



AN FOCAL



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THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

www.ulsu.ul.ie

TERM 2 WEEK 2



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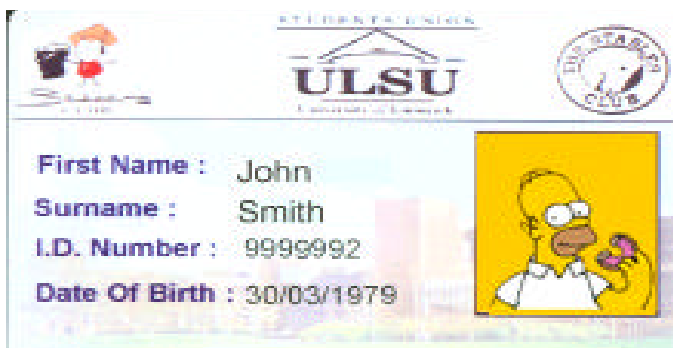
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NEW CLUB CARDS INTRODUCED ON CAMPUS NO CARD - NO KOLLEGE WEEK!



This year the Students' Union with the Stables and Scholars clubs are introducing new ID cards. These cards are going to be needed to gain access to either of the two clubs and ULSU Ents gigs.

Why are the cards being introduced?

By law all members of the Stables & Scholars clubs must be able to prove their membership, and also that they are over 18 years of age.

What's wrong with a UL card?

Simply, the UL ID card does not have a date of birth and for security reasons, a date of birth cannot be printed on that card. (The date of birth is one of the protection methods for your student record)

How do I get a card?

Applications forms for the new ID cards will be available for the Students' Union reception in the Student Centre from Monday of Week 3. (next week)

How are the cards being distributed?

All completed application forms must be accompanied with 2 recent passport sized photographs stapled to the form.

Note: Place your ID number on the back of both photographs.

Week 3 - All students with ID numbers beginning with **00** must return their completed forms to the SU Reception by Friday 5pm of week 3.

Week 4 - All students with ID numbers beginning with **99** must return their completed forms to the SU Reception by Friday 5pm of week 4.

Week 5 - All students with ID numbers beginning with **98** must return their completed forms to the SU Reception by Friday 5pm of week 5.

Week 6 - All students with ID numbers beginning with **97 or earlier** must return their completed forms to the SU Reception by Friday 5pm of week 6.

Please return your cards on the specified week to avoid missing Kollege Week!

UL ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY PROTEST AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SCOTLAND WHERE USI PRESIDENT GOT ARRESTED

By Michelle Daly

UL Enviro soc organised the Irish contingent and starred in one of the most effective anti-nuclear protests seen in recent years. This week UL Envirosoc were hitting the headlines not just in An Focal but all over the world. Between 11am and 12pm on the morning of Monday the 12th of february, 25 students from 'Gluaiseacht for social justice', a green and social issues umbrella group composed of colleges and universities around the country were arrested at Faslane Nuclear submarine

[Base at the biggest anti-nuclear protest in Scotland in years. . Faslane in the heart of the Scottish highlands one of the most picturesque areas in the world is the base for the uk's four Trident nuclear weapon submarines each of which carries 48 nuclear warheads These submarines maintain a 24hour patrol in a state of readiness. Weapons such as Trident which cannot distinguish between military and civilian targets are banned under international law. It is the failure of the British government to take steps to decommission these that led the groups such as Trident Ploughshares, a

Continues on Page 4

GRADUATES



Are you graduating this year with a BSc Degree in any of the following disciplines ?

- Computer Science
- Software Engineering/Development
- Electrical/Electronic Engineering
- Telecommunications

We have numerous Graduate vacancies throughout Ireland, so please forward a copy of your CV to contact: Julia Connelly, Graduate Consultant, Marlborough IT 6/7 Steamboat Quay, Limerick. Tel: 061 419 007 Email: jconnelly@marlborough.ie Web: www.marlborough.ie



MARLBOROUGH I.T.

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

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



Welcome back to semester 2, the quickest semester of fun and frolics. Hope you all had a good break and got on well in the exams. While you've been away, I have put together an information web site with an on-line accommodation finder, online book sale, general information on how the university operates and we have had over 500 exam papers scanned in

and will be on the site. This page should go online by the end of week 2 - all going well. Just to let you know that Kollege Week will take place from April 2nd to 6th, (week 8) and in the next edition of An Focal, I will have a full report on my job to date. The issues I have been dealing with and a general overview of the job including all the committees that I sit on. This may be of interest to any one running for the upcoming Students' Union elections in Week 9. Till then, all the best and enjoy the 2nd semester. Also I would like to give a special thanks to Chris Murphy in ITD for all his help in obtaining a Microsoft site license for the Students' Union.

Later
Mick



Welcome back ...Hope all is going well for you all starting back...if not, well, there's always the **Welfare Office!!**

Accommodation - If you are having difficulty finding a house for this semester, we can help you out there. Or if you're having landlord/tenant problems, call in and find out more about your legal rights and what your landlord can and cant do...

Insurance - If you have'nt got insurance in your house, I have forms in my office for really good value insurance - £20 very inclusive cover....so think about it, it'd be a wise move to take really...

Also, the Students' Union have you covered for personal injury claims, so if this applies to you, we are here to help.

Financial Aid - The times for Financial Aid are the same this term - 11.00 - 1.00 on Tuesday mornings. It's an interest free loan if you have cash-flow trouble, don't be stuck...call in and we'll try help.

Legal Aid - If you have legal issues that you need to sort out, you can make an appointment here through the Welfare Office to see a solicitor and get sorted out.

Information - On drugs, other addictions, alcohol, eating disorders, bullying, smoking....you name it, this office is home to so many leaflets and booklets, so if there is some information you need, now you know where to come.

So I hope everyone can enjoy their term....and if you are having a 'bad day'know that you have somewhere to go and talk about it....there's people here to help.

Thanks for reading...have a good week,
Siobhan



Hi everyone and welcome back to what maybe my last semester here in UL. I have to say, I'm going to miss the place when I'm gone.

Now that all the sentimental crap is out of the way, I can tell you what I've got planned for this semester and for An Focal.

Firstly, I'm holding a meeting this week for anyone interested in writing for the paper or working on design, layout and editing. This meeting will take place on Thursday 4pm, meeting room 3, in the student centre. If you can't make that then e-mail me or call into my office to discuss what you'd like to do.

I'm still thinking about the idea of turning An Focal in a

Broadsheet in a bid to raise the profile of the paper. So in-order to gauge people's opinions on this and other matters relating to An Focal, I'm going to doing a survey of what everyone wants to see in the paper every week. I'll be doing this with the help of the Communications Committee of Class Reps.

The Communications Committee is going to look at what needs to be done to improve the way the Union dishes out the information, i.e. posters, e-mails, flyers, etc. in order to improve the service that ULSU gives to you the student, after all you did elect us to a job for you, so if your not happy with us now this is your chance to tell us what is wrong.

I think that's all I have to say for now, and sorry for the lack of the out & about section this week, I just hadn't any photos to stick in. however, fear not it will return next week,

See Ya,

Fergal F.

PS Tune into Wired FM 106.8fm



Welcome back to the grind again.

You've had the break so now tuck in and get on with it. The last three weeks were pretty quiet in terms of bodies around campus; in fact it was a bit of a shock to the system to see everyone walking in to college at 9.30 in the morning this last week. However I'm used to it again and it's almost like you never went at all. In other areas, i.e. what's been going on while you were away, we've been as busy as ever and have come up with some interesting ideas on how to proceed with things this semester. Watch out for those initiatives in *An Focal* over the next few editions. You're likely to notice a few things in this one as well so make sure you read it!

All in all, everything is pretty much the same as it was before you went away. The University is still here as you've all no doubt noticed,

and we are still being opposed on almost every issue we bring to its various committees. On a better note there have been some positive steps taken at coalface of the new Student Affairs working groups. We now have many of the people who interact most with the students on a day-to-day basis working towards making things easier, rather than the people who are normally too high up the chain to be aware of what is really happening on the ground. We have some high hopes for these groups, assuming that management will act on their recommendations. Don't hold your breath however, because that is not a foregone conclusion!

Other than that I just want to welcome you all back again, and remind all of you that if you need to come and see me for anything, just call in to the office and I will do what ever I can for you. I also want to remind the students returning from co-op to get your Class Rep's. in as soon as possible because we will be keeping them fairly busy this semester.

Tom

Welfare Notices...

Welfare Week is coming up.....

Watch out for great events during Welfare Week – it's going to be in Week 5, next edition will carry a welfare week supplement with all the event listings

Nitelink...

The Nitelink runs every hour starting at **7.00** and last run is at **11.00** –

Collection Point: Stables Archway

Please avail of this service..it is a free service provided to eliminate the need for any student to ever have to walk home aloneso there is no excuse to risk your safety....

Medical Centre....

The Medical Centre is not a GP service. It is an advisory/acute care service. so please make sure you are registered with a GP in the area. Please understand that the centre was established to provide a limited casualty type service, and cannot guarantee immediate appointments as it is being currently used as a GP service. To avoid having two to three days wait, please register with a GP if you are not from the Limerick area, and are too far from your family GP

ULSU President's Guide for Semester Two

Well come back to another semester of parties, projects and profanity! I hope you all enjoyed your three weeks off, and got on well in the exams. While ye were away, Tom, Siobhan, Fergal and myself have been busy getting things ready for semester two.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you all about some of the issues we will be tackling in semester two.

General

Working toward improving the services

Medical Centre

Student Services

Counselling Service

Transportation

Lobbying for a Bus Lane to UL

Ensuring that the Pedestrian crossings work

Bicycle shelters

Extending the Nite Link Service

Clubs & Societies

Lobbying the University of increased funding

Ensuring the return of the free Wednesday afternoons

Tackling the Three-Year Plan

Student Information Site

Over the Three Weeks off, the Students' Union has developed an Information site, with

Online Book sale

Online Accommodation Finder

Over 500 exam papers

General Student Information

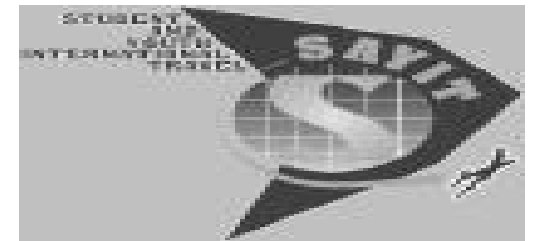
Kollege Week Preview (April 2nd – April 6th, Week 8)

With the help of ITD, this page should be available on all PC's in the University by the end of Week 2.

The address of the site will be www.ulsu.ul.ie

In the next edition of An Focal, there will be a full report by the sabbatical officers, detailing what we have done to date and also a full description of the individual jobs from those intending to run for a sabbatical position in April.

Interested in getting a J1 for America for the summer



Sayit will be issuing J1 visas in the conference room in the Student Centre from Week1 to Week4.

Education Tirade

I had to look over the last edition of *An Focal* to see where we left off the last time. I hadn't realised how long it was since you have had any report on the happenings of the university from us. You've been home for Christmas, done your exams and had three weeks off. It's been awhile. So, what's afoot? What's happening that you absolutely must know about?

The FYP in the College of Business.

As we warned in the Christmas special edition of *An Focal* the College of Business Faculty Board voted 2 to 1 in favour of downgrading the FYP on the BBS programme. They intend to offer it as an optional module for the present 3rd year cohort and downwards, pending Academic Programme Review Committee approval.

The Students' Union outlined its argument against such measures by saying, that short term resolutions to the resourcing problems faced by the college of business were not the answer. This approach would only come at the expense of the currency of the degree awarded, and would in the long-term only cause more problems for the college. The SU said that only by tackling the underlying issue of resources could the college of business hope to maintain its standards and the validity of its degree.

The SU outlined its findings on what, employers, graduates in employment, students doing their FYP, students finished their FYP and postgraduates thought it added to the final education of a UL student. All of these groups when approached for their views on the FYP were adamant that it was, after co-op, the most valuable part of the UL programme.

It gives UL students a competitive advantage going for employment as they have a practical

research assignment under their belt. This shows ability in self-motivation to work. It shows an ability to produce a lengthy report document on a substantive piece of work to a deadline. It also gives UL students a competitive advantage in continuing their studies at postgraduate level as they have practical experience of independent research. In many cases it is a student's FYP that triggers an interest in further study and it can also often be the case that the FYP is the basis of that further study.

The SU has not given up on stopping, what it sees, as the first step in completely discontinuing the FYP and will challenge the College of Business when this issue comes before the Academic Programme Review Committee. To this end the SU has commissioned a commercial survey on the FYP from an independent consultant to help prove its case when the matter does come up.

Academic Regulations Committee and publishing courses.

The SU made a submission to the last sitting of the Academic Regulations Committee to change the current rule on publishing courses in the Academic Regulations Handbook. Up to now the lecturer responsible for any module was obliged to inform his or her student's as to the objectives of the module, the criteria on which assessment is to be based, the weighting allocated to each assessment instrument and the repeat assessment instrument associated with the module. He or she must do this in the first scheduled lecture hour of the module. How this was to be done was not outlined in the regulations before now and it lead to some confusion between student's and lecturers in the past. With Academic Regulations Committee approval this will now be addressed and all the information will now be given out in the form of handout so as

to save further confusion.

Past Exam Papers.

The SU is about 75% through collecting, scanning and indexing past exam papers for the whole University with a view to putting them on the new SU Web page where all students can access, by module code, the past papers they are looking for. Currently the situation is that the student must first identify the academic department responsible for the individual module and then, in most cases, go to the department office to get a copy of the papers for that module. This process can be quiet frustrating a week before exams especially if you have a number of different exams from different departments.

Class Representatives.

Last semester saw the first developments in the reform of Class Reps. We have gotten off to a very encouraging start to that process but a lot of work still remains to be done. SU Executive last week approved a move to set aside space in the Student Centre for an office to support the work of Class Reps. This is the first step in giving them the type of support that Clubs and Societies have been getting in recent years.

This week should also see the submission from the SU on Class Reps. to the Academic Council of the University. That document will call for more formal recognition of the work that Class Reps do in helping the smooth running of the institution. More on that in the next edition.

A reminder to all classes returning from co-op and study abroad to get your Class Reps elected as quickly as possible. Any class with over twenty-five students is entitled to two reps. Call in to the Student Centre and get your application forms at reception.

ULSU SETS UP A JOB PLACEMENT AGENCY

The first year of the new Millennium saw a 78,000 job surplus in the high skills sector of the Irish market, yet students who have to work to put themselves through college usually get the jobs at the lower end of the market. This generally means low waged, low skilled work. However students have greater skills, which are wasted in such jobs.

Ask yourselves this question:

Do you need a job while you're in college?

If the answer is yes, why not work in a job closer to your area of study, get paid better

and work less hours?

The Students' Union is at this time developing a job placement programme for UL students. This will target two areas.

1. To find part time jobs for current students, which better fit the skills they have and are developing for their careers.

The student focused agency aims to get jobs that are more suited to student needs. Flexi-time, project based or more long-term employment depending on what the student feels he or she wants.

2. The second phase would see the setting up of a specialised agency working to place UL graduates and in time alumni. This is to be an additional service provided by the Students' Union, which aims to maximise job placement satisfaction and opportunities for UL graduates.

All the information required to set up this job placement agency is on the application form for the Stables & Scholars Club cards. If you wish to avail of this new service, please fill in all the requested data.

Thanking you in advance.

STUDENTS WITH VOTES = POLITICAL FEAR = ACTION

The long and the short of the attitude towards students in Limerick.

The short. If the hard question was asked, "What has the Students' Union done for you?" You wouldn't be blamed, if the word '*nothing*' has slipped into your mind.

As your S.U. we are trying so hard to push the issues and get what's needed and have long awaited improvements made. But we feel so disheartened about it all, because its like banging our heads against a brick wall.

What we want to know is, what is with this attitude that students don't count?

We are so sick of it. We tried to discard it by having a protest last term. It took so much time and so much effort, but we thought it would be worth it if we were given time and respect, and saw results for a change. So has it worked?

We certainly are not happy with the reaction, because the attitude that students don't have power is still there.

Why? Unfortunately UL is a very political place to do business. You see, to change things we must directly affect the politicians involved in UL, in the city, the county, and at national level. But, and here's the punch line, how many of us students are even registered to vote here in the Limerick East Electoral Constituency

So here's an easy question:

What scares a politician?

– Losing potential votes

8,284 votes - The quota for a seat in the national elections in the Limerick East constituency 1997 general election.

8,000 students - Roughly the number of UL students on campus in every semester.

13,000 students – At least between U.L., M.I.C., L.I.T. and the Art College combined in Limerick East.

13,000 students have the power to elect one TD in the Limerick east constituency!

13,000 students have the power to gain a controlling interest on the local council!

The long The Students' Union is undertaking to register as many UL students as possible to vote in the Limerick East electoral constituency this semester.

Why are we doing this?

Every year the University authorities have been able to stall student driven initiatives, where those initiatives have not been in the interests of the management.

Action was promised after our protest last semester. The Management Committee of the University made us a number of promises. One promise being that the University would use its position in the Limerick area, to help Bus Éireann secure planning permission, for the provision of a bus lane from UL to the city centre. These bus lanes will mean a guarantee of a bus every ten minutes on campus.

When the Students' Union approached Bus Éireann to see if there had been any developments we were told categorically, "No!". Nothing has happened and UL have not approached Bus Éireann on the issue.

The Students' Union investigated further. We looked into what was holding everything up and we were told that a number of shopkeepers along the proposed route were objecting to the planned bus lane. These people are regular voters in City Corporation elections while the eight

thousand UL students on campus are not, so there is very little likelihood of the development going ahead.

Why should you care?

There are two distinct problems here.

1). Firstly, while according to the Universities Act 1997 and supported by other pieces of government legislation, we the students are partners of the University. We are in practice ignored and considered second-class citizens. We saw earlier this year that, "visitors are more important than students".

2). Secondly, while as members of the University community we play such a central role in the day-to-day life of Limerick City and county. However, we have no say in what happens in this area, despite the huge number of people based here. We illustrated our political power protesting last semester when five hundred students blocking the two gates of UL brought the city traffic to a stand still!

What difference will it make?

If we directly elect the representatives on the County Council and the City Corporation then they must pay attention to what we want, for example, bus lanes.

Thus if we want to change things we must directly affect the politicians involved, in the University, the City, the County Council and at national level. We are hereby giving them a wake up call because we have a better chance of getting the things we want, if the main parties are worried about our vote. They will want the University to keep us as quiet as possible!

As with teachers, nurses and other groups, students need a method of holding those who govern us accountable. At this point in time students' have no such meaningful method.

