



# AN FOCAL

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE STUDENTS UNION

University of Limerick

Meet the new editorial team p19

Whither now for the PSA p11?

## Plassey vandals evicted



BY DEIRDRE O'SHAUGHNESSY EDITOR

A SPATE of anti-social behaviour in Plassey Village in recent weeks has led to two evictions and Disciplinary actions against several first year students.

During December a Campus Life Services staff member came across a Bebo page, called 'Plassey Street Elites', advertising anti-social behaviour in Plassey village. The page, which was taken down shortly after its

discovery, showed a number of students engaging in anti-social behaviour such as breaking windows, damaging walls and furnishings, and removing furniture from houses.

The profile page set up by the group advertised it as "a firm of crazy drunken b\*\*\*\*\*s causing destruction and chaos through Plassey most nites of the week." The page went on to state "PSE till you die, if ya hard enuf and wanna play f\*\*\*, join us.....If security didn't see you do it, it wasn't you - live by it".

As a result of the site being found, two students who were clearly identified in the pictures have been evicted, and further investigations are ongoing into the identities of other students shown. Although the site has been removed, Campus Life Services have archived it, and

have access to all the material which was to be found thereon.

John O'Rourke, Campus Life Manager, is deeply disturbed by the incidents; "It is disturbing to think that UL students consider this type of behaviour as entertainment. Whatever about late night antics, but to sit down the next day and upload images and videos and applaud this type of behaviour is completely mesmerising." Mr O'Rourke told An Focal that Campus Life Services is now reviewing its security measures. These incidents, along with a notable increase in other anti-social behaviour, may lead to strict security protocol, eg students having to show ID cards when entering residences. According to Mr O'Rourke, "This is normal practice in other Universities and up to now is something [we] would have preferred to avoid."



A student engaging in anti-social behaviour. Photo taken from the 'PSE' Bebo page.

## Doctor Ryanair?



Publicity lover Michael O' Leary in one of his infamous poses.

DEIRDRE O'SHAUGHNESSY

LAST week's session of Governing Authority saw an interesting development, with an agreement being reached to award an honorary doctorate to Ryanair chief Michael O' Leary. The decision was reached after a heated debate between Governors, with student representatives voting against the proposal at both Academic Council and Governing Authority. According to Students' Union President St.John Ó Donnabháin, "We voted

against Michael O'Leary because we feel that honorary doctorates shouldn't be about publicity stunts, they should mean something. Michael O' Leary won't bring credit on the college as he represents a shrill voice against unions and people with disabilities, among others."

Mr O'Leary was nominated at Governing Authority level by Mr Tadhg Kearney, an external Governor and a prominent member of the Progressive Democrats. Reasons given for his nomination were his business acumen and his

contribution to the Mid-West through the increase in routes travelling through Shannon Airport.

Mr O'Leary graduated from Trinity College in 1983 with a 2.1 BBS degree. He has no connection with UL apart from having delivered several lectures to students and staff in the University. He became Chief Executive Officer of Ryanair in 1994 and has since led the low-cost airline to huge levels of success, with record numbers of passengers flying across Europe in Ryanair's 737 planes.

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# EDITORIAL

## Student Media Awards - Vote An Focal!

**T**HIS year's Student Media Awards will be held on Tuesday March 27th in Dublin. An Focal has been entered for both the People's Choice (which it currently holds) and Newspaper of the Year, with Review entered in the Magazine of the Year category, for which it was shortlisted last year.



BY DEIRDRE O' SHAUGHNESSY

I'm very excited about the awards, and I hope I can build on the success Anne had last year. We have a great team, and I'm confident that they can stand up to any student newspaper contributors in Ireland and scoop some of those awards. I hope, too, that An Focal will win the People's Choice award for the second year in a row.

This award is the only democratically chosen prize, so it's important that An Focal receives as many votes as possible. All you have to do to vote is register on oxygen.ie, then send an email to smedias@oxygen.ie with 'People's Choice' in the subject line. Your email need only contain the words 'An Focal' and your oxygen.ie username. Remember to tell all your friends and family to register and vote!

The Student Media Awards have traditionally been won by Trinity and UCD in almost all print news categories. I may be biased, but I believe that An Focal is as good a college newspaper as any publication produced in Dublin. Over the years, as far as I can ascertain, no newspaper or magazine based outside Dublin has ever won Newspaper of the Year or Magazine of the Year. This may sound like advance sour grapes, but it's a sad fact that the Dublin media, which comprises the judging panel, does not seem to be aware of any third-level institution outside Dublin. Or, indeed, outside South Dublin. DCU, with its highly respected journalism courses, has never won either.

Successive editors of An Focal have put a lot of work into making this a newspaper that students will read and enjoy. Whatever about Student Media Awards, the aim of any editor should be to appeal to readers, to inform them and to excite them. I hope that I am fulfilling this aim - please feel free to email me on deirdre.oshaughnessy@ul.ie with any suggestions you have for improvements to An Focal.

## Quotes of the fortnight

- 'He'd be the type that would make every decision with a witty antidote'... we're not sure who or what SU Education Officer Alan Higgins was talking about here, but it sure was funny!
- 'The Students' Union here in Limerick is doing a fine job already.' Class Rep Huw Thomas gives a rare compliment to the SU, during the debate on USI.
- 'Oisín's going to come in a G string... but Ger Dineen won't be there at all, on the plus side.' Keith Pigott telling Class Reps Council what to expect from the Polar Bear it all Ball.
- 'I would love if a few people could give me a hand' St. John Ó Donnabháin on the impending loss of his beard in favour of RAG week charities, to which there was a shout from an unnamed class rep: 'A hand shaving it?!'
- 'You should sell lockets of your beard!' Ger Dineen at Class Reps Council.
- 'Everything's a short cut when you run' PPO Deirdre O'Shaughnessy shares some words of wisdom with President St. John Ó Donnabháin.
- 'Ah it'll take them a while... maybe after they lose the election'. Young Fine Gael PRO John Kearney on whether he thinks Ógra Fianna Fáil will be able to bring Bertie to UL.
- 'I have an unusual request... do you have a first aid kit?' A student who broke his toe and was sent away by the Medical Centre, turns to An Focal's editor for help.

## Hot topics on the UL Forum

### God Save the Queen

70% of you thought it was ok to play God Save the Queen at Croke Park last Sunday. An interesting discussion ensued

### What to put where the shop is now?

This one has taken off, with an article in this edition about the possibilities and students suggesting things as diverse as a reading room, a non-alcohol venue, and a bilingual café, it's definitely getting interesting.

### Grinds

Who knew you were all so keen to learn? And not from your lecturers

**Ulster Bank**  
let's do things differently

Dear Ulster Bank,

I'm a first year student and I'm living away from home for the first time. My parents pay my rent and bills, but they've told me I'll have to get a job this semester to pay for everything else. I've got a job but the pay isn't great and I'm worried I won't be able to make ends meet, what with RAG week coming up and hopefully Oxygen too. Is there any way I can cut back on costs so that I can live comfortably on the €60 a week I make from the part-time job?

Dear Student

Your question is very common and applicable to a lot of students who would be in the same position. Your parents are being very supportive by paying your rent and bills, this is one area where you need to have cover. In relation to budgeting for Rag week and Oxygen we have put together a plan that you can use to ensure you can live comfortably on your part-time salary.

As you have mentioned the most important expenses are being covered by your parents ie your rent, bills, food etc. For Rag week and Oxygen this will be an expensive time for any student. The Ulster Bank Student offer is the student account which offers transactions free banking with an interest free overdraft of €650.00 when you open the account. For example, if you use €350 of the Overdraft you can choose to repay the balance over a number of months which will help with your budgeting and ensuring you are not under any financial pressure. With €60.00 per week from your part-time job you could afford to repay €5.00/€10.00 per week and you would clear the balance over a period of months. If you are earning more during the summer months you can increase the lodgements to the account and repay the balance quicker. As there is no interest charged on this overdraft you will know exactly at any time what you need to lodge to clear the balance.

You could also look at doing a loan to help with living expenses, you would need to meet with one of our Customer Advisors Vanessa or Mike and they would be able to structure a loan to suit your own repayment ability and budget. The loan would be done on an interest only basis (this means only the interest would be covered by your repayment, for example if you take a loan of €800.00, this is the capital part, you would make interest payments on that amount, you would not be reducing the €800.00 which is the capital) When you are earning more money we would review your loan and restructure to clear both the capital and interest owing on the loan.

We hope these options may of some assistance to you.

Regards

Ulster Bank

# UL student in Seanad bid

DEIRDRE O'SHAUGHNESSY

**P**hd student Daniel Sullivan (39), originally from Co. Kerry, has announced his intention to run in the forthcoming Seanad elections. Mr Sullivan's candidacy is intended as a protest against the inability of UL and other third-level graduates to vote in these elections.

Seanad elections are determined by 'panels', one of which is the University panel. This panel, however, does not include UL or its sister University DCU, as well as excluding graduates of Institutes of Technology and plc colleges. According to Mr Sullivan, 'It has been more a quarter of a century after there was a referendum in 1979 allowing the

government of the day to extend voting rights to all graduates simply by passing the appropriate law and yet graduates of universities such as UL and DCU are still waiting'.

Despite the fact that UL graduates cannot vote in the Seanad elections, there is no requirement for candidates to be graduates of Trinity College or the National University of Ireland in order to stand.

During a visit to the University last year, Minister for Education Mary Hanafin was questioned on this issue by former Students' Union President Fintan Breen. The Minister asserted that the issue of Seanad voting rights for UL graduates had become caught up in the wider net of Seanad reform, and that this

change was not a priority for the Government.

Mr Sullivan's bid is being supported by both University staff and UL Students' Union. Students' Union President St. John Ó Donnabháin told An Focal; 'It's good to see that a number of candidates have raised this very important issue, including one of our own, Daniel Sullivan. The constitutional change was made almost thirty years ago. It's about time the legislature caught up. We wish him the best of luck!'

Despite the support he has received, Mr Sullivan is realistic about his chances, given that none of his fellow UL graduates can vote for him; 'I recognise from the outset that the likelihood of getting elected is considerably limited by the

simple fact that as a non-NUI graduate I won't be easily able to tap into any particular alumni base. However, there are now a considerable number of DCU, UL, QUB, UU graduates and also those from the ITs who also hold postgraduate degrees from NUI colleges and vice-versa. I believe that they would look favourably on an opportunity to voice their support for extending the franchise. My intent is to use the PR-STV voting system as a means to highlight the issue. Much like the idea of a preferenda I am asking people to vote for me No.1 to highlight the issue and then subsequently to transfer to the candidate of their choice thereafter.'

# USI debate sparks controversy

AN FOCAL REPORTER

**A** debate on USI which took place in Week 2's Class Reps Council has sparked some controversy. The debate, scheduled as part of the Students' Union's consultation process on potential reaffiliation to USI, was chaired by former Chair of Council Oisín Collins, as neither the Chair nor the Deputy Chair were available to officiate. Speaking for USI was USI Southern Area Officer Katie Morrisroe, a UL student, with postgraduate student Daniel Sullivan taking the anti-USI stance.

The debate quickly became heated, with a clear anti-USI stance emerging among Council members, particularly among several more outspoken class reps. Members of the Executive were forced to call order several times, during a particularly impassioned discussion.

It has emerged that Mr Collins has apologised to Ms Morrisroe for failing to properly control the debate, and has indicated that it was not his intention to prejudice it. The Executive is to send a formal letter of apology to USI. President of the Students' Union, St. John Ó Donnabháin said: "It was good to see such a level of interest from Class Reps on

this debate, but some people got carried away. We have to be willing to give all sides the chance to contribute fully to the debate, whatever their opinion, and especially after we've invited them as our guests - that didn't happen at the last meeting of Council".

Speaking to An Focal after the debate, Ms Morrisroe said "With any group there are different opinions on the issue. I do believe that vigorous debate is needed around any topic. There were some questions asked but I think that there an awful lot more out there that still need to be answered." Ms Morrisroe also stated that she did not believe all class reps felt the same way; "Some class representatives were opposed but many did not voice an opinion".

When asked if he thought Ms Morrisroe was treated unfairly, Mr Sullivan told An Focal that he didn't believe this was the case; "I believe she was of the opinion that USI was something that would sell itself, and she didn't present a good enough case to justify re-affiliation." He also felt that Class Reps had played their parts well in determining Union policy, saying "It made for a good demonstration of the role of class reps in quite forensically examining this proposal."

# Campbell's Catering to increase Food Prices on Campus



BY ALAN OWENS  
CHIEF NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Following from last weeks rise in inflation rates, An Focal has learned that Campbell's Catering, in charge of food provision on campus, intends to increase food prices on campus.

Campbell's Catering currently hold the contract to provide food in the various different eateries on Campus. However, it does not operate the Stables, Paddocks, Plaza or Sports Bar.

A popular feature of the main restaurant is the 'student special', which is a reasonably priced dinner, eg chicken tikka with rice and a poppodom. An Focal has learned that Campbell's are planning to increase the price of this from €3.85 to €4.90, a move that may anger some students. In fact, it is believed

that Campbell's are planning a 21.5% increase on some prices, and a general increase on all prices.

An Focal is informed that Campbell's Catering do in fact raise their prices every year. However, while last year there was an increase of 6% in prices, a projected increase of 21.5% is a worrying one. Certainly it seems that students who are particularly reliant on the 'student special' are being targeted here in a price rise of over €1.

Campbell's, who are not subsidised by the University, are citing increases in fuel and electricity costs and the National Wage Agreement as reasons for the increase. Coupled with rises in inflation rates, it is not unreasonable for Campbell's to raise prices in line with rising costs, but it seems that increases of 21.5% on some prices is excessive.

Responsibility for regulation of this area lies with the Catering Committee which is composed of a representative from Campus Life Services (a.k.a PCC), Linda Stevens, a representative from Campbell's Catering, one representative from the P.S.A

(Postgrad Students Association) and two representatives from the Student's Union. This committee meets once a year.

Last year, there was a campaign by the SU to get the quality to match the increase

in prices. The question here is, has the quality risen by 21.5%? This is something that the students and patrons of Campbell's campus restaurants must decide.

The proposed price increase has angered students and staff. Photo: Hugh O' Brien



# Shop move on schedule

ALANNAH TURNER

**T**HE Students' Union is currently working on the move of the SU shop. The long awaited shop will be situated in the student centre courtyard where the Scholars bar used to be located. Work began on the shop in early January with builders carrying out the necessary refurbishments. Currently, the shop fitters are in place transforming the building site into a retail shop. It is expected that the shop will open in the

height of RAG week, which will be taking place in week 5.

The Students' Union entered into negotiations with SPAR a year ago in order to come to a partnership agreement about a new retail outlet. This new alliance means that the shops expansion into a larger premises will be accompanied by an expansion of the products provided to students. This development sees the provision of a smoothie bar, the first of its kind on campus, along with signature sandwiches, which are exclusive to

SPAR shops.

The plans for the shop move have been developed over a considerable amount of time and excitement about its impending change is high among the Directors. Duncan O' Toole, Chairperson of the board, and former ULSU sabbatical officer, stated that "this is a great opportunity. It means we can offer students a better service and increased range in the new shop. A large priority will be given to improving the speed of service in the deli area. In the big-

ger shop we can increase the number of special offers to encourage students to purchase weekly shopping at ULSU shop'.

This move comes after some delay in the process leading up to the refurbishment. As reported in An Focal in the week 0 edition, the shop suffered a six week delay after vandals tore down the planning permission sign located at the main entrance to the University.

Students' Union President, St.John Ó Donnabháin,



Work on the new shop is progressing fast. Photo: Hugh O' Brien

is delighted with the progress on the new shop - 'There has been lots of talk over the last while about the SU shop and we're on schedule to open in Week 5, which is great news.

This will really improve the service for students and it's a credit to all the people who've put in great work on the project."

# New Union Officers elected unopposed



BY ALAN OWENS  
CHIEF NEWS CORRESPONDENT

**N**OMINATIONS for the positions of Community Relations Officer and Equality Officer closed last Friday at 5pm. In a result some will see as further proof of apathy, the positions received only one nomination each. The positions were left vacant after Equality Officer Niamh Coleman was deemed resigned due to non-attendance, and Community Relations Officer Katie Harrington has gone on co-op.

The incoming Equality Officer is Kate Nolan, a 3rd Year HPSS student, and the incoming Community Relations Officer is Aoife Breen, also a 3rd Year HPSS student.

Both are delighted with the outcome and looking forward to their new positions and responsibilities. Kate Nolan tells An Focal that she is 'thrilled with the result.'

