



AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

e-mail ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

www.ul.ie/~ulsu

TERM 2 WEEK 2



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put you in the
know**

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Limerick**

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UL Lecturer At The Center Of Garda Enquiry

UL's PE Department were at the eye of a storm on Thursday, the 3rd of February, as the Examiner broke the story of a UL lecturer who was placed on special leave before Christmas.

The Examiner stated that "gardai are investigating claims that one of the country's leading sports scientists photographed some of his students naked and gave others prescription drugs without consulting a medical doctor."

The story broke after a student

who claimed to be photographed by Dr. Watson, director of the University's Growth and Development Centre, met the Examiner's reporter, Neans McSweeney, a former student in UL. Ms. McSweeney told An Focal that the topic "came up in conversation," and she followed it up from there.

The graduate claimed that "he stood naked for the lecturer and was photographed by him as part of a body muscle test." The student, who request-

ed that he not be named, was not informed as to why such photo's were necessary."

The student further stated; "I was in first year at the time and I suppose I was very naive. These body mass index, BMI, tests were voluntary. He would meet people on a one to one basis in the corridor at college and ask them if they wanted to do them. This was what happened in my case."

He continued to say "I

contd. on pg. 4

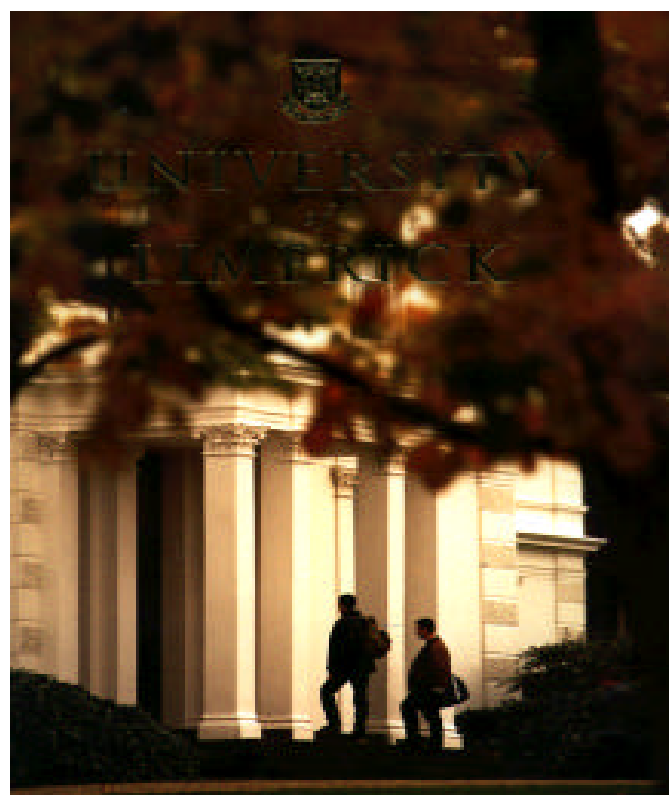
UL Commemerative Book Launched

A book of photographs of the University was recently launched at a reception in Plassey House.

The book, entitled 'University of Limerick, A Celebration' was designed and produced by Begley Hutton, with principle photography by Andrew Bradley, and additional photogra-

phy by Kevin Dunne, Walter Pfeiffer, Eoin Stephenson and Liam Burke.

The book celebrates all aspects of life in the university, including pictures of



The cover of University of Limerick, A Celebration

the campus and individual students and staff at work rest and play, as well as monuments around the college.

The book also contains photo's of the recent major events in the college, capturing the atmosphere at the opening of the new library and former president Ed Walsh's retirement party when Abbaesque played in the plaza to over 3,000 students, to name but a few

There has been a huge interest in the book among both undergraduates and postgraduates alike, with many commenting on the excellent photography. The fact that all the photo's are taken very recently, and many of the faces in it are still around has also increased it's popularity.

It is not clear as yet as to whether the book will be available to buy, and if so, how much it will cost.

Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date

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

Thursday Wk 2

6.00pm

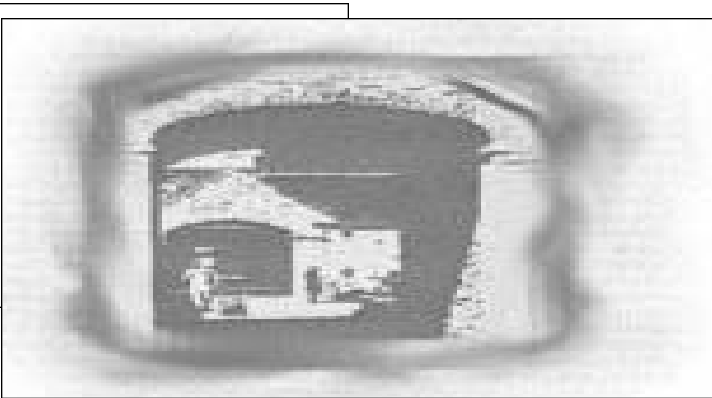
new student centre

all are welcome

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

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



Welcome back to school. It's been a good while since the last An Focal and in that time there's been 3 week breaks, exams, studying, partying, millenniums, Christmases, etc., etc. But that's just ye.

We've been working away making the place better for you. So how is it better? Well the new bar is open and will be serving food in the next few weeks. The new IT building is up and running. Student Services now has longer opening hours. And the Students' Union has raised their casual labour rate to £4.40 per hour.

In the next few weeks we'll be

looking at issues such as computers and the library and how they can be improved. Also Kollege Week preparations are well underway and we will be letting you know exactly what will be going on very soon.

So for more news keep your eye on the Students' Union web page at www.ul.ie/~ulsu
<<http://www.ul.ie/~ulsu>>

I'd also like to include this article in this space.

Litter

Those of you who walk to college via Elm Park or Milford Grange will notice that there is generally a lot of litter around the place. This is becoming worse in the recent past, so bad that it was featured on The Pat Kenny Show on Monday morning. There are a number of things that can be done to help keep the place tidy: Students in houses Only leave wheelie bins out the day they are to be collected. Pick up any litter that you see in your garden or on the footpath in front of your house. Remember: You can be fined up to £1,500 for having litter in your garden.



Again, good to see they've left me with loads of room to fill!

I love doing this paper, right. i meet loads of people through it, i get to write about interesting stuff and read interesting stuff that other people have written, and occasionally i get into gigs and stuff because of it (wait-

ing on my Homelands tickets, fingers crossed). And, it's a great buzz to see people snapping it up on a Thursday afternoon, or telling me that they think it's improved or whatever.

But, i'll tell you something, it's wrecking my head right now. It's four in the afternoon, i was in at nine this morning having been here 'til four last night, after working on it all day sunday. etc. etc. you get the picture. sorry about the big whinge, but the amount of people who've told me we do nothing is nuts. the idea of this column is to let you know what we're up to, so you realise we are actually in here every day, and we are actually working. (it's kind of backfired though 'cause the reason it's sometimes real short is because we're running 'round doing other thinkgs, and it doesn't take priority.)

Ah no, it's just been a rough day. I've got a proposal going to the exec board next week that suggests we split the job i'm doing right now, and get two seperate officers, one for

Back again for the last part of our term of office. I hope you all enjoyed the break and are fighting fit for a term that is crammed with social, cultural and academic events to stimulate all of you. Elections for our successors and Rag Week will be the highlight for most, more on that next week.....

Outreach resumes again next week (3) after the great success last term. New Member are welcome just drop into my office at any time to give me details of when you are free or alternatively send an e-mail to deppresident@ulsu.iol.ie

Congratulations to Mary Maloney and all her team on the Grand Opening of Silver Apples Creche on Friday January 28th. Mary is interested in running a Parent Craft Programme in the next semester which would be open to all members of staff and students. The programme would include the following topics:

- Understanding childhood behaviour;
- Communication: how to listen to your child, how to play with your child,
- Separation from your child while you work/study;
- Paediatric first aid;
- Common childhood illnesses – signs and symptoms

In order that she may gauge the level of interest in a programme of



this nature, she would appreciate those interested in the concept contacting her at Tel. No. 213468 between 10h00 and 12h00.

Housing has been one of the more serious issues I've dealt with over the past number of months. Over the coming weeks I intend to hold an information day on the whole issue from Leases to Landlords. Keep an eye in An Focal for more details.

I'm sure a number of you are up to your eyes in Final Year Projects.... Good luck to you all. As always any questions, problems or queries please do drop in at any time or even if you just want to give out about the smallest thing call in! Have a great term this is the best one of all!!

Dee Dee

Education and one for Communication, like every other university in the country. I think it's the only way we're going to get the best out of An Focal and Wired FM, it's the only way we can get to as many people as possible to let everyone know what's going on and get everyone's input into the decisions that have to be made.It's the only way that we can get the best possible results from our education officer, by letting him focus on the issues without having to concentrate on a paper and radio as well.

If it gets by exec. (which it better after all the work i've done on it, i want all of you to see it as well), then it'll be down to a general meeting when you can all have your say as to whether you think it's a good idea or not. more on that over

the next few weeks. In fact, if you want to read more about it, there's an article about it on page five of this issue.

Other than that, it's been quieter since you all left, though still pretty busy. Loads of individual education problems that needed sorting around exam time, as well as working on the problem with Wired's FM's transmission (more on that soon too), working on sponsorship for the paper, attending meetings about all and sundry. But there was a holiday thrown in for good measure as well, a week in the states would calm anyone's nerves.

I've just read back over that. sounds a bit moany, sorry about that, next week we'll be back much chearier andchirpier. i'm sure ye can't wait!

Chairman Retires At First Class Reps Meeting Of The Term

At the first class reps meeting of the semester, held on Tuesday of week one, Aidan O' Gorman announced his intentions to resign as Chairperson of Council on the 3rd of March (Friday week 3).

He stated that he had enjoyed his position and always aimed to do his best but felt that due his academic workload he could no longer give full commitment to the job.

It was a meeting at which many items were raised and questions asked. A discussion on the attendance at the meetings by members of the SU executive and on Union policy on such absenteeism was the first item discussed. It was asked that all members of the exec attend the next meeting to resolve this issue.

Dave O'Donovan, ULSU

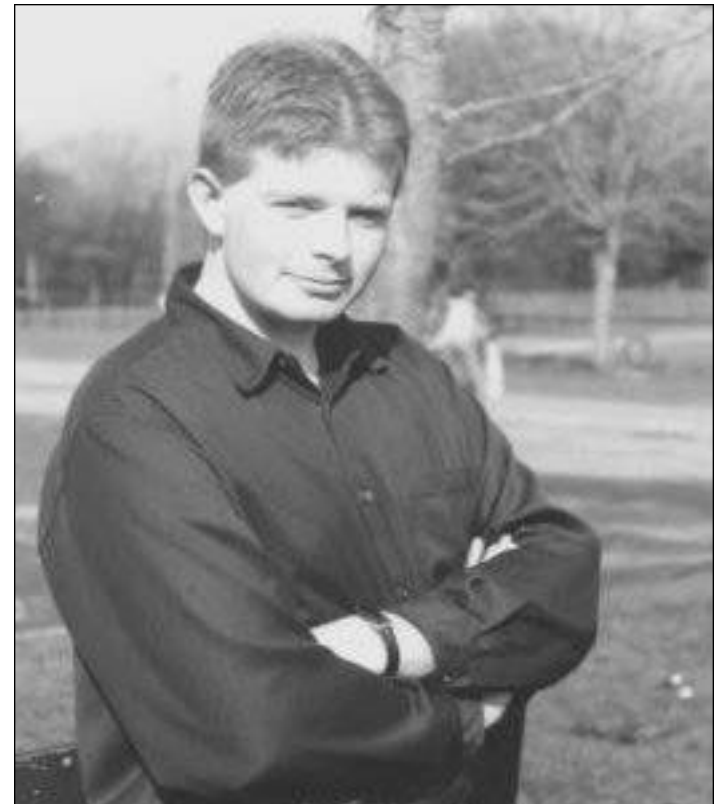
communication and education officer, informed the meeting that the three sabbatical officers would be visiting all classes to talk about any complaints the students may have with student services. He asked class reps to work with their classes on compiling a list of comments in order to obtain as much feedback from as many people as possible. Hopefully all feedback will have been received by the next meeting and solutions to this age-old problem can be found. During this discussion, class reps were informed that the opening hours of Student Services have been changed to 9.30- 12.30 and 2.30-4.30.

It was announced that the broadcasting problems experienced by Wired FM, the student radio station in Castletroy, are about to be fixed. A new transmitter is to be erected over the

next two weeks which will allow the station to operate on a new frequency, 106.8 FM, in the Castletroy area. Questions were asked about the budget for Wired FM. The budget is to be discussed at the SU exec. meeting of Wednesday, week 2, and will be reported back to the next class reps meeting.

The next item to be discussed was the name of the new student centre. A ballot of all students is to be held on this issue. The following names have been nominated; Homer Simpson, Ed Walsh, Garda Gerry McCabe and Jim Kemmy. A fifth option is just to call it the Student Centre. This matter will be discussed again at the next meeting, as a number of details have still to be finalised, and arrangements for the ballot will be decided.

As the meeting progressed, people raised questions on many issues such as the Library, the position of the Postgraduate sabbatical officer, Student Union finances and expenditure and on the use of recycled paper by the Union. All these will be raised with Pat



Aidan O'Gorman, who retired as chair of class Reps due to academic commitments

McCarthy ULSU President, The Union Manager and the ULSU executive. Answers will be forthcoming at the next meeting. Unfortunately Pat was unable to attend this meeting due to a conflicting engagement in Dublin.

It was asked that an e-mail sent by Pat McCarthy to all staff in UL detailing his response to a protest outside the high court in Dublin involving members of the UL Sinn Féin society be also sent to all students or published in an focal.

The next Class Reps meeting will be held on

Tuesday of Week 3 at 6pm in Sr3008. All questions raised at the first meeting will be answered. A representative of The Union of Students of Ireland (USI) of which UL is not currently a member will make a presentation at this meeting. The election for the position of Chairperson will also take place.

If any classes returning from Co-Op need a Class Rep, then registration forms are available from the Students Union offices in the student centre.



TWO OF A KIND ; former and current UL presidents, Ed Walsh and Roger Downer at the launch of the commemorative book.

Photo; Liam Burke, Press 22

History Made With Founding of Irish Postgraduate Forum.

by Brian Kelleher

For the first time in history, postgraduate representatives from across Ireland met to establish a new national body - the Irish Postgraduate Forum (IPF).

The inaugural meeting, hosted by the University of Limerick Postgraduate Student Association (PSA) on 18 January 2000, marked a historic new phase in Irish education.

Participating representatives agreed that a wide range of serious problems needs to be addressed urgently on a national level.

The new Irish Postgraduate Forum pledges to address the specific concerns of postgraduate students and campaign for increased awareness of the postgraduate contribution to the Irish education system and society as a whole.

The Forum ratified the following mission

statement:

The aims of the Irish Postgraduate Forum are to

- Achieve a minimum standard of living for postgraduate students above the poverty threshold.
- Raise public awareness and recognition of postgraduates and the importance of their contribution to society.
- Encourage a level of excellence in postgraduate studies that places Ireland on a competitive and sustainable platform internationally.
- Maintain an open network of communication among postgraduate representatives throughout Ireland.

The Graduate Students' Union of Trinity College Dublin will host the next meeting of IPF on February 22nd, 2000. The agenda will focus on developing an initial campaign to address the unfortunate lack of postgraduate representation and support throughout Ireland.

UL Lecturer At The Center Of Garda Enquiry

from pg. 1

went into a room in the sports hall, upstairs from his office. I stripped off for him. We were on our own at the time. He only did this to male students, as far as we know.

"He would ask us to strip off, completely, and would pinch our skin and check the skin folds. He did these on several parts of the body — including the inner thigh and the groin area, the bum and the lower back."

The Examiner also spoke to Michael Glynn of the Physical Education Association of Ireland, who said that BMI tests are usually done on four parts of the body. "Examination of the buttocks or the groin area

is not typical," he said.

Mr Glynn was puzzled by the need to keep a photographic record, stating that "it all depends on what the study was about. But the typical test would involve the bicep, tricep, sub scapula region and the area just above the pelvis."

Inspector Gerry Mahon, of Henry Street Garda Station said the gardai are "conducting an investigation at the university. But it's at a very early stage." The Examiner's report said that Inspector Mahon would not confirm whether Dr. Watson had been interviewed or not. At their time of writing, Dr. Watson was not contactable.

Mr. Mahon also confirmed that they had been con-

tacted initially by the college authorities. An Focal contacted Dermot Coughlan of the personnel department, who said that, due to the sensitive nature of the case, he could not go beyond the statement issued by the University's president, Roger Downer at the time of the story. That statement read as follows; "In December of last year, the University became concerned about aspects of the research programme of a member of the academic staff. The University informed the Gardai and commenced it's own internal investigation which is being conducted by senior officers of the University. Until these investigations are concluded, it would not be appropriate for the

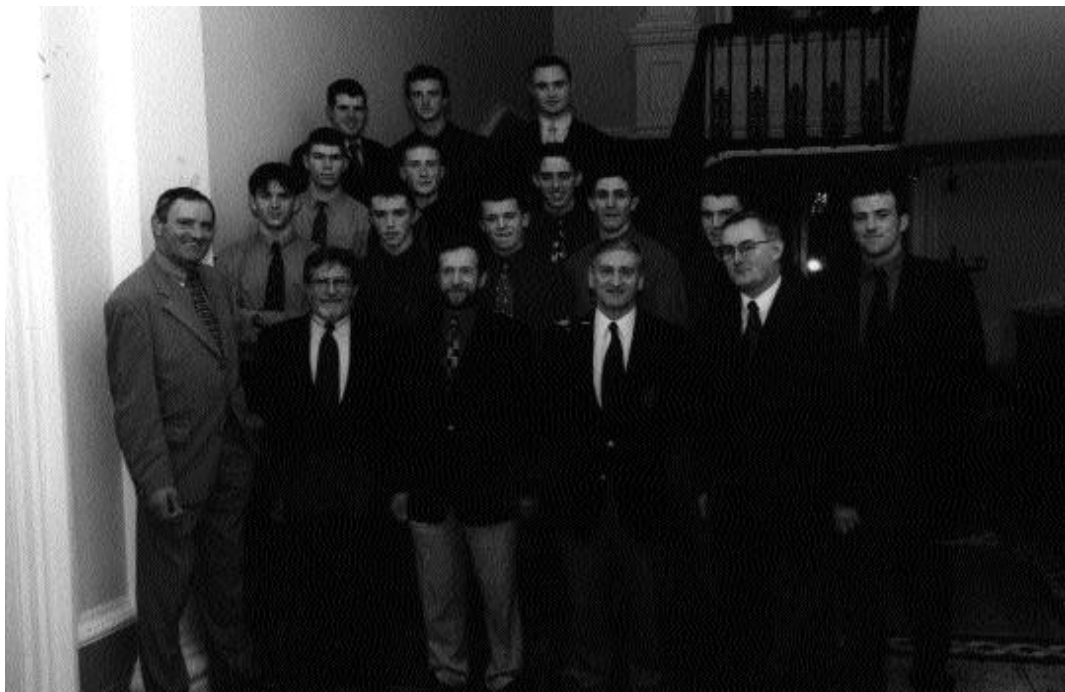
University to make further comment other than to say that the University is treating the allegations extremely seriously and is strongly committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards in all areas of research carried out under it's auspices."