We want you to register/re-register your vote in this constituency. You live here for the best part of four years and the things, which affect your time in this area, can only be dealt with in this area. Be heard! Make a difference!

UL ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY PROTEST AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SCOTLAND WHERE USI PRESIDENT GOT ARRESTED



locally active group that organised the international protest to take action . The Big Blockade protest was organised last year as well but about half the protesters were present that came to protest this year .

The activists were tied onto each other or linked arms or sat on the road outside the nuclear base. The ministers of religion involved held a service of worship in the middle of the event. The fact that so many people involved in civic society were involved in the protest , minis-

ters of the church of Scotland , MEPS, MPs Scottish Author Alisdair Gray and Q.C Ian Hamilton gives a strong statement of support from the public fro such an event and the decommissioning of nuclear weapons.

Over 300 people were arrested at the protest .Included were six students from the University of Limerick , Drumcollagher College and Mary Immaculate College of Education . The university of limerick enviro society organised the trip from here and

incorporated invitations from all around Ireland joining Scottish groups such are church of Scotland ministers and local people in the Faslane district who are unhappy with the stationing of Trident nuclear submarines in the naval base there. The Enviro-soc also wished to extend their trip to a visit to the Sellafield Nuclear station where they hoped to tour the facilities after rigorous security checks and discussions with the stations public liason .

The trip to Scotland had been in the pipeline of the Environmental society since before the exams . It had been really well received here in Ireland as so many college groups as well as individuals wished to become involved and travel with them . The group left limerick left Limerick at 12 noon on saturday the 10th of February and had to charter a second bus to accommodate the interest they received in the trip .

Other arrests at Faslane included Juliann De Spainn , President of USI , members of Irish CND , also students at Dun Laoghaire film college , DCU , NUIGALWAY and UCD . Over 300 arrests took place at the Faslane nuclear base These peaceful arrests included MEPS, church ministry and Parliamentarians from all over Britain . The protesters peacefully blockaded the south gate into the Faslane naval base from 2am on the 12th of Feb , and from 6.45 they blocked the north gate into the naval base. The

atmosphere among the Irish students before their arrest was one of celebration Eoin O'Broin of UL Envirosoc stated that ' We were drumming , chanting ' hey ho tridents nukes have got to go ' and even Irish dancing ' The reaction to the arrests afterwards was one of pride. As UL Envirosoc had helped to successfully blockade the naval base for 24hours and had achieved an unwarranted support and attention for the cause of nuclear protests. Lorna Ni Ceirnin spokesperson for the limerick students told An Focal ;that ' We're proud of their active participation in the campaign to decommission these weapons of mass destruction. The fight for global disarmament entails sustained,courageous efforts '

UL Envirosoc certainly played their part in this extraordinary event as we were told by Ms Ni Ceirnin ' As young Irish and World citizens , we have the responsibility to challenge the destructive presence of nuclear submarines only 40 miles from our coast line '

In a time when Environmental issues are relatively well represented and every individual is aware of the constraints on our environment as well as the effect of weapons of mass destruction despite the end of the cold war , this was an example of the continuing fight against weapons of mass destruction .



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we go to extremes so you can too

UNIVERSITY CRÈCHE IS BECOMING OFF LIMITS TO SOME STUDENT PARENTS

Le Michelle Ni Dhalaigh.

In 1999 the brand new university crèche facility was opened here in UL. The silver apples crèche in the secluded woodland area behind the library is arguably one of the best well run in the country however a disturbing number of students are complaining that there is an increasing difficulty in finding places for student children. The crèche was set up to alleviate some of the expense and difficulty for young people with children who wish to avail of third level education. The cost of the crèche here in college is comparatively low because the University itself subsidises it.

However it has come to be the opinion of some parents that more children of staff are being given places than students. The fact that in a university of this size that the crèche facility only has room for 50 children is in itself incredible. As we can see from the poorly staffed and funded student services department and student medical centre the welfare of students in this college is seriously being disregarded by the college authorities. The crèche with only 50 places was seen at the time as a merely token gesture to the masses concerned with student welfare.

Now it is emerging that because of clauses in the articles of agreement set out in by the university committee on the crèche student parents are not getting the same opportunities of getting places for their children.

A Focal spoke to a number of student parents and they complained that the long waiting list is because staff children because of a "sib-

ling" clause are taking up most of the places in the crèche. If one child is accepted into the crèche, then subsequently all of his or hers siblings are entitled to attend the crèche also. Therefore because of the extremely limited places staff children are currently taking up a lot more places than the 50% that they are supposed to.

Some student parents speaking to An Focal are outraged at this as the staff in the university is all on salaries and students should be entitled to subsidized crèche facilities, as they financially require them more. For most single parent student families it is in itself an insurmountable task to bring up a child, attend college and usually work to support the family. Most student parents have only one child and therefore cannot avail of the sibling rule to access crèche facilities. An Focal was unable to contact Ms Mary Moloney the crèche administrator this week and therefore was unable to gain her comment on the situation. However it is not the operator of the crèche who is responsible for the system, which places staff children in greater numbers in the crèche than the student children. But the rules set out by the university committee including the student union welfare officer.

Parents were more than complimentary on the treatment of staff at the crèche of children and the very high standards of childcare available there. It is because of this that competition for places is so great.

The existence of childcare on Campus for single student parents is often the single most important factor in deciding whether a parent

will go to college or not after the birth of a child. The days when so many grandparents took the responsibility of raising a child while the mother or father went to college are long gone and now young parents either find good childcare or stay at home and look after the child. Parents must take into account the expense and psychological trauma of putting a child into childcare in a daily basis as well as the usual expense of college life.

Without a place in the crèche for a child the cost of travelling to a crèche as well as structuring the crèche opening times around an already chaotic college timetable can be more than difficult. The easy access to the crèche as well as flexibility of times makes the crèche in the college a lot better for student parents. It can be more amiable to family life and an increased standard of living for the student parent and the child.

It is one of the most important facilities here in UL for the benefit of students. However under the remit of Student Union Welfare Officer Siobhan O'Connell the problems of student parents and their difficulties in gaining a place at the crèche have been for the most part ignored.

University hasn't even addressed the issue of extending or expanding the crèche to cater for more children. The token gesture of 50 places seems to be the total allocation this important project is been given.

A Focal will continue this look into the issue of childcare and the problems confronted by student parents on campus in the next issue of An Focal. Also a full reply from the university.

IMMINENT ACTION TO BOYCOTT NESTLE PRODUCTS IN UL

Le Michelle Ni Dhalaigh.

UL EnviroSoc over the spring break have initiated a boycott of all nestle products in the University. UL EnviroSoc president Catriona Jackman spoke to a focal in depth about the plan and the reasons behind their targeting of this particular company in this way. The campaign called the campaign against nestle is an internationally recognised initiative organised by a British group called Baby Milk Action. This non-profit group aims to halt the commercial promotion of bottle-feeding and to protect and promote good and appropriate infant nutrition. Baby Milk Action also campaigns for the accountability of transnational companies through positive consumer action.

UL EnviroSociety is campaigning for the boycott of Nestle products because Nestle is the worlds largest baby milk company and aggressively promotes its products to mothers and health workers in order to sell more milk. More than 4,000 babies die every day in poor conditions from unsafe bottle-feeding.

Breast milk on the other hand is free and safe and helps to immunise baby against possible childhood or infant mortalities. The product is safe however the widespread use of baby milk products by often uneducated, untrained and poverty stricken people leads to over dilution of the product and malnutrition of the baby, also the cost of the product often leads to bad nutrition of the parents or other siblings of the baby as the milk can cost up to half the family income in third world countries. Poor and infected water supplies can also contaminate the milk product and this can lead to infant mortality from cholera, typhoid and other related diseases.

Nestle has responded to the pressure being placed upon it by the

International Baby Food Action Network by saying it will end the damaging practice of giving free baby milk to hospitals but only if governments legislate to ban it. The reasons behind the campaign to target nestle in particular is because it still breaks the World Health Organisation / UNICEF baby milk marketing code more often than any other baby milk company. According to the Baby Milk Action Group.

The World Health Organisation estimates that reversing the decline in breastfeeding could save the lives of 1.5 million infants every year, yet baby food companies continue to market official foods in ways that undermine breastfeeding. The baby Milk Action group to which UL EnviroSoc are affiliated to co-ordinates the 18 country international Nestle boycott, which has prompted some improvements to marketing practices. The boycott about to be unleashed upon UL focuses upon Nestle because the company controls about 40% of the world market in baby milk and uses it's influence to undermine controls on marketing activities according to the baby milk action group. Ms. Jackman speaking for the University of Limerick Enviro-soc stated that their protest would consist of a programme advertising the activities of Nestle with which they disagree and informing students and staff of the university of the results of marketing. UL EnviroSoc wish to encourage as many students, staff and individuals as possible to boycott Nestlé products in every way in the university and in their purchasing elsewhere, the society wish to have Nestle products removed from the university shops and restaurants. She also stipulates that if individuals do decide to boycott nestle products to write to let nestle know about it and why. So an aggressive campaign of correspondence is being planned as well as the setting up of a petition, which will be available from EnviroSoc members, and around the University.

Information will be available on the project from UL EnviroSoc c/o Clubs and Societies Office, University of Limerick, or babymilkaction@eircom

The World at Large in Association with



ANONYMOUS MARKING GOOD OR BAD?

Only three colleges in the Republic of Ireland use anonymous marking to rule out the possibility of bias against students. Only the student's examination number appears on their exam paper, so the examiner does not know who the student is.

DIT introduced the system several years ago, while Trinity College and UCD are in various stages of its implementation, and DCU are looking into the system.

This year TCD will see anonymous marking extend to include the three junior undergraduate years, before reaching all departments next year. Its implementation came in response to the student charter, stating that students have the right to be marked anonymously.

UCD piloted anonymous marking in 1999, in the first and second year examinations in medicine, and its gradual introduction to all departments is on the cards. The pilot study in the medical faculty included a survey of student attitudes on the issue. It found that the majority believes that without anonymous marking there was a potential for "unfair grading". This opinion was strongest among female and overseas graduates.

One of the merits of the system is that it avoids victimisation of individual students, and also other more subtle bias, including gender and racial bias, which might creep in, said Frank Bannister with the Department of Statistics and Chairperson of the College's working group on anonymous marking.

UCD's Pilot Study showed that, from the examiners' point of view, anonymous marking was feasible. Some 33% of staff surveyed felt that it should be introduced 'as soon as it can be' with 38% holding the same view but feeling that introduction was 'not urgent'. The remaining 29% had no strong opinions either way; and no staff members were against its introduction.

The primary argument against anonymous marking is that it can lead to students getting lower marks, because lecturers tend to give a student the benefit of the doubt if they know them. "The examiner tends to be more detached, so students tend to get slightly lower marks," he told **campus.ie**.

TCD's Mr Bannister believes it is a good deal less stressful to mark anonymous scripts, from the examiner's point of view. "If an examiner is marking the script of a student they know and believe is good but having an off day, they're really agonising over what's going on and thinking about the person concerned." This scenario is ruled out by anonymous marking.

So just how difficult would it be for a lecturer to get a student's corresponding examination number? Leaving aside the incidence where a student carelessly leaves their number lying around, there's no way a lecturer could get at examination numbers via a system file, according to TCD's Mr Bannister. DIT's Tom Duff from Academic Affairs supports this view, pointing out that only people in the examination office have access to these and they would not disclose them under any circumstances.

Assuming that a lecturer wanted to discriminate against a student, the simplest way is to keep samples of the student's handwriting beside the scripts being marked. So the only way to guarantee complete

anonymity then is to get students to type exams on PCs.

Students with personal problems will be unable to informally raise the issue with a lecturer they are friendly with, who could alert the committee to the importance of a borderline case being passed, on account of the pressure of personal problems. To this end, Mr Duff believes the guarantee of total anonymity and equality should take precedence over such cases. Then at the very end stage, when all the names are on the broadsheet, certain candidates extenuating circumstances may be dealt with.

DIT is moving toward a more formal approach to students informing the department if they have extenuating circumstances. "If students have a personal problem and want it taken into account, they can request that the issue not be discussed with the entire examination board, and the chairman will deal with the sensitive issue accordingly," Mr Duff told **campus.ie**.

TCD's Mr Bannister explained that his College's policy differs and that in such circumstances such student might be advised to defer taking the exams. "Once anonymous marking is implemented, there is no way lecturers could make allowances for a student being very ill during the year, or if their parents had died before the exam," he pointed out.

TCD is in the process of overcoming a number of issues with implementing the system. A great deal of course work in Trinity is continuous assessment, such as group work, orals and presentations. In various language courses, there may only be three of four students in the class, so the lecturer knows the identity of the student from both handwriting and literary style.

Merging continuous assessment and anonymous exams is likely to prove challenging for colleges, especially in the large departments where students are studying various aspects of two courses, in combinations of their choice.

Anonymous marking only really impacts on class sizes between 20 and 50. In larger classes, although the lecturer may know the student by name, they usually cannot identify their writing.

Human error is difficult to prevent with this system. "It's easy to cut and paste into the exam spread sheet, matching the wrong columns, and getting the wrong set of marks. Making sure the marks are anonymous is not that difficult to achieve - but making sure that an examiner doesn't make a mistake is extremely difficult to achieve," TCD's Mr Bannister explained. For that reason, anonymous marking requires stringent re-checking procedures.

For several years now, DIT have been using anonymous marking. One of the main selling points of the system, as seen by Tom Duff of the Department of Academic Affairs at DIT, is that it upholds the privacy of the student. When exams are posted on the notice board, their examination number is given as opposed to their name. "A student's name is only disclosed to the exam board meeting, when the results are being logged into the examination broadsheet, to facilitate borderline students," he said.

DIT review its exam regulations almost on an annual basis, to ensure that they are as effective as possible. They are currently looking into implement-

ing a protective strip system - the sealed flap system - where a student writes his or her name on the exam paper, which cannot be opened until the end of the markings.

The USI's Education Officer, Com Jordan, believe the system lends to greater accountability and transparency, and goes a long way in addressing examination discrimination. Figures from a forthcoming Higher Education Authority report show that female students are far less likely than their male classmates to achieve first class honours degrees. Despite outnumbering men by a ratio of 3:2 in one university, women account for just 1 in 3 of the top degrees awarded by that institution.

Gender discrimination should be ruled out at all costs, USI's, Women's Rights Officer, Andrea Leahy insists, and has called for further research in the area.

One such study in the UK's University College Cardiff revealed that female students were being under-marked before the introduction of anonymous marking. The study found that prior to the introduction of anonymous marking men outperformed women and after its introduction women outperformed men.

It should also be noted that in UCD's pilot study in the medical faculty there was no apparent change in the pattern of grades awarded with the introduction of anonymous marking. There was no evidence of either gender bias or a bias for or against non-Irish students in the marking of examinations.

With the increasing threat of litigation, spokespersons in DIT and Trinity College believe all colleges will eventually introduce anonymous marking. Several universities and institutes of technology have already requested information from TCD's Mr Bannister, as to how he operates his system

EM YOU CAN'T PLAY EMINEM!

Students at the UK's Sheffield University have ban Detroit rapper Eminem's name from appearing in reviews and his CDs from being sold in campus shops or played on their own radio station, because his lyrics contravene the University's "gay-friendly" policy.

His fans at Sheffield University will not even be allowed into the disco wearing Eminem T-shirts. The ban follows a complaint from a female student who presented a selection of Eminem's writings. "There was clear evidence of a flagrant breach of our policy towards gays, and we are trying to reduce homophobia," a student union representative commented. "Our aim is to create a culture of tolerance, equality and respect for our members," he said.

The university's student newspaper, the Steel Press, is prohibited from publishing reviews of Eminem's CDs or concerts. All it can do is print news articles discussing the singer.

The ban was imposed two months ago and caused little comment until the Daily Telegraph covered it at the start of the month, ahead of the Grammy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles on February 21. The national Irish media have subsequently run with the story.

NEW CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF MENINGITIS

By **campus.ie**

A hard-hitting poster campaign is set to rejuvenate the meningitis C vaccine campaign in college campuses around the country. The move comes in response to a report showing that the uptake of the vaccine amongst third level students, at 50 per cent, was unsatisfactory.

However, Maureen Gilheaney from the Office of Health Gain which is co-ordinating the campaign, told **campus.ie** that a true picture of the uptake is more difficult to ascertain, as some students may have received the jab from their local GP, and so would not be included on the campus' records.

Project managers for the campaign in each health board have already made contact with student health services, and some are putting on extra assistant teams. Other colleges are extending the opening hours of the student health services, to facilitate students' time tables. Some colleges have even sent text messages to stu-

dents to remind them to avail of the vaccination.

Epidemiological studies have shown that students are regarded as one of the groups most at risk. "This particular strain of the virus has in the past attacked clusters in universities in the UK," Dr David Thomas, Director of Health Services in Trinity College told **campus.ie**.

Phase One of the *National Meningococcal Immunisation Programme* got underway for first-year college students last October, and included an awareness flyer accompanying CAO offers, as well as an immunisation campaign.

To address the shortfall of the previous campaign, the Office of Health Gain, met with a focus group of students as well as members from the Union of Students of Ireland to co-ordinate a poster campaign, that would hit home with students. "With so many anti-smoking campaigns carrying statements like "smoking could kill you", it doesn't have the same affect. But saying that you could be left disabled, has a much greater impact," Ms Gilheaney explained.

"Normally we wouldn't like to scare people - but there is a line between scaring and providing them with the truth," she continued.

The posters draw students' attention to the fact that meningitis can leave a person "seriously disabled" and that early symptoms are often mistaken for a hang over or flu until its too late.

If students visit their own GP, no consultation or vaccination fee is required. The service is completely free, and covered by the State.

Classical symptoms of meningococcal meningitis include a high temperature, severe headaches, neck stiffness, nausea and/or vomiting, dislike of bright lights, drowsiness and joint or muscle pains.

Ireland is the second European country to introduce a meningococcal immunisation programme. The British campaign to eradicate Meningitis C has shown an overall reduction among students of 90 per cent.

A STUDY SUGGESTS THAT CRAMMING IS A WASTE OF TIME?

By **campus.ie**

Last minute cram studying is a waste of time unless you sleep, according to new research by Harvard University.

"It seems that memories normally wash out of the brain unless some process nails them down. My suspicion is that sleep is one of those things that does the nailing down," Dr Robert Stickgold, who led the Harvard study explained.

The research concludes that studying is effective only if done regularly, not simply the night before an examination.

USI's Equality Officer, Rory McDaid, believes financial constraints often force students to leave studying until the week before their exams. "I would have seen that in my own college, where students work right up to the week before the exam in order to keep them over the few weeks of exams," he explained.

However, all is not in vain, if the student gets a few hours sleep. Professor Cary Cooper of the University of Manchester argues that very few students actually work through the night, with most opting for at least a few hours sleep.

