

AD focal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK STUDENTS' UNION

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



Week 12, Sem 2

Edition 13

May 4th, 2004

Price: Free as a bird!

Union General Meeting Tues Wk12, 6pm, FG042 To decide on:

Clubs and Societies

As things stand, Clubs and Societies receive 66% of the money that the Students' Union gets from the University each year. This division is in accordance with Higher Education Authority guidelines. From this money Clubs and Societies must allocate budgets, cover administration costs and pay wages. In addition to this, Clubs and Societies also contribute to the wages of the Sabbatical Officers and

Accounting Staff in the Union. There is a motion before the UGM to scale down on the C&S Contribution towards Sabbat/Staff wages over the coming years. If this motion were passed it would mean more money in the pot for clubs and societies in the future, so if you're a member of a Club or Society, it's in your interest to attend this meeting. Bring your books and study if you have to, just turn up!

Constitution

The Current ULSU constitution is a hodge-podge of additions, subtractions and tidy-up attempts going back years. There are discrepancies and ambiguities everywhere. This year, the Constitutional Review Committee spent an unbelievable number of man and woman hours creating a cohesive document, which has been checked over by a solicitor, and it is being presented for approval at the UGM. If you want to see what the new

constitution looks like, it's available for download on the ULSU website (www.ulsu.ul.ie) along with the old one, for reference. If you wish to make any changes to the constitution, please bring them along to the meeting either on Floppy Disk, or on a Transparency. Amendments suggested verbally will not be entertained. The meeting must be quorate for this constitution to be passed, otherwise all of those hours were totally wasted. Please Come Along!

Kollege Week

Since 2000, Kollege Week has been sliding down a slippery slope. Back then, the evening events were held in a Marquee on Campus, everybody wanted to go, loads of money was raised for charity, and there were always great bands playing. Since then things have been gradually declining, while problems on the housing estates have been increasing. This is a problem that needs urgent sorting out. And your

feedback is essential. If you have anything to say about Kollege Week, if you love it, hate it, miss the way it was, hope for a better time to come, know how to stop the problems of noise, litter and vandalism, please come along to FG-042 on Tuesday at 6pm! You can bring your books and study at the same time, but we need as many people there as possible to get a feel for how things stand! It'll be worth your while!

Election Procedures

Everybody knows who the best candidate is in election Week. It's the person with the best lollipops, or krispie cakes, or firebreathers or people in costume running around with a megaphone. Or was it something about policies? Many people are worried about the trend towards gimmickry in SU Elections. If someone has a load of money, they are at an advantage to someone who doesn't, even if the penniless candidate has a lot of great policies and a definite shot at doing a

good job. In other Universities, candidates are only allowed a certain number of posters, manifestos etc, and all of these must be approved by the Returning Officer. There is a motion before council restricting the amount of money that can be spent on an election campaign to €150. There is also a motion put forward to ban candidates from receiving sponsorship from outside organisations.

Full Agenda Available at www.ulsu.ul.ie

Get Involved - Please Be There!

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News

ULSU Secretary General Appointed

After a lengthy process of advertising and interviewing, the Students' Union have appointed a new manager/financial controller, Ms. Joanna Griffin, to manage affairs. Ms. Griffin's title will be Secretary General and she will supervise Union staff as well as keeping Union Finances shipshape and up to date.

There were over thirty applicants for the position, which was advertised in the national and local press and there were two round of interviews, after which Ms. Griffin secured the position.

Having recently studied at UL as a postgrad in the Women's Studies department, Ms. Griffin is a chartered accountant and former head of LIT Finance Dept, with a keen interest in University life. ULSU would like to welcome her into her new position, and into the ULSU team. Ms Griffin takes up her position officially on Tuesday May 4th, and will begin by becoming up to date on Union accounts over the summer.

Shoplifters face serious consequences

Shoplifting is a problem in almost every shop, and the ULSU shops in the Student Centre and Dromroe are no exception. While larger shops can simply write off the expense, the Student Shops are striving to make up the margins and bring the profitability of the shop up to a level where it can clear its debts and make some money for the Students' Union.

Since Christmas, major changes have been taking place to ensure that margins are as healthy as possible, and of late, this includes deterring shoplifters. The shop is fitted with security cameras, and these are used to identify culprits and are also used as evidence.

If a student is caught shoplifting, they are identified and brought before the University's Discipline Committee. This committee deals with serious offences, and the penalties imposed go from community service to expulsion. At the time of writing, there has been one recent case of this happening.

Shop manager Fiona Doyle said, "This is an ongoing issue, and we deal



with every person we catch in a very serious manner. If a person is brought before the Discipline Committee, a report of their conduct goes on their record. So if you're someone who's

thinking about being lightfingered, remember that your reputation could be affected. Think about the consequences."

Seanad Report recommends major reform, including votes for UL Graduates



The House of the Seanad

It has long been a bone of contention for UL and DCU that graduates of NUI and Trinity had the right to elect senators, but that UL UCD and the other Third-Level institutions in the country had none. In fact, many people saw the Seanad as being unwieldy, exclusive and out-dated, and definitely in need of serious reform. The latest Seanad evidently agreed, because it established a sub-committee to examine the current system and to try to come up with a better one.

The recently published Report of Seanad Reform published by the Seanad sub-committee on Seanad reform has put forward many recommendations as regards the

formation of the Seanad. Among the proposed reforms, some Seanad members would be directly elected, and the traditional allocation of six seats to nominees of Trinity and NUI graduates would be opened to all holders of a Primary Degree.

At present, the Seanad is made up of sixty members; 11 nominated by the Taoiseach, 43 elected by five panels representing vocational interests namely, Culture and Education, Agriculture, Labour, Industry and Commerce and Public Administration and six elected by the graduates of two universities: - three each by the National University of Ireland and the University of Dublin (Trinity College).

The Sub-committee focussed on the Composition and Functions of the Seanad, and recommendations were made on both of those points. As regards size, the committee recommended that the reformed Seanad have 65 members, 32 of whom would be directly elected, 20 indirectly elected and 12 nominated by the Taoiseach. The remaining seat would be filled by the Cathaoirleach. Of the 32 directly elected Senators, 26 would be elected by the general public, to a national constituency. The remaining six would be elected to a national higher education constituency, consisting of degree holders from recognised Third-Level institutions. The register for electing the 26 publicly elected senators would be the same as that for a general election, minus those who wish to vote in the Higher Education constituency. No one should be allowed to vote in both constituencies. These direct elections to the Seanad should take place on the same day as European Parliament and local elections. In order to run in the election for the Higher Education constituency, each candidate should be nominated by ten graduates.

The committee recommends that a once-off registration process take place for existing graduates, who can choose whether they would like to be on the Higher Education register of electors or on the National Register of electors. It would not be possible to be on both registers for Seanad elections. After this initial register is compiled, each succeeding year's

graduates should choose on graduating between being on the Higher Education Register or the National Register.

This is an issue with particular resonance for UL graduates, and has been for many years. This year, a joint, written submission was made to the Sub-Committee by the University of Limerick, University of Limerick Students' Union, University of Limerick Postgraduate Student Association and University of Limerick Alumni Association. Early in Semester one, UL President, Roger Downer, along with Chancellor Seán Donlon and Jim Collins of the Alumni Association were invited by the subcommittee to a meeting to make their position clear.

As regards the role and function of the Seanad, it was recommended that its powers and abilities as regards Legislation, EU affairs, Public Policy and Senior Public Appointments should be enhanced and expanded, and that the Leader of the Seanad should have the right to attend meetings of Dáil Éireann with the status of a Minister or a Minister of State.

As of yet, the committee's recommendations are just that, recommendations. It remains to be seen how much of the report will be implemented and how soon. The next Seanad elections are due to take place in 2007. Maybe some of us will have a chance to vote in them!

News

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



Ollscoil Luimnigh

We wish everyone all the best in their exams and hope you all have a great Summer.

this wednesday & every wednesday

ulsu presents



SPANK!

launch night wed. feb 18th

**A MASSIVE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PARTY @TRINITY ROOMS
TWO ROOMS OF DANCEFLOOR ACTION
KEITH IN THE MAIN ROOM, TINA T IN THE QUARTER CLUB**

free admission before midnight
every wednesday €5 after

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Weeks 12-13

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



Ollscoil Luimnigh

**Any Two
Cadbury's
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Just €2!***

**Large Sausage
Baguette
Only 99c**

**Self Service
phone top-up
now available
in-store!**

*while stocks last

ULSU Shops wish all students the very best of luck in their Exams! Thanks to all of our customers for their support throughout the year.

News

Winners all round - Health Promoton Survey



Elaine Kiely, Declan Ahearne, Jim Foley and David Garrahy

Friday last, April 23rd saw Jim Foley, 4th Computer Systems receive a prize of €100 from Declan Aherne, Chair of the UL Health Promotion Working Group. Jim is the student winner of the recent Health Promotion Survey that was conducted by Elaine Kiely, UL's Student Affairs Officer.

The survey was carried out simultaneously by four Irish colleges - UL, Mary Immaculate, NUI Galway and Athlone IT, with a random sample of both staff and students of each college receiving the same questionnaire.

"The idea behind conducting the survey is to examine staff and student perceptions of health promotion services and activities that are available here in UL" explains Elaine, "and by conducting the same survey in four colleges we hope to develop a framework or template for

effective health promotion in college and university settings."

Asked about what is currently being undertaken by way of Health Promotion in UL Elaine explained that the Student Affairs Health Promotion Working Group comprises representatives from across all facets of the university and those involved in the group discuss, develop and deliver initiatives for UL students. Most recent of these initiatives was the setting up of Smoking Cessation Supports that are currently taking place each Wednesday lunchtime and the Sexual Health Competition that has up to €500 in prizes for UL students.

Further information on the work of the Health Promotion Group or on any issue relating to student health promotion is available by contacting Elaine at elaine.kiely@ul.ie

WATER Good Idea!

Have you ever been stuck studying in EGO-10 or doing a project in the VAX labs at 2 in the morning, absolutely gasping for a drink, with no money in your pocket for the Vending Machine's tooth-rotting offerings? Ever thought that all you need is a drink of water? Well then stand up for your right to a drink of water!

Whether you are studying late in the vax or a guy crawling across a desert. A drink of water is a basic human right.

ULSU have been lobbying the University, Campbells Catering and Plassey Campus Centre for the last number of years to have a quality source of drinking water installed in the Canteen, or a similar suitable site.

The current water fountains are all situated close to toilets, and people are unwilling to use them, so the water is often less than appetising. Added to that, the design of the drinking fountains makes it difficult for people to refill water bottles, should they so wish.

Up to now, there has been little movement on the issue. As such the SU will be distributing free water for a few hours daily in the University during week 12 to help get the message through!

Amicus, one of the Staff Unions on campus also supports the idea of free drinking water on campus. So look out for the people giving out the free water and sign the petition.

amicus
the union

ULSU

MA in Dance Passport to Teaching Dance in Education

The MA in Dance at the University of Limerick is the only taught part-time Masters in dance programme of study available in Ireland. The training and techniques taught during the course equip students with the skills required to work with children and adults in dance.

The MA in dance consists of two parts, The Graduate Diploma in Dance; a one-year, part-time taught programme of study, and the Masters Degree; a research year.



"The course aims to promote a dance culture and develop greater participation in the art of dance in Ireland", says Course Director Teresa Leahy. "At the same time, the Graduate Diploma in Dance really is the passport to teaching dance in Ireland and enables participants to acquire the necessary skills to teach at LCPE level.



The University of Limerick is home to Daghda Dance Company, one of the leading professional dance companies in Ireland. The MA draws on the expertise available in the dance company with Daghda staff providing practical and theoretical programmes. International Dance experts are also part of the teaching

team.

The Graduate Diploma in Dance is a taught programme in 9 modules covering the areas of dance technique, choreography, dance in education, dance appreciation, cultural studies and research methods. Students are required to attend classes on 12 Saturdays throughout the year and fulltime, for the first three weeks in July.

Students who graduate with honours may continue to the Masters programme. An independent research year, MA students are assigned a tutor and have full access to University of Limerick facilities to complete their own research programme and report.

Graduates of the Graduate Diploma and Masters Degree in Dance include Gaye Tanham, Acting Arts Development Director at the Arts Council, Victoria O'Brien, Education Officer at Daghda Dance Company, Dorothy Morrissey, lecturer in the Mary Immaculate College Limerick and Anne Donnelly, PE teacher in Galway. Interviews for the Graduate Diploma in Dance 2004 will be held in the University of Limerick during the first week of July. Interested candidates should contact Teresa Leahy on 061 202807 or Marie Beaumont, Admissions, on 061-202017 for a course brochure and application form.



Attention Clubs and Societies

The deadline for Budget Submissions has been extended to Friday 7th May at the absolute latest.

Contact a member of Clubs and Societies Executive for further details if needed

News

Ciarán's Juice Bar

New Juice Bar
Dromroe Village
Opening May 19th

UL Students in World Product Design Final

As part of a 3D CAD module last semester a group of students from the Grad Dip in Computer Aided Engineering Product Design (MAE dept) created a 3D model of the legendary German Battleship, Bismarck. The group; Ronan Carroll, James Lynch, David O Gorman and David Conway, have recently received news that they have been selected to contest the final of the PTC World Event Awards 2004 in Nashville Tennessee in the Category of Education. This is the first time that an Irish entrant has made it to the final (top 5 in the world) and they will be representing the University of Limerick. Every year hundreds of entries are submitted, and are judged by an expert judging panel, before finalists are selected for a number of categories. The winner of each



category is decided by public vote and voting takes place from Thurs April 22nd (today) to May 21st. The Ronan, James and the two Davids would greatly appreciate if you could support them and vote for the model on line <http://www.ptc.com/appserver/mkt/ptcawards/vote/intl.jsp> All you have to do is click BATTLESHIP BISMARCK and then press enter. For more renderings you can go to their website on Battleship Bismarck <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~fisher>

Waste Reduction Initiative - Main Restaurant

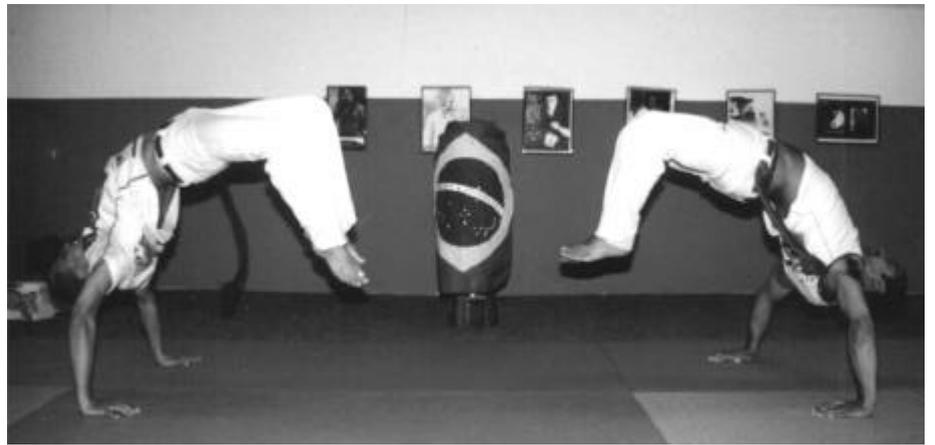
A message from the University Environmental Committee:

For some time now, the UL Environmental Committee has, in cooperation with Campbell Catering, been trying to reduce the number of plastic water cups used in the main restaurant. Current usage is around 5 000 per week, all of which of course end up in landfill. The Committee has proposed, and Campbells have agreed, to implement the following scheme: One cup for water can be taken without charge and refilled as often as required.

Customers who take more than one cup will be charged 10 cents per extra cup. This money will not go to Campbells but will be placed directly into one of two charity boxes at the check-out. The customer can choose which of the two charities; Hope and Homes or Milford Hospice, is to benefit. We hope that you will understand the purpose of this; and that you will cooperate with us in trying to protect the environment.
Tony Kay
Chair, UL Environmental Committee

ULSU would like to congratulate Clubs and Societies Development Officer Paul Lee on his recent wedding, in Ennis on April 24th We wish Paul, Clodagh and daughter Alannah every joy and happiness for the future

Capoeira comes to UL



by Robert McDonagh

I started the club about six weeks ago in UL and have had a great response so far and see the club growing in the future with the help of its newest members. I am a 3rd year student and have been only practising Capoeira for six months but have already found a passion for it and eventually decided to set up the club here in UL once Mestre Piau had agreed to teach the classes. Mestre Piau is the president of Grupo Candeias in Ireland and has twenty-three years experience so we are very lucky to have him. Capoeira is played in a circle of people called "The Roda" with a bateria of musicians at the head of the roda. The rest of roda clap in rhythm and sing while two capoeiristas play inside the circle. They execute various types of kicks, dodges cartwheels, handstands, counterattacks and sometimes floreio [acrobatics], in a flowing, dance-like exchange. There is also an extremely interesting history to Capoeira. Capoeira is thought to have been first developed by slaves that were captured in Africa and brought to Brazil by the Portuguese in the 1500s. Capoeira provided the

Regional is Mestre Bimba. He lived in Bahia, Brazil in the 1930s. Bimba was a fearless fighter who introduced many of the attacks and acrobatic elements seen in Capoeira today. He is revered as a legendary figure in Capoeira folklore. Mestre Pastinha (Vincente Ferreira Pastinha) kept the traditional, slower, less acrobatic and "trickier" Capoeira Angola alive during the spread of

What is Capoeira?

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art. Capoeira is fight, dance, game, self-defence, gymnastics, folklore, art, education, history, physical education, pleasure, fun and therapy.

Capoeira always takes place to the rhythm of music. The most important instrument is the berimbau. It is a one stringed bow shaped instrument with a gourd attached. Other instruments sometimes used are pandeiros [tambourines], atabaque [drums] and agogo [bell]. The tempo and rhythm of the music dictates the speed and style of the jogo [game].

Regional. Widely renowned as a wise and excellent Mestre, he used to say that Capoeira was for everyone to enjoy, man woman and child.



slaves with a means to fight the slave owners preserve their culture and enjoy themselves. After the slaves were freed in 1888 Capoeira was declared illegal, and was practised mostly by criminals. Mestre Bimba was given permission to open the first official Capoeira academia by the Brazilian president in 1937. Today Capoeira is officially Brazil's national pastime, and one of the world's fastest growing 'sports'. The two basic main styles of Capoeira practised today are Capoeira Angola and Capoeira Regional. There exists many variations and fusions of these two, but these are the most commonly recognized. The father of Capoeira

Capoeira Classes in the University of Limerick
Instructor: Mestre Piau
UL Club President: Robert McDonagh, ID: 0147672
Venue: 60m Sprint Track, University Arena
Times: Wednesday 8:00 - 9:00 pm

Classes also in Galway City, Roscommon Town, Ashbourne, Co Meath, and coming soon to Dublin. For Further Details on the Club and Classes etc check out www.candeiasireland.com

Fees and Privatisation - A Student's View

By John FitzGibbon

In recent weeks, articles in 'An Focal' have detailed what I believe to be misleading and untruthful arguments against the re-introduction of third level fees and the privatisation of Irish universities.