ULSU president Pat McCarthy stated that "the Students' Union are satisfied that this is under university and Garda investigation, and once these investigations are completed, the matter shall be treated accordingly. Should anybody wish to approach the SU with any information concerning this case, it will be treated in the utmost confidence." The SU Welfare Officer, Dee Dee Hosty is also available should

anyone wish to discuss the matter with her on a personal level.

The Examiner also claimed that student's of Dr. Watson were left uninformed of the matter, stating that one student who had looked to speak with him before Christmas was "astonished to find he was not available." Alan Donnelly of the PESS Department has told An Focal however, that those students attending Dr. Watson's lectures had been informed that he had been placed on special leave as soon as possible, and were told, in a lecture, "all that it was legally possible to tell them."

Mr. Donnelly also said that since term has resumed, all PE students have been informed of the situation.



The recipients of the GAA scholarships along with representatives of the Students' Union, the Munster Council, the University and Guinness.

GAA Scholarships Awarded Last Week

Last Thursday, 17th of February, saw the gathering in Plassey House of some of UL's finest GAA athletes.

The footballers and hurlers present were from all around the country, and were there to collect their Munster Council scholarships, their Guinness hurling Scholarships, and the UL GAA scholarship.

Dermot Fitzgerald, Limerick, one of the stars of last years Limerick minors, and Stephen Mason, Tipperary were the recipients of the Munster Council scholarship for football and hurling respectively. The Guinness Hurling Scholarships were awarded to Eoin Fitzgerald, Cork, David Donoghue, Galway, Eoin Dunne,

Dublin, and Barry O'Brien, from the St. Olafs club, also in Dublin.

The UL GAAscholarship was awarded to current 1st year PE student and Dublin senior footballer, Dermot Harrington.

Pat Cashell, the college's assistant registrar was the Master the Ceremonies for the evening,, introducing the chairman of the Munster Council, Mr. Sean Kelly, the chairman of the Limerick County Board, Mr. Donal Fitzgibbon, and the Guinness Rep for the area, Mr. Paschal Duggan along the way. Darragh Duggan, the ULGuinness rep. was also in attendance.Mr. Cashell also welcomed and congratulated David Daly, the colleges new GAA Development Officer.


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UL Student One Of The World's Top Eight Kickboxers

Paul Lee, Clubs and Socs. Development Officer, joined the rest of clubs and societies in congratulating Sean Keane, who came in the top eight in the World Kickboxing Championships in Carole, Italy.

Sean studies Sport and Exercise Science and trains with the prestigious University of Limerick Tae Kwon Do Club under Philip Fox. It has been highly successful year for Keane who has won the German Championships and continued to win All Ireland national titles with A.I.M.A.A. and I.U.T.F.. The highlight of the year however was the World Kickboxing Championships in Italy.

Sean was invited to try out for the squad this summer and won his place against very high calibre fighters. Representing the U.L. Tae Kwon Do club Sean travelled with a team of 25 fighters and 5 coaches to Carole to fight the worlds best. The events at the beautiful Carole stadium included full contact, semi-contact (points) and light continuous and also Thai boxing and musical patterns. A total of 49 countries travelled from all over the world, including U.S.A., Canada, Russia, Sweden, Iran, Turkey, Poland, Kazahhistan, Italy and of course Ireland.

Sean fought in the highly contested middleweight (-74kg) division and after victories against Iran and Russia, a talented Hungarian (who



Sean Keane (Back, 3rd from left) with the rest of the Irish kickboxing team

went on to win a bronze medal) narrowly beat Keane.

Sean is already looking forward to the International friendly in Tehran this month, as well as the West African Open in Gambia. Finally, Sean asked to take this opportunity to thank the Students' Union and the Sports Department for their support and sponsorship. Without them, he says, this trip would not have been possible.

Proposal For Fourth Student Union Officer To Go Before Students

A proposal to split the position of Communication and Education Officer within the UL Students' Union is to go before the student body at a meeting later in the term, providing it passes the Student Union Executive Board.

Current SU CEO, Dave O'Donovan, prepared the proposal over the last couple of weeks, with the intention of creating two separate positions, Education Officer and Communication and Campaigns Officer, in time for next year's term of office.

The Education Officer, according to the proposal would focus on and be responsible for the design of SU education policy, the representation of students on numerous academic boards in the college including Governing Authority, the colleges highest decision making board, and the handling of individual and group problems in the area of education.

The Communication and Campaigns Officer would have overall responsibility for the production and development of An Focal, as well as all other SU publications. The job would also include the representation of UL students' interests regarding Wired FM, the dissemination and publication of all SU information on a college, local and national level, and to work with both the Welfare Officer and Education Officer in co-ordinating any campaigns that they are to run.

The proposal states that the splitting of the current position would "allow the respective officers to focus on one particular area of student life, and would recognise that both areas are vitally important to both the general student body and the relationship of the SU with the stu-

dent body."

A number of possible improvements are noted in the proposal, including the fact that having two people working on the two areas "would allow for in depth research into the background to numerous internal and external education problems. This would allow a concentration on the resolution of problems as well as on the initiation of campaigns to improve certain facilities." Also noted was the fact that "the creation of two positions would also allow more time for each officer to visit lectures in relation to relevant campaigns or meetings. This would serve to give the student body a much bigger input, through heightening the awareness and function of the class rep, as well as giving the SU a more public face, and bringing it back to the students."

Dave O'Donovan, stated that "having done the job for almost seven months now, I think having a separate Education Officer and Communication Officer can only be a good thing. It's very hard to focus on one or the other when you're producing a paper one minute and sitting with the heads of departments talking about repeats the next. I think giving someone the time to do the research and the groundwork and carry things through to the end without distraction will lead to far better results that we'll all see the benefit of."

"At the moment, the job asks too much of people and doesn't allow them to get the best results. It's unfair to ask someone to stay until four in the morning working on the paper, and that's what always happens, no matter how prepared you are. Hopefully, we can get enough students to the General Meeting, and make the decision to change the current situation."

Postgrad Fees Amended After UL College Of Education Representation To Former Minister

Following representations made by The Career Development Institute in The College of Education, to the former Minister for Education and Science Mr Micheál Martin TD, the Government has announced its intention to amend the legislation governing the status of postgraduate fees for tax purposes.

The amendment, which is entirely as proposed by the CDI, has substantial positive implications for Colleges interested in promoting postgraduate initiatives. The CDI is very pleased with the Government's excellent response in affirmation of its strong commitment to Educational opportunity.

The following is an extract from the explanatory memorandum on the Finance Bill published this week

"Section 21 introduces a new section into the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, to provide tax relief for postgraduate fees paid in publicly funded colleges here and in the EU as well as in private colleges in this country. This new relief, which will apply at the standard rate of tax, will be available to full-time and part-time postgraduate students and will include distance education courses offered by publicly funded colleges in other EU Member States. The relief will be allowed in respect of fees paid by the individual in respect of his/her own course and also in respect of fees paid for a dependant (that is, a spouse or child of the individual or a person in respect of whom the individual is or was a legal guardian). Approved courses must be at least one year's duration and cannot exceed 4 years and they must lead to a postgraduate award based on either a thesis or an examination. Persons taking the courses must already have a primary degree or an equivalent qualification. Private colleges in the State and the postgraduate courses offered by them will be approved by the Minister for Education and Science and the level of postgraduate fees qualifying for tax relief will be determined by that Minister with the consent of the minister for Finance."

UL Clubs and Socs Present Cheque To Children's Hour Appeal

£2,001 was the grand total raised by the students of UL involved in clubs and societies for the recent children's hour appeal.

"The 65 clubs and societies on campus requested a £25 donation per organisation," explained Paul Lee, the Clubs and Socs Development Officer.

"The response from the clubs and societies and various individuals, including staff was excellent," he said.

Children's hour, organised by the Irish Youth Foundation, involved donating an employee's last hour's wage of the millenium to the fund. Those involved in clubs and socs decided that it was important that students as a large body, even though they are unwaged, should also contribute.



ALL SMILES; (l-r) Naill Donegan, manager AIB, UL, Stan Blennerhasset, ULSU General Manager, Pat McCarthy, Paul Lee, Dee Dee Hosty, Claire Cox, Muiris O'Sullivan and Fergal Fennessy

UL Website Hacked With Link To Trinity.

University of Limerick and TCD clashed in cyber-space recently when the UL computer network became the victim of a hacker attack.

The website was subject to an apparently Trinity instigated cyber sabotage and had to be temporarily withdrawn from the internet.

Hackers wiped out the authorised content of the University of Limerick homepage and added their own text. The letters TCD were emblazoned on the web page in large white type at the top of the page, together with the advice "stay in skool kidz." Then, between intermittent gobbledegook, readers were alerted to its potentially offensive content.

Hackers filled the page with the subversive words "vendetta", "shroud", "the science krew" and "frog". In a statement, Mr. Gordon Young, head of the information technology department at the UL, said the site, "along with number of other organisations", was unofficially replaced by another page sometime between 2pm on Saturday and 4pm on the previous Sunday.

"The university is now examining its logs to try and ascertain who made the changes. The official website will be made available as soon as it has been secured", he said.

It is uncertain who was actually behind the incident. Authorities in Trinity deny the knowledge of the incident while Limerick student

sources allege the individuals TCD may have been directly responsible for the sabotage.

A college spokeswoman said many websites, including Telecom and the Cork Institute of Technology, had experienced similar invasions recently. She said the hackers were not necessarily associated with Trinity College despite the college initials on the site.

The attack follows a string of hacker related incidents occurring in and around Trinity. The 'Trinity Hacker' incident of last term whose attempts to defile NASA's website through the colleges network led to an arrest in the Pearse St. computer rooms is dragging on. The hackers student girlfriend is believed to be facing internal disciplinary actions in relation to the incident. The hacker himself is believed to be in Canada where he fled after the Pearse St. arrest. CCTV camera's highlighted the hacker's attempt to break into NASA's network after a Netsoc student alerted security staff to the possibility of the crime. Security were forced to restrain the accused after he attempted escape and attacked the security staff dealing with him. Since then security measures have been stepped up around the Pearse Street computer rooms and College are re-examining computer security and monitoring as the NASA incident could have led to Trinity paying damages amounting to a six-figure sum.

c/o Trinity News

University Concert Hall Web Site a Big Success

Since its launch on 31st December 1999 the new Internet web site for UCH has been a huge success with visitors to the site increasing on a daily basis.

The new web site is located at www.uch.ie includes over 200 photographs and in excess of 100 pages with all the relevant details concerning the concert hall. This site was deigned with both the patron and the promoter in mind and incorporates full technical specifications, current and forthcoming lists of events, disabled facilities, artistic displays throughout the building and three virtual tours.

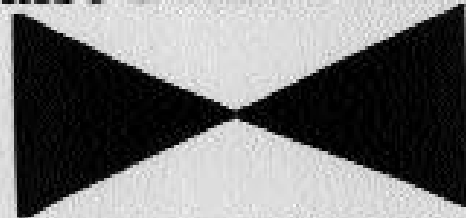
For the patron not familiar with the

venue the web site includes a tour of the seating plan which has photographs of the stage taken from the different seating locations throughout the auditorium.

With e-commerce making such a strong impact in today's technology UCH offer a "RINGBACK" facility whereby an interested patron can request the Box Office staff to phone them (at a time suitable to the patron) to arrange the purchase of tickets for a desired event. This feature ensures the security of Credit Card details, as details are not being sent 'on-line'. To date this facility has resulted in the purchase of tickets by people as far afield as Boston and Seattle.

Mike O'Connell's

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Trinity Respond

Dear Ed,

I just wanted to make a minor correction and response to your feature on Trinity News.

First of all, we are probably just as 'poor' as you (if third level institutions can be called 'poor') and would love it if the Irish Times publish us. Sadly, they do not.

More importantly, Michelle Daly raises a crucial point for student journalism when she asserts that an international story "may be beyond the experience of most students". Since last year, Trinity News has moved even more radically towards reporting on issues which effect the global student community. This decision has not been without criticism. However, international headlines which make the national dailies often gloss over the effect situations are having on students. So, far from "alluding to grandeur", we're actually die-hard hippies who want the students of the world to unite.

Regards,

Eoghan Williams
Editor, Trinity News

TEFL Qualification?

Dear Editor

Last week the noticeboards and canteen of UL were once again plastered with advertisements for a weekend TEFL course run by ABC Phoenix.

This letter would briefly like to outline both the academic and financial concerns we feel for students who are brought in under the belief that such short courses are recognised in Ireland or elsewhere or are in fact endorsed by the University in any way. They prey on undiscerning students by offering the false promise of co-op or summer jobs. The people who benefit from such courses are those who run them – 20 heads at £95 per head is not a bad haul for a weekend's work.

ACELS (The Advisory Council for English Language Schools), under the aegis of the Department of Education and Science, is the body which accredits English language schools in Ireland. Minimum teaching requirements are a primary degree and a 70 hour TEFL course (under review and set to rise to 100 plus hours). Certificates issued from many weekend TEFL courses do not carry any date, number of hours or awarding institution. Ignore stories of topping up on qualification hours through project

work as this is not admissible for accreditation purposes.

The Department of Languages and Cultural Studies, UL caters very well for UL students wishing to follow

either a long or short career path in TEFL. Full module suites are available to students on degrees such as Applied Languages, Languages and Cultural Studies, and European Studies to name

Letter of the week

Mans Inhumanity To Man.

"Prejudice is the child of ignorance."

There I was on a Friday morning sitting in my kitchen with a cup of coffee and my nicotine sticks, reading GCN, Ireland's lesbian and gay newspaper. As I opened the paper at first the only worries I thought I had were my exams!

Oh how wrong I was! Once I had finished reading I got this sudden urge to question what the hell is going on in peoples minds these days! Normally I don't really concern myself with gay and lesbian issues, but after reading some of the articles in this newspaper, I couldn't help but to write down in black and white, how the majority of us (those with serious attitudes against homosexuals) are kind of pig-ignorant and to say the least pathetic as regards our feelings towards those who are different in anyway to us, especially gays!

If I'm beginning to sound harsh, well I apologise, especially to any homophobic out there who may actually be reading this. After all, everybody has a fear of something - in my own particular case it would have to be dogs (sounds funny), but that's not to say that every dog that I see on the street is going to get the living daylight's kicked out of him. Why? Obviously enough because its not right even to treat dogs that way.

This begs the question: How is it that we hear of "queers" being harassed, beaten up and sometimes even murdered? Some people may be able to think up of a few justifiable (as they see it) answers to the above question, but if one of them happens to be for the sole reason of a persons sexuality, then I figure that the world and, without doubt, the people in it, are most certainly gone crazy! Aswell as that, it's kind of frightening to think that people in this so-called "civilised" world of ours have such backward mentalities, that they think it acceptable to give someone grief just because they might prefer men to women, and if we're to be really drastic about it all - someone who likes a bit of both!!!

I honestly never even imagined the thought of reading about a 21 year old student from America by the name of Matthew Shepard who had been "tied to a wooden fence, tortured and left to die" for the sole reason that he was one of those people who preferred his men to his women - what a price to pay!

A lot of people may figure that they don't need someone like myself to rant on about the injustices enacted towards homosexuals - fair enough! But to those of you out there reading this letter, who just might begin to feel a tad bit ashamed for your behaviour towards homosexuals and whatever other "black sheep" that may exist in our society, then just imagine if it were you in their position and consider how you would feel. And finally to those who would rather live eternally in ignorance, as opposed to living in a world where change and all different kinds of values and people are accepted, then my final words to you are to sit yourself down and question your morals(if any), your mentality, but most importantly yourselves!

Eimear G.

but a few. Students may avail of these fully recognised courses free of charge as part of their degree studies. An MA in TEFL has also been running for ten years at UL and has graduates teaching in all corners of the globe in much respected, high paying positions. UL students are indeed in a very unique position in this country in this respect.

Such advertising on UL's noticeboards and canteen tables has incensed us even more than usual following an undertaking by the manager of ABC Phoenix, just last semester, that he would not advertise on the university's boards. Does this alone not speak volumes?

Learning to teach English at a weekend TEFL course is like learning to operate through watching ER.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Farr, Dept LCS, UL
Fiona Wheeler,
ACELS Inspector

The Sun Never Shone in Limerick

It never did you know at least not in Frank McCourt's "miserable" childhood, nor in Alan Parkers interpretation of Frankies "Angela's Ashes". I don't know Frank McCourt, I have not read his books nor did I experience life in the lanes of Limerick in that unquestionably harsh time. However what I do know is Angela's Ashes the film.

Last night I sat through 2hrs 35mins of Frank McCourt purging himself of Limerick and indeed of Ireland. He whom Richard Harris describes as

If you've got something to say, or even nothing to say but you can say it in a clever way, drop us a line in An Focal. You might get it printed, and you might just win yourself £10.

Either drop it in to Dave in the office, the girls in the General Office, or e-mail to Dave at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

"the most angry man he ever met" exorcises his demons on screen. I agree fully he has the right perhaps the obligation to tell the story of Limerick during this period, but tell the truth god damn it!! Don't use Ireland and Limerick to hoc to an eager American public the preconceived notion of Irelands misery and the misery of her people.