Most students will work until perhaps 2 am, then sleep for five hours which can probably help short-term memory," he said. "Cramming can also make you feel better about the exam, even if you have not learned much extra."

An Focal advise students to get a good nights sleep before their exams.

ARE YOUNG PEOPLE CONFUSED OVER WHAT CONSTITUTES RAPE?

By **campus.ie**

Most young Irish women know someone who has been raped, and in most cases, the victim is a friend or peer, a new report has revealed.

Almost one in five young women and a third of young men surveyed did not think that being forced to have sex constitutes rape, showing that young people are confused about the meaning of rape.

Many people did not report abusive experiences to parents or teachers, but just told their friends, the Women's Aid *Teenage Tolerance* study into teen exposure to violence and sex reveals.

The survey found that 94 per cent of young men and 63 per cent of young women have seen pornography, mainly on the Internet. Half of the youths surveyed said

using pornography made them feel "more secure" about sex and their performance.

The report recommends a public awareness campaign on violence and abuse against young people, and a mainstream prevention education programme.

The research findings indicate how society is failing young people, according to the director of Women's Aid, Ms Denise Charlton. "With limited sex and life-skills education, and few support systems for young people, we are leaving young people to cope with these issues alone or with each other," she said.

The survey, examined the experiences of 300 pupils aged between 14 and 19, at five schools and one senior college throughout the capital. It was funded by the European Commission and the Department of Education and Science.

For more information on the stories in The World at Large & Other Stories including:

Excercise makes you more attractive Sexually
Virtual Learning
College Course Standards Under Scrutiny
Wireless Networking

Visit www.campus.ie

CULINARY GRACE -

a beginners guide to gourmet cooking

Welcome back everyone! Especially those of you who were on co-op and don't know what this section is all about. Well obviously its about cooking. This column offers students a range of culinary delights which are simple and easy to cook for under a fiver. Pasta is the main ingredient of this editions meals. Hopefully they are a bit more appetising than pasta and dolmio sauce. Enjoy!

SPAGHETTI WITH GRILLED COURGETTES AND OLIVES

A wonderful taste and colour.

Serves 4

Ingredients	Price
450g spaghetti	£0.86
2 courgettes	£1.58
2 medium onions, finely chopped	£0.30
2 tablespoons of oil	£0.10
4 coves of garlic	£0.20
2 large red peppers, roasted under the grill, roasted, with the skin removed and finely sliced	£1.26
50g black olives sliced	£0.45
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper	£0.10
sat and pepper	£0.02
55g feta cheese, crumbled	£0.90
1 teapsoon of mixed herbs	<u>£0.05</u> £5.82

Sorry I have gone over the budget here, the feta cheese could be substituted for a mature cheddar which would be cheaper.

Instructions

cook the spaghetti for 10 minutes until al dente. Place the courgette slices on a baking tray, brush with oil and grill under a high heat until they begin to colour.

Saute the onion in a little more oil in a large saucepan for a couple of minutes until they begin to soften. Add the garlic and cook for a further couple of minutes. Add the grilled courgettes and roasted peppers, olives, cayenne, mixed herbs. Stir in the pasta and warm through. Season to taste.

To serve place in dishes and sprinkle over crumbled feta cheese.

PREP. TIME: 20 minutes

COOKING TIME: 15 minutes

CARBONARA

Serves 4

Ingredients	Price
400g pasta quils	£0.86
100g rasher	£1.40
1 egg	£0.12
2 tablespoons	£0.05
1 onion	£0.10
1 red pepper	£0.63
100g cheese	£0.75
salt and pepper	£0.02
1 carton of fresh cream	£0.96
1 tablespoon of mixed herbs	<u>£0.05</u> £4.94

Instructions

Boil pasta for 10-15 minutes. Meanwhile, chop onion, and rasher and fry in oil for 10 mins. Break in egg and stir for 2 minutes. Add in the cream, salt and pepper and mixed herbs cook for a further 2 minutes. Stir in cooked pasta and grated cheese and cook for 3 more minutes.

Prep. Time: 5 minutes

Cooking Time: Approx. 30 minutes

PASTA ARAMANCATTA

Serves 4

Ingredients	Price
400g pasta shells	£0.86
1 tin of tomatoes	£0.46
1 courgette	£0.79
1/2 pepper	£0.22
1/2 yellow pepper	£0.22
1/2 green pepper	£0.22
2 tablespoons of oil	£0.10
75g breadcrumbs	£0.30
1 red onion	£0.15
100g cheese	£0.75
1 tablespoon of mixed herbs	£0.05
1 clove of crushed garlic	<u>£0.04</u> £4.17

Instructions

Boil pasta for 10-15 minutes. Meanwhile chop vegetables and fry in oil. Add in garlic, herbs, salt and pepper to season and cook for 5 minutes.. Add in tomatoes and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in cooked pasta, and place mixture in oven dish. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs and grated cheese. Bake in an oven at 220 degrees celsius, gas mark 6 or 350 degrees fahrenheit for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

PREP. TIME: 5 minutes

COOKING TIME: 45 minutes

COLD SUMMER PASTA SALAD

Serves 4

Ingredients	Price
400g of precooked pasta bows.	£0.86
1/2 red pepper	£0.22
1/2 yellow pepper	£0.22
1/2 green pepper	£0.22
100g iceberg lettuce	£0.38
1/2 chopped carrot	£0.16
1/2 red onion	£0.15
handful of croutons	£0.20

Dressing:

3 tablespoons of grained mustard	£0.40
1 tablespoon of honey	£0.15
1 tablespoon of oil	£0.05
2 tablespoons of wine vinegar	£0.20
1 teaspoon of mixed herbs	£0.03
1 clove or crushed garlic	<u>£0.05</u> £3.29

Instructions

To make croutons, remove crusts from 2 slices of white bread. Cut into cubes and fry in a little oil until golden brown and leave on kitchen paper to dry.

Tip: tear leaves of the head of iceberg lettuce rather than chopping it with a knife as this causes the leaves to turn brown.

Chop vegetables. Toss teared lettuceleaves, vegetables and pasta in a large bowl.

To make the dressing add all the ingredients to a clean bottle and shake vigorously and sprinkle over salad. It is best to add the croutons at the last minute so as to prevent them from going soggy.

PREP. TIME: 10-15 minutes

COOKING TIME: 5 minutes

For more interesting pasta dishes check out the following websites:

www.guyskitchen.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes

The Value of Knowledge in a World Gone Mad



By Ger Holland

In a modern society, where knowledge is power, it's surprising that we find ourselves being entertained by the ignorance of others who seem perfectly willing to display their lack of common sense.

I speak of the ever-popular, yet misguided notion that intelligence in this day and age can be measured and adequately rewarded by the somewhat imbecilic concept of a quiz show. True, such shows do contain some nugget of educational nonsense, via limited viewer interaction, who can try to guess the answers beforehand, but conceding that peripheral issue, on the whole, such programmes merely demonstrate just how stupid-and I would cautiously venture, intellectually complacent-we as a modern Irish society have become, that we not only tolerate a falling standard of Rectally Therapeutic Emissions' programming content, but apparently embrace it whole-heartedly! And RTE seems perfectly happy to highlight their ignorance and lack of common sense by giving it a primetime slot!

Indeed, the very thought that millions of us can be deceived into thinking that we are enjoying *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* shocks me even now, considering that it's little more than a glorified pub trivia quiz machine, re-packaged for a new naïve target market. And before *An Focal's* letter-box fills with complaints stating that I haven't a clue what I'm on about, I do in fact have experience in table and pub quizzes, a reputation which has regretfully followed me ninety miles here from the deepest darkest regions of what is colloquially known as West Cork (better known as paradise/Zion/Utopia etc.)

However the fundamental problem I see is not with the questions-which are either so outlandishly esoteric a lexicographer couldn't answer them, or so ridiculously simple that asking the audience becomes an exercise in self-humiliation. Nor is it with the fact that *WWTBAM* gaming machines have emerged from all sides like an economic ambush, knowing that inevitably even the most resolute of opponents to this hopefully short-lived trend will yield to the temptation to try it out,(including myself I have to shamefully admit!) and then proceeds to swallow money faster than a typical UL student knocks back

pints in *Kollege Week!* My dismay at the programming executives lack of innovation has already been expressed, and I can hardly blame the masses for being deluded! Therefore the only remaining element in this TV tragedy phenomenon is its presenter, one Gabriel Byrne, who stated two years ago that he would retire from TV, and yet like a bad smell of rotting carcasses whose time is long past, his ghost of a career continues to haunt the corridors of RTE, and also unfortunately our screens! It's enough to make you think twice about paying the license fee!

Maybe, it's just me, after all, I still half-expect him to give three life-lines to everyone in the audience. But I always thought that charisma and personality would be important characteristics of any prime-time TV presenter. Instead of putting people at their ease, they seem to tense up more at the start with the easy questions than with the £125,000 one! Indeed, the very fact is that his stiff 1950s style of presenting is like most of his loyal audience from his heydays on the *Late Late Show*, regretfully dead! Nevertheless, nostalgia does not justify resurrecting what has had a respectful passing, preserving its glory in posterity would be better than wearing it out for money!

Now I'm not saying that Chris Tarrant has completely monopolised the show's format by injecting his own style of humour into ITV's version before RTE got going, but you must admit he's had a hell of a head start on *Gaybo!* *Gaybo* needs a gimmick, *FAST*. My suggestion would be to borrow the voiceover talents of that guy who announces the contestants for another quiz show "It's not the answer". If you've never heard of it, I'm not surprised, but despite it being dismal example of RTE's lack of imagination, ITV of all people have their version this year! Even they lack the razor-sharp wit of the voiceover guy in the Irish version, who can rival *Bull Island* on a good day and who can cram more laughs into five seconds than a whole series of *Don't Feed The Gondolas* (which wouldn't be hard!)

Of course, at least RTE aren't reminded daily of the bizarre mismatch of Anne Robinson and daytime presenting. Without a doubt (and we don't need to vote on this!) Anne Robinson is.....*The Weakest Link!* With pauses between sentences that last longer than the show's entertainment value, and trying to inject dramatic tension by shouting the title of the show in every round, her manner is reminiscent of English boarding school teachers that you'd read about only in Charles Dickens novels! Had she the cane, every knuckle in the studio would be red raw, including the audience!

And after all that, unless you're treated to one of her derogatory condescending remarks, (par example-do you know anything at all?) you win very little cash at all! Rarely does it go over 5,000, and she always relishes reminding the contestants just what they SHOULD have got! However, it's for that reason that if there's nothing else on, I probably would watch it! (But then again I have a life!) Those dismissive goodbyes are becoming something of a trademark for the show, partly because it's so offensive, and partly because it proves once again that she should have stayed with *Watchdog*, hunting down those deals and defending the common good of the public. But then again, that's just my opinion, maybe you should ask the audience or take a fifty-fifty!

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State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

Irish politics rarely gets as exciting and imaginative as it did a few weeks ago with the fall of John Bruton and the rise of Michael Noonan to head the second largest party of the state. Most people had realised that Bruton had to go; he could offer nothing new and definitely could not match the seemingly heroic face of Bertie Ahern. So Bruton was deposed and tears were shed by the Bruntonites and then we had a well-staged election, with Jim Mitchel and Noonan pursuing a very suspicious game of being friendly contenders, which culminated in the eventual the cohabitation that we have now. So questions may be asked about the shrewd political game that was played-out over the weeks leading up to and during the fall of Bruton. The Sunday Business Post of 4 February carried an interesting article, giving an 'inside track' to how the MRBI poll was introduced as the tool to destroy the leader of the party. It was supposedly sponsored by close corporate businessmen who support Fine Gael (ironic isn't it, now that they have banned corporate sponsorship) and saw the party being decimated by the next election. These businessmen in turn had close contact with Mitchel and Noonan and both seemed to have carefully planned their strategy. Indeed if there

were ever need of a Prince, surely Machiavelli has one in both Mitchel and Noonan.

But can Fine Gael pull back from the slide that they are in. Sure they are getting a lot of media coverage at the moment with Noonan on his whirlwind tour of the country – he would have to do that anyway as a new party leader and in preparation for the forthcoming election. But when Noonan adopts his usual Bull Island persona, surely the public will look upon him as merely another leader who fails to grab the public's attention. Fine Gael is now suffering from a major split, which caused much animosity. It is the strength of a political party to heal this shift if it is to survive. However tension seems to go deeper than just the parliamentary party. We even saw in the 'week of the rubber knives' that Young Fine Gael decided to make a stab at gaining a sound bite. In a letter to the editor of the Irish Times, certain Young Fine Gaelers (and not so young) supported the toppling of their leader and argued that it was their future that was being determined. Did we really need to know this information? Rather their reason for doing so was simply to dig yet another hole into the Fine Gael corpse. Their action alone signifies that the future of Fine Gael is uncer-

tain.

What is certain is that the coming election will be tough for Fine Gael. The Bertie factor, continuing popular support for the government in the wake of a give-away budget and the fight McCreevy is putting up against the Euro technocrats over that budget is all auguring well for a return of the Fianna Fail/PD government. At present it is difficult to see Fine Gael taking government from Fianna Fail. Although the courting of the Labour party has begun by both potential parties, it is still difficult to see which way they would go. Everybody is waiting for Michael Noonan to lead the clan of the Gael into its uncertain future, if he can at all. Of course what everybody is really waiting for is the next opinion poll, which we can now say has a real and visible impact on the politics of this country.

For my part I think it is about time that we reassess the entire party structure of this state as it can no longer offer the citizen any true choice. We have over the past number of decades become stagnant and insulated. The future generation of Ireland needs a more viable political environment. How that is to be done is anybody's guess. Even the youthful Fine Gaelers will grow up and occupy their predecessors positions and will continue the same parliamentary politics of the past. But as history has shown us, it can be done, whether through reactionary aggression or simple forcefulness and courage. But is that Ireland dead and gone and with O'Leary in the grave?

Revolutionary Cleaning products..

By Nicholas O' Brien

Well, It has been a long time since we have last chatted ladies and gentlemen, and you'll be glad to know I have passed my exams and they let me in for another semester to immaturity these pages.

All those who didn't receive results quite so adequate, (and who can't sleep with the lecturer or murder them and disguise yourself as them and live their lives for years in order to throw hyperactive belgian detectives off the scent), you will have to knuckle down hard, and after that, do some work.

While we were gone, the Rant against the Grant stormed Dublin, a valid cause this obviously as prostitutes are so expensive now that half your weeks money is gone in ten minutes and two broken ribs. Particularly a problem with some people we heard of who think contraceptive protection means side-impact bars.

Those holidays were great though, with the exams in the past, and a chance to drink a keg or two of Guinness, which, by the way, is a surefire method of attracting attention from the fairer sex, either by making them drink it, in which case they will be too inebriated to refuse even your posterior-like complexion, or drink it yourself, and spin some lurid tale to your friends about it... Something with three nuns, the library toilets, and a bottle of Jif. Or Cif, or whatever the grey suits are calling it today. For all those who don't know, they are changing the name of Jif, pronounced JIF, to Cif, Pronounced sif, due to pronunciation problems!?!?! Why do companies do this to me? I want to live in a world where every single day I can clean the

Diary of A First Year

Nicholas O'Brien shows us that men write diaries as well as the girls can!!!!!!

table I bought from TODDS with some JIF, sit down and eat a MARATHON bar, and maybe some OPAL FRUITS, and imbibe a can of coke, shaped like a f*cking can of coke! What's wrong with that? Why don't we just change the name of church to Brown Thomas, so we could go on our Brown Thomas picnic, and have some "I can't believe they aren't sandwiches" straight from the tin, and say a quick prayer for Coca-Cola, the new name for God, while in the sky above, the "Spherical Isotonic orb" sets, and a full while a full " spotted complexionosphere " rises amidst the Mc. Stars at night?

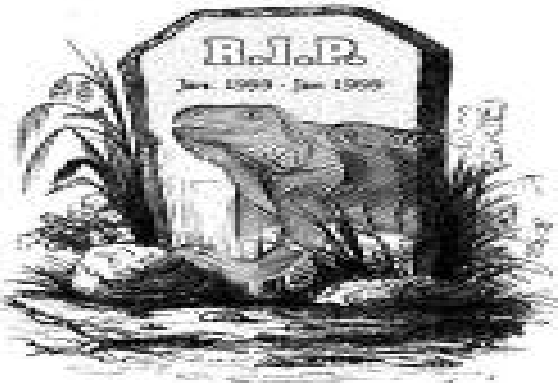
But the most upsetting occurrence of recent weeks has to be the ruling to effectively shut down Napster, so that the music industry can continue to charge us £16.99 for a CD that cost 29p to make, so that pop stars who spend months having songs written for them, and backing tracks programmed into computers for them, and lip - syncing can get more money for new cars, new houses and new asses so they can look good on their "HELLO" 7 page spread.

It does sometimes get difficult to try to be funny when everything is changing for the worse, the government restrict everything that's good or interesting and make us pay tax on our water if there's a label on it, but still manage not to have spare budget money for student's grants, or recycling initiatives, or putting 20 more police on the beat in Limerick city on a saturday night, or anything remotely useful or dynamic at all...

Don't worry, smile and be happy, I'm only ever half serious. Tune in next time, and Keep Being, keep seeing, and keep on folk-ing in the free world.

KRANK'S KORNER

ing pleasure
over pain,
recreation
over work,



Our poor old newspaper is a flatliner. It's our fault cos we're dull and lazy, yada-yada-yada. God knows we've been hearing and saying that crap for years, till the goddam needle has worn down to the nib. Time for a new chune. Contrary to popular belief, half the students who read this paper are dying to contribute to it, but there's two fat greezy reasons why they don't: (a) They're not sure what they wanna say. (b) They are not inspired by the paper (which is sad cos they're gagging for inspiration). As I'm one of those people, here's what I wanna see in my paper.

Last issue the editor suggested that "An Focal" become broadsheet, to emulate Cork or Trinity, I realised he had a point (inadvertently): we're nothing like the Flanders next store; we're different. My friends who aren't in UL think we're all snobs and knobs. I find myself agreeing with 'em most of the time. Just once I wanna turn around and say: "You ain't read our paper, have ya?"

