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Club Licences Renewal hearing is adjourned until December

by Judith Roche

The fate of the Stables and the Scholars Club licences was initially due to be decided on 27th September last. However due to objections from the College Court Residents Association this was held over to the later date of Friday 2nd November last.

Commencing proceedings, Ursula Stokes spoke on behalf of the College Court Residents Association. She stated that twelve years of continuous anxiety had culminated in this year's ninth court appearance. She also commented that these problems had fallen on the deaf ears of the authorities, especially during over the last four years. At this point Mrs. Stokes began to cite various resident grievances with students, but was interrupted by presiding judge Mr. Tom O'Donnell, who clarified that only factual information could be submitted. Mrs. Stokes proceeded to outline the Clubs Laws that had been infringed upon by the University clubs. Both establishments have been run as pubs, and in the past, The Scholars has participated in advertising itself as a pub. Mrs. Stokes named noise pollution, property damage and under-age alcohol abuse as samples of habitual problems. Mrs. Stokes primary concern was that she has been unable to meet with any University authorities to air her grievances. Her only success in discussing these has been with ULSU and PCC (Plassey Campus Centre). She referred to the University code of conduct, stating that it does not entertain the interests of residents and the only authority available to deal with grievances is a Community Garda.

At this juncture, the solicitor for both The Scholars and The Stable Clubs Pat Barriscale, began his cross-examination of Ms. Stokes. Mr. Barriscale made the point that four off-licences had been opened in

the vicinity of the University during the past year, and pertained to the theory that disturbances could have emanated from these. He also established that Mrs. Stokes claimed to have notified a Garda regard-



ing the under-age consumption of alcohol, but failed to have the Garda in question

present on the day. Additional to this is the fact that there have never been any prosecutions made under this charge.

Mr. Barriscale criticised Mrs. Stokes' efforts to arrange the elusive meeting commenting that a meeting had been arranged for the 7th September, but that the College Court Residents Association had refused to meet until her objections had been aired in Court. In response to this, she claimed that she had been reluctant to meet with University authorities, as they had, in the past, been reluctant in addressing the issues in contention. She also maintained that previous meetings had been futile due to the absence of the persons who hold the "power" in the University.

Mrs. Stokes offered praise in favour of ULSU President, Mick Phelan, in his efforts to address the problems in question. A working group had been established co-ordinating Resident Associations and University authorities in

Poor turnout for ULSU Annual General Meeting

by Marian Roche

On Wednesday 31st October last the University of Limerick Students' Union held their Annual General Meeting in the Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre. Despite notices in An Focal two weeks before and an extensive poster campaign carried out for five days prior to the meeting the attendance was abysmal. Chair of Class Reps Barry Ryan called the meeting to order at 6pm sharp. Because the attendance was only 34 approx. the minutes of the previous AGM's could not be adopted. This was put off until the next UGM.

A number of the Students Union Sabbatical Officers had not yet been ratified, due to the fact that they won their respective elections unopposed. These included, Education Officer Tom O'Donovan, Communications and Campaigns Officer Patrick Kennedy,

Welfare Officer Tara Curley, Student Teacher Officer Catherine Levis and Community Officer John Mulcahy. These Officers could not be ratified because the meeting was not quorate. This was also postponed until the next UGM.

Notice was given five days prior to the meeting that any motions wished to be brought before the meeting were to be submitted to Communications and Campaigns Officer, Patrick Kennedy, on Thursday 25th of October. Two motions were proposed for discussion. One concerned GATS (General Agreement on Trade and Services) and the other regarding the operation of the Sellafield power plant in the UK. The Chair of the meeting called on those proposing these motions to speak, however as none of those who had put their names to

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Poor turnout for AGM (continued from page 1)

the motion were present at the time the motion was struck off the Agenda. This decision was later questioned by some of those present when Edward Horgan (who had been one of those proposing both of the motions) arrived late. The importance of these motions were highlighted by many people there but the chair Barry Ryan defended his decision not to allow the motions to be discussed because the meeting was advertised clearly as beginning at 6pm. It was also pointed out that because of the poor attendance the meeting was not quorate the motions could not have been passed anyway. It was also suggested that those proposing the motions could bring to the class representatives council.

The Officers Reports were next on the agenda, these reports were available in the last edition of An Focal. During CCO Patrick Kennedy's report a number of questions were put to him about his method of publicising the AGM. However Mr Kennedy pointed out that over 500 posters had been put up around the university, advertising the AGM over the previous two weeks. It was even suggested that the posters did not include the time of the meeting, however this was proven to be false and the complainant later apologised to Patrick Kennedy. It was also noted that the timing was inappropriate for the meeting as it was

Halloween night and many students were going to attend the Halloween Ball, which was being held in Limerick Race Course later on that night. However Mr. Kennedy pointed out that, according to the ULSU constitution, the meeting had to be held no later than the 7th week of the first semester. As week 7 was to be Greek week and the fact that the purpose of the meeting is to present the Annual audited accounts (which were available in week 6 at the earliest) the evening of Halloween was chosen for the meeting. Following this the other officers made their reports and the next item on the agenda was the presentation of the Annual audited accounts.

The Auditors then gave a detailed report on the Students Union Accounts and on the accounts of Students Union Services Limited, which includes ULSU shop and the Graphics Department. The general impression given to those present was that the accounts were in better condition than they were last year.

The meeting was called to what some would describe as an unsatisfactory close at 7pm approximately by the chair. Hopefully the next UGM will see a better turnout from the general student population.

Club Licence Renewal Deferred (contd from page 1)

order to tackle resident grievances, Mr. Barriscale pointed out that the College Court Resident's Association had refused attendance – ironically it seemed – as this is the Association forwarding objections. In an e-mail addressed to Mick Phelan dated 7th October, the secretary of the College Court Association, Ann Sheahan, wrote that she had been advised to refuse attendance until after the official hearing dealing with the objections to the renewal of the club licences. Mr Barriscale then pointed out that a meeting had been arranged for the 22nd of November in which Roger Downer, President of the University, would be in attendance.

Judge O'Donnell interjected at this point remarking that it

was evident that Mrs. Stokes is dissatisfied with the response of the University, and requested that this meeting be held in the Castletroy Park Hotel on 22th November with presence of all parties concerned. He also stressed the lack of co-operation on behalf of the University. He asked Ms. Stokes for a list of exactly who she would wish to meet with. Ms Stokes said she would have to consult with the other members of her Residents Association that were present. Judge O'Donnell adjourned the Court for a brief period to allow Ms. Stokes to do so.

Following the interval Mr. Barriscale stated that he had been given a list, and would assist Mrs. Stokes as to who would attend. However, her request for the presence of rep-

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An Focal

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Codologists(Bulls****ers)
Butchers
Bakers
Candlestick Makers**

We are always looking for interested people to contribute to the Newspaper, call in (preferably) or e-mail me at patrick.kennedy@ul.ie

Remember An Focal is your Student Newspaper and is only as good as we all allow it to become!!!

Trouble in the Housing Estates

by Marian Roche

It has become obvious over the last number of weeks that crime is becoming a major problem in Castletroy, particularly in predominantly student estates. A prime example is an incident in Elm Park during Halloween Week in which a car was driven through the green causing considerable damage to the green itself. Although it is believed that nobody was hurt in the incident. A concerned resident reported it the following day to the An Focal office. However, it was not reported to Community Garda Padraig Toibin. As well as this a number of houses were vandalised in the area on Halloween night most notably in College Court. It has come to light also that a number of houses were broken into during the long weekend, however it is unlikely that students were responsible for this given that the vast majority of them left Castletroy for the long weekend.

Garda Toibin outlined what would happen to anyone caught committing crimes of this nature, for example a person caught joyriding would be prosecuted for dangerous driving, their license would be revoked and they would face a monetary fine or possibly a jail sentence. It is a similar procedure for anyone caught doing criminal damage to a house. He acknowledged the possibility that it may not have been students who perpetrated these crimes and he conced-

ed that local children might have been responsible for some of these incidents in particular the vandalism as many had mid-term holidays at the time.

Garda Toibin also spoke of attacks that have been occurring on campus since we returned in September. According to Garda Toibin a number of people have been attacked and robbed by a man on a bicycle. Most



of those attacked were women. This man has however been caught by the Gardai and will be appearing in court in the next few weeks.

Community Officer John Mulcahy noted, "while these

representatives of the County Council and Shannon Development remained outside of Mr. Barriscale's jurisdiction, as clarified by Judge O'Donnell. Mrs. Stokes remains adamant that there must be constructive results from the meeting.

Finally, Judge O'Donnell expressed his intention to address the issues in hand, but insists that an amicable resolution can be found if all parties involved agree to the meeting. He also expressed the possibility of reaching such a resolution before the next hearing, dated 14th December.

crimes did not necessarily involve students, the areas in which they occurred are mainly student residences and we must all take responsibility for the areas in which we live. We cannot ignore what is happening." He also pointed out the consequences for anyone who received a criminal record. For example, it would be practically impossible to get a visa to enter any other country, he also pointed out the difficulties in getting a job while holding a criminal record, and at university level the offender would have to face the disciplinary committee of UL. It should be noted that once a person is over 18 any criminal offences you are convicted of would remain on your record permanently.

It is critical that all students are aware of the repercussions of crimes like dangerous driving, vandalism and theft. These are serious crimes that will not be taken lightly by the Students Union, the University and not least by the Gardai.

Tenancy Laws: Know Your Rights

by Mikey Stafford.

We don't often think about it, but our rent is the single greatest piece of expenditure most of us have to pay every week. Often we don't think about it because we may pay it in bulk, or maybe some people's parents are kind enough to deal with this fiduciary matter. But unless you live at home, rent and landlord relations should be something you lend serious thought to. You know what they, "Aman's home is his castle," unless he lives in Elm Park, in which case his home is his cardboard box. Therefore this article aims to clear up a few areas and answer some frequently asked questions regarding tenancy laws. It's really a case of the blind leading the blind (before this I thought periodic tenancy referred to my friend from Galway staying every Monday night), however with little help from the new government information website, www.oasis.gov.ie, I was able to get most of the facts.

Firstly, most of us are living under one of two forms of tenancy, either you've got a lease tenancy or a periodic tenancy. If you've signed a lease, that means you've got a lease agreement (good aren't I?). If you have not signed a lease than you've got a periodic tenancy, your rights depend on which kind of tenancy you hold.

If you hold a periodic tenancy your rent can be increased by any amount and as often as your landlord sees fit. However if you pay your rent week than you must be given a week's notice of any rent increase and if you pay fortnightly than you must receive two weeks notice and so on. If you've signed a lease this binds you to the dwelling for usually six months or a year, however with this increased responsibility come certain advantages. For example, your rent cannot be increased unless it is allowed for in your lease agreement.

Say the worst comes to the worst, and you fall behind in the rent or your landlord takes offence to that smell resembling rotting flesh that emanates from you Kabulesque kitchen and decides to evict you, what are your rights?

Firstly, you cannot be locked out or physically evicted, there is due process to be followed. You must be given four weeks notice to quit in writing. If you still refuse to leave after this, your landlord still can't evict you, at least not without an eviction order, they can only obtain this in court. If you go to court and lose, you will be evicted and you could end up paying your landlord's legal fees. This is a big step, therefore you should contact Threshold, your local Citizen's Information Centre or a solicitor before going to court. If you're illegally evicted or have your gas or electricity cut off by your landlord you can file for an injunction, like going to court this is a big move and shouldn't be taken lightly.

A seldom obeyed law is the provision of rent books by landlords, it's compulsory under the 1992 Housing Act but how many of us actually possess these mythical manuscripts? They're used to record all payments made by the holder of the book. They also hold important information such as the length of tenancy, amount of rent to be paid and by what method. It also states the rights and duties of both landlord and tenants, if more landlords issued these book I could have avoided writing this article, and instead I could have chronicled the history of Leicester City F.C. If your landlord refuses to supply you with a rent book, you can contact Limerick Corporation.

The 1992 Housing Act outlines the minimum physical standards which your dwelling must adhere to. Your landlord must ensure that the walls, floors, ceiling, roof and stairs are in good repair and free from dampness and rotting, however unfortunately for Elm Park residents there's



no mention of cardboard walls being a from of below par sub-structure. It also states that the dwelling must contain a sink with hot and cold taps, a bath or shower and a toilet. Appliances for space and heating and hygienic storage of food must also be supplied. It also says that the electricity and/or gas supply must be in good, safe repair. Every room must have adequate ventilation, along with natural and artificial light. All garages, sheds, yards and driveways must also be kept in good repair. However, before you complain to your landlord about the supposed lack of ventilation in your bathroom every Friday morning, remember that periodic tenants may be evicted for looking sideways at their landlord. Therefore use tact and be polite and more than likely your landlord will prefer to carry out repairs rather than lose tenants.

A few predominant queries, which, I've not dealt with, yet include the issue of overnight visitors. There's no problem with you bringing that Cameron Diaz lookalike home unless your original agreement states otherwise, however our landlord is not responsible if the next morning you wake up next to the illegimate love-child to Mo Mowlam and Worzel Gummidge. Also, your landlord is allowed to come into your house or flat when it's unoccupied only if it's part of your original agreement, and if so restrict it to certain specified times. You may redecorate, unless it's forbidden in your original agreement, that does not mean that you need your landlord's permission to stick up you Mohammed Ali, Cameron Diaz or Worzel Gummidge posters, however if you like Elm Park don't hammer the tacks in too hard.

Contact Numbers:

- Threshold: (091) 563080
- Accommodations Office (adjacent to Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre Hall)
- Limerick Corporation: (061 415799)
- Citizen's Information Centre: (0 1 605 9000)

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Hello from your Sabbatical Officers

STUDENTS' UNION



Mick Phelan- ULSU President

I hope that you all enjoyed Greek Week last week. I would like to congratulate the organising committee, Tara Curley, Paul Lee, Paddy Buckley, Stephen Driver, Eamonn O'Flynn, Patricia Moriarty, Mark Breen, The Outreach Society, Clubs & Societies, Class Reps and anyone else who was involved. The week proved to be a great success and a credit to all involved. As part of Greek Week, the turnout for the Blood Drive was fantastic and hopefully we managed to break the record. I would like to give a special mention to the 3 Third Year Environmental Science students who raised over £1500 by bungee jumping for a fellow classmate, Ronan O'Keeffe who was paralyzed during the summer. They are Cliona O'Sullivan, Simon White and John Flavin – congrats lads. From a more personal point I would like to thank all the people who sponsored me to jump on Tuesday, and I'm sorry that you couldn't cut the rope. I collected £700 for the Irish Cancer Research Society.

This year the SU Exec has put together a Program of Work consisting of the following:

1. Class Reps – Tom O'Donovan
2. Constitutional Review – Caroline Timmons
3. Student Support Services – Michael Phelan
4. Transportation – Patrick Kennedy
5. Safety & Security – Tara Curley

I will be dealing with item 3 - Student Support Services, so if you have any ideas in this area, please call in or email me. Also if you have any ideas about the other areas, please contact the relevant officer. I will give a full report on the issue before Christmas. On Wednesday night – October 31st Week 6, the ULSU AGM was held in the Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre.

There were about 20 + people in attendance and most were very vocal about what was wrong in the Union. That's all well and good, we are not perfect, nor have we ever tried to say we were, but we do work damn hard in this job. If people have issues, we are all more than willing to address the issues, but I personally do not appreciate the manner in which some people who attended the AGM addressed the officers. We know there are problems, but not too many people are willing to put forward some reasonable solutions.

In relation to the renewal of licence for the Stables & Scholars Club, that matter has been deferred to the District Court until December 14th.

Anyway I hope the projects are going ok for all of you and if you have any ideas, problems on



issues why not call in or email us.

Mick

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Tara Curley- ULSU Welfare Officer

How do all!!!

This is going to be a bit all over the place, its smack in the middle of Greek week, and I don't even know what day it is!! Firstly I would like to apologise to everybody who was looking for me during the course of Greek week due to the demand of the organization I wasn't around my office much!!

Greek Week was about showing the world, that what we can do as a student body is more than drink. I cannot thank everybody who donated blood enough, or who attempted to donate blood during the week, ye did yourselves so proud. We have set a National record for the amount of units donated in any give place or time, and that's something to be proud of. I will have all the exact totals for the next edition. But to see the queues of people waiting was amazing, you can all now congratulate yourselves on saving numerous lives last week. The blood drive will be back again in Feb, lets hope we can do even more the next time.

Monday's Flag day for the Guide Dogs for the blind, when extremely well, despite the bitter cold and the battle against the elements. Thanks to the members of Outreach, who did themselves proud, in total we raised £350 for the Guide dogs.

There is so many people I want to mention and so many events that were unbelievable, however there are three people who deserve a special mention. Cliona, John and Simon ye are brilliant, and to all the class of 3rd year

Environmental science. These people raised close to £1500 bungee jumping for a classmate, Ronan O'Keeffe who was left badly injured and paralysed in a car crash during the summer. Ronan needs a wheelchair etc, and instead of feeling sorry for him his class have gotten up and done something about it. The bungee jumpers of the day, we had a drag queen, a nun and superman!!!! It was something that was not to be missed.

There is another person who deserves a special mention, and that's our very own president Mick Phelan aka Santa Claus who by himself has raised £700 for Irish Cancer Research. Well done Mick, we are all very proud of you. (Especially with that severe fear of heights!!!!)

These are just some of the things which prove ye do care, as students and as a college campus the potential to help out other is colossal, the spirit which was shown by so many people during the week was brilliant.

