it actually matters; gossiping about what The Star says that they may or may not have done; then I put it to you reader, that we are no better than the Brits. And I know no Irish person wants that.



Amy Huberman

The subjectivity of ethics

by Luke Holmes

Everyday in the news we hear stories of children being exploited in some form or another and the reaction that this raises in most people is one of disgust. We feel disgusted because usually these children are being used, usually by an adult for some form of gain, usually monetary.

An adult profiting from a child is something that we are taught to frown upon. In most cases, these children are from poor countries such as Vietnam, where there are over 100,000 children under the age of 15 work full time jobs. There are 158 million children in such a situation this very day. All these children share one thing in common; they are being manipulated for profit by someone who should no better.

What makes Maria Olmstead different from the other 158 million children working in the world is social standing and talent; nothing more. Because her work is seen as being

beautiful, she is not seen as something which is being exploited but rather as something that is to be admired. Maria Olmstead first burst onto the art scene as a four year old abstract artist. Maria began painting at the tender age of two when her father, for interests' sake if anything, placed his young daughter on a canvas on the floor of their kitchen and instructed her to express herself. Maria's first painting sold for \$253 after being displayed in a New York coffee shop owned by a friend of the Olmsteads'. Maria went on to have her painting on demand, with people paying big money to buy paintings that weren't even painted yet. The media picked up interest in the young phenomenon with many offering big money for interviews with the young girl, who was only just learning how to talk. Maria's parents accepted these offers even with Maria looking visibly frightened by the flashing light

of the photographers and the shot fire questions of journalists looking for a quote to accompany their article.

The publicity began to turn quite nasty with Mark Olmstead, a failed artist himself, being accused of doctoring Maria's paintings, in order for them to look more polished. Others accused him of painting the entire pictures himself. These accusations however, remain unfounded. Others felt the same feelings of disgust which they had felt when being told about children being exploited in Vietnam after viewing footage of a pushy Mark Olmstead forcing his young daughter to paint, while she cried complaining that she was sick of painting and would much prefer to watch cartoons. Some likened Maria to a Vietnamese child working in the ExxonMobil Chemical Plant as she lay crying, knee deep in paint, her skin sore from the chemicals in the paints and nauseated

from the fumes of white spirits. The question was asked, how does this benefit the child? Just because her creations are beautiful does not mean that she should create them at any cost. Why was it ok for some children to be able to work and others it is an outrage? Are wages the problem? Is it because Olmstead was bringing in large amounts of money that her work was deemed acceptable?

Others view the Olmstead's as supportive parents, sourcing that the parents were saving a lot of the money to fund their children's university education. The fact that Maria Olmstead is an extremely talented young girl is without question, the question to be asked is one of self determination; should a young girl be overly encouraged to utilise her talent, even if she does not want to utilise her talent herself?

Bring back Tetris

By Richael O'Brien

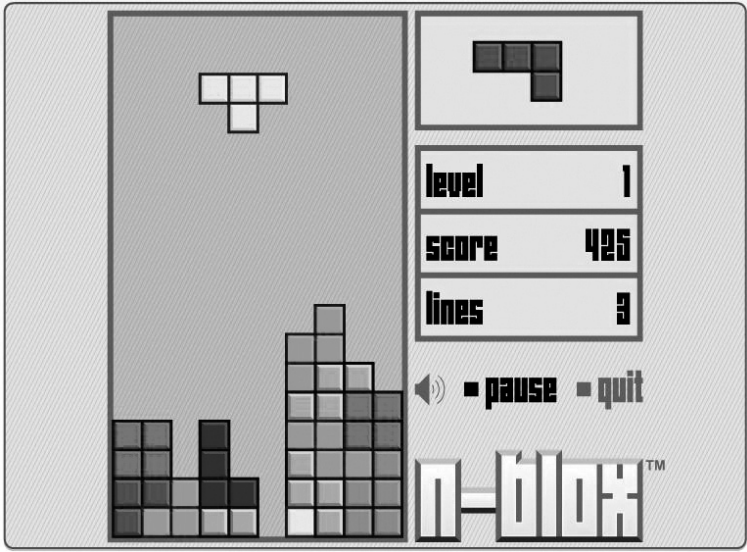
There are many reasons why UL is such a fine educational institution; the superior teaching staff, the active and enthusiastic student body, the athletic and sculpted Munster rugby team bodies, and also the high quality writing in An Focal, to name but a few. However, I hope all of the above will excuse me for singling out the Co-operative Education division as the “Unique Selling Point” of this noble establishment. There is a plethora of reasons to justify this statement, but in the interest of moving things along (and not just because I used up all the adjectives I know in my first sentence), I’ll cut straight to the most enjoyable aspect of my placement...Tetris! I am ashamed to admit, I had relegated this genius game to the back of my mind after the very old Nintendo, which practically raised me, gave up and went to meet its maker. I’d forgotten it all; The thrill of making levels disappear; the quickening heartbeat as the beat of the Russian folk music (note: possibly the greatest piece of music ever written) got a little bit faster and the bricks descended at an ever-quickening pace; the feeling of doom and helplessness as a loss in concentration meant you’d built too much in the centre; the relief when the long straight variety came around to save the day. It was all just delaying the inevitable, as I would soon discover there is no beating Tetris.

Yet, again and again, the unbreakable human spirit prevails, believing that I could achieve anything, and with a blatant disregard for common sense and what the world had thought me, I’d press new game and start again! It was all well and good to wile away the hours at home doing this, but things got a

supermarket; they’d never seen productivity like it in the canned food isle of Supervalu. Alas it was short lived. Apparently my insistence of throwing out the bottom line, if I got them perfectly in a row, didn’t sit well with management!

I relegated thoughts of Tetris to the back of my mind and continued on my journey of life, and it led me to the mind-numbing world of Trade Processing. Through broken French, and even more broken English, my colleague decided I was suitably bored to warrant an email containing a Tetris game. My days from then on in were filled with the endless quests to beat my other Co-Op buddies’ top score, while not alerting anyone around me of my constant dossing. This was hard when I succeeded in reaching level 21! But I believe that I passed off the scream of excitement as a sign of job satisfaction in Trade Processing.

It wasn’t! And instead of spending eight months on pointless repetitive actions, I played Tetris! It made for a very pleasurable Co-Op, but a less than satisfactory Co-Op report; less than satisfactory for whoever has to read the thing anyways. In that regard I’m using this platform to thank UL, and particularly the Coop office, for helping me bring Tetris back into my life!



little worrying when I was outside in the everyday world. The haunting tune infected my head, and suddenly I became dissatisfied with a world that didn’t fit. I retreated into my imaginary world, where buildings, cars, trees, and even people, all slotted neatly together to the hum of the Tetris tune. Tidying my room became my reality Tetris. Imagine my joy, when I got a job stacking shelves in the local

To Arthur!

By Jack Purcell

On the September 24 the students of UL and the people of Ireland celebrated a very special birthday. We celebrated the birth date of Arthur Guinness, the man who 250 years ago began brewing what is now regarded as our national drink. The highlight of the day being at one minute to six, or 17.59, when people around the country held up their drinks in a toast, “To Arthur”. Myself and three housemates made our way to the Stables at 5 o’clock to find the queue already five deep. Clearly the marketing campaign deployed by the people at Diageo had worked. After a hard afternoon consisting of Australian soaps and American chat shows we had built up quite a thirst so, determined to get a pint, we ventured to Javas. Luckily we found a very small queue here and the opportunity to pull our own pint, as the bar staff had turned the tap around. However after seeing the vertical, full pint pour attempted by the chap in front of us, one member of our group asked the barman to give him a more “professional pour”. Happy with our pints we sat down and saw that a mighty queue had built up going all the way out the door. Bemused foreign students

were taught the art of the 45-degree pour by the barman and pints were left to settle on the counter, turning from the unappealing brown to the deadly and delicious black. The panic to have a pint for the toasting time now began. Sitting beside the exit door at Javas we could see groups of people sprinting all the way towards the Sports Bar to get their hands on the precious porter. The queue in Java fidgeted nervously, everyone looking at their watches. As the minutes wore on, it began to dawn on people that they had got their timing wrong. Bags, books and partners were discarded as some students abandoned the campus and drove off to exotic hotspots such as the Hurlers and the Groody bar, all determined to get their hands on that elusive pint in time for the minute before the Angelus. We decided that the place to be for the toast was the Stables Courtyard, the scene of lots of great toasts for many years previous and surely for many years to come. So having leeched onto people that we knew in the queue for our second pint we hurried towards the Stables. Unfortunately like so many others we had also got our timing wrong so, as we passed under

the tunnel beside O’Mahony’s Bookshop, we heard “3..2..1..To Arthur!”. We had missed it. Turning into the Stables we could see that most people were now engaged in their first post-toast gulp. And so it was over, the minutes passed but the drink for most people stayed the same as hardened Guinness drinkers shared pints with the novices for one evening only. One of my housemates, a 21 year old male from Annaghdown in County Galway was having only his second ever pint and he described it as being, “good tack scan”, which to me says it all. Guinness in a uniquely Irish drink, and Arthur’s day was celebrated in the proper Irish manner. It is becoming fashionable to decry how celebration in Ireland is invariably linked to alcohol but I say, so what? For generations Irish people have enjoyed a drink or four during social occasions and why should we hide from that tradition? You wouldn’t ask a Frenchman to give up wine. Whether you drank 15 pints or just a glass sweetened with blackcurrant, Thursday, September 24, was a happy day when all talk of NAMA, Lisbon and the Recession were left aside, and where at 17.59 a nation held a toast...”To Arthur!”.