There's a play, which was written in the 50's, called "Look Back in Anger" by John Osborne. The drama soc should put this play on and we should be shackled and made to watch it. Tis a play about intellectual inertia. It's about us, and the delicious mental sloth we're in. Being young should be about being vibrant, creative and insightful and (to quote a sociologist, talking about the young, interviewed in The Economist) not about "choos-

consumption over production, appreciation over creation." Maybe it is about both, so I wanna see a paper with sensation and brains. I wanna see a paper with a crackin' guide to eating pussy alongside a critical (in the true sense of the word) and informative piece about what the EU is and does and is it good or bad? I wanna see a brilliant guide to giving head beside an impassioned polemic entitled: "Whose afraid of Modern Art." I want my stereotypes challenged. I wanna know if nationalism is inherited or constructed; I wanna see a disabled girl's view on a highly sexualised, image driven society; I wanna see a diary of a gay bloke tellin' us how he's more like Al Bundy than Julian Cleary; I wanna see articles like that excellent letter from a geezer defending Southill which challenged my view of it (and I'm from Limerick). Are there students out there from disadvantaged areas, are ya sick of phrases like "disadvantaged areas"? I'd love hear about it.

I'm a little worried I sound laddish and but I'm addressing the girls too. Let's be clear: I despise lad culture and I am not suggesting we turn this publication into a stomach churning copy of FHM. For example could we have real sexual articles written with a flavour that both sexes enjoy? I really think so. I hope my sincerity shines through my approach. Come to think of it I'd love to see a girl write about laddism, and a fella write about feminism.

I wanna see pop vs. antipop. I'd love to see a foreign student shooting from the hip about what's backwards about our attitudes and what we have spot on, cos I never hear what they really think. I wanna see a paper written by people divested of the lineaments of respectability ("...the lance of truth hurtless breaks"- King Lear), bollock naked with their droopy bits blowing in the breeze, afraid of what people will say cos they stepped up- rather than didactic, social climbin', union lackies with one eye on their fucking cv.

This paper should reflect who we are and what's in store for us. For example how many of us are aware of how the working environment is changing? Dya know what a meritocracy is? People with portable skills are the future of industry according to the Economist. Why is it that so many of us are slipping through the net? This get-up-and-go lark is quite alien to the unambitious. Is success the road to fulfilment? Does our choice lie between greed and laziness? I heard Michael D. Higgins describe us as "The Floating Class", conspicuous consumers of culture, living in a vacuous and spiritually void world of theme bars, computer games and celebrity gossip. Where is the Zeitgeist? Who speaks for us? Do I speak for us or do I just speak for me? It's all fucking blurred...

People we have a paper. I don't think that word, "paper", conveys what this publication could be. If we just quit jerking off we could have something with style and imagination. Most people think we ain't got either. We need a little more pith and mirth-like that skeleton in the cartoon "The Groovy Ghoulies" who played drums with his bones... uh, never mind...

Next issue our little publication is going to step out into the realm of legend. It's gonna publish the unofficial official guide to eating pussy (good head guide in a later issue). Why publish the guide?

1. So People can have better sex.
2. It challenges our perception of the paper. It's a new idea, which paves the way for other new ideas. It could be the start of an exciting new ethos for the paper.
3. Everybody will read it.
4. It may be the only ever article in this paper people will remember.
5. We can turn around to our friends and say: "You ain't read our paper, have ya?" and grin. So boys and girls please forward your cunning tips to howdyalikethemapplesbud@yahoo.com and next issue An Focal will print 'em. Be as funny or as serious as ya like but only genuine tips will be printed.

POSTGRADUATE STUDY FAIR – 21st February, 2001

The Cooperative Education & Careers Division, University of Limerick, is organising a Postgraduate Study Fair on Wednesday, 21st February. The fair will take place in EGO 10 (the Examination Hall) in the main building. Opening hours will be from 1.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. This event will be open to all students and graduates who are interested in finding out about postgraduate study opportunities in Ireland.

What's it all about? The Postgraduate Study Fair will be similar to the Careers Fair which was held in November. The objective is to provide students with relevant and up to date information on the range of postgraduate study opportunities available in Ireland. As one in four graduates continues on into some form of postgraduate study, this Fair will provide an ideal opportunity to research all the options. Specialist staff from all the Irish Universities, a number of the Institutes of Technology, Research Centres and other institutions will be available to answer questions on a range of issues including: selection procedures, application process, financial support, course content, employment prospects, etc. It will be a very informal atmosphere with plenty of opportunities for individual consultation with the experts.

What colleges will attend? We expect to have about 25 exhibition stands covering the main postgraduate study and research opportunities in Ireland. UL will be very well represented as each College will

have an individual stand with information on research and taught postgraduate study options. The Admissions Office will also be represented.

POSTGRADUATE STUDY SEMINAR – 20th February, 2001

To help students get the most out of the Postgraduate Study Fair, a seminar will be held on Tuesday, 20th February at 6.30 p.m. in the Charles Parsons lecture theatre. The purpose of the seminar is to provide students with an overview of what's involved in deciding on postgraduate study and how best to prepare for the process.

A panel of speakers will cover the following topics:

- 'Why consider Postgraduate Study?'
- 'Postgraduate Research Opportunities'
- 'Funding for Postgraduate Study'
- 'Postgraduate Study Overseas: The experience of a UL graduate'

For further details, contact Mary Sweeney, Head of Careers Cooperative Education & Careers Division, University of Limerick at 061-202114 or, by e-mail, at: mary.sweeney@ul.ie.

Marian's Voyeur Column

- A fortnightly look at what's hot or not in the world



Image is nothing-Thirst is everything, the word according to Sprite. How wrong they are, in the 21st Century we have seen that Image is everything. Ireland may be the home of the Celtic Tiger, but the sad reality is that the Celtic Tiger is not a purring kitten it is a dangerous animal that has been let loose in our society. The great Tiger has turned us into self-conscious, self-absorbed snobs.

Image always had a role to play in music, bands like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, The Doors didn't reach the heights of Stardom by relying totally on their musical ability, great as it was! They had to sell themselves as well as their music. Nowadays, we live in an age of extremes and nowhere is this more evident than in the music industry, image is no longer relegated to simply "having a role to play", image is what gives our bubble-gum pop dominated charts their character.

Talent is no longer the most desired quality in musicians, now it's how perfect your skin is, how anorexic the girls are and how impressive the guys six packs are. It's the essence of "selling out". The concept of a band being CHOSEN from the star struck, Louis Walsh worshipping public who go and audition in front of "industry experts" is just wrong, it goes against everything that music stands for, record company bosses seem to have lost the plot, completely forgetting that music is supposed to be an art form not an industry. The recent addition to the UTV listings "Popstars"

was nauseating to watch, people with talent and individual personalities prancing in front of "experts" perfectly willing to give both of these qualities up for their 15 minutes of fame on Top of the Pops or on the cover of Smash Hits. Have these people no Pride; they're selling their souls for a private consultation with a Dolce & Gabbana stylist.

Popstars are one thing but the fascination with image has even infiltrated the world of sport, soccer isn't a sport anymore it's an industry. The over-zealous preening footballer's egos is a crime committed by every tabloid and every celebrity rag we see on the shelves. No wonder footballers have an inflated view of themselves, as long as people continue to pay HARD EARNED money to read about how much their haircut cost or who's been seen with the latest "pop sensation to storm the charts", their heads will continue to swell. What I want to know is why in the name of all that is good in the world does anyone care about their private lives. I can see (well, almost!) how the public would be interested in the Sport aspect of it, the excitement of a match, the skill, the idea of having a favourite team and following their progress through a league. But honestly, the obsession with their private lives is beyond me.

And as if all this evidence of the evils of Image wasn't enough, the image conscious monster raised its ugly head in Irish politics. Who'd have thought that Fine Gael would oust their beloved Leader John Brutan because he



wasn't portraying the right image to the electorate? In the words of Gerry Ryan he wasn't "clicking with the grassroots"! It has to be said that the man had about as much charisma as a brick but was that the only reason for the disastrous opinion polls? But hey, that's a subject to bitch about for another time!

Have we become so complacent in our economic boom that we have nothing more to worry about than Image, bad enough to become obsessed with our own image, but when we base our musical taste on how trendy the "performers" are, or how much the record company has pumped into marketing campaign, it's distressing to say the least. And let's not forget the millions of soccer "fans" out there who can't see past the Nike adverts and the celebrity couples. Does any one know how many people have died on our roads this year? Doesn't anyone wonder what happened to all those people who have gone missing over the last few years? The truth is that a lot of people are more concerned about what celebrity is in rehab or what popstar was seen with what footballer than what's happening in the real world!!

Wired Fm Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:30-10:00	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!	The Breakfast Show Wake up and Smell the coffee!
12:00-12:30	Seachdain Weekend at Gaelic	Class A Laser Product	Body & Soul	Soundbyte
12:30-1:00	EX-TEMPORANEOUS		Left of Field	
1:00-1:30	Pulse	The Junk Show	Alternative World	Last Splash Show
1:30-2:00	Dis Harmony			
4:30-5:30	Activate	... The Tablats	... The Lunch at Gaelic	... The Discovery at Gaelic
5:30-6:00	Timewarp	The Arts show	Sports Weekly	... The Vortex
6:00-6:45	Plastered	... The Sciitimini	... The Fargo	... The 4 To the Floor
6:45- 7:30	Big Sack	... The In Focus	Ascension 7-8pm	... The Side View
7:30- 8:00	Common People	... The Dead Air		... The POP IS DEAD
8:00- 9:00	... The Anything Goes	... The The Pat & Mike Show	Crazy Sexy Cool	... The BOYS AND GIRLS
9:00-10:00	... The Composition of Sound	... The Evil monkeys In Space	... The Beats & Rhythms Gaelic	... The TALKING HEADZ

Hitchhikers Guide to the World-Wide-Web

New beginnings, new opportunities, and no I'm NOT talking about that drunken orgy in the Lodge last week (or where it ended up!!!) I refer to the fact that once again we return to the grindstone, like a horde of Pavlov's dogs (it's a psychology thing!) while those halcyon three weeks of blissful lethargic pursuits under the shade seem like months ago already! But what lies in store for us in the new semester? Scientifically, there are two ways of seeing into the future. One: drink yourself into a semi-comatose state until you can see nothing else but the future, but from what I saw in the Stables on the 12th, perhaps that's not such a good idea! Or, you could read on.....

OK, I'm sort of on a philosophical kick today, so if some of this stuff seems a little "out there" for your taste, just CHILL! And to Mystic Moriarty, this is not an attempt at a coup-d'etat, so don't forecast any disasters for me yet! It's merely Feb 14th-inspired chaos!

Entering into the vast recesses of the ephemeral world of astrology, (an interest that I never really matured out of) I decided to consult the stars in the eternal search for that elusive answer which every student asks themselves at one time or another "what the f**k am I doing here?", (only then it's "how did I get here" while you hold the bottle of JD in one hand and raise yourself off the pavement with the other) I delved into the teachings of modern society's popular occult, the horoscope. Determined to uncover the secrets of humanity before I had to leave in ten minutes for that tutorial up in the Schrodinger (trust me, that meaning of life thing was piddly compared to THIS one!), and with my Deskmate lava lamp courtesy of Term 1 Issue 4 burning on the Desktop, I browsed the following havens of enlightenment, each with a different level of enlightening karma.

The Zodiac

I decided to begin this odyssey of self-discovery at the homepage of one of my e-mail accounts, as it was the detail of the sun-sign profile here that first got me interested in actually taking up this topic for an article. www.collegeclub.com, I have to admit does a good job at easing you into all of the various aspects of astrology, while keeping the profile itself relatively easy to follow. You can use the drop-down menu to select the sign of your choice and it gives the bare essentials of the best bits. If anyone IS interested in a general overview of astrology and how there's more than the constellations at stake, start here and see if it whets your appetite!

www.astrology-horoscopes.com The profiles here of each star-sign are pretty good, but generally

those who want to find something relevant to their own personality usually make themselves do so! Nevertheless, the Scorpio motto "I will, therefore I am" does bear some truth for everyone to some extent, Scorpio or not. Unlike other sites, it goes into some detail about personal qualities, some of which are relevant others such as my apparent tendency for brandy, which are totally ludicrous! Still, it's good to check for a comparison against other people you know under a star sign

www.astrosoftware.com Here, you can get your birth chart plotted on-line (which is a pleasant change from most of that mail-order s**t you usually find on the Net), as well as getting it displayed in a number of formats. If you're anything like me, and don't understand all the gobbledegook, you can always click on the "analysis" option on the drop-down menu and get an immediate assessment, in plain English! It's a pity though that this program can't be any more accurate than Dublin, but it's better than nothing!.

Another useful site in this astral excursion is www.AAhoroscopes.com which despite its name does not rely on copious quantities of the fabled Amber Nectar to achieve its state of inner calm. As well as featuring examples of glyphs, those little symbols that are supposed to represent your star-sign, it also boasts a relationship section, which claims to assess accurately the fate of any couple based purely on constellations. It need hardly be said that the results are dubious at best, but that doesn't mean that you can't learn anything from them! "The truth is often spoken in jest" as some wise philosopher most likely said (after a few beers)

Now although I'm opposed to these love compatibility tests, they are to be found at www.astrologyindex.com for anyone who IS willing enough to base their emotional happiness on an archaic unscientific hobby. Note that you'll have to do a bit of reading beforehand, it's not just a matter of typing in a few details and the answer comes out hey presto! , but if you are serious about it you might learn some thin along the way. The real reason I refer to this site here is one that their star sign profiles are fairly good (but not as good as collegeclub) but also that they refer to birthstones and the elements, and the attributed importance of each to the person. Plus it also suffices for a neat cross-over to the next part of this astrology article, the Chinese calendar, a brief introduction to which is to be found at this website, which isn't great but gives the basics.

And just in case you're looking for something a little less conventional, try out www.humorscope.com Guaranteed to give you some of the unique advice that the cosmos has to offer, it'll also inspire you with some unique words of wisdom to raise up to the celestial plane your troubled inner demons and other spirits (unless you've been possessed by the Jack Daniels or the Aftershock variety of spirit, for which even exorcism is no cure!)

Chinese Calendars

Seeing as I was born in the year of the monkey, I decided to find out a little about whether that



explains my laziness or even my inability to sit still (don't bother pointing out that that's a contradiction, it's not the only one in my life!) Therefore, I began my journey as like any other, "with a single step" and surfed on over to the auspiciously-named www.chinesefortunecalendar.com. Here I found out that the origins of that Japanese circle symbol with the two dots (that's the Yin Yang symbol to those of you in the know) is in fact related to the Chinese calendar and based on vernal equinoxes. You can check out the full story yourselves, as well as a little on Tai Chi. It also has some useful links for anyone interested in Eastern philosophies or meditation. Overall, it's very thorough, and explains everything from elements to the art of Feng Shui, so for a general overview of Eastern culture from a Western perspective, it's ideal! For those of you who demand visual proof of this phenomenon which refers to us all as animals on the sole basis of the year of our birth, <http://file/languages/chinese/yunsheng> to actually SEE the calendar, not in some grid of numbers which can be cross-referenced in a Western manner, but examined more extensively in an Eastern context. It also explains some of the underlying philosophies which operate within the calendar www.delemme.com/ecalen.htm and www.3dglobe.com/fs/calendar.htm I would recommend these sites mainly for those who intend to develop an interest in this area however, since although they give information on a wide variety of Chinese influences such as the trigram, whose 64 hexagons are supposed to reveal the mysteries of nature, and the importance of the FIVE elements (Western astrology only has four!) the details regarding the plotting of a Chinese calendar can get a little too complicated for those who just want to browse through it and pick up some useful insights.

Finally to finish off, some words of wisdom!

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former" -Albert Einstein
 "Talent does what it can, genius does what it must"
 "knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens"- Jimi Hendrix
 "A witty saying proves nothing" Voltaire
 "Egotist, a person more interested in himself than in me" Ambrose Bierce
 "Wise men make proverbs, but fools repeat them" Samuel Palmer
 "Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one" Einstein
 "Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names" JFK
 "the best way to predict the future is to invent it" Alan Kay



Wired FM 96.8 Fm & 106.8 Fm News



By Michelle Daly

Well it's been an eventful couple of weeks at *Wired fm* . While everyone has been away enjoying the spring break station Manager Neasa Mc Gann and studio executive Paula have been working extremely hard to bring *Wired fm* here in UL kicking and screaming up to standard.

As well as programming meetings to improve the input and production of every single show aired on the UL portion of the airtime. Every show now has to work not only to running order but also to improve content , hopefully this initiative will improve sound quality and will improve the quality of our broadcasting .

But that's not allof course we can now look forward to having the '**LiveWired**' singing competition in The Stables Bar on a Monday night in association with The Music Society continuing into semester 2 . Also restarting in Semester two will be the DJ night '**Ascension** for all of those guys willing to strut their stuff in the Scholars Bar on Wednesday nights/Thursday night & a special extended version during Kollege Week 2001. All of the good people involved at **Wired FM** and Radio Soc here in University of Limerick look forward to seeing everyone come along to get involved whether you are a singer / songwriter or a budding deckmaster.

This semester we are going to go one step further **Wired Fm** under the Sponsorship of **Hot Press Magazine** and **Nesters Bar** , O' Connell St , Limerick will be starting a Band competition night on a Tuesday night . So if you and your friends are thinking of setting up a band or if you

have already one in the pipeline and are just looking for a way to be heard . , It makes no odds if it's another Westlife from College court or the next Limp Biscuit all the way from Briarfield just get in contact with Nessa at **Wired Fm** . (061 315773) to get the details or call into Paula in the Radio Station at the Students Union Building.

There are other projects in the pipeline for **Wired Fm** next semester which we will let you know about and of course **Wired Fm** is now broadcasting live , loud and clear and most importantly in stereo from our brand new studios at the SU building right beside The Scholars Bar .

If you are interested in contributing or getting involved in your radio station **Wired Fm** or of joining *The Radio Society* don't hesitate to contact Paula O' Sullivan at the studio in UL or Michelle Daly (Radio Society) or Tomas Finnernan (Radio Society) at The Clubs and Societies office or email radio@csn.ul.ie Or Check out the UL Radio Soc website at www.csn.ul.ie/~radio.

All those involved in Shows on **Wired FM** are asked to attend an important meeting with the station manager Nessa Mcgann on Tuesday 20th of February at 1pm in the off air studio in the Students Union Building .

Radio Society News

The Radio Society here in UL are proud to announces few nes initiatives in Semester 2

First of all is the transfer of presidential workload from Ivan Fleming to Peter Burrows due to time restrictions on Ivans part he being a final year student . Peter

steps into the Ivans size tens in semester 2 and all of the committee would like to welcome and congratulate him on his appointment.

Secondly we would like to start a new initiative of a community notice board on **Wired Fm** .for the use of all UL students . Though the details have yet to be settled anyone wishing to have an event or even an ongoing schedule of events occurring in UL mentioned on the student Radio station please CONTACT Michelle Daly c/o Clubs and Soc office or mailto michelledaly@ireland.com .. This will be a free service and would be of particular use to clubs or societies who wish to advertise training, meeting or special events.around college .

