

An Focal

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Unhealthy Move by University

Aoife Ní Raghallaigh

A new Health Promotions Officer will not be recruited by the University following a decision that will greatly impact on students. Citing a lack of funding as the primary reason, the announcement in week 2 followed an Executive decision to defer a number of new positions.

The Health Promotions Officer played an important role in the University, as it was their responsibility to “provide a comprehensive programme of health promotion activities and initiatives so as to ensure our students are well informed and taking active responsibility for their own health and wellbeing,” explained Declan Aherne, Head of Counselling.

The areas targeted by the Health Promotions Officer included alcohol and drug use, sexual behaviour and mental health.

The University had also hoped to become a Health Promoting

University, which is now not possible.

Caitríona McGrattan, Students' Union Welfare Officer, explained that she was very disappointed with the University decision as it is not moving forward and by deciding to remove the Health Promotions Officer position students are being sent a bad message.

“Students are being told not to use drugs but now have no one to promote health within the University. It's a case of, ‘do as I say, not as I do.’”

Dr Aherne echoed these sentiments stating that he felt the idea was “a very disappointing development and completely lacking in vision”.

He also agreed that by removing the Health Promotions Officer the students were being sent mixed messages regarding their health.

Both Dr Aherne and Ms McGrattan believe that other options

are available to the University other than the deferring of the position.

Dr Aherne believes that “there are always other options; it is a matter of priorities”.

Ms McGrattan acknowledges that it is not realistic to employ someone on a part-time basis as it would be impossible to divide the hours she thinks that the position could be used to encourage research.

She suggested that a post-graduate student studying in the area could use the position to undertake research, but questioned how viable that would be.

When asked how the decision

would impact on students Ms McGrattan stated that future Health Promotion campaigns would suffer a lack of commitment and it would be become more difficult to obtain information.

“As University staff it was easier for [the Health Promotions Officer] to get information. A Students' Union Officer is still seen as a student”, Ms McGrattan explained.

She went on to explain that the Health Promotions Officer was a great help to the Welfare Office and that the Healthy Living Campaigns planned for Semester 2 would be affected by this

decision.

While Dr Aherne was keen to confirm that the upcoming Mental Health Week will be not be affected he did state that the decision will impact students as “a health promotion programme cannot be fully implemented until such time as the position can be filled again.”

Ms McGrattan also explained that while the University may argue that the position lay open for a long time, the Students' Union believes the position is valuable and “students and staff will suffer without it”.

It is hoped that the post will be reinstated within 18 months.



Student representatives at the Department of Education last month

‘On our knees’ for free fees

Aoife Breen - Editor

Students are “on our knees” in the current situation regarding university funding and third level tuition fees according to SU President Pa O’Brien who addressed almost 1,000 Limerick students at a rally in Arthur’s Quay Park two weeks ago following a march through the city.

However, Irish universities are “walking somewhat of a political tightrope” at the moment according to UL President Don Barry who spoke on the fees issue following the meeting with Minister O’Keeffe at the end of September.

“We are attempting to do two things really which is to provide world class education for our students and at the same time have a funding stream which will not make it

impossible for large numbers of students to avail of that world class undergraduate education.”

President Barry has retained his position that it is a governmental decision to choose which students should have their fees paid for by the state.

Mr O’Brien attacked Prof Barry stating that, “While I take the President’s point that this is a governmental decision he must acknowledge his influence on the outcome of this as the head of a University.

“He has come out in favour of a return to fees which is blatantly against creating a fair and equal world class undergraduate sector.

“Presidents have acknowledged

that this is a funding rather fees issue with our government already spending the third least in Europe.

“Professor Barry is a statistician and he should recognise that bringing back student contributions will mean less students which will leave the University worse off in the long run.”

With students from all four of Limerick’s colleges disrupting traffic in the city centre on 23 September, the message to the Education Minister Batt O’Keeffe was clear: ‘no fees, just degrees’.

Students brought the city to a standstill at lunchtime when they took to the streets to protest against Minister O’Keeffe’s intent to bring back student contributions for third

level education.

With slogans of ‘no way, we won’t pay’, ‘no fees, just degrees’ and the simple, ‘no to fees’ as well as many placards, students attracted the attention of motorists and onlookers, quite a number of whom gave their support to the demonstration.

Students from UL, LIT and LSAD marched from the Art College on Clare Street through the city’s main thoroughfare and met with students from Mary I on the South Circular Road before marching to Arthur’s Quay Park where Mr O’Brien spoke to the crowd.

“You already pay your taxes and you’ll pay more when you graduate. This is your right and you won’t be denied it.

“Batt O’Keeffe claims that only those who can afford to pay will pay. It costs over €38,000 already without fees. It costs over €60,000 with fees. I don’t know how many families can afford that.

“We are on our knees, Batt, what more do you want? You cut funding from our universities; you take three per cent this year; you don’t recognise inflation. We are on our knees.”

UL students will step up their campaign this Thursday when they join with eight other Munster colleges to protest against fees in Cork. More information about this protest and a sign-up sheet is available in the Students’ Union.

An Focal Digest

In Brief

New Dean for KBS

At the Governing Authority meeting on Tuesday, 23 September, the appointment of Professor Donal Dineen as Dean of the Faculty of Business (Kemmy Business School) was approved. Professor Dineen began his three year term on 1 October.

SU Bookshop outage

The Students’ Union apologises for the inconvenience caused to students for not having its second hand bookshop in operation for the start of the semester. Due to unforeseen technical difficulties, it was necessary to set up a new database for all the books currently in storage in the SU and to enter all the details of these books and their owners on to the database. As a result of this workload, it was not possible to have the scheme in operation in time for the start of the semester.

Requiem in Pace

It is with regret that the proprietors of the Scholars’ Club have to announce the sudden death of their dearly beloved penguin. The 3 foot ceramic bird was subject to an unfortunate accident at approximately 22:00 on 29 September, 2008 – the night of the Freshers’ Ball. The much-loved icon met an untimely shattering into eight irreconcilable pieces. The penguin is survived by mourning relatives and friends, although none of which will ever be able to replace his presence. May he rest in peace.

Oktoberfest Radio - Eoghan O’Brien rag.skynet.ie

ULSU Ents ran Oktoberfest from 29 September to 3 October on campus. Last Rag Week, in cooperation with the Ents department, Skynet ran a streaming radio and decided to do something similar for Oktoberfest.

Oktoberfest Radio went live on the 29 September at 3pm. It broadcast between the hours of 3pm and 10pm each day. To kick it all off Seamus Ryan played some of the oddest songs from the past decades you can find. At 4pm Katie Harrington talked about what bothered her during the week and why we should be thinking about it ourselves. She also had guests in.

After Katie, Darren Savage did a one hour sports and music show followed by Emma at 6pm. Nicole Boyle played songs to get you riled up to go out from 7pm to 8 and Eoghan O’Brien and Hugh O’Brien will close between 8pm and 10pm (Or whenever they got bored and left). The station is running again this week. We also hope to have this as a regular event for all the large week-long events that the SU and Ents run this year.

If you are interested in getting involved in future radio shows contact radio@skynet.ie. If you want to put in requests to the current radio station email ulsuradio@gmail.com. Most importantly, when you’re near a computer, tune in to rag.skynet.ie.

Irish Times Photographer at UL

Brenda Fitzsimons, award-winning photographer with the Irish Times, will speak tonight (Tuesday, 7 October) in UL as part of Limerick Mental Health Week. Ms Fitzsimons will address an audience in Room 3 of the Students’ Union at 7pm. She will discuss the role of photography in Irish journalism as well as examining the different styles of photojournalism. All are welcome to attend.

Buíochas le Dia de los Muertos at Lough Gur

An exciting new multimedia exhibition along the banks of the Lough Gur in county Limerick from Monday, 20 October, until Saturday, 25 October, will celebrate the Mexican tradition of marking All Souls’ Day. David Delaney and Fiona Kiely will combine their artistic skills to produce an exhibition that will arouse the senses and entertain people of all ages.

This exhibition is an attempt to recreate the jubilant atmosphere of “Dia de los Muertos”, add some Celtic comparisons, and nestle it among the ancient footprints of Lough Gur. The exhibition organizers also aim to traverse the traditional emotions associated death and ‘passing on’, as visitors to the exhibition are encouraged to partake in a joyous and uninhibited celebration to mark the passing of their loved ones. “Buíochas le Dia de los Muertos”, in its objective, discards the gloomy Western ideas of death, and celebrate mortality in euphoric and almost riotous fashion.

Luckily for local nature enthusiasts, organizers promise to stop short of erecting large bonfires, reminiscent of those burnt at the Celtic “Samhain” Festivals. Visitors are advised to expect the unexpected, bizarre and beautiful as Lough Gur Heritage is transformed into a Celtic/Latin American temple.

The exhibition runs from Monday 20th-Saturday 25th October at Lough Gur, Grange, Co. Limerick. Opening Hours are 10pm – 4pm with late opening on Thursday and Friday until 8pm. Admission is free.



Taking control of the Saw Doctors during the Freshers’ Ball

In Words

I reckon we just force people on the buses

SU President Pa O’Brien is determined to make the fees protest a success by whatever means possible.

Trust me, trust me, I’m a medic

ULSU Ents Crew Medics adapt the Blizzards’ newest release to console patients during the Freshers’ Ball.

I like when my phone rings; it makes my boob shake.

SU Welfare Officer explains the benefits of storing her phone with vibrate alert switched on close to heart.

Freshers’ Ball tickets sold out. Really, don’t ask.

The sign on the SU door on the afternoon of the Freshers’ Ball. Yes, folks, sold out actually means sold out around these parts.

We’ve never done a college Oktoberfest before, but we like it!

Saw Doctors’ Davy Carton on stage during the Freshers’ Ball.

Given the state of the government finances, this involves universities walking somewhat of a political tightrope. – University head Don Barry on the situation which has arisen asking for world class third level education without the necessary funding.



Scholars’ penguin broke into pieces during an accident during the Freshers’ Ball in week 4

In Figures

1 The number of college gigs Damien Dempsey is doing this year. And yes, that one gig was in UL last week. Were you there?

79 Days until Christmas. Oh yes, the shops have begun the countdown...you mean you haven’t? It is October now after all!

1000 A rough estimation of the number of demonstrators from UL, Mary I, LIT and LSAD in the week 3 anti-fees protest in Limerick city.

1200 The number of fees ‘cheques’ distributed to both on and off campus accommodation on the eve of the fees protest

2200 The lucky number who attended the Freshers’ Ball...which was more like a mini-festival, to be honest; it even came with some drizzle to add to the damp Irish festival atmosphere.

Students damage city bus

Nicole Ní Ríordáin

Several thousand Euro worth of damage was done to a Bus Éireann bus by UL students on Tuesday, 23 September. The city bus was travelling from the University to William Street at around 11pm when several passengers started displaying “drunken, dangerous and threatening behaviour”, according to Bus Éireann spokesperson Paddy McGuinness.

The bus is currently out of service, with several panels removed, wires exposed and seats stained. Bus Éireann have warned that, “if this

behaviour continues we will have to suspend services after 9 o’clock on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.”

A first year student who was also travelling on the bus commented that the vandalism “wasn’t malicious; it was just drunken stupidity”. He noted that the culprits had been intoxicated on entering the bus and as there were no seats left they had to stand in the aisle.

“They had been singing and taunting other passengers but it got

much more serious when one of them punched the ceiling with his fist until a panel came off. It basically progressed from there until the bus was wrecked. It was only three or four guys who caused all the damage, so it’s not fair to punish everyone”.

Presently buses are available daily to take students from the university to the city centre, starting at 7am and continuing every 15 minutes until 11.30pm.

Students’ Union president Pa

O’Brien warned that “losing this service would be unthinkable”. He expressed that drunken vandalism of this sort will not be tolerated by the Students’ Union, as all attending UL have to deal with the consequences, saying “people need to realise the effect this behaviour has on all students”.

As for punishment, Bus Éireann has assured that “as soon as the culprits are identified from CCTV footage they will be held accountable for damage”.

Doing a Favour for Your Mental Health



launching this year’s mental health week in the white house with UL President Don Barry (photo - Hugh O’Brien)

Emma Hayward

This year’s mental health week run by ULSU in cooperation with Limerick Mental Health Association focuses on the theme of ‘Pay it

Forward’. During the week, students and staff will be asked if they ‘fancy a favour?’ to promote a positive community atmosphere on campus.

Those waiting to do a favour will

have a red badge asking, ‘fancy a favour?’ and as soon as that good turn is done, the badge must be passed on and a new green one stating, ‘I have, have you?’ can be worn instead.

Mental health is all about how you feel about yourself and how you experience life in general, whether you have a positive or a negative attitude. It affects your self-esteem, your relationships, your personal

identity and your own success. Mental health problems can occur anywhere, to anyone.

Mental Health Week is all about encouraging an active awareness amongst Irish people for their own well-being in relation to their mental health. To encourage and celebrate a more optimistic approach to everyday life, UL is participating in this year’s Mental Health Week and in conjunction with Limerick Mental Health Association is hosting some motivational events taking place during the week of the 6th to the 10th October. The themes are Community and ‘Pay it Forward’.

Limerick Mental Health Association, under the directorship of Michael O’Mahony, aims to promote positive mental health and to teach us all how we can lead more balanced lives. Limerick Mental Health Association started Mental Health Week in 2005 and in association with various different bodies, including UL, has begun a very successful annual event to promote positive attitude and awareness for mental health in Limerick.

Good mental health has been a priority in UL for a long time. The student counselling service was set up in 1977 and has been providing

an essential service which approx. 500 students benefit from every year.

As the head of the student counselling, Declan Aherne, says in relation to mental health that, “It’s a holistic concept. People tend to separate body and mind but really your general health is both mental and physical.”

Some of the proceedings taking place in UL this week include ‘Haka in UL’ where Munster rugby players led by George Hook joined with students from Limerick city in an attempt to break the Guinness world record for most people performing the Haka on Monday, 6 October.

On Wednesday, 8 October, UL will be going back to the swingin’ sixties to celebrate Mental Health Week in the ‘Love Parade’ when students will have the chance to dig up some love-inspired costumes and enjoy some music from the decade.

Throughout the week there will be more music all over campus with a variety of shows dedicated to Mental Health Week 2008. So all in all it will be a great atmosphere in this fun filled week of events for absolutely everyone to enjoy.

No contest for non-sabbats

An Focal Reporter

There was no competition for the non-sabbatical officer positions of Community Relations Officer and Equality Officer, both of which had only one completed application at the close of nominations at 5pm on Friday of week 2.

Paddy Rockett, 3rd Year Science Education, was the only applicant for the CRO non-sabbatical position and Aoife Finnerty, 4th Year Law & European Studies, was the only nomination for Equality Officer.

Both students will sit on the Students’ Union Executive, which is comprised of all five sabbatical officers plus six other non-sabbatical officers, two of whom are directly elected (the CRO and Equality Officer) and four elected from Class Reps’ Council.

Paddy Rockett will sit on the University’s Community Forum which discusses issues arising from the locality and meets with representatives from a number of residents’ associations.

Ms Finnerty will work with sabbatical officers to ensure that the Union’s Equality Policy is not breached and will serve to enhance the inclusion of all students in SU activities throughout the year.



Aoife Finnerty, Equality Officer;



Paddy Rockett, CRO.

Reps trained for year ahead

Shane O'Callaghan - Education Officer

Class reps ventured down to Cork in week 4 for Class Reps Weekend. The purpose of the weekend was to provide Class Reps with all the information they need to fulfill their roles as well as to reward them with a social background to get to know the other reps that they will be working with over the coming year.

Although slightly delayed, the bus left UL on Friday evening. On arrival in Cork, all the class reps started getting to know each other, as well as the members of Exec that were also present.

For the Friday evening, those taking part were taken for food and drinks in a local bar, before being brought to the opening night of a brand new nightclub in the middle of Cork, called G2.

The core training of the weekend took place on Saturday, with all present making base on the campus of UCC. The training covered a wide variety of issues, such as dealing with educational issues, to the organisation of class parties, as



Some of the class reps during the weekend's training session

well as a workshop on the key areas of public speaking for class reps, by the SU president Pa O'Brien.

Afterwards, the Students' Union took part in a lively questions and answers session, with first-time reps particularly taking interest in a wide variety of issues.

Questions raised by the representatives included issues such as timetable problems, dealing with distressed classmates, and a great deal of opinions on the issues of

fees, with particular reference to the Limerick protest and the upcoming Cork demonstration on 9 October.

After the end of training, the weekend was wrapped up with a night in the Mardyke. Reps spent the evening taking part in karaoke, bowling and pool before heading to the attached night club. Despite the late night, everyone managed to get back safely to Limerick early on Sunday afternoon.

Students Go Green

Seamus Ryan

Future quality of life was the major theme for this year's Green Week, which took place last week. An annual event to raise awareness of energy usage by UL students, in particular by residents of the five on-campus student villages, the week was launched in Dromroe Village last Monday by Dr Colin Fitzpatrick, chairperson of the UL Environmental Committee.

Emphatic that "the threat of climate change is even worse than that of fascism in the 1940s", Dr Fitzpatrick expressed concern that the modern trend of consumerism is endangering our way of life into the future. Citing figures that indicate that even in a best-case scenario where our annual production of carbon dioxide is reduced by an ambitious 85 per cent, there will be an average rise in global temperatures of two degrees by the year 2050, he declared that we need "to look on global warming as an enemy to be tackled".

Lorraine Power, Environmental Awareness Officer with Limerick County Council, spoke of the huge steps that students can take to minimise their waste output,



Launvhin Green Week last week at UL (photo - Press 22)

especially highlighting that that a third of the food that Irish consumers buy ends up in the bin. According to Ms Power, "What can I do?" is the question that consumers should ask when buying and using products with the environment in mind. While she praised recycling as laudable, she said that the ultimate aim should be to use less, not merely to recycle more.

Following the launch of the week,

students and village managers took part in a litter pickup throughout the campus residences and the university.

To encourage students living on campus to use less energy, Campus Life Services is running a competition with a prize awarded to the residents of the student house with the smallest electricity bill between now and December 5.

ULSU Shop specials

Owned and operated by students for students!

- Spar Isotonic Orange - buy one get one free! €1.09
- Fox's Cream biscuits - buy one get one free! €1.79
- Buy 1.25l Coke & Deeply Delicious Pizza for only €4
- Cuisine de France Apple Lattice - 2 for €1

STAR BUY!

Buy a regular/breakfast roll,
AND Maltesers/Banana/Apple/Orange
AND River Rock 750ml
all for just €5!

OPENING TIMES

Main Courtyard Shop:
Monday - Thursday 08:30 - 20:00
Friday 08:30 - 18:00
Saturday 11:00 - 17:00

Dromroe Shop:
Monday - Thursday 08:30 - 19:00
Friday 08:30 - 18:00

See Euro Crunch offers in store:
- Pringles snack range 43g...2 for €1
- Blue Bear...2 for €1
- McVities Rich Tea...€1
- M&Ms -chocolate/peanut/crisp...2 for €1



Students' Union AGM

Wednesday 8 October

B-Block Canteen

Week 5

2PM



Students win with Ulster Bank

Aoife Ní Raghallaigh

The Ulster Bank Golden Goodie Bag Competition winners were announced in Week 3 and saw four lucky UL students taking home some brilliant prizes.

The competition, which ran in Weeks 1 and 2, was open to any student who opened a new account with Ulster Bank. Diane Colfer and Monica of the Ulster Bank University Branch, explained that any students who opened a bank account in the first couple of weeks received a goodie bag, and the competition gave them the chance to win an overall Golden Goodie Bag. To enter the competition students simply had to answer the question 'What sport does Ulster Bank sponsor?' and explain how they would spend the €650 overdraft on offer from the bank.

The lucky winning students were extremely happy with their goodies. Patrick O'Driscoll, 2nd Year Law and Accounting, stated that he was 'ecstatic' to win a Wii Console and Wii Fit.

First year Midwifery student, Shona Kennedy, was shocked at



Ulster Bank Branch Manager Diane Colfer with prizewinners Shona Kennedy and Patrick O'Driscoll and Monica McLoughney of Ulster Bank

winning Champions League tickets explaining that she 'never wins anything'. Students Maebh Ahern, who won BT2 vouchers and concert tickets, and Katherine O'Gorman,

who won a broadband connection and concert tickets, were unable to attend the prize giving but were also more than happy with their prizes.

Saw Doctors headline Oktoberfest



"The Saw Doctors headlined the Freshers' Ball on the main stage in the SU Courtyard"

An Focal Reporter

Galway stars the Saw Doctors headlined the Freshers' Ball which kick started UL's first Oktoberfest in week 4. Over 2000 students partied in front of the main stage in the Students' Union courtyard while DJs played in the Scholars and Music Soc bands entertained audiences in the Stables' courtyard.

With support from Nugget, Fred

and We Should Be Dead, the highlight of the evening was the Saw Doctors returning to UL after their sell-out gig celebrating the Stables 21st last April.

Despite the drizzle that attempted to put a dampner on the mini-festival, the gig went off successfully. The biggest complaint of the night was the amount of broken glass that littered the SU courtyard which is currently being investigated by the

SU with its Ents partners, EPM.

On Wednesday night Dubliner Damien Dempsey returned to the Jean Monnet theatre after a three year gap since his last performance in UL.

The end of October will see another week of ents during the newly-created 'Hallowe'ek' which will include the pirate-themed Hallowe'en Ball.

Ireland's Burning

How Climate Change will affect you



PAUL CUNNINGