



STUDENTS' UNION

FOCAL

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE STUDENTS UNION

University of Limerick

New Motoring column p17

Students shocked by Nazi graffiti

GRAFFITI reading "Arbeit macht frei" ("Work will make you free") was to be seen at the entrance to UL as students and staff came to work last Tuesday. The slogan, which was daubed in large red letters on the glossy stones of the 'Chessboard', as the 'Crann Saoilse' sculpture is known, was removed by the Buildings Department of the University as soon as they were notified of its

presence. According to eyewitness reports, there was no sign of the graffiti at 3.30am on Tuesday, meaning it must have been placed there between that time and 8am, when it was first spotted.

"Arbeit macht frei" was the motto inscribed in the gates of a number of Nazi concentration camps during World War II. It is unknown whether the graffiti was a practical joke in bad taste or a more

sinister racist symbol. Either way, this amounts to criminal damage, according to Professor Paul McCutcheon of the Law Department. Criminal damage can carry heavy legal penalties if the perpetrators are charged.

Students' Union President St. John Ó Donnabháin condemned the graffiti, adding that he hoped "not too many students were offended by the actions of one sick

practical joker." PSA President Maja Niebrzegowska, who is Polish, had a simple explanation for the graffiti: "I think it was irresponsible behaviour, maybe someone trying to impress their friends during Orientation week. It could be anyone - I hope it doesn't happen again." University officials declined to comment.



Graffiti daubed on the 'Chessboard' last Tuesday. (Photo: Kevin McNamara)

Saved by UL

AN FOCAL REPORTER

IN a coup for the University of Limerick, Dustin Diamond, aka 'Screech' from 'Saved by the Bell' is, according to reports, on his way to UL in November.

The colossal gig, if it goes ahead, is rumoured to be orchestrated by UL Laughing Soc founder Eoin Kelly. When asked by *An Focal* to comment on the rumours Mr. Kelly said "no comment", and "speak to my solicitor" and handed us a phone number.

The number was for one Shane Quinlan, who on behalf of Eoin Kelly and UL Laughing Soc issued this statement: "We, the UL Laughing Soc, will neither confirm nor deny the rumours that Screech or any other comedians are coming to UL to do a show for us. However we can confirm that there will be a big announcement at our first gig with Neil Delamare on October the 9th at 8.45pm in the Jonathan swift. We are at tender-negotiating stage with our acts, and the rumours I've heard, and the figures,

involved are ridiculous. If you want the scoop come to the gig next Monday. UL Laughing Soc will continue to bring the best of international and home grown comedy to the campus."

Upon further investigation, *An Focal* found out that the Concert Hall is booked out for every Monday night in November. This gave rise to the issue of whether or not the Jonathan Swift is too small for such a high-profile act. "No one is too big for the Swift. I mean Eoin Kelly is 6 foot 4 - and that's tall", Kelly's

spokesperson said, adding "also this with increased cost and lack of a true heir to the laughing throne, this may be indeed the final laugh in UL".

Saved by the Bell, a popular TV show in the early 1990s, ran for four series until 1993. Since then it has been syndicated on many channels and spawned two spin-offs, *The New Class* and *The College Years*. Mr Diamond has appeared in various TV shows since the show was axed but is best known for his role as 'Screech', the wacky 'science nerd' of the group.

Elm Park Attack

KATIE HARRINGTON

AN attack which took place in Elm Park on Monday of Week 1 has severely shaken the local community. A first year student who had become separated from his friends during a night in the Lodge was walking home when he was approached by a number of young men, believed not to be UL students. He was verbally abused and questioned at which point he indicated that he did not wish to prolong contact with them. They continued to follow him and before reaching his home in Elm Park he was attacked with glass bottles. Housemates let him in at which point the youths continued to pound on the door, shouted abuse and broke two front windows in the house. The housemates came out of the house at this point when a scuffle ensued between the two groups. They were again attacked with bottles and punched.

There were several reports of car windows being broken in Elm Park that night, including that of the young man. A burglary in another house in the area may also be connected. The students

involved in this incident believe that the attackers were not UL students, and may have come out from Limerick city centre. The incident took place on the same night as graffiti was painted on the chessboard statue at the University gate.

According to the Students' Union, the importance of taking care of yourself and those with you on a night out cannot be emphasised enough. SU Welfare Officer Sinéad Hickey stated "This incident is being taken very seriously, and the Gardaí are currently investigating. If anybody notices anything suspicious in their estate or neighbourhood please contact the Gardaí. Also- a word of advice- never walk home alone from any club and remember to look out for the people who you socialise with. Be aware that this incident might not be an isolated one. Please contact me in the Student's Union if you have any worries or fears." Ms Hickey added that this attack proves that male, as well as female students may be in danger, and urged all students to be aware of the risks of walking home late at night.

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SUPERQUINN

EDITORIAL



BY DEIRDRE O' SHAUGHNESSY

As a bastion of education and culture, churning out 'leaders of the future' by the thousand, a university is not the first place one expects to see Nazi graffiti. Racism, we are told, is ignorance manifesting itself. It is bred from poverty, lack of education and resentment. Why, then, did it appear on the sculpture at the entrance of an institute of higher education, attended by some of the most privileged young people in Irish society?

The easy answer is that the vandals weren't students. They could be underprivileged, uneducated, ignorant of the meaning and greater connotations of their actions. They may have seen the phrase in a film, but certainly didn't read it in a book. It was a philistine action, and couldn't have been carried out by anyone with any respect for art, culture or common human decency.

On the other hand, what if they were students? The phrase was in German. The use of such a historically important phrase indicates that whoever wrote it understood its meaning. It has even been suggested that it was intended to compare the university to a concentration camp.

If the graffiti artist (for want of a better term) is a student, it raises serious questions. Why would a supposedly educated person write something so offensive anywhere, let alone in such a public place? Was this a racist act? Was it, as most students surveyed on www.ulsu.ul.ie seem to believe, a 'sick joke'? Are the 'leaders of the future' following in the footsteps of the leaders of the past?

What they said this fortnight...

- "Throughout the year I hope to make your academic life as painful [sic] as possible" *Alan Higgins, SU Education Officer, perhaps reveals the truth about his role*
- "That was a foam party? I thought somebody spilled a pint" *One UL student was clearly not impressed with Tuesday @ the Market during Orientation week.*
- "My job often consists of damage limitation" *Deirdre O' Shaughnessy, part of whose role is as Publicity Officer for the Students' Union.*
- "Get a haircut!" *One extremely original first year student to SU President St. John Ó Donnabháin during his Orientation week speech in the Concert Hall.*
- "Shut up Keith" *All of the sabbats to Ents contractor Keith Piggott, at some point during Orientation week speeches in the Concert Hall.*
- "I'm a nice person... no, honestly I am." *ULSU Welfare Officer Sinéad Hickey, to all the petrified first years out there who see her as 'condom lady'.*
- "Are blue and black the same colour?" *Equality Officer Oisín Collins perhaps takes his brief a little too seriously.*
- "So procrastinate means putting things off [long pause] I always thought it was some kinky sex thing" *Irish Officer Breandán Ó hÉamhaigh proves that 'Gaeilgeoirí do it better'.*
- "The University should build a swimming pool for me." *The high-profile of the job is clearly getting to SU President St John Ó Donnabháin*

To submit a quote, please email deirdre.oshaughnessy@ul.ie or post it on the "What they said this fortnight" thread of the An Focal messageboard on www.ulsu.ul.ie. Please note that we will not print crude or libellous material.

Corrections and clarifications

An Focal would like to correct the error on p.1 of Edition 1 "Carpark or Cash Cow", in which it was stated that "students who arrive too late in the day to park in a free space may have to pay up to €450 a week in parking fees." The sentence was intended to read "€450 a year". Apologies for any confusion caused.

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Scholars' Future in An Phluais

AOIFE BREEN & ST. JOHN Ó DONNABHÁIN

THE first stone in the pathway of the future of the Scholars' Club is to be set within the coming weeks as the Students' Union prepares to go to tender for applicants to run An Phluais as a pub, as well as converting the rest of the building into a bigger, improved location for the SU shop.

The Students' Union had initially hoped to have An Phluais open for the start of this semester, but there were many barriers obstructing the progression of the plans. According to SU President St. John Ó Donnabháin these obstacles included "planning, clearing-out and refitting for the new use" but assured students that once these tasks

have been completed "it's full steam ahead" for the project, which he hopes will be finished in time for opening at the beginning of the second semester this year.

At present the former campus club can still be used for various events to be held on campus. Clubs and Societies - or interested parties - are invited to use the venue for music or comedy gigs, or any other event that they may wish to organise. During Orientation Week, Masters students of Music Technology and Interactive Media hosted the DAWN exhibition at the location. A number of clubs and societies are also availing of the space, including Outdoor Pursuits Club - who used An Phluais in week 1 for a talk with a globally-acclaimed climber -

as well as interest shown by the Debating Union and Laughing Soc in the location.

Mr Ó Donnabháin emphasised that it was this type of venue that the SU hoped to implement for the future of An Phluais - "a venue for student activities as well as performers coming to UL". He continued to say that the plans for An Phluais meant that it would become an "alternative, lively venue...with a different buzz". He also encouraged students who might have an interest in organising events in the site to use the space for their gigs, and hopes that the opening of An Phluais and the shop next semester will signal a new beginning for campus life.

Presidential hunt begins

AOIFE BREEN

UL has launched its campaign to find the most suitable candidate to become the next President of the riverside university. With the assistance of Heidrick and Struggles, an international executive search firm based in London, the University has begun its search advertising what is required of a potential candidate.

The advertisement that was circulated in mid-September outlines precisely what attributes are necessary before an application is submitted. It describes UL as a 'bold and innovative university' and any candidates would 'share UL's ambition'. An applicant would be of 'exceptional intellectual calibre and be accomplished senior academic leaders with extensive knowledge and experience in the management of a complex organisation'. In addition to this contenders 'must be clear strategic thinkers, with an understanding of the higher education system in Ireland'

but also have a 'compelling vision for UL in its wider global context'.

The Presidential post, although with a lucrative six-figure salary, is a demanding job that necessitates a person of the "required calibre" according to Sean Donlon, Chancellor of the University and chairman of the presidential search board. This board comprises of eight members of Governing Authority and Academic Council, including the President of the Students' Union, St. John Ó Donnabháin. Mr Ó Donnabháin highlighted to An Focal what he would like to see in a future President of UL stating that, "The new president should have an active interest in student life and provide a role model for students". He went on to say that any future president should 'implement the university's strategic plan, particularly the aspects referring to provision of an outstanding student-centred learning environment'.

Following the resignation of Prof Roger Downer in April

of this year after completing eight years of his ten year appointment, Vice-President John O'Connor took up the position of acting President. There are many other candidates within UL itself who are believed to hold an interest in the position. It is thought that Vincent Cunnane, vice-president, research, and Don Barry, vice-president, academic and registrar are both possible applicants as well as the Dean of the Kemmy Business School, Donal Dineen, and Pat O'Connor, Dean of Humanities.

Although there is just a week left before the closing date for receipt of applications on 10 October, it will not be until February or March of next year before a selection committee is established to shortlist and ultimately decide upon a new president. Therefore, it is held that it will not be until the beginning of the next academic year in September 2007 that the term of UL's third president will commence and thereby drawing the search to a close.

Black hats and ballgowns

AN FOCAL REPORTER

IN a week where sunshine and showers competed for favour, 1,717 of UL's finest had their moment on the stage of the Concert Hall. Graduations took place over four days, with two sessions per day. A profusion of black capes and impractical spindly heels, nerves - which quickly gave way to relief upon receipt of the precious parchment - and many mummies and daddies dressed in their best, all made the week special for graduands, their families, and staff members who gathered to watch the ceremonies.

Among the graduands were all five Students' Union sabbatical officers, two of whom attended all the ceremonies as members of Governing Authority. With speeches from University Chancellor Seán Donlan, President John O' Connor and the Deans of the respective colleges, graduands were made aware of how special

their achievement was and how lucky they were to have reached such a goal. Even more noteworthy were the 17 PhD students who, after long years of work, received doctorates from their supervisors.

In his speech Chancellor Donlan told the assembled graduands and guests that UL was unique for its beautiful campus, research reputation and the fact that its academics didn't "live in ivory towers". He extolled the founding President of UL, Dr. Edward Walsh, and expressed gratitude to current President John O'Connor, for stepping into the breach following the surprise resignation of Dr. Roger Downer. He congratulated the graduands and reminded them that from now on, they were ambassadors for UL.

Graduation week culminated in the Graduation Ball, a black-tie extravaganza held at the South Court Hotel. Approximately 1,500 people attended the entire event, with



Presidents John O' Connor, St. John Ó Donnabháin and Maja Niebrzegowska at the Graduation Ball

another 600 arriving for the after-dinner entertainment, which included UL ball stalwarts, the Funk Junkies. Members of the University's

Governing Authority sat at the top table, hosted by the Students' Union sabbatical officers and Students' Union staff members. Both the

University and the Students' Union Presidents, John O' Connor and St John Ó Donnabháin, made brief speeches, along with

Chancellor Donlan and Majella O'Connell of the Alumni Association.

Casa Mia Closes

AN FOCAL REPORTER

IN early September, UL students reacted angrily to the news that Casa Mia pizzeria, in Kilmurry village, was to close. An online petition condemning its closure attracted 60 signatures of students who refused to allow the facility to close without a fight.

According to the students who signed a poll on the website petitiononline.com; "Casa Mia has been central to the atmosphere of the Student village and has contributed to the overall atmosphere of the whole campus since it first opened its doors two years ago. Not just a pizzeria, it is an alcohol free place to socialise which runs in line with the University's Alcohol Policy

and students can purchase basic necessities such as milk and bread. The closure of the Student Union Shop that formerly occupied the premises and the more recent closure of the Scholars and Medicare pharmacy have led to a negative feeling on campus as one by one services have begun to leave and the 'student' atmosphere deteriorates further. Casa Mia is an important resource for students and for everyone using the campus, be they international students, staff, athletes or just members of the general public.

Please sign this petition to keep Casa Mia open, and to show that you are not happy with the lack of services on campus".

However, Campus Life Services Ltd., the company

which manages the village, has said that there are other plans for the space. According to Linda Stevens, Director of Campus Life Services, "Campus Life Services are introducing Common Rooms into the Villages to add facilities to improve residential life. These will provide a central density meeting place for watching movies or big games, playing cards or pool and to act as general meeting and social spaces".

Ms Stevens added that the closure of Casa Mia was a part of these plans: "As part of this strategy, we have decided to convert the space which was the pizzeria, a commercial outlet, into a den for students with a large plasma screen, pool table and meeting facilities. We believe that there is a

need to have more alternative social spaces on campus where students can get together and organise activity not necessarily in a pub or commercial environment."

This move is in line with the University's Alcohol Policy, which recommends that there be non-alcoholic venues provided for students, where they can socialise without feeling pressurised into drinking. According to ULSU President St. John Ó Donnabháin, "The concerns of students have been raised with PCC, but unfortunately they are set upon the plan of renovation. At least the space is being put to good use for students' benefit".