Next week sees the 10k Sponsored walk for Chernobyl, once again I am urging everybody to continue what has been started. The walk will take place on Thursday Nov 15th, the sponsorship cards are still available at the reception of the students union. Let me just put it to ye this way:

50p - buys a 60 supply of Thyroxin, a necessary drug for Thyroid Cancer

£5 – buys a six month supply of multi-vitamins to boost the immune system



£20 – will feed a abandoned baby for 2 months

£50 – will pay the salary of a trained nurse for one month

If we all can't come up with at least 50p there is something wrong. Its not too late, just grab a card in the union and join us on the walk.

Okay I'm going to leave it there for now, however I do have to thank everyone who took part and helped out at the events during Greek Week, especially Class reps and Clubs & Socs. To all the sponsors and staff of the University for there help and support. A big special mention to the ENTs Crew, who worked for free for the week, thanks guys greatly appreciated. I can't mention everyone individually coz Patrick is going to kill me if I don't stop writing, but thanks again

Tara

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Tom O'Donovan ULSU Education Officer

For those of you who are following my supposed words of wisdom in the past few editions of An Focal I must apologise for the confusion over the printing of my article in the last edition. It read badly as two different pieces ran together. In the printing process my normal article was placed in over my officers report hiding its separate heading and causing the reader to assume it was all one article.

Again for those of you who have been following these pages in the past editions you may have noticed a stream of thought through the different articles. From your responsibility through our responsibility and on to, what I for one, think is the responsibility of this University. I want to diverge a little here to talk about the apathy I feel is very apparent on this campus. Apathy can mean different things and I am not absolutely sure it is the best word to describe the lack of vitality on campus.

In this job one hears from ones counterparts in other institutions that it is the same on every campus so you are inclined to look at it as a societal issue rather than one particular to the University of Limerick. In a way that is an easy out, it can allow us to say well it is the same everywhere so there is nothing that can be done about it. To be honest and after some soul searching I think that is not good enough.

Last edition I spoke about the possibility of the University changing its focus on privately raised funding to become more innovative in raising funds for the infrastructure of the institution as well as the structural development of the campus. It would therefore be hypocritical of me not to ask the same of the student portion of this campus to do something similar in relation to their involvement in campus life. I am going to concentrate here on one just aspect of that apathy as to cover all aspects of student life that are affected by this indifference would probably take up this whole edition.

As students and as I have stated before, you are here to get an education and not a training. That education is not purely your class learning, but even in that department there is a lack on the part of students to get involved in anything outside of their immediate exam needs. If you as a student have an issue/problem then it is in your best interest to get this addressed as soon as possible.

I am finding that many students will suffer a situation in silence rather than raise awareness and get an issue addressed because they don't want to rock the boat. They feel that if they can just hold on they might get through and then it won't matter. It is only when they don't get through that they draw attention to the fact. It is only then when it is necessary for them to continue on or get the award they felt they should have got if all things had been equal in the first place that they will come and complain.

There are a number of problems with that approach and all of them disadvantage the student. Firstly after the fact it is always harder to get an issue addressed. There is the matter that the exam or piece of course work has been failed or not passed at a high enough mark and will in the best case scenario have to be repeated. Time has elapsed and you may be hazy on the facts or your indignation over what was done may have lessened. But most importantly you are allowing for the issue to reoccur for someone else, especially if even after the worst has happened you do nothing about it.

The earlier a problem is addressed the more likely something can be done about it before any real harm is done. Prevention is always better than the cure. Look on it this way, if you wait until something has affected you in a negative way rather than dealing with it before it effects you and then if everyone does



the same you will likely see the same issues come up time after time. If on the other hand you address every issue as soon as it becomes apparent and everyone else does the same the likelihood of a serious problem crossing your path is lessened because the chances are someone has already addressed the issue before you and you are not even seeing it. It is all about taking a leap of faith, if everyone acts there should be less to act about overall.

Tom

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Hi everyone, hows it goin?

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable Greek Week and is well on the way to recovering from the massive effort that was put into it's success. Congratulation to all involved.

So what have I been up to for the last two weeks. First of all there was the paper that you now hold in your hands. Somewhat smaller than the previous edition it must be said, due to the fact that there was no Greek Week Supplement. I'm at the stage of the year where I need to see where An Focal is going and how can it be improved. If you've got any suggestions please forward them to me ASAP. Anyone that is interested in any aspect of newspaper production, PLEASE CALL IN TO THE STUDENTS UNION. There's a lot to do and many hands make loght work and a good end result is easier to achieve.

The Voter registration campaign will begin with full effect over the next week. Everyone will be mailed a form. Once returned we can print if off and send it to Limerick County Council to be

Patrick Kennedy- ULSU Communications and Campaigns Officer

processed. Closing date for the draft register is November 25th.

Over the next 2 weeks I'll be working on the running of An Focal, and the future of Wired FM (more on that in the next issue).

Finally can as many people as possible turn out for the 10K walk next Thursday. Sponsorship card are available in the Student Centre at reception.

Patrick

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It's your Letters

Correspondence to the Editor

Political Parties on Campus

Glenina,
Ennis,
Co. Clare

07-10-01

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention, while going about my daily business here in the college that the level of political activity has increased significantly here on campus. Posters can be seen everywhere advertising political meetings and seminars on behalf of the Green Party, the Labour Party, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. I think it is great to see this increased activity and efforts to try to heighten political awareness among students.

However, it did occur to me that credit must be given to the Young Fine Gael party for playing an integral part in the process of re-invigoration, which has taken place. Throughout the whole of last year, Fine Gael seemed to be the only political party doing anything on campus. This year they have organised informative Seminars and events, not just boring meetings. The topics, which, they have discussed, have been informative and would apply to a broad range of people.

I would just like to say congratulations to YFG, keep up the good example and I hope that the other parties will continue as they have begun and that the political interplay and banter will increase as the semester continues.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Henchy

Response to "In Defence of War"

To the nameless author of this original article, I

offer a rebuttal. More specifically, I offer an education. There is incredible inherent danger when one derives his or her entire mass of knowledge on a particular topic from Sky News. The danger is personified here in an article that would make George W. Bush proud, 'They've been indoctrinated, fantastic!'

The author of In Defence of War feels that the bombing of Afghanistan is 'just and necessary', dismissing legal action as unfeasible, justifying civilian casualties as acceptable, offering insight into the strict Muslim culture of Afghanistan and enlightened analysis of the attacks of September 11th in the United States. If ignorance is bliss then the author is halfway to Shangri-La.

To justify military action against the Taliban on the basis of its human rights and lack of a legal system is simply preposterous when the most ardent supporters of the war rival the Taliban in every aspect. The 'with us or against us' attitude of the American government has attracted the support of countries with brutal and violent regimes and some of the worst human rights records. Additionally, claiming allegiance to international law and condemning another nation for its disregard has little credibility when the United States rejected orders from the World Court to terminate its "Unlawful use of force" against Nicaragua and vetoed a Security Council resolution calling on all states to observe international law (Noam Chomsky, radio interview with Radio B92, Belgrade).

The author describes Afghanistan as hellish and unlawful, justification enough to remove the Taliban from power by whatever means necessary. The strongest Arab supporter of the American war effort has been the regime in Saudi Arabia, second only to the Taliban in their Islamic fundamentalist beliefs. Funny enough, one of the greatest inspirations for Bin Laden is not "hatred for the values cherished in the West as freedom, tolerance, prosperity, religious pluralism and universal suffrage" (New York Times Sept. 16, 2001), but more accurately the corrupt and repressive regimes of the Middle East that he regards as puppets of American imperialism and as un-Islamic. The greatest of these puppets is

Saudi Arabia. Cooperation by this oppressive regime with the United States, dating from the Gulf war of 1991 is arguably the main cause for the Bin Laden network to target the United States.

The author regards civilian casualties as those who are killed as a direct consequence of the bombing campaign. Such an analysis is incredibly short sighted. The number of civilians killed due to the bombing campaign is only a fraction of those who have perished from the inability of humanitarian aid to reach them. The American government continues to claim that they are not at war with Afghanis, just with the Taliban and the Al Qaeda network, but a military operation that starves a nation's citizens can hardly claim moral superiority. The comparison of '[Civilian casualties] figures in the three digits' and '5,000 murders in New York' is grossly inaccurate. Without a doubt the casualty total of New York and Washington will be greatly smaller than civilian Afghan casualties, and while one does not justify the other, the first has been condemned as an atrocity and an act of war while the second has been glorified in the name of freedom and democracy.

Shortly after the bombing campaign began, I watched a piece by a Sky News affiliate in America, gathering reactions from people in the street as to how they felt about the initiation of the bombing campaign against Afghanistan. Opinions and reactions were offered, some more articulate and enlightened than others, but one in particular jumped out at me. When asked, he replied "Good...great...fantastic news...it's about time we get some revenge!" This reaction, much like the views portrayed by the author of In Defence of War leaves me horrified that I come from the same society as they, that the values of freedom and equality that I enjoy and respect can be bastardized by those who show so little value for human life and can form an opinion limited only to government indoctrination brought to you live, as it happens, on Sky News,

Jason Tulk

Blood donating during Greek Week



Food fair 2001 in the Foundation Building

by Claire Shaughnessy

From spices to spuds, gravy to gratins there was something to suit every palette at this year's International Food Fair.

The annual event at UL, which encourages ERASMUS students at the university to give us a little "taste" of their own culture, was such a success that latecomers were left only a teasing aroma and a rumbling stomach.

Immersed in a hive of activity, atmosphere and lively music the Foundation Building was truly brought to life as it was transcended into an international arena of culture and cuisine. With over 1500 people flocking through the venue the food though earlier in abundance didn't last long with one of the Chinese participants proudly proclaiming an empty stall after just 27 minutes.

The student who joked about the culinary talents of his Irish housemates believes that the event should be run every semester as it is an "excellent way of meeting and

interacting with fellow students while embracing their cultures and societies" as well as raising awareness about the diversity of cultures within the campus community.

Cuile, the band that provided entertainment for the evening contributed greatly to the almost electric atmosphere. Their lively act of contemporary Irish trad was well received and even provided an opportunity for the international students to learn the ins and outs of the Siege of Ennis!

An overwhelming sense of achievement was evident from everyone involved, with smiling faces and laughter everywhere. Nicola White, an organiser of the Food Fair spoke of the great efforts put in by the various committee members and groups involved, such as the Environmental Society and Ten Forward: the ULgames society, as well as the ERASMUS students themselves who put huge effort into preparing the food for the evening. She wished to

express her gratitude to everyone involved and is certain that this year's Food Fair was the "best ever".

The Evening was certainly a resounding success summed up aptly by Eoin O' Brion of the Environmental Society "great night, great food, great venue, class band!" what more could anybody ask for!



Racism - What's Politics got to do with it?

By David Garrahy

Former Chairperson UL Young Fine Gael

It was appropriate that in this gathering of politically active young people that the root cause of the problems experienced by travellers, and perhaps many other minority groups, finally came out. "No change is possible until travellers themselves are involved in decisions that directly affect them". The speaker was Martin Collins, spokesperson for Pavee Point travellers centre and he was attempting to explore racism in Irish society. A hard task, as there are still those who do not want to admit that there is racism in Ireland. However the fact that this gathering was taking place was one small step in acknowledging that it does indeed exist.

OK, maybe I should start at the beginning. I was lucky enough to be chosen as one of 3 delegates to represent Young Fine Gael at The third Inter-Isles conference for youth political parties in Derry, in practice that means a gathering of youth wings from all political parties north and south. The purpose of the Inter-isles conference, as well as discussing the important issues affecting young people, is to create a dialogue between the political par-

ties, north and south in order to foster understanding of the various traditions from which each young person emanates.

The topic chosen for this gathering was racism in modern Ireland. We felt that it was extremely relevant due to the recent comments of our justice minister at the recent Durban Conference on Racism when he said that he was determined that Ireland "would not suffer the curse of racism" and that his government's policies would "ensure racism and racist tendencies do not gain a foothold" here. It seems that the young political activists in Ireland were willing to discuss the presence of racism in Ireland and not take the bury your head in the sand approach of our leaders.

The views put forward at the gathering were both challenging and original. A lot of the people who were attending the seminar were young politicians who had worked on the ground and knew what effects racism had on our society. In one of the most interesting parts for me an activist who was a member of the Women's Coalition describing running after a Chinese woman in Belfast in order to give her an election leaflet printed in Mandarin. However although it was agreed that politicians have a huge part to

play in standing up against racism, it was also admitted that sadly politicians sometimes fanned the flames of racism for political gain. Though this only happens in a small minority of cases it was felt that it is very important that this should be tackled and that any racism shown by any politician should not be tolerated. Another important point made, going back to what Martin Collins said, was that the minority groups must be involved in the decision making process, those people who the decisions affect must be given the chance to give the value of their experience. This means decision making bodies at all levels, going right up to the Dáil.

Naturally when young people get together a lot of the serious business is done socially and the night life in Derry facilitated this very well. It was over all an extremely worthwhile weekend, one which gave me a big insight into what young people want for their country, whether that be 26 or 32 counties, in 20 or 30 years time.

If you would be interested in becoming involved with the Northern Ireland Committee of Young Fine Gael you can contact YFG in UL at ulyfg@hotmail.com.

KATE ALLENBY -Olympic Bronze Medallist coming to U.L for Tetrathlon

Since 1994 Kate Allenby has been arguably the leading and most charismatic pentathlete in the world.

She has long been at the forefront of the sport, winning two junior World Championship medals, the 1997 European title, 1998 World Cup final and Olympic bronze in Sydney.

There is little doubt about her courage and determination. Kate won a World junior medal having been treated for serious burns two days before the event.

And in Sydney she competed with a muscle tear in her shoulder when most would have withdrawn from the event.

Born in 1974 she spent her early life in Australia before returning to Devon where she discovered

a love for sport.

She competed for pony club before moving up to pentathlon and has also fenced for England.

An engaging character with forthright opinions on the future of sport have made her one of the most liked and respected sportswomen resulting in her being voted onto the British Olympic Association's executive committee.



Major Sporting Achievements

1994 BRONZE Junior World Championships
 1995 SILVER Junior World Championships
 1996 BRONZE World Cup Final
 1997 GOLD European Championships
 1998 GOLD World Cup Final
 1999 GOLD German World Cup
 BRONZE World Cup Final
 2000 GOLD Steffi Cup [Indoor Championships]
 SILVER US Open
 SILVER Korean World Cup
 BRONZE German World Cup
 BRONZE OLYMPIC GAMES

Hurler Off the Ditch

This column must begin with an apology. In the last edition of 'An Focal' the name of General Belgrano of Argentina was invoked as a politician who had used sport for political means. Judging by the rumblings beneath his tombstone in Buenos Aires, the hero of Argentinian independence was none too pleased to be mistaken for General Videla, the man who squeezed every conceivable piece of self-serving propaganda out of the Argentinian soccer team's World Cup success on home soil in 1978. While possibly attributable to the rantings of a pre-middle-aged malcontent, this lapse of memory is also symptomatic of a greater illness that seems to be enveloping the country with insatiable speed.

The loss of collective memory, particularly within the confines of a witness box has become Ireland's equivalent of the Bermuda Triangle. When the country's political, business and legal leaders enter the zone where they are bound to give testimony, their powers of recall suddenly and inexplicably fail. The implications of this



loss of episodic memory are boundless. The ability to remember a person's name might be considered one of the most basic cognitive skills and certainly a prerequisite for survival in the professions. Not among our more illustrious, it seems.

The latest victim of this disease is solicitor John Caldwell. Asked recently by that interminably tedious saga known as the Flood Tribunal about allegations of payments to politicians, Mr. Caldwell said that he had "no recollection" of such an issue. A pity, because Mr. Caldwell went on the missing list last September when first asked to give evidence. Faced with the prospect of facing a tribunal, Caldwell attempted to resign as a solicitor. He then claimed that he was no longer an Irish citizen and had moved abroad. He was now finally facing the tribunal because his level of recollection had "improved significantly" since he was first asked to give evidence. Sadly, his improved memory was still unable to recall anything significant.

Amnesia similar to that displayed by Caldwell is at such endemic levels among the professions that the country's citizens may soon be asked to provide funding for a Garden of Forgetting in memory of those who have lost theirs. The one most fatally afflicted by the disease is the man possessed of what Robert Louis Stevenson called "a grand memory for forgetting".

Former Dublin city and county manager George Redmond is a mega-star in the field of forgetfulness. In all the mind-numbing ennuis of the tribunals, Redmond never wavered from his staggering capacity to be unable to recall even the most basic facts. The links between property developers and planning officials had been subject to incessant rumour prior to the tribunals. Now they have confirmed the underhand

dealing and under-counter payments which have been endemic in official life for decades. One example illustrates how, in June 1988, the developer Michael Bailey sought planning permission for a group of houses in Rathfarnham. The application was turned down. Within days Bailey contacted Redmond who used his influence with An Bord Pleanála to persuade that body to change its mind. Bailey's appeal to An Bord Pleanála was successful in December 1988, after the developer had paid Redmond £20,000. Redmond miraculously remembers receiving the money from Bailey but cannot recall why he was given it. Redmond did admit to the tribunal that he received more than £350,000 from developers during his tenure as city and county manager for Dublin. The journalist Paul Cullen claims that Redmond was given at least double that amount.

There was even a farcical attempt to claim that the monies received by Redmond from the builder, Tom Brennan were merely the winnings placed on some of Brennan's horses. Amazingly, none of Brennan's 'tips' ever failed to lose. Anyone who has ever looked sideways at a betting shop will tell you that a 100% success rate in betting on horses is as likely as Osama bin-Laden converting to Judaism and throwing a barmitzvah in lower Manhattan before Christmas. For having the audacity and wit to relate such an unlikely tale, it's possible to have some admiration for Brennan. At least his memory didn't fail him - he had probably read James Thurber's 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' once too often.

