

An FOCAL

walkout Wednesday p4

University of Limerick

Rugby World Cup p22



EDITION 4 : WEEK 6

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE STUDENTS' UNION

16TH OCTOBER 2007

Doors opened to the alternative



BY AOIFE BREEN
NEWS EDITOR

OUR two weeks here have been a dream come true. The reaction from the students has been brilliant,' according to Java's proprietor Duncan O'Toole following the opening of the much-anticipated Java's café-bar on Wednesday of week 4, two days later than had been originally planned.

Two years after the Scholars' closure, the new development has completed the refurbishment of the site of the former club which also incorporates the Students' Union Spar shop. After months of planning and refitting the location, Java's doors opened up for the UL

community almost two weeks ago.

Despite the late beginning, Mr O'Toole is enthusiastic about the response from students so far to the new 'alternative' on campus and is looking forward to what the future has in store for the café-bar.

He hopes to continue to build on its founding principle as being the alternative venue on campus to give students a choice. 'Students can go into town and spend all their money on expensive drinks and taxis, or they can come here,' Mr O'Toole explained, 'where we're going to try to keep them for the duration of the semester'.

The owner of the former city-centre café of the same name went on to reveal that there are plans to expand the beverage selection available in the bar to include a wider variety of beers and wines, but boasted that, 'You can't beat our hot chocolates'.

Patrick McHugh, Campaigns and Services Officer, commented that,

'With the opening of Java's, it is envisaged that many more students will find their feet on campus both socially and academically. This new watering hole is, in many ways, a venue aspiring to allow alternative minds meet as it has focused on an alternative menu and music.'

The café-bar has opened at a crucial point in the level of campus atmosphere which has been noted to dwindle over the past number of years as students choose to drink off-campus in their homes instead of in the on-campus clubs.

The Scholars' Club suffered as a result of the declining number of clientele and closed in September 2005 due to financial difficulties. This has been attributed, in part, to the introduction of the Alcohol Policy in 2002 which restricts the campus clubs in how they can offer alcohol to students.

As a result, campus atmosphere has been noted to have dwindled over the past number of years and

particularly so over the past two years since the Scholars' closure, which further reduced what was available on-campus to students.

The opening of the café-bar coincides with the countdown to the deadline set in last semester's referendum which asked students if they would like to withdraw their support from the Alcohol Policy from November 28 if the University had not made a move to fulfil its obligations that it committed itself to in 2002 under the agreement.

What students have been saying about Java's:

It's definitely an alternative on campus, but it's not the real Java's in town. Where's the swing chair?

Cian Prendiville, 1st year HPSS.



Java's already in demand Photo by Will Lyons/UL Photo Soc

It's not going to last. It'll be interesting for a few months and then no body will care.

Stephen Carmody, 2nd Pharmaceutical and Industrial Chemistry.

It's pretentious and I don't really like it

Caitriona McGrattan, 4th Year HPSS.

It's classy!

Sharon Brosnan, 2nd Year Digital Media and Design

Muggings in Castletroy

KATIE HARRINGTON

STUDENTS have been warned to be extra vigilant following a number of muggings that took place in the Castletroy area on the nights of Sunday 30 September and Monday 1 October during which students were held with a sharp implement while their possessions were taken. The victims, who were walking in the area, were stopped by at least two culprits who then escaped in a car. The targets were female students, although one male student was also attacked.

Students' Union Welfare Officer, Judith Lynch, commented, 'The sad reality of college life today is that

students simply have to plan ahead to ensure their own personal safety. The recent SU safety campaign highlighted the importance of being safe at home, in the community and on the roads.' Gardaí have been made aware of the attacks and since the incidents there has been an increased Garda-presence in Castletroy, both during the day and in the evening. The Students' Union encourages students to report any such incident to Gardaí immediately on 061-212400.

Students have also been advised not to walk home alone if at all possible. The Nitelink is a free shuttle bus service which runs every half an hour between 7pm and 11pm and takes two different

routes through the Castletroy area, servicing the vast majority of student accommodation. Alternatively, walking home with a group is advisable.

Ms. Lynch added 'Whatever you are doing and wherever you are going - make sure that your own personal safety is paramount. The Students' Unions recommended safe-cab is Plassey Cabs 061-336336.'

Security on campus has also been stepped up. Lights which had been broken at the entrance to the college have been fixed to improve visibility and 30% of the new CCTV cameras are now fully operational, a figure which is set to increase to 90% by the end of this month.



Photo by Will Lyons/UL Photo Soc

EDITORIAL



BY SEAMUS RYAN
EDITOR

ONE of the major promises when the UL Alcohol Policy (from which the Students' Union is projected to withdraw on November 28) was introduced was that the university would take definite and significant steps towards returning Wednesday afternoons to their former position of being free from scheduled classes so that students can participate in sporting and other activities. While there have been helpful noises and murmurings from university administrators, almost nothing has been done to achieve this.

The idea of Walkout Wednesday on October 24 is to provide students with activities reminiscent of the days when Wednesday afternoons were indeed free for use by students, when there were no scheduled lectures, no scheduled labs, no scheduled tutorials. Anyone who remembers UL from about ten years ago will remember the activities organised by and participated in by students mid-week when there was time to do so. It's no accident that the beginning of the decline in club and society participation and the destruction of social life on campus (at least the social life that didn't necessarily centre around getting scattered in the bar) began at the same time that the university decided to schedule classes throughout Wednesday. Though correlation is not necessarily causation, it would be a rather poor argument from anyone who decided to state that the beginning of the decline was not precipitated by the abandonment of free Wednesday afternoons.

The activities on Wednesday of next week serve as a showcase, a reminder, a protest but also as a chance for students who have not had the time to participate in clubs and societies (or the Students' Union) to get a taste of what they are missing out on. The fun and activities are there for your enjoyment so please, turn up, have a look and try a few things out.

At 5pm on the same day the Student' Union AGM will be held at the Stables. Rather than using this editorial to plead with people to turn up, to talk about the issues, to talk about the need for participation, I'd like to present a different perspective. If people know the AGM is on and they choose not to be there for an hour at 5pm to present their point of view in the forum where that view will be noticed by all in attendance, the only way the current officers can interpret that attendance (or lack of it) is that the way they are doing their jobs is viewed as good, or at worst adequate, by the general student body. I would like to think that there isn't a single elected SU executive member who isn't open to criticism of the way they are doing their job, though obviously any of us will accept praise as well. If you choose not to turn up, your point of view, either positive or negative is unlikely ever to be known.

Enjoy the Walkout Wednesday activities. But please, on that day, give the SU and the SU officers an hour of your time - every year they give a year of theirs. It's an opportunity to voice your views, take it.

The 2nd October edition of An Focal included on page 4 a picture of the UL library interior. This photo should have been credited to Mr Cian Davies. Apologies to Mr Davis for the omission.

Quotes of the fortnight

- **Why don't we just get a minibus instead of a 4 X 4?**
UL Vikings clearly need to acquaint themselves with the resources - including a minibus - currently available to Clubs and Societies after their outburst at C&S Council in Week 5.
- **But they're just not left enough!**
Fourth year HPSS students enter a heated debated about Labour...on a wild night out.
- **Don't touch me!**
(to the tune of the well-known song, Can't Touch This) Campaigns and Services Officer Patrick McHugh rebels against female manhandling.
- **Why are there no jacks? Are you meant to piss in the corner?**
Outdoor Pursuits Club Prez Fergal Dempsey outlines his disgust at the lack of, er, facilities in the new café-bar, Java's.
- **He's a bit like Bono: he has a God-complex**
Ross O'Carroll-Kelly creator, Paul Howard, describes the famous D4 character to the audience attending his book reading in the Jean Monnet theatre during week 5.
- **You'd find more chips in a McDonald's bin**
Review sub-editor Finn McDuffie expresses his exasperation at the size of the portion of chips he received from Campbell's Restaurant in the D-block.
- **We should latch on to somebody and suck them off...I mean suck money out of them**
Chair of CRC and DebU's Speaker Development Officer Aoife Finnerty comes up with a cunning way of acquiring money.

Ulster Bank
let's do things differently

Dear Ulster Bank

I'm a mature student and I've just returned to college after a few years off. I dropped out a few years ago and unfortunately didn't finish my degree. While I have some savings, I also owe quite a bit of money on a credit card with another bank, a few thousand in fact. I'm making my monthly payments but with the high rates of interest on credit cards it's very hard to get the balance reduced by any amount, especially with my only income coming from part-time work. I also have a loan of about 2000 euros with the other bank and I'm making my monthly repayments there but the payments are quite high and it's very hard for me to manage. My study is suffering. Please advise!

Troubled Student

Dear Troubled Student

We are here to help and of course ensure that your study is your priority not money worries. Our advice to you is the following: You would need to make an appointment with one of our Customer Advisors who will need to look over the situation and advise accordingly. We would normally look at taking over the other bank's loan and putting it on an interest only repayment basis. This means that you would only have to cover the interest part of the loan whilst in college and the capital would not be reduced and thus reducing your monthly commitments. When you qualify and are in full time employment we would then put the loan on a proper Capital and Interest repayment schedule. In relation to the credit card debt we would look at this on a case by case basis and this would be reviewed by our Lending department in order to have approval to include this debt with the loan. The Ulster Bank Student Credit Card has a maximum limit of E450 so this would prevent you getting into the same situation you are currently in with your existing card. Also you do not pay any interest for the first 9 months on purchases or balance transfers. The maximum payment per month if you have used the full limit is only E13.00 per month. As you are working part-time you would be in a good position to apply for a loan and all you need to do is contact the Branch here on Campus and we would be delighted to help you out.

Ulster Bank

An FOCAL EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Seamus Ryan
Phone: 061 202363
Email: editor@ulsu.ie

News Editor: Aoife Breen
Sports Editor: Tomás McCarthy
Layout & Design: Jackie Britton, Topdesk

Contributors:

Mark Connolly
Derek Daly
Breandán Ó hÉamhaigh
Aoife Finnerty
Alexandra Gavigan
Katie Harrington
Diarmuid Healy
Alan Higgins
Judith Lynch

Finn McDuffie
Emma Murphy
Pádraig Ó Beagáin
St John Ó Donnabháin
Donal O'Driscoll
Neil Slevin
Liam Togher
Thomas Weldon
UL Clubs & Societies

PSA Votes to Re-integrate with ULSU

DONAL O'DRISCOLL

WHAT transpired to become an historic AGM of the Post-Graduate Students Association (PSA) was held on Wednesday of Week 5 in the PSA common room.

The meeting began with PSA President, Emma Murphy, welcoming students to the AGM, and giving an overview of the history of the PSA. Emma outlined that the PSA was originally founded as a Society, within the Clubs and Socs structure. In 2002, due to unrest at the lack of influence the PSA had within the Union, they became an autonomous body, separate from the SU. They have remained an autonomous body outside of the SU

structure, to the present day.

Emma then gave an officer report where she detailed some of the activities she has been engaged with as PSA president; including the cleaning up of the PSA common room, the PSA finances and meeting the dean of Graduate Studies, concerning the PostGrad reading room. Siobhán O'Catháin, the outgoing events officer, then gave her report. The major events Siobhán was involved with included organising the PostGrad Ball as well as the PSA Presidential elections.

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers. Derrick Howard was elected Deputy president with Donal O'Driscoll being elected Publicity officer and

Siobhán O'Catháin being returned as Events officer. No nominations were put forward for the posts of Treasurer, Mary I rep or the 6 college officers, which means these will remain open.

The discussion then turned to the proposal to re-integrate with the SU. The proposal would mean that if accepted, the SU would then be asked at the next AGM to pass a new constitution, facilitating the inclusion of the PSA. Under the proposal, the PSA would retain its own president who would become a full member of the ULSU exec, and would also maintain full autonomy for Postgraduates.

Speaking in favour of the motion, PSA president Emma Murphy said it would make

the PSA more accountable, especially in relation to finances as the SU would have to co-sign all cheques. She also lamented that currently 60% of her workload is taken up with administration with only about 40% dedicated to representing students. Emma felt this would improve with re-integration. SU president, St John Ó Donnabháin, argued that re-integration would be a no lose situation for the PSA.

The point was raised by one student in the audience, that some safeguards had already been put in place to help the PSA President become more accountable, nonetheless, re-integration would help this process even more.

Cian Davis warned that the decision to withdraw from

the union had been taken without any real regard for potential consequences and hence, while he was not opposed to re-integration, felt that it would be wrong to rush into a decision. He asked that the vote be delayed until he could review the Draft Constitution, this was agreed.

The discussion then turned to the problems with the non-payment of Teaching assistants (TAs) in certain Departments and the delays in paying TAs for marking exams and essays. The college of Engineering was highlighted as a problem area - there is no uniform system for payment of tutorials and labs and in most cases, Postgrads are required to teach them. One TA spoke of how he found it difficult to

find cover for labs that he could not make. Emma spoke of the need for uniformity in terms of conditions for TAs. Another contributor highlighted the delay in payment for exams, dating back over 6 months.

As the meeting had reached quorum mid-way through the meeting, a binding vote on the re-integration motion could take place. When a clear majority voted to accept the motion and no objections were raised, the motion was deemed passed. This means that at the ULSU AGM, students will be asked to vote for a new constitution, which if passed (providing a quorum of 200 is reached) will re-integrate the PSA with the current ULSU structure.

Creativity: the key to mental health

AOIFE BREEN

CREATIVITY was the theme of this year's Mental Health Week which was undertaken on campus through the Students' Union Welfare Office in conjunction with Limerick Mental Health Association. Judith Lynch, Welfare Officer, was responsible for the organisation of a number of workshops during week 5 that sought to enhance 'creativity' and to stress the importance of mental well-being. The Limerick Association also gave discounts to students on a number of seminars held throughout the week.

Overall, Ms Lynch deemed the week to have passed off as a success. She commented that this year's theme made it easier 'for students to interact and engage without really feeling the stigma that usually surrounds mental health today'. The ceramics workshops, held on Tuesday and Thursday, proved to be the most popular of the events staged during the week.

The Welfare Officer commented that, 'The main

thing was to provide the opportunity for students to engage and to help them to realise that they may need to readjust and give themselves some time to distress and reflect.'

She continued to say that the workshops attracted a wide variety of students, including mature and international students but that the seminars were less popular which she puts down to the fact that they were off-campus. The workshops were

held in the Students' Union which made it 'easy for students to access them'.

For next year, Ms Lynch hopes that it can be made 'bigger and better' and would like to work more closely with Limerick Mental Health Association. She also advises students that if they would like to continue to explore their mind and engage in mediation, Dr Declan Aherne, Head of Counselling at UL, runs a daily session in CM073.



Class Reps vote for a more transparent education-anonymous marking asked for more time

THOMAS WELDON

THERE was very little debate on the provisions of the Transparency in Education proposals brought by the Students' Union Education Officer, Alan Higgins, however Class Reps were definite about omitting the proposal calling for the introduction of anonymous marking.

With the proposal having originally been presented to Class Reps Council in Week 2, the 'wish list', as the Education Officer described it, got final approval subject to one amendment on Tuesday in Week 4. This Programme of Work outlines nine objectives for the Education Officer this year to present to the University as a means identified to create a more transparent and fairer academic system. The provision outlined include:

dedicated study space, improvement in process and information such as electronic submissions and greater awareness of the recheck and appeals system.

Following the recent focus on improvement of teaching and learning, generated by the new President's inaugural address, the Students' Union now has a mandate for a clearer and recognised role of the student in teaching and learning and the establishment of a University Committee to promote and develop teaching and learning within the University.

The SU Education Officer has said, 'While the provision of this programme of work is primarily student-focussed, I hope that faculty and staff will see how they too will benefit from the provisions, such as clearer guidelines for supervisors and the provisions for teaching and learning'. He continued saying that 'These

provisions result from feedback which I and the Union gained in the past year, all aimed and improving the academic systems of the University'.

Class Reps however did not accept all the provision proposed by the Education Officer. The provision on anonymous marking, which was seen as potentially the most controversial element of the proposal, was removed and referred to the Education Working Group for further discussion. One member of Council described it as an issue on which his class is split down the middle.

The Education Working Group is expected to report on the issue in Week 8. In the meantime the Education Officer will be highlighting the approved elements of this programme to the relevant University authorities and Committees.

Walkout Wednesday



WHAT would your week look like with Wednesday afternoon free?

Well, here's a feel for how it could be, if the University could see past its Bridge!