UL cooperates with taxman on new degree

AN FOCAL REPORTER

MR Frank Daly, Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners, and Mr John O' Connor, President of the University of Limerick, last week signed a Service Level Agreement between the two organisations for the delivery of the 4th and Final Year of a BA (Hons.) programme in Applied Taxation. The University of Limerick has already accredited Revenue's current in-house technical tax training programme, which is delivered by Revenue's Training Branch, with a diploma in Applied Taxation. Over 100 Revenue Students graduated last December with the Diploma in Applied Taxation and a similar number are expected to graduate later this year. A further year of study, which will lead to a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Taxation has now been developed by UL and Revenue. These service level agreements provide third level accreditation of the programmes in education training and research in the taxation area. These represent a first in the Irish civil service.

Mr Daly stated that the agreement marks a unique and innovative partnership: "UL's commitment to the relevance of the programme to Revenue, and

Revenue's commitment to the quality that UL's involvement brings to all our accredited training, are consolidated through the spirit of partnership which has evolved over the last two years and through the joint management structures in place."

The President of UL, Mr O'Connor, while speaking at the launch said, "At the University of Limerick we pride ourselves in this type of pioneering work. The partnership also generates close to €5 million in income for UL and this will allow us to further grow and develop our taxation faculty". Margery Stapleton, Director of the Centre for Taxation Studies at UL explained at the launch that, "the fourth year of the Honours Taxation Degree for Revenue participants is intensive and varied and designed to meet their educational requirements in an increasingly complex taxation environment. Together with modules on advanced taxation, international taxation and revenue law, there are elective modules on property and financial services. We also plan to invite a range of key experts from within Revenue and the professional taxation firms as well as international guest speakers to broaden the range and scope of our programme."

UL students dreaming in Berlin

EOIN O' REILLY

BEETHOVEN'S 9th Symphony ('Ode to Joy') marked the opening of the Annual Students for Europe Conference in Berlin on Thursday 14th of September. A talented trio of young musicians appropriately chose the much-forgotten anthem of the of the European Union to welcome a delegation of 70 students from across Europe. Nine students from Ireland attended the Conference, including eight scholars representing the University of Limerick, giving us the prestige of being the best represented institution at this year's event.

Europeans have had little to be optimistic about in the past year. The rejection of the European Constitutional Treaty by France and the Netherlands and a lack of consensus over future EU enlargement have fuelled a wave of Euro-scepticism across an increasingly divided European public.

This year's theme, "Dreaming Europe", set the tone for the lectures, workshops and debates that took place over three days. None the less, students were wide-awake to the current shape of European affairs; this was displayed during question and answer sessions with diplomats and leading academics. Dr. Martin Hufner, author of



Photo: Eoin O' Reilly

"Europe - The Champ Of Tomorrow", had to shy away when he was grilled by students on his ambitious premonition that Europe will be the "Golden Child" of the next decade. The closing ceremony also saw the Consul General for Turkey, Mr Alpman, tackled with a barrage of questions on his country's fitness to join the EU.

The future enlargement was a reoccurring theme at the event, with major criticism

towards Turkey's desire to become a Member State. The student consensus appeared to be that the religious and cultural differences between the occidental and the oriental should not prohibit the accession of any states. However, factors such as the lack of human rights and the existence of the death penalty in Turkey were the cause of much debate between students and the Turkish diplomat.

This years conference was

a great success and its hard-working organisers led by Lukas Nienhaus, Chairman of Students For Europe, deserve our congratulations.

Let's not pretend that a bunch of students living it up in Berlin will somehow shape policy when Germany takes up Presidency of the EU next January, but at least it proves to Europe's doubters that, despite the current turbulence, Europe is still alive.

LGBT Society OUT in UL Welcomes new students

OUT in UL was formed in order to give Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students attending the University of Limerick and Mary I a space where they can get together; to just hang out and chill, or to have a bitch and a moan. Whatever you want, we aim to provide (within reason!).

No matter who you are, it is always difficult to walk into a room for the first time and face strangers or even people you recognise from strolling around campus. There may be the additional fear that you will be recognised or 'outed' by someone. Be reassured that it is not the policy of the OUT in UL society to out anyone. If you don't want 'out' members to acknowledge you on campus, we won't. Each and every one of us has had to deal with coming out of the closet. We'd just like any LGBT student - in or out of the closet - to know that we're here to help, if and when you need us.

Over the previous two semesters OUT in UL has gone from strength to strength. Events included a successful trip to Cork, where we socialised and made connections with UCC LGBT Society, a Coming Out Workshop run by the LGBT Liaison Officer Gerard Hanley, the wonderfully supported annual QUEERBASH in the Globe and we also attended the opening of the new GLEN Offices in Dublin.

This coming year we have many more things planned for the society. We would like to forge links with the LGBT societies in Dublin, Kerry and Galway and reinforce our links with UCC in Cork. We have a trip to Amsterdam planned for early 2007 and movie nights are also a possibility, as well as organising a conference for '07, and QUEERBASH IV, amongst other things.

Most meetings are advertised on flyers around the University about a week beforehand. The venue is usually the Students Union: the room number and time will be on the posters. Any questions and concerns can be dealt with by sending an e-mail to outinul@yahoo.ie, or logging onto our webpage @ <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~lgb/> in order to contact the LGBT Liaison Officer e-mail gerard.hanley@ul.ie or alternatively contact the Gay and Lesbian helpline @rainbow house gsl@eircom.net or call (061) 310101 Monday - Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30.



How to get ahead in the jobs market!

Attend the UL CAREERS FAIR - 18 October 2006

The Cooperative Education & Careers Division is organising a major on-campus Careers Fair on Wednesday, 18 October. This is a key event in the graduate recruitment activity with 100 organisations attending, making it the largest of any of the university-based careers fairs in the country. The Fair will take place in the Sports Arena and will be open to students from 12.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. Many sectors of employment will be represented so there should be something of interest to students of all disciplines.



What's it all about?

For those of you who have never attended a Careers Fair (or Recruitment Fair), this provides you with a unique opportunity to meet with a number of employers who plan to recruit graduates in the year 2007. Some of these employers will also have immediate vacancies to fill. Representatives of these companies will describe their organisation and typical vacancies with a view to encouraging you to apply when vacancies arise.

What companies will attend?

We will have 100 organisations participating in the Fair. This will include large and small companies, local, national and international companies, across all disciplines. What they have in common is an interest in meeting students who may be potential employees in the year 2007.

Why should you attend?

The Careers Fair gives you the opportunity to

- Make personal contact with leading graduate employers
- Get expert advice on what a career with a particular company might involve and how you can get the job you want;
- Collect company literature and information to help you compare companies;
- Find out what qualifications, skills and experiences are required by employers
- Determine which organisations you would like to apply to.

Be Prepared!

To make the best of this opportunity you will need to be prepared. It is highly unlikely that employers will offer you a job on the spot but if you make the right impression this will be to your advantage at the interview stage. Here are some tips to help you on the day:

- Do some research on companies you want to see. Read the company entries in this publication carefully and check the company websites.
- For help in preparing a CV, attend the seminar on 'Making Effective Applications' on October 9th at 6.30 p.m. in DG016.
- Book a slot to have your CV checked at the lunch-time CV Review sessions in E0019 during the week beginning October 9th.
- Take along several copies of your CV to leave with employers.
- Make note of the names of any contacts you make on the day.
- Think about your experience, strengths and skills and be able to tell an employer what you have to offer.
- Think about what questions you want to ask them: What vacancies do they have? What are their requirements? What training opportunities do they offer?
- Be sure to visit the less well-known organisations also as they often have very challenging opportunities to offer.

List of companies participating in the UL Careers Fair - 18 October 2006

Abbott Ireland	BISYS	Ernst & Young*	Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI)	Kostal Ireland GmbH	Procon
Abbott Vascular	Boston Scientific	ESL Opportunities	Intel Ireland	KPMG	Public Appointments Service
ACCA	Bristol-Myers Squibb	FAS Overseas Graduate Programme	International Funds Services	Lehman Brothers	Quinn Group
Accenture	Canada Life	Fidelity Investments	Investors Trust Ireland	Limerick City Enterprise Board	Russell Brennan Keane
AIB	CIMA Chartered Institute of Management	Glanbia plc	Irish Cement	Lufthansa Technik AG	SAP
AIB BNY	Accountants	Goodwins Builders Providers	Irish Defence Forces	Mazars	Schwarz Pharma
Airbus	Citigroup Fund Services	Gradireland	Irish Life & Permanent	Medtronic Vascular	Shanahan Kinirons & Co
Aldi Stores Ireland Ltd	Conocophillips	Grant Thornton	Irish Taxation Institute	Musgrave Limited	Shannon Development
Allergan Pharmaceuticals	Cook Ireland	Hertz Europe Service Centre	IT Alliance Group	Northern Trust	Smurfit Kappa Group
Analog Devices	Culleton Insurances Ltd	Hewlett Packard	I-to-I Ireland	O'Donovan Caulfield Lavin	State Street International Ltd
Anglo Irish Bank Corporation plc	Dawn Meats Group	Hibernian Group	JET Programme	Office of the Controller and Auditor General	Stryker Orthopaedics
ARM Ltd	Dell	HSC	Johnson and Johnson - Alza Ireland	Perot Systems Ireland Ltd	Tata Consultancy Services
Artwork Systems	Deloitte	IBEC IR/HR, Export Orientation Programme	JP Morgan Chase	Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals	Tyndall National Institute
Avery Dennison Ireland Ltd	Engineers Ireland	IBM	Kerry Group Plc	PFC	Ulster Bank
Bank of Ireland	Enterprise Ireland	IIB Bank	Kingspan Group	PKF Ryan Glennon	VHI Healthcare
Bank of Scotland (Ireland) Ltd	Enterprise Rent - A - Car	Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CPA) in Ireland	Kinnear Chartered Accountants	PricewaterhouseCoopers	Whitpool SSC Ltd
BDO Simpson Xavier	Ericsson Ireland			Procter and Gamble	Xilinx Ireland

In summary:

The UL Careers Fair is an ideal opportunity to make contact with a significant number of employers who have real jobs to offer. By preparing for the event, you stand a better chance of using the time and opportunity effectively. Know what you want from the fair; know what you have to offer, and be prepared to consider everything. You don't have to be a final-year student to attend. This is an open event. All students are welcome. Get a preview of what kind of work will be available to you when you graduate. This is your chance to make some useful contacts and see what opportunities are out there.....SO DON'T MISS OUT!

Further Details

Details of the participating companies are included in Careers by Degrees which is available from the Careers Service in E0010. This document can also be downloaded from the Careers website at: www.ul.ie/careers. Links to the website addresses of individual companies are provided.

Finally, please take this opportunity to visit the new premises of the Careers Service at E0019 and check out the wide range of careers booklets, directories and handouts. Opening hours: 10.00 to 1.00 and 2.30 to 4.30 Monday to Friday.

Any queries can be directed to Mary Sweeney, Head of Careers, Cooperative Education & Careers Division at: mary.sweeney@ul.ie.

Non-Sabbatical Elections

OISÍN COLLINS

WEEK 3 will see elections for the Students' Union Executive. The Executive is drawn from a number of different areas: the Sabbatical Officers, Clubs' & Societies' Nominees, Nominees of Class Representatives Council and positions elected from the general student body. The elections in Week 3 are for the final category which is made up of the Equality Officer and the Community Relations Officer.

The Equality Officer has a number of duties. These include acting as a point of contact for any students or groups who have an equality issue to raise, guiding the equality policies of the Students' Union and communicating with the

University on equality issues. As a member of the Students' Union Executive the Officer would also be required to attend Class Reps Council and submit reports to that Council.

As Community Relations Officer, one of the most important duties is to research and then co-ordinate projects which aim to improve relations between all sectors of the community, including students and residents. The Community Relations Officer, or CRO, also attends the Community Forum, in which various elements of the community discuss issues which affect them.

A position on the SU Executive as a non-Sabbatical Officer presents a good opportunity to get involved with the Students' Union in a way which makes an influential change. The

outcomes from this post come from the effort that is put into it, and anyone who thinks they would like to make a difference on-campus can pick up an application form from the SU reception.

Nominations for these positions opened on Monday Week 2 and will close on Friday Week 2. If more than one candidate applies for a position, an election will be held on Thursday Week and the new officers taking up their positions with immediate effect. The outgoing Equality Officer is Oisín Collins and the outgoing Community Relations Officer is Laura Cjaikowski and both encourage anyone interested in the posts to ask at the SU reception for a nomination form.

Community Relations at stake in new campaign

ALANNAH TURNER

THE Students' Union is running a Community Relations campaign this week in an attempt to tackle some of the issues which have arisen around the estates. The campaign was initiated due to a rise in anti-social behaviour in the Castletroy area. It attempts to communicate both with residents and students and raise awareness of the difficulties which can occur when two different communities live side by side.

The campaign focuses on the relationship between students and local residents. It attempts to raise an awareness of the consequences of anti-

social behaviour while at the same time encouraging students to respect their neighbours and their property. The campaign also tries to communicate to residents the reality that most students do not play a part in the damage done to the surrounding estates. It relays the message that it is only a few people who are responsible for such actions.

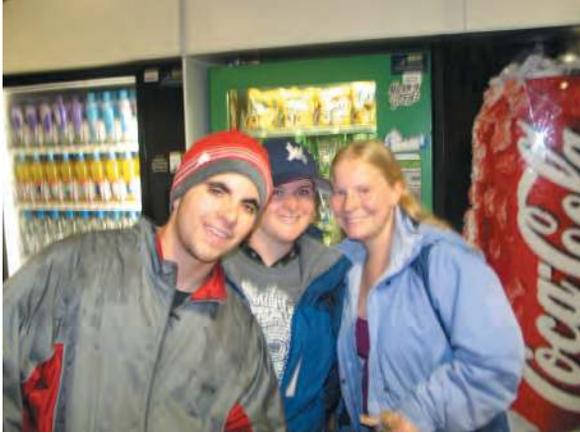
The President of the Students' Union, St. John Ó Donnabháin, is hopeful that the campaign will have an influence on people's behaviour. "We want to improve relations between permanent residents of the community and the students and make both sides aware of

their respect towards one another. We are very hopeful that this atmosphere of mutual respect will be embraced by everyone in Castletroy."

It is a difficult task to communicate such a message to both communities. The two groups live very different life styles. It remains to be seen how this campaign will be regarded amongst residents and students. It is hoped that it will be revisited and extended in the future in a continuous manner.

“What did you think of this year’s Orientation Week?”

Katie Harrington asked you . . .



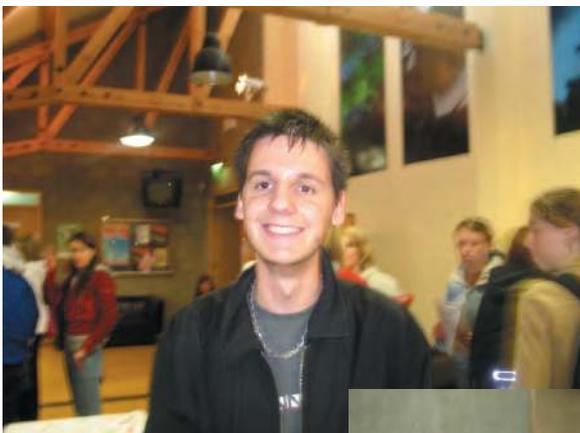
"It's been going alright, everyone has been really helpful". Tim Sachs, Errign Howard-Crowley and Heidi Kos from New Hampshire and Massachussetts, 1st year.