The former ESAT chairman Denis O'Brien is another stalwart who has turned from a reputed memory wizard to a wilting incompetent in the witness box, unable to recall names, dates and transactions with such skill that the question, 'How did this man really acquire a personal fortune of £350 million?' readily comes to mind. Recently O'Brien told the Moriarty Tribunal that he had

instructed his broker to buy 12,000 shares for his father-in-law. By unhappy coincidence these same shares ended up in the account of the late David Austin, who at the time of

the transaction was the chief fund-raiser for Fine Gael. O'Brien couldn't offer an explanation except that the shares were probably bought for Austin after he had made an enquiry to his broker about the former fund-raiser's health! Baffled? It's impossible not to be.

Fine Gael happened to be the one of the parties in power when the decision was taken to grant the country's second mobile phone licence to O'Brien's ESAT Digifone. One of the ministers responsible for that momentous decision was Michael Lowry, another whose capacity for remembering detail crumbles once



inside the tribunal witness box. Perhaps the presence of a troop of kangaroos along with some members of the

The former ESAT chairman Denis O'Brien is another stalwart who has turned from a reputed memory wizard to a wilting incompetent in the witness box, unable to recall names, dates and transactions with such skill that the question

North's recently declared unemployed would concentrate the minds of witnesses more sharply.

One of Michael Lowry's most quoted expressions dur-



ing his tenure as a minister was that there were 'cosy cartels' operating within the land. One of the most cosy of those cartels is the judiciary, an institution which has always been loath to punish well-mannered criminals and is unlikely to change that habit soon. In the meantime, many of our society's more illustrious members could do worse than heed the words of the ancient Roman rhetorician Quintilian:

'A liar should have a good memory'.

How your sponsorship really helps the children of Chernobyl

£10
pays for one month supply of meals & clothing to help the immune system

£20
will feed an abandoned baby for 2 months

£50
will pay the salary of trained nurse for one month

£75
buys the drugs to enable a dying child to die painlessly

£300
pays for one child to visit Ireland for vital treatment

Bank of Ireland

STUDENT'S WALK 10K
for the Chernobyl Children's Project

Thursday Nov. 15th

FOR SPONSORSHIP CARDS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL INTO THE STUDENTS' UNION RECEPTION

Paul Lee Gets caged!!!!!!

Well at last it's happened. After about a year of planning the infamous and notorious clubs and societies development officer Paul Lee has been penned in.

I am of course referring to the screening off of Paul's section of the clubs and societies office. Members of exec speaking earlier this week mentioned that the plans to separate the office had been in the pipe work since last year

but only recently had work started on the ambitious plans. Mr. Lee was jubilant earlier this week as he showed his 'new' office off to passers by. 'From now on 'He belted to Students Union President Michael Phelan 'You'll have to make an appointment to see me.'

Some things never change then. Paul's tenure year as clubs and sacs development officer has seen some radical changes to the office. Though one societies executive member was upset that the windows in pails little play pen meant there was now nowhere for the play board...ahem sorry the clubs and socs master timetable. Other societies delegates suggested that Paul install bullet proof glass in the lair.

For his protection or that of the clubs and socs members now using the outer office was unclear. One thing is for sure. Students in UL can now attend lectures safe in the knowledge that Paul Lee is now safely locked away where he can do no (well almost none) harm to innocent students. We, in the clubs and socs council and executive know that this little article will appeal to Paul's cutting sense of sarcastic humour and wish him

Paul's tenure year as clubs and sacs development officer has seen some radical changes to the office

the best in his new enclosure. Lord knows how many hours of extracurricular hard work Paul puts into clubs and socs each year and we all appreciate every minute of it, even if he does gleefully tease our efforts at fundraising (radio soc silence. ...Anyone. Paul asked how much it would be to continue for the rest of the semester...). Paul everyone at the union and in the clubs and socs wish you the best in your new office. Don't forget though to install glass though otherwise the clubs exec will be using it as a climbing frame ...a word to the wise from someone who's seen them hanging from the rafters on more than one occasion.



Pauls new house of wood



Paul- Behind bars at last!

Environmentally Friendly Housing on show in UL

by Edel Fitzgerald

There was no excuse for any UL student to be environmentally unaware after Monday's Green Fair in the Stables courtyard, proving yet again why the Environmental Society won Best Society and Best Improved Society last year.

Heading out from the wonders of the Green Fair, I came upon a strange dome-shaped contraption as I was going to the Scholars. For the unknowing observer like myself, it was difficult to distinguish its particular function, but it was certainly an intriguing structure. I discovered it was a bender, a type of dwelling-place, and the principle dwelling for the people of Mongolia.

So what was it doing in UL? Well, the Environmental Society thought it was worthwhile to include it in their Green Fair events. According to Eamonn Coughlan, who was invited by the Environmental Society to erect the structure, it is a low-impact dwelling using traditional methods and modern techniques. The brains behind the Geodesic Dome, or bender, Sir Barnes Wallis and

Buckminster Fuller, based it on the oldest structural shape known- the dome-shape.

The genius of this type of dwelling is the length of time spent on erecting the dome. In less than an hour, Mr. Coughlan had built the beautiful frame of the structure. Onlookers watched, stunned at the ease with which the builder constructed the frame. The Mayor of Limerick, who opened Greek Week, was also impressed by the magnificent structure.

Very simple and inexpensive materials were used, including flexible coppice wood, string, a hammer and a canvas cover. There are many advantages to this type of dwelling. It is light, easily portable, quick to erect and take down. Rods are used to construct the unusual shape. The longest rod used is 4'1" for a 13' diameter living space, whereas most other structures would require rod lengths that are longer and heavier. The whole structure, including the canvas cover, flooring, and a burner can fit into a car boot. Basically, you can carry a spare house in the boot of your car- pretty amazing!

This type of dwelling is a versatile and economical dwelling. A "low-cost" conventional house costs £50,000 to build whereas a bender can cost less than £100! That's about the amount spent in one college week! It causes little or no damage to the environment, and once established in a natural location, is a wonderful way to be closer to nature.

It isn't difficult to imagine making this your



home as you gaze up at "the quintessential nomadic architectural development", as one architect, dubbed it. It's easy to make it comfortable by decorating your new abode with colourful hanging or alternatively, to really get back to nature, cover the walls and roof with ferns and foliage. It's up to you, but it's often nicer to keep it fairly simple and natural.

There's a set of instructions available on how to build your own personal bender, and they are available from the Environmental Society. So start collecting your wood today- even to the dumbest blonde, it is simple to construct and definitely worth trying out. However, I'm going to leave it to all ye budding "Bob the builders" out there to do the job for me. Happy building!



Diary of a First Year

by Claire Shaughnessy

I always looked forward to the fact that university life would be a multicultural experience, it certainly is!... talk about a culture shock!!

I had never realised how recognisably galwegian I was until I moved down here. Now all I have to do it utter the word "mighty" before someone cocks their eyes up to heaven and asks "so what part o' Galway are you from?" swiftly followed by a smartarsed wink, smile and "sorry for your troubles".

Between the diverse influences of Cork "boys", Kerry "girls" and authentic Limerick lingo I'm already showing signs of a confused identity... and no I'm not talking about my sexuality, although the whole concept of "meeting" someone has taken on a new meaning lately.

Anyway apart from that I find myself popping a bit of Kerry colloquial into every conversation! I'm not about to forget my roots though, make no mistake of it... a Galway woman and proud!! Now if I was really from Kerry that would be a different story (only messin Edel!)

bles and the scholars. As if they're not asking for a dig!

Sure tis all good humoured... its not like any of them truly believe that anywhere other than Galway could be number 1!

Bye for now!

Claire, xx

P.S. Before ye all flood the poor editor PK with the exact same question... I didn't go to college in Galway so that I could really appreciate it when I go home;) I've that one well practiced! only messin everyone:- tis truly a great aul spot but ULis "mighty" too and I'm here to stay for as long as they'll keep me.



Painfully goog to be from Galway!!!!

The truth of the matter is that most of us couldn't wait to get out of our respective home towns and parishes, yet since we started socialising with members of the opposite counties all we can do is rant on about how great our own county is. Well its good for our egos if nothing else!

The whole international thing is cool too, with ERASMUS students from all over the world converging on UL... appreciated by some even more than others (good woman Sarah, god bless ya, fair play to ya!!!)

The international students though are never such an easy target as those GAAjersey bearing hunks (haha, keep telling yerselves that lads!) to be found every weeknight in the sta-

Murphys DOTCOMedy

Every Tuesday in the Scholars Function Room

by Mairead Moriarty

Des Bishop & Eddie Bannon
- Leftie And The Rapping Sheep

Murphys DOTCOMedy Club for Week 6 gave us the wit and charm of two great acts – Eddie Bannon headlined, with support from Eddie Naessens. MC for the night was John Henderson. The location was the Function Room of the Scholars and there was some laughing going on! Admittedly there was less of a crowd there than usual on the night – but this was down to the fact that Mundy was playing in the Jean Monnet Theatre on the same night. Nonetheless the smaller crowd made for a more intimate atmosphere.

John Henderson performed the necessary duties for yet another week at the Club. He cracked a few jokes about the gents' toilets and the use of same in McDonalds. They made for a great deal of laughter amongst the crowd. He also carried on with a comment from Keith that men are renowned for washing their hands, and so they were to be sure to not wash off the stamp from their hands, because the ladies' stamps are always immaculate!

Next up was Eddie Naessens, who is most recognisable from his Fair City days as the notorious Dr. (Evil) Jack. However this evil image disappeared on stage – he provided some entertaining impersonations and antics. His greasy hair didn't prevent him from performing an accurate portrayal of Uncle Gaybo, down to the tee! He was also the TV3 Weather Guy and a Sky News Reporter in someone's front room! Hilarious! His most notable was however, the opera scene – who knows? If his career in comedy fails (unlikely) then he could always become a professional opera singer – he certainly has the voice for it! His set was full of energy, even if he did get off with a slow start. But the audience loved him!

The final act for the evening was the college favourite Eddie Bannon. Described as "a gripping piece of work" by The Irish Times, he has played sell-out gigs all over Ireland and the UK. The one-man-play Big Fat Dog was written and performed by Eddie for his fifth consecutive year at the Edinburgh Festival in 1999. He performed it at the Dublin Fringe Festival in 2000 and was also adapted for RTE Radio 1 more recently. He has toured with such talents as Lenny Henry, Patrick Kielty, Tommy Tiernan and Ardal O'Hanlon.

So what was he like tonight? His act was very natural and spontaneous. He really interacted with the audience and tried to involve everyone in the room instead of just letting them sit back! His topics included sex-related issues, county rivalry, Gardaí, holidays and scoring with birds! He boasted about his holidays – telling us that he scored with two birds – one with bulimia and the other had only four real teeth! He then went on to tell us that he really shouldn't have gone to Lourdes for his holidays!



His gags received constant applause and chants of "more more more" from the crowd at the end of the set. It seems he certainly ruled the roost that night! The night of comical entertainment was over for now – but it would all start again next week.

And so it did – with the special Greek Week DOT COMedy Club in the University Concert Hall on Tuesday of Week 7. It was my fault that we were late (sorry!) – so the MC John Henderson was on stage already. He actually seemed to have made an effort this week – the previous week in the Function Room it was as if he couldn't be bothered – but his set was lively and energetic. He really warmed up the audience in more ways than one – free t-shirts were thrown to a select few – but he did comment that some of them would not be suitable for some people – one of the Crew guys would probably need 3 of them! He rattled on about his trip to Amsterdam and visiting the sex shops with his wife. They were like mechano shops for adults – a full body could be made out of all the parts! He contemplated the contents of Irish Catholic Sex Shops. He was lively, entertaining and energetic. Plus – he gave me a great big smile for the camera! Cheers!



Karl Spain was next to take centre stage and spent most of the set poking abuse and fun at poor Tony! "Tony knows what I'm talking about!" He played most of the same material as when he played in the Scholars in Week 5 – but it went down a treat with the crowd! They loved him! And he was funny! The Gardaí jokes persisted, Capital K – Capital Madrid, and the Jesus sketches were even more hilarious the second time around! He said, quite convincingly, that IT should be renamed IF – I'm F***ed!! His act was entertaining and comical. The crowd were enthralled in his wit and charm.

It was now time for the main act of the evening – Jason Byrne was meant to be playing – but it was all to change at the last minute. We would now see Des Bishop – the Irish-American hip-hop rapper. Des is resident compere of the International Comedy Club at Dublin's International Bar. Hot Press say his "grip on an audience is instant and unshakeable, partly down to whirlwind energy and physical charisma, and partly down to sheer volume." He has played such show as BBC's The Empire Laughs Back and Rate's The Lounge and is perhaps more noted for his stint in Don't Feed The Gondolas. He has played the 1999 and 2000 Edinburgh Festivals - in 2000 he was part of the hip-hop comedy show The Main Event. 2001 saw Des co-write and perform in Rap Eire – a new hip-hop musical for the Bicker staff Theatre Company, which has performed successfully around Ireland.

Tonight Des was comical and enjoyable. His physical charisma (yes he was quite tantalising on stage!) worked in conjunction with his wit to create the overall effect. His hip-hop rapping and boppin' were hilarious. The inclusion on stage of his sidekick DJ Lee was unusual for a comedy gig but I think it worked. He was kind of like Side Show

Bob – but a little less menacing. They performed various medleys to create a new innovative type of comedy. Some of his material dealt with the September 11th incidents but he said later that he hopes to do more on that in the future. He made interesting use of inflatable sheep, which tied in with his foot-and-mouth raps! He introduced us to the story of Leftie! Ask no questions! His Charlie Haughey rap was hilarious and he also made some rather offensive remarks about Kerry! Listen here boy – Killarney is not the main town in Kerry and Jackie Healy-Rae is not typically Kerry! His encore consisted of his conversation with two American members of the audience. It was as if there was nobody else in the venue then!

The crowd absolutely loved him awarding him with several applauses and tremendous cheers. Mind you he received little from me as I was far too busy trying not to drop the An Focal digital camera! I talked to him afterwards – or at least I tried – but he was far more interested in going to the pub! He was a bit worried that the raps didn't receive much response – it was probably due to the poor sound at the time – but it was commented that they would have been lost on those who do not ordinarily listen to hip-hop music. So sorry to all the non-Soul Clinic fans out there!

It was a great gig. The crowd were happy – but it has to be said that it was actually quite rude of the audience to have just gotten up and left before John Henderson has a chance to bid us farewell! Ye should all be ashamed of yerselves! But all had a good night. See all of ye there again next week!



The People of UL

Throughout the year An Focal will be bringing you interviews with the people who live and work in the University Environment, giving everyone a bigger picture of what being around UL actually involves.

I'm late..... with my article (again)! The editor is up the walls and I need an interviewee. Someone talkative perhaps. Someone charming. Someone with a high IQ. But the clock is ticking and my mission is fast becoming an object of abhorrence. I'm never going to fill all of these criteria before all the grains of sand tumble towards their comrades on the top of the pile in the hourglass. "Jump into bed," cry the voices in my head. "Feign terminal illness". But my legs have a mind of their own and I find myself, strangely, in the Alumni Office on the first floor of the Student's Union Office.

Someone fascinating. Someone with panache. Someone.....oooh! Who's that.....?

The Diet Coke ad comes, unbidden, to mind. But replacing the hunk, (usually bare-chested or in a torso-hugging T-shirt, and always in tight jeans) is a tall blonde. The one who walks into a pub and the fellas drool, jaws on the floor with the girls going "Humph" wondering:

- (1) Where she got her clothes?
- (2) How she got her hair so straight?
- (3) Why can't we all look like that?

But I care not. Deirdre Killilea fulfils my criteria. I'm tempted to say the Angelus...tempted but there's no time! Thankfully Deirdre agrees (a tad reluctantly) to be my esteemed victim. The questions start to fly.

First off!! Job Description and how she got into it? Apparently, Deirdre always wanted to work in UL as her parents had given thirty years of service between them in the university. When the job came up in Alumni Deirdre went for it, and got it. Official job title

– Secretarial Assistant.



And what a job she's got!! Organising reunions for college graduates all over Ireland and wherever else our people end up. Listening to Deirdre describing her job behind her desk, piled high with her files and topped off with her phone, one would be inclined to ask oneself a question: "What have I been doing?" The phone rings. "Hello, this is the Alumni Office, Deirdre speaking. How can I help you?"

Wow, she's cool. She'd that voice at the end of the line that invites you to ask for help when you don't really want to. The voice that will help, no questions asked. Those pub girls go even greener. Deirdre's not just sophisticated...she's nice too!

Back to brass tax. Apparently, the job is strictly 9-5, except for the chaotic pandemonium associated with the reunion of the 1991 class, which erupted not so long ago. "9am-9pm it was" claims Deirdre, giggling at the memory. "No lunch and fewer breaks, but it was fun". Obviously a person who looks on the bright side!

Alumni, which was established in 1987 by graduates of the college also deals with newsletters to keep tabs on the wanderers and to fill them in on recent happenings. Committees are set up around in cities and towns around Ireland or around the world in order to establish chapters, which in turn are posted on the Internet.

Graduates contact each other through the chapter and the celebrations begin, in good old UL fashion!! UL graduates are reunited as a class years after graduation...the nerds and the rebels, the ones who never missed lectures and the ones who never made it to lectures, those who spoke up in tutorials and those who left their

Deirdre always wanted to work in UL as her parents had given thirty years of service between them in the university

tongues at home, those who got involved and those who never got out of bed!! Sentimental, I like it!