Wednesday 24th October is going to be a Clubs and Societies Carnival in the Student Centre and all around campus, everything from OPC 'Climbing Everest', to the Green Fair, to Trampoline, and loads more besides - and we really need more people

getting involved, to make a great day of it.

We need to show just how great Free Wednesday afternoons would be if the University got its priorities straight and stopped rescheduling classes there - the only apathy on this campus is by the University towards its students! The clearance of Wednesday afternoon for the President's Inauguration shows blatantly that the University can clear Wednesday when it's both

ered, and when the will is there. If the President truly means what he says about the importance of the 'student experience', then he needs to put students at the centre of the University, and the importance of Clubs and Societies needs to be valued and supported. There'll also be an AGM discussion on how we can push the University fully, and then there'll be a free concert with a 'Mystery Act' on after that, to round off the day.

But we really need your

help - if you want to do something cool, then please call into the Students' Union and we'll do everything we can to help make it happen!

Some of the background...

You've all heard about the Alcohol Policy, and how the University hasn't done nearly enough about it, and how the Alcohol Policy Referendum put them under pressure - now it's time to really step up the pressure. The Campus should be at the centre of things hap-

pening for students, and we really need to push this. Under the Alcohol Policy, to encourage a responsible attitude to alcohol, and social alternatives, the College promised:

- Free Wednesday afternoons
- Alternative funding for Clubs and Socs
- An alcohol-free Venue on campus

And they agree that it hasn't worked, so we also need low-alcohol, like beer, drinks

promotions to allow the campus bars to compete, and people to socialise in a good environment. There has been some progress on a few of these, but nowhere near enough - now is the time to really get going on this!

And did somebody say something about a walkout!? Wonder what that's all about...

Students' Union AGM - Wednesday wk7

THE Students Union has a General Meeting every semester, and it's a really important body for deciding on the most important issues for students here in UL, along with the referendum. This is going to be one of the biggest meetings in years, as there are some really important issues on the agenda, including:

The Alcohol Policy

The college owes us four things: money for Clubs and Societies; Free Wednesday afternoons; low-alcohol drinks promotions; and an alcohol-free venue.

The Referendum was passed a few months ago but we really need to keep the pressure on - we haven't gone away!

There has been progress on these, but there's still loads of work to do on the money owed and Wednesday afternoons - and the students need to get involved in pushing them to fulfil their promises!!!

There'll be a big event all day of the AGM...keep your eyes open for info...it's on a Wednesday...

Reintegration with the Postgraduate Student Associa-

tion

This move will make student representation stronger for all students, with another sabbat on board, and will put a stop to all the time and money the Postgrad President puts into separate administration and audits.

Both the Students Union and the PSA agree that this will really improve things for students by reintegrating and unifying the bodies.

Putting Postgrad President, Equality and Community Relations Officers Elections at the same time as the other Sabbatical Elections (and changing Faculty Officers)

This'll get more people involved in all of the elections, and improve the democracy of the Students Union, and students' representation on a wide range of different issues.

All of these issues are hugely important issues, and the students really need to get out, get involved, and make your voices heard on them!!!

So see you at the AGM, Wednesday of Week 7, October 24, 5pm at the Stables!

PRESS RELEASE

JOURNALISM SOC



DOING THE WRITE THING

Who: UL's first Journalism Society.

What: Our inaugural meeting.

When: Wednesday, Week 7, 18h30.

Where: Students' Union, Room 3. Be there.

Why: Because you have the nerve to write or the face for radio.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION EMAIL
ULJOURNALISM@GMAIL.COM

Howard Rightly Impressed UL

FINN MCDUFFIE

PAUL Howard, creator of the best-selling Ross O'Carroll Kelly novels, visited UL last Wednesday night. Organized by ULEnts, the event was a great success and involved a reading from Howard's latest book (*This Champagne Mojito Is the Last Thing I Own*) and plenty of audience interaction with the acclaimed author. The Jean Monnet theatre was packed-out for Howard's visit, where he discussed his books, characters, inspiration and career with a delighted and appreciative audience. In fact, half way through the event,

Howard asked the audience 'will I read again?' The audience's reaction was a shockingly prompt 'YEA!' in unison.

The character of Ross O'Carroll Kelly is a satirical depiction of a wealthy, self-obsessed, Foxrock, Ballsbridge-dwelling rugby player; the stereotypical Dublin 'Southsider'. The Sunday Independent has described Howard's novels as 'comic genius' and it's not hard to see why. His books are 'full of surface detail' and a treat to read - satirical, intelligent and witty. Howard exhibited similar qualities last Wednesday and it's very

possible he got more laughs this year, than he did last.

Howard really showed himself up as a sociologist, in the way he spoke of Irish society and its little ironys which he has turned into a series of colourful and detailed novels. 'When you write a comedy, you need a counter point to everything... the books are so full of surface detail and materilistic nonsense,' he said, answering an engaged audience member, in the D4 vernacular, 'people from south Dublin put question morks on things... when they're not, loike, questions and sh*t.'

Howard will begin writing

his new book in January next year. 'I think Ross is entering the most interesting phase of his life now,' said Howard, adding '[Ross] is now in the Irish Times on a Saturday, which is, let's face it, his true home... [it's] bought by "golf dads" who never read it but buy it so they can leave it on the seat of the SUV.'

Being a member of the audience, there was a real sense of admiration and appreciation. Those who follow the books really love them, and this was made very clear by the audience.



USI Resignations

AN FOCAL REPORTER

RICHARD Morrisroe, USI President and Steve Conlon, USI Equality Officer, resigned from their respective posts on Saturday October 13 during the USI national council at NUI Galway.

The resignations had been preceded by a memo posted on the popular politics.ie web forum, purporting to be from members of the USI officer board, heavily criticising actions taken by Mr Morrisroe as president. Though the content of the memo was deleted by the original poster after a day, it had already been reposted on a number of Internet sites, including the ULSU forum at www.ulsu.ie/forum.

It emerged at the Galway conference that the memo had been written by Steve Conlon, USI Equality Officer, and had been published on the Internet by a confidant of his prior to being presented to any officers of the USI-affiliated Students' Unions. As a result, Mr Conlon resigned his position on the USI officer board. Having apparently lost the confidence of the board, Mr Morrisroe also resigned as President.

The resignations come at a troubled time for the national student body, having lost their office space in Dublin a few weeks ago and their general manager, who is moving to a position at NUI Galway Students' Union. A number of parties have expressed an interest in the now-vacant position of president, though no formal declarations of interest have hitherto been made.

Students Alerted to Bike Thefts

KATIE HARRINGTON

ON the evening of October 11 at least two bicycles were stolen from UL students on campus. The thefts occurred at approximately 8pm and were stolen from the bicycle racks behind the Students' Union and at the PESS Building respectively. Both bikes were chained to the racks with standard locks, one of which was stolen along with the bike, the other was found in parts on the ground near where the bicycle was chained.

Colm Shannon, 1st year Multimedia and Computer Games Technology commented that there should be security cameras overlooking any area where cars or bicycles are parked. The thefts come as new security cameras are being installed all over the campus.

Second year Law and European Studies student Finn McDuffie commented 'I'm appalled that there were only nine cameras in operation on campus for the first half of this semester, and I suppose last

semester too. Security isn't tight enough in campus if they're allowing people to get away with this'. Mr McDuffie went on to explain that as he walked to Kilmurry he was egged by students in a car, for the second time.

This has happened numerous times in Castletroy in recent weeks and Mr McDuffie stated that the culprits are being allowed to make a hobby of it. Continued anti-social behaviour such as this damages relations between students of the University and Castletroy residents, as well as lowering morale on campus.

Security stated that within weeks all security cameras will be operational, so the entire campus will be covered. The cameras, which are digital, should act as a deterrent to thieves as well as making culprits more easily identifiable. Gardaí have commented that in the case of anti-social behaviour such as being egged it is important to get the licence plate of the car for any action on their part to take place.

SU closes door on Irish Office

AOIFE BREEN AND KATIE HARRINGTON

CAMPUS Irish speakers have been shocked by the recent closure of the Students' Union Irish Office which shut its doors during week 5. A quiet decision to transform Toglann na Gaeilge into the Ents Office has outraged Irish Officer, Caitliona Gallagher, who spoke out against the hasty move: 'My biggest grievance is how this matter was handled. I'm disappointed with the Students' Union for not informing is at any stage before the decision was made'. Ms Gallagher has accused the Students' Union of failing in its role to promote the use of the Irish language on campus and highlighted that even the University's Irish motto was symbolic of the ethos of the language at UL.

The recently elected Irish Officer also pointed to what she believed to be a continuing spiralling importance placed on her role and on Irish in the Students' Union, from having a full-time paid Irish Officer in 2005 - which was funded by Aonad na Gaeilge - to a voluntary

part-time officer in 2007 who now does not have an office.

She described the Irish Office as providing a relaxed environment for students with an interest in the language to meet with each other and promote spoken Irish. She also mentioned that the office was not exclusive to members of the Cumann Gaelach, but open to all students. The office also provided a workspace for the Irish Officer to organise events such as Spraoi Luimnigh and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Students' Union President, St. John Ó Donnabháin has defended the decision stating that 'The original external funding for this idea is now gone and the entertainments service need the office so ... the space has to change'. He stated that space is a limited resource in the Union and noted that, 'As members of the Cumann Gaelach agree, the office wasn't used much during the day'.

Ms Gallagher will bring the decision before Class Reps' Council to have the matter discussed further; something which she claims should have been done before the closure was enacted.

Welfare in UL

JUDITH LYNCH, WELFARE OFFICER

HAVE you ever felt like meeting up with someone for a coffee and a chat but you had no-one to turn to? University life is new and exciting with so many things to see and do, let alone all the lectures, labs and tutorials to attend. However, at the same time the University is a big place and in a time when everyone is so busy and stressed it can be difficult to find someone who will take the time to sit down and lend a listening ear. Sometimes all we need is to let off some steam about the awful weather, that really tough module or the terrible flat-mates and we feel a whole lot better. With that in mind, a peer support network has been set up. This is quite simply a group of students just like you or I, who are happy to meet up with you and have a chat about anything and everything.

Sometimes a fellow student may understand your situation better than other people in your life or you may not be comfortable approaching the more formal support services offered here. This is where the Mentors can help. We can refer you on to further support if desired. If you have a question and don't know where to ask, try us! If we cannot answer a question, we know who to ask! When asked why they wanted to be peer mentors, the overall consensus from the students was that the University is such a brilliant place to be, to have fun and to meet people - it would be a shame if anyone was feeling left out, homesick or alone. These are a fun and enthusiastic group of students who would only be delighted to meet up with you.

So if you're finding that college life isn't going quite the way you'd imagined or you aren't feeling very at home here in the University and you'd like to meet up with another student and have a chat - then email Michael.OMahony@ul.ie or welfare@ulsu.ie and we can organise it for you.



Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

JUDITH LYNCH

STIs - So are you carrying a condom?

Attention GIRLS: The pill does not protect against STIs.

Last week we highlighted the importance of always wearing a condom! But, are you carrying a condom right now? One of the main reasons that people don't use condoms is that the sex was spontaneous. HELLO? The stark reality is that the instances of unprotected sex, unplanned pregnancy and STIs are on the increase, and in case you haven't been following this column - STIs are NASTY (and you may not be prepared to have a child yet either)! The moral of this story is: Do not expect the other person to think about/have contraception. Carrying a condom does not mean that you are seeking sex or are promiscuous. It means the opposite, it means you are informed, responsible and have taken a mature decision about your own sexual health.

FREE condoms are available from the Welfare Office so there is no excuse!

This weeks' STI column features: Public Lice/Crabs

What is it?

More of an infestation than an infection, public lice are tiny insects that live on the skin and are often called "crabs". Although crabs are particularly fond of pubic hair they can also live in armpits and even eyebrows and eyelashes.

What are the symptoms?

Look for small black insects - they have crab like claws and cling to pubic hair. The most common symptom is itching where the lice are living and it may be possible to see droppings that look like black powder in your underwear, as well as eggs on pubic or other hair.

How do you get them?

Pubic lice are usually sexually transmitted but can occasionally be transferred by close physical contact or by sharing sheets or towels.

Treatment?

Easily treated with a lotion that can be bought direct from a chemist. All towels, bedding and clothing should be washed when treatment begins.

STI Testing?

You can apply for an STI test at Limerick Regional Hospital - 061-482382
The phone lines are open between 14.30 and 16.00 between Monday and Friday
The waiting list is currently 5-6 weeks although there are slots available for emergency cases.

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Contact Seamus Ryan Editor**

editor@ulsu.ie 061-202363

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Letters to the editor

AN FOCAL, UL STUDENTS' UNION, UL, CASTLETROY, LIMERICK
PHONE 061-202363, FAX 061-213476, EMAIL SEAMUS.RYAN@UL.IE

An Focal will endeavour to accommodate all letters as far as legally possible. All parties have a right of reply to letters printed herein.

Sir,

Yet again I find myself writing to issue an apology to your publication. This time, however, I am throwing my hands up and saying sorry for my own actions. It was wrong of me to treat your newspaper like a college paper, rather than a kindergarten newsletter. It was wrong of me to consider your letters page a forum for critical thinkers expressing an alternate viewpoint. While I'm at it, hell - it was even wrong for me to assume that anyone who makes it to college can understand a Junior-Cert honours level of English.

This came to my attention through Cillian Burke's warblings (which almost resemble a letter if you squint a little). Somebody needs to explain a few things to this guy. For one; when he was told 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', nobody wanted him to reduce the standard of writing in An Focal, reuse the same 'need one' phrase ad nauseam until he tripped over it, and recycle not only one of my jokes, but also my opinions, for those who missed them the first time around.

As much as I'd love to point out the various instances where it seems he wrote his letter in French and translated it through Google, I'll instead hammer home the fact that Mr Burke and I are pushing the same agenda. Not drinking is absolutely not a 'quirk', as insinuated by Catriona McGrattan in September 4th's An Focal.

My letter was an attempt to entirely discredit Ms McGrattan's writings, and illustrate through an ironic sense of humour that not all teetotallers share her viewpoint. I appreciated her effort to show the 'alternate choice', but no amount of pseudo-Tommy Tiernan endorsements will make a person think that non-drinkers are cool, especially when buried under so many holier-than-thou statements.

Mr Burke, thank you for making the teetotaller tiff a threesome, you've shown me the error of my ways. I do request, however, that before you storm off to wherever it is you go to belt out a vitriolic response in which you buttress my statements, you endeavour to ask your mommy a few more times 'what does this word mean?' Furthermore, there's no need to get on a high horse about matters of erectile dysfunction - a fussy penis is not a cause for shame.

While I have your time, dear editor, I humbly request that you begin an investigation into how the Stables can justify charging €1 for 30ml of Mi Wadi and tapwater; your rather vocal teetotalling readers would be very much obliged.

Yours,
Seán O'Sullivan

Sir,

I've often wondered why exactly my brother refers to 'red necks' as bagels, I wondered why? The Cornmarket was the key. I was surrounded by sweating masses, these hulking brutes were indeed bagels, all fleshy substance with nothing in the centre, no brain, perhaps even no heart. For when the performers pleaded with them to push back as they were crushing people at the stage front they were met by enthusiastic cries and a huge surge forward.

My experience on Monday night was my first student event out in UL. Over the summer I've been everywhere from Oxygen to Mantua and the Picnic, but nothing could prepare me for the Cornmarket.

Not only was the crowd allowed stand in the

rain for up to an hour outside the gig inside they were treated with further contempt by staff. I saw bouncers push, slap and dig at members of the crowd who were pushed from behind on top of them. I saw people standing on tables, stools and hanging from items on the ceiling straining to see a 'performance' which due to the height of the stage was invisible to all but the front row. The show barely deserves mention, the Sanchez boys 'talents' lie in the lap of the editing gods at MTV. I still wanted to see them. They had only one microphone between 4 of them on stage, so the combination of lack of sound and sight left only the lesser senses of taste, touch and smell. These were sponsored by Lynx, sweat and redbull. I was fiendishly jealous to discover that my boyfriend, while surrounded by the Cro-Magnons in the audience achieved what he termed 'full cuppage'

1: In the event of a fire/emergency what was the Cornmarkets policy on table standing?

2: Why were security (by this I mean trained, culpable, professional security staff) not on duty at the front of the stage?

3: Why would an event of this nature be allowed to be performed on a stage which automatically obscured the view of 90% of the crowd?

Yours
Ann Cronin

Sir,

After several years living at Brookfield Hall student accommodation, I wish to express dissatisfaction with the Management of the complex.