"It was really good, great to see the college." "Session, big party!!!" Amy O' Regan, Fiona Scally and Steve Smyth, 1st year Music Media & Performance Technology & 1st year Business.



"It's as mad as a box of frogs!" Paddy Rockett, 1st Year Science Education.



"It's good but everything is very fast, it's a lot of info to take in". Yanin Schwartz, Erasmus.



"It's a lot of information but I think I'll get used to it in time." Adrian Tanner, Erasmus.



"Orientation week was good, I met some new interesting people in first year. Trinity Rooms was crap on Wednesday though." Derek Daly, 2nd Year Business.



"IT was lovely"/ "It was good craic"/ "Ulster Bank rule" Danny Neville, Padraic Keane and Simon Quinn, all working for Ulster Bank.



"It was good but the weather was atrocious". Shane Quinn, 4th Year Law & Accounting. "UL rocks!" Seán Bootes



"It was good apart from the rain, I really like the Lodge." Ciara, Irish Music & Dance, Erasmus from New Zealand.



"It's good, we met a lot of people. It's been very busy, we know a lot more about UL". Fugling Cai, Wu Lingyan and Jutao Na, Postgrad in Entrepreneurship Management.

Letter from Limerick City Council

The following is a letter from Paul O' Grady, an engineer with Limerick City Council, for the attention of all students, to St. John Ó Donnabháin, President of ULSU. UL is not within the city boundary, and the campus itself is not considered "public property" for these purposes - the letter concerns mainly the city centre.

"I would be obliged if you could please bring the following to the attention of the student body, in particular those commencing studies at the campus for the first time.

Under the above legislation, it is an offence to distribute advertising material on a public footway or carriageway within the Limerick City Boundary.

There have been numerous instances in the past where marketing companies have engaged students to distribute flyers/leaflets etc. to passing motorists or pedestrians.

This material related not only to various products and services but also promotions, for example at night-clubs etc.

Limerick City Council has adapted a strict and impartial "zero-tolerance" policy towards this type of activity and where detected, spot-fines are issued and legal proceedings instigated accordingly.

Prohibitory signage has been erected in the city to advise the public.

Whilst the City Council is enabled to issue 'spot-fines' or instigate legal proceedings against marketing companies and promoters in this regard, such **action can be, and has been taken against persons distributing such material at street level.**

Yours Sincerely

Paul O'Grady
Executive Engineer
Environment Department (City Hall)"

Mental Health Matters

Would you like to learn more about your own mental health and learn to inform others about this very important matter?

Mental Health Matters is a Mental Health Association initiative aimed at providing a forum for people to learn about mental health and discuss in a pleasant, supportive and educational environment issues relating to our mental well being. Interested students will attend a training evening on campus, where they will be briefed on the module and its contents. They will then deliver this module over four weeks to fellow students, with the help and support of the expert staff available. This programme is of importance and relevance to everyone, with or without mental health problems. Now is your chance to inform and educate yourself in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere about a topic this is always going to be of importance to you. Don't miss this unique opportunity.

Should you wish to know more about the module and training prior to committing yourself, why not call by to the counselling service for more details. Call during drop-in times, daily, 11.00-12.00 and 3.00 - 4.00 each day in room CM073 where Dr. Declan Aherne, Head of Counselling, will be only too willing to talk to you.

Training Night: Wednesday 11th October at 7.00pm

All are Welcome

To Register: Call to Student Counselling - CM073 NOW

Dancing to the Future of Irish

BARRY WALSH

OVER the last few months a number of ideas have been put forward on how the teaching of Irish could be overhauled and modernised so that more people might develop an appreciation of and ability to speak our native tongue. An attempt has been made to start an open and honest debate about where we are going wrong in our approach to Irish. So, let's stop, take a deep breath, and calmly and rationally assess where we are and where we want to be when it comes to Irish, in both our education system and in society generally.

Irish is a big part of our schools. It always has been. But, we do the language and our young people a great disservice if we fail to ask whether the approach to Irish that we have taken for decades is actually working.

Why is it that even though our young people receive 1,500 hours of education in Irish many of them leave school with little Irish? Why is it that only three out of 10 students of Irish attempt the honours paper in the Leaving Certificate, less than any other language? And, why is it that as soon as they leave school our young people don't use the language, shutting the door on Irish on their way out?

One thing is clear: what we're doing isn't working. The time to reform is now.

Firstly, we need a complete reform of the Irish curriculum for our secondary schools. We need to teach Irish as a living language, one that our young people might actually use amongst themselves.

An analogy has been made between what Riverdance had done for Irish dancing, and what could

be possible with a similar approach to the Irish language. Well, why not? Everyone seems to agree that reform of the curriculum is necessary and long overdue - if so, why has there been no real push to make this happen?

For once, let's teach our young people to actually speak Irish, and introduce an oral element in the Junior Certificate. And, let's move on from the situation where they learn off essays by rote, hoping the right questions come up in written exams.

The reality is that forcing young people to learn Irish to the Leaving Certificate is doing more harm than good, and is driving people away from the language in droves. Compulsion has been a guiding principle for Irish education for decades. If it was working, don't you think that more school-leavers would be speaking Irish today?

Children and parents alike want Irish to be a core part of the education system. From primary school right up to the Junior Certificate, all students should be taught to speak Irish in a modern, applied and useful way. But, after that, let them choose whether they will learn Irish for the final two years of their education.

Those who decide to will share classes with others who want to be there, learning Irish, rather than those who wish they were somewhere else, learning something else. As well as being educationally positive and allowing young people to play to their strengths in their final years in school, this would also see the standard amongst Leaving Cert students of Irish increase significantly.

There is a perception that this course of action would disadvantage Irish against the other 'compulsory' subjects at Leaving Cert level. In fact, contrary to what is commonly believed,

Irish is the only subject that all students must take after the Junior Cert, and this is spelled out clearly in the Department of Education rule book for secondary schools. Worryingly, even the President of Conradh na Gaeilge seemed to be unaware of this fact during his contributions to the debate on this issue.

It has been said that making Irish an option for the Leaving Certificate does not have widespread public support, and, more notably, is not supported by students themselves. However, the Union of Secondary Students has come out in full support of the proposal, and research done by the MRBI has shown that 62% of people are in favour of the idea.

Finally, there must be a realistic national plan to support the Irish language to be put in place. Along with reform of the curriculum, and the introduction of choice post-Junior Certificate, we need to give adults a way to access Irish language classes, and bring Irish out of the classroom and into everyday life.

And, in 2006, it's not all negative either. People are choosing to send their children to Gaelscoileanna. People are choosing to watch TG4. These are hugely positive developments, both of which are happening in spite of the official approach to Irish in our education system, not because of it.

Over the coming years we need to change our approach, and give real support when and where it can have a real effect.

Barry Walsh is Vice-President of Young Fine Gael.

Postgraduate News



Hi Everyone,

Just a few quick words ...

In coming weeks you will have to focus on reading, writing, and reading and even more writing ... Scientists prove time flies when you're busy, so keep yourself busy and engage yourself in the PSA activities.

First of all, have a say on what is happening in the association and become a member of the PSA executive. What is it? The PSA is governed by an executive, which comprises of Deputy President, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Events Officer, MIC representative and SU rep. Positions of Deputy President, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Events Officer will be vacant from October, so **GO FOR IT!**

Secondly, remember, there is always life outside the classroom. Our activities offer myriad opportunities for fun. You can challenge yourselves intellectually and physically, and also pursue interests and passion. As a postgrad you are automatically a member of the PSA, and all you have to do is stay in touch with us. The simplest way is to visit the website and sign up to the mailing list, there is also a list available attached to my door. I will make sure to let you know about what is happening so you can be there.

To spill the beans I can tell you a bit about upcoming events...

Held throughout the year, socials will bring together both research and taught postgrads. Light food and beverages will be provided depending on the kind of event. Several themes will include celebrations of St. Patrick's Day, Holiday Season, Pancake Tuesday and others, like Multi-Cultural Day. Oh, yeah! Don't forget about the Annual Postgrad Ball in the spring semester. Note that in the event of lack of interest, I may have to cancel planned events so stay in touch.

Getting to know Thursday

We start with the Welcome Evening on Thursday, September 28th.

Multi-Cultural Day

This event will give an insight into different cultures, languages, and traditions at UL. It will include traditional foods, dress, arts, music and literature, so come and share your national heritage with others. Multi-Cultural Day will highlight the multicultural diversity of UL community.

For a nominal fee of the contribution of a homemade food, participants will be admitted into the Common Room filled with an assortment of treats, where they will be allowed to eat to their heart's content.

Take advantage of Limerick and Ireland

I will try to organize several student outings throughout the year to encourage students in a variety of events such as the St. Patrick's Day, Holiday Season events, and exhibits at museums and galleries, as well as, to explore Ireland. In the event of the great interest the PSA may organize trips to the far corners of Ireland like Cobh, the Arran Islands and many others.

Keep an eye out for the posters with the PSA logo for the details about upcoming events like BBQs, dances and outings in the following weeks:

Autumn semester - weeks: 1,4,8,12,15

Spring semester - weeks: 1,5,10,15

Problems

If you have any problems come and see me in the PSA centre in the Stables courtyard. However, as your representative, I attend many meetings so I may be out of the office when you call over. In such case you can contact me via email - maja.niebrzegowska@ul.ie or you can slip a note under my door.

If it is really urgent, please go to Students' Union and see one of the Sabbatical Officers they might be able to help you.

Financial Aid

As a postgrad you are eligible to apply to the Financial Aid Fund for assistance. The Fund is only available for students who experience extreme hardship. It is not a discretionary fund. The fund is open during semester only from Monday Week 2 to Friday Week 13.

Types of Financial Aid

Loans

The loan is only given in extreme circumstances, so don't apply unless it is absolutely necessary. The loan must be repaid in full prior to graduation.

Bursary

This is urgent financial assistance provided in extreme situations to students.

Childcare Assistance

This is financial assistance provided to students who finds themselves pregnant while in college or who is a single parent. All bursaries are situation dependant.

Financial Aid forms are available from the PSA President. The forms must be fully completed: incomplete applications forms will not be considered.

UL Wins European Language Award

AN FOCAL REPORTER

THE University of Limerick's innovative Graduate Diploma in Education course (Languages) has won a European Award for Languages. The award was presented at a ceremony in Galway by Rónán Mac Con Iomaire of TG4, today 25th September - European Day of Languages.

The Graduate Diploma course at UL is unique in Ireland in that it enables students to improve their language ability in small groups while also developing their teaching skills. It draws on the expertise of two departments in the University of Limerick: the Department of Education and Professional Studies and the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies. The programme, which was inaugurated in 2004, qualifies graduates to teach two of the following languages at post-primary level: English as a second

language, French, German, Japanese and Spanish.

According to the Course Director of the programme, Janet Moody: "The programme differs from others in that it takes into account the increasing need to support learners of English as a second language and to extend the range of languages on offer in second-level schools. For example, this year for the first time a teacher of Japanese graduated from the programme and is already teaching in schools in the Cork region, as part of the Post-Primary Languages initiative."

"We are absolutely delighted to receive this award and we feel that it reflects well on the high calibre of teachers who are graduating from the programme," Ms Moody continued.

Aoife Minnock graduated in September 2006 and is now teaching French and German with the Wicklow VEC: "I found the Graduate Diploma

in Education (Languages) to be a highly innovative and forward thinking programme. The strong focus on optimal Target Language used in the classroom and as a classroom management strategy is enlightened - it is amazing to experience how effective this strategy is at all levels. The exploitation of authentic materials as a resource in the language classroom has greatly improved the innovation of my language classes."

This European Award for Languages, which is coordinated by Léargas on behalf of the European Commission, is given to projects, which are innovative, creative and effective in promoting language learning and teaching. UL's Language Support Unit received a similar award last year.

ASIST

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

ASIST is a 2-day skills based workshop that helps prepare individuals of all backgrounds to provide emergency first aid and life assisting interventions to persons at risk of suicide.

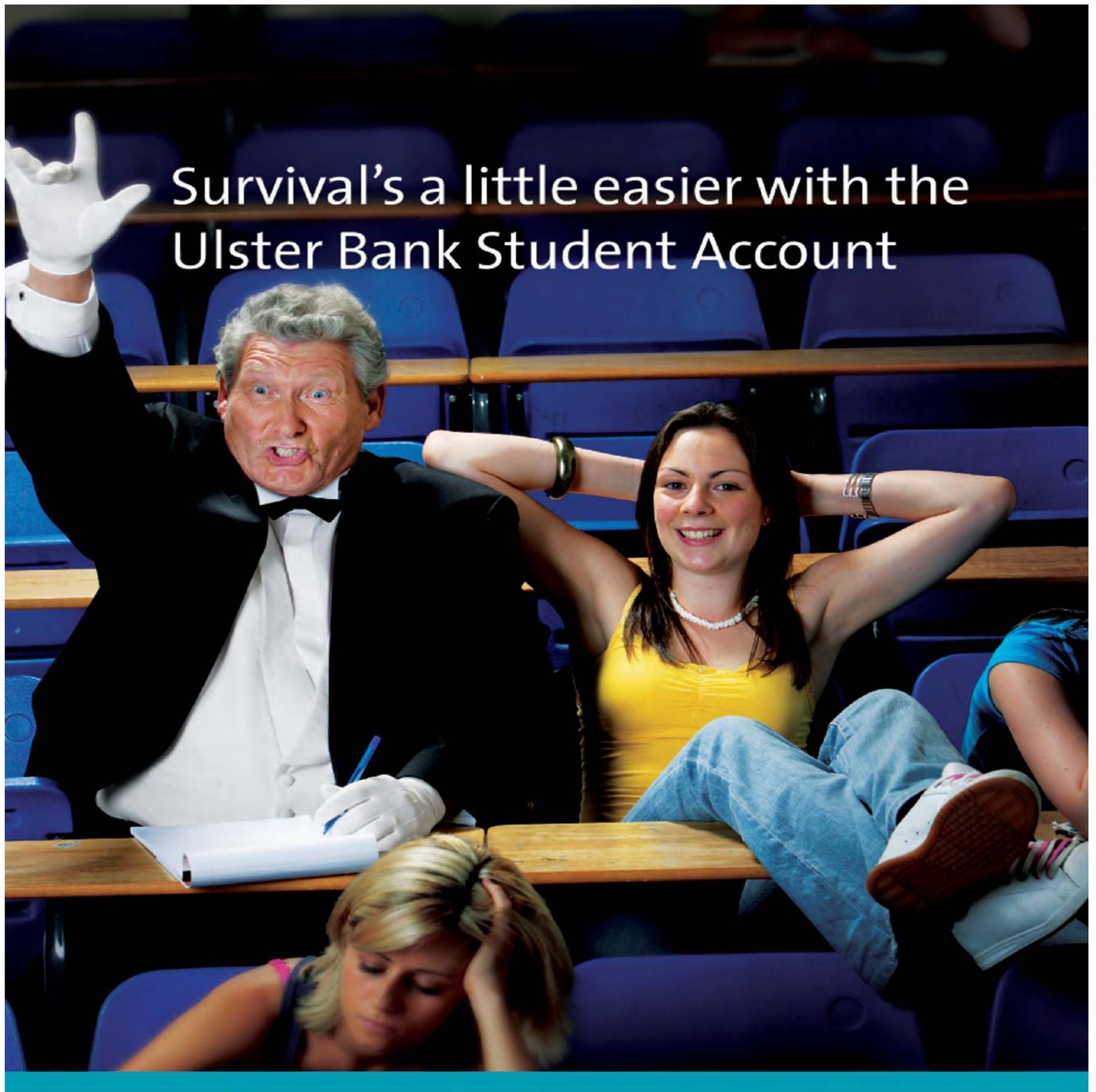
Through the good offices of the HSE Midwestern Region Suicide Prevention Office, we are now able to offer the ASIST two-day training for all interested student's, free of charge.

