



# AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

e-mail ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

www.ul.ie/~ulsu

TERM 2 WEEK 4



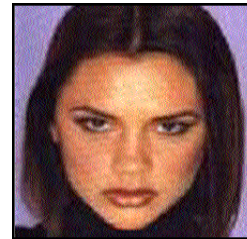
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Isla's Eye. brand new.

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Inside this week

## Wired FM On The Air Loud and Clear In Castletroy



The new transmitter for Castletroy situated on the roof of the main building

LIMERICK'S student radio station, Wired FM, is to get a much needed shot in the arm over the next two weeks when a brand new transmitter for Castletroy is turned on, allowing it to broadcast in the Castletroy area on a new frequency, 106.8FM.

Since being moved off it's original frequency of 103FM by the IRTC almost two years ago, the station has been dogged with transmission problems in Castletroy, the biggest student area in the city.

The potential of the station could not be realised while this situation existed. Wired FM station manager, Darren Connolly commented "since I took over the position of station manager in May of last year, I have been severely handicapped in what I could do about publicising and marketing the station."

The problem has been in existence  
**contd. on pg. 3**

### Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date

*we're looking for opinions, comments, ideas etc*

Thursday Wk 4  
6.00pm

new student centre  
all are welcome

### Proposal For Fourth SU Officer To Go Before Meeting In Week 6

A proposal to split the current Students' Union position of Communication and Education officer was passed at the SU executive board on Wednesday of Week 3, and is to go before the students at a General Meeting in Week 6.

The proposal, detailed in

the last issue of An Focal, was presented to the ten member exec. board and passed unanimously. It outlines why and how the current position should be split into two positions, Education Officer, and Communication and Campaigns Officer. It will be presented to Class Reps in their next meeting in Week 5, before going to a vote at the General Meeting.

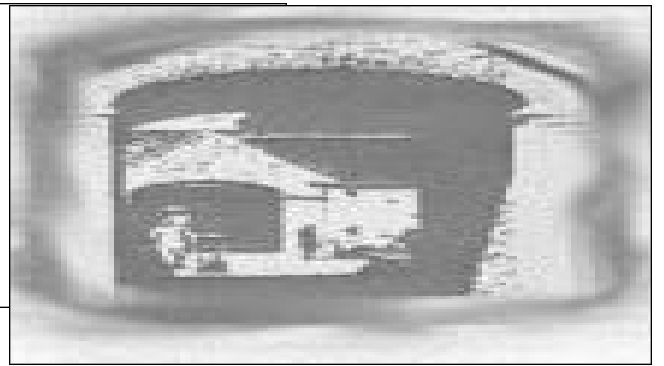
Current SU CEO, Dave O'Donovan stated that he was looking forward to the meeting where the decision would be made whether to split the job or not, and said that he hoped there was the required 200 people at the meeting to allow a decision to be made.

The meeting is to be held in the Jean Monnet on Tuesday of Week 6 at 7.30pm

# Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

Each issue, we'll give you a quick dose of what we're up to.



**Year 2000. Semester 2.**

**Week 4.** Here's the news.

Last week, Class Reps Council made a decision not to have a campus wide ballot to name the Student Centre after anyone and to leave it simply as "The Student Centre".

The Scholars' Club General Meeting is coming up next Monday, so if you want to give your opinion on the new bar, good, bad or indifferent or have any suggestions as to how things should be run then come along and let us know. The time is 6pm and the place is the Jean Monnet Theatre.

Tuesday of Week 6 is the day for one of the most crucial meetings of the year. Clubs and Societies have been work-

ing extremely hard on changing the way things are run but in order to allow for these changes, we need to make a few amendments to our old friend, the Students' Union constitution. This is where we need you, because without enough people at the meeting then we can't do anything.

There is also a big proposal to separate the position of Communication & Education Officer into two positions of Communications & Campaigns Officer and Education Officer, but again we need you at the meeting to achieve this. We will also be giving you a full run down on what exactly we've been up to, trying to get done, and what we have got done. Next week is SoUL week, where the Societies of UL get to showcase themselves so look out for that. And of course, Week 8 is Ra...sorry, Kollege Week which promises to be better than ever this year. So until next time, Happy Lent and may your life be filled with Cadbury's Cream Eggs.

**Pat Mc**

**This week I have two important issues for you to take note off. Read on....**

**Bank of Ireland Millennium Trust Fund** - 60 Scholarships per year in each of the next 10 years.

Scholarships available across a wide range of disciplines.

No upper age limit.

The Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholars Trust has been established with \_12.5 million (IR£10m) to give opportunities to people who face economic or other barriers which prevent them from reaching their full potential through further study.

The Trust will consider barriers to further education such as economic circumstances or aspects of a candidate's background which might limit their chances of taking up further study. These could include cultural factors such as a family or community background with a low record of participation in education.

The Trust will also take particular account of the difficulties faced by people with disabilities who wish to pursue courses in third level education.

A number of scholarships will also be provided to assist people with exceptional ability who are offered outstanding opportunities for further academic or artistic study which are beyond their financial reach.

All third level courses will be considered for scholarships including standard degree courses and postgraduate courses.

In each case, people seeking scholarships will be required to show that they can significantly develop their potential through further education, but that they would not be able to do so without some help. The Trust will assist people of all ages who have the ability and motivation to succeed in their chosen courses, and whose success through study will provide an inspiration to others.

Applications will not be judged on academic merit alone. Of more importance will be the individual's aspirations measured against their potential and taking their personal circumstances into account.

Successful applicants will receive significant levels of funding which will substantially reduce the financial burden of third level education.

Although scholarship levels will vary depending on individual circumstances, it is expected that they will average \_6,500 (c.IR£5,000) per annum with an upper limit of \_38,000 (c.IR£29,500) for the full dura-

tion of any single course of study.

To provide additional support, vacation work placements may be provided in Bank of Ireland to provide scholars

with an additional source of funding while equipping them with workplace skills.

How to seek a scholarship

An essential part of the scholarship programme is the requirement for applicants to be nominated by a Nominating Body. The University of Limerick is a Nominating Body.

Further information can be obtained from the Welfare Office, Students Union, and from [www.bankofireland.ie](http://www.bankofireland.ie). Applications must be completed by students embarking on undergraduate courses by 15 March next. Applications must be completed by students contemplating postgraduate studies by 15 May, 2000.

**DON'T JUST BIN IT!**

You know how it is when those cheap and cheerful tins of beans are overflowing in your cupboards at the end of another study-crammed (!) year.

Who can honestly say that their over-zealous mother hasn't packed at least 5 tins of Bachelors in their beloved's shelf for that "rainy day"? Well,

this year we intend to set up collection points around the various college estates e.g. Elm Park, Plassey etc for all the unused non-perishable goods.

Our aim is to donate these foods to a worthy Limerick-based charity.

Obviously a project of this size needs volunteers to help promote our cause and at the same time give something back to the community. So any eager-beavers out there, if you are interested in cutting down on unnecessary waste and helping someone at the same time, please contact Una

O' Donovan @ [9722351@student.ul.ie](mailto:9722351@student.ul.ie) or drop into Dee Dee Hosty @ [deppresident@ulsu.iol.ie](mailto:deppresident@ulsu.iol.ie) (Welfare Officer) at the Students Union Centre.

Hope the study is going well for you all

**DeeDee**



**Here we go again, last minute, trying to run out the door with the paper, but gotta finish this bit first.**

Loads o'room to fill, but Dee Dee did her best, God bless her. Only one thing for it; increase the size of the font. Feel like i'm doing essays again.

Anyway, what's up. Loads happening over the last two weeks. No sooner had the paper gone out the door, but I had a clubs and societies yearbook to look after, all 52 A4 pages of it. Nice one to all those who took the time out and did some great work for it. I think it looks all right, we'll know better next week when it comes back from the printers. And sorry to the History Soc, who's submission i left out. I'm sure I'll hear

all about it for a long time to come.

Had a little bit of trouble at class reps, upset a few people by saying something i think had to be said.

Apparently i broke rules and all sorts of stuff. Didn't abide by what it says in the 'constitution'. There's all this talk goes on about the constitution, which is fine, but as far as i'm concerned, it's a rulebook, a guideline, a



key to getting things done. If it stands in the way of getting things done, then it's priority number two, not number one where some people have put it.

Other than that we've had a few problems to sort out with Student Services, and that's something we're

going to start working on on a bigger scale, as soon as we can get our heads round it, so hopefully expect us in your class pretty soon. gives you the chance to put grown up faces to the baby ones. talk then dayvoh

# DJ Competition Raises Eyebrows In Every College

**The Future Sounds of Ireland and the USI/Student Voice DJ Championship 2000 are Calling all aspiring DJ's your time has come.**

The competition details and prize fund for the USI/Student Voice DJ Championships have been announced.

This is no ordinary 'Battle of the DJs' competition, as the top prize is well and truly a chance of a lifetime for one lucky winner. The championships jointly organised by the Union of Students of Ireland and Student Voice magazine is open to all 3rd level students in Ireland, North and South. With the size of the prize on offer, competition is expected to be extremely stiff, with the cream of Ireland's future DJ's vying for the coveted title and prize.

The overall winner of the Championship will have the opportunity to go into a recording studio, with both producer and an engineer, and with sufficient time to produce a full-length album! The USI/Student Voice DJ Champion 2000 will then have 30,000 CDs pressed and distributed by Resonate Records. If that wasn't enough to get every DJ in Ireland taking off their headphones and paying attention,

the winner also receives Home Studio equipment and gets to strut his or her stuff at the 1600 capacity closing party in Dublin at the end of May, playing alongside some of the world's most respected DJs and producers.

Let's not forget about the runners-up, who also get to play at the closing party and are in with a chance of going home with prizes including a full PA system and a DJ flight case, stocked full with the latest releases.

Heats are scheduled to commence at the beginning of May 2000 and will take place throughout Ireland, with the winners being announced in Dublin at the end of May.

Regional heats will take place in the following locations: Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Galway, Athlone, Letterkenny, Belfast as well as Dublin.

Application forms and further information are available by sending a SAE to USI/Student Voice DJ Championships, Resonate Records, 166 Lower Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

Also check out [www.irishstudentdj.com](http://www.irishstudentdj.com) for further updates and information.

NB: The closing date for applications is March 31st 2000.

# Wired FM On The Air Loud and Clear In Castletroy

from pg. 1

since Wired FM was moved to 96.8FM, a weaker signal which would not broadcast to Castletroy. Wired also shared the same frequency as Galway Bay FM, which had a stronger transmitter, and as a result drowned Wired out at certain times of the day. A number of solutions were investigated and tried, including a temporary transmitter which was installed at the end of last term, after strong lobbying by the UL Radio Soc. to hold back UL students' capitation money until something concrete was done about the transmission problem.

The transmitter was effective for a short period of time, but as it was not a permanent structure, it was effected by factors such as bad weather and the recurring problem with Galway Bay FM.

Having looked at a number of permanent options, it was decided that Wired FM should broadcast in Castletroy through a new transmitter and on a different frequency. The station manager applied to the IRTC for a new second frequency, and was granted a licence to broadcast to the Castletroy area on 106.8FM.

Having achieved this, the next task for the management was to find the funds to purchase the transmitter. With the ULSU still withholding the capitation until there was an obvious

improvement in transmission, and the students of UL could hear the station, the Wired board, with the financial support of Mary Immaculate, approved the spending of the £22,000 needed to improve the reception.

Also needed was an ISDN line which would link the three stations in UL, Mary I. and the LIT. Acquiring the ISDN line was also going to prove a problem, but station manager Mr. Connolly managed to secure sponsorship from Eircom. He had this to say about the sponsorship. "This ISDN line is generously sponsored by Eircom who I'd like to take this opportunity to thank. Without Eircom this wouldn't be going ahead and we sincerely hope that Eircom will continue to sponsor our ISDN line rental and use for many years to come."

It is expected that Wired will switch to its new frequency in Castletroy within the next two weeks, after work is completed on the installation of the transmitter. Further work will then take place on the new studio in the Student Centre, which is to be fitted out with equipment kindly donated by the RTE studios. Having decommissioned their previous Limerick studios before the move to Lyric FM, RTE are very generously donating whatever equipment is left over to Wired FM.

## Department of Law



### University of Limerick

#### LL.B (Graduate Entry) Degree Program

The Department of Law at the University of Limerick is now accepting applications for the LL.B (Graduate Entry) Degree. This is a two (2) year program leading to the award of Bachelor of Laws. Applicants must have a primary degree in a discipline other than law. As places on this program are limited, entry on to the program is competitive and will be based on academic ability.

*For further details and application forms, please contact*

**Ms. Sinead Loughran,**  
Administrator,  
Department of Law,  
University of Limerick, Limerick.  
Tel : + 353 61 202344  
Fax : + 353 61 202417  
e-mail: [sinead.loughran@ul.ie](mailto:sinead.loughran@ul.ie)  
Course Director: J. Paul McCutcheon  
Head of Department: Raymond J. Friel

## Department of Law



### University of Limerick

#### LL.M in European and Comparative Law

The Department of Law at the University of Limerick is now accepting applications for the LL.M in European and Comparative Law. This is a one (1) year taught post-graduate program leading to the award of Master of Laws. Applicants must have an honours primary degree in law, or an honours degree which incorporates a substantial law component. As places on this program are limited, entry on to the program is competitive and will be based on academic ability.

*For further details and application forms, please contact*

**Ms. Sinead Loughran,**  
Administrator,  
Department of Law,  
University of Limerick, Limerick.  
Tel : + 353 61 202344  
Fax : + 353 61 202417  
e-mail: [sinead.loughran@ul.ie](mailto:sinead.loughran@ul.ie)  
Course Director: Dermot PJ Walsh  
Head of Department: Raymond J. Friel

# Understanding the Unionist Position

A comment on the debate in the Jean Monnet, Monday Week 4, after an interview with Gregory Campell of the DUP.

by Gerard R. Gill

A note of warning before I start.

**Understanding the unionist position is not the same as agreeing with it. I endeavoured to interview Gregory Campbell of the DUP, after the Northern Ireland debate to see if he was as inflexible as his speech would leave one to believe.**

For any one who attended the aforementioned debate last Monday, some of Mr. Campbell's speech would cause alarm among those who seek a lasting cessation of violence and a commencement of reconciliation in the north. I decided to give Mr. Campbell the chance to clarify some of the points he made in his speech or in other words to see if he is the complete %@\*\*%\$ he seems.

Mr. Campbell began his speech to the forum by criticising those that comment that those opposed to the agreement are opposed to peace. He proceeded to say that the IRA have carried out a campaign against the British people in the north, to force them into an united Ireland by the use of violence. Now according to Mr. Campbell, the "so called peace process was the tactic used to force unity". Mr. Campbell then began to argue the case for Unionist inequality. He argued equality does not exist for protestants in the north "Equality is a marvellous concept we would like to see it please". He Mr. Campbell also argued that "ethnic cleansing" took place in various areas in the north "there isn't a prod about a place for miles....West Belfast, South Armagh, the Foyle". Mr. Campbell then claimed that the DUP wanted a better relationship between "our two countries" but feared that "cross-border bodies contain a seed that would eventually grow into an united Ireland". "Unionists also

reject the elevation of the Irish language alongside the patronising reference to Ulster-Scots" in the GoodFriday agreement, he said.

So armed with a few questions and points I wished clarified, I approached Gregory at the end of the debate. I proceeded to ask him if the elevation of the Irish language as an aspect of Irish culture could not be compared to the Orange order as an aspect of Ulster-Scots culture. Mr. Campbell claimed his party had no problem with promoting the Irish language so long as Ulster-Scots was funded and promoted equally, in fact he felt that the majority of the population spoke or knew Ulster-Scots, when I pointed out that more people in the north would claim that Irish was important to them, than would claim that the Ulster-Scots language was important to them, I recieved a vague answer about Ulster-Scots being more than a language, that it was a way of life.

I then tackled him on his claims about ethnic cleansing, pointing out that in Portadown, nationalists were afraid to go into the town centre after dark, he admitted that he couldn't quantify the level of intimidation against either side, but he had figures which demonstrated a mass exodus of protestants from nationalist areas. When I asked could this be due to other social factors such as unemployment, he admitted that there could be "many social factors". As for Portadown, Mr. Campbell claimed not to have any great knowledge of the intimidation happening there, when I said that Catholics had to use one entrance to a shopping centre and protestants the other. Gregory claimed this was due to "practical reasons" the Catholic estate being closer to one particular entrance.

I then questioned Campbell as to what levels of co-operation with the Republic would the DUP accept, to which he replied that the DUP would look

at "internationally recognised written treaties" e.g NAFTA and Borneo.

Finally I asked Mr. Campbell if he could understand if Catholics would not want to work with the DUP in the light of the fact that the leader of the party, Mr. Paisley was perceived by many as a bigot, who was a graduate of a University which described the Catholic Church as an evil cult and whose founder was a personal friend of Mr. Paisley, the same University which has been criticised in the US presidential race as being intolerant and sectarian. Mr. Campbell retreated into the party line of not answering awkward questions, Gregory said he would not sit with Sinn Fein as they are murderers, he considered the SDLP to be his "political enemies" but also he could do business with them as they opposed violence. I asked him if he could see why Catholics might not want to work with his party a second time. Mr. Campbell said he could see why as nationalists may "hate some of the thing I say and what my party says just like I hate some of the things Eamon's party (SDLP) says". He proceeded to say that he couldn't understand why nationalists would not work with his party, similar to the way Fianna Fail and Fine Gael work together even though they are opposed on many policy issues.

With that we finished our interview. What was interesting about Mr. Campbell was the conviction in his voice and eyes when he was completely ignoring legitimate points to trot out the party line. I also noticed his language was emotive, i.e. the use of the words murderer and hate rather than oppose, even though he claimed he had nothing against Sinn Fein's republican ideals only their use of violence, he did not mention Loyalist terrorists once throughout our interview.

## New And Improved Thomond Ball On The Roll This Week

**This year's Thomond Ball sees all education students plus a few others who shall remain nameless piling on buses bound for the West County Inn in Ennis.**

The Students Teachers' Society are building on the success of last years ball with a few added improvements to organise an action packed, full filled, ecstatic, hair raising night with food, drink and entertainment....from many angles.


The night will begin in the Stables, where buses will be leaving from 6pm sharp onwards the last bus at 7.30 for those who take so long to beautify themselves or need to be dragged away from the drink...don't forget free drink for those on the first buses. On arrival at the West County, you will be met by beaming faces of many including a Photographer who will be taking professional photos...to remember the

night before too much is drunk. Two photos of a couple is £12, groups of three will be £15, and so on.

For all those hungry ones out there you will be wined and dined with our delicious four-course menu. Awards for such things as gobshite and slut of the year will be presented, some very interesting nominations so far.... Music entertainment will be provided by the brilllll "Pete Rivers band", so you better move over and make room for the professional dancers....wonder who they are??. The night will rock on with our talented D.J plus our own star in the making. No names mentioned yet...you'll have to wait and see. First buses back at about 3.30...but who is to say

Tickets at the unbeatable price of £20, on sale Week 4 Monday to Wednesday 12-4pm in the Canteen at the stand.

No interest whatsoever  
- for 6 whole months



J1, ESS and Grant Advance loans only

Waiting for your grant cheque to come through? You can now apply for our 9 month Interest Free Grant Advances. Also, if you have worked abroad or plan to go to the States this summer, find out more about our Interest Free Foreign Tax Advances and our Interest Free Loans for J1 visas. Just drop into our Student Store in UL and talk to Grainn: Shanahan or phone 061 330600 (tully).

STEP 18

Bank of Ireland

# Library Denounced As A Disgrace As New Chair of Class Reps Elected

**At last week's meeting of the Class Reps Council, many students were shocked and even angered with the response from the library to a number of questions, which one of its members had asked.**

David Fleming, the class rep for 3rd year HPSS had asked several questions regarding the resources in the library for history and humanity students.

One of the questions was: "Will the library look at improving the history section (approx. 6 shelves at present) with books which

are needed by students of history?" The reply from Ms. Lindsay Mitchell of the Library and Information Services Dept. stated "We have approximately 275 metres of history materials - perhaps the student is thinking about Historical Sources material? Also, all UL students can use MIC Library which has good historical source material." In a statement to An Focal, Dave Fleming stated that he was angered at such a response - "To think that students who pay fees to study in UL have to travel half way across Limerick to get access to the books they require to get their degree is

absolutely ridiculous and is an admission by the library that they haven't got the resources for the students they claim to be providing a service to."

It would seem that the ire of lecturers have also been simmering for years. Lecturers, who request the purchase of books suitable to their modules are capped by the amount of money they can spend. One lecturer said that when books are ordered it normally takes about two years for them to get up on the shelves. The library has refused requests from lecturers, over the last number of years, to subscribe to new journals, and as a

result the journal section of our library is probably the worst collection, comparing any other university.

The library which was opened amongst great pomp and ceremony only two years ago has a severe problem: the tiny number of books it holds. Go to any other university - UCC, UCG, Queens - and look at what we have. Some will say that we were only established in 1972 and that it takes time. That should not be an excuse. We pay the same fees as a student going to Cork or Galway, and we should expect the same level of services as they get.

The Class Reps unanimously endorsed the proposal that the Students' Union start a campaign to improve the library resources, not only for history students, but for every student.

It is expected that over the next few days, members of the Students' Union Executive and class reps will meet with the top officials from the library to discuss this serious matter.

The meeting concluded with the election of a new chair of Class Reps Council following the retirement of Aidan O'Gorman. John Browne (2nd year), Claire Cox (1st year) and Liam Stapleton (4th year) ran

for the position, with Ms. Cox emerging as the winner with 32 voted from a valid poll of 51.

There was an element of controversy, however, when SU CEO, Dave O'Donovan questioned John Browne on his reasons for running for the position. After the election, Mr. Browne felt the questions had affected his chances in the election, and made it known that he would appeal the result. This appeal will come up at the next class reps meeting in week 5.