The Radio Soc also this semester will be pursuing with a vengeance the broadcasting of **Wired Fm** in the common areas around campus because we feel that in addition to being able to listen to **Wired Fm** at home you should be able to hear it around the campus .

We will be introducing a few nights of fun and frolics for all of the societies members for example a Kilmurray Lodge fundraising night and/ or a fundraising event for Kollege Week (Week8) if you have any suggestions as to what you would like us to doan all night broadcast / a sponsored hair shaving /a twentyfour hour sponsored dj competition , whatever it is let us know at the website or mail us as before . Remember **Wired fm** is your Radio station and the voice of Limerick students – use it !!

Finally Radio .Society would like to welcome all transfer, erasmus and returning students this semester and to say get involved , get on air , get with the radio society . .



Broadcasting on 96.8FM
& 106.8FM

Have You Nothing Better To Do?

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

If you got a really good one send them to anfocal@csn.ul.ie

Everyone Must have gotten this one about a million times but it's still a good one, and for those who haven't seen it before, your email mustn't be working. Oh, and a guy called Neil Boland says he wrote them, is this true or just an Urban Legend

competition: a fight to the death. The last wombat left standing is victorious, claiming the coveted prize of a voucher for a free pint of Bud.

Films to be shown in Jean Monet this semester:

Teenage Mutant Binging Hurlers:

The epic tale of a hardy group of hurlers from the nether regions of Galway. They appear to have mutated and developed an extraordinary tolerance for alcohol. They gather every night on the Astro turf to have a puck around and to consume huge quantities of drink. Please note: hurling scenes are very explicit and not suitable for young children.

Road Trip:

This is the harrowing tale of a small-town University tragedy. This University hides a terrible secret. Within the murky depths of the grounds of UL, there lies a badly laid, slightly uneven pedestrian crossing. Each dark night visited upon UL, countless unsuspecting students . . .ehhh . . . fall over.

Falling Down:

John Brown is a quiet, studious first-year in UL. However, after he is given a £15 fine for late registration, John flips. He goes on a psychotic rampage throughout the grounds of the University. The library, games room and Scholars comprise the settings for a number of violent confrontations. John insists that all he wants to do is get back to his digs on time for dinner, but people keep 'getting in the way'.

The Clare Hitch Project:

A group of four close friends decide to hitch their way to Co. Clare. Their aim: to document the uncharted regions of the Burren. They were never seen again. All that was found was some footage which recorded their terrifying tale as one by one, they disappear down the Burren's bottomless crevices. In Summer 2001, watch out for the sequel, The Adare Ditch Project: Book of Bogs.

The Sixth Sense:

This is the remarkable story of Mike, a young first year. Mike possesses an amazing 'sixth sense', for he has the ability to smell out alcohol on any part of the UL campus. He is helped through this traumatic time by a group of approximately 400 selfless, caring UL students. Mike's catchphrase: "I see . . . drunk people".

Schindler's Pissed:

This new comedy tells the story of Dietrich Schindler. Dietrich is a German exchange student with no alcohol tolerance. He is taken out to the Lodge by his new UL friends determined to cure him of his 'little problem'. This leads to Dietrich's involvement in many hilarious drunken capers!

Mortal Wombat:

The setting is the Stables Courtyard. All the small, furry rodents of Limerick descend upon the Courtyard to take part in the ultimate

If Only We Hadn't Drank So Much, Maybe We Could Have Done Something Last Summer:

This is the terrifying tale of 5 young Limerick teenagers. They are a bunch of feckless losers. But these wasters hide a dark secret, of which none of them will speak. Last summer, they planned to do something really cool and morbid, like killing somebody, but due to enormous alcohol consumption, never actually got around to doing it.

Safety Rules for new Gym in Sports Centre:

1. Do NOT attempt to board running machine while it is still operating.
2. Once successfully on running machine, run in straight lines only.
3. Adjust weights machines after Limerick Under-21 rugby team have used the gym in order to avoid serious personal injury and possible death.
4. Be assured that there is absolutely NO risk of drowning on the rowing machine. All your fears are purely psychological.
5. When using the climbing wall, if you go up too high, get stuck, and have to be rescued, you WILL be laughed at. Again and again.
6. No matter how often you work out, it will be no help against being thrown out of Doc's at 11:30pm.
7. Use the following formula to get fit quick: to counter the effects of one pint, you must run for 4 km's yourself or watch somebody else run 20km's. Apply as necessary.
8. Just because you have visited the gym twice, you do not possess the ability to jump 20-foot fences on the way back from the Lodge.
9. Yes, there is more than one CD of motivational dance music in the gym. We just can't find them.
10. Finally, do not expect any sense of satisfaction whatsoever from the cycling machines. Those poxy things are goin' nowhere, boy!

FOCAIL EALAÍNE - Arts Section

The next fortnight sees an exciting blend of theatrical and musical events taking place on campus and an opportunity for students and staff to attend a number of associated workshops. The National Theatre – the Abbey and Peacock Theatres – will present EDEN, a new play by Eugene O'Brien in the Jonathan Swift Theatre on Mar 5, 6 and 7. Set over one week-end in a small midlands town in Ireland it is directed by award-winning playwright Conor McPherson. EDEN features

Catherine Walsh (Love in the Title, Translations) and Don Wycherley (The House, Translations, Ballykissangel). The Arts Office is delighted that a UL venue has been included as part of the National Theatre's policy of extending its work outside of Dublin.

Set over one weekend in the midlands, Billy and his wife Breda tell of their idea of heaven. For Breda, it is simply to have her husband love her, for Billy he is more interested in the drink, the lads and the beautiful young



Don Wycherley & Catherine Walsh in Eden

one. Told as two interlocking monologues, EDEN captures the imagination by bringing a midlands town and all of its inhabitants to life, often with raucous hilarity, and yet with a sincerity and poignancy that touches the soul. A strong debut play by a young Irish writer, EDEN tells it how it is: the harsh, sorrowful truth of this couple's situation resonates through the language and is delivered raw by two fine actors.

There will also be a workshop held with the actors, playwright and a drama facilitator. Priority is being given to students and staff of UL but you must register with the Arts Office, ext 2130, before Feb 28.

The UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL has managed to secure the return of the sell out ALONE IT STANDS by John Breen. A runaway success when first performed in the Belltable it tells the personal stories around the historic victory of Munster over the All Blacks in 1968. Kevin Myers of the Irish Times says "... Whether you're from Coolock and have never been to the theatre in your life, or are a long-suffering resident of Lansdowne Road who loathes rugby as the invention of the devil, you will love ALONE IT STANDS. As well as being very funny, it is a delightful study of Limerick society, of the qualities of courage and determination and of love – love between man and woman, between men together, and between father and son..."

The Arts Office is organising a one off workshop with visiting performer Peter Badejo on Mar 1. Peter Badejo is in every sense of the word, a universal artist. His work is addressed to the widest possible audience and his influences are drawn from the broadest canvas – yet his roots are firmly set in his own Yoruba culture. He is first and foremost a choreographer and dancer, but he is also a storyteller, a master musician and singer, as well as an accomplished director and actor. Although he is a Nigerian artist he has made his impact on the contemporary dance stage of Britain and has performed, choreographed, directed and taught in Bulgaria, India and the US. He is not only a practitioner of the arts, but has conducted valuable research into the development and influence of African performing arts in society. He is also a teacher of African performing arts, catering for everyone from professional dancers and theatre practitioners to primary school children. A cultural ambassador for African arts in general and Yoruba-land in particular, he has also come to be seen as a catalyst for the development of contemporary black

dance in Britain. Peter has been choreographer – in – residence and taught at the Centre for Nigerian Cultural Studies and UCLA. This workshop will take place on Mar 1 between 2.00 and 5.00pm and is limited to 23 places. Priority is being given to students and staff of UL but you must register with the Arts Office, ext 2130, before Feb 23.

The IRISH WORLD MUSIC CENTRE 's free lunchtime concerts recommence on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a full programme by visiting and resident performers. Featuring virtuoso performers such as guitarist Clive Carroll, fiddler/pianist Charlie Lennon, founder member of De Danaan Alec Finn, and one time accompanist to The Pogues Tommy Keane, this series promises to deliver many musical highlights. Mar 7 sees the return of Iarla O'Lionáird, singer with the Afro Celt Sound System and composer of the film soundtrack "I Could Read the Sky".

The acclaimed sculptor Antony Gormley will install a piece of sculpture commissioned by the University in the University Plaza on February 21. He will give a short talk in the Bourn Vincent at 3.30pm. Again places are limited so come early. Further information is available from the Visual Arts Officer @ 3052.



Focail Ealaíne book reviews, concert reviews, event listings should be sent to Room S1 – 22, Schuman Building or patria.moriarty@ul.ie.

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Dolan's Warehouse
28th February

University Concert Hall - News & Reviews

Alone It Stands - The Review



Alone It Stands, is one the cleverest funniest most brilliantly crafted plays you are ever likely to see. Its writer and director, John Breen, has married rugby to the dramatic arts and produced an absolutely delightful offspring.

Even to have arranged a blind date between the stage and the oval ball seems to have as much promise as organising a dinner between Peter Robinson and Bernadette McAliskey: you wouldn't expect them to stay together for the duration of the bread-roll.

It's not just that rugby by its nature, with its complex running patterns and brute physicality seems quite beyond capture on the stage. There is also the small matter of the sort of people who play and follow rugby. They are about as theatrical as the fair Bernadette is Orange. If you crosschecked the membership of voluntary societies in any university the two most likely to have absolutely no members in common would be the 'rugby club and dramsoc'. They stand at the opposite ends of the occupational spectrum, mutual disdain being perhaps the only quality which unites them.

So how can these two profoundly

antipathetical elements, matter and anti-matter, be brought together, not just to coexist begrudgingly, but to produce a dramatic triumph? *One word.. Munster.*

So different

What is it about Munster that makes it so different from the other provinces? Why does it, in any of its manifestations, seem to guarantee character, resilience, courage, resourcefulness, intelligence, in any code? An All-Ireland final without a Munster team competing is somehow lacking. And sport being a metaphor for other things, and much as I loathe the War of Independence as an unnecessary conflict, it is hard not to admire the tenacity and courage of the people of Munster throughout its dura~ tion.

So, as in all things, in rugby (unlike Leinster) Munster never surrenders. The game is over only when the team bus leaves the ground, as tomorrow's game will undoubtedly testify~ Of course, Munster has its class divisions, but in rugby, and in Limerick in particular, they seem to dis~ solve completely. Working-class people play and follow rugby there in same way that they follow soccer in Dublin. The ordinary boundaries that cut through Irish rugby like a Berlin wall vanish when they converge on the Shannon.

Limerick rugby's classlessness gives the game there a cachet, a plausibility, that it lacks elsewhere. And there is something else about Limerick. It is the home of one of the great occasions in Irish sport: the victory of Munster over the all-conquering AllBlacks in 1968

So? How can you make a play about that? I wish I had answered that for you; instead, John Breen has - by a combination of ingenious writing, brilliant dramatic construction, and superb directing. And it doesn't really matter if you think that Dolphin is a cousin to Porpoise and a Cork Con man is a Leaside fraud, or, conversely, if the word "theatre" suggests sinister cross-dressing homosexual pinko pacifists no man in his senses would turn his back on. *Alone It Stands* is a theatrical occasion which, like rugby in Limerick, crosses all boundaries.

We can justly ask why this play has been presented only in fringe theatres. Is it too accessible'? Is it too unaffectedly amusing'? Is it because it features the sort of people who as quintessentially untheatrical as rugby players and supporters'? Or is it because it so triumphantly subverts theatre's self-consciously theatrical definition of itself?

Limerick society

Haven't a clue. No matter. Whether you're from Coolock, and have never been to the theatre in your life, or are a long-suffering resident of Lansdowne Road who loathes rugby as the invention of the devil, you will *love Alone It Stands*. As well as being very funny, it is a delightful study of Limerick society, of the qualities of courage and determination and of love - love between man and woman, between men together, and between father and son.

You will probably weep with laughter. You might equally well weep with pride. And suddenly, out of the blue, you might find yourself weeping in pity. *I have not seen a finer Irish play in years. I suspect only dramaturgical snobbery of the mostwitless kind has prevented John Breen~ becoming the household name which one day it assuredly will be. (The forgoing are excerpts from An Irishman's Diary by Kevin Myers which appeared in THE IRISH TIMES on Saturday January 27, 2001 the day before another great win for Munster!)*

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University Concert Hall - News & Reviews

Emmylou Harris - Concert Review



EmmyLou Harris. The woman's voice sounds so perfect that it's almost difficult to listen to it: you begin to wonder whether it's the real thing, or more real than the real thing. That's what it does to you. Moments of fatigue aside, it is so instantly perfect that it leaves you wondering. Strong and assured,

her voice hovers and floats on top of the highest notes without apparent effort and always with sublime grace. Though an acknowledged fact that even the most hulking and burly of celluloid stars shrinks alarmingly when realised in the flesh, one nonetheless remained concerned as the petite Ms. Harris wrestled with her guitar, there seeming to be more of it than her on stage.

Surrounded by a quad of talented, contemporary looking male band folk, she glided through a repertoire of music spanning the last twenty years and more, all surging toward the narrow alley of

more personal, more profound music, tattooed into place by Daniel Lanois' throbbing base line, finally marshalled in her own 'Red Dirt Girl' album. From the girl 'n guy duets with lead Buddy Miller, to her early trad/roots inspiration for the song Graham Parson's taught her - 'Love Hurts', her gutsy full throttle engagement carried her and the audience into the Western songscape of the Amazon with an angel's voice. Tony Hall, Brady Grey, Guy Clarke and the aforementioned Buddy Miller threw themselves without abandon into the musical fray, relishing the fleshiness of Lanois' 'Wrecking Ball' and completely sensitive to the more contemplative Harris-own work like "Come Back Home Someday". EmmyLou Harris is a singer sure enough of herself now to follow her voice, as though it is on its own journey, discovering sound realms that if she didn't sing them, would remain unheard. If you have the wherewithal to find yourself at one of her concerts, you will be on the journey with her. EmmyLou Harris, University of Limerick Concert Hall, November 28, 2000

Review by Mary C Sheehan



THE BACK ROW

(Now Showing at a Cinema/Theatre Near You...)



Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

By John Murray

After seeing *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, description and evaluation seem redundant. At once complex and simple, it is epic in scale, breadth, and depth (being based on some five volume Chinese book), but not length. This is an epic that George Lucas should watch, then fuck off and think very hard about. Then never make another film again anyway. It's got many elements

Lucas used to give his *Star Wars* stuff the feel of the mythical saga: good versus evil, ancient mysticism, swords, kick-ass monks attempting to guide youthful promise, etc. However, in the painstaking hands of director Ang Lee (*The Wedding Banquet*, *Eat Drink Man Woman*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *The Ice Storm*, *Ride With The Devil*), even the cartoonish evil of villainess witch bitch Jade Fox is awesome to behold.

The very naughty young aristocrat Jen (Zhang Ziyi) wishes to avoid an arranged marriage and a life of boredom. Using skills learned from Jade Fox, Jen steals Green Destiny, the sword of Fox's mortal foe, Li Mu Bai (a great Chow Yun Fat, replacing Jet Li who opted for the cruddy *Romeo Is Bleeding* instead). And so begins the struggle for her soul.

On show is the most breathtaking display of martial arts committed to celluloid. The fight scenes go deeper than the stirring ones of *The Matrix* (which shares the same fight choreographer, Yuen Woo Ping, as *Crouching etc.*). The chop-socky of Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan that we've all been

raised on is based on Shaolin. Here, however, they use Wudan, focusing on the power of personal renunciation and inner strength. This gives a spiritual depth even to the violence – violence that displays more joyous artistry than the most complex ballet.

On the surface, Ang Lee's films to date seem impressively disparate. However, *Crouching...* shares with *Sense and Sensibility* and *The Ice Storm* the theme of repressed emotions and urges – the conflict between personal desires (hidden dragon) and societal expectations.

Heard in the toilets after the film: "Y'know when dey were fightin' — what's de story wit all de flyin' around, like?" What followed was one of those annoying episodes where the appropriate retort is only thought of long after the event. At the time, I forced his head in the toilet and said, "THAT'S WHY!!!!", when of course I should have said "POETIC LICENSE!!! POETIC LICENSE!!! MAGICAL REALISM!!!!", before riding off on my high cultural horse. Hate that.



Now Showing at the Belltable World Cinema Season

The scene: a boardroom meeting at a US film production company. The industry suits sit in fawning awe before their special guests: a European actress/filmmaker working hard to redefine pretentiousness; and her boyfriend, a successful rock star with the authentic 'street' credibility of Ali G and the synthesiser skills of Ross Geller. To her sycophantic audience she proposes a project that will redefine film. The screen is to be split in four – each quarter will depict different aspects of the same story or character from different viewpoints. With theatrical self-importance, she continues to elaborate her master plan for the evolution of conventional film narrative, sporadically interrupted by amusingly shite musical interludes from her keyboard-wielding beau, who she French kisses in approval. The awed silence of the board is finally shattered by the derisive laughter of one film director in the throws of a nervous breakdown (an excellent Stellan Skarsgard) – “This is the most pretentious crap I have ever heard!”

This scene comes late in **Timecode** (USA 2000), a film split into four with each quarter depicting different aspects of the same story or character from different viewpoints. Skarsgard's derision exemplifies the self-mocking humour that excuses

Timecode from any similar accusations of pretentiousness. To guide our attention and avoid sensory overload, we are allowed auditory access usually to one screen segment at a time.

The opening credit graphics reflect the filmmaking ethos here – somewhere between pinpoint planning and punk spontaneity. **Timecode** is filmed on video, with its inherent DIY punk aesthetic. But the film is perhaps more akin to the jazz beloved of director Mike Figgis – a marriage of form and freeform, conscious pretension and unconscious abandon.

Good to see Figgis enjoying creative freedom after some rocky years. From the acclaim of Brit-noir thriller **Stormy Monday** in the mid-'80s, he fell to having his **Mr. Jones** hacked to pieces by Hollywood studio executives. (Execs wanted the titular Mr. Jones (Richard Gere), a manic-depressive, to be more manic and less depressive). **Leaving Las Vegas** brought him acclaim and enough clout to enjoy this experiment



with formal narrative, aided by a classy cast (including Skarsgard, Salma Hayek, Jeanne Tripplehorn, and Kyle McLachlan). It's a mark of this experiment's success that keeping Holly Hunter hanging around for two hours with practically no dialogue doesn't seem like a waste. It also includes the best scene of orchestrated angst since **Magnolia** (thought not in the same league) and, as with that film, music gels the separate stories at appropriate times.

