

Studying Bubbles  
...because college  
isn't just about  
books P.6



Pirates &  
Counterfeiters...  
Essential Info  
Page 12



Sen. Tackman's  
fifteen minutes  
Page 4



An Focal Week Fourteen Semester One 13 Jan '99

# an Focal

UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK STUDENTS' UNION

STUDENTS' UNION



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

## Bleak New Year At USI



USI president, Dermot Lohan.  
Impeached for all the wrong reasons

Later this month the future of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), - of which ULSU is thankfully not a member - will receive either a lifeline or a knockout blow, depending on whether students at UCD and UCC decide to reaffiliate to the national students' union. But in the mean time USI must fight to keep eight other colleges from walking out.

Those threatening to leave are being led by the DIT Students' Union and include UCG, Tallagh IT and our own Mary I, as well as the two Northern universities, Queens and the University of Ulster. The reasons for the threatened departure are many. The Southern colleges have expressed dissatisfaction with what they see as USI's pandering to those colleges who are not members of the Union (USI president, Dermot Lohan has maintained a very high profile at UCC this year). The Northern universities on the other hand, feel that Lohan would like to see USI become "a 26 county organisation" and have issued a press statement to that effect.

### IMPEACHMENT

The tension came to a head at a USI national Council meeting in Castlebar two weeks ago when these grievances were expressed. Lohan was saved by the bell, so to speak, when his supporters walked out, leaving the meeting

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### ABSOLUTE POWER

All of the political wrangling could well be interpreted as foreplay for the race for next year's presidency of USI - assuming it still exists. If Lohan can succeed in bringing UCD and UCC back to the fold it would bolster his position as president and swing the balance of power back in his favour, as well as being the ideal ticket on which to re-run for president. However, if the dissatisfied colleges can impeach the president first, then the chair is vacant for the taking, with the most obvious pretender to the throne being DIT's Student Union president, Ross O'Daly. The two potential candidates present interestingly oppo-

site styles of leadership; O'Daly the aggressive bulldog, to Lohan's country sheepdog

### FUSU

Also worth noting is the fact that representatives from every students' union in the country met in UL last Monday (Jan.11th) to discuss among other things, the future of USI. This was the first meeting of 1999 of the Forum of University Students' Unions (FUSU), an organisation established last year to discuss areas of common interest to university students. This meeting had been scheduled for some time, but it is believed that the pending referenda at UCD and UCC put the pressure on for an immediate meeting. Other items scheduled for discussion at Monday's FUSU meeting included ministerial recognition (with a view to a seat on the Higher Education Authority), union finances and rag week.

K.O'H

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## It's your letters

# Freedom of the Press

Dear Editor

I wish to express disappointment and sadness with regard to recent publications about my work colleagues in *An Focal*, namely the page 4 article entitled 'Grumpy Grey Haired Old Man' and the references to security staff in 'Voices in the House' on page 20.

I am privileged to work with the people referred to in these articles and I refute in the strongest possible terms the comments published in your paper.

It is frightening to think that a member of the campus community can be editorially disembowelled in such a way.

Security staff are committed to the safety and security of all campus users.

The references on page 20 are grossly unfair to the security men who do an excellent job making the campus a safer place.

The page 4 article was particularly degrading and unjust, evidenced by the number of students who visited the injured party to express regret and shock and to disassociate themselves from the published article.

From my experience of

working with this man for a number of years, I can say that he is a person of the highest integrity and has always been more than helpful to any user of the building, particularly people with any disability or requiring special needs.

On page 2 on the same edition you wrote:-

"It is the policy of 'An Focal' to interfere as little as possible with what is submitted for publication. The editor does not see his role as the judge of what is humorous or not. Nor is he 'the voice of 10,000 students'. Instead, it is the job of the editor to encourage students to express their opinion. It is for this reason that the editor refuses to get involved in censorship".

I think your policy is seriously flawed!

It is a sad day indeed when an anonymous letter to your paper will be accepted for publication, apparently without editorial scrutiny, particularly when it contains a scurrilous personal attack on the character of a member of the campus community.

Seán McDermott

UL Staff.

Schrodinger Building

Dear **PISSED OFF Physically Disabled Student,**

We as disabled members of the University of Limerick community share your concerns about issues relating to disability at our university. However, we are shocked and outraged by your letter to *An Focal* of Week 11, Semester 1, 1998. The fact that you refer to a member of the University community as a "Grumpy Grey Haired Old Man" is absolutely reprehensible and is worsened by the fact that *An Focal* used this as the title of your letter. This reeks of ageism; you should be aware that the elderly constitute a large number of disabled people. Furthermore the fact that you, through your description of the individual, make the victim of your diatribe clearly identifiable, whereas you hide behind the anonymity of your pseudonym, is just plain cowardice. The fact that *An Focal* published such a letter in the first place is utterly irresponsible as well as being extremely damaging to the situation of disabled people at UL.

The signs at the lifts are there for a purpose: disabled people need lifts; able bodied people can get around without them. Of course "disabled" is a broad term

our colleague in his actions to implement the wishes of UL Equal Opportunities Committee for People with Disability and thank him sincerely for his efforts on our behalves. The consequence of your letter is now likely to be that people will turn a blind eye to infringements of the UL policy on disability rather than face the ignominy of a diatribe of foul language and insults in *An Focal*.

There are almost 10,000 people on campus now. Up to recently, the lifts were suffering from overuse and were frequently out of order. The situation has improved slightly, though the usage by those who don't need to use them is still alarmingly high. In many other Universities, lifts are operated by key or card, and these are distributed on a needs basis. All students and members of staff at UL who use a lift without good reason should think twice about their actions. When a lift doesn't work, the student with his thick folder, to whom you refer, can still use the stairs -not so the wheelchair user. How do you feel about a student wheelchair user who on her way to a lecture, finds a lift full of 15 young buckos going down from level 2 to level 1? Do you think disabled peo-

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## The Student Centre

This letter is addressed to the Student Union, I am referring to an article written about the Student center in the last An Focal. I would agree with the author, that the Student Centre is not a productive use of space. I am offering at least a partial solution.

Last year and apparently for several years beforehand, the Student Centre was used every Thursday night for music society bands to perform. If the bands were good or bad they were allowed to play. The Student Centre can contain sound well; it doesn't perturb the Stables or anyone else to have a bunch of amplified instruments blaring away within the center. The performance would only last two hours.

This year the Music Society are not allowed play in the Student Centre. This is because last year during rag week we did our bit for education and damaged some of those productive arcade games. We admitted responsibility and are proposing more stringent supervision this year. I am appealing to Barry McLoughlin and the Student Union to allow a Music Society performance in the Student Centre on a weekly basis. It is unfair to new bands who are part of the society to have no means of output in their own college, it is after all the STUDENT Centre.

Yours,

Doug Sadleir

President of the Music Society

place is... as being extremely... the situation of disabled people at UL..

The signs at the lifts are there for a purpose: disabled people need lifts; able bodied people can get around without them. Of course "disabled" is a broad term and will normally be interpreted to include pregnant mothers, the elderly et al. Disability can be temporary, such as someone who sprains an ankle - indeed most people suffer a disability at some stage of their lives. On the other hand, deaf people, who are also disabled, do not expect to get preferential treatment as regards the usage of lifts. In your own case, as with people with heart problems etc., you indicate that your disability is a not visible one. You need to use the lift, but appear to be able-bodied. This is bound to cause difficulties for you. If you are not prepared to clarify this in situations such as that which occurred, isn't it reasonable for an individual to assume that anyone who refuses to indicate one way or another is not disabled? One doesn't have to detail one's entire medical history, rather just give some indication that one has a disability. If after that there is a problem, then there is valid reason for complaint. We wish to state that we fully support

stairs -not so the wheelchair user. How do you feel about a student wheelchair user who on her way to a lecture, finds a lift full of 15 young buckos going down from level 2 to level 1? Do you think disabled people share the sense of humour of the person who thinks it's funny to stop the lift from moving by blocking the light signal with paper; or the person who turns off the light in the lift; or the person who holds the lift for two minutes for a friend? We would suggest that you talk to us or other disabled students to hear their views of what it is that makes a student's life hell (to use your own expression). You should also talk with Brenda Shinnors-Kennedy, the UL access officer, who will try to help you with any disability related problems that you personally may have.

In conclusion, we would like to state again that we fully support our colleague in this matter and hope that he will not now, as a result of your letter, lessen his long recognised commitment to the defence of the rights of the disabled.