**STEVE THOMAS plus CRISTIAN BOSHELL**  
- Dolan's Warehouse, Limerick -  
**22nd March**



[www.britain-now.com](http://www.britain-now.com)

usit NOW, Student Centre, University of Limerick.  
Tel: 061 332079 [www.usitnow.ie](http://www.usitnow.ie)

**MISSING SINCE**  
**FEBRUARY 11th**  
**at 10.30 pm**



**Have you seen**  
**GUSSIE**  
**SHANAHAN?**

**Ring 414222**  
**or 328488**

**Height: 5' 10"**  
**Thin Build**  
**Brown Hair**



**Last Seen**  
**Wearing:**

**Navy Top,**  
**Blue Jeans,**  
**Black Shoes,**

**Adidas Three**  
**Coloured Coat**

**White, Red,**  
**Blue**

# Socialist Party Urges People of Limerick to Join The March Against Low Pay

**The UL Socialist Party is urging the students of UL to join a march to be held in Limerick city this Saturday to protest against low pay.**

In a press release issued by the UL Socialists to An Focal, they said "Low paid workers have had enough of the bureaucracy of the establishment politicians and scrooge employers. While the 'Celtic Tiger' has brought phenomenal wealth to the already rich, ordinary working people

have been subjected to massive increases in house prices and rents, rising grocery bills, and strictly controlled wage increases.

As shown last month in a feature in the Irish Times, while workers wages have barely kept up with inflation, directors salaries (not including bonuses and incentives) have increased by as much as 38%, with some in receipt of salaries of £251,000 (Bank of Ireland) and £530,000 (Jefferson Smurfit Group). Denis O'Brien made £230m in one day on the

stock exchange. Profits are running at record high levels.

Also, our politicians are seeking a £10,000 (almost £200 per week) increase in their salaries! This is something Socialist Party TD Joe Higgins, who lives on the wage of an average worker, will be vehemently opposing.

This increase is more than they are offering in total to the low paid workers of this country with the proposed Minimum Wage Bill. The proposed rate of £4.40 per hour is a gross insult to the low paid

workers of this country. Take home pay on this rate would amount to just £157 based on a 39-hour week. The people most affected by low pay are women and young workers - some the most vulnerable sections of workers. Those under 20 years old will not be entitled to the full minimum rate, and trainees can be denied the full rate for up to three years while being trained.

The Socialist Party urges the people of Limerick to come out this Saturday to send a strong message to the gov-

ernment and scrooge employers, that ordinary working people won't stand for low pay any more. All banners are welcome. The demonstration will commence at 2pm at the Granary, and will march through Limerick City - highlighting some of the low pay bosses who have been 'Named & Shamed' over the last 3 months - returning to the Granary for a rally with speakers from the trade unions."

## High Achiever Award Programme Launched

by Kevin Ryan

A number of special High Achiever Awards were presented by the President, Dr Roger Downer, at a reception in Plassey House, on February 18th.

The recipients who are in their first year of studies at UL were chosen based on their exceptionally high Leaving Certificate results.

It is hoped that the awards will help attract the country's brightest young students to study at UL. Such students will be targeted as potential Advance Scholars in their third year and will be encouraged to contribute significantly to the research ethos and achievement of UL.

Also attending the reception were the school principal, career guidance counsellor and parents of the award winners.

## History Society host IHSA 50th Anniversary Conference

by Tadgh O'Shea

During the semester break the History Society held the prestigious 50th Anniversary Irish History Students Association Conference.

The conference took place over the weekend of the 4th and 5th of February and was officially opened by Dr. Roger Downer.

Approximately 70 delegates from most of the third level institutes in Ireland, north and south attended the conference. The delegates were spoken to by many prominent historians on the challenges facing history in the new century before going into town for a Get-to know-you party on Friday night.

On Saturday, almost 30 papers were given by undergraduates and postgraduates and these lectures covered a broad range of topics from the railways during the Irish Civil War to the letters of British and German middle class soldiers from World War 1 and a rather bizarre lecture on Black romanticism and Rastafarianism.

After the papers had been given, there was a formal Conference Dinner in the Lodge where the delegates mixed freely and strutted their stuff to the sounds of the last 50 years as supplied by aspiring DJ, Keith Piggott.

### The An Focal team

editor and late night stayer-upper

*dayvoh*

news collectors/gossipers

*ella, flem, ger, darren, tadgh, kev,*

musos

*des the dock, bren g.*

film freaks

*kp, aodain*

book worm

*daragh*

features

*snotty, bull, dave, mystic, mcgell, iano, mags, kp, eoin, ferg + kasey.*

show me the money

*becky*

c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.)

*p lee, + mates*

phancy photo's

*willie, norbert + co.*

poets

*pinky, eric*

gig goers

*tommy f.*

# A Word In Everyone's Ear

Let everyone know what you're thinking, about anything. The best letter each week will receive a clean, crisp ten pound note. Easy money!

## Erosion of Democracy?

Dear Ed.

**During the last semester, a group of UL Sinn Fein Society members engaged in scuffles with members of the Garda Siochana outside an institution of the Judiciary.**

This attempt of the further erosion of democracy by Sinn Fein occurred outside the High Court at the appeal against the extradition of a convicted murderer (Fusco). Prominent on the front pages of the Irish Times the following day, was a photograph of the aforementioned Sinn Fein members, displaying a banner proclaiming that the Cumman belonged to the University of Limerick.

It is imperative that the Students' Union distance themselves from such activities. A casual reader could be given the impression that UL, as a student body, supported this attack on an organ of the state.

If Sinn Fein members wished to protest, that is their right enshrined in the constitution that they do not recognise, however they do not have a right to claim to represent or give the impression that they represent the Students' Union.

The offensive banner had emblazoned in large letters "University of Limerick" with a large gilted UL crest and that is how I believe a wrong impression could be given

**Gerard R.Gill**

## Sinn Fein Respond

Dear Sir,

**Following recent well-publicised events, I feel I must put pen to paper to reply to the numerous critics of UL Sinn Féin and its recent activities. From the outset I would like to make clear that I am speaking on behalf of no one other than myself.**

I was in Dublin the 6th of January last, I was there at the high-court protesting against the extradition of Angelo Fusco, I was there supporting a cause I believe in. Now I know most consider Angelo to be a convicted murderer and for them it is that simple, but that is not what I consider him to be. More importantly I have never forced my beliefs on anyone and all I have ever asked is that people respect my right to hold my beliefs, and my right to stand up for those beliefs.

Contrary to now popular belief it was a peaceful protest. For six hours we

stood outside the gates of the high court before the Gardaí removed the protesters from the gates, and the rest became front-page news. But how many of you will believe that? I'm guessing not a lot, but then again I'm a shinner, I'm used to it.

Then there was "that picture". Shane Morris, writing for Scaoil Amach É, was correct to say our banner contained the UL crest, although he conveniently forgot to mention that the crest could not be seen in "that picture" or in any other media coverage of the event, but I acknowledge that's hardly the point. You could quite visibly see the name of our society "University of Limerick Sinn Féin Society" and I fully accept that has all sorts of repercussions. But I still believe it is my right, the right of my colleagues, and the right of the society which we represent to protest, and be seen to protest.

ULSU Community Officer, Alan Ryder, stated in his letter to The Irish Times that our "deeds suggested that the university and its students collectively supported his case, which is obviously not the case". I have already stated that you could quite visibly see the full name of our society on the banner, so was it not obvious that we were representing the University of Limerick Sinn Féin Society and even if Leaving Cert. students are now less likely to apply to UL and employers are less likely to employ UL graduates as Mr Morris alleged in his article, are ULSF to be held accountable because some people may not be able to differentiate between the 'University of Limerick' and the 'University of Limerick Sinn Féin Society'? And if it was "obviously not the case" as Mr Ryder suggested then how could we have "suggested that

## Letter of the week

### Poor Trinity

Yes, it would appear that the most famous and prestigious College in Ireland is not only steeped deep in tradition, deep in History, but is also steeped deep in debt.

The U.L. History Society would like to back up arguments made in An Focal last week that Trinity are as poor as the rest of us. It would appear that the Trinity History Society is facing bankruptcy as the cheque given to us to pay for their registration at the recent IHSA conference bounced out of our account. U.L. History Society are naturally very concerned at Trinity's plight and would urge all Clubs and Societies to follow our example and forward a £0.50 postal order to Trinity History Society, Trinity College, D2.

**Tadhg O'Shea**

the university and its students collectively supported his case"?

Eilish O'Hanlon in her column in the Sunday Independent referred to us as "republican lapdogs" and also inferred that it is our youth that causes our rebelliousness and makes us challenge the status quo. This opinion that we are young and impressionable and have been seduced by republican dogma is a common one and it infuriates me. People fail to appreciate how difficult the decision is to join Sinn Féin. To knowingly position yourself as a target of Gardaí harassment, to risk future employment, and most significantly of all, the effect of both of these previous points on your family, are not easy things to live with. Rest assured that practically every active member of a club and society in UL will have that club or society mentioned in their CV but the active members of ULSF are not in a position to do that. And this goes back to the point I think Mr Morris was really trying to make 'Sinn Féin are different, now everyone knows there are shiners in UL, and just maybe society will paint UL with the same brush they use for the shiners'. I would like to take this opportunity to inform Mr Morris that the blame for that lies with society and not with ULSF.

Now the usual political pundits within the SU and Clubs and Societies are circling like vultures sensing a kill. To the pundits who have been sharpening their knives waiting for such an opportunity to shaft the shiners I say congratulations and do your worst!

I have already resigned my position as Societies Officer within the SU because I have far too much respect for the position to let anyone, including Sinn Féin, use it for propaganda purpos-

es. I could never abuse the position like others have abused theirs.

Finally, we have been informed through the ULSU President, that if such an event occurs again sanctions could be taken against individual members of the society at an academic level by university authorities. To them I say I regret nothing and would do the same again, and if the cause exists and I believe in it, I will do it again. If you feel you then have to take action, then do so. I would not wish to belong to an institution that would take away my right to protest, who would take away my voice.

Yours with a proud and unrepentant Tiofaidh Ár Lá.

**Muiris O'Sullivan**

## Get A Real Job

Dear Editor

Any resident living in the area must be aware of the mob that prevails from the nearby halting site on the Dublin Road. Before I get labelled a discriminator, the Gardaí have verified this.

On three separate occasions in the last four months, I have had to call the Gardaí. Reason being, these 'kids' were forcing open the back window of our neighbours house. The game is to knock on the front door, if someone answers, they ask for money, if no one answers they go to the rear of the house and try to force entry. A hedge clippers is the tool of choice to force open the window. I hope you can agree with me that this is a cause for concern.

These events have occurred only at the weekend and midday, when people are in lectures or home for the weekend. This shows an amount of premeditation and obviously we are not under threat from a few children.

In An Focal of Week 2, our CEO made a gripe that people perceived the SU to be 'doing nothing'. Well I'm afraid that I am one of those people. I can't say that the SU has made any contribution to my 'University Experience'. The sad thing is, most people I know feel this way. Now before someone gets in a huff and responds to this letter with the 'Endless list of things they have done for students in UL' doesn't matter to me, all I'm saying is that 'it is the way people perceive the SU'.

You could really sway my opinion by making the place safer. Then I promise that I won't think working for the SU is just a doss year before getting a 'real' job.

**PJ O'Sullivan**

# the real world

This issue see's the last installment of the real world, with snotty and the bull returning home from Amsterdam pretty soon, Nicola making some cahnges in New York, and Denise unlocatable in Australia. So, one last word from John and Tara to finish us off.



**Alas, The time has come, the tide has turned and the motherland calls. And what else would a real patriot do? Yes, obey the call, now i know how St. Patrick felt when he had the dream and was called back home.**

Sadly, this is the last of the memoirs from Amsterdam. "Why are you leaving?" i hear you ask. No, it is not to get away from the smelly canals, or to clean our system from too many, aahhemmm. No the time has come and we have done the deal, written the book and sold the t-shirts. Yeah, the time is right to grow up, mature and do the sensible, non-student thing, and persue our carreer. The dreaded day has arrived, and yes, you will all reach this point in your lives at some stage, but dont fight it, go with the flow, and you can make believe you are still a student but just getting paid for it.

So nine months later, how can we review our time here in the ultimate City of Sin. To start off, it has left an everlasting impression on my mind and will always remain a place of many fond, unforgettable memories, and as many unrememberable nights. I think Amsterdam will always be a kind of refuge to come whenever my life hits any of those inevitable, brick walls, There is something in the air over here that just seems to make every problem immaterial a small.

The clubs, the pubs, the bars, the coffeeshops (that serve coffee), the coffeeshops (that dont serve coffee), and above all the people. Amsterdam is full of the most incredible people, the most welcoming people ever. They make you feel so welcome and part of the city and community straight away. Never once did i feel like an outsider. Job wise the place is booming, there are actually more jobs here than there are

people to fill the jobs. Language barriers, they do not exist as most Dutch people speak better English than we speak Gaelic.

Highlight nights definitely include Turntablised, with Da Man (dayvoh) at Paradiso, Something Happens also at paradiso, trad sessions in Mulligans, meeting Adam Whatsisface from Counting Crows, Robbie Williams playing football in Dam Square, and many nights downing multiple glasses of Jenever, the legal Dutch version of Poteen. The perfect way to start and finish any night.

Well, i hope you have enjoyed the articles trials and tribulations of the Amsterdam adventure, and an adventure it was. Hopefully, you have gotten an insight of both the social and business side of Amsterdam, and maybe even give some of you the urge to take the plunge and get out there and do, not what society says but what you want to

do, go travel it is the best free education you will ever get.



On a final note, i would like to thank dayvoh for giving me the opportunity to empart some of my experiences to you, and also for providing this information to you, something i wish i had have read before i came over here.

Also, don't forget, if anyone wants any information on Amsterdam, social or jobwise dont hesitate to mail me at [Skubey01@hotmail.com](mailto:Skubey01@hotmail.com).

dayvoh, thanks also for soulclinic at Dolans, i shall see you there soon, Mama I'm comin Home.....

J&T

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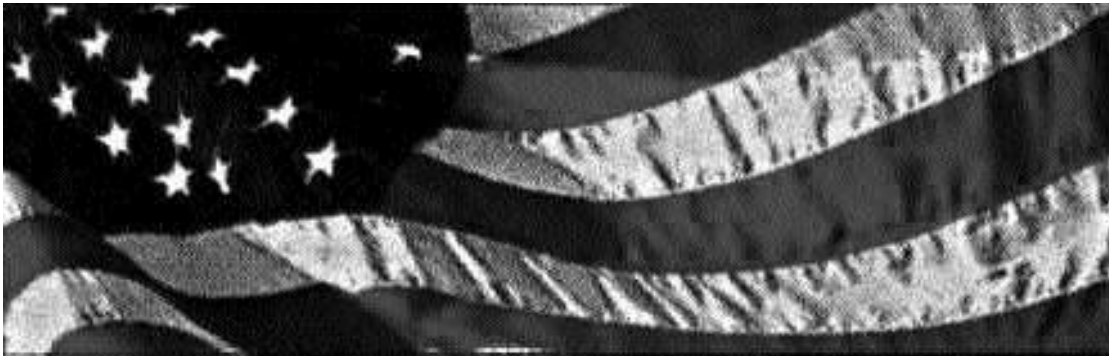
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**Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date**  
*we're looking for opinions, comments, ideas etc*

Thursday Wk 4  
6.00pm  
new student centre  
all are welcome





# American Diaries

there's going to be a pile of people heading off to the states for the summer or on co-op. so, we've extended the real world section to let you know what you're in for, according to ian and margaret, co-op students on the rampage.

## MARGARET RYAN IN CHICAGO

**Well, I guess the next thing to talk about in Chicago is the wonderful shopping, and the fact that it hit 21 degrees Celsius today. (It's true, it hit 21 degrees Centigrade today, warmer than Barcelona!).**

While Chicago doesn't have the reputation that other American cities have, say New York, Chicagoans just chalk that up to begrudgery. And all I have to say on the issue is if the shopping in New York is better than the shopping in Chicago, why isn't it called heaven?

There are two main shopping streets in Chicago, North Michigan Avenue and State Street. Both are packed with all different kinds of stores, from the Gap to Chanel. The north end of Michigan Ave meets North Lakeshore Drive, which, as its name suggests, is right on the lakeshore, with magnificent views. Practically every store under the sun is here, with the notable exception of the UL students' union shop. You can buy anything your little heart desires, as long as it's legal. And even if it isn't, I'm sure you can locate it somewhere. Also, all the assistants in

shops in Chicago are very helpful, but not in a "I'm afraid you're going to rob the place" kind of way, and that is kind of strange.

Where I work is about 4 blocks from the Chicago Board of Trade and the Mercantile Exchange on LaSalle St. So at lunchtime, if you see a load of people walking around in Mustard or Blue jackets, they are the runners from either of those two institutions. The runners take the orders from the relevant desks to the traders in the relevant markets, called pits. The traders shout out the information, and make some kind of hand signal, and then it's entirely possible that all hell will break loose. You can go into the Board of Trade and take a look around any time, and you can watch the mayhem on the trading floor while you're at it.

The other great Chicago attractions are, of course, Sears Tower (2 blocks from where I work) and the John Hancock Tower. You can visit either of these, and see the magnificent views from either of them at any time, for a small fee of course. But at the Sears Tower, you can decide not to go to the viewing deck, and instead visit the Lounge a floor below it, for a 2-drink minimum. I know which I'd

choose.

Strangely enough, I've never been carded here, even though I have been to a few bars. I do have the requisite fake id, belonging to my cousin, who is 4 years older and 4 inches taller, but I've never had to use it so I don't know if it works or not. I'll have to try it out one of these days. One day when I'm in the humor to spend a night in Chicago's answer to Henry St I might. But while I'm getting in without being asked for ID, I won't even try to share a cell with someone who wants me to be her bedmate.

One thing about Chicago. You thought the bus service in and out of town was bad? Try the CTA, or Chicago Transit Authority, Illinois's answer to CIE. Chronic does not even begin to describe it. There are 6 trains into the loop (the central area of Chicago) from where I live, and six out. The same goes for buses, they run a very limited schedule too. So the next time you're standing in the pouring rain waiting for a bus that is ? hours late, think of the majority of south-side Chicago, freezing their asses off in waiting for the train to work at 7.10 am, at Worth Train Station. Talk to you again soon

**Margaret Ryan**

**The good news this week is that the weather has picked up. But not, of course, before it hit absolute rock bottom first.**

Yes, Friday, February 18th, Boston was hit with a snow blizzard! I have to say it's the strangest weather I've ever seen, everything went white in a couple of hours, I could hardly see across the street from my window and the whole place seemed surreal when I walked out into it. In all I think nearly two feet of snow fell and then of course that night, after a few pints in the pub and while en-route to another, because the whole thing was so new and fresh to us we decided to have a pitched snow battle on the streets of Boston, oh yes - we threw them at complete strangers, each other and buried all females in our group (as you do)!!!!

Then on Saturday I hit the slopes!!!! I went out with a few U.L. grads that are over here in Fidelity Investments aswell and we went out to a place called Mount Sunapee. Seeing as this was my first time out into the American countryside I might aswell tell ye what its like and from what I can see, well in Massachusetts anyway, is that its covered in trees as far as the eye can see there are white, snow-coated trees (thank you for that gem of information Ian (!!!)). But anyway, when we got out there, there was enormous queues and by the time we got to the front (nearly two hours later!!!!) all the ski boots were gone, so I decided, well I suppose kinda had to, to do snowboarding.

Oh my god. I had no idea how hard, how fast, how physically exhausting and

how class the whole thing would be. Without a doubt, I totally redefined falling. Forward, backward, sideways, spinning, sliding, spinning while sliding backward.... yes I spent 90% of my time on my sweet arse. In the end, after a very close encounter with a tree, I was beginning to get the hang of it. And after just over three hours I was absolutely wrecked and getting suitably pissed off with the little farty three foot American kids who could seemingly magically ski up hills aswell as down!!!!!! What followed the day was obviously a collage of serious eating (we didn't eat all day) and drinking, to rejuvenate our bodies of course but it didn't seem to help as by the end of the night and for the rest of the week I was as stiff as a rake!

Work is beginning to come along nicely now. I've been doing some more shell scripting and a good bit of C code, with a lot of projects in C++ coming up so I'll be grand and busy. But what's good about it is that its all in real important systems and I go along to all these management and group meetings to find out what's happening and what needs to be done and how the whole company works together. The other lads here are also beginning to get busy doing scripting, debugging, Q.A. and some system administration and we get to work on all types of machines from Sun Sparc 5 Workstations to Ultra Sparc Servers and main framey Stratutes to your bog standard Pentium. One thing I thing I have to apologize for here is for getting Martins name wrong in the last article, its actually Martin MacMillan (oopse!!). Okay enough of work stuff.

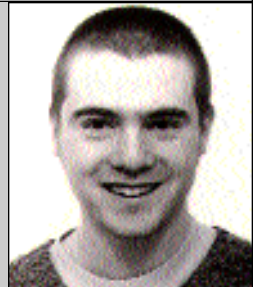
## IAN DEMPSEY IN BOSTON

This week I finally got a permanent place to live!!!! Up until now I had just been staying in this flat with people that I know, but this last week I got a house with two girls from Business who are here on co-op with Flatley Accountants, Michelle Moran and Tracey Flanagan. It's a three bedroom house for twelve hundred bucks a month, which over here is an absolute bargain. It is actually very hard to get a place over here because its so expensive, we managed to get this place through people that Tracey knows but normally, when you go through the Real Estate agencies, you have to pay all these extra costs. Normally there is last months rent, first months rent and a months rent security required and on top of this there is the finders fee which the agency take. Once you've paid out all this you have to start furnishing the place, because none of them, including ours, come with furniture, unless you are really lucky. So you have to go out and buy beds and all the kitchen stuff. Now this stuff you'd probably want to pay for but most of the rest of the stuff, like tables, couches and sometimes TVs, can be picked up on the side of the street from things that people throw out!!! At the moment the three of us are walking the streets aimlessly poking thre peoples rubbish!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Last night I went to an ice hockey game with John, James and Martin and I have to say it was good craic. We went to a place called Hooters first - a place where all the waitresses dress suitably scantily - for some grub!! After that it was on to the

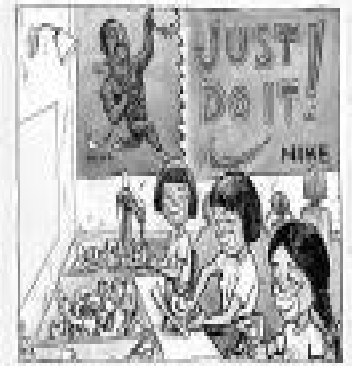
game. The whole thing was like an impressive show. It was in this huge indoor arena with a capacity of seventeen and a half thousand and they have all the loud, fast, music going at the breaks along with the very dodgy organ playing. The game itself is very skillful and fast. Skating for them seems easier than walking... and of course there was the cracking of skulls! At one stage these two guys calmly faced off to each other, the whole crowd noticed it instantly and the next thing... wham they threw their gloves, sticks and helmets on the ground and started lacing into each other!!! The crowd went mad cheering (or bursting their arses laughing as we were) and the refs just circled about not letting anybody else join in! It was mad nothing happened to either of them after it was broken up when they both fell to the ground and the refs pulled them apart (there is four refs probably just for jobs like this). The game ended very well with the Boston Bruins scoring twice in 15 seconds to make it 3-4 but then they substituted their keeper for an out fielder because it was the last minute and the Senator put one in the open goal to make it 3-5, ooohhhhhh!!!

Allright that's me news for this week, back to work....



**Ian Dempsey**

# Just To Let You Know



Last week, we had the short snippets, this week we'll go into some more detail. UL Environmental Soc. fill you in on Nestle, Shell Oil, Permaculture, Glen of the Downes and , wait for it, Hemp.

## Look What You Are Paying For

### What you don't hear on the 9 o'clock news

Shell Petroleum Development Company has extracted oil from the Niger Delta since 1958.

Oil spills, gas flares and other impacts of Shell's oil operations have devastated the delta environment, seriously threatening the health and livelihoods of the indigenous peoples of the region.

"Our rivers, rivulets and creeks are all covered with crude oil. We no longer breathe the natural oxygen, rather we inhale lethal and gashly gases. Our water can no longer be drunk unless one wants to test the effect of crude oil on the body. We no longer use vegetables, they are all polluted."

- Dere Youths Association, 1970. A Protest Presented to Representatives of the Shell-BP Dev. Co of Nig. Ltd., following a blow-out at the Bomu oilfield.

In 1970, indigenous communities of the Nigeria River delta began to peacefully protest Shell's destruction of their environment. Their efforts have met with deadly violence. The Nigerian military has brutally crushed demonstrations, in one case killing up to 80 people and demolishing 495 homes. Detention, torture, rape and other human rights abus-

es are common for those who oppose Shell in Nigeria. Shell is complicit in the military's oppression of the Nigerian people. Not only has the company explicitly requested the military to intervene, but Shell has also requisitioned Beretta machine guns and ammunition for the military. Shell has taken \$30 billion in oil from Ogoniland since 1958. 2,000 Ogoni people have been killed by the Nigerian military since 1992 for peacefully protesting Shell's destruction of their land and livelihoods.

"We are asking for the restoration of our environment; we are asking for the basic necessities of life -- water, electricity, roads, education; we are asking, above all, for the right to self-determination so that we can be responsible for our resources and our environment."

- an Ogoni leader, speaking to 300,000 Ogoni gathered in the largest demonstration ever against an oil company, January 4, 1993.

The Ogoni were successful in significantly reducing Shell's operations in Ogoniland. Ken Saro-Wiwa, author and leader of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, and eight other Ogoni activists were hanged in Nigeria on November 10, 1995. The executions followed 17 months in prison on trumped up charges and a trial by military tribunal internationally condemned as a sham. Sworn statements

from prosecution witnesses at Saro-Wiwa's trial testify to the fact that Shell bribed them to implicate Saro-Wiwa in a crime he did not commit.

Nineteen Ogoni are still on death row, facing the same false charges.

The Ogoni struggle continues.

Royal Dutch Shell is a fully integrated global petroleum corporation with more than 1,700 subsidiaries and related companies operating across the world. Together with Exxon, it is one of the two largest oil corporations in the world. Its annual revenues, top \$100 billion, making it as large an economic force as Norway, and nearly twice the size of Venezuela. #

<http://www.essential.org/action/shell/>.

<http://www.oneworld.org/mosop/>.

<http://sierraclub.org/human-rights/>.

You can also write to protest SHELL'S involvement to Jack Little,

President and Ceo Shell Oil Company PO box 2463 Houston, Texas 77252 USA.

the imminent oil crisis?

<http://www.hubbartpeak.com/campbell/index.asp>

### Nestle, one of the World's largest producers of powdered baby milk, are currently breaking a World Health Organisation Code on the marketing of breast milk substitutes.

- Nestle provide free milk to maternity hospitals in the Third World so that newborn babies are routinely bottle-fed.

- When newborn babies are given bottles, they are less able to suckle well. This makes breastfeeding failure likely. The baby is then dependent on artificial milk.

- When the mother and baby leave hospital, the milk is no longer free. At home parents are forced to buy more milk, which can cost 50% of the family income.

- Because the milk is so expensive the child is not fed enough. This leads to malnutrition.

- The water mixed with the formula is often contaminated. This leads to diarrhoea, malnutrition and often death. James Grant, Executive Officer of UNICEF, has said:

- Every day some 3,000 to 4,000 infants die because they are denied access to adequate breast milk.

### Ethical Shopping

- 1.5 million babies die every year from unsafe bottle feeding.

- Breast feeding is free and safe and protects against infection - but companies know that unless they get babies on the bottle, they don't do business.

Find out for yourself:

<http://www.gn.apc.org/babymilk/pages/boycott.html>

Irish Contact: Gill Ryan - [Babymilkaction@tinet.ie](mailto:Babymilkaction@tinet.ie)

## Hemp, the ultimate natural resource

### Hemp Facts

- Hemp is the longest and strongest natural fibre known to exist.

- Hemp seed is the most complete source of protein and essential fatty acids known.

- One acre of hemp can produce as much paper as four acres of trees.

- Trees must grow for 20 to 50 years before they can be harvested for commercial use. Hemp requires a growing season of only a hundred days.

- Tree paper yellows and falls apart in a matter of decades, while hemp paper can last for centuries.

- Hemp is the #1 producer of biomass per acre in the world. Biomass energy experts estimate that 1 Ω to 3 Ω million acres of hemp could replace all of Canada's fossil fuel demands.

- Hemp cloth is stronger, more durable, warmer, and more absorbent than cotton.

Hemp produces twice as much fibre per acre as cotton. Best of all hemp can be grown in Ireland and is being done so as we speak, cotton cannot.

Hemp is a variation of Cannabis sativa. It is the most useful plant known to mankind. In fact, Cannabis sativa means useful(sativa) hemp(Cannabis).

Hemp can be used to make over 30,000 products. Some of these products are:

Apparel, Shoes, Bandages, Bed linens, Rope, canvas bags, parachutes, carpets, fire hoses, paints, glues, printing, inks, fuel, chain, lubricants, putty, plastics, dynamite, brake/clutch linings, caulking, paper, cardboard, fibreboard, insulation, material, plaster, plywood, cement blocks, margarine, animal feed, hemp milk, cheese substitute, tofu, flour, candy, soap, cosmetics, salves, furniture, animal bedding, abrasive fluid, pyrolysis, oil-spill absorbants.

Hemp fibre breathes and is recyclable, unlike petroleum-based synthetic fibres.

- Hemp seed oil is second only to whale oil in quality and has the same burning qualities and viscosity as #2 grade heating oil without any of the sulphur-based pollutants.

- Low THC hemp is not suitable as a psychoactive drug.

- The hemp plant will reach a height of up to 5m(16 feet) and sink a main tap root down 2m(6 feet). This tap root will draw nutrients from deep in the soil and make them available to subsequent crops. When the hemp leaves are shed on the soil, up to 60% of the nutrients are returned to the soil. This extensive root system also helps to alleviate the problem of soil compaction.

Hemp was NOT banned because it was a harmful drug. Hemp was banned because it was a competitive threat to the

wood products industry and newly developed synthetic fibres that were patentable, and therefore more profitable than hemp.

Corporations that profited from the demise of hemp propagated a smear campaign against hemp by claiming that marijuana (\* a word which is the Mexican for hemp and was used to fool the public and most importantly the hemp farmers into thinking that they were two different substances) was a major drug problem (it was not). They also claimed that marijuana use caused people to become extremely violent ñ another falsehood (\*the film 'Marijuana Madness' portrayed people going around jumping out of windows and even going as far as killing their own families, often only after taking one drug off a joint.

### Glen Information (what Pat Kenny doesn't know)

It is one of only four remaining old growth forests in Ireland.

The time saving for the £30 million cost is measured in less than one minute. Wicklow Co. Co. are paying this to speed motorists towards Dublin.

### Money

A Significant portion (circa 30% = almost £10m) of the £30.0 + million budget for the section from Kilmacanogue to Kilpedder is for building the 25ft retaining wall on the West side, (On the right hand side as one passes through the Glen going South towards Wicklow).

Money that could be used to build new rail stations, buy feeder buses & employ bus drivers, etc.

### What About Rail?

After a huge campaign the DART has been extended to Greystones. To serve the extra thousands of commuters from SE Wicklow in future, planning is needed now.

Commercial traffic to and from Rosslare has the facility of the railway in existence, but little or no maintenance has been done on it. Since the creation of the Irish state in the 1920's no track has been laid, only taken up. The Harcourt street line (closed 1959 by David Andrews father, significant that he retires on the same day that the Glen suffered under the chainsaws) shows the lack of foresight of Irish Governments in relation to public transport.

The present plan calls for a second earraigeway to be built by cutting trees (2,500 by Wicklow Co. Co. estimates) and excavating the

West Side.

### No Environmental Impact Study

There was no EIS performed on the the West side plan. Potential damage to the trees higher up on the West Side has not been investigated. Various experts have expressed concern which has been completely disregarded by Wicklow Co Co. The steepness of the West Side gradient, means that a large amount of back filling behind the wall would be necessary.

Estimates of 50-75% destruction of the present tree cover. This is significantly more than the 2,500 estimate from Wicklow Co. Co. Closer to 5,000.

**note:** During the protracted High Court Judicial Review Wicklow Co. Co. changed the plans up to four times in one day. The judge found for the activists on most of the points and told Wicklow co co that although they had broken the law, all they had to do was change the law (in the Dail) and proceed as before. Rights of way set back 20 years according to one expert.

No E.I.S. done on present plan for the West side.

It was not done as the original plan was to put the road along the flat section of the valley. This was changed to the present plan due to a campaign in the late '80s / early '90s. The original EIS was not updated.

### Nature Reserve

The Glen is a Nature Reserve, and the max. speed allowed through a nature reserve is 30 mph.

**\*\*No radar traps have been noted in the Glen.\*\***

The relevant Government body has not submitted it to Europe for ratification as an SAC (*Special Area of Conservation*). The EU may withhold Structural Fund payments

because of the lack of Environmental protection legislation in Ireland.

Wicklow Co. Co. has plans for more housing developments in the South East of the county. The N11 is the only option being pursued for a transport service. For commuters to Dublin city, more cars on the N11 will only add to the delays at peak times. When the M50 junction is completed at Loughlinstown (Brides Glen, the site of even more tree felling, some of them unnecessary) the chaos that rules along the Western section of the M50 at present will extend to Loughlinstown.

Yet the Irish pattern of housing development without planning for services continues. The results of this are presently being felt by West Dublin residents. An average journey from Knocklyon to the city centre by car takes 90 minutes at peak times. Only now is the LUAS tram system on the cards.

Ireland's afforestation program, is the only one of the EU states taken to the European court in relation to the environmental damage of its afforestation programme and it was convicted.

Ireland has the least amount of protected areas, nature reserves etc of all OECD countries, less than 1 percent of its territory compared to the average of 12% in the OECD.

The Glen of the Downes is ancient woodland and ancient woodland is extremely rare in Ireland. Thus less than one twentieth of one percent remains and is descended from the original oak and mixed native wildwoods of Ireland. Also, though the English did a great deal of destruction, we were principally responsible for the destruction of the original wildwoods, and continued even after independence to decimate the remaining native woods.

Also Irelands industrial conifer plantations are on balance extremely damaging to

biodiversity and prevent the natural return of the native woodland that would normally take place. Their existence is evidence of the Irish people's indifference to the environment since no other state in Europe has been so foolish as to plant them on such a massive scale. On a strategic scale the real problem is that according to the OECD Ireland has the least amount of territory dedicated to nature conservation and protected to international standards. The OECD average is 12%. Ireland has less than one percent so protected, not even as much as Turkey.. That is the real problem. And why? because the Irish people don't want to spend money buying land for nature conservation as is done in all other developed countries. That is the crux of the problem. Finally, what the authorities fear most is that the Glen of the Downs scandal becomes known abroad.

*\*15,000 people signed the petition over the years to save the trees in the Glen nature reserve.*

The Glen of the Downs was listed by the State Heritage Service as Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) - the designation for land protected by the Habitats Directive. The High Court judge ruled that the Directive could only be invoked to protect the Glen if an application to protect the area was received on the same day it was designated! This in effect renders environmental legislation in Ireland - and throughout Europe - impotent. An earlier Supreme Court decision made it clear that the Glen's status as a National Nature Reserve - Ireland's first - would not protect it either. This ridiculous High Court decision was appealed to the Supreme Court which upheld it on December 21st. On the Winter Solstice the highest court in Ireland ruled that legislation to protect the environment had no power in Ireland.

**“Only when the last tree has been cut down, the last river poisoned and the last fish caught, will you discover that money can not be eaten.”**

*cree indian saying*

### Permaculture

The word permaculture (permanent + agriculture) was coined in 1978 by Bill Mollison, an Australian ecologist. It is the design of human living spaces around environmental principles.

Permaculture creates agriculturally productive ecosystems with the stability, resilience and diversity of natural ecosystems. It is a system of agriculture which can endure without constant human input and which does not deplete the land.

At the centre of permaculture is the ethic of caring for the earth and interacting with the environment in mutually beneficial ways. It stresses the harmonious interrelationship of humans, plants, animals and the Earth and creates homes that resemble natural ecosystems in their efficiency, productivity, health and beauty. It utilises resources in a sustainable way and preserves wildlife habitats and the genetic diversity of wild and domestic plants and animals. The aim of permaculture is to provide food, energy, shelter and other needs in a sustainable way for all species. It provides us with the means to meet our needs for water, food, shelter, energy and social interaction without destroying the life community around us of which we are an inseparable part.

So, how does permaculture save resources, develop sound ecosystems and provide high yields all at the same time?? It incorporates small-scale intensive systems which are labour efficient and which use biological resources instead of fossil fuels. Each component in a system performs multiple functions, and each function is supported by many elements.

Permaculture works by observing and replicating natural ecosystems, using and accelerating natural plant succession, and increasing the highly productive "edge zones" within a system. These edge zones are where 2 ecosystems come together to form a third which has more diversity than either of the other two, i.e.; edges of ponds, forests, meadows etc.

By observing the natural patterns of a particular site, the permaculture designer can devise methods to optimise the resources available. Permaculture designers work with, rather than against nature, allowing systems to evolve in their own way towards a state of maximum productivity and abundance. By putting in a little extra thought and observation in the beginning, rather than jumping into development straight away, the permaculture designer can optimise the resources available and discover new sources which are not instantly recognisable and which are often overlooked by conventional agriculture. Permaculture uses cunning to turn waste to resources and problems to assets. As the founder of permaculture, Bill Mollison says, it is a case of allowing systems to demonstrate their own evolution.

There are numerous ways of implementing permaculture principles. Gardens are arranged in the form of natural spirals. These offer plants much of the diversity found in nature - different zones of moisture, different aspects of the sun, and an increased planting area by utilising vertical space as well as lateral space. Trellises can be used for growing vines etc. while also providing shade from the sun. Animals can be integrated into permaculture design to recycle nutrients, graze weeds, and ultimately to provide meat for their hungry own-

ers! Buildings are made energy-efficient, materials are recycled where possible and waste water is treated in an environmentally sound manner. Solar and wind power are widely used, as these are renewable sources of energy, unlike fossil fuels.

Nothing is wasted, and everything is arranged so that we exert the least amount of effort and gain the highest yield from our systems.

The components of the ecosystem offer mutual benefits to each other without competing for their respective needs. In this way, not only is work saved, but a system already supplying a yield can be made to supply another yield in the same space using existing wastes.

Permaculture works with a set of ethics that suggest we think and act responsibly in relation to each other and the earth. These ethics include care of the earth (all living and non-living things), care for people, and return of surplus to the earth. Permaculture also acknowledges a basic life ethic, which recognises the intrinsic worth of every living thing. It is not concerned with the accumulation of wealth, power, or land beyond need.

Everything is connected to everything else. Every function is supported by many elements - therefore if one or more elements fail, important functions can withstand it. Every element in the system is chosen and placed so that it performs as many functions as possible. Another important principle of permaculture is stocking. This involves finding the balance of various elements to keep one from overpowering another over time. Permaculture designers recognise that aiding the natural cycles results in higher yield and less work. A little support goes

a long way. The view is also taken that the only limit on the number of uses of a resource possible is the limit of information and imagination of the designer.

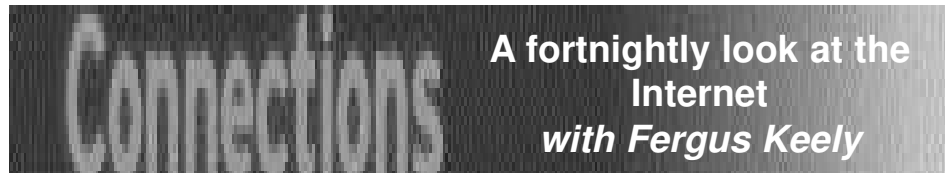
Permaculture attempts to recognise existing resources, converting them if necessary into forms useful to humans through the interaction of intermediary species. The Permaculture designer responds to different conditions and problems by identifying some plant or animal capable of incorporating each new condition or problem into a productive part of the food-producing system. In this way yields can be increased by identifying and taking advantage of on-site excesses and wastes, instead of by increasing inputs of chemicals or fertilisers from outside. This approach conserves resources, and minimises wastes and pollution.

Energies needed to run permacultural systems are taken from the existing flows of sun, wind, water, and floral and faunal life cycles. Non-renewable resources must be avoided or used very conservatively, and resources which pollute by their very nature (i.e. agricultural and other toxins) are avoided altogether.

Many ecologists believe that permaculture is the future of agriculture. It certainly has many advantages over conventional farming methods, especially from an environmental standpoint. So the next time you find yourself lost somewhere in Kerry after a few too many drinks, take note of your surroundings as it might be the last time you see a conventional farm.

# WIRED FOR WEIRD:

## A guide to the paranormal online.



**Due to technical difficulties I was unable to bring you last week's article on home computing and where to buy computers online. That will reappear at a later stage. This week I decided to write about an appropriate topic, the paranormal.**

Given that the word UFO is the second most common word to be searched for on the Internet, I thought it was about time the subject was given some attention.

The number of paranormal related sites on the web has grown in the last few years but people have always had a fascination with the unknown and the paranormal which explains this growth.

The best all-round paranormal site on the Internet is the Fortean Times website, [www.fortean-times.com](http://www.fortean-times.com). The site was set up two years ago when both the Internet and interest in the supernatural was at its peak. The magazine itself was founded in 1973 to continue the work of legendary paranormal investigator Charles Hoy Fort who died in 1932 and investigated such things as falls of fish and other strange substances from the sky. The site has archives of all articles published in the magazine, news from around the world and links to some of the best paranormal and science related sites on the Internet.

The next best site is Blather ([www.blather.net](http://www.blather.net)). This site is of particular interest to Irish people because it compiles all the reports of strange happenings throughout the country. The site is very weird but it is all in good humour. The site is run by Daev (no it's not a misprint) Walsh who writes the Internet column for Fortean Times. Blather is an e-zine so its subscribers have access to resources such as sound

and video files that readers of print magazines do not. This site also contains a good link page to other sites though there may be some overlap between the two sites I just mentioned.

The next site that is truly out there is [www.rotten.com](http://www.rotten.com). It contains articles but mainly photos which are quite simply ... rotten. A word of warning, this site is really, really weird and should only be visited by fans of horror films or people who want that perfect image to e-mail to a friend. One good part of the site though, even if it is rather gruesome, is Celebrity Morgue. Here you can see celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, Kurt Cobain, River Phoenix and John F. Kennedy as they appeared on the autopsy slab.

One of the best science-based sites with a connection to the paranormal is SETI @ Home (<http://setiathome.berkeley.edu>). The University of Berkeley in California where SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) is based runs this site. The site itself is not that good although it is a lot better than the other university sites in America. The real attraction of this site however is that you can download a reasonably small program (745Kb) which runs as a screen-saver on your computer and analyses data from the Arecibo Radio Observatory in Puerto Rico while the computer idles. It does this by downloading packets of data from the Internet whenever you surf the web or check your e-mail.

For a truly strange site but one that is packed with humour go to [www.darwinawards.com](http://www.darwinawards.com). This site is the home page of the Darwin Awards. These awards are given out every year to people who find new and interesting ways to kill themselves. The site itself serves an archive of tales of strange deaths. It is

one to check out if you are looking for a laugh or the perfect conversation piece.

A site that is surprisingly interesting and well designed is [www.reversespeech.com](http://www.reversespeech.com). This site concerns the phenomenon of reverse speech or backward masking. Conspiracy theorists postulate that backward masking is used in songs and advertising to hide a subliminal message in it. In advertising it may be to convince the consumers to buy the product or in a song to push a message from the band. It has even been suggested that prominent politicians such as Tony Blair and Bill Clinton have used this technique to push their political agendas or help them get re-elected but this is mere speculation. Also check out [www.wildcowpublishing.com/paranormal/reverse.html](http://www.wildcowpublishing.com/paranormal/reverse.html) for more information.

Getting back to mainstream paranormal research though, amateur investigators and reports are the lifeblood of paranormal research. Because of this sites like Sightings ([www.sightings.com](http://www.sightings.com)) have become increasingly popular. This site collates reports from e-mails, news sites, papers, journals and loads of other sources to bring you real life X-Files, though more often than not these reports are far more bizarre than anything Chris Carter or the other writers on the X-Files could dream up. For more on real life weirdness go to [www.artbell.com](http://www.artbell.com).

Lastly for a bit of humour with a touch of weirdness thrown in go to [www.fractalcow.com/bert](http://www.fractalcow.com/bert). Titled Bert is Evil, this shows how Bert of Bert and Ernie from Sesame Street has guided the course of history in the most sinister of ways. You can see pictures of Bert with Hitler during the Nuremberg rallies, Bert as the mysterious gunman on the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza and also as the infamous face on Mars. This is sure to put a bit of humour back into anyone's life.

That's it for another week. Next week I'll have a look at books on the Internet and why the era of print media hasn't died out just yet. As usual you can contact me with any comments or questions at [fk1121@oceanfree.net](mailto:fk1121@oceanfree.net) and I'll do my best to help.



## Diary Of A First Year

**Mairead Moriarty gives us the low down on what it's like to be walking round this place for the first time.**

**(ps up the Kingdom!)**



**Maybe I'm going scatty, but this term seems different to the first.**

For starters, it's colder and windier. And we can now do a "pub-crawl" (of two pubs) right here on campus. But the major thing is that the whole, "But I'm only a little first year" thing doesn't seem to work anymore. We know the score. We've been there before. No excuses. No longer the

naïve freshers, but now nearly second years! We are now experienced, whether we like it or not!

Experience is a great thing, I reckon. For ages I've been promising myself to pay a long over-due visit into Dolan's in town. And last Thursday, I finally plucked up the courage to venture in. Soul Clinic, with DJ Noel Phelan, was what was on the menu. And how tasty was it, I hear you ask.

Now I know that Dave is going to edit it out if I'm not "nice", so here goes! Firstly it doesn't help in the slightest if you are absolutely wrecked tired and just not in the mood for people dancing their asses off. Plus I was sober

which was unlike everyone else there!

My experience of the night was somewhat mixed. I'm not saying that I didn't enjoy the night, but to be honest, it just wasn't my kind of thing. Now you're probably wondering what my kind of thing is. Nothing relaxes me more than sitting at home with David Gray playing on the stereo. And Soul Clinic just wasn't that! As you can imagine, I felt totally out of place and not at all comfortable! My head was wrecked from one particular drunken student, who shall remain nameless, who insisted on dancing for hours on end! Now I know that that is probably the whole point of the gig, but for fear of repetition, it's just not my thing! But before further adieu, I must say that great efforts were put into the organising of the whole thing, as I've seen firsthand, and appreciate that most found it a great night. And that's not to say that I'll never set foot inside Dolan's again, but only when they offer something more to my liking. No offence intended.

Now that all that is said, I think that I can get back to typing about the one thing that actually concerns me this issue. Being a first year! Sorry – nearly second year! Part of the whole growing up and maturing thing involves being able to give a balanced view regarding issues that students themselves are involved in. And I think that Thursday night gave me a perfect opportunity to use my right of free speech. Although I've been advised that I don't know that much about it, I still felt the need to write about my latest adventure. For that is the whole point of this column – where you, the general student body, get to read what I, an innocent little first year, make of the great world that is UL! And you can choose to either continue reading it issue after issue, or skip onto the last page and just attempt the crossword, or even perhaps glance through your horoscope. Whatever you choose to do, that is your choice, just like my opinion about March 2nd is my own also!

# Have You Nothing Better To Do?

You know those headwrecking e-mails that you get from people with nothing better to do. Now and again though, a good one turns up. We're going to see if we can find one a fortnight. Tough task.

Us students are always looking for helpful hints to save some time and money.

Here's a few that come highly recommended.



- Don't buy expensive 'ribbed' condoms, just buy an ordinary one and slip a handful of frozen peas inside it before you put it on.

- Create instant designer stubble by sucking a magnet and dipping your chin into a bowl of iron filings.

- X-Files fans. Create the effect of being abducted by aliens by drinking two bottles of vodka. You'll invariably wake up in a strange place the following morning, having had your memory mysteriously erased'.

- A Hedgehog trained to scuttle up and down the table from guest to guest makes an unusual mobile cheese and pineapple cube nibble dispenser at cock-

tail parties.

- Make cheap but effective baby rattles by gluing a lollipop stick to an empty matchbox, then filling it with ten woodlice.

- Minor skin grafts can be performed on pigs by covering any cuts and grazes with thin strips of bacon.

- Save money on expensive personalised car number plates by simply changing your name to match your existing plate.

- Don't waste money buying expensive binoculars. Simply stand closer to the object you wish to view.

- Pop a few teabags in your hot water tank and you can make a hot cuppa any-

time by just turning on the tap.

- Avoid jet lag by simply taking an earlier flight, thus arriving fully refreshed and on time.

- Pass off as Welsh by putting coal dust behind your fingernails and talking gibberish all the time, stopping occasionally to sing loudly, or set fire to someone else's house.

- Putting just the right amount of gin in your goldfish bowl makes the fishes' eyes bulge and cause them to swim in an amusing manner.

- Save time when crossing a one-way street by only looking in the direction of oncoming traffic.

- When crossing a one-way street always look in BOTH directions in case a large, blue furniture removal lorry is reversing the wrong way up the road.

- Thicken up runny low-fat yoghurt by stirring in a spoonful of lard.

- Avoid losing contact lenses by drilling a small hole in each one and attaching them with a length of nylon fishing line. This can then be worn around the neck.

- Anorexics. When your knees become fatter than your legs, start eating cakes again.

- Always keep a pound of lard in your

pocket so that if you get your head stuck in railings you'll be able to grease your ears and slide out.

- Mix tea with coffee, and leave in the fridge to cool. Hey presto! Toffee.

- A next door neighbour's car aerial, carefully folded, makes an ideal coat hanger in an emergency.

- Hijackers. Avoid a long stressful siege and the risk of arrest, imprisonment or death by simply making sure you book a flight to your intended destination in the first place.

- Next time you go drink driving ask a friend or relative to follow you on a motobike carrying a camera. Then, if you crash, they can take they blame.

- Deter goldfish from having sex by throwing a small bucket of air over any that you catch in the act.

- Always fart into the rings on top of your gas cooker. This will turn back the gas meter, and save you pounds over a period of time.

- An empty aluminium cigar tube filled with angry wasps makes an inexpensive vibrator.

- Olympic athletes. Disguise the fact that you've taken anabolic steroids by running a bit slower.

## What will happen if we do meet the aliens?

Kasey O'Shea looks at our record to date, and considers our options

**Well now, we could go for the whole colonisation thing again - move in, set up camp, use their natural resources, use the aliens as pets or for scientific research or even frighten them off to the mountains.**

Then again, we might not like the look of them, so we'll set up gangs and arrange fly-bys, whizzing past their place shouting and bombing because they happen to have different skin colour to us.

We could set up exchanges. A couple of us would visit their place and in return we get to hang out with E.T. for a while. We could conquer their land and make them work for us. We could adopt some. We could stick jerseys on them 'cause they have supercool powers and stick them on a rugby team or cricket team or admire their athletic skills.

We might do something insane like learn from them. They could teach us how to use the rest of our brain or how to eat rocks, dispose of plastic or how to walk on our shoulders or maybe even live in harmony (that'll be the

day).

We could always find new and improved weapons or new prejudices on their planet with which to kill and belittle each other.

Maybe the aliens will find a way to give sharks and trees legs so that they may come and seek revenge for the mass destruction we have inflicted upon them or we could finally find the race more destructive and inhumane (obviously) than ourselves who will show us what it is like to be inferior. They will make us feel so lowly that we don't deserve to live simply because we are different to them.

We might actually get along - work together, marry each other. We could have an international, 'the day we met the aliens' day where we would all dress up, have a bank holiday, get Mr. and Mrs. Alien drunk on Guinness and have a great laugh. Or we could head off to their planet for the day and celebrate alien style. We can listen to funky alien music and do trendy alien dancing (although you see a lot of that already) - party alien style.



Hmmm - can you see it happening. Some people can't even accept who we share our world with now. How could we accommodate another species? At the end of it all we'd probably do as humans always do - declare war for fear of being conquered and kill them all and then we'll have, 'the day we beat the aliens' day, show re-runs of Independence Day, give ourselves big pats on the back and have another excuse to throw a party.

**Kasey O'Shea**

# State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

## Near Mutiny or Practical Defence

**When we think of the defence forces, we conjure up an image of a soldier, invariably deaf and probably escorting a large consignment of cash going from one bank to the other.**

This has somewhat changed over the last few weeks. We have seen our top-ranking military staff in intense negotiations with civil servants from the Dept. of Defence. So what's happening?

For the first in the history of the state the Government has decided to publish a white paper on Defence, which in reality means that the Government has a policy on the Permanent Defence Forces (the army, naval service and air corps). This white paper was published last week and created howls of discontent among the military, which have been simmering for the last forty or more years. Officials in the Dept. of Defence were forced to meet with the military to discuss their problems with the white paper and got written assurances from Minister Michael Smith that certain conditions would belay their fears.

Do we need an army at all? The defence forces exist as an expression of the state's sovereignty. However the necessity to have an armed force, in reality, serves a more practical function. The army supports our unarmed police force, whose role it is to protect the internal security of the state. And even when the Gardaí are negligent, as in their so called 'blue flu' the army served as the only protectors of internal security.

Our commitments abroad to the United Nations also obliges us to have a professional and well-equipped force. However the Government White Paper will cut the number of personnel in the defence forces from 11,500 to 10,500. With the increasing role of the defence forces in international and European security operation, the armed forces should be enhanced and underpinned, instead of the cuts being proposed. The white paper, all 78 pages of it, does not reflect the years of neglect that the armed forces have gone through. Although we are

told that modern

equipment will be purchased and an extra £10 million will be given to one section of the defence forces, it would seem to this observer that it is too little and definitely too late.

We are probably one of the most badly equipped forces in Europe at the present time. Our naval service, a glorified coast-guard, is totally inadequate to protect and monitor the state's quarter million square miles of territorial seas. Belgium has a fleet of 18 ships to protect its tiny maritime area, while we have only 8. The Government will maintain its current flotilla of 8 ships, to protect our country from illegal fishing and drug-trafficking, to conduct search and rescue services and generally the defend of our coastline. As one retired naval officer put it: "The proposal is more fitting for policing Rockall than policing this island nation!"

The air corps is now more a ministerial transport service than a force to co-ordinate search and rescue missions and the monitoring of our seas. The White paper gives £10 million over ten years to upgrade its equipment. Again it is too late. Every time we see a rescue mission off our west coast, it is invariably a sea King helicopter from the British forces that we see. Where are our guys? Grounded because of the weather conditions!

So, what happened over the last number of days amounted to the military trying to persuade the civil servants that they were jeopardising the national safety of the state. The defence forces should have been financially underpinned for the past forty years, but instead were left to rot with their Second World War radios and equipment and ignored. With 11% of the defence budget going towards compensation claims, it is not surprising that the state would wish to curtail its armed forces further. The State manages to tell us that on the one hand we are renowned for our peace-keeping capabilities internationally and on the other that these peace-keepers must be cut in size, directed by unassuming civil servants – who could not be expected to administer such forces – and be as flexible as possible.

Ireland should have a well trained and professional army, capable of fast mobilisation to anywhere in the



world. Forget tanks and large calibre weapons and fighter jets and all that. Look to a specialised infantry army that is capable of handling a situation like the one we saw in Kosovo or East Timor. We need a naval service like that of the US coast guard that can police and protect our and Europe's seas. We have no need of an air corps if its only capable function is to transport a minister from Dublin to Cork. The air corps should be focused towards providing a supporting role to our naval service and should be the primary service to co-ordinate search and rescue missions.

It would seem that our Government, or rather the drafters of the White Paper, cannot hear the words of warning from our military who, instead of arguing for better resources to carry out their mission, are now negotiating for their own survival.

## The Diary of Doctor Zaius.

**I remember leaving Limerick for Co-op with the notion that I would use the knowledge that had by some means or another leaked unintentionally into my superincumbent cerebellum.**

So why haven't I? Am I in the wrong job? No I love it here, in fact the only better job I can think of is quality control in a strip joint. Then am I in the wrong course? No, strange as some people find it, I like that too.

Why don't we learn useful things like for instance, how a physicist should write a decent newspaper article, and for an arts student, how to make a drive through order without a cock up. Education students should

learn rudimentary combat skills, perhaps even be taught how to seduce their students in the correct and ignominious manner.

However, in an ideal world, chemists do a module called 'Solvents and their applications to smuggling class A drugs' or 'Introduction to plastic explosives', and physicists would do a module called 'Advanced Nuclear Warfare and it's applications to developing countries'. 'I've kissed ass till now 101' would be a prerequisite module for a postgradship (or is it already?).

It seems to me a lot of university is filled with 'Introduction to Filler Module 1' and 'Advanced Filler Module 2'. A large number of graduates in jobs now feel ill prepared and

daunted by what is essentially the career they chose to begin with when they left school. But on the other hand there isn't an awful lot to co-op, I mean it's not exactly quantum mechanics.

Also does everyone get the right co-op, I'm pretty sure the answer to that one is no. The co-op office in their infinite wisdom have made mistakes. But even in today's Celtic Tiger 'goes grrrrrrrr' economy it must be hard to find a use for HPSS (Try looking above this article). What about the people we all love to hate, the Law and Accounting students, do they go on placement to learn to lie or cheat the taxman? (I've a feeling that's libelous, oh well nothing to fear from half a lawyer).

But to round up my ramble, I

think I'd like to mention the two definite attributes students learn on co-op, and that's how to smell each other out and how to spend a weeks wages in twenty four hours. Whenever the department's office party is looming in the building at least double the number of regular workers seem to arrive with the hushed impending smell of death that a vulture has when trying to keep the whole carcass for themselves.

On a sensitive fluffy bunny finishing note. If by any chance you disagree with my opinions please feel free to write a long boring letter, in which you can fill it with verbal diarrhea about something nobody really cares about. Especially if you've nothing better to do such as watch the Judge Judy or play scrabble with your goldfish. Then roll it up real tight and shove it up your arse, then get out and walk.

# Where's Our Money Going???

K P asks a few questions about capitation, where it goes and the reasons why these questions have to be asked in the first place.

**I was in the restaurant recently and thought it funny that before I left the till, having paid for my delicious smoked cod and potato, that the lady at the till was so insistent that I not go to my seat without an itemised receipt of what I paid for.**

It is perhaps a slight inconvenience at the time having to wait that fraction of a second for the receipt and missing out on the table that I had planned to sit at. But in the overall context of things maybe its not a bad thing that I get an itemised receipt.

Do something as simple as emptying out your wallet and you'll see what I mean. I did it recently and found all manner of receipts from those of books bought in O'Mahonys, to food eaten in Pizza Hut to money lodged in the Bank, (although that particular receipt was very old) all of them were itemised and told me exactly what I got for my money and this is the crux of my point.

If we get itemised receipts for almost everything we pay for nowadays, then why do we not get a similar receipt for the money we hand over to the college every year. When the Minister of Education did away with tuition fees she gave colleges an escape clause that is called Capitation fee. Here in UL its £278 plus the £31 you pay for the new student centre. That £278 is to go towards the student side of costs such as SU, Clubs and Societies, Exams and god knows what else.

"Why do I have to pay £20 a term on printed lecture notes when I'm already paying £278 a year to the college, why do I pay to use sports facilities when I pay £278 at the start of the year to register as a student."

We pay this money at the start of the year and get a receipt for the said amount but we receive no indication of where that money goes. I've been able to ascertain that the Student Union get somewhere between £40 to £50 of the

money to allocate to student activities, but after that there seems to be a large hole swallowing up the rest of the money. I talked to Pat McCarthy (SU President) to see if he could shed any light on the matter. He seemed to be in a similar predicament he said he "had been chasing down those figures from the college for the best part of two months and had had little or no satisfaction with regard to the issue." He has also been talking to other colleges in relation to the issue and they seem to be having similar problems with regard to pinning down figures with regard to the distribution of student money.

So basically what's happening is that we are putting £228 (subtract SU £50) into the coffers of the University of Limerick with little or no idea of where it all goes. We accept that there are massive costs associated with the running of a university and most of those are related to the provision of education and administration services for students but we also demand the right to know where the money goes and to have a say in where that money goes. The start of that process is that when we hand over the £228 we should receive a detailed receipt from the college that illustrates where our money is going.

## **What could happen with that money ?**

Well, we could draw up a wish list and say that we want this and we want that but what are the areas that should be getting more student money. I can think of two quite easily off the top of my head -

### **The Medical Centre**

Why not use some of the money that we pay to resource the medical centre properly. It is obvious to anybody who looks at it, that the MC is low on the list of priorities for the people who run this college. When you look at the fact that instead of making room for the MC in the new Student Centre they put in retail units two of which still haven't been filled. When they built the new library they freed up a huge amount of space but could we

build a customised MC in that space, NO ! we need more offices. Surely when we pay this money in at the start of the year we should at the very least know where it goes and we should also have a say where it goes. It should go into the facilities that students need and that are currently under resourced.

### **Clubs & Societies**

For those of you who are not involved in C&S every year there are arguments over the lack of funding received by C+S from the SU. But when you look yet again at the £278, maybe we should be redirecting our anger at the college who don't distribute the capitation equitably in the first place. Clubs and Societies receive about 2/3 of the current capitation. Which is somewhere between 40 and 50 pounds (remember we couldn't get an exact figure) they need more money. Surely this money should come from £278 that we pay as opposed to taking money away from the Welfare budget or from An Focal. So yet again we are saying that we want to know where the money goes and we want more control over it.

So in the end what am I trying to say ?

1. We pay the money and as such are entitled to an itemised receipt - this means there is accountability - we see where our money is going.
2. That there are core costs and ancillary costs with regard to students at UL and that the ancillary costs such as Medical Centre, Students Union, Clubs and Societies, exams etc. should come out of the money we pay at the start of the year. And costs such as student services, etc. should not be eating into that student money.

So, think about it if you're a class rep. Ask questions at class reps. If you're a member of a club or society then ask questions at council. If you aren't involved in anything but want to know where your money is going then make this an issue, because until we all make this an issue it won't be resolved.



WWW: [soul2000.csn.ul.ie](http://soul2000.csn.ul.ie)  
E-MAIL: [soul2000@skynet.ie](mailto:soul2000@skynet.ie)







## SOUL Week '99 Timetable

### March 13th

12pm Welcome Stables Courtyard Societies Executive  
 12:15pm Puppet Strings Stables Courtyard Drama  
 1pm Who Wants To Be A Mathematician? Stables Courtyard OMEGA-Maths & Stats  
 2pm Sing-A-Long Stables Courtyard Music  
 4pm Toga Debate Stables Courtyard History & Debating Union  
 5pm Sing-A-Long Stables Courtyard Folk Group  
 6pm DJ Showcase Stables Courtyard Radio  
 7pm Laser Tag Meet at SU Centre Ten Forward  
 7pm Talk Function Room Physics  
 7pm Photography Seminar Library Photo Soc  
 8pm Speaker Function Room Labour Party  
 8pm Pub Quiz Stables Ten Forward  
 9pm Live Wired Competition Stables Courtyard Music & Radio

### March 14th

10am - 4pm Green Fair Stables Courtyard Environmental  
 1pm Who Wants To Be A Mathematician? Stables Courtyard OMEGA-Maths & Stats  
 3pm Quake Tournament Stables Computer  
 3pm Orange Race New Courtward PSA  
 4pm Live Music Stables Courtyard Radio  
 6pm La Tuna Stables Courtyard Hispanic  
 7:30pm SoUL Food Fair Main Canteen International  
 7pm Blind Date Stables Courtyard OMEGA-Maths & Stats  
 7pm Guest Speaker Function Room UL Sinn Fein  
 7pm Photography Seminar Library Photo Soc  
 8pm Live Bands Showcase Stables

Courtyard Music

### March 15th

11am Dynamic Gallery Stables Courtyard Photo  
 12pm Moot Court Stables Courtyard Law  
 2pm ??? Stables Courtyard Drama  
 3pm Who Wants To Be A Mathematician? Stables Courtyard OMEGA-Maths & Stats  
 4pm Finish Clubs and Socs Ball

Any queries contact Michael Phelan  
 e-mail: 9633731@student.ul.ie

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# Now Hear This.....

We'll review the albums + singles that you might like to spend your grant on



## The Beach Motion Picture Soundtrack – Various

As to be expected of an album supervised and executive produced by Pete Tong, the soundtrack to the Beach is particularly beat heavy, though it tends to favour a looser, drum and bassy type groove than to a pounding house beat for the most part.

Leftfield kicks off the proceedings with “Snake Blood”, a typically dark and brooding slice of proto-industrial beats and soundscapes followed by the current single ‘Pure Shores’ courtesy of All Saints.

Next follows one of the album highlights, the excellent ‘Porcelain’ by Moby, lifted from his hugely successful and critically acclaimed album ‘Play’ from last year.

Elsewhere highlights include a reworking of Brian Eno and John Cales ‘Spinning Away’ performed by Sugar Ray, the incredibly weird ‘Richard, It’s business as usual’ by Barry Adamson, the surprisingly alright ‘Brutal’ by New Order and the sublime beat-infested, string soaked, ‘Lonely Soul’ performed by Unkle featuring Richard Ashcroft.

Faithless offer up a deeply atmospheric and ritualistic offering in the form of ‘Woozy’ and Kante offers adds some mediocre eastern influenced sounds on ‘Yeke Yeke’. With the dismal ‘voices’ by Dario G and ‘On your own’, a paltry remix of Blur aside, this album is a surprisingly coherent piece of work with a solid underlying thread running through from beginning to end, although it can get incessantly annoying from time to time.

**Bren**



## The Smashing Pumpkins Machina/The Machine of God

**Drummer Jimmy Chamberlain’s heroin abuse and the death of keyboardist Jonathan Melvoin from an overdose, subsequently forced his expulsion from the band in 1997.**

Gone was an integral part of the Smashing Pumpkins trademark sound. But mainman Billy Corgan was never one to back down, so enlisting the help of various session drummers and synthetic beats he recorded ‘adore’, a poorly received yet not all that bad an album in 1998, which distinctly veered away from earlier pumpkins material. However last year saw the reinstatement of Chamberlain, fresh from a bout of rehab and once more the missing jigsaw piece was fitted back into place. The pumpkins latest release certainly makes up for lost time and echoes ‘adores’ all over mellow sound for a full-on assault.

“Thank God” most early pumpkins fans would say, well maybe it’s not quite such a good result after all. Yes, Chamberlain’s pounding beats are back in place and so are the super fuzz drenched guitars, but there is a kind of rushed feeling to the album. Current single ‘Stand inside your love’ and closing track ‘Age of innocence’ hark back to the pumpkins in their heyday and are both superb. ‘Machina’ comes on like a marriage of ‘adore’ and ‘meloncolie’ which results in a heavy wall of sound, which never lets up during the course of the album, but leaves the listener waiting for a simple one guitar, one voice song which the album needs. ‘Machina’ is a return to form but maybe the pumpkins should try and focus on themselves a bit more.

**Bren**

## classic corner

Each Issue, Brendan Gregory will take a look at a classic album from the 70’s, 80’s or 90’s.

This issue.....

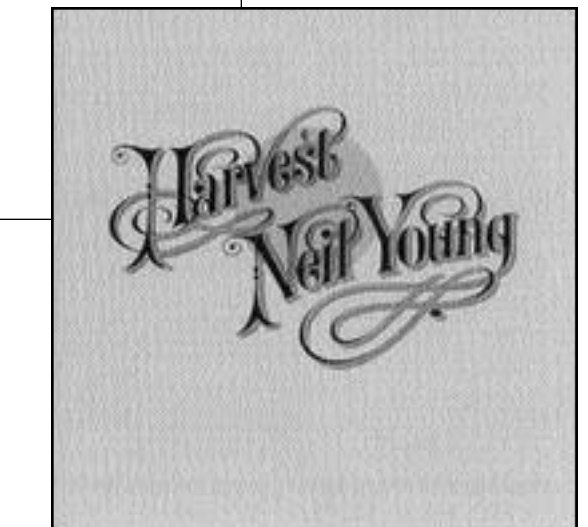
### Neil Young

#### Harvest

**‘Heart of Gold’, taken from this album was the song which put Neil Young in the middle of the road in 1972, and then, in his own words, ‘he spent the rest of his career trying to get back into the ditch’.**

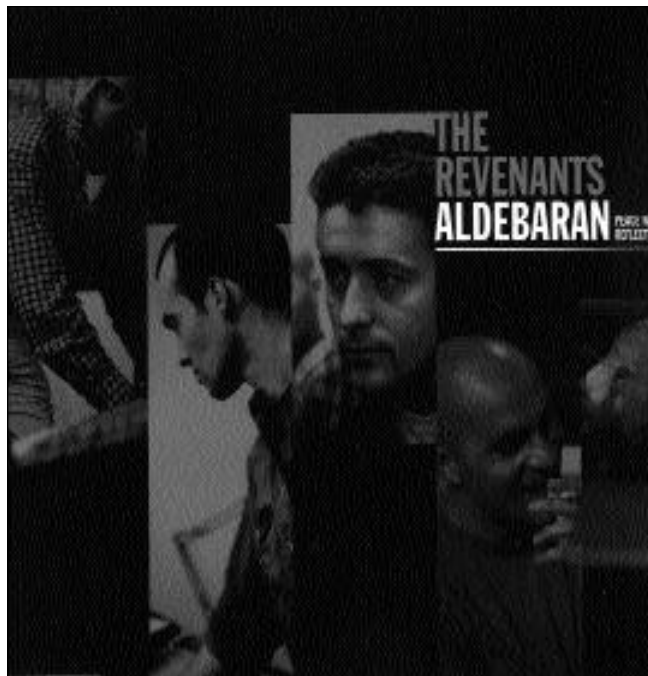
It was the song which turned him into a huge commercial success but which he would later turn his back on, the same way Nirvana disowned ‘Smells like teen spirit’. This album saw the inclusion of The London Symphony Orchestra on two songs ‘A Man needs a maid’ and ‘There’s a world’, adding an atmospheric side to Young’s already varied side.

Young confirms himself as the godfather of grunge with ‘Alabama’ and the deeply moody ‘words between the lines of age’. Elsewhere he gives us classic acoustic offerings such as ‘Old Man’ and the Needle and the Damage done’.



Young enlists the help of James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt and Crosby, Stills and Nash to provide additional vocals on much of the tracks, who also returned to provide vocals on the sequel album ‘Harvest Moon’ in 1992. Along with ‘After the goldrush’, ‘Harvest’ provides the essential core of the Neil Young back catalogue.

**Bren**



### THE REVENANTS 'ALDEBAREN'

This single has been released in order to coincide with the bands nationwide tour with the Heineken Rollercoaster Tour which rolled into Dolans here in Limerick just two weeks ago. For those of you that were there you should remember this lot. This is their second single to release from their 'Septober nowonder' album which was released a couple of months back.

It's backed by two previously unreleased tracks 'peace with honour' and 'reflecting pool'. The album took a long time, been recorded in three different countries and over about as many years not including three tracks on the album which were recorded in a flat in Dublin in 1995.

The single was released on february 14th so is there to buy if you feel the urge. The music is soft and easy to listen to mixing the voice of 'e' from 'the eels' with the music of 'the counting crows' and then adding a slight country tang pulling off a pretty good sound which is well worth checking out.

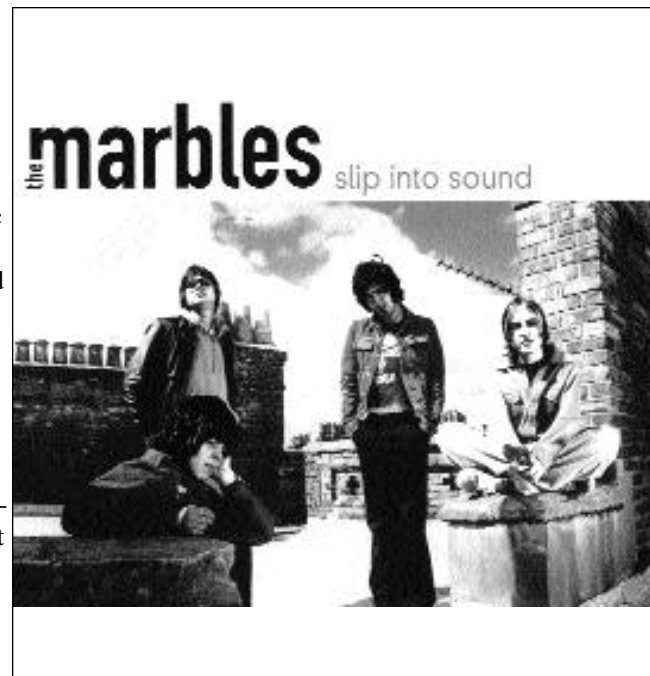
Find out more on the Revenants at [www.independatrecs.com](http://www.independatrecs.com)

### THE MARBLES 'slip into sound'

According to the Sunday Times The Marbles play "shimmering psychedelic rock with gusto and brio.... and are a pop band with an instinctive grasp of the catchy melody and the ability to play fluently." Thats all fair enough but i can't help feeling thats it's just more of the same music, thats its completely unoriginal and that all The Marbles are doing is riding the wave that is the succesful britrock scene, a scene which, in my opinion, is dying and fast.

They sound like Cast jelled with the Seahorses, so if you're into that you'll like this cos it is very catchy and no doubt will do well. One good thing about this band is that they're Irish and i think they al hail from somewhere in Dublin. 'Slip into sound' is the bands official debut single and it isn't released until march the 20th. Taken from their forthcoming debut album entitled 'Fallin Overground' which is due for release here sometime in august, the single contains two exclusive bonus tracks in the form of 'walk away' and 'bleed'. The single is only been released in Ireland but according to the bands website they are hoping for airplay on MTV.

This band would of fitted in nicely in the upsurge of bands like Blur and Oasis in the early nineties but its the year 2000 and i feel that the Marbles have missed the train. However if you are musically challenged and still think that Blurs 'country house' is the coolest toon around, well this is perfect for you. Want more information on the marbles visit : [www.ztt.com](http://www.ztt.com)



# Treading the Boards

Limerick has one of the best theatres in the country in the Belltable. We'll have a look at what is going on in there in each issue.

This issue, Daghdha Dance Company Wishes Mary Nunan Every Success

**Daghdha Dance Company wishes every success to Mary Nunan who has recently taken up the position of Course Director for the new MA in Dance Performance at the University of Limerick.**

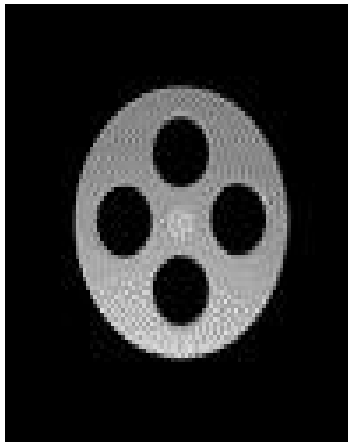
Daghdha has benefited from the integrity, commitment and artistic innovation of Mary Nunan since the company's inception over twelve years ago. Under Mary's artistic direction this dynamic and innovative company went from strength to strength on its firmly established reputation for creating "highly original and virtuoso choreographies." Volker Baser, AZ Feuilleton.

Mary is now embracing the challenging path of research and innovation through her work as Course Director of the MA in Dance Performance. Similarly Daghdha, benefiting from Mary's artistic vitality and dedication is poised to welcome the vision and energy of a new artistic director. The company will build upon its established profile and infrastructure and continue to produce artistically distinctive, high quality, contemporary Irish Work.

Mary has worked in Ireland as a professional dancer, choreographer and teacher for 19 years. Her formal training in dance was

primarily Hawkins technique, which she studied in New York for 3 years from 1978 to 1981. On her return to Ireland she joined Dublin Contemporary Dance Theatre where she studied other techniques under the guidance of guest choreographers and teachers. Here she began to develop her own unique teaching method. It is based on her early training but also incorporates her experience in Post Modern release based work and contact improvisation. Her teaching method and approach is also inspired by her study and practice of yoga and meditation.

Founder member of Daghdha Dance Company. Mary has succeeded in carving a niche for herself and for Daghdha within a world of contemporary dance. Over the last number of years the company has been invited to perform at prestigious festivals and venues throughout Europe and the Americas. The company is now firmly established both within Ireland and on the international platform within the genre of Contemporary Dance. Daghdha is honored to inherit the strength and enthusiasm for development and growth which is Mary Nunan's legacy and looks forward to exciting new developments in the future.



# The Reel Thing

Each issue, we'll take a look at some of the films available on both the big and little screen, to make sure that you're not wasting valuable time watching films like 'the Avengers'

*Unmissable* \*\*\*\*\*  
*Excellent* \*\*\*\*  
*Watchable* \*\*\*  
*Below Average* \*\*  
*No Thank You* \*



Hanks and Clarke Duncan share a moment

**The Green Mile \*\*\*\*\***  
 directed by Frank Darabont  
 starring Tom Hanks, David Morse, Bonnie Hunt, James Cromwell, Michael Clarke Duncan  
 duration 187 mins  
 certificate 18

2000 has been a good year so far for the movie-goer from the black irony of American Beauty to the laugh a minute Toy Story 2 to name just two and if the American critics and indeed audiences are to be believed its going to get even better. But I will defy anyone to tell me that there will be a better film than this all year.

From the humanity and magic of the story, provided by the novels of Stephen King ,to the direction of Frank Darabont who sets the scene picture perfect, to the acting of many fine performances most notably from Hanks, Cromwell and Clarke Duncan, this film moves you from feelings of pure disgust to despair to laughter to happiness. For those of you

who think this is all a bit gushy and a little bit too much then go see it and tell me I'm wrong.

To many Darabont is responsible for a modern classic in "Shawshank Redemption", he is now responsible for another, but this time, it's a very different movie, a similar setting but a different movie. The Green Mile as a film is much less about the actors and more about the story. It is like sitting down and been told a story in the great fashion of the storyteller, something that films neglect to do nowadays. If for that reason alone its worth going to see.

The other reason is that I'm not doing a great job in conveying to you how good it is, so go see it yourself . By the way, it is three hours long, but in those three hours I only looked at my watch twice, both times to see how long was left and what might happen, never because I wanted to get out of there. I haven't told you what it's about namely because it's a great story, so treat yourself and go see it.

KP

**Three Kings \*\*\*\***  
 directed by David O. Russell  
 starring George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Ice Cube, Spike Jonze  
 duration 114 mins  
 certificate 18

Iraq, March 1991. The Gulf War is over. US grunts Troy Barlow (Wahlberg) and Conrad Vig (Being John Malkovich director Jonze, in his movie debut proper) are searching POWs when then happen across a map of Saddam Hussein's hidden - and looted - gold bullion.

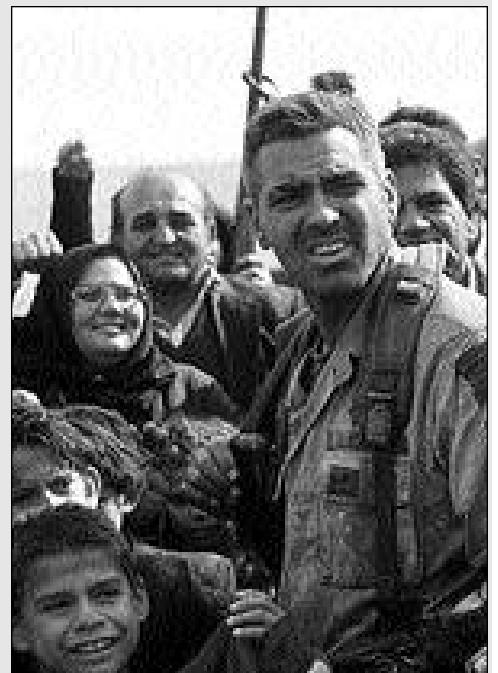
Actually, they find it up somebody's ass. When old-timer Archie Gates (Clooney) gets - ahem - wind of the story, he convinces them, along with their Staff Sargeant (Cube), to take a trip behind enemy lines. Their mission? To rob Sadaam blind, and be back in time for supper. Rather unsuprisingly, things don't exactly go as planned.

After two well received low-budget indie comedies, Flirting With Disaster and Spanking The Monkey, director Russell takes on a big-budget action comedy - and triumphs. Based on an original story by U-Turn author John Ripley, this is the kind of savvy, engaging and informed big-ass charmer that Hollywood isn't supposed to make any more. What's more, it's a showcase for career-best turns from the three leads (Clooney establishing his movie star credentials oncemore after Out Of Sight), not to mention an endearingly goofy - and completely credible - turn from Jonze.

There's a certain level of political

savvy at play here absent from the majority of US cinema full stop, as a major American film takes its government to task for its complete mishandling of the Gulf conflict; in particular the plight of the Iraqi people, encouraged by George Bush to take arms against Hussein, then promptly abandoned when a ceasefire was called. To inform and then entertain - hard enough to pull off. To inform and then pull out all the stops to craft a visually stunning, bitterly funny and touching contemporaray moral fable. Now that's an achievement worth applauding. Really really really good stuff.

Derek O'Connor  
 courtesy of www.doras.ie



george looks for help

**Meeting to discuss  
 An Focal's progress  
 to date**

*we're looking for opin-  
 ions, comments, ideas  
 etc*

**Thursday Wk 4  
 6.00pm**

**new student centre  
 all are welcome**

# Very Well Read.

Darragh O'Donoghue reviews the books that might be worth reading this issue, 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' and 'Gangland'

## Captain Corelli's Mandolin

by Louis de Bernières

Vintage, £6.99 UK

**The Christmas tree has finally come down in our house. Is it love of Christmas or general laziness that delays us putting away the Christmas decorations until nearly Lent? My guess is the latter.**

But there is one thing from Christmas that will stay with me for a while. See, I got a copy of Captain Corelli's Mandolin as a present. Now maybe it's not as practical as, say, a hanky, and probably looks less exciting in its wrapping paper than a brand new stereo system. But it is one of the best books than I've read in quite some time. Long after holes have worn through the heels of those Christmas socks and ages after I've eaten the final Flake bar from the selection box, I will still be thinking of what happens in the book.

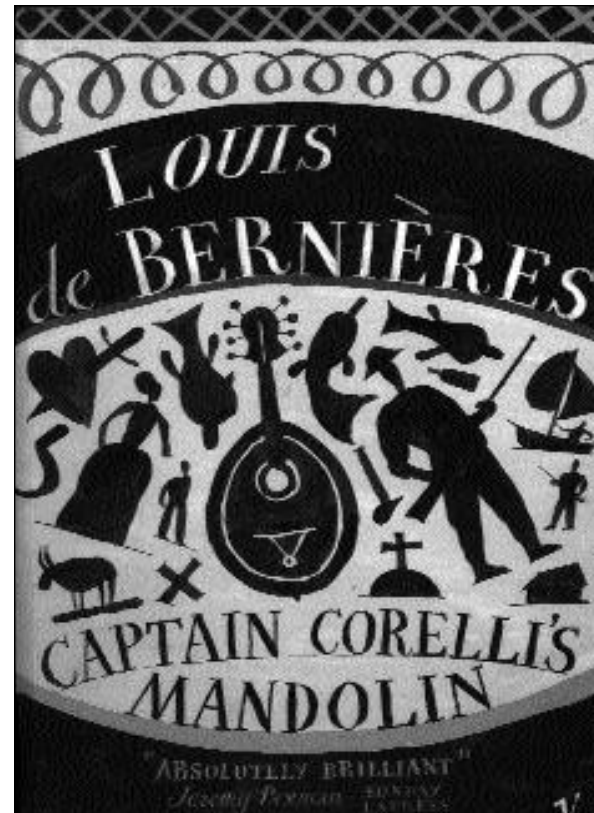
The story is set on a little Greek island called Cephallonia during the Second World War. A little historical background might be helpful. In 1941, the Italians under Mussolini invaded Greece. They were soon joined by the German army who didn't want to leave such a strategically vital piece of the map to the Italians who they regarded them as bumbling and inefficient. So while it was mostly Italian soldiers who were based on the island, the German army was the one really in charge. This had dramatic and tragic consequences for the Italians when Mussolini fell and Italy changed sides.

The book begins before the war and all is calm. We meet the widower, Dr Iannis, and his young daughter, Pelagia. They don't seem to have a care in the world, aside from making sure the goat in the yard is well looked after. Dr Iannis is on the verge of retirement and has started to write a history of the island. The beautiful Pelagia gets engaged to local boy Mandras and they are looking for-

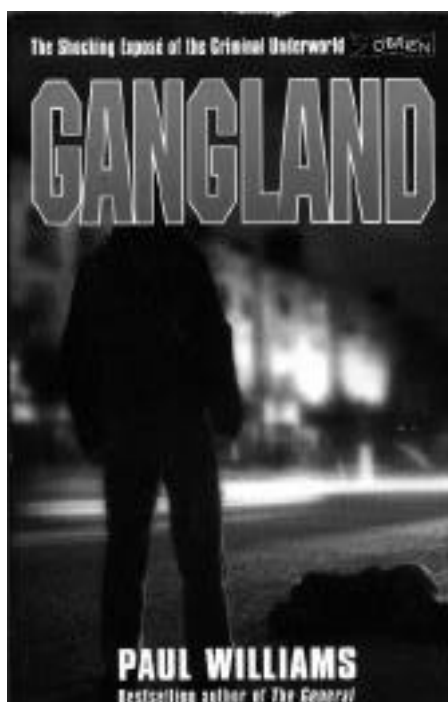
ward to their life together. All kinds of characters inhabit the village and you get the picture of a little Mediterranean community at ease with itself. If you think that sounds like an ad for olive oil then you're on the right track. But then the Italians march in and things change forever. Mandras leaves Pelagia and runs off to join the brutal partisans. A young Italian officer, the Captain Corelli of the title moves in to stay with Dr Iannis and Pelagia. Wouldn't you think that the Italians would bring enough tents to house all their men, but no, the officers moved in to the locals. Understandably the locals were not terribly pleased and moaned at first. After a while they got used to the idea, not having much choice in the matter and besides, compared to what they heard about what the German soldiers were getting up to in Poland and elsewhere, being occupied by Italians was not the worst. Gradually the Italians settle in to life on the island and form friendships with the locals.

This Captain Corelli, as it turns out is a bit of a musician. He has brought his mandolin from home and plays it every night in the house. As is the way with such books, he melts the heart of Pelagia and they fall in love. (A risky relationship given the circumstances.) The theatre of war moves on, so everybody forgets about what is going on in the world outside. The occupiers and occupied learn to trust each other. But then Mussolini back in Rome is hung, drawn and quartered. The Germans take charge, massacre their Italian former comrades, and life on the island goes horribly wrong.

It must be said that I'm not really into mushy romances. Give me a Mills and Boon and I might use it to prop up a wonky table, but I am sure as hell not going to read it. There is a love story to Captain Corelli's Mandolin - one that I was not really expecting - but it was genuinely moving. The backdrop is perfect for the story. You could search for a more dramatic setting, a beautiful Mediterranean island caught up in a horrendous war, but you would be hard pressed to find it. The writing is great,



just enough outrage to stir the reader but not so much that it interrupts the flow of the story. The outcome... well, without giving away too much, it will bring a tear to your eye. Unless of course you're like me and a heartless bastard. But even still, I strongly recommend this book. I'd never heard of de Bernières before but apparently the book has been a smash - not through extensive marketing on the part of the publishers but through word of mouth. A film is now planned so this won't be the last you've heard of Captain Corelli's Mandolin.



## Gangland

by Paul Williams  
O'Brien, £7.99

**The blurb promises a 'shocking exposé of the criminal under-**

**world'. The publisher will tell you that Gangland! investigates who is pulling the strings behind the scenes - the families that form the Irish mafia - and examines the way in which 'their net has spread across Ireland and beyond'.**

But neither of these claims is true: what you have instead is pure titillation. The book features violent criminals, daring thieves, vengeance and murder. This is no searing indictment of Irish society, or even a serious look at 'the underbelly of the Celtic Tiger'. It's more like a TV3 documentary 'When Pets Attack', but substitute criminals for pets.

Ireland does not have an especially violent society, nor one where the strings are really pulled by mafia bosses. We are all touched by crime at some point - it is inevitable. The house will get robbed. Your car will go astray. You might even be physically divorced from your wallet/handbag. But crime bosses are not in charge of Irish society. The crime rate in Ireland has not increased dramatically since the early 1980's but books like Gangland and weekly articles in The Sunday World and The Sunday

Independent might give you the opposite impression. The book exists to entertain, not inform so whatever the blurb might say, you won't learn much about crime in Ireland here. If you really want to know about such things, go talk to your local taxi driver - they always seem to know exactly what is going on.

One aspect of crime in Ireland - terrorism - is not touched on by Williams. He limits his scope to non-paramilitaries. And the characters he investigates are not still at large, they are all safely dead or in prison. This makes it unlikely that they will come after him, either in person and bearing baseball bats, or in the libel courts. So the crimes described in Gangland are somewhat dated at this stage.

Most of the chapters refer to events which happened back in the 1980's. There is story of the Jennifer Guinness kidnap,

the early drug barons, and criminals with names like the 'Monk' and the 'Builder'. The episodes described took place before the assassination of Veronica Guerin and the subsequent creation of the Criminal Assets Bureau. Nowadays, if you are suspected of being a major gangster and you cannot prove how you amassed all this wealth (the houses, the yacht, the stud farm), then the CAB can come along and confiscate the lot. This development has changed the way a lot of gangsters go about their business, but it has barely been dealt with in the book.

Moreover, the kind of criminal that Williams investigates hardly exists anymore. Most of the characters in his book are old school ODC's, the ordinary decent criminal that never sold drugs. But you don't make millions robbing banks anymore.

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# Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Socs on campus.

Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Center, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

## UL Badminton Club qualify for county final

### UL vs Bulgaden

The UL Badminton Club returned to the top of the Limerick League after an excellent 6-1 win against Bulgaden-Martinstown that was played in the UL sports hall.

Before going into the match UL were in second place in the league, 1 point behind their opponents Bulgaden and 2 points in front of Dromin, so they realised that a victory was needed to enhance their chances of making the county final. As usual in this league UL started at -5 while Bulgaden began at +2. Two changes were made to the team that beat Moylish 6-1 in the previous match, Alan Nelligan replaced the sick John Doyle, while Fiona Farrell playing in her very first game for the club replaced Mary Brosnan.

The first games to be played were the singles; Annemarie Reid easily overcame her opponent's while in the men's singles, Bulgaden recorded their only victory, when the excellent Mike O'Brien beat Shane O'Sullivan 15-1 & 15-13. UL won both doubles in two sets; Eric & Alan Nelligan beat Dave & Ed Hayes 15-8 & 15-7, while Darina Doyle & Fiona Farrell won 15-11 & 15-11. The closest and most exciting of the three mixed games was definitely the second mixed, Alan & Darina were beaten 15-8 in the first set, they were losing 13-8 in the second set and to be honest all looked lost, however a change in tactics and a new shuttle resulted in the pair sneaking home by 15-14. With their confidence sky-high they went on the win the final set 15-4.

Because of the excellent performance of Fiona Farrell in the doubles, the UL captain is now in the difficult situation of having to pick 4 girls from the 5 available, with the 5 girls playing very well it won't be an easy decision.

### UL vs Effin

Despite being weighed down by the now familiar handicap of -5 points, the UL Badminton club managed to once again secure a 4-3 win against a tough Effin side despite missing Eric Nelligan due to injury. The match got under way, with men's and women's doubles. Anne Marie Reid and Karen Kennelly stormed through to win their match with the minimum of fuss, while John Doyle and Shane O'Sullivan had a harder time of it, never fully recovering from the -5 handicap, and lost in two sets. Next up came the men's and women's singles. Alan Nelligan, taking over the singles duties for this match, played extremely well to defeat a strong opponent in two sets, and Darina Doyle dominated her opponent to win 11-2 11-6. With a 3-1 lead, UL now only needed one more game to win the match. John and Darina Doyle on for first mixed, lost to a very experienced pair. Alan Nelligan and Karen Kennelly ended Effin's hopes of a victory in the second mixed, win-



The UL Badminton Team, who qualified for the county final after wins over Bulgaden and Elfin.

ning a hard fought game in three sets. As has happened before, the match ran into the training time of the volleyball club, and we would like to thank them for their generosity in allowing us to use some of their time and space.

This narrow win guarantees UL's place in the County final. Who our opponents will be has yet to be decided.

### UL vs Carrigtwohill

After a nail-biting win against Hillview in the first round of the Haynes cup, the Cork team Carrigtwohill travelled to UL for the quarterfinals of this prestigious cup. UL were at full strength for this game with no absentees due to injury or other commitments, and we needed every bit of it. Carrigtwohill have some of the best players in the province, and even with a +2 advantage, we expected, and got, a very close competitive match.

First up were the first men's and first women's doubles. AnneMarie Reid and Darina Doyle played extremely well to defeat their opponents in a game they never looked likely to lose, despite the fact that one of their opponents has played internationally for Ireland. The first men's doubles was another kettle of fish however. In an amazingly close game, Alan & Eric Nelligan ground out a victory against two of the best players in Munster, 15-14, 14-15, 15-13. Next came the second men's and second women's doubles. Karen Kennelly and Mary Brosnan played at the top of their game to win convincingly in two sets. Second men's doubles did not go quite as well, with John Doyle and Shane O'Sullivan losing in three sets.

In the first mixed, both Eric & AnneMarie showed just what they were capable of, winning in two sets. This left UL having to win just a single set more to take victory, which they did when John and Darina Doyle quickly won their second mixed in two sets.

UL go on to meet Castleisland of Kerry in the semi-finals, a team that consists of 7 out of 8 of the senior Kerry players who reached the All-Ireland final this year. Castleisland is also the home club of three UL team players namely Mary Brosnan, Eric & Alan Nelligan.

### Badminton Intervarsities 2000

The UL Badminton Club, sponsored by O'Mahony's Bookshop, the Bank of Ireland and the Stables, will compete in the Badminton Intervarsities, to be held in Maynooth from the 10th - 12th of March. The other teams in the group are UU Magee, UCC, and UU Jordanstown. UL have a very good record in the Intervarsities in recent years, getting to the finals and semi-finals in the two previous years. This year, after 7 league matches and two cup games we are fitter and more prepared than we have been in a long time, and are hopeful of a good result. Eleven players will travel to Maynooth, some even coming back from coop in England to help us to win the title that has eluded us so narrowly in the past.

On another note, the UL Badminton club now has a website on the net, at <http://badminton.csn.ul.ie>. So why not check it out?

# UL Rowing Club Continues On It's Winning Ways

**ULRC has begun the 2000 season with some excellent results in Heads races around the country. This week we include race reports from Fermoy Head, Newross "Iron-man Head" and Port of Cork Head.**

On the fundraising front, the New Year Draw was a brilliant success and a big thanks to all members who helped raise so much. A special thanks to Paddy Quinn who not only organised the draw but also raised the most amount of money. The winning Card belonged to John Normoyle and the winner was :

Ms. Noeleen McGready,  
26 Oakfield,  
Kingston,  
Galway.

Ms McGready will be presented with the hamper and wine after Galway Head on March 18th. The next fundraising event to take place will be our charity row. This will be held at the Parkway shopping centre on the 31st of March and all proceeds will be shared between ULRC and Bothair a local Limerick charity. We will need all your support and continued help to ensure this is as successful as the draw.  
Race Reports

## **ULRC WIN MENS NOVICE EIGHTS AT FERMOY HEAD.**

The hunt for the first novice eight championship of the new millennium received a great boost with our first win of the 2000 season in Fermoy on January 29th. The Head, which was shortened because of the dangerous conditions was rowed at regatta pace. UL began with a powerful stroke rate which they built on throughout the race with a mighty push at the finish. Although the competition was scarce at

this the first head of 2000 it was a valuable win for the novice eight and continues their unbeaten record.

## **ULRC WINS MENS NOVICE FOURS AT NEWROSS IRONMAN HEAD ,**

Check out Mike's excellent report on the web page.

## **ULRC WIN BOTH MENS AND WOMENS NOVICE FOURS AT CORK HEAD.**

On a day that saw 26 members row competitively for ULRC there was success in both the men's and women's novice fours. Conditions at The Port of Cork Head were ideal on race day and racing began at 11am. First off were the men's novice fours. Having been beaten at Newross the Slimz crew was desperate to settle the score. Both crews rowed extremely well rating 33-35 down the 5km head course. From the bank there seemed to be little difference in either crew's race speed and technique. In the end it was the Fatboyz who were awarded the winning time at took the Novice Head title. The Slimz were justifiably concerned with the timekeeping by official on the course and inaccuracy in timekeeping unfortunately seemed to be the order of the day. Nevertheless it was a welcome win for the Novice Four. Next to row was the womens novice eight. This crew has been training hard and is developing well for the Intervarsity Championships in April. They rowed an excellent race and finished second in the novice eights. With their continued improvement the all illusive first win might be theirs at Galway Head on March 18th. The second novice eight in only their second competitive race did ULRC proud also. They rowed the head course twice and put in two



respectable times. These lads are training hard and soon will be fighting for places in the first eight. Again continued improvement will see their times improving in Galway in two weeks time. The first novice eight rowed a fantastic race and was robbed race victory by some wonderfully imaginative timekeeping by race officials. The highlight of the day was a great row by the womens novice fours .This crew has already tasted success at Neptune Head and looks like being a real contender for Galway Head. Although dis-

appointed with the outcome the lads are looking forward to Galway for not only the prestigious eights title but also the continuing fours battle. All told a great days racing for ULRC and apparently a good night way had by all those who stayed on in Cork!!

That's all for now. Next time report from Galway, update on charity row and all the other gossip. Row hard win by lots.....ULRC.



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Contact Niall Donegan, Angela Walsh or Dave Sheehan  
at AIB,UL on 334600, or 334301

# UL Mens And Ladies Basketball Clubs Go All The Way To The Intervarsity Finals. Ladies Bring Home Gold

On Thursday, 17th of February, the University of Limerick Ladies and Men's teams travelled to Cork to compete for the coveted title of Intervarsity Champions in Neptune Stadium, Cork.

The Men's team, who had to travel without last years M.V.P., Rob Lynch, were regarded as dark horses for the tournament and they displayed some great heart and determination in progressing to the final. The Ladies drew Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) and University of Ulster Colerain (UUC) in their pool, while the Men's team drew RCSI and DCU in theirs. The first game for the Men was against a resilient Royal College of Surgeons team who had no less than seven Americans on their panel of ten. It was a close game throughout with never more than three or four points separating the teams. In the end, U.L. were left to rue the total of missed foul shots that proved to be decisive as they were narrowly defeated by only one point.

The first game for the Ladies was against RCSI. UL started the better of the two and proved to be too strong for RCSI leading at half time by 25 pts, 29 - 4pts. In the second half, UL maintained their intensity and came away easy winners with a score of 62-9 pts. Best for UL were Frances Shiely and Eimear Kyne, 13 pts, Nicola Farrell 10 pts, and Emily Bryan and Marie Moriarty with 6pts each.

## Friday 18 Feb, 2000.

The ULLadies faced UUC in their second pool game. UL again started the stronger of the two with some fine scores coming from all the team, and at the end of the first half, UL lead 33-9 pts. Start of the second half and UL kept their intensity and came away easy winners 60-16 pts. Best for UL were Eimear Kyne 13 pts, Nicola Farrell 11 pts and Michelle Hynes 7 pts. The next morning was turning out to be a decisive day for the team as it was announced that the Surgeons beat D.C.U. convincingly that morning. Therefore, anything less than a victory would effectively mean the end of the road for the lads so it was time to focus on the big game. With the late arrival of Brendan Kelly to Cork, everyone was in confident form and ready to face their bitter enemies from down throughout the years. So it was to be at 5:45 the lads tipped off and with John Gleeson shooting the lights out, Big Kieran Mac. lording it under the boards and solid defence from Cian O' Neill, the lads were on course for a memorable victory. Kevin O' Connor was pulling all the strings in controlling the play and indeed gave a match-winning performance ably supported by Paul Marrinan, Shane Murphy, Kelly and O' Brien.

## Saturday 19th Feb, 2000.

The Ladies were now top of their group and so proceeded into the quarter final where they would face Trinity College Dublin. UL started the stronger of the two and at half time had a lead of 43-12 pts. The Ladies kept the intensity going and came away easy winners 67 - 31 pts. Best for UL were Eimear Kyne 17 pts, Nicola Farrell 13 pts and Grace Jordan 12 pts. The UL Lads were catapulted into the quarter finals against one of the pre-tournament favourites, U.C.D. An early tip-off did not suit either team but U.L. had one trick up their sleeve to really stimulate their play - a fresh supply of Red Bull to rid them of the early morning blues. This worked a treat as the lads came out firing on all cylinders. Although the Dub's made a lot of the early breaks, they were not able to sustain the pressure and our lads slowly crawled back in to the game. Cushioned by a 31 point performance by O' Neill and excellent team play from Gleeson, O' Connor, Kelly and McCormack, U.L. applied some late pressure that led U.C.D. to crack and the final margin was five points.

## Sunday 20th Feb, 2000.



UL in action against Trinity in the intervarsities

So on to the last day of the tournament, Sunday, with both the semi-finals and final to be played. The ladies were in the first semi finals, where they would meet University College Dublin. UL again got off to a great start with some excellent shooting from Michelle Hynes, Eimear Kyne, Frances Shiely and Nicola Farrell. This gave UL the edge and so they lead at half time by 6 pts 31 - 25 pts. Into the second half and UL's inside players got in to foul trouble with Eimear Kyne getting fouled out and both Nicola Farrell and Grace Jordan on four Fouls. This required smart defence from the ladies, and true to their form, they came away winners 65-53 pts. They would now meet UCC in the final. Best for UL were Michelle Hynes 14 pts, Nicola Farrell and Frances Shiely 11 pts and Marie Moriarty 10 pts. The Lads team having learned from their first encounter with the Surgeons, delete they were determined to make up for their only defeat in the tournament. Once again, there was nothing between the teams for the half but the Lads opened a comfortable 10 point lead in the second thanks to great attacking play from O' Connor, Gleeson and Kelly. With McCormack, O' Neill and O' Brien working hard on the defensive boards, nothing was left easy for the American contingent. Although they did fight back bravely in the dying minutes of the game, U.L. held on to clinch their first appearance in a varsity final in the club's history, overcoming last years defeat in the semi's. The victors on that occasion were U.C.C. who just happened to be the opposition in the final. So now we were in for a real treat with UL and UCC in both finals.

In the Ladies final, UL got the first score coming from a free throw from Nicola Farrell, and it was basket for basket all the way. Nicola Farrell was in excellent playing form and with her and Eimear Kyne dominating their boards, this hurt UCC. Then Helena Farrell from UCC got on a run and scored six baskets in a row. A timeout was called by UL, this was to change up the defence. UL got Michelle Hynes to mark Helena Farrell, and after this Helena scored 2pts. Excellent job Michelle!! At the end of the first half UL lead by just 2 pts 31-29 pts. Is this the right score?

Start of the second half and UL maintained the intensity and their work rate on defence was super. With some excellent shooting from the UL ladies including a three pointer from Eimear Kyne and three three pointers from Frances Shiely, UL stayed on top. UL's Nicola Farrell was doing a super job inside and getting some great scores. UL kept on the pressure and won the match with a score of 66-59 pts. Best for UL were Nicola Farrell 21 pts, Frances Shiely 16 pts and Eimear Kyne 9 pts.

"One down one to go". Only hours after completing their respective semi-finals, both teams lined out for the final, tired and weary. Once more, the Red Bull was called into action to aid the lads in this, the biggest game of the club's history. However, this was one game too many and

they simply did not have enough energy in reserve to match the fast, well-drilled play of their Cork opponents. After the worst possible start to the game, the lads were 18-2 down after 12 minutes yet they managed to pull this back to 20-17 approaching half-time. However, this miraculous recovery was soon countered by U.C.C. and they quickly established another sizable lead that the lads were simply not able to recover from. Everyone played their hearts out but the ball was simply not dropping and the rims were being unfriendly to any outside shots that were made. The team had given their all but this was not enough to fight off the challenge of the home team who took the title in impressive form. What better way to celebrate and recover from a final defeat ( Lads ) than the varsity banquet in Jury's Hotel that night (and morning). The presentations were made to the Ladies team who were successful once again and then to the Lads as runners-up, everybody trundled up to collect their trophy. Then the All - Stars ( Best five players of the tournament ) were announced. First was UL's Cian O' Neill where the UL gang proceeded to chant "Cianoo, Cianoo" and then it was the turn of UL's John Gleeson where the Ladies team ( John is their coach ) went wild and started chanting "Johnny G , Johnny G ". Now it was the turn of the Ladies teams , first again went to UL's Eimear Kyne , again the UL gang go wild Roaring , shouting and banging on the tables ( A very popular All - Star indeed ) and now to the MVP ( Most Valuable Player ) of the tournament and this award goes to ??? That's rite !! UL's Nicola Farrell. A nice round up to the awards , it is nights like this that make training at 7:30am worth while , Well Done !!!

The UL basketball club would like to thank the Sports office , Dave Mahedy and Neasa O' Donnell for their continued support , McElligotts Buses for all the transport provided , Paul Lee for his help through out the year and a special thanks to Dave in "An Focal" for running all those articles. We would also like to thank John Gleeson and Rossi (Ladies Coaches) and Seamus Woods (Men's Coach) for all their time and commitment. The varsity weekend proved to be a huge success due to the tremendous work put into the team by every member of the squad , whether it was on the court scoring 21 pts or filling the water bottles ( Thanks Antje and Suzanne ).

**Ladies Team :** Eva Galliant, Fiona Larkin, Ciarda O Connell, Michelle Hynes, Emily Bryan, Clíodhna Murphy, Nicola Farrell, Eimear Kyne ( Capt ), Marie Moriarty, Frances Shiely, Margaret Daly and Grace Jordan.

**Coach :: John Gleeson. Manager :: Noreen O' Connell .**

**Mens Team :** Cian O' Neill (capt.), John Gleeson, Rob Holmes, Kevin O' Connor, Kieran McCormack, Brendan Kelly, Alan O' Brien, Paul Marrinan, Kieran Wrenn, David Cronin, Brian Flynn and Des Dockery.

**Coach :: Seamus Woods.**



# UL Camogie Team Almost Come Home With The Ashbourne Cup

by Sharon Carty and Karen Fingleton.

**The Ashbourne weekend had finally arrived. The endless weeks of training were over and the fruits of our labours were to be put to the test in the Ashbourne Cup. We had overcome a determined Mary I team, the cream of Cregans crop, to earn our place in the cup semi-final.**

The team travelled up to Galway on Friday 18th Feb, making a short pit stop at Aoife Lanes, home ground of Ballindereen for a puck-around. Even Gerry the bus-driver joined in, although his camera techniques were far from above board.

Not long after, we checked into the hotel, and after a team meeting, we all got a good nights sleep (?) The following morning, we showed off our camogie skills on the beach at Salthill. (Not to be confused with the film The Beach, it'd be far to cold to go to see that, wouldn't it Eileen???)

At three pm, the moment of truth had come. Fifteen determined girls walked out onto the pitch, after much encouragement from Ger, Dave, Neasa and each other, to face an equally determined UCC side. We entered the match as underdogs-the general consensus was that UL were merely there to fulfil the fixture. This only made us all the more determined. The first half was strongly contested, with some lovely scores from Caroline Murray and Aoife Lane. At half time, the score did not reflect our underdog status, as the two teams were level. In the second half, the scales tipped in UCC's favour despite a lovely goal from a free by Jean Cullinane. Our captain fantastic, Eleanor Walsh then broke an Ashbourne record by being the first girl ever to be sent off!! (So unobtrusive a sending off it was, that our full forwards didn't realise it had happened until after the match, isn't that right Erica??) Despite the obvious setback of losing one of our stalwarts in defence, the UL girls never stopped fighting right until the bitter end. The

game ended UCC 3-8 ; UL 3-4. If the match achieved anything, it meant that UL camogie team would never again go into an Ashbourne match as the underdogs.

A good night was had by all that evening (apart from the residents of the hotel who didn't quite sympathise with our loss). Sunday arrived and we went to watch the shield final, won by Athlone I.T (not Mary I Eleanor!) and the cup final, won in horrendous conditions by our rivals UCC, by a mere point.

At the tournament banquet, after speeches from various officials and the captains of the teams, the Ashbourne combined panel was announced. Fiona Ni

Chorcorain, our brilliant centre-back was selected for the panel. The night then really began, and aside from Aoife Lane attempting to steal the Ashbourne Cup itself, there were no serious incidents.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the camogie team who put in so much effort during the year. Many thanks to Ger Cunningham, Dave Mahedy and Paula OCarroll for their coaching expertise, and to Fiona, Laura and Clodagh for the Trojan work they put in on the organisational side. Thanks also to Neasa Fahy, and Ita and Catherine in the sports office.

## Environmental Society Announce the Participants in their Green Fair

**As part of SoUL Week events, the Environmental Society Green Fair takes place next Tuesday from 10am to 4pm in the courtyard**

The following groups have been asked to the Green Fair on 14th March.

Irish Seed Savers  
Childrens Chernobyl Project  
Organic education Centre  
Afri  
Baby Milk Action  
Burren Action Group  
Conservation Volunteers Ireland  
Compassion in Wor4ld Farming

Earthwatch  
Voice

Vegatarian Soc. of Ireland  
CND

Kerbside  
Irish Fair Trade Network

Genetic Concern

Klee Recycled Paper

Hunt Sabateurs

Jubilee 2000 Campaign

plus alternative medicine practitioners - reiki, homeopathy, acupuncture, dieticians, plus health food sellers plus crafts people and drummers juggellers etc. etc.

# UL Equestrian Club Have An 'Eventful' Intervarsities

**The weekend of 25th, 26th and 27th of February saw the Intervarsities for 2000 being hosted by Trinity, in Kill Equestrian Centre, Kildare. Of a team of nine competitors, six were first timers at this event, and boy, what a weekend we were in for!!**

We arrived up on Friday evening, and while the team began the drinking, Louis and myself headed off to the Captains meeting (on how to drink even more!). Friday night was drunk away and so a sing song in the lobby early Saturday morning evolved. At this stage UL were the best drinkers anyway!

Saturday morning saw the Dressage team of Vinny Phelan, Sinead O'Keefe and Ane Poulsan riding. If sore heads were anything to go by, I think they all did well to stay on, let alone ride! Up against stiff competition, Vinny made it through to the quarter finals but unfortunately received a bad draw of a horse and made it no further.

That afternoon was the first round of the jumping. This provided great entertainment, as Robert Downes and Louis Conlon had a pint on the fastest round. With all the screaming and shouting, I think Louis was one pint up on Rob. Neither managed to get through but surprisingly I was luckily

through to the quarter finals.

Saturday night was the comedian and DJ. "Fr. Damo" from the series "Fr. Ted" displayed competition for Michael Flatley with an impression of Riverdance. Another night on the beer gave a few sore heads on Sunday morning.

Jumping started soon after nine. I was soon to go in, on what must have been one of the biggest horses I have ever jumped, and as I was to find out, fall off too! And so over number eight we decided to part company and be in contention for the best fall off of the weekend. This ended UL's jumping phase for this weekend.

Next on were the Prix Caprilli

team of Gwen Bastian, Chiara Tedeschi and Fiona O'Keefe. This team did us proud, although Chiara getting the "tractor" pony! A beautifully ridden test gave them a second team placing and Gwen a fourth individual.

Then all the colleges participated in a fun "Hunt Chase" on foot. This involved wearing oversized bras, shorts and lots of drinking (and making a fool of yourself).

Sunday night was the Black Tie Ball, and wow, so many men in Tuxes!!!! Unfortunately, Vinny didn't make it much further than the Main Course (well, he doesn't even remember the soup) before he had to be put to bed!!!! UL received, as well as awards for Prix Caprilli, "most annoying Chant of weekend" UL! UL!UL!

Monday morning saw many sore heads in Bus Aras. Believe me, next year, we will be back, bigger and louder, so watch out Intervarsities 2001!!!

PS RIDIN'!!!!!!!

# UL Folk Group - The "Millennium Spanish Point"



The UL Folk Group do a fabulous reggae rendition of 'One' by U2.

**"The wheels on the car go round and round, round and round, round and round...all the way through Clare!".....through Clare indeed and all the way to Spanish Point.**

To say it with the words of Green Day: Spanish Point is something unpredictable but in the end it's right, we did have the time of our life! On Friday, December 10th, 12 of us decided to just not give a damn about assignments, exams and stress for two days and take the opportunity to go down to

Spanish Point for the last time in this millennium and also for the last time with Guillaume "Liam" O'Frenchman who will be going back home to France after Christmas. We piled into cars, threw in one lap top and one computer on top of food, clothes, CD's and all, just in the case of a sudden bad conscious of having abandoned work and study for two whole days.

It turned out to have been a brilliant idea!

After first getting lost in the middle of Co Clare we eventually arrived in Spanish Point and once we had the heating working, went about preparing food. Not long after this, it was down to the Bellbridge we went and I guess it wasn't only meself who kept fingers crossed for yet another function that we could benefit from. Well, Tomas has already told you the full story of what happened down in sweet Co Clare in the millennium issue of An Focal just before Christmas.

Now the Folk Group will go on a three weeks break with the rest of UL's students and staff and shall return in week 1 of the new Semester. So do come along and join us down in the Salesian Hostel on Thursday nights at 8 pm! You won't regret it! Just like last term we will be going down to Spanish Point twice (hopefully) so, if you haven't seen Clare, the Cliffs of Moher or Spanish Point, yet, this is your opportunity to do just that!

Any questions? Just ask people on our stand for Societies day next term or visit our webpage at <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~folk/>

See you there, Your UL Folk Group  
P.S. Good bye Guillaume and take care. We will miss you loads!!!!

## UL Pool Club's First Showing in the Pool Intervarsities

The UL Pool Club was started officially at the beginning of Semester 1,1999.

A few friends of mine thought it would be a good idea to start up weekly competitions in the pool room in the new student centre. We went about registering with the clubs and societies, stuck up a few posters with details of competition times and prize money details and away we went.

The club recently went to the Pool Club Intervarsities which were held in Sligo IT. It was a team event with five people on each team. We managed to get one team together for the competition.

The team members were:

- 1) Joseph Moran,
- 2) Paul Weekes,
- 3) Barclay Costello,
- 4) Adain

O'Mahoney,

5) Robert Duffy,

Over all, we were very unlucky not to get out of our group, but in the singles competition Adain O'Mahoney managed to get to the last 16 and I, (Joseph Moran) managed to get to the last 32. Adain and myself were beaten by last years finalist Kevin Mc Donald. There were in total 175 people in the singles competition, so when you think about it we done very well.

If anyone is interested in joining the UL POOL CLUB or need any other information you can contact me at my e-mail address [9736565@student.ul.ie](mailto:9736565@student.ul.ie).

**Competitions are held every Tuesday in the Pool Room @ 7.00pm in the new Student Centre**  
**First Place £25**  
**Second Place £10**  
**All New Members Welcome**

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## *Ella Daly's* Really Thin Gossip Column

Hello there my little fluffy bunnies, nice to see you've tuned in again for all the dirt on your fellow students.

Ok, whats new this week? **Fergal Fennessy** has been a very naughty boy in the last two weeks. Mr Fennessy, famous for his American football moves, has, I think, been spending far too much time in the clubs and socs office.

I've caught him twice in the last week attempting to use this exalted space for his own mis-deeds. The first time, he was attempting to subvert the Rugby Club to the low standards of Mr Fennessy's own American Football Club. I can reliably quote Mr Fennessy of coming (no pun intended) out with the next little gem in a phone conversation with the auditor of the Rugby Club, "So, if we can get together, maybe some of your lads could play with mine and I could play with yours." I know that this is a new millenium and all, but some how this just dosen't seem right..... Surely Mr Fennessy can get his sexual kicks elsewhere and without involving an entire rugby club!!!!!!

To add insult to injury, he then teamed up with that other deviant "**Fiendish Fleming**" for an argu-ment on just who was "BIG-GER....." than who. Perhaps, for verification, we could call on David's american conquest? They dont call him "Flem Fatale" for nothing you know. It seems to me that both lads (again no pun intended) could do with attending the Debating Union debate on "This house believes that substance is better than quantity."

Speaking of which, from what I've heard of the **Deb Union**, that's what they'd WANT to believe!!!!!!

Its full steam ahead for the "Clubs and Socs Ball". The amount of tulle, velvet and satin being paraded around the new student centre on a daily basis is astounding, and thats just **Paul Lee**. He is apparently very worried about his ball gown, you know the usual, does it fit properly, will every one else be wearing the same thing.....take it from me Paul, I make clothes and i've never seen a leopard print velvet column dress look so good on a guy and trust me, there is no way any one else willbe wearing the same thing.....

Thats all for now. See you soon, and remember, watch what you say. You lot make it surprisingly easy for me

# New Bands Competition

## The Kenyon,

**Invites all young bands to take part in their second annual Battle of the Band's Competition, kindly sponsored by HEINEKEN.**

The Competition will run every Wednesday night from 21st June to 6th September, 2000.

**First Prize**, sponsored by HEINEKEN, will be 3 days recording in "Studio 666". At the end of these 3 days, you will have a Master Copy ready for production.

**Second Prize** - £200 which you can use towards Musical Equipment.

**Third Prize** - A HEINEKEN Top for each Band Member plus a slab of HEINEKEN Beer.

All Bands will have the facility of a 7K EV Sound System and 24 channel Mixing Desk, Lighting etc, at their disposal. This is your chance to put your Band on the MAP! There is NO Entry Fee.

**All Enquiries to:**

**James Shoer at The Kenyon, Tel: 067 - 34160**

**Or**

**A. Ryan, Tel: 087 - 2984228**

**E-mail - akrpromotions@eir-com.net**

**Before June 1st.**

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All Bands must enter on or before June 1st 2000.
2. All Bands must perform at least 2 original songs.
3. All Bands must arrive at least 2

hours prior to performing.  
4. Amateur Musicians Only.

Each Band will be marked under the following criteria:

1. Presentation.
2. Musicianship.
3. Originality.
4. Crowd Participation.
5. All Round Performance.

**A GOOD SENSE OF HEINEKEN**  
Over the past Two years 'The Kenyon' has become the No. 1 entertainment venue in the area both as a Disco Bar and Live Band venue. And for those of you who like a more relaxing atmosphere, the front bar is the perfect alternative.

We have just completed a revamp of 'The Kenyon' which included building an innovative new bar in the disco area. Overhead this bar is our Hi-Tech DJ Booth which controls our new State-Of-The-Art Sound and Lighting System.

This work has received very positive reactions from our customers and the addition of our new stage area for Live Bands to plug in to our In House P.A. System, complete with resident Sound Engineer, providing the best possible live sound, it will surely become the place to be.

There will be many well-known groups and artists performing in 'The Kenyon' over the coming months. We hope to cater for a wide variety of tastes in the large intimate venue by introducing artists that have not performed in the area previously.

At 10 past 24.

Strands of the wonder  
Just taken place  
Are licked with proud tongue.  
Night holds its breath  
And silence marks now in mind  
She tastes and savors  
Silence,  
And straw sticks  
A quivering rising form  
Empathic lick

Strands of the wonder  
Just taken place  
Are licked with proud tongue.  
Night holds its breath  
And silence marks now in mind  
She tastes and savors  
Silence,  
And straw sticks  
A quivering rising form  
Empathic lick

Just a quivering form.  
Not an old inspector  
But young and inspected  
With a flick,  
And harmonious existence  
Preludes to an unrequited kiss  
Where night breathes relief  
And those who wish for the cloths of heaven  
Find them here,  
In the miracle of birth.

Eric McDonogh  
25 Feb 1998.

A cool starry night, moon, straw, the shed at home,  
and a new life emerges before my eyes, a calf....

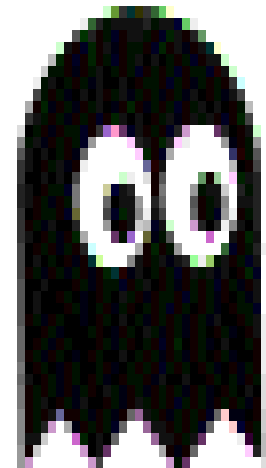
## ALL NEW THURSDAY NIGHTS



**Nu killa beats  
+  
Soul Clinic**

**Thursday Nights  
in the Doghouse and the  
Warehouse**

**£4 for both on the door of  
the Doghouse**



**make an appointment**

# Rollercoaster Rides Again!

Tom finneran takes a trip to Dolan's and soaks up Picturehouse, the Revenants, Blew and DJ Mark McCabe

**"Fantastic!" Picturehouse's David Browne described the night. He along with the other members of the Heineken Rollercoaster tour had enjoyed the complete Limerick experience.**

From their visit to Toy Story 2 in the cinema earlier that day, to the making of their own story in Dolan's Warehouse. The more dedicated audience who travelled beyond the inexpensive confines of their college campuses witnessed the annual celebration of music that students have always deserved but for so long was absent.

Meanwhile, Dave Fanning was enjoying his 7th year on the road with the tour. "I'm just here to meet with people, pick up some demos and introduce the lads". Never afraid to let people know what he believes, Dave emphasised the quality of the bands he had the pleasure of working with throughout the tour. Recalling The Frames and Watercress among others he was sure that this year's line-up was the best. With his own favourite band, The Revenants present, you could sense his excitement.

The clock in the small bar of the Warehouse

was probably one of the few items to escape the green barrage of Heineken bunting. As its small hand edged towards 10, Fanning crossed the stage to the delight of the audience. A large crowd had now settled. Many who had come to enjoy the richness of talent and wished to get a fuller feel of the night headed for the balcony. The remainder began to fill the well-worn floor below the intimate stage.

As Blew arrived on stage one could feel a little refreshed that here was a band that were adding their special colour to the countless palettes of musical colour available. Not drifting too far from any niche many tried to pigeonhole the young band. Placebo was suggested as a comparison but probably incorrectly.

Blew have some very decent songs, some very catchy melodies and a musical ability that is perfectly complemented by a very capable voice. Influences from some early rock 'n roll and the very latest meet somewhere in the middle to produce their quite unique sound. Switching and combining lead singers enhanced the performance at times. "Bring you up" was immediately accepted as many joined to sing the



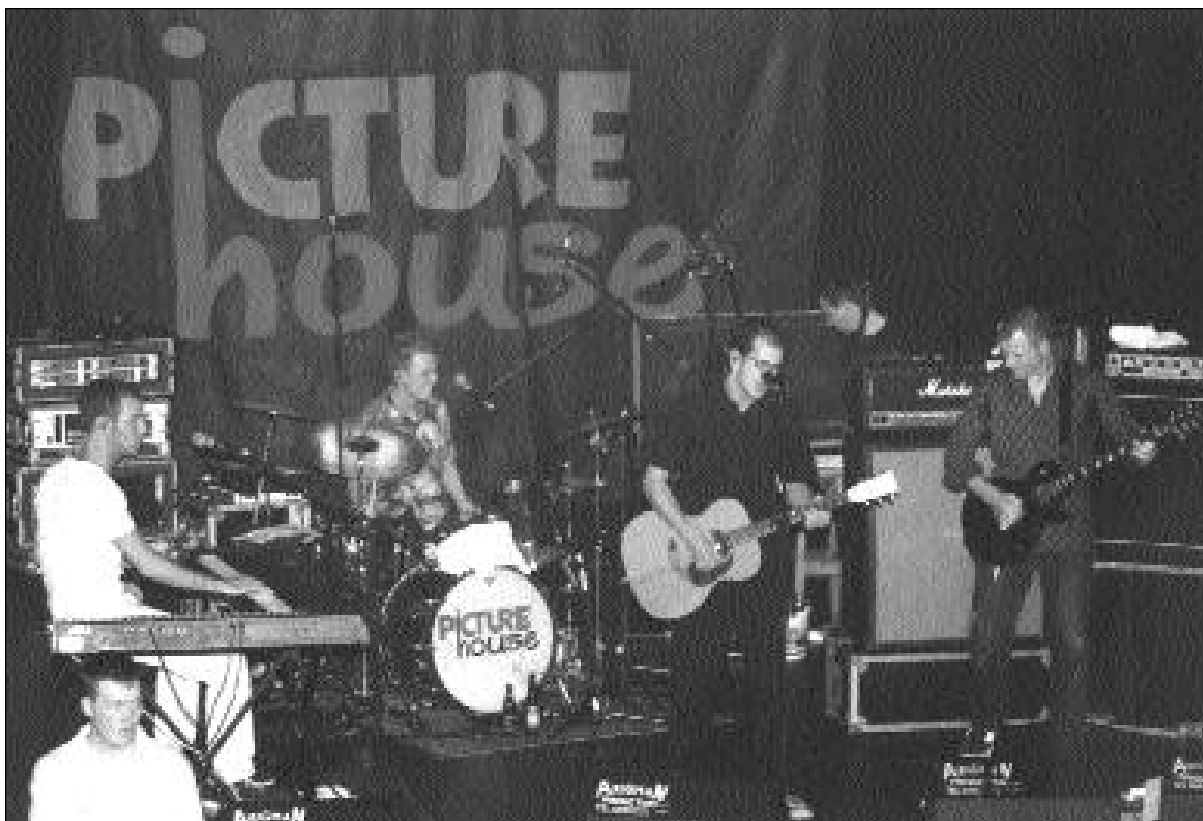
**Dave Brown in focus**

chorus. The balcony in Dolans was at a premium, yet in front of the stage a semi-circle of absence and perhaps apathy existed. Maybe I'm being a little optimistic but I felt they deserved a little more. However, this was early in the night and you couldn't blame Blew. Their very assured and professional performance was most enjoyable and possibly without the distraction of some of the many other bands Blew could command any audience to the level of veneration and approval that they deserve. With their new single in the shops at last, I'm sure they can expect more and more welcome receptions.

The Revenants were next up. If they returned from the dead then they certainly learned something whilst away. With a more powerful and mature performance, this band have no problems. 5 men somewhat lacking in hair but not in talent, they sounded impressive. You could feel the energy from the stage as they played. Confidence or competence was not an obstacle. With a wealth of material from their albums "September Nowonder" and "Horse of a Different Colour" the Revenants had nothing to worry about.

The venue really suited the band. What we witnessed was some distinct and characteristic numbers where the twang of a twisted country sound could creep across a chorus and a funky baseline would be enriched by the combination of quality guitar and fertile vocals. It was a pleasure to watch and experience a band that takes pleasure in performing on stage. With the sweeping blue lights crossing only to be contested by the smoke enriched air, their blues influenced chorus was resident as it whined for more consideration.

The starter was good and the soup was lovely. As far as Limerick was concerned however, it was the main course that was most important and it was the usual order. Picturehouse are no strangers to the city playing in Dolan's Warehouse only a few months previous to a most welcome and excited crowd over two nights. Their bass player, Aonghus Ralston, admitted



**getting down to basics**

at that time that he loved playing on front of students and was looking forward to returning.

Arriving on stage asking "...are you ready to rumble?" they got their answer. The now brimming venue suddenly animated. Without any recharge a newfound energy emerged. Old reliables such as "Heavenly Day" insured the band were at least starting in the safest direction. A delighted Browne welcomed shouts of "Hey Hey", "Very nice Limerick". Taking the tempo to a more relaxed level "All the time in the world" was sung with passion from balcony to bar. In (dare I say) a romantic setting, waving hands and glowing flames flung down the walls of the gig and for a moment we were standing in the expanses of freedom yet in the confines of a uniting anthem.

All night I was told that the lads were very tired. With a hectic schedule that included the previous three nights on the road with the tour, one couldn't expect much right? Nevertheless, Picturehouse seemed to wake-up on stage. They (and to be fair, The Revenants and Blew) played with a vigour and freshness that was as enticing and sparkling as any premiere. This was exemplified by their almost immediate return for an encore, "you knew we

were coming back" they chuckled. We did. Finishing with a "Sunburst" or two of musical enlightenment, what remained was a most fulfilled and pleased audience.

Picturehouse know what good pop music is. In these days of commercialisation where success often depends on the number of films you've starred in or how many lunch boxes you've endorsed, it's invigorating to be able to enjoy some of the most enriching and good old fashioned quality music around.

Leaving the stage there remained an audience each with a tingle and twitch of excitement at what they'd experienced. Last up was Mark McCabe who is still gracing the charts with "Maniac 200". Mark was delighted with the feedback he was getting about his possible No 1 single. "I'm just thankful to be at number 2" he admitted. Yet, you couldn't really say, "He's a Maniac". Mark kept things nice and simple, so simple in fact, he never played his own single. Excuses were available and I don't really think much of the reworked dance hit anyway. Nonetheless, it seemed somewhat remarkable to say the least.

The Maniac's job was easy though. The three bands had left their audience yearning for anything

with a beat. The Bosco theme music would have probably sufficed if someone could find it (my idea DJ's!). Playing current dance hits that are gracing the average town's dance floors such as Bassment Jaxx and Armand Van Helden, the floor seemed like a carnival as everywhere people danced ecstaticly. Emphasis was far from slick mixing and gracious beats and more on banging out as many hits as possible in the short time that remained. However, Mark was there to do a job as the famous soccer managers would say, and he did it. Looking down across the scene, even some workers on stage took a break to enjoy the character of the party.

The final notes of Travis' Driftwood echoed from the cool warehouse roof signalling the end of the journey and most left giving it their utmost approval. This roller coaster ride brought with it the fresh feeling of that gushing wind and the adrenalin of not knowing if the finest bits could get any better. They did and all this without ever leaving the ground (well, not too much). The Rollercoaster tour is firmly etched in Limerick's student calendar as an essential event.

## The All New Thursday Night's A Winner

Tom Finneran samples something new for Limerick on a Thursday night, Nu Killa Beats in the Dog House, followed by Soul Clinic in the Warehouse. Make an appointment.

**Thursday is no longer just the day before Friday, just the day when you pack because you won't be able in the morning or just the day when you go out to local with your mates. You're probably aware that for some time now something has been missing from this day, the day's essence- its core- its soul.**

Last Thursday, the soul was put back into the social body and a revitalized, revamped and reveling night out was created. I was informed that a mere four pounds would unlock the finest in Limerick's drum and bass as well as the best in Soul, hip-hop, funk, and house music. I wasn't disappointed.

The Dog House is the new home to NuKillaBeats. As you make your way down the stairs each step moves



getting lost in the headphones

you closer to the epicentre of tremulous rich bass. Thankfully, this is your only necessary interruption for the night since you can pay the nice girl for both the NuKilla Beats night as well as for Soul Clinic in Dolan's later.

Even in the early hours in the evening, the Dog House was beginning to induce quite a crowd. DJ Manny commanded the pulsating decks and gave us a warm welcoming slice of throb and thump. He explained how "Drum 'n bass is still in its infancy in Limerick". Manny keeps it relatively wide-ranging playing a spectrum of appealing tracks that are sure to enthuse the most cautious listener. Under the sultry ultraviolet light the undersized confines expanded to accommodate the oversized sounds of DJ Roller T. Not afraid to play it loud, the small remaining floor space was quickly controlled by unstoppable moves.

As another drip moved from my forehead I moved around Jury's Inn and headed for the night's finale. Keeping what cracking beats I remembered in my head and fighting the consistent rain, I finally arrived at Dolan's. What lay ahead was a night that was as fresh and different for Limerick as it was for Dolan's.

The small assembly inside seemed a little impatient as they awaited the last chord of the band's encore. No sooner had they exited than the decks were moved onto the stage. Behind, an array of all possible colours spun across the stage and the lights were quickly lowered. As the ambience and audience grew, local talent Skinnyboy Jaz monitored and eventual-

ly took charge. We could sense that this thing was going to work. Soon Skinny was cleverly mixing the best in old sounds with the attributes of new.

The Warehouse was now crammed. Skinny tried to make the transition to Dublin's Noel Phelan as smooth as possible but Noel took the pace by the scruff of the neck and the crowd responded with clapping hands and cheers of elation. It was difficult to even find a space in front of the stage as Phelan swayed control from Dublin to Limerick. This was no longer a Dublin gig on tour- this was unique. This was something a little more special. Noel admitted, "This is even better than the HQ, it's more intimate, I was surprised".

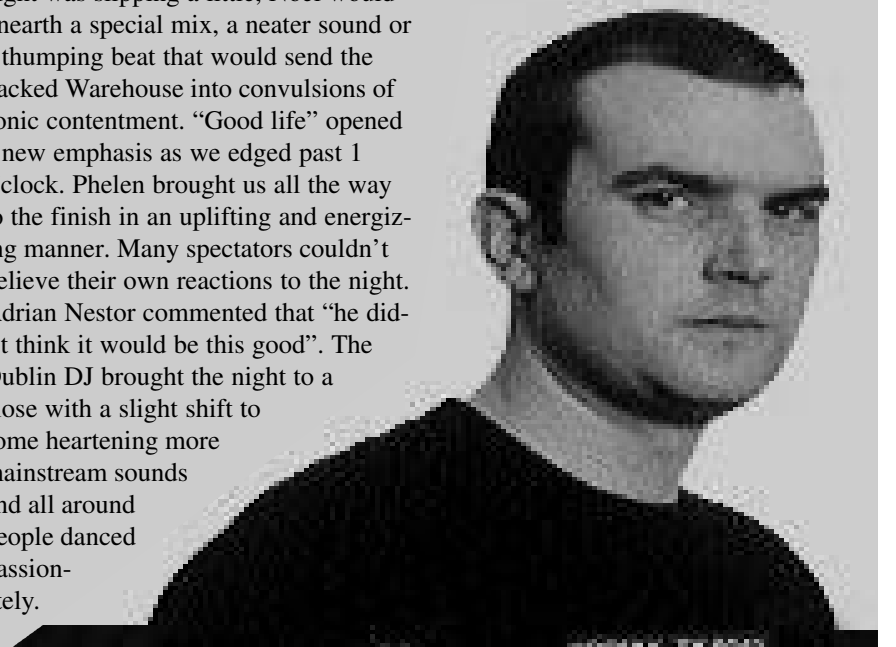
Whenever you might feel the night was slipping a little, Noel would unearth a special mix, a neater sound or a thumping beat that would send the packed Warehouse into convulsions of sonic contentment. "Good life" opened a new emphasis as we edged past 1 o'clock. Phelan brought us all the way to the finish in an uplifting and energizing manner. Many spectators couldn't believe their own reactions to the night. Adrian Nestor commented that "he didn't think it would be this good". The Dublin DJ brought the night to a close with a slight shift to some heartening more mainstream sounds and all around people danced passionately.

It was a little unfortunate that some of the tables remained in the centre of the floor from earlier but I expect that this will be rectified for the forthcoming nights now that we know what to expect.

And this is what to expect: March 9th will see Galway's Aaron McMahon exercise his styles with the new audience and the following Thursday nights will accommodate Mr. Ray and Aidan Kelly.

If you were unlucky enough to miss the first night of Thursday's new soul, be disappointed but don't wait around and lament, make an appointment for NuKillabeats and the Soul Clinic.

As the poster says, "We can't do much better than that!"



Mr. Ray, playing @ Soul Clinic on March 16th



# A Few Announcements

navy and grey jacket with orange draw strings  
lost in the Lodge of Friday Week 1.  
Philips Diga mobile phone in the pocket,  
containing final year project contacts.  
if found, please hand in to the Students' Union

**Anyone for Golf!!!**  
Tuesday Week 5, 6pm  
Clubs and Socs Meeting room 4  
(new student centre)

due to massive interest this meeting has  
been organised to set up a student run golf  
club on campus. Anyone interested in getting  
involved is more than welcome  
contact Chris McNamara on 9801251@student.ul.ie

ALL DOCUMENTS, THESIS, ESSAYS, ETC TYPED TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

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## Alcoholics Anonymous

Meeting of  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
every Thursday  
in room E0019  
at 6.30p.m

If you want to drink that's  
your business, if you  
want to stop that's ours.

## UL Radio Soc. presents

### KICKBACK

in Java's, Catherine St., Limerick

*Every Thursday evening, the UL Radio Soc  
present the best in Soul, Hip-Hop, Drum + Bass  
and laid back beats from Wired FM DJ's.*

*Taking place upstairs in Java's from 12 - 3am,  
kickback is the perfect afterclub session. Get  
yourself a bottle of wine, a coffee, and a toastie, + sit  
back and enjoy the atmosphere.*

*Every Thursday, with killer + keeney*

Has your life been affected by  
Alcoholism  
Violence  
Gambling  
Or  
Any other addiction or dysfunction-  
al behaviour.

If so  
You are welcome to meetings of  
Adult Children of Alcoholics and  
Dysfunctional Families.

**When:** every Friday Night

**Where:** Bishops Place,  
Nicholas Street, Limerick.

**Time:** 8.30p.m

## UL Sinn Féin

Celebrates

its 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

8.30pm Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
The Scholars Club

The Clare  
Celts

## Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date

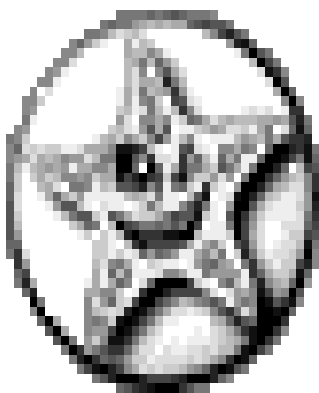
*we're looking for opin -  
ions, comments, ideas  
etc*

Thursday Wk 4  
6.00pm  
new student centre  
all are welcome

# It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



**Pisces** 19 February – 19 March

Good moods are plentiful over the next few weeks and you will have to learn to accept that others don't feel as enthusiastic as you. There's no point in pressurizing a friend to do something for you if they really don't want to do it themselves. Respect the feelings of your friends this fortnight.

**Aries** 20 March – 18 April

Ariens thrive in the company of the Air signs, but especially Gemini. You are out to have some fun with a Gemini in the near future, be it hatching ideas or putting more than just your heads together. Prepare yourself for a fun-filled roller-coaster ride!

**Taurus** 19 April – 19 May

Sometimes it feels as though everyone is out to get you over the next few weeks. Try not to be so paranoid, especially as one of them could end up being your significant other! Who knows?! Granted, there are those who want to make you feel miserable, but for the most part, there is good in every person.

**Gemini** 20 May – 20 June

With a Fire sign on the scene, it looks likely that romance could take a turn for the better fairly soon. Just make sure that you don't play too hard to get and that your intended love-to-be actually realizes that you are interested! In other words, be cool, but don't scare them away! This could be your only chance!

**Cancer** 21 June – 21 July

Your fellow Water signs, Scorpio and Pisces, begin to cause you much grief over the next while. But to balance it out, the romantic side of your life is flourishing, especially as it seems as though the world has ended. But, as you will realize over the next while, life goes on.

**Leo** 22 July – 21 August

You just can't make up your mind, can you?! One minute you want one thing, and the next you want another! Sometimes you just can't decide what it is you really want. Your patience and attention span is very short-lived and you're just not in the mood to put yourself out for anyone.

**Virgo** 22 August – 21 September

It seems as though you've been brooding over some problem or mishap that has been causing you hassle over the past while. But the real problem is trying to figure out when it will be resolved. Maybe all you need is a long night on the town to relieve the stress?! Who knows who/what you might end up with!?!

**Libra** 22 September – 22 October

You've been distracted from your work recently. Yes – it's that old reliable thing called love! You have caught it bad this time – you can't stop thinking about your significant other! But sure, how bad?! Things could be worse, but they won't be, the way you're looking at the world!

**Scorpio** 23 October – 21 November

You've been spending a lot of time with others lately, but the next while is for you, and for you only. Be choosy about the people you spend time with. You need to be on your own for a while and realize that there is no company more enjoyable than your own.

**Sagittarius** 22 November – 20 December

You have been worried about your finances lately, and rightly so! You spent and spent and never saved a penny or a thought for the future! This may have been silly of you, but luckily a future winning or inheritance will be extremely welcome and useful, as your money matters are at an all-time low.

**Capricorn** 21 December – 19 January

The love-life hasn't been the greatest lately. And you don't know when it's going to change. But you have more important things to be doing instead of worrying yourself with such business! There's a close friend who really need your help and you shoulder to cry upon.

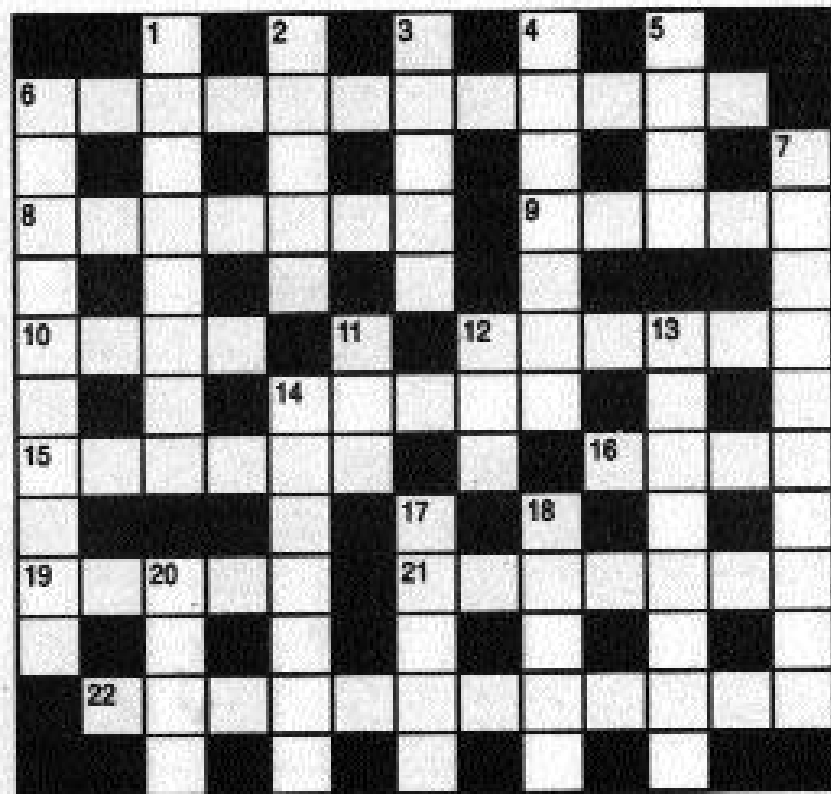
**Aquarius** 20 January – 18 February

Trouble with a friend has made you consider the true meaning of trust and loyalty. You're beginning to wonder whether it's all worth it or not. It's not yet clear what the turn-out will be, but all you can do now is be patient and appreciate the time that you now have to yourself.

## The New 95FM Student Talkback Crossword

Student Talkback every Thursday 9pm

Fill 'em in, drop 'em in, + win yourself a couple of CDs



**ACROSS**

- 6. Act of laying too much stress upon (12)
- 8. Act of contrition (7)
- 9. Terrace next to house (5)
- 10. Irritable (4)
- 12. Beverage container (3-3)
- 14. Timed one's run (5)
- 15. Banquet (6)
- 16. Spoken examination (4)
- 19. Late evening (5)
- 21. Favour (7)
- 22. Make a solemn promise (4,4,4)

**DOWN**

- 1. Person not yet 20 (8)
- 2. Bronze coin (5)
- 3. Pace (5)
- 4. Tested a small part (7)
- 5. Colour slightly (4)
- 6. Subjecting to tyranny (10)
- 7. Curdled (10)
- 11. Bundle of bank-notes (3)
- 12. Starting point in golf (3)
- 13. Naked from the ankles down (8)
- 14. Black leopard (7)
- 17. Black wood (5)
- 18. Ouzo flavouring (5)
- 20. Girl's name (4)

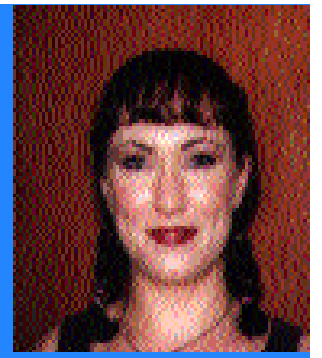
le scribble box

Last weeks answers

ACROSS: 6. Impatience, 8. Colling, 9. Sayer, 10. Pines, 12. Plovers, 14. Karna, 15. Canis, 16. Hala, 19. Tucks, 21. Tiptoes, 22. Veterinarian.  
 DOWN: 1. Operetta, 2. Ours, 3. Siege, 4. Gibbon, 5. Sled, 6. Incapacity, 7. Antagonism, 11. Zap, 12. Pans, 13. Glycerin, 14. Kinnison, 17. Sate, 18. Szech, 20. Crest.

# Isla's Eye.....

*Brightening up our back page, Isla's going to take it over for the rest of the year, and let us know how she see's things*



looking for lipgloss

**Once upon a time there was a young girl who dreamed of nothing but becoming famous.**

She wanted to be famous so much that she would practice signing her name every hour to perfect her autograph for her future adoring fans, so much that she practised smiling and pouting for hours at a time in front of her bedroom mirror to perfect her image for all her future pictures in glossy magazines.

Not so far away (in the same country even!) there lived a young boy whose only wish was to play football for his favourite team - The Red Devils. When he was 16, he was their club apprentice, dreaming of scoring for the team as he cleaned the senior players' boots.

Then, one day.....POOFF!!!!...the premature genie escaped from Aguilera's bottle and turned these two youngsters' dreams into reality. Victoria Adams became Posh Spice and David Beckham became...well, still only David Beckham, but now known as Beckham - the brilliant, talented and worshipped midfielder for Man U. While Posh and the Spice Girls were taking over the world with their "Girl

*quote*Could anything be more romantic and cute and fairytale and perfect? Posh 'n' Becks - the Golden Couple.*unquote*

## The Perfect Couple?

**we're going to start by having a look at Posh and Becks. Sure, where better to start**

Power", David Beckham had emerged as a major football force to be reckoned with.

But, this little genie was feeling extra generous because she decided to get with the scantily clad Cupid and to unite this couple through LURRVE! Vic and Dave got it together and, even though she's only 23 and he's only 24, between them they're worth an estimated value of £25 million! They drive fast, sporty cars, dress in designer clobber, own a

beautiful house and modern apartment, go to star-studded celebrity events and could open up their own jewellery shop with the amount of diamonds in their possession. But, who cares about all this materialistic crap when they have something much stronger, much deeper and so much more meaningful - LURRVE! They can be seen gazing into each others eyes at dinner parties, constantly holding hands like idealistic, young school children and, rumour has it, when apart, they are on their mobiles to each other 24 hours a day, every day. After all, he is the man she wants to "grow old and wrinkly" with and, yes, she is the woman who "completes him". Oh, and how could I forget? They also have a beautiful child together, lovingly named Brooklyn, after the area of New York where he was conceived. Could anything be more romantic and cute and fairytale and perfect? Posh 'n' Becks - the Golden Couple.

And you know what? They make me sick. I hate them. I wish they would split up. I'm fed up of hearing about them and their perfect little lives every minute of every day. I want HIM to be caught with his pants down, giving it to some illegal immigrant who works in some back-street strip-club in the most run-down area of Soho. I want HER to be stranded on a desert island, minus the Vaseline for her 'perfect pout', minus the hair wax for her bitsy strands of hair perfectly positioned over her right eye, minus her 'little black dress', Versace boob tubes (does she EVER cover her shoulders?!) and snake-skin boots and minus her precious spoiled little baby

*quote*If they were in UL, I'd kick their heads.*unquote*

and stupid sister Louise and all the remaining sad little unknowns in her common family. But best of all, I want the Paparazzi there surrounding her to capture her every wince of misery and humiliation. (Ok, so the island isn't that deserted!)

If they were in UL, I'd kick their heads. Then again, ironic as it seems, you need at least 40% of a brain to get in here so the chances of meeting them would be pretty slim (or even soebody with a combination of their brains, for that matter!). Actually, according to Victoria one of her main regrets in life is not pursuing a higher education, but I'm sure she's lying. After all, who could she possibly engage in an intellectual conversation with? David? Duh! Her family? Duh! Her friends? Oh, whoops, forgot - she doesn't have any! Or, how about herself? Now, there's an idea, because nobody else listens to her anyway.

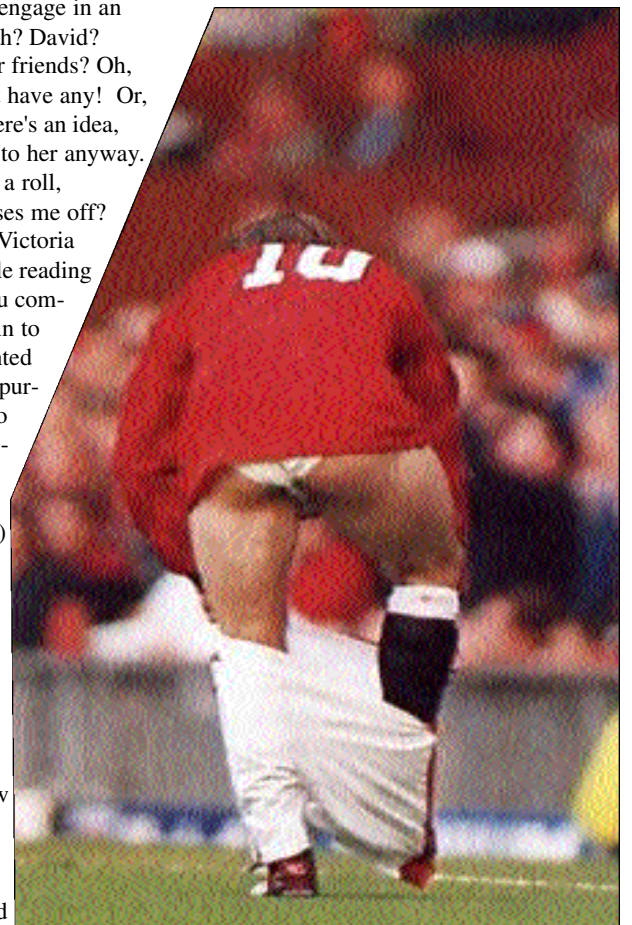
And, now that I'm on a roll, y'know what else really pisses me off? (And, if you're reading this Victoria and David - Take Note, while reading very slowly, of course!). You complain about media invasion in to your lives and all the unwanted attention you get when you purposely go out of your way to pose for every flashing light-bulb, release a public wedding album of your 'Intimate Love Story'(puke) and show up at every celebrity bash happily signing autographs and talking candidly about your Oh-So-Bloody-Perfect lives!??

Okay, maybe I'm a miserable, horrible, malicious, vindictive little cow but I need the world to know that, NO, they are so not perfect and, NO, I am not just jealous. Like I would really want to climb into bed with a boring, high-voiced, highlighted floppy haired

himbo of a man. I'm sorry but a man who cannot distinguish between the words 'versatile' and 'volatile', who wears bandannas, sarongs and thongs just does not do it for me. And neither am I jealous of the talentless Spice Girl, the wannabe interviewer with a limited range of vocabulary (no wonder herself and David get on so well), colossal nose, bulging rib cage and shoulders you could slice ham with. Jealous? Me? No Siree!

And, on that note, I shall let you dear, normal, impoverished and blemished students (oh, how wonderfully refreshing you all are!) return to your routine lives. I can only just hope and pray that you shall not be subjected anymore to the 'Perfect Couple' mania, that has been viciously sweeping our country for the past 3 years, at least not for the rest of your college years or at least not until, God Forbid, you decide to become 'the other half' of such a couple! (Puke!)

Isla O'Dowd



i see why she wants to grow old with him