She tells An Focal that she saw this position as a perfect opportunity to get more involved and active in the Union. 'The position of Equality Officer really appealed to me because the job basically involves liaising with various different groups on campus

and representing their interests in all areas relating to equal rights, opportunities, access, and so on' she says. 'In addition, the job offers the chance to make a real, tangible difference to the lives of students, since the Equality Officer is actively involved in the Union's Equality Policy' says Kate.

Aoife Breen is the incoming Community Relations Officer, and is hoping to continue the good work of the outgoing CRO, Katie Harrington. Aoife is arriving at an interesting time; with RAG week looming community relations will surely be of paramount importance in the coming weeks.

Aoife tells An Focal she is 'delighted to take up the position of CRO for the coming semester, I feel that it holds an important role in representing the student population to the local community and liaising with community representatives on an ongoing basis to ensure that student-community relations can be maintained at an amicable level.'

'In particular I would like to listen to what community representatives might have to say about the students at UL. As always, I hope to remind students to be respectful of their neighbours. I know that it is only a small fraction of students who ever cause any concern to the residents and I hope to bring to the attention of this

minority their responsibilities in a residential area' she says.

Both girls are concerned with talk of apathy among students, and tell An Focal it is something they feel strongly about. Aoife believes things have improved with a number of elections taking place last year for Sabbatical Officer positions, and adds that 'this year's sabbats have made a valiant effort in trying to 'get out there' to meet the students they represent'.

Kate believes that apathy is not as profound or widespread among the student population as some believe. 'While I was collecting student signatures (you need twenty in total) there was a good deal of interest among the people I talked to - many people were asking questions, etc... I think the SU is really visible around campus through all the signs, posters, campaigns, etc'.

Kate Nolan, ULSU's new Equality officer.  
Photo: Hugh O' Brien



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# Palestine comes to UL

**AN FOCAL REPORTER**

ON Wednesday 21st of February, Mr Adnan Shabab, an official of the Palestinian Embassy visited the University to attend a special lunchtime performance; Al-Quds Troupe for Palestinian Popular Arts. The Al Quds group comprises 14 Palestinian musicians and dancers who came to share their music, dance and life stories with UL students and the larger community in Ireland.

Mr Shabab delivered a speech before the performance in front of a full theatre, welcoming Al-Quds, sponsors Trócaire, UL Arts Office and UL Students Union. He thanked the UL Palestine Society for bringing to everyone the chance of experiencing Palestine directly through music and dance.

Mr Eoin Murray, from Trócaire, congratulated the society and encouraged people to get involved and help end the injustice of the occupation of Palestine. According to Maria Escribano of the ULPSS, "The Society was disappointed however that, unlike the Israeli ambassador, no formal welcome was offered by the university for Mr Shabab as an official representative of the General Delegation of Palestine in Ireland. This is the closest Palestinians have to an embassy, and which is recognised by our

Government for all intents and purposes as such."

The project was based in the premise of music and dance as efficient ways of reaching people. Maria Escribano of the ULPSS told An Focal; "What better way to encourage our student colleagues in UL to engage with the Palestinians than through the celebration of their very existence and ultimately the celebration of our own shared humanity, dancing, singing and enjoying with them?" Maria told An Focal "We are delighted to say this has been achieved."

The musicians and dancers engaged with more than 600 students through music and dance workshops and their performances on campus. They also answered students' questions about their life under occupation which many found quite shocking, stricken by the enormous difficulties Palestinians face in their everyday lives: they mentioned abuse at checkpoints in their trip to university or at the airport; families separated by the illegal wall; livelihoods destroyed; travel documents stating 'Nationality: Undefined' or just a few stars in lieu of nationality.

According to Maria Escribano of the ULPSS, "We were stricken by the sadness in their words". She cites one visitor who told the group; "I am the happiest man in the world right now, in five minutes I will be sad again,

but now I am the happiest person in the world".

Maria adds; "The Palestinian Society has been determined since its inception in February 2005 to help rid this people of the injustice they live in, and to eradicate that permanent sadness that no nation, no people should endure. Palestinians have suffered too much and it is a great satisfaction to know that what was the first time in Europe, and the first time outside of Palestine for many, has been for them an unforgettable experience. They told us many times how much they love Ireland and how they were amazed by the fact that, as they said "students listened to us!" when they spoke about their plight. Yes, music and dance work. And these Palestinians ambassadors will come back."

The Palestine Society would like to ask anyone who came in contact with the Palestinian group and engaged with them to write, please, a paragraph narrating your experience to our e-mail address: [ulpalastine@eircom.net](mailto:ulpalastine@eircom.net). Please indicate what course (and year) you are studying in UL and what impact did the group have in you, what did you learn of this experience. This will then be added to the report to our sponsors, Trócaire. Thank you to all of you who made this project possible with your participation.



Al-Quds dancers entertain the crowd in the Stables courtyard. Photo: Hugh O' Brien

# Shaving & silence

*Just two of the sacrifices being made for this year's RAG week*

**DEIRDRE O'SHAUGHNESSY**

RAG week fundraising has taken an interesting turn this year, with students taking some novel approaches to raising money. Besides the organised events, such as the Great Race, Bungee jumping, ticket sales, bag packing, flag day and bucket collections, some students have decided to go the extra mile and make personal sacrifices.

Students' Union President, St. John Ó Donnabháin, is to lose his famous beard. In a Samson and Delilah-type situation, he is reluctant to lose his trademark flowing red locks, despite being offered money over the odds to shave his head too. However, his fundraising has been going well, and he hopes to raise

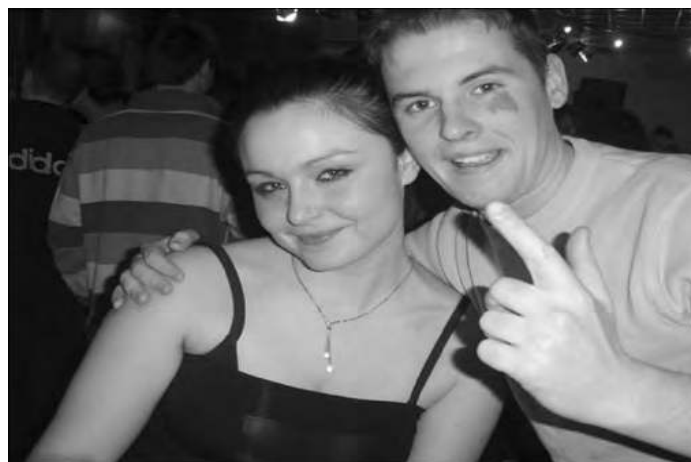


The Students' Union President is to lose his famous beard. Photo: Aoife Breen

over €1000. The deed will finally be done after the St Patrick's Day Parade (for which St. John will dress up as the man himself) on Thursday of RAG Week, in the Stables courtyard.

Class rep veteran Ger Dineen is also intending to raise money with a rather

appropriate sacrifice of his own (see quotes of the week for reasons why this is appropriate). He is undertaking a sponsored silence and says that he will remain silent for a whole day for each €200 raised. However, he has confessed to An Focal that he hopes he won't be too successful, as staying silent for a whole week might be rather too much for him to bear. For class reps, Ger has also said that "If Council can help me reach the 1000 euro target I will sit through week 6's council in complete silence" - definitely worth the money, some would say.



Ger Dineen

# Drama Soc race to



BY ALAN OWENS  
CHIEF NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE Stables was recently the rather apt host of a fundraising night held by the UL Drama Society. In suitable surroundings, the Drama Soc held a race night in order to raise funds for its production of 'After Juliet', due to be performed in Belfast at the Irish Student Drama Awards.

All the charm and excitement of a day at the races was captured at the event, which was hosted by Drama Soc members Martin Kehoe and Michelle O'Mahoney. The race night consisted of eight races featuring eight horses running in each. Punters were encouraged to place bets in stalls at the front of the stage, again manned by Drama Soc members.

The odds varied but a few lucky punters managed to win some of the races amid scenes of huge excitement. A raffle was also held, featuring a top prize of a weekend away for two in Cork, valued at €279. In scenes reminiscent of Ascot, there was even a best

dressed lady competition, judged by Aoife Harney, featuring hair and manicure vouchers as prizes.

All of this was in aid of the Society's trip to Belfast to stage 'After Juliet'. The play, to be performed at the Irish Student Drama Awards is described as a contemporary play by Sharon MacDonald, taking place in the aftermath of the suicides of Romeo and Juliet, tracing the repercussions upon the younger members of the feuding Capulet and Montague families.

The Drama Soc plans to hold Poker nights and Quizzes in Weeks 4 and 6 and kindly asks for the support of students

# Twin Towers Engineer in UL

**W**EEK Two was a 'week of wonder' in UL - the week was intended to show secondary school students the opportunities available to them in Engineering. As part of the week, Leslie Robertson, a structural engineer who was involved in the design of the Twin Towers, visited the campus to speak to students. Mr Robertson also spoke to An Focal during his visit.



BY DEIRDRE O'SHAUGHNESSY  
EDITOR

disaster, and, he says, did not at first realise the extent of the devastation at the World Trade Centre. When he realised how many people had died, he says; 'I suppose I felt like everyone - I felt terrible.'

Despite the disaster, Mr Robertson maintains that his design was not flawed - he explains that the building did not collapse as a result of the impact, but due to the leaking jet fuel which ignited at a massive heat,

which no building would have withstood. In the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attack Mr Robertson worried that his reputation would be ruined, but this has not been the case, and he has since gone on to build many other iconic structures.

Asked if he regretted building the Twin Towers, he admits that 'it was a target because of its iconic nature' but that he does not regret building it.

He does, he says, regret the outcome of the tragedy. Mr Robertson is an active pacifist who is eager to see the end of the Bush presidency, and the end of the Iraq war; 'I'm a pacifist and I want to see someone [in the White House] who

Mr Robertson has worked on three of the world's six tallest buildings, including the Twin Towers, the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong and the Shanghai World Financial Centre. Despite the huge volume of work he is best-known for his work on the World Trade Centre, due to the tragic events which felled that structure.

Mr Robertson is based in Manhattan, in a building which overlooks the site of the World Trade Centre disaster. Where before his view concentrated on one of his greatest achievements, he now sees the devastation of Ground Zero which, he says, is very distressing. Mr Robertson was in Hong Kong at the time of the



A view of the Twin Towers before their destruction in September 2001.

is not interested in waging war.' He says that the deaths in war in Afghanistan and Iraq have caused him huge sorrow, but appears to blame George Bush and Tony Blair for the wars as much as the events of September 11, 2001.

Mr Robertson, who has been working as an engineer since 1950, calls himself 'a workaholic'. He is clearly very fulfilled by his work, saying that 'the most exciting building is the one you're working on today'.

Coming Soon to UL

SPAR 

& ULSU are Joining Forces



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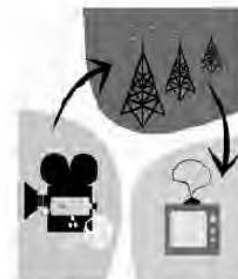


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# UL through the Tiger's Eye

## AN FOCAL REPORTER

**M**ARCH 5th sees the inception of Tiger's Eye: Irish Film Festival @ UL, bringing together the best Irish mainstream, documentary and short film on the theme of 'identity' in 21st century Ireland.

Organisers Tina O'Toole (Assistant Dean, Humanities) and Kate Boulay, working with Alannah Turner and Alan Higgins of ULSU, have put together an impressive programme of events for this fledgling festival. Opening with a reception, the festival began Mon. 5th with two documentaries. Refugees and Asylum seekers demystifies the terms 'refugee' and 'asylum seeker'. Here to Stay follows gay Filipino nurse Fidel Taguinod to track the development of trade unionism in a rapidly expanding multiracial society - followed by a panel discussion with participants from a range of migrant and other organisations..

Tuesday's programme addresses the issue of male identities in Irish cinema and society. A panel discussion follows a screening of Martin McDonagh's Irish gangster movie Six Shooter, and the evening culminates in the screening of the 2001 film about masculinity and the Irish civil war, How Harry Became a Tree.

Wednesday 7th is Humanities College Day and the programme centres on student filmmakers. Students from UL's MSc/MA in Interactive Design, LSAD, IADT (Dun Laoghaire) and St John's College, Cork, screen and discuss their work. This includes a hilarious send-up of filmmaking, a funny yet thoughtful statement of personal identity, and a disturbing look at student alcohol consumption. These films are a must-see for anyone interested in the art of film-making. After a reception in the Allegro Café the programme resumes with Cork Film Festival Presents - a shorts programme brought

to UL by Cork Festival Programmer, Una Feely. Bringing together themes of youth, gender, and sexualities the evening culminates in the screening of Breakfast on Pluto (2005). The organisers say feather boas are optional.

8th March is International Women's Day and the festival concludes by returning to the issue of gender. The final day kicks off with a screening of UL's Bríona Nic Dhiarmada's Ar Lorg Shorcha, a poignant look at the life of the writer and sean-nós singer, Sorcha Ní Ghuairim. Following is a panel discussion on the representation of and the role for women in the film industry in contemporary Ireland. Another double screening closes the festival. First up is Carol O'Keeffe's nuanced exploration of transgender identity, Written on the Soul. Finally, Tiger's Eye will screen Bloody Sunday, Margo Harkin's provocative look at women and border politics.

## Reps Get Hooded



BY AOIFE BREEN  
NEWS EDITOR

**C**LASS reps ensure the "interaction between students and the rest of the University", according to the Vice President Finance, Ailish Quinlivan, who spoke at the presentation of handbooks and hoodies which took place in the SU common room after the Council meeting of week two. To show their appreciation for the voluntary involvement of almost 200 representatives, the Students'

Union presented class reps with a hoodie and a handbook of information and guidelines.


Education Officer Alan Higgins told An Focal that the hoodies were presented to the students "in recognition of the work that they do" within the SU and the University itself. Mr Higgins continued to comment on the future of the class rep system at UL: "I believe that class reps will, and should have, an increased role in contributing to the development of their courses as they are the 'on-the-ground' representatives of students and this should be acknowledged".

The Education Officer went on to say that although the value attributed to class reps "varies" between some colleges and faculties, he believes that, "there needs to be leadership from the University in encouraging the recognition of class reps' sys-

tem as a link between it and students".

However the financial support received under the UL/ULster Bank Enablement Fund is viewed by Mr Higgins as being "a signal that the University does see the importance of the future development of the class reps' system". The Education Officer commented that the fund would "ensure the current and future development of the class reps' system". The money has also gone towards developing the training for class reps and to make available greater supports to the system.


Class reps underwent the second semester's training session in Ennis, Co. Clare, this weekend, where they partook in information sessions with members of the SU Executive.



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK  
OILSCOIL LUIMNIGH

5- 8 March 2007

eye




Tiger's

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL @ UL

**Admission Free**  
All events open to the UL community and the general public

**For further details**  
see programme or contact  
Festival Organisers:  
Dr. Tina O'Toole,  
Dr. Kate Boulay  
061-202244




52<sup>nd</sup> Cork Film Festival  
14-21 October 2007

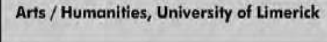
access CINEMA

ULartsoffice™

<http://www.ul.ie/~lcs/tigers-eye>

Arts / Humanities, University of Limerick







Class reps hoodies being presented to Alan Higgins, Education Officer, by Ailish Quinlivan, VP Finance.  
Photo: Deirdre O' Shaughnessy

# University needs to "wake-up" to Alcohol Policy

AOIFE BREEN

**T**HE University needs to "wake-up" to its commitments to its Alcohol Policy according to Dr Declan Aherne, Head of Counselling, who spoke with An Focal following the publication of a Review of the Policy that showed it has had "limited to no" success in achieving its original objectives. The Review has revealed that the University has failed to keep its promises, stating that, "enforcement of the Policy amongst students has not been mirrored in other aspects of college life".

Dr Aherne and the Students' Union agree that the University has fallen short of its obligations to students, despite the fact that students have respected the deal. Dr Aherne commented that, "I think [students] have been hard done by. They've lost out on the things that they wanted in response; they've got nothing in return".

The Alcohol Policy was introduced amidst growing national trends among young people to engage in

high-risk drinking. To encourage student support for this, the University promised to provide alternatives in the way of financial support and venues for students. However, in this aspect, the Alcohol Policy has failed entirely with little response from the authorities.