Sincerely,

Eugene Gath, Lecturer, Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Sean O'Grady, Reception

# <<<UL Unplugged

U.L. Unplugged will be the first ever officially released C.D. containing original material showcasing the musical talent that lies hidden within the boundaries of our academic purgatory. Yes some people do actually get time off from their studies to focus their minds and the magic of music. This is their opportunity to reveal their talents to you, the ever hungry music guruís. Along with showcasing the musical talent the C.D. will raise money for the memorial walkway. The memorial walkway which is currently under construction alongside Milford School, is a project undertaken by Fr. P.J. and the Students' Union to commemorate the death those who died while attending the University.

At the moment we are looking to gather as many original songs from singer songwriters, bands and even composers out of which the best 12-15 songs will appear on the C.D. which will be released in conjunction with

Kolledge Week 1999. Prizes are currently being sought for the best song but this has not yet been confirmed. We intend inputting C.D. ROM info on the C.D. also with info on each act and also distribute copies to all the major Radio stations. A nationwide release is under inquiry at the moment more details will be released as we get them

For more info on this unique opportunity please do not hesitate to contact one of the following.

- |                |                            |             |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Jon Snott      | 9314334@student.ul.ie      | 086 8224699 |
| Mike Knightson | Mike_Knightson@hotmail.com |             |
| Dave O'Donovan | 061 331596                 |             |

If you know of any past students who would like to participate we would be more than happy to hear from them.

Duende©

## Rubbish

Has anyone walked through Elm Park lately and stopped to take a good around. Sadly the sight to be seen is not a pretty one. Rubbish, rubbish and more rubbish littered everywhere. This isn't a pleasant sight and doesn't anyone any favours and makes the whole area in general (which is heavily student populated) look dreadful.

So, I ask when placing your rubbish outside make sure that all bags are tied properly and not left for the crows to feast on! If you are putting rubbish in the Wheelie Bin, make sure it is put away in a manner that allows the lid to close and not overflow. If we could all just do those small things at least when and if the wind blows, there might not be such a wind of rubbish.

And please, if you see paper or any form of rubbish in your garden please pick it up. The warden can fine you a substantial sum of money and we all know students

## PAY DAY.

There is a little village on the periphery of time. Its inhabitants are young and eager. They play a lot. They play an awful lot. And after several weeks of play, they pray. Play and pray. After playing and praying they put the heads down for a couple of weeks. They still pray but never, ever come out to play. Orphans all, who have abandoned the freedom of home, for the joys of friendship, they have become the great exploited. By another monster. The capitalist. The profit maker. The one who doesn't care. Not a green-eyed monster, no, not deserving of such a dictum. This monster doesn't play. He preys. He preys on the orphans. He knows the poor orphans have no choice but to play. To play, the orphan has to pay. The orphan, can usually pay. But then the free-

dom of home has a big say. The orphans are asked to pay too much. Too much, I say. Everywhere, everyday pay, pay, pay or else you can't play. And then when the capitalist knows that the orphans will always pay, he decides that they can have the worst of the worst, the bottom of the barrel. Like the capitalist who once remarked, that if a bucket of dirty water was thrown on the orphans they would come back and pay to play. Yes they would, because they have no-where else to play. Ah, some day the capitalist will pay. For making the orphan, over-pay to play. And what's worse, if you want to drink 'tae', boy, will you have to pay - through the nose, all day, everywhere. Hey, hey, some day, we may stop playing. Then you'll have to pay.  
KAISER SOSA

## FRANCE 1999

## KEL AIR VACANCIES

This year Comptel are seeking courier and child...

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And please, if you see paper or any form of rubbish in your garden please pick it up. The warden can fine you a substantial sum of money and we all know students don't have money to throw away! So try and keep the place litter free please!!

From an Observer

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#### FRANCE 1999 KEL AIR VACANCIES

This year Campotel are seeking couriers and childrens couriers at their campsites throughout France. They are looking for bright, hard working, self-motivated individuals with a good personality and outlook on life. If you fit this description and are interested in working in France for the summer please contact Rebecca in the SU for more details.

NOTE: All applications must be returned by 25th January 1999.

## Multilingual Customer Service Positions

*Exciting start-up company  
Languages desired - Danish/Spanish/Italian  
P.C. Literate with excellent communication skills*

*Experience advantageous  
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Excellent opportunities for students*

Contact Michelle or Diane  
6/7 Steamboat Quay, Dock Road, Limerick  
061 419007

Email [mcarrig@marlborough.ie](mailto:mcarrig@marlborough.ie)

### NOTICE TO STUDENTS RE. USE OF CALCULATORS IN EXAMINATIONS AND THE UNIVERSITY'S CODE OF CONDUCT.

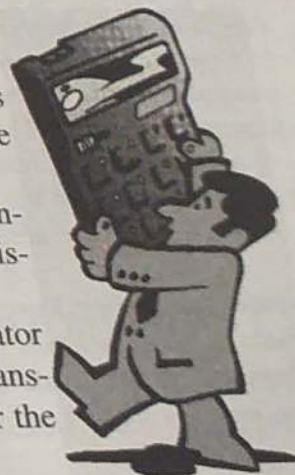
Candidates may, at the express determination of the relevant lecturer, be permitted to take a calculator into the examination hall for certain modules.

For the purposes of this provision, a calculator is defined as a non-programmable calculator. In particular, calculators must not be capable of information storage, neither must the calculator be capable of the transmission or reception of information.

Candidates are advised that it is a major offence under the Code of Conduct merely to be in possession of a calculator or other device which breaches this definition. It is no defence that the calculator was not in fact used in the examination. The punishment for this offence will normally be a 12 month suspension from the University.

Where candidates are unsure as to whether their calculator conforms with the new rules, they are advised in the first instance to discuss the issue with the relevant lecturer before the examination.

Possession in an examination hall of a programmable calculator and/or any other device which is capable of information storage, transmission, reception or such like functions is a Major Offence under the Code of Conduct."



## Soapbox

An Focal Semester One Week Fourteen Page Four

Below is a debate between Senator Mary Jackman and the Minister for Justice, John O'Donoghue on the night of the 9/12/1998 in Seanad Eireann re: Garda Station for Castletroy.

**Mrs. Mary Jackman:** I thank the Minister for answering the series of letters sent him recently on this subject; I had raised the issue before sending them. It is an urgent matter and I will give reasons the Castletroy area should have a Garda station and a Garda presence based there. It is an area of expanding population. The greater Castletroy area has roughly 20,000 people which, when compared to Nenagh, Newcastlewest or any other town in the mid-west region which has a Garda station, means it also should have one. The population will continue to grow and the projection is that it will double by the year 2010. The population is young because the University of Limerick is in the area and has 10,000 students and 600 staff. The matter came to a head two weeks ago when I was invited as a local representative to a meeting in the university with the local superintendent, local residents and the president of the university. There had been six attacks on young people which were not within the confines of the university but in the suburban area adjoining the Dublin road. They were serious because they were on young men as well as young women and on foreign students as well. The meeting was held because students, especially young female students, were fearful for their safety in walking to and from the university. As a result, the president improved the lighting within the campus and is installing cameras. The county council, of which I am a member, is ensuring all lights within surrounding housing estates are checked and replaced, if necessary, by the ESB, because we felt we had to show our support for greater security. While the attacks were not within the confines of the university, the president felt so strongly about them, he spent approximately £240,000 improving security and safety in the college. The concern is with what happens outside the college. Apart from the university, there is a huge young population in the national technological park, known locally as Plassey. For example, Dell has shift workers coming and going throughout the night, a significant number of whom are young women. Some excellent work has been done by the local superintendent and the local community garda, Seamus O'Neill. The recently appointed uni-