These articles presented the view that the proposals of the government and Minister Dempsey are bad for the Irish student population. They however, failed to acknowledge that students are but one component of the Irish third level system. Other factors such as funding, research and the question of whether a third level education is a right or a privilege must be taken into consideration.

In Week 8's edition of 'An Focal' an article bemoaned the fact that lecturers in UL failed to work as hard or as diligently as those in Harvard. The simple fact that the author could even equate the two universities proves that their claims are spurious at best. Harvard is a better university than UL because it has more money to attract the best lecturers and also provide the best facilities. The key difference between Harvard and UL is the €40,000 a year tuition fees Harvard students' pay, which provide the university with stable and secure funding. As it is a private university Harvard does not have a set wage structure for its faculty, unlike in public universities, and can therefore financially reward the better performing lecturers. This encourages a high quality of teaching and attracts the best lecturers. By paying more for an education in a private university the student receives a better education because it is in the university's best interests to provide an outstanding level of education for its students in order to maintain and increase its revenue.

The article in the previous edition of 'An Focal', criticising the private fee paying teacher training website Hibernia, failed to note that postgraduate students voted with their money and left St. Pats. They did this because they got a better level of education for their money from the website than from St. Pats. If they did not then the website would have failed. Such a situation should be seen as a chance to encourage greater efficiency and higher standards from academic institutions. The students reacted with protests and picketed the Department of Education instead of demanding a better education from St. Pats to compete with Hibernia.

The central issue of tuition fees and the privatisation of Irish universities is funding. Quite simply, the situation at present whereby the exchequer provides the majority of third level funding is untenable. Either the taxpayer will have to foot the bill or students will, that is the stark choice. Opponents of fees seem to think that there is a magic reservoir of funds that can be tapped into to provide the Irish middle-class with free education and one of the lowest tax regimes in Europe. England attempted to keep fees as low as possible and encourage greater participation without raising taxes but only succeeded in hemorrhaging funds

from the third level sector and delaying the return of fees. Do we want our universities to suffer as much as the great academic institutions of England have? UCC is the latest Irish university to succumb to such financial pressures. It is some €60 million in debt due mainly to the cost of its core areas of science and medicine, which are of course expensive to teach. The fact is that the level of state support for universities does not reflect the true cost of teaching and universities that teach subjects requiring extensive facilities and equipment are always going to be at a loss. Burying our heads in the sand and demanding free education is not the solution to the far more important problem of the financial security of Irish third level institutions. Students have to acknowledge that fees were gotten rid of by the rainbow coalition simply as an electoral sop to the middle-classes in 1995. There was no demand and no need for the abolition of fees. Either we dramatically reduce our expectations of the standard of education we wish to receive or we pay up. If fees are re-introduced at pre-1995 levels, in the region of €3,000 per year, then we students can demand and expect a much higher standard of teaching, lower class numbers and new and improved facilities. There is no point in complaining about the state of UL when we continually pass the buck onto taxpayers; ultimately taking resources away from vitally needed social and medical services.

Finally, opponents of fees see third level education as a right not a privilege. This is a dangerous assumption to make and one that has led to disaster for many European education systems. Successive German governments subscribed to the belief that all German citizens were entitled to a university education and so created a university system that is dominated by bureaucracy in the German regions. Standards at German universities have plummeted, as admission to all courses, bar medicine and the biomedical sciences, must not be made on merit according to the German Constitution. This had directly led to a proliferation of small and localised universities that are barely worthy of the title. The great universities of Heidelberg, Göttingen and Tübingen are but a shadow of their former selves. This is due to government interference in the education system, which in effect means that no decision regarding resources or academic appointments can be made without prior consultation to regional education officials.

What has resulted is a system characterised by malaise, professional autocracy and dramatically declining academic standards. Student numbers on science, engineering and computer courses is at an all time low as the majority of students take courses in humanities in the hope that they will lead to a comfortable job in the government. The effect of these policies cannot be underestimated. In the past five years Ireland has produced a greater number of technology graduates than Germany. The OECD and the EU are under no



Are protests like this pointless? Some believe so.

illusion that failings in the German university system have in part contributed to its recent poor economic performance.

As suggested by the author of an article in Week 10's edition of 'An Focal', a wholly private third level system is not the answer. It must be said neither is a wholly public one. According to the European Commission, every year 300,000 science and technology research students vote with their feet and leave EU countries for positions in the US. They do this because US institutions have the resources to provide them with far higher salaries and greater funding for their research than their EU counterparts. It is vital that action is taken to close the 'knowledge gap' between Europe and the US and ease the 'brain drain'. The only means to achieve

this is the return of fees and the privatisation of Ireland's leading universities.

The prospect of students paying tuition fees is insignificant in comparison to the prospect of Irish universities closing faculties, slashing courses and overcrowding classes due to lack of funds. So far the only viable proposals to solve the problem of funding have come from the government. Anti-fees activists propose solutions that exclude any form of private involvement in third level education yet put forward models of public ownership that have failed and are currently unsustainable. It is this intransigence and myopia that will damage the future of Irish education and not any supposed neo-liberal government plot.

Orientation Guides

Required for
Orientation Week
(20th -24th Sept)

€200
Payment

'Application Forms'

available by logging on to

www.ul.ie/studentaffairs/orientation/

All queries to be forwarded to: elaine.kiely@ul.ie

Pop Goes the Century

Icons of Pop Culture from the 20th Century

Ayrton Senna

"If I'm going to live, I want to live fully and very intensely, because I'm an intense person. It would ruin my life if I had to live partially. So my fear is that I might get badly hurt. I wouldn't want to be in a wheelchair. I wouldn't like to be in a hospital suffering from whatever injury it was. If I ever happen to have an accident that costs my life, I hope it happens in one instant"

These are the chillingly prophetic words of Ayrton Senna, uttered just months before the sport he loved so dearly robbed him of his life. A devilishly handsome, charismatic, eloquent and proud Brazilian, Senna was sometimes misunderstood by the general public. Possessing raw natural talent, awesome speed and lightning reflexes he was a god behind the wheel, and when he stepped into a car normal rules of reality were suspended and the impossible could happen. But his ability was paralleled with unwavering motivation that manifested itself in ruthless and



aggressive driving. A complex, remote and deeply religious character, he often came across as cold, manipulative and arrogant. Nevertheless, his performances on track endeared him to fans across the globe as he enriched their lives with flashes of genius. The history of Formula One is marked with many bloodstains and teardrops, but on 1 May 1994, the heart of the sport itself was broken.

Ayrton Senna da Silva was born in Sao Paulo on March 21 1960. His father owned a metal works that specialized in manufacturing car components and, noticing his son's fascination with automobiles, he presented Ayrton with a 1-hp kart when he was four. Once thirteen he began racing officially, cutting his teeth in the South American Kart Championships and the World Kart Championships before graduating to Formula Ford 1600 in England. This



facilitated a move to British Formula three where he beat the great British hope, Martin Brundle, to the title. Further success in the Macau Grand Prix ensured attention from the world of F1. He tested for Williams and McLaren before eventually signing to race for Toleman in 1984.

He made his Formula One debut in front of his home crowd but his talent was crippled by an inferior car. At Imola he suffered the indignation of failing to qualify...an experience not previously encountered. At Monaco, however - a track that holds a special place in the Senna legend - the rookie began to sparkle...in the rain, Ayrton was supreme. Despite qualifying thirteenth, he had carved his way up to second by lap twenty. From there he mutilated Prost's 33.8 second lead so that when the race was stopped on lap thirty-one, he was only 7.4 seconds behind.

He reneged on his three-year contract with Toleman to join Lotus for 1985. Once a bastion of power in Formula One, Lotus were on an irreversible downward spiral. Although Ayrton blitzed the track in treacherous weather to secure his first win at Estoril and grabbed another victory in Belgium, he followed Honda to McLaren for 1988.

The McLaren years were the most successful of Ayrton's career...thirty-seven victories, three World Championships, and forty-six of his record breaking sixty-five pole positions. His time there also fostered one of Formula One's legendary rivalries - Senna V Prost. Ayrton asserted himself by immediately upsetting the status quo and racking up six straight pole positions in a team that was centred on multiple Championship winning Prost. His focus in the car was riveting, chilling and unsurpassed and his racing personality betrayed an impenetrable desire to win at all costs; something his team-mate discovered when he was almost forced into the wall at Estoril at over 180mph. The McLarens were utterly dominant that season, claiming victory in fifteen of the sixteen races and Senna tasted the

sweet nectar of Championship glory as he acquired his first title. The 1989 campaign boiled down to the last race - Prost, refusing to buckle to a Senna overtaking manoeuvre, took both cars out thereby securing the title for himself. Ayrton was infuriated and returned the favour the following year by ruthlessly ramming Prost's Ferrari out of the final race to reclaim his throne. Ayrton added a third title to his tally in 1991 - along with a rejoiced home victory at Interlagos - but there was little incentive to remain at McLaren by the end of 1993. That year however, witnessed possibly his finest victory at the European Grand Prix at Donington Park. Though he remained unchallenged in wet weather, on the rain-lashed circuit he obliterated his opponents as he lapped the entire field in an inferior car and perilous conditions.

In 1994 he joined Williams-Renault. Despite racking up two more pole positions in the opening events, he failed to finish a race and a young upstart by the name of Michael Schumacher had taken both victories. By round three, the San Marino Grand Prix, he was determined to right this wrong but on Friday his Brazilian protégé, Rubens Barrichello, suffered a horrendously violent crash that could easily of taken his life but miraculously escaped with minor injuries. Senna was deeply shaken by the incident but decided to carry on. During Saturday afternoon, prior damage sustained to the front wing saw the Simtek of Roland Ratzenberger leave the track on the Villeneuve kink at almost 200 mph. He hit a concrete wall and was killed instantly. This, the first death to occur in F1 in twelve years, reminded the drivers how quickly their light could be extinguished. Some found it difficult to cope with, Senna in particular. On the telephone that night he told his girlfriend that he did not want to race the next day - for the first time in his life his resolve faltered and he felt the burden of his own mortality. But come Sunday Senna did the only thing his personality would allow him to do - he strapped himself

into his Williams and preened himself for battle. As he had done so often before, he started the race from pole and, after a long period behind the safety car, prepared to restart the race on lap seven. But as his Williams exited the Tamburello corner at approximately 190 mph, the car left the track and slammed into a concrete wall. The impact itself was substantial yet survivable but in an unfortunate twist of fate, a suspension arm had broken free and pierced his helmet with fatal results.

The true cause of the crash has never been established but there are two popular theories - one that the steering column Ayrton had had altered for comfort, broke during the race; and another that argues that low tires pressure due to a prolonged period behind the safety car caused the crash. Members of the Williams team were brought to court on manslaughter charges without conviction, although the case is due to be reopened again once more.

Brazil wept openly for its stolen son. His body was welcomed home amid a flood of emotion and his funeral was one that few heads of state would receive. Senna had inspired his country and given them hope. In life he had privately donated millions to charities and in death he left his people one final gift. He believed that "the wealthy can no longer live on an island surrounded by a sea of poverty" and before his death he had spoken to his sister about establishing an organisation to try and help the unfortunate. Although he never saw his idea in bloom, today the Ayrton Senna Foundation is working on the streets of Brazil to provide healthcare, education and nutrition for Brazilian children.

Few drivers could match Ayrton's knowledge of the inner-workings of his car and fewer still could cope with him when he was at one with his machinery. When on song he reached a plateau few could dream of. Although his tactics sometimes bordered on reckless, his driving was pure poetry in motion and his indomitable will to win at all costs always ensured that he gave it his best. He never cruised, never backed off, never accepted anything less than the victory. Behind the wheel he had seemed immortal, the one person that it simply could not happen to. This made his death so much harder to endure.



On behalf of UL History Society
Emma Stafford

Music View

You're a Star Tour - Review

UCH - Thursday April 22nd

Oh dear God, what have I left myself in for, I think aloud as I glance around at the hoards of excited kids, parents and grandparents who take their seats in the UCH, anticipating the finalists of You're a Star to make an appearance at the matinee show which took place on Thursday. I look at my friend who graciously accepted the ticket that I offered her, in return for a good laugh at any cost. Right now she looks about as excited as any kid, oh help, and I volunteered to do this why?

Next thing I know the lights are dimmed and the signature music of You're a Star is played. That's it, there is no escaping now so I slouch back in my seat, take a deep breath and remind myself to be open minded.

Our presenter for the evening was none other than Bryan Ormond; previous you're A Star finalist amongst other things! Bryan opened the show with an enthusiastic version of Summer Of 69, backed by musical director, Ronan Johnston, a bass player, a guitarist and a drummer. Bryan looked entirely at home on stage, but then again, I guess he would want to be at this stage...er... how many of these talent shows have you tried out for now Bryan?

Final Four were the first of the performers of the evening presenting us with a well-rehearsed and pleasant rendition of Crazy Love. The Limerick man, Martin Cosgrave got a good cheer from the home crowd, who certainly seemed to be well impressed with the lads, especially the young girl who was scooped from the audience only to be given a long lingering kiss from Lee. Also the lads wished another member of the audience Happy Birthday and proceeded to sing Happy Birthday to her (Marilyn Monroe style.) Good job guys! Next up, Mayo man, Gary O'Malley with his guitar in tow blasted out an Eagles classic, Take It Easy. I suppose vocally one could argue that he is quite good, in that he has a voice, but dear Christ lose the accent man and maybe in your next life you could learn to talk before trying a hand at singing. His inability to speak properly was especially evident with his later tribute to Bono and the lads - With or Without You. Or in Gary O'Malleys world Wid or Widoud you. Someone was obviously missing the day his speech and drama teacher focused in on the "Th" sound. For me, this inability to pronounce his sounds just ruined everything and is absolutely unforgivable.

From Gary to George Murphy, who lets face it probably was the best act of the night, which was down to his classic choice of songs and his ability to perform them the way they were intended to be performed. George sang Working Class Hero and Raglan Road the way they were meant to be sung, classically and passively, brimming with emotion and passion. After all this is why people write songs in order to communicate with a listener's mind and to stir their emotions. Class act Georgie!!!

An uncomfortable hush pervaded us when Bryan Ormond introduced Gary



Philbin on stage. I hear you say who?? Ya, this too was the reaction of the audience as "who" was heard to be chorused throughout the concert hall. On seeing him of course, everyone recognised him, wasn't this the poor reject who got kicked off on the very first night, well he too deserves a round of applause albeit a feeble one!!

If this didn't put the poor guy off his performance, then Ronan Johnston certainly did by suggesting he sing two songs because of the fact that Jean Elliot was absent due to illness (Well thank God for small mercies but as far as being sick goes, we bet you were sick Jean, we all heard about your antics in Molly's and the Trinity Rooms Tuesday night) Gary was none too impressed by this suggestion, and by God was it evident in his performance, he failed to crack a smile throughout his first and indeed second number. He just did not want to be there. I feel your pain Gary.

Pained as I was, nothing could have prepared me for the suffering that I was about to endure, as before my very eyes I saw James Kilbane being let loose on stage. I take it back, bring back Jean, please Jean we love you, anything but this! But there was no sign of Jean returning as that exhibitionist dived head first into the Garth Brooks track, Summer which received almost immediate reactions of the grannies flashing up the front, that is grannies flashing their cameras, Christ as if I wasn't traumatised enough. (By the way cameras were forbidden in the UCH, and they say it's the youth of society who go out of their way to disobey the laws of the land!!!)



I looked around me flabbergasted by the overwhelmingly positive reaction that he was getting from old and young fans alike, people were practically dancing on the chairs, people what can you possibly see in this man. He was nothing short of a disgrace, you'd swear he was headlining Slane by the way he was strutting his stuff about the stage...yuck...yuck...yuck! Personally I feel that watching him should carry a viewers warning, "Viewers are advised that there are certain scenes they may find disturbing" or alternatively a government

warning "Danger! James Kilbane can seriously damage your health".

Next up was Ennis girl Ruth Cullen, who quite frankly sung a sweet and uninteresting version of Fields Of Gold, Bravo Ruth, can you sing any other song?

Cork girl Laura Brophy, who by the way was sporting a new fringe, followed Ruth. However her voice on the night completely overshadowed her appearance, as the audience were entranced by her powerful performance of Eva Cassidy's Songbird. Later on she gave James Kilbane a run for his money, as she strutted her stuff to the tune of Country Roads, nearly dislocating her hips in the process, I'd imagine if the swinging of them was anything to go by. I would nearly go as far as saying that she was actually really good if it wasn't for her introduction of the next act, you just had to go and spoil it Laura didn't you? Ya you guessed it he's back to torture me, that lean mean singing, dancing machine, with his version of King of the Road. Jesus, I wish someone would get this man on the road, preferably the road out of here fairly lively. Is it any wonder that he lives on the remote Achill Island, if this is how he behaves when he is in public? I mean, even the kids loved him, it wasn't just the grannies up the front, you hear that parents, lock up your children and don't even attempt to set foot on the island without confirmation that he isn't there, whatever he has may be infectious!

Bryan was back on stage, blasting out his renowned rendition of Mandy, (well we were just waiting for it really.) before performing a duet with Chris Doran. Amazed by Lonestar was their chosen song but wait for it, it gets better, "Every little thing that you do Bryan/Chris is amazed by you." Oh give me a break is this thing nearly over yet! Chris also sang the dance by Garth Brooks, (jeez this is turning into a bit of a Garth Brooks tribute band here.) and of course his Eurovision song, which personally I feel doesn't even deserve a mention. His performance was nothing special, in fact I'd even go as far to say he looked like he was out for a stroll in the park, rather than singing to a packed concert hall. There is just something enormously wrong with the way he conveys himself to the audience. He comes across as totally uninterested. Now I know people are screaming at me as they read this, that's just his style of singing. I beg to disagree, I just don't see what all the fuss is about!

So there you have it, Final Four, Chris Doran, Laura Brophy, James Kilbane, George Murphy, Gary O'Malley and the two who lets face added nothing at all to the show and really should have just stayed at home, Gary Philbin and sweet little Ruth Cullen. Now it wouldn't be a You're A Star show without a group song now would it? Appropriately enough, the title song was Don't Dream It's Over, a Crowded House number. Oh please let it be over. Colours dissolved. Blackness. Nothingness. Thank you Lord for easing my pain! **EO'K**

Out On A Limb Out On A Tour

Out On A Limb Records have a treat in store for music fans interested in the music of the South/West area of Ireland. All four of the bands in their stable are coming together for a tour of Dublin, Cork and Limerick. The Amazing Limerick crazy-rock duo of Giveamanakick, Cork's smooth-and-sweet trio Waiting Room, Pausecore soon-to-be-legends Rest and Kerry Wunderkinder Ten Past Seven will be playing in a venue near you during Week 13. Very near in fact... all for four bands will grace the Scholars Function Room on Thursday, May 13th.