Recipe of the fortnight

Leek and Goats’ Cheese Omelette

This is a great one to spruce up a plain omelette, and it’s vegetarian!

What you need:

- 1 large leek or 2 medium leeks
- 100g goats cheese from a log
- 4 large or 5 medium fresh eggs, preferably free-range
- 1 tbsp light olive oil or other cooking oil
- 15g butter
- Salt and pepper

How to make it:

Cut half the green tops off the leeks removing any coarse outside leaves and slice any roots off the base. Cut into slices and wash thoroughly under cold running water. Cut any rind off the cheese and crumble it onto a plate. Break the eggs and whisk them together in a bowl. Season them with salt and pepper.

Heat a large frying pan, add the oil, heat for a few seconds then add the butter. Once the foaming dies down, add the leeks and stir fry them for about 4 minutes until they are soft but not coloured.

Tip in the beaten egg, making sure it covers the base of the pan. Lift the omelette at the edges with a fork to allow the liquid egg to run underneath. Once most of the egg has solidified scatter over the goat’s cheese. Allow the omelette to cook a further minute then fold it over and divide it in two.

Enjoy!



Advice Bureau

Welfare Corner

THIS week the article is mainly about using the health support services on campus.

The Student Health Centre (SHC) is located in the Main Building at CM-060. It is a comprehensive service for students who find themselves needing medical attention when they are not in a position to get to their own GP. Dr. Niall Cahill is Director of the Medical Centre and has been operating at UL for 16 years. He is backed up by a team of three further GPs, a consultant psychiatrist, a physiotherapist and three nurses. To access any of the facilities you must present to the Medical Centre, appointments are not available by email. The SHC is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Dr. Cahill has also arranged for reduced cost out of hours services specifically for UL Students. You can get contact details for these services by calling the SHC and listening to the voicemail service after hours. The number of the SHC is 061-202534. Much like any medical practice appointments are not available on a drop in basis and it may not be possible to get a same day appointment.

Services provided by the SHC include

- Family planning
- Sexual health advice
- Emergency injury on campus
- STI screening
- Acute care
- Sports injury

Student Counselling is also located in the Main Building, around the corner from the SHC at CM-073. You may never feel the need to use this service, but it's good to know that it's there if you ever do. Dr. Declan Aherne is the Head of Counselling backed up by a comprehensive team of counsellors on a sessional basis. A drop-in service operates from 11am-12pm and 3pm-4pm weekdays during the Academic Year. You can also email counselling@ul.ie for advice. Issues surrounding stress, anxiety, personal matters, relationships or anything that may be troubling you can be explored in Counselling with a view to helping you to gain control over the issue. More serious problems such as addiction (be it gambling, alcohol, drugs etc...) and eating disorders as well as other physically linked issues can be helped by talking to someone at Counselling. From experience of the service I know that you may not even realise you had a problem until you go and have a chat, and if you do you will soon find that you are certainly not the only one dealing with it and that there is always something that can be done to help. I would urge all students who have made appointments with Counselling or the SHC to notify at least 12 hours in advance if they are not able to attend. By so doing you are allowing another student to be seen and not wasting the time and money that the University invests into the provision of the services. A comprehensive list of links and resource materials relating to SHC and Counselling are available on www.ul.ie/studentaffairs.

Campaigns and Services

SOME weekend there; it looks like for the next three years there are going to be no third level fees in this country, mighty!

I just want to give a word of praise to the people that were in these offices before us; to the people that stood on a cold bridge for four hours to make a minister in his over priced state car turn around; to the people that have rung, emailed and lobbied their local T.D.'s urging them to rethink the reintroduction of third level fees.

Thanks lads and lasses, cause of ye and the effort ye have put in Ireland is going to have a highly educated workforce. This workforce is going to be the cornerstone of Irish growth out of the "Current Economic Climate". Fair play lads/lasses!

I suppose all that's left to do now is to concentrate on other pressing issues affecting students.

We have a new service coming on stream from next week where there will be a shuttle bus to the Parkway Shopping Centre on Mondays

and Fridays. That's going to be a free service. We are going to be pushing a couple of campaigns before Christmas; hopefully we'll get a SHAG week thrown in there!

I hope everyone that was at Colin Murphy the last night had a good one. He's one funny man.

Don't forget the comedy season that's going to be coming up during November, should be very good. Another thing to look out for during November is the Mo'Bros and Mo'sistas.

These are going to be raising money for Prostate Cancer Charities by growing moustaches. Check out the other article in the news section if ye wanna know more. This is open to everyone the more the merrier. We are in competition to beat LIT and UCC in having the best Mo's and raising the most money, it's on!!

See ye round, Ferg

Ed's Education



SO IT'S Week 7 and for many courses that means it's essay writing time. Essays are as difficult as you make them, so the easier you make it on yourself, the better off you'll be! Below I've compiled my "Top Five Tips for Essay Writing" and hopefully they should give you a good place to start;

1. Choose your topic early – ok so it's not realistic (for many of us) to start our essay early, but it is realistic to, at least, know what you're going to write about. If you choose early, you have longer to think about what you're going to include and exclude, where you're going to get information and what your point of view is.
2. Write the middle, before you write the beginning or the end – I know that sounds odd, but there are few things worse than an essay that promises x, y and z but then only manages to deliver x. Your lecturer or tutor will be left wondering what happened...
3. Make sure your introduction and conclusion match – your introduction and conclusion should mirror each other. I don't mean that they should be exactly the same, word for word, but they should be similar and contain much the same information. There should be no new information in your conclusion.
4. Reference properly – plagiarism is taken very seriously within the university. Intentional or not, it is using and/or claiming credit for ideas and arguments that are not your own. So if you read a fact, figure, argument or point of view anywhere during researching the essay, reference it. The library has the Cite it Right guide, which should help if you're in any doubt. Also, your lecturer may indicate the referencing style that he or she prefers, so look out for that. (<http://www2.ul.ie/web/WWW/Services/Library> and click on Cite It Right)
5. Never reference Wikipedia – It seems like the most obvious thing in the world, but referencing (and relying on) Wikipedia is a no! It is not a reliable academic journal and in the past, it could be edited at will. It may be a good place to get an idea about a topic, of which you have absolutely no knowledge but aside from that stay away!

Essay writing really is only as difficult as you make it. So make it easy on yourself and make sure you've a friend who will read over it for you, if grammar isn't your strong point! Good luck...

LET'S TALK SEX

AS A carry on to the previous article it's now time to find out what turns women on and what they hate in bed.

Don't be too careful

Phrases like "can I do that?" are not sexy and kill the mood. A good lover knows how to let the woman know their next step and how to prepare her for it with no questions asked. Sometimes it is enough just to look at the woman in an "undressing" way or provocatively touching your partner's body to give a signal for sex.

"Mechanical sex"

Most women would agree that sex with no passion is boring or just time spent with no particular reason. I'm not saying that every time you have sex it has to be mindblowing, but just don't ignore the fact that every woman wants to be a "woman" and it's always a good idea to keep that in mind. Be sensitive and, sometimes, instead of just having sex, try to connect to her and "make love".

Monotony

If your girlfriend knows every crack in your ceiling you are in a huge trouble but don't panic yet. A simple change of place will help you out. Try having sex outside the bedroom, like in your bathroom, kitchen, your car or even on a beach (of course find a place with no viewers).

The possibilities are endless. Turn on your imagination but make sure your housemates have gone out first!

Moaning and Talking

The most irritating thing for women is the moaners. Yes, we want you to tell us when you are excited but everyone in The Lodge does not need to hear you. That said, silence is not an option either. You have to play carefully here. Try to find the middle ground where you can express your pleasure to your girlfriend but not to all the neighbors. Try not to use all the same words during the sex as well. Try to find phrases that say how sexy she looks or how great she is in bed without saying the same things over and over.

Unwillingness to experiment

If you are in a long-term relationship, don't be afraid to experiment. Sex lives do get boring after a while but there is a lot you can do about it. Try different positions, toys or role-playing to give you the freedom to express your fantasies. Talk about it. Do whatever you want to spice up your love life but only if your partner agrees with it. Women are not looking for a Casanova but we do want men to make an effort. Remember that the opposite of "boring" is exciting and unexpected so if you try surprise your partner from time to time, you will be rewarded.

"We are all mountaineers"

By Judith Honig

OPC spends 9 hours on the hills

On Friday, October 2, the OPC set out for its first weekend trip this year in the direction of Letterfrack, in Connemara. After a five hour drive with a lunch stop at the supermarket the group of 62 people arrived and were still in a good mood. Not much later everyone had found a bed and settled down to explore the amazing youth-hostel, The Old Monastery.

On Saturday morning a delicious breakfast awaited the members to prepare them for the adventurous hike planned for that day. Only a five minutes drive from the youth-hostel the group met its guide Tom Dempsey who has taken the lead of the OPC's weekend hike in Connemara for five years. The very first part of the hike led along a street to the point where the OPC entered the rugged nature completely.

A little break after a gentle ascent presented a sensational view up the mountains the group was going to conquer. Highly motivated the members walked up until the rocks obliged them to climb a short way. Some metres further the committee-members showed their expertise in getting the whole group safely over a barbed-wire fence.