**Date: 20th & 21st October '06
Friday & Saturday**

Venue: Dromroe Village Hall

Registration: Please call to Marion Kinsella in Room CM073, or email Marion.Kinsella@ul.ie

This is a UL Mental Health Promotion Initiative



Survival's a little easier with the Ulster Bank Student Account

With lots of student friendly features, including an upfront* interest free overdraft of up to €650, you'll find surviving college is a little easier with the Ulster Bank student account.

Talk to us at our campus branch.

 **Ulster Bank**
let's do things differently

*Available for Ulster Bank student customers on request. The overdraft is an authorised limit (0% APR). Student Account is only available to full time (minimum course length 2 years) third level students resident in the Republic of Ireland. Credit available to over 18s only. Overdrafts are payable on demand. Security may be required. Ulster Bank Ireland Limited is regulated by the Financial Regulator.

College Days

ALANNAH TURNER

THE Students' Union is currently working on the organisation of new events called College Days. These have been organised with the intention of creating a sense of collegiality amongst the different colleges. There are six of these in UL and the idea is to hold each college day in the run up to RAG week. Four will be held in the first semester. They are: the Business college day on

Wednesday, Week 5; the Science college day, Wednesday, Week 8; the Engineering college day, Wednesday, Week 9, and; the Informatics and Electronics college day, Wednesday, Week 10. The college of Humanities and the college of Education will have their college days in semester 2.

The structure of the college days is similar with each one adapting a theme relevant to that college. It is thought that the day will start off with a human table

football competition, which will then be followed by a guest speaker. In the evening there will be a comic beauty contest followed by a themed night out. It is hoped that any monies raised will be donated to the RAG week charity fund.

The idea of the college days is to get as many people interacting with their peers as possible. It is hoped that each college will put forward a number of teams to compete in the human table football competition while also nominating people to compete

in the comic beauty competition. The winners of these competitions from each college will then go on to compete in the final in an attempt to be crowned the UL champions or Mr. and Ms. UL respectively.

There is great excitement in the Students' Union in anticipation of these college days. There initiation has come as a result from calls from students to increase the atmosphere on campus. It is hoped that these days will help to answer those calls.

An Focal Briefs

USI officer enrolls in UL

In an unprecedented turn of events, the Southern Area Officer of the Union of Students in Ireland, Katie Morrisroe, has enrolled as a postgraduate student at UL. Ms Morrisroe, who previously studied at UCC and was elected while still a registered UCC student, acknowledges the peculiarity of the situation, saying that while she's delighted to be studying in UL for the next year, "it's a little ironic". Ms Morrisroe went on to add that she was looking forward to her work this year as a student of Peace and Development Studies. Students' Union President St John Ó Donnabháin welcomed Ms Morrisroe to UL, saying "It's no harm to have good links with USI even if ULSU isn't a member." He also expressed the hope that Ms Morrisroe would get involved with the Students' Union here in UL in her personal capacity.

This coincidence comes in the wake of the ULSU sabbatical officers attending USI training. ULSU has not been a member of USI since the mid-1990s, when financial troubles and organisational difficulties beset the larger organisation and UL students decided by referendum to leave USI. Other non-affiliated Students' Unions include those of NUI Maynooth, DCU and Mary Immaculate College.

Digital Arts Week NOW 2006

A free exhibition of work done by the Masters students of Music Technology and Interactive Media took place in the former Scholars Club premises during Orientation week. The exhibition was a great success according to organisers.

Cappavilla receives first tenants

The latest student village to be built by Campus Life Services, Cappavilla, opened its doors to new students last week. Cappavilla, which was designed to house mainly health sciences students due to its location on the North Campus, is full to capacity, having kept its promise to house any first year students who required it. The village will be served by a North/South shuttlebus to be run by operator Mike Hynan, which will run from 8.30 to 5 on weekdays during the semester. It will also be served by the Nitelink bus, which is run by the Students' Union in cooperation with Campus Life Services, and other accommodation providers and sponsored by Superquinn for the first time.

Go 4 it!

Broaden your Horizons with the Socrates Erasmus Programme.

4 more info contact: erasmus@ul.ie
Tel: (061)202304

El Presidente

Grants, Grants, Grants!!!

It's that time of year again, the start of college. And along with that familiar feeling (new to some), is the question on many students' minds wondering when - or if - the grant will come through, and how far it can go before you have to start making pleading phone calls to overstretched parents or the dreaded bank.

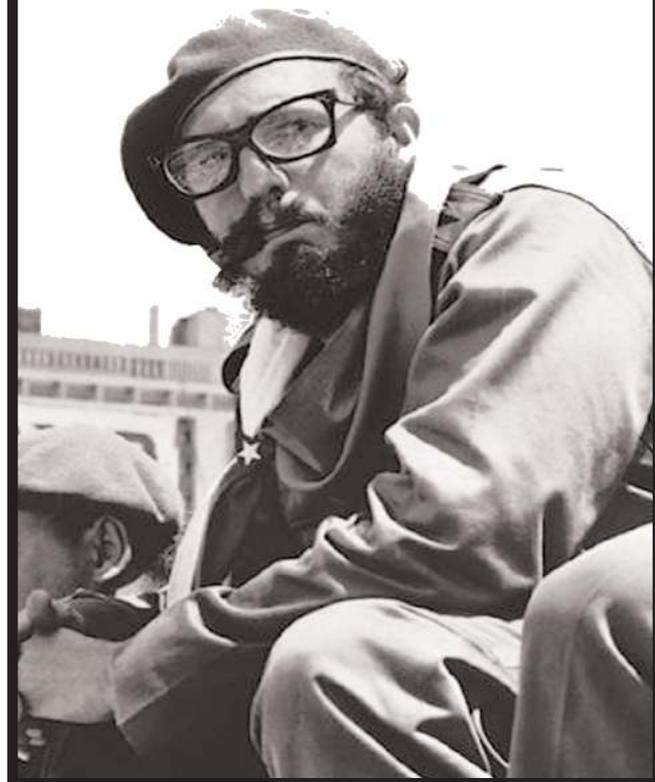
According to the HEA (Higher Education Authority - government body looking after education), the estimated cost of a year in college is €7,472. However, the top grant is not even nearly half that, standing at €3,110. Forget the smokescreen of undeserving people getting the grant - this is due to poor control by the government, for them to fix, and shouldn't make honest students suffer. This sum amounts to €86 per week, which is supposed to cover accommodation, food, all the different bills (most of which are skyrocketing) and the many costs of studying. **It isn't nearly enough!**

There have been some positive moves over summer, with students who get the top-up grant seeing their allocation rise by 11 per cent - a real help to those students coming from socio-economically deprived backgrounds. But the majority of people who get the grant saw a much smaller increase, and when inflation is taken into account, students could find themselves under even more financial pressure.

This situation is a disgrace! And to top it all off, expect your grant to arrive weeks - maybe even months - late, due to a really badly managed reform of the system of allocation, via the VECs. It all amounts to a system of inadequate, late grants for students who deserve better, and makes a mockery of the notion of free and inclusive education for all, which is to what this government claims to aspire.

So that's why we want to run a campaign to make government raise the levels of grants to liveable levels. The economy is booming, the money is there, but education is not the priority it should be. We have lots of ideas for putting pressure on politicians to live up to their rhetoric, in the run up to the election next year, such as letter-writing, petitions and more, but we really need your help!!! Call into the Students' Union or come along to Class Reps Council and have your voice heard. Our victory in the fight against fees shoes we can affect change with strong action by a united student body!

Ní neart go chur le chéile
(There's no strength like unity)



Letters to the editor

An Focal, UL Students' Union, UL, Castletroy, Limerick.
Phone 061 202363, Fax 061 213476, Email deirdre.oshaughnessy@ul.ie

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

Nazi graffiti abominable

Madam,

I wish to highlight my disgust and dismay at the recent appearance of graffiti stating in bold, red letters on the chessboard wall by the main entrance to the University, "Arbeit macht frei".

Many readers would recognise this slogan as the (sickly) ironic phrase used by the Nazis to 'welcome' their prisoners to labour and concentration camps - the most famous locations of this motto above the entrances to Auschwitz and Dachau extermination camps.

Unfortunately, work did not make anyone who went beyond the gates of any camp free.

The perpetrators of this stunt may not have realised the sickness of their crime in painting this phrase on the wall. Their ignorance leaves them in a surreal environment that doesn't understand the true horror of events that happened not in the Middle Ages, and not in barbaric tribal culture, but merely 60 to 70 years ago but in 'civilised' central Europe, by a 'civilised' political sect that was elected in a seemingly democratic manner.

Violence against humanity has not disappeared: the abuse against prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq comes to mind. These acts were also committed by a number of 'civilised' people representing a democratic state - and just as recently as 2003.

To deface the entrance to one of the leading third level institutions in Ireland with such an appalling slogan is a shameful act, but to do so with this particular phrase that led so many of Europe's people to their death is abominable.

Yours, etc.,

Aoife Breen
3rd Year, HP

Faculty no-show disappointing

Madam,

On the 13th September 2006 I graduated from Law and European Studies and I was disappointed to find that most of our lecturers did not turn up. I noticed that other students from other Humanities courses were conversing with their lecturers afterwards. So, why are the Law Department so disinterested in their students? I would deem it fair enough if some of these people had a legitimate excuse for not showing up but surely there should have been at least three representatives? It is an appalling reflection on the Department considering most of our class put in a tremendous amount of effort to reach thus far. I would like to invite anybody from the Law Department to comment on this.

Fiona Kehily,
Terenure,
Dublin 6W



E-mail is everybody-mail. They walk amongst us; they live by their own rules and have their own ways of communicating. They are 'staff' and they have internal mailing lists where they talk about various great issues of the day including sometimes you! Yes, you the student. Of course, students are not always the focus of these communications but in the first few weeks of the new term we've seen a number of interesting discussions cropping up as a result of e-mails sent to the 'Events' mailing list, which have given us some curious insights into the staff view of the student body.

The 'Events' mailing list as the name would have seemed to suggest is primarily intended to be a means for people to notify other members of the staff campus community of 'Events'. In recent times it seems people are using it as a means to inform each other about subjects as wide ranging and unrelated as the Pope's remarks on Islam, and the process of creating a new academic timetable for the spring semester. Perhaps, it is the hectic jet-set lifestyle we lead at Throat Towers but neither of those would normally strike us as 'Events' even within the loosest definition of the word.

Of course, the real gems have come not in the original mails but in the responses when the respondents have considerably chosen to 'reply to all'. Through this, we've learned that some members of staff believe that the university should look 'to stop the practice of constructing timetables around individual student choice that produces the annual stress in SAA.' And that 'This demand-led model is being phased out in the reform universities in the UK where it is recognised as having a debilitating impact upon the academic community and upon research performance.' This is referred to in academic circles as the Scooby Doo model of teaching, i.e. I could teach this subject just fine if it weren't for those pesky kids. And of course such teaching 'is based on a 1970s interdisciplinary model that is largely passé' yep, take that all you fools thinking that a modular system would allow you take some classes in other colleges and get a more rounded education. You're just so last century!

'Rather, timetables should be structured around the availability within departments trusted with the delivery of modules and good teaching. ...Students still get choice, but it will be more rationally structured.' You hear 'em. You'll damn well choose what they let you choose. And it appears that those teaching all modules in the 21st century require the support of ITD. God be with the hedgerow teaching of the 1980s when people made do with chairs, blackboards and chalk, or an overhead projector and some transparencies. And the poor student who had to write down notes as the lecturer spoke, rather than simply recording the lectures and outsourcing the transcription work.

Isn't it great when people choose to share! We hope we've given you a slight flavour of the inside track that we aim to bring of the various goings on about the campus. Where will we turn up next?

Over the bridge and far away U.L. County Clare?

MOST of us will never have to make the lengthy trip over to the north campus so I being so brave donned my raincoat, wellies and umbrella to cross the Shannon to U.L. County Clare.

After nearly being blown off the side of the bridge my first stop was Thomond village. Thomond houses around 400 students, all the houses are named after birds such as swan, wagtail and robin. I've always wondered what it would be like to live inside a swan..... The view from the houses overlooking the river is gorgeous and there is a little pond in the middle with frogs in it (I kid you not!).

I travelled on over to the health science building which was deserted it being week 0 and all. Mostly used by

nursing, physiotherapy and health therapy students the health science building is the hub of all things medical. Once upon a time I did have a lecture here, in the scariest room I've ever been in. It has really steep steps and when you get to the top it so high you could have a bout of vertigo. The building is spotless and really new with a canteen and tuck shop on site but the size of the canteen leaves something to be desired.

Cappavilla is the closest student village to the health science building and is ideal if you have a lot of classes there. The new footbridge is under construction at the moment so if you were unfortunate enough to have classes in the PESS building you might consider swimming across rather than walking. The

rooms are similar to most of the other on campus accommodation but Cappavilla was given more attention last year as it was the newest available accommodation and to encourage students free i-pods were be given to the first 100 people to apply. It is the most expensive also of all the accommodations but the scenic views and exercise of walking into college from it could be considered some of the perks.

The new buildings which have been constructed across the river just show how much U.L. has grown over the years. The architecture and location are something to be proud of, as well as bragging that U.L. has gotten so big it is now in two counties!

Homework with Alan Higgins, ULSU Education Officer

Choose College Life-Choose Time Management

YOU are immersing yourself into a year of academic pursuits and while week one may be a distant memory and you still tell yourself that week six is ages away, but you know the truth - it's not! Consider a world were you have a routine, a day planned and not freaking out that you have 101 things to do: Welcome to time management!

When some people think 'time management', they think having your day planned down to the second. What it really means is that you assign periods of your day. The best way to do this is to fill the white spots in

your timetable with different tasks, firstly your commitments-work, clubs and societies, gym and anything else. Then put in time for reading, prep work for assignments. If you're a final year student a good tip is to have an FYP day. Remember to also allow yourself free time, be realistic-know when you work best and be realistic.

Just because you have a planner doesn't mean that it has to be set in stone, it should be used as a guide to your weekly tasks, to give focus and motivation when it's needed. Don't stress out if you let it slip, sometimes it's necessary or unavoidable (e.g.: around submission dates

or RAG Week).