McCourt is seen in America, as the typical Irishman who has suffered yet has not allowed the bard within to be suffocated by his experiences. He is what dreams are made of for the chat show host, he preaches misery, Irish misery, Limerick misery, catholic misery. Why, simple because it sells. McCourt is a man angry at the world and one wonders would he be any less angry irrelevant of where he spent his formative years.

I fear for the truth in McCourts diatribe, which is all too eagerly cellulized by Alan Parker who seems adept in telling stories of the misery of Irish working classes. There is a betrayal to the highest bidder (invariably the

American public) of the Irish working classes McCourt merely follows the path of yet another Irish "award winner" Roddy Doyle. This is not the detached view of the detached middle classes, working class are the first to suffer and have and will continue to face hardship which indeed rightfully requires and deserves a voice. However it is surely worth remembering that the working classes smile too, that they love each other and most importantly despite the view of McCourt and Parker that the sun shines in Limerick too.

Cal Mor

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the real world contd.

We've got this series running with UL students who've finished college and are living and working abroad. Now, Erasmus + co-op students are getting in on the act.



Hola!, I am sure everyone is glad to be back in U.L. again for another semester. But there are plenty who have escaped to the fate of CO-OP and here I am.

I have been sent to San Sebastian in the North of Spain

and have been here three weeks already and what a place. This is an one person placement so I am all on my own and at first it was quite lonely but not for long as everyone here is really friendly and you feel at home almost immediately.

I am living with a family in an apartment in the centre of the city and my job is to give English grinds from here. The day begins at about 8.00 and finishes at 10.00 but of course I have my "siesta" between 2.00 and 4.00 when it seems that the whole city shuts down. I think this would be perfect in U.L.

I am living right beside the beach and it's where I spend most of my free time but I can't say that the weather is all that great. At the moment, it's rain rain and more rain.

But anyway the most important aspect - The nightlife.

Here in San Sebastian there is plenty to choose from though clubs aren't all that popular, they are loads

of disco bars and all stay open until 5.00 and some even later. The music is generally English with a little Spanish for effect. The best thing about all this is the cost is much lower, for example 20 cigarettes only work out about £2, so think of that the next time you are in the Stables or the S.U. shop. Drink is very similar but they are much more generous with measurements of vodka etc. The Spanish love "fiestas", which are street celebrations, and last week I saw the first of many. Everyone was dressed-up and marching through the streets to a band while people joined in from their apartments. The first week of march there will be another and the locals have been trying to persuade me to join in so I just might, I'll let ye know what happens.

For those of you organizing co-op now, think about doing it abroad, as so far it has been a brilliant experience and I will keep ye posted on the rest.

"Hasta luego!"

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American Diaries

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

MARGARET RYAN IN CHICAGO

So here I am in **Chicago**, city of the Big Shoulders, doing my Co-op placement with Aon Risk Technologies at Monroe and Franklin here in Chicago. It's a great sensation not having to Queue for a computer in the Schumann or the Library. I'm starting to get used to referring to everything by the intersections, and it makes more sense than "take the second left after the first one"!

There are a few main reasons why Chicago is such a great city. The shopping, the food, the pace of life, and that's just for starters. Chicago is a damn big place, and you better find your way around pretty quickly, which, luckily, is not hard. And of course, there is the reputation that Chicago was born to feed the world. You know when you go to your Grandmother's house, and she says, "you look a bit thin, are they feeding you at all?" and proceeds to cook up a storm? Well, that's what all of Chicago behaves like. It's like as if someone set city ordinance that everybody in the entire city must make it his or her personal mission to feed the entire world. And they do. People have been known to go to lunch at 11.30 am here, but they probably had breakfast at 6.00 am and are getting a dose of the munchies. (And justifiably so, if you ask me). So meals tend to be on the huge side here. You get a bit of a heart attack the first time you are asked for \$6 for a sandwich, but once you realise that there's probably a soup involved as well, you'll get over it. The fact

that the sandwich would probably be a finalist in the "Largest Structures In The Universe" contest does no harm either.

It's a great city, and there are so many Irish people here that it's impossible not to walk into somewhere and find a native paddy, or someone who wishes they were. And there are a million bars and pubs that have an Irish name over the door, and a green neon shamrock in the window. Not all the Irish Bars are like that though – Coogan's on North Wacker has no neon shamrock, and is a good place to go for one of those 'largest structures in the world' sandwiches).

So what have I been doing since I got here, well, working, catching up with family – I have a lot of family out here – and getting used to getting out of bed at 5.45 am. Now, who persuaded me this trip was a good idea? Because when I get home, they will suffer. I had a big problem with getting up at 7 at home – I commute to college – so getting up before 6 was definitely not a good idea. But one of these days I will figure out how to eat breakfast the night before and eliminate that from the morning schedule, along with consciousness and all that crap.

So what's been happening this week in Chicago? Well, a water main burst a few days ago in the Loop, (the downtown area between the lake and the river, main business area), and disrupted all traffic and public transport. An entire block was sealed off, and there

were cops all over the place. One of them spent three hours blowing a whistle outside my window (I do have a window, the rumors are true). And you couldn't drink the water for a few days – not that you'd drink it anyway. But it's better than all the rain we get in Limerick either way. At least it didn't fall out of the sky.

Speaking of rain, it hasn't spilled a drop since I got here 3 weeks ago. There have been a few snow showers, but no rain. And it is supposed to snow 6 inches tonight, but I don't think that's going to happen, it's too warm outside (it's -2 C outside, which is warm by comparison to when I arrived, it was -15 C !)

I've already been asked to 3 St Patrick's Day parties, (yes, people do plan them before Valentine's). One that the company runs, so 4,500 people (yes, four and a half thousand people) all together getting pissed in honour of the oul'sod should be worth going to. Of course, the fact that half of them have no connection to Ireland makes no difference. According to the people in my office, everybody in Chicago becomes Irish with a vengeance on March 17.

So the first few weeks in Chicago have been eventful to say the least, and here's hoping that the remaining weeks are just as busy. Talk to you again in two weeks,

Margaret

Yes, here I am the Paddy in the U.S. of Americ-K. So what is co-op like over here so far? Not that bad at all actually!!

Seeing as most of you (well probably 99% of you) don't know me, I am a second year comp. sys. on coop with Fidelity Investments in **Boston**. There are three others from comp. sys. here with me; James Leyden, Martin McGill and Paul Webb, and one from ITT, John Drum. So now you know the crew, whats been happening??

After the co-op ball and another decent piss up back in Tralee, I flew out to Boston with a suitably tragic hang-over (seemly its required on transatlantic flights!(!)), customs all left me alone (which surprised me considering the appearance of a blood shot eyed paddy smelling of beer!) and once I set foot outside the airport what were the first words to escape me? No they weren't "America here I am" or "Wow look at the skyscrapers", but... "Oh fuk its cold".

And cold isn't even the word for it. Ice, snow, wind and minus 36 degrees CELSIUS, going down to minus 46 when the wind picked up, honestly it was arctic!!!! The first thing you notice (after the temperature) is that everything is huge, the buildings, the cars the roads, the food portions (which I'll get back to later) and even the road works! Right now in Boston there is a road being dug under the city and they are calling it the Big Dig and its no bunch of your average county council workers supporting shovels around a kettle for a couple of hours a day. No, this Big Dig goes on twenty four hours a day seven days a week and the whole city is being dug up!!

The job so far has been a bit of a dos. My day seems to consist of emailing, a small bit of shell scripting, emailing, meetings, surfing the web and emailing.... But they keep on assuring me that I'll be up the walls next month with a load of work (at this stage I'm actually looking forward to it!). But it's a grand

IAN DEMPSEY IN BOSTON

place to work, I'm in a big building with 32 floors, everyone is very friendly and all that, and you are treated as a full member of staff by going to all these high powered meetings, training sessions and given loads of free food and sacks full of cash to take home.

Yes, food is pretty much a central theme in America, we have drink and they have food. You can get every single type of cuisine from every corner of the world with all the flavorings and additives you like in all sizes except small! There are these courts in Malls with twenty or more types of fast foods and loads of people tearing through huge portions. The other night, Chris Rock was saying that nowhere else in the world would you get people with lactose intolerance and not liking red meat except in America, you wouldn't see a Rwandan with the same problems!!

I suppose you are all wondering about the drinking scene over here. Well

I am only 20 and underage over here but I haven't had that much trouble being served. But make sure if you are coming over here to come prepared ... I dunno will Dave will edit this out, but if John Snotty can tell ye about the prostitutes in Amsterdam, then I can tell ye to get some good ID cards before you come out because they will check them and a usit card on its own is not enough....

So, yes indeed, I have gone on a number of tours and excursions of Irish pubs as a matter of reconisence to find a local and I have few comfortable watering holes. But seeing as the pubs close at two-ish (I can't be sure because leaving the pubs is usually a bit of a blur and getting an exact time is impossible) my thoughts on a pub are not generally accurate!!!!

Anyways, I think that's good enough for a first report, I'll be getting back to ye with some more craic in the next issue.....

Have You Nothing Better To Do?

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

This issue.....

Final year projects, co-op reports..... it's the time of year when a bad day is a real possibility. here's how to handle it.

For all of you who occasionally have a really bad day and you just need to take it out on someone!!! Don't take that bad day out on someone you know, take it out on someone you DON'T know!!!

I was sitting at my desk, when I remembered a phone call I had to make. I found the number and dialed it. A man answered nicely saying, "Hello?" I politely said, "This is Patrick Hanifin and could I please speak to Robin Carter?" Suddenly the phone was slammed down on me! I couldn't believe that anyone could be that rude. I tracked down Robin's correct number and called her.

She had transposed the last two digits incorrectly. After I hung up with Robin, I spotted the wrong number still lying there on my desk. I decided to call it again. When the same person once more answered, I yelled "You're a tosser!" and hung up. Next to his phone number I wrote the word "tosser," and put it in my desk drawer.

Every couple of weeks, when I was paying bills, or had a really bad day, I'd call him up. He'd answer, and I'd yell, "You're a tosser!" It would always cheer me up.

Later in the year the phone company introduced caller ID. This was a real disappointment for me, I would have to stop calling the tosser. Then one day I had an idea. I dialled his number, then heard his voice, "Hello." I made up a name. "Hi. This is the sales office of

the telephone company and I'm just calling to see if you're familiar with our caller ID program?"

He went, "No!" and slammed the phone down. I quickly called him back and said, "That's because you're a tosser!"

The reason I took the time to tell you this story, is to show you how if there's ever anything really bothering you, you can do something about it. Just dial 0171 823-4863.

Keep reading, it gets better.!

CHAPTER 2

An old lady at the shopping centre really took her time pulling out of the parking space. I didn't think she was ever going to leave. Finally, her car began to move and she started to very slowly back out of the slot. I backed up a little more to give her plenty of room to pull out. Great, I thought, she's finally leaving. All of a sudden this black BMW came flying up the parking aisle in the wrong direction and pulled into her space. I hit the horn and started yelling, "You can't do that. I was here first!"

The guy climbed out of his BMW completely ignoring me. He walked toward the shopping centre as if he didn't even hear me. I thought to myself, this guy's a tosser, there sure are a lot of tossers in this world. I noticed he had a "For Sale" sign in the back window of his car. I wrote down the number. Then I hunted for another place to park.

A couple of days later, I'm at home

sitting at my desk. I had just got off the phone after calling 823-4863 and yelling, "You're a tosser!" (It's really easy to call him now since I have his number on speed dial.)

I noticed the phone number of the guy with the black BMW lying on my desk and thought I'd better call this guy too. After a couple of rings someone answered the phone and said, "Hello." I said, "Is this the man with the black BMW for sale?"

"Yes, it is."

"Can you tell me where I can see it?"

"Yes, I live at 182 West street, London. It's a yellow house and the car's parked right out front." I said,

"What's your name?"

"My name is Don Hansen."

"When's a good time to catch you, Don?"

"I'm home in the evenings."

"Listen Don, can I tell you something?"

"Yes,"

"Don, you're a tosser!"

And I slammed the phone down.

After I hung up I added Don Hansen's number to my speed dialler. For a while things seemed to be going better for me. Now when I had a problem I had two tossers to call. Then, after several months of calling the tossers and hanging up on them, it just wasn't as enjoyable as it used to be. I gave the problem some serious thought and came up with a solution. First, I had my phone dial tosser _1. A man answered nicely saying,

"Hello."

I yelled "You're a tosser!", but I didn't hang up. The tosser said, "Are you still there?"

I said, "Yeah."

He said, "Stop calling me."

I said, "No."

He said, "What's your name, Pal?"

I said, "Don Hansen."

He said "Where do you live?"

"182 West Street, London. It's a yellow house and my black BMW's parked out front."

"I'm coming over right now, Don. You'd better start saying your prayers."

"Yeah, like I'm really scared, tosser!" and I hung up.

Then I called tosser _2. He answered, "Hello."

I said, "Hello, tosser!"

He said, "If I ever find out who you are..."

"You'll what?"

"I'll kick your arse."

"Well, here's your chance. I'm coming over right now, tosser!"

And I hung up.

Then I picked up the phone and called the police. I told them I was at 182 West Street, London and that I was going to kill my gay lover as soon as I got home.

I climbed into my car and headed over to West Street to watch the whole thing. Glorious!

Watching the two tossers kicking the crap out of each other before being arrested was one of the greatest experiences of my life!

Diary Of A First Year

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

(ps go on the Kingdom!)



Well, there you have it – the first semester of first year in college over and

done with! My, what a great fifteen weeks!

Who would have thought that it was only six months ago that we were sitting in those dull dreary classrooms listening to the demented teachers ranting on about Austin Clarke and Maidhc Dainin!! Oh, but they were great days, sure. We were young and free – and we could do almost anything

we wanted – except talk after the bell rang and go on the beer till all hours of the morning! But, sure we were happy.

Semester two is a different kettle of fish! Believe you me! Although the exams were passed and QCAs achieved, there is still a lot of catching up to do! Try reading five novels in foreign languages before the end of week three. Or having to

graduate from the one-finger typing to the thirty or so words a minute. And on top of all that, there's the social life to maintain before all sanity is completely lost! I mean, however bad the Lodge is, it's a damn-sight better than sitting at home with Lessing's Enlightenment drama!!

Speaking of a social life, there's the ever-burning question of the New Bar on everyone's lips. Is it better than the Stables? Is there more space there? And most importantly, how much drink is there?! I, for one, think that the décor is very student-friendly, which is a must. I just love the huge comfy sofas. And I like that the

bar is in the middle of the pub. The only fault I could have is that there is not enough seating. It seems to me that there is a bit too much space, and it is always nice to have a comfy chair to sit yourself on. But overall, I give it a thumbs-up.

Who would have thought that UL would be so different in the second semester? Some of the old faces are gone, be it Co-op or Erasmus students. It's weird to walk into the Stables and find that the usual faces are not sitting around, chatting and drinking coffee. Maybe it's just that everyone has copped on a bit and suddenly realizing that there are actually lectures and

tutorials to attend, and assignments to begin, and exams to study for. Some people don't realize it, but there is actually quite a lot to do in college.

And it's even hard to write for "An Focal" again, especially after three weeks of doing nothing except ask customers for their Value Club Card! Oh, my god, I'm doing it in my sleep now! Of course it's nice to get back into the whole college deal, but it was nice not to get up on Monday mornings to go to a lecture and spend the rest of the day suffering from the intake of alcohol from the previous night. Not that I drink or anything, mom!!

Are you looking for something other than cheesy nights or bangin' techno?

Make An Appointment

Limerick nightlife gets a shot in the arm, as attempts are finally made to put it on the map with Dublin, Cork and Galway as regards having a good time. An Focal takes a look at the all new Thursday night.

There's been signs of it happening all year. Our very own Ents line up included K-Klass, residents in Cream, Britain's biggest dance experience, and James Lavelle, owner of the Mo-Wax label, home to the great DJ Shadow, as well as some of the best beat driven music to find it's way on to turntables around the world.

Then there was the first ever Heineken Weekender to take place in Limerick, with the best of Ireland's DJs plying their trade in places as unlikely as Au Bars and McGregors. Although it lacked the major headlining act that has graced the weekender in the other three major cities, it was still a big success, and showed that there's a bit of fight left in Limerick yet, in the good sense of the word.

Preceding this, last year, was the appearance of a new pirate dance music station, Touch FM, which had a wide range of musical influences to meet all tastes. Although no longer on the air as Touch, it's now transformed itself into Shine FM, and has been joined by Kiss FM in giving, along with Wired FM, an alternative to the not very student friendly Limerick 95FM.

Following on from Tall Paul's legendary appearance in the marquee during Kollege Week last year, things looked like they were beginning to pick up.

Truth is, things weren't as bad as they seemed for those who wanted to hear a bit of hip-hop, or drum and bass, or soul music, instead of Britney, 'The Fields of Athenry' or any of the local techno DJs. Costelloe's has been somewhat of a hideout for those with alternative tastes for the last number of years, with Thursday and Friday nights playing host to Skint and Silk, bringing just enough funky beats to primarily students of UL and the Art College. With local boy, Skinnyboy Jazz holding court, and regular visitors from some of the top clubs around the country, there was a packed room every weekend night.

Costelloe's now plays host to dee-bop on a Friday, which has carried on from the days of Silk and Skint, and continues to bring in great music, and good crowds. With the pirates happily surviving, and Wired providing another outlet for some new music, and with the number of local DJs increasing at light speed, as Technics take over as the new guitar, things can only get better.

And better, and better. And they're due to get just a little better starting now. Thursday night had already got a little jolt with the UL Radio Soc's weekly residency in Java's, the Beat Café, on Catherine Street. Running from 12 'til 3 in the morning, it gave an alternative option to joining the Supermac's queue after either the pub or club of choice. With Wired DJs playing the best in soul, hip

hop, drum and bass and laid back beats, it built up, and continues to build up a regular crowd.