I must first acknowledge that the complex offers a high standard of living with comfortable living spaces. A bus is provided weekdays to bring you in to campus.

Brookfield exists to generate profit, but the Management does so by somewhat disregarding the welfare of their customers. They seek to profit through additional fees, rather than charging the fees honestly as part of the existing rental fee.

Brookfield advertises "your own broadband connection" in your bedroom. In fact, the fee allows you to share their meagrely 3Mbit connection with all other subscribing residents among the 500 living units. Standard residential broadband packages provide 3Mbit connections for €39 monthly. Several semesters ago, Management told me that 70 people were subscribed during that particular semester. Assuming similar current subscription levels, the Brookfield subscription fee of €75 per room per semester will generate €5250 revenue for this semester alone. Brookfield could install twenty six 3Mbit connections including line rental for this price!

Brookfield's weekly rent rose by €10 (or 13.5%) this semester. On top of this, a new €100 per tenant per semester so-called utilities fee has been introduced. Also, there is a €195 per tenant per semester ESB charge which Brookfield's website states will exceed ESB charges "in almost all cases". The utilities fee covers the existing services of "shuttle bus, refuse collection, security, cable tv and maintenance".

At least they're honest about charging you extra for the privilege of maintenance of your paid rented accommodation. I call on current residents to make your own voices heard by establishing a Brookfield Hall residents' association

Yours
[name and address with editor]

El Presidente

The Health Service and UL Students - Fighting for our Lives!

LAST month we saw the enrolment of the first class of students to UL's new Medical School - a great news story for the University and for the Health Service. But it seems to be pretty isolated. Mary Harney has instigated huge cutbacks across the service, of €230-245 million - and talks about 'over-production' as if looking after more patients than your targets (as they did in Tullamore Hospital, for example) was a bad thing!

And these cutbacks have had direct impacts upon the students of UL. Relief has been cancelled for the rest of the year meaning Student-Nurses and Physiotherapists, who are meant to be on the job to learn, are taking over from full-time nurses when they're absent through sickness or any other reason. This puts a huge, unfair strain on students while on clinical placement. It also means that students have to travel long distances, at their own cost, to do their placement because local units are closing due to the shortages of staff, as well as the chopping of services all over the Mid-West region.

St. John's Hospital has had a floor closed, on top of the closure of its Accident and Emergency facilities. Ennis Hospital is being downgraded, as is Nenagh and many others - the disgraced Hanley report being implemented by the back-door. And all of this leads to ridiculous pressure being put the Regional to take all of the overflow - this has direct negative impacts on the care provided to everyone in the region, including students, our families and friends.

So, it's up to us to raise our voices and make sure that as Limerick students and residents, we're not relegated to second-class citizens. UL students need to be able to do their placement in a proper environment, and everyone should have a fundamental right to full healthcare - we're fighting for our lives here!

St. John Ó Donnabháin, UL Students Union President
st.john.odonnabhain@ul.ie



Postgraduate News

Hi All,

WEEK 6 already! The semester is flying past us really quickly!

AGM

Well first off the big news for Postgrads this week is the motion for the re-integration of the Postgraduate Students Association into the ULSU at the AGM on Wednesday last (Week 5). This is a huge step for the PSA and the weight with which the motion was carried was a vital inclination as to how Postgraduates feel on the matter.

The other prominent topic which was raised at the AGM was the question of payment to Postgraduate students for tutorials, labs and the correction of exam scripts. The topic was fiercely debated and the consensus amongst all involved was that all the issues raised should be taken to a further level and mandated me to do this on their behalf.

The new officers of the PSA Executive were also elected in the course of the last week as follows:

- Derrick Howard, Vice-President
- Siobhán Ni Chathain, Events Officer
- Donal O'Driscoll, Publicity Officer

Patrick McHugh, CSO was nominated as the ULSU executive representative on the PSA Executive.



BY EMMA MURPHY
PSA PRESIDENT

Congratulations to all on their new posts! And my best wishes and thanks to outgoing officers, Eimear Spain, John Velasco and Sinéad Carey for their commitment and dedication over the period of their officerships.

I would like to thank all who attended the AGM and contributed to the debate.

Payment to Postgraduates: Meeting

In light of the level of debate at the AGM surrounding Payments to Postgraduates I have scheduled a meeting for Tuesday (Week 7) at 6pm in the PSA Common Room to discuss the issue with all postgraduates students across all colleges. Should you have any specific queries in relation to the issue then please e-mail me by Friday (Week 6) and I will address them at the meeting.

The Babysitters Club

The Babysitters Club is now completely up and running so should you need to avail of the service or you want to be involved please e-mail either myself or Judith.

Emma.Murphy@ul.ie or Judith.Lynch@ul.ie

That's all from me folks, have a good few weeks!

Attend the ULSU AGM also in Week 7, remember we need for both AGM's to pass the motion on re-integration!

Slán for now!

Emma



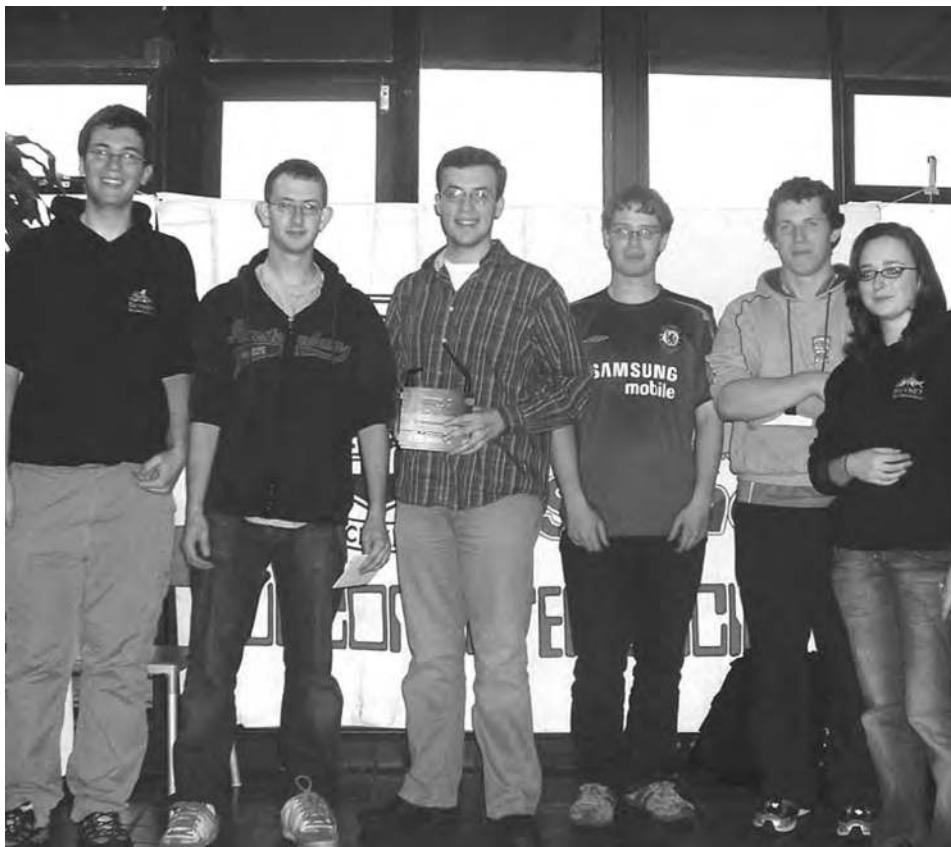
Skynet off with a bang

DAVID MCILWEE

FOLLOWING a successful recruitment night in the arena, one of Skynet's most successful events from last year Wavehunt made a spectacular return during week 4. Wavehunt, a wireless manhunt involves a person carrying a wireless router around and the competitors have to track and find the person based on a web page hosted on the router.

Congratulations to Matthew O'Flynn coming 1st, Eoin Mooney coming 2nd and Paul O'Flaherty coming 3rd. The first round in the foundation building went rather swiftly with the first 2 people finding the answer within 5 minutes. The second round took place in the library. The presence of even more people and a more complex layout made for a much tougher round. Overall 1st place had a clear lead over both 2nd and 3rd who were both tied on points and only differed by a matter of seconds!

Over the coming weeks Skynet has the Topcode challenge which should strive to test the ingenuity and skill of UL's coders (see www.topcoder.com for more details) and also hopes to continue the successful series of evening talks. For more information see www.skynet.ie, the mailing lists and posters around the campus.



Wavehunt winners and Skynet committee.

L-R David Mcilwee, Matthew O'Flynn, Daniel Heffernan, Paul O'Flaherty, Eoin Mooney, Olivia Kiely

UL Debates Father's Rights

KATIE HARRINGTON

THURSDAY October 18th will see the UL Debating Union host a special debate on the rights of the father. Special guests, who will be invited to speak at the debate include Fianna Fáil Deputy Peter Power, Fine Gael Deputy Kieran O'Donnell and Margaret Dromrey, CEO of Treoir, the Federation for Unmarried Parents in Ireland.

The motion for the debate will be "that this house believes it is time to legislate for the rights of fathers". Many unmarried fathers in this country are unaware that in the case of a split from their partner, the State gives them no rights whatsoever. In the recent 'G' case which was given wide media coverage, an unmarried father won rights in an unprecedented ruling by the high court; since then opposition TD's, fathers rights groups and other groups have lobbied the government to legislate for the rights of fathers. Another factor likely to come up in the debate will be the rights of children to both of their parents.

The debate will take place in the Jonathan Swift Theatre on Thursday at 8:30pm and all are welcome, the floor will be opened after the debate and the audience will be given the chance to question the speakers and the special guests. Speaker Development continues every Monday evening with Aoife Finnerty.

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Cinneadh náireach déanta ag Aontas na Mac Léinn

BREANDÁN Ó HÉAMHAIGH

RINNE Aontas na Mac Léinn cinneadh le déanaí chun Tolglann na Gaeilge a dhúnadh. D'fhógar siad an cinneadh don Oifigeach nua na Gaeilge díreach i ndiaidh an cruinníú in a todhach í. D'oscail an Tolglann i 2005 le tacaíocht ó Aontas na Mac Léinn agus airgeadais ó Aonad na Gaeilge. Bhí an Tolglann mar urlais teanga, ionaid buail isteach, áit cruinnithe agus seomra chaighdreamh do mhuintir na Gaeilge anseo ar an gcampas le feadh níos mó ná dhá bhliain go leith.

Rinne Aontas na Mac Léinn an cinneadh chun an Tolglann a dhúnadh gan aon teagmháil le muintir na gaeilge, agus gan aon ionadaí ón bpobail i láithair. Níl muintir na Gaeilge sásta leis seo. Agus nuair a d'iarr Pobail

na Gaeilge ar an Aontas freagra a thabhairt, d'fhreagair an t-Uachtarán, i mbéarla amháin, don Cumann Gaelach, ag rá go bhfuil 'easpa spás' san Aontas. Nach mhór an náire ar an Aontas nach bhfuil spás ann d'ár teanga dúchais? Tá an Aontas ag iarraidh croílár pobail na Gaeilge a ghearradh amach cé nach bhfuil spás ann. Tá spás ann, tá cúpla oifig nach bhfuil in Usáid, an stór mar shampla. ach ba mhór an troiblóid é a oscailt mar oifig arís nuair atá an Tolglann ann. Chuir an-chuid daoine a lán obair isteach ar an dTolglann, agus chaith siad a lán am ag obair chun an seomra a deisiú, d'oibrigh na daoine seo go deonach, agus ní raibh siad ag lorg aon rud as. Tá coincheap an Aontais bunaithe ar chomhoibriú, agus daoine ag obair go deonach, ach níor thug siad aon meas do na

daoine a rinne an obair seo go deonach.

Tá an cinneadh seo uafásach drochmheasach do na daoine atá i ndiaidh obair ar Tolglann na Gaeilge. Ag Cruinníú a bhí ar siúl sa Tolglann ar an Luain seo chaite, tháinig ionadaí ó phobail na Gaeilge le chéile. Bhí gach duine i láthair ar buile, agus de réir duine nó beirt, tá an aontas ag teipeadh muintir na Gaeilge, agus ag teipeadh ina adhm ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar son na Mic Léinn.

Níl sé cheart go bhfuil an Aontas ag iarraidh an céim mhór siar seo a dhéanamh. Agus tá sé soiléir go mbeidh Pobail na Gaeilge ag troid chun an Tolglann a Choimead ar oscailt.

Choimead súil ar an spás seo...

Polasaí an Dátheangachais 2005

The Bilingual Policy of 2005 aims to:

- 1) work in conjunction with Aonad na Gaeilge and Grúpa Oibre um Polasaí Gaeilge na hOllscoile to develop long-term endeavours to cater for the University population in Irish;
- 2) work in conjunction with rannpháirtigh na Scéime Cónaithe / the Irish Residency Scheme participants, co-ordinated by Aonad na Gaeilge, to better promote the visibility of the Irish language and culture around campus;
- 3) make the Irish language accessible to all students and Union staff members;
- 4) implement a basic training programme to enable all staff members of the Union to
 - a. deal with general public enquiries through Irish;
 - b. answer all 'phone calls with a greeting in Irish;
 - c. thank and conduct formal greetings with visitors to the Union in Irish;
 - d. open and sign off all official written Union correspondence in Irish;
- 5) provide all official Union documentation, both written and electronic, bilingually i.e. in Irish and in English, excluding material that becomes obsolete within one

month of presentation. Union Agenda and Minutes shall be provided bilingually on request only;

- 6) facilitate and support all Clubs and Societies' endeavours to develop and implement their own individual Irish language policies;
- 7) support the organisation of Irish language events at regular intervals throughout the academic year, including allocating a percentage of funds from the Entertainments budget (to be decided upon by the Executive) to help finance Seachtain na Gaeilge on an annual basis;
- 8) encourage a positive and proactive attitude among the Sabbatical Officers in regards to the Irish language;
- 9) promote a vibrant Irish-speaking environment on campus by providing
 - a. information literature in Irish and in English regarding student issues and events;
 - b. Irish language learning support materials to all staff and the student body in general;
 - c. regular general interest articles and vocabulary aides in Irish in An Focal;
 - d. bilingual handbooks and guides for all students with particular emphasis on literature for first year, foreign exchange and postgraduate students;

10) lobby on behalf of the Irish language in attempts to extend Irish language resources in the Library and in the Language Resource Area;

- 11) ensure that Oifigeach na Gaeilge / the Irish Officer plays an important role in the decision making procedures of the Union, including a provision that s/he will be granted non-voting / observer member status on the councils, committees and working groups of the Union (and of the University where appropriate) with full voting status pertaining to issues of particular relevance to the Irish language;
- 12) develop an effective and efficient means of communicating general information pertaining to the Irish language and culture to the entire student body of the University;
- 13) foster stronger links and co-operation ties with Oifigigh na Gaeilge / Irish Officers of other third level education institutes throughout the country;
- 14) encourage the use of Irish names and titles on future Union endeavours including shops, cafés, common rooms and other facilities.

An Tolglann

ST. JOHN Ó DONNABHÁIN

SCRÍOBHAIM chun cúrsaí faoi Tolglann na Gaeilge a shoiléiriú. Ar dtús, níor tógadh an cinneadh seo go simplí, agus ní raibh éinne ag iarraidh 'pioca ar' an teanga, nó aon rud den cinéal sin. Is Gaeilgeoir bródúil mé féin. Táim tar éis an alt seo a scríobh as Gaeilge agus as Béarla, agus freagra a thabhairt ar éinne a tháinig chugam sa teanga inar seoladh iad.

Ní raibh mé ag iarraidh aon dí-mheas a caitheamh ar an Oifigeach na Gaeilge nua, agus go firinneach, thóg sí agus an baill eile den Coiste Cumann an cinneadh i slí réadúil. Níl sé seo ag briseadh Polasaí an Dátheangachais 2005, mar atá churtha i leith ag daoine áirithe (tá an Polasaí ag an deireadh), agus chun an firinne a insint tá roinnt mhaith coiscéim tógtha ag an Aontas le blianta beaga anuas chun an teanga a chur chun cinn, mar shampla

Bunreacht an Aontas a aistriú, fógraí Gaeilge a chur suas timpeall an Aonta, agus Oifigeach na Gaeilge a chruthú mar Oifigeach i gComhairle Ionadaithe na Ranga. Tháinig an cinneadh seo as fadhb an easpa spás san Aontas, mar a míneoidh mé sa chéad alt eile, agus faic eile.

'Sé an fáth don cinneadh seo ná na fadhbanna ollmhór atá againn san Aontas le spás anois. Tá gá leanúineach d'oifig ag ár seirbhís Siamsaíochta ó 18 mí-2 bhliain, agus éisin a bheidh sa spás. Freisin, caithfidh muid spás a fháil áit éigin san Aontas do stáisiún raidió ar an idirlíon. Tá muid tar éis gach féachaint ar gach spás san Aontas de bharr na fadhbanna seo - níl aon spás ar fáil, agus níl aon freagra simplí.

Tosnaíodh An Tolglann do Oifigeach na Gaeilge AMOL lánaimseartha - níl sé sin ann a thuilleadh, de bharr easpa airgead ón Ollscoil. Níl oifigeacha indibhidiúla ag Clubanna nó Cumainn eile, ná ag Oifigigh Comhairle. Tá Oifig na Clubanna agus

Cumainn agus seomraí cruinnithe, chomh maith le Oifig na Ionadaithe Ranga ann do na daoine seo. Agus ní féidir linn 50 oifig do Clubanna agus Cumainn a thabhairt. Níl mórán úsáid á bhaint as An Tolglann i rith an lae, ní raibh an Ciorcal Comhrá ró-rathúil, mar a admháileann baill den Cumann. Agus ní bheadh An Cumann Gaelach sásta le mhaill ar an cinneadh seo, mar a deireann said féin - so, níl aon neart ag argóintí faoi luas an cinneadh.

Tá an bun-fáth leis an oifig tar éis aistriú, tá éilimh ar spás tar éis ardú, agus dá bhrí sin, caithfidh an spás aistriú chomh maith.

Táim lán-sásta labhairt le Oifigeach na Gaeilge agus leis An Cumann Gaelach faoi conas ar féidir linn cabhrú le dul chun cinn an Cumann, agus le eagrú eachtraí altéirneach, chomh maith le úsáid a bhaint as spásanna nua ar nós an Ionad nua gan Alcóil atá pleanáilte, rudaí atá i muid ag labhairt faoi cheana féin, agus tá súil agam chloisteáil uaibh.

Is mise,
St. John Ó Donnabháin,
Uachtarán AMOL

I write to clarify the current situation with regard to Tolglann na Gaeilge. First of all, this is not a decision that was taken lightly, and it was not out of a wish to 'pick-on' the language, or anything of the sort. I am a proud Gaeilgeoir myself.

The raising of the topic intended no disrespect to the new Irish Officer, and was in fact received in a realistic fashion by her and the other member of the Coiste Cumann Gaelach with whom I have discussed this matter. This move is not in breach of the Polasaí an Dátheangachais 2005, as has been alleged (I have attached the policy below), and in fact the SU has taken numerous steps in recent years to promote the language, including translation of the SU Constitution, signage in the Union, and creating the

position of Oifigeach na Gaeilge as an Officer of Class Reps Council. The timing of the decision owes to space requirements within the SU, which I will outline in the next paragraph, and to nothing else.

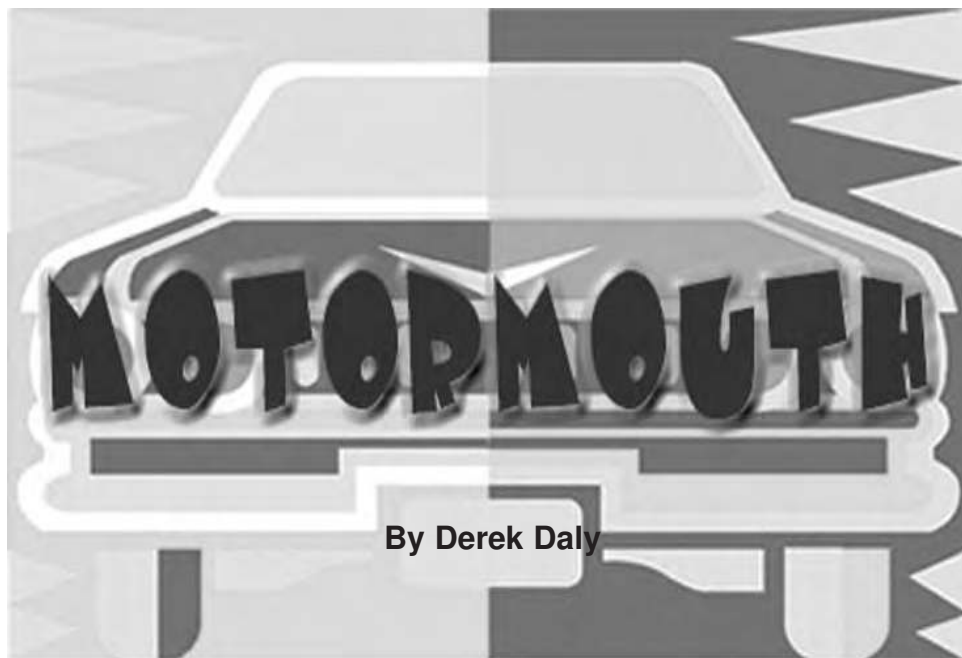
The reason for this decision was due to the huge problems with space that the SU is suffering at the moment. Our Entertainments service has required an office for the last 18 months - 2 years, and they will be the people occupying the space. We also have further requirements for a space to house a potential web-based radio station. The use of space in the SU has been carefully examined due to these problems, and there have been no easy solutions.

An Tolglann was created to house a full-time ULSU Oifigeach na Gaeilge - this no longer exists, due to a lack of funding from the University. Other Clubs and Societies do not have individual office spaces, nor do individual Council Officers. They are catered for by the Clubs & Socs Office and meeting rooms, and the Class Reps Office, respectively. And we cannot provide 50 offices for Clubs and Socs. The drop-in facility of An Tolglann is poorly used during the day, as acknowledged by members of An Cumann.

The original reason for the office has changed, demands on space have increased, and therefore the space has to change too.

I'm happy to engage with the Irish Officer and An Cumann Gaelach on how to improve the society and help facilitate the organisation of alternative events, which I have already brought up with Ents, and I hope to hear from ye.

Is mise,
St. John Ó Donnabháin,
ULSU President



So what to rant about this time....

LET me start by asking were any of you fools listening when I asked you to light up??? It seems not. I may have passed 3 or 4 cars lit up in daylight over the past fortnight on campus. But this is an issue that I'm going to have to keep pushing each edition I suppose.

So anyhow, this fortnight's big rant about is about INDICATING ON ROUNDABOUTS or rather lack thereof. If you don't know how to use a roundabout properly, then leave the car at home. There are NO roundabout manoeuvres that do not

require a indicator signal. That's zero, zilch, nada, null, tada, faic, feck all, NONE. There are a small few roundabout entry manoeuvres that don't; but EVERY roundabout exit manoeuvre requires a left signal IMMEDIATELY once your wing mirror has passed the previous exit to yours.

Also under NO CIRCUMSTANCES do you use the left lane to go right at a roundabout. This is particularly true for those that use the Groody and Condell Roundabouts. If there are only 2 exits (excluding a full 180 degree turnaround) the right lane means exit 2 and the left lane means the 1st exit. This is particularly true of the round-

about on the way in from the West Gate (Main Entrance) to UL. If going left, squeeze into the left lane, indicating once you mount the speed ramp. Use the right lane to go straight on toward the Library or Student Centre this manoeuvre requires you indicate left once the entire car is over the yield line. PRETTY PLEASE can you do this just as a favour to me and Seamus.

And can you do all of the above with your HEADLIGHTS SWITCHED ON!!

Now my mind is at ease for another 2 weeks... write to ul.motormouth@gmail.com to vent your fury at bad driving or other road abuse!!

UL Young Fine Gael

THIS year has been a successful year for Fine Gael. In the recent election we re-gained the seats that we lost in the disastrous election in 2002. However re-gaining those seats was enough to form a government this time, which is why we have to plan and build ahead for the future, to which YFG is central.

ULYFG has gotten off to a fantastic start this year with many excellent new recruits. We had a large attendance at our AGM where six brand new members were elected to the committee. This is very positive for the future of the party with such outstanding new recruits.

ULYFG has planned plenty of different activities for the coming semester and also for semester 2. We have

already visited our fellow YFG members in UCC and all had a great night. Over the next couple of weeks we are planning a mystery tour and a poker night. In either week 8 or 9 we planning on having a guest speaker, more to come about that at a later date. In week 5 we had a lively debate on motions to be proposed at our national conference, motions ranged from 'A life sentence should mean life' to fining people for not voting.

YFG's National Conference takes place on November 23 in Maynooth. ULYFG has a high representation of candidates running for posts on the national executive with one former chairperson of ULYFG, namely Barry Walsh, running for President and two current members Liam Quinn who is running

for vice-president and Eric Keane who is running for a panel position.

Our annual charity collection for the Brother Russell homeless charity will take place towards the end of the semester. However due to the restructuring of the exams we will be unable to do our yearly sleep-out. We are planning on doing bag packing in a large supermarket for this worthy charity.

In semester 2 we are planning a trip abroad, a Dail trip and heaps more activities. If anyone would like to join YFG or learn more about this society don't hesitate to contact us or drop us a bebo message at ulyfg.bebo.com.

The morning-after pill

KATIE HARRINGTON

THE morning after pill is an emergency contraceptive pill, available to those for whom other precautions failed, or when none were taken. Available from doctors, the morning after pill can be taken within 72 hours of intercourse, but is most effective within 12 hours.

So, how does it work? The emergency contraceptive pill stops pregnancy before it starts. Human conception rarely occurs immediately after intercourse. Instead, it occurs as long as several days later, after ovulation. During the time between intercourse and conception, sperm continue to travel through the fallopian tube until the egg appears. So taking emergency birth control the "morning after" isn't too late to prevent pregnancy. This differs from the so called 'abortion pill' or Mifeprex in that the abortion pill terminates an already established pregnancy, whereas the morning-after pill is a contraceptive which stops a



pregnancy from beginning by preventing an embryo's attachment to the uterine wall. The pills are not effective if the woman is already pregnant by the time they are taken.

As with all types of medication, there are a number of side-effects to taking the morning after pill. Nausea and vomiting are the most common of these, so many doctors will prescribe an anti-sickness tablet such as motilium with it. If you throw up within three hours of getting the pill you need to take it again. Other side-effects may include dizziness, diarrhoea, breast tenderness, fluid retention,

fatigue and headache, all of which should clear up within a day or two of having taken it. Ideally, the morning after pill should only ever be used as a last resort. The student medical centre can provide prescriptions for the combined pill and other forms of contraception, and condoms are available, free, throughout the year in the Welfare Office of the Students' Union. It is also important to remember that if you have had unprotected sex, no pill can protect you from sexually transmitted infections, so always use a condom.



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New Heights In UL

FINN MCDUFFIE

IF you've ever wanted to climb the height of Everest, then now's your chance. What's more, you can do it right here in UL without having to worry about hypothermia or oxygen levels! In week seven, the Outdoor Pursuits Club (OPC) will host Climbathon 2007, raising funds for the People in Need Telethon. The event will take place at the climbing wall in the old PE (PEZZ) building on Wednesday of week seven, from 8am until 10pm, where there'll be three top ropes ready for action!


So how's it going to work?

The challenge will consist of club members, students and anyone else who has ever wanted to climb 1/1180th of Everest (or more). Everyone, including you the reader, is invited to do as many climbs as desired. There is a minimum donation of one euro to climb. Those climbers who have dressed the best or climbed the fastest/most should expect a little reward! Further, the OPC will be auctioning off the last climb. The winner and final climber shall reach the summit of Everest with an Irish flag, in front of RTE cameras. Bids can be placed on www.ulopc.com/climbathon/


The OPC will be collecting money around college prior to the event, wearing Climbathon 2007 t-shirts. They'll also be running a course, allowing novices and professionals to practice for their climb. The course is taking place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of week six between 7pm and 10pm.

Climbathon promises to be a lively event. Your support is needed and with Walkout Wednesday on the way, you have the perfect excuse to get out and participate in one of UL's fantastic clubs or societies.

UL OPC CLIMBATHON '07
<http://climbathon.ulopc.com>



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 Our Wall: 7.5m

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STUDENT SPEAK

This week Thomas Dee asks the great unwashed what they think of the new Java Café.

Andy Byrne, Mark Knopfler and Rob Banks - 2nd year Chemical Engineering - 'I hope Thomas doesn't lose the sheet and get our names wrong!'



Elaine Hanly - 1st yr Business - 'It's the balls!'



Emma Power and Orlaith Dunphy - 1st yr Business - 'I heard they use dirty knickers to filter the coffee!'

Kev McNamara and Connor McGrath - 2nd yr English and History - 'It's no Radisson!'



Olivia Healy - 2nd yr European Studies - 'There's a notable lack of slamming hotties, notably me.'



Shane Linehan - 2nd yr Metalwork Teaching - 'It's alright ba... better than any muck they have in cork anyway!'



Mark Maloney and Alan Sankar - 3rd yr Public Admin and 2nd yr Equine Studies - 'We go in there for a disco-biscuit and tea'





ULSU ENTS

www.bebob.com/ulents

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€100 cash - good idea, or a great one

Delorentos

It's always a good sign about a band when you hear the words 'new dates added to tour' and that's happening a lot with Delorentos these days. They are on the cusp of something really big and they're steaming into UL to play the Green Sessions in the Stables on Tuesday October 23. It's a Green Session gig so that means it's free... how cool is that. For those of you who aren't aware of the musical mammoth that is Delorentos, check them and their album out on www.delorentos.net. I guarantee once you hear "Eustace Street" and "Stop" you'll be thinking... so that's who sings that song!!! Read on.....

Dublin-based 4-piece Delorentos released one of the most hotly anticipated Irish albums of 2007, *In Love With Detail*, last April. The singles *Stop* and *Eustace Street* have both stormed the charts in recent months and their live shows are gathering a reputation that sets them aside as the Irish Band of 2007.

The band drifted together in the usual fashion, inspired by boredom, creative energy, and a passion for music - obvious reference points are Pixies, The Cure, The Clash and Arcade Fire; more oblique influences slide in from most genres of music and virtually every decade from the 50s onwards. Over a period of time that saw others attempt to tie down a description of their sound, they holed up in the wilds of Portrane, Co Dublin (it's an amazing place to make music and a key factor in the Delorentos sound) and concentrated on writing songs, pure and simple.

They tested the water on the live circuit and immediately stood out as a band capable of pulling off fresh, gutsy live performances. With a seemingly insatiable appetite for gigging they honed their live show and began to build a reputation as a band to keep an eye on.

By October 2005 they were ready for their first release, a 4-track EP named after its title track *Leave It On*. It went straight into the Top 30 of the Irish Singles Chart and fuelled a tour that included an appearance at prestigious UK industry bash *In The City* as well as the filming of a slot for *Other Voices: Songs From A Room* which was broadcast in early 2006. It was followed in May 2006 by another single, *The Rules*, which bettered its predecessor by debuting in the Irish Singles Chart at No 14.

The band continued through 2006 with a relentless schedule of live dates touring with everyone from Bell X1 and The Futureheads to Gang of Four and Tapes n Tapes as well as massive performances at both the Oxegen and Electric Picnic festivals. They built up their reputation,



continued writing new material and honed existing songs ready for recording.

That's when they produced "*In Love With Detail*", the stand out contender for Irish album of the year in 2007. They're here on Tuesday October 23rd and they're free, next time you see them it's gonna be a bit pricier (like the 15 euros it was in Dolans last week) so grab this chance!!

Halloween Ball

It's here, it's Halloween Ball time. Tickets go on sale on Monday October 22 for the event of the year. 2500 student from all four Limerick colleges will put their fancy dress on and spook each other out. Tickets are 15 euro a pop and that gets you entry to the venue and buses to and from the party of the year.

Getting 2500 people to the venue on buses can be a tricky task... When you buy a ticket you will be asked what time bus you want to go on. They range from 7.30pm to 10.30pm. The earlier you get your ticket the more choice you'll have in terms of bus times, the later you leave it the less choice you have. The tickets will be colour coded and buses will be restricted to those with the correct ticket. It's strict, it's a pain in the ass but it kind of has to be if you want to get there safely and on time!! That way we can get on with the party side of things!!

As for the party, it promises to be the best yet! The theme for the evening is Horror Movies and we plan to recreate sets from all the great horror movies - *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, *Freddy*, *Scream*, *Chainsaw Massacre*, the list goes on but believe me it's gonna be fun. At midnight we have a real treat. We're keeping it under wraps for the moment but you'll love it providing you're sober enough to see what it is!!