Dr Aherne has criticised the University for failing to fulfil its promises to the students who participated in the Policy. "My experience is that young people, for the past five years, have been pleading with the University to give them some leadership, some inspiration, some encouragement, some support," said the counsellor, "They have shown that they want an alternative to alcohol but yet the University has come up short, has demonstrated very little interest and has dragged its heels with regard to the issue, without actually standing up and giving some leadership".

It would appear to Dr

Aherne that the problem lies not with the Policy itself, but rather with its implementation. Dr Aherne argued that, "The majority of people do not have an issue with the content of the Policy. However, the Review does not suggest what changes need to be made to allow for better implementation by the authorities so we need to look at that before we move on".

He also strongly disagrees with the Students' Union on the matter of allowing students to drink on campus in a more relaxed atmosphere. He is of the opinion that such a scenario would only be "minding the students" while they engaged in reckless drinking on campus as the alternative to drinking at home and this is "not the solution to the development of a more mature attitude to drink". He suggested that "off-licenses are the main scourge" and invited the community as a whole to respond to the situation.

However the Students' Union is of the belief that if students were allowed to come on campus to drink, there would be some sort of peer regulation that would control drinking. The Welfare Officer holds the belief that "we should encourage socialising on campus where people enjoy themselves and can drink alcohol in a relaxed and controlled environment" rather than drinking excessively at home "where there is nobody to tell a student that he or she has had enough".

SU Welfare Officer, Sinéad Hickey argued, "The students have carried out their part of the bargain, now it's the University's turn". Similarly, Dr Aherne agrees that, "The people who've worked the hardest on this, who've been the most committed to it, the most enthusiastic and willing to put in the work, have been the students. It's a sad reflection of our so-called adult world that the students are the ones looking for change and looking for inspiration. They're the ones putting all the effort in".

The Review consulted the majority of those involved with the Policy, including students, the SU Executive, UL's counselling staff and working groups as well as representatives of the wider community. However, although it was invited to participate in the Review, the University Executive declined.

Ms Hickey noted her frustration with this decision, saying, "The refusal of the University to participate in the Review epitomises its non-commitment to the Policy as a whole". Dr Aherne remarked that the authorities' non-participation was "nonsense" which, to him, "highlights" the University's attitude towards the Policy.

The Welfare Officer and the Head of Counselling both point out that drinking trends among UL students are not isolated. Recent surveys have shown that drinking patterns are veering towards high risk drinking. Ms Hickey commented that, "This is a national problem and while we can't expect national trends to be

changed by the Alcohol Policy, we can provide the supports for students to have information, alternatives and assistance in their dealings with alcohol." Dr Aherne, as a counsellor working in the area of alcohol addiction, has gone so far as to say that there exists in Ireland an "alcoholic community" in which "we all act in denial". To bring about the social change required to counteract this scenario that has been created, "colossal effort" is needed "by many people for a long time".

The future of the Alcohol Policy is now resting on whether the University will be forthcoming or not in its actions. "Are they signing up to it or not?" demands Dr Aherne, "The future of the Policy is to do with who's signing up to it and whether the University's authorities are honest brokers as full collaborators in this". Sinéad Hickey points out that, "The failure of commitment from the University to implement policy and to provide support must be tackled if the Alcohol Policy is to go forward".

## Chaplains go public



BY DEIRDRE O'SHAUGHNESSY  
EDITOR

**T**HE new chaplaincy drop-in centre in the main courtyard has been open since December. The centre, or 'Teach Fáilte', is a space for students to drop in during the day for meditation or a chat with chaplains Fr Koenraad Van Gucht and Rev. Patricia Hanna.

According to Fr. Van

Gucht, "The main aim of the chaplaincy is to offer a service of support and encouragement to students through a ministry of friendship, not only by a day-to-day presence on campus but also in times of crisis, such as bereavement and financial difficulty." The drop-in centre is intended to be a friendly space with few formalities, where the chaplains can 'build friendly relationships with the student body'. He adds that 'The main idea of this new Chaplaincy centre beside the bookshop is to make the chaplaincy service more visible and accessible so that students will readily know who and where we are without having to seek us out only in times of need.' The current offices beside the medical centre in B block will

be kept open, for those students who wish to make private appointments. Rev. Patricia added, 'we have waited for some time for a more public, visible and readily accessible space to facilitate chaplaincy and students. I would love to see the space develop as a place where students from different backgrounds, and varied religious commitments, can explore the issues of the day in a relatively relaxed way with both formal and informal meetings.'

The centre also provides a venue for Christian Union meetings and Folk Group rehearsals.

The opening of the chaplaincy drop-in centre is a move forward for Student Affairs in general, agrees



Students relaxing in the new drop-in centre. Photo courtesy of UL chaplaincy service.

ULSU Welfare Officer Sinéad Hickey. 'The new drop-in chaplaincy is a great

development for students, and provides a new place for students to come relax and

enjoy quiet and peaceful surroundings particularly during stressful times such as exams.'



# Debate begins on shop's replacement

ALAN OWENS

As reported in the last edition of An Focal it is hoped that the new Students' Union shop will open soon in its new home, The Scholars. Work is under way and the Union hope that this will be completed by Week 5, with the shop open and ready for business.

Now that the future of the SU shop has been confirmed, along with that of The Scholars, speculation has begun around campus as to the possible uses of the area to be vacated by the move.

An Focal contacted the department that will ultimately decide the future of this space to ascertain if

there were any plans being made. The director of Campus Life Services, Linda Stevens, told An Focal that they were currently discussing options. Ms. Stevens also stated that they were interested to see what suggestions students themselves come up with.

Indeed, to this effect, the SU has set up a discussion thread on the SU online noticeboards asking for suggestions on 'What would you put where the shop is now?' This topic has drawn quite a considerable response from students, with some interesting ideas being suggested.

Some of these ideas have included a pharmacy, a computer store, a coffee house, a venue for intimate

gigs, an undergrad reading room and a DVD shop, all of which have been discussed in detail on the forum. However, some if not all, of these ideas have been discounted already.

Students may remember that there was indeed a pharmacy on campus in times past, but which struggled to provide competitive services against bigger local competitors, and the fact that UL is not particularly busy during the summer months. Likewise, the idea for a computer shop is probably unlikely given the close proximity of UL to PC World. Also, as there are plans to develop An Phluis into a coffee house, it is unlikely the shop area will go this route.

However, some of the other ideas warrant further discussion. An intimate gig venue is an interesting one, but may have licensing issues to deal with. The idea of a reading room is an extremely popular one, as there is no suitable reading area for undergraduates on campus.

Another common room similar to the one in the SU is a popular suggestion, providing students with an indoor area to sit and eat their lunch, or just to relax and chat. A popular idea involves moving the medical centre over to the student centre making it more accessible to students.

## UL to build Irish Construction



BY AOIFE BREEN  
NEWS EDITOR

THE University of Limerick joined forces recently with Limerick Institute of Technology and Building Research Engineering Ltd to create the new, independent body BRE Ireland that will set the standard for sustainability and innovation in Irish construction. With the backing of the government, BRE Ireland aims to ensure that standards of service within the industry are maintained and developed with the aid of research, testing and certification.

Professor Don Barry, President-elect of the University, commented that the set up of such an organisation is "vital" in Ireland given the "rapid growth" in the construction

industry. "We at UL are very happy to be partnering LIT and BRE in this much-needed initiative," the incoming President said and continued, "BRE Ireland will work towards sustainable environment innovations within the building industry, which are particularly important with the dawn of the energy rated house".

Similar displays of enthusiasm were shown by the Director of LIT and by the Chairman of BRE Ireland. Dr Maria Hinfelaar of LIT welcomed the body and believed that the initiative would promote LIT and UL to the forefront of training, education and research in the construction sector. Chairman Guy Hammersley noted that BRE Ireland plans to "provide a range of services to the hugely prolific Irish construction industry that have become so important as the industry strives to build and refurbish in a more sustainable way".

BRE Ireland hopes to assist in consultancy practices required by the construction industry in Ireland and to encourage innovation within the sector. Further information can be accessed at its website [www.bre.ie](http://www.bre.ie)



## AN FOCAL BRIEFS

### Safety first with Hynan's new bus

HYNAN'S bus company, which is contracted to run both the Nitelink and the daytime service to the North Campus, has purchased a new wheelchair accessible bus which will service both of these routes. The coach has fully adjustable seating, which makes it possible to carry up to six wheelchairs at a time. It will be the first time the Nitelink is wheelchair accessible.

The coach was funded by Hynan's Bus Company but Hynan's were assisted by the University's Buildings Officer, Robert Reidy, assisting. The coach has a side wheelchair lift, which makes it far safer than older models which lifted from behind, leaving passengers and assistants vulnerable to approaching traffic.

The coach is of Spanish build, and was purchased from a company in Kibbeggan.



### Irish blog awards

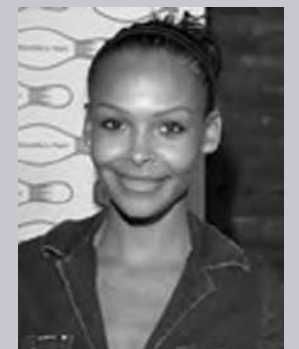
TWO UL alumni have been shortlisted for Irish blog awards. At the time of going to print the awards had not been presented, but the ceremony is to take place on March 3rd in Dublin. Students' Union accounts assistant Marian Roche, who studied Business here in UL, has been nominated in the 'Best Newcomer' category for her blog, StyleTreaty.com. Postgraduate student Daniel Sullivan has been nominated in 'Best Videocast' for his videocast, 'You pay taxes so we don't have to'. An Focal wishes both of them the best of luck!

### Car park

AN Focal has discovered that the car parking crisis has mounted in recent weeks, with a record 450 cars counted parked outside designated parking areas on one particular day. Many of the cars to be found in the pay car park were staff vehicles, meaning students had nowhere to park.

### Mumba to play Trinity Rooms

SAMANTHA Mumba is to play Limerick's Trinity Rooms in a bid to relaunch her flagging career. The pop princess, who last month announced her intention to relaunch her career on the Late Late Show, will host the Trinity Rooms' Patrick's Weekend party on Sunday 18th March.



# Ógra National Youth Conference



BY DEREK DALY

**M**EMBERS of UL Ógra Fianna Fáil attended "big shin dig" in the Ardilaun House Hotel in Galway. A great time was had by all members, despite elections not going UL's way this time with Brian Fitzpatrick closely beaten by 15 votes to 13 for the position of Munster 3rd Level Representative.

The Taoiseach and

Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil; Bertie Ahern; told the conference of our party's plans to sustain Ireland into the future. A comprehensive National Climate Change Strategy. Minister Dempsey is finalising the White Paper on Energy which outlines the target of 1/3 of the electricity consumed by 2020. No small task, but with continued Fianna Fáil government in this country, it will inevitably be achieved.

It is an aim of Fianna Fáil in government to create a sustainable biofuel industry; from farm to forecourt; biofuels will be a major issue with this government. Fianna Fáil in government will lead a

biofuel revolution and most importantly, to quote the Taoiseach; "We will not fall for the quick fix fools paradise of nuclear power"

The concept of political speed dating was introduced; whereby each participant got to spend 4 minutes with a candidate for youth committee, a councillor or general election candidate. All who took part were suitably impressed; not only by the general election candidates and councillors; but also by the youth committee candidates.

Lorcan Price is the New Leas-Cathaoirleach Ógra, Oilbhe Brady was elected 3rd Level Ardchomhairle



Members of Ógra Fianna Fáil at the conference. Back: Shane O'Callaghan, Brian Sokes, Ray O'Mahony, James Delaney, Eamon Quinlan Front: Fiona Nolan, Derek Daly, Niamh O'Donovan and Susan Whelan. Photo courtesy UL Ógra.

Representative and Brendan Hayes is your new Munster 3rd Level Representative.

Ar agaidh le Fianna Fáil

Meetings are held every Monday at 6pm in the

Students' Union. We look forward to seeing these friends in UL this weekend, March 9th and 10th, for the Con Colbert Cumann's national 3rd level workshop and debate weekend. UL

students are also welcome to come along to events this weekend. For details email ulogra@gmail.com

## UL enters the Year of the Golden Pig

ZOË LAWLOR

**O**N Thursday 15th February 2007, staff and students from the University of Limerick Language Centre celebrated Chinese and Korean New Year in Kilmurry Village Hall. The Year of the Pig was celebrated early, it in fact fell on Monday 18th February, so that all students could enjoy themselves with only one more day of class to worry about. The students at the Language Centre come from China, Korea, Japan, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Quebec, Poland, Russia and Italy. Their levels of English vary from Pre-Intermediate to Advanced and most of them are here for at least one semester. Many of the

students are studying English for their jobs or to enhance their chances of getting a good job while others are preparing to enter UL as undergraduate or postgraduate students.

The students had been making decorations and organising party games from the previous week and on the day of the party went down to Kilmurry Village Hall to prepare it for the revelries. The hall looked great when it was hung with Chinese lanterns, messages of good luck in both Chinese and Korean and some balloons to represent Irish decorations.

Delicious food was supplied by a local Chinese restaurant and everybody helped themselves to a variety of dishes from the buffet. Minerals and wine were on

offer too. When everyone had eaten their fill, we were entertained by the Chinese students singing, they were followed by the Koreans and then not to be outdone, the Japanese sang too.

At the end of the evening, everyone helped with the clean up and headed home to hopefully enjoy a lucky and prosperous year of the pig!

The 'Year of the Golden Pig' only comes along every 60 years and is therefore particularly auspicious. Babies born during this year are believed to have good fortune it is thought that they will lead a comfortable and wealthy life.

For more information see: [www.ul.ie/languagecentre/](http://www.ul.ie/languagecentre/)

Students from the CSSA at a Chinese Culture day in the main canteen. Photo: Zoe Lawlor



## Fancy a Night at the Theatre??



UL Drama Society, presents:

"AFTER JULIET" by Sharman McDonald

TO BE PERFORMED MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> IN BELFAST FOR  
**NATIONAL ISDA CONTEST**

**PREVIEW**

**JONATHAN SWIFT THEATRE**

**MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH,**

**Doors 7, starting 7.30**

**ILL EARLY ENOUGH TO GO OUT AND ENJOY  
RAG WEEK!**

Admission, 2 EURO

Refreshments provided!



Health Warning: May contain traces of Nuts.....

# Whither now for the PSA?

**M**Y predecessor Maria McHale and SU President for 2005/06, Fintan Breen reviewed the working relationship, as well as, duties and responsibilities of both organizations, which resulted in the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Postgraduate Students' Association and The Students' Union.



Maja Niebrzegowska

The document was passed at the PSA general meeting in October 2006. Maria's proposed amendments to the PSA constitution were passed at the same meeting. Both the present SU President St. John Ó Donnabháin and myself have decided to continue their work as we agree that the PSA, as much as, the SU would benefit from the reintegration. It is thought that the existing constitutional and administrative arrangements are damaging to both of the organizations and influence the effectiveness and efficiency of their work.

**"Existing arrangements are damaging to both of the organisations"**

## A bit of history ....

Originally the PSA was founded in 1989 as a society. It is believed it was established to serve as an organizer of social life for UL Postgraduate students, however, over the years it began to play more of a representative role. Then in 1997 the Universities Act made provisions for postgraduate representation on the Governing Authority and through that, also on the Academic Council. By virtue of this seat on the AC, the PSA gained a seat on the Students' Union and thus began to represent postgrads to the SU. In 1999, the PSA received funding for a full time post of PSA President, which at that time was administered through the SU Clubs and Societies. The PSA moved in to the former SU building in the Stables courtyard in 2001. Later in 2002, the PSA became fully autonomous from the SU with its funding secured by the postgraduate capitation received directly from the University. The split between the SU and the PSA seemed to take place due to personal animosities, which manifested themselves in Postgrad distrust over spending of capitation money, and adequacy of representation. Nevertheless, there is a need for separate representation for postgraduate students. This is largely to ensure that postgrads feel secure that they are being properly represented at all times.

**"The split between the SU and the PSA seemed to take place due to personal animosities"**

## Rationale...

At the moment the PSA President has many roles such as the President, the Welfare Officer, the Education Officer, the Accountant, the Ents Officer, the Campaigns and Services Officer and the Publicity Officer. As mentioned above the President is responsible for the Association's finances, is the sole employee of the Association, has the responsibility of paying and declaring all taxes of the PSA, as well as book keeping and presenting the accounts to the Auditor. These and other administrative tasks like day-to-day running of the PSA are extremely time consuming and detract the President's focus away from the main and the most important job which is the representation of Postgrad issues. The reintegration into the SU would reduce the administrative workload, including parts of the job such as accounting, and it

would also bring transparency to PSA financial matters through scrutiny by others - the PSA President would easily be able to misuse funds in the current situation, if they wished. Nonetheless, the PSA President/Officer (title still has to be decided), possibly with the PSA Executive, would be responsible for planning the Postgrad budget and would have insight into the postgrad accounts, which would still be viewable as a defined part of the overall SU accounts.