Not only are the options afterwards expanding though, the pub or club of choice is set to expand as well. Last Thursday saw the launch of New Killa Beats, a new night in the Dog House run by the New Killa Krew, who are, at present, Limerick's only organised band of drum and bass boys. Kicking off at 9.00 and running 'til 11, downstairs has just turned in to a place of madness. Huge beats and bass lines almost knock you over as you walk through the real strong door that opens on to the steps down to the basement. It's first night saw a crowd of 70 to 80 people cramming the bar, and leaving it calling for more. UL's Code, along with Roller-T and Bee, slowly building and building before whipping all and sundry into a frenzy.

Things are looking up for after the pub as well though. The UL Radio Socs 'residency' in Java's Beat Cafe on Catherine Street has worked a regular crowd who choose the relaxed atmosphere, good coffee and good music over the Supermac's queue, and starting next Thursday, if you fancy a later night, you can take a stroll up to Dolan's for the first night of a step into something new for them. The best live music venue in the city has branched into the club scene, with Soul Clinic, a club already going down a storm in Dublin's Hot Press Hall of Fame venue, HQ. Here's what they have to say about it;

Next Thursday, the 2nd of March sees the first step in a brand new journey for Dolan's Warehouse and for clubbing in Limerick. Soul Clinic is the new club which will bring a brand new flavour to the Limerick dance scene and a change of pace and style for the Warehouse, the city's best live music venue. Playing the best of soul, hip-hop, funk and house, Soul Clinic is currently running in Dublin's HQ, at the Hot Press Hall of Fame, giving Dublin clubbers a fresh alternative on a Friday night.

Combining excellent music with great surroundings and clever visuals, Soul Clinic is more than your average night out. Recreating the vibe in Limerick over the next six weeks will be Soul Clinic's five resident DJs, followed by Bass Odyssey's Alan O'Keefe on the 6th of April. Dublin's Noel Phelan kicks off the first night on March 2nd, with support from Limerick's best known, home-grown DJ, Skinny Boy Jazz. The next few weeks will see Aaron McMahon (March 9th), Mr. Ray (16th), Aidan Kelly (23rd) and Stevie G. (30th) take to the decks, before Alan 'jets in' on April 6th.

Lining up some of the country's best DJs is how Soul Clinic means to continue. Apart from the HQ residency, there's also Ray and Aidan's other residencies around Dublin, Aaron's long running Jazz Juice in Galway's GPO, and Stevie G's leading role in Cork's legendary Sir Henry's, as well as his monthly residency at the



'Mad' Aidan Kelly ; the dancing DJ

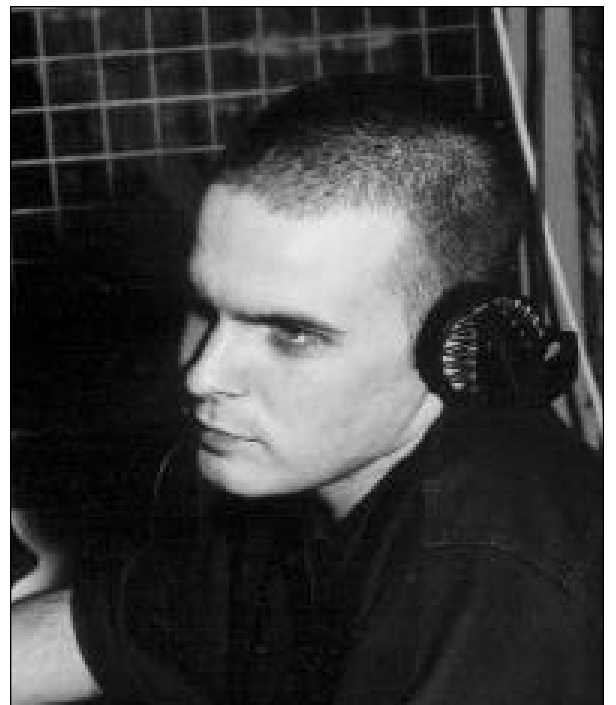
Kitchen.

Combining these high profile DJs with Limerick's local talent gives the basis for a successful and different night for Limerick. Doors open every Thursday at 11pm, Soul Clinic runs 'till two in the morning, with tickets priced at £4, and various promotions taking place each night. If you'd like to go the whole hog, we've also linked up with Limerick's only drum and bass crew. Nu-Killa Beats runs in the Dog House every Thursday from 9 'till 11.30, with a £2 entry fee, but if you'd like to go from 9 'till 2, you can pick up a combined ticket for £4 at the Dog House.

Thursday 2nd of March and every Thursday after that at Dolan's Warehouse, make an appointment at Soul Clinic, and be part of something fresh.

For more information, e-mail soulclinic@hotmail.com

So, the message is, if you're after something a little different, a little off the beaten track, get yourself down the Doghouse, Dolan's and Java's 'til three in the morning after both. Admission to Java's is free, it's £2 into the Doghouse, and £4 into Dolan's, which includes promotions. The promoters of both have come together to offer a combined ticket to Dolans and the Doghouse for £4 however. 9 'til 3am for £4. We can't really ask for more than that!



stevie g. ; a hit with the ladeez and appearing at Soul Clinic in Dolan's at the end of March

**STUDIES SHOW THAT CUTE CHILDREN GET THEIR DESIRES SEEN TO MORE READILY THAN
WELL.... NOT SO CUTE CHILDREN.**

The Soul of the Beholdee.....

**FROM THE AGES OF TWO AND THREE WE ARE CONFRONTED
WITH FAIRY-TALES PROMOTING THE IDEA OF BEAUTY.**

The Ugly Duckling was not accepted until he was a swan and Cinderella got lucky because she had small feet. You could, of course take the notion that their suffering got them triumph in the end but for the sake of this article, I say it was not the suffering.

It was not until they were categorised as being beautiful that they were allowed into society. The prince didn't even know anything about Cinderella apart from the fact that she was lovely - typical. She could have turned out to be a complete cow full of hate for the world.

Beauty has always been an issue in our society, even from the earliest of times. Chinese women bind their feet (They want to be the fairy-tale) creating huge damage to their muscle and inflicting unnecessary pain upon themselves. Victorian ladies wore corsets to look thinner and in the process, they often passed out. The white powder they put on their faces contained toxins which eventually killed them. Even the men wore wigs and rouge!!!

To this day we are still seeing the ill-effects of the images we attempt to portray of ourselves. Bulimia, anorexia and all self-consciousness comes about as a result of our trying to fit into the idea of what is beautiful in the eyes of others. You have to ask where it all started?

Perhaps it was the fact that gluttony is a sin and therefore being obese proved that a person was a glutton. To be honest, I don't know. So many people put the blame on the media and television. They portray the "ideal" as a thin woman and a muscular man - an image which is slowly beginning to change due to huge criticism by humanitarians. The old thinking that a man was the

breadwinner and the women as the housekeeper and child-minder is diminishing. Equality movements have proved that women too, have power and responsibility. The "thin" image is no longer appropriate for females and men are no longer living in the stone age where they must hunt and protect (strength is not in bone structure anyhow). If the truth be told, these notions have been around for centuries. The media have just blown them out of proportion.

"To this day we are still seeing the ill-effects of the images we attempt to portray of ourselves."

Beautiful has many meanings. In some cultures, heavy people are considered more desirable. They show wealth and health. There are tribes who would look at us strangely because we do not have painted faces or sticks hanging out of our chins. In some places, they cut their hair in mourning. In other societies, it is neither personality nor beauty which count, but your family name, or the amount of cattle you have, or your race. But still in the western world, the idea of beauty and image is a business for so many people.

If we were not so vain, make-up and designer labels would not be necessary. Models would come in all shapes and sizes. Gyms might go out of business. Rogaine, Retin A, Slim-fast and weight watchers would be non-existent. Old, fat, spotty and coloured wouldn't have to fight to be considered beautiful. Image wouldn't affect judgement. Would we need mirrors?

Let's not take it too far...To be accepted, it is apparently necessary to look respectable (who

said thin was respectable). Some male cab drivers charge women less. Men have an incessant need to show their manly strength. Even job interviews take in appearance at the end of the day but first impressions don't last. When we get to know people our perceptions and opinions of them change, often dramatically. A person can create an image of whom they want to be and it may be that they do not want you to see who they are inside.

Of course we all dream, occasionally, of being someone we are not and the world of Hollywood etc... allows us to indulge these dreams and fantasies. Movies give us a means to escape and see ourselves in different (more ideal?) roles. We get a chance to transform ourselves.

That is beauty and image in a nutshell - transformation, creating a mask to the world. It can hide or express the person inside, but in truth it is all just a fragment of who we are. Most people are probably familiar with the tragic clown figure - masking to the world through other people's perception of his appearance. Though past traumas can leave scars and injuries, it is not these scars which matter but rather the strength we have achieved from the scars inside. You are your past, no doubt about it. It is the idols and stars we grow up with which often contribute to the fact that we see beauty as an image rather than the person inside. You become the person you are because of who has loved you and whom you love. The person you choose to be outside is but a reflection of the culture and experience you are. It can also cover up the 'real' you.

We all have different images - put up with it. What right do you have to judge a person because they do not fit into your idea of beautiful. Don't get



beauty or beast?

me wrong or anything. I know it is only natural that the first things you see are dress sense, smile and general outer appearance but it is important to realise that it could all be a mask. Beauty is in the soul of the beholdee (if that is a word) not the eye of the beholder. It is like a shell and a pearl. Some shells are eye-catching and perhaps there is a pearl in there or perhaps there is a piece of grit. Some shells are not so eye-catching but they too may have a pearl inside and we all know that if we find a pearl inside, the shell will be forgotten, perhaps even cast aside.

"Beauty to you is not beauty to another. When you say a person looks beautiful, it does not mean they are beautiful."

Power is in knowledge, not beauty. When you invent yourself, you need someone to believe in you but one can only get so many complements and then have them all taken away in a second when someone blows you off your pedestal with a small remark. Beauty should not be used as a weapon or a shield. It should not become obsessional. There is so much more to life. I've been there and I have done

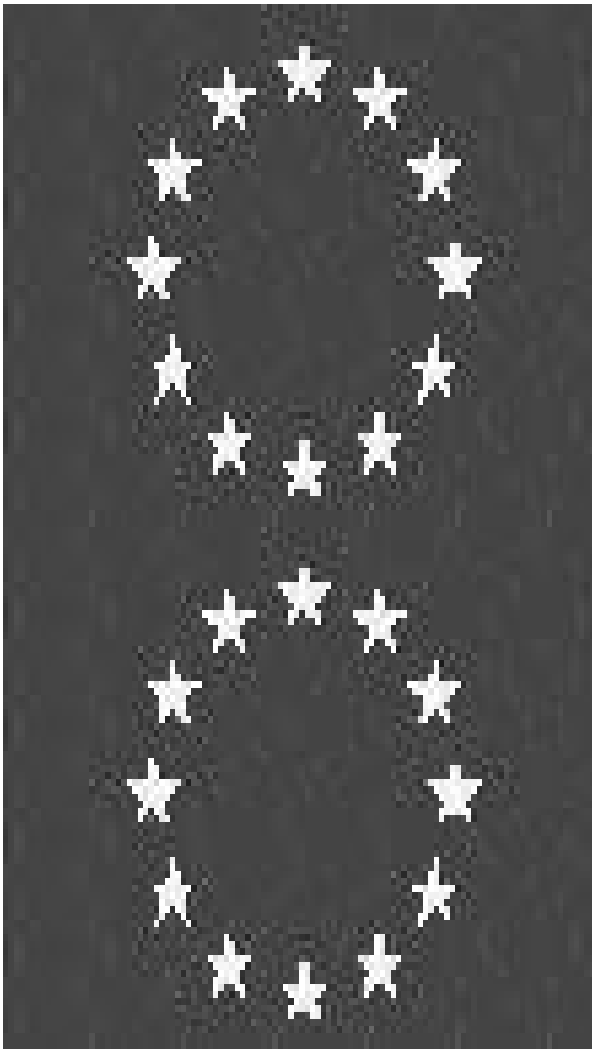
that and I didn't come out any prettier at the end of the day. Do you think image matters when you are in the middle of a war or when you are stuck on an island. I don't think so.

I can't change anyone. The ideas we have ingrained into our minds at this stage are going to stay there. I'm human - the first thing I notice about a person is their image but I never judge them on it because it could all be a farse. Take time to get to know the person inside. A hurtful comment can sometimes last a long time. Everyone has a different opinion. Beauty to you is not beauty to another. When you say a person looks beautiful, it does not mean they are beautiful. Pretty is as pretty does. You have to take time to get to know what a person does. You have to take time to get to know a person before you can or cannot call them beautiful. I'm not saying that being into your image is a terrible thing but there is no need to look in every shop window you pass and to get upset if people don't complement you twenty times a day. Plastic surgery makes you look plastic and corsets make people afraid to hug you in case you fall down and not all women go for the hard (em... muscley) man. Don't suffer to be beautiful. Just be you.

Kasey O'Shea

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming



quote **How far you must
run depends on the
size of the pain ...unquote**

These are the sort of words that one reads at the entrances to buildings like our library ("To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield"). But how true are those words if we apply them to what is currently unfolding before our eyes in this "great little nation" of ours?

A country that is careless to issues of European integration, of laws, a country still divided by old scores to settle. And yet we are told that most Irish peo-

ple are considered politically adept when it comes to deciding on political questions.

We are told that people are mostly well-informed of the issues involved. But are we really? Do we know how the laws of Europe affect our daily lives, do we even know what our parliamentarians are legislating for us right as we speak in Europe and more especially in Dublin? I think not. I myself must confess that I could not answer the last question. So is our political system to blame or is it the growing apathetic nature of the Irish people?

Both I think are the cause. The political system, grafted from the British after independence is dated, often cumbersome and generally closed to the general public. It has succeeded in bringing local politics to the fore and political 'representation', if one could call it that, to its zenith, when a TD can make representations in the Dáil chamber to a minister on an issue as abject as pot-holes on some third class road. Is the Dáil chamber the appropriate place for such idle chatter? It shouldn't be. Even the politicians themselves recognise this dire situation. In the past they tried to change but failed for one reason or another and nothing ever happened. This time our government have told us that it is committed the task of electoral reform. The forthcoming debate which will capture many minds over the next few months and years is this very issue: the movement to a more objective form of legislature.

People will think and argue that 'if it isn't broken don't fix it'. But these people have been too long isolated on this island, never looking out to the wider European stage that we claim to be a part of. TDs presently only think of the security of their seats by how many times they mention their constituents interests. The national assembly of this country must move from this inefficient system to one where issues of national and European importance are discussed in a frank and open condition. We may even see the long-awaited hope of our socialist friends of a left-right system of politics emerging as a result.

So what will it mean? Does Ireland become stronger politically? Will we have better laws? Will we become more focused internationally where we haven't before? and will we the people become more aware? Only time will tell. It is very early at this stage to discuss it, but it will be this generation that will be voting electronically in less than five years, so things are changing fast. Our currency, our way of life, our thinking, our relationship with others, are all changing right now.

But how painful will it be for the Irish nation, insulated as we are by history and the selfish nature of politics. If we take the opening words of this article as a given, we must suffer to achieve our ultimate ends.

All very philosophical I hear you say? The greatest movements of the past are marked by signs of initial pain and distress: the emergence of Christianity, the scientific revolution and even the civil rights movements in the United States and Northern Ireland.

Having mentioned the 'North', it would seem that once again the issue of the gun has stalled the political process. No matter how hard each side will blame the other, citing the different clauses of the agreement that each contravened, it is the people who are loosing hope with the entire process. And it would seem that the small minority who hold the gun control the sequence of events and not their elected representatives or any other politician for that matter. But the opening words of this article can be applied for unofficial armies and their cause. So it comes down to a battle of who will admit pain first and say enough is enough.

To conclude this more philosophical than political article I leave you with some other words I thought might encourage people to become less apathetic: the System will be as good as people make it. Whether that is the University we study in, the Students' Union that we are members of, or the nation that we are a part of.

The Diary of Doctor Zaius.

With two weeks into co-op living in Maynooth I have unearthed some interesting sociological particulars about the local indigenous population.

It's a town where the priesthood meets Supermacs and the result is a student type village steeped in history, religious doctrine and education, all served with batter, in a snackbox with a large cola. I like it here. The Crass verses Class melting pot creates a student who seems to have stepped straight from MTV into the confessional. Yes the good, god-fearing students of Maynooth still know what it is to enjoy the pleasures of sin.

You see, my misguided engineers,

us liberals in the University of Limerick have become so accustomed to our vices that they hold no more pleasure for us, nothing is taboo, on the other hand Maynooth represents a Catholicism that tolerates the very enlightenment it once forbade so vehemently.

It reminds me of my secondary school days, when local girls in the convent school suppressed with a conditioned reflex of abstinence, would ravage men of our tribe like amazons at every opportune moment. It must have taken me half my adolescence to realize that their interest in rugby was somewhat more than sporting.

But was I so naïve to think that in a college, where sixty percent of the stu-

dents are female. (Of the forty percent male a large number have fallen casualty to the priesthood, or chosen the love that dare not speak its name), I would find a docile herd of beasts with all the demeanor of a hippopotamus with PMS? Well the answer is that yes, I was. Instead I've found a haven of sirens, where the dominant predator is Oestrogen and the useless male drones that we are, are the next few minutes of film on a wildlife documentary.

So is the new world order about to reveal a hellish nightmare of female dominance, which will spring forth from the bland liturgy of Maynooth? Well if this is what's to come then you excuse me if I'm the slowest fattest antelope in

the herd. I hardly think so, all of this research was conducted during the annual season of rag week, where traditionally student ilk and academics alike reach the limit of their alcohol saturation and wake up as sick as a small hospital all in the name of charity. (Sound familiar?).

So are there any lessons we can learn from this flagrant reversal of the mating game? Well ask the guy wearing the zebra costume at the watering hole next Mary I. Rag week.



**is this what a hippo
on pms looks like?**

What Does Your Soul Look Like

SoUL Week 2000

Well here we are again, we promised you that SoUL would run eventually and after the disappointment of last semesters cancellation here it is. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of week 5, SoUL Week in association with Heineken will bring to you, the students of UL all of the Societies that put the S in SoUL. Various events have been organised for the Stables courtyard during the week. Music will be a main feature of the week with the Music and Radio Societies showcasing their best wares, other events are scheduled to run in between live music events. Events include Toga Debating, Moot courts, glider competitions, quizzes and there are many pints to be won. All students and staff are encouraged to take part in society events such as the sing –a-long, Blind Date, pub quizzes, and many other mad and quirky events! The timetable will appear in the next edition of An Focail with a full listing of events, times and places. Hope to see ye all there so you can discover your SoUL!