many demands on existing resources and the continuous need to improve and enhance policing service where possible. Senator Jackman has written to me about the establishment of a garda station in Castletroy. I sought a report from the Garda authorities in this regard as they are responsible for the detailed allocation of Garda personnel to particular areas. I held off responding to the Senator pending receipt and consideration of this report. I am still awaiting the report. The Garda authorities have, however, informed me that Castletroy is situated in the Garda district of Limerick city north. Policing of that area is divided between the Garda sub-districts of Henry Street and Castleconnell. According to the Central Statistics Office, the records for 1996 indicate a population of 8,256 persons. This figure does not take into account a population of 8,000 third level students from Limerick University - 90 per cent of whom are resident in the Castletroy area for 36 weeks of the year. I also understand the area has a very low unemployment level. I will now deal with crime figures for the Henry Street and Castleconnell Garda sub-districts from 1995 to 31 October 1998. The statistics in relation to Henry Street show that a total of 1,708 offences were reported in 1995, 635 of which were detected. These offences include offences against the person, burglary, robbery, larceny, forgery and others. There were 1,633 offences reported in 1996, 596 of which were detected; 1,303 were reported in 1997, with 555 being detected and 1,255 reported to the end of October this year, with 534 being detected. The percentage detection rate increased from 37 per cent in 1995 to 43 per cent in 1998. The statistics in relation to Castleconnell show a much lower level of crime. A total of 58 offences were reported in 1995, 19 of which were detected. These offences include offences against the person, burglary, larceny, forgery and others. There were 61 offences reported in 1996, with 23 being detected; 63 were reported in 1997, with 30 being detected and 60 were reported to the end of October this year, with 23 being detected. The staffing strength of Henry Street Garda station is 160. This figure includes chief superintendent, superintendent, inspector, sergeants and gardai. One sergeant and three gardai are assigned to Castleconnell. I have a more detailed breakdown of the statistics referred to with me and I will make them available to the Senator if she so wishes. Castletroy is policed by gardai drawn from Henry Street and Castleconnell subdistricts. A second community garda was assigned to the area in July 1998. Following a meeting with local representatives, the strength was increased further to one sergeant and five gardai between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. This was subsequently reduced to four gardai, including two community gardai as a result of a quietness in the area. Mobile patrols, both plain clothes and



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and the local community garda, Seamus O'Neill. The recently appointed university president, Dr. Downer, intends writing to the Minister, as do students. The area has high technology industrial development which needs security. Local residents, of whom I have not yet spoken, are also extremely concerned. The area has businesses, including three banks, so it is crying out for a Garda station. There has been a huge increase in the number of new cars and there is tremendous traffic on the N7, which is the gateway to the mid-west. When the issue was to the forefront and the emphasis was on dealing with the attacks, additional gardai were redeployed from the city out to Castletroy, something the superintendent and local community garda obviously welcomed. However, when gardai are relocated from the city to Castletroy, it obviously depletes force numbers in the city and that is unsustainable. The concern is that, if a guarantee is given for an increased Garda presence in the area, it means they will be taken from the city. I made inquiries and found that, between 1990 and 1991, the Garda strength in the city appears to have fallen. There has been a decrease in the Limerick area overall and any further decrease because of an increased presence in Castletroy will interfere with the support the city needs. I know the Minister cannot produce a Garda station tomorrow morning, but we have reached crisis point. The matter is extremely urgent. It is in the Minister's interest to have a crime-free city and to ensure people have a good quality of life. I have been receiving representations on this matter for a long time and they have increased as a result of the most recent attacks. I know local Gardai, from the newest recruit to the Chief Superintendent, are behind me in seeking a Garda station in Castletroy. In the local authority's view there would not be a problem in obtaining a site or getting planning permission. The area is developing rapidly and the most centralised sites will not be available later. We must take action now. I appeal to the Minister to respond positively on this matter and to give me a specific date for the building of a Garda station in our area.

**Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform (Mr. O'Donoghue):**

I thank Senator Jackman for her contribution to this important issue. I favour informed discussion on all issues, particularly those that can have a significant bearing on people's lives. I am also conscious, as is the Garda Commissioner, of the

ed these... There were 1,000 reported... detected: 1,303 were reported in 1997, with 555 being detected. The percentage detection to the end of October this year, with 534 being detected. The statistics in relation to Castleconnell show a much lower level of crime. A total of 58 offences were reported in 1995, 19 of which were detected. These offences include offences against the person, burglary, larceny, forgery and others. There were 61 offences reported in 1996, with 23 being detected; 63 were reported in 1997, with 30 being detected and 60 were reported to the end of October this year, with 23 being detected. The staffing strength of Henry Street Garda station is 160. This figure includes chief superintendent, superintendent, inspector, sergeants and gardai. One sergeant and three gardai are assigned to Castleconnell. I have a more detailed breakdown of the statistics referred to with me and I will make them available to the Senator if she so wishes. Castletroy is policed by gardai drawn from Henry Street and Castleconnell subdistricts. A second community garda was assigned to the area in July 1998. Following a meeting with local representatives, the strength was increased further to one sergeant and five gardai between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. This was subsequently reduced to four gardai, including two community gardai as a result of a quietness in the area. Mobile patrols, both plain clothes and uniform, are also on constant patrol in the vicinity. I understand that neighbourhood watch, business watch and campus watch schemes also operate in Castletroy. This week Garda strength in the area has been increased to six gardai, including two community gardai as the students are celebrating the festive season. I am assured by the Garda authorities that the matter is being monitored constantly and that the needs of the Limerick division will be considered in conjunction with divisions throughout the country when resources next become available. The Garda authorities have also advised me that research is currently being undertaken regarding the feasibility of establishing a Garda station at Castletroy. The results of this study are not yet available. In the circumstances, it would be remiss of me to make any judgment or decision in advance of completion of this research. I can, however, say that the results will be forwarded to me together with the Commissioner's views as soon as they are available. I will then be in a position to make a decision and respond further to the Senator. In the interim, I am prepared to take into account any further views or observations which Senator Jackman would like to make on this matter.

**Mrs. Jackman:** I am not happy with the Minister's response. Linking Castletroy with Henry Street and Castleconnell Garda subdistricts is not acceptable. Castleconnell has a Garda station. I am seeking a Garda station for Castletroy. I am aware of the two community garda referred to by the Minister. He said research is underway on this matter.

**An Cathaoirleach:** I cannot allow the Senator to continue.

**Mrs. Jackman:** What research is being undertaken? There appears to be confusion between Castleconnell which has a Garda station and Castletroy, with a population of 10,000 people, which has not.

**An Cathaoirleach:** The Minister has replied. Senator Jackman will have a further opportunity to pursue the matter with him.

## Things we'd like to see less of in 1999

### Robbie Williams.

Yes, we know he's pissed all over Gary Barlow and they said he could never do it. And we know that he stole the show at Slane. Well he did, and fair play to him. But if I hear 'Millenium' just one more time, I shall do my nut. I really will.

### Titanic.



It's the most successful movie ever made.....I read somewhere that James Cameron is one of the most technically gifted directors ever to have graced Hollywood, you know.....Leonardo DiCaprio is fancied by more females on the planet than God knows who.....apparently Kate Winslet does 'serious' movies as well.....It won eleven Oscars.....the video sold by the bucket-load when released during the summer.....OH SHAAAAT UP!

### Political Scandals in newspapers.

Charlie Haughey dodged £2 million in tax....(wouldn't you if you could?!)...Ray Burke involved in some dodgy property transactions.....Jim McDaid allegedly seeing what the rest of us can't (Anne Doyle's legs!)...Look for fucks sake, the only reason politicians are politicians is because they can't be trusted with a real fucking job. Nuff Said.

### Garda.

Look, when we said we wanted a greater security presence, we meant that students getting seven shades of shit kicked out of them as they staggered home from the Lodge had to stop. We didn't mean that we wanted rozzers picking up students for farting after 11pm.

### Internet nerds.

Godshites sitting in the friggin' library emailing who they think is a six foot blonde Californian beauty. Get a life. She's probably a he, sitting in his bedroom with bad breath, his dick in his hand, an orange up his bum and nothing on but a string vest, stockings and suspenders who lives in Shitkick, Alabama, who's idea of a scoring is being allowed walk his sister home from the local honky-tonk, and who's best friend is a mule called Jethro.

### Viagra.

Q. Why would a small pebble in your shoe cause impotence?

A. Because it makes you limp.

Ho Ho Ho. That's the last impotence joke I want to hear ever. Got it!

### Millenium Celebrations.

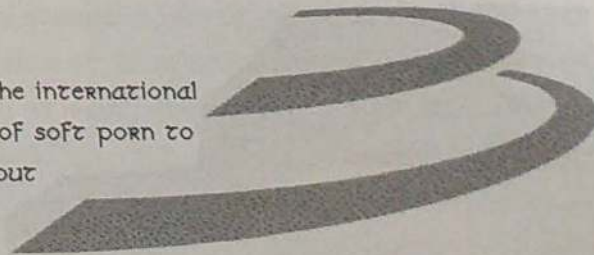
'God, it's going to be crazy next year in the pubs'....I hear there's going to be a gig in the Point next year costing £1500 a ticket....For Christs sakes, has nobody realised that New Years in any licenced premises is shit, 'cos you're they're so packed that sardines would find it uncomfortable and you're trying to avoid having pernod and black spilt on you by that drunken cow who just won't go away, and the juke box is pumping out Garth Bloody Brooks. Doesn't drinking yourself to oblivion with your real friends in the comfort of your own home sound like a lot more fun? And anyway, the 3rd millenium doesn't start for another two years.

### TV3

Three, they tell us, is a magic number. It might be. It's also a crap television station. Admit it, not counting the international soccer and Eastenders, have you watched any other programs on it? At least Channel 5 in England has a bit of soft porn to detract from the rest of the drudgery. What do we get late at night, Fucking Ponch from CHiPs telling us about some wonder drug that helps you slim, that's what!

### Ronan Keating.

(1) videos, Peter Dink ads, 2TV, Hello magazine.....is there no escaping the wretch? Irelands most famous ex-virgin just kept hogging



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### Ronan Keating.



U2 videos, Peter Dink ads, 2TV, Hello magazine....is there no escaping the wretch? Ireland's most famous ex-virgin just kept hogging the newspapers. And he said that he wants to be President of Ireland....And you thought Dana was a bloody joke. Why doesn't he do what real pop stars do.....get arrested for having too much drugs, get into trouble for thrashing hotel rooms or at least write and perform a decent song, instead of the last Andrew Lloyd Webber dirge.....

### Stupid Compilation Albums

The Best Seventies Album in the World....Ever....The Best Country Album in the World....Ever....

Why not something with a better target audience, like The Best Stuck in a Fucking Limerick Traffic Jam Album in the World....Ever....songs like Fast Car wouldn't make it on though....

**RTE still convinced that there's no life beyond the pale.**

4 inches of snow within pissing distance of Montrose and it's obvious to the news team that the country has obviously ground to a halt. Dammit, Icelanders could colonize Co. Mayo and it might make the novelty item, normally reserved for the likes of footage of jubilant idiots welcoming home the Irish Connect 4 team, fresh from their glorious first round exit at the recent competitions held in Uganda. Or something.

### Orangemen.



So they want to be part of the United Kingdom. Well, why not be good lads and obey the rule of law and order of said realm. On the other hand, they could, (though I don't necessarily advocate this!) fuck off over to 'The Mainland' and live there. In Bradford perhaps. I wonder would they be so quick as to offend Muslim sensitivities my playing supremacist tunes as they go past the local mosque.



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## Pure Genius

Troublemakers reckon that the bubbles in Guinness are sinking. Sounds like we'd better head for the nearest bar and check it out.

"When I read about the evils of drinking" the comedian Henry Youngman once said, "I gave up reading." And why not?. Who needs it? If you are the patient sort and can watch carefully, you will probably learn a lot more from studying a beverage than a book, especially when it comes to physics-bubble physics that is. If you are thirsting for an intellectual challenge, then head down to your local lab, order yourself a frothy pint of draught Guinness, and prepare for a science lesson.

Guinness may look like the runoff from an old peat bog, but after more than 200 years of research by the Guinness Breweries, it has become something of a high-performance motor oil. Draw a pint from the tap and the liquid doesn't just pour out - it explodes into the glass, filling it with a churning brown froth. For a few moments the froth swirls through the glass, driven by its own momentum. Then it begins to settle, and pure dark beer slides to the bottom.

### Defying gravity

It is another full minute before the maelstrom of beer really comes to rest, but in the meantime, if you raise your glass and take a close look near the boundary between the froth and the beer, you will see....well that all depends on your point of view. Some people see bubbles mocking the laws of physics by plunging downwards into the depths, instead of heading unerringly for the surface. But others claim that this is an illusion, caused by the peculiar stripes or waves of dark liquid that course down through the beer like side-winding snakes. So what's



complicated. Karl Siebert, of the Department of Food Science and Technology at Cornell University in Geneva, New York, points out that whereas the gas in lagers and real ales is carbon dioxide, Guinness has a mixture of carbon dioxide and nitrogen added. The nitrogen makes Guinness bubbles smaller than the big bubbles of carbon dioxide in ordinary beers, perhaps helping to give it such a stable head. Being smaller they are also less buoyant and tend to rise more slowly, which accounts for the beer's ability to fill a glass so uniformly with froth.

When the liquid first falls into the glass, it flows about much faster than the bubbles can rise. So instead of moving on their own, they behave as what fluid dynamicists call "passive tracers", and go wherever the liquid takes them. In a few seconds the glass is full of liquid mixed with a dense cloud of bubbles. Then, as the bubbles begin to rise slowly, the liquid percolates down through the spaces between the bubbles and settles out below. This is what is known as "two phase flow", a flow involving both gas and liquid.

In general, this kind of flow is so complicated, says Hein Auracher, an expert in the area from the Technical University in Berlin, that the motion cannot be predicted from theory. Still, Auracher suspects that bubbles near the froth / liquid interface may be carried downwards by a large-scale liquid flow in the glass. Chemical engineer John Smith of the University Surrey agrees. "The buoyancy forces within the bubble cloud will induce a circulation, up in the centre and down at the walls." What's more, he claims that the down-



kindly offered to help New Scientist investigate the mystery with some experiments. "Breaking the Aristotelian tradition," reports Zare, "several members of my research group spent Friday afternoon and Friday evening researching the rise and fall of beer bubbles in Guinness." According to postdoc Andrew Alexander, "We concluded that the bubbles aren't going down, but that waves of dark liquid which go downwards give this impression."

### Does that settle it???

Denis Weaire, a physicist at Trinity College, Dublin, comes to the same conclusion: "The bubbles go up, and it is a wave of density fluctuation which goes down." As he is an Irish physicist, Weaire's words must carry some extra weight, "If anyone says they go down, then I say: where do they go?" Weaire points out that similar waves appear on other situations. "The flow of fluids can be unstable in many ways," he says. "For example, when water runs down a shallow slope, within a certain range of angles, it forms a beautiful series of sharp waves." A similar kind of spontaneous wave formation may be going on as a beer runs down the inside of the glass. "Another case closer to Guinness," Weaire adds, "is sedimentation. As mud settles out of a liquid (like bubbles, but upside down) it often forms 'striations' just like the bubbles do."

This may account for the waves, but it doesn't nail down the ultimate question: do the bubbles descent, or don't they? "This is a very profound question," says Gad Hetsroni, an expert in two-phase flow from the Technion in Israel, "which cannot be answered without..."



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"Gas breakout" is what the brewers call it, according to Ian McMurrough, a former researcher at Guinness's Park Royal Brewery in London. "It's a topic in which the people at Guinness have much expertise," he says. Unfortunately, he adds, "this falls into the area of trade secrets", and Guinness isn't giving any away. To get some answers, *an Focal* has been forced to make repeated experiments of its own, and mull over the matter at length with independent experts. As a result, we can now paint a plausible picture.

Some of the theory is fairly simple. Before it poured, Guinness is held under pressure to keep gases dissolved in the liquid. At the tap, however. "the Guinness is forced at great pressure through six tiny holes", says physicist and amateur Guinness theorist Matthew Woods of Keele University. This trauma, coupled with the pressure drop, brings the gas out, So bubbles form - lots of them.

In other draught beers, the bubbles produced at the tap immediately rise to form a head, but in Guinness, things are a bit more

two phase flow", a flow involving both gas and liquid. In general, this kind of flow is so complicated, says Hein Auracher, an expert in the area from the Technical University in Berlin, that the motion cannot be predicted from theory. Still, Auracher suspects that bubbles near the froth / liquid interface may be carried downwards by a large-scale liquid flow in the glass. Chemical engineer John Smith of the University Surrey agrees. "The buyonancy forces within the bubble cloud will induce a circulation, up in the centre and down at the walls." What's more, he claims that the downward flow at the walls should be fast enough to drag the bubbles down with it.

So, in principle, bubbles can travel downwards in a glass. But is this what happens in a pint of Guinness? Not everyonw things so. One set of diving-bubble doubters, chemist Richard Zare and his group at Stnford University,



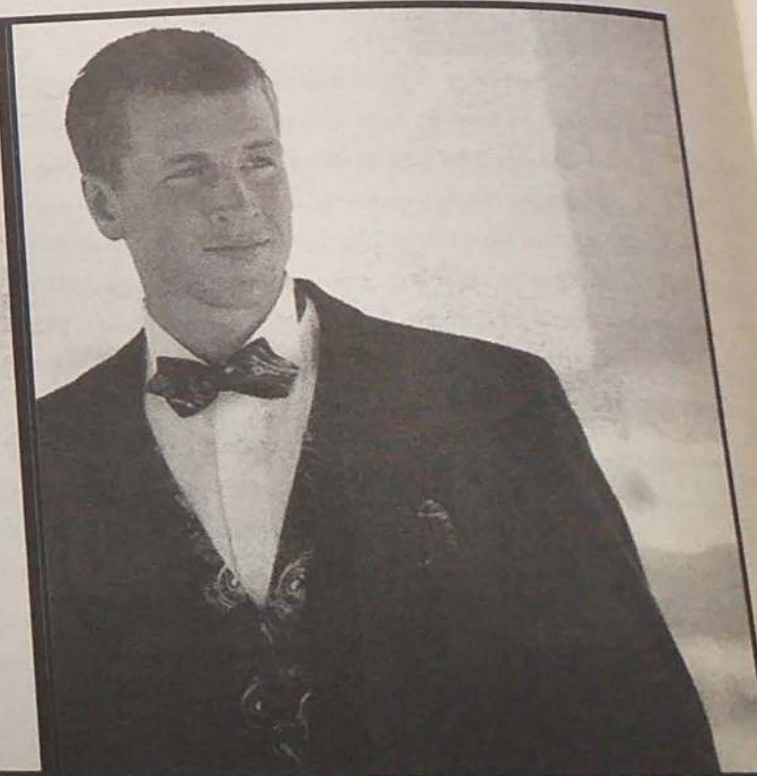
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This may account for the waves, but it doesn't nail down the ultimate question: do the bubbles descent, or don't they? "This is a very profound question," says Gad Hetsroni, an expert in two-phase flow from the Technion in Israel, "which cannot be answered without a lot more details." So it looks as if you'll have to decide for yourself this Christmas. Forget those last-minute gifts, and take Hetsroni's advice, "Go have another beer." He adds just one stipulation: "Make all your observations on the first glass only."

that  
certain look  
for that certain  
occasion

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### A Small Question of Pay

Postgraduate research students inhabit the no-man land between the realm of the student and that of the lecturer, enjoying all the benefits of student life (barring the long vacations) but also considered to have sufficient experience to be able to teach undergraduates the knowledge and skills of their discipline. Like more senior members of the academic community, they are caught up in the tension between the demands of teaching and the need to produce results in their research; but unlike staff contracted to undertake both teaching and research, the raison d'etre of a typical postgraduate research student is to produce a solid piece of research - the dreaded thesis - and preferably within the short time of three years.

Many students, especially in the sciences, are internally funded, basic stipends are currently around £4,800 p.a. with the students expected to teach for up to up to six hours a week. Of course this six hours, increases when one includes time taken for preparation of tutorials / laboratories. This often means in excess of eight hours work. This rate of pay is inadequate for even a basic standard of living, especially when one considers that the postgraduate student has very often to pay for a large proportion of their expenses ... printing, photocopying, travel etc.

Other students for example most humanities postgrads, are in an even worse situation with no basic stipend relying on a tutorial here and there during term, with no income in non-term time.

In the United Kingdom the norm is for a student to be funded by a Research Council, the R.C. stipend is currently pegged at stg. £5, 300. In addition to this the student can do up to 6 hours a week paid work for the University (Some Universities e.g. Bath have a postgraduate funding scheme where only the basic research

stipend is paid, but for the 4 years which the PhD is expected and permitted to take because of the teaching duties.)

Another major problem of concern to postgraduates, is payment for correction of laboratory reports etc. Lecturers receive payment for correction, but not all pass on this to the postgrads who put a lot of time and effort into correcting reports/assignments etc. Some lecturers pay quite well when others pay nothing. This particular issue leads to a lot of discontent as one can imagine.

Another point of interest for postgraduates is that UK postgrads engaged on teaching duties have the right of free membership to the principal unions representing academic and academic-related staff - (AUT and NATFHE) Is this a area that Irish postgraduates should be looking into ???

The PSA is presently running a campaign on the following issues:-

- a) for a increase in the inadequate level of stipend for those with internal funding and
- b) a level of basic income for those without internal funding
- c) Fair contracts for postgraduates, which should stipulate the actual total number of hours expected, including preparation and marking. If that total exceeds 180 hours per year, the contract should be longer than 2/3 years, to allow for the additional research time needed to complete a Masters/PhD- ie. it effectively becomes part-time.
- d) Postgraduate studentships should include arrangements to ensure that students have opportunities to attend and present their work at conferences.

A postgrad meeting will be held during the three week undergraduate recess to discuss this important and at this time very pertinent issue.

Niall Dunphy  
UL PSA President

Officel Limerick  
University of Limerick



### The AIB/Guinness Postgrad Charity Ball

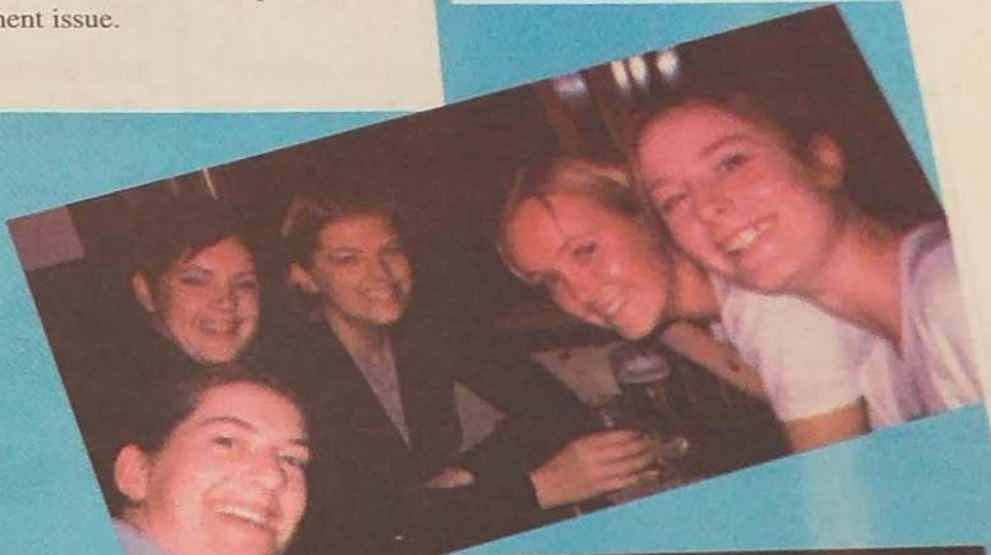
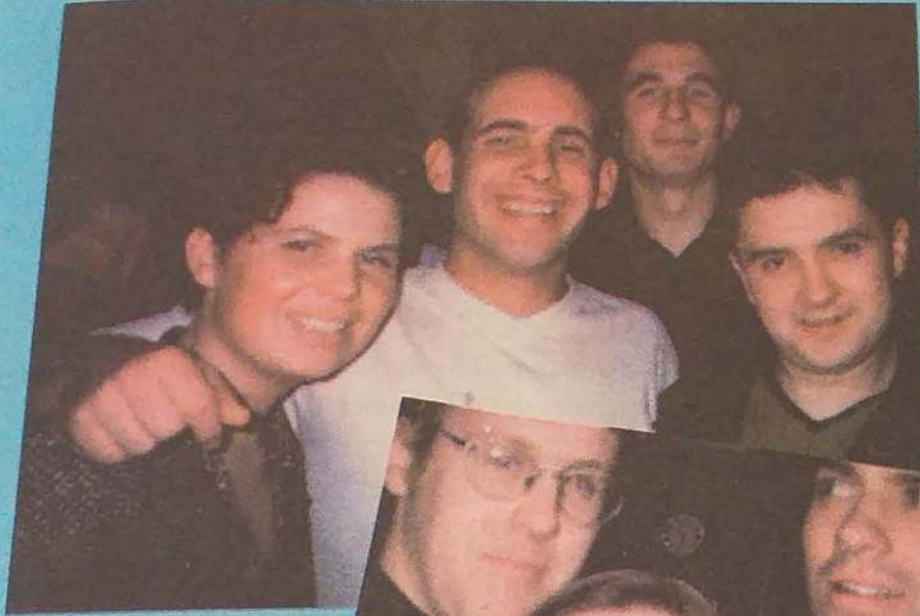
Yes folks its that time of the year again, with the annual PSA Postgrad Ball just arround the corner. This year the major change is the venue. We're going into the Banner county, resting at the Fitzpatrick Shamrock Hotel in Bunratty. As usual the evening kicks off on campus with a wine reception and a few pints of Sir Arthurs finest. Then its off to work we go to Bunratty to get the formalities out of the way...The meal will be followed by a step back in time with the one and only Alvin Purple Experience and disco. Who knows we might even attempt to storm the castle!! After much deliberation it was decided by the exec. To keep tickets prices at last years level of £20 (25.39 euros). Tickets will be on sale Tues 26th Jan for one day only and then in week 1 semester 2.

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## PSA Christmas Party



**SANTA VISITS CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL**

It was a cold December morning and Santa with Rudolph and his helpers loaded Santa's sleigh and travelled to a school on the far side of Limerick City to visit 270 excited kids.

This visit was a great success and the little faces lit up at the thought of having a chat with Santa. The excitement and the atmosphere all over the school was beyond anyones imagination.

While Santa patiently listened to the requests of all the kids (each child also received a Santa present and as baloon). Santas helpers and the folk group were busy entertaining the other classes. The classrooms which were warm and cheery and the friendly staff helped make the visit an even bigger success. From classroom to classroom the helpers bounced singing songs and playing games (Santas helpers had a great time).

Our visit lasted from about 10am to 2pm in the afternoon and the excitement in the school was so great that it was advised we leave before we created absolute pandemonium.

Exhausted and hungry, but happy Santa and his helpers and the folk group returned to U.L. The kids had a great day, the best ever and they loved Santa!!!.

So a big thank you to all who helped make this a special day for the kidds, those who collected money, those who donated money and toys, the students who took the time to visit the school on 16th December. Also the folk group were brilliant - thank you and without Santa this could never have happened - So Santa thank you and I hope now that you can have a rest after all that hard work over Christmas. Thanks to the staff at Corpus Christi School for their warm welcome and for asking us to cause complete chaos in Moyross on that particular Christmas morning.

**TWO DAYS NOT TO WORRY**

There are two days in every month,  
About which we should not worry,

Two days which should be kept free from fear and aprehension.

One of these days is yesterday with all its mistakes and cares,

Its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.

Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday.

We cannot erase a single word.

Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is tommorrow,

With its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance.

Tommorrow is also beyond our immediate control.

Tommorrow's sun will rise, either in splendour or

Behind a mass of clouds, but it will rise,

**Outreach Society**

In conjunction with the Limerick Education Initiative and following the success of the Santa visit to Corpus Christi school a proposal has been made to create a society which will involve itself solely in voluntary projects within UL and the broader community. This society is to be called the Outreach Society and the aim is to have it up and running for semester 2. Anyone who is interested in getting involved in the organisation and running of this project, please contact Tara in S.U.

**Limerick Education Initiative**

Thanks to those who have volunteered their names for this project which is to begin in Semester 2. Please contact the students' Monday of week 1 for details of meetings and the exact format the project is going to take.

For those of you who do not know what this is about it involves a group of UL students providing homework classes and also a clubs and societies afternoon one day a week in St. Endas Community School, Kilmallock Road, Limerick. This is a well deserved and worthy cause and the students here at the University of Limerick have so much to offer younger people in our local area. If anyone is still

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### DO NOT WORRY

There are two days in every month,  
About which we should not worry,  
Two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.  
One of these days is yesterday with all its mistakes and cares,  
Its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.  
Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.  
All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday.  
We cannot erase a single word.  
Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow,  
With its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance.  
Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.  
Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendour or  
Behind a mass of clouds, but it will rise,  
Until it does we have no stake in tomorrow for it is yet unborn.

This leaves today,  
Any man can fight the battles of just one day.  
It's only when you add  
The burdens of those two awful eternity's -  
yesterday and tomorrow - that we break down.  
It is not the experience of today drives men mad,  
It's the remorse and bitterness  
Of something which happened yesterday  
And the dread of what tomorrow will bring.  
Let us therefore, live one day at a time.  
Look well into this one day for it and it alone, is life.  
In the brief course of this one day lie all the verities,  
All the realities of your existence - the joy of living,  
The splendour of beauty, the glory of action.  
Yesterday is but a dream of happiness and  
Each tomorrow a vision of hope.  
Look well, therefore to this one day ,  
For it and it alone is life.....

## Limerick Education Initiative

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### SUMMER WORK

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SUMMER WORK IN EUROPE, INDIA, UKRAINE, RUSSIA AND FRANCE - PLEASE CONTACT THE STUDENT UNION.

### POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION

Are you interested in designing a poster which will be part of an information campaign to be run next semester - for more details contact Tara in the SU.

**LIMERICK FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC**  
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- Cancer screening service including smear testing and breast examination.
- Medical clinics by appointment for all methods of contraception and 'morning after' pill.
- Information, advice and testing for STD's.

On the spot pregnancy test.  
Non directive counselling.



## Football

A very Happy New Year to all involved in the UL GFC. A hectic 1998 has paast us now and at time like this we can reminisce about our successes and failures of the year gone by.

The highlight of the year was our victory in the Limerick Championship and our subsequent run in the Munster Championship. Winning a county championship medal is a dream shared by many footballers and ours are no different. The media rounded squarely against us in the Munster semi-final as did a member of the UL student community - we know where you live!! but it was extraordinary that not a wrod was spoken until the time arose that we were close to winning the competition - beware the green-eyed monster - envy is an awful thing, artin.

Our freshers both this year and last years are keeping up the strong UL Gaelic Football tradition of mixing football, drink and romance without them hurting their studies, of course some of the lads enjoy it so much they go back for seconds. Our two fresher teams once again outshone themselves in qualifying for the knock out stages of their repective leagues. If we could only bottle the character shown by the Freshers against UCC outside in Mungret and give it out to all our players we'd have some team - the commitment and bottle shown was a tonic to all at the game and sets them up nicely as group winners.

The seniors have had a poor league campaign, which in reality was expected as players were rested due to Munster commitments. However, we've had the kindest Sigerson draw in years v's St. Marys, Belfast. The last time we played them in the Sigerson Peig was on the team - it just shows how far the club has come. Jokes aside we've a great chance of qualifying for the Sigerson weekend - something that you'll remember for the rest of your days - just ask Peig, Sally, Haulie, Chris, Don and Damien. Be warned however, if you want to play Sigerson then **you have to train for Sigerson** - believe me those early 8.00ams will be worth it.

## Hurling

The University of Limerick Hurling Club would like to wish all its members and supporters a very Happy New Year. We hope you all had a very enjoyable break. I hope you all drank loads of MURPHY's and HEINEKEN - our sponsors in case you don't know. At the moment everyone should be studying hard except of course for the teachers and the Clare hurler.

The Fitzgibbon draw has been very kind to us this year. We're playing Maynooth, away, in the preliminary round - Saturday January 30th. If we survive that dangerous task we will have an invigorating tie against the Guards in Templemore - on the Wednesday after the Maynooth game. Nobody needs reminding what the Guards did to us last year. But I'm going to anyway. In front of a home crowd of well over 2000 people the Guards defeated a "star studded" UL outfit who were tipped to win the competition. The Guards, it was said should have been beaten a score a man. They won by three points. The referee, the manager and the wind were all blamed. However, it wasn't their fault. There are a lot of players whose reputations are on the line this year. So if any of you guys would fancy a crack at the Guards, and would like to give your careers a boost, then Maynooth awaits.

The Seniors played Athenry during the Christmas break and won on a scoreline of 1-19 to 2-14. A mundane affair with no fights or off-the-ball incidents and no-one got belted across the head with a hurley by the Athenry corner forward, who plays for UCG (who are on our side of the draw in the Fitz - you'd never know, sunshine). A fine sporting game depending on your definition of sport. The Freshers are in action at the end of the month in their respective competitions. More on that in the next edition.

Thanks to everyone who supported the club in their recent fundraising. It has been very successful. Once again thanks to LENMAC for their continued support. That's all for now people. Again best of luck in the exams.

Gossip: Tackleberry was nearly assaulted over the Christmas by someone from seventh heaven. NM was up to his usual tricks in Monaleen. There is now a Galway cartel in UL, so be careful. We'll be hearing a lot about a certain Clare midfielder in the future. The quote of the year so far and it's not mine; "Here's hoping UL beat the tar out of Henry." Karl Quinn

expected as players were rested due to Munster commitments. However, we've had the kindest Sigerson draw in years v's St. Marys, Belfast. Last time we played them in the Sigerson Peig was on the team - it just shows how far the club has come. Jokes aside we've a great chance of qualifying for the Sigerson weekend - something that you'll remember for the rest of your days - just ask Peig, Sally, Haulie, Chris, Don and Damien. Be warned however, if you want to play Sigerson then *you have to train for Sigerson* - believe me those early 8.00ams will be worth it.

The year was not without its sentiments as we said goodbye to some of the lads - especially to tall the lads who graduated in 1997 but yet turned up to play with the college in the Limerick and Munster Championships - last competitive game in the UL colours - for the lads as it was their to the jersey a mile buiochas.

Finally, words cannot express the gratitude the club owes to one Dave "Where's me bollards?" Mahedy. By words and deeds he instilled a sense of professionalism and camerarderie seldom seen at university level. He made training enjoyable and his pep talks had to be heard to understand the phenomenon that is Dave Mahedy.

Now let's forget about the past and concentrate on bringing the Sigerson Sup to UL for the first time and you never know we might even bring it on a tour to Henry's Balgally!!

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## KAYAK CLUB

Contrary to the last article in An Focal it is not all scandal in the Kayak Club. Wednesday, week 8 saw 21 beginners passing their Basic Kayak Proficiency Certificates along with 6 others getting Introductory Cert's. Congratulations to everyone. There is also a Long Distance Training class on the Shannon at the painful hour of 7:45am every Thursday for the tougher members and the Munster Canoe Polo League is being held on Friday nights in the pool.

The weekend of week 8 saw us going to Rossbeigh, a village by the mountains at the sea in Kerry. We left the University on Friday evening and finally arrived to the two houses we had rented for the occasion, deposited our bags and as usual headed straight for the pub. All was quiet on the street and then you entered the pub where the noise hit you - we were not the only club there as UCG, UCC and CIT had about 170 kayakers between them there for the weekend. The night continued in the usual manner. Noelle and Mel got so hot together at the bar, UCG had to throw ice cubes at them - and that didn't even work. But then Andy solved the problem by taking Noelle away. Eamonn was kept awake all night - no, actually not by Fiona Mc but by Philip and Cora who were in the same room...

We made it up on Saturday morning and set off down the River Caragh. The 'Graveyard' section of the river, aptly named, led to a few spills and swimmers and cuts and bruises. Cathal Ferris' swim can't be forgotten! We all made it safely down, thanks to several nice rescues by the Senior paddlers. Two groups went down so some people made it down twice. Then it was back to Rossbeigh to do a bit of surfing, or start drinking as a couple of people did. Sean Mc joined the UCC lads as they made their way through 25 litres of "Jungle Juice" so Clare went to the rescue...and they ended up fighting over the drink. For those who still don't know - Jungle Juice is a very potent mixture of spirits that "is soooooo easy to drink!". Even so we all made it to the pub,

## University of Limerick Cycling Club

As the new year dawns, the Universities Cycling Club is entering a new season of racing. Last year was a successful year for cycling in Ireland on the whole regardless of the endless drug allegations made against the professional peloton while the tour visited our shores.

Ireland saw a new World Champion in the form of Mark Scanlon - a superb young cyclist from Sligo who really shone when the chips were down in a rain drenched Valkenburg Holland. He is a good friend of the University's Cycling Club and a true champion.

The University also performed well throughout the year, competing on a weekly basis throughout Ireland and getting several top three placings including the mountain bike intervarsities which were held in the Wicklow mountains. We also wish our past members who continue to compete outside of the college at a high level the very best of luck in the coming year, some of whom are now competing abroad.

The club hopes provide a strong team for up coming road Intervarsities which are scheduled to be hosted by the Institute of Technology Waterford. Training therefore is starting to intensify with Saturday and Sunday spins still left for long endurance rides. David Kelly

## The International Society

... morning and set off down the River Caragh. The 'Graveyard' section of the river, aptly named, led to a few spills and swimmers and cuts and bruises. Cathal Ferris' swim can't be forgotten! We all made it safely down, thanks to several nice rescues by the Senior paddlers. Two groups went down so some people made it down twice. Then it was back to Rossbeigh to do a bit of surfing, or start drinking as a couple of people did. Sean Mc joined the UCC lads as they made their way through 25 litres of "Jungle Juice" so Clare went to the rescue...and they ended up fighting over the drink. For those who still don't know - Jungle Juice is a very potent mixture of spirits that "is soooooo easy to drink!". Even so we all made it to the pub, and to the disco laid on for us. Mel moved in on Patricia - ice cubes were needed again! All Paul's hard instructing work paid off in the end - Rachael was taught well. One poor girl is still in need of psychiatric help after seeing J.P. Bourke (4th yr. Industrial Chemist). There is also a Long Distance Training class on the Shannon at the painful hour of 7:45am every Thursday for the tougher members.

Our latest weekend away was to Rossbeigh, in the midst of the mountains by the sea in Kerry. We left the University on Friday evening and finally arrived to the two houses we had rented for the occasion, deposited the bags and as usual headed straight for the pub. All was quiet on the street and then you entered the pub to great noise - we were not the only club there as UI - could we have survived it? We'll soon know after the Intervarsities that will include an Extreme White Water Race down the Flesk.

Wednesday, week 9 saw the club having a night out in Kilmurry Lodge. Will anyone ever see a kayak attached to a night-club ceiling again? We danced the night away, with a break every now and then to watch the Kayak Rodeo video that was playing, and for a few games on the dance floor. There were a few races held where the contestants sat in a boat and had to race across the floor using their hands (with some help from the on-lookers) and secondly a few brave souls had to skull a pint that was poured down the inside of a half paddle. A great night was had by all so thanks a lot to the Lodge for having us.

The following weekend saw Sean Mc and Liz going to Cork for the Captains and Safeties training weekend for the Intervarsities. They made it down the Flesk on Saturday without too much trouble and then attended the annual meeting to discuss the rules etc. for the 'Varsities that will be held in February.

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## The International Society

A very big welcome back to all our members - I hope that you all have a great 1999. Our time as a group is almost over as loads of our members are returning home or going on co-op, or even going on Erasmus themselves. By now you'll have heard that plans are under way for our end-of-term party - venue yet to be confirmed. You might also have heard that some of our members are getting together to have a massive re-union of the society and former year's International / Overseas societies somewhere in Europe next August - a true UL on tour escapade.

Also it is imperative that all members, especially of the foreign persuasion get their home addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers and the like to Eamonn or JP for the International Society Booklet which will be published by the end of term. The closing date for details are Friday, Week 14. You can email them to Eamonn at eamonn.sayers@ul.ie He's also looking for as many photographs as possible which he will return to you within 1 day.

We'd like to thank you all for the great commitment and craic which has made the International society the thriving society that it is today. A special word of thanks to JP who's heading off to London on co-op and to Alan who's off to Intel - your replacements have a hard act to follow.

Finally just to wish you all the best of luck in the exams and here's to next term's adventures in the International Society.

## CASTLETROY COMETS BASKETBALL CLUB

A new club has been set up to cater for the youth of Castletroy. Ber Angley and a team of people from U.L Basketball Club and Newport Basketball Club. Most of the players are from the Milford Grange area, average age 15, they train weekly on Sunday mornings in the University of Limerick (thanks to Dave Mahedy and Ita Canning for giving the facilities). The Stables Club, Kilmurry Lodge and Zac's have all agreed to sponsor the club. Helping with the club are Noreen O'Connell (U.L Sports Staff), Eimer Coyne (U.L Basketball Club), Trudy Gleeson (N.C.E.F) and Roseata Murphy (Stables Club).

The interest in Basketball overall has increased, with the Men's Super League being played most Sundays to a packed Sports Hall in U.L, and now with more coverage on Network 2 and TnaG. It is hoped that this club will develop in line with the new sports hall (with 4 Basketball courts) and have an outdoor court soon!!

## Collingwood '99

Week 1

Second semester

Ireland's biggest soccer competition is being hosted  
by UL mens soccer club.

Matches daily Mon-Fri, fixtures to be announced  
(Penalty comps and spot prizes during games)

Support your college team!!!

## UL Sinn Féin

The annual commemoration for volunteer Se-n Sabhat was held on Sunday the 3rd January last in Limerick city. Among the 160 strong crowd was a contingent of the newly formed U.L Sinn Féin society who returned early from the Christmas break and braved the elements to remember the Limerick volunteer.

Cllr. Se-n MacManus gave the oration at the grave and described how much more closer we are to achieving the Republic that Se-n Sabhat died trying to achieve. He also had a message for David Thrimble & co. and the two governments, that is, to say there can be no executive and no institutions before decommissioning, is NOT in the agreement. And if they do not set up the executive before the February deadline they risk wrecking the peace process.

It may interest people to know, (particularly those 400+ students who crammed themselves into the Jean Monnet at the time of the threatened strike and heard our local Garda Superintendent say that on average ONE garda was in the Castletroy area every night but he would increase that to at least four) that the Special branch saw fit to send TWELVE unmarked cars and approx. 30 officers with their camcorders, cameras, and notebooks, to this commemoration. Officers of the special branch then harassed two members of U.L.S.F while on their way home. I find it interesting that the garda can justify paying overtime to these officers so they could attend this event where there is never any trouble and yet have difficulty sending officers into the Castletroy area to protect students and residents.

On Wednesday the 9th of December approximately 150 students came to listen to the Sinn Féin party chairperson Mitchal McLaughlin speak in the University. Two members of the special branch of the garda were also in attendance (who says you can't get a cop out to Castletroy). Mitchal covered many aspects of the peace process in his address to the student body and then held a question and answer session which proved to be very informative. U.L Sinn Féin would like to thank Mitchal for taking the time to visit us, we would also like to thank Mike McKee, Shannon Town Commissioner, for chairing the meeting, and finally we would like to thank Limerick Sinn Féin, particularly Cliona Quinlivan and Pdraig Malone, for their support in setting up the University of Limerick Sinn Féin society.

On behalf of U.L.S.F  
Muiris O Sullivan, P.R.O

# U.L. Men's Hockey Club

On behalf of U.L.S.F  
Muiris O Sullivan, P.R.O

It's been a busy year for the U.L. Men's Hockey Club, we have traveled the breadth of Ireland to play (and stuff) some fine opposition, and there's plenty of time for more hockey and craic. With record memberships and a healthy fully fit squad finely attuned to the intricacies of the game that is hockey, success for the club would never have been far away and it wasn't.

We represented the college at the 35's trophy hosted by Dublin City University, but after a grueling match and a lot of partying the trophy moved away from it's rightful home at the mouth of the Shannon to the East, but only for a year mind you. Our travels took us to the fair city of Dublin for the Hockey Intervarsities being hosted by D.C.U. and didn't we show the other colleges how it was done! Led by our mighty captain Monty and looked after by our esteemed manager Garvan Barry, we had all the ingredients of a great trip. There was some first-class hockey played and U.L. were rewarded with three of the clubs members (Padraig Cournane, Holger Goertz and Conor Bradbury) being selected for the Irish Universities squad, this is a magnificent honour for the players themselves and the club as a whole. Also congratulations to our goalkeeper Padraig Cournane, who was awarded Player of the Tournament for his consistently outstanding performances.

Most recently we traveled to Cork to contest the Munster Inter-University Hockey Trophy against U.C.C., we were narrowly beaten on the day (but we'll get revenge in the return match in the New Year). The lads from Cork were presented with the Lavan-Oakley-Martin Perpetual Cup, and the celebrating began. Remember new members are always welcome to club training, whether experienced players or newcomers to the game you're guaranteed to enjoy yourself. For any info email the club at [hockey@skynet.csn.ul.ie](mailto:hockey@skynet.csn.ul.ie). We look forward to your support and continued success during the coming season.

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## Pirates Platform

Software pirates made a killing this Christmas, thanks to the technical loophole they have exploited in the Sony Playstation computer games console. The pirates have developed a £5 microchip which allows the playstation to run games on a cheap CD-ROM recorder. Normally the playstation will only work with discs pressed at Sony plants.

The pirates copy £40 games onto blank CD-ROMS costing just £1. They then sell the games for about £10 by mail order, at weekends or simply from door to door, according to the crime unit co-ordinator at the European Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA).

Playstation discs are pressed only at Sony plants and look darker than an ordinary CD. This immediately identifies transparent pressings as pirate copies. But so that Playstations can recognise pirate discs, legitimate CD's also store a string of digital zeros, which a player expects to see, even though it reads them as errors. If a pirate makes a copy of the disc, the CD-ROM recorder tries to correct the errors, so the string is no longer intact and the Playstation will not play the disc.

But Playstation users can now buy modification chips, dubbed "modchips", over the internet, allowing them to run pirated games. The chips carry four wires that must be soldered to the main circuit board. For those who do not want to carry out the soldering themselves, magazine small ads offer re-chipping services and some dealers will do it for £15, according to ELSPA. The chips overrides the players error-checking process.

Those selling the chips can claim that they are intended only to allow Playstation users to make back-up copies of their games, in case the originals get damaged. Industry observers warn that Playstation users will void any warranty by soldering iron could damage the system irreparably.

To help it fight the piracy, ELSPA is set to receive a £200,000 cash injection from games software companies. To justify its call for cash, ELSPA points to the fact that some 15 year olds in South Wales were recently caught copying playstation games and selling them through local newspapers. Meanwhile, two men in Shrewsbury were found to have 1200 pirate CD's and another man in Gwent was caught with 700. ELSPA says these discs would have lost the industry a total of £300 000. And games software piracy is not just limited to the Playstation market; for every three copied Playstation discs, ELSPA's officers generally find discs containing PC software worth £500.

Terry Anslow, ELSPA's chief investigator, reckons that for every legitimate game sold, there are dozens of pirate copies, so it is safe to say that piracy costs the industry £3 billion per annum - three times the legitimate British games market value. Games software for the Nintendo 64, the main rival to the Playstation, is more difficult to pirate because its games come on ROM chip cartridges.



Lara Croft - Hijacked by her own success



# A Going Away Present

If you happen to find yourself on co-op in the land of opportunity next semester or if you're thinking of getting a J1 for the summer, odds are that you'll soon tire of stacking chips the old fashioned way. You may be tempted to put your quality UL education to more direct use to earn some cash because the fact is that it's easy. All you need is a PC with a scanner and an inkjet printer. The only problem is that it's easy to get caught, and the Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and the top guns at the Counterfeit Division of the Secret Service are on a mission to lock up the new school counterfeiters, and throw away the key.

Three years ago, computer inkjet generated currency made up only one half of one percent of all counterfeits passed in the US. That percentage increased to 43% in 1997 and was expected to increase even further in '98. While the penalties for making counterfeit currency are up to 15 years in jail and a maximum fine of \$5000, it's becoming increasingly difficult for the feds to catch counterfeiters because pretty much anyone with a decent home computer can reproduce an American bill.

Although it still takes money to make money - and most counterfeit currency is still produced using the old, complicated offset printing process and counterfeiters have to make millions to turn a profit - these days, if you're stuck, you could knock out a few bills on an as-needed basis - a few hundred for rent, \$50 for a few beers.

But be warned because the feds aren't joking when it comes to the Benjemen Franklins. The \$100, \$50 and \$20 have recently been revamped and the Secret Service are pushing the US Sentencing Commission to update the federal guidelines so that counterfeiters with even small denominations can do big time. So if you do get tempted and get busted, just don't let your defence be "but I learned it in college, officer!!"

Needless to say, the original article will have some subtle differences, that your Hewlett-Packard just refuses to pick up...

**PORTRAIT:** Placed off centre to avoid wear and tear on the image, the portrait on the \$20, \$50 and \$100 has been enlarged to include more detail. There are very fine concentric lines bordering the portrait which are difficult for most printers to pick up.

**PAPER:** It may feel like high quality paper, but in reality - it's cloth. New US currency is made from 75% cotton and 25% linen, which creates it's distinct feel. Produced by the Crane Paper Co. - a top security mill in Massachusetts - the paper is flecked with blue and red security fibres and features a treasury seal printed into the paper stock.

**COLOUR SHIFTING INK:** The numeric denomination in the lower right hand corner of the note is printed in ink that changes from green to black, depending on the angle at which you look at it.

**MICROPRINTING** Though invisible to the naked eye, the words "United States of America" are microprinted on the president's collar. Microprinting appears as a thin line instead of words to the naked eye. Laser printers are not sensitive enough to reproduce these extremely small fonts.

**SECURITY THREAD**  
A synthetic fibre runs through the paper vertically, from top to bottom of the left hand side of the note. The numeric denomination is then microprinted on the thread.



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