Another tip on saving time is to have a 'to do list' and enjoy the satisfaction of crossing off the completed tasks. Also keep a pen and paper handy for when you have ideas or if you want to do some quick revision or love letters when you have spare time.

Too much time in the library or in the stables will do you no good. The most important thing to remember when approaching time management is to have a balance in order to have the full college experience.

Ó neart go neart le Sobalsaol

DEIRDRE NÍ
FHÍONNACHTA

IS é Sobalsaol an leabhair is deanaí le Pádraig Standún ó Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo. Tá clú agus cáil air bainte amach aige cheana mar gheall ar Súil le Breith, a foilsíodh i 1983. Ta deich leabhar scríobtha aige anois, agus léiríonn sé go bhfuil a cumas scríbhneoireachta ag dul ó neart go neart le Sobalsaol.

Scríbhneoir scrípte is ea Mártan Mac Cormaic don sobal Beal an Chuain, agus bíonn sé i gconaí faoi bhrú, de shíor sa tóir ar theamaí úra don chlár. De réir mar a théann an scéal ar aghaigh, tuigimid go gcuireann sé go leor rudaí ar an méar fhada, go háirithe na dualgaisí a bhaineann lena shaol pearsanta. Tá sé scartha óna bhean céile, Justine, agus ní chaitheann Cian, a mhac ach lá amháin in aghaidh na seachtaine leis. Tá grá mór aige do Chian, ach níl sé in ann smacht a chuir ar a shaol ionas go bhféadfadh sé níos mó ama a chaitheamh leis. Ní drochduine e Mártán, agus is léir gur easpa misnigh is cúis de chuid mhór den fadhbanna atá aige. É sin ráite, cuireann claidheacht an fhir óig déistín

ar an léitheoir in amantaí.

"Art imitates life" a dhearbhaigh saoi uair amháin, agus is duine é Martán nach leas leis tarraingt ar a shaol féin nó ar shaol daoine eile, chun ábhar a sholáthar dá chuid plotlínte. Nuair a thugann Micheline, an t-eagrathóir scrípte, ultimatum dó teacht suas le plan nua bliana don chlár, tuigimid go mbeidh an-chuid dá shaol féin le féiceail ar an scáilean má éiríonn leis a phost a choinneál.

Cé gur leabhair éadrom e seo, is iomaí cor is lúb atá sa scéal. Tá cion mór ag Mártan ar Shinéad, scríbhneoir óg mealltach don chlár, ach an mbeadh sé de mhuintir aige a chuid mothuchán a nochtadh di? Maidir le Cian, tá rún aige Justine agus Martán a thabhairt le chéile súla ndéanann sé a Chéad Comaoineach. An éireoidh leis? Agus an mbainfidh Mártan díoltas amach ar leannán nua Justine a bhfuil baint aige leis an sobal chomh maith?

Tá bua ag an Standúnach comhrá bríomhar realaíoch a scríobh a chuireann go mór le hatmaisféar an scéal. Cé go n-usáideann sé iasachtaí on mBéarla go minic, fitear nathanna cainte dúchasacha

go rialta tríd an scéal chomh maith, rud a léiríonn go bhfuil tuiscint an mhaith ag an údar ar iompar teanga muintir na Gaeltachta. Nuair a dhéanann Martán iarracht scéal Uiscin, seanfhear as an bpobal atá ar mire báiní a fhiosrú don sobal, éiríonn leis an Standúnach an saol nua-aimseartha agus an seansaol a thabhairt le chéile go héifeachtach. Is léir freisin go bhfuil tuiscint mhaith aige ar meon na mná, toise go bhfuil Bríd, máthair Mhartáin agus Justine, a bhean chéile, ar an dá caractar is realaí sa scéal i mo thuairimse.

Níl i gceist anseo an plot go léir a sceitheadh ach is leor a rá go n-éiríonn saol na gearactar sa leabhar i bhfad Eiréann níos castaí ná aon sobal teilifíse roimh ceann scríbe! Tá stíl cumasach, easca le léamh ag an Standúnach, agus mholfainn an leabhair seo d'aon duine a bhfuil suim acu scéal éadrom taitneamhach a léamh. Tá mé ag súil go mór leis an gcéad leabhair eile ón Standúnach, ach idir an dá linn, tá áthas orm nach bhfuil a leithéid de sobalsaol agamsa!

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It's all in the eyebrows

KEITH WHELAN

Described as Australia's funniest comedian, Jimeoin is a tremendous success down under, but has yet to capture the imagination of the Irish comedy audience. Probably Ireland's most successful export to Oz after Guinness, he has taken the Antipodes by storm, even writing and starring in his own feature films. This reviewer had the misfortune of seeing "The Craic" a number of years ago, so if I had anything to go by, I wasn't holding my breath when it came to this

comedian's recent appearance at The Dot Comedy Club in Dolan's recently.

After some support slots from some non-notable Irish comedians, the main act came on stage with not so much gusto and acclaim, even noting the lack of seats taken in the front row. I think this was more out of fear of audience participation on behalf of the audience than turnout in numbers. This venue is a small, intimate setting, conducive to physical interaction between artist and audience, which would be shown later on in the show. There was a slow start to the

show by this softly-spoken comedian, who showed his initial bewilderment and puzzlement of having to perform with a series of facial expressions, grimaces and arching of the eyebrows. However, the pace was quickened with the infectiousness of the man's comedic skills, indicated by the continuous laughter after a series of quick-fire observations on everyday human activities including having a conversation and going to the toilet.

After wrestling with a woman in the front-row for her handbag and utilising it as a

prop for more comedy including a sketch on a gay builder, he went on to ask the question - what if history was written by those who lost? Such a profound statement was answered with comedic candour. Moving along quickly, incorporating such topics as boiling kettles out of toilet water (it's ok seemingly) and Irish dancers in a 50 Cent video, he punctuated the end of his show with some music, some laughter and observations on love and relationships. A lot more than comedy, all included in the price of a ticket to a Jimeoin gig.



Diary of a Fresher

WOOOOO hooooo what a week! Here I am in the University of Limerick first week - and what a week it's been. At present I'm here in what I think is the library, but as I look around I note that there are actually no books - must have got that wrong. This is a feeling every fresher is sure to experience; the "Where the hell am I now?" feeling. I have got numbers of older people to ring if I lose my way but I decided against it. Judging by the amount of times I've managed to get lost in one day, I'm sure they'd have my number diverted. Anyway I've found part of the fun is the adventure of finding your own way around, although many of the people who gave me directions to the stables thought I was a head case (I soon found out it's the central hum of the college). I have experienced many shocks and differences since I began this interesting orientation week. Probably the most shocking and embarrassing occurred at registration. Oh yes people; I

managed to make a complete ass of myself on my first acquaintance with my college. Read it and weep my friends.

I got up early, surprising since I'd had a bit of a wild one the night before (this was also a really weird experience for a fresher on a school night). Anyway, in I marched, full of pride, off to get my first student card. As I passed the many fretting kids who seemed to have forgotten everything bar themselves, I couldn't help giving myself a tap on the back considering the banging hangover that the many endless meetings had added. I felt my head come closer to imploding with every word. In I walk to the registration room, filled with confidence at having all the correct stuff in the right hands, when all of a sudden I was been grabbed by someone dressed up as a sperm and had a condom shoved into my hand. Then I was called for the photo... in the midst of my amazement I launched into the room filled with confusion and disbelief 'did that just happen?' I shoved the receipt

into the photographer's hand. I soon noticed his blushing face. I figured it had to be something to do with the sweltering heat... until his flushed face was chorused by a laughing audience. Oh yes I did... I had just shoved the condom into his hand and to top it off stood there smirking in what some understood as waiting in expectance. Oh yes people I had unbeknown to myself became the official class clown.

With many trials and tribulations, this week was arguably one of the most challenging weeks of my life to date. Gone are the days of mammy tidying the kitchen and making sure the fridge was full of wholesome food. And somehow, even with all the responsibilities, I feel that I can not only survive the upcoming four years but make them both enjoyable and beneficial. Yes if this week taught me anything I learned that I am indeed at the beginning of a wonderful journey.



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will too!**

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the SU and ask for Deirdre**

UpClose

Name: Darren Goldrick.

Age (if you're brave enough to admit it!): 18

Relationship status: Totally single.

Job/Course and Department: Business Studies, Kemmy Business School.

Birthplace: Dublin

Describe yourself in five words: Handsome, Carefree, Sociable, Intelligent, Ambitious.

Why did you come to UL? I didn't get the points to do Commerce in UCC and that's the truth.

Your favourite thing about UL: Stables especially when Free Beer are playing.

Your least favourite thing about UL: Exams straight after Christmas.

Favourite place to eat in UL: nowhere - I eat at home preferably.

Three interesting facts about you: I passed all my exams in first year, I'm single and I will be living in Milford Grange this year.

Your motto for life: Live life to the max and let no-one hold you back



Costly college

BY CATHERINE CASEY

Who would have thought it eh?! Special offer coupons and 10% discount vouchers would be our new bible! Moving to college is obviously a huge transition on various levels but, the level that bites us in the ass time and time again has to be the financial affairs of everyday life. Us first years have just cut the cord, the bank of Mam and Dad is fairly economical, we just have enough to live on. I don't enjoy the thoughts of living on noodles and drinking what tastes like toilet cleaner, but I don't think we have to be reduced to that (well not all the time).

Before we even start the academic semester large one off expenditures are made. Books have varying costs for different courses naturally, but still you can look forward to spending at least 300 euros on books if you're lucky. Paying the deposit on a house or an apartment is also crippling, deposits ranging now from 150-250 euros. Buying toiletries and cleaning products when moving into your new humble abode can cost anything up to 50 euros. Initial costs to start college are

staggering, needing a whopping 600 euros just to start us off. Students are a costly business to run.

Then there is the matter of paying for travel and food. Everyday costs that add up. A Euro here and a Euro there isn't too long amounting to twenty euros. Twenty euros you could have spent on your weekly grocery shop or a night out. That's why I'd heavily advise students to use loyalty cards and their student card at any given opportunity. I use my Bus Eireann loyalty card, already it's half full, and it just shows how dependant we are on public transport and should make a conscious effort to avail of any special offers going. Also Superquinn has an excellent student offer - 5 superclub points on all your shopping which is definitely worth getting.

Every year when students start college, banks are swooping around us like vultures, trying to dazzle us with gifts while we sign the dotted line. We have to be cautious, freebies come at a price and what may seem like a really great deal will haunt us when we're in our thirties paying back a hefty interest rate. Unbiased and factual

information can be found at www.ifsra.ie, the Irish financial regulator. The website will tell you about everything ranging from bank charges to overdrafts, and the highlight is that they compare each bank with each other. Ulster bank has a great offer for an overdraft at the moment and is also offering the lowest rate of interest on long term debt, in comparison to other leading banks.

Part time work in my eyes is imperative. We are discovering at a very intense pace that whether we are commuting or living in college, it is very expensive. Naturally grants and scholarships are available but not all of us qualified for them. Part time work can be found! Just look! For information check out the noticeboards on www.ulsu.ul.ie.

Everyday life in college can be as cheap or as expensive as you'd like it to be, we'll just have to strike the right balance and stick with it. Until then we hope not to be ripped off, though young and naïve, we have long memories that adore holding grudges!

Horoscopes by B



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra is an Air sign ruled by Venus - the planet of harmony, love and beauty. Its motto is Balance. You are elegant from top to toe and you will always make an impression with your glamour, style and panache. With the Sun shimmering in your sign right now you have the perfect opportunity to make an impression and you can do this magnificently! You finally have time for your own pursuits, hobbies and interests. You are now in a position to achieve whatever you have sought for so long. Sun, Venus and Mercury are offering you the courage and power to bring you success. Enjoy!



Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

"I transform" is your motto Scorpio and now more than ever is your chance. Employ your unshakeable determination to discover that sterner stuff of which you are made! Ruled by powerful Pluto you are not afraid to face the death of certain pursuits that no longer benefit you and regenerate a life that can bring you happiness without too much struggle. The planet Jupiter in your sign for the past year has brought about wonderful changes and thrilling offers. This expansive period will continue during 2006 so therefore relax, let go, don't limit or contain yourself...you can do it.



Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system. It is associated with generosity, expansiveness and development and it is your planet. Your motto is "I believe and I aspire" and your assertive energy is not easily confined. Your life at the moment is about learning as much as you can and broadening your horizons in preparation for the thrilling and exciting cycle that will be brought about later in the year when your own ruler moves into your sun sign to being a period of intense personal growth. You are now asked to prepare yourself to walk in awareness and to use your generosity towards your own development...you are so energetic and full irrepresible spirit...you have the power use it.



Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Capricorn's ruling planet is Saturn - the god of structure, authority and responsibility and its motto is "I use or I order". You are so ambitious Capricorn - just like that proverbial goat climbing and reaching the top of that mountain! Now that your ruler is in the creative sign of Leo let your creative juices flow. You are a brilliant manipulator and you can now plant the seeds of your future. The more you are prepared to explore unexpected developments, the more you will benefit. If you catch yourself thinking negatively, think again and you will begin to feel younger and more playful again because you have the potential to integrate life's material and spiritual dimensions in a very powerful way. You can adapt and survive when you relinquish your need to control...lighten up.



Aquarius (January 20 - February 19)

Aquarius is ruled by Uranus, the planet of challenges and brilliance. It is indeed an honour to be born under this inspiring planet and it gives you a rebellious and very individual streak. Your motto is reformation and you are the seeker of truth and meaningful society. The presence of Neptune in your sign and the practical sign of Saturn in your opposite sign Leo means you have become quite a life juggler! But this has forced you to reflect on priorities and for you these are loyalty, honesty and integrity. You are a great visionary and always follow your eccentric heart. You love to spread your wings and the world is a better place with you in it...let no one put you down.



Pisces (February 20 - March 20)

Pisces is the 12th and final zodiac sign. Ruled by imaginative Neptune, whose motto is "I understand", this understanding has been achieved through the long journey through the zodiac. Dearest Pisces you have grappled so long with the contradictions and duality of life and this makes you an insightful and compassionate friend. You are now learning to go with the flow of your changing emotions. Your time and energy are best spent with what brings you happiness and what supports you and eliminating what doesn't. You now have time to pursue what is important to you and what lifts your spirit. Lose your pessimism, release your fears, make yourself your first priority and everything else will fall into place. You are the way... follow yourself.



Aries (March 20 - April 19)

You are the spontaneous competitive fiery child of the Zodiac! Your ruler is energetic, go-getting Mars, whose motto is 'I AM'. For the next few weeks make many 'I am' statements because this is the strongest creative force in the Universe-it responds to I am like a genie in a bottle! Whatever positive actions and decisions you make and take now will impact hugely on the rest of your life Therefore, put extra thought into your plan of action. You can now develop a new intuitive approach to overcoming the many obstacles encountered of late. Channel your impatient, exuberant streak towards developing a positive mental attitude - your lust and enthusiastic passion make you a winner. Congratulations!



Taurus (April 20- May 20)

'I have and possess' is the motto of this methodical, loyal, easy-going lover of beauty and good food. Taurus shares its sensual artistic romantic ruler with Libra. This refined planet offers you the gift of creating order out of chaos, music from noise and meaning to existence. You have discipline, ethics and high standards. You will excel in education. You can look at difficulties as opportunities to broaden your horizon and that is exactly what your present dilemma is - an opportunity that will lead you on to being productive and capable in whatever field you choose. Go on you calm, patient Bull; the lush green grass awaits you!