Societies
Of

University
of
Limerick

Short Stuff

Lap it up, take it in

UL's Environmental Society take the chance over two issues to fill you in on some things.

Watch out for coming food co-op. Order wholefoods and organic produce online. Exclusive to UL.
<http://foodcoop.skynet.ie>

"Your work is to discover your work and then with all your heart to give yourself to it" ... Buddha

"You must become the change you want to see in the world"... Gandhi

**"First they came for St. Johns Wort. I was silent.
I don't use alternative medicine,
Then they came for the Eco-warriors. I was silent.
I was not a tree hugger and besides I drive.
Then they came for the organic farmer's.
I was silent. I was not a vegetarian and I don't like crusty's.
Then they came for the activists. I was silent.
I am busy out with my job and besides they're all dogooders.
Then they came for the protesters.
I was silent. I am not a protester and I trust my government.
Then they came for me.
There was no one else left to speak for me."**

millenium remix of Pastor Niemoller's poem

**Please stop using plastic bags today. Don't take them –
They are unnecessary and live for about 1000 years.**

Next Semester:

February 11th – 12th Trip to Eco Village, West Cork
February 19th – 20th Feasta: The Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability presents
'Energy, Money and Growth'. Trinity College
March 19th – 20th Sustainable Earth Fair, Trinity College Dublin
March 21st Green Fair in Stables Courtyard
March 27th Speaker from Philipines
March 28th Green Day – see attached
April 13th – 15th Conference on Global and Local Dimensions of Food Security
Threats, Challenges and Responses, UCC
April 27th – 29th Organic Education Centre Open Weekend, Drumcologher, Co. Limerick
May 1st – 3rd Introduction to permaculture weekend, Monaghan

Last Semester

Green Fair
Mary Fpogarty Head Environmental section Limerick Co. Council r
Food fair
Freedom from Fear Freedom from want conference

In the college:

A university environmental committee was set up last semester under the auspices of Dr. Roger Downer. The committee comprises of 7 staff volunteers and 1 representative each from the SU, the PSA and the Environmental Soc. The committee is subdivided into committees to deal with waste, energy, transport, and? on campus. Issues that have so far been tackled include waste paper and cardboard? A representative from Campbell's catering sits on the waste management committee to address the long time environmental society gripe with plastic cups and cutlery.

Do we owe it to future generations to look after the earth?

Local issues to discuss around the fireplace tonight

fluoridation and chlorine levels in the water supply
Public transport – what is available and what should be available
The Sikita spruce forest epidemic – Where are the broadleaf's?
The typical Irish diet – Remember Spuds, beans & meat means no vegetables!
What to do with our waste?
The Limerick city incinerator.

7 places JWT won't be bringing you this year.

Philippines, East Timor, Central Africa (the African first world war), Guatemala, Kashmir, Tibet, Burma,

*but what you could do is go woofing(willing workers on organic farms),
see.....<http://www.phdcc.com/woof/>*

Green Day is March 28th . On that day we will have a Shannon cleanup, cool alternative music, forestry debate with someone from Dept. of natural resources, have live acepello & drumming bands. The most important thing though is that everyone who can walk or cycles to college. Green Day is a car free day.

The new environmental weapon – The precautionary principle
www.monitor.net/rachael/r586.html

Quiz: Name a broadleaf forest in Ireland that one can get lost in



Now Hear This.....

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



Muse 'Sunburn'

You might vaguely recognise this band from those long sleepless nights spent watching sky long play at 4 in the morning. If you don't then you should.

This is their latest single release and is a follow up to their previous singles 'cave', 'uno' and 'muscle museum', and is taken from the band's critically acclaimed debut album 'showbiz' which was released in October of last year.

Muse, who have an average age of twenty, have been playing music in different bands since the age of thirteen. They hail from the seaside resort of Teignmouth, Devon in the south of England where according to the band there was nothing better to do than "hang around, smoke the weed and lis-

ten to music."

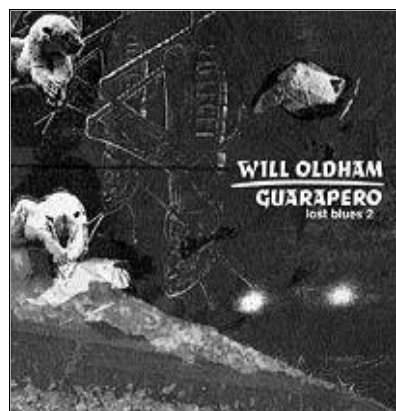
In Britain at the moment the music press are overheating itself in praise of Muse and the trio's debut offering. However, the press are also focusing on the strong comparisons which Muse bear to a certain Radiohead. There is an uncanny resemblance between the voice of Thom Yorke and Muse's lead singer, Matthew Bellamy, and if you didn't know any better you could be forgiven for thinking you were listening to the new Radiohead album.

'Sunburn' is an excellent single that really packs a punch, containing alluring twists with delicate keyboard underpinnings and heroic distortion filled guitar outbursts. The lyrics are sang in a tone nothing short of emotionally traumatised, making you listen to the song with even greater intensity.

Muse are definitely a band you'll be hearing more about, but as they're currently touring the European circuit, it might be a while before they darken the Irish shores with a live performance. In the meantime 'sunburn', and the album 'Showbiz', are now in the shops and are well worth checking out.

Find out more on Muse at : www.muse-official.com

Des Dockery



Will Oldham Guarapero/Lost Blues Vol 2

Will Oldham records are ragged affairs at the best of times, but such is the tactile authenticity of "Lost Blues Vol 2" you can practically hear the termites gnawing on his guitar.

It's an odds and sods collection, most of which completists will already own. But if you're one of those hapless fans who can't quite keep up with the Bonnie Prince's many aliases and obscure artifacts, "Lost Blues" will help shape this somewhat complex pic-

ture. As always, the standard is high. The songs are rustic and beautiful, blissfully acoustic and excitingly dissonant at the same time. Will's traditional warble is a flexible weapon too, howling along with the slow, aching fiddle of "The Spider's Dude Is Often There" and the twanging strum-a-long campfire sing-song of "Gezundheit", which fades strangely into an ethereal loop that samples Julie Cruise's "Falling" (from Twin Peaks). "Drinking Woman" you may remember from way back as the gorgeously creaky B-side to "Ohio River Boat Song", the debut from Will's first incarnation with The Palace Brothers. And "Big Balls" imagines what the AC/DC original might sound like had Angus and co been locked in a cellar in Louisville, Kentucky, a perfect take on Oldie's often naughty slant. It may not be a proper album per se, but, as always, it's a pleasure.

Leagues

co.uk 'brainwash'

CO.UK were formed in Lisburn in Northern Ireland a short while ago and have achieved reasonable success releasing three singles under the Brightstar recordings label.

The singles which they have released include 'part of the game', 'not today' and the now deleted 'freakazoid', all of which are contained on this mini album which was released late last year.

In the last few months, co.uk have been nominated for lots of awards including best new British band by Kerrang, and best new Irish band by Hot Press. Listening to the 7 great tracks on this mini album, the reasons for their nominations are evident.

Their influences are apparent lying in the roots of alternative rock, with bands like Therapy influencing the heavier tracks on the album such as 'part of the game' and 'freakazoid'. Co.uk have toured with the likes of Ash, Idlewild and Groop Dogdrill and are about to embark as support to Therapy? when they go promoting their 'suicide pact - you first' in the next week or two. They both play in Dublin's Olympia Theatre on March the eleventh, a gig which is well worth going to see if you can get hold of a ticket.

Find out more on co.uk at www.biggreenbath.co.uk



Des Dockery

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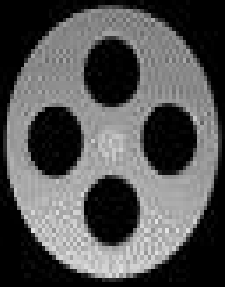
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The Reel Thing

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

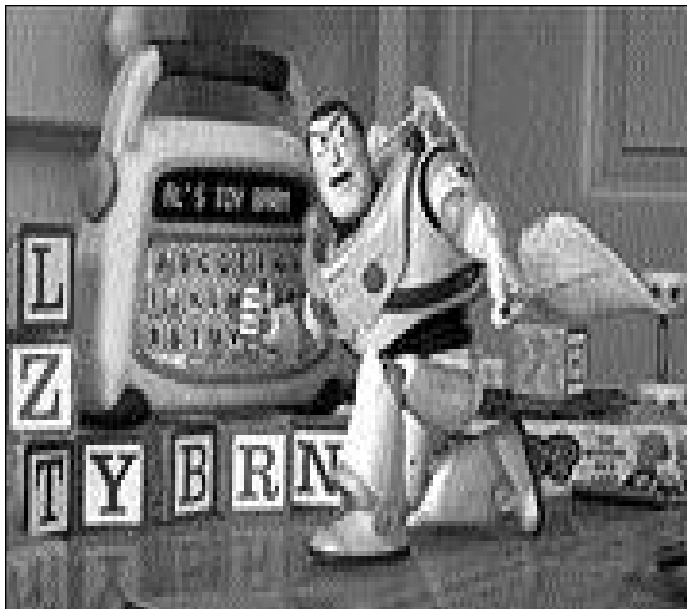
Unmissable *****

Excellent ****

Watchable ***

Below Average **

No Thank You *



Buzz does his superhero thang!

Toy Story *****

John Lasseter, Ash Brandon

starring The voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Kelsey Grammer

From the makers of "Toy Story" (obviously enough!!!) and "A Bug's Life" comes Toy Story 2.

As someone who had seen neither of the aforementioned and who is no great fan of newer animated features I was going to be a tough audience, but not for long.

Its got those rare qualities you dont normally get in sequels
1.It's worth watching

2.You dont have to have seen the original to watch it.

Buzz Lightyear and Co. drag you into their animated world and you do start to think in terms of this all being quite real. The story is simple (it's a cartoon, its supposed to be).

Basically, Woody is stolen by an evil toy salesman who intends to sell him on to a toy collector in Japan and the film follows the exploits of Woody's friends, primarily Buzz Lightyear, and their dramatic rescue mission. Its got all the characters from the original plus a few new heads thrown in watch out for Stinky Pete (Kelsey Grammer) and Jesse the Cowgirl (Joan Cusack) who turn up as Woody's new friends

The film is one that drags you into its world and there are moments where you really do feel for characters(I know theyre animated, I'm not losing it !!!). But its the one liners and the humor that really win you over. The spoof scenes include a classic moment from Jurassic Park and a great piss take on Star Wars and prepare yourself for the real "Die Hard" all action scene at the death.

It's a cracking movie and fun for everybody, its a disgrace that it didn't pick up more Oscars, when you see some of the bland pieces of celluloid that make it through the studio nets when a film with real personality breaks through you like to see it do well.

KP

American Beauty *****

directed by Sam Mendes

starring Kevin Spacey, Annette Benning, Thora Birch, Wes Bentley

Chances are you've read too much about American Beauty already. More than likely, you don't need to see another rave about this year's shoo-in for the Best Picture Oscar. But hey, like the incredibly effective poster says; look closer.

While critics are as quick to dismiss the current wave of challenging, intelligent and idiosyncratic Hollywood movies - you're about to see Three Kings and Being John Malkovich, to name but two - as a fad as transient as volcano flicks, a basic fact remains. There's a lot of really good movies floating around at the moment. Some of whom, twenty years from now, will be remembered as classics. Some of them, like this one, already are.

All the more intriguing seeing as it's the first low(ish)-budget, non high-concept flick produced by Dreamworks (and yes, I'm including Saving Private Ryan). American Beauty is indeed extraordinary with Brit theatre director Mendes making an impossibly fluid and powerful debut, considerably aided by sitcom writer Alan Ball's consistently intriguing script - this isn't a comedy, but it's a really funny movie - and the unmistakable camera stylings of vet lenser Conrad Hall. But this



Kevin Spacey and Annette Benning share an intimate (?) moment

is an actors' movie, and it's a credit to a flawless ensemble that no-one's overshadowed by Spacey's career-best turn. Particular respect goes out to the sorely under-appreciated Chris Cooper, as a discipline-obsessed military man, astonishing work from a great screen actor. But this is King Kev's movie, from beginning to transcendental end, make no mistake.

I haven't told you what the film's about but I won't bother because synopsis won't do it justice. You've probably heard already. Your attendance - which is ordered, as opposed to suggested - will fill in the blanks. I don't know if this is the suburban masterpiece folk have already claimed but it feels close enough to one not to disagree too strongly. A great one; look closer indeed.

Derek O'Connor

c/o www.muse.ie

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members of picturehouse + the blew with a Heineken rep. and DJ Mark McCabe at the launch of the Rollercoaster Tour.

Take a Ride on the Rollercoaster

but you better be fast, 'cause it's on in Dolan's tonight. Picturehouse, The Blew and The Revenants make up the bill, with DJ Mark McCabe providing the after band show
Tom Finneran was at the launch

If you only see two things this year make sure The Heineken Rollercoaster Tour is one of them.

If you get a chance to see another, then I thoroughly recommend that automatic paper dispenser in the new bar, truly a remarkable piece of modern engineering but that's another story.

This is a tour with a difference. Absent is the mediocre musical line-up with an audience appeal ranging from your Granny to her best friend. The Rollercoaster tour is a chance for students to see the best in up and coming bands that Ireland has to offer.

Over its 7-year existence the tour has presented bands like Revelino, Watercress and of course UL favourites The Frames. Certainly, a journey of sheer musical delight that could only establish the tour as the most eagerly anticipated and most exciting event in every student's calendar.

In its continuing refusal to be

swayed by popular musical trends, Heineken once again present a masterful line-up. Speaking at the launch of the tour earlier this month, Dave Fanning, who has presided over almost all of the previous tours and returns again for the seventh, said he felt this year had the "best line up ever".

So who can we expect to see? Headlining the event are Picturehouse who are no strangers to Limerick. After one of the most popular of all the college gigs last semester, Picturehouse need no introduction. However, with a new album due out this summer and a foundation of albums like Shine-box, we can expect truly respectable pop music with a stage performance full of the passion and enjoyment that is so often missing from busy, somewhat disillusioned, bands.

Blew have been described as one of Ireland's most welcome and fresh sounding bands over the past decade. Formed in 1997 the band has already

been nominated for the Phil Lynott "Best New Band Award" at last year's Heineken Hot Press Rock Awards. They have also supported veteran Joe Strummer as well as the brilliant Charlatans among their recent performances. Many of you will remember them a few weeks ago playing on Saturday Night Live (I know, you would have been conquering the city but you felt a bit sick that night and that's why you were at home). Playing at the launch of the tour, Blew sounded sparkling. With songs that are pleasurable to listen to but not lacking the harder edge that gives them their distinctiveness, this band aren't afraid. Expect to hear the happy melody of a summer's day behind the determined lyrics of this confident and memorable band. That's all I can say.

"My favourite band" is the simple description the tour's MC gave to the Revenants. Formed in 1991 their albums "September Nowonder" and "Horse of a Different Colour" have been welcomed

with consistently good reviews, as have their energetic live performances. They're no strangers to the radio thanks to Mr Fanning's appetite for this powerful and outstanding band.

DJ Mark McCabe completes the line-up providing the perfect overture to what promises to be the perfect night. Already gracing Irish dance floors as well as the Irish Charts with "Maniac 2000", Mark is guaranteed to shake this rollercoaster with ballistic bass and simply delicious dance sounds.

So prepare for this Rollercoaster of musical discovery. Dolans Warehouse (yes, the same people who brought you the new bar and that masterful appliance of paper dispensary) host the Limerick stopover.

There is no reason in the world to miss such a line-up. Tickets will be available from the usual places in the college but are limited, so try and secure one as soon as possible.

The Skinny on the Acts.....

PICTURE HOUSE

Headlining this year's Rollercoaster Tour are the very popular young Irish band – Picture House, made popular by the energetic performances and strong tunes. Their 2nd album, 'Karmarama', was particularly successful and reached number 5 in the Irish charts in late '98.

Since their debut album, 'Shine Box' in 1996, Picture House's reputation and following have grown steadily. They have just completed a tour in the UK and are ready and keyed up to head out round Ireland on the Heineken 2000 Rollercoaster Tour. The Rollercoaster Tour is providing them with a great opportunity to entertain students around the country. They are hotly tipped to be the next big thing out of Ireland of the new millennium.

The four-piece band consists of Dave Browne, vocals & guitar, Geoff Woods, keyboards, Aonghus Raiston, bass and John Boyle on drums.

Their music is described by Hot Press as 'seriously good pop music, swathed in a semi-psychedelic swirl of instrumentation, the usual hummable choruses are in place but there's also a strong thread of social issues and topics weaved through the lyrics'.

Picture House have so far this year played 42 arena shows as special guests to The Corrs and Meat Loaf, which lead to the tongue-in-cheek tour groan of 'not Wembley again'. In between they have had their own hugely successful sell out shows in venues throughout the country. Live the band consider themselves to be entertainers above musicians or artists.

BLEW

Ireland's latest up and coming indie pop band, Blew is a major focus on the Heineken 2000 Rollercoaster Tour. Formed in 1997, Blew released two singles in 1999 and they performed their first professional gig in Temple Bar Music Centre in February 1999.

Blew are very excited about the Heineken Rollercoaster Tour and having this unique opportunity to play live to 12,000 students over a 6 week period.

Dynamic and inspiring on stage, Blew have played live supporting Joe Strummer and The Charlatans at the Olympia Theatre Dublin and 'Idewild' in Nancy Spains, Cork and James in Dublin. They are no strangers to performing at student gigs having played at the UCD Freshers Ball and also Trinity College Freshers Week.

Blew was nominated for the Phil Lynott 'Best New Band Award' at last year's Heineken Hot Press Rock Awards.

Blew are releasing their third single during the Heineken Rollercoaster Tour.

THE REVENANTS

Described by Dave Fanning as his favorite band, The Revenants are guaranteed to be an enormous success on the 2000 Heineken Rollercoaster Tour. Originally formed in 1991, they have had two critically acclaimed albums – 'September Nowonder' and 'Horse of a Different Colour'.

Met with consistently good reviews, The Revenants are popular for their live energetic performances and albums. Both reflect the band's notion that if you wrap it up in a half decent tune, you can sign about almost anything.

The Revenants have been noticeably enjoying themselves on stage recently and are particularly looking forward to The Rollercoaster Tour which promises to provide them with enthusiastic student audiences to match their own outstanding performance.

So now is a top time to catch them live on the Heineken Rollercoaster Tour.... If you like guitars, that is.

Last issue we gave 'em a page pre-viewing their gig in the Point, 'cause we reckoned it'd be a great night, and ye should all go. we were right.

Orbital Point us in the right direction

In case you missed it, Deaglan takes you through it step by step

Just over ten years ago, music was a very different animal than it is today. Names like Yazz and Wham, Belinda Carlisle and Bon Jovi were the order of the day. Such things as computers, samplers and synths were unheard of in the main-stream. A little over ten years ago, brothers Phil and Paul Harnoll joined up to form a group called Orbital, and released their first offering, Chime.

Just over ten years ago these same two brothers appeared on TOTP, to perform said track, which had risen from out of nowhere to the dizzy heights of Top 30 status. The most note-worthy thing of this performance was the subsequent banning of Orbital from ever appearing live on TOTP again, because of them wearing T-shirts sporting a "No to Poll Tax" slogan. The most note-worthy thing of said episode was that dance music had broken into the hallowed territory of popular music.

Just over one month ago, Orbital played the much coveted "Midnight Slot" on New Year's Eve at Cream Liverpool's massive Millenium bash, in front of a 30,000 strong crowd. And as Big Ben chimed at the anointed hour, Orbital fired up their old MMT-8s and heralded in the new Millenium with, the by now cult, Chime.

Two days prior to all this madness, the brothers graced our nations capital with their presence, and gave a live performance that had to be seen to be believed. The event in question was Cream 2000, the venue, Dublin's Point Theatre, and apart from Orbital the line-up included a Basement Jaxx DJ set, as well as Roger Sanchez Djing, among oth-

ers.

Arriving fashionably late (natch!), our party caught the greater part of the Basement Jaxx set, which seemed to go down well with the crowd. DJ sets are a strange beast at best, and usually give little indicator of the full-on performance, but that said, those who weren't queuing for one thing or another (bar, food, drinks, toilets, etc.) were happily dancing away, jittery with anticipation.

This nervousness became impatience as the appointed hour approached, and you could feel only sympathy for Basement Jaxx, as they left the stage to applause and cheers, only for the sound to triple as their equipment was moved to one side, and the Orbital Rig brought forward.

After a gap that seemed to stretch on eternally, two sets of those infamous torch-spectacles could be seen approaching the stage-front, and indeed the brothers took up station to delirious screams and rapturous applause. With a brief "thank you, hello" from Phil, Orbital got straight down to business.

The set list differed little from previous visits this year (Way Out ->, Spare Parts Express, Impact (The Earth is Burning), Know Where To Run, An Fomhair, Halcyon + on + on..., I Don't Know You People, The Box, Nothing Left, Style, Satan, Open Mind, Dr. Who Theme, Chime), including almost everything from their latest long-player, The Middle of Nowhere, and some of the older favourites. But really what set this performance apart from others was the delivery.

And here's the crux of the argument, the heart of the matter, and the reason that I'm writing and you're reading. Orbital were one of the pioneers of the idea of "live" electronic music, and after a decade of development, this has



the hartnoll's sent us home raving

become something unparalleled in contemporary music.

Orbital have always been very coy about the meanings of their music, so much so that they refuse to include any photos on inlay cards, preferring the listener to put their own interpretation on the pieces. And when the brothers play their music live, for this reason and others, the connection with the crowd is phenomenal. The experience is both very personal and entirely communal. The surge of emotion through your body as you see 7499 other revellers smiling and dancing for the exact same reasons you are is impossible to describe. And above it all, controlling the madness, the brothers stand at the helm, both feeding and reacting to the vibe. Live music, ladies and gentlemen, never felt quite like this.

From the massive, booming intro of Way Out -> through S.P.E., Impact, and Know Where To Run, Orbital showed how best kicking bass-lines can be employed. Deep within the pits of your stomach, the rhythms take control, and you embark on a wonderful musical journey which visits many different arenas. From the primal beats and rhythms of the opening four tracks, to the dreamy delirious heights of Halcyon, to the downright vicious I Don't Know You People, to the simply breadth-taking The Box, to the sublime Style, from the enticing (Kirk Hammet enhanced) Satan, thru to the hedonistic Dr. Who cover, and the legendary Chime, the depth and range of emotions is astounding. It's music Jim, but not as we know it!

Visually Orbital also conjure up a treat. Images of everything from a 20-metre high slot machine, to clocks spiralling out of recognition, interlaced with German dive-bombers, pit-bull terriers and sofas

(!) add to the measured madness.

The overriding impression throughout this performance, and indeed, for a long time afterwards, is astonishment. Astonishment at the fact that what seemed pretty damn special when you hear it on CD has come alive in front of you, transformed into a raw pulsating experience, which words can do little to communicate or justify. It's not just the sound, nor the visuals, nor the delusionally happy "punters" all around you, nor the fact that the brothers seem to be enjoying it as much, if not more so, than everyone else. It's, if one can attempt to single out one factor, that you are awe-struck by the fact that all this is unfolding in front of you, around you, and within you. But even that statement has its shortcomings.

It's very near impossible to describe how you fell when everything stops and Orbital pump a sample of Bon Jovi through the speakers at full blast, and then introduce Belinda Carlisle ("Oooooohh, baby, do you know what that's worth?.....") across this, both backwards and forwards. Somehow, it fits. In the craziness of the whole thing, to suddenly have something like this thrown at you, there's nothing you can do but sit back and enjoy it. As does everyone around you. And maybe this is a better example of the essence of the whole experience. It's got little to do with bad eighties pop, and more to do with the look on peoples faces, and their reactions. It's not the music, nor the lights, or the imagery, but the people, the human reaction that makes it so unforgettable and special. For two hours, Orbital show you a place few knew existed, and fewer will be lucky enough to ever visit.



Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

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

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

UL's Rosie Ryan on World Cross-Country Team Again

Last weekend, Rosie Ryan was selected for the World Cross-Country Championships to be held in Portugal in March after narrowly being pipped at the finish line by Anne Keenan-Buckley, to come 2nd in the National Cross-Country Championships. Once again, this establishes Ryan as one of Ireland's top female distance runners.

(interview courtesy of irishrunner.com)

Last year, Ryan led the Irish team home with a 38th place finish in the World 8k Cross-Countries in Belfast, but unfortunately picked up a niggling injury which hindered her training for the rest of the season.

However, she returned to form this year to win a string of titles, including the BLE National _ Marathon title, AAI National Inter-County Cross-Country, Birmingham Cross Challenge and Tullamore 2 miles.

With these excellent performances, Rosie was selected as captain of the Irish team in the European Cross-Country Championships in Slovenia in December. Although disappointed with her run, she ran an excellent 17th position in a highly contested race. She narrowly missed out on an Irish Sports Grant (£7000) by a mere one place!

This is Rosie's first year home, after a 3 year scholarship programme at Boston University, where in her senior year she was two-time All-American in the National Cross-Country and Track Championships.

Back in Limerick Ryan is combining her hectic training schedule with her studies here in UL and a part-time job. Her old coach Mike Thompson is once again coaching her, along with excellent sports science input from the NCTC.

Ryan is hoping to run the Olympic qualifying times for both the 5k and 10k this summer to secure a place on the Irish Olympic team. With many more races to come before this, we are sure we will hear a lot more about Rosemary Ryan

Irish Runner.com: 1999 was a great year for you in that you made a successful leap into international standard athletics. Looking back on 1999 what were the highs and lows of the year?

Rosemary Ryan: Yeah, things worked out

well in 1999. It started off with a win in an indoor 5000m in Boston in 15:55, which was the leading time in the world in January. This gave me a good confidence boost for the World 8K CC in Belfast where I finished first Irish girl in 38th position. Unfortunately I picked up a niggling injury after that which restricted my track programme, but I came back at the end of the summer with a few good performances on the roads (1st BLE Half Marathon, 3rd in Loughrea 5 miles behind Sonia O'Sullivan's world best, 1st in Tullamore 2 miles). I had a few good CC races winning a Cross Challenge race in Birmingham and also taking the AAI Inter-Counties. My final race of 1999 was 17th in the European CC in the Slovenian mud.

IR.com: Going into the European Cross-Country Championships in Slovenia as captain of the Irish team, many commentators were suggesting that you could be an outside candidate for a medal. Were you confident of a high placing going into the event and how do you feel you learnt from that race?

RR: Considering my form going into the race I was disappointed with the result. I aimed for a top 16 finish but felt that I could place in the top 10. It was a good experience and 17th wasn't a total disaster. However finishing in the top 16 would have helped to get me a Sports Grant (£7000) which would have been very useful for physio, warm-weather training, travel etc.

IR.com: Are you currently receiving any funding/sponsorship?

RR: My 38th place at the World CC was just six places outside the Sports Grant criteria, while one place higher in the Europeans would have been good enough. Hopefully I will get inside the criteria in the next Championship but it is not something, which I dwell on. My club Bilboa A.C. have been very good to me giving me financial support, while the NCTC

(National Coaching & Training Centre) are also very helpful. I am currently negotiating a shoe contract and hope to have that sorted out very soon.

IR.com: You spent 3 years living as a scholarship athlete in Boston University. Did you enjoy the experience and would you recommend the US Scholarship system to other Irish athletes?

RR: I was studying sports science at UL (University of Limerick) when Bruce Lehane, the Head Coach at Boston University contacted me. I nearly didn't go, it seemed like taking a big chance. But he convinced me that it would improve my running and it definitely did. The college system allows you to arrange your classes around your training schedule. Scholarship athletes have first choice in class registration, so I had classes mostly in the morning and training in the afternoon. The best thing about competing for a college in the US is that the seasons are short with lots of top quality races. If you make it to Nationals you get to race the best in the country and that brings you on so much. Bruce has a great approach and developed my training and racing to suit me rather than over-racing. In my Senior year I went to Nationals for cross country and Outdoor track and made All-American both times. Then I stayed on for a year and worked at a Health club in Boston so that I could race on the road. Bruce prepared me for World Cross-Country and helped me to improve even more in the year after I graduated. I'd recommend BU and many of the colleges in the US because you learn so much from racing hard and seeing the very professional approach Americans take.

IR.com: Is it a big change to be back living in Ireland?

RR: I enjoyed my time in the US, having said that, I am happy to be back in Limerick. Mike Thompson, who coached me at Junior and Juvenile level, is coaching me again and helping me to continue

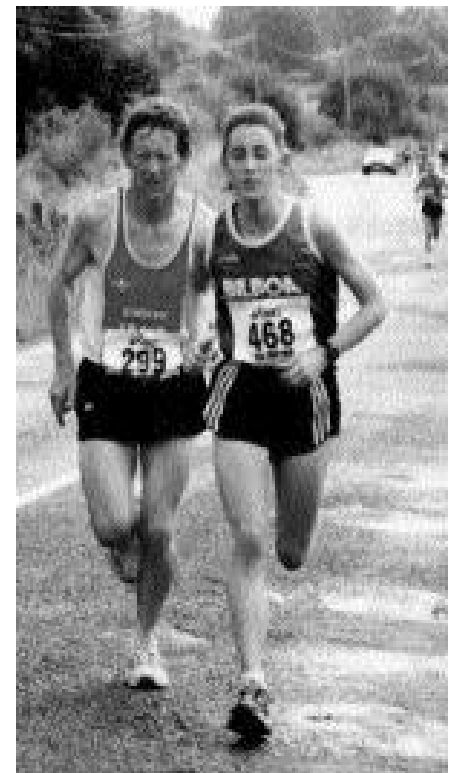


photo courtesy of ricky simms

improving. I am also getting good sports science and medical back up from Giles Warrington in the NCTC.

IR.com: It must be difficult to combine your studies with a part-time job and full time athletics. Have you ambitions of becoming a full-time athlete in the years ahead?

RR: I think that it does no harm to have something else in your life. I feel that I can balance running and studying. It becomes more difficult when you have to get a job. At the moment it is important that I can get enough rest between hard workouts. That is something I need to work on! It would be nice to be able to go off to train in Australia or Florida for a few months. I think that would help a lot.

IR.com: What are your plans and goals for the 2000 season?

RR: I would like to run the Olympic qualifying time for both the 5K and 10K. That is what everything is focused towards at the moment. I have other medium term goals, which hopefully I can attain along the way. I am racing in Durham and Portugal before the World CC. I am looking forward to the summer where hopefully things will fall into place. They say Sydney is nice in September!

Postgrads - "Famous for their Balls"

It's that time of year again, this year's Annual Postgrad Charity Ball is to be held on March 3rd. 2000. The Postgrad Ball is famous for not ending when one expects it to end, Brian Kelleher Postgrad PRO was saying nothing when asked about 'extras' - but was displaying his usual silly grin.

The Charities this year are Milford Hospice and St. Vincent de Paul (Limerick). The target charity fund is in four figures.

The extravaganza, which last year was renowned for the scandalous behavior of certain well-known members of the Postgraduate Community, is this year taking place in the Castle Oaks House Hotel in Castleconnell, Co Limerick; the schedule is outlined below.

Schedule

- * 5.00 pm: The Stables, with the usual complementary drinks, thanks to Guinness, Ireland.
- * 6.00 pm: Buses depart for Castle Oaks House Hotel.
- * 6.30 pm: Punch reception on arriva
- * 7.00 pm: Secret judging of best dressed Lady and Gentleman !!!!
- * 8.00 pm: Dinner
- * 9.30 pm: Guest Speaker (noted Journalist!)
- * 10.00 pm: Announcement of best dressed Lady and Gentleman winners
- * 10.05 pm: "The Alvin Purple Experience"
- * Midnight: "DJ Cian" (just back from Ibiza, Cobh or somewhere)
- * 2.00 am departure from Castle Oaks - the rest is a mystery.....

Ticket entrance only.....Strictly no afters tickets.....Black tie only.

The fun continues on Saturday with concession prices into a city club. Tickets are priced at £22 all inclusive are available Mon-Thurs 2.00-4.00 and Friday 10.00-1.00 from the Postgraduate Students' Association Office in the Student Centre.

Introducing The OMEGA Maths and Stats Soc. Blind Date

The Maths and Stats Society will be holding a Blind Date in the Stables Courtyard in week five, as part of SoULweek. Any romantics looking for true love, or anyone looking for a bit of fun, please fill in this form and return it to the Maths and Stats Department office D2034 by Wednesday week four. Who knows you may even score with some lucky prize.

Name: _____
 Age: _____
 Sex: _____
 Course and Year: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 E-Mail: _____

Please give three examples of questions you would ask in order to choose your Blind Date.

Q1: _____

Q2: _____

Q3: _____

Additional Information: _____

Omega E-Mail omega@csn.ul.ie

Con Colbert Cumann UL Fianna Fáil

Our meetings this semester will take place on Mondays at 6pm in C1059.

The Con Colbert Cumann is always delighted to accept new members. Our aim is to encourage young people who are interested in politics, current affairs or just having a good time to become involved in politics and to join da party. Visit the Con Colbert Cumann web page at <http://fian-fail.csn.ul.ie>

The Fianna Fáil Ard Fhéis will be held in The RDS (Dublin) on the 3rd and 4th of March. This is at the end of week 3. There are only fifteen places available, and are on first come first served basis, it promises to be a great weekend. Anyone interested in going should let Aidan O'Gorman or Alan Ryder know ASAP. Alternatively e-mail ffail@skynet.csn.ul.ie



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Three wins from four for UL Badminton Club in Limerick County League and Haynes Cup.

UL V's Effin

The third and final league match in the Limerick league before the new millennium took place on the 14th of December in Effin.

The UL squad sponsored by the Bank of Ireland, the Stables and O'Mahonys Bookshop welcomed back Anne-Marie Reid for her first game of the season. Her experience and skill proved invaluable as UL scraped in to win by the narrowest of margins. This was a very valuable victory as Effin, as expected gave us a very tough match and the 4-3 score line reflected the closeness of the games. As per usual UL started at -5, while Effin enjoyed a +1 head start.

The first game of the night was the ladies singles. Anne-Marie Reid won in two sets by the score line of 11-4 & 11-2. This score-line was not a reflection on the remainder of the matches to come as UL barely scraped through. The men's singles game was a very close affair but thankfully Shane O'Sullivan kept his 100% record in singles intact by winning 15-14 & 15-12. The low roof made both of the singles matches very difficult to play as high serves and clears were impossible, however the roof effected both UL and Effin evenly, and it made both games frustrating to watch and play in.

The next set of games were the doubles, the women's doubles saw Effin record their first victory of the night. Mary Brosnan and Mascha Hoeks were beaten comprehensively on the score line 15- (-1) & 15- (-4). This score line reflects the dominance of the Effin women as the UL girls failed to even register positive points.

UL got the boost needed in the next match when Eric & Alan Nelligan overcame their opponents in an exciting game. With Patrick O'Donovan of Effin playing some very good Badminton it was a relief when UL won 15-14, 7-15 & 15-6. The very next game saw Eric Nelligan and Patrick O'Donovan face each other again in the 1st mixed doubles. UL won a very close first set 15-13, Anne-Marie Reid played very well in this game and she was the difference between the two couples. The second set saw Effin equalise on the score line of 10-15. A major improvement was needed for the third set and thankfully it was got as the UL pair went on to win the final set 15-10.

This left the score line 4-1 in favour of UL going into the last two mixed doubles. However the final two UL pairings failed to take advantage of the situation and they were well beaten in both matches. Some improvements will be needed before the Intervarsities, Haynes Cup and remaining league matches. Even though UL won 4-3 overall, we were well beaten in the three games we lost and we just about won 3 of the 4 games we won, so one could say we were lucky not to lose 6-1!!!

UL V's Dromin

This match took place on the 10th of January in Dromin near Kilmallock and unfortunately UL's three match winning run came to an end. The team suffered from the withdrawals of Anne Marie Reid and John Doyle on the day of the match due food poisoning and FYP assessment respectively. However the squad set off for the game confident of victory. The team consisted of Mascha Hoeks, Darina Doyle, Karen Kennelly, Eric Nelligan, Shane O'Sullivan and Alan Nelligan.

UL had the worst possible start as they lost both singles, Mascha and Shane both played well but they were beaten by two very skillful opponents. The players now realised that an improvement was needed and both double pairings responded excellently. The fight back began with Karen Kennelly and Darina Doyle comprehensively beating their opponents, this was truly a great victory as it was Darina's first match on the season as she had just returned from Teaching Practice. Eric & Alan Nelligan went on to win their match to level the scores at 2-2 going into the three mixed doubles. Dromin went back in front again as Pauline Kirby & Chris O'Doherthy beat the UL pairing of Mascha & Eric Nelligan. The game was leveled for the final time as Karen & Alan had a wonderful win in the 2nd mixed as they powered home to win 15-3 & 15-7. The result now rested on the final mixed match, despite a great effort Darina & Shane lost 15-10 & 15-14.

This result now left UL on joint top position of the league table half way through the season, UL occupies this position with Dromin and Effin as they have all won three and lost one.

UL V's Hillview

Against all the odds UL emerged victorious from a very difficult game against the 1996 Haynes Cup Champions Hillview of Clonmel on the 27th of January in front of a large attendance. To be honest this victory is a great credit to the team who travelled to Clonmel without the services of three girls who had to withdraw due to various reasons. Due to these withdrawals UL had to play one player short which resulted in UL automatically losing two games (2nd women's doubles & 4th mixed). The remaining team players however produced a marvellous performance to beat Hillview on the scoreline of 5-3. The star of the UL team on the night was John Doyle who was welcomed back after returning from Teaching Practice.

The first match of the night was the 1st men's doubles, the UL pair of Eric & Alan Nelligan were beaten in a close match on the scoreline of 15-13 & 15-10, this result meant that UL had to win all the remaining games to win overall and they didn't disappoint. The fightback began when Darina Doyle & Karen Kennelly won a very difficult three setter against Catriona O'Brien & Fiona Walsh who have both played senior Badminton for Tipp. This result gave the remainder of the team the boost needed, John Doyle & Shane O'Sullivan continued where the girls left off to win another exciting three setter on the scoreline of 15-14, 13-15 & 15-10. The three mixed were also very close affairs; the Kerry pairing of Eric Nelligan & Karen Kennelly tied the number of matches at 3-3 with a 15-13 & 15-12 win in the 1st mixed. UL took the lead for the first time when John & Darina Doyle (no relation) won the 2nd mixed in two sets 15-14 & 15-5.

Because of the nature of the Haynes cup, it is possible for a team to draw 4-4, if this occurs the winning team will then be decided on the number of sets won and lost, with this in mind the UL pairing of Alan Nelligan & Mary Brosnan knew that they had to win the final game as a draw would not be enough for UL to progress to the next round. Despite losing the first set 15-9, the UL pair won a thrilling encounter in the final two sets to give UL a very hard-earned victory. Amongst the local attendance were a number of UL students home during the mid-term break whose sup-

port was most welcome.

UL V's Moylish

UL got back to winning ways in the Limerick League with a 6-1 victory against Moylish. UL played this match with nearly the strongest possible squad available, only Alan Nelligan was unable to play, the squad consisted of; AnneMarie Reid, Darina Doyle, Karen Kennelly, Mary Brosnan, Eric Nelligan, John Doyle & Shane O'Sullivan. After losing the last league match to Dromin, UL needed a good response to keep in contention for a place in the league final, and a good all round team performance was got.

UL began with two wins in the singles; AnneMarie and Shane both overcame their opponents. Moylish got back into the match with a win in the ladies doubles, Darina & Karen tried their best but were beaten by a strong opposing pairing. However that was as good as it got for Moylish as UL won the final four remaining matches. Eric & John won a close men's doubles, while the 1st and 2nd mixed were also close affairs. A special mention must go to Mary Brosnan who has excelled immensely as a mixed player over the past few matches. Despite it being her first year playing for UL, she served so well that many of the senior club players should take example, it was mainly due to this serving and all round play that herself and Shane won the 3rd mixed 15-1 & 15-3.

If anybody is interested in supporting the UL Badminton team, the club has a number of home games in the coming weeks in the UL Sports Hall:

UL V's Effin, Tuesday 26th Feb. (Week 3) @ 7.30 pm ULV's Carrigtowhill, Thursday 2nd of March (Week 3) @ 8.30 pm (not week 2 as advertised on posters)

Intermediate Members

We would like to inform club members that a new competition will be taking place in semester two. This competition will be open to club members who have not played on the senior team this year. The competition will begin on week 4 of semester 2 and it will be played over a number of weeks on the Tuesday evening training session. The 10 strongest men & women intermediate members will play in two round robin style competitions. The competitions will consist of a men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles round robin series. The selection process will take place over the first three weeks in semester two. You can enter with a partner or if you don't have a partner one will be located for you. If you would like to enter in the competition leave your name on the sign in sheet on the Badminton notice board in the canteen, e-mail Ronan Walsh (9932852@student.ul.ie), or inform one of the club officers at any of the training nights in the sports hall. The closing date for entries is Wednesday the 1st of March (week 3); anybody wishing to playing in the competition is asked to attend a special meeting at 8.15 after the Wednesday evening training session on the 1st of March.

UL Kayak Club Do Wales. (so to speak)

Seeing ever more thrills and spills, a group of 15 ULKC paddlers decided on a trip to Wales as a way to shorten our tiny lives.

The one thing you need most for kayaking is rain therefore the only thing left to chance was the weather. The first & only hitch in this trip was that we had no rain in Ireland for the 2 weeks prior to departing so, from a kayakers point of view, Ireland was like a desert.

The only thing we could rely on was Dam releases from the various hydroelectric power stations around Wales, which release on average every 2 days. We went in search of every dam release on our quest for even more thrills than there are possible here in Ireland. A short outline of each day's activities is given below.

Day 1: Monday 24th January 2000.

Our first stop for some kayaking was at the Sluice weir in Dublin at 1pm where Jimmy, Deccie & Mick Fallon all went paddling but the others were all too lazy & tired.

We stayed there for 2 hours where our first demonstration of various rescue techniques took place (i.e. watching someone almost swim-Mick), and then departed for Dublin Port & the Swift Ferry which departed at 6pm.

Day 2: Tuesday 25th January 2000.

As the Vyrnwy River works on a dam release we headed over the peak of a massive mountain and eventually arrived at Lake Vyrnwy Dam one hour later. We were greeted very graciously by Mr. Dave Pockter, access officer for the river. He gave us details on what to look out for on the river and wished us well on our trip.

We commenced paddling the Afon Vyrnwy (as they say in Welsh) at 2pm and finished at Pont Logel at 5pm. The river was a classic Grade 2 with 1 section of Grade 3, which was suitable for our entire group. This last section proved difficult for some so we decided to begin a "swimmer" list: see below. We continued to Pont Logel where a warm, dry bus awaited us.

Day 3: Wednesday 26th January 2000.

We arrived at the Slalom Course in Llanagollen at 2pm. This river was Grade 2 with numerous play spots. In high water the weirs have the capability of holding you upside-down involuntarily for hours (the best way to die). This river was ideal for practicing all stroke techniques as most of us realized that it is not that easy to go through a gate without touching it. The cost was £4 per day, which includes warm (yes-warm) showers.

Day 4: Thursday 27th January 2000.

Water levels were very low, no dam was releasing & everybody was a bit tired, so we decided to go hill walking.

Day 5: Friday 28th January 2000.

It started raining at 8am for the first time in almost 3 weeks. It is a fact that if it rains in Wales for 1 full night every river will be up for at least 2 days. Our first stop off was at Swallow Falls, (WOW, a 50ft+ waterfall), do-able but just for a photo shoot. After contacting Chris Steele, access officer for the Rivers Llugly & Conway, he convinced us that the river Llugly was up enough for a paddle. Some of us got on the river at 3pm approx. as those that didn't, had contacted a terrible 24 hour bug & prevented them from paddling.



mick takes on the rocks and the rapids

River Llugly:

River was Grade 2 for 1st Mile then it went up to grade 3 (One drop on river right where it would be quite difficult to stay upright. It was here that the group leaders had to make the choice that enough was enough for some paddlers in the group. The next drop was Grade IV [V in very high water] (Cobdens Falls). Mick Fallon, Jimmy, Deccie & Cathal all overcame this drop successfully (twice). All 4 paddlers continued to Pont Cyfng, a horrendous series of waterfalls. In low water it is quite doable so we got out and set up rescue & cameras with the aid of the rest of our group. It took 50 mins. in all, to complete the first 2 drops successfully, With no swimmers I may add.

We did not do the 3rd drop, as we all would have died (Grade 6) as people have before. For even more detail on river contact the paddlers for their own different descriptions. (fear, etc.).

Day 6: Saturday 29th January 2000.

We all got up at 7am after an early night. First thing up was the Aberglasslyn George a classic grade 4 trip with alpine similarities. It needs plenty of rain for a paddle and we certainly got that, as it did not stop for the past 24 hours. Mick Mc, Jimmy, Deccie, Mick Fallon, & Donie, all survived very well despite numerous rolls along the way. From the road, this trip looked easy but

it proved to be a different story as the volume & speed is something that you cannot prepare for here in Ireland (see attached pic.). Next up was the river Conwy @ 2pm from Yatsby Ifan to A4 Road Bridge. We finished here as it was in large flood and proved too difficult for Hugh & Eamonn Coyle (1 swim). We decided not to let the others on for the next section so we decided to go and do another river.

Next we went to the river Llugly. We started from below Pont Cyfng and went to Ugly House where our final river for this trip finished. This was a perfect grade II trip with one Grade III bit. This was a portage for most people as a swim is guaranteed if you cannot roll. A great river to finish an excellent weeks paddling.

Day 7: Sunday 30th January 2000.

All got up at 10am after a late night out in Wrexham. No names can be mentioned but lets say some Welsh women will never be the same again. We all arrived for ferry in Holyhead at 2:30pm & arrived back in Dublin at 7:30pm. We lost Donie & Jeannine!! in Dublin & we arrived home in Limerick @ 11pm. We all then headed to Docs for one last night out before departing each other at the end of an excellent holiday (As some of us had amnesia after the night it was rumored that large amounts of scandal were created). For more info on the night check out "Crunchy Bits" on our web page <http://kayak.csn.ul.ie>

Swimmers:

Day 2:

Eamonn Coyle @ beginning.

Helen Beswick	Grade 3 rapid.
Jeannine O'Kane	Grade 3 rapid & otherssss!!!.
Paul Garrahy	Grade 3 rapid & other!!!.
Hugh McGauran	Grade 3 rapid.

Day 5:

Helen (just fell over).

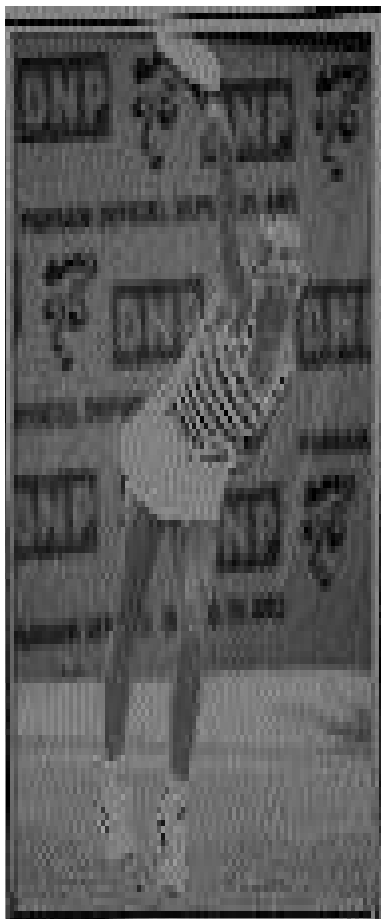
Edel ("Trees are not your friends")

Total for the trip 6 people, 14 swims. Are you ready to beat that John Kelly.

Deccie Bourke



the kayak team huddle together



Unfortunately Anna did not take part

UL Tennis Teams Get Smashed at Inter-Varsities

This year's Tennis Intervarsities in Cork proved to be a disappointment for the UL teams involved.

At the time of writing it is only Friday afternoon and already the UL teams are no longer involved in any of the on court competition. The tournaments will last until Saturday.

The men's team put up a good fight and went out to a very strong Trinity selection. It is fair to say that the format of the competition didn't suit some of the UL players who are more used to playing doubles than singles and it is creditable that the Men's team were undefeated in their doubles matches although missing some of their strongest players. The ladies team was also very much under-strength and the UCD second team progressed to the quarterfinals at their expense.

28 teams contested this years tournament and the off-court activity was hot and heavy with events such

as 'score-till-4' and plenty of free alcohol. This ensured that the UL team lived up to it's own high expectation levels in night-time play.

The tennis club returns to normal activity in the coming weeks with coaching every Wednesday afternoons at 1pm for beginners and 2pm for improvers.

Matches in the Munster Winter Leagues take place every Sunday. In the coming weeks we will be taking on Cashel, Douglas and our arch rivals, Limerick Lawn Tennis Club. The longer evenings will hopefully encourage more people to come out and play. New players are always welcome and any one interested in becoming involved with the club should turn up at 1pm on Wednesday or contact Turlough at 086 8723650 for further details.

Our new club jackets are also available from Turlough at a very reasonable £15 for members.



STEVE THOMAS plus CRISTIAN BOSHELL

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22nd March



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usit NOW, Student Centre, University of Limerick.
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UL Waterpolo Club Robbed Of Silverware When Plate Finals Cancelled In Dublin.

At 11am, Friday the 11th February 2000, UL Waterpolo rounded up at the Stables for the Swimming and Waterpolo Intervarsities being hosted by Maynooth in Guinness Pool, Dublin.

This year we decided to make a real effort and conquer the swimming as well as the Waterpolo. The swimming started at 6PM and most of us represented the college in excellent form with medals taken home by Georgina and the men's relay team.

Then everyone rushed back to change with the promise of free food and drink at Fraser's disco bar and that is where we were to spend the rest of the night getting to know all the other colleges, but some of our members decided to inbreed! Cathy & Mike! Georgina & Peter! And Alan who got to know our adopted swimmer from DCU! We had a few other tag-a-longs/alcoholics from DCU who spent the whole weekend with us. UL just radiated friendliness!!

We all spilled into the hostel at 3am with the news from Pat that the results were out so we lined up in our PJ's and faced the truth. Had all our hours of (social) training affected our

exams? With that out of the way a few cans were cracked open as celebration/consolation and we talked the night away. At 6:30, Eddie, our coach, rang to remind us that we were playing that morning and that he was on his way. Breakfast that morning was a sorry sight. I thought we wouldn't have a player out of the lot of us, but UL always rise from the dead and we proved it in the pool.

The lads were up first tearing into DCU with some great goals from Mike. UL had a large men's squad and took full advantage of that fact, constantly subbing in fresh legs. The match was over before DCU knew what happened to them and the lads proceeded to the next round.

At 10:30 it was the ladies turn, but Trinity were our opponents and we knew there was a very tough battle ahead. UL seemed disillusioned in the first half and what's worse, 4 goals down. The second half saw much better play with tighter marking. Geraldine had some near shots on goal but Trinity relentlessly attacked our goals scoring two more. Eventually Edel scored one for us but it was too little too late. UL ladies were out of the Cup and were to make a bid for the Plate.

The lads had to play Queens (who finished runners-up). Queens overtook UL and used their strength and experience to attack us, scoring from all over the pool, beating UL 11-2. UL put up a brilliant fight and the score didn't reflect the heart UL showed, with an excellent match had by our goalkeeper, Gwen from France.

Half an hour, later the ladies were up again to contest the plate against UCG. With wise words from our coach Eddie we returned to the basics and passed the ball around. We took our time winning the match 3-1. UL were determined and with all our players having a great match, we relaxed and even slept as we waited for the final.

As the time went on the standards of the matches improved and the competition got tougher. The men's team kicked Maynooth's ass with everyone getting a shot on goal. UL swam faster with excellent passing movements to get into the final of the plate. UL looked forward to two sure victories.

At half-three the ladies checked the board to see when they were playing next only to discover the plate couldn't be finished because they had run out of time and the cup finals had to be played before half four. UL contemplated what

could have been and returned to the hostel with a sense of disappointment.

Later that night in the Ormond Hotel UL had a joyous celebration with three members being chosen with the honour of being on the Irish Intervarsities team at the Celtic Nations, a competition held at Easter, this year in Scotland, where Ireland takes on England, Scotland and Wales in Waterpolo and Swimming. Those to receive the achievement were Mike McNieve and Geraldine Thornton for Waterpolo and Georgina Quain for 100metre freestyle. Congratulations lads!

UL partied the night away with only two puckers not showing a whisper of tiredness except for our coach and his fiancée, our favourite supporter. Yet again we piled into one room chatting and doing other things! Adrian & Cait!

While Alan and friends wandered around Dublin getting to know the capital and we only lost one player, Oisín 'Wonder-bra' McGrath. Finally I have to mention our committee member Louise who was drunk AND behaved herself. Overall a great weekend was had by all and we vouched to return next year.

UL Out Of The Sigerson In The Early Stages

UL Gaelic Footballers bowed out of this year's Sigerson Cup to GMIT at Plassey on Wednesday, February 9th last.

GMIT seemed to adapt much better in the second half to playing in to the teeth of a near gale and once Dermot Earley upped his game for the winners, there was no way back for UL.

Mick Fitz with 6 points, 3 from frees; Aodan Mac Gearailt, Kevin Malone and Brian Ruane, one each, contributed to UL's scoring, which on the day did not prove to be enough, losing on a scoreline of 12 points to 9.

GMIT led at half time by 6 points to 5, and besides Earley, had good performers in Joe Bergin, John O'Brien and Paul Barden.

ULGFC are indeed most grateful for the generous sponsorship of Beamish & Crawford PLC, for the bags, shirts and jackets that are being modelled presently around the college. For more details, Hugh Murphy or John Travers can be contacted for modelling, fitting and sizes!

A word of thanks to all the players and mentors, take a bow lads. It is never easy in UL with the Christmas

break, the exam period and then asking over 30 fellas to stay around campus for training during the three week break. A good night was had by all when we stayed in the Imperial in Tralee. Further information can be obtained from top scorer, Paddy Stephens, now of course domiciled in Croke Park on co-op.

A special word of thanks to Seamus Murphy for all those hard training sessions, John Costello, Johnny Mulvihill, and Michael Frain for their help at various times during the league and Sigerson campaign.

UL Intermediate footballers are

away to Sligo IT next week in an All-Ireland semi final. Preparations are under the watchful eyes of Eoin Mac Craith and experienced mentor, Sean O'Reilly. The Fresher B team are also playing WIT in a quarter-final next week. Best of luck to all the players and those involved with the teams also.

Congratulations to Dermot Harrington, and Diarmuid Fitzgerald recipients of the GAA football scholarships for the current year. Best wishes too, to David Daly, new GAA Development Officer for UL who started just a couple of weeks ago.

Hockey club Unlucky In First Two Play Off Games

Our last major report in An Focal came after Varsities. We had been disappointed with our performance at the varsities and our league form had been, in a word, indifferent up until that point.

We had lost one, drawn one and won a match. A little bit of everything but definitely not enough to think about contending for honors. But after that, things picked up and over the course of the next two months we went on a ten match unbeaten streak that included nine wins in a row. This run of form left us near the top of the table but behind to the only team to beat us in the league Ashton.

In the last round of matches we took on a very strong Belvedere team and after a tough physical match we emerged victorious. Ashton contrived to lose their last match which put us top for the first time this season, right at the end of the regular season. At this stage the division split in two and we were in the top half of the play-offs.

The format for the playoffs was that the top six teams would all play one another once. Original points totals would be kept and the team on top would be crowned champions and gain promotion to division one.

We have so far played two matches in that section of the competition and the bad news is that we have not fared too well. Hit by a combination of factors including injuries, co-op and Erasmus we

have struggled in our first two matches. In our first game away to Bandon we wasted an awful amount of possession and eventually lost 1-0 in what was possibly our worst performance of the season. Our next league match was against Ashton, who had been the only team to beat us in the preliminary stages of the league.

In atrocious conditions we took the lead midway through the first half. Ashton struck back immediately when a ridiculous penalty decision went against UL. Ashton scored from the resultant flick and early in the second half they went one up when they scored from a short corner.

Despite a lot of pressure and playing some of the best hockey of our season we were unable to pull the goal back and we finished up with a 2-1 defeat and ten men on the pitch thanks to another dubious umpiring decision.

Those two bad league defeats were either side of a cup match where we defeated Belvedere 3rds 2-0 to reach a semi-final where we have been drawn against that Ashton team again. We are confident that we can make it third time lucky and come out on top to reach the McClean cup Final which is due to take place on Paddy's Day. Tune in for further details.

Upcoming Events Lords of Munster

Our annual battle with UCC takes place in Rag Week week 8 this year. We play a match for the title the Lords of Munster. We have played twice already this

year with UCC winning 1-0 at varsities in Belfast but we gained suitable revenge in a league match at the Mardyke beating them 5-0. Both teams will be up for this one and no doubt after a serious match they're will be some serious socialising to be done.

Hockey Club Race Night

Mens hockey social occasions tend to be grand affairs and our next big one will be no different. We are having a race night on Wednesday March 22nd in an effort to raise fund for next seasons league matches and Intervarsities. The event will take place in the new student bar and is sure to be a big hit. Horse are on sale at the moment from members of the club and there will also be horses available on the night.

Admittance to the event is free so why not come along and enjoy the big race atmosphere and maybe even have a bit of a flutter all for the Mens hockey club.

Fancy playing some Hockey?

Mens Seconds Team

In the next few weeks we intend to set up a seconds team where those of you who have never played before but fancy giving it a go can swing a stick and for people who have played before but who basically want to play it on a social basis. If the interest is there when we organise some friendly matches in march then we intend on entering the seconds team in the league in September. So if you are interested then e-mail the Hockey club at hockey@skynet.csn.ul.ie

UL Folk Group Let You Know What They're All About

Back when U2 were still producing great music, when pints in Dublin cost what they do now elsewhere in the country, when Ireland's climate was similar to that of Jamaica, when student services was an efficient organisation, around the time Belinda Carlile was singing 'Heaven is place on earth' (but I don't think she meant Limerick,) there began in a not so far away land the organization which is now known internationally as the Folk Group.

The group consists of 'shiny happy people laughing' and occasionally singing. About 40% of the folk group is foreign and we even have a guy from Lietrim. Members of the group have been known on occasions to play musical instruments, eat, drink and (be merry and) go on mad weekends trips away in a place where drink is served until 4am.

Folk dancing is not our forte at present but the economic potential of such activities (as demonstrated by Riverdance) has caused us to view it as an area of possible diversification - we'd be more into singing and liturgical (as opposed to lethargic) dancing. Thursday night's practice is usually followed by a session (which for you sarcastic individuals does not involve the rosary). We do however sing at 7:30pm mass on Sunday. Despite this, the group is not considered a religious society - this was necessary in order to secure S.U. funding for the Thursday night fund.

Many such sessions involve groovy guitar solo performances. Copious quantities of mad mysterious musicians have been influenced by the ambience emanating from symphonic sounds of these singers. Several senseless singing sessions have been had. Musical minds in countless countries have quietly contemplated conscious chanting (especially at Christmas). Someone said 'try everything once except folk dancing and suicide'. We say 'try everything except suicide (and addictive drugs - 'cos the drugs don't work) and if you like it keep on doing it.'

New members are always welcome. However, if this is not what you're looking for, the show will go on, with or without you. No matter what they say, if it's at all possible, we will Rock you, and either way we hope you have the time of your life.

Ella Daly's
Really Thin
Gossip Column

Wellcome back my little cherubs!!!! I've missed you, it's been unbelievably dull here in Limerick without any scandalous rumours to spread. So, let's just jump right into the fray.

I ended last semester with the promise of inter-society sex, so here goes, lets reveal all. It would appear that the Drama Soc PRO has been sleeping regularly with the new secretary of the History soc. Both Socs refuse to make any comment "on the private lives of their committee members", which would be fine if this dastardly duo had approached the new Soft Ball club PRO for a threesome!!! Well now really, what is this university coming to?

I blame it on the Freshers, and with good reason. A little birdie informed me last week in Nevada Smiths of all kinds of strange goings on in first year computer engineering studies AND first year mechanical engineering studies. Thomas Moore of first year computer engineering is under investigation by Ten Forward (UL's sci-fi society) for alleged abuse. It seems dear Thomas likes to bite the head off his star wars dolls. I know he's in comp. eng. but come on, the need for silicone has to stop somewhere but maybe thats as close as he could get to Sarah Michelle "Buffy" Geller's boobs despite his claims to the contrary. And as for Niall Harris and Kevin Burke in first year Mechanical engineering! Lads, stop it, beastality is NEVER "alright". Let dolly go, and get back to yer Mechano sets!!!!!!!!!!!!

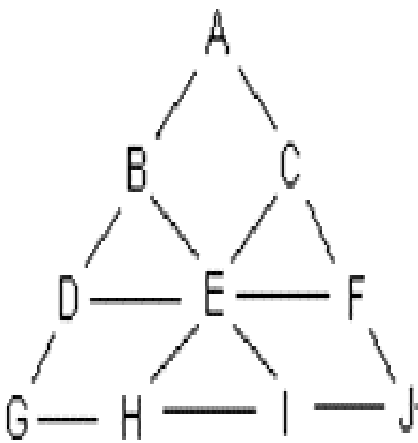
But lets digress a bit. The An Focal night out. Now what a revelation that turned out to be!!!! You will remember a while back that their were allegations of Dave O'Donovan in an incestuous lesbian clinch, well new evidence has come to the foreground to substantiate these allegations. Darling dayvoh is in fact Pappa Smurf!!!!!! The truth was uncovered onthe annual An Focal night out. As Dave led his unwitting followers to the Lodge, someone innocently likened Daves leadership skills to those of that beloved blue creature only to have Dave jump in and protest just a little bit too heartily. Further proof was found in Dave's back pocket (of all places!!!!) That manky brown hat!!!! It used to be white. Well, with there only being one female smurf, isn't it understandable that on Dave/Papas first trip to the world of humans, he'd want to try something new?

Finally, has anybody noticed Muris O Sullivan's new beard. It seems a little odd that this follows his charity leg waxing. Dare I suggest that Muiris found the experience so pleasurable that he has convinced his dutiful assistant Claire Cox to make it a regular feature, and the beard is more a matter of hair displacement than choice?

That's all, see you next time
Ella



UL Heineken rep, Mike Knightson with Brendan O'Sullivan from the Stables presenting a stereo to Morna McDowall, 4th Equine Science.



Using the numbers 1 through 10, arrange them in this pattern, so that ;
 $A+B+D+G = A+C+F+J = G+H+I+J.$
Also $B+E+I = D+E+F = H+E+C$

You must use each number exactly once. Please e-mail correct answers to omega@csn.ul.ie, and have the subject of the e-mail 'puzzle'.

(The answer to last issues puzzle is the 'German owns the zebra')

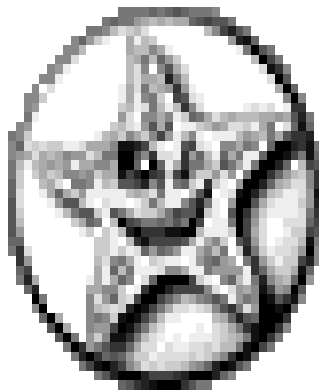
The An Focal team

- editor and late night stayer-upper
dayvoh
- news collectors/gossipers
aidan, niall, p.lee, ickle ella
- features
mystic, mcgell, iano, mags, dave f., sinead, kasey, acifs
- musos
des the dock, bren g., k.p.
- film freaks
kp, aodain
- gig goers
tommy f.
- c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.)
p lee, + mates (way too many of yis to name)
- phancy photo's
willie + co., and a few robbed ones
- show me the money
becky
- show me the typing
ash
- inspiration
the boys hansard, shadow, cam, peterson

It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Aquarius 20 January – 18 February

Whether the exams went well or not, you are experiencing a fresh approach to life. High expectations and goals mean a lot of hard work ahead. But there's plenty of partying thrown in for good measure too.

Pisces 19 February – 19 March

As the song goes, breaking up is hard to do. This is no different for you now, as you've realized that you and your partner are as alike as chalk and cheese. You don't realize it yet, but it is for the best.

Aries 20 March – 18 April

If you're a male Arien, you're going to have a tough few weeks ahead of you. It will be difficult, but you will survive! Female Ariens, on the other hand, are on the look-out for some male company – so watch out boys!

Taurus 19 April – 19 May

After a long holiday in the sun, you are now ready to settle back down to work and put all your energy into some academic project. The work will be tough but the results will far out-weigh the effort put into it.

Gemini 20 May – 20 June

It seems as though you've been set free lately. You may think this is a bad thing, but it can be beneficial if you are wise. It gives you a chance to catch up on things that you've been neglecting.

Cancer 21 June – 21 July

A recent incident with a friend has left you quite bewildered. You don't know whether to be relieved or upset. Only time will tell how you really feel and whether you really care or not.

Leo 22 July – 21 August

A fellow fire sign will give you much grief over the next few weeks. But try not to take it to heart – they, much like you, are going through a rough patch and just need a friendly shoulder to cry upon.

Virgo 22 August – 21 September

You've been longing for a partner – but there are more things in life! It is nice to have someone to keep you warm, but there may be other people who need your support. Love will come when it's ready.

Libra 22 September - 22 October

How do you feel about the opposite sex?? Whatever the answer, you will have a lot of interest from one member of the other sex over the next few weeks. All you have to do is decide if you're interested or not!

Scorpio 23 October – 21 November

A recent shopping spree has left a slight dent in your finances. But not to worry – you deserved it after some trouble with a family member or a close friend. The finances will soon sort themselves out.

Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December

A friend needs you now, but you haven't realized it yet. You don't know why, but it could mean a lot to your friend for you just to be there to listen and offer advice, if any.

Capricorn 21 December – 19 January

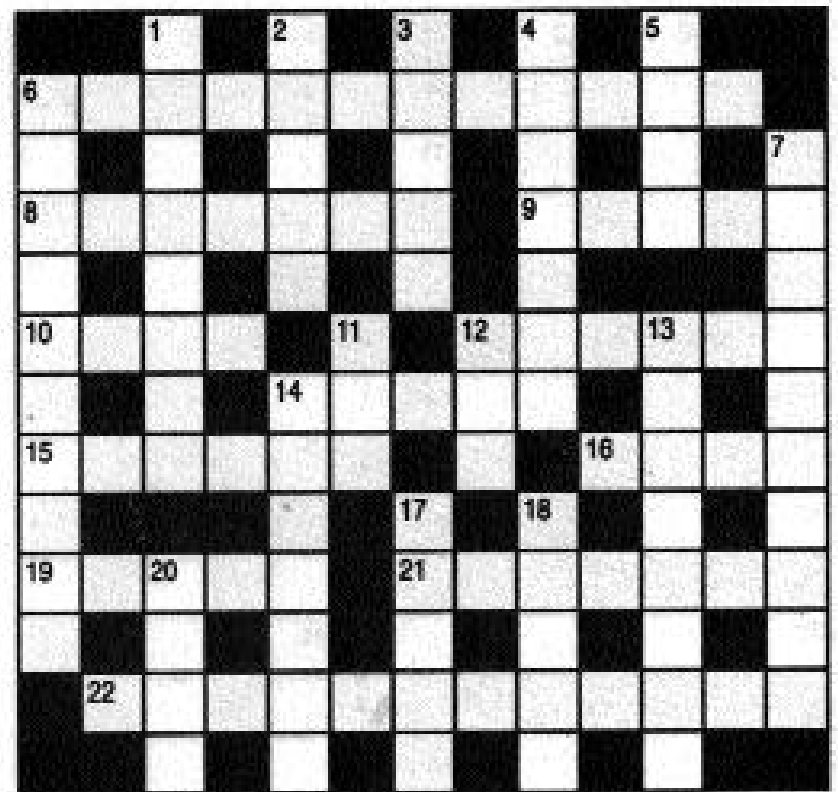
The future looks bright for Capricorns as new friends come into the spotlight. One in particular seems to be slightly over-bearing, but will soon calm down and give you a chance to speak your mind. Don't be afraid however, to cut them down to size, should the need arise.



The New 95FM Student Talkback Crossword

Student Talkback
every Thursday 9pm

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



ACROSS

6. Even-handedness (12)
8. Upper limit (7)
9. Greek woodland deity (5)
10. Prissy in manner (4)
12. Hat with curled brim (6)
14. Actress Black (5)
15. Mint-like plant (6)
16. Opposite of love (4)
19. Stows away (5)
21. Walked silently (7)
22. Animal doctor (12)

DOWN

1. Hopeful person (8)
2. Iris plant (5)
3. Prolonged attack on fort etc. (5)
4. Shine (7)
5. Let it stand (4)
6. Disability (10)
7. Symbolical battlefield (10)
11. Attack quickly (coll.) (3)
12. Boggy tract of land (3)
13. Story set to music (8)
14. Relatives (7)
17. One unaffected by emotions (5)
18. Say (5)
20. Serve on board ship (4)

le scribble box

Last weeks answers

ACROSS: 1. Acceptable, 8. Biscuits, 9. Scold, 10. Hides, 11. Left, 12. Eggs, 14. Oyster, 15. Madcap, 16. Mel, 20. Reak, 21. Spar, 22. Norma, 24. Treble, 25. Backgammon.
DOWN: 1. Arcades, 2. Cell, 3. Parker, 4. Alsatian, 5. Lance, 6. Abandonment, 7. Accompanied, 13. Ice-cream, 15. Captain, 17. Mantis, 18. Larva, 22. Gerni.



A Few Announcements

Any one interested in taking a trip to HOMELANDS?
If you've already got your ticket in your back pocket, then you're sorted.

If not, and the only thing stopping you is that you haven't a notion how to get to Mosney, then go get one right now, 'cause we're going to send a bus up that direction on the day in question.

If you're interested, drop Fergal Fennessy a mail.....fergalfennessy@yahoo.com, so we can get some idea about numbers and the like, and we'll all share a bus up there together, talking about how it's great to see Ian Brown headlining Ireland's biggest dance festival.

Please check this out (quite clever of the UN to do this)
Go to the Hunger Site at the UN.

All you do is click a button and somewhere in the world some hungry person gets a meal to eat, at no cost to you. The food is paid for by corporate sponsors (who gain advertising in the process because you see their logo). All you do is go to the site and click. But you're only allowed one click per day!

So spread the word to others. Visit the site and pass the word around.

[<http://www.thehungersite.com>](http://www.thehungersite.com)

Thanks !

Has your life been affected by
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Gambling
Or

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When: every Friday Night

Where: Bishops Place,
Nicholas Street, Limerick.

UL Radio Soc. presents KICKBACK

in Java's, Catherine St., Limerick

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

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

Every Thursday, with Cody + Link

Vacancy

As a new and exciting initiative, the clubs and societies of UL and their administrative branches will be serviced by an independent group of people who will record the proceedings of the weekly/forth-nightly meetings of the Clubs and Societies Council, their committees and assemblies.

As a result of this the SU are looking for an individual with good interpersonal skills who can co-ordinate and be a part of this Secretariat. Duties include:

- Liaison with delegates/members of clubs and societies,
- Producing detailed records and other material,
- Arranging meetings, taking minutes and ensuring follow-up action.
- Liaising with Paul Lee, Clubs and Socs Development Officer

If you have experience or think you would like to gain valuable experience, then please contact us. A familiarity with computers and knowledge of the structures of the Union would be beneficial, but not necessary.

Individuals will be employed on a full/part-time basis and will receive the typical hourly rate of pay per week as offered by the Union.

Please write to: (before March 1st)

Or email:

Mr. Pat McCarthy,


Union.President@ul.ie

President, Students' Union,

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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




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