To describe the feeling one gets on top of the mountain words are not enough. You have to live this special moment one single time and you will never forget it and you will want to experience it again and again. Walking along the ridge people had to be careful not to be blown away by the wind that showed its unbelievable force that day. A challenging descent led down to a Holy Well where the OPC had a moment of peace to gather its strength for the pleasure of climbing up another mountain. There, in the shelter of the wind and watched by some of

the hundreds of sheep, the members enjoyed their lunch-break.

Some hours and kilometres later the group finally walked down the last valley beside a little stream and got its single short rain-shower for the whole day. Greeted by a donkey and two white horses on their way to the bus all members got back tired, satisfied and simply happy to sit down comfortably. When friendly Paul stepped into the bus with the last members he declared: "Guys, we spent nine hours on the hills today. We are all mountaineers!"

Back in the hostel half the group fought its way to the showers whereas the other part relished the tasty hot vegetarian dinner waiting for them on the table.

The next day 19 members of the club where still motivated enough to go on a second hike led by Cillian Burke. Despite the exhausting day before, all of them mastered the ascent

of the mountain on top of which they had their lunch break. After that they gently walked down until they had a fabulous view on Kylemore Abbey lying in the valley under them. At this point they had to struggle through some bushes to get to a stream. In its riverbed they climbed down the last part to reach the Abbey.

Down there the hikers met again with the other members of the group which had been visiting various places in Connemara. They also went to the sea where three of them braved the weather conditions and enjoyed themselves swimming through the waves.

After a quiet drive with OPC's patient bus driver Pat Curtin all members got home safely.

Surely no one who has been on this remarkable weekend trip will ever forget it and those who missed it should regret and make sure not to miss the next one.



MedSoc

By Emma Jennings & Gerald Duff

Prevention is the Cure Conference Dublin Castle, 25-27th Sept 09

As the old adage goes Prevention is better than cure. This way of thinking is the underlying theme of the Prevention is the Cure conference held in Dublin Castle from the 25 – 27 of September. The conference, chaired by Prof. Ivan Perry of UCC, aimed to raise awareness of how the vast and costly expenditure put into end-stage disease care in this country and rest of the developed world might be reduced if we address the failure to invest in relatively inexpensive prevention measure that would add quality years to life.

The conference ran for three days and was divided into several modules each with their key theme like Cardiology or Respiratory health for example. Each module would have 2-3 three speakers giving talks on relevant subjects with time for questions at the end. As the conference began on a Friday, Jenny, Terence and I were unable to attend as we don't like to miss class (wink). This was unfortunate as the cardiology module was on and would have been relevant to our

cardiovascular studies as of late. We attended from the Saturday onward, listening to talks on obesity, diabetes, depression, osteoporosis and gerontology to name but a few.

These talks were given by distinguished speakers and highlights included Prof. Rose Anne Kennedy speaking on Falls and Blackouts, Ms. Karen Gutierrez speaking on the role of mass media in prevention with specific reference to smoking and a talk on the polypill (a pill containing multiple drugs for a given disease like hypertension) by Prof. Eoin O'Brien and Prof. Malcolm Law.

Although the conference was mainly aimed at General practitioners, there was a diverse attendance and we as students got great benefit from it. For me, it was a taste of what the future as a medic might be like and it was a great departure from the usual experience I have of Dublin Castle – going to gigs.

While there is no fundamental conflict in the Irish Healthcare system between prevention and treatment, the balance between the two is an issue. By paying more attention to disease prevention, we may be able to improve health

and wellbeing and this is definitely food for thought for medical students like ourselves.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

In recognition of Canadian Thanksgiving, MesSoc ran their first charity event of the year; a food drive in aid of Mid West Simon Community. The overall winning group will receive a pizza party courtesy of MedSoc. MedSoc would like to thank everyone who took part for their support and generosity. Congratulations to group 1C who won the pizza party with an overall donation of seventy cans.

Journal Club

Journal Club has returned! MedSoc Journal Club offers an opportunity for MedSoc members to present to their peers on a topic of their choosing. This forum gives members a chance to develop presentational and critical review skills, as well as the occasion for other members to learn something new from listening to the presentations. The first presentation of the year was given Wednesday, October 7 2009, by Chris Healy, a second year medical student. Chris delivered an intriguing summary of a paper comparing Dabigatran to Warfarin for patients with Atrial Fibrillation. Journal Club will occur once weekly from now on. See www.ulmedsoc.com for details or contact medsocjournalclub@gmail.com if you require further information or wish to present.

Upcoming Events

Guest Speakers "The Research Series"
MedSoc presents "The Research Series", an enlightening collaboration of accomplished guest speakers in a three part series on research. The first of the series; "Research: What's the point?" will be delivered by Dr. John Cooke 21 October 6pm. The second "Research Poster Presentations for Dummies" will be delivered by Dr. Fiona McElligott, Temple Street University Hospital on 2 November.

The final guest speaker will be Ms Elizabeth Ennis Editor of Trinity Students Medical Journal "TSMJ Submission" this is scheduled for sometime in November. Keep checking www.ulmedsoc.com for updates on times, dates and venues.

November

This year MedSoc intend to help host Movember on Campus. Movember is an annual, month-long celebration of the moustache, highlighting men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer. As part of the educational ethos of MedSoc, the society hopes to help raise awareness of men's health issues as well as raising funds in aid of prostate cancer.

MedSoc hope to aid the campaign through a registration day and Movember launch party. Check out <http://ie.movember.com/> and www.ulmedsoc.com for further information on this upcoming event.

Learning to fight, dance and play the Brazilian Way

By Paul O'Byrne, Marcus O'Mahony and Nancy Serrano

From October 2 to 4, Limerick's 5th Annual Capoeira Event took place in the city centre to celebrate Candeia's Capoeira Group's Mestre Piau's 10th anniversary as a 'Mestre' (master) and head of the Candeias Group in Ireland, and five years teaching in Ireland.

Guests from all over Europe attended including Contra Mestres, Professors and Instructors from France, Spain, England and The Czech Republic. UL Capoeira Club members joined in the festivities training at workshops, getting graded or 'bautizados' (baptised as they say in capoeira), and partying hard at the fabulous Brazilian party at the Trinity Rooms and the Sunday BBQ!

So what is Capoeira? Capoeira can be defined as...In truth I don't know how Capoeira can be defined. Is it a martial art? – yes! Is it acrobatics? – yes! Is it music? – yes! Is it dance? – yes (as much as it pains me to say it as a proud Irish male . . .but I love capoeira!). It seems that it is all of these things at once so I like to put it under the heading of PLAY. It takes all the principles of being like a child at play and scales them up into this physical practice that we call Capoeira.

It originated from the ancient practice of Angola, developed originally by Africans. These Africans later became slaves in Brazil where they were able to carry their tradition which has evolved into what we now call Capoeira. Capoeira has deep cultural routes and this is why it has kept its songs and

music. The physical strength and dexterity of a true capoeirista (capoeira player) in full flight is really a sight to behold - just log on to our UL facebook page (search UL Capoeira Club) to see some fantastic videos!

But back to the event...The following is an account from one of our 1st year beginners, Paul O'Byrne (what a guy!): "Limerick's 5th Annual Capoeira event was very interesting to me as I just started learning Capoeira two weeks before. Having just recovered from the Wednesday class I was thrust into a workshop for people much more advanced than I. However, when practicing one-on-one, the other participants were very patient and I found that though I was much less experienced I was still learning almost as much as the others even if it was a little slower. For the workshops on Saturday, I began to get into a sort of rhythm of learning and practicing. Saturday night was a different story!"

"There's a saying that goes 'If you gather enough people together, there will be a party,' and a party there was! Capoeiristas filled Trinity Rooms for one night as I was introduced to the Brazilian version of a night out. It's quite similar to an Irish night out, but with much better dancing, lots of hip shaking and smooth samba and forro which are traditional Brazilian rhythms. Later on that night we were treated to an expert display of Capoeira by the gurus of the sport (who knowingly had gone easy on the booze!) while a large crowd



watched enthralled at the spectacular moves and somersaults!" "Sunday workshops got off to a slower start due to a few ruffled heads from the night before (ahem!). That's not to say that they were any easier than the previous workshops! If anything they were slightly more difficult, but definitely enjoyable and great for clearing the cobwebs from all that partying! And to round things off, the weekend ended with a Brazilian-style barbecue. Delicious salted meats cooked to perfection and sliced into bite-sized chunks for ease of eating. A great way to recover from the exhaustion, and with a little light music and dancing in the garden on a sunny Sunday evening."

So...if you wanna get in on this intercultural musical playful social fabulous club, join us at class on Tuesdays 6-7.30pm in the dance studio in the PESS and Wednesdays 7-8.30pm in the gym in the PESS.

We have so far built a strong following of consistent members—keep an eye for posters for classes and events in the future (Dublin Capoeira event on the bank holiday and Cork Event in mid-November) – and we always welcome anyone who is up for giving it a go or wants to learn how to do a back flip!! Don't forget that break-dancing and loop kicking originate from capoeira so, it's a versatile kinda sport.

Capoeira: Come for the acrobatics, stay for the community! For more information just email capoeiraul@gmail.com or find us on www.clubsandsocs.ul.ie

Phono Sessions

Phono Sessions/UL DJ Society are currently training a lot of our new members up. This involves running courses in the SU and also running deck sessions.

Deck sessions is when members get to use the society's equipment (which tends to be expensive). We're currently running deck sessions 2 nights a week for 3 hours. Another thing we do is we run Phonosessions in the courtyard most Thursdays. It's a chance to promote the club and to give new members valuable experience in a relaxed environment. We also sign up new members almost every week

Bakers are giving us a six week trial period in the upstairs bar after the bands play on a Thursday night. The first night ran in Week 5 and it went really well. We have three or four different DJ's playing so there's a good mix of music. Again this is a good

place to get experience for new members and also for the club to meet up. Music went down well last night and we had a big enough crowd.

We have also been talking to the Lodge recently and have organised a DJ battle with €500 in prizes. It will be running on Monday nights for the next month. It's going to be free in for everyone before 12 and also pints are going to be €3 all night. The competition will involve DJ's playing a 20 to 30 minute set. The best out of each round will go through to a final.

Over the next year we are planning to get regular nights in different clubs in town and to provide training to all our members. We also are buying some new equipment which will help us greatly. We're planning to run courses in music production and performance using different software and equipment.

€500 in PRIZES

**UL DJ SOCIETY and
THE KILMURRAY LODGE HOTEL PRESENTS**

"THE 2009 BATTLE OF THE DJs"

DJ vs. DJ

1st Prize - €300, 2nd Prize - €150, 3rd Prize - €50

ROUND 1 - MONDAY OCT 12TH
Starts 10PM

FREE Entry B4 12
Promotions on the night
All Pints €3 all night!!

Check: "Phono Sessions" on Facebook
email: phonosessions2009@gmail.com to enter



Match Reports

O'Connor point settles Intermediate thriller



By James Enright

UL's intermediate footballers commenced their league campaign with a thrilling one-point victory over UCC on Pitch One on Wednesday afternoon last.

This curtain raiser to the senior league tussle between the same sides was an entertaining spectacle and many of the UL players will feel they have enhanced their claims for a place on the Sigerson panel. Both points were claimed thanks to a well taken score on the call of time from the influential team captain Stephen O'Connor. Indeed a draw was the likely outcome after Séan Kiely had levelled the game with a superb goal only moments previously.

The game was played at a high tempo throughout and team manager Alan Kitson will be satisfied that his UL outfit have gelled well in this their first competitive fixture of the season.

The autumn sunshine and absence of wind lended itself to a free flowing game and it was the home team who started with more urgency.

After Michael Griffin had opened the scoring with a fisted point for the Leesiders, UL seized the initiative.

Following a Ciarán Moran break upfield, Dave Scanlon played a slick one-two with Máirtín Ó'Goill and cut in from the left to score the first goal of the game on five minutes. Stephen O'Connor and Ó'Goill soon added points after good work from Ray McGreal and Steve Cunningham. UL dominated midfield and their forwards thrived on the possession that this ensured.

Ó'Goill's expert pass found the onrushing Eanna Kennedy who made no mistake from close range, coolly slotting the ball low past Brian McPolan. UL found themselves seven points clear and in a strong position by the quarter hour mark. However, UCC rallied and the repositioning of Séamus Hanafin to the forty reaped benefits. His through ball deceived the UL full back line and Griffin

was on hand to fist the ball to an empty net past the onrushing Niall Doolan. Shane Besten kept UCC in touch before O'Connor and Colm Hickey traded scores. A long range Griffin free and two further white flags from the impressive Besten saw the sides retreat level at the interval.

UL's initial urgency had flagged and Kitson's troops began the new half in determined mood with the introduced David Sheehy winning a free which Ó'Goill converted. O'Connor then added a minor, finishing a flowing move from defence before the industrious Mike Guiney passed to Sheehy to put three points between the sides.

Again UCC responded. Griffin kept the 'skull and crossbones' flying, from play and placed ball before Chris Cummins restored parity. Kennedy then restored UL's advantage from an acute angle and James Moran got the score his performance deserved after a pass from Kevin Day.

UCC redeployed Griffin as a third midfielder only for the move to backfire when his immediate marker, corner back Ronan Farrell pointed from long range.

After another Griffin free, Kiely then levelled the tie with his spectacular strike on full time. There was still time however for O'Connor to steady the ship with a fine left footed effort and ensure the ideal start to the campaign for UL.

Man of the match: James Moran

The rangy UL midfielder was the game's standout performer. His aerial ability was the key to this success and he was an excellent outlet for a defence who were often under pressure.

His distribution and support play were also exemplary and he crowned a fine hour with a late point. Other notable performers were Chris Murphy, Stephen Mann and the match-winning Stephen O'Connor.

Intermediate UL v UCC Statistics

Scorers:

UL: Stephen O'Connor (0-4), Eanna Kennedy (1-1), Dave Scanlon (1-0), David Sheehy, Máirtín Ó'Goill (1f) (0-2 each), James Moran, Ronan Farrell (0-1 each).

UCC: Michael Griffin (1-5, 0-3f), Shane Besten (0-3), Séan Kiely (1-0), Colm Hickey, Chris Cummins (0-1 each).

Teams:

UL: Niall Doolan, Ronan Farrell, Chris Murphy, Dan Carroll, Sean Lucey, Stephen Mann, Ray McGreal, Ciarán Moran, James Moran, Rob Rea, Stephen O'Connor, Eanna Kennedy, Dave Scanlon, Steve Cunningham, Máirtín Ó'Goill.

Subs: David Sheehy for Cunningham (25 mins), Kevin Day for Dan Carroll (ht), Mike Guiney for Scanlon (35 mins), Patrick Golden for C. Moran (45 mins), Colin Lordan for Lucey (48 mins).

UCC: Brian McPolan, Tadhg Naughton, Michael Venis, Tony Buckley, Fergal O'Reilly, Brian Sheehan, J.P. McAuliffe, Rory Horahan, Colm Hickey, Sean Kiely, Chris Cummins, Shane Besten, Tony O'Hagan, Séamus Hanafin, Michael Griffin.

Referee: Derek Mackessy.

Wides: UL 7 UCC 5

Frees awarded: UL 9 UCC 25

45s: UL 1 UCC 0

Own kickouts won: UL 9/17 UCC 11/20

Yellow cards: UL 2 UCC 0

Red cards: UL 0 UCC 0

Match Reports

Bright beginning for
senior footballers

UL 3-11
UCC 1-06

By Eoin King

THE UL footballers opened their season with a win against UCC in this year's league competition. Finishing with 3-11 to their name it was a promising beginning for this year's crew.

Blending in new faces from last year's Freshers' Team, UL wasted no time in starting positively, registering 1-01 in the opening three minutes.

Corner forward, Mike Tim O'Sullivan, who proved effective in linking most of the good scores that came in the first half, pointed after two minutes. Shortly after, another new edition, Stephen Coughlan, blasted to the net after a quick fire break.

Playing off two lively forwards like O'Sullivan and Hernan, Coughlan gives manager Cian O'Neill an extra option to tinker with this year.

However, it was the fast breaks out of defence that paid dividends rather than the long ball into the square. This proved true after ten minutes, when a UCC attack was snuffed out and instead driven forward by Ryan, Burke and Ladden before ending up in the opposite corner, and put over by Hernan. It would be over another ten minutes before UL registered another score.

Coughlan, who shot wide from roughly the same spot, scored his goal only moments before, materialised amongst a host of bodies and helped create havoc as well as a bout of

ping-pong to see the ball finally end up in the back of the net. That left things at 2-02 to 0-02 in UL's favour. UCC, listless and unimpressive up until then, finished the half on top, adding two points and a goal, the only moment in the game when UL's solid full back line was seriously breached. The scores stood at 2-02 to 1-04.

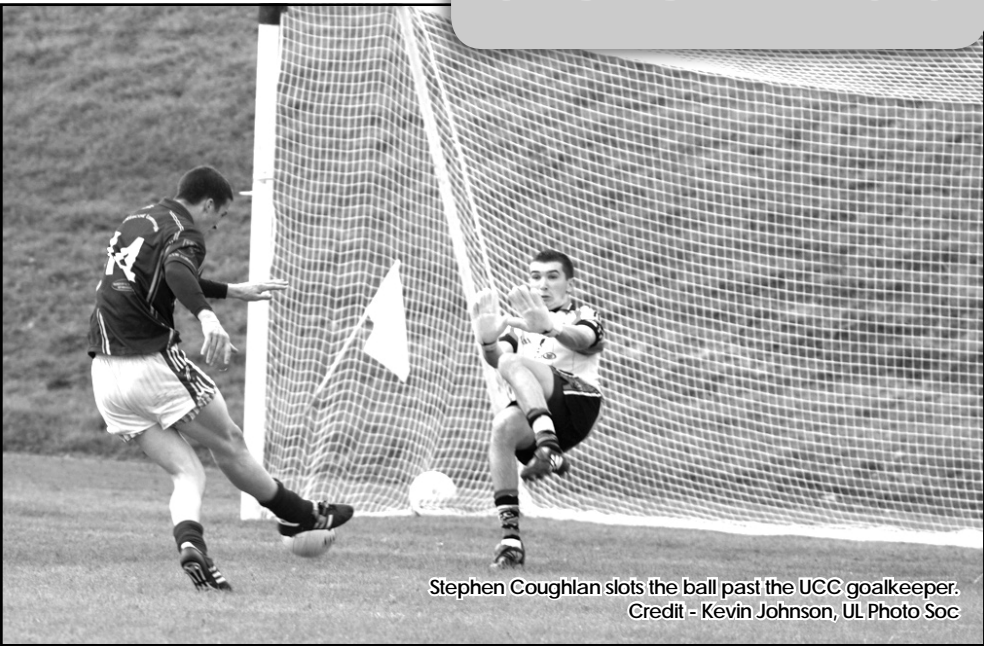
The second half began like the first with substitutes Edmund Walsh and Kieran Gill making an immediate impact with a point apiece.

UCC would add a point through their full forward Kiely but it was Walsh who was making a mark, pointing with a great left footed effort to stretch the lead to four once more.

It was five soon after, as Walsh, roving around the half forward line, came in off the right to whip the ball accurately between the posts. With twenty minutes to go UCC appeared to lack ideas, and with Ladden, in tandem with his half backs, breaking and winning ball it was one-way traffic at stages.

However, being the first game of the season and with new players being incorporated there was a few more wides than normal.

With ten minutes to play Seamus O'Shea, who inexplicably handpassed wide earlier in the game, tore through the heart of the UCC team before finishing clinically to the net for a brilliant goal, leaving UL in a state of comfort



Stephen Coughlan slots the ball past the UCC goalkeeper.
Credit - Kevin Johnson, UL Photo Soc

for the rest of the game. Substitutes Line and Gill contributed with two good scores.

Most pleasing for the selectors was the contribution from the subs, each one impressive in the time they had, and all bar one, scoring. UCC were restricted to two points in the second half as UL won out 3-11 to 1-06. With another game played against Garda TC since then, UL's next match should be this week against last year's Sigerson champions, CIT.

Man of the match: Edmund Walsh
By Daniel Bridge

CAME off the bench at half time to score 0-3 at wing forward. Combined his scores with some impressive composed play to help UL to an easy win.
Thomas Ladden, Seamie O'Shea and Stephen Coughlan all came into contention for man of the match but Walsh just nicked it.

Senior UL v UCC statistics

By Liam Togher

Scorers:

UL: Stephen Coughlan (1-2), Edmund Walsh(0-3), Seamus O'Shea (1-0), Paul Kennelly (f), Pat McCarthy, Aengus Hernan, Jonathan Lyne, Kieran Gill, Mike Tim O'Sullivan (0-1 each).

UCC: Barry O'Driscoll (1-0), Sean Kiely, Daniel Gould (0-2 each), Paul Honohan, Seamus Hanafin, Daniel Koney (0-1 each).

Teams

UL: James O'Reilly; Dean Ryan, James O'Sullivan, Kevin Smith; Mark Cahalane, Jamie Burke, Mark Dalton; Thomas Ladden, Declan Rattigan; Philip Hogan, Seamus O'Shea , Paul Larkin; Mike Tim O'Sullivan , Stephen Coughlan, Aengus Hernan. Subs: Jonathan Lyne, Kieran Gill, Edmund Walsh, Paul Kennelly, Fintan Walsh, Pat McCarthy.

UCC: Brian Mc Polan; Rory Buckley, Donal Og O'Donovan, Eoin Cobber; Philip Corrigan, David Limerick, Brian Sheehan; Adrian Greany, Kevin O'Driscoll; Daniel Gould , Paul Honohan, Seamus Hanafin; Daniel Koney, Sean Kiely, Barry O'Driscoll.

Subs: Rory Hogan, Shane Besten, Bart Daly, Mike Griffin, Michael Mennis.

Referee: Derek Mackessy.

Wides: UL 12 UCC 8

Frees awarded: UL 18 UCC 21

45s: UL 1 UCC 3

Own kickouts won: UL 13/15 UCC 13/26

Yellow cards: UL 0 UCC 1

Red cards: UL 0 UCC 0

The Optimum Point

Kevin McNamara

The announcement by FIFA President Sepp Blatter in Rio de Janeiro that the play-offs will not be an open draw but rather a seeded format according to rankings leaves Ireland in a tricky situation.

The major drop in rank from 15th in June 2005 to 38th in the world during the Steve Staunton era has left the nation in the position to be a second-tier side in the upcoming play-off draw. FIFA's decision to go back on plans for an open draw is down to the facts that the major contenders of world football such as

France and Portugal are struggling to stay on path for qualification. As a result, the loss of stars such as Karim Benzema, Thierry Henry and Cristiano Ronaldo would weaken the grandeur and the commercial strengths of the World Cup in South Africa.

With Ireland's record in the play-off's not exactly inspiring confidence, the progression of the team to the Finals is under threat with the fact that they will have to possibly face Germany, Croatia or Greece to name a few. Manchester City and Ireland keeper Shay

Given was particularly upset after hearing the news saying; "Its pretty disgusting because we are a smaller nation and for them to move the goalposts a few weeks before the end of the campaign is pretty poor."

Despite further criticism from around the country about the play-off system, I have to say that I agree whole heartily with the format to qualify for South Africa. Is the World Cup not about watching the top players battling it out at the highest level? So why are we complaining about the system and work at becoming one of

the 32 countries that are at that level. Quietly surprised by his view, I must give credit to FAI Chief Executive, John Delaney who remarked that: "We'd have been delighted to have got to the play-offs at the start of the group and we'll take what we get".

At the end of the day, if we want to qualify we must rise to the occasion and if the "bigger nations" have better teams then they should be at the World Cup. Sometimes you just can't blame the system; you have to blame the player.

That which doesn't kill you makes you stronger

Liam Togher speaks with Eimear Considine

TO LOSE one All-Ireland in a year is tough. To lose three in a 12-month period would have you questioning God's validity. That cruel fate befell 2nd year student Eimear Considine, but she had an overdue success on the All-Ireland stage at the end of September when she played a prominent role in Clare's ladies football intermediate success against Fermanagh at Croke Park. And even then it was very much a close-run thing (Clare won 3-10 to 1-11), as Eimear knows only too well.

"Last year we led by four points at half-time in the final and ended up losing," she states. "This year we found ourselves up by four at the break again but they drew level. However, this year we had the edge. We didn't want to end up losing it again and that's what got us through. There was simply no way we were going to lose it again." It was the culmination of several years of hard work which had seen Clare fall narrowly short quite often. "We've been in the semi-finals for the last three years and we got to the final last year, so every time we were going one step further. All the girls had been there before.

This is only my second year on the panel but the likes of Majella Griffin and Eithne Morrissey have been around for some time."

Perhaps last year's final defeat to Tipperary proved beneficial in the long run. "The fear of losing again drove us on," Eimear admits. "Last year we were a bit overawed by playing in Croke Park. This year we felt it didn't make any difference where we were playing." And as she now knows, there are few things that can top winning an All-Ireland. "I was in Croke Park two weeks earlier for the All-Ireland Under-21 hurling final and while it was great celebrating on the pitch that day, you really can't beat going up those steps and lifting a cup."

While Eimear was seen by many as the standout performer in the match, she unsurprisingly paid homage to her team-mates. "Everyone from the goalie to the full-backs to the corner-forwards played their part in the victory.

It really does take a full panel of 30 or 35 to win an All-Ireland and not just the 15 out on the pitch. Hearing the encouragement from the sideline really gives you a boost. Last year in the final we felt a bit alone because we were so isolated in the ground but this time we knew what to expect and we're really close as a team." Eimear's fantastic contribution to the Clare intermediate team was recognised by a nomination for an All-Star award. "It's great just to be nominated, especially



when you think there were girls from big teams such as Dublin and Cork nominated for the same position." Speaking of such exalted company, how does she think Clare will fair out at senior level in 2010? "We got a taste of it earlier this year from playing in Division 1 in the league. We had some good wins but got hammered a few times. The step up from intermediate to senior will be a big one but it's not going to be out of our league."

With this momentous achievement now on Eimear's CV, she now hopes to land more silverware with the UL ladies football team, her club Kilmihil and Kilmaley's camogie side.

Now, after all the final disappointments in the past and an All-Ireland intermediate medal to her name, we wait to see if she can keep producing the goods and the trophies.

UL Sailing set off for French adventure

Tomás McCarthy – Sports Editor

OCTOBER 22 is a big date in the calendar of the UL sailing club. Marseille in France is the destination as the club set sail for the World Cup. Nine members of the club will get this honour to take on the World's best. The competition titled the "Student Yachting World Cup" will feature teams from Italy, Spain, France and Germany amongst others.

The UL sailing club qualified by virtue of winning this year's intervarsities. Representing UL in Marseille will be Cian Gallagher, Darragh O'Connor, Katie Tingle, Rachel Cronin, Conor Martin, Billy Clarke, Pa Hegarty, John Blake and Kevin Stellard. The tournament gets underway on October 24 and runs until October

31. Two races will take place every day with the races lasting two hours.

While the carrot of the World Cup is an exciting prospect the hard work must be done. Usually the club train at Killaloe in Co Clare but lately Crosshaven in Co Cork has been the location.

These sessions take place at the weekend which shows that dedication is not an issue. Sponsorship has also been hard to come by. Each of the members has individually been fundraising to save up the thousands that a trip like this demands. The club would like to thank Jerry Cronin for his support in this regard and also to Paul Tingle for providing a boat for training and for organising coaches.

Speaking with Cian Gallagher, one of the nine heading to France, it seems that the team are confident of doing well. The presence of Cork IT, who won last year's World Cup will mean that UL won't be lacking in motivation. Cork IT were one of the teams that UL dispatched in their varsity triumph.

UL sailing club currently has between fifty and sixty members and is always seeking new members. Domestic competition though is now on the back burner.

Cian and his team mates are obviously a talented bunch and to perform on a World stage is a chance that doesn't come around to often. The possibility of a Student Yachting World Cup arriving UL is a real one.



Gambling and fixing here to stay

By Stephen Kelly

Few major sports have been free from match-fixing and corruption scandals in recent years. Financial services firm Merrill Lynch projects that the turnover for the online sports gambling industry will top \$100 billion by 2015. When you consider the sheer scale of the money involved it's easy to see why the problem is growing.

It's clear that sports gambling is here to stay. Any attempts to seriously restrict it would be like locking the barn door after the horse has bolted. The gambling industry is a powerful lobby and provides significant tax revenues and employment while sport has embraced gambling because it's such a rich source of advertising funds. The ubiquitous nature of bookmakers' ads in English football stadiums is one example. Sunderland, West Ham and Hull City have shirt sponsorship deals with bookmakers while Bolton and Wigan will join the club next season. Manchester United has a seven figure deal with "official betting partners" Betfair.

The recent revelations in Matt le Tissier's autobiography highlight the range of opportunities for corrupt sportspeople. The Southampton player placed a bet on the time of the first throw in one of their matches. All he had to do to collect a sum "well into four figures" was kick the ball out of play early in the match. While that seems quite innocuous there have been more serious incidents in recent years. Last year five Accrington Stanley players received eight month bans for placing bets on opponents Bury in a League Two match. Closer to home, some bookmakers suspended markets on a league fixture between Galway Utd and Dundalk last month after suspicious patterns emerged. UEFA's recent announcement that 40 Champions' League and UEFA Cup fixtures are currently being investigated underlines the magnitude of the problem. The fixtures are believed to involve obscure eastern European teams in qualifying rounds so there will be a tendency to dismiss it as a symptom of more general corruption in that part of the world. However, the case of German referee Robert Hoyzer is further evidence that football in Western Europe is not immune. Hoyzer was jailed in 2005 after admitting he had been paid by a Croatian syndicate to influence the outcomes of six matches.

One thing that insulates football somewhat is that it is reasonably difficult to affect the outcome with any certainty. It's not easy to pay off a whole team and keep it quiet. Individual sports represent relatively easy pickings and tennis in particular has been dogged by match fixing allegations. In 2007 it came to public

attention when Betfair voided all bets placed on a match involving then world number five Nikolay Davydenko. Davydenko was a heavy pre-match favourite against his 87th-ranked opponent Martin Vassallo-Arguello but retired due to injury when trailing in the third set. Despite winning the first set 6-2 the Russian's odds lengthened dramatically.

The volume of money wagered on the market and the size of individual bets placed indicated that some people were certain Davydenko would lose. The bulk of the winnings were traced to three accounts in Russia. One punter had wagered \$590,000 dollars on the underdog before the match while another had bet \$368,000 on Vassallo-Arguello when he was a set down. The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) launched an official investigation but Davydenko was eventually cleared. The tennis authorities have been praised by the bookmaking industry for taking a "proactive approach" to the problem of match fixing but their lack of any real progress highlights the difficulty facing all sporting bodies. Despite their efforts, no player has been convicted. Unless a player is stupid enough to place a bet in an account using his own name it's difficult to see how prosecutors can possibly connect the player to the online accounts actually placing the bets. The ATP has found this out the hard way and in an effort to hide their impotence have resorted to fining and suspending a handful of players for having miniscule recreational bets on matches they weren't involved in. The corrupt players are aware of this as well. During the Davydenko investigation there was a dramatic drop in the number of suspicious markets. As soon as he was cleared they began to appear again with greater frequency than ever. Overall, the growth of the betting industry seems to have caught sporting bodies unaware. The ongoing investigations by governing bodies such as UEFA and the ATP show that sport may finally be waking up to the problem. However, in the absence of any high-profile convictions it's difficult to have any faith in their ability to combat the problem.



Pro Boxing still packs a punch

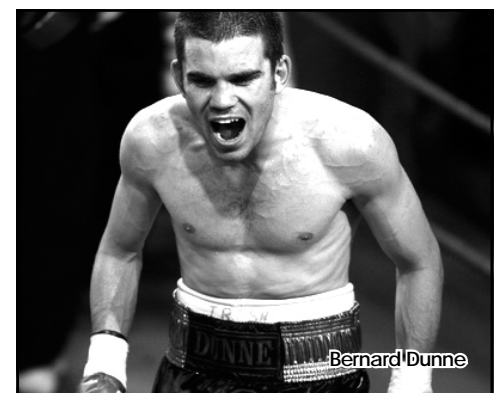
By Daniel Bridge

BERNARD Dunne's reign as WBA super-bantamweight champion may have been a short one but the state of Irish Boxing should definitely be keeping the nation's boxing fans happy. Matthew Macklin is soaring up the IBF middleweight world-rankings after a first round victory over Finnish opponent Amin Asikainen.

Talk is also rife about a possible fight between two of the biggest names in Irish boxing - John Duddy and Andy Lee. Then there is Katie Taylor; the twenty three year old has just won her fourth European gold. Macklin's impressive performance has lead to the capture of the vacant European middleweight title, to go along with the British and Irish belts he already held. Macklin, whose parents are from Roscommon and Tipperary, was a promising hurler for Tipperary. He had played in all age groups up to under-21's. Even an impressive opening to the fight from Dunne couldn't keep Thai opponent Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym from taking his WBA super-bantamweight title. After the first two rounds, Dunne appeared unable to compete with the Thai boxers aggression in the third. Dunne lost on the three knockdown rule. It was an embarrassing showing from the Dubliner, but Poonsawat was undeniably the best fighter on the night. Watching the fight brought comparisons with Kiko Martinez came to mind. Both styles are very similar and it is clear that Bernard is clearly uncomfortable with this heavy hitting approach. During that Dunne fight, Andy Lee declared his interest in fighting with Irish rival

John Duddy. This revelation caused the thought that the fight may be staged in Limerick. Duddy has since decided his comeback fight should take place in New York against Mexican Jorge Munoz after a surprising loss in April. What's next for Andy Lee is yet to be announced.

Katie Taylor has just claimed her fourth European title to go along with her two World crowns. Taylor defeated Turkish fighter Meryem Aslan Zeybek in the final 11-0. The girl from Bray came through the whole championship without conceding a single point. With women's boxing having recently been added to the London 2012 Olympics, Taylor is seen as Ireland's best hope of a gold medal in 3 years time. So despite Dunne's capitulation at the hands of Poonsawat, Irish boxing is in a very healthy state. With Duddy looking forward to a comeback, Taylor with her eyes on 2012 and Matthew Macklin possibly fighting for the World title things are not so bad after all.



Moran on the verge of Aussie switch?

By Tommy Crean

It was shortly after 5pm, Sunday 20th September 2009. The University of Limerick had one more All-Ireland winner to boast as one of its own.

David Moran of Kerry (and a UL student), realised the dream of many an Irish sportsperson as his side disposed of Cork to collect their 36th Senior All-Ireland Football title. He is regarded nationally as a talented midfielder and half-forward and has represented his county at minor, U21 and senior level.

Moran had an active role in the Kingdom's march to success this season, putting in some solid performances. He made several appearances against the likes of Cork and Longford and no doubt has many more to come if Kerry followers get their way. Their worry is the revelation that Moran may be soon leaving our shores.

He has been heavily linked with a switch to Australian Rules football in the near future, with the word being that the St. Kilda's club has put a contract on the table. Kerry star and club colleague Tommy Walsh has also reportedly been offered a deal by the same club.

If the rumours surrounding his possible departure to "Aussie Rules" bear fruit, it would be a huge blow to the GAA on many levels. It is a disappointing prospect as both are young men with huge potential in Gaelic football. There are most definitely more All-Irelands left in them.

Who can blame David if he is to try his hand with the oval ball? What can be more satisfying than being paid to do something you already excel in and love? An opportunity to see the sun more than once a week and develop more than a farmer's tan must surely be a big plus too!

At the time of going to print, it is believed David Moran is still strongly considering transferring "down under".

Aussie Rules players' agent Ricky Nixon has come out in the press recently advising Walsh to make his mind on the move up sooner rather than later.

All UL GAA followers will be hoping that David will choose to remain with us. However, if he decides to give it a go, we all wish him the best of luck.

Keane's rough Tractor ride

By Stephen Kelly

The silent stare said it all. It lasted barely two seconds but it felt like an eternity to the BBC reporter who had just made the mistake of asking Roy Keane if he was about to walk out on Ipswich following their last-gasp 2-1 defeat to Barnsley.

“I refuse to answer that question” Keane finally replied. He didn’t need to. He’d made it clear that this was one job he had no intention of quitting. Keane knows that walking out now would leave him on the managerial scrap-heap.

Marcus Evans, the reclusive owner of Ipswich, has assured Keane that his job is safe so it appears he will get a chance to turn things around. “It means I’ll probably get sacked next week,” was Keane’s sardonic reply when asked about the vote of confidence he’d been given. He’s clearly feeling the pressure. His absurd attack on the journalists at the press conference following the Barnsley defeat spoke volumes. Their crime had been a failure to ask Keane about the penalty that Barnsley had been awarded but subsequently missed.

The start of the season could hardly have been any worse for Keane and Ipswich. Expectations were reasonably high and according to the

manager Ipswich would be “in the mix” when it came to promotion. Now survival is the immediate priority. Despite a €7.6m net investment into a team that finished ninth last season, Ipswich entered the international break winless and rooted to the foot of the table.

Another problem for Keane is that his transfer policies have been unpopular with the club’s fans since his arrival. Promising young striker Jordan Rhodes was sold to Huddersfield against his will while fan-favourite Owen Garvan has been transfer listed. Keane has mainly focused on signing players that he is already familiar with from the Sunderland and Ireland set-ups. Colin Healy, Damien Delaney and Carlos Edwards are among those yet to win over the crowd at Portman Road.

Keane hasn’t been helped by public criticism of his man-management skills from several of his former players. Andy Reid, Clive Clarke, Greg Halford and Dwight Yorke have been among the most vocal. A common theme has emerged. Keane is unapproachable, hot-tempered and he expects players to instinctively understand their roles on the pitch. Reid complained of a “lack of direction” under Keane and contrasted his approach with that of current Sunderland

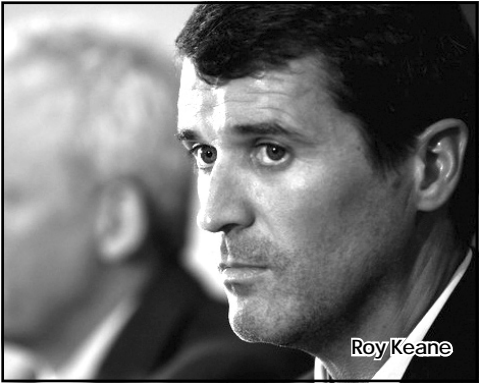
boss Steve Bruce. The accusation that Keane attempts to rule by fear has been uttered by more than one player. “He was going around and booting things. He doesn’t talk to the lads. He’s never going to give you confidence,” said the former Sunderland left-back Clive Clarke. Clarke also referred to the impossible standards set by Keane. This point raises the difficulty that top-class players have of adjusting to working with inferior players when they move into management. While the saying “great players don’t make great managers” appears a lazy cliché the likes of Van Basten, Hagi and Stoichkov have all endured torrid starts to their managerial careers.

Despite the criticisms, Keane’s players at Ipswich appear to be united behind him. The poor results have been attributable to individual errors rather than a lack of commitment. Another positive for Keane is that despite the booing he received at the end of the 4-0 hammering against Newcastle, the majority of fans seem to be in favour of him being given more time to turn things around. In general, supporters’ expectations for the season were modest and the limitations of the squad that Keane inherited from Jim Magilton are widely

recognised. Patience seems to be a virtue at Ipswich and Keane is just the club’s eighth manager in the last 40 years.

Simple logistics are further evidence of Keane’s commitment to Ipswich. He has moved to Suffolk with his family and his children are in new schools in the area. At Sunderland, in contrast, he opted to commute from his home in Cheshire some 200 kilometres away.

All of this indicates that Keane won’t be abandoning Ipswich any time soon but given the club’s perilous league position he won’t have any choice in the matter if results don’t pick up soon.



Who Are Ya?

Compiled by Liam Togher

The Basics

Name: Robert Rea.
Age: 22.
UL Club: Intermediate football.
County: Limerick.
Position: Wing forward.
Sporting Heroes: Roy Keane, Ciaran Carey, Darragh O Se.
Biggest sporting achievement: Winning county medals at Under-21, junior, intermediate and senior as well as representing my county.
Best thing about the club: The craic with the lads.
Worst thing about the club: 7am training.

Favourites

Food: All types of chicken.
Drink: Blue Powerade.
Song: Like This Like That – Mauro Picotto.
Movie: The Hangover.
Jersey: The club jerseys from America.

Take Your Pick

Lodge or Trinity Rooms: Trooms.
Dunphy or Giles: Dunphy.
Tea or coffee: Neither.
Simpsons or Family Guy: Family Guy.

Four to Finish

Describe yourself in 3 words: Lazy, funny, outgoing.

Will Ireland qualify for the World Cup? Yes but just about.

Best chat-up line you’ve heard: Do you believe in helping the homeless? (if yes) In that case would you mind taking me home with you!

What will you be when you grow up? Well I’m studying accounting but can’t see that happening.



UL Sports Round-up

Tomás McCarthy – Sports Editor

Archery

UL has been picked as the host for the Student Archery Inter Varsity finals. The competition takes place in April 2010.

UL Bohs

UL Bohemians lost their AIB League opener on October 3 to Blackrock at Thomond Park. The away side earned a 8-3 victory on the day. The Bohs upcoming games include a home tie with Clontarf and an away match against Shannon.

Basketball

The UL Eagles opened their Nivea Superleague campaign in positive fashion with a 88-73 win away to Moycullen.

Comments?

At the sports department we always welcome any comments, questions or queries that ye may have. The email address is mossy.mccarthy@gmail.com or check us out on bebo.

Sports Writers Diary

By Tomás McCarthy - Sports Editor

26 September
Titus Bramble of all people pops up to score against Chelsea! I have seen it all now!

27 September
The Rebelettes claim yet another Ladies football title as Captain Mary O’Connor gives a speech that lasts nearly as long as the match itself. Congrats also to the UL ladies involved in Clare intermediate victory.

28 September
I have a great chat with former Sports Editor and proud Kerryman Patrick Mannix in The Stables. Will he make a comeback?

29 September
Good to see Lucas is still living up to his reputation as worst Brazilian ever in Liverpool’s defeat to Fiorentina.

30 September
Hard luck to housemate Emmet who narrowly lost out on a Champions League accumulator bet. The Sports Editor has been there and done that and is currently staying away from the bookies!

1 October
Big shout out to Frank Staples and company who I was talking to at the Young Wolfe Tones.

2 October
Arrive in to the quiet library (for once!) on Friday evening as the FYP gets some attention (for once!).

3 October
United leave it late once again as Munster fail to score against Leinster in an absolute shambles of a performance.

4 October
Paul Robinson’s clean sheet bonus goes out the window as Blackburn lose 6-2 to Arsenal!

5 October
You cannot depend on Teletext! Myself and my housemates are lead to believe that Aston Villa had beaten Man City 1-0 but in fact some RTE fella went asleep or something like that and didn’t update the score! Bunch of cowboys!

6 October
A record attendance of seven at the Sports Writers’ meeting means a very happy and busy sports editor.

7 October
The start of the GAA season sees An Focal bring along a mighty gang of writers to pitch one covering all angles. Togher described it as the “An Focal sport picnic”

8 October
Spoke with Henry Martin in The Paddocks for a fascinating interview that appears elsewhere in this edition.

9 October
The rain is back and the sports editor grins and bears it to get to an 11 o clock tutorial. Now that is commitment!

Forgotten Footballer - Stephane Henchoz

By Liam Togher

Stephane Henchoz was a key figure in defence for Liverpool for six years, although his time at the club is probably best remembered for two impromptu goalkeeping acts in domestic cup finals in 2000-01 when the Anfield club won three trophies. In the Worthington Cup final against Birmingham his 90th-minute handball resulted in a penalty for the Blues which produced the equaliser, but three months later when Gerard Houllier’s team beat Arsenal in an amazing FA Cup final, his illegal goal-line block went unnoticed by the officials. He first came to English fans’ attention when he represented Switzerland at Euro ‘96 and played against the hosts at Wembley. Blackburn snapped him up in 1997 but in his second season at Ewood Park Rovers were relegated and he joined Liverpool in a £3.5million deal. He instantly settled into life on Merseyside and formed a solid defensive partnership with Sami Hyypia. By 2002 Houllier preferred Igor Biscan at the back and it seemed that Henchoz’s days at Anfield were numbered, but the Swiss international regained his place in the first XI before fading out of contention once Rafael Benitez took over as manager in 2004. In January 2005 Henchoz signed for Celtic but spent just six months in Glasgow before a Premiership return with newly-promoted Wigan Athletic. After one season he retracted his steps by joining Blackburn a second time before retiring from the game in October 2008. In his professional career Henchoz only scored three goals and in 72 appearances for Switzerland he never found the net.



The Rumour Mill

By Conor McGrath

“The days may be getting shorter, but the rumours are only getting juicier” was the emphatic comment made by a few Briarfield girls last week. I suppose boredom and those lonely library nights can only be described as a gossipmongers paradise. On the subject of paradise, Pitch One is certainly not the Caribbean for a few members of the GAA squad who are lobbying against playing on it. “The pitch is against us as well as the university” was the accusation made by one of the Gaelic team’s high ranked players. With the Bowl being labelled as a “Jock heads playground” by some, where could the GAA lot go? Should somebody ring the Ghostbusters? A “put up and shut up” policy seems like the likely scenario. Stephen Ireland was apparently seen in Java’s last Wednesday night on another one of those international breaks which he has become accustomed to. According to one customer, Ireland felt a game of Chess outside on the benches was a better option than watching his country play in Croker. That mystery would probably give Sherlock Holmes a severe bout of headaches at this rate. The Ladies Hockey team have been shouting the odds again these days. Word on the Astro turf has it the girls are sick of sharing their ground with “those Superdine lot” on weeknights. Are they referring to the normal student who enjoys a kick about after college? One may feel some of them are listening to too much Spice Girls or Roy Keane for that matter. As they say, success does breed arrogance in some quarters. The text messages will be flying on those quiet Monday nights until March...

Give It A Lash Quiz

By Kevin McNamara

- 1. Who is the last English born manager to coach an FA Cup winning side?
- 2. What country fielded 1996 Olympic women’s teams that won gold in basketball, soccer and softball?
- 3. What sport used the term “home run” long before baseball?
- 4. In his first ever Marathon, which Irish men won an Olympic silver medal?
- 5. This footballer/musician captained his county to All-Ireland Gaelic Fooball success in 1957 and subsequently topped the bill at London’s Royal Albert Hall?
- 6. Snooker World Champion Dennis Taylor comes from which town in County Tyrone?
- 7. Who is the youngest ever Formula One World Champion?
- 8. Who did Lleyton Hewitt beat to win Wimbledon Singles title in 2002?
- 9. What County has won the most All Ireland Minor Football Championships?
- 10. Who was the youngest player ever to score in the World Cup Finals?

6. Coalisland	1. Harry Redknapp
7. Lewis Hamilton	- Portsmouth - 17th
8. David Nalbandian	May 2008
9. Kerry	2. The U.S.
10. Pelé - Brazil, vs. Wales,	3. Cricket
1958 (17 years and	4. John Treacy
239 days)	5. Dermot O'Brien

Quiz Answer

AN FOCAL SPORT

Martin defends new book, *Unlimited Heartbreak*

Tomás McCarthy – Sports Editor

In an exclusive interview with An Focal Sport, UL graduate Henry Martin has come out in defence of his book on Limerick hurling, *Unlimited Heartbreak*, which was released recently.

During the interview he revealed some of the abuse he has received since the release of the book. At an Intermediate club game he talks of how a former TD had some strong words for him. “[He] started going on about how I never interviewed him for the book and my response to that is that [he] probably sees it as a missed political opportunity not being interviewed in the book.”

Martin talked honestly about how he believes politics in the County Board has ruined Limerick

hurling since their last All Ireland win in 1973. “I suppose this book is something that can be listened to. We can go to address matters and improve them or continue as we have always done and keep our heads buried in the sand... Fellas will look after each other over anything anti that arises. ‘Oh that never happened’. Two or three fellas back one another up and they lie about something that has appeared or whatever.” He goes on to claim that *Unlimited Heartbreak* is only “the tip of the iceberg”. There were further accounts that didn’t make it to publication due to legal reasons. Martin did not regret not interviewing members of the current panel. He felt that “it would be to the detriment of Limerick hurling” although

he does say that incidents surrounding the drinking culture are mentioned in the book but no names are given. Despite this he does have some harsh words for the three-in-a-row under 21 team and also some current panellists. He came out strongly against a current UL student for appearing in *The Examiner* opening a supermarket before the 2007 All Ireland Final. He also says that “Limerick spent the following six months, nearly the following twelve months, celebrating” following that final. In a wide ranging conversation the Galbally man also spoke of how his writing skills were late to develop, how he personally hasn’t got over the All Ireland final defeat of 1994 and also the good times he had in UL.

Henry Martin graduated in 1999 from the University of Limerick with a degree in Engineering. He has recently qualified as a primary school teacher. He was criticised in *An Focal* in 1998 after writing a letter to the sports editor of *The Examiner*. The letter was in support of Diarmuid O’Flynn’s article to ban UL from the Limerick senior football championship. From this incident in UL it is clear that Martin was always one to call things as he saw them. During the course of the interview Martin described the book as the “Bible of Limerick hurling”. Certainly Martin’s gospel of straight talking is one that can be believed in and is one Limerick hurling might be advised to learn from.

Newcomers impress in double football victory

Tomás McCarthy – Sports Editor

THE UL GAA season got off to a perfect start with both the intermediate and senior football teams recording league wins over UCC on Wednesday, 7 October, on pitch one. Stephen O’Connor landed the winning score as the intermediates claimed a narrow 2-11 to 2-10 win. In the senior encounter Stephen Coughlan and Seamus O’Shea both found the net in an easy 3-11 to 1-6 triumph.

In the senior game it was the fresh faces on show which really caught the eye though. In total there were 13 changes from the Sigerson Cup team that lost to UCD last term. The league is obviously a time to see new players and manager Cian O’Neill is using these games to create competition within the panel.

Speaking to *An Focal* after the game O’Neill stated that he was “very happy” with the new faces. It’s his wish to give players on the panel at least one run out in the league to assess them. “We have an extended panel of 37 which will be reduced to 28 after week two of the league to make sure players are playing senior 2 if they are not getting runs here.” He mentioned players like Dean Ryan, Mark Cahalane and Thomas Ladden, as well as the substitutes that came on, for doing well on their first starts. The

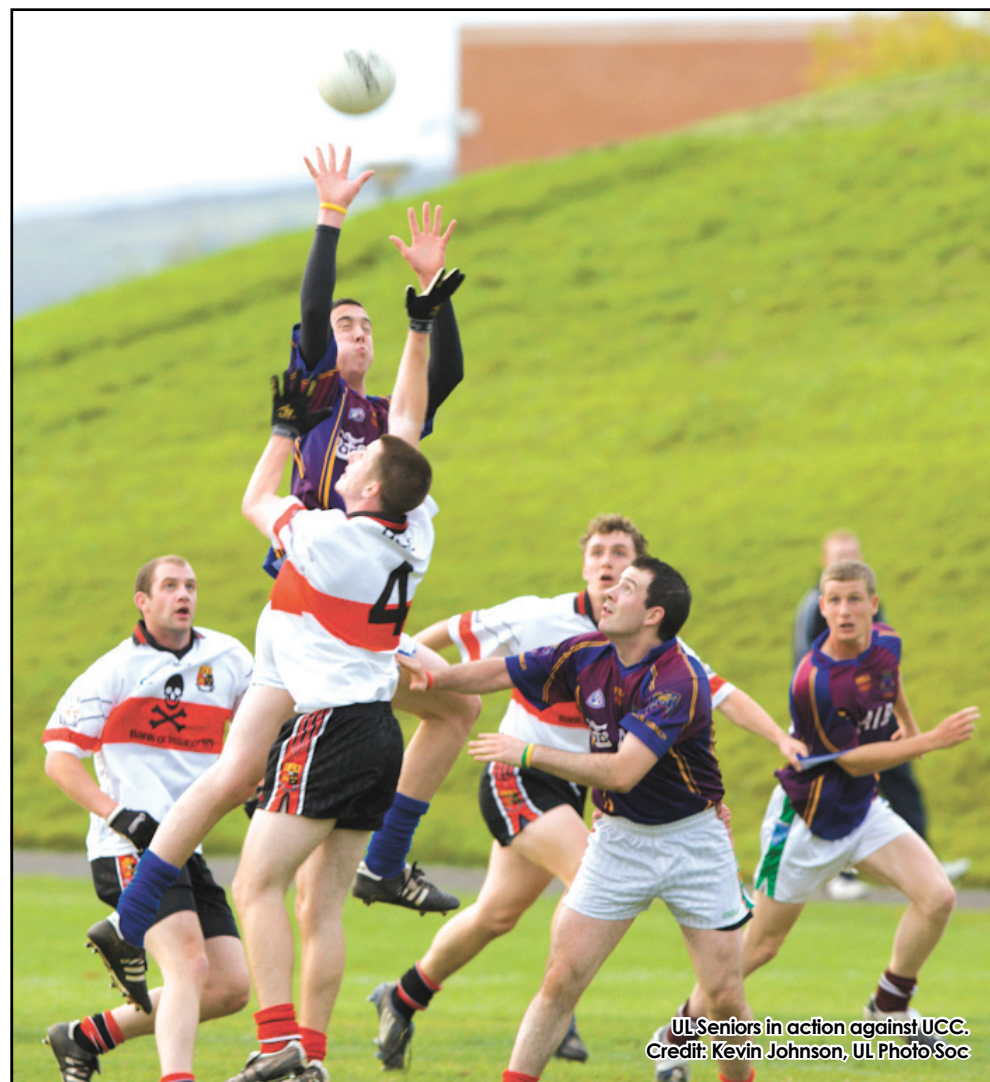
tactic of playing balls into another new player, full forward Stephen Coughlan, is one which might be seen again.

One of the new faces, Edmund Walsh, was the *An Focal Sport* man of the match. O’Neill described him as a “fine player. He’s got a sweet, cultured left boot. He kicked some lovely scores from play but he needs to sharpen up his free taking”. Walsh is a second year student and was brought through by Niall Considine and Paul Shields whom O’Neill gave credit to.

The win was achieved but there were undoubtedly rough edges shown throughout. Twelve wides were an indication of that but the turnovers also bothered O’Neill. “There were a lot of unnecessary mistakes out there. We had in total 24 turnovers which is not good enough at this level.”

Overall for a first outing a win must be greeted with some satisfaction though. “It’s our first match of the season after one training session together. On balance we have to be very happy with it. To score 3-11 that will win most games and to concede 1-6 will win you must games”.

It most certainly will and a positive start is most welcome going into tough tests against Garda and Cork IT in the coming weeks.



UL Seniors in action against UCC.
Credit: Kevin Johnson, UL Photo Soc