As the reintegration would reduce the administrative burden, it would allow the President to focus on the academic and other issues affecting Postgrads.

**"The PSA President would easily be able to misuse funds in the current situation, if they wished"**

## Future...

First of all, the PSA would be re-affiliated to the SU, and it would become an organization on a similar basis as ULSU Clubs and Soes which is autonomous in terms of the co-ordination of their activities, however works under the auspices of the Union. Although the PSA would be an organization working under the umbrella of the SU it would retain its independence as the President/Officer would be the representative of the Postgraduate students and have an authority to act on behalf of the Postgrads and would be able to exercise the right of the postgraduate subsidiarity on purely postgraduate issues or on the issues where the postgraduate and undergraduate views may differ - this means that they're part of the SU for most deci-

sions, and must abide by these, but for specifically Postgrad issues they can, if necessary, contradict the SU position on a particular issue.

The PSA Executive would still exist, as it would allow for postgraduate representation on academic issues, finances, social life etc.

The President would be the 6th SU Sabbatical Officer, however acting on behalf of the Postgraduate students and representing their interests.

I would be happy to hear your opinion on this topic. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact me at [psapresident@ul.ie](mailto:psapresident@ul.ie).

- Improves transparency of Postgrad money.
- Waste of money on double fees, i.e. audit and insurance fees.
- Stronger representation as a united front, both for Postgrads and for Undergrads.

## What the issues we have to address are...

- Where the PSA President and Postgrad representation will fit into the SU structure
- What their title would be.
- How the PSA President can take an independent stance on Postgrad issues when needed.
- How we can ensure Postgrad money is still visible and accountable to all, and fairly spent on relevant issues.

## Why we should reaffiliate...

- Better use of PSA President's time - representing students rather than doing admin work.

# postgraduate students' association 2007 Postgraduate Ball



FRIDAY MARCH 30  
7:00 PM  
CASTLETROY PARK  
HOTEL

TICKETS: €25 PER PERSON

THREE-COURSE DINNER  
LIVE BAND: RIVERSIDE SWING BAND  
LOTS OF SPOT PRIZES  
CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

ON SALE: WEEK #3 THRU WEEK #6 AT ULSU RECEPTION & PSA  
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UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



# LASU FASHION SHOW '07

The Limerick Association of Students' Unions  
presents a

## CHARITY FASHION SHOW

in aid of Milford Hospice  
@ TRINITY ROOMS  
on Wednesday March 21st (week 6)

Special appearances by the UL Vikings and LIT  
Rugby team in a Model walk-off!

Some stores involved: Brown Thomas, A-Wear, River  
Island, Benetton, Tubes, Remix, River Deep  
Mountain High, Tippe Canoe, Fuschia Queen, Zara,  
Die For Love, Savida range from Dunnes Stores,  
Black Tie, original fashion designs from the College  
of Art and Design and more!

Presented by a special guest on the night!

Tickets only €10 for students (€15 for non-students)  
available week 5 from SU Reception

Great raffle prizes!

Ticket price includes after-show party in the Trinity  
Rooms



Kindly sponsored by Silver Wood Jewellery

# STUDENT SPEAK

This week Thomas Dee asks the people what they think of anti social behaviour on campus

John Harmen & Stephen Kelleher, 1st Sports Science- "It really isn't inclusive enough"

Ger Kirwan & John Cody, 1st Business, "We have been subject of some serious gay bashing"

Diarmud Caffey, 2nd Construction, "In Plassey, it's a way of life"

Alan Higgins, Education Officer - "tut tut tut"

Ciara Carthy, 1st Law and Euro, Eimear Condon, 1st Equine Science - "It's a constant pain, like rheumatism"

Carragh Lynch, Mature Access Student - "They behave like animals in the common room"

Martin Grogan, 1st Public Admin - "They broke my gnomes, THE BASTARDS"

Niall Drieviers, 1st Nursing - "Them boys are bad eggs!"

Michael Ashur - I can't talk...I'm a painting.





**PHONO**  
SESSIONS ADVENTURES IN SOUND

**WEDNESDAYS AT TRINITY ROOMS**

February 14th  
(Warrior Day of the Week)  
Alan Kelly  
Jonney Ryan

February 21st  
John Mc Avinue  
Paul Maloney

February 28th  
Chris Moore  
Ross O'Lochlainn

March 7th  
Shane Linehan  
Paul Maloney

Green Room@  
Trinity Rooms  
Every Wednesday  
FREE ADMISSION  
BEFORE 10.30  
Just 5 bucks after  
includes main room

[www.uldjsoc.com](http://www.uldjsoc.com)  
[www.trinityrooms.ie](http://www.trinityrooms.ie)

PHONO TRINITY ROOMS

**MARCH '07 LINE-UP**  
AT TRINITY ROOMS, LIMERICK

TRINITY ROOMS  
OPEN 7 NIGHTS A WEEK  
FREE ADMISSION EVERY NIGHT BY 10PM

FRIDAY MARCH 16TH  
GREENROOM @ 9PM  
the Glimmers  
KC MAIN ROOM  
JJ TRINITY 2

SATURDAY MARCH 17TH  
**GET DOWN**  
17th March  
**JAZZMAN GERALD**  
+ paul webb (main room) mac J (trinity 2)  
Your COMPLETE Saturday night in TRINITY ROOMS..

SUNDAY MARCH 18TH  
10th Street  
torann  
furious - funky, up tempo  
carnival style crazy drummers  
greenroom @ 9pm  
PAUL WEBB MAIN ROOM

FRIDAY MARCH 23RD  
**ELECTRIC CITY**  
WITH GILES ARMSTRONG  
MONTHLY TRINITY RESIDENCY LAUNCH

FRIDAY MARCH 30TH  
**PHIL+DJ FLIP**  
**KIERAN**  
GREENROOM @ 9pm  
FINAL FRIDAY  
Tiger

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MICHAEL ST  
LIMERICK  
Info@trinityrooms.ie | tel: 061-411177



Are you a 3rd or 4th year student?

Would you like to become an ambassador for UL?

Would you like to earn €100 for 40 minutes work?

The UL Student Ambassador Program was created to give secondary school pupils an opportunity to hear what life is like in UL, first hand from current students, and to ask questions about the University and what to expect from 3rd level education.

If you feel up to the challenge of returning to your old secondary school and earning €100 for a 40 minute presentation then please get in contact with us!!

For further details, contact Mike Sheehan: (061) 233669 or [michael.sheehan@ul.ie](mailto:michael.sheehan@ul.ie).



Make €100 by writing a short profile on yourself!

Every student is different and it's the students of UL that make the university what it is. Right now the marketing department is looking for short student profiles to use in the undergraduate prospectus and on the web.

We will pay €100 for every student profile used. We'll also need a photo, but we can take it for you if you don't have any.

All you have to do is write a maximum of 350 words containing the following information (and anything else of interest):

Your name  
Where you are from  
Why you chose UL  
What interested you about your course originally?  
What is the course like?  
What do you enjoy about the course?  
What do you enjoy about UL and what is student life like here?  
If you have been on Coop, where did you go and how did it benefit you?

The profiles don't have to be completely serious, they can be fun as well, but total spoofs won't be considered. Winners will be notified within 2 weeks.

Email your profile to [michael.sheehan@ul.ie](mailto:michael.sheehan@ul.ie). It's probably the easiest €100 you will ever make!

# Seachtain na Gaeilge 2007, *it's not all about the woolly jumpers!*

**S**O it's that time of year again when the Irish Language movement comes out in force around the country to promote the Irish language and culture. Here in UL An Cumann Gaelach and Aonad na Gaeilge have been planning for months to bring together a programme of events to cater to all tastes within the campus community. Whether you are Staff, student, Irish or not there is hopefully something going on that will tickle your fancy. The one message that we have is to get out there and get involved.

For us in An Cumann Gaelach, Seachtain na Gaeilge marks the culmination of our years work and for that reason we take great pride in running our events. Over the years, the Irish Language movement has earned itself a reputation for being insular and old

fashioned. However, with the new Millennium came a fresh perspective and fresh faces. The movement is now becoming more youth orientated, and the woolly jumper brigade is a dying breed. Young faces like Seán Óg Ó hAlpín, Hector, Aoife Ní Thuairisg, Sharon Ní Bheolán, the Seoighe sisters and their contemporaries are giving the language a new face, a face which is more representative of the young activists who are campaigning for language rights, and promoting the language to their peers. The list of events contained in An Focal is by no means all that is going on around the city, or around the country, a full list can be found at [www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie). And watch out for the posters around campus over the next few days!

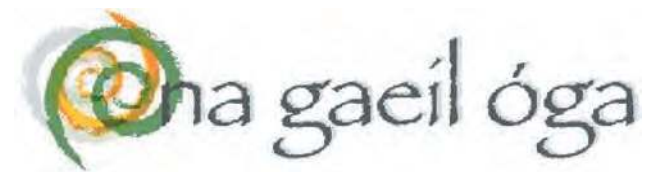


Photo courtesy An Cumann Gaelach

## An Ghaeilge in Ollscoil Luimnigh

### Aonad na Gaeilge

Tá Aonad na Gaeilge, Ollscoil Luimnigh i Roinn na dTeangacha agus an Léinn Chultúir san áras nua Clós Shruith an Mhuilinn ar an gcampas. Bunaíodh an tAonad sa bhliain 2001 chun tacaíocht ghinearálta a thabhairt don Ghaeilge ar an gCampas. Eagraítear sraith de chúrsaí teanga ar leibhéal éagsúla gach téarma agus déantar sciar maith de scéimeanna, de ghníomhaíochtaí agus de thograí a riaradh ón Aonad.

Tá dualgais reachtúla sa bhreis ar an Ollscoil anois de réir Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003. Tá a thuilleadh eolais ar ar ábhar seo ar fáil ó Deirdre Ní Loingsigh, Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge, MC1-011.

Guthán: 061-213463

Rphost: [deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie](mailto:deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie).

### An Scéim Chónaithe

Tá an Scéim Chónaithe do mhic léinn na chéad bhliana ar an bhfód anois le cúig bliana. Tá seisear ag glacadh páirte i Scéim 2006/07 i nGráig Chill Mhuire.

This is the fifth year of the Aonad na Gaeilge Irish Language Residency Scheme for first year students. Six students are participating in the 2006/07 scheme in Kilmurry Village

### Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Aontas na Mac Léinn.

Faoi bhunreacht nua Aontas na Mac Léinn tá oifigeach nua againn, sin Oifigeach na Gaeilge. Tá Oifigeach na Gaeilge ceaptha ag Comhairle na Ionaidithe Ranga. Le feadh dhá bhliain bhí Oifigeach na Gaeilge againn ar scéim Comhairleideachas ó Aonad na Gaeilge. Tá Oifigeach na Gaeilge freagrach as polasáí Ghaeilge an Aontas a dréachtú agus a chur i bhfeidhm. Suíonn Oifigeach na Gaeilge mar ionadaí phobail na Gaeilge ar Chomhairle agus coistí an Aontas.

### An Cumann Gaelach

Athbhunaíodh an Cumann Gaelach an bhliain seo caite. Is cumann nua é mar sin. Tagann an Cumann Gaelach le chéile chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc phobal an champais agus i measc na gclubanna agus na gcumann ar an gcampas freisin. Tugann sé focal point do Ghaeilgeoirí an champais.

Le feadh níos mó ná bliain anois tá an cumann ag eagrú imeachtaí le béim ar cultúr agus teanga na hÉireann. Bíonn ciorcle comhrá eagraithe againn gach Céadaoin ag a 6 I dTolglann na Gaeilge, tagann daoine le gaeilge líofa agus daoine le gaeilge briste le chéile chun cabhrú le chéile an Ghaeilge a feabhasú.

I mí Bhealtaine rinne an Cumann Gaelach nasc leis an scatheagrais náisiúnta Na Gaeil Óga. Thainig Seán Ó hAdhmaill agus Féilim Borland ó Na Gaeil Óga náisiúnta síos chun craobh na hOllscoille a bhunú. Tá muintir an Cumann tar éis na tíre a



An Cumann Gaelach.

taisteal ag freastal ar imeachtaí leis Na Gaeil Óga.

I mí Deireadh fómhair d'eagraigh an Cumann Gaelach, le tacaíocht ó Arts and Sports Fund na hOllscoille, Aonad na Gaeilge agus Na Gaeil Óga Náisiúnta Spraoi Luimnigh, deireadh seachtaine san Ollscoil ina tháinig Cumann Gaelach ó na Coláistí eile le chéile chun stádas na Gaeilge a phlé agus traenáil a fháil. Bhí deireadh seachtaine iontach againn agus bhí gig le Rónán Ó Snodaigh ar an Sathair a bhí mar Buachpointe na deireadh seachtaine.

An Cumann Gaelach atá freagrach as bainistíocht na Tolglainne faoi láthair. Bíonn cruinnithe rialta ag an gcumann. Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an gCumann trí Oifigeach na Gaeilge nó trí theagmháil r-phoist go [ancumanngaelach@gmail.com](mailto:ancumanngaelach@gmail.com). Reachtáiltear cruinnithe rialta sa Tolglann freisin.

Tá súil againn go mbeifidh sibh súp agus sult as imeachtaí na Seachtaine 2007

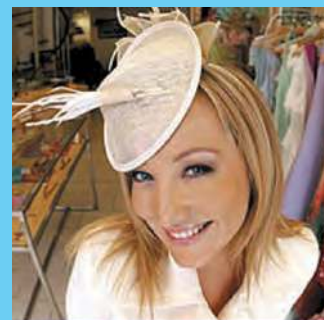
Coiste An Cumann.

## Paiseanta faoin bhFaisean?

Aoife Ní Thuairisg is the face of TG4's popular skit dating show Paisean Faisean. An Focal caught up with the fashion mad Connemara woman when she was filming Paisean Faisean in Limerick before Christmas.

Aoife was born and reared in Indreabháin, Connemara and attended the local schools. Before Aoife started working with TG4 in 1997 she ran her own business which was a mobile sweetshop. Aoife was one of the TG4 weather girls before landing the gig presenting Paisean Faisean. When An Focal caught up with her she had just wrapped the Limerick programme of Paisean Faisean and was bustling around Brown Thomas picking out clothes.

Ach is gnáth rud é seo, téann Aoife ag siopadóireacht nuair atá sí ag taifeadh Paisean Faisean timpeall na tíre, ach bíonn sí ciúin don cuid eile na bliaina. Tá sé deachair a bheith ag obair ar clár mar sin gan a bheith ar breathnú ar na héidí sna siopaí. Dúirt Aoife go dtagann daoine suas sna siopaí ag cur



ceisteanna uirthi faoi éadaí agus faisean, agus bhí sé sin soiléar nuair a bhí sí siúl timpeall Brown Thomas, bhí daoine ag teacht suas ag cur ceisteanna faoi na héadaí a bhí roghnaithe acu. Ach sa ghnó seo, is deas an rud é go athnaíonn daoine a aidhg.

Anuraigh, bhí Aoife mar 'poster girl' do feachtas téacs Na Gaeil Óga, agus chuir mé ceist uirthi faoi sin. Aon rud chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn a dúirt sí, thug sí tacaíocht don bhfeachtas sin agus tugann sí tacaíocht do aon rud a dhéanann daoine óga chun stádas na Gaeilge a feabhasú. So.... An mbeidh suim agatsa teacht go dtí Ollscoil Luimnigh? Bhuel, seans maith go mbeidh sí anseo roimh deireadh na bliaina!

Agus leis sin, bhí sí imithe arís, ag siopadóireacht! Is féidir leat Paisean Faisean a feiceáil gach Mairt ag a 9 ar TG4.

You can catch Paisean Faisean every Tuesday at 9 on TG4.



## Seachtain na Gaeilge Ollscoil Luimnigh 3-10 Márta 2007 Clár

### Dé Sathairn 3 Márta

Ceardlanna Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge i nGaeltacht Chonamara  
Tagairt éigin do bhronnadh dhuais Ghradam na nGael ar an 3 Márta

### Dé Luain: 5ú Márta

**11:00:** Caife na Maidine  
**Ionad:** Tolglann na Gaeilge, Aontas na Mac Léinn.  
Morning Coffee  
**Venue:** Tolglann na Gaeilge, Students Union.