My heart sank to see Julian Sands listed in the opening credits. Julian Sands. Blonde, classically beautiful...every word passing his lips turning to wood and crashing to the floor. Why this man has been let on the set of so many 'reputable' productions – allowed in the company of real actors, like a lamb thrown to wolves – is one of the great mysteries of modern cinema. It's an emperor's new clothes situation, but it's been almost two decades since **A Room With A View** or whenever he walked into our lives, like your parents walking in on your party at the wrong moment, and still no one has pointed out the obvious. Good to see signs of aging on his face, though – he is growing old and one day he will die. He will die and he will be securely buried deep in the earth, unable to grind any more films to an untimely halt. Here, however, Sands' customary po-faced rigidity serves his ridiculous character well, and for once he doesn't outstay his charitable welcome.

Miraculously, Sands is not the weakest link. Saffron Burroughs is both the first and last character on screen, and is shown throughout. After an inaudible psychotherapy session, she wanders around endlessly to no great effect. A fine actress, but we're only allowed the visual surface of her world and lots of melancholic, inaudible conversations.

Aside from minor quibbles, **Timecode** is an excellent start to the 36th Season of **World Cinema**, presented by the Belltable Film Club. Less impressive is **Beau Travail** (France 1999). Its thin story plays mainly from the blurry confines of Denis Lavant's memory. You may remember him from such films as Leo Carax's awesome **Les Amants Du Pont Neuf** (as Juliette Binoche's lover), but he's more famous for sucking corporate cock in recent Stella Artois ads. Here he plays ex-French Foreign Legion sergeant, “unfit for civil life”.

At times, **Beau Travail** resembles a recruitment promo for some militant gay strike force. The film is a lengthy montage of often-homoerotic snapshots, reminiscent of Kenneth Anger, with Lavant leading his crack Hotpants Unit through some grueling, sometimes flirtatious, training. The Legion days seem idyllic. No bombing defenceless brown people from a safe distance or persecuting the local's for this army. These boys seem to live harmoniously with each other and with their neighbours. Honour leads their daily lives. Instead of the **Full Metal Jacket** training menu of derision, insecurity and hatred, encouragement, friendship and



even love prevail.

Tension arises with the arrival of a young recruit (Gregoire Colin) who gains the praise of Michel Subor's noble Commandant, incurring the jealousy of Lavant. With unfortunate consequences, etc. **Beau Travail** (a pun on **Beau Geste**?) creates a pleasingly empty and dislocated (un)reality for this forgotten ghost army in the desert. However, it's a bit *too* empty, and takes too long to say little new. And compared with such a full-blooded affair as **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (currently waiting to be seen by you immediately and then over and over again at the Crescent Shopping Centre Omniplex), it's just not good enough.

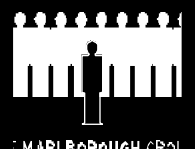
Next up in the Belltable World Cinema Season is **It's a Jungle Out There** (February 25th at the Belltable Arts Centre), followed by Bjork's debut in Lars Von Trier's **Dancer In The Dark** (March 4th at the Savoy).

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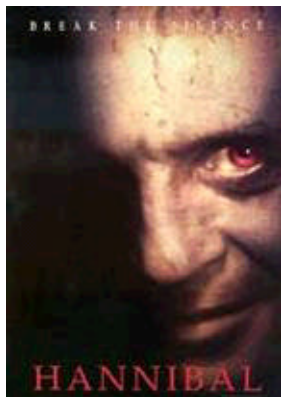


MARLBOROUGH GROUP



THE BACK ROW

(Now Showing at a Cinema/Theatre Near You...)



Hannibal Abominable Magnetism

Anthony Hopkins is back for a second helping, with Julianne Moore, in "Hannibal." (Phil Bray/MGM) I suppose you could say "Hannibal" is exactly what you deserve. I mean, here you are, coming back for more, desperate to see the sequel of a movie that was about cannibalism. What does that say about your deep-seated desires? Do you tremble at the prospect of human flesh being devoured? Hmm, Clarice?

Well, here it is. The much-anticipated adaptation of Thomas Harris's novel, in which FBI agent Clarice Starling (Julianne Moore) finds herself back in the eager hands of Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins), who has decided to come out of retirement.

In case you didn't see "Silence of the Lambs," this is a rematch between Starling (played in the original by Jodie Foster) and Lecter, who became uneasy allies when she sought his assistance in tracing a psychopathic killer.

It seems Lecter had a taste for . . . his own species. When we last heard from him, he was having an old friend for dinner — literally.

In "Hannibal," the dear old fellow is living in Italy, looking very Truman Capote in that lovely hat. What reason could these two opponents have to encounter each other again?

It takes a vindictive little

chess game, orchestrated by one of the doctor's surviving victims. This individual (played by Gary Oldman, made up to suggest a melted Muppet) uses a wheelchair and lives in a magnificent home near Washington. His face is a hideous mass of fleshy pulp, the horrible result of a date gone wrong with Lecter all those years ago. He's a wounded Elephant Man who dreams of revenge. When he learns that Starling has been unfairly victimized, thanks to a botched FBI raid, he decides to use her vulnerability as bait. After all, Lecter was rather fond of Clareeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.

It should be pretty clear to everyone, whether they've read the Harris novel or not, that "Hannibal" is hellbound for a gruesome denouement. And if you have read the book, you can expect some radical departures from the Harris story, particularly at the end.

In the interest of preserving surprise, I shouldn't say much more; but, even by its own dark standards, the movie's conclusion is as dramatically dissatisfying as it is disturbing.

"Hannibal" dies from its own auto-asphyxiation. By the time it draws to a hideous close, you feel dirty for even watching.

For the first half of the movie, however, you watch with moderate interest, thanks to the combined efforts of director Ridley Scott and scriptwriters Steven Zaillian and David Mamet. Moore's contribution is vital. An underrated actor, she lends this role much more heft than it deserves. And her performance makes that perfectly structured, alabaster face even more alluring.

But what's best about this movie — and the reason there has been so much interest in Harris's book and the movie — is the creation of a great character. Hannibal Lecter, who has

entered the culture as a boogeyman for our time, is a moral avenging angel, in a reverse sort of way. He doesn't eat or kill just anyone. He does have standards. If people try to take advantage of him — as about half a dozen unscrupulous, unfortunate characters discover in this movie — well, he's not going to be lenient.

Hopkins, who is electrifying in almost anything he does,

reprises the mastery he brought to "Silence of the Lambs." Even in a movie as patchworky as this, he's always compelling. He is completely in command of his presence, if that makes sense. He knows how to make the most of himself on screen, which is enough to make you follow him through anything — even this. Unfortunately, you'll probably hate yourself for doing so.



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Music is the Answer - Reviews & Interviews



JLO- Jennifer Lopez.

In late December after the holidays I had the misfortune to have every cd I owned stolen from a cd case in a bag in the scholars, this tragedy is what has led me to be the sad pathetic creature I am today.the owner of a Jennifer Lopez album.

Lords and ladies, gentlemen and rogue's I thought I liked the ole ' My love don't cost a thing ' the first single to be released from this Ms. Lopez's second album. So I thought why not? It's not like I don't have an excuse, (the silence at home if you'll excuse the pun was deafening.)

The Latin singer, dancer, actress's first album ' On the six ' was surprisingly good, I think a lot of actors/ actresses who turn to music are overrated but Lopez's mix of up tempo Latin songs and light dance tracks seemed to just hit the proverbial spot. Perhaps the aim of the second album is to capitalise on

this market a second timewho knows.

JLO starts out with the interestingly titled ' my love don't cost a thing ' it's a typically light and uninteresting chit which undoubtedly will sell well to pre-teens and wannabe Lopezalikes. The entire album is made up of such unchallengingly lyrical and uninspired songs that after you've heard them once start to grate on your teeth.

Unfortunately as with the typical celebrity bad boy boyfriend, the cloned body and has she hasn't she curves, Jennifer lopes second album comes across as just another thing that is all image and very

little of the truth. The packaging of so many of today's musicians and singers has led us to this tried and tested formula of superstardom .n

The most annoying track of an album of annoying tracks has to be the classis 'Play' a cheese grating 3 minutes of supposed rhythm and faux rap badness. |Really though she may had had talent originally you get the feeling with this album that the last of it has either been drained out of her with the millionaire lifestyle or repackaged so much that none of it shines through.

Review By MK

Amstel Champions League Competition



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Question: What is the name of Real Madrid's Stadium?

Drop your answers into the An Focal Box, main reception in the Students' Union along with your name, ID number and a contact number.

The Breakfast Club - The Review

By Tommy Finneran

For some time now Sunday mornings in The Scholar's have become something of a cult gathering as those in the know silently sneak into the dark surrounds and experience a little bit of what we used to call comfort.

The Breakfast Club presented by Urban, the Scholar's Club and Heineken kicks off every Sunday at 12 midday. Entering the transformed surrounds of the Scholar's an instant feeling of being part of something not exclusive but rather stylish and different instantly envelopes your tired and hungry body.

The darkened bar quenches any daylight that may have appeared too early for you back at your own Villa whilst candles and familiar faces are all that you'll have to endure. Meanwhile, after the previous night of thumping house, the sounds of chilled out tunes easily relax. The ever-mysterious DJ Jody usually fills the bar with the soundtrack to serenity and between candles and the ever-present cosy couches, free Sunday Papers provide you with no other reason to leave.

But of course, breakfast wouldn't be breakfast without ah.....breakfast. Sausages, pudding, chips, bacon, rolls,

coffee, more pudding, more chipsbreakfast is good.

And that's about it. A wonderfully simple idea but like all great ideas, the simpler the better. Although exam time may have upset the laid back feel of the club with more and more of us staying in Castletroy, as we return to single digit weeks, you should definitely dedicate a Sunday to pampering yourself. Many have tried to keep this little weekly treat for themselves but something this good needs to be shared. With the addition of a new DJ box and the projection of stress-free visuals the Breakfast Club is now your necessary Sunday Service.



The scholars club presents

The breakfast club

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week
with
breakfast, comfy couches,
sunday papers, candles, visu-
als and laid back tunes

Heineken Rollercoaster Tour 2001- The Preview

By Tommy Finneran

After exams, 21 days of your mother's mashed potatoes and a severe shortage of good gigs, things can only get better. Trust me, they will. For all of you returning to semester two, your newfound passion for real life again will be more than fulfilled with the best gigs both here and around the country. To kick start the year those wonderful people at Heineken (first plug = 2 free pints) present the Rollercoaster Tour 2001, a musical paradise rich in all that's healthy in new Irish music.

For those of you who haven't heard of this student institution, the Rollercoaster Tour travels the country this time each year providing a few of the best bands a chance to showcase their material to a bunch of us very enthusiastic and welcoming students...while drinking Heineken of course. (second plug = free trip to Paris)

The Tour has been around for 8 years now and has presented bands like Picturehouse, The Frames and the Revenants to thousands of students around the country every February. With a single exception, Dave Fanning has gladly been the Master of each of these ceremonies. At the launch of the Tour earlier in the month, Dave commented on how much he loved the Tour, which was so welcome this quite time of the

year, musically anyway. The 2FM presenter explained how he was especially excited this year because all three bands could equally headline the gig as never before has there been such a high standard across all three bands.

Relish, Bell X1 and Wilt will hit Dolan's Warehouse on the 28th of February, the penultimate gig of the Tour. Bell X1 are no strangers to Dolan's Warehouse after playing one of the most memorable gigs last earlier in the year. After a transformation from the days of Juniper, Bell X1 were introduced to many at last year's Witness festival.

Wilt are currently enjoying success with their debut album "Bastinado". The Dublin trio's guitar based sound is essential to experience live and on stage they personify energy.

Relish are brothers Ken and Carl with friend Darren and are probably the most musically talented of the three bands. With soul, blues and rock influences their singles "Rainbow Zephyr" and "Heart shaped box" are familiar to anyone who graces their radio dials

even occasionally.

To complete the evening, DJ Kevin Courtney will provide post match entertainment. Kevin, who is recognised more for his musical commentary with the Irish Times, is sure to produce only the best tunes as he refuses to sacrifice excellence for anybody.

The Rollercoaster is always a sell-out so buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment etc etc. Oh yeah! Drink lots of Heineken (third and final plug = we'll find out in Paris...)



Marilyn Manson - Live at London Docklands



Divinely inspirational or Divinely sad?

By Nicholas O' Brien

I will save you the trouble of reading this article, this story is divinely sad. But it is a personal journey, from the realms of simple fanship to a new level, where it becomes... religious. A rock pilgrimage is how I could describe this trip to London, to see the enigmatic, misunderstood Antichrist Superstar himself, Marilyn Manson in London's Docklands Arena, ironic maybe as the Arena is an Ice Hockey stadium, and Manson's video for his new single "The fight Song" depicts a school gym battle between Jocks and goths... courageous surely after the Scapegoating foolishness of Columbine.

This World tour didn't arrive in Ireland, and as a Manson fanatic, London was my only option, and the opportunity to go see his "Guns God and Government" roadshow was too enticing. Thoughts of this being a closing chapter in my Music fanaticism overran me as we rode the tube towards the London Arena, as happened with Radiohead in Punches Town, only a live show can end these fanaticisms for better or worse. Surrounded by our peers dressed in black, Make-up clad, darkened and gothic all waiting for Mr. Manson's glam goth

shock rock aspirations we shuffled into the Arena.

The opening band, Godhead, commenced their set as we made our way into the main room and took a place next to the bleacher seats away from what we were sure would be less a mosh pit, and more a mosh arena. For people unfamiliar with Godhead, their new album, 2000 years of Human Error is out now on Marilyn Manson's own label, PostHuman Records. Their Industrial Gothic style while as yet unrecognised by the public seems easiest to sum up as the equivalent of Limp Bizkit with make-up. Their live show was simple in terms of a set, with an energetic display, but it was blatantly obvious that they knew that the fans were here for Manson, and Manson alone, and all aspirations to his GothRock throne would not be tolerated that night. After 45 minutes their set finished with no encore asked and none given, a dark esoteric cover of the Beatles classic "Eleanor Rigby" being a moving highlight to an appreciable yet drab showing.

But after 20 minutes of one of the Rolling Stones awful later albums droned out on the P.A., Disturbed showed up, and with it, the crowds sense of aggression. The set opened with Disturbed's front man **** ***** dressed in prison overalls being strapped into an electric chair and executed. This show had energy, it had the fine metal based guitar anthems, and it had a sceptical London crowd's roar of approval with it. There was an energy to the show, and it wasn't brought about by cheap moshing and crowd goading, it was musical power, in his voice, and anger and emotion, when it comes to a Rock show, Disturbed definitely have it. IT, being the almost impossible task of moving a crowd of individuals as one, and of getting a positive reaction from thousands of people. The best I could say about them is they will soon be headliners.

Tantalisingly, during both the warm up

sets, mysterious white sheets covered the stage, as Manson was determined to maintain the secret of his upcoming live show, and as Disturbed left the stage, a white sheet descended over it to maintain its secrets. But after another 20 minutes of agony and beer sweat, the lights dropped all of a sudden, and as the surging Russian Roulette sound effect "Count to Six and die" played from the new album HolyWood played, an angel shape projected onto the white sheet, and it was dropped to reveal the "Angel with the Scabbed Wings" himself, the dark Lord of gothica with pure white wings stretching the entire stage. They left as quickly as a full beer in the moshpit, and the Irresponsible Hate anthem raged on, almost a tribute to the fine army of Mansonites that have adored him since the Blackly Wonderful Antichrist Superstar. Marilyn is a live phenomenon, that to his troops of fans that follow his every live show represents a purity that is often ignored in the modern corporate pop world. Hits from the past albums Antichrist Superstar, Portrait of an American Family and Mechanical albums and a cover of Sweet Dreams by the Eurythmics surged and mixed in with costume changes from dresses to stilts, and set changes from Psuedo-Nazi church-altars to Manson 20 feet in the air on a podium, to Banners with pictures of Manson influences, Marilyn Monroe, Jesus, J.F.K. and Charles Manson. I screamed every lyric uttered, and for an hour and a half we roared, shrieked and worshiped, then begged for an encore, which we got in the form of 1996 from Antichrist Superstar, whose chief refrain was "Anti-People now you've gone too far, with your Antichrist Superstar", and Marilyn breaking through the drum set while Twiggy Ramirez and John 5 smashed their guitars as dry ice billowed towards the crowd, demanding but one last roar in return for the greatest concert of our lives.

Focal Eile - Arts Event Guide

Any information on forthcoming activities of Societies and Clubs should be sent to Room S1 – 22, Schuman Building or patricia.moriarty@ul.ie

UL PHOTO SOCIETY

are holding a seminar on NOV 23 at 2.00 pm. Contact PHOTO@CSN.UL.IE They will photograph your event, Club activity. Minimum 1 week notice period desirable – these are busy guys.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK ORCHESTRA

rehearse every Tuesday in the Kilmurry Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

DANCE CLUB

host Salsa Classes with a professional teacher every Mon in the Conference Centre, Student Centre. 2 classes 6.00 – 7.00 pm and 7.00 – 8.00 pm. Beginners and

experienced Salsa fiends catered for. The programme of instruction is being extended to include belly dancing and flamenco.

UL DEBATING UNION

meet every Mon in the Function Room of Scholars for a lively debate on topical issues with a cross section of UL Students. Debate and discursion are promised, resolution is hoped for, lollipops are guaranteed.

HISPANIC SOCIETY

meet every Mon at 6.30 pm in the Language Resource Area for the screening of Irish and Spanish based films.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK CHOIR

rehearse every Weds from 6 – 8 pm in the Music Rooms of Block C. Regularly performing in venues on and off the campus the student/staff choir always welcome new members.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK TRIBAL SPIRIT DRUMMING CLASSES

with John Bowker – Absolute beginners are absolutely welcome to join in these weekly sessions in the Students' Union on Weds from 7 – 10 pm. A small fee of £5 (or less), student rate of £3 (or less) ensures an evening of rhythm and celebration.

FOLK GROUP

meet every Weds at the Salesian Hostel at 8 pm. New members are welcome. The group also perform at the 7.30 pm Sunday Mass in the Salesian Church.

HUNT MUSEUM (Rutland Street)

2,000 original works of art and antiquity. Admission £3.20 Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 5.00 pm, Sun 2.00 – 5.00 pm



Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Societies on campus. Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Centre, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

GREAT PERFORMANCES BY UL STUDENTS AT THE NATIONAL SWIMMING & WATERPOLO INTERVARSITIES



Cosgrave just back from co-op had two great swims in the 100 Backstroke with a 1:12.43 and in the 100 I/M where he finished in 1:11.79. Second year Joanne Tighe was tireless in her efforts in the 100 Backstroke where she did a 1:22.09 and the 100 Freestyle in which she attained a 1:09.65. A notable performance also from Padraig Mulcahy in the 100 Fly where he swam well in a 1:12.01.