On top of the sets and scenes we have Ruth Scott from 2FM, the Lollygaggers, GreenHouse DJs and lots of hidden surprises. All the entertainment is spread over two rooms and both rooms will be hopping all night long. For those



of you who don't want the party to end you can always book in to the hotel.....there's an after party in the residents bar till the sun comes up. Book early to get a room.

So get ready for the queue on Monday October 22, tickets go on sale at 10am. (Maximum of 2 per ID, Max of 2 IDs per person)

Rag Radio

It might seem like a long way away and in one sense it is but in another sense it isn't. It's March 10-14 (just in case you needed to mark it out in your wall planner/diary). Planning is well under way for the biggest Rag Week in the country and one of the projects we're working on at the moment is the idea of setting up a Rag Radio

Station to run from March 1 through to March 14.

We will be submitting our license application in the next few weeks and should know before Christmas if it is successful or not. If it is then we will be looking for you to come up with ideas for shows and more importantly to work as presenters and DJs. We're looking for morning, afternoon and night time ideas and presenters.

We're open to all kinds of music, we're looking for talk content, some comedy, anything at all just get those ideas out of your head and into the keyboard. If you've broadcast experience... great! If not then this is your chance to get some. The station will hopefully run from 8 in morning to 3 in the morning every day over that period. So we need lots of bodies. Its your chance to be a star on air!!!

If you're interested and have an idea of what you'd like to do on air send an email through to keith@eightball.ie.

delorentos



ULSU ENTS

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€100 cash - good idea, or a great one

Howard Marks

Lots of people have been asking us who the hell is Howard Marks? It's hard to explain and not so hard at the same time. During the mid 1980s, Howard Marks had forty-three aliases, eighty-nine phone lines, and twenty five companies trading throughout the world. Bars, recording studios, offshore banks: all were money-laundering vehicles serving the core activity: dope dealing.



Born in 1945 in Kenfig Hill, a small Welsh coal-mining village near Bridgend, Howard Marks attended Oxford University where he earned a degree in nuclear physics and post graduate qualifications in philosophy. Marks began to deal during a postgraduate philosophy course at Oxford and was soon moving large quantities of hashish into Europe and America in the equipment of touring rock bands. The academic life began to lose its allure.

At the height of his career, he was smuggling consignments of up to thirty tons from Pakistan and Thailand to America and Canada and had contact with organisations as diverse as the CIA, MI6, the IRA, and the Mafia.

The slightly ridiculous side of all of this is that Howard was running this mammoth operation from a bedsit on Catherine Street in Limerick. Most of his consignments came through Shannon airport therefore Limerick was a convenient base of operations.

After many years and a world-wide operation by the Drug Enforcement Agency, he was busted and sentenced to twenty five years in prison at the United States Federal Penitentiary, Terre Haute, Indiana, the site of America's only Federal Death Row. He was released on parole in April 1995 after serving seven years of his sentence.

In 1996 he released his autobiography, Mr. Nice, which remains an international best seller in several languages and was the best selling non-fiction book of 1997. On the subject of his book, he says:
"Through a plethora of media interviews and

several public book readings, it became clear that the predominant reason why so many adolescents and university students read and enjoyed Mr Nice was their frustration with the law prohibiting cannabis consumption and trade. Until then, I had no idea of the extraordinary extent of cannabis use by young people today."

During 1997, he performed his first live shows, which discussed his life as a marijuana smuggler and his views on drug use and legalisation. The shows received excellent reviews throughout the national press, and his now legendary one-man comedy show, An Audience with Mr Nice, continues to sell-out at venues throughout Britain and Europe. Whether you agree or disagree with his views they make for an interesting evenings discussion....Howard joins us in UL on Monday November 5 at 8.30pm in the Jonathan Swift. Tickets go on sale on Monday October 22.

Jarlath Regan at Schnitzel

Schnitzel moves out of the Jonathan Swift for a while now and will move into the comfy surroundings of Java Café Bar starting on Monday October 22 at 8pm with the very cool Jarlath Regan joining us for an evening of fun, frolics, milk and cookies.

Every now and then a new face appears on the Irish comedy scene and you recognize



something in them straight away that tells you they're going to do well - that's Jarlath Regan.

2006 was his breakout year. Supporting Ardal O'Hanlon on his tour of Ireland, Jarlath wowed the expectant crowds. He also took part in the Kilkenny Cat Laughs Comedy Festival and appeared alongside Tommy Tiernan in the Irish Gala performance at the prestigious Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal, Canada.

2007 has continued in the same vein and Jarlath has started to grab headline slots at the countries most established venues. Add to that a stint at Edinburgh where he din'y disappear into the morass of the crowd, a memorable performance at the Electric Picnic and some embryonic television appearances and you get the general idea that the boy Regan is going places

An Focal caught up with him recently to talk about his upcoming gig at Schnitzel.

Who is Jarlath Regan?

Jarlath Regan is a comedy administrator and greeting card manufacturer who likes drinking from straws because it is impossible to be angry at someone while drinking from a straw, I'll prove it to you at the gig.

Tell us about your hit Edinburgh show.

It was a modest success. It's about what you know and what you think you know and how you're usually way wrong. It's also got two Rocky montages if you like Rocky, a lot of jokes about dogs and a happy ending. If you don't leave with a smile on your face I'll give you your money back, and that's not a challenge.

What do you expect from Limerick?

I don't expect anything, Limerick doesn't owe anyone anything. I expect people to have a good time, I expect some laughter and other times laughter with applause and other times people saying "what is he on about?" and then later for those same people to say "oh, I get it" and then a standing ovation, and I expect no refunds.

What's up with Schnitzel Comedy Club?

Schnitzel Comedy Club used to have cookies and milk and the last time I was there, there was no cookies and milk and I was very disappointed, but I have a funny feeling there will be this time.

Is comedy the new 'rock and roll'?

Rock'n'roll is the new comedy. I think if rock'n'roll dies, comedy will take its place.

What is the best gig you have ever done?

Electric Picnic this year. It was fifteen minutes in a tent full of thousands of people, it was such an amazing atmosphere and at the end everybody clapped. That was my favourite. Oh and I got to see the Beastie Boys from the side of the stage, so maybe it wasn't the best gig but that helped.

Thanks Jarlath I look forward to the gig.

If its warm I'll bring hand fans which are for keeping your face cool, not your hands, Don't expect something to keep your hands cool, you hold it in your hands and it keeps your face cool. Complimentary hand fans for everyone who attends the gig.

Not so sure about the whole hand fans buzz (literally) but Jarlath Regan plays Schnitzel Comedy Club in UL on October 22.

Snippets

Christmas Ball

I hate to mention the words seeing as it isn't even Halloween yet bur we kind of have to!! We're putting together the final details for the Christmas Ball but are missing the absolute final detail, ie the date. We have two options - one is sometime in November the other is Saturday December 22. Exams finish on a Friday so we're thinking it would be a really great way of finishing the semester to have the Xmas/Co-op Ball on the Saturday after exams. Then you could all head home for Christmas on Sunday morning/afternoon/evening.

The only other alternative is to have the ball sometime in November before Christmas Daze and that just seems way too early. Chat to your class reps and see what the general opinion of your class is and we will make a decision before the end of October. Either way tickets will go on sale from Monday November 12.

Gigs at a Glance

Every Tuesday Is Sin Bin Tuesday

Every Thursday is Pop Star Party Night at the Cornmarket

Thursday October 18 - The Fillers - Killers Trinite

Thursday October 25 - TBC

Monday October 22 - Jarlath Regan at Schnitzel

Thursday October 25 - Declan O'Rourke

Nuclear

DIARMUID HEALY

SINCE the dawn of the atomic age many have been wary of nuclear power. And why not? The first the world saw of nuclear power was one small bomb kill 80,000 people in seconds. But in reality, nuclear power is a much better idea than you might think.

Anti-nuclear power activists refer to nuclear power as a finite energy source. Though this is true, current estimates suggest that there is enough nuclear fuel to last the world 5 billion years or more which is not really finite in the same way as fossil fuels.

One of the biggest objections to nuclear power is the perceived extreme danger of a catastrophic meltdown. There have only ever been two meltdowns in civilian power plants, one of these being the infamous Chernobyl disaster and this was due to a stupid violation of safety regulations and common sense. The technicians were shutting down one reactor and they decided to do some tests on the reactor at the same

time. They then decided that the tests would work better with all the safety systems turned off. Then, with the safety systems disabled, they decided to leave the reactor on for a further nine hours. During this time a problem arose and since the safety systems were off the technicians couldn't do anything about it. It was for this reason that there was a total core meltdown.

With regards to leakage from the plant, almost every study that have been conducted have shown no increase in the in the instances of cancer of those who live near nuclear facilities. For example a large-scale 1991 study by the National Cancer Institute (in the USA), found no increased incidence of cancer mortality for people living near 62 nuclear installations in America. The study showed no increase in the incidence of childhood leukaemia in the study of surrounding counties after start-up of the nuclear facilities. And as for gas emissions, several independent studies showed similar emissions from

nuclear power plants and from wind power plants.

Storage of nuclear waste is another thing that is cause for concern among those against nuclear power. Currently nuclear waste is stored in shielded water basins at the power plants. Since studies concluded that the plants are not harming the surrounding area, the waste must also be secure. The average nuclear plant produces less than 3 cubic meters of waste a year so very little storage space is needed. On top of this, an efficient re-processing plant can make up to 90% of this waste back into reusable fuel, which will mean almost no storage space will be needed.

Fossil fuels are going to run out in the next 50 to 100 years. Studies have been conducted in Ireland which have concluded that renewable energies can only supply about 50% of our power needs at best. I think it is absurd to imagine that conservation alone can make up the difference. So I think the question isn't "Is nuclear power really the answer?" but should really be "Is there any other answer?"



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Election non-fever

SU non-sabbatical elections for Community Relations Officer and Equality officer were held on Thursday of week 3. Did anyone care? How many of you noticed the candidates out doing their 'vote for me for a better world' thing? Yeah, didn't think so. It's reached the stage where even the candidates don't appear to be pushed about whether they get the nod and ministerial car.

CRO wasn't contested by anyone but Michael Bourke so there's some excuse there but election week would have been a good opportunity for an already-elected candidate to say what he was going to do, though that's an opportunity that hasn't been taken by any unopposed candidate for a few years now.

Thursday had a small team for Hamadziripi Munyikwa working the canteen while Kate Nolan, outgoing officer was nowhere to be found. As a candidate for Equality Officer, we were a bit amused to hear Munyikwa's campaign manager complaining about first years and their lack of interest but it's not as if the candidate himself said it so it's not too much of a big deal. Hardly surprising that the incumbent struggled to get a quarter of the final poll - if you don't ask for people's votes you can't be that disappointed if they don't give them to you.

Not impressed with any campaigning effort and in the absence of a RON option, we resorted to giving our votes to the only one to actually ask for them. Such is democracy, non-sabbatical election style.

PSA Anschluss

Looks like the SU-PSA

annexation may well come to pass after all, partly due to the bar for PSA-meeting quorums being set at a meagre 30 people from 1200 postgrads eligible to vote. Just as well as the meeting last week became quorate halfway through, due to people eating their lunch if nothing else. Some funny questions from one attendee about the new PSA constitution (hint: if the PSA is annexed, there won't be one) but not much heated discussion on the actual main point of the meeting. We assume that because the SU is really short for office space (the Irish office is closing), the postgrad president will still be staying over in Outer Mongolia on a geographical basis. Might not be a bad thing, postgrads often don't want to deal with the fecking undergrads anyway.

USI Implodes

Oh, USI, USI. Let's ignore our views on the organisation, whatever they may be. Last week an interesting memo went up on the politics.ie forum and was promptly removed, though it had already been posted on the ulsu forum at that point. Seems USI Fuhrer Richie Morrisroe had lost the respect of one or more of his officer board, who put together a list of reasons why he should take the Chiltern Hundreds and clean out his desk. It came out at the USI gathering at the weekend in Galway that the source of the document was Steven Conlon, Equality officer until Saturday morning when he resigned as it also came out that a mate of his had leaked the offending memo. Morrisroe followed suit. As general manager, we reckon Chris Porter is going to

have a fun few weeks.

Rumour on the street is that Richie's successor as UCC president, Kris Mcelhinney, is hankering after the role and reportedly may lead a disaffiliation campaign in UCC if he doesn't get the job. Mcelhinney may be the best person, we don't know and we don't care but for an organisation that now doesn't have a president, an equality officer or well, an office, saying 'vote for me and I'll change the world - or cost you 70 grand if you don't' is something of an effective campaign slogan. If USI get into a lotus tie position and take that one again, it may well show that they can be blackmailed into doing something, which doesn't say much for their role as a body intended to represent students.

Campaigns

Like we said last time out, some of the campaigns have been good but would it be too much to ask for a bit of info in An Focal in advance? A timetable would be good too. Yes, stuff gets changed at the last minute but thousands of these papers are being picked up and presumably read by the great unwashed. Apparently there are plenty who didn't even know the crashed cars demo was going to happen. How to turn a crowd of 200 into a crowd of 500: tell people about it. Given that our prose makes it in each week, we can only assume that a timetable of events would be printed if it was provided. Not too much to ask for, we think.

**Email us at
ulthroat@gmail.com**

Off-licence on campus - off limits?

Seamus Ryan introduces this fortnight's An Focal head2head debate

SINCE its inception, the Student's Union at UL has striven both to represent UL students and to provide desired services to UL students at a reasonable cost. The Su took over the running of the campus shop just over 15 years ago and have retained management of the business in three different campus locations at different times, as well as the second outlet at Dromroe Village. The SU successfully campaigned for the opening of the first licensed establishment on campus (the

Stables) and later lobbied for the introduction of a second. The campus now has three bars - the Stables, the Arena Sports Bar and the newly-opened Javas café-bar.

This week's An Focal head2head debate discusses whether the SU should seek to go further and provide an off-licence as part of the Students' Union shop for students who want to consume alcohol at home.

No!

THE deadline set under last year's referendum is fast approaching and it looks like the University are still set in their old ways of doing nothing about it. Does this mean that come week 12 this semester, we are out? Out of the policy; out of the agreement on alcohol; out on our own. Can we hack it? Can we handle our drink?

Being freed from the shackles of the Alcohol Policy will be a sigh of relief for clubs, societies, alcohol promoters...students? The role that the SU could potentially have in this new liberated campus is quite controversial. Could the SU become a provider of alcohol? Could the shop sell alcoholic products? What would be the harm in that; other Spar shops have off-licences.

Theoretically, yes, an off-licence could be placed on the premises, and, yes, the shop could sell alcohol. These answers are entirely hypothetical, however, and are based on the prerequisite that the Students' Union would be able to acquire an actual licence to sell alcohol, which in itself is almost certainly improbable. In the first instance, residents would be queuing up with their objections before the SU could say, "sláinte".

But aside from these matters, the real debate lies beneath the superficial practicalities and rests on the question, should the new shop sell alcohol? Should the SU try to get a licence at all? Should the Students' Union be a provider alcohol for its students?

Should it? Why?

Because the University has, for so long, trampled on students with its Alcohol Policy and given nothing in return. Students are not morons. Students can make decisions for themselves. The SU should facilitate a student's ability to have free choice and allow

alcohol to be stocked on its shop's shelves. Students are free-thinking, educated, responsible adults who can choose to purchase that alcohol or not. Why should the SU restrict their freedoms?

Aside from all that, there are at least five other main off-licences in the area fulfilling the service; the SU has to understand that students will just go elsewhere and buy it regardless, so why not join in and reap the profits? Students will buy drink and consume drink regardless of whether the SU shop sells it or not.

But hang on; does the SU not have a moral obligation to its students? What

message is it sharply sending out to its students if it begins to stock alcohol? It's simply sending out the same one as the University: go home and drink off-campus. It's merely reaffirming the University's 'out of sight, out of mind'-attitude and pushing students away once more. Selling alcohol products that can't be consumed on campus means that students have to go home to drink them. It goes against the very nature of the SU's objective to recreate a campus atmosphere.

Come the end of this semester, if the University still has its back turned on us, the SU needs to attract students back on campus in a proactive manner, not a reactive one. The SU needs to give students an alternative, not provide more of the same; not provide exactly the same as five other establishments in the locality.

Instead of stocking drink in the shop, the SU needs to encourage students back on campus and needs to look into ways of providing a new social setting for the consumption of alcohol. It needs to redefine drinking alcohol as an activity that (can) come with socialising, rather than what socialising actually means itself.

The new café-bar on campus is already tempting students back at night time, allowing them to have a quiet drink in a more relaxed atmosphere that doesn't shove alcohol down their throats.

As well as this, bringing students back on campus will mean that they are drinking in a controlled environment. There's some amount of peer regulation in a pub. Someone who is intoxicated cannot be served by law; at home, anyone can keep pouring the vodka.

By the 28th of November, if the University hasn't caught up with its obligations, the SU has a whole new role to play with regard to alcohol consumption. It takes over as the sole leader promoting responsible and mature consumption of alcohol. It becomes the protector of students; the dam between students and alcohol. What good is a dam if it leaks?



BY AOIFE BREEN
NEWS EDITOR

Yes!

THERE is one main reason why there should be an off-licence on campus - demand. Quite simply there is demand amongst students to have an off-licence on campus; the same demand that there is in towns, cities and even villages. There is now and always will be demand for off-licences for the following reasons; they're infinitely more reasonable in price and they generate revenue in an area. The reasons behind the demand for an off-licence on-campus in UL are largely the same save the addition of a third reason - what should be UL's responsibility to make life as easy for its students as possible.

Irish people aren't as keen to go to the pub as they used to be on a night out. It's simply too expensive. There will be very few people reading this who haven't had a night where they had a few drinks in their place, then headed onto a club, bypassing the expense of having the same drinks in the pub for double the price. It does not, as some claim, represent an 'alcoholic culture'. It represents a little sense - a protest at having to pay over €6 for a drink and mixer. Consider the difference between buying a can or bottle in your local pub and buying one in your local off-licence - it's around €2. The reason for this is obvious in that pubs have higher costs than off-licences but the result is the problem- it's harder on your pocket.

If you're going to the pub for the atmosphere then you don't mind the price but if your aim is get a few drinks for a night out or quiet night in then off-licences or supermarkets are the only reasonable places to go. Most students are hard-up when it comes to cash and although some people would say 'don't go out, spend your money on education and food', I believe the social aspect of college is important; whether it's an event with your society or a night out with housemates. In Ireland we aren't as lucky as the Unions of the UK who bulk buy both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and sell them at virtually cost-price in bars. In the absence of this service the natural step is to provide somewhere for students where reasonably-priced alcohol can be bought, without trekking half-way across Castletroy.

The generation of revenue within the campus is always positive. An off-licence would be an excellent source of sponsorship for clubs and societies, for example donations of prizes for quizzes/competitions, donations of light refreshments for events. An off-licence would be the same resource for the clubs and societies of UL as the bars and shops already there. As well as that, the off-licence itself

would be paying rent on its premises and this money would go back to students

through the SU, Clubs and Societies or through general improvements within the academic or structural divisions of the college.

There is a lack of convenience for students in UL. The supermarket in UL cannot sell alcohol and the nearest off-licence to the campus is either Fine Wines or Champers. Why shouldn't we have this amenity as close as possible given the demand for it? It should be our goal to make life as easy as possible for students - I don't really believe that if something has to be hard work to be worth getting! I think that in this day and age life should be as convenient and easy for students as possible because lets face it; it's all downhill after graduation. We should endeavour to facilitate our students. Students who live in Cappavilla should not have to get the night-link from there to Next Door/Fine Wines/Champers and then back again. It should be a matter of a short walk with a group of people and heading back to the party. The absence of an off-licence within UL hinders those students who live on campus or sufficiently far away from their nearest off-licence. There's no chance of getting out of a lecture, hitting the off-licence for a nice bottle of wine and heading back to your campus accommodation for dinner and a DVD- no, you have to get out of a lecture and trek the best part of a kilometre with lecture paraphernalia in tow. Not only that, but there is an element of a safety issue too. Because the night-link is not a taxi (nor should it be) if a student gets off at the off-licence the night-link will naturally, no longer be outside when the purchase is completed. Nobody wants to stand and wait for the next night-link to come along in 30/60 minutes so they chance the 'short' walk, alone and vulnerable. This may sound somewhat melodramatic but it's a fact - I've done it - Next Door to Courtyard. I'd wager at least half the people reading this have too.

The desire to have an off-licence on campus does not represent a 'drink-obsessed' student population; it merely represents the desire for convenience and the increase in financial awareness.



AOIFE FINNERTY

Seanfhocail na Seachtaine

LE PHÁDRAIG Ó BEAGÁIN

Bíonn dhá insint ar gach aon scéal

An Scéal dar liomsa (mar Gaeilgeoir):

Táim tar éis teacht ar ais ó crinniú muintir na gaeilge sa TOLGLANN agus tuairimí na daoine a bhí bailithe ansin a chloisteail! De réir dealraimh ní mór an ionadh é nach bhfuil aon rud eile ar intinn agam seachas cé chomh scannalach a bhfuil sé go bhfuil Aontas na Mic Léinn chun an Tolglann a dhúnadh. Ósais (oasis) é an seomra sin don teanga ar an gcampus. Deirtear linn gur

minic gur bhriseann béal duine a shrón, ach ní tharlaíonn an leithead sin sa Tolglann. Ba mhinic a raibh téama conspóideach le phlé ann, agus bhí cead ag gach éinne a thuarím a rá ós aird gan eagla ar bith, ar neamhchead (regardless) cé chomh aisteach is a mbíonn siad uaireannta. Táim cinnte ní amháin mé a bhéas ag dul i gcoinne an phlean seo atá i gceist ag an Aontas. "Níor tháinig trioblóid riamh ina h-aonar." Agus buiochas le Dia, níl i m-aonar.

An Scéal dar liomsa (mar gnáth Mac Léinn):

Bá bhreá liom an ráiteas gur olc an ghaoth nach séideann do dhuine éigin a chreidiúint. B'fhéidir gur "Wake-up Call" atá i gceist i gcás an Tolglann. Má thogann siad an Tolglann ó muintir na Gaeilge san Ollscoil, sin iad na MacLeinn a bhfuil suim acu sa teanga, is deis ollmhór é a thaispeaint don Ollscoil agus don Aontas go bhfuil suim ann, gur rud fír tábhachtach é an teanga ar an gcampus agus go bhfuil gá don ionad chun an gaeilge a labhairt go neamhfóirmiúl (An Tolglann). Is dócha go bhfuil líosta fada ag St. John Ó Donnabháin (Uachtaran Aontas na Mac Leinn) le ghrupá a bhfuil ag fánacht le

oifig a fháil le fada agus is cinnte go bhfuil siad ar fad chun an seomra a usáid chun rud tairbheach (beneficial) do na Mic Léinn a cur ar fáil. Ach seo é an cheist is tábhactaí: An bhfuil siadsan níos tábhactach ná lucht na Gaeilge san ollscoil a bhfuil ag déanamh a ndícheall chun ár teanga dúchais a chaoimhniú?? Seasainn an Aontas le nó i gcoinne na Mic Léinn?. Sin ceist daoibhse!

Níl ach rud amháin le rá agam agus dar liomsa tá a lán fhírinne le feiceáil ionta: "Beatha teanga í a labhairt."

Ógra AGM A Roaring Success

LUKE O'CALLAGHAN

THIS week our trip to Stormont takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday of open days. The group travelling hopes to study the history of this famous place and also the local nightlife.

Following a very successful six weeks it is my pleasure to tell you that firstly the AGM was a roaring success. Passing a new

constitution, the night was well attended with TD John Cregan, Leas-Cathaoirleach Ógra; Lorcan Price, Communications co-ordinator; Darragh McShea and also former Chairman Aidan O' Gorman present before a social evening in the Stables and Kilmurry Lodge Hotel. The new committee includes Eamon Quinlan as Cathaoirleach and Derek Daly as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

The Cumann has also

arranged some guest speakers over the coming weeks which include Government ministers and prominent public figures. Anyone can attend if interested in the person or topic no matter what party they support. Information will hopefully be appearing on the notice boards within the coming days. The Cumann is also proposing that a student Dáil session be held outside the student centre on 'Walkout Wednesday'. Also we have

made arrangements for a quiz in the coming weeks so keep your eyes on the notice boards if you are interested in entering a team.

The new Con Colbert cumman website is now live at fiannafail.csn.ul.ie and features event updates, pictures and a bio of Con Colbert himself.

Ar Aghaidhe le Fianna Fáil!

Just your average sex column

ALEXANDRA GAVIGAN

LADIES and gentlemen it is the turn of sex myths this week; the good, the bad and the downright ridiculous. Have you ever wondered why people buy into myths about sex, which quite literally could not be possible? Maybe that's just me. Anyway I thought I'd detail my top 5 favourite sex myths and dispel them with some witty repartee (though the only person who finds it witty may be me) and scathing remarks.

Sex myth number 5 - You can't get pregnant during unprotected sex if the man pulls out before he ejaculates. Eh hello.... Seriously what kind of idiot believes a guy when he tells you this? Or visa versa for that matter. If it's up there at all it can cause trouble because the 'big ejaculation' isn't the only ejaculation if you're an innocent firstie who hasn't been round the block and a partner or potential partner says this to you please do one of the following things; 1) Ask them directly how they got this far without falling down more or 2) Just walk away and chalk it up to a lucky escape.

Sex myth number 4 - You can't get pregnant while having sex standing up. You see this seems to contradict directly to the myth that if you have sex standing up you're more lightly to have a baby girl. Either way there is nothing fricking special about sex standing up - aside from the obvious of course. You can get pregnant virtually whatever way you have sex, there's always a chance. Have some sense and do it standing up for the right reasons!

Sex myth number 3 - Drinking lots of Mountain Dew will decrease sperm count, and thus prevent pregnancy, thanks to the coloring agent Yellow No. 5. This was one that I really had to laugh when I read. Firstly and probably most importantly, Yellow No. 5 is a safe chemical, it has never been proven to reduce sperm count and clearly a bored frat boy made this up as a source

of amusement. Second of all low sperm count does not prevent pregnancy. And thirdly who would go to the bother and punishment of using Mountain Dew as a source of contraception? Sometimes I am resigned to the fact that I don't understand the inner workings of some peoples' minds (despite the clear similarity between the aforementioned minds and hamster minds).

Sex myth number 2 - Men think about sex every 7 seconds. Every man is different so there's no hard and fast rule as to how many times they think about sex in a minute or an hour or any other measurement of time. Another point which has to be raised in relation to this assertion... what about women? I know plenty of women and if they haven't gotten laid in the previous 48hours before a conversation with them they're complaining and almost on the verge of paying for it. Why is it dirty or sex-obsessed when a man thinks about sex but romantic and necessary when a woman does? Tut tut tut for double standards in this modern world.

Sex myth number 1 - You can't get pregnant if it is your first time having sex. This is my all-time favourite myth and it shocks me that people actually think it's true. As I've said already in my many pregnancy and STI related rants old wives tales do not protect you from the big evils out there, they just make it easier for the idiots amongst us to live in blissful ignorance as their respective genitalia falls off due to lack of self-awareness and too much sex with people who don't think they have and STI but have never bothered to be tested. You can get pregnant any time, any where - think of the ad; you know walking in the Garden of Eden and all that. You have 350million chances of getting pregnant - those don't go away just because you have what you perceive to be a shield or superpower. Superpower virginity isn't!

SPORTS QUIZ 4

LIAM TOGHER

1. True or False: Arsenal are the only London club to reach a European Cup final.
2. What was the final score in the remarkable Portsmouth-Reading game at the end of September?
3. Is Scottish rugby ground Murrayfield in Edinburgh or Glasgow?
4. In what year did Roman Abramovich buy Chelsea?
5. How many games did Cork lose in this year's All-Ireland hurling championship?
6. Have Northern Ireland previously qualified for the European Championships?
7. Brøndby is a football club in which European country?
8. Only one Kilkenny player was recently nominated for the Hurler of the Year award - was it James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick or Tommy Walsh?
9. Which team surprisingly knocked Wales out of the Rugby World Cup?
10. Who replaced Sam Allardyce as Bolton manager?
11. Motor racing circuit Monza is in which country?
12. Which Portuguese club did Manchester United sign Nani from?
13. Mike McNamara is the new manager of which beleaguered hurling team?
14. Irish scrum-half Eoin Reddan plays with which English club?

Sporting Quotes Of The Edition

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

"Spurs are a load of shapers with earrings and white boots."
An Arsenal fan airing his views on Today FM. A bit like the kettle calling the pot black.

"Camogie isn't a real sport."
A 1st year Business student gets a tad overexcited in the Stables. An Focal Sport would like to distance themselves from these remarks!

"He's not even a household name in his own front room."
David Mellor, Chelsea fan and former Conservative minister, is not too impressed with Avram Grant.

"Can you believe that this Irish team would just hoof the ball up the field like an Under 13 gaelic football team from Listowel."
George Hook commentating on the Ireland-Georgia game. A bit harsh on the young boys of Listowel it must be said.

"I think we had a blip."
Philip Browne of the IRFU on Ireland's World Cup. A real contender for understatement of the year.

"Wouldn't it be a great time to score."
Sports Science student Oisín Collins proves to be mystic meg as he amazingly predicts Celtic's first goal against AC Milan just before the corner was floated in.

"You can't sack me."
A phrase often used by the sports editor and other overconfident members of the An Focal Sports team.

ANSWERS TO SPORTS QUIZ
1. True, 2. 7-4 to Portsmouth, 3. Edinburgh, 4. 2003, 5. 3, 6. No, 7. Denmark, 8. Tommy Walsh, 9. Fiji, 10. Sammy Lee, 11. Italy, 12. Sporting Lisbon, 13. Clare, 14. Wasps

Campus Sport

UL GAA Returns To Action



BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY
SPORTS EDITOR

U-21 Scholarships

Applications are currently being taken for Cadbury U-21 football scholarships. The deadline is October 20 and more information can be obtained by contacting the GAA office.

GAA Bursaries

There is also time to apply for

the GAA club bursaries. The deadline is also October 20.

Management

The management teams for all the UL GAA sides have been appointed. The senior hurling team boss for the coming season will be Eamonn Kelly assisted by Ger Cunningham. Dr Cian O'Neill is taking charge of the footballers along with Declan O'Keeffe who was involved last year. Tom McGlinchey will be manager of the ladies football team while Mick Chawlke assumes the mantle of camogie baineisteoir. The most eye catching though of all the appointments is that of former Limerick hurler Clem Smith who has been handed the post of intermediate hurling manager. His

progress will be watched with interest.

Fitzgibbon In Croke?

GAA President Nicky Brennan has given third level authorities the option to play the Fitzgibbon and Sigerson Cup Finals under lights at Croke Park. He was speaking at the Annual Convention of the GAA's Higher Education Body at IT Tallaght.

Senior Hurling

On the field the senior hurlers played their first game of the new season against Cork club side Newtownshandrum on October 2. The team performed admirably considering it is so early in the year. They eventually lost out in a high scoring game 3-21 to 0-19.

Fresher 1 Hurling

The fresher 1 hurling team had their first outing of the year against another Cork side Watergrasshill on October 3. UL gave a battling display but were defeated on a scoreline of 3-13 to 1-12. The team lined out as follows James Dempsey, Mark Cunningham, Eanna Walsh, Sean O'Brien, Tom Tracy, Kevin O'Gorman, Emmet O'Mahoney, Eoin Hayes, Frank Galvin, Liam Dwane, Donagh Stack, Brian Keogh, Pdraig O'Murchu, Pdraig Kelly, Pat Howard Subs Ciaran Murphy, John McDonagh, Stephen Martin, Lorcan Broderick, Matthew O'Meara, William Cuddihy, Sean Mooney, Anthony Guinan, James O'Driscoll, David O'Callaghan.



The senior hurlers in action. Photo by Paudie Scanlon

UL Hockey Back In Business

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

UL hockey club may not be the most popular on campus but over the last few weeks there has been positive news both on and off the field. The men's team has made a welcome return to action while the women's team began their league season in impressive fashion.

After a few years in the doldrums finally there is a mens hockey back in UL. In the last few weeks the club has been working hard recruiting members. Whether you are a

beginner or have past experience the club needs you. Training takes place every Tuesday and Thursday evenings on the astro turf.

Meanwhile the UL womens hockey team have begun their season with two fine results in Division 1 of the Munster Senior League. On September 30 they faced Cork side Belvedere away from home. They emerged from that game with a 2-2 draw. On October 6 UCC were the opposition in another tricky away assignment. UL this time gained all 4 points winning 2-1. The goals came from

F Smith and J O'Loughlin. Although it is very early on in the season these two results left UL joint top of the table with 5 points. Upcoming fixtures include a tough game against Harlequins and the first round of the Irish Senior Cup.

With all the work that is going on UL hockey club deserves great credit. It promises to be an intriguing season ahead for both the men's and women's teams and they will be hoping for the good results to continue.

Smooth Sailing for the Softball Team

SONJA EISENBERG

SOFTBALL has been progressing very well since the team returned from the 'Janko Pucnik' Memorial Tournament in Slovenia in May, having won the tournament and beaten the ever illustrious American team.

A Softball committee has been successfully set up at our AGM, and training sessions have seen a brilliant turnout in the meantime, thanks also to the unusually fabulous weather as of

late!

Munster Trials are due to take place on two Sundays, October 14 and 28. These will take place in different pitches around the UL campus. This is seen as an excellent way of improving our teams' skills.

A trip to Waterford is in the process of being arranged and is eagerly anticipated by all members of the club. This is due to take place the first weekend of November and is one of many Intervarsities' that take place between all the different Universi-

ty teams around Ireland during the college semesters.

At this leg of the IV's we hope to have two competitive teams and three recreational teams. The members who play in these games will, hopefully, be scoring home runs against teams from Galway, Waterford and Dublin.

With all these events taking place in the next month or so it will be a very busy and exciting time for all us softball players, all looked forward to with softball spirit!

UL Soccer Club Count The Cost

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

UL soccer club has emerged as the real losers out of the club and socs budget allocations. The club is feeling the pinch after their budget was cut significantly from last year and they have reacted angrily to the news.

Responding to the Soccer Club's budget cut of more than 50% on last year's allocation a frustrated Soccer Club chairman Declan Rix (2nd Equine) said. "We knew it was going to be bad as everyone had been saying that it was time for other clubs to get a bigger slice of the cake given how successful we'd been in the last couple of years. But to take more than half our budget!!!. This allocation will mean fewer games for our members pure and simple."

Martin Hayes, Soccer Club President, was more reflective. "This 'yo-yo' effect that occurs regularly in UL club funding means that prop-

er preparation of our elite teams is impossible. Perhaps it's time for UL to constitute an Athletic Union in order to recognize the different requirements of clubs participating at elite intervarsity level. We accept that the Students' Union has a difficult job but perhaps it should just have responsibility for funding mass participation activities." Hayes added that these cuts will have a serious impact to performances on the field of play. "When we compete against the UCD's and the DCU's of this world we are at a severe disadvantage in terms of Physiotherapy, pre and post game nutrition, access to facilities, hiring pitches so that we can play at night, equipment, Sports Psychology, training gear, the list goes on. As a simple illustrative example all successful teams would have dedicated masseuses at intervarsity soccer events. We would be derided for even seeking this from the Student's

Union and yet all this stuff contributes to the missing 5% that separates winners from the also-rans." Hayes feels that UL athletes have been as "second class" and deserve better. "It provides a valid explanation for our pretty average performance at intervarsity level particularly amongst our male representative sides. Why do our women do so well in comparison? Simply because there has never been any proper money put into female sport."

It is clear that soccer club feel they have been harshly treated and were neglected when the clubs and socs budgets were being drawn out. This is undoubtedly a killer blow to the soccer club and one which those involved know could have major consequences for the year ahead.

ULKC Hits Lahinch

EMMA DAY

UULKC'S annual Fresher trip to Lahinch is usually the most fun-filled, crazy, and scandalous trip of the year...and this year was no different. Friday October 5 saw some 60 odd paddlers descend upon west Clare for a weekend of serious surf. 7ft waves, sun shining, and little wind made for perfect paddling conditions.

The size of the waves

might have deterred some...but not our first years. Enthusiastic and excited, they jumped into boats, got out there, and gave it socks! Paddling right out the back, beyond the breaking waves, to where we would sit waiting, anticipating that perfect wave, which would catch hold of your boat, and catapult you back right into the shore so fast that it would take your breath away. Flying along on the crest of a wave, paddling as fast as your arms could

physically allow, desperately trying not to screw it up, carving left and right trying to avoid board surfers and swimmers, laughing your head off because you know that this could go wrong at any stage, but pulling it off and getting off the water with an adrenalin rush that makes you want to get right back out there and do it all over again! So we did! If this trip is anything to go by, it's going to be another fantastic year for ULKC!



Skydivers heading off

MAIRTIN LALLY

TWELVE of UL's adrenalin junkies are bound for London this week for the two open days. The group hope to advance from solo jumps to team jumps in preparation for competitions and displays in the coming year. All the training will be taking place in a wind-tunnel which was built by the English Air Force to test new models of fighter jets!

A wind tunnel is basically a vertical cylinder, 5metres in diameter and 8metres in height. It has an extremely powerful fan at the base that suspends the skydiver in mid-air. Essentially your flying! This allows the skydivers to train indoors and is very time efficient. Only half an hour in the tunnel is the equivalent to 60 jumps and is an excellent opportunity for the club to escalate from solo jumpers onto team formations.

Some of the group will get to return from London direct to the dropzone in Nenagh on a brand new 8 seater plane that Skydive Ireland has recruited to meet the growing demand for skydiving! The plane is just a demo for the weekend and will be returning again to be a permanent fixture from January onwards.

This is fantastic news for Skydive UL because it allows them to double their capacity for each load of jumpers. It also doubles the amount of jumpers that are planning to jump into UL in the coming weeks!

Other news from the club includes the awarding of a packing certificate to Sharon Brosnan. This allows Sharon to pack parachutes and is another step for her towards gaining her A licence.

Parachute packing classes will now be held weekly for members of the skydiving club.



UL Sailing Club Proud to Announce Arrival of New Fleet

THOMAS NAUGHTON

THE University of Limerick Sailing Club is delighted to welcome on board their latest sponsor - Ulster Bank - for the timely arrival of a new fleet of Firefly dinghies. The purchase of these new boats was only made possible by the support of all the sponsors - Ulster Bank through the Enablement Fund and also the University of Limerick Arts and Sports Fund.

The new fleet will be used to compete and train at

national and international events and are a far cry from the Club's meagre beginnings in borrowed Larks's in Dromineer. Later this year the ULSC will play host to the Irish University Sailing Association National Intervarsities, a four day event featuring up to 30 teams from various 3rd level institutes.

Last year, the Club narrowly missed out on the top spot in the National Intervarsities. It is hoped that this year, with the new equipment that they will go one better and win the coveted



event. With the backing of the new sponsors and the use of top class equipment, it's a task well within reach!

The launch of the new boats will take place on Wednesday October 17 at 6pm outside Ulster Bank followed by light refreshments in room 3 in the Students Union. Members of ULSC will be on hand throughout to answer any queries you may have about the new boats.



ULSC launch - unloading the new boats. Photo by Rachel O'Brien

The Hurling Champions League?

Tomás McCarthy ponders the future of the All-Ireland hurling championship.

THE new changes to the hurling championship recently passed at Congress boggle the mind and one has to worry for the future of the game.

Lets face facts. We are just after witnessing the best championship for years. Look at the amount of entertaining games played throughout the year. Hurling was the real winner and the game became more appealing again. Why did it have to be changed? If it ain't broke don't fix it. The only thing wrong last year was the repetitive nature of the games and that is easily mended. A few Waterford people are giving out that the system was unfair but I don't subscribe to that view. Kilkenny were, undoubtedly, the best team.

Under the new system the provincial winners go straight through to the semi finals. The qualifier groups have been replaced by a knockout sys-

tem. Galway and Antrim play each other in phase 1 before facing the losers of the first round in Munster and Leinster in phase 2. The winners of these games go through to phase 4. In phase 3 the losers of the semi finals in Leinster and Munster are pitted against each other. The winners of these games play the winners from phase 2. Eventually two teams come through to play the Munster and Leinster runners up in the quarter finals. Confused?

There are a number of problems with this system. First of all it is lopsided in favour of Kilkenny. No disrespect to Wexford or Offaly or any other Leinster county but Kilkenny are light years ahead of the rest and have an easy route to the semis. Meanwhile in Munster you have five nearly evenly matched teams literally killing each other trying to progress while Kilkenny stroll through barely breaking a sweat. Also the provincial champions will be at a disadvantage waiting for

weeks on end for the semi-finals. Waterford got caught out in 2002 and 2004 in semi finals by match fit Clare and Kilkenny teams who benefited from extra games. Most importantly though the weaker counties will lose out. Last year teams like Dublin, Laois and Antrim gained valuable experience playing the likes of Cork, Tipperary and Galway in the round robin series. Next year it's two strikes and you're out. Antrim are not happy with the new proposals and want to play in the Munster Championship. Do the GAA care? No.

What's the solution? Ultimately the open draw is going to happen sooner rather than later. The system the Ladies Football operated this year is worth looking at. First they ran off the provincial championships and then they started afresh with a champions league style All Ireland series. The teams were drawn into 4 groups with the top two from each group going into the quarter finals. This proved to be a success as it increased the

profile of the game greatly. Hurling needs more competitive and exciting games to generate interest. Also the weaker counties will only benefit through tougher games on a regular basis so they can raise their standards. A champions league format is so much more straightforward and less confusing as well.

The GAA need to look to new methods to ensure that hurling remains in some sort healthy state. How about playing National League games on Saturday nights under lights? What about putting Galway and Antrim into Leinster to spice things up? The association needs to move with the times and revitalise the game. For instance Westmeath have not been allowed to compete for the Liam McCarthy this year despite winning the Christy Ring last year. Offaly in 1998 were the last team outside the big three to win the All Ireland. Under this new system and with this ignorant attitude from the GAA things won't change.



Clare v Tipp in action



Hurling needs more competitive games

What's With Rotating Rafa's Roundabout Ways?

LIAM TOGHER

PLENTY, some would believe too much, has been said and written about Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez's love for team rotation. His selected XI has become the most controversial roundabout since the Red Cow. Most football observers have criticised the Spaniard's constant rotation, and not without reason.

When Liverpool won the league title in 1965-66, they famously used just 14 players over the course of the entire season, five of whom played every single minute. Now, it would be a surprise if they had less than that number for more than two games. With respect to Benitez, he has probably the strongest squad in the Premiership at his disposal. At how many clubs would the likes of Ryan Babel, Andriy Voronin and Fabio Aurelio not be automatic first choices? However, the best Liverpool teams were based on consis-

tency. Chelsea got it right in keeping a 'spine' to the side. Benitez should build his team around the strongest player in each area of the pitch - namely Jose Reina, Jamie Carragher, Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres.

Before the international break in September, Liverpool topped the table on the back of a 6-0 thrashing of Derby. In their next game away to Portsmouth, Gerrard and Torres were nonsensically left on the bench. When they were introduced, they could not adjust to the physicality of the game (Pompey can't play any other way) and the Reds were lucky to escape with a scoreless draw. Since then, results have been decidedly mixed. Again, in the manager's favour, he could hardly be held accountable for such an insipid performance against Marseille. Momo Sissoko is a workmanlike player who puts much effort into his game. I'll say this much about his ball distribution, however - if he



was a sat nav system, you'd bring him back and ask for a refund.

Liverpool can definitely win the Premiership this season. Even if they run the eventual champions close, it is progress on a hardly all-conquering 2006-07. Benitez must keep playing as strong a team as possible, though. Changes can easily be made if necessary, but he should not go for a full-blown weekly overhaul. My final word on team rotation: if it ain't broke, don't bloody fix it.

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

Up The Villa!

The number of Aston Villa jerseys on campus has risen considerably. An Focal has noticed. If you are one of these people we recommend you see a doctor immediately.

City For The Title?

Who would have predicted at the start of the season that Man City managed by some Eriksson guy would be so high up the league. Martin Petrov and Elano have been two of the best players in the league so far pleasing the huge City following on campus (two!). 66-1 for the title? Dream on Sky Blues.

Rafa The Gafa

Just what is Rafa Benitez's best team? Only once in 152 games has Benitez named an unchanged side. Here's my Liverpool XI injury permitting: Reina, Finnan, Agger, Carragher, Riise, Benayoun, Alonso, Mascherano, Gerrard, Torres, Crouch.

Goal Of The Season Contenders

Liam Miller Sunderland v Middlesbrough
Emmanuel Adebayor Arsenal v Spurs

Elano Man City v Middlesbrough

Champions League

Still early doors but Barcelona seem the team to beat in Europe this season. They are currently 4-1 favourites in the bookies with an unimpressive Man United next at 6-1. Liverpool's uninspiring displays are reflected as they are currently 12-1 to lift the trophy.

Taxi For Dida!

One of the funniest incidents ever on a football field was that 27 year old Celtic fan brushing past Dida. He won't see Celtic Park again but it is some story to tell to your grandchildren. Dida was a disgrace and sums up the ridiculous playacting that is killing the game.



The Score

The Maltese Musquito

Remember the Coventry guy who dumped Man United out of the Carling Cup? His name is Michael Mifsud otherwise known as the Maltese Musquito. Probably the best nickname in the world..

United v Liverpool

Where are all the United fans in UL? Very poor turnout in the Stables for the Champions League tie with Roma. Unofficially Liverpool have the biggest following on campus.

Rubbish Teams

Derby County simply can't cut it in the Premier League. When players like Stephen Pearson, Matt Oakley and Gary Teale are the backbone of your team you know one thing is for certain. RELEGATION!!

Explain This Shambles Eddie

Conor McGrath says Eddie O'Sullivan must go

THIS year's Rugby World Cup has been an utter disappointment from an Irish perspective. The most skilful and most experienced Irish team ever seen on this island produced the worst result ever achieved by an Irish team at a World Cup. In fairness, we were well beaten by the skilful French and the brutal force of Argentina. In hindsight, these teams did reach the semi finals but our performances against the lesser nations such as Georgia and Namibia were frighteningly bad. Many unseen problems came to the fore during the tournament. These included the hype surrounding Ronan O'Gara's private life, the head coach's lack of squad rotation, the lack of team leadership and unity on the pitch, and the lack of creativity from the key players in the squad. As the head coach of the Irish team, Eddie O'Sullivan has to take all of the blame for this catastrophe. His lack of coaching and man management skills at international level has become apparent. In a press conference leading up to the World Cup, O'Sullivan declared that "this is the best prepared Irish team ever sent to a World Cup" Clive Woodward used the same phrase two years ago and we

all remember the vilification he received after the Lions tour.

At this point in time, Eddie O'Sullivan's job has become untenable. Many deluded supporters and journalists may beg to differ but this is the real scenario. To start the ball rolling, his treatment of Geordan Murphy was an absolute disgrace. Murphy is one of the greatest talents to come out of this country and is a multiple Heineken Cup winner with Leicester. It is blindingly obvious that Eddie dislikes Murphy because the full back was only given a chance to prove his worth in the predictable loss to Argentina. If O'Sullivan remains at the helm for the next four years, we will lose one of the most talented players in European rugby. At this year's World Cup, O'Sullivan's rotational policy was ruthlessly exposed during the pool stages. He only used 19 players out of the 30 man squad. This wasn't too much of a surprise as O'Sullivan has been picking the same team ever since the last World Cup. He has failed to realise that squads win World Cups, not teams. Players like Alan Quinlan, Isaac Boss, Neil Best, Gavin Duffy, Malcolm O'Kelly and Brian Carney have been publicly humiliated because of O'Sullivan's failure to use his talented squad. He



O'Driscoll looks for some inspiration

embarrassed Isaac Boss the most though. For the France game, he picked the inexperienced Eoin Reddan ahead of Boss for the scrum half position. In my opinion, this showed that O'Sullivan

had absolutely no confidence in Isaac Boss to do a job for him. Why did O'Sullivan bring him to the World Cup if he was not going to play him?

Another sickening feeling was watching the key players

under perform throughout the four matches. Players like Ronan O'Gara, Peter Stringer, Donnacha O'Callaghan, Denis Leamy and Gordon D'Arcy looked drained and bereft of ideas. It is completely obvious that O'Sullivan was unable to inspire any confidence in each of them, especially for the games against France and Argentina. O'Sullivan also refused to replace any of them as he felt they would finally turn it around in the latter games. He failed to protect O'Gara from the rumours circulating around the French media about O'Gara's private life. This tournament has been a huge dent in each of these players' reputations.

Eddie O'Sullivan obviously has to take all of the blame for the poor performances but at the end of the day, he is only human. The real fools are the IRFU. They stupidly handed O'Sullivan a brand, spanking new four year contract before the World Cup had begun. Not a soul can blame O'Sullivan for taking it because he has kids and financial security is rare at the top level of rugby. The IRFU will now have to pay Eddie off. How is he going to inspire his players for the next five years after a dismal World Cup? How are the players going to have any confidence in his man management and coaching methods? I strongly believe that the IRFU like the

FAI should cut their losses and stop the rot. At international level, six years is usually the maximum term in office. Look at New Zealand, Australia and Wales; they have all sacked their head coaches as a result of their awful campaigns. In Ireland, we do things differently. We plead with our outdated head coach to stay on for another four years after our worst ever performance at a World Cup. The World Cup was an unmitigated failure and our head coach needs to go now as a result. A fresh face and voice is needed to galvanise our greatest ever crop of rugby players for the Six Nations otherwise, we are doomed....

Did You Know? Eddie O'Sullivan is a former UL student and graduated in 1980 with a BA in P.E!



O'Gara had a World Cup to forget

Irish Rugby Squad's World Cup Ratings

MARK CONNOLLY

GIRVAN Dempsey 7: Not too much swerve from Girv in this tournament but still assured and reliable defensively. Easily, our best kicker out of hand.

Geordan Murphy 3: Rubbish against Argentina. Struggled when challenged under the high ball and often ran into trouble. Is this the man touted as 'our most gifted footballer'? What a joke. Totally overrated.

Shane Horgan 4: Always centrally involved when Ireland play well, his quiet performances were a clear indication of how badly we struggled. Not helped by those inside him but his kicking game is simply atrocious.

Brian O' Driscoll 8: Usual display of power, passion and pace from the BOD. One of

the few players to emerge from this debacle with nothing to apologise for. Legend status is firmly intact.

Gordon D'Arcy 4: Failed spectacularly to live up to his vaunted reputation. Showed no creativity in midfield and failed to make it over the gain line with any regularity.

Denis Hickie 5: A sad farewell for a man who has served his country with distinction. Did all he could against Argentina with limited opportunities. A good recovery after a shocking display against Namibia.

Andrew Trimble 4: Caught woefully out of position for the first French try. An error of such magnitude that he should never start for Ireland on the wing again.

Ronan O'Gara 3: A man with a lot to answer for and not just his gambling debts. In

a tournament where Ireland showed everything but control and direction, the Munster out-half must assume a large portion of blame.

Eoin Reddan 3: Yikes. Passed poorly, was hesitant at the rucks and kicked badly. Did everything to prove that his call-up was not deserved.

Peter Stringer 3: Can blame nobody for being axed but himself. Uncharacteristically clumsy in everything he did. Reddan's shockers against France and Argentina may just have saved his international career however.

Isaac Boss 6: Looked a far superior scrum half to Stringer or Reddan when introduced. Probably deserved more game time as he brought urgency to Ireland's backline.

Marcus Horan 6: Deserves more credit for an excellent scrummaging

performance. Has vastly improved in this area but his contribution in open play has tailed in the opposite direction.

Rory Best 4: Solid in the scrum and accurate with his throwing but the modern game demands much more from the hooker. He lacks the mobility of an international class No.2.

Jerry Flannery 4: Don't be deceived by the biceps, this guy lacks the physicality to mix it with the big boys. Lineout throwing was also a bit hit and miss. Not international class.

John Hayes 7: Does what it says on the tin. He kept the scrum strong and made some big hits around the fringes. Nothing more asked or given.

Simon Best 0: No impact off the bench and destroyed in the scrum. We must find somebody else before Hayes

retires.

Donncha O'Callaghan 0: The perma-tanned idiot's concession of penalty after stupid penalty was his only contribution of note. Pathetic.

Paul O'Connell 5: This world cup performance put the fear of God into nobody, except perhaps Munster and Ireland fans who will be worried if he reproduces this sort of display.

Simon Easterby 6: A primarily defensive player who was never going to be prominent against Georgia or Namibia but showed his worth against France with an all-action display. He took a lot of undue flak from many analysts.

David Wallace 3: I think Cindarella got to the ball quicker than him. Destroyed at the break-down by Juan Fernandez Lobbe of Argentina. But to be fair, he

had his preparation badly curtailed by injury.

Denis Leamy 4: Leamy might as well have had 'Not Interested' written above his head in big neon lights. Another one of our world class players to leave his form behind him at the airport.

Neil Best 6: Made an impact off the bench and should have started the Argentina match ahead of the clearly struggling Wallace.

Bryan Young, Tony Buckley, Frankie Sheehan, Malcolm O'Kelly, Alan Quinlan, Stephen Ferris, Paddy Wallace, Brian Carney and Gavin Duffy could not be rated due to a lack of playing time but did sterling work as water carriers!

Ireland's Fall From Grace

Neil Slevin on how Ireland's World Cup hopes sank without a trace.

"Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths, enwrought with golden and silver light, the blue and the dim and the dark cloths of night and light and the half-light, I would spread the cloths beneath your feet but I being poor have only my dreams; tread softly because you tread on my dreams"

I feel that only a tragic line of W.B Yeats is worthy of introducing a piece that will commemorate Ireland's spectacular fall from grace at the Rugby World Cup. It is impossible to define the colossal epic of failure this autumn's escapade turned out to be as what set out as a magical fairytale climaxed crushed by the brutal reality of disappointment.

The current crop of players was branded as the Golden Generation of Irish rugby, and why wouldn't they be? What with the success, the plaudits and the professionalism that the last few years have brought to Irish rugby, combined with the brilliance of the team, the fantastical tries scored and the unforgettable triumph over the "auld enemy" in Croke Park. Sadly however, it was simply not to be, as all our spending, training and bluffing before press cameras was not enough to inspire the necessary performances on the field. I think it fair to say that the current team have truly cemented their Irish status. It may be slightly blasé to make little of the Celtic Irish psyche, but did we really expect any more than what we actually achieved? Granted, we still could and should have made the quarter-finals, we should have literally mauled the rebels of Namibia and Georgia into oblivion, we should have fought bravely against the French in Paris (which we sincerely did) before succumbing to a heroic defeat, before picking ourselves up to scrape by Argentina, counting upon "the luck of the Irish" and the clinical precision that players such as O'Driscoll, Darcy, Horgan and co. so readily displayed in the past, but no, we did not...

To describe the newly deceased campaign as a disaster would prove flattering to the seemingly foolish and conservatively disjointed approach taken by Eddie O'Sullivan at this tournament. To quote Ireland's talismanic

and soon to be legendary captain, Brian O'Driscoll, "Passion is great but precision is better". Where was the precision at this World Cup? And more importantly, where was the passion? So many years ago, when we played as divided, static and drinking-cultured amateurs, our teams could be counted upon to display a fire and a passion to battle against superior opponents, so where did it go? Now that we had the skill, the reputations and the repertoire to back it up? Like the doomed Titanic, it sank without trace. To see the Irish team's dramatic spiral from grace was akin to watching Macbeths' spiralling descent into evil and lunacy, as "Garryowens" were sent despairingly into the sky, ambitious passes were "knocked on" and sixteen stone weighing rugby machines were shunted backwards by opposing packs whilst trying to attack. To the neutral, it seemed as if the life and spirit had simply drained out of the Irish team, drowned by the weight of expectation and the potential for greatness. Ireland would not be Ireland if they had won this World Cup, or even if they had made the semis, because there is some critical element lacking somewhere, somehow, that prevents us from achieving our goals, for fulfilling our destiny as a people. Can anyone think of an Irish sportsman or woman who fully capitalised upon their glittering talent, their outstanding potential? For such a small and proud nation, our failures to succeed are outstanding, and maybe it is no wonder that tragedy yet again enveloped our chances of success...

What about our future? Where does the Irish team go from here? More importantly, what about the truly great Irish player, the marvel that is Brian O'Driscoll? Time is running out for Ireland's inspira-

tional and wizard-like captain. The greatest travesty for him is that he was not born to a nation of achievers, like Australia or New Zealand, the flipside of that supposition is that he may never have come to prominence, or be regarded with the god-like status that sees millions of Irish people simply adore his brilliance. One of the most clinical advertisements I have seen in the past few weeks would have to be the one produced by O2, "it's not who stands in front of you that is important" which depicts former Irish captains, from McBride right down to the mastery of Keith Wood passing the ball from one to the other, "but who stands behind you" and then the moment of fantasy kicks in, as the music plays and Wood spins the pass to O'Driscoll, who thunders through his invisible wall of opponents, and scampers up the pitch toward the inevitable try-line. This ad was a false advertisement of things to come, but it capitalised brilliantly upon the brilliance of O'Driscoll, the aura of immortality that he exudes when he takes on possession and the hope/expectation that dominated the build-up to this latest episode.

Obviously, O' Driscoll, O'Connell, O'Callaghan and co. are not quite finished yet, but by 2011, when our next attempt to snatch the Webb Ellis cup from the land of the All Blacks comes around, they will be. It is saddening to think that the talents and the beauty of someone who plays so exquisitely, as O'Driscoll does, will never truly be realised and that this current Golden Generation of Irish rugby will go down as the most able, professional and talented, but will be remembered as the most disappointing and forgettable of them all...

Ireland failed to live up to expectations



An Focal Sport Goes Online

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

LAST week An Focal Sport launched its brand new bebo page which can be accessed through www.bebo.com/anfocalsport.

Over the last few months the popularity of the sports section has increased dramatically and so to cater for the sports hungry fans of UL An Focal Sport has decided to make the transition into cyberspace. The site will cover all the latest UL sporting news, fixtures, results etc and these will be posted on the blog. It

provides the perfect opportunity for clubs to promote upcoming events to UL students. The page will be updated on a regular basis to chart the various events on campus as they happen. Students will be able to post their comments, take part in polls, quizzes and a whole lot more. Pictures of UL teams old & new will be featured. An Focal Sport's esteemed team of writers Liam Togher, Conor McGrath, Mark Connolly and yours truly will be running the site and making our views known. Not only will the site cover UL news

but also feature material from the Premier League, rugby, GAA etc. Any material which has been squeezed out of the paper will be instead put on the website. This week UL GAA, UL soccer SkydiveUL and rugby are all included and also we reveal our hurling and football allstars. And don't forget to check out the flash-box with some unusual videos that we have found.

So have your say and log on to our website www.bebo.com/anfocalsport. Remember An Focal Sport is a winning team. Give it a lash!

UL Sports Roundup

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

Basketball

Limerick Lions earned a stunning 85-84 win over Ballina on the opening night of the Nivea for Men Superleague. Despite the loss of Stephen King the Lions won with Rob Lynch shooting the crucial basket.

UL Aughinish also emerged victorious in their first game of the season against Tolka Rovers at the Arena. They won on a scoreline of 67-48 with Fiona Scally and Chas Jones the joint top scorers with 15 points each. In other news the UL basketball club recently held its AGM.

Trampoline

The UL trampolining club displayed their impressive skills in the SU courtyard on Wednesday week 4. Not for the faint hearted!

OPC

The Outdoor Pursuits Club were on the road again this time hitting Letterfrack Co Galway for a spot of hillwalking.

SkydiveUL

First jump courses are already up and running with places being snapped up rapidly. Also the club organised a Lodge night last Wednesday as a fundraiser. For more details check out www.skydiveul.org

Email

Angry with the sports editor? Losing the plot with McGrath? Comments or queries to mossy.mccarthy@gmail.com

Words Of Wisdom

At An Focal Sport we call a spade a spade. "For qualified gobshites enter Momo Sissoko."

Kilmurry Streets Ahead In 7-A Side Soccer

DECLAN RIX & STEVE GRIFFEN

KILMURRY St. Elite were most impressive winners of the Irish Times sponsored soccer sevens tournament at UL. 15 teams took part in the event which was staged on the university grass pitches during weeks 3 and 4 and was organised by the Soccer club.

The winners, under the astute guidance of John Fogarty (2nd Construction Management), were a potent mix of 1st and 2nd year students who maintained a 100% record throughout the competition averaging more than four goals per game in the process. In the final they overcame the challenge of The Black Stuff (3rd PE) 4-1 largely due to a hat-trick from David Keogh (3rd Business).

The Black Stuff had been fancied by many coming into the final. Led by David Bracken and, (as is always the case in these tournaments), were well organised and motivated. In the knockout phase they had overcome The Mystery Men and also Tristan Chung's Galacticos (who had assembled an assortment of 4th year talent including Ger "Julio" McDermott 4th sports science and Padraic Podge Phelan). However they had no answer to the pace and talent of the Kilmurry boys and had to give second best on the night.

Player of the tournament was Kilmurry midfielder Liam Barrett, a first year with a real bright future for the college.

UL Handballers Look Forward To Another Great Season

LISA FALVEY

UL handball club has got the new college year off to a great start, with a record number of 120 people joining up at the Clubs and Societies recruitment drive. Never in the history of the club has it seen so many people come on board. This gives a great boost to the club which hopes to emulate the great success achieved by some of our handball stars over the years. For anybody who still hasn't signed up, feel free to come to our training sessions which take place every week in the main gym in the PESS building. Times are as follows: Monday 6:30-7:30 and Thursday 7:30-9:00.

Three weekend's time sees the first handball outing of the year at the 60x30 intervarsity's which will take place in Dublin. This promises to be one of the great events of the year, throwing up some mouth-watering battles in the various age groups. Ger Coonan, one of our handball superstars, will be hoping to

reclaim the men's open title which he won last year in convincing fashion. The boy's victorious C team, who have been promoted to the B division, will be hoping to emulate their great success of last year. The lady handballers will also be hoping for great things in the tournament, with Karen Lawlor and Deirdre Donohue having a big say in the Ladies open. Therese Hearn, Ursula Quinn and the fresher lady handballers will be hot contenders for the B and C grades.

The club is looking forward with great anticipation to the other main events of the year, namely the 40x20 team championships in Galway, the 40x20 intervarsity's in Kingscourt, Co. Cavan and last but not least the US collegiates which will take place this year in Missouri. UL will be sending out a big team next February hoping to repeat the success achieved last year in Los Angeles which saw 3 world titles coming to the club. This is the best handball event on the calendar and it is certainly not one to be missed.

Cathy Davey Plays Away

An Focal Talks To The Ever Musical, Cathy Davey

FINN MCDUFFIE

SHE'S playing Belfast, Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Cork - and that's just this week. Next week she'll be back in Dolan's for her third consecutive Wednesday slot, and that'll be the final one, so don't miss it!

So who is Cathy? Simply, a musician. 'I've just always played away,' she says, 'I'm on a new role now and every gig is my favourite.' Cathy doesn't think about her music's genre. 'my music is not so formulaic, but there are songs that are industry-like,' she remarks. However, having listened to her music, I'd make small comparisons to a plethora of talented artists from Ladysmith Black Mambazo to KT Tunstall. A beautiful array of sonic colours and raw talent, Cathy's music is extremely satisfying and uplifting. She brought this

aspect up when I asked her about the writing process. 'Authors have had a big influence on me... writers like Steinbeck, people who talk about very normal things in a beautiful way, using beautiful imagery... I'm not sure if this has affected my content, but definitely my style.'

Cathy loves playing live and gave a great picture of what we can expect from her this Wednesday and next. 'I'm on a new role now and every gig is my favourite. I'm playing Dolan's soon - I love that. There's usually a small crowd, but they're usually warm and attentive,' she comments. When I asked Cathy what her favourite thing about playing live was I got an unusual but very wise and understandable reply. 'I played in London last night... I realised I didn't have any nerves... without the nerves I couldn't perform... I got out

of frame... after last night, I'd have to say nerves are very important.' Despite the fact she may have lacked 'a little edge', she was sure the gig went brilliantly.

Cathy hopes there'll be a new single out soon and another tour of Dublin after her current tour. 'I'm enjoying touring. Luckily I've got the means to do it. It's up to how the album's received. I want to start writing a third album,' she remarks, 'Writing is the thing I like most.' In fact, she's already started work on the new album with a few songs written. But surely writing songs is difficult? 'I don't find it hard. Except when you write a batch of songs. You begin to wonder why you're writing,' she says.

The Irish music industry is a hard one to crack however. But Cathy didn't seem too interested in that side of music. 'I guess the

industry is saturated... but you just have to do your own thing and get on with it... I hope people 'get' my music and help e create more.' Getting to chart level doesn't interest Cathy either. She's purely out for the music she loves. 'I just want people to be happy with what I do and enjoy the shows and appreciate my music,' she says humbly.

'I just want to keep writing. I have a road I want to go on. I couldn't care less about dominating the airwaves, so long as I make a living,' she says, finally. With Cathy Davey; what you see is what you get. And what you see is a talented, vibrant, sophisticated musician who does what she does, only for the love of it. And that's something really special.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**DON'T BE LEFT
OUT OF THE GAME**

AONTAS NA MAC LÉINN

ULSU
Oilscoil Luimnigh

5PM WEDNESDAY

WEEK 7

STABLES

COURTYARD