Gemini (May 21- June 20)

You share your ruler Mercury with intellectual Virgo. Your motto is to think deeply and communicate effectively and you certainly outdo most of us in this area! Think about what you want to be, to do, to have and with your great mental power you can be, do and have all at once! You have now seized control of your life and you can begin to tame that agile, swift and brilliant brain of yours to achieve your biggest challenge; inner peace. You have all the props you need. Gemini duality and wit make you irresistible - you can talk your way out of hell!



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Ruled by the moon, Cancerians are very emotional and have a strong need to fulfil their motto to belong. A need to be nurtured, treasured and loved so as to feel secure. As the moon is the fastest planet to travel through the houses of the Zodiac, your mood, Cancer, can wax and wane accordingly. Like Scorpio, if you are wronged there is no room for negotiation-the wrong-doer is history! So dearest Crab, channel your sensitive, intuitive, compassionate imagination towards being inventive and focused on the present moment and its generous opportunities and your desires can become reality. Few can match your caring ability. Now is the time to become your own carer- seek not to find who you are but determine who you want to be-no better one to do it!



Leo (July 22- August 22)

The dazzling power of the Sun is symbolised by the noble and dangerous Lion whose motto is creation creation creation! By now Leo, I'm sure you are well aware of the restricting demands that the presence of Saturn in your sign for the past year has made on you. For some, the very foundation of life has been rocked, for others, unexpected challenges have disrupted your stand and forced you to recreate a very important aspect of your life. Don't forget that is what you are about- you are a creator and you are now asked to create a new reality because your horizon is being broadened in remarkable ways. Saturn's experience cannot be treated lightly, its opportunities may not be welcomed at first but they will prove illuminating as the year progresses. Reaction or creation? C things differently ie. Change the position of the c in both words-that is your challenge-the power of Sun is behind you!



Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Ruled by Mercury, the intellect and intelligent co-ordination whose motto is to perfect and serve Virgo's deepest satisfaction comes from a job well done. Because of your perfectionist streak you worry. This year's eclipses in March and September brought about the unexpected, unsettling but ultimately beneficial changes that may have forced you to drop your over-caution and critical attitude?? Your innate ingenuity and analytical thinking make you a brilliant student and help you master skills necessary for future success. Learn to engage mind and body jointly - take time to smell the roses in that garden that you can so meticulously cultivate!

If you would like to learn more about your astrological chart call or text B at 085 1234608

Tarot readings also given at very reasonable rates. Newspaper astrology is limiting and cannot give the full picture-you cannot reduce the ocean of life to a single drop.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

With ULSU Welfare Officer Sinéad Hickey

Accommodation can be a big problem for students. The problems encountered can vary from issues with landlords, issues with housemates, or the house just being a dump!

Here are a few recommendations about renting accommodation particularly aimed at those living OFF-CAMPUS

Please **request a copy of the letting agreement** BEFORE you sign a lease/contract. If you haven't received your contract yet, request one immediately.

Request a rent book. This will set out how much rent is payable and will specify contact details for your landlord.

Request an inventory. This is a list of all the contents of the house and any structural damage or wear and tear in the house. Check the list, add anything that is missing and make sure you, your housemates and the Landlord signs it.

Taking photos is another good idea. If possible have dates on the pictures (most digital cameras can do this). This is vital evidence for dispute resolution.

Keep everything! Keep all receipts and bills and letters related to the house. Make sure the landlord signs the rent book and gives you a DATED receipt every time you pay rent

Deposits

You may forfeit some or all of your deposit if you:

- Do not give proper notice or leave before the tenancy agreement
- Damage the property above the normal wear and tear (ask for receipts for anything deducted for damage)
- Leave unpaid bills or rent (again as for receipts)

The Law

The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 covers all the legalities in relation to accommodation. The "quick guide" is available online at www.justice.ie or call into me in the Students Union.

There is lots of information available to you about tenancy termination, your rights and obligations as a tenant, if you need any assistance or advice drop into me in the SU or email me at sinead.hickey@ul.ie or phone 061-202519. I'm here to help!

AONTAS NA MAC LÉINN

Ollscoil Luimnigh

NiteLink Bus

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 &
Courtyard Student Village, Brookfield Hall Student Village
Thomond Village, Kilmurry Village
Dromroe Village, Cappavilla Village, Plassey Village

Route A: On the hour
7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00

Start @ Stables Arch way
 Stop 1: Dromroe Village
 Stop 2: Thomond Village
 Stop 3: Cappavilla Village
 Stop 4: Plassey Village
 Stop 5: College Court
 Stop 6: Courtyard Student Village
 Stop 7: Brookfield Student Village
 End @ Stables Arch way

Route B: On the half hour***
7:30 8:30 9:30 10:30

Start @ Stables Arch way
 Stop 1: Kilmurry Village
 Stop 2: Elm Park
 Stop 3: Oak Lawns
 Stop 4: Kilmurry Lodge
 Stop 5: Superquinn
 Stop 6: Briarfield
 Stop 7: Courtyard/Brookfield Roundabout
 End @ Stables Archway

***Milford Grange On Request

Route C:
11:30 Only
 All Route A & B Stops on Request
 Please note: Route C is a drop-off-only route

Noone's anti social drinking

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour. We hear about it so often these days it is easily to forget that it is the direct inverse of something that is believed to be a general societal good; social behaviour. So if social behaviour is a good thing, why are we seeing so little being done to encourage it?

Just prior to the return of the general undergraduate population the first years had their introduction to college life by way of orientation week. As part of this, continuing a practice from previous years the bars on campus were not selling alcohol during the daylight hours. A sensible measure in itself many might feel. Yet what is the message that such restrictions convey to the new students? That alcohol is something illicit to be consumed furtively after dark? That you young pups can't control yourself if it is available during the day?

Looking slightly further back into more recent history, we see that The Scholars has closed, the Arena bar doesn't open past 7pm on the weekend, and The Stables apparently has nowhere near the trade it once had. Yet we see reports in the wider media that never have so many drunk, so much, so quickly and so often. Where is it all this drinking happening? It would seem to be taking place increasingly at home.

So what, you say, if people drink at home? Isn't it cheaper and you're not going have to put up with too much that you don't like? Yet, is it social? When you drink at home you are much less likely to encounter people outside your original social group. If you won't meet too many any new people, how will you broaden your horizons? And wasn't that supposed to be part of the university experience? And then there is the quantity that is consumed. A cooler in the living room is great from a convenience viewpoint, yet the chain drinking that it allows for means you can put away significantly more than when out and about.

At work in a pub was the largely unnoticed restriction on the amount you could drink by the tedious and time-consuming process of queuing at the bar. And the various people you might strike up a conversation with. Irish pub culture is something that people visit Ireland for; God knows it isn't the weather. Yet, we appear to be engaged in an active process of cultural cleansing and with no thought to the consequences.

In essence it is a considerable difference between drinking to socialise and socialising to drink. Go on get out of the house and make some new friends.

Life after Death

PLEASE allow me to tell you the story of a young woman who is not much older than many students here at UL. This young woman gave birth to a beautiful baby girl just six months ago. The birth of her daughter was the happiest event of her life - at that time there was no apparent reason why she could not embrace motherhood and enjoy her new role as mother to the full. This was not to be as within the space of three months the health of this young mother rapidly deteriorated. She has just recently been diagnosed with a rare lung disease for which there is no cure other than a lung transplant. If she has a lung transplant she will be given the opportunity to greatly improve her quality of life and regain the ability to perform all the normal everyday tasks that most of us take for granted. Without a lung transplant her

quality of life will remain very poor indeed.

Please give this young mother and many other people like her the gift of life by becoming a multi organ donor. One multi organ donor holds the power to enable many people to live life to the full again. Donor cards will be made available at the reception desk within the student union. It is of the utmost importance that **you and your next of kin sign the card** as without both signatures the card may not be valid.

Please come and take an organ donor card and carry it with you at all times so that you too can give the gift of life after death.

Life after Death was written by a staff member here at UL. The person referred to in the article is a relative of the author.

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Module Outlines And everything else a lecturer should tell you.

ALAN HIGGINS

BE you in first year, fourth year or somewhere in between you want the best out of the modules you study. The guide to do this is the module outline, but are you being told everything?

Last week you should have been supplied a module outline by each of your lecturers. If you haven't then the lecturer has broken the academic rules. If you find yourself in this situation ask, or get your class rep to ask, the lecturer for one. If you still have a problem contact the Students' Union and we will act on it.

The role of the module outline is to detail the expectations of the student and the responsibilities of the lecturer. Now this is the important bit: A lecturer CAN NOT change the module outline after week one, without agreement from the majority of the class. This is one of the important reasons for your class to have a Class Rep as they can act a liaison between your class and the lecturer.

Your module outline MUST contain the following information:

- Module Objectives
- Methods of assessment, including the weighting of each method
- Means of repeating the module

Other information which can be in the module outline and should be looked for:

- Lecturer contact details and office hours
- The reading list-ask what is an appropriate amount of reading
- Procedures for requesting an extension and if there are penalties for late submission.
- Ability to get feedback-ask what were the common difficulties encountered by past students of the module.

Remember that you have the right to ask about the modules you're taking (although they are generally touchy about giving out the exam paper). If you don't understand something or are encountering difficulties there is always someone to help, so don't be afraid to ask.



Cash Strapped Student With a Car

So you've made it to college and lost your way round the place. You've discovered that it's way more expensive than you ever thought and your account at the Bank of Parents has run dry. On top of this you have to get around; to and from home every weekend; to Aldi / Lidl or Superquinn for the posh people among you with the 5% discount card.

So my insurance is a rip off, the tax is killin' me and this thing is just drinking petrol. Fear not An Focal has set up a post on the *motors* thread of the *noticeboards* section of the website (www.ulsu.ul.ie) where you guys can tell each other where the cheapest petrol/diesel in

town is. Then all you have to do is find out how to get to it.

So it's the time of year when you need the heater to clear the window and I've noticed myself how much of a drain this puts on the fuel tank. So invest in some "anti-fog" for the inside of your windscreen and rear window, and drop the drivers window a little too when you get in. Then you can avoid the heater as much as possible and save some petrol/diesel.

For those who travel long distances to college and live on campus, **DON'T DRIVE TO COLLEGE EVERY DAY**, parking is impossible and you **WILL BE CLAMPED** if you park outside designated areas or

staff car parks. Buy an umbrella and walk. If you live on the other side of town get here early free parking goes fast. It's available by the East Gate and behind the foundation building. Otherwise it's €3 per day. But I'm reliably informed the barrier is raised after 9pm so you can leave for free after that.

One more thing - When you get in your car; turn on the headlights, not the sidelights, the headlights - even in sunshine it reduces the chances of you not being seen by another car which means some idiot is less likely to hit you than a car with sidelights - or no lights on. **LIGHT UP**



With ULSU
Welfare Officer
Sinéad Hickey

Alcohol -- a mood alternating drug:

Alcohol is the most widely abused drug in Ireland. Alcohol is a mood alternating drug. It changes how we feel. It may be used to let us express feelings, mask feelings and avoid feelings. The more you drink, the greater the risk. Drinking too much can damage your health and cause problems with work, family and friends. Protect yourself by keeping an account of how many units of alcohol your drink contains.

Health

1 unit = a half a pint of beer, a glass of wine, 1 glass of sherry
2 units = 1 pint of beer, cider, lager, glass of spirit

Healthy Limits:

Women: 14 units per week
Men: 21 units per week

Alcohol Misuse

Most people enjoy relaxing over a drink or two. Drinking alcohol is part of the Irish culture. Alcohol, when drunk in moderation, can be enjoyable and sociable. However, road traffic accidents, domestic violence and physical assaults are easily traced back to alcohol misuse. Problem drinking is rarely recognised in Ireland until it ends up in an A&E department or in a courtroom. Almost half of all crime in Ireland is alcohol related. Alcohol is a depressant, not a stimulant. Drinking behaviour differs with the age, lifestyle and relationship status. Hangovers are the least of the health problems associated with drinking. The level of alcohol-related harm is known to increase with the rate of alcohol consumption.

Everybody enjoys a night out and a few drinks, but drinking to make yourself sick is just down-right stupid. The next day you'll feel awful and embarrassed. Getting sick because of extreme alcohol consumption is not a good idea. If you're going to drink, know your limit and that's the best way to enjoy your nights out with your friends.

USEFUL SITES-EDUCATION

Information and Communication

Technologies (ICT) Learning Centre: www1.csis.ul.ie/prospect/ictcentre

The Mathematics Learning Centre: www.ul.ie/~mlc

Language Resource Area: www.ul.ie/lrs
www.ul.ie/~lrs/languageresourcearea

Science Learning Centre: www.ul.ie/~slc

Centre for Teaching and Learning: www.ul.ie/tandl/

Students' Union (for Grinds List and Education Information):
www.ulsu.ul.ie

Library: www.ul.ie/%7Elibrary

Student Academic Administration (formally Student Services):
www.si.ul.ie/

Student Handbook (for information on Academic Regulation and Procedures):
www.ul.ie/studentacademicadmin/files/student_handbook_2006-2007.pdf

**Come to the first An Focal team meeting in Student's Union Room 3
(upstairs, beside the common room).**

Wednesday Week 2 6pm.

Finger food & refreshments available in the Stables afterwards.



**An Focal
Without you?**

F* all!**

WANTED:

Reporters and Photographers



ULSU Shop Special Offers

Buy a chicken baguette with a twix and mini-coke (330ml) or Riverrock water (500ml) for only €4.80

Capri-sonne Orange - 2 for €1
Cadbury's standard bar - 2 for €1

Mars Standard bar - 2 for €1

Lab coat €15.50

Safety glasses €4.95

Memory Stick USB2
256mb - €19.50
512mb - €23

Network cables
1m - €6.50 3m - €8.95

Do you like the sound of your own voice? We will too

ULSU is looking for students with podcasting and web broadcasting experience/interest.