**11:00-13:00:** Ceoltóirí i nGaelscoil Chialadh an Treoigh

**20.00** Paisean Faisean!  
Beidh Twist ag baint leis an seo seo ina mbeidh na Cailíní ag dul ag aimsiú éadaí don laid! Oíche craiceálta geallta,



### Dé Máirt: 6ú Márta

**13.15** Ceolchoirm leis an bhflúiteadóir Joe Skelton, Leas Uachtarán na hOllscoile  
**Ionad:** PAC  
**Venue**

**18:00:** Pócar  
**Ionad:** Tolglann na Gaeilge, Aontas na Mac Léinn.  
**Venue:** Tolglann na Gaeilge, Students Union.

**19:00:** Seoladh agus Ceardlann Rince Seite  
**Ionad:** Dolans Warehouse

Tí Tom Collins óna 10 ar aghaidh



### Dé Céadaoin: 7ú Márta

**13.15**  
**Ionad:** PAC  
**Ceolchoirm Lóin:** Rinceoirí an BA curtha i láthair ag Orflaith Ní Bhriain

**18:00** Ciorcle Comhrá Sheachtain na Gaeilge.  
**Ionad:** Tolglann na Gaeilge Aontas na Mac Léinn



### Déardaoin 8ú

**20.00:** Paisean Faisean Aerach!  
Beidh 3 laids ag dul amach ag siopadóireacht do laid amháin, agus 3 chailín ag dul ag siopadóireacht do cailín amháin, oíche iontach geallta. i gcomhoibriú leis an gCumann Aerach Ollscoil Luimnigh.

### Dé hAoine 9ú

**10.00-12.00** Coiste na Gaeilge An Chéad chruinniú den Choiste nua

Imeachtaí eile le linn seimeastar an Earraigh 2007

### Dé Sathairn 10ú

**20:00** Kíla I Dolans Warehouse.  
Beidh Kíla ag seinm i Dolans Warehouse, agus beidh an Cumann Gaelach ag eagrú turas ann! Tuilleadh eolas ó [ancumanngaelach@gmail.com](mailto:ancumanngaelach@gmail.com)

**Féile Drámaíochta Chorca Dhuibhne, Feothanach 30 Márta - 1 Aibreán**

Teagmháil: Siobhán Ní Luing; 087-2346416

*Tuilleadh eolais / Further information:*

An Cumann Gaelach Ollscoil Luimnigh  
r-phost: [ancumanngaelach@gmail.com](mailto:ancumanngaelach@gmail.com)  
gréasán: <http://ancumanngaelach.bebo.com>

Deirdre Ní Loingsigh, Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge, Aonad na Gaeilge  
Guthán: 061-213463  
r-phost: [deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie](mailto:deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie)

*Níl aon chostas d'imeachtaí an Champais / All Campus events are free*

ULSU ENTS



# CALLING ALL HUMANITIES STUDENTS!!

**DO YOU WANT TO GET  
INVOLVED IN YOUR COLLEGE  
DAY?**

**HUMAN TABLE FOOTBALL  
COMPETITION 3.30PM STABLES  
COURTYARD**

**STUDENT FILMMAKERS TAKE  
THE REEL!  
2.30PM FB028**

**SCREENING OF BREAKFAST ON  
PLUTO  
8PM JONATHON SWIFT**

**TALK TO YOUR CLASS REP  
TODAY!**

ULSU ENTS

ULSU ENTS



ULSU ENTS



## Out for the count...

**T**HE first meeting of class reps of this semester promised so much, and boy did it deliver! The first order of business was working out if the gathering was a real meeting. There has to be a certain percentage of reps present for the meeting to be valid or quorate as the electoral nerds call it. In the case of class reps that is 50% plus one. Now this is tricky enough at the best of times for some of the reps whose idea of carrying the one is picking someone up off the dance floor of the Lodge and bringing said individual back to their abode to work their seductive wiles on the poor misfortune. Readings from FHM, displays of guitar skills and orations from when they were vice captain of the U-14s are often in evidence. Romantics one and all.

However, in UL we have the added wrinkle of Co-Op meaning that the numbers who should be present varies from one semester. Yes, this cruel fate means we have two, count them, two semesters and it seems to be nigh on impossible to work out the exact number. Some fools think it easy enough to guesstimate that one in four students are on co-op at any one time. After all if this year's 2nd years are on coop then it is likely the following year's 2nd years will be on coop too. Anyway, let's leave the numerology aside for a moment. 23 skidoo! The failure of the student body to add or divide is something that the marketing department is looking to address as we will see later. The upshot on this occasion was that the meeting was not valid and so was again a glorified talking shop.

## Having the painters in...

Alannah our lovely CSO told us of the various problems associated with still having the decorators in the shop after what seems like months at this stage. Indeed, progress at the shop has been slow, yet it has been entirely in the hands of the landlords, i.e. the college. Our prediction of a grand opening of the shop for week 5 was spot on. Just in time to feed the hungry masses of RAG week. The roll-out of the plans for RAG week was run through and it sounds like a blast. A minor tussle is in progress over on the forum as to whether the place will be called Spar or An Troid or both. Or should we just call it the Exec Emporium? It is believed that exec and reps will have a separate roped off queuing area and they will be served by bear chested attendants. Yep, bear, I'm not sure why either.

## Debating the issues of the day on the ULSU web forum...

Ah yes, the ULSU forum. Not since the Roman Senate have so many sat around in bed clothing and sheets and debated the issues of the day. I live in fear of the day that webcam functionality is added. Seems the folks from Java in the city centre will be running An Phluais. Hopefully, An Phluais won't meet the same fate as their premises on Catherine Street which is to be demolished shortly. Since the meeting was inqorate, a number of issues weren't discussed at all including something about an anti fascist policy. Strange since I thought we weren't getting involved in local politics in the run up to the general election. Not while Willie has his finger on the trigger.



thethroat@gmail.com

Telling the truth so you can go on lying to yourself.



## USI... oh dear oh dear

One issue that was given the once over was rejoining USI. The case for rejoining USI was made by Katie Morrisroe, the USI Southern Area officer. In general terms we should rejoin because we would be getting approved posters and leaflets and the joy of being part of the collective. Posters, approved for your pleasure because thinking up designs for posters is what is keeping the welfare officer up at nights. Obviously USI has not yet heard of the joys of delegation. The case against was made by Anti-Dan Sullivan, who is opposed to everything except exercise and second helpings I guess. He said that USI was ineffective (it hasn't sold any albums in years), irrelevant (none of the cool stations play their stuff) and that for the €60,000 (we could download it using Limewire) it would cost ULSU, we'd be better off hiring an F-22 for a day and threatening to nuke the department of education if they don't met our demands. Ok, the last bit and the pop group comparisons I could have imagined as I started to

hallucinate for a bit.

The debate was quite tame compared to other such events I've witnessed, with no one counted out and no low blows. That said the reaction of the reps seemed to be broadly unconvinced of the need or desirability of renewing our involvement with USI. And some of them did get somewhat testy and repetitive in their questions towards the end but it was well past their bedtime at that point. It will be considered again at the class reps training event and a decision made then whether or not to proceed any further.

## that UL Ad...

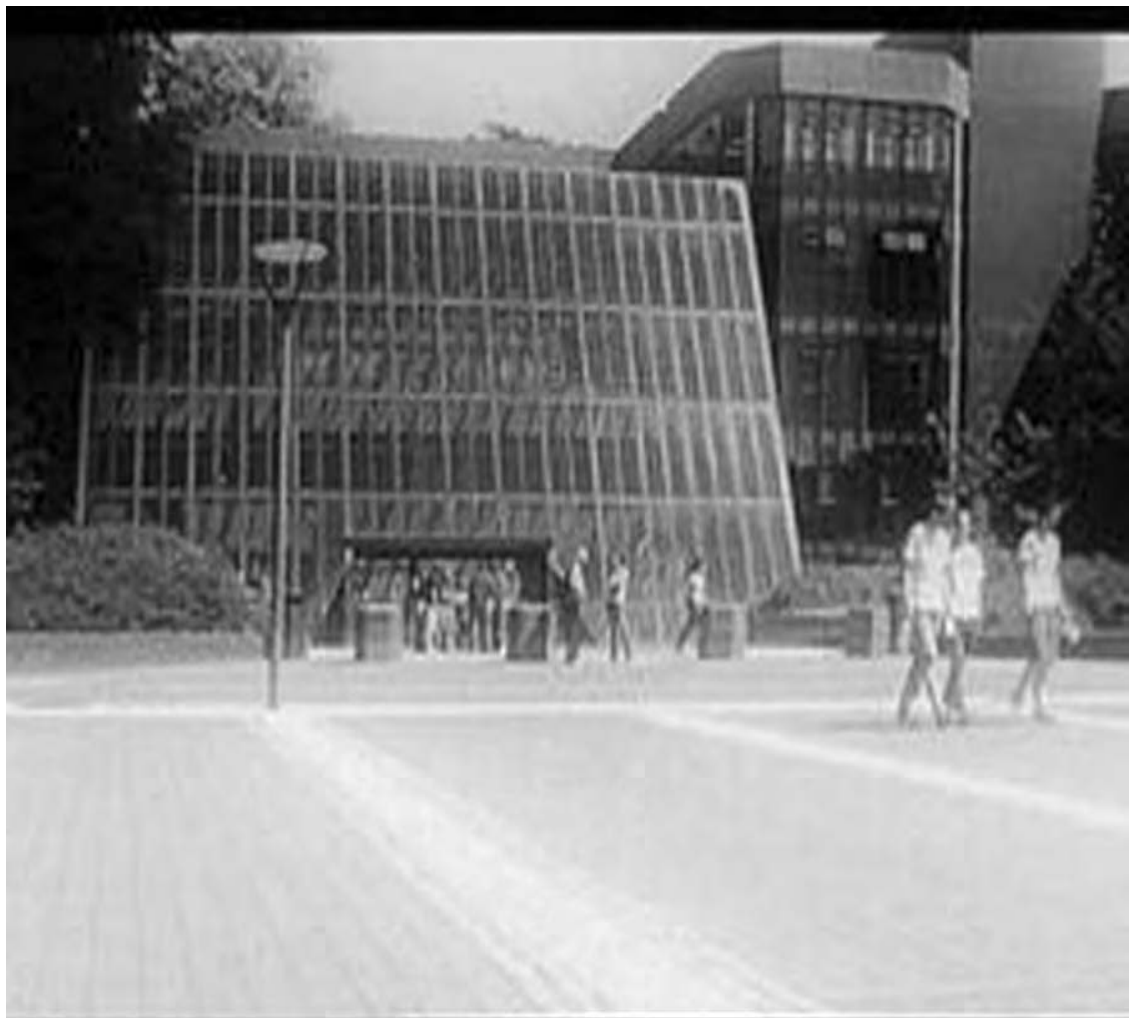
The UL Ad - The other main item to come up for discussion was 'the Ad'. Yep, that hugely successful UL Ad on the telly over the Crimbo. What no one amongst the reps could understand was why there had been no effort to consulting staff or students involved in courses that produce media driven product, and why no one had thought of talking to existing UL students

to find out why they had chosen to attend UL. The UL marketing department say the reason for this is that those who did decide to come to UL are not their target market! Yep, that's it, they didn't really want the likes of you around here, they were hoping for something...well, different...perhaps even...better.

The 'Ad' also tackles the college's problems with increased student numbers on campus by actively dissuading students from applying to UL. Radio ads that target shows broadcast when secondary school students are in school, TV spots that focused on Sky News over the Christmas period but not the final week of the CAO, perhaps they were hoping for a small Christmas disaster to keep us all tuned to Sky News. We have DCU and UCD running aggressive poster campaigns in bus shelters around Limerick City and UL is choosing to not even run ads in the CAO Supplements. A Lynch mob was briefly organised but disbanded once it got close to the Stables. Meanwhile the marketing department is hunting high and low for the author of the "better dub for the UL marketing ad" posted on youtube.

## Sabbat Elections... is it that time again?

We've had some jostling for positions in the run up to the sabbatical elections. There has been the return to full vocal form of Ger Dineen, the suggestion floating about that a number of the incumbents may seek another term and even El Pres is looking to present a new image by losing his whiskers though not all his hair during RAG week. Could this all be part of his efforts to secure re-election? Whatever else happens we're almost certain to see one of the most competitive contests for the various positions that we've seen in years.



# El Presidente

## Security on Campus

**U**L is a nice college to go to, and far from the most unsafe place in Limerick. But there have been very serious incidents in the last few years, and we've been working hard with the college to ensure that people can feel safe around here.

I've spoken to the President of the University, John O'Connor, and urged him to act on the 'no-man's land' between here and College Court which is unlit and has been the site of attacks in the past - no-one wants to take responsibility for it, but this is unacceptable. Hopefully we can have the issue solved before another serious incident occurs.

The new CCTV system is set to be rolled out in the coming weeks, with a large number (at least 40) cameras going up in the first batch - we are busy telling them where the problem spots are at the moment, so any places we mightn't have thought of would be helpful. These cameras are the newest technology, and should really help improve the level of safety on campus.

We're also pushing for better security on the North Campus, and the University is considering putting people over there on a more permanent basis. And problems with boy racers have slowed since the Gardaí caught two of them over the river.

Buildings are looking into improving the lighting along the path between Thomond and Cappavilla too, and in other areas around campus.

I was at a meeting of Cappavilla Resident's Association last week, and it was really good for finding out all the issues affecting people there (including, but not only, security). Anyone interested in Cappavilla, or in setting up one wherever they live, just get in touch: [st.john.odonnabhain@ul.ie](mailto:st.john.odonnabhain@ul.ie)

Let us know of anything else important!

If you tell us the issues, we can do something about them!



## Homework with Alan Higgins, ULSU Education Officer

### Module Outlines for all

In semester one the importance and necessity of module outlines was highlighted as an essential part of students' material for a module. However despite numerous articles stressing the necessity that students receive module outlines as a matter of course, there are still some students who must ask for them and in some cases don't get them at all.

While the workload of a member of Academic Staff can not be doubted the unwillingness of some not to provide students with this documentation does not appear to make any sense in a practical way. As well as being a regulatory requirement for coordinating members of faculty to provide details on assessments, their weighting and repeat mechanism, the module outline acts a valuable tool for a lecturer and student to outline what is expected and the aims and objectives of the course.

There is at times a perception by student representatives that there is a fear

that to provide students with (too much) information will lead to some sort of event catastrophic. What must be realised is that an informed student is a prepared student and that in the long run a student who knows what to expect or what is expected, will respond positively. A good module outline will also reduce the need for students to waste their time and that of faculty members on queries which can be outlined in writing.

There is a need for students and faculty to recognise the importance of module outlines; they can no longer be seen as an inconvenience or just another piece of paper, but a valuable resource. Faculty must live up to their academic responsibility to provide written module outlines. Students must demand what is their right.

Module Outlines for all!

# Wellbeing

With Sinéad Hickey - ULSU Welfare Officer

**T**HIS weeks Wellbeing article is about Accommodation: staying safe in your own home and dealing with unpleasant landlords.

There have been several robberies occurring in the Student Villages, and we in turn in the SU are urging you to make sure all windows and doors are locked properly at night. Keep your mobile phone close to you at night time so you can ring for help if something unusual is happening in your apartment.

There is an increasing amount of complaints being received by the SU about the actions of landlords in off-campus locations, and their despicable treatment of students. There have been cases of refusing to return deposits unfairly, and intimidation of the students by landlords. If you or a friend experience trouble or you know someone experiencing trouble, please encourage them to come into me in the Students' Union. We can make a difference and help rectify the situation. The majority of the time, the landlords are acting illegally and all they need is a phone call from someone else to inform them of this before they get their act together.

This is just a reminder of the kind of information you should have when entering accommodation:

**Always request a copy of the letting agreement before they sign a lease/contract**

**Request a rent book.** This will set out how much rent is payable and specify contact details for the landlord.

**Request an inventory.** This is a list of all the contents of the house and any structural damage or wear and tear in the house.

**Take photos.**

**Keep everything.** Students should keep all receipts and bills and letters related to the house.

**Things to look out for:** dampness, faulty sockets, broken furniture that may be in the house before you move. Ask the landlord to provide you with basics such a sweeping brush, vacuum cleaner, mop and ironing board.