Water Polo Coach Michael McNieve was brave in his efforts in the 100 Breaststroke finishing in a very respectable 1:21.02. Fergal Dalton had a very good swim in the 50 Freestyle touching home in a 29.54 second. Our Men's Relays kept the flag flying with A team winning the Freestyle event in 1:45.23 and coming in 3rd in the Medley event. The team was Brian McCaffrey, Colm Fitzgerald, Mark Higgins and Adrian Cosgrove. The B team who came 4th in the Freestyle event was Padraig Mulcahy, Robert Ducie, Pat Finn and Michael McNieve.

That night the whole squad went for some relaxation and recreation. The team also took the opportunity to discuss tactics for the Water Polo, which was on the Following morning. (Yeah Right!!!)

Bright and early Saturday morning the teams arose and put on their clothes. The

Men's team were up first against an ever improving U.C.C. team. Deadly teamwork and some good shooting from Pat Lowery and Michael McNieve saw the U.L. team defeat their neighbours by 6 - 0.

The Ladies were up next against the highly confident Trinity team. Despite some outstanding performances by our girls their opponents were too strong. The competition continued and U.L. Men's team progressed to the semi - final. There they faced N.U.I.G. who earlier beat favourites Queens. Harassing defence and brilliant goalkeeping sent U.L. out of the competition but still with their heads held high. After losing the first round the Ladies went into the Plate where they faced the other unfortunates from the opening matches. A great performance against D.C.U. put them into the final where they faced a tidy U.C.D. squad. After a titanic struggle the U.L. team pulled ahead by one in the last quarter, which was enough to seal the victory.

The nemesis of our Men's team N.U.I.G. went on to win the tournament in an enthralling final against Trinity. The victors from the U.L. ladies first match Trinity went on to win their final against U.C.D. Plenty of fun and frolics followed at the presentation dinner where the whole squad were delighted with the news of the colleges five Irish Representatives.

Five athletes from U.L. were selected to represent the Irish Intervarsity Team in Swimming and Water Polo as a result of their performances at the National Swimming and Water Polo Intervarsities were hosted this year by D.C.U. in Nenagh on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th February. Brian McCaffrey, Wendy Godley, Colm Fitzgearld, Michael McNieve and Pat Lowery stood out to the selectors at the competition where as ever U.L. were among the top colleges competing.

Friday saw the swimming half get underway. Fresher Brian McCaffrey finished in 25.08 seconds, which was enough to qualify him for the final of the 50 metres Freestyle. A tremendous swim in the final saw him storm to victory in a time of 24.69 seconds. Next up for Brian was the 100 metres freestyle where he swam a comfortable 58.04 in the heat. Another great performance in the final of the event meant he took his second Gold of the day with a time of 55.61 seconds.

American Wendy Godley had a great day also with a 30.29 seconds in the 50 Freestyle and then came her main event the 100m Fly. A conservative heat time of 1:12.81 set her up well for the final where she thundered down the pool to victory.

Another Fresher in action was Colm Fitzgearld. His favourite event the 100 Br/St was very hotly contested and of course Colm did not disappoint. 1:11.12 in the heat warmed him up for a 1:09.23 in the final earning him 2nd place. Colm also swam the 100 I/M where with his strong Br/St he achieved a time of 1:10.71.

Backstroker Robert Ducie made the final of the 100 metres in a time of 1:08.62. A repeat 1:08 in the final saw him to 4th place. Mark Higgins made his mark on the competition in the grueling 100 Fly reaching the final with a 1:06.32. An inspiring performance in the final saw him touch in fourth with a 1:05.06. Adrian

UL Mens Soccer Club News

Collingwood Cup News

The Collingwood Cup takes place in Week 2 in Dublin. We have sent a very talented squad to represent us, under the guidance of Noel O'Connor. They begin their campaign against DCU and then face DIT in the final Group Match. Confidence is high in the camp. Director of Football, Steven Driver, rates the teams chances of success as being "fairly high". We wish the boys all the best of luck and hope they don't return to Limerick empty handed.

Race Night

The Club is organising a Race Night in

Week 3. It will take place in The Stables, on Friday the 2nd of March. The first race is at 8.30pm. We would appreciate your support.

Indoor 5-a-Side Tournament

ULFC are hosting an Indoor Mixed 5-a-Side competition in the University Arena. Squads of 8 are invited to take part with two ladies being part of each Squad. It will all kick-off in Week 3 and will focus on games on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Club Members will be in The Canteen in the next few days and can answer any questions you may have. We hope this will be a FUN Tournament for all.

UL Kayak Club Epic Trip to Wales



Day 1 saw 24 UL paddlers leave the East Gate car park at 4am on Monday morning after the Term 1 exams, amid torrential rain. There was that look of anticipation on the faces of those that were awake, as the forecast said RAIN for the week. Kayaking is probably the only sport that is more enjoyable the more rain you get, so we were all poised for one great week. Our first taste of white-water was on the ferry over as the trip took 2 hours extra due to rough seas.

Day 2 commenced with a 6:30am start. Water levels were low, as it had not rained for the 4 weeks prior but none the less we discovered a river called the "Vyrney". This turned out to be a 10km marathon continuation of the same river completed one year ago to the day. Rivers are graded from I to VI, with one being flat and VI being off the wall with death just around the next corner. The "Vyrney" river was grade II with 2Km of Grade III, that was ideal for both beginners and advanced, as it gave the beginners the chance to avail of our instructors tuition and for everybody else to brush up on the skills lost over the exam period. We then embarked on our epic journey back to the hostel over a massive mountain with one 300-meter vertical drop only 2 feet to the left of the bus. If the paddling didn't get the hearts racing then some of these sights certainly did.

Another 6:30am start and the gauge on the Conway River was reading high. By the time we had gained permission to paddle the river from the paddling authorities, the level of the river had dropped to an ideal medium level. This river is one of the best white-water runs in the British Isles with enough water to drown even the thirstiest water rat. Most people were up to the 1st 4km of the grade III River that had one section of Grade IV and all people got to the first finish with little difficulty. The advanced paddlers proceeded with the next 3km of Grade IV interspersed with 2 sections of very hairy Grade V. One section had to be portaged (walked around) due to the low water level but the other caused little difficul-

ty despite almost everybody having to execute numerous Eskimo rolls along the way. It was then that the hearts started racing as we neared the famous Grade VI Conway Falls. The get out for the finish of this section of the river was marked by 3 large white stakes (with crossbows) at 100meter intervals where everybody got out of the turbulent white-water safely. This was the site of a famous paddling video a few years ago where a couple of paddlers were filmed clinging to rocks in mid-current above the 80ft. Conway Falls. Our second successive Chicken Curry was on the menu for that evening, as our great chefs had nothing left over from the evening before. Not long after dinner everybody was exhausted so all had an extra early night.

6am on Day 4 saw Cathal given the dreaded job of getting everybody out of bed in preparation for our most action packed day so far. We had all left the hostel by a record 7:15am as we headed for Pen-Y-Pass near the peak of the Snowdon Mountain peak. It is in this valley that hosts the best white-water run in the British Isles. The first river was the grade II "Glaslyn" river, with a surprise Grade III part thrown in. This river was specifically for training where all paddlers got great tuition on how to read a white-water river and the majority of paddlers made great progress in their technique despite the ice-cold water flowing down from the 1,500m peak just over our shoulders. The advanced paddlers once again continued through the Grade IV "Aberglaslyn Gorge". This is one of the most heart racing rivers in the UK, which never stops, with tight, steep, technical drops, with no break for a full 1.5km. Hopefully we will all return next year and give this river a lash once again. That evening we decided to head to Bangor where some of our paddlers[Mick & Friends] were on their backs, gazing into the eyes of some of Wales' finest doctors & nurses.

Friday saw semi-rest day (10am). It was at this time that the trip turned into the epic one that everybody anticipated. Due to

a puncture on the bus paddling took a little postponement. It was here that the walking boots came into use as we took a 2-hour hill walk to take a look at one of Wales' largest virgin waterfalls. As soon as the bus returned we went to near by Llangollen where our Rodeo paddlers got a chance to show off to the cameras and to introduce the intermediates to this new art of playboating. This is the art of trying to throw the boat around while attempting to do various tricks like "loops" and "cartwheels". Another great day over as the 24 hungry heads headed to the local for a few pints and then some local welsh hospitality (i.e. dinner).

Day 6 saw another 10am start. Due to the rain eventually stopping, and low water levels, we decided to do something different as the paddling muscles were quite tired now. We set out to climb the peak of the Snowdon Mountain (1,600m) from Pen-Y-Pass over the 10km walk to Llanberris. You may be wondering did we set the paddlers onslaught on the welsh pubs at all. The answer was no up to now, but seen as though it was Sat. night things were destined to change. 24 people attacked a country town called Ruithin where the local's were pleased to hear about the paddling stories as opposed to the local farmers talking about slurry, sheep and the like [something like people from Co. Leitrim]. And as for the ladies in the group, the real men certainly put a "Stamp" on things. "Safety" was of utmost importance on the way home after a real Indian Take-Away.

By now Sunday day 7 had rolled in and all that was left was the journey home, with some parts I chose not remember (i.e. the story telling Quintsy and Peter) and the rest I slept through. All had one great week and lets hope this turns out to be an annual one.

So if you would like to give paddling a go, just drop down to the swimming pool on Tuesday (9:45-11pm), Thursday (6:45-8:15pm) and to our Wednesday afternoon trips (2pm) to some of the local rivers. Our next weekend trip away will be to the Intervarsities in Wicklow/Dublin (hosted by DCU) at the end of Week 2. This is always one of the best weekends in the paddling calendar and hopefully we will bring home the cup for the 3rd year running.

**C U Then,
ULKC.**



Treaty of what? Young Fine Gael provides the answers.

Young Fine Gael are holding their biggest event so far this year on Tuesday the 27th of February when Alan Dukes TD will join the Czech ambassador to debate the ins and outs of European Enlargement and more specifically the Nice treaty. This is just one of the events that UL Young Fine Gael have planned for the year, which include a seminar on the future for Northern Ireland and of course a trip to the Fine Gael Ard-Fheis.

The seminar on the Nice treaty hopes to provide an analysis of the effects of the treaty on Ireland and indeed on the countries that hope to join the EU in the near future. Also we hope that through this event the UL campus will be more informed when it comes time to vote for a referendum on the treaty. A short explanatory guide to the

treaty itself will be provided before any discussion or debate shall take place, so even the most politically unaware person can join in on the discussion of this important treaty that will affect the future of the EU and Ireland dramatically. As is usual with all Young Fine Gael events there will be an impartial chairperson and everyone is welcome, members and non-members.

Also soon in the coming week we will be holding the draw for the raffle we held for the benefit of the Outreach society, if you see any member please spend a pound to help this very worthy cause. The Fine Gael Ard-Fheis is also being held in the RDS Dublin on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of March. We hope to rock the RDS and always all those who attend have a really good time. We will be arranging travel and

accommodation for those who would like to attend, members and non-members.

In the middle of April we also hope to hold a debate on the future for Northern Ireland, we will be inviting Youth groups from the north as well as former leader of the alliance party John Cusnahan MEP and the new spokesperson for Northern Ireland, whoever he or she may be. Of course we also hope to welcome the new leader of Fine Gael Michael Noonan in the coming semester to talk to UL and set out his priorities as leader.

If you want more information email our secretary Caroline at ulyfg@hotmail.com or come along to one of our meetings that are usually held Tuesdays at 7pm in the C1 corridor.

Ten Forward & LGB Raise £650 for Irish Cancer Society




On Thursday the 15th February 2001, Tenforward and LGB took part in a charity event with a difference, Sponsored Hair Dyeing! The money was raised for the worthy cause of the Irish Cancer Society and between the participants and other selfless members from both societies we raised over £650. The whole premise of the event was simple; if you donated money you got to pick a colour for the hair of one of the people doing it. If that colour came up, it was the colour of that person's hair! It took place in The Stables courtyard at 7.30pm and it was great craic to say the least! Niall "Slugman" Mc Glade had his hair dyed a beautiful colour of pink, others ended up with green and red and even more pink and yours truly now has a blue head

of hair. There was a good turnout for the event and Irish Cancer Society representative, Olivia Furey, turned up to receive the cheque. Both societies would like to thank everyone who gave money to this charity, everybody who helped out with the event itself and the other people who took

part, in particular Barry Cronin, Gillian Loftus, Claire Roche-Kelly, Pdraig Dennison, the Limerick Post, the Limerick Leader, the Photo Society, and most especially to the Stables club, for their generosity and good spirit towards ourselves and our cause. If you would like more information on cancer awareness, there are information packages in the reception of the Student Union building... Smoke me a kipper, I'll be back for breakfast.

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Celtic Supporters Club were in Celtic Park for Hearts Thrashing



The UL Celtic Supporters Club set off for the first of this semester's trips to Glasgow for a weekend of craic and general madness. The first few crusaders were gathering in the Stables from three o'clock onwards, just in good time for the eight o'clock departure. We then set off as soon as everybody had been rounded up and headed for Dublin to pick up a few more comrades to join us.

The craic was mighty as the sweet sound of rebel music had everyone singing and laughing all the way to the Capital. It wasn't all fun however as Tommy 'Sports' once again displayed a stomach of steel, and was the first victim of, em....."travel sickness", before we reached the Hurlers!!! We reached O'Connell Street to pick up the rest of the lads and proceeded to Belfast to catch our ferry. Another of our group then showed a stomach of jelly and "Pukemon" puked violently until we reached Larne.

We drove on and as we parked in the lower deck, the star of the trip, seeing that some of us had become a little weary after the bus journey raised spirits with one of his many side-splitting one-liners. "Do we stay on the bus now or can we get off until we reach Scotland?" was the question asked of our chief organiser, Aengus O'Malley by the one and only Eamonn. Thankfully we were allowed get off the bus for the three and a half hour crossing and everyone managed to get a breakfast, a few pints and a little sleep before we reached

Scotland and shortly after we were booking into our hotel rooms in Glasgow city. We stayed at a top class hotel in the city centre, for which, considering the measly £80 price of the trip, was really great value. After booking in and getting ready to go, we headed off minus two members of the group, to Celtic Park. Eamonn and his mate aside, the rest of us entered Paradise in time for the three o'clock kick-off.

The game was not a disappointment, as the Celts came from a goal behind to wallop Hearts 6-1. Colin Cameron gave the visitors the lead after their first foray upfield in the 13th minute. The visitors lead though lasted just two minutes, however, before Joos Valgaeren levelled with a strike of supreme quality. Celtic did not take long to dismantle their hapless opponents who had had the audacity to take the lead at Parkhead. Any thoughts Hearts had of taking something from the game were soon in disarray as Celtic went on the rampage. Nine minutes before the interval, man of the match Lubomir Moravcik gave Celtic the lead for the first time, and goals followed from Henrik Larsson and Johan Mjallby before the interval. By this time the game was over as a contest, and the points were in the bag. Predictably then Celtic turned on the style in the second half and treated the sixty thousand supporters to two more goals and countless more chances in a stunning display. Larsson got another before Stilian Petrov

completed the rout. The atmosphere was electric throughout and with the result leaving Celtic eight points clear at the top of the SPL, the handful of away fans were the only ones not jubilant leaving Celtic Park.

A great night was then had by all, scattered though we were throughout the city. Some went to the renowned Brazen Head for a night of Celtic lunacy, while some went to the nearby nightclub where the admittedly rough-looking Longford Lads were appallingly discriminated against and refused entry. When we arrived back at the hotel's resident's bar, a sing-song led by Big D carried on into the early hours of Sunday morning.

After a good night's sleep we embarked then on the journey home the following afternoon. Before this however the staff of the hotel had to deal with a serious incident. A bag of apples and a bag of pears had been left, by our own Eamonn, in one of the rooms (wasn't sure which), and had to be located before we left the hotel. Thankfully they turned up and everyone breathed a huge sigh

of relief.

On the way to Stranraer yet another weary Celt, who wishes to remain anonymous, saved the best puke till last as he sent vomit spraying down the bus which had everyone laughing (except for the unfortunate Barry O' Kane who was in the wrong place at the wrong time). The boat journey was then a great old sing song with some fellow Celts also returning from the game.

We stopped for a pint on the way back down from Belfast and then the great Eamonn treated us to a stunning rendition of Robbie Williams "Angels". Despite missing the game he was still in good spirits. Arriving back in UL in the early hours of Monday morning then, though tired, it was clear that all the lads, and one brave girl, had had a top-class weekend. For the nominal fee of eighty pounds, all transport, tickets and overnight accommodation were included. In short, definitely a recommended weekend.
Hail, Hail,
– M Keenan.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK BASKETBALL CLUB REPORT

University of Limerick claimed their place in the semi-finals of the ESB National Cup in the National Basketball Arena at the end of January with a convincing victory over Drimnagh Dynamo's of Dublin on Saturday night.

University of Limerick made a slow start to the game and were lucky to end the first quarter with a five-point lead over Drimnagh 18 points to 13 points. Some fine scores on the break from Maire Guiney kept the Limerick girls ahead.

In the second quarter UL played some outstanding basketball scoring 12 points from the fast break without a reply from Drimnagh. At half time UL led by 41 points to 21 points.

Drimnagh came back fighting in the third quarter but UL's height advantage kept the Dublin side firmly under control. Nicola Farrell and Sinead Leahy dominated both the offensive and defensive boards for Limerick.

Top Limerick scorers – Maura Guiney 13 points, Sinead Leahy & Juliet Murphy 12 points.

UL ATHLETES COMPETE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

University of Limerick athletes proved they were among the best in their fields when they competed in the Harvard Select meet on Feb 3 at the famed Harvard indoor track in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Harvard engineers designed this track over 20 years ago using state of the art computer aided design systems. It is still regarded as the fastest in the world. It was there a few years ago that Eamon Coughlin set a world record in the mile for athletes over 40.

Eight athletes, seven of whom are Irish Universities' champions (Brendan Bourke, Kevin Burke, Alan Delaney, Rosemary Daniels, Orna O' Donoghue, Fiona Reid, and John Stacey) and Patrick Muldoon, a leading UL distance runner, represented UL. Four Universities from the Greater Boston area, Harvard, Northeastern, Boston University and Bentley College took part in a busy one-day meet. Limerick, and Irish students can be proud of the performances of the UL athletes; they won three, were second in three and third in two of the nine events they entered. Unfortunately, star athlete Brendan Bourke was injured when warming up for the hurdles, which he was expected to win.

Alan Delaney's high jump of 2.11 m

was one of the features of the day. The second year Mechanical Engineering student, a former national hurdles champion, cleared the same height as Paul Klemic of Northeastern who last summer won the All American Schools championship with a jump of 2.22. Delaney's jump was the third best by an Irish born athlete.

Kevin Burke, like Delaney a second year mechanical Engineering student, achieved a season's best of 6.80 m when winning the long jump. Kevin was a member of the Irish team that competed in the Celtic international in Cardiff on February 10.

John Stacey (a third year student in Sports Science), a former NACA 200 m champion, was at his best with 7.24 s, which took second place in a highly competitive 60 m dash. Kevin Burke ran exceptionally well to be placed fourth in 7.28s. American collegiate middle and longer distance running has improved enormously in recent years, and Patrick Muldoon did well to stay with the pack in the 3000m.

Rosemary Ryan, UL's current star international, had to miss the meet. She was running in Portugal, a part of her preparation for the international cross country championships to be held in Leopardstown in March.

However, Fiona Reid, a first year PE student from Co. Meath, showed how good UL women's distance runners are when she easily won the 3000 m in 10:32.40.

Rosemary Daniels, a first year student in Sports Science, and also from Co. Meath, shows promise of becoming one of the great UL women athletes. Her triple jump of 11.31 suggests that she is on her way to international recognition, and her high jump of 1.63 m is testament to her spring.

Orna O' Donoghue, a student of Sports Science from South Kilkenny, is certainly UL's greatest ever multievent athlete. She has won every intervarsity multievent competition, and several individual events during her three years at UL. Her second place performance in the 60 m hurdles (9.43) was outstanding. An ankle injury prevented her from achieving her best (1.70), which would have won the high jump.

UL athletes are grateful for the sponsorship of Nortel Networks (major sponsors for the Harvard/Yale meet at UL in June, 1999), and for the support of Aughinish Alumina, Ballygowan, Carey Brothers Glass, The Kerry Group, and Brian McCarthy (Builders).

Gemma Hickey

An Focal has openings For:

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News Section
Features Section
Clubs & Societies Section

Contact Editor on 202363,
e-mail: fergal.fennessy@ul.ie
SU-013, Student Centre

An Focal Meeting Thursday 4pm
Meeting Room 3
Student Centre

UL Environmental Society Denied access to Sellafield

By Michelle Daly

The Envirosoc trip to Sellafield last week was cut short by the refusal of public liaison officers at the nuclear energy station to allow them to gain access for a tour of the facilities that had been arranged while the group were still in Ireland. The UL Environmental society was denied access only an hour before they were due to start a public educational tour of the facilities at Sellafield. They were denied access at this late stage because they had previously participated at 'The Big Blockade' a protest against nuclear powered submarines in Faslane, Scotland.

Catriona Jackman speaking for the group in Ireland this week stated that they had complied with all of the conditions set out by Sellafield and British

Nuclear fuels. This rigorous security checks included faxing copies of the passports of the entire group to the nuclear station over a week before the planned trip.

However after receiving a faxed copy of an article in the evening echo newspaper in Limerick the nuclear power station arbitrarily refused to allow access to the nuclear station to view the facilities. After negotiation the group were allowed a low level access tour of the plant but were to all intents and purposes sent away without completing the tour which they had travelled from Limerick to see,

Ella Daly's Really Thin Gossip Column

Hey guys its been a while eh? But never fear for its a new semester and that brings new gossip not to mind reporting all the shenanigans that went on during the three weeks off.

To start with a tale of such self sacrifice you wont be able to keep that tear from your eye! It starts with a students union exec so dedicated to you the student that they will go to any lengths to ensure that life remains good for the students of UL. They will even sacrifice their Thursday nights in front of the telly with a cup of Coco to go to the lodge and ensure that the quality of ULs talent is still reaching the same high standard it did last semester. They went deep deep into the lodge and carried out numerous gruelling Spot checks on an unsuspecting public and have arrived at the conclusion that yes standards were slipping but now the balance has returned and we can all sleep easy again but watch out rumour has it its off to Soul clinic next week with them! So if you fell you can show that you are a prime example of ULs finest male/Female talent get thee there and well test you out all in the name of quality control you understand.....

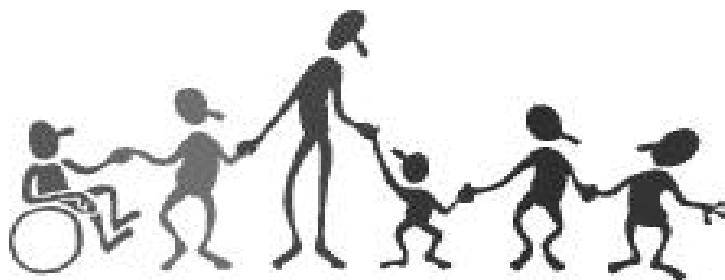
And now for something completely different it appears the Clubs officer Steven Driver has been testing the waters if you will and has been seen in Scholars on a Thursday night getting to know Sailing Clubs Clodagh he'd want to be careful there rumour has it she was giving Dave Fleming sailing lessons last week and he has completed the course. Go on Dave you can take him!!!!

Paul Lee was busy in the Three weeks moving furniture around the clubs and socs office I heard its so that when Pauls jumbo sized heart shaped revolving water bed arrives next week there will be room up there for it in all its satin sheeted glory. This is in no way related to last years rumours that the C+S office was in fact a massage parlour.

One last note can anybody confirm the rumour that a certain C+S exec officer turned their home into a lap dancing club on Valentines night? I don't know what the world is coming to!!!!!!

Talk to ya next issue
Ella

Outreach Society:



Doing your bit for others....

Have you an hour or so a week to spare for the good of others?

Outreach is involved with community work, and would love more students to join up...

The projects that Outreach plan to undertake this term are:

Helping students from less advantaged schools with reading and writing - one hour a week

Helping the Access Officer with the 'On-Campus Homework Club' programme

Visits to Elderly homes - fortnightly

Involvement with young adults with Cerebral Palsy from Enable Ireland - giving them the opportunity to take some modules here, and offering them some more social outlets. Evening Entertainment etc...

Fundraising and Rotaract activities...

So please get involved....if you are interested, e-mail me union.welfare@student.ul.ie

Look forward to hearing from you...the more people who are willing to give up an hour a week to help others, the better, so bring your friends along!

NEXT MEETING OF THE OUTREACH SOCIETY: **WEEK 3 - WEDNESDAY**
AT 5.00 IN MEETING Room 4 of the SU



A Few Announcements

UL American Football Club AGM

Thursday 5pm

Meeting Room 3

All New Members Welcome

or contact

info@ulvikings.com

Annual Peace Essay Competition

Prize IR£1,000

Write 1,000 words on the Northern Ireland Peace Process

Deadline date for receipt of entries is Monday, March 5th, 2001

Sponsors: US Intermodal Corp. Savannah Georgia, USA

Entries to the Irish Peace Institute, Foundation Building, University of Limerick.
Contact: Dorothy Cantrell

Tel: 061-202768 Fax: 061-202572
Email: Doroath Cantrell@ul.ie

Law Society AGM

Wednesday (Wk 2)

6:00 C1056

All welcome;

members entitled to vote and stand for election to committee positions.

Membership open on the night.

Join the

Racing Society

Startup meeting

Thursday 22nd February @ 5pm

Meeting Room #4 SU Centre

All Welcome

Any Queries: email 9728171@student.ul.ie

First Outing:

Cheltenham Preview Meeting – get all the expert tips for the Festival Meeting

Thursday Week 3 in Mullingar

(Half Price Entry, Free Nightclub, Subsidised Bus for members)

In conjunction with the Equestrian Club.

For more Info. watch noticeboards,
Call 087 2376059 or Come to the meeting.

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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

Has your life been affected by Alcoholism
Violence
Gambling
Or

Any other addiction or dysfunctional behaviour.

If so
You are welcome to meetings of Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families.

When: every Friday Night

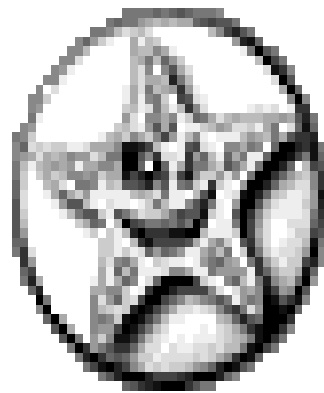
Where: Bishops Place, Nicholas Street, Limerick.

Time: 8.30p.m

It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Pisces 19 February – 19 March
 Don't listen to others. Make up your own mind. Follow your heart. Trust your better judgement as regards the fun side of your life this week.

Aries 20 March – 18 April
 You've been under a lot of stress lately. So, what you really need is a great big night on the banter. Go on! You deserve it.

Taurus 19 April – 19 May
 My, how quickly a mood can change! But this time it's a change for the better! Someone has shown you the light. The world is beautiful!

Gemini 20 May – 20 June
 There will be some dramatic change in your life soon. But the real test is how to deal with it! Whether you embrace or reject change is all about you and what mood you're in.

Cancer 21 June v- 21 July
 You don't seem to be feeling your usual self at the moment. What's up?! Everyone feels down at one stage or another but you will get over it.

Leo 22 July – 21 August
 Relax. Your life is a tad hectic these days. You deserve some time to yourself. Even light some candles! Eat some popcorn. Listen to some quiet music.

Virgo 22 August – 21 September
 A friend needs your comfort and solace at some stage during the next week. Just be patient though – the problem may not be solved instantly.

Libra 22 September – 22 October
 Have trust in that special someone to carry out a particular task. They are more capable than you realise. Remember – you weren't always there.

Scorpio 23 October – 21 November
 If your birthday is around the corner, you're in for a good one! Celebrations galore! A close friend will confide a secret in you. Just be sensitive as to how you react.

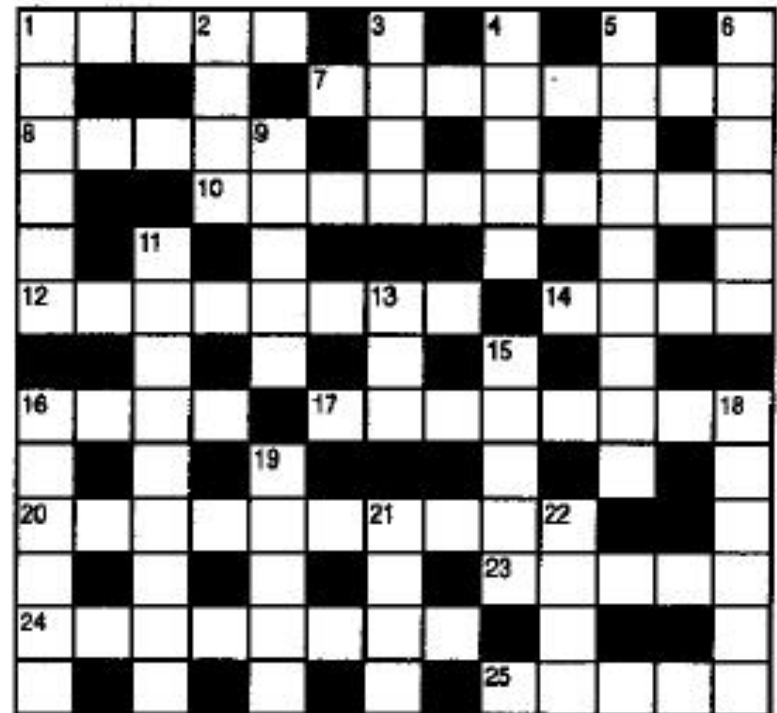
Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December
 You've been feeling disconnected from someone lately. All this will change as you are appreciated by way of a delicious and romantic meal.

Capricorn 21 December – 19 January
 Your zany personality is at an all-time high. You just can't help yourself. All you want to do is get down and party!!!

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February
 You're loving life at the moment, despite the minor upsets. Nothing is gonna make you sad down. You're determined to make it all good.

Drop the correct answers into the New 95 Fm &

Win yourself a few CD's



ACROSS

- 1. Opium flower (5)
- 7. Cause the attention to wander (8)
- 8. Roughened for plastering (5)
- 10. Love of one's country (10)
- 12. Death of part of the body (8)
- 14. Grow pale (4)
- 16. Lady horse (4)
- 17. Amusing tale (8)
- 20. Of eye-treatment (10)
- 23. Two on dice (5)
- 24. Euphoric (8)
- 25. Antelope (5)

DOWN

- 1. Prodding (6)
- 2. Look furtively (4)
- 3. Jetty (4)
- 4. Ran to become MP (5)
- 5. Guide (9)
- 6. Thwart (6)
- 9. Milk department (5)
- 11. Believer in lawlessness (9)
- 13. Convent dweller (3)
- 15. Pungent (5)
- 16. Proposed for discussion (6)
- 18. Be greater than (6)
- 19. Defraud (5)
- 21. Den (4)
- 22. Prison room (4)

le scribble box

Life through a Lens

- Sinead's view of Life



Every once in a while a writer (or a writer wannabe) is inspired to create something wondrous and novel, now, I regret, is not one such occasion, so you'll have to endure this instead. This really ought to be a rejuvenated, effervescent parody of this student's life, but rather than regal you all with my fascinating account of one girl's bravery and struggle in the face of all-conquering terror (My Trip to the Dentist's by yours truly), I'm going to do something completely different, something mature - a political commentary.

Hadn't we a positively fascinating time over the holidays. It was just about all I could do to turn off the television. The news was never so interesting. Who wants to watch the new Dawson's Creek, when you can watch TDs being hauled off in the Paddy Wagon, for a week's holiday, courtesy of the State? Liam, Liam, what were you thinking at all? The law may indeed be an ass, but you have to be a special kind of stupid to tell these legal types to mind their own business. Just when I thought Dáil Éireann had eased back into it's normal hum of innocent activities, the Caped Crusader and the Boy Wonder (alias Michael Noonan and Jim Mitchell) turn on poor old John Bruton, (Commissioner Gordon) and thrust him out into the obscurity of the back bench. It was just like Sunset Beach, without the sex - and the beautiful people. That gives me an idea...

A political cut and thrust drama, set in Dáil Éireann. *The run of the Country 2*. Starring Tom Hanks as Bertie Ahern, Harrison Ford as John Bruton, McCauley Culkin as Enda Kenny, Anthony Hopkins as Hannibal Lector, oops, Michael Noonan, Keanu "I'm not a very good actor" Reeves as Charlie "I don't give a s****" McCreevy, Kate Winslet as Mary Harney, and Calista Flockhart as Mo Molam, Richard Gere as Tony Blair, Gerard Depardieu as Ian Paisley and Hugh Grant as Bill Clinton. The time just before 9 o'clock mass, the place, Dublin, duh!

Just another day in Dublin city, the birds are singing and the bees are buzzing, the smog is slowly killing both of them. Bertie changes into the suit that Celia (Gwenyth Paltrow) picked out for him the day before in Ben Dunne's (Al Paccino) men's wear, and he and his chauffeur cycle into work on the tandem bicycle, as he now also has fears about the safety of the government limousine. Bertie has

a busy day ahead of him, he has a welcome home party planned for Liam (Dudley Moore), who was away on holiday at his Granny's for the week, or so his note said, he also has to meet Charlie to take him to Maths grinds, because his accountancy teacher rang from Brussels and said he can't even add up his budgets. "It's tough being Daddy bear" he says as he chains his bike to the railing.

Just as he gets to the front door a stray slíotar veers past him, and ricochets off the Fine Gael mini-bus, relieving it of the left wing mirror. "Jackie Healy-Rae" he bellows, "what have I told you about playing hurling in the House?" Jackie (Joe Lynch) appears and meekly apologises, but says he's only doing it because Bill was on the phone last night telling him about how he used to play ball in the Oval Office. Bertie grimaces and says, "that's a different ball game entirely", "do you mean Gaelic football?" enquires Jackie. Bertie smiles, shakes his head, and walks off, leaving Jackie wondering if there was another Gaelic game that he hadn't heard of...

He goes into his huge office and gazes happily at the huge green lawns below, which stretch beneath him, like, well, huge green lawns, with an it's-good-to-be-the-king smile on his round face. A glance at the appointments book tells him that there is nothing for him to bother his balding head about, so he decides to nip over to the Fine Gael offices and tell John about the mini-bus. On reaching the door he hears voices, a voice inside his own head tells him to listen, so he does...

Behind the door:

Hannibal, sorry, Michael: thhhhhhh, John is going down

Jimbo: do you think we can do it, will they stand behind us?

M: everyone loves me, of course they will, so long as you pull out of the race the morning of the election

J: That's not fair, I want to be leader

M: Look Jim, you dumb baby, I'm going to be leader, so stop your stupid crying!

A hostile take over - Bertie had no idea that things were this bad, poor John, should he warn him? Nah.

Back in the really big office the phone rings, the caller Id reads Big Ian. Jaysus, what's wrong with him now? Bertie wonders. "Howya Ian, Conas atá tú?" "What, what, did you say, will you speak the Queen's English?!" Bertie remembers that Ian didn't learn Irish at school, and in a rare flash of brilliance, wonders if he should offer to teach him cúpla focal, as a means of forwarding the harmonisation North-South relations. The voices inside his head advice him against it, Ian has enough bother with English. "Bertie, are you still there?" "I am surely, what's up my man?" He settles back into his comfy leather armchair and kicks off his Hush Puppies. This could take a while. Ian

launches into the usual tirade about how Mo wouldn't let him go to bed until he ate his brussel sprouts and sign an autograph for her sister, how he hates greens, and he won't even come to the table to sign the autograph book until he finds his glasses, because he can't read the small print. Bertie assures him that signing the autograph won't do him any harm at all and not all greens are bad, while idly playing with a pair of brown-rimmed men's glasses that Mo left on her last visit...

The Bart Simpson alarm clock reads 11:00. Not long now, Liam will be home at two. He rings Mary across the hall to see if she needs any help with the party food.

Superwoman Mary has all the sandwiches made and is in the process of icing the cake. Little does Bertie know that Mary has her finger in a lot of pies. Mary, realising that the PDs will never form a government in their own right slyly, asks the future leader of Fine Gael over to help her eat a few buns. She smiles at Enda and offers him some more tea. He replies "No Mary, my cup brimeth over"; seriously believing he's in with a chance (of winning the vote).

Cut to the Dáil

It has been beautifully decorated with streamers and balloons, kindly donated by Dunne's, and a huge welcome banner, sponsored by an anonymous Dublin property developer(s) strung up on the wall. At ten past two Liam strides in. All the members run to hug him; Bertie sheds a tear, happy to have his black sheep home again. Polite Tony, who has flown over especially, tells Liam that the break in the holiday farm did him the world of good and comments on his tan...

Bertie turns to get Liam's present - a new Nokia 3210, because he "lost" his other one - but it is gone! Who could have done such a thing?

Freeze cameras. Cue title music. Roll credits. That's a wrap people.

Author's note: Let it be known that I am not a member of any political party