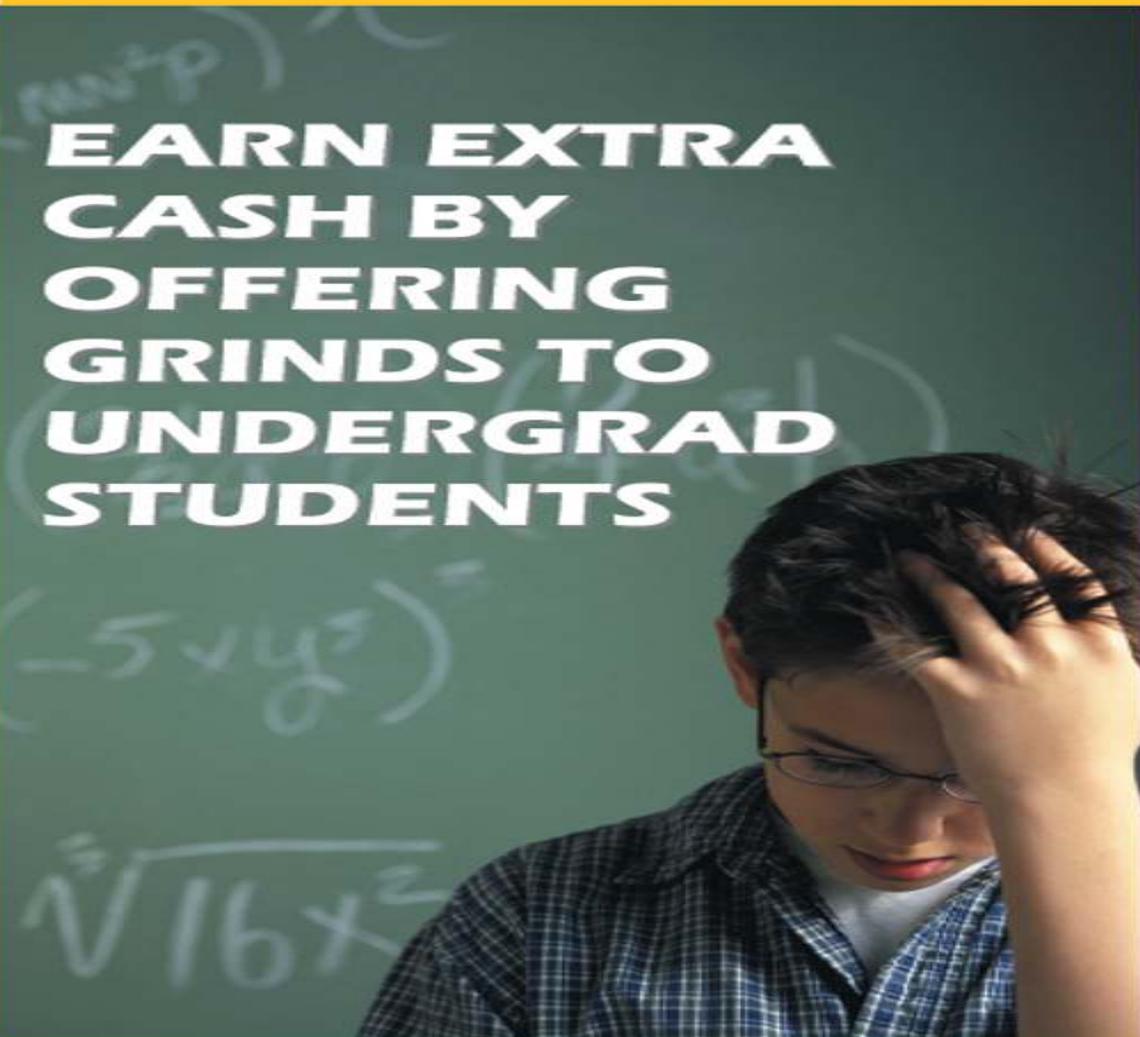
Come along to the first 'ULSU podcast' meeting in the Students' Union, Thursday Week 2 at 6pm or email deirdre.oshaughnessy@ul.ie.



ATTENTION POSTGRADS

PSA GRINDS LIST

EARN EXTRA CASH BY OFFERING GRINDS TO UNDERGRAD STUDENTS

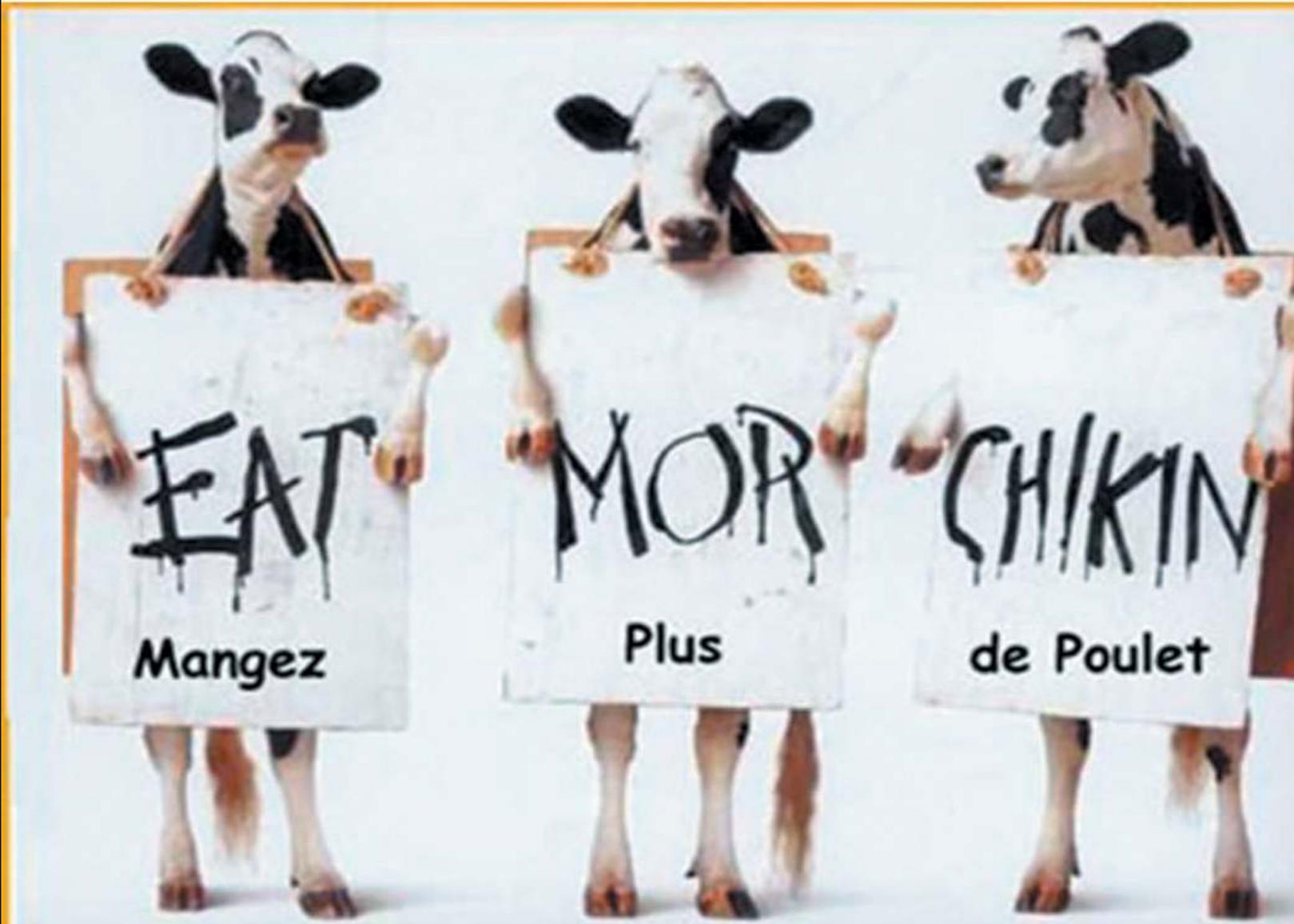


ULSU GRINDS LIST

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER TO OFFER GRINDS CONTACT ALAN ON 061 213491 or alan.higgins@ul.ie



FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT SOMETHING?



POP INTO THE UNION AND TALK TO ALANNAH ABOUT CAMPAIGNING

ALTERNATIVELY CALL 213542 OR EMAIL ALANNAH.TURNER@UL.IE

ULSU CAMPAIGNS



Campus Sport

UL Hosts Down Syndrome Swimmers

AN FOCAL REPORTER

DURING the first week in September, the Arena National 50m Swimming Pool hosted the World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships. This event was the third of its kind and has previously been held in the UK and in South Africa. Athletes came to Limerick from places as far-flung as Turkmenistan, Venezuela, USA, South Africa, Estonia, Taiwan and

Mexico. The national teams and their guests stayed in Kilmurry Village.

At the event's opening ceremony, Minister for Defence Willie O' Dea welcomed the swimmers, their coaches and families to the university: "Following on from the achievements of the Special Olympics World Games in 2003, I am delighted to open this event which will continue to showcase the considerable sporting talents of people with intellectual

disability. I know that these championships differ from the Special Olympic ethos in that all swimmers have qualified to compete and every medal will be strongly contested." He also wished all the competitors luck and expressed the hope that their stay in Limerick would be fruitful.

According to Alan Ward, Aquatics manager at the UL Arena, 46 World Records were set in the 5 days of swimming, between

classifications and official competition. 140 athletes plus their entourages from 18 countries across 5 continents were represented, and are now returning to their native lands taking with them very fond memories of their stay in Limerick. The Arena also thanked the campus community and the wider Limerick community for their support and goodwill.



Competitors at the World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships (Photos: Seán Reidy, UL Marketing Dept.)



U.L Ladies Hockey

U.L.Ladies Hockey is back. We are looking forward to another fantastic and very successful year and we want you to be a part of it.

Last year, both teams did extraordinarily well in their respective competitions. The First team came fourth in the "Munster Division 1 League" and narrowly lost to the victorious champions, Hermes in the Quarter Final of the "Irish Senior Cup". The Second team came joint second in the "Munster Division 2 League" and they succeeded in getting to the semi final of the "Division 1 Cup". Congratulations to all involved. Each team showed great commitment, determination and team spirit throughout the season to attain these incredible results and we hope to do even better in the year ahead.

This year we are the proud hosts of the Intervarsities. This is a huge event in a College's Sporting Calendar and we are delighted to be home for this great competition. For those of you who don't know, this competition involves the men and women's teams from the Universities around the country to gather and battle it out for their respective and very prestigious title. We were very unlucky in the past few years, last year we unluckily lost in the semi final and we reached the final the previous year. This year, we have our minds set on raising the cup and we hope ye will all be there to cheer us on. So put the dates in your diary: Tues Oct 31st - Thurs Nov 2nd .A fantastic show of exceptional skill and exiting games is promised by all. So if you want to be a part of this extraordinary club, Ladies, it's simple, get your ass down to the astro turf every Tuesday & Thursday @ 6:30. Great fun, incredible friends for life and lots of crazy nights out are also guaranteed. All are welcome.

To contact UL Ladies Hockey email 0565229@student.ul.ie

UL Ladies Hockey Team 2005/06 (Photo: Ellen Behan).



We won the final ... and then got seriously rucked!

THOMAS MCAULIFFE

YEEEEEEEESSSSSSSS', I screamed raggedly. Or at least I tried to scream. I'd lost my voice somewhere in the opening ten minutes of the second half, whilst contesting one of the referee's (clearly unsound) decisions and politely instructing him as to where he could firmly reposition his whistle about his person. All delivered, I can assure you, in the heartiest and most measured, moderate and respectful of tones towards the good man. And his lovely mother, charming woman I have no doubt. Rugby is after

all a thug's game played by gentlemen...no wait hang on a sec there...that should be the other way around...shouldn't it?

Anywho, my fellow foot-soldiers of the Red Army were jumping up and down and hugging and shaking hands and...and I won't be ashamed to admit it, I was crying, ladies and gents. Yes there you have it; big, bad Munster supporters broke down and cried like babies when their team finally won European rugby's most prestigious trophy, the Heineken European Cup, in Cardiff earlier this year.

The team's homecoming

was just that...a homecoming. A triumphant and righteous return and acknowledgement of Europe's finest to the true home of rugby; Munster and Limerick City. New Zealand may have the All Blacks and England may lay claim to...well...Johnny Wilkinson and his fourteen bodyguards but Munster has Limerick. And the Red Army.

You may ask what this Army is? Who are these 'foot-soldiers'? This formidable force, boys and girls have travelled Europe supporting their team. We have huddled together in Fortress Thomond Park in the howling wind and

freezing, driving rain and sang our hearts out to the boys on the pitch; to Donnacha, Ronan, Peter, Big Seamus (Williams), Gallaimh and the Claw. We have cursed and praised the referees and officials and cracked witty, dry banter amongst ourselves in the way that only Munster supporters truly can.

And we have consoled ourselves far too often when cruellest fate has snatched well deserved victory from our hands. Far, far too often ladies and gentlemen.

So if we foot-soldiers come across a little passionate about Munster and the game,

then I'm afraid you'll just have to cut us a little slack. Because to be brutally honest and frank about it when you follow a team through ten years of pain and hardship and injuries and constant, constant knocks...you tend to remember and celebrate the few truly memorable and inspirational good times. Because in times of famine and hardship, as all sportsmen-women and supporters will tell you, it is the memories of past victories and triumphs over seemingly impossible odds that will carry you and lift you up and help you succeed once more.

Or maybe I'm talking out of my arse. We're in a university, there's bound to be some crazy theories floating around the place!

I'll let you make up your own mind, after you've seen a match in Thomond Park. It'll cost you around €15 and it might just change your outlook on life.

The UL Battalion of the Red Army is the unofficial Munster Supporters Society in UL and can be contacted at ulbattalionredarmy@yahoo.co.uk.

Europe, the World ... But first, Schull, Co. Cork

BY NIALL MCCOURT

NOT up to much this weekend? Interested in trying sailing? Our beginner weekend is this weekend where we will be heading to the scenic and beautiful village of Schull, Co. Cork (although rumour has it that it's in east Kerry!!!). We cater for all levels from having never seen a boat before to the more experienced and we supply all the necessary equipment. The weekend will be co-hosted with our good friends at CIT so the banter is guaranteed and the craic is always legendary, all are welcome so come on down!

Congratulations to the current European Laser 2 champion Conor Byrne, Conor who recently qualified as a wood scientist in UL, is still sailing for ULSC for this coming season so keep an eye out (and a pot of tea at the ready). This adds to ULSC's long standing list of achievements with the winning of the IUSA 05/06 club of the year award, Ciara Peelo on her very successful Olympic campaign for Beijing 2008 and many others.

It was an extremely tense and exciting last race that decided the winners of the 2006 Laser II European

Championships in Teignmouth, Devon, any of three boats could have realistically won the event, all within 1 point of each other. 2002 European Champions Nigel Skudder and Keith Hills (GBR) were beaten across the line by Conor Byrne (University of Limerick SC) and Kate Fitzsimmons (Lancing SC), sailing together for the first time at the event. Conor is living in Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, where he is a partner in Skerries Sailing School. Kate is a Controls Technician working in Kent. A protest ensued after a collision on the finish line, but was later thrown out as the boats had finished before the contact occurred.

Marty O'Leary and Yvette Deacon from Courtown Sailing Club finished in 3rd Place overall, and Dara McDonagh and Frank McSwiney, also of Courtown S.C., finished 14th. This is the 3rd European title Ireland has won in Laser II's; Tom Fitzpatrick and David McHugh in Germany 1996, Chris Forristal and Paddy Blackley in Skerries in 2004. Noel Butler and Stephen Champion won the World Championships in Holland in 2003.

For more information on how to join ULSC or about

the beginners weekend, check out our website: sailing.skynet.ie Or email us at ulsc.email@gmail.com

Photo: Niall McCourt



Interested in starting up a Hispanic Society?

We can have fun together and bring a bit of Spain and Latin America to UL campus life: practise your Spanish, watch films, do salsa and sevillanas, sangria parties, you name it.