*Please remember we can help you with your accommodation problems, just drop me an email at [sinead.hickey@ul.ie](mailto:sinead.hickey@ul.ie) or call into me in the Students' Union.*

# Meet the An Focal & Review

**A**N Focal, with one paid staff member and a part-time graphic designer, has too often been a one-woman show. (I say woman, because there hasn't been a male editor in four years). With this, and the increased workload from the magazine, in mind, I decided last semester to establish an editorial team who would help with the workload and in turn, gain some new material for their portfolios. They are unpaid, so their contribution is greatly appreciated, particularly by me... Interviews were held in Week 2 for the positions of: News editor, Features Editor, Sports editor, Photographic Editor (An Focal), Review sub-editor and Photographic Editor (Review).

## Meet the new editorial teams...

### News editor : Aoife Breen

Aoife has been a regular and prolific contributor to An Focal since she came to UL. She is now in 3rd year HPSS, and she intends to pursue journalism as a career once she finishes college. She is also a grammar Nazi, something which has gotten her into trouble more than once.

**Why she wanted the job:** I have a ridiculous - probably unhealthy - obsession with punctuation and I can appreciate the value of grammar and spellings. I chose the news section as I feel it's an important segment of the paper that deserves to be of a high standard for people to respect what it has to say and therefore I hope to make it as error-free as I can.

**Best thing about it:** I get to correct punctuation and spelling mistakes :

**Worst thing about it:** I have to correct punctuation and spelling mistakes 9

**The one thing you would do if only it was achievable:** I wish I could teach the world the differences between it's/its, there/they're/their and your/you're. But before that I think I'd try to help the heartbreaking situation of the misplaced apostrophe. Just imagine being in its position: lonely, confused and of no use to anyone.

#### Three interesting facts about yourself:

1. I've just returned from an Erasmus experience in Warsaw that led to a number of adventures around Eastern Europe. (Note: Belarus is scary!)
2. I hate Turkish Delight so much. It's absolutely disgusting. Really. It is. Yuck.
3. I wrote this at 1am on the day before the An Focal deadline. I need to go to bed.

#### Your motto:

It's better to regret something you've done than to regret not doing it.

### An Focal Photographic Editor: Hugh O' Brien

Hugh is a Computer Engineering student so mysterious he wouldn't even tell us what year he's in! He's mad into photography and can do magical things with Photoshop - his technical knowledge should be evident in the current edition.

**Why he wanted the job:** I wanted to get my hands dirty with the editorial side of photography, to see what goes on behind the scenes, and hopefully get a little insight into what photo's they'd look for.

**Best thing about it:** Having the whole university see something as I saw it.

**Worst thing about it:** Hearing about news too late to shoot it.

#### Three interesting facts about yourself:

1. I sung 'Rock DJ' while hypnotised during last year's RAG week.
2. I hated "The Da Vinci Code".
3. I can whistle FreeBird.

#### His motto:

Roll with it.



Left - Review sub-editor : Finn McDuffie & Photographic Editor Paudie Scanlon



Left - Aoife Breen News Editor, Niamh Clowry Features Editor, Deirdre O'Shaughnessy Editor, Hugh O'Brien Photographic Editor & Tomás McCarthy Sports Editor

### Features editor :Niamh Clowry

Niamh's byline has appeared in An Focal so often that another contributor has referred to a previous edition as 'the Niamh Clowry special'. She is in 4th year HPSS and is interested in getting into political journalism when she leaves college.

**Why she wanted the job:** I love writing for the paper and being actively involved with the editorial aspect of it is an opportunity that was too good to miss. The sheer volume of work that is required in order to have the paper out on time is something that would astound most people and I wanted to try and help out in some way, other than just writing articles.

**Best thing about it:** The satisfaction in getting something done and hopefully done well.

**Worst thing about it:** Assigning an article, only to find that when the deadline for submission arrives, the article and the writer are nowhere to be found.

#### Three interesting facts about yourself:

1. Studied in New York for Four Months, probably the most amazing experience of my life.
2. My friends tell me that they generally hear me before they see me; I'm definitely one of the loudest people in UL!
3. My ambition is to be a political journalist and work for Prime Time. It's all a pipe dream at the moment but I firmly believe that anything is achievable if you put the work into it.

#### Her motto:

'Life is a journey not a destination, and it is both the ups and down's of that journey that make it all the more interesting'.

### Review Photographic Editor: Paudie Scanlon

Paudie is currently doing a post-grad in Business. However, he did his degree in UL and has been contributing to both An Focal and Review, as well as other publications, since he came here. His camera is huge!

**Why you wanted the job:** Seemed like a good idea at the time, I like taking photos of gigs and performances so editing them seemed like a natural progression.

**Best thing about it:** The buzz of putting the magazine together.

### Sports editor : Tomás McCarthy

Tomás is a first year New Media and English student who contributed regularly to An Focal's sports section throughout last semester. He has learned a lot from previous sports editor Patrick Mannix, and has the advantage of youth and love of his subject! His ambition is to become a sports reporter when he finishes college.

**Why he wanted the job:** It is my ambition to become a sports reporter with a leading Irish newspaper in the future so this a step along that road. It is important to get some experience under my belt. Also I wanted to improve the sports section because in previous editions the coverage has been poor.

**Best thing about it:** The reaction you get from other students. It's great when someone stops you and says 'I read your article' or whatever. It makes it all worthwhile. So if you see me around college let me know what you think.

**Worst thing about it:** Deadlines!

#### Three interesting facts about yourself:

1. My nickname is Mossy.
2. I attend every Waterford hurling match. It is a rollercoaster ride every year following them but it is well worth it. Up The Decie!
3. My favourite tv programme at the moment is Deal Or No Deal. Highly unpredictable and purely addictive.Noel Edmonds is a legend. Tune in every day at 4.15 on C4.

#### His motto:

"Be yourself, mistakes and all"

### Review sub-editor : Finn McDuffie

Finn is a first year Law & Euro student who has contributed to Review regularly since he began attending UL. He has written most of the Blurb this year and he has also procured interviews with some awkward characters! He, like all the others, wants to pursue journalism.

**Why you wanted the job:** The money! No, just kidding! The work is voluntary. I've always wanted to be a journalist and Review is giving me precious experience in the field. I'm also extremely proud of Review. We're very lucky to have such a well-produced magazine and such a talented team of writers, photographers and contributors. Also, I was enticed by its new colours and glossiness. I'm attracted to anything shiny!

**Best thing about it:** I imagine the job will be very rewarding. The experience is something you can't get through any degree. I'll also be working with some very talented people and I'm looking forward to that.

**Worst thing about it:** My biggest worry is the day someone fails to produce an assignment. I'll be on the coffee that night!

#### Three interesting facts about yourself:

1. I got lost in Pompeii once. I couldn't speak Italian, I had no idea where the exit was, every building looked the same and the bus was to leave within five minutes. But this was a school tour, so one of my teachers rescued me. Teachers are magic!
2. I used to have a pet Jackdaw. I raised him until he was an adult. He'd sit in the trees by night and if I happened to be outside by day, he'd fly to my shoulder. This story involves a cat and doesn't have a happy ending!
3. Like most students, I really want to travel the world. I've my heart set on snorkelling in the Great Barrier Reef and having a look round the Amazonian Rainforest (before it's gone!). I'm a big David Attenborough fan!

#### His motto:

'Appreciate life's every moment! Your time here is precious.'

**Worst thing about it:** Sifting through photographs to choose the right ones.

#### Three interesting facts about yourself:

1. I represented Clare in the All Ireland Twister Championships
2. I studied walking through walls for my FYP
3. I'm a sucker for crazy dancing in Costellos.

#### Your motto:

"Laugh, it can't be that bad"



# ULSU ENTS

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## Ulster Bank

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## Ents...

As you can imagine it's all hands on deck for Rag Week at the moment. We're busy out trying to get all the finishing touches to make sure you have the best week possible. However life does go on and there's plenty more happening in the weeks after Rag Week keep the following dates in mind

March 21st - Feckin Fivers "David Hasselhoff for President Night"  
 April 12th - Thomond Ball  
 April 19th - First Year Formal Ball  
 May 4th - Summer Ball

There'll be a few more bits and pieces too but we'll let you know about those sooner to the time they come, right now concentrate on Week 5 and enjoy.....

## RAG Week News

### Sunday March 11th

Twas the night before RAG week and nothing was stirring.....yeah right. Just so you know the Stables will be closed on the 11th of March. Its kind of a calm before the storm scenario, Declan & Brendan just want to give the lads a night off before you all go buck ape and drink the place dry for five days. However if you feel the need to head out and socialise then you can head into Trinity Rooms on Sunday night and the good news is that if you show UL ID it's free in on the door.

### Tickets

As expected the Wonkas, Combos, Director & the Blizzards have sold out but there are still some tickets left for the other gigs at this stage. So make sure you get in soon to pick up whatever tickets you want.

### Mystery Tour

Rumours are flying around with regard to the mystery tour but no one has come close to guessing it yet. The venue are sworn to secrecy I suppose we could tell you but then we'd have to kill you, suffice to say we aren't going abroad but I'm thinking you knew that anyway. Grab a ticket soon, for class reps it might be a good way to have a class party without the stress of organising it!

### Daytime Events

Just so you know all daytime events are free! Yes that's right free. Nada, nill, gratis, nowt, zero not a cent. That's music, comedians, magicians, hypnotists and a



whole lot of fellow students making complete gobshites of themselves all for free. That'll run in the Stables courtyard on the Ulster Bank stage from 11am to 5pm from Monday to Thursday.

Some of the events require entry form sponsorship cards, some of them are entry on the day. Just ask at the SU for details. For example stuff like the Raft Race, Tug of War and Great Race all require pre registration. Events like boat racing, eating comps can all be entered on the day.

The Ulster Bank stage will be up from Monday Week 4 and there will be daily news reports/updates up on the stage on a daily basis, it'll be kind of like a giant notice board. So stay tuned for to that for details on event and ticket sales.

### Buckets

The aim of the week is to raise as much money as possible for charity as well as the whole party til you drop element. Lots of thing are going on prior to the week: Bag packing; collecting in town etc to raise money in advance.

During the week there will be charity buckets at all events. When you are in the Stables courtyard enjoying all the free entertainment don't be shy to stick some money in a bucket, we won't be shy to shake them in front of you.

At the end of every night we'll have buckets on the exits at the clubs and at the Stables dip your hand in your pockets and empty out the crappy change - it's nothing to you but if 1000 of you do it it a nice bit of wedge at the end of the week for our charities.

### St Patricks Day Parade on Campus

The 15th is St Patricks day on campus and we have all sort of goodies lined up for our own St Patricks Day Parade including a marching band. We need lots of people to join in so we need you to drag your ass in on Thursday morning despite your post Blizzards/Snow Ball hangover. Keep an eye on posters, stage etc for further details.

That's all from us at le ents.

**UL RAG week 2007:  
They call it  
madness**



# An Inconvenient Truth, or a Party Political Broadcast?



BY NIAMH CLOWRY  
FEATURES

**T**HE world as we know it is in serious trouble. Researchers and academics have in recent times brought global warming to the top of the international agenda. However much we would like to hide from the seriousness of the situation and argue that it will not affect us in our lifetime, it seems that we cannot hide away from the

global campaign to raise awareness of the issue. Former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore has certainly brought the issue to a global audience through his film *An Inconvenient Truth*. The film is hard hitting, factual and makes a strong impression.

However while the film itself may awake its viewers to the necessity for action where the environment is concerned, it is also deeply political in its content and leaves the viewer to ponder whether it is merely an attempt by a failed politician to propel himself back into the political realm.

Al Gore may believe that he won the Presidential Race in 2000 and that George Bush should not have entered the

White House. Certainly many agree. Yet whether that is the case or not, elements of the film are nothing more than propaganda for his own cause, so that we are left to ponder the truth behind the images portrayed throughout. Without wishing to discredit this growing campaign for global change, it is necessary to be aware that politicians have a habit of sticking to a topical issue in order to increase their own popularity. Perhaps Al Gore would rather be remembered as an Oscar winner who brought a worldwide cause to an international audience than as the man who almost got to the White House.

Samuel Huntington was severely criticised in the early

1990's when he wrote *The Clash of Civilisations*, yet in the aftermath of 9/11, the world suddenly realised the significance of Huntington's argument and many were left to concede that he had been correct. We are not in a position to look back in a decade and realise that we should have done something. The time for action is upon us, and the impetus for action should be one that we all grab whole-heartedly.

For all the film's political propaganda, Gore concludes his argument in a very eloquent way when he states, "That what we take for granted might not be here for our children, it is our moral imperative to make big changes".

# No move on rights for same-sex couples

AN FOCAL REPORTER

**O**N Wednesday, 21st February 2007, the second stage debate on the Civil Union Bill took place during private member's time in the Dáil. Proposed by Labour TD Deputy Brendan Howlin, the bill would give same-sex relationships status; basically, they would have the same rights as married couples. The Government, whilst claiming to be fully in support of equality, criticised the bill and proposed an amendment to it which would in effect defeat its purpose. Labour leader Pat Rabbitte concluded the debate on the night with a rousing speech; he commented "The principle of equality is at once simple, and unsettling; often unwelcomed, yet ultimately unquenchable and undeniable. The principle of equality is founded on the bond of our common humanity... Our shared humanity is far greater than any difference in how we look, how we pray, what our capabilities are or how we choose a partner in life".

The public gallery was full for the debate - fuller than the Dáil, in fact, until the actual vote was happening - with mainly young people, waiting for the result. Unfortunately for many, the amendment, which effectively mooted the point of the bill, was passed by a majority of 72 to 60 votes. Mary Hanafin has since commented "We cannot support the Bill as tabled as

we believe that there are a number of flaws in it, not least the danger that it would fall foul of the Constitution. The Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform is, however, considering a number of options as to how we should proceed." Deputy Rabbitte however gave a convincing speech on the constitution rebuking this outlook in its entirety. Ms Hanafin also commented "the Government wants to deliver a framework in which non-married couples, including gay couples, can live in a supportive and a secure legal environment", but the Government has not in this case recognised that heterosexual couples who do not marry do so as a lifestyle choice, whilst homosexual couples have no other option.

Another criticism Labour has faced is the length of the bill which has just 10 sections, where the UK had 264. This has also been rebuked by Labour however, pointing out that in Canada the same outcome was achieved in 15 sections, and just seven sections in Vermont.

Fine Gael also came out in support of the Bill.

While the vote was lost and the amendment passed, Labour's efforts cannot, as has been said by some, be regarded as a failure. At just a margin of twelve votes it was not a success, but by casting our minds back a mere 10 years it is easy to see that progress has been made.

# Coming out workshop

For everyone, the first feelings about sexuality are confusing and uncertain. This is more difficult if your orientation is not heterosexual. It's easy to end up feeling cut off - like you are the only one. That's not the case. Throughout Ireland there are thousands of people who know they are gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered or think they might be.

Coming out as a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered person in this culture is a lifelong process. It can be frightening and it can be exciting. In this interactive workshop, the stages of coming out will be discussed along with the challenges and benefits of each. The workshop will explore the issues involved and how to decide if coming out to someone will enhance the relationship.

The purpose of this workshop is to help those struggling with coming out. Objectives for each participant include learning about the process, learning how to better deal with challenges faces in one's own journey, and connecting with others who share the same struggle.

This workshop is open to anyone, no matter how closeted or out.

The LGBT liaison officer is now taking the names of people who are interested in participating in the Spring Coming-Out Workshop of 2007. The spring workshop will be run over three Thursdays - Starting 15th March 2007. For further information, email: gerard.hanley@ul.ie (Please include 'Spring 2007 Coming Out workshop in the subject line.)



# ZAPATISTA TALK IN UL!!!

Journalist Michael McCaughan is publishing a memoir of his time with the Zapatistas of Chiapas in Mexico and their amazing story of resistance - hear the full story.

Thursday, Wk 4,  
7.30pm, SU Room 3  
With Enviro Soc - ulenvirosoc@care2.com

# The Real Election This Year

**DERRICK HOWARD**

**I**T'S nearly that time of the year again, sabbat elections. And we all know what that means - Free Lollipops!

No seriously some candidates have sweets of all kinds, I remember some even splashed out on Celebrations last year!

So what's it all about? Well the sabbatical officers represent all of us in various ways and in return we elect them into office (and pay them with part of our registration fee).

*The positions are:*

**El Presidente** - the dude in charge, I say dude because there hasn't been a women in ages!

**Welfare** - the person what gives out money when you're broke and free condoms (most important position in my opinion)

**Education** - the guy that tells you how to get I grades for

when you haven't studied for your exams!