Dates confirmed so far are:

Wed, 12th May - Whelans, Dublin.

Admission - €6/€8 Doors 8.30pm

Thurs 13th May - An Phluais,

Scholars., Admission - €5 Starts 9.30pm

Friday 14th May - High Stool,

Limerick. Admission - €5 Starts 9.30pm

Thursday 20th May - Lobby, Cork.

Admission - €8 Doors 9pm

But who are On A Limb Records anyway?



Out On A Limb Records was set up in Limerick city, Ireland, in the summer of 2003 by two individuals, Albert and Richard, with the primary objective being to unleash "Is it ok to be loud, Jesus?", the debut album from local band GIVEAMANAKICK. The year was topped off with the joyous release of the GIVEAMANAKICK/REST split Christmas single.

Since that particular release, the label has doubled in size with the addition of two more people, Ciarán and Dave, who were as equally enthused about the bands on the label's roster. Not only does the label have something of a base in Limerick, it also has representation in Cork city.

Some other Out On A Limb news: **giveamanakick** play their first Dolan's Warehouse headliner on Friday May 7th. Special guests on the night are The Dudley Corporation. Adm €6 . Doors 9.30 Price includes admission to late club with dj tom fitz (termites).

Waiting Room have just been confirmed for this year's Oxegen Festival. We don't know what day but it'll be around 3.30/4ish on the Phantom Stage/Tent. Waiting Room were also declared the victors of Today FM's 'Operation Green Day' a text poll which was held in conjunction with Hot Press on St Patrick's Day. They beat out Snow Patrol and the Chalets to win.

Website:

www.outonalimbrecords.com

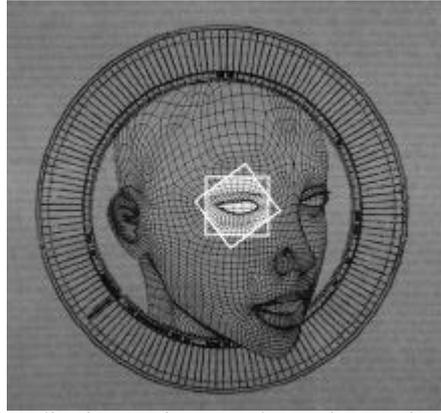
Music View

Burning in Water, Drowning in Flame Rest Album Launch May 6th, High Stool, Limerick

Cork band Rest are men of few words. They have been playing to hugely appreciative audiences in Cork, Limerick and around the country for a while now. Rest are Johnny (drums) Steve (guitar) Graham (guitar) and Mark (bass) and are sort of instrumental, sort of, heavy, sort of quiet and they've wormed their way into becoming one of my favourite bands. They've also been promising to release an album for at least the past seven months. Soon, they said... After Christmas they said... February they said.. Early March they said... Late March/Early April, they said. So when they said Late April/Early May, we believed them about as far as we'd believe Axl Rose.

And then along came Burning in Water, Drowning in Flame, and worth the wait it was too!

The opening track, 'contraceptives', starts out sweetly, and builds to a delicately pummeling finale, with forceful guitar sounds blended with



meditative strings and soaring guitar melodies.

Track two, 'our friends know nothing about density', was released as part of the Rest/Giveamanackick christmas single and layers electronic stylings over melodically interwoven guitar action, building once again to a climax... those rest boys like to climax!

Tracks three and four, 'to learn' and 'mother' have been around for a while at this stage, but subtle re-workings and the addition of strings and the calmly

ethereal vocals of Annette Buckley on 'to learn' serve to freshen the palate and contrast nicely with the quietsweet/crashyloud dynamics of the guitars and drums. 'mother' is an onslaught of controlled frenzy almost all the way through, with one brief dip into quiet melody.

Tracks five and six are the title tracks of the album and 'burning in water' is a beautiful arrangement that swells to a string-imbued close and meets 'drowning in flame', a far more agitated affair instrumentally, with the collectedly soaring vocalist once again contrasting with the peaks and troughs of the beats and movement of the band. The last minute of the track is a surprising segue into pounding riffage.

'beauty' is a track of many changes, pauses, and surprises and 'rest go pop' does exactly what it says on the tin and very well too. the last track on the album 'is our blood not enough?' starts off sparse and sumptuous, with e-bowed

guitar, chilled drums and and laid-back vocals that are clear, yet smoky, and on its winding, ten-minute journey traverses many moods towards the most abrupt end I've ever encountered.

Comparisons don't do this album justice, it stands very well alone as a varied, contrasting and confident effort and it's well worth at least three or four listens!

To demonstrate their utter lack of anything approaching verbosity, Johnny spoke to me briefly about how he felt about the album launch, the rest of the band, the development of their sound and out on a limb records.

His answers, in so many words were "Very excited. Love them loads. The sound is much more evolved. And I suppose Out on a Limb went out on a limb to release our album"

Is binn béal in a thost, I suppose.

Rest are in the High Stool to launch Burning in Water, Drowning in Flame on Thursday May 6th. They're looking forward to it, and so should you! **SR**

Alphastates Highstool - April 22nd

Alphastates supported by the Supermodel Twins, The Highstool, Thursday April 22nd.

This is a night to rival any other in the musical abyss that is Limerick. The lingering scent of tobacco gives way to the blood; sweat and tears of the musical entrepreneurs on show tonight. It's here that I finally witness, what it is that has made the Supermodel Twins, (formally The Riffs) as of late, such an exciting musical phenomenon. From the moment Thom O' Keefe-vox/guitar, steps up onto the stage, the excitement level begins to build until it reaches an eventual paramount level in the backbar. Launching into a series of now familiar songs the three-piece turn their sound in a unique, varied and often inspiring way, which causes the crowd to leap headfirst into a tangle of musical mayhem, showing their reluctance to settle for anything less than perfection. I'm not saying this for the sake of it. I do believe the Supermodel Twins have a bright future ahead of them but music is only as important as it is pleasing for those who care enough to seek it out and are willing to allow for its expression. Signed to Irish Indy label, Wet-Clay Records, the Twins have enough support and gigging experience to push their promotional efforts as far as they have their musical capabilities. If you can you should check out the UL-based band whose material was recorded with Mark O Connor in the Balls Of Iron Studios. As the Supermodel Twins leave the stage, we're still reeling in shock from the astounding track, 'Exception.'

The headliners tonight come up and take to the crowd. The Alphastates are a Dublin based four-piece band, which since forming in April 2001 have caught both the ear and the imagination of the Irish public. With a sound so chilled, so melancholy, moving intricately and subtly in and out of calming silence, the

intimate sound of the Alphastates is one to relax even the uneasiness of souls. Wielding their complete modesty to a level unknown to humanity, the Alphastates step up on stage and through their pulsating rhythms and catchy intermingling guitar work, endear us to their hearts. They possess a quality missing in recent years they have passion. It is caring, honest, inspired and hopeful music, which came about through the incessant work of skilled capable musicians, who travelled to France in order to record second EP, 'Conversations,' simply because it seemed like a good idea. Watching the Alphastates reeling off track after track in perfect musical ability, I see the culmination of a group of caring musicians who honed their sound through playing witness twice, The Olympia with Sinead O' Connor and Kila, The Ambassador with Throwing Muses and everywhere they could possibly reach since then within Ireland. Catching up with Jerry (Guitarist) and Catherine (Vocals) of the Alphastates in the Stool the night before they travel to gig in Paris, I asked a couple of strange questions.

"What do you personally think of your own band, are you metal or alternative or...?"

Jerry, "We're not metal really, I don't know, alternative is a kind of catchphrase that takes in a lot of different styles of music, anything that's not necessarily commercial."

"Your main influences, your main inspirations, where did they come from?"

Jerry, "They're from all over."

It's at this point that the soft-voiced front woman, Catherine, makes her presence felt, coming out of nowhere to take a seat.

"When I heard you play, I thought 60's Jefferson Airplane, Woodstock, love, calm and peace. How do you maintain

that sort of perspective in this whole world?"

Catherine, "Basically, I suppose our music is just kind of chilled out and well I never saw the Woodstock movie."

"Do you think you have a unique voice?" Catherine, "Basically, people say that I have this unique voice all the time, like everywhere and it kind of surprises me because personally I see nothing original, I just sing the way I sing, so I don't know what this original buzz is."

"How many gigs have you been to, how musical do you think you are?"

Catherine, "I feel very musical, I live on music."

"What are the gigs you love the most?" Catherine; "The gigs that blow my mind are like where a band says nothing or does nothing, there's not that many gigs you go to that blows your head away."

Jerry. "If you go to a lot of gigs you find that you standards are raised about what really blows your mind."

"Are you people who believe in the idea that music isn't degrading but is becoming disorientated, that music which exists isn't being sought out, like African drum beats of jazz singers in Cuba?"

Catherine; "An interview that blew my mind was Patti Smith in the Ticket, when she was saying back in her day people kind of believed in music and that today it's all about haircuts and the clothes you wear, so it's all career driven and when you go to a gig, that's essentially what it's about."

"When you write songs, do you write about hope or joy or love, do songs come to you when you're around other people or alone?"

Catherine, "I always write songs when I'm really sad, it's true that any song I've ever written has been really, really like really sad. You feel vulnerable, but because you're sad, you mightn't write about that fact but about some



experience you've already had, I think vulnerability sparks creativity."

"How often does it happen?"

Catherine, "Lately not very often, I've been so busy lately."

"The busier you get, the harder it is to write songs, is this true?"

Catherine, "To be honest, the last song I wrote was about a month ago because I've been so busy, but I feel as if there's a stockpile of songs just screaming to get out, but I haven't literally had a second. You always get them out when you have that little bit of space."

"You're dedicated to music."

Catherine, "Listen, music is the only thing I know."

"To get to the music you need, do you need the music industry?"

Catherine, "I hate the music industry, it's so horrible."

Jerry, "We're not signed to anyone, we just set up our own label."

There you have it, a band increasingly under strain yet coping quite ably, managing to stay true to themselves and their music, while always growing in popularity. The Alphastates debut album, 'Made From Sand,' is available in all good record shops. They return to the Highstool on May 15th, which is without a doubt a gig to go to. For more info on the astoundingly, astonishingly, sincere band visit; www.alphastates.com **DO'G**

Music View

A snapshot of Lucas:

**Playing the Scholars Bar,
Tuesday May 4th
The Highstool
Friday May 21st**

"Lucas' songs are melodic & meandering with enough unexpected twists to maintain interest, and an ultra confident singer boasting a voice like Vedder's, but with the high notes" Fiona Reid, Hotpress "Lucas' sound falls somewhere between the lighter moments of Pearl Jam and the sweet, melodic, heavenly gospel of Jeff Buckley" Kevin McGuire, Galway Advertiser.

Galway based band Lucas are Alan Gray (vocals/guitar); Anthony Higgins (lead guitar); Paddy Flynn (bass) and Ray Butler (drums). Formed in 2000 in Dublin they began to cause a bit of a stir by winning the Hotpress Ignition Unsigned Competition shortly after. They decided to move to Galway in the summer of 2002 and immediately Lucas started to impress the natives. Their 'Little Devil' single began to sell well in the local independent record stores and they ended 2002 playing a series of gigs around the tribal city including the legendary Roisin Dubh.

Things really began to happen for them in 2003 when they travelled to



The guys from Lucas at the Spanish Arch in Galway

New York and it was not long after they were off the plane that they began to play the legendary venues 'Sin-E' (a key venue in the early career of a young singer called Jeff Buckley), 'Arlene's Grocery' and 'The Bitter End' amongst others. Around the same time playwright Jessamyn Fiore was putting together "The mysterious world of birds" featuring Lisa Hannigan (from Damien Rice's group) and Lucas were recruited to provide the soundtrack. Fiore approached Rob Fraboni to produce the soundtrack

with Lisa Hannigan on backing vocals. Fraboni, in the past, engineered recordings by Bob Dylan and John Lennon. He was chief engineer on The Band's 'Last Waltz' album and he had produced albums by Keith Richards, Eric Clapton and Joe Cocker. Rob Fraboni was so impressed with the music by Lucas that he asked to record an album with them later that summer of 2003 - from which the first single 'Snapshot' will be released on May 20th 2004.

The play received rave reviews in

Galway and in Dublin during the ESB

Fringe Festival scoring 4 stars in the Irish Times. Soon after Lucas were asked to be the resident band at Roisin Dubh, their monthly Thursday and Saturday night slots have become the stuff of legend.

The buzz around the band has taken on a similar vein to that of The Stunning in the early 90s (former Stunning leaders Joe and Steve Wall are huge fans of Lucas). Their support in Galway has almost reached fever pitch.

Most recently they have played support to such luminaries as Spiritualized, Damien Rice (at Vicar Street), The Frames, David Kitt and The Walls. They have also been added to the bill of this summer's Oxegen line-up alongside David Bowie, The Darkness and others. They play various venues in Limerick City in the coming weeks. On May 4th they play Scholars Bar and on May 21st they play The High Stool. Their debut single from their new (Rob Fraboni produced) album is due for release on May 20th. For more info log on to: www.lucasade.com



Well done to all of the finalists
in the Coyote Ugly Competition

Anna Clasper	Alison Sheahan
Serenity Maxwell	Anne Marie Keane
Pamela Gavin	Carol O'Sullivan
Jane Loughnane	Marita Brosnan
Suzy O'Neill	Jennifer Hennessy
Hazel O'Brien	Maeve O'Dwyer

And to the Winners

1st. Jane Loughnane
2nd. Anna Clasper
3rd. Maeve O' Dwyer
4th. Pamela Gavin

Don't forget, an phluais is available
for post-exam parties



The Management
and Staff
of The Scholars Club
would like to wish
all of their members
the very best of Luck
in the exams.

Don't forget, an phluais is available
for post-exam parties

View

Camille O'Sullivan

Back at the Belltable!!

One Night Only - Saturday 8th May

Her last Belltable appearance was a sell-out, so the talented and beautiful Camille O'Sullivan returns to Belltable on Saturday May 8th to celebrate the music of Jacques Brel with her latest show "The Right to Dream".



The critics have hailed Camille as: "Most impressive...This is an outstanding new talent" The Sunday Tribune; "Sensational, each note invested with ferocious spirit and empathy...Sexy and provocative, O'Sullivan is possessed of an exceptional voice, perfectly suited to Brel's songs." The Irish Times

Recently Camille has appeared as guest with Damien Rice, Jack L, Jerry Fish, Shane McGowan and has also released her debut Album 'A Little Yearning'. With her French parentage and a love of storytelling she performs in German, French and English.

Born in London of a French mother and Irish father, Camille moved to Cork when she was a child. She spent a year studying Painting than moved onto UCD, where she graduated as an Architect. She won the prestigious Architectural Association of Ireland Award in 2000 and has also exhibited in the Royal Hibernian Academy as a painter.

It is as a singer she is most fulfilled. Well known for her passionate and dramatic interpretations of the songs of Jacques Brel, Kurt Weill, Nick Cave, Hans Eisler,

Bowie, Tom Waits. With a love of storytelling she performs in English, French and German mixing lost songs of old with the contemporary.

A decade before Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan, Jacques Brel was a poet, singer and composer of extraordinary passion and emotional power. He became the leading Chansonnier, singer and songwriter of the French stage with his extraordinary stage presence and profound powerful songs. Each song is an entity in itself with its own character linked by Brel's comic and tragic view of life

Camille O'Sullivan performs the songs of Jacques Brel in "The Right to Dream" on Saturday 8th May at 8.00pm at Belltable. Tickets: €20 & €18 concession. Booking from Belltable Box Office at 061 319 866

Shirley Valentine

Belltable May 4th & 5th @ 8pm

Tickets: €20 / €18
Booking: 061 319 866



Meet Shirley, a 45 year-old housewife. Trapped in a humdrum reality she wonders when she lost her hopeful, youthful self. Isolated and lonely she has resorted to full blown (although somewhat one-sided) conversations with her kitchen wall.

There is no support from her demanding husband, her snooty neighbour, or self-absorbed grown children. So when a friend wins a two week vacation to Greece in a magazine contest, and asks Shirley to accompany her, she gathers what remains of her dignity and begins a humorous and uplifting voyage of rediscovery as Shirley begins to see the world - and herself - in a different light. The much-loved Shirley is played by one

of Ireland's leading actresses Mary McEvoy. Best known for the starring role as Bidy in RTE's long running series Glenroe, she received a Jacobs Award for best newcomer at the start of her career with the broadcaster. Other television work includes How To Cheat In The Leaving Cert, The Pear Bottle and Moll Flanders.

Mary has worked extensively in all the major theatres in Ireland, including the Gate's award winning production of Semi-Private with the late Siobhan McKenna and director Gerry Hayes. Other performances include Antigone (Druid), The Hostage (Tivoli), Charlie's Aunt (Gaiety), Factory Girls (directed by Derek Chapman in the Tivoli) and The Dining Room (Salem Willows Theatre Company). She has recently appeared as Mrs Frost in the Dublin Theatre Company's production of The Ginger Man, in The Vagina Monologues at the SFX City Theatre, the nationwide tour of John B. Keane's The Field and Fred & Jane, a new play by Sebastian Barry.

MICHAEL SCOTT who directs the show received his theatre training in Europe and has been Theatre Director of the Project Arts Centre, Programme Director of the Dublin Theatre Festival and Director of the Tivoli Theatre Dublin and the RHA Downstairs. Currently he is Artistic Director of the SFX City Theatre Dublin. His Productions have been seen in Ireland, England, Germany, USA, Iceland, Wales, Scotland and France.

Upcomings

What's going on, down, in and up

TUESDAY 4TH

Dolan's Upstairs Louis Stewart *arguably Irelands finest jazz musician, his appearance here will mark the first of what will hopefully be a long series of top-notch jazz gigs in association with the Limerick Jazz Society*
Belltable - Shirley Valentine See Preview

Company

SATURDAY 15TH

Dolan's - Frankie Gavin with guests *Frankie has been playing Irish traditional music since the age of four when he started on the tin whistle. At the age of seven he made his debut television appearance on Irish TV and had appeared on American television by the age of nine. He is now considered to be one of the masters of Irish Traditional fiddle playing worldwide*
Belltable - Shakers La Cosa Nostra Theatre Company
UCH - Brian Kennedy

WEDNESDAY 5TH

Belltable - Shirley Valentine See Preview

THURSDAY 6TH

Hightstool - Rest *Album Launch with support from Windings and Mr Cresosote*
UCH - RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra
Belltable - Many Young Men of Twenty *St. Patrick's Players, Cloverfield, will present the musical drama "Many Young Men of Twenty" by J.B. Keane for their 50th Anniversary this year. This play deals with emigration and the lack of opportunity in Ireland. This rural drama group has consistently presented productions of a very high standard.*

FRIDAY 7TH

Dolan's Warehouse - giveamanakick & The Dudley Corporation *Listening to giveamanakick's debut album is something akin to being battered round the head with a plank of wood for half an hour. It is tough, bloody fantastic - Hot Press followed by late night club w dj Tom (termights)*
Dolan's Upstairs - Gráda (upstairs) *they are touring their new CD 'The Landing Step', produced by Trevor Hutchinson (Waterboys) on the Compass (Nashville) label"Gráda combines both globe trotted experience and musical accomplishment. Multicultural backgrounds help bring a fresh approach to playing and present a unique slant on traditional music" Irish Music Magazine*
Belltable - Many Young Men of Twenty See Thursday 6th for details

SATURDAY 8TH

Dolan's Warehouse - Micky Harte as well as being 'a star', Mickey has been named an Irish Person of the Year, winning for the month of March
Belltable - Camille O'Sullivan See Preview

SUNDAY 9TH

HighStool - AMC Presents **Macrocsmica** (Featuring Brendan O Haire of Teenage Fanclub, Mogwai) & G.O.L.F

WEDNESDAY 12TH

Dolan's - Freddie White *"Freddie White has gathered around him as seriously good a selection of songs as he's ever been privy to, and that's saying something for a man who's kept company with the greats..." Hot Press*
UCH - Mamma Mia - The Concert

THURSDAY 13TH

Scholar's Bar - Outonalimb Records go OutonaTour! With Giveamanakick, Rest, Waiting Room, Ten Past Seven
Dolan's Upstairs - DOT COMedy Club Jason Byrne & Michael Mee
Dolan's - Sandra Joyce *singer & bodhrán player currently persuing her PhD at the University of Limerick under the joint supervision of Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, University of Limerick and Dr. Paul Everett, University College, Cork*
Belltable - Shakers La Cosa Nostra Theatre Company

FRIDAY 14TH

The Highstool, - Outonalimb Records go OutonaTour! With Giveamanakick, Rest, Waiting Room, Ten Past Seven
Dolan's Upstairs - Juin McKillop and John Cunningham
Belltable - Shakers La Cosa Nostra Theatre

SATURDAY 22ND

Dolan's - Josh Ritter *"...Mr Ritter's kindly intelligence shines" New York Times"Crafted with the sort of simple, burnished depth that transcends eras and turns 26-year-old tunesmiths into folk heroes...there's not a weak link in this collection" Boston Globe*

WEDNESDAY 26TH

Dolan's Upstairs - Gerry Harrington

THURSDAY 27TH

Dolan's Upstairs - Hamell On Trial *Badass singer/songwriter, joke-telling HAMELL ON TRIAL defies all musical categories. "Punk acoustic" and "anti-folk" come close. Warbling, super-sensitive folk singer he definitely is not. If you're looking for cum-bye-yah by some soft-strumming, tearful folkie, HAMELL ON TRIAL is going to offend you. Dont say we didnt warn you!*
Dolan's - The Walls *just in case there's anyone who doesnt know who they are (impossible), they are a four piece country funk rock blues ensemble. Their musical range is a result of lifetime spent listening to and making music. Their last single, 'To The Bright And Shining Sun' was a top ten hit here and was the most played Irish song on radio last summer.*

FRIDAY 28TH

Dolan's Upstairs - Clive Carroll *"Probably the best and most original young guitar player in Britain" Acoustic Guitar magazine*
Dolan's - Mundy *none of your moody self indulgent navel-gazing stuff here, Mundy is a dynamic singer-songwriter who stands out from the rest*
The Highstool - AMC Presents **Firebird** (Featuring Ex - Napalm Death, Carcass, Cathedral) + Guests
UCH - Jon Kenny

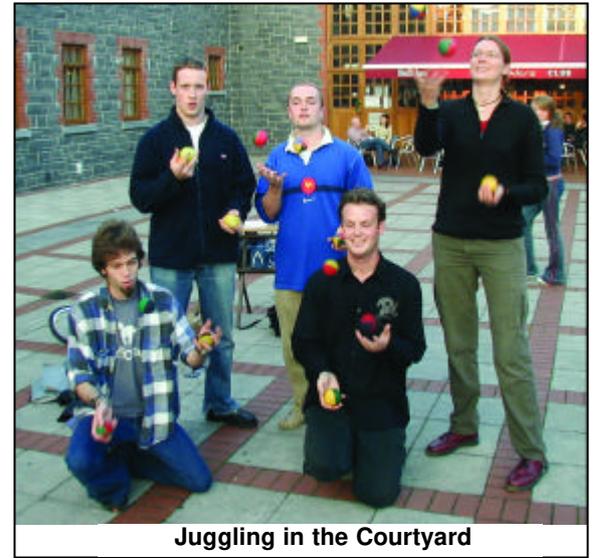
SATURDAY 29TH

Dolan's Upstairs - Complete Stone Roses tribute band

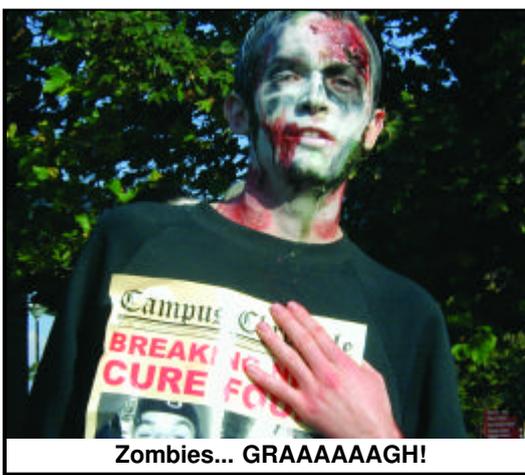
Photo View



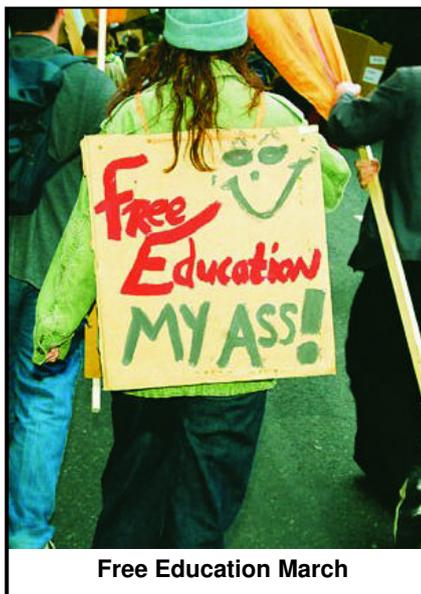
The Freshers Ball - Quality Entertainment!



Juggling in the Courtyard



Zombies... GRAAAAAAGH!



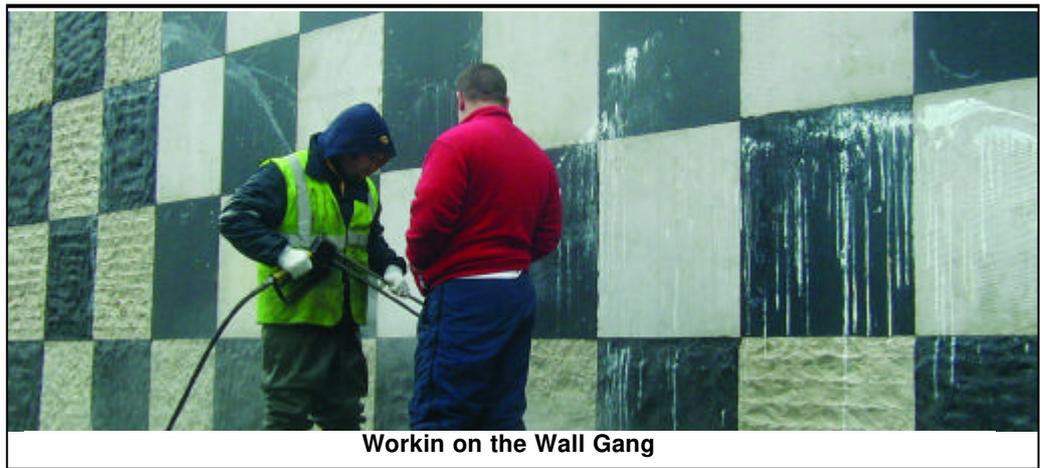
Free Education March



Greek Week - It ain't easy being green... or blue for that matter!



Star of the Hallowe'en Ball



Workin on the Wall Gang



Normal? Yes!

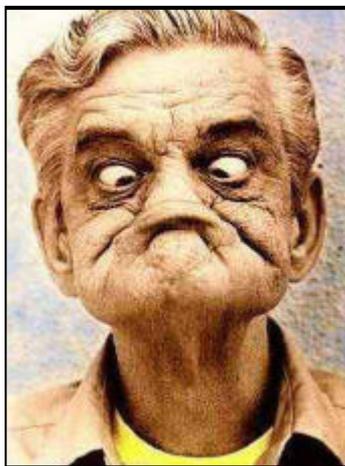


Photo View



Spanish Vigil



Bless, they're so "cool"!



rachel and shane in the courtyard



Scary QueerBashing Types

This has been a quick look back at some of the "moments" and "not so moments" throughout the year! Thanks to everyone who submitted photos over the course of the year!



The Stables Club

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

www.stablesclub.com



YOUR WEEK 12 ENTERTAINMENT

- Mon** Music Society
'Open Mic' & Dutch Band
- Tues** Karaoke Night - Last Night **Don't Miss Qualifying**
Fleece First Prize and a shot at the Grand Final with a €300 Prize!
- Wed** USA Day
Be sure to sample from our USA Day food menu & evening entertainment
- Thu** Noel McLoughlin
- Fri** Live DJ Party Night
- Wend** Open Sat & Sun Pool Table, food & matches

YOUR WEEK 13 ENTERTAINMENT

- Mon** Music Society
'Open Mic'
- Tues** **KARAOKE FINAL!!**
Fleece First Prize and a shot at the Grand Final with a €300 Prize!
- Wed** BAND: Entrigue
- Thu** Live DJ
- Fri** Overseas Society
Farewell Party Night
- Wend** Open Sat & Sun Pool Table, food & matches

The Stables Club, Stables Courtyard, University of Limerick
t: 061 330139 f: 061 330176 e: info@stablesclub.com



Avoid all the hustle & bustle that comes with a return to University! Why not drop in to the Arena Sports Club, for a relaxing meal, or break. With state-of-the-art audio-visual entertainment facilities

Pool Table available most nights

Comprehensive food menu available daily from 9am - 7pm

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER

available, we are, without a doubt, the premier venue for matches and any other major sporting events.

Our entertainment programme has been revamped. Building on the success of our Open Mic sessions last year, we now hope to host some live entertainment in the Club.

More details next issue!

COMPETITIONS AT www.arenasportsclub.com

Week 12 Entertainment

- Monday**
Trad Session - All Welcome
- Tuesday**
The Greatest Music
- Wednesday**
Music Night
- Thursday**
Music Mix
- Friday**
Music Night
- Weekend**
Pool table available all week, and don't forget out excellent Sunday dinners!

Week 13 Entertainment

- Monday**
Trad Session - All Welcome
- Tuesday**
The Greatest Music
- Wednesday**
Music Night
- Thursday**
Music Mix
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Music Night
- Weekend**
Pool table available all week, and don't forget out excellent Sunday dinners!

Movie View

WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON !



Reminiscent of John Hughes' angst-driven, romantic, '80s teen comedies like *Sixteen Candles* and *Pretty in Pink*, Robert Luketic's *Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!* is a thoroughly delightful, albeit predictable, piece of fluff about a small-town girl who wins a date with--and the heart of--a big-screen idol.

STORY

Sweet Rosalee Futch (Kate Bosworth) is an ordinary southern girl, living in *Frazier's* Bottom, West Virginia, working at the Piggly Wiggly with her best friends Cathy (Ginnifer Goodwin) and Pete (Topher Grace), and dreaming about meeting her all-time favourite movie star, Tad Hamilton (Josh Duhamel). Not a chance in hell that'll happen, right? Wrong! She gets her wish when she enters a contest and wins the grand prize: an all-expense paid trip to Hollywood to go on a date with Tad, much to Pete's chagrin (he is, of course, hopelessly and secretly in love with Rosalee). Tad's agent, Richard "The Driven" Levy (Nathan Lane) and his manager, also named Richard "The Shameless" Levy (Sean Hayes), have masterminded the "Win a Date" contest hoping to transform Tad, a bad boy who's let fame go to his head, back into the popular boy next door. But the Richards are ill prepared for the effect the contest has on their high-profile client. Once Tad spends an evening with Rosalee, he realizes what he's missing in his life and moves to West Virginia to be near her so she can "rub some of that goodness" off on him. Rosalee's dream may come true, but it's a huge headache for the Richards and a nightmare for Pete, who'd better tell Rosalee how he feels soon or lose her forever. Think he'll win out in the end?

ACTING

The performances in *Tad Hamilton* could easily have been formulaic but, fortunately, the engaging cast has enough verve and spontaneity to make you care about their characters. Bosworth (*Blue Crush*) has the hardest job--to keep Rosalee's sugary-sweetness from becoming too nauseating and to prove she isn't just another pretty-but-dumb hick chick. The fetching Duhamel (TV's *Las Vegas*) plays the two sides to Tad perfectly--the charismatic cad who gets everything he wants and the vulnerable guy who's never really learned how to cope with being in love. Then there's Grace as the adorable Pete--the real boy-next-door with his puppy-dog face and great quips. It's a persona the actor has mastered on his hit TV

series *That '70s Show*, and it's easy to see how Pete's endearing, if slightly neurotic, personality could win you over. As for the supporting cast, Goodwin (TV's Ed) as Cathy is a breath of fresh air, while veteran character actor Gary Cole's turn as Rosalee's father, who tries to talk showbiz lingo with Tad, is hilarious. As the Richards, Lane and Hayes are as outrageously over-the-top funny as you expect them to be.

DIRECTION

In the '80s, writer/director John Hughes was the king of the romantic teen comedies that featured a quirky love triangle between the girl, the geek and the hunk. Sure, the plot lines were generally unsurprising--and sometimes downright melodramatic--but the dialogue was zingy and the young talent sparkled. Director Robert Luketic's *Win a Date With Tad Hamilton !* takes audiences back to those glory days. Like Hughes, Luketic (*Legally Blonde*) understands the tempo a film like this requires, with quick cuts and stand-alone comic vignettes. And although *Hamilton*'s script, by television writer Victor Levin, isn't quite Hughes' calibre, there are more than a few great lines in *Hamilton* ("He wants your "goodness" to rub off on him? He wants your ass to rub off on him!"), as well as tender moments, especially when the dejected Pete asks Tad if he ever noticed Rosalee has six different smiles. A little romantic tale like *Hamilton* won't win any prizes, but it is an endearing, smile-inducing film.

BOTTOM LINE

With a posse of fresh-faced up-and-comers, *Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!* has enough appeal and good-natured wit to overcome its inherent flaws and charm the pants off any hopeless romantic.



ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND



With *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, writer Charlie Kaufman (*Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation*) has succinctly combined his innate quirkiness with his intuitive imagination to create one of the more ingenious yet simplistic love stories ever written.

STORY

The title, taken from a poem by 17th century poet Alexander Pope, may be long and involved but it accurately

paints the film's scenario: A love affair, even if it turns out to be a painful one, can never really be completely obliterated. Joel Barish (Jim Carrey), just another sad sack living in New York, is looking for love in all the wrong places, until he meets Clementine (Kate Winslet), an impulsive gal who changes her hair colour as often as her mood. The two embark on an odd and wonderful yet tumultuous love affair, which ends badly. Distraught over the break-up, Joel finds out that Clementine has "erased" her memories of him on a whim, undergoing a procedure created by one Dr. Howard Mierzwiak (Tom Wilkinson). In retaliation, Joel decides to go through the same procedure, so medical techs Mary (Kirsten Dunst), Patrick (Elijah Wood) and Stan (Mark Ruffalo) pay him a visit, proceeding to hook him up to a machine, put him under and zap his brain. Yet, while re-experiencing his memories of Clementine just before they are erased, Joel rediscovers the reasons he fell in love with Clem and realizes he wants to hold onto those memories after all. Unable to regain consciousness, he devises a way to stop the procedure within the deep recesses of his mind, playing a sort of cat-and-mouse game and "hiding" Clementine from the memory zappers.

ACTING

Both leads play against type in *Eternal Sunshine*. Typical wild and crazy guy Carrey easily pulls off quiet and introspective Joel, which shouldn't come as much surprise; he has proven (*The Truman Show*, *Man on the Moon*) he is more than capable of handling dramatic chores. On the flip side, the usually prim and proper Winslet lets loose as the eccentric and wacky Clementine, swirling around Joel like a whirling dervish, making his life both gloriously happy and hellish at the same time but connecting with him in an extraordinary way. Wilkinson, Dunst, Ruffalo and Wood add their own refreshing characteristics to the film. Ruffalo (*You Can Count on Me*), with horn-rimmed glasses and messed up hair, is the techno geek who dances around in his skivvies, while Dunst, as ditzy Mary, gets the chance to show some real comic flair for once (*Bring It On* doesn't count). Turns out Mary actually has a major crush on the good Dr. Mierzwiak, played ever so smoothly by the always good Wilkinson (*In the Bedroom*). And Wood finally gets to take off his Hobbit feet and just be regular joe Patrick, an insecure guy who is just trying to find a little love in the world.

DIRECTION

With a few films--and two Oscar nominations--under his belt, it's gotten to the point where audiences go see a "Charlie Kaufman film" because they know it will be different; they know it will test conventions and turn genres on their heads. It's the kind of name recognition usually reserved for a director and/or star, rarely a screenwriter. But the fact is Kaufman truly has a remarkable gift in taking

ordinary subject matter--in *Eternal Sunshine's* case, a simple love story--and turning it into something completely unique, occasionally weird and always fascinating. *Eternal Sunshine* shows the softer, romantic side of Kaufman's skewed psyche, and his work is definitely enhanced by director Michel Gondry. Having worked together on the blink-and-you-missed-it indie *Human Nature*, the two have turned in a nearly flawless second effort. Gondry's vision of Joel's memories matches the story's inventiveness, as Joel races around in his subconscious, grasping at straws and trying to keep Clementine in his head. In one particular moment, the beach house where Joel's last remaining memory of Clem takes places--the memory of meeting her for the first time--collapses around them as the images are slowly disappearing as the memory is being erased. It's a distinctive and heartbreaking flash of visual brilliance. Oscar should come knocking once again.

BOTTOM LINE

Eternal Spotless Sunshine...wait, Eternal Sunshine Mind That's Spotless--OK, so it's hard to remember the exact title. Nevertheless, with its thoroughly original look at love, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (yes!), will leave an indelible impression.



KILL BILL VOL. 2



With all the flashy, creative filmmaking of *Kill Bill Vol. 1* and significantly less bloodshed, *Kill Bill Vol. 2* should put Quentin Tarantino back on Hollywood's directorial A-List.

STORY

Kill Bill Vol. 2 picks up where the first instalment left off, with *The Bride* (Uma Thurman) delivering a "refresh your memory" monologue as she drives to her next victim, Budd (aka Sidewinder). These shots are cut through with flashbacks that tell the whole story of the "Massacre at Two Pines," and its instant-gratification city. First, we meet the wedding party, the reverend and his wife, and Rufus the piano player (Samuel L. Jackson in a cameo role). But most importantly, we meet the elusive Bill (David Carradine) for the first time. (He appeared in the first film only in voiceover.) You know from the start that this movie isn't going to rely on the same suspense devices the first film did, and you soon learn it doesn't rely as heavily on the blood and gore that so distinguished the first instalment. The creatively shot and intelligently

Movie View

constructed opening scenes make Tarantino's epic of evil gripping right from the start in its own right. Amazingly, considering the way she ripped her enemies apart in the first film, The Bride doesn't always get her man in this one; Budd (Michael Madsen) actually gets the best of the Bride, at least temporarily, and entombs her in "The Lonely Grave of Paula Schultz," one of the most horrifying scenes of burial alive ever. Flash back to "The Cruel Tutelage" of kung-fu master Pei Mei (Gordon Liu), who taught The Bride how to break through wood planks with her fists from three inches away (which comes in handy now) and the Five Point Palm Exploding Heart technique (which will come in handy later). Freeing herself from her makeshift grave to do battle with her victims once more, the Bride dispenses with both Budd and Elle Driver (Daryl Hannah), who's conveniently appeared on the scene, and it's on to the greatest battle of them all, it's time to Kill Bill

ACTING

Thurman proves her calm, cool, collected mettle once more as The Bride (aka Beatrix Kiddo, aka Black Mamba), plucking out eyeballs, bloodying her fists punching wood, exploding hearts, and the like. But we also see her completely vulnerable during flashbacks to the time she spent in a coma after the attack (some pretty cool stuff happens in the hospital, but no spoilers forthcoming from this reviewer). And there's a softer side to Black Mamba when she's awake, too. In another flashback, we see The Bride on her last assignment before she quit the assassination business to become a wife and mom, the stick in her EPT has just turned blue when a rival assassin comes knocking through the door, and it's a poignant moment (with a Tarantino edge) as she tries to protect her unborn child. Carradine's Bill is somehow less menacing than one might have expected, but there's enough creepiness in the character for an audience to imagine what a real hard case he must have been in his glory days. Hannah enjoys a splendid comeback role as The Bride's fellow assassin, and she's regal in her adherence to the warrior code they share. Madsen wears Sidewinder's cowboy hat and slouchy jeans like he was born to them and swills whiskey like a ranch hand, yet he still captures the wistfulness of the once-great fighter, if somewhat ironically.

DIRECTION

Fans of Tarantino's Pulp Fiction can start rejoicing. He's finally made a film that lives up to the standard he set back in 1990. All the influences on the first film are still very much in evidence here, Asian martial arts films, in particular, but each chapter in this instalment, as in the previous, has its own look, creating a mix n' match patchwork feel that somehow manages to work in spite of itself. If there's one criticism, it's that it indulges a bit in its own cleverness, and that makes it a little too long. But Vol. 2 shouldn't see the big criticisms aimed at Vol. 1's dark, gory

violence; instead, Vol. 2 finds kinship with its creator's first big hit in its story and characters. Sure, it's overblown; sure, everyone is evil on some level. That's the fun of it. And every now and then, a little compassion comes through, or a little humour, and it captures the ridiculousness of human nastiness, whether it's the petty arguments you had all day at work, or all the slaughter that's been perpetrated with a Hattori Hanzo sword.

BOTTOM LINE

One of the most entertaining movies of the year so far, Kill Bill Vol. 2 is twice as good as its predecessor and about half as violent.



SECRET WINDOW



Johnny Depp stars as a fiction writer who finds himself alone in his forest cabin with a nasty case of writers' block and an even nastier hairdo in Secret Window.

STORY

Mort Rainey (Johnny Depp) is just the kind of tortured, adlepatated writer you'd expect to find all alone in a backwoods upstate New York cabin, in his ubiquitous ratty, moth-eaten robe, hair dishevelled from the couch pillows on which he's constantly sleeping, Jack Daniels bottle lurking conveniently on the coffee table, and a blank page in his typewriter. It comes as no surprise that Mort's been unceremoniously dumped by wife Amy (Maria Bello), whom he found cheating on him in a hotel room with unctuous Ted (Timothy Hutton). Not much for Mort to do then besides rattle around his cabin, trying (sorta) to stay awake long enough to pound out a few sentences of his latest work of fiction--until, that is, a black-hatted, good ol' Southern boy calling himself John Shooter (John Turturro) shows up on the doorstep accusing Mort of plagiarizing his short story, "Secret Window," several years ago. With only a few days to prove to this Shooter that his story was his own before the guy makes good on his threats to kill everyone Mort knows, Mort finds himself with a sticky situation on his hands--literally, as pretty soon first his dog, then his neighbours, start turning up with screwdrivers sticking out of them.

ACTING

Cast any other actor as Mort, and the movie would sink faster than a truckload of bodies in a rock-quarry

Where's Ben?
Back Home Again!



Home with Friends...

'Well it's the last issue and Ben has finally been returned home to his owners in Dublin. We even left a bottle of wine for them!'



lake. As it is, this is pretty silly horror fluff that barrels headlong into camp territory--but Depp knows it the whole time, managing a self-awareness that avoids winking at the audience just enough to pull off some real tongue-in-cheek corks. As he sinks his teeth into the corny stuff ("This is not my beautiful house. This is not my beautiful wife," he muses a la the Talking Heads while lurking outside his house now inhabited by Ted and Amy), he proves yet again that he can work miracles with the kind of material he's given. It's entirely to his credit that Secret Window ends up a highly entertaining little horror movie. He's not necessarily to blame, however, for the pathetic lack of chemistry he has with cuckolding wife Amy. Not only does she dwarf him physically, but it's also next to impossible to believe they were ever into each other, despite mushy flashbacks that show them lovingly decorating the cabin or cavorting in their big house in the 'burbs. Turturro chews the scenery with gusto, Hutton makes a quick but decent turn as Mort's protective lawyer.

DIRECTION

Filmmakers seem to have a hard time successfully translating Stephen King's writing to the big screen, and have done so with wildly varying results (read: from Shawshank Redemption to Dreamcatcher). But you have to give credit to writer David Koepp (Spider-Man, Panic Room), who took on directing duties here, for winding up a

pretty tight little B-movie that ends up being entertaining, in spite of (or perhaps because of) having more ham in it than an Easter dinner. Plus your guess about the "who" in "whodunit" will no doubt be spot-on. Despite all its homespun hokum, despite the fact that the entire first third of the movie seems to be a musing on whether Mort can ever get to sleep in peace, and despite the fact that the final third of the movie is about as secret as a glass window, the black hearted, true-to-King ending still comes as something of a shocker. Kudos goes to the moody, understated score by Philip Glass (The Hours), which ramps up the suspense without overwhelming it.

BOTTOM LINE

Like a cheap Saturday night in L.A., Secret Window veers off into the absurd, but it's still low-rent, pulp-fiction fun.



About 90% of the film reviews this year have been written by Niall Murphy. For further examples of his obsession with film, visit www.scannan.com

Clubs and Societies

UL Young Fine Gael



Well here we are, the end of another extremely eventful year for the political behemoth that is UL Young Fine Gael. The last fortnight was occupied with our second table quiz of the year and the 72nd Fine Gael Ard Fheis at the Citywest Hotel in Saggart, Co. Dublin. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who came to the quiz on Wednesday of Week 10 and graced us with their presence, and all sponsorship was very much appreciated. Two days later, a sizeable crowd from UL made their way to the Ard Fheis, where the Executive Council elections held much interest for us, with Vice-Chairperson Lorraine Munnelly running in the North-West Constituency, Aileen Browne, a FG member in Limerick East and great friend of our branch, was running in the South constituency, and Gerry O'Connell, former President of Young Fine Gael, was pitting his wits against Alan Dukes, former FG leader, and Phil Hogan TD, Spokesperson on Enterprise, Trade and Employment, in the race for Vice-President of the party. We were delighted, d-d-d-delighted, deedeighted when, against all odds, Lorraine, Aileen and Gerry were elected, along with six other YFG-endorsed candidates, so now the lunatics have pretty much taken over the asylum.

The weekend was great craic altogether, getting to know members from all over the country as well as getting photos with loads of our heroes. Suffice to say, after meeting Enda 'The Leader' Kenny, Avril 'The Outlaw' Doyle and Jim 'No Nickname But He's Still Cool' Higgins and all the rest of them, I had a wet dream on Friday night. Saturday was occupied with getting up early to vote on really, really interesting motions, mingling with other delegates in the sun, and voting for the Executive Council members. There was also a fundradising swimming race for People In Need between four YFG members and four Parliamentary Party members. The hip young bucks led until the last leg when Simon 'The Salmon' Coveney jumped into the pool and almost ended up at the other end of it, which ended any hopes YFG had of upstaging the old people.

Saturday night's proceedings were very enjoyable, despite the lack of any air conditioning at all, and having the Artane Boys' Band entertain us with a medley before the leader's speech which was a nice touch. Deputy Kenny, despite having to use a handkerchief throughout the speech, laid down the foundations of the next Government and promised truth and honesty, something severely lacking in the present one. Festivities continued throughout the night and we all headed home in a wildly optimistic mood.

It's been a great year. We have had three members installed on the YFG National Executive, including the Vice-President (Sinéad Carey) and 2003 Member of the Year (James Lawless), held another massively successful sleepout for the homeless, raising €5415.23, been nominated for Society of the Year at the Clubs & Societies' Ball, and the Ard Fheis gives me a neat ending. To all of those who have persevered with my literary diarrhoea throughout the year, I thank you, and promise that next year's PRO will write some proper articles. My only regret is that I never got the chance to put the word 'intransigence' in one of my articles, and I'll hardly get the chance to now. Peace the f**k out.

Denis Hurley, Future Taoiseach

A cháirde,

Ag an dreach seachtaine chuaigh cuid den cumann go dtí an Árd Fheis i mBaile Átha Cliath. Bhí a lán craic acu. Bhuaigh ár leas chathaoirleach Lorraine Munnelly áit ar an Feidhmeanas Náisiúnta. Bhuaigh Gerry O Connell an bpost leas Uachtaráin an Árd chumann, agus bhuaigh Aileen Browne Áit ar an Feidhmeanas Náisiúnta i gCúige Mumhain. Comháirdeachas do gach duine!! Tá a lán pictiúirí ar an suimh idirlíon. Bhímuid ag plé rudaí faoi na polsaí an Árdchumann. Labhair Enda Kenny faoi stádas na Gaeilge, agus deir sé go bhfuil sé ag lorg an stádas oifigiúil oibre don Teanga. Is uafásach an rud nach bhfuil an "air conditioning" ag obair san Óstán City West (Óstán ceithre réalt!!!!). Sin é an fáth go raibh Enda ag cur allas!!!! Bhí ball an cumann seo ag pleidhcaíocht i rith an cruinniú agus bhí ár Oifigeach chaidreamh poiblí i lár!!! Ag dúirt rudaí éagsúla don MEP Avril Doyle, an bhean bhocht!!!!

Bhuel, slán go fóil!!

Brendán Ó hÉamhaigh (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

UL Judo Club - King of the Mat

Saturday the 24th of April was a different experience for the Judo Club. It was a move into the unknown world of submission wrestling. The "King of the Mat 2004" competition brought together a wide range of martial artists mostly from Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and wrestling. The main difficulty for a judo player in this kind of competition is the lack of a suit on the opponent, this greatly limits the number of throws and choking techniques you can use. TJ Davitt was to be the Judo Club's representative in the competition.

Weighing 86kg on Friday and needing to be below 83kg for the competition on the Saturday it was up to personal trainer Maura MacNamara to get him to lose around 7 pounds in a day. After making the weigh-in at about 82kg it was time for the competition. TJ was able to take down his opponents using a bit of judo, even one or two hip throws were put in for good measure. Thanks in part to the strategic plans of manager Caomhan, TJ was able to make it through his division undefeated. Victories came by way of submission from arm locks and chokes.

TJ had to settle for second place after drawing two matches due to the time limit being reached. The real sickener was that TJ had the



guy who won the division in a knee-bar when the time ran out. Had there been even a few more seconds he would have had the gold. Anyway second in your first submission competition isn't a bad accomplishment. After this it was off into Dublin for a bit of partying, unfortunately Dublin was too expensive and soberness ensued.

Overall a quite successful venture for the club and everyone is looking forward to next years competition. Special thanks go to Anne Marie Doherty and Eoin Darcy for their sponsorship and Julie Anne Hannon for being a top quality massage therapist.

UL Aikido Club: Review of the Year

This year has been a relatively busy one for the club. With an intervarsity, demonstrations, guest instructors (more to come!) and the purchase of new equipment to replace our worn out weapons (no sexual innuendo intended!), this year proved to be busy for the new committee.

In the middle of October we invited a guest instructor to UL to give a weekend seminar, which was hosted in Kilmurry Village hall. This was attended by the usual suspects - Toshi, Austin, Maya, Ivan and of course our instructor Ian. In this relaxed, informal atmosphere we beginners were given a feel for the art and an introduction to the format of future seminars. The instructor, Dave Donohue, is a third Dan student of Sensei John Rodgers, and was an excellent teacher. Dave focused on basic techniques designed to bring about an anatomical awareness. This is especially important for Aikido because it concerns itself with the interaction of two individual bodies as a single dynamic system. In November a few of us - again the usual suspects - went to a course in Galway hosted by NUIG Aikido club. This was also attended by Maynooth Aikido Club, DCU and UCD. This is considered one of our intervarsities of the year, as due to the non-competitive philosophy behind Aikido, we do not indulge in competitive practises. This is partially because Aikido is too dangerous to practise in an aggressive state of mind. This course was an invaluable learning experience as it was run by the head of the Irish Aikido Federation Mr. John Rodgers 5th Dan. It was an inspiration to watch a man of such high rank effortlessly throw people to the floor and repel attacks from multiple directions gracefully and with ease. We also learned that our own Toshi (a deceptively awkward beginner) is a 2nd Dan in the Japanese martial art Kendo. We found this out when he flattened Ivan. Ivan was unfortunate enough to have explained a basic aikido technique in terms of sword strokes - and suddenly the fog cleared for Toshi - and for Ivan about 10 minutes later! On Saturday night we found Galway to be the usual centre for craic and ceol - we are being vague because no one can actually remember what happened that night - but it must have been good.

In semester two, our beloved president Ivan absconded to Co-op in France (after many efforts to actually go to Germany). Ivan has found a club in France which will actually take him - but not before they insisted on

giving him a medical. We are hoping Ivan will come back to us in September, but some strange blonde force seems intent on dragging him to Sweden on Erasmus next year. Since Ivan's departure, Dave has taken over giving orders, and Austin has taken to Chancelling the Exchequer and Presiding over Vice. Both jobs basically mean keeping Dave (who lately has insisted on being called Paramount Leader - much as our original president, Ken Stanton, insisted on being called Il Duce) within the bound of reality - mostly by lying. By the way Dave, planning permission is pending on our dedicated purpose built Dojo, which has a bathhouse and tea rooms just as you demanded.

The biggest event of the year for us will be taking place on the 30th of April and 1st of May. Mr. John Rodgers is coming to UL to give a course. John Rodgers is a specialist in aikido weaponry - bokken, the Samurai wooden training sword, and Jo, the Japanese short staff. We are expecting a big turnout from clubs around Limerick and indeed around the country. If you see these people lost near you, please send them to the PESS building. Again, with attendance expected from other university clubs this is essentially our intervarsity. We will update you all on how it went (lots of pics) in the next issue! The training times for the course are 6.30 to 9.30 Friday, and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturday. This is a beginners course, so all are welcome to attend. Anyone who has any interest at all in Aikido should come along and experience the martial art being practised by an experienced professional.

With a new committee, enlarged membership and brand new equipment, the club is revitalised and ready to help our members on the path of one of the most subtle and sophisticated martial arts. The Aikido Club trains at 8.15pm on Mondays and 7.00 on Wednesdays in the Old Sports building, come along and train or just watch.

Finally, everyone in the club would like to extend congratulations to our instructor Ian Kendall on receiving his Black Belt. Ian trained for 4 years in Japan, mostly in Kobayashi Dojos and was also fortunate enough to learn from Sekiya Sensei, a 77 year old 7th Dan, on Saturdays. Ian returned to UL and was our assistant instructor until last year, when Gerry Begley departed to the big smoke, and Ian took on his responsibilities - although he could never quite live up to Gerry's unique sense of humour.

Clubs and Societies

UL Rowing Club Round-Up

University Championships

You hear tales and fochloir of this event from elder lemons of the club, a special regatta when all the Colleges and Universities of Ireland, North and South, journey to the national forest park at Castlewellen Co. Down to go head to head at the University Championships of Ireland.

As a college rower all year long it's drilled into you that you are training for this day, every weight you lift every ergometer test you do is for this day. Almost to the point of obsession or madness which ever happens first. When one day you find yourself jotting down plans in the middle of your lecture notes, the master plan of how your going to systematically destroy the boys from Trinity, and win the heart of the girl next door (or was that just me?).

With the picture perfect setting of a lake in the middle of a national park, the mountain landscape of Co. Down for a backdrop, a sun that was on a mission to give me sun burn, throw in a Castle for good measure and you have the Regatta course that is Castlewellen.

UL Rowing Club having being highly competitive in all categories to date didn't disappoint the crowds assembled at Castlewellen. Competing in some of the most exciting races of the weekend and showing some of the gutsiest performances ever seen by rowing crews, made it one of the best regattas I have ever been at. Our efforts did not go unrewarded. UL Rowing Club wining in style both the men's intermediate double sculls and pairs in extremely exciting races.

The University Women's crews did the Club and Collage proud by coming 2nd in the Novice Eights and Invitational Fours and fifth in the Intermediate Fours.

Other ULRC finals results of the day were 2nd Men's Senior Fours, 3rd Men's Novice Fours, 5th Men's Intermediate Single Sculls. But wait there's more.

Queens Regatta

With you limbs still aching from the torture of the day before and your body wanting



sleep. The very next day is the Queens Regatta on the same course except this time you're up against every son of a gun that ever stepped inside a boat. It can be seen as a second chance for crews who might not have performed on the day before to set the record straight. Or else you could just see it as another regatta, what ever you're having yourself.

Still on a high from the day before UL Rowing Club hit the water like a group of over excited fast moving water thingies!! Staying true to form ULRC were in the thick of every battle for the line.

UL winning the Men's Senior Pair (Ger Sheehan, Cathal Moynihan) and Intermediate Pair (Brian O'Connor, Peter O'Donal).

2nd in the Women's Novice Eights. 3rd in the Men's Senior Fours, the Women's Novice Fours and the Men's Senior Eights. 4th in the Men's Intermediate Fours and. UL Men's Novice four after wining their heat convincingly missed out on the final due to an unforeseen mix up.

A memorable and exciting weekend was had by all in ULRC, even if it was the hottest day of the year one day and the wettest day of the year the next.

Who wants to be a Thousandaire?

On 4th May, UL Rowing Club brings the hugely popular "Want to be a Thousandaire" to the Kilmurray Lodge hotel in Castletroy. Contestants will play for 1000 Euro. The show is fully computerized. This fundraiser is being run by UL Rowing Club to purchase some much needed equipment including a new Boat Trailer. Tickets for "Want to be a Thousandaire" are available from any member of UL Rowing Club or at the door on the night. The show starts at 8pm.

UL Debating Union
A Transatlantic Point of Information

Ladies and Gentlemen, with what would begin by a somewhat disturbing speech about nudism by one Stuart Wallace, I took up a proposition by the auditor of the Debating Union to check out what the society had to offer. Little did I know just what I was getting myself into, ladies and gentlemen! The first debate of the year proved a challenging one for new members, as we were given tiny pieces of paper on which were written 1 or 2 words. With only this as a guide, we were requested to stand up and give a five minute speech in front of a rather large crowd. Having ended up with a "motion" of "BMX raiders", I did what any good Canadian would do: basically regurgitated a beer commercial from back home. I felt the need to inform the overwhelmingly Irish multitude of just what exactly Canada is, and to no surprise, how it is different AND NOT the same as the United States of America, ladies and gentlemen. From the beginning therefore, the Deb U knew not to question the maple leaf, the beaver, or any other quirk of the 1st nation of hockey!

While the debates were class (for the most part) and representing UL at the UCD IV as well as in the Irish Times Debating Competition was an honor, there is no question that the best part of this year was the plethora of memorable moments that I have accumulated. The camaraderie that this group of people has cannot be described, but only witnessed. Though at first I was out of the loop of inside jokes and stories (and there are plenty!), I certainly was made aware very quickly, and in the end was part of some myself. I cannot recall one debate in which I was not accused of having pronounced it "aboot" and not "about", which I maintain

is a hearing problem suffered by Jody Clarke, and not an actual fact. Michelle NiGhaboid's relentless use of witty commentary added a lighter side to any debate, ladies and gentlemen. Paddy Buckley and Eamon O'Flynn's workshops - and their personal lives - not only educated rookie debaters, but made them realize that just because he looks innocent, that most certainly does not mean that he is, ladies and gentlemen! I managed to find my "solemate", an equally obsessed shoe fanatic in Sarah Carew (it was all about the shoes, not the dress), a great debating partner in Judith Lynch, (with whom I learned the hard lesson of following Paddy and Eamon while wearing heels), a wonderful hostess in Diana Diamond (no, those are not my jeans!) and, well, what to say of the John FitzGibbon school of debating, and whatnot?!

The international office encouraged all foreign students to get ourselves involved somehow in the life that UL has to offer. I, for one, took that piece of advice seriously, ladies and gentlemen, and can honestly say that my involvement in this society added a great deal to my Irish experience. My one regret is that I will not be here to start the year off next year, when I would be in "the know". But sure I suppose I'll just have to meet up with the team at the next Worlds, and hope they aren't too disheartened when the Canadian tops the tab!

So to all you lads in the Deb U, know that when I return to the 'best part of North America', it will be with fond memories, and a complex about my use of hand movements while speaking!

Is mise le meas,
Deirdra McCracken

Looking back at a year of Kayaking



Believe it or not it's the last article of the year. The summer is nearly upon us and for many the south of France seems nearer and nearer with the trip to the Alps now only a few weeks away. The ULKC message board is laden with queries about pots, pans, gas stoves and tents. Yuri is even having a practise run at camping this Friday night. So it's all excitement!

Well, since it's the final article, we might as well review the past year....

It all started with a trip to Lahinch in week 5. We spent the weekend getting to know each other and the freshers learned the basics of kayak-surfing. It was a fun weekend to begin the year and having left on Friday knowing only one or two of the other faces on the bus, we came back on Sunday evening with many new friends. Killarney was the next mad weekend away for the Kayak Club. The first-years got a chance to experience the thrills of river running for the first time. This year also saw the launch of a UL kayaking DVD. The DVD was launched in the Trinity Rooms nightclub just before Christmas, after some of our members spent months filming and editing what turned out to be a very successful production. Another one of this year's highlights was the biggest ever club

trip to Wales. The lack of water in Wales didn't prevent us from having a brilliant and unforgettable week. Next we conquered Sligo and spent a weekend on the rivers of Sligo as well as discovering the fun that was to be found at the infamous Tuam Hole!

Also we looked after the safety side of things this year by running a REC 3 course. This is a course in rescue, emergency and care for outdoor sports. About ten of us took part in this course and spent three days carrying out rescue scenarios in awkward areas such as the riverbank, bushes and trees. I think our acting skills also improved during this week as passers-by sometimes offered to help!! Hopefully we won't have to put these first-aid skills into practice, but we can be sure that we'll have expert first-aiders depend on if necessary.

National Canoe Polo League

On the 24th and 25th of April, the National Canoe Polo League took place here in UL. There were teams from Kilcock, DCU and UL competing. Our Division 2 team - Bismarck finished up in 3rd place and our Division 3 team - Titanic finished up in 4th place. After a long day of matches on Saturday, we all headed to Don's back garden for a barbeque to celebrate Tony's birthday. I think Don got a bit worried when a mini-bus pulled up outside and a bus load of DCU paddlers headed for the back garden, with Paddy leading the way of course! On Sunday morning the semi-finals of the league started at 9am. But this was a bit too early for some of the Bismarck team members who arrived

half way through their first match and Richie was still at home in the shower while Titanic were playing their first match!! After getting off to a bad start that morning, things began to improve as the day went on. Bismarck played very well and defeated DCU in their last match, which meant they came 3rd overall. Titanic also played very well in their last match, with two brilliant goals from Patrick, but unfortunately we were still 1 goal behind at the end of the match. Well done to everyone who competed in this league!

River Trip

On Sunday 18th of April, we set off for our last club trip of the year, and what a trip it was! Due to the lack of waves we decided to change the planned surf trip to a river trip. With great enthusiasm from everyone, we ran not 1, not 2, but 3 rivers. First of all we ran the Castleconnel. This was a nice run for those of us who don't have much experience with some small drops and an S-bend. As soon as we got off this river we hopped in the cars (still in our gear) and headed for river number 2- The Deel. We ran this river in less than 45 minutes. Everyone got on very well on this river, (well except for me who took a swim on at the gorge after heading straight for the rock on the right-hand side!!) Even after finishing these two rivers, we were still eager to keep on paddling. We went and checked out the White River to see if the water levels were as high as our energy levels!! Luckily enough they were! This was a new river to most of us and definitely one we will be returning to with some nice drops and rock



slides.

Sadly its that time of the year again when we have to say goodbye to our 4th year members. Thanks a million for all the work ye have done over the past 4 years in helping to develop the club, teaching all the new members and bringing fun and enjoyment to all the trips. Also a temporary 'Adios' to Seona and Debbie who are heading off to Argentina on co-op. Without a doubt ye will all be greatly missed!

All that's left to say is best of luck to everyone going to the Alps and roll on all the surfing trips during the summer!!

Aideen Byrne

Clubs and Societies

UL Basketball Finish Winning Season on a High

On the weekend of the 26th and 27th of March last Kollege week was far from the minds of the U.L men's and women's basketball teams. Instead they were facing a weekend of hard work with hopefully a final celebratory element after playing in the Final Fours. Early on Saturday morning the girls took to the court to play D.I.T in a double or nothing game (we were also playing them in the Cup semi-final). After a rocky start the girls soon got going and ran out easy winners by about forty points. The men's team had a tougher game against Athlone I.T but they still succeeded in



Senior Boys

We knew that we had to restore our pride in ourselves so this time round the girls refused to make the same mistakes as before and stormed into an early lead. Excellent performances were produced by the whole team, but especially from top scorer Eileen Lyons whose 25 points allowed U.L to maintain this lead over their rivals and end up champions.

The men had a trickier draw, as they had to face two opponents on the Saturday. The first was Tallaght I.T. in the semi-final. Unfortunately U.L. were without Paul Freeman and he was sorely missed in the opening game as the tall post players of Tallaght collected both offensive and defensive rebounds. However as the game progressed U.L. came more into the picture with superb performances from Adam Holden and Kieran Wrenn.

After a nervous final quarter U.L. eventually came out victorious and had a couple of hours to prepare for the game against U.C.D. This was effectively a repeat of the Varsity semi-finals where U.C.D had previously beaten U.L. U.C.D had a blistering first half but U.L. fought hard and were only down by twelve points at half-time. In the second half it was again time for our lads to shine as they clawed their way back into the match. The game was totally in the balance in the closing minutes of the match with only two points separating the teams. However, a controversial decision by the referee disheartened U.L. and allowed time for the men from U.C.D. to launch one final offensive - which won them the game. So in a reversal of fortune it was the ladies who had cause to celebrate although that didn't stop the lads from chipping in!

The roll of honour for this year is as follows:

Senior Women

Intersarsity Winners
Championship Winners
A League Runners Up

Senior Men

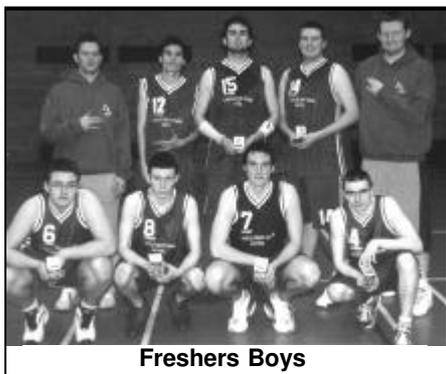
A League Winners
Championship Runners Up

Fresher Men

Intersarsity Runners Up

Thanks to our sponsors Castletroy Park Hotel, our coaches Noreen O'Connell, Des Sullivan and Matthew Hall, our supporters and all the players for a fantastic season.

Farewell to all our 4th years Eileen Lyons, Miriam Liston, Mairead Liston, Ciara Kennedy, Seamus Cathal Reidy(!), Alan Thompson, Adam Holden, Matthew Duane Rice(!), Timothy Cronin. Hope I haven't left anyone out!



Freshers Boys

winning. This meant that both teams were involved in the Championship finals the following day - the women facing D.C.U and the men lining up against U.C.C.

The women's team took to the floor first but due to other commitments was without two very influential players-Miriam Liston and Dearbhla Breen. Their absence was evident from the start and D.C.U raced in front relatively early in the game. Poor defending allowed D.C.U to increase their score in the second quarter before U.L. eventually began performing. When we did begin to perform there were some excellent passages of play and even though the match was level with only 2 minutes to go D.C.U fought back to win by a four-point margin. The women were disappointed but knew that they wouldn't have to wait long to get their revenge.

The weight of expectation was therefore resting on the shoulders of the men's team as they lined out to face a U.C.C team that could only field five players and had no coach. The men worked hard and some excellent 3-point shooting from Aidan Holden gave them an early lead. A revitalised U.C.C side came out in the second half and fought hard for everything but superb defending and some excellent offensive moves allowed U.L. to maintain their early led and run out winners by ten points.

It was then time for the boys to celebrate but just to highlight our great club spirit the girls decided to give them a helping hand and this resulted in a great night being had by all (well that's what we've been told anyway!). While it was a great start to Kollege Week it unfortunately couldn't continue for long as both teams had to again hit the courts for training for the imminent Cup finals. Some serious training ensued and by Friday April 16th both teams were ready to face the rest of the country. After the withdrawal of some of the teams the women's team only had one game to play - the final against D.C.U.

The Irish University Sailing Association's Intersarsity Sailing Championship

The Royal Cork Yacht Club was the venue for the Irish University Sailing Associations Intersarsity Sailing Championships from the 4th to the 6th of March last. Over 130 people turned out for one of the largest ever college sailing events - kindly sponsored by Bank of Ireland - and to see 22 teams competing for the title.

The first day's racing was abandoned by the OOD, Dave O'Brien due to the lack of a steady breeze. On the second day however, the wind picked up to provide a perfect breeze of five to ten knots topped off by glorious sunshine. The OOD managed to plough through the 50 scheduled races and to get the sailors in for the all-important IUSA AGM. The results of the first day's racing were by and large predictable with the favourites making it into the Gold Fleet. One notable exception was NUIG's superb performance which led to them beating Dublin Business School. The following teams qualified for the Gold Fleet: UCC 1 & 2, UCD 1 & 2, UL 1, TCD 1 & 2 and DBS.

The third and final day's racing started under similarly ideal conditions and another 50+ races were scheduled for the quarter finals, semi finals and finals. The racing started to heat up early on as the teams were narrowed down - TCD 1,

UCD 1, DBS and UL 1 making it into the semi finals after some intense racing. In the semis, TCD knocked out UL with two quick wins and DBS knocked out UCD 1 with another two victories. The final was thus set for DBS versus TCD 1. In the silver fleet, UCD 3 beat off competition from UCD 4 and UCC 3 to win their group and in the bronze fleet UL 2 came out on top.

The first race of five in the final was won by a strong TCD 1 with a 2, 3 & 4. DBS struck back with a more impressive display, winning by one point. The third race was a reverse of the first race's results with DBS gaining the upper hand with a 2, 3 & 4. TCD were not out of the fight yet and they clawed their way back in the fourth race with another 2, 3 & 4. With everything to play for both teams went into Race Five with a handful of spectator craft, including the runners up UCD 1 and UL in their own Fireflies. Unfortunately for TCD 1, DBS managed to get ahead early on and they clinched a clear win to take home the trophy.

UL1 (4th in gold fleet): Richard Murphy, Conor Byrne, Glenn How, Andrew Crowley, Helena Walsh and Oisín Fouere
UL2 (1st in Bronze) : Cian Baynes, Paul Ruddy, Sinead Glackin, Colin McGiollaEain, Sinead Doyle and Orla McMahon.

University of Limerick Golf Club

Our Inaugural Club Championship took place on April 28th at the fantastic Doonbeg Golf Club in County Clare. There was a good turnout and we got some great weather, although it was very windy and this made for a very tough day on this super links course. Congratulations go to Niamh Kithcing who braved the difficult conditions the best of all to become our first ever Club Championship winner. Many thanks must go Brian Shaw and the excellent staff at Doonbeg who definitely made everybody feel at home. The Presentation took place in the lovely clubhouse in Doonbeg and there were many windburnt faces on show to receive their prizes - second place went to Vincent Toomey while Alan Ryan won the Nett prize, Ed Prendergast and Yours Truly tied for second Nett.

It has been a great year in the development of Golf in UL with nearly 100 members in the University of Limerick Golf Club at the time of writing. From what was started by a small group of fanatical golfers in May of 2003 we have come a long way. Many thanks go to Thomas Neenan and Eoin O'Connor who started things up in the golfing sense over a year ago and also to all our members who have remained active in our outings from September 2003 to the Club Championship itself. We have had many good performances at representative level as well with solid appearances in both the Irish College Golf League and the Irish Golf Intersarities - we are hoping to improve further on these performances



next time around. Many thanks must also go to the Committee members who gave their time and effort over the past year - Niall Gleeson, Ger Hogan, Ed Prendergast, Gary Rainsford and Adrian Feane - because without them it would have been near impossible to run what has been a great club to be involved in. Many thanks must also go to Sarah Ryan (CCO), Paul Lee (Clubs & Socs Development Officer) and Neasa O'Donnell, who gave us much needed help and advice during the development of the Golf Club over the past year.

Well, there it is, as another academic year is coming to an end the first proper year in the development of the UL Golf Club is also coming to an end. We have put the foundations in place for the years to come (I hope!!!) and we hope that Golf in UL will develop far past what we have managed to do this year alone. I would like to wish all our members and all UL students the very best of luck in the upcoming exams and also wish our members a good golfing season during the summer months.

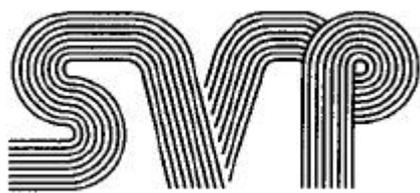
Yours in golf,

Tom Kennedy

ulgolfclub@eircom.net

Clubs and Societies

UL Society of St Vincent de Paul End of Year Review

**Homework Club - Maria O'Donovan**

Homework Club has been running very successfully this year in St. Mary's Girls National School and St. Senian's Boys National School, Kings Island. On Monday evenings volunteers help with the sixth class girls, on Tuesday evenings we work with the fifth class girls and on Thursday evenings it's the second-class boys. After helping them with their homework we play fun games and do Arts and Crafts or Drama workshops. Then a light meal and drink are provided. This year our numbers increased and we hope to expand further next year to continue working with the sixth class children who will be moving to first year. This Christmas as a treat for the children we brought 30 of them to Dublin for a day's iceskating and a splash in the National Aquatic Centre. A great time has been had this year by volunteers and children alike!

Paired Reading - Claire Shanahan

Paired Reading has been running on Wednesdays since Week 7. We visit The Salesians Secondary School and work with Junior Cert Students. This has been a great success and the teenagers have learned a lot about exam structure and technique. This was a pilot project and improvements are being put in place for next semester. We hope to expand the project by working in other schools. We wish all our Junior Certs the best of luck in their exams this summer. Thanks to all who helped out this semester and anyone who is interested in volunteering for this project next semester can contact me.

Swimming - Niall Riordan

Swimming has been running weekly since March. With 13 different volunteers involved in the programme. Kids are brought from town every Wednesday or Thursday as the case may be, brought for food on campus and then they go swimming from 5-6 with up to 26 in attendance. 2nd class boys are brought every week and 5th and 6th class girls are rotated every second week. The kids from 5th and 6th class will be going for an end of year swim in the lakeside hotel in Killaloe this Wednesday. With costs estimated at €250 per week fundraising has to provide this, however, donations from the likes of The Softball Club - whom we would like to thank, ease this burden. A special thank you must also go out to the Sports Bar and Scholars for allowing us to bring the kids for food and to the Arena for the booking of the swimming pool.

Traveller Initiatives - Timmy Hennessey

In the last few months a Homework Club for children from the local Traveller Community has been organized in conjunction with The UL Chaplaincy. This has been a fantastic success. Also as an incentive to attend the Homework Club the children are taken swimming to the UL Arena every

Friday. Also last week they got the chance to meet the stars of The You're a Star Road show much to their delight. As a special treat they were taken to one of the concerts the following day. As a result of the club the children who were normally not given homework by their teachers have now been receiving homework. This has been an unreal development and is sure to benefit the children.

Soup Run - Edel Sheahan

The soup run takes place every night in Limerick City. The Conference of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta looks after the Monday and Tuesday night runs. Its purpose is to meet homeless people who are hungry on the streets and who may not know of the hostels available to them. Each soup run has a driver and two volunteers, the task of the volunteers is to search the streets for homeless people on the soup run route which the driver uses. When a person is spotted, the volunteers will kindly approach the person with consideration and ask them would they like any soup and sandwiches for the present or if they choose to save some food for later. Perfect consideration for the individual must be observed as each person has their own reasons for being there, the person may not want to talk to a volunteer. This project has been running along without a hitch all year and hopefully will follow suit next year. I'd like to express our gratitude to our volunteers who help out with this project throughout the year.

Drop - in - Centre/ Home Visitation - Edel Sheahan

This takes place in co-operation with St. Finbarrs conference in Limerick City. The activity deals with the requests for assistance which are made within the area in Limerick. The home visitation group comprises of ten people of all ages, as a group the requests are analysed and a course of action decided on after the person has been visited to confirm whether it is a legitimate request or not. Home visitation allows you to visit people that need help, to listen and assist so they can become more independent. Requests can vary from a person who needs some clothes to an individual who needs help with financial troubles.

Prison Visit - Ciara Buckley

Prison visits has been running smoothly through out the college year. Three volunteers visit the prison every Monday night. Chatting to the inmates and offering advice etc. This project will again be up and running next semester.

Treasurer Report - Ciara Buckley

Financially SVP were very successful this year. With fundraising the society raised over €12,000, our annual county colours ball was very successful raising over €7,000, the leg waxing event raised €800, the men's hockey club raised €1,100 for the society, a sponsored row which took place early in this semester raised €1150 and The Bouncy Castle raised €200. Fianna Fail 5-a-side Soccer raised €650 and they also held a table quiz which raised €150. The Softball Club also donated €50.

Other:-

We have also attended two Intervarsities this year and have undergone new member training, child protection training (which is relevant to our h/w club, swimming, paired reading and traveller initiatives) and recently listening skills training (which is relevant to all our activities but especially Home Visitation).

Future:-

We hope furthermore to expand the homework clubs and all activities to suit the increase in membership. Also for next year we're looking into having an intervarsity of our own and also further training in such areas as first aid etc. as it is very relevant to the work we do.

Another trip to Haiti is always looking hopeful. All those who wish to put themselves forward for the trip will go through Physical and Mental Examinations in the following weeks and pending the results of these four volunteers will hopefully be working in Haiti for six weeks this summer. All in all it has been an extremely successful year for The St. Vincent de Paul Society in UL. Yet again we would not be here at all if it weren't for our numerous hard-working volunteers but also without the support of our fellow student body. So we'd like to express our gratitude to everyone for all the support we have received this year.

UL TradSoc: Gan Ainm



Hi all, another year gone and another reflective article. We have had a very busy year this year. It began at the All Ireland Fleadh, which was held in Clonmel, where some of our members played on the gig rig along side Michael O'Suilleabháin. Niall Keegan and Sandra Joyce. We all did our university proud by performing on the nation wide renowned Guinness gig rig.

November past, we held our own festival, 'Campus Trad'. This was held in conjunction with the Sionna Festival and the TG4 Gradam Ceoil awards, so all the superstars were around for the weekend, including our own. We held a students concert in the Castletroy Park Hotel. This featured trad societies from different universities throughout the country. The next day we hosted the first intervarsity convention, with guest speaker Steve Cooney, with the aim of setting a nationwide network of traditional music societies. Four Star Trio and Four Men and a Dog played at Lon Trad, which took place in Nancy Blakes that afternoon. That night we saw some of the best in traditional music being honoured at the TG4 Gradam Ceoil awards. The after-show party was held in the Castletroy Park Hotel. On Sunday, it was time for Squeal Amach, a street play, which Trad Soc were involved in. This weekend was a great success.

After Christmas, we were very busy travelling to the different festivals that were on. Many attended the Frankie

Kennedy Winter Festival, in Gaith Dobhair. Trad soc members were also present at the international Celtic Connections Festival, which is held in Glasgow. They performed at the Royal Scottish Concert Hall and at the Festival Club. At the same time many attended U.C.C. Tradfest, which was a great festival, well run and nearly on the same scale as Campus Trad.

Last month Trad Soc hit the road again. This time we travelled to the home of 'el presidente' Aidan O'Donnell, for 'Dunkinfest,' where we had a great weekend of craic. We even got our own unique guided tour from the lord-mayor of Dunkineely, Aidan O'Donnell Snr. and Mary O'Donnell, (Mrs Dunkineely) cooked a magnificent feed for us poor, hungry students and Dunkineely's own Santa, (ho, ho, ho), Martin Wilson. Trad soc also went out for a weekend to Miltown Malbay, for 'FoxFest.'

We will soon be heading to Belmullet, Co Mayo, to the home of the young apprentice, for Munnell Mania. At the minute we are working on plans for next years Campus Trad, which will be even bigger and better. We also hope to attend Celtic Connections again and the New York Irish Dancing Festival.

Our weekly sessions have been ongoing all year, despite drought and poverty, but however we will soldier on. We have had a great year, thanks to everyone.

Viva la resistance!!!!(and the Trad soc!!) Aidan O'Donnell

Clubs and Societies

Softball Intervarsity Title remains in Limerick after the 3rd leg

The 3rd and 4th of April saw the third and final leg of the intervarsity reach Limerick with the leg being held here in the university. Saturday morning began with the games starting a little behind schedule. There were seven teams in the competition and UL managed to field four teams - the 55s, the Mavericks, the Blades (it's a Limerick team in fairness) and last but not least the Originals (pronounced Or-i-gi-nals). WIT also put together a team, as did UCD and Trinity. WIT was due to field two teams, but because of unforeseen events they could only field one in the end. So with a bit of rescheduling by David Murphy, we got the games going.

The intervarsity was still up for grabs after the first two legs. UCD had won in Waterford beating the 55s in the final. However in Dublin the 55s bounced back and went unbeaten to win the leg. So it was winner takes all. UL were current defending champions of both the intervarsity and the plate. The first day's round robin was held to see who would go forward to take part in the Cup and Plate semis. The day also saw the most unpredictable weather in a long time. One minute it was sunny, the next pelting hail stones. Games had to stop several times because the rain was too severe. By the end of the day, everyone was muddy, wet and cold. The day finished with the 55s having won 6 from 6, Trinity with 4 from 5, UCD 3 from 5, The Blades doing themselves proud with 2 from 4, WIT 1 from 4, Maverick's 1 from 5 and finally the Originals 0 from 5. With some of the teams playing a few more games on Sunday morning there was still the last place in the cup semi-finals to be decided.

After getting up bright and early on Sunday morning, the first game of the day began at 10am between WIT and the Blades. The Blades grabbed victory, to seal their place in the semi-finals. The final of the round robin games began at 11am. The 55s having completed the 6 games on the previous day, got to sit out the game - much to the pleasure of captain John Ryan. The Mavericks lost their last game to Trinity who went on to play UCD in the semis. 55s would play their counterparts - the Blades. WIT, the Originals and the Mavericks would contest the Plate in yet another round robin. But first was WIT against the Originals. This was a close game with the Original's just piping WIT at the post with a score of 6-5, thanks to a grand slam by Julie Walshe. The second games saw the clash of UL's Mavericks and Originals. And what a game. It was a showcase for the clash of two of the best pitchers in the club - Tim McAuliffe (Taz) and Mickey Dore. With gale force winds whipping across the pitch, it was definitely a game for the pitcher with the final score standing at 1-0, thanks to a run from Will Reidy of the Mavericks. The

game saw also one of the most 'dramatic' plays with Eamonn (Birdie) making a catch after falling backwards onto his ass! He stuck up his glove, more so in hope than anything else, and managed to catch the ball.

After that game a win for the Maverick's against WIT would have sealed the Plate for them. They didn't win but drew 12-12. A brilliant fight back from WIT saw them come back from 12-6 down to draw in the last inning. But it was enough for the Mavericks to win the Plate and the Originals to come runner ups.

The Plate was retained thanks to great hitting from the likes of Edel O'Grady, Collette Cahill, and Mikey Dore, who hit four Home Runs, good fielding by Mark Carrig, Chris Kelly and Captain Emmett Byrne, who with the help of bunny ears and tail (don't ask) had a home run on the first pitch against WIT.

So to the semi-finals, the Blades against the 55s. The game kicked off with 55s at bat. Six runs were scored. Then the Blades were held to no runs scored and three innings were played before the game was brought to a halt because of rain. The score at that stage was 24-1 to the 55s despite the valiant efforts of pitcher Skip. The game was called due to the weather. The game saw James Chandler and John "Panda" Leonard both lose their 1.000 (100%) batting average, and Mike Sullivan taking the lead in Home Run count 11-9 ahead of James.

UCD whitewashed Trinity 6-0 in the other semi-final. Not only was it the Limerick leg final but it was also the Intervarsity final. The game began at 3.30pm with the wind still strong and subsiding rain. 55s got off to a bad start scoring only one run and conceding three in the first inning. The game remand close until the forth inning when 55s got sixteen runs in the inning to take a lead of 22-7 with three innings left to play. That inning saw the only double play of the game, when a ball hit directly to pitcher John Leonard was caught and thrown to Jenn Nardi on first base who got Alun Owens of UCD out to end the inning. The sixth inning had one of the biggest hits of the tournament, 395 feet by second base man and captain John Ryan, who scored four home runs in the final. He just beat Mike Sullivan who had three in the final.

Coming into the last inning the score was 34-10. 55s ran in five more runs and held UCD to win the final by a new record score of 39-10. James won the batting average battle, batting 0.979 with John batting 0.870. Mike won Home Run King getting 14 for the weekend. The 55's scored 44 Home Runs during the course of the weekend which is also a new record. MVP (most valuable player) of the weekend went to James Chandler, as voted for by the umpires. MVP of the Mavericks was Mikey Dore. Despite the weather the games were fun,



UCD batting against UL 55s

exciting and overall everyone enjoyed the weekend. Thanks to Karl, Bill and Austin (umpires) for coming down, the three colleges WIT, UCD and TCD, and the four UL teams. Thanks also to David Murphy who organized the weekend pretty much all on his

own. Also thanks to everyone who helped out over the week to fund raise money to make this tournament possible! Much appreciated.

John Leonard

Drama Soc- The Year that was

"Now, the end is near." Yes It's that time of year again where thousands of hapless UL students run around frantically trying to do that last minute job on the 40 % project and study for the exams. With this comes the sad end of Clubs and Socs activities for the year. We in Drama soc are no different, but we made sure we gave ye plenty to talk about during the year. Who can forget those crazy zombies strutting around campus, advertising the Halloween ball. (No that wasn't Dave Corley's natural look) Then of course there was the ball itself and the hoax stabbings, (some of which went down better than others) before we started to get serious and put on some productions. The first of which was 'Jump off', an off the wall comedy about a potential suicide victim and her bizarre confrontations with her overbearing mother, a psychopathic priest, a smart-ass painter and a plain clothes detective. Then of course we had the big one, after months of blood, sweat, tears, vomit, hormones and anxiety, (and that was just Adrian) Little Shop of Horrors went ahead in the LIT Millennium Theatre. After colourful and memorable fundraisers such as the 'kisses for cash in the SU courtyard, (dignity is not an obstacle when it comes to making money for Drama soc) the show went ahead. Anyone fortunate enough to have seen this show, was in agreement that it

was spectacular. The singing and acting was superb, and those in attendance were more than entertained. All in all, Little Shop was a hugely successful event. Lest we forget, the Clubs and Socs ball, was a great success for the society. After being pipped at the post last year, Drama Soc finally got the recognition it deserved by being voted most improved society. What can I say? When you're good you're good.

Week 8 of Semester 2 saw the staging of "Hot Fudge", a sometimes dark comedy about two people who live a lie, and the people they surround themselves with. Due to the stereotypical German efficiency of director, Sarah Mehlfield, Hot Fudge played to packed audiences for its two night stint.

Now, as David Corley's reign of terror draws to a close, a new one is set to begin, with 1st year Law and Euro student, Lisa O' Neill knocking the society into shape. The other positions are as follows:

Vice-President,	Donal O' Driscoll
P.R.O	Judith Lynch
Treasurer	John Gubbins
Secretary	Leigh Walsh

All that remains to be said now, is best of luck with the exams, have a good summer and above all, don't do anyone I wouldn't do!

Donal O' Driscoll

The 'PRO' (in a society of amateurs)

Clubs and Societies

**Ulkcomedy presents:
Easky 2004 DVD featuring
MATRIX KAYAKING**

You've NEVER seen a kayaking video anything like this before!!!

Andy: "Even funnier than Muppets in the Alps 2002"

€12



Written, produced, filmed, edited and burned by Brian Flynn (also starring as Weatherman Sam)



Also featuring the Psychotic weatherman Sam, Karaoke Kayaking Girls and much, much more!

**40 MIN BONUS FEATURE:
CURRAGOWER RODEO 2003**

Get your copy from a U.L. Kayak club member or buy online at <http://kayak.csn.ul.ie/>

Windsurfing News



3rd May 2004

WHERE: U.I.S.C.E., Belmullet Co. Mayo

This festival includes FREE clinics, competitions, demonstrations, retail sales, nightly entertainment, island and walking tours and plenty of windsurfing. Also SURFDOCK is organising a demo weekend on Saturday and Sunday the 15th and 16th May in Broadmeadows Estuary, Malahide, Co. Dublin.

As the academic year draws to a close we would like to extend thanks to all club members who have given up so much of their valuable time over the year in order to make this the best year ever for UL Windsurfing. Thanks also to all the staff in the UL Activity Centre for their help and advice. We're looking forward to a great summer of Windsurfing!

Wednesday outings to Killaloe have resumed and all of our intermediate and beginner windsurfers are making fantastic progress in this weekly session. We are hoping to continue going out to Killaloe during the summer months so stay tuned to our website for details: <http://www.skynet.ie/~winds/>.

For anyone interested in national windsurfing there are two events coming up in May which will be of interest to some of our advanced to intermediate members:

Fleadh Sheoil na hÉireann...Ireland's windsurfing festival is back for 2004.

WHEN: Friday 30th April to Monday



Outdoor Pursuits Club Review of the Year



Another year gone and while most clubs are winding down for the summer we would of course have to do the opposite and go rockclimbing nearly every weekend in preparation for our trip to the Alps. As usual the OPC has had an eventful 12 months since the clubs and societies ball last year where the Aconcagua 2003 Expedition, in our opinion, deservedly won Best Event. Over the summer seven OPC members headed to the Alps. It was the first time there for four of them and two attended a 3-day training course designed specifically for climbers without much experience while another attended an advanced alpine course to develop his mountain skills. All benefited hugely from this as it gave them valuable knowledge and confidence. Over the summer two new sections were added onto the climbing wall and the existing main section was repainted and regripped. UL can now boast of having one of the best bouldering walls in

Ireland.

In September we recruited/bribed over 350 unwilling people to join the club. There were 3 weekend trips to Cliften, Doolin and Killarney as well as rockclimbing trips to the Burren and Kilkenny. Numerous day hillwalking trips to Tipperary and Kerry also took place. Some members participated in a supervisor course for the climbing wall and rock-climbing leadership training. UL climbers also actively competed in national indoor climbing competitions. The icing on the cake last semester was the 10-day mountaineering trip which 18 people took to the Scottish Highlands. This was a fantastic experience for everyone! On the first day a group of beginners and a group of more experienced people were taken out by guides and shown everything from walking in crampons to avoiding avalanches. Mountains such as Buachaill Etive Mor, Stob Corra Na Lochan and of course the mighty Ben Nevis were climbed. Early mornings and long days weren't enough to deter the enthusiastic bunch! For many people this trip only whetted their appetite for mountaineering with many setting their sights on the Alps this summer.

Orienteering and caving are emerging as very popular alternatives to rockclimbing and mountaineering. Orienteering is a sport in which orienteers use an accurate, detailed map



and a compass to find points in the landscape. It can be enjoyed as a walk in the woods or as a competitive sport. Over the course of the year two people attended a training weekend in the forests of Offaly and another five went to the Intervarsities in Galway. Regular caving trips to the Burren were held throughout last year with the highlight being the caving forum in Fermanagh last Easter.

Then there were the rockclimbing intervarsities where climbers from collages from all over Ireland competed for a big (heavy) piece of granite! We didn't get it this year but at least Aoife won the female category.

In the past year and a half the OPC has helped about 80 people stand on top of

Ireland's highest mountain - Carrauntoohill (1039m), 19 stand on Ben Nevis - the highest mountain in Britain and Ireland (1344m), 2 people stand on the highest mountain in western Europe - Mt. Blanc (4810m) and 4 people stand on the highest mountain in the western hemisphere - Aconcagua. (6962m). Some members are hoping to stand on the roof of Africa by attempting Kilimanjaro (5800m) this August and after that the sky is the limit!!

We would like to thank River Deep Mountain High for their continued support throughout the year. If you have any queries please contact opc@csn.ul.ie or check out our website at <http://www.skynet.ie/~opc/>.

Back Inside

WE LOVE...

GOOD 'OUL NIGHTS OUT

JUST HAVING A BRILLIANT NIGHT OUT WITH FRIENDS AND SPENDING THE NEXT DAY LAUGHING REMEMBERING THINGS!

SCHOLARS IN THE SUN

IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN SITTING OUTSIDE THE SCHOLARS IN THE SUNSHINE (EXAMS? WHAT EXAMS?!)

MAY 29TH 2004

THE LAST DAY OF EXAMS AND IT'S GONNA BE MENTAL!

SARAH RYAN, CCO

EDITOR OF THIS HERE PAPER,
BIG UP FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK OVER THE LAST YEAR.



WE HATE...

BOY RACERS

BECAUSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK COOL IN A NACKED UP SOFT-TOP LIME GREEN MICRA.

FANCY A FCUK?

OK, THE WHOLE FCUK/FUCK THING WAS FUNNY ABOUT 5 YEARS AGO. TIME FOR A NEW SLOGAN.

SWARMS OF FLIES IN THE AIR

THE MOST ANNOYING THING ABOUT THE CAMPUS BEING BESIDE THE SHANNON.

WEEK 12 WORKLOAD

SHIT, WE REALLY SHOULD'VE DONE THIS WHEN WE GOT IT IN WEEK 5.

LIBRARY SQUATTING

ONE BOOK DOESN'T KEEP THE DESK ALL DAY YOU KNOW.



COMPILED BY NERSH AND SARAH CAREW

AND THEN HE SAID "SUNSHINE AND LOLLIPOPS B!"

Credit Where Credit is Due

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Rob McDonagh

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Sandra Gannon

Editor

Sarah Ryan

CAMPUS NEWS*
(with Val)

Supposedly insightful and intellectual lecturer gives blatantly obvious exam tips

English Literature students hoping for a final revision session packed full of useful hints and tips were left disappointed after their respected lecturer merely provided them with "absurd and blatantly obvious" advice. Not only did expert Dr. Grace Wallace fail to provide the expected hints as to exam questions but her "top tips for exam mastery" showed no evidence of original research.

"Make sure you allow study breaks " was her first pointer toward degree success. "You'll feel better if you take a fifteen minute break every hour," she continued, before concluding that the habit "will help you take in what you've just been learning".

It was advice that did not come as a revelation to her disappointed students. "Well duuhh," groaned third-year, Emily Scully "as if we are going to work for five hours straight or something. Our problems are that we take too many breaks, I'm always making cups of tea or wandering

around to distract my neighbours." "Geez," she added.

Dr Wallace's original insights into the poetry of Tennyson may have led to her reputation as an expert on the subject, but stating that "It might be worth spending a few minutes making a quick plan before you write your essays" evoked the reaction of "No sh*t!" from one student. "Does she think we've never done an exam before or something?" he queried. "My God damn Junior Cert teachers were telling me that." Increasingly discontented students interrupted Dr Wallace before she got to her third tip recommending "make sure you read the exam question carefully" to enquire as to whether she could drop any hints about what might be in the paper itself. Despite being able to recite the entire first chapter of "Wuthering Heights" from memory, Dr Wallace claimed not to be able to remember what she'd set. Her students remain in a state of uncertainty and confusion.

Sunbathing constantly interrupted by temptation of study

The tans of hundreds of UL students are under severe threat as more and more retreat to the darkness of the library to continue studying. Soaring work schedules and unseasonal exam timetables have proved too strong a temptation for many, and university officials are worried that the trend could continue.

"It's time they got their priorities sorted," blasted one onlooker, who wished to remain anonymous. "It's all very well studying hard but when the sunshine's over what will they have to show for it? Not much, if they all carry on like this."

"It's so unfair," whined Georgina '4-point QCA' McInerney, "We're supposed to be doing all this sunbathing and then along come these exams. And, you know, we just have to go and revise - we might not get another opportunity like this. It wouldn't surprise me if all the exams were over by the time it starts raining again."

Her views were echoed by second-year Anthony Moore: "All the time I'm inside studying there's this nagging voice at the back of my mind saying 'you should be outside catching some rays'. But at the end of the day you've got to live a little, haven't you? I'm sure my tan will take care of itself."

Third year D nal Ryan, a dedicated sunbather, fears the worst for his college friends: "What they need is a little bit of discipline, some motivation to get them out here and lie on that grass. It's all too easy for them to plough through some biology or swot over thirteen different novels, but they need to think long-term."

Though many students have attempted to combine revision with sunbathing, sources from inside suggest their hearts are much more in one thing than the other. Meanwhile, the exam period shows no signs of coming to an end.

KPMG recruiter thought student shop sold students

Confusion reigned for five or ten minutes in the Student Shop last week, when a visiting KPMG recruiter was spotted mistakenly believing that the ULSU shop sold students. Mr. Kingston, a graduate of Oxford, Cambridge and Trinity, was on the look out for "competent students able to fully realise the vision of KPMG".

"He came in and asked if I had any typical 2:1 graduates," said a taken-aback shop assistant, "He didn't sound too fussy. In fact he said to me 'Anything like that'll do. You know the sort.' Well I certainly didn't. We sell pens and hot chicken rolls and things." Mr. Kingston's blunder happened at a reasonably quiet time during the afternoon, when many students were skipping lectures and had what is commonly called 'fucked off for the day'. He described the mistake as "a simple misunderstanding" and went on to say: "I was under the impression that as a book shop sells books, and a pet shop sells pets, a student shop would, logically, sell students. The insinuation that my

company considers students as products is quite frankly ludicrous."

"KPMG are looking for the highest-quality graduates. Our company has a unique and distinct set of aims and objectives that we are determined to meet in a dynamic and professional way. We want adventurous people with an international outlook. My own time at KPMG has been a breakneck journey of discovery, challenge and self-fulfilment," added the single, lonely, worn-out, disillusioned and reasonably wealthy 23-year-old.

The potentially embarrassing scene was smartly defused by a quick-thinking second-year, who wishes to remain anonymous. She swiftly bought a bottle of Lucozade and a packet of Taytos and told Mr. Kingston to try the Business department. Plans to rename the Student Shop to avoid future confusion have been dismissed as "laughably unnecessary" by sources inside the Students Union.

Back Inside

College of Inhumanities



Your Stars

- Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)**
 The inexplicable rain that always pours from underneath your umbrella will finally stop, moments before your hair catches fire.

- Gemini: (May 21—June 21)**
 The search for meaning in life is a worthy pursuit, but the search for meaning in your particular life is a real waste of time.

- Cancer: (June 22—July 22)**
 You've asked the man in the mirror to change his ways, but he only responds by howling like a fiend and force-feeding you shards of broken glass.

- Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)**
 This is a great time for romance to bloom at work--a fact you won't realize until it's no longer a great time.

- Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)**
 You will remind many of Abraham Lincoln, with your oratory gifts, dedication to equality, and habit of getting shot in the head at theaters.

- Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)**
 You will still have no idea what makes women tick, despite having asked literally hundreds of watchmakers.

- Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)**
 You'll finally be contacted by your long-lost birth parents, but the nine signatures on the letter only brings more questions than answers.

- Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)**
 Your natural stubbornness comes in handy when your opponent's arguments turn out to be supported by logical arguments, hard facts and credible evidence.

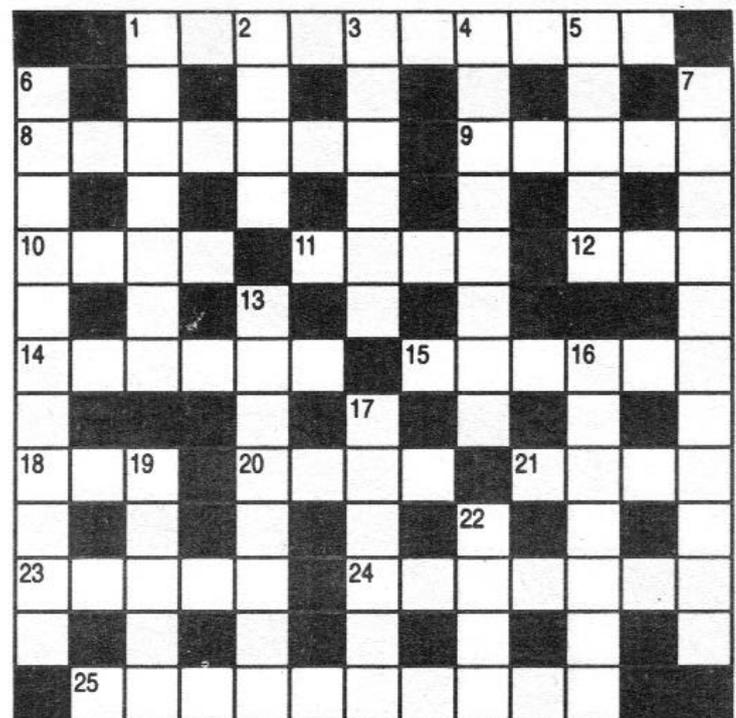
- Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)**
 You are destined to become a major sex symbol, just as soon as societal attitudes toward sex become far less healthy.

- Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)**
 Most of the people who told you to "just believe in yourself" didn't realize that you think you're the illegitimate son of Osiris and the Michelin Man.

- Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)**
 It turns out that your weakness isn't the color yellow after all, but bullets, knives, and angry packs of dogs.

- Aries: (March 21—April 19)**
 You've been feeling bad about wasting your life, but there's really nothing useful you could have done with it, anyway.

An Focal Crossword #11



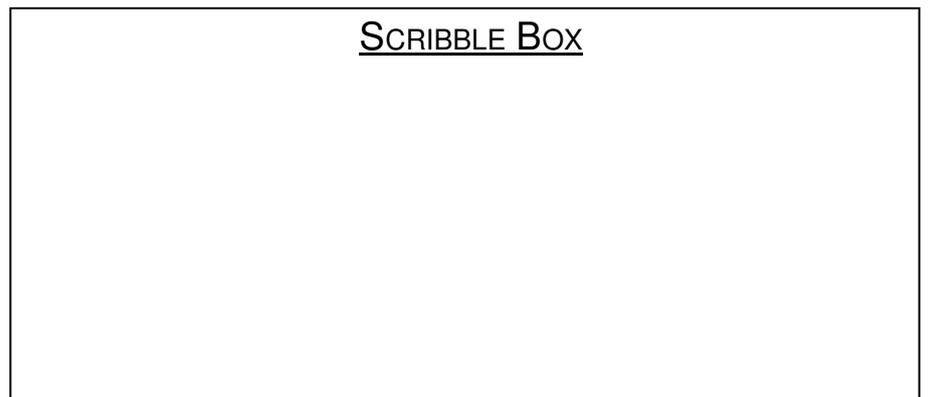
ACROSS

- 1. Evildoer (10)
- 8. Small passenger vehicle (7)
- 9. Tenth (archaic) (5)
- 10. Tasting like venison etc. (4)
- 11. Inclination (4)
- 12. For each (3)
- 14. (Land) left unseeded (6)
- 15. Genocide (6)
- 18. Type (3)
- 20. Orderly (4)
- 21. Look at all parts of (4)
- 23. Retch (5)
- 24. Vessel for holding coal (7)
- 25. Dangerous bacteria (10)

DOWN

- 1. Of the highest value (7)
- 2. Narrow arm of sea (4)
- 3. Lied (6)
- 4. Official summons (8)
- 5. Dominant (2,3)
- 6. Nervousness before an audience (5-6)
- 7. Manipulate voting districts (11)
- 13. Lunar ray (8)
- 16. Soft Italian cheese (7)
- 17. Dried fruit (6)
- 19. Aussie "bear" (5)
- 22. Kill certain numbers of animals (4)

SCRIBBLE BOX



Sabbatical Reports

PRESIDENT - EOIN

A Chairde,

Best of luck in the exams! Only 4 weeks to go and you will be free of it all so keep the head down for the final straight.

The highlight of my last fortnight has been working on a new Union Constitution plus compiling Union finances and budgets for next year and attending PCC Board of Directors, the Residents Forum, Academic Council & Governing Authority.

The new Constitution has taken 3 months to get together with a few late nights near the end to wrap it up. Now it's ready for your endorsement or modification. The place for that is the Union General meeting tonight Tuesday!

The Union General Meeting is the semesters large scale assembly where Union members get a chance to hear what the sabbatical & non sabbatical officers have been up to and to raise any issues of concern they have themselves. See the agenda inside. Next Years Union Budgets will be presented. A discussion will also take place on the issue of Student Nocturnal behaviour in the housing estates. If you have any contributions to make on this issue we want to hear them.

If you or anyone you know has experienced physical violence at the hands of any of the cities bouncers over the last few months call in to me. The Union have a solicitor on retainer who can help you out in cases like this. It may be a more widely occurring phenomena than you think.

Still no news on the library opening hours. What can we say? Someone has dropped the ball on this issue or to be more precise deliberately hidden the ball. You may have extended library opening hours by the end of this year though unlike in my election manifesto I won't promise it. In fact the only way it might occur now would be if we organised a sit in there.

Sorry that the SU photocopiers are still not fully functional. We are still working on the servicing contracts which have left them in the state of repair they are in. Hope to get this sorted next week.

Well my tenure is nearly over. I have had a great time here as prez over the last two years. The Union is in safe hands with the new sabbatical officers and all the friendly Union staff!

UL as a college has so much potential and the Union has a fair bit of potential as well though it needs more people to be involved! That can start tonight if you come along to the General Meeting! Not much more to say except to together we can make it ... in Union!

Tóg é go bog é!

Slán,

Eoin



DEPUTY/WELFARE - DAVID



It's been a year of consolidation of the Union, one of restructuring, re-organisation and renewal. Hopefully we have built a solid Union that will be able to represent it's members in the best way in the future. I reckon it's also been one of the most interesting years for myself personally. I have to say that I have learned lots about people, what concerns them and also about myself. Many of the campaigns that I

organised, like the 10K walk, the motion in relation to the IBTS along with Freshers' Week, the various General Meetings and the fees march that we organised with the Union Executive have been successful, some not so successful but always interesting. In fact, it is one of my regrets that due to the financial pressures and the time it has taken to sort those problems out - I have been unable to spend more time on campaigns. Hopefully Welfare Officers in the future will have the ability to spend more time on this vital part of the job.

I have been inspired by some people and their drive and vision, for example the Student Parents, the "Out in UL" society which has gone from strength to strength this year, individuals I met in the University and within the Union whose commitment is a lesson for us all. Also the SU executive who lived up to the challenge of the year in the most constructive and positive way. Eoin for his hard work and driven nature which helped us all when times were difficult. Madeline and Sarah for being there for emotional support when it was very much needed.

But lastly I guess I would like to thank the students for allowing me to be their Welfare Officer. I think I have done the very best I could. As well as me giving support to the students you also gave me support through being involved in the Union, coming to me with a problem or whatever. For that I would like to thank you and I hope that you will continue to give that support to the next Welfare Officer, Rosie, in the coming year. I wish her the best of luck and hope she has as interesting a year as I had.

Anyway I am sure I will see some of you in the future - be careful out there (and good luck in the exams!)

David.

suwelfare@ul.ie.

EDUCATION - MADELINE

Hello all

I know it's that time of year again and many of ye have been asking me for tips. So here they are sneakily copied from the Irish Times so they can't be half bad!!!!

The 10 commandments of exam preparation:

1 Study previous examination questions and prepare answers - in bullet point or graphic format - that fit into the time allocation allowed.

2 Review such prepared answers regularly over the coming weeks. This can be done in less than a minute, provided the question has been well prepared and presented.

3 Ensure that all the subjects you are taking are getting a balanced amount of your time coming up to the examinations. Students can often misread their need to concentrate on specific subjects to the detriment of those subjects they feel are not in need of much work at this time.

4 Don't attempt to start reading new material over the coming weeks. You have more than enough content in your head without adding more. The task now is to organise it in your head and on your revision cards in a manner conducive to presentation in 40 minutes.

5 Remember that in any race the eventual winner is very rarely the one who starts off at great speed. The ability to pace yourself over the coming weeks is crucial to how you will be able to perform in those last vital exams at the end of the second week.

6 Therefore, issues such as diet, exercise, relaxation time, sufficient sleep, are as vital to your eventual performance as time spent studying.

7 In any competitive process it is often the unexpected little things that trip you up, so prepare well.. Simple things such as pens, erasers, calculator batteries, rulers, all tend to run out or go missing at exactly the wrong moment.

8 Over the coming weeks, the temptation to phone a friend or the frustration of constantly going to the phone to take friends' calls can be very disruptive. A simple solution can be to organise a common time out from study with friends to simply chat or go do sports.

9 Because stress is such a factor for all concerned, simple mistakes can easily be made. The most serious mistake possible is not turning up for an exam, because you misread the timetable.

10. Smile

Its my last time writing this article so I'd like to thank my counterparts Eoin, Dave and Sarah for all the support and hugs throughout the year, the Exec for working so hard, and the staff here for coping with a difficult financial year brilliantly and keeping the smile sparkling!!! Thanks to Gemma, Paul, Aisling, Caroline, Adele, Paddy and the evening staff.

My friends for understanding that this place is like a ticking bomb- we're constantly running to try and save one thing or another leaving little time for anything else, young Mike for being a life saver, Foxy Fiona for turning the shop around, Pat for the financial advice, and Paddy McHugh and Don Maher for taking the mick no matter how stressed I was.

And to all you students' thanks for a great year, it's been an experience. Best of luck in the exams, don't stress and enjoy the summer.... Fintan Breen will be looking out for ye next year, take it easy on him!!

Madeline



COMMS & CAMPAIGNS - SARAH



Hi Everyone,

So, the new ULSU website's been in action for the past few weeks. So far, just over half of you think it's ok or good, and the rest think it's crap. Thanks for your feedback, and remember that there will be a lot more functionality coming up soon.

This here is the last ever An Focal I'll ever do. *Boo Hoo* It's been utter torture with moments of bliss, and I firmly resolve that from this day forth I will never pull another all-nighter to lay out a newspaper as long as I live.

I owe huge amounts of thanks to EVERYONE who contributed to the paper in any way large or small, to

the Clubs and Socs crew who kept the articles coming but always ended up with the same amount of space in the paper. To Niall McGlade for being a whirlwind at the start of the year, Niall Murphy for the never ending stream of great film reviews, Nersh for joy that has always been Ben and everything else, Denis for going to gigs and walking home and always writing about it, Emma for Pop Goes the Century, no typos and always being more or less on time, Valerie and An Bainisteoir for keeping the giggles coming, Sheena for reviewing stuff I don't listen to, and reviewing it damn well too! Anne, Mikey and Keith for making sure that the features well never ran too dry, Jack Fennell for taking the piss out of Mr Myers, Niamh, Mary and Amy for cheering me up and being great (and writing articles), Kevin and Tracey for turning up to meetings all the time, even if they thought I was nuts, Jim for the hookers and the blackjack, Deirdre for the photos, and how pretty they were and Alan and Donal for always being ready to write an article, even at the last minute on the most boring subjects imaginable. Thank you guys so much! Thanks to everyone who wrote anything, suggested anything, complimented anything, criticised anything and basically DID anything!

Huge thanks to Tomás for doing the website, to Paddy for training me up good, to Peter for innumerable invaluable assistances in uncountable ways, to Anna, Maeve, Jean and those people who hugged me randomly and asked me how I was doing!

Huge thanks to Executive for being so Kick-Ass this year, even if they will go down in history as the Greatest Exec Never Known, you bit the bullet and I take my hat off to you for it. To the staff in the Union, especially EVERYONE :) and to Eoin, Dave and Madeline for riling me up, calming me down, keeping me sane and generally being a great sabbat team.

Thanks to students for giving me a job for a year, I hope you haven't been too disappointed. Thanks for the memories, and cheers to Sandra, who'll be a great CCO!

###Final Transmission Ends###