Come for a preliminary meeting:

**Date: Monday Week 3
October 9, 2006
Venue: Student Union
Room 3
Time: 18:00 to 19:00**

↓ Programme

- Oct 2 Tsotsi
- Oct 9 Hidden (Caché)
- Oct 16 One Day in Europe
- Oct 23 Le Grand Voyage
- Nov 6 Murderball
- Nov 13 The Beat That My Heart Skipped
- Nov 20 The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
- Nov 27 Grizzly Man
- Dec 4 Pavee Lackeen

> Venue: Jonathan Swift Lecture Theatre

> Admission: Free to staff and students on production of staff/student card

> Tickets: €3.00

> Enquiries: 061 202130

> Web: www.uile/artsoffice

↓ Autumn Programme 2006

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

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UL ARTS OFFICE

AUTUMN FILM SEASON

2006

October 02 to December 04

↓ Monday 23 October @ 6.30pm

> **LE GRAND VOYAGE**
 Director: Ismaël Ferroukhi
 Franc/Morocco / 2004 / 108 mins

Out of filial duty and a sense of adventure, Reda, a young French man, agrees to accompany his Moroccan father on the hajj - the pilgrimage to Mecca. The only catch: the journey from France to Saudi Arabia will be by car. Along the way the two will cross national borders, seas, even continents, but no distance is greater than the one they cross to come to terms with each other. Director Ismaël Ferroukhi (who co-wrote Cédric Kahn's *Trop de bonheur*) deftly handles the cultural and generational collisions, as the journey becomes a process of continuing self-discovery. The filmmakers received rare permission to shoot the final scenes in Mecca and the images they capture are truly amazing. © New Directors / New Films, 2005

Writer-director Ismaël Ferroukhi proves his accomplished storytelling skill with *Le Grand Voyage*. A road movie with a difference, the film features one of Moroccan cinema's most accomplished veteran actors as well as a promising young talent, Nicolas Cazalé.

↓ Monday 06 November @ 6.30pm

> **MURDERBALL**
 Director: Henry-Alex Rubin & Dana Adam Shapiro
 USA / 2005 / 85 mins

The notion of quadriplegic athletes may be unimaginable to some, but *Murderball* shows that they can be as great as any. The film chronicles these men as they overcome unimaginable obstacles to become world-class athletes.

Murderball (aka quad rugby) combines the finesse of soccer with the bone-jarring collisions of a demolition derby. The athletes use custom wheelchairs that look like something out of a Mad Max movie. Players career around the court with reckless abandon, slamming into each other, fueled by an unrivalled competitive spirit.

Their ultimate goal is to win a gold medal at the Paralympics. Team USA has dominated the sport for years. But when Joe Soares, a gold medalist in 1996 and one of the best ever to play the sport, gets cut from the team, he becomes coach of Team Canada with one goal: beat Team USA at the 2004 Athens games. What follows is a roller-coaster ride of human drama, athletic excellence, and heart-stopping competition that couldn't have been scripted any better.

Murderball is the result of a two-and-a-half-year, all-access pass to locker rooms, bedrooms, churches, and hospitals masterfully put together by filmmakers Henry Alex Rubin and Dana Shapiro. It's a film about relearning everything you've ever known—from brushing your teeth to driving a car to having sex. It's a film about standing up, even after your spirit—and your spine—have been crushed.

Trevor Groth © Sundance Film Festival

↓ Monday 13 November @ 6.30pm

> **THE BEAT THAT MY HEART SKIPPED**
 Director: Jacques Audiard
 France / 2005 / 100 mins

The Beat That My Heart Skipped is based on the 1977 James Toback's thriller *Fingers*, which starred Harvey Keitel as the Janus-faced concert pianist and debt collector Jimmy Angelini. The highly talented French director Jacques Audiard follows his two earlier successes, *Read My Lips* and *A Self-Made Hero* with this involving and gripping tale which boasts the extraordinarily compelling performance by the young actor, Romain Duris, now a rising star in France. Critically acclaimed by the French press, *The Beat That My Heart Skipped* has also been a huge and popular success amongst the public in France.

"...in my movies, the characters have to be heroes. The question is how are they going to become heroes? And what will become of them when they stop being heroes? I provide answers to those questions by - in formal terms - keeping the outside world at bay, by keeping it off screen. My hero has to push his way through the world like some invading force on the march. From the beginning I realised that *The Beat That My Heart Skipped* would have to draw its strength from the actor or actors. I cast Romain Duris because one always casts someone for the simple reason that one wants to film them... I could not point my camera at anyone. Romain stimulates one's appetite..."

Jacques Audiard

↓ Monday 02 October @ 6.30pm

> **TSOTSI**
 Director: Gavin Hood
 South Africa / 2005 / 94 mins

In township slang, 'tsotsi' means hoodlum - the word was used, mostly in the 1970s and 80s, to describe a whole underside of township youth gangs, violent poses of impoverished black teenagers. 'Tsotsi' is also the nickname of this film's young protagonist. Orphaned by AIDS, utterly desensitised to violence, Tsotsi has clawed his way to adulthood entirely on his own. After leading one of his own gang almost to death in an argument, Tsotsi shoots a woman outside her home and steals her car - unaware, in his panic, that her baby is in the back seat, or that said child will mark the first stage of his long, reluctant path to redemption.

Beautifully shot and convincingly performed, this deeply affecting drama (shot on location in the poverty-stricken townships outside Johannesburg) carries an extraordinary emotional power: a portrait of third-world ghetto life that's every bit as raw as *City of God* - from its bizarre opening sequence to its wrenching, beautifully-modulated closing shot. One of the discoveries of the year.

© Edinburgh Film Festival Programme

↓ Monday 09 October @ 6.30pm

> **HIDDEN (CACHÉ)**
 Director: Michael Haneke
 France / 2004 / 114 mins

The films of Michael Haneke have consistently left festival audiences transfixed by their formal audacity and their ability to evoke the menacing feeling of a society on the edge of an abyss. He is a keen student of violence, its causes, its effects and its implications. True to form, the feeling of suspense and impending doom that permeates *Caché* is often overwhelming.

In typical Haneke style, the film begins with the comfortable but complacent life of a bourgeois European family. However, someone has been videotaping their home from the street outside. The unknown voyeur mails the tapes - accompanied by strange, violent drawings - to George, Anne, and their son Pierre. At the 'gifts' become more personal and begin to appear the work of someone who knows him, Georges begins to fear that he is being punished for wronging an Algerian boy, Majid, at the height of France's colonial occupation of that North African nation. Wounded with paranoia and rage, George suspects his former friend is taking revenge, but when he tracks him down we soon begin to question who is victimising whom.

Dimitri Ljupovic © Toronto International Film Festival

↓ Monday 16 October @ 6.30pm

> **ONE DAY IN EUROPE**
 Director: Hannes Stöbe
 Germany / 2004 / 95 mins

Four stories take place in different cities on the day of the Champions League final match between Galatasaray Istanbul and Deportivo La Coruña in Moscow.

'West Meets East': Moscow. An elderly Russian woman comes to the aid of a young English woman who's been robbed. They go to the police to report the robbery, but the policeman is busy keeping rival football fans from attacking one another. 10 for Deportivo.

'Germans in the Orient': Istanbul. To get insurance money, a young German backpacker pretends he's been robbed. At the police station, everything runs according to plan... until he becomes acquainted with the methods of the Turkish police. Galatasaray scores a goal and the teams are tied.

'The Pilgrim and the Native': Santiago de Compostela. A Hungarian history professor on a pilgrimage is robbed of his camera. He asks a policeman for help, but the man is much more interested in how people talk in Hungary - is Hungarian similar to Finnish? More importantly, it's time for sexta. The store is tied.

'Exception culturelle': Berlin. Two French street artists who are continually broke decide to report their luggage as stolen to get the insurance money. The German police are very helpful, but unfortunately not very naive... The teams are tied, it comes down to a penalty shoot-out.

© Screen International

↓ Monday 20 November @ 6.30pm

> **THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA**
 Director: Tommy Lee Jones
 USA / 2005 / 120 mins

A lone quest for justice becomes an ode to friendship and the common ground between different cultures in *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*, the directorial debut from Oscar-winning actor Tommy Lee Jones. Working from a screenplay by Amores Perros writer Guillermo Arriaga, he has created a thoughtful, carefully crafted drama.

When his Mexican friend Melquiades Estrada is found in a shallow grave in the desert, Pete Perkins is determined to discover who killed him. Local sheriff Belmont shows little interest in pursuing the matter and arranges for the body to be buried again in a pauper's grave.

The tenacious Perkins eventually identifies border patrol guard Mike Norton as the guilty party. He kidnaps him, forces him to dig up the body of Melquiades and the trio set off for Mexico to fulfil Pete's promise to bury his friend in his home town.

Like Arriaga's screenplay for *21 Grams*, *Three Burials* juggles with time, breaking the linear narrative to double back on itself, revealing a fresh piece of information or offering a different perspective on the same events.

© Screen International

↓ Monday 27 November @ 6.30pm

> **GRIZZLY MAN**
 Director: Werner Herzog
 USA / 2005 / 103 mins

Werner Herzog's extraordinary documentary is an unforgettable examination of Timothy Treadwell, a recovering alcoholic who ditched his unsuccessful struggle as an actor to live in Alaska among grizzly bears until he and his girlfriend were mauled and killed by one of the animals in 2003. For more than a decade, the flamboyant 'Treadwell' immersed himself in the bears' world, giving them names, observing their interactions, seemingly befriending them and, quite remarkably, recording his adventures on videotape.

Grizzly Man is a brilliant assemblage of this confessional, bear-in-the-face footage with Herzog's own investigation into Treadwell's psyche as well as the circumstances of his death. Believing himself the bears' steward and protector, he was a man possessed and an ideal subject for Herzog, whose work has often explored the human tendency for obsession and egomania. What the director also reveals is his own compassion for these traits; in the hands of a lesser filmmaker, material of such primal fascination might be sensationalised and exploitative. Herzog's film is constructed with the utmost respect for a flawed and troubled man who was ultimately consumed by his own design.

© California Film Institute

↓ Monday 04 December @ 6.30pm

> **PAVEE LACKEEN (THE TRAVELLER GIRL)**
 Director: Párry Ogden
 Ireland / 2005 / 87 mins

"Pavee explores the harsh world of children living on the margins of society"

Pavee Lackeen presents an uncompromising and unflinching portrait of poverty-stricken, marginalised community living in a modern, prosperous Ireland. It tells the story of Winnie, a 10-year-old traveller girl, who lives with her mother and siblings in a trailer on the side of the road in a desolate part of Dublin. The film follows Winnie as she struggles with her identity as a young traveller in contemporary Ireland, and her family, as they struggle against faceless bureaucracy, poverty and prejudice.

The film dispels existing stereotypes, and presents an intimate portrait of a resilient and spirited young girl and her proud, dignified family.

Filmed with a cast of mostly non-professional actors, the travelling people play characters that mirror their own real life experiences. Pavee Lackeen manages to avoid the usual stereotypes that often feature in depictions of travellers, and explores the harsh world of children living on the margins of our society, without sentimentalising their plight.



ULSU ENTS

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Survival's a little easier with the Ulster Bank student account

Andrew Maxwell

BY KEITH PIGOTT

ANDREW Maxwell is more than a stand up comedian - he's an intrepid social commentator and political protagonist on a mission to liberate minds with the power of comedy. But you might just know him as the funny pervy guy from the Panel.....you know...the one who slobbered all over Grainne Seoige.

Born from the bloodlines of two street preaching Grandfathers in the heart of Dublin, the passion to speak out has always been rich in his veins and this is most evident when he's in front of an audience. Renowned for his sharp, fast paced streams of consciousness and well observed retort, Maxwell builds the crowd by challenging the controversial or taboo. He engages any audience he faces with a myriad of subjects and lures them into his riotous world.

Maxwell was raised in Kilbarrack on Dublin's Northside, where The Commitments film was set and Bono went to school. As one of the few Protestant families in the area, and the only ones who housed African students on a regular basis, the Maxwells were well versed in religion and international politics and this influence is apparent in Andy's comic conjecture.

Andrew's natural flair for commentary and the urge to challenge folk and change perspectives led him to the world of stand up comedy and its open mic forum. It was in 1992, aged 18, that he took the stage for the first time at a local club run by Ardal O'Hanlon.

Two years later he went on a mission to crack the rest of the world and has been prolific on the international stand up circuit ever since. Warm up slots on the hottest

TV shows Jonathan Ross, Johnny Vaughan and 'They Think Its all Over' soon followed - in fact Jonathan Ross still delights in telling his audiences that Andy once made one particular heckler cry. Aside from that Andrew is renowned as an all round nice guy and now you're more likely to catch him in front of the camera as his own TV career takes off. Recent credits include RISE on Ch4 as the USA correspondent interviewing the likes of Sandra Bullock, Val Kilmer and Jodie Foster and a regular guest slot on Dara O' Briain's popular current affairs show The Panel now showing on Ireland's flagship channel RTÉ 2.

In the UK he is seen as one of the best comedians on the circuit not bad when you consider he is one of us over there. Chortle.co.uk, the main UK comedy website voted him as their comedian of the year in 2005 and he was also

the winner of E4's reality tv comedy show Kings of Comedy - again not bad for a Paddy!!

'A life affirming melange of observation and confession that could earn the Irishman a Perrier' - The Telegraph, August 05

'If Andrew Maxwell's excellent show This Is My Hour makes the Perrier short list it will be well deserved. 4/5' - The Independent, August 04

'Andrew's on particularly fantastic form. He's without doubt the strongest comedian on the circuit right now' - Brendon Burns's Celebrity Choice, The Telegraph, August 06

Andrew Maxwell performs in the Jean Monnet Theatre on Wednesday Week 2. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets €7 on sale at the Students' Union in Week 2.



Zak Powers - hypnotist extraordinaire

IT'S not often you can boast that your party or event was attended by Robbie Williams, Kylie Minogue, the world Pie Eating champion, this week's Lotto Millionaire and the winners of Big Brother.

The only man who can arrange this star-studded evening is Hypnotist Zak Powers.

It all begins when Zak and his crew transform your venue with a full lighting and sound rig.

What then follows is one and a half hours of hilarious hypnotic fun, all done in the best possible taste. The most wonderful part of this performance is the fact that all

your friends become the stars of the show.

Being the consummate professional that he is, Zak is comfortable with audience numbers of 50-1000. This show has never failed to impress and always makes a memorable and fun evenings entertainment.

Zak Powers 'Eyes Wide Open' show helps break down all barriers and create a fresh and fun dynamic between audience and performer. The show is designed to bring out everyone's hidden talents in an environment where they feel safe and comfortable to do so. Zak Powers show is a unique experience and one which any audience will be

still talking about in years to come...

*"Absolutely incredible, he's the best I've ever seen"...*Gerry Ryan 2FM

"If Hypnosis is the new Rock-n-roll, then the show to see is Zak Powers"

...Hot Press

*"A fantastic performer"...*Ian Dempsey Today FM

Zak Powers will appear in the Jean Monnet Theatre on Wednesday Week 3. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets €7 on sale from the Students' Union in week 3.



TRINITY ROOMS

ULSU ENTS

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Trinity Rooms & ULSU Ents present
FECKIN FIVERS

Wednesday Week 2
Na Daoirse

Wednesday Week 3

RASTAFENIANS

Tickets €5 from SU Reception