**Publications & Publicity (PPO)** - the girl that does An Focal and you hear on Live 95 the odd time.

**Campaigns & Services (CSO)** - I don't know... good with services?

Some of our current lot are getting itchy feet and moving on to jobs with a decent wage, but some like Alan & St. John are thinking of running. Just a heads up if you want to vote for St. John he will look a bit different having shaved off his beard for charity!

*And the lucky hopefuls I've heard are running are -*

**Judith Lynch for welfare.** She of Debating Union wants to show caring side. I have no other names but surely SVP will throw someone in.

**Eoin Kelly (the laughing sock)** has thrown his name along side St. John for President.

**Eamon Gardiner** is joining our current education officer in the race, funnily enough, he himself is a former History Society Prez.

**Niamh Clowry** is going for PPO and there are rumblings of some other An Focal writers opposing her.

**Brendán OhÉamhaigh, Ger Dineen & Paddy McHugh for CSO** - did someone say loud, louder and Loudest? Honestly I think this will be the most hotly contested position this year.

Do you fancy joining the fray? Nominations are open from Monday to Thursday of Week 6. Forms will be available from the wonderful staff of SU reception. And the elections will be on Thursday of Week 7.

Enjoy the sweets. Do you think someone will have a bouncy castle this year?



A scene from the canteen during last year's elections.

## Medical Card won't pay for Cancer Vaccine

**ROSE BARRETT**

**A** new vaccine has been a hot topic of discussion over the past few weeks on the national airwaves and in print. It is the same vaccine that will aid the eradication of the human papilloma virus: cervical cancer to you and me.

In an article on the VHI website last September, it was stated that the vaccine combined with a screening programme could prevent up to 95 per cent of cervical cancers. Here is a disease that claims the lives of around 70 Irish women every year. What should certainly be of more interest to the younger student population is that it is aimed at a young age group of females from 9 - 26, which increases its effectiveness.

So we know that it can do so much good, we know that it is available within Europe, right at our fingertips. And for those women whose families have been touched by this disease it can spell so

much hope. However, our government - in its infinite wisdom - does not see fit to include it on the medical card scheme. Nor do they see fit to allow for reimbursements under the community drug schemes. The original figure on the VHI website was given at €300 for the drug but the current figure, including GP consultations, is little shy of €600.

Already there have been reports of mothers taking out loans so their daughters can

avail of the vaccine. Many doctors have stated that holding back on the vaccine for financial reasons made no sense as the vaccine is much more cost effective in the long run than having to treat a patient with cervical cancer. Again we learn a valuable lesson, we must continue to question what is done in our name by government officials and not just accept what is handed down to us, no matter what tax bracket we fall into.

## Is your laptop safe?



BY ALAN HIGGINS  
EDUCATION OFFICER

**A** phenomenon in recent times as been the sight of students cradling their electronic bundles of joy (laptops to you and me), as they take a break from the intensity of the latest project, essay or the dreaded FYP. This regular sight in the likes of the Plaza Café or amongst the library smoking fraternity has arisen out of a series of thefts which have occurred with the library.

But it isn't just laptops; mobile phones; MP3 Players and USB keys have also been targeted. It is unfortunate but students must be aware that to leave such items for several hours is opening up the possibility that these items will up and leave. Nevertheless there needs to be promotion and action taken from a University level in order to recognise that this is an unfortunate reality and this is this through awareness and common sense.

At a recent Campus Watch meeting between student representatives and university representatives, calls by the students for this issue to be promoted within the library did not gain a warm response. The library response was that 'advertising' the thefts would great a bad impression

among visitors to the library, and that it would put them off sending their children to UL.

However, other initiatives such as the Nitelink, which was brought in by the Students' Union to increase awareness of security, were created as preventive measures to avoid security issues on campus. Similarly students need to be aware to look after their valuables and to either bring them with you or to make them secure with laptop locks. Awareness needs to be employed as a preventive measure so students don't experience the distress of such a loss. Only through such measures will the reputation of the campus as a safe one be maintained.

Bernie Carroll, Suicide Prevention Office,  
HSE West presents a public lecture on the incidence of suicide and self-harming behaviour.  
This lecture will outline recent statistics highlighting the prevalence of suicide internationally and nationally, identify risk factors relating to the onset and occurrence of the behaviour and acknowledge how to engage with a person at risk of suicide.

When: Monday March 12th 2007 1-3pm & Tuesday March 13th 2007 1-3pm

Where: Room 3 Students Union

If you are interested in finding out more about suicidal and self-harming behaviour or are interested in helping someone at risk of suicide please come along.

Admission free

All are welcome

# Campus Sport

## UL Athlete selected for European Championships

CIARÁN FITZPATRICK

UL athlete David McCarthy has been selected for the European Indoor Championships to be held in Birmingham. Having spent the past few years at 400 metres, McCarthy recently moved up to the 800 metre event with apparent ease. Taking the Irish Universities Indoor title before Christmas, McCarthy continued his rich vein of form in January with two performances of 1:50 in Budapest and Bratislava respectively. He also recorded a 47.80 400 metres in Vienna. A 4th place finish at the AAA championships in Sheffield saw him improve his best to 1:49.53 and he will aim to continue his progression at the distance in Birmingham.

McCarthy is the second UL athlete to be selected to represent Ireland at a major championship in recent months after Siobhan O'Doherty was selected for the European under 23 Cross Country Championships in December. After a 6th place finish in the trial race O'Doherty finished 62nd in Italy and was a member of the Irish team which finished 8th. In the Junior men's trial race Kevin O'Brien in 7th and Rory Chesser in 12th narrowly missed out on selection for the Irish team while David Quinn in 23rd and Colin Butler in 29th also had fine runs. Carol Finn finished a creditable 16th in the Junior women's race with Éadaoin O'Neill following her home in 19th.

At the All-Ireland Senior Indoor Championships Colin Griffin put in a fine performance to finish 3rd in the 5,000 metre walk. Brian Glynn narrowly missed out on qualifying for the 400 metre final clocking a fine 51.22. Kevin Moriarty was also unfortunate to miss out on a place in the final with a time of 4:00.74.

Deirdre McDermott made light of the poor conditions to place a fine 2nd in the All-Ireland Intermediate Cross Country Championships held in Santry recently. Kevin Grant finished

5th in the All-Ireland Senior Combined Events Championships held in Nenagh in January. UL coach Michael Hayes was a double gold medal winner, taking the Long Jump and Shot Put titles at the All-Ireland Masters Indoors also held in Nenagh.

Gavin O'Sullivan was the top UL athlete at the All-Ireland Novice cross-country championships in Athlone with a 7th place finish. Niall Sheehan and Ciarán Fitzpatrick also finished in the top 20. In the under 19 women's race Carol Finn was first UL athlete home in 21st position with Claire Hackett finishing in 25th and Éadaoin O'Neill in 30th. Colin Butler was 29th in the men's under 19 race with David Quinn not far behind in 39th.

At the Irish Universities Indoor Championships UL finished 2nd overall behind DCU taking first spot in the women's competition and second in the men's. Gold medal winning performances from Helen Buckley in the combined events and Christina Broderick in the combined events provided the foundation for the women's triumph with medal winning performances from Siobhan O'Doherty, Amanda Creighton, Carol Finn and Sarah Cormack helping UL regain the title they last won three years ago.

Gold medals from Tony Barnett, Maurice O'Donoghue, David McCarthy, Liam Houlihan and the 4x200m relay team along with a 2nd and 3rd in the 1500 metre race from Gavin O'Sullivan and Kevin Moriarty helped the men's team improve on their fourth place finish last year to take second.

Having finished third last year in the race for overall honours, this represents some improvement for UL. However, further improvement is required to bring them back to the dominant position they held until 2005 where they were undefeated in this competition for over ten years.

## Last-gasp win keeps Fitzgibbon hopes alive for UL

LIAM TOGHER

A dramatic late resurgence from the UL hurlers brought them a hard-fought win over CIT in the Fitzgibbon Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday 27 February. The margin in the end was a solitary point, 0-13 to 1-9. A heavy shower of rain threatened to turn the pitch into a quagmire, but fortunately it abated in time for the throw-in. However, a strong breeze throughout meant that some high balls missed their target by a long way.

CIT were quicker out of the traps, registering the first score in the second minute and doing just enough to prevent UL from overturning the deficit. Midway through the first half, with CIT 0-4 to 0-3 ahead, impressive corner-forward Brendan Ring exploited a gap at the back to extend the visitors' lead to four points. The hosts didn't panic, though, and managed a couple of points to reduce CIT's surplus.

However, the Cork side regained a four-point advantage in first half stoppage time. Goalkeeper Anthony Nash struck a long-range free to leave the half-time score at 1-6 to 0-5 in CIT's favour.

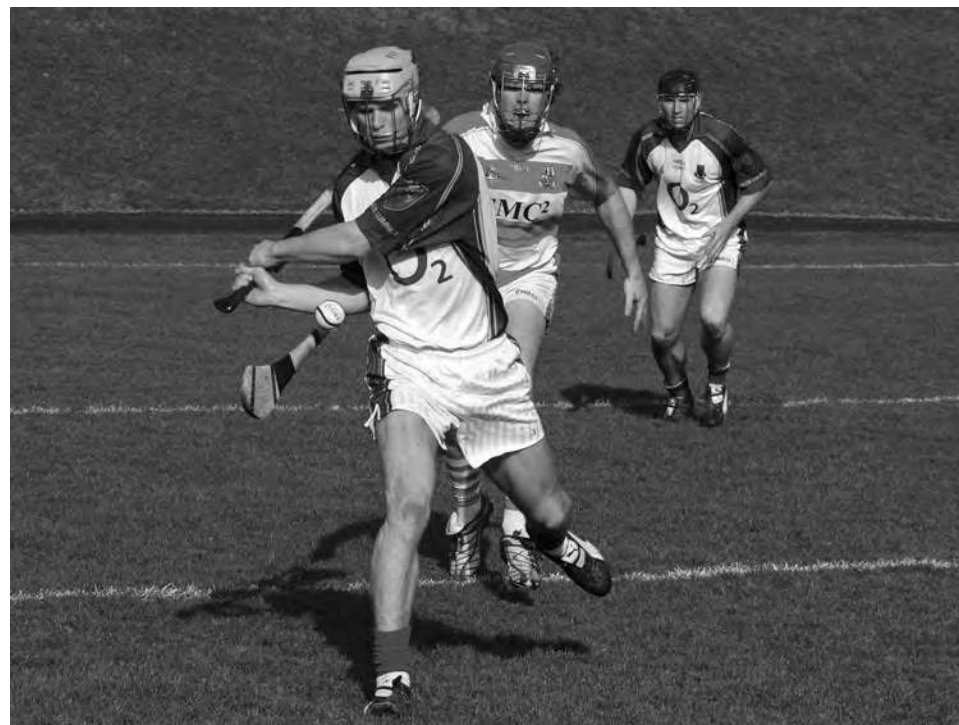


Photo: Paudie Scanlon

Lesser teams may have folded in the second half, but UL came out with the burning intention not to allow further daylight between the sides. For all their Trojan work, though, they still couldn't narrow the gap to less than two points in the opening post-interval exchanges. A debatable wind-assisted point by Michael Fennelly kept CIT firmly in control as the game entered the final 20 minutes. The visitors may have sealed a

win halfway through the second half, but excellent goalkeeping from Tadhg Flynn kept UL well in touch. Four unanswered points brought the hosts on level terms, only for CIT's Niall Teehan to restore the lead. With injury time approaching, the majestic Alan Egan levelled the scores once more. A draw seemed the likely result before a glorious last-gasp point secured victory.

The jubilant celebrations

at the full-time whistle made it obvious just how much this win meant to UL. The contrasting dejection for CIT also hammered home the prestige of the Fitzgibbon Cup to these young hurlers. Best for UL on the day were Paul Flynn and Alan Egan. Pa Donnellan, Kieran Joyce and Sean Ryan also stood out for a proud UL team.



Women's cross country team: Lto R - Katie Fitzgerald, Mary Keane, Claire Hackett and Siobhan O'Doherty.

# Irish Universities Cross Country Championships

CIARÁN FITZPATRICK

**S**IOBHAN O'Doherty was the star performer for UL at the Irish Universities Cross Country Championships held in Athlone IT last weekend. In her last Intervarsity cross country championships O'Doherty finished a very impressive 7th place, leading the UL women's team to 5th. Mary Keane in 37th, Claire Hackett in 39th and Katie Fitzgerald in 40th completed the scoring. O'Doherty is now in line to make the Irish team for the Celtic Cross Country Championships.

The men's race was a huge disappointment from a UL point of view with only four athletes making it to the

starting line. With six required for a team in the men's event this meant UL were not represented in the men's or the overall team competitions. Those that did make it performed admirably with Niall Sheehan leading the team home in 19th. Kevin Moriarty in 29th, David Quinn in 35th and Colin Butler in 43rd were the remaining UL athletes.

This was a big disappointment for UL. There is enough potential in the college to have a medal winning squad and while there will always be one or two that may be injured or unavailable serious questions must be asked when only eight athletes compete in the main colleges cross country event.

With things seemingly at an all time low, now is the time to put in place procedures to bring about change and to make UL a force once again in cross country running. The athletes themselves are unhappy with the current situation and an emergency meeting has been called to discuss what can be done to bring the club out of the doldrums.

UL has the facilities and it has the athletes necessary to build a good team. All that is lacking is co-ordination and commitment. However, this latest setback could prove to be the final straw and it is hoped that all in the club will pull together to restore its former glory.

# UL Football In Crisis



BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY  
SPORTS EDITOR

**A**FTER the hammering at the hands of DCU in the Sigerson a couple of weeks ago hard questions must now be asked of UL football.

The stats tell a depressing tale. The performances this year have not been up to scratch. A 1-11 to 0-8 win over Clare in the McGrath Cup promised much early on. But the balloon was truly burst next time out when Cork gave UL a hard lesson in football at Pairc Ui Rinn. The final score was 3-22 to 0-4.

And then came that disaster in the Sigerson Cup, a 2-13 to 0-4 defeat. Clearly there is a problem.

For a college of UL's size surely the displays can be better. Looking at the roll of honour UCD have 32 Sigersons UCG 22 and UCC 19. How many do UL have? Absolutely none. All of the other big colleges are having success so why not UL? It is not unreasonable to say that we are under performing spectacularly.

Maybe the problem is with the players. No offence to anyone on the UL panel but there are no household names. For example playing for DCU is Conor Mortimer of Mayo, many of the Cork senior panel line out for UCC like Brendan Ger O'Sullivan and John Hayes. Why isn't UL attracting the stars? Maybe they are playing hurling or some other code instead.

What about the management? This year former Kerry goalkeeper Declan O'Keefe was brought in. I'm sure he put in huge commitment but he is not a top quality coach. Look at LIT hurling. They have Davy Fitz and Cyril Farrell in charge. These are the type of men UL require. We need to start taking this seriously if we are going to challenge for honours. Bring in an experienced coach who has done it at the top level.

There is no doubt that UL football is in crisis and something needs to be done fast. We should be expected to compete with rival colleges for titles but at the moment this is not happening. With the right management and attitude UL will be up there again brushing it under the carpet however, will only lead to further embarrassment on the field of play.

## Quotes Of The Edition

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

**'Yes I think I am a great manager. Not many did what I did.'**  
*Jose Mourinho talking about himself as usual.*

**'Managers probably wouldn't get away with smacking players now. I would hope I never smack a player. I've been tempted but that was in my office, not in a match situation.'**  
*Sunderland manager Roy Keane. I certainly wouldn't like to be on the receiving end of a smack from Keane.*

**'Easy, easy, easy.'**  
*Irish fans rubbing it in to the English at Croker. It doesn't get better than this.*

**'It's brilliant to be back at training and on the sideline. Up on box or with a camera in front of you that isn't involvement at all.'**  
*Galway manager Ger Loughnane. Looks like the fire and passion is back. RTE might find it hard to coax him back.*

**'It sounds mad you know and you guys can write what you want, but it (Liverpool's squad) is a quiet group and this (training camp in Portugal) had probably been the best week we've had together laugh-wise.'**  
*Craig Bellamy after the first leg against Barcelona. Sounds like everything is rosy in the garden. Crisis, what crisis?*

**'Fabregas asked me whether I used to play for Barcelona. I told him I did, a long time ago, and he seemed to shake his head. I asked if he had a problem with that and he replied 'Well you do not play Barcelona football''**  
*Mark Hughes on his clash with Cesc Fabregas after their scoreless FA Cup clash at The Emirates Stadium. Sounds like someone is a bad loser.*

**'Sure it seemed that every time I picked up a hurley I won a match.'**  
*Kilkenny hurler James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick on the amazing season he had. It's so much easier when you're the best team in the land.*

**'Pascal Cygan's a Villareal star at the moment.'**  
*Villareal's Robert Pires on his teammate. Finally a club that appreciates Cygan's 'talents'. I'm sure Arsene Wenger is having sleepless nights after leaving him go!*

**'UEFA will come down strongly I was worried because there were missiles being thrown and Gary Neville was hit.'**  
*Alex Ferguson after the first leg against Lille. Lucky that Ronaldo wasn't hit. He would have hit the deck no doubt!*

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# Big Win, Big Occasion, Big Regrets



BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY  
SPORTS EDITOR

**W**HAT a day! The Irish rugby team produced a memorable display to defeat a hapless England at Croke. Unfortunately though, this victory must be tinged with a certain amount of regret.

First let's remember the occasion itself. The anthems for me were the highlight. There was an eerie silence beforehand in anticipation of 'God Save The Queen'. After all the history and hype, what would happen? Fair play to all of those at Croke who showed the English anthem the respect it deserves. Amhrán Na bhFiann stole the show though. The tears and sheer emotion on the faces of John Hayes and Jerry Flannery were powerful. To see tough, grown men cry

reflected the enormity of the day itself. Priceless!

To the match itself and the Irish team. We knew that they could do this and finally they produced the goods. Central to victory was the performance of the pack. They out muscled and bullied the English front five. The set pieces also worked to perfection. An Irish line-out or scrum was rarely affected. Great credit here must go to Paul O'Connell and John Hayes who were inspirational. Both have been criticized in previous games but proved their worth with great skill and work rate. Their work at line-out and kick off time was magnificent. These are two players we cannot do without.

I must give special mention to the half-backs Stringer and O'Gara. Stringer's quick passing gets the backline moving and also gives O'Gara more time to find his touch. He has now for the moment fended off the threat from Isaac Boss. He was badly missed against France. Ronan O'Gara was lethal with his kicking both from hand and from the ground. O'Gara had a 100% record, 8 from 8 you can't do

better than that. His kick for Horgan's try was pinpoint and was the best try of the evening. This partnership is so vital to Ireland's cause. It gives the backs space to weave their magic and also we have a kicker who can convert territory into points.

While undoubtedly this was one of the best Irish victories of all time we must face some harsh realities. A golden opportunity of a Grand Slam has slipped by for this team. These chances don't come along too often. Why couldn't we produce this against France? Still all we had to do was claim a routine kick-off. We should have beaten France. Again it is a case of what might have been. Triple Crowns are well and good but this team is capable of so much more.

OK maybe I shouldn't be so gloomy. After all we did reinstate that we will be a force to be reckoned with in the World Cup. But what would it have done for our confidence if we had won a Grand Slam. I go back to the comments of Tony Ward after the final whistle against France. 'It's cruel, it's savage.' That's sport for you.



## The frustration that is Irish rugby

**Conor McGrath deplores our 'unhealthy' obsession with the Triple Crown**

**A**T times supporting the Irish rugby team can be a very frustrating experience. This is generally because this Irish team has oodles of skill and experience but there has been no silverware or a grand slam to justify the greatness of this current crop of Irish stars. Over the past couple of years so many near misses and hard luck stories have ruined this Irish team's chances of glory. Take this year's 6 Nations Championship. In the first match at Croke against the French, Ronan O'Gara kicked us into a 4 point lead with two minutes left on the clock. Unfortunately, the forwards lost the restart and Vincent Clerc swiftly ended our grand slam dream for yet another year. The same thing happened 2 years ago against the French at Lansdowne. In the 1st test against New Zealand last summer, the team came close to beating the All Blacks in their own backyard. This team has come so close

to beating the top nations and winning trophies on the world stage that it has become unbearable. This Ireland team nearly has the same quality as New Zealand but the All Blacks are ruthless to the core which is why they win those tense matches and the Tri Nations series nearly every year. To counter this underachievement, Ireland must stop imploding on the big stage like they did against Les Bleus at Croke Park.

Last Saturday, Ireland annihilated England at Croke Park and showed us again why they have been touted to challenge New Zealand in the autumn. Performances from the likes of David Wallace, Ronan O'Gara and Paul O'Connell ensured that there was only going to be one winner. Another factor was the return of God himself... Brian O'Driscoll. During the match there many special moments including O'Gara's cheeky cross field kick for Shane "the Drogheda express" Horgan to catch and touch down. If this performance had been produced against the French then the grand slam would

have been practically in the bag. This was truly a special night for Irish rugby but let's not get carried away about the quality of the opposition.

A major frustration has got to be this country's unhealthy obsession with the Triple Crown. Let's just set the record straight - the Triple Crown is a sick joke. It is a hollow, meaningless honour which has outlived its worth. It's used as an excuse for no grand slam. Back a few decades ago, the Triple Crown had some worth because Ireland were the minnows against sides like England and Wales. Nowadays, the other home nations are considerably worse than Ireland, something most of the Irish public has not realised.

With the next two games against Italy and Scotland, Ireland should finish 2nd in the Six Nations for the third time in 4 years. If the English beat the French then the championship itself is there for Ireland. This would end all of the frustration talk but somehow I doubt it.

## Magic Numbers

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

- 30** The margin of victory over England, our biggest ever. Sweet!
- 47** The number of times Stringer and O'Gara have been paired together at half-back. Here's hoping they continue their sparkling form into the World Cup and stay injury-free.
- 18** The number of seconds it took Mirco Bergamasco to score Italy's first try against Scotland. They went on to claim their first ever Six Nations away win.
- 4** Charlton Athletic scored four goals for the first time this season against West Ham. Better late than never.
- 12** Minutes of injury time in the Carling Cup Final. This was due to John Terry's horrific injury. OUCH!
- 36** Minutes it took Galway to register a point in their football league clash with Armagh. This is shocking for an intercounty team. Amazingly they went on to win!
- 7,438** The cost in euros to bring the Antrim footballers to Dungarvan Co Waterford for their Division 2B clash and to collect a valuable win.
- 10** Points for Waterford's Eoin Kelly on the opening day of the National Hurling League against Wexford. 9 of them coming in the second half.

# Glory, Glory Man United?



BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY  
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEX Ferguson once referred to this stage of the season as 'squeaky bum time'. Whatever you like to call it we are definitely reaching the critical point of the Premiership season. With Man United and Chelsea neck and neck no slip ups can be made. But who will come out top?

First let's look at Chelsea. Their success over

the past couple of seasons has been based around their solid defence marshaled superbly by John Terry. This season however holes have appeared. The loss to injury of Cech and Terry have been central to the problem. Hilario and Ferreira have proven inadequate replacements. Teams began to believe that they could score against Chelsea. Teams like Reading, Fulham and Everton all breached the weak Chelsea rearguard. Without Cech and Terry the defence has lacked leadership and decisiveness and this has cost them valuable points.

There also has been a lack of consistency, for which the Blues had been renowned under Jose Mourinho. Chelsea have failed to garner points against the so-called lesser

teams. The results speak for themselves. Tottenham beat Chelsea 2-1, so did Middlesbrough and Fulham, with Aston Villa snatching two draws against The Blues. In the past two seasons Chelsea would have been guaranteed three points in these fixtures but we have seen several slip-ups this season.

On the positive side, Didier Drogba has been in cracking form. He is consistently finding the back of the net and is on course to be the Premiership's top scorer. Michael Essien has also been pivotal to Chelsea's cause, and Jose Mourinho must be applauded for generating a good team spirit at the club. When times have been hardest they still have produced results and have

made miraculous comebacks against Wigan and Everton. They really should be out of the title race but they are still there and this is down to their character.

Now let's examine Alex Ferguson's men. This season United have shown remarkable consistency, which has brought them to the top of the league. Over the past couple of seasons United have come unstuck against the likes of Norwich and Blackburn. This season their away form is the best in the league. They have gone to tough grounds like The Reebok and Ewood Park and got three points. United have come up short though against the big teams namely Arsenal. But to win the league beating the weaker teams on a consistent basis is so

important and United certainly haven't been lacking in that department.

It's Man United's attacking brand of football which has really caught the eye. When United get their passing game going they are unstoppable. With Scholes controlling affairs the passing is crisp and accurate creating numerous chances. Cristiano Ronaldo is undoubtedly having his best season, amazingly rivaling Drogba in the scoring stakes. Giggs, Rooney, Saha and Larsson have all made significant contributions as well.

Looking at their games coming up United do seem to have the tougher run in. They still have tricky away trips against Everton, Man City and Portsmouth to come. Bolton and Blackburn also have to

come to Old Trafford. Their final day match is at home to West Ham. Chelsea, meanwhile have a tough away tie against Arsenal to come but should have no problems against the like of Watford, West Ham and Sheffield United. Their final game is at home to Everton. The biggest game of all though comes on April 15 when United visit Stamford Bridge. Surely a game that will decide this title race.

OK the time has come to come off the fence. Who will be lifting the trophy in May? I think Alex Ferguson's men deserve it for their consistency and entertaining brand of football. It would be a sweet one for Fergie to finally overcome Mourinho's men. And I think they will.

## The ugly side to the beautiful game

LIAM TOGHER

I'VE been an avid football fan for as long as I can remember and I waited patiently for the day when I would first attend a professional match at a top-class stadium. I've been to some of the world's top venues such as Anfield, Camp Nou and Rome's Stadio Olimpico. Thankfully I can say that I have nothing but positive memories of these

temples of football. However, some unsavoury incidents in February have raised questions about the safety of fans at certain stadia.

On the opening weekend of February, Catania played host to Sicilian rivals Palermo in a Serie A match. While the latter won 2-1 to maintain their Champions League hopes for next season, football was a loser on a wretched night. A police officer was killed after being struck by an explosive

and the city of Catania was the scene of rioting between rival fans. This is not the first incident to rock the Italian game after two Champions League matches played in the country in 2004-05 had to be abandoned due to crowd trouble. The Italian federation responded to this tragedy by postponing all football in the country for an indefinite period, including the Italy-Romania friendly due to be played that week. The ban was

lifted before long, though, and Serie A is up and running again.

Later in the month, Manchester United travelled to the Felix Bollaert stadium in Lens to play Lille in the Champions League last 16. It was a controversial night both on and off the field. Ryan Giggs won the game with a quickly taken free kick and the referee's decision to award the goal incensed the hosts. Meanwhile, tear gas was fired

by irascible French police at a contingent of English fans as trouble brewed in the stands. Fortunately, there was nobody hurt, but comparisons were made with the Hillsborough disaster in 1989, when 96 Liverpool fans lost their lives. While nobody would be glad to see such incidents occurring, it particularly saddens me as a football fan to realise that going to a stadium can be so unsafe. I have no doubt that many people will

be put off attending matches after such anarchy, but it must be remembered that trouble at stadia is an exception rather than a rule. Besides, anyone who behaves properly at a game should not expect to be embroiled in scenes like those witnessed in Catania and Lens.

## Ronaldo: The never-ending debate

TOMMY TUOHY

ANOTHER week passes yet the debate continues, Cristiano Ronaldo- the best player in the Premiership or another example of hyperbole from lazy football analysts on the BBC. Ronaldo has been a revelation at Old Trafford this season and is being tipped by many to be named player of the year. It has been a significant turn around for the former star who looked certain to leave Man United after an indifferent previous season. The controversy surrounding the player

increased after the winking incident during the World Cup involving fellow team mate Wayne Rooney. However, Ronaldo has produced the best performances of his career to date to lead United to an almost certain league title.

Ronaldo took to the field against Lille in the Champions League hoping to continue his brilliant form this season which has seen him score 16 goals and provide 8 assists. He did not provide one of his better performances and was taken off by Ferguson. On RTE Eamon Dunphy continued his vendetta against the winger by producing a

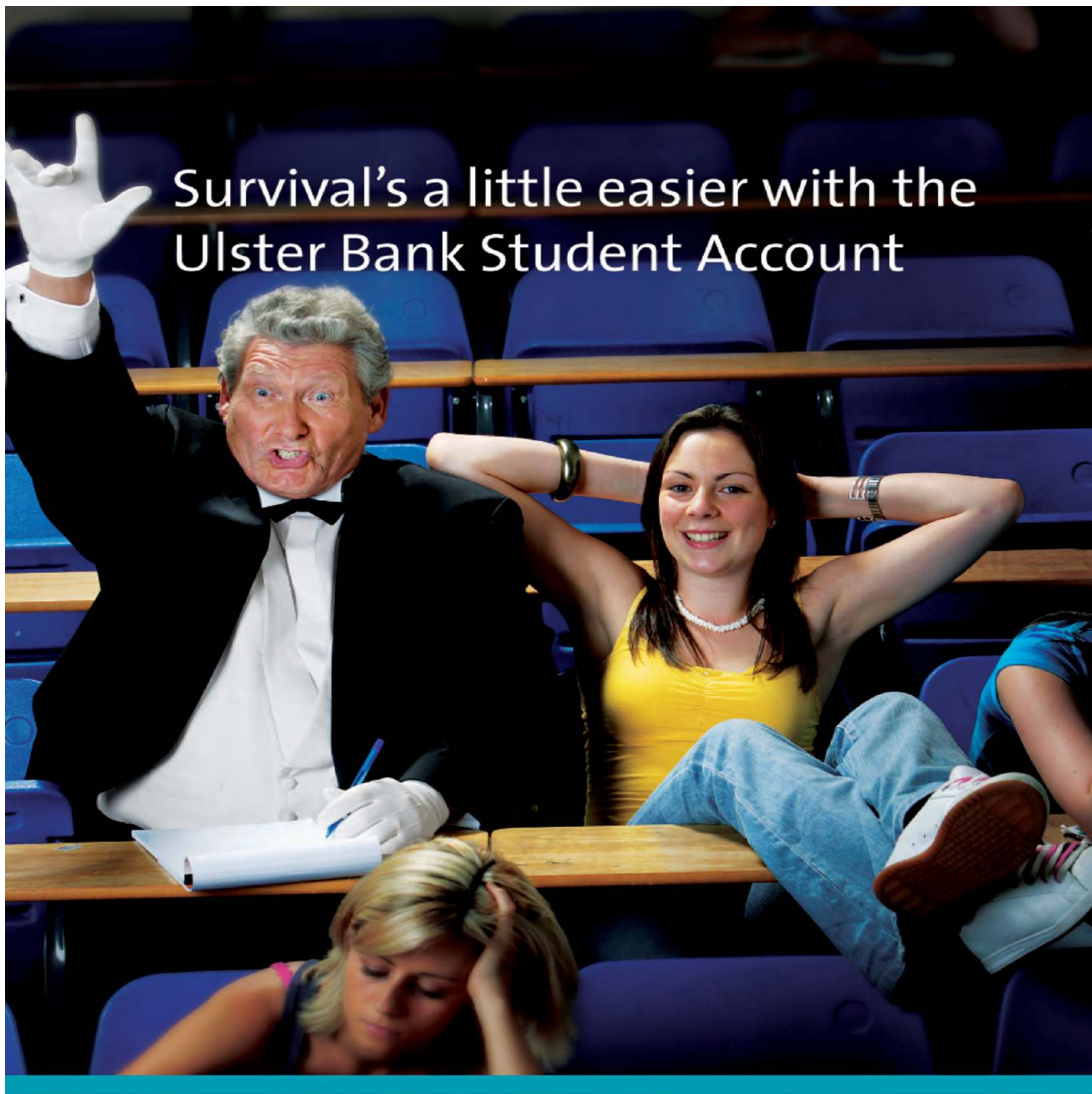
compilation of his mistakes in the game. Labelling the United number seven as a 'mediocre' player it was clear that once again Eamon was seeing what he wished to see.

Ronaldo is not an 'old-school' player. He is flash, he plays to the crowd and this season he has added a clinical touch to his game. At the weekend, with a slip up to Fulham looking inevitable Ronaldo picked up the ball on the half-way line, skipped past two defenders and fired into the back of the net. Whilst Ronaldo is not the finished article, there can be no doubting his influence in

United's campaign this season. His end product has improved greatly and despite grumblings to the contrary his work-rate and appetite for success is impressive.

After another goal and another win for Ronaldo one would imagine that the pundits in RTE may not attack him for at least one week, but this is highly unlikely. He may not be the model pro in Dunphy's eyes, but the model pro is not always the best. When Ronaldo is continuing to score and create at this current rate, you get the feeling that Dunphy could be wrong, again.





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