But time is a valuable commodity...both to Deirdre and to me...and well, let's just admit it, it's gold dust to P.K., Editor-in-Chief. The voices in my head kick into action again; "Go to bed!" they cry. "If you insist!" I reply." But gimme a minute to thank Deirdre who saved my post as correspondent for An Focal. Thank you Dee! Hope you're not still mortified! But at least you know now that you're ...someone charming, someone interesting, someone with a high IQ and someone with panache!

By Marianne Blackwell

HISTORY SOCIETYS 4TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

On the Tuesday of Week 2 the History Society decided to have a get-together to celebrate the 4th birthday of its founding, and what better way to celebrate than to have an historic pub crawl? Joined by a large crowd of International Society members we all met up at the Scholars for a few warm up drinks before heading into town to the History Societys favourite pub Mickey Martins. Once inside -and to the amazement of the other patrons- we set about hanging balloons and packets of lollipops from every available space. First drinks were free and naturally everyone took advantage of this great offer! There was a large crowd and everyone set about getting to know each other and new friends were made in both societies.



Everyone was having a great laugh when suddenly the birthday cake appeared. We had all been warned beforehand that no food fights were allowed -and I'm sure I speak for a lot of people when I say that we were all a bit disappointed by that piece of news!! But never fear we recovered and tucked into the delicious cream cake. Armed with the Societys camera I also made

the rounds and took loads of photos -it's amazing how camera shy some people are! Although the night was originally planned as a pub-crawl we were all enjoying ourselves so much in Mickey Martins that none of us wanted to leave! Katherine, our Auditor, was determined to get us all to one more pub and so we moved en masse to Shimeens pub downstairs in the Gallery nightclub. There we were greeted by the sounds of a live band and we began to settle into this new pub quite comfortably! A slightly strange moment happened later on in the night when the lights in the pub all went out thereby confusing some of us because we thought it was a bit too early for closing time but five minutes later and after a few dodgy ghost stories we were back in business. When the real closing time came around the group of us still remaining found ourselves upstairs in the entrance to the Gallery nightclub where there was a bit of a riot happening (we found out the next day that there were strippers performing that night) and the bouncers were quickly losing control of the crowd. Luckily we all jumped aside to safety as the crowd surged past the bouncers and erupted into the hall. Despite our little adventure (and the fact that we had to talk the bouncers into letting us OUT!) a good night was had by all. Thanks to the International Society for coming along and being such good craic and we'll see everyone next year for our fifth birthday.



University of Limerick Science Fair

Sunday 18 November 2001 12 - 5 pm

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Free Shuttle Bus to Science Fair from Limerick City sponsored by Bus Eireann

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
1.00pm	OFFICIAL OPENING by Minister Noel Treacy	Foundation Building Atrium
Shows and Display		
12.15- 1.00pm	Chemistry Magic Show by Dr Ray Plevy	Foundation Building (FB-028)
12.30-1.00pm	Science Magic Show for the younger members of the audience	Performing Arts Centre
1.30-2.30pm	Dr Jim Donovan - Forensics Science 'Science against Crime'	University Concert Hall
1.15-2.15pm	'Exploding Custard' live demonstration by Dr Ian Russell	Main Building (Jean Monnet)
1.30-2.00pm	Science Magic Show for the younger members of the audience	Performing Arts Centre
2.00 - 3.00pm	'Dive with Sharks' with Dr Vinnie Hyland, Wild Ireland	Foundation Building (FG-042)
2.00pm	Helicopter Display - Irish Coastguard	Front of Plassey House
3.00pm	Civil Defence Display	Adjacent to Plaza
3.00-4.00pm	Chemistry Magic Show by Dr Ray Plevy	Foundation Building (FB-028)
3.30-4.30pm	Dr Jim Donovan - Forensics Science 'Science against Crime'	University Concert Hall
4.00-4.30pm	Science Magic Show for the younger members of the audience	Performing Arts Centre
4.00 - 5.00pm	'Dive with Sharks' with Dr Vinnie Hyland, Wild Ireland	Foundation Building (FG-042)
4.15-5.00pm	'Exploding Custard' live demonstration by Dr Ian Russell	Main Building (Jean Monnet)
Entertainment		
1.15-2.45pm	Limerick Jazz Quartet	Foundation Building Atrium
3.00-4.00pm	Gan Ainm	Foundation Building Atrium
4.00-5.00pm	Traditional Music	Foundation Building Atrium
5.00pm	Presentation : School Poster Competition Winners sponsored by Dell Computer Corporation	Foundation Building Atrium
5.00pm	Raffle : Visitors Prize – Dell Multi Media Computer	Foundation Building Atrium

The following displays and events are running throughout the day :-

● Showcase : Exhibits & Displays from Irish Industries & Organisations	Marquee / Main Building / Foundation Building
● Planetarium Show by Science Works	Main Building (Main Reception Foyer)
● Army Ordnance Corps Display	Main Building (EG010)
● Naval Services Display	Sports Science Building
● Sports & Exercise Sciences Display / Science Works Kits	Sports Science Building/Schools
● Poster Exhibition sponsored by Dell Corporation	Main Building / Foundation Building
● 2 FM Roadcaster / Flight Simulator / Computer Gym / Hot-Air Balloon	Plaza
● Prius Electric Car / Bouncing Castle / Umbrella Project / Quads	Plaza
● Litefoot / 'Try a Dive' with Limerick Sub Aqua Club / Steam Engines	Foundation Building/Sports Science Building
● Face Painting / Puppet Show / Magicians	Performing Arts Centre
●	

The Music Review

-Adrian O'Connell



I might as well start this week talking about **Mundy** and his gig two weeks ago in the Jean Monnet (30th Oct). He's probably best known for having a song on the soundtrack to the *Romeo & Juliet* film, but I'll remember him more for his annoying habit of chewing chewing gum while singing! (Of course I'm exaggerating, but I reckon it shows a bit of disregard for his audience, more about that later...) He began the evening by playing a couple of songs on his own with just an acoustic guitar. I didn't think these were bad - the guitar playing certainly was impressive, at times it almost sounded like there was another guitarist playing along with him. After a while I hoped the eventual arrival of the drummer and bassist would pick things up (which they did), and as the evening went on I got the impression **Mundy** was enjoying himself more and more, as too were the audience. My favourite song from the whole evening was third from the end - in a break from the full band **Mundy** went back on the acoustic and played what I felt was the catchiest song of the night. Would you believe I can't remember its name, but it ended up with Mundy showing us he's a pretty good hand at using his pedals, he looped the signal from his guitar over and over à la David Pajo or Guapo. I won't go into explaining what his actual sound is like because I'm sure you've heard 'To You I Bestow', it was a radio hit, as was 'Life's a Cinch' and 'Gin and Tonic Sky'. The best audience reaction of the evening was for a new song whose title

- pretty lazy in my book. This fits nicely back to my point from the beginning - at the start we were played some quiet acoustic tunes, fair enough. But also in the background we heard the type of slurping and swallowing sounds (I'm told) one might expect to hear in an adult movie (you know the ones, great scripts and the first scene is usually in a dentist's waiting room!) Anyway, Mundy was chewing gum as he sang and it ruined the mood (admittedly, it wasn't as bad in the louder songs but it could be clearly heard in the quieter ones). I really got the impression he didn't care what we thought - it was as if we'd gone to see a painting exhibition where the artist decided to fire Tipp-Ex all over his stuff - why?! I left that night thinking it wasn't bad, but how much better it

could have been with a little more effort from Mundy, both in parts of his writing and performance.

Well worth a mention was the support band that evening, Limerick's own **Catcher & The Rye**. They have without doubt two of the best singers in Limerick and probably one of the strongest vocal line-ups in the country. I heard them at an unplugged competition a couple of years ago (which they won) and the singing stood out a mile then also. The female singer also played bongos and the music went from quite jazzy in places, to more of a standard but nonetheless catchy rock song. It's chorus went something like 'I want to break my bones', and was the one that the crowd seemed to like most. It was a cool gig, I wish I'd had a CD or at least been a bit more familiar with their stuff, so hopefully it won't be long before they play again.

Next up is **Dawn Kenny**, a local singer/songwriter from Pallasgreen who played Dolans Warehouse on the 28th of October to promote the release of her brand new debut album 'Through the Loop'. She played most of the album that night, (which I have a copy of) and as my space here is limited I'm just going to review that. Briefly however, you can take it from me that her voice was incredible live, as was her piano playing and I'd thoroughly recommend you go see her next time she's back. I hadn't heard her before that evening, so when I enquired who/what she was like I was told an Irish *Tori Amos*. I'd agree with that description with some of the faster songs, but on the slower tracks I kept getting reminded of Tom Waits' music. She gets the same feelings of loneliness (that you hear on 'Closing Time'), coupled with moody and beautiful piano music to cre-

ate songs that instantly imbed themselves in your brain. Her new single 'Only Then' is great too, it's a mid-paced song that has you tapping your foot and singing along with its chorus, you can't help yourself (there's a cool pause in it too). I'm not sure how well it'll do in the charts, because in case you haven't guessed I have very little faith in them, but if there's any justice it will do brilliantly. It certainly has the right ingredients - a melody you can't ignore, catchy lyrics and she's a very talented songwriter so your attention is held right throughout the whole song, there are no lulls here! Apart from the new single, I enjoyed the slower moodier songs more, and that's the direction I'd like to see her heading. She'd probably be appealing to a smaller audience than her faster stuff would, but I reckon the benefits would be greater in the end. I'll go back to the Tom Waits thing - songs like 'Julie' and 'I can't make you love me' (which is a cover I think). It's these tales of heartbreak and loneliness, and that beautiful piano playing is what struck me most when listening to her, both on CD and at the gig. But make up your own mind and go see her; you'll know what I'm talking about then.

I've been in college quite a while now but it was only last week that I went to my first gig in the **World Music Centre** in the Foundation Building. Two guys called **Hank Wedel** and **Ray Barron** were playing (Hank on guitar and vocals, Ray on mandolin). They started off with a traditional Swedish (who-hoo!) song called 'The Forest Flowers' that immediately had me hooked. The overall sound was folksy, but a few of the guitar riffs you could expect to hear in some of the more popular rock bands around these days. Some well thought-out lyrics like 'Buy low, sell high, you get rich but you still die' kept people listening intently. Not that there was any risk of people not listening as the guitar and the mandolin sounded fantastic together. I've never been into folk music that much but I've been converted. It was my first time listening to a good mandolin player in such an intimate setting and I for one was enthralled, he gave it a bit of an Italian feel in places. Unfortunately the gig only lasted 45 minutes but I did get a CD. Ray plays with *Two Time Polka* and Hank with *Open Kitchen* so they should be around a fair bit pretty soon. Oh yeah, I didn't mention this before, the gigs are free and there are a number held each week, starting at 1.15pm.

It's a great way to spend lunchtime.

As for gigs again take a look at what's coming up in Dolans and indeed keep an eye out for bands in the *Scholars*, and at www.theamc.net for news on other gigs in town. Try and make it to one of the many gigs in the World Music Centre, and there is undoubtedly something cool coming up in our very own Concert Hall too (and I'm not talking about the *Eagles* cover band!) Oh yeah, if it's not too late already, the *Frames* will be in the Jean Monnet during the week. Take care.



went something like 'Lets go to Mexico'. It's this song that I feel is a fair representation of Mundy. It shows what he's capable of, both good and bad. It started off with an excellent distorted guitar riff, which I really got into. So the song had a cool start and verse, however it didn't last, as Mundy lifted the chorus riff from 'Baby When You're Gone' (Bryan Adams and Sporty Spice) and plonked it right into the middle of this song - I was disappointed with that to say the least! Similar story again with 'To You I Bestow', I like the song, but why does he put two bars of 'Paradise City' into it at the end? The mellower of you will no doubt say, relax; he's just doing it for the crack...

"I find it frustrating when someone who has the talent to write some good music just seems to cop out for the rest of the song and not even bother"

But I have to say I find it frustrating when someone who has the talent to write some good music just seems to cop out for the rest of the song and not even bother. Instead we're given a riff we've heard 'somewhere' before knowing it'll catch our ear

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UL Camogie Report

Intermediates: UL v Garda College, Wed 31st October 2001

The UL Camogie intermediates played their first game of the league against the Garda College, Templemore on Wednesday the 31st October. This year, for the first time, the intermediate game has evolved from 12-a-side to a full 15-a-side. So with a full bus of long established members and some new faces, the UL camogie girls headed for Templemore with coach Mike Carey.

In pretty good conditions for October, the team took to the pitch. Not only were members from Kilkenny's All-Ireland squad playing alongside girls from rival county Tipperary, but a number of beginners had the opportunity to put their skills into practice. The Garda College are a capable and experienced team who have been playing together for the last few years. A very strong physical side, they opened up the scoring in the first five minutes. However this did not deter the UL girls and a number of superb points meant both sides were level at 5 points a piece by half time.

After great guidance and advice from Mike at half time, the UL girls ventured back onto the pitch with positive attitudes. From the whistle, UL stepped up a gear which was evident in some great scores, including a great goal from

Maria Keane and even some of the backline put their mark on the scoreboard. Great team spirit and determination ensured that UL left the pitch victoriously with a healthy margin of 6 points. Outstanding displays were given by Sarah O' Gorman, Maria Keane, Valerie Harty, Niamh Bowles, and Elaine Murphy.

Final Score: UL 1-13
Garda College 1-7

Seniors: UL v UCC, Wed 24th October 2001-11-05

The UL seniors began their sporting year with the difficult task of facing old rivals UCC in the first match of the league on Wednesday. Many of the reputable players from last year's Ashbourne team such as Fiona Ni Chorcain and Eileen Hanrick were absent due to teaching practice or Co-op. However, the team that Marion Neville carefully chose, bravely took on the task of playing against a physically fit and strong UCC team. Many freshers made their first college team appearance and showed great confidence in facing their opponents. The match was played in Monaleen pitch and conditions were relatively good despite the threat of rain. Play opened with some good

scores from both sides and the unique level of determination that exists when UL play UCC was definitely equalled. However the stronger UCC side gradually broke down the UL defences and began to creep ahead. There were some great individual performances from Niamh Connolly and Caroline Murray, while Louise Ryan saved many a forceful shot from the infamous UCC forwards. Most importantly, the team gained the chance to exercise the same team co-operation and good spirit that are always present in UL camogie and first years got a 'baptism of fire' in the words of the injured but ever-present star Tipperary forward, Siobhan Ryan.

In the end UL were defeated on the pitch by a considerable amount, a margin which doesn't reflect the true passion of the game. However, as always, the experience will be used as a stepping stone and a team building exercise in the ultimate quest for Ashbourne glory. As they say whatever doesn't kill us makes us stronger!

Final Score: UL 3-3
UCC 4-14

24 Hour Swimathon Photos



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Friday 16th November doors open @10pm &
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UL Racing Society Visit Cork

WE'RE BACK AND DOING IT IN GRAND STYLE!!

On the 10th of October 2001 the Racing Society organised their first outing of the autumn semester to Curraheen Park in Bishopstown, Cork City. For those of you who don't know about this magical place, it is a place which has earned a precious space in every person's heart who has attended. It encapsulates fine food, a good pint and plenty of bitches (and before the feminists start, it's the four legged kind of bitches).

The transport was arranged and our luxury coach departed the Stables at approx. quarter to five. We were fortunate as regards traffic and arrived in the stadium at 7:15. We decided to bring our eleven Erasmus students on a tour of Cork City before arriving at the stadium, due to a little oversight on our Vice-Chairpersons part, (yes delegation it's a wonderful word isn't it?).

Racing commenced at ten to eight, which allowed us more than ample time to pester the one person among us who knew what the hell was going on? What do all the numbers mean? Who's supposed to win this one? What race is this? I've lost my wallet but found it ten minutes



later, put on a bet and won thirty quid!!! Oh and my personal favourite, its not horses?!?!?!??? Oh yes it is there just very far away.

There were ten races in all and the final race finished at ten past ten. This left us with plenty of time to collect all our winnings, grab a bite to eat if you were hungry, have a quick pint and gave the Committee a memorable opportunity to recreate the Siege of Ennis dance(a classic and don't let anyone else tell you otherwise) for our foreign guests with the band always seeming to get the timing wrong!!.

Eleven o'clock rolled on and we were all back on the bus because our Vice Chairperson had us threatened with the fear of Eternal Damnation if we hadn't been back. It's a surprisingly long journey back into the city when you have to listen to renditions of "Nelly the Elephant" while trying to navigate the driver in the direction of our chosen Nightclub "FX". £2 secured you an exclusive Racing Society pass into "FX" and then the dancing began. Dances of every nationality were exhibited and the usual dedicated followers followed suit.

Everything from "The Irish Rover" to "Smooth" was played.

One very tiny complaint about the night was the blatant lack of chip shops open at quarter to three in the morning. There was one, and I mean one, misfortunate chip shop



open and boy did it regret that decision. Anyway moving swiftly along, the bus departed at three o'clock with our full entourage on board, thus indicating the beginning of the end of an absolutely excellent but exhausting night. The Committee led the sing a long with songs such as "Nelly the Elephant, Joxer goes to Stuttgart, Irish Rover, and where would any college outing be without a rendition of Sean South"

The whole deal came to a grand total of £10 per person. Remember that got you the bus up and down, admission to the Racetrack and a Racecard and admission to Club FX. There definitely is nowhere else you would get a deal like that.

At this point I feel it appropriate to thank all the people on the committee for helping to make the night such a success. And last but not least thanks to everyone who came along. They were the most well behaved group we've ever brought anywhere.

One final announcement, the Racing Society is yet again going Horse Racing in Tipperary on the 31st of October. It will be an all inclusive deal such as admission, racecard, pint, hot beef roll and bus up and down for approx. £10. If you are interested there will be a stand in the canteen in the week leading up to it, alternatively contact our chairperson Conor on 086 8420248 or 0023663@student.ul.ie.

Hello again from Outreach!

Well, last week was a mighty success. Greek week was a very busy week for Outreach members.

Monday started off with a flag day for the blind. There was a guide dog in the main courtyard and plenty of buckets circulating around looking for any spare change. Thank



you to all who contributed. The money will go towards the training of guide dogs that are an essential asset to the blind people.

Tuesday was Bungeeeeeeeeeee! Many members of outreach have devoted the last few weeks to raising £80 or more to be able to participate in this death-defying stunt. The bungee jump took place in the east gate car park on Tuesday last. It started at 10.00 and our first contender was a female outreach member. Fair play Elaine. This girl could scream for Ireland!!!! There were roughly 80 jumpers. Well done to the people in Ronan O'Keefe's Environmental Science class who managed to raise a substantial amount of money, which will go towards his fund. They jumped in costumes. One was a nun and another a drag queen. Lads, we warned you not to wear skirts so if you flashed the nation it's your own fault!!!!

Wednesday was "Pennies" organised by Outreach members. Kick off was at 11.00 when a giant Outreach sign

was written across the main courtyard. This went on all day long. People threw any spare change on this sign until it was completely covered.

Thursday, you saw us in the Parade dressed up as school children with the odd nun in the middle of us. It went all around campus with all the clubs and socs dressed up in different costumes. A lot of organising went into this and was a laugh for all involved. That night was the Mardi Gras carnival. This went off a blast. There were stands all over the stables and scholars courtyard manned here and there by outreach members.

Monday the 19th soul clinic will be in the function room of the scholars. This night was organised to raise money for the Ronan O'Keefe fund. A Great night is in store for all and you will be helping a fellow ULstudent. This is also the Outreach piss up night so mark it off in your calendars. Well, that's about all for now. Can't think of anything else to say. Just remember any new enthusiastic members are always welcome - 7.30 every Tuesday night. Catch ya later!!!!

TEMPORWARD

The Sci-Fi and Film Society Present:

Shrek "The greatest fairy tale never told" will be on Tuesday 13th of November 7:00pm in the Postgraduate Centre (Stables Courtyard)

Old Skool Action Night! Featuring a mix of 80's cartoons and live action! Tuesday 20th of November 7.00pm



in the Postgraduate Centre

Also, we are running a Science Fiction convention, Tricon, from Friday the 30th of November to Sunday the 2nd of December in the University. It should be a great weekend, we have confirmed cutting edge Japanese animation company Manga Entertainment as guests, as well as the Blizzard of Odd team and Big If Publications, who are an up and coming Irish comic company. As well as that, there should be episodes of new Sci-Fi show Enterprise, plenty of Film Showings, Fantasy Gaming, Computer Gaming and some other surprises! Everyone in the college is invited to attend Tricon, and if you're interested in coming check out the website at <http://tricon.csn.ul.ie> or call Barry Cronin on 086 3544233.



Men's Hockey have great start to season

ULMen's Hockey Club kicked off their season on Saturday last the 27th. With a great victory over UCC seconds. UL started this match by putting UCC under constant pressure from the first whistle. All our fitness work over the past five weeks seemed to be paying off as we were first to every ball. Our pressure was beginning to tell on the UCC defence and we got many short corners in quick succession. Then with ten minutes to go in the first half a great passing move by UL led to another short corner won by the irrepressible Cormac Enright. The corner was brilliantly worked with a switch move that was finished with an excellent strike by Conor Bradbury.

The second half kicked off with yet more pressure from UL. We went forward with wave after wave after wave of attack. In this half we had created many chances but were very unlucky not to convert any with Alan Swanton rattling the crossbar, Kevin Kelly was denied by the post and even John Lennon got in on the act and was desperately unlucky

when his shot was illegally cleared off the line. Keith Pigott will definitely be hoping for more days like this as he could have brought a picnic and knowing Keith he probably did.

Also on Saturday the UL seconds team kicked off their campaign with their first competitive match ever. Under the leadership of Garvan Barry the team made an impressive start but unfortunately went down to UCC thirds. However this can be seen as a positive start for the newly formed team.

ULMHC now have a busy week ahead of them with a match against Galway on Saturday in the Irish Junior Cup, and then both firsts and seconds are in action on Sunday away to Belvedere. On the Monday a 18 man squad will make the trip to UCD for intersvarsities a full report off the

action will come in the following weeks and an account of the matches as well.

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THE IRISH TIMES

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The Irish Peace Society

The East Timor lecture by Tom Hyland proved to be the most fascinating talk so far in a five part series of events based around the theme of Conflict on Islands. The first two events were held were hosted by the Peace Society during the previous academic year and included presentations on Ethnic Violence on the islands of Cyprus and Sri Lanka. The fourth lecture is scheduled for December 4th and will be on the topic of Conflict on the Island of Ireland. Tom Hyland, describes himself as a redundant Dublin bus driver, but the reality is that he is one of the most effective operators in the civil society field and an NGO leader with a remarkable record of success. The East Timor Ireland Support Society, was founded by Tom, after he viewed a documentary of the atrocities committed by Indonesian forces in East Timor in the early 1990s. While Tom is much

too modest to take credit for playing a substantial role in the winning of independence for East Timor, his advocacy on behalf of the East Timorese people is one of the most outstanding examples of what can be achieved by determined individuals and NGOs. Tom outlined in his lecture how over 250,000 East Timorese were murdered in what he described as one of the worst examples of genocide in recent years. These crimes against humanity were committed with the passive complicity of many of the governments of leading countries in the so-called Western Civilisation, including, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. For reasons of strategic, economic and national interest, they effectively betrayed a nation of innocent people. Tom, acknowledged the faults of the United Nations in the East Timor crisis but he also gave credit also

to many people in the UN for their efforts "they may not be the greatest, but in the sphere of international peace, they are the only game in town"

Meetings are held every Monday evening at 5.30pm in Room 2 of the Student Centre

UL Young Fine Gael - Busy as ever



The UL branch of Young Fine Gael is setting a fine example for other political parties on campus and for the Young Fine Gael association nationally, as it remains busier and more active than ever. Since the last issue of An Focal, we have held a Seminar on Globalisation, with Deputy Alan Dukes as Guest Speaker, a general Questions and Answers session on current Fine Gael policy and Government performance with Senator Mary Jackman, an extremely informative Seminar on Suicide Awareness with Dan Neville, T.D. and we have plans to hold our annual 'Get Registered to Vote Day' on Wednesday of Week 8, 14th November.

On Monday of Week 7, the branch welcomed Deputy Dan Neville, of the Limerick West constituency, Chairman of the Irish Association of Suicidology and Ms. Eileen Jones of the Samaritans to address students on the sensitive issue of suicide and suicide awareness. As part of Greek Week's attempt to convey an image of a healthier mind and a healthier body to the UL student public, Young Fine Gael thought it well worthwhile to highlight this tragic problem, which has such an impact on Irish life. Judging by the crowd, which attended the meeting, others thought so too. Mr. Neville addressed the issues which can be seen as possible contributory factors in suicide. These include depression, mental illness, unemployment, an increase in the number of children born outside of marriage, a decline in the numbers attending Mass, crime and other factors. He tried to stress to us the huge impact that suicide has on Irish life with over 413 people taking their own life last year - that's

more than the number of people who died on our roads last year.

Eileen Jones emphasised the approachability and availability of the Samaritans organisation. She did not relate any heart-rending story of a life saved or lost by the Samaritans instead stressing to us the confidentiality of the establishment.



While all who attended agreed that this was a difficult subject to speak about and one which we may prefer not to talk about, we felt that it was necessary to address the issue and to try to make the student body aware that help is available and should be sought before problems escalate out of control. The abiding message is that depression or feelings of loneliness or isolation can affect anybody and students should not feel ashamed or embarrassed when seeking help.

On a different note, election fever has set in to the YFG organisation here in the college. The Young Fine Gael National Conference will be held in Nenagh on the weekend of the 15th and 16th of November. Two members of the UL branch have bravely put their names forward for election. Former Branch Chairperson, David Garraghy is seeking to be elected onto the Young Fine Gael National Executive and Jarlath Munnely, also a former Chairperson wishes to be selected as the Young Fine Gael Representative on the Fine Gael Executive Council. We are calling all members to please support the two boys and come to Nenagh to vote and to experience a great weekend. Any members who wish to travel should be aware that a great weekend's entertainment is guaranteed and transport and accommodation will be arranged.

Finally for the moment, YFG will be holding their annual 'Get Registered to Vote Day' in the college on Wednesday of Week 8. With a General Election looming, and guaranteed to be held within the next six months, this is your last chance to make sure that you have your say in deciding who will run the country for the next five years. So watch out for the posters and come along to the stand on Wednesday and exercise your democratic right.

Anyone who would like to join this vibrant, dynamic party or who has any comments or queries, please come along to our meeting on Tuesday, Week 8 at 7.30pm in C1059 or email ulyfg@hotmail.com.



UL Rowing Club Goes to Boston!



by Rosamund Healey

The University of Limerick Rowing Club has just completed their second trip to Boston, MA, U.S.A. to participate in the 37th annual Head of the Charles Regatta. This latest adventure was greatly aided by the financial support of Dr. Roger Downer, President of the University of Limerick via the President's Fund, as well as by the continued support of our sponsors, Tecnomen. Head of the Charles is the world's largest two day rowing event, with over 5,000 competitors in 19 different races, attracting a crowd of over 300,000 spectators. UL sent over it's largest group of rowers to date, with a men's 8 and two women's 4s competing in the Club division of the regatta. The women finished 38th and 44th of a field of 58 and the men finished 53rd in a field of 63. Head of the Charles, a true rowing "Mecca", attracts the highest level of competition in the world, most notably the presence of the women's and men's national teams from the US, Germany, Australia and beyond. ULRC had the luck to use boats and row out of several large American boathouses, including MIT and make friends with some very small American coxswains, our favourite undoubtedly being Adina or "Pebbles", who provided some pretty amazing stories and line-up changes as well as coxing a mean course. All in all, the rowing was brilliant, the crowds were as crazy as usual and no one hit a bridge, so the experience is to be deemed a massive success.



Racing aside, the trip also provided invaluable experience on and off the water to many members of the crew, some of who were in the States for the first time. The half filled plane was a "quiet affair" especially with the entertain-

ment that a certain stuffed leprechaun named Seany O'Toole provided when he had a bit too much free drink. Too bad he didn't stay on the New York flight... ULRC made their home base in the luxurious Irish Embassy hostel, a place that all of us hope someday to return to. While the hostel was a bit of a dive, the good news is, is that the doctors said that the mysterious rash certain club members contracted there should clear within a few weeks, provided that the medicine cocktail is strictly adhered to. Three unfortunate club members were compelled to endure the misery of the five star Omni Parker Hotel, but they missed out on all the fun and itching that the hostel had to offer. Boston certainly provided plenty of thrills and opportunities for the unknown talents of certain club members to make themselves known. Such talents include the driving skills of Mr.Quinn and Mr. McNamara who impressed and scared us all at the same time as they navigated the hardest city in the States to drive in. Other talents include the beautiful voice that Miss Mulroy has concealed from the team all this time, which made itself known on two public occasions (no one has ever done Neil Diamond or Gloria Gaynor finer...), as well as the fierce shopping ability that certain team members possess- Abercrombie and the Gap are still probably trying to restock. However, one notable talent the team does NOT possess is the ability to follow directions, as was so amply displayed when half of them went missing in Sullivan Sq. in a quest for a new hostel and one of them left behind completely. Talents aside, buying a lifetime supply of spandex and watching the racing at Magazine Beach was also a major highlight especially when an unnamed club member was peed upon by a lovely little doggie and then in the next five minutes pooped on by a seagull, providing immense amusement for the rest of us and that crowd of 300,000 spectators that was previously mentioned. Unfortunately in the post race merriment though, our friend Seany went missing forever and is probably in the coat pocket of some homeless man outside the Purple Shamrock. The post race bash at the Big Easy was good fun, where several American national team members were ogled at and a good time was had by all (except for the half of the team that was under 21...ha ha), with the Irish proving once again that they will always have the last drink and laugh (the bouncers were not amused, but how we were to know that they didn't want to dance?).

Back to reality, the team made it's weary way to Logan airport, where we headed back to Ireland; toting oars, bikes, loads of spandex, great memories, fresh blisters



and sore buttocks to settle in for the plane ride. Although a few of us almost didn't make it past security (apparently Morgan is "covered in metal"), due as well to the presence of a variety of beauty products that were apparently potentially threatening to the safety of other passengers (really Paddy, what were you thinking with that mousse!).

ULRC would again like to thank those responsible for supporting us in this current endeavour as well as those who continually support us throughout the year. The Club hopes to take this wonderful experience and set a tone for the rest of the year, which will hopefully punctuated by wins and good rowing from all the crews.



XXXVII HEAD OF THE CHARLES® REGATTA

ULRC takes home a banner at Galway Head

ULRC had a great day out on October 20th for the annual Galway Head race on the Corrib in Galway. Galway Head, traditionally held every March was rescheduled for autumn this year due to the Hoof and Mouth outbreak last spring. The highlight of the day was the first ever win by the women's Novice 4+ in their division, where they shattered the nearest competitor by 29 seconds and beat many intermediate crews as well. A brilliant course was steered by the cox, Mary Barry and hopefully this is just a sign of what is to come from the women's novice team this year. It was also the inaugural row of the club's latest acquisition, a 2001 Aylings AX2 4+, generously funded by our sponsors, Tecnomen, which performed beautifully as well.

The Men's Intermediate four also had a brilliant morning finishing in a sixth in a tight race and only 6 seconds behind the winner. A bit of trouble was had

in terms of few clashes with a certain crew that dogged them the entire race, but all in all, a lot of potential was displayed, it was a great race and hopefully their next race won't be as problematic. The Men's Intermediate 8+ also had a good spin, finishing eighth and it proved to be a good starting off point for the season and the work that lies ahead.

The next adventure for ULRC will bring the club to Cork on the 24th of November for a weekend away, for the new members to mix with other club members and the UCC rowers as well. Last years Cork Weekend was great fun and we hope

to repeat the experience.

ULRC rowing tip for the day- "90% of Rowing is half mental"... Well- I'm totally mental, so that means I'm operating at 180% capacity- Uber



UL GLB Society - Letting you know your rights..

If you are preparing to enter a gay or lesbian partnership or are already in one, then the Equality Authority's report on partnership rights of same sex couples should be of interest. The following is a summarized version of the original 55 page report. (taken from GCN March 2001, issue 138)

ADOPTION

There is no facility for couples other than heterosexuals to adopt a child in Ireland. Where same-sex couples raise a child together, but where only one of the partners is the biological and legal parent, the non-legal parent cannot adopt the child. A person living with his/her partner, but the partner has no rights in relation to the child.

FOSTERING

The report finds nothing in Irish law to exclude an application for fostering a child by a same-sex couple. The general consensus of the health authorities contacted by the authors of the report is that in the absence of formal policy, there is no reason to suggest an application by a same-sex couple should be dealt with any differently.

LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP

A lesbian mother who has a child from a previous relationship may wish her same sex partner to have rights regarding the child's upbringing. However, under current legislation, the report finds there is no facility for such an arrangement.

CUSTODY

The fact that a parent has entered into a same-sex union has

no bearing on that parent's right to apply to the court for custody of his or her child, the report says, "save from where the court determines that such behaviour is likely to affect the child's welfare", adding that the issue has yet to be considered by the Irish courts. English decisions have seen the courts awarding custody of a child to a parent involved in a same sex relationship. But the report states that in practice, Irish courts have tended to be "quite conservative" regarding the behaviour of parents when awarding the custody in disputes.

ACCESS

The issue of giving a parent who subsequently becomes involved in a same sex relationship access to a child from a previous relationship has not yet been pronounced upon in Irish law, according to the report. Nor is it clear whether the court would consider an access order to prevent the parent's same sex partner being present while children are also present, it says.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

Irish law does not facilitate the registration of same sex couples as parents of a child on the birth certificate of a child.

FERTILITY SERVICES

It is clear that in practice same sex couples are denied assisted reproduction treatments and the report says this would appear to be contrary to section of the Equal Status Act which prohibits discrimination in the provision of a service to the public.

PARENTAL LEAVE

An employee who is the natural mother of a child, and who is involved in a same sex relationship, is entitled to parental leave under the Parental Leave Act 1998. The Act does not, however, entitle her partner to parental leave as the partner is not the natural parent of the child.

LEAVE ON THE GROUND OF FORCE MAJEURE

Under Section 13 of the Parental Leave Act an employee shall be entitled to leave from his or her own employment, known as 'force majeure leave' where, for urgent family reasons the presence of the employee is indispensable at the place where the person is.

According to the report, discussion with the Equality Authority suggests that this sub-section of the Act may ultimately allow for a class of persons who are involved in same sex relationships to be included under the Act.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING

Discussions by the report's authors with a number of local authorities suggest that there is nothing to prevent same sex couples from being allocated housing. When an application is made by a married couple, the tenancy will be in joint names of husband and wife. In the circumstances of unmarried couples or friends joint tenancies may be created 'where it is considered necessary'. Where there is a joint tenancy, it appears that there is a consensus among Authorities that the surviving joint tenant should succeed the tenancy. The ability of a person to succeed to the tenancy of a Local Authority dwelling on the death of his/her same sex partner depends initially upon whether or not the tenancy was in their joint names. Where it is, the report says there should be little difficulty in transferring the tenancy to the surviving partner. Where the tenancy is in the sole name of the deceased partner, the transfer of the tenancy is at the discretion of the Authority.

PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION

A landlord renting a private dwelling is prohibited from discriminating in providing accommodation or any services or amenities on grounds of sexual orientation.

PRIVATE HOUSING

In respect of securing mortgages for the purpose of purchasing private housing, the sexual orientation of joint applicants is not an issue for lending institutions, the report says. However, difficulties may arise in situations where a male same sex couple have secured a mortgage and need to secure a mortgage protection policy and/or life assurance. No difficulties arise when the applicants are women. The application form will inquire of the applicant whether or not he has received any medical advice or blood tests pertaining to HIV. If the applicant answers yes, the completion of a "Lifestyle Questionnaire" is required and a HIV test will follow. The questionnaire inquires whether or not he has been involved in a homosexual relationship.

SUCCESSION RIGHTS

Entering into same sex cohabitation has no effect on the validity of a will, the report says. Where a testator is survived by a spouse and no children, the spouse is entitled to one-half of the net estate as a "legal right share". Where a testator dies and leaves a spouse and children, the spouse's legal right is one-third of the estate. There is no provision in the legislation to entitle a same sex partner to a legal right share, irrespective of the length of the cohabitation. Furthermore, a same sex partner has no right of claim if his or her partner leaves nothing to him or her in a will. However, there is nothing to prevent a person leaving some or all of his property to his or her same sex partner. To prevent a claim from an estranged spouse to a legal right share, it is necessary for the testator to extract himself or herself completely from any previous marriage. If a person dies without a will, his or her property is distributed in order of priority to the deceased's spouse, parents, siblings, nieces and nephews and next of kin and there is no entitlement for a same sex partner to inherit anything.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

If an unmarried couple splits up, the family home will belong to the person who holds the legal title to the assets unless the other party can establish "a resulting trust" over



NUI MAYNOOTH'S 2nd ANNUAL FAG BALL

NUI Maynooth's GLB Society is organising a Gay and Lesbian Debs for the second year running, this year running on a Carnival Theme. If you didn't enjoy your own straight Debs as much as you should have, then this is your chance. You can bring your own date, or appear on spec and hopefully meet someone there. Apart from people from the Dublin colleges, there will also be tons of people there from Galway and Cork. You can show up in a tux, a full on mushroom, or in a carnival costume. It's your call.

Here are the details:

The Ball will be on Thursday the 29th of November in the Shelteron Vicar Street in Dublin 2, with doors opening at 9. The Carnival in question will run from 9pm till about 11pm at which point the DJ will start doing what he's paid for. However, all good things often cost something, and to cover the cost of the event there is a charge of £10 per person for a ticket, and as it's a ticket only event, you need a ticket to get in. This is also to keep the event a student event.

Éamon Brett, NUI Maynooth GLB Soc's President said, "I hope that people can make the event, as it was great fun last year, and this year it's going to be even better, and better organized, with lots of wonderfully entertaining things happening from jugglers to fortune telling, from limbo dancing to candy floss... If you are travelling to Dublin for the event, and need accommodation, please mention that in your reply, and we'll see if we can assist you in finding handy accommodation in the city centre at a decent price. Also this way we can co-ordinate with other travelling societies and get them all in the same hostel/whatever if so desired (always more fun that way)"

You may contact Éamon directly for tickets either by post:

Eamon Brett
President
GLB Society, NUI Maynooth

Or email: eamon.brett@may.ie

the disputed property. While none of the Irish cases have involved same sex couples, the report says it would be logical to suppose that the rules in relation to property rights would be applied in favour of a claimant in a same sex relationship. However, one cannot be entirely sure what approach a court would take, it said.

COHABITATION CONTRACTS

Given the restrictive nature of the rules applying to property rights, it would not be unreasonable for same sex couples to seek to protect their legal entitlement through some form of cohabitation contract, according to the report. Such contracts have an uncertain status in Irish law and it is even more difficult to say what would be the status of a cohabitation contract between a same sex couple.

TAXATION

Marriage attracts many tax advantages, which are not available to same sex relationships. These include the marriage allowance and the double rate tax band. This is because same sex partners cannot opt for joint assessment.

Unmarried couples, irrespective of their sexual orientation, are taxed as single persons. Thus, where only one of the couple works, the single standard rate tax band will apply, with no allowance being made for the unmarried partner who is not working.

Certain benefits accrue to married couples as a result of recent budgets. As an unmarried couple, the same sex couple is still subject to the single standard rate tax band of £17,000 where both are working, with no allowance made for situations where one of the partners stays at home. Thus, in such situations, the working partner will be taxed as the individual. There is no provision for the non-working partner of a same sex couple to claim the Home Carer's allowance of £3,000 because this allowance is restricted to married couples.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

No benefits accrue to a same sex couple under this tax.

CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS TAX

All gifts and inheritances given by one spouse to another are exempt from CAT. In the case of same sex couples, partners

are treated as "strangers in blood". The exemption threshold for assets passing from one partner to another in such circumstances is £12,860. A new relief which applies in the case of CAT and which the report says will be of interest to same sex couples is the Principal Residence Relief, introduced in Budget 2000. This relief allows an individual to receive a gift or inheritance or a residential property free from CAT, upon satisfaction of certain conditions.

LEGAL AID

Same sex couples are more favourably situated to receive legal aid than married couples, because the latter's incomes are assessed jointly.

SOCIAL WELFARE MEANS TEST

Many of the payments made by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs are means tested. This can work to the disadvantage of many married or cohabiting couples where both partners are working and their joint incomes exceed the maximum amounts for qualification. For same sex partners, the means are assessed by applicant alone giving same sex couples a distinct advantage over married couples.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Domestic Violence Act 1996 affords the protection to persons in instances of domestic misconduct. The most potent remedy under the Act is the barring order and may be obtained by spouses or partners "living together as husband and wife". This does not cover persons in a same sex relationship, the report says. However, same sex cohabitants are entitled to apply for a Safety Order or an Interim Protection Order.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The positions of same sex couples in emergency situations, where one partner is admitted to hospital or becomes mentally incapacitated due to illness, is of particular interest.

The report states that a patient is allowed to nominate the person or persons (including a same sex partner) to whom information is to be given or with whom the patient's welfare is to be discussed. All patients are required to give this information on admission to hospital. Given this require-

ment, the report says it is unlikely that a doctor in a hospital would refuse to engage with the patient's same sex partner. However, the report goes on to say that it is unclear whether doctors would respect the wishes of a partner above those of the relatives of the patient.

Under the Powers of Attorney Act 1996, a person can give another person an enduring power of attorney, which will allow the nominated person to make "personal care decisions" for the donor in the event of his or her mental incapacity. This legislation clearly applies to same sex partners and is very useful, the report says.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

A person who wishes his/her partner to have the same control of the disposal of the body upon his/her death can achieve this by nominating that partner as executor in a will, the report says.

IMMIGRATION

Where a couple wish to return to the Irish State with a non-EU partner, the report says Irish immigration policy around this is heavily weighted in favour of the married couple. There are no concessions outside the Immigration Rules for unmarried partners, it states. The Irish situation thus differs from a number of other jurisdictions worldwide, which make provision in their immigration policies for the entry of non-national partners of citizens of their States. In effect, in Ireland the parties in a same sex couple would be treated individually for the purpose of residing or working in the State.

WORK PERMITS

Same sex partners, who are both EU nationals, can travel and work in a Member State, including Ireland, without requiring work permits.

IRISH NATIONALITY/ CITIZENSHIP

As marriage is denied to same sex couples in Ireland, and alien involved in a same sex relationship with an Irish national is not entitled to citizenship.

ULSC go for the World Championships

By Paul Ruddy

I think it was at the Eastern inter-varsities last year when myself and Conor Twomey decided to make a stab at entering the Laser Two world championships. Why? because we had a boat, we had the enthusiasm and Pwllheli is only across the Irish sea.

Ahead of us lay three months of early starts late nights hundred upon hundred of miles of traveling and plenty of great times. Our first preparatory event was the Western Championships in Galway Bay Sailing Club. I suppose we should have known that our luck was not in for this event when we got a puncture (with two boats and sailing gear for four people in or attached to the car) outside of Shannon and our spare wheel was flat also. However we eventually made it to Galway in the early hours of the night and were ready for action after three hours sleep on Saturday night. We eventually got on the water and got a mid-fleet result in our first race. Race two ended in disaster when our center board (keel) broke going down the first run. So it was early home on Saturday. On Sunday morning a new center board and a whole new lease of life surely our luck was going to improve dramatically, not so it got worse, half way through the first race we badly bent our mast rendering it ineffective, and we headed home quite distraught.

As soon as the exams finished we were back into training at night after work and racing at the weekends, events we traveled to were, The Easterns, Southern, Northern and

Nationals. The end of August came and we packed up the boats and gear and boarded the ferry for Wales. On arrival in Pwllheli we could see there was some serious competition, but unfazed we rigged our boat and settled in. The first race was sailed in ideal conditions, an Easterly force

to light winds, we really improved our form in this race but still found it virtually impossible to break into the top flight of boats. Day four again was very light winds, and this was where our inexperience of big events showed. We retired from a race to go to shore to fix a part of our boat, without

realizing that there would be another race that day, so we missed this race too. This was not a problem until the final day when we tore our main sail and had to retire. We now really regretted retiring the previous day as we had no discards left and we did not have another measured main sail. This meant we had to carry three "Did not Finish" in our final placing.

We learnt an extraordinary amount during the course of that week and indeed the whole summer, and we would sincerely like to thank Neasa Fahy O'Donnell and Paul Lee and the Students Union for the help they gave us, it was most greatly appreciated. It was fantastic to see ULSC on the list of universities beside the likes of Oxford and

Cambridge and St. Andrews and we hope to continue sailing on the international scene when six of us go to Wales on the tenth and eleventh of November. Hopefully we will be able to bring back some silverware next time.

Anyone who wishes to join ULSC please email 9847693@student.ul.ie



Paul Ruddy and Eoghan Moriarty out in front at the East of Ireland Championships

four saw us round the first mark in tenth position and hold this position for most of the race, it really was a nice feeling to look back and see one hundred other boats behind you trying to catch up. We retired from this race because one of the fittings on our boat began to come off and it did not count towards the event. Our first points races of the event showed us the true standard of sailing. These races were sailed in very light inconsistent winds. Monday saw us have a result in the thirties and one in the forties. We were to say the least disappointed but we knew we could sail better. Day two and three saw only one race sailed due

U.L.K.C. FRESHER'S DIARY

Lahinch surf trip- The first year diary of a Kayaker

The kayaking club first took my notice during the clubs and societies day in orientation week. However it took me three attempts to join due to the queues waiting to sign up. I had previously heard that ULkayaking club was rated one of the top clubs in UL so I decided to join and give it a go. My first kayaking experience consisted of learning the basic strokes. These were well tutored under the helpful and watchful eyes of Jenny and Ross. These two instructors proved to be considerably patient on my part for the next few weeks. Wednesdays became river trips on the Shannon where I learned that water was not only wet but also very cold, if you are like me and managed to topple over out of the boat. It was here I had my first white water rapid experience.

News broke out of a kayaking surf trip to Lahinch on the October bank holiday weekend. I was informed by the club committee that without a doubt that it was going to be an absolute savage weekend. I have never heard a truer word said. £25 provided for food, accommodation, equipment and lots of unlimited craic. News spread and it seemed that everyone was going to be there. Finally the weekend arrived, everyone seemed to be wrapped up in fleeces and caps and scarf's protecting themselves from the gale force winds. The first years huddled together like sheep in a fog and waited for the others to get on the bus. After a 2hrs bus journey we arrived in Lahinch Co. Clare.

My first impression of Lahinch was of the wind, the darkness and the deafening roar from the sea. Like who wouldn't feel

afraid in these conditions? Aflashing sign reading 15 Celsius on a nearby building made me think I was standing too close to the buses exhaust. So away we began the trek of luggage to the hostel. At the hostel door we were supplied with codes for the main door and our bedroom.

At 9 a.m. awakening call proved a little energetic for me but I happily floated down the stairs on the smell of rashers and sizzling sausages. Angels practically cooked the whole breakfast. God bless my mammy, because washing up after 70 people as Angels, paddy and myself found out isn't nice.

We all grabbed wetsuits, helmets, paddles, kayaks and a bubby, and headed straight down to the beach for some serious surfing. Words like surfs up, "cowabunga dude, radical man and totally awesome" raced through my mind, whilst at the end of the day it was more like "wipe-out, swimmer, swimmer and wipe-out" I now have total respect for the ocean and any poor surfer that enters it. I can honestly say I have never felt such a rush before, whether I was being pounded from one wave to another, or gliding down the beach. I knew that ULkayaking club had picked an awesome weekend, the sun was boiling the roads and I was getting the liven s**t scared out of me by the waves. Even the smallest ripple had an effect on my boat, causing a sensation describable only by paddlers. After a happily exhausting day we trudged back to the hostel, where some went to the swimming pool and the rest went playing pool. This was where I ominously confided in to stick with kayaking. Back to the hostel for a monster feed of spaghetti bol and we all pigged

out in front of the telly watching the Simpson's.

After that some created a bonfire on a dangerously steep cliff, creating some craic, a few sing songs and merriness all round. The view was spectacular a full moon casting a bright passage across the silk sea. In O'Loonies, stories were well told of giant rivers with boulders and rapid and stuff. Up to O'Loonies night -club where a great night was had by everyone. Back to the hostel, once again, to charge the batteries for another days surfing.

The hour going back cause a small bit of confusion, but was welcomed because we got the spend an extras hour in bed. Up at 9 again for another feast and it was down to the beach to tackle the surf. It was a great day for the beach, everyone got to try out new tricks and learn new experiences. After a great day it was back to the bus, destination was home after a totally unbelievable weekend.

Never before have I meet such a sound bunch of people, I have experienced total adrenalin rushes and felt like I have lived life to the fullest, just because of one weekend. I am now thinking of kayaking 24, 7 and now I can debate without a doubt that it's the best club in UL. "JOIN IT".
John, ULKC.

Pool sessions; Tuesday 9.45 – 11.15
Thursday 6.45 – 8.15

Wednesday; river trips – see notice board

Tetrathlon – bringing it home in style

UL Equestrian Club are hosting the 2001 intervarsity tetrathlon championships this weekend the 17th and 18th of November, the second time in 4 years that the club has hosted this fantastic event. The gruelling sport of tetrathlon, which requires the competitors to run, swim, shoot and complete a round of show jumping, has been dominated by UL for the last 3 years. The clubs winning streak began in November 1998 when an invincible ULteam ran away with an unforgettable competition here on the ULcampus. Since then the club has completed the hat trick of victories with wins in Cork in 1999 and Tralee just last November. Now the club is bringing the sport home again, giving all in UL the chance to witness this great spectacle, and hopefully the chance to see ULtake the title for an unprecedented 4th successive time. Many (if you've been here long enough!) will remember the great weekend back in 1998, which saw close to 200 competitors come from all over the country to demonstrate their skills and endurance abilities (not just in the pool and on the running track!). The entire collection of competitors took up residence in the Limerick Ryan hotel and travelled to the ULcampus for an early start in the pool on the Saturday morning. This was followed by what can only be described as a mud bath of a cross country run around the UL pitches. The 1500m for the women and 3000m for the men was enough to tire everyone out, so no one complained at having to shoot from the prone (lying down) position later in the afternoon. The evening's entertainment went down a bomb, with a medieval banquet in Bunratty castle, followed by the good old lodge. The Bunratty singers didn't know what had hit them when the 'merry' students, all making good use of the mead and mulled wine supplied, decided that they could do a better job! The Sunday morning saw a crowd of sore heads troop out to Clare Equestrian centre for the riding phase, and to witness the ULteam comfortably defend their overnight lead.

The 2001 competition being held here this weekend, promises to be as good if not better than the 1998 competition. The competitors will be accommodated in the Kilmurry Lodge concentrating the weekend entirely around the campus (with the exception of the riding, which will again be hosted by Clare Equestrian Centre. The competitors will be arriving at The Kilmurry Lodge Hotel this Friday afternoon (16th November) and the weekend is kicking off to great start with

a party at the Hotel in the 'function room' formerly known as "THE LODGE"! All ULstudents who have been suffering withdrawal symptoms since the closure of the Nite Club can get tickets from the ULEquestrian Club for only £4.

The competition commences at 9 o'clock Saturday morning with the swimming phase taking place in the old sports building. This is then followed by the cross-country running phase to begin at 11.30 and then finally at 2.30 the shooting phase will start in the gym in the old sports building.

Saturday night kicks off with a Banquet in Bunratty Castle followed by another night in the Kilmurry Lodge.

Sunday morning the competitors will travel to Clare Equestrian Centre to commence the fourth and final stage – the Showjumping. The award ceremony sponsored by Guinness will begin in The University Arena Bar at 3.30 Sunday afternoon and the celebrations will go on well into the night if we win or not we hope to be rounding off a brilliant weekend in style

The special guest for the weekend will be the Olympic bronze medalist for Modern Pentathlon from the 2000 Sydney Olympics - Kate Allenby

For those who are low on finances then take the opportunity to get FREE tickets to the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel for both nights by stew-arding at the event on Saturday!

If anyone would like to make any suggestions, or would like to get involved in the running of the event, please do not hesitate to contact the

Equestrian Club committee.

This event promises to be the best intervarsities ever run here in UL, and with the ULteam already hot favourites to make it 4 in a row, this is not a weekend you should miss.

For more information, contact
Paul Downes or Fiona O'Keefe at: ulequest@oxygen.ie

UL Badminton Club

We'd like to begin by congratulating everybody who made the teams for the upcoming year. If you were one of the eighty or so people who tried out for the teams and didn't make it, don't forget to try again next year and to keep up the practice for the remainder of this year.

The full team lists are as follows:

Grade 1 & 2 A	Avril Buckley	Grade 1 & 2 B	Gillian Holmes
Eric Nelligan	Fiona Farrell	Derek Mitchell	Aimie O'Shea
Alan Nelligan	Michelle Hayes	Aidan Walsh	Susan Gilmore
Conor O'Brien	Aoife Purcell	Ronan Walsh	Brid Walsh
Shane O'Sullivan		Paul Cormaci	Declan Bolger
		Conor Flatley	
Division 3 & 4		Division 5	
Conor Flatley	Brid Walsh	Enda O'Connor	Ruth Concannon
Aidan Walsh	Susan Gilmore	Cormac Eason	Ciara White
Declan Bolger	Marie Kennedy	Albert Chui	Debra English
Ger Fitzgerald	Deirdre McCarthy	Joey Tuohy	Elaine O'Connell
Daniel McInerney		Daniel McInerney	Angela Carmody
		Alan Franks	Aisling McLoughlin

The leagues will commence from the 18th of November onwards, at this moment in time the fixture list has not been finalised, however as soon as it is it will be posted on the club website.

The first club nite out of the year will take place in the Stables on Thursday the 8th of November (and back to some lucky club members house afterwards!), unfortunately by the time you read this it will be over so you'll never know what you've missed. But not to worry, there'll be another one in December before we go off home for Christmas.

The club website is getting a bit of a revamp at the moment (hence all the old pictures and articles), we hope to have it running and up to date in a week or two, so why not check it out on: www.csn.ul.ie/~shuttle/ or <http://badminton.csn.ul.ie/>

UL Win All Ireland Title in Tae Kwon Do

The Championship:

This year the National Irish Tae Kwon-Do Championships took place at the Neptune stadium in Cork on Saturday the 3rd of November. It was the first tournament open to all 32 counties in Ireland. With over two hundred competitors taking part, the competition was a reasonable success. The UL Tae Kwon-Do squad attended the championship and managed to come away with a few impressive titles. The squad was led by Mr. Philip Fox and consisted of Iain Clarke, Edward Enright, John Greensmith, Gerard Hogan, Les Hutchinson, Mary Kilkenny, Siobhan NiCheidigh, Connor O'Neill, Oliver Ryan, Joe Egan, Roisin Aspell and Conor Culleton.

The squad had reason to celebrate last night as all involved performed very well. The competition started out with pat-terns, in which Roisin Aspell took 2nd place. The next part of the competition was point sparring. John Greensmith won the all Ireland in his Division, Siobhan NiCheidigh won the All Ireland in her Division and Gerard Hogan came 3rd in Ireland in his Division, all in point sparring. The continuous sparring section of the competition was only open to senior and black belts. Our own Mr. Fox put on a savage display but was defeated, barely, in the second match, and took third place in Ireland.

About Tae Kwon-Do UL:

Mr Philip Fox founded ULCho's Tae Kwon Do Limerick, in 1996. He continues to teach as well as learn and train, inspiring each of his students in the process. The school is affiliated to the Action International Martial Art Association, which has been established for over 20 years, and this is another extraordinarily unique fact that many schools cannot provide. The foundation of Grandmaster Cho's Tae Kwon Do System provides the security of a school and business that you can count on for continued quality throughout the term of your training.

It is Grandmaster Cho's innovative training methods, yet conventional principles, in the teaching of Tae Kwon Do that has made A.I.M.A.A. School so successful and reputable world-wide. The training structure taught is highly comprehensive and practical providing the students with knowledge available not found in any other single school. Grandmaster Hee II Cho's Tae Kwon Do emphasizes the development of each student's character, and demands the strengthening of each spirit.

Traditional etiquette is practiced within the school while the most innovative of self-defense techniques are taught. Scientific kicking methods, boxing, full contact, self-defense, grappling and weight lifting are combined to provide students with a complete style and system of training. This system has only been made possible through Grandmaster Cho's forty-five years of experience. To date, the school has many students. Most of them have been with the school for many years and many assist teaching classes. They all have made Tae Kwon Do a part of their life, and provide the school with a wealth of combined knowledge.

What is Tae Kwon-Do?

Tae Kwon-Do is the popular Korean martial art and sport that is a proven means of self-defence and physical fitness for anyone, regardless of age or sex. Tae Kwon-Do teaches the skilled application of punches, kicks, and blocks that result in precision defensive and offensive manoeuvres. The ultimate goal of Tae Kwon-Do training is self-improvement through the discipline of the mind and the conditioning of the body.

Tae Kwon-Do is an educational system devoted to train both the mind and body in which great emphasis is placed on the development of the trainee's moral character - the

builder of modesty, courtesy, integrity, self-control, perseverance, and indomitable spirit.

Literally translated, Tae means "to kick" or "smash with the feet", Kwon means "to punch with the fists", and Do means "way" or "method". Thus Tae Kwon-Do is the art of fighting with feet or fists.

A.I.M.A.A.:

The Action International Martial Arts Association (AIMAA) is an innovative and leading martial arts organization dedicated to serve as the unifying body for Tae Kwon-Do and all martial arts styles. Grandmaster Hee II Cho founded AIMAA in 1980. The goal of AIMAA is to recognise each style of martial arts for its unique qualities and to unite the great universal spirit of peace and harmony - the fundamental elements found in the studying of all styles of martial arts.

AIMAA is an organisation founded on the philosophy and principal of being able to provide as comprehensive and complete training structure as possible. Our organisation provides and promotes seminars by Grandmaster Hee II Cho and other senior representatives of the association. AIMAA is a no politics organisation dedicated to providing members a direct line of communication with its headquarters in order to best provide support to each individual school and student. AIMAA is an association established for the support of its members and the betterment of Tae Kwon-Do and the martial arts.

Training:

Training is from 8-9 on Mondays, 9-10:30 on Wednesdays, and 9-10:30 on Thursdays.

Outdoor Pursuits Club visit Killarney

On the weekend of Week 4, over fifty illustrious members of the Outdoor Pursuits Club ventured to Killarney in Co. Kerry for a weekend of climbing, walking, pain, perseverance and good fun.

The bus left a little after 9am on Saturday morning from campus from where it proceeded directly to Killarney with the exception of a few brief stops to collect members too lazy to make it to the college, and a stop in Castle Island to stock up on food for the day. Once in Killarney some of the said food, including fifty chicken fillets, three bags of rice and a yoghurt were left to enjoy the comforts of Neptune's Hostel while their owners went of gallivanting up the mountains. They were, of course, ignorant of the fact that they would meet their fate and be mercilessly devoured upon the buses return.

The food safely stowed the members of the club disembarked from the bus and preceded up the steep trek to get to valley surrounded by the peaks of Beenkeragh, Carrauntoohil and Caher. Once at the base of the valley,

the group split into two-one team with the intention of walking up the right hand side to Caher and then on to Carrauntoohil, the other planning on doing the more exposed and steeper ridge from Beekeragh, along to Carrauntoohil and then a finish on Caher while looping around to return to the starting point once more.

The following morning, all arose at the bright and early hour of 9am to the sound of birds and some nasty Business student shouting, "Get out of bed ye good-for-nothing layabouts". A fine traditional Irish breakfast (bearing a suspicious resemblance to a traditional English breakfast, but the Erasmus students were too scared to point out the similarity) was prepared and eaten readily. (For the sake of equality it's worth pointing out that there was a vegetarian option on the weekend but I think it nobody had the heart to kill it at any stage over the two days so it was to sit in the overhead luggage compartment snoring.)

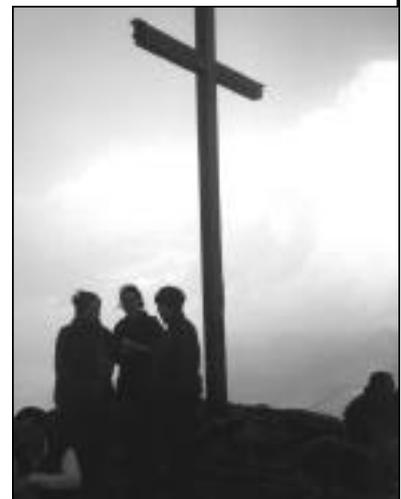
Pat Curtain's fine bus then transported our intrepid group to Kate Kearney's Cottage at the mouth of the Gap of Dunloe. Where it was split once more, this time into a faction going walking up Purple Mountain, and a number going rock-climbing on a crag by the name of Brennan's Leap.

Brennan's Leap is a crag right on the roadside beside the Black Lake where horses hooves can be heard all day as traps carry tourists up and down the Gap of Dunloe

Following a successful few hours of climbing/hill-walking we all returned to the bus our limbs weak but our heads held high-proud of our achievements over the previous two days.

Carrauntoohil 1039 meters
Benkeragh 1010 meters
Caher 1001 meters

We all got to the top and then we went home.



FARAWAY, SO CLOSE!

Canadian Tales



On the second Monday of October in Canada and the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. people sit down to a dinner of turkey and pumpkin pie to give thanks to God for the harvest and for friendly Indians. If you are a stranger to this custom you will probably quickly realize that its just like Christmas but without the presents or alcohol as it is of course a puritan invention so any chance of actually having a good time is thrown in the bin with the pumpkin pie you couldn't quite stomach. That is unless of course you are an international student and you don't have a family nearby to have dinner with in which case you have dinner with fifty other international students who thankfully aren't puritans.



Just in case you're reading this and wondering what the hell

thanksgiving actually is, here is a short history of the feast. The official version taught in schools in the U.S. goes like this: The puritans, also know as pilgrims leave England and arrive in Plymouth Massachusetts in 1620 somewhat unprepared for life in the New World, half of them die in the first year and they were all set for the same fate the following year until an educated English speaking Indian called Squanto teaches them the ways of the New World. So thankful are they for being saved that they invite Squanto, the leader of the Wampanoag tribe and his family to a 'thanksgiving' dinner to celebrate their good fortune and they all eat, drink (juice) and stand around talking about the rack on Goodie Wife Mather for three days. The real story was of course that the pilgrims were so thankful that they massacred the Indians the following year and the year after that but that's another story.

The international thanksgiving experience was never going to be the same happy family American version we see on T.V. With an eclectic bunch of Aussies, Kiwis, Dutch, Chinese, German, Italian and Irish the dinner soon fell into disarray with the starvin Marvin Aussies jumping the buffet queue with unashamed blatancy followed by a vicious slaying of the sole New Zealander, something about sheep, they were eventually quietened down

Reports from UL Students in foreign lands and International Students studying in UL.

when asked to say grace and give thanks for something. Although well aware of the concept of thanksgiving it never occurred to be that we would actually have to give thanks for something so I had to put some thought into this. There were about twelve people ahead of me so I figured I would have plenty of time to come up with something vaguely interesting but as each person said thanks for their friends, family, their football team winning, for sheep (the Kiwi again), for orange sashes (northerner, go figure) I realized that I was running out of ideas, everyone was taking mine. I thought to myself what am I to be thankful for? Hearing no sign from God I went through the usual list, health yes, money no, family they're tolerable, United won yesterday, the immigration officer did let me in after four hours, I'm not likely to get rained on everyday until February, I'm having a second thanksgiving dinner with two very attractive Swedish girls Anneka and Jessica and my roommate tomorrow; that's it, world peace, no really I fluffed it again.

by Darragh Murphy

Anthrax, Midterms and Halloween parties

Anthrax and fear of Biological war is the latest in a series of attacks upon America, that began with terrorist bombing of the World Trade Centre over six weeks ago on September 11th.

For students at SUNYNew Paltz an air of complacency has descended. The constant media bombardment of the last number of weeks has left toll and a reluctance to hear of the rising number of Anthrax cases, and bodies recovered at ground zero being discovered daily is unsurprising.

Bodies are still being removed from the wreckage of the Wreckage of the World Trade Centre, and smoke is still rising from the debris. Having viewed the towers from observatory deck of the Empire State Building on the 9th of September, we ventured again on the 19th of Oct to see the city at night.

Manhattan is beautiful. More so at night as the views stretch for twenty-five miles and take in spectacular sights such as the Brooklyn bridge, the Chrysler building, Central Park and the Hudson River. Looking south toward the empty smoking gap where the Twin towers stood just a few weeks ago made the hairs stand up on the back of my neck and guilt engulfed me for adding to the number of neck straining individuals craning to see the smoke and dust spiraling from ground zero.

Manhattan was as bustling and busy as ever, with thousands of people thronging through Times Square. The news headlines scrolled around the massive billboard telling of U.S. Soldiers preparing for ground battle, Anthrax infecting a Washington Postal worker and the New York Yankees latest win. As shoppers thronged Macy's 50% sale, an effort to encourage consumerism, rescue workers continued to grapple in the rubble at the remains of the World Trade Centre.



The rising number of Anthrax cases is causing a huge stir in the media, and SUNYNew Paltz ironically is responding by sending flyers to all students warning them of the dangers and symptoms of contact with the deadly bacteria.

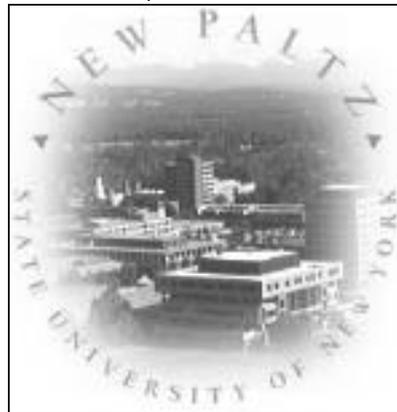
Situated ninety minutes from New York city New Paltz students are not overly concerned, 3rd Year Katie White says, "Anthrax has been around a long time in animals and I think the hyper-sensitivity at the moment is out of control". Theatre student, Talia Barzilay said, "I think the majority of college kids aren't up to date with what is going on in the world and about Anthrax. At first they were concerned but they're not bothered now".

International students react differently. A second University of Limerick student, on edge at events unfolding, traveled home on the 22nd of October. Three ULstudents continue to study at SUNY.

International students say that they are very much united by their experiences here, Yorkshirer Sarah Brennan says, "despite everything that has happened I love it here. The friendships you make are just amazing". Londoner Phil Barley said, "The people are great, I'd love to stay for the year but

September 11th, and their violence is, "excused, rationalized and supported by what they believe is the righteousness of their cause".

In answer to the theory that U.S. foreign policy in the past, and missions in other countries was partly a cause of the terrorist attacks Brownstein said, "We are blamed for things we do, blamed for the things we don't do, we are blamed for being us".



According to U.S. Government statistics, there have been 9255 terrorist attacks across the world between 1990-1999, and the C.I.A have a list of 27 terrorist groups across the world. According to Brownstein, one of America's long-term aims will be to confront and destroy these terrorist groups.

University at home won't let me".

Operation 'Enduring freedom' is ongoing and there are many conflicting arguments regarding U.S. bombing of Afghanistan. SUNY New Paltz political science department, held a talk on the 23rd of October entitled 'American Response to Terrorism' to discuss some of them.

Professor and chair of the department Lewis Brownstein, an advocate of

U.S. military response in Afghanistan said, "the U.S. has never faced a challenge quite like this one, and we must defeat those that would destroy us." Brownstein believes that there are no redeeming qualities for the terrorists of

Brian Schmidt, International Relations lecturer at SUNY New Paltz professed to be, 'deeply troubled by the direction the U.S. administration is taking us'. Schmidt opposes the bombings in Afghanistan as he says, "the civilians being killed there are as innocent as the WTC victims. To see innocent civilians fleeing to Pakistan to sleep in tents, so we can drop them pop tarts and crackers is an injustice". The solution to the problem is not, Schmidt maintains, to bomb Afghanistan, but rather to make the U.S. less of a target and try and combat the causes of terrorism. As my Mum said a couple of weeks ago, "we are living through history", and that is certainly true. The events that unfold around us are the history books of future generations. Students here in New York are aware of the fact but they also crave normalcy. Essays, pumpkin picking, parties and Halloween outfits come first in the list of priorities as that is what pertains most to their lives. As first year Deanna Sousa says, "we live in our own little bubble here and it's easier for life goes on as always".

by Laura Greer in New York

" Gaby is not happy at all."

My last night out was a nightmare. I found a friend laying on the pavement, drunk. My friend and I had to help him.

I have passed my Red Cross first aid diploma four years ago so i knew what to do :

- cover him
- make him speak so he could stay conscious
- try to make him drink water to clean his "pipes" and dilute alcohol
- make him walk.

One was easy although it was cold. Two went all right since he is a very talkative guy. Three started to put us in trouble. One of us went to back to the night club in order to get some water. Do you know that it is illegal for them to allow people to go out of their walls with their glass of water! Therefore we had to get a plastic glass! Finally we tried four and what happened to us? Two girls carrying a boy along the streets, everyone was laughing at us instead of helping us.

I was told that Irish people was friendly, it remains to be proved. Our real problem was that we could not go back to the campus as long as he was in such a state. No taxi driver to take us, too scared of him throwing up in their wonderful car so they just kept staring at us with pity. Yet we heard later that one sick girl was picked by a driver for £20 instead of £5.

But the funniest was when a man at the bus station called an ambulance. How nice of him!

The ambulance's episode was great as well. It arrived with lights and bells. Two men got off and surrounded my friend. They took a look at him, asked his name and whether he wanted to go to hospital. HOSPITAL!!! Bravo. Do you think my friend needed the hospital? No he just wanted to go back home, sleep in his own warm bed.

What was their answer?

"Well, we can't do anything if he doesn't want to go to hospital" and they left. Would anyone care if we had to sleep in the street? I am still wondering.

Afterwards what the hell was I supposed to do? I was so desperate that i remembered what i was advised at U.L." Call 999 if you are in any trouble." In trouble, that is where i was.

Amazing how slow an answer came after I dialed the number. A woman listened to me, place, problem, i told her everything.

Then a man said : " Sorry this not an emergency, make your friend walk". What a news! and What efficiency! Should i have better push my fiend under a car so it would have been an emergency?

To sum up, my friend was too sick to get a taxi but not sick



enough for the emergency to move a little finger!

In the end i thankfully met a FRENCH friend who lives in town so she invited us to sleep at hers. What would have happened if I haven't met her or worst if I didn't know anybody in this foreign city?

The lesson of my night is : Authorities are useless, what you really need in Limerick is FRIENDS.

Memorial to a Nightmare

Tranquility, peace and silence. They are not what you expect to find when you visit a place that is the physical embodiment of a nightmare. What experience can be more humbling to the soul than to visit a monument to the thousands of lives lost within the barbed wire fences of the place that is KZ Dachau. Once it stood for all that is evil in the world. Now it stands in remembrance of a time of pain, horror and suffering. Yet it does not stand to torment the children of the victims. No it stands to give them hope, hope that the world will never again endure the horror of brother killing brother for the sake of power.

On the day I visited the site of the former concentration camp it was appropriately dark and raining. I don't think that anyone can visit the memorial and remain unaffected by its daunting presence. It is a place that ignites horror and outrage in the soul. I could not help but feel sadness and disgust at what mankind is capable of when I walked around the site. One can only question the mentality of the people that came up with such a frightening concept as a concentration camp. Did they know what they unleashed on the world? And perhaps more importantly did they care?

In a time of war once again one cannot but help ponder do we remember the lessons that ancestors learned so tragically many years ago. The camp itself has many of the original building still standing. Some of the barracks built to house the prisoners have been reconstructed. These bar-

racks themselves ignite the revulsion the ones feels when you gaze upon the conditions that the prisoners lived in. At its worst time KZ Dachau held thirty thousand people. This is staggering when you learn that it was originally con-



structed to hold five thousand.

As you walk through the corridors of the buildings you are told to note the site of the multiple tortures that the prisoners endured. You can only look on these instruments of agony with morbid fascination. The tour guide told us tales of what the prisoners endured. It was too much for some and the tears flowed freely.

The worst part of the camp for me personally had to be the infamous Barrack X. This was the site of the crematorium and gas chamber. While historians believe that the gas chamber at Dachau was never used it is still a frightening thing to enter. With the sign for Showers above the entrance prisoners were meant to believe that they were just going to be cleaned. They would have never known until too late that death was imminent. The crematorium I can say is the scariest place I have ever seen. It is a place where bodies were irreverently destroyed. Sometimes we were told they through the sick and the dying into the furnaces as well. The site of these furnaces I think will haunt me for the rest of my life.

I think that KZ Dachau is a place everyone should visit sometime in his or her lifetime. Although it is a place of terror it stands as a reminder to us of what humanity is capable of. To this day I can remember vividly walking around that camp. The mind plays tricks on you and you can almost see the prisoners confined in their tight quarters. You can almost smell their fear and lack of hope. In conclusion there is one message at KZ Dachau that really sends the message home. It is one that should be heeded by everyone. When you question the morality of war remember the plaque in KZ Dachau. It is a plaque with a message written in four different languages. It is simple in words and heavy in impact. "Never again".

Daniel Nagle
(Daniel116@hotmail.com)

Eimear Griffin in Germany

Hi everyone, how& re ye all doin? For those of you who don't know me my name is Eimear and one evening after a few pints in the Scholars a friend of mine told me that Patrick was looking for students who were going away on erasmus to write for the paper while they were away. so then your's truly went skippin into the SU (not a bother) and volunteered myself to take on the responsibility of entertaining ye lot with all my drama from Germany.

So far the drama has been minimal-my little tantrum with the ATM that swallowed up my bankcard is as good as it gets. It was terrible! I typed in my PIN, then I got as far as the amount I wanted to withdraw and a big smile on my face as i pressed 200 DM please & thanks !!!!Waiting , waiting , waiting - "Whats the matter I think to myself?" Then up on the screen I read that the ATM felt it crucial to RETAIN my card - wotta DISASTER!!!! I curse DIE POSTBANK (At the weekend I discovered that one of

their ATM's in Münich had been pulled from the wall - kewlness!!!) Luckily for me though my parents flew over with me, they were actually meant to leave the day before this incident occurred but as chance had it they decided to stay a few extra days - God Bless Parents - that's all I'll say. Could you imagine no money in Germany - but that didnt happen evrthing was grand an hour or two later!

Anyway I'm rambling - the deal is that I'm on Erasmus in the University des Saarlandes, for those of you with an idea of the country I'm in the region of Saarbrauumlicken and I live in a town called Dudweiler. Saarbrücken is fairly cool with all it's very, very big clothes shops and all the other typicalstuff you'd wander into in any other city-seriously though, if a repitition of what I mentioned earlier doesn't happen again I'm off into Saarbrücken next weekend - SHOPPING!!!

But besides clothes there'll be books to bought for STUDYING! after 8 months of COOPERATIVE EDUCATION one kinda forgets that they're a student. But it's back into the old routine of registering, stalking lecturers to see if you've got your timetable right etc. etc. etc. So far I haven't a clue what to study here. The system in Germany appears fairly liberal insofar that you can walk into lectures, tutorials , anything and then walk right back out if it ain't doin'anything for you! Fairly cool! Anyway as that's about all I have to say for myself now, I'm goin'to skiddaddle, for the next An Focal though I'll be able to let ye in on a whole pile more of news. Until then though take it easy and enjoy THE LIFE OF UL!

Got Problems? - Barry and Karen can help!



Dear Karen and Barry

I'm a single 2nd year here in UL and I've never had any trouble meeting girls. They approach me everywhere; night clubs, pubs, even on the street! The lads say I've got it made! My problem is, not to be boasting or anything, but I'm quite well endowed. As in I have a big knob. I've heard about guys who think they are too small, but I reckon I might be too big. I never seem to keep a relationship. What should I do?

Big John

Barry: If your head is as big as your allegedly massive codpiece, I'm not surprised you can't stay in a relationship. You seem to be too obsessed with sex to stay with one woman anyway, so I recommend you go for a career in the porn industry, where someone with your talents will fit in just fine. Just be sure to style your hair into a mullet first.

Dear Barry and Karen,

I've been going out with a boy who is drop dead gorgeous for about three weeks. He is beginning to come on a bit heavy and wants me to sleep with him. He says if I love

him I would go to bed with him and he says he loves me. I am excited and really flattered because he's so gor-

geous, but I'm frightened because I have never had sex before. My best friend says I should because I might lose him but I'm not sure what I should do. Please, please help me.

Scared

Barry: Step back here a second. Firstly, pay no attention to your so called 'friend'. This conniving bitch is trying to screw things up for you so she can get this guy for herself. Cut her out of your life quickly, or else sabotage her reputation. That'll learn her. Secondly, you don't sound as if you're ready to have sex, so you shouldn't let anyone push you into it. If your boyfriend actually loves you, he'll understand.

Dear Barry and Karen, I am embarrassed by my problem but it seems to help just by writing it down. The problem is that I can't help going bright red when people talk to me. I am not really an insecure person (at least I don't think I am), but even when my closest friends chat to me I go crimson. Is this something I can overcome? I have tried facing up to it but it didn't work and I'm running out of excuses. Are there any alternatives? I would really appreciate an answer.

Red faced



Barry: Whenever you start blushing while talking to somebody, quickly embarrass somebody near you. Be it a hilarious trip-and-they-fall-flat-on-their-arse or more of an overly loud "wasn't

s h e caught shagging that guy in the Scholars toilets?" This is guaranteed to draw all the attention off you and they will now be scarlet-cheeked. Simple eh?



Dear Barry and Karen,

Before I start, I'm like, perfectly normal and stuff but I have a big problem with midgets. I like so totally hate them hate them hate them HATE THEM! I hope they all get like killed and stuff cos they're just not y'know, natural. Don't get me wrong, I like children and stuff, but midgets are soo freaky, especially those Mexican midget wrestlers. What should I like do and stuff?

Dee Dee

Barry: I suspect that this all leads back to some childhood midget trauma. It always does. Go visit a psychiatrist ortake up a hobby, like midget tossing or something. And remember, midgets are people too. You freak.

If you've got a problem, no matter how big of small, contact Barry and Karen at adviceandfocal@hotmail.com

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In Vino Vitium
(In beer; Falsehood)
(Preponderances upon a Pint of Guinness)

He sits, he stares and ponders deep,
What lies within the liquid night,
Beneath the foamy moon's pale light
The promise of a peaceful sleep.

Perchance to dream of labour's reap,
To live an illusion, ethereally true,
Success as clear as skies so blue,
Proud karus can attain them too,
To fulfil his hopes, a pledge to keep.

Before life dealt the mortal blow
Of responsibility, love and sorrow
And the awful truth that still tomorrow
Further threats from sun-kissed shadows.

Seen only by those who feel the blade
The icy slice, a break from pain.
No need to buckle under strain
Of reality's unrepentant reign
A quick release, the price well paid

And so he seizes his chalice aloft
Its obvious depths, wherein he can hide
His fears, his doubts, the darkening side
That nobody sees of a countenance soft

The last remains of respect exchanged
For a semblance of the ideal uncertain
The rest is lost in wrinkles of burden
Reward for those deemed most deserving?
The sacrifice of soul arranged.

* * *

The glass that held mere melancholy
Salvation from mediocre despair
Drowning in ocean of empty care
Is virtue's mirror truly more holy?

The chalice, misty with remnant froth
Sits on the counter, drained of life
Much as its owner's wasted strife
Resolved alone to slice the knife
Rebelling against the existence sought

Simply a lost and weary soul
Yearning to become a whole

Crossword



Across

1. One glove, to the other
5. Lilac, e.g.
10. Simba's evil uncle
14. "___ in a Manger"
15. Bartlett piece
16. Supermodel Banks
17. "The Outlaw" star?
19. Citrus quenchers
20. Home of Mindy's mate
21. Acorn droppers
22. Lug-nut protector
24. Moves to the balcony, maybe
26. Bobby of the Black Panthers
27. Dash lengths
28. Picked up the phone
31. Type of telegram
34. Put frosting on
35. Father a foal
36. Before now
37. Any of this puzzle's stars?
40. Go astray
41. Applies ointment
43. Social equal
44. Upright
46. Funnel-shaped flowers
48. Actress Wray
49. "Unless ___ my guess..."
50. Mom-and-pop magazine

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20			21				22	23				
24			25				26					
			27			28					29	30
31	32	33			34				35			
36			37	38				39	40			
41			42	43				44	45			
46				47			48					
		49				50				51	52	53
54	55					56				57		
58				59	60					61		
62				63					64			
65				66						67		

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- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 57. Particle-accelerator particle | 7. "Friends" character | 33. Captain Kangaroo portrayer? |
| 58. Theater sign | 8. Salt Lake City athlete | 34. Inspirations |
| 59. "Splash" star? | 9. Washington suburb | 38. Soap-opera segments |
| 62. Forgo the letter opener | 10. Quarter horses' quarters | 39. Severe shortage |
| 63. "Silas Marner" author | 11. "Silk Stockings" star? | 42. Java neighbor |
| 64. Not quite latched | 12. Locale | 45. Reuben bread |
| 65. Thai tutor | 13. Coarse file | 47. Prefix for pick |
| 66. Toddler's bedtime demand | 18. Vagabond | 48. Unsound |
| 67. Statuesque | 23. Detroit-based labor org. | 50. He played the Wiz |
| Down | 25. Snaky swimmer | 51. Japanese mercenary |
| 1. Collegian's declaration | 26. Contemptuous expression | 52. Of sound quality |
| | | 53. Tangle |

Submit your correct entries to An Focal Editor, Patrick Kennedy, by the end of Week 9. The First successful entry will receive the CD of the week as supplied by Live 95 FM.

Solutions to the last Editions Crossword

1 Seed, 5 Gore, 9 Large, 10 Aged, 11 Retail, 12 Sled, 13 Eve, 14 Stately, 16 Lees, 18 Air, 19 Yenta, 21 Libel, 25 Odd, 27 Cola, 28 Barroom, 32 Ten, 33 Urea, 34 Deface, 36 Sing, 37 Glint, 38 Hate, 39 Edgy.

Down: 1 Sateen, 2 Era, 3 Egis, 4 Delta, 5 Gastric, 6 Ogle, 7 Reel, 8 Eddy, 9 Levee, 11 Rely, 15 Ail, 17 Storage, 20 Ado, 22 Botany, 23 Elect, 24 Lane, 26 Dodge, 28 Bush, 29 Aria, 30 Rent, 31 Meld, 35 Fig

Snag list system introduced in W.I.T

by Alona Troy

Snag Lists, the bane of builders' lives. That list of niggly things that the new house owners want sorted out. But snag lists are no longer the sole property of the construction industry, as snag lists, have now hit the realm of third level education. As students we all have our list of niggly problems that bug us and we quiet often do nothing them ourselves, or if we do voice our concerns we see little being done about the situation by the relevant authorities. The snag list is probably the answer we have been waiting for. The snag list is a collection of problems put together with the sole aim of achieving a resolution for each of the problems.

quency of these problems. Then the processes involved and the obstacles met in solving these problems are publicised. And finally it showcases the work carried out by the union on behalf of the students.

This is basically how it would work. You have a problem with, let say, computer access. You bring your complaint to the students union, who will then in turn publish this problem, in the paper or on the net. The staff of the union then through the same medium publicise what is being done about the problem, the progress made and the obstacles

which can be then passed on to the subsequent sabbatical officers, allowing for a continuance of work rather than starting afresh each year. It also arms the sabbatical officers with the data they need, when bringing up these problems with the university. The continuance and availability all go to helping the union in its problem solving abilities.



The Waterford Institute of Technology Students' Union has put the name of snag list on the solution we have all been grasping for.

The Waterford Institute of Technology Students' Union has put the name of snag list on the solution we have all been grasping for

It works on a number of levels. It highlights the problems faced by students' everyday, and more particularly the fre-

quency of these problems. Then the processes involved and the obstacles met in solving these problems are publicised. And finally it showcases the work carried out by the union on behalf of the students. Obviously anonymity would be persevered if so requested. It adds an air of transparency and immediacy to the work done by both the staff and fellow members of the students' union.

This idea is not altogether new to ULSU. Class reps continually are raising the problems faced by their classes. The sabbatical officers are creating databases that highlight continuing and reoccurring problems, such as computer access, syllabuses, and course work and with every aspect of your education here in UL. A snag list would be a great addition to the work already being carried out. It would take arguably little effort to get this system in place and to get it running effectively, especially with the computer expertise within the student population. With the data base in place the problems facing us, as students would become more visible and concrete. And as the old saying goes, a problem shared...



Sabbatical officers will also have a hard data on the problems facing students,

Scholars Club

UNI VERSITY OF LI MERI CK
 TEL: 061 330190
 FAX: 061330710
 EMAIL: info@scholarsclub.ie
 WEB: www.scholarsclub.ie

WEEK 4

MON Smirnoff Ice Request Night
- John Frawley

TUES DJ Eric Fitz in the Bar plus

WED Heineken Kollege Energy Live
The Lollygaggers

THUR Ireland vs Iran

FRI Party Night - Comp Finger Food
Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm

SUN Heineken Breakfast Club

WEEK 5

MON Smirnoff Ice Request Night with
The Other 2 Beatles

TUES DJ Eric Fitz in the Bar plus
Murphys Comedy Club
- Kevin Gildea

WED +Champions League
Heineken Kollege Energy Live
"Dennis McCalmot"

THUR +Champions League
Student Party Night
- DJ John Kelly
+ Me and Mr. Jones

FRI Party Night - Comp Finger
Food Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm

SUN Heineken Breakfast Club
Happy Hour 9pm - 10pm

Champions League Listings etc. on
www.scholarsclub.ie

DOLAN'S WAREHOUSE

Tue nov 13th
The Proclaimers
 Support: The Supernaturals
 doors: 9pm tickets: £10 students £8

Wed nov 14th
The Acoustic 4X4 Tour
 Country, Jazz, Blues, Rock, Psychadelia, Pop & Folk
 doors: 9pm tickets: £5

Thur nov 16th
Cara Dillon
 doors: 9pm tickets: £7 students £6 (incl. Entry to Soul Clinic)

Sat nov 17th
Willard Grant Conspiracy
 Support: Woodstar & Thalia Zedek
 doors: 9pm tickets: £7 students £6

Thur nov 22nd
The Walls
 doors: 9pm tickets: £8 Students: £7 (incl. Entry to Soul Clinic)

Tuesday nights: **Students Only**
Live Band followed by club doors: 9pm students: £3

Thursday nights: **Soul Clinic** doors: 12am tickets: £7 students: £5

Friday nights: **Comedy Club** doors: 9pm tickets: £8
Audio doors: 12am tickets: £5

Coming in November: 24th The Saw Doctors, 25th John Spillane 29th MUNDY and much more....

Tickets available in advance from: Dolan's Pub, 3/4 Dock Rd, Limerick:
 061-314481 / info@dolanpub.com / www.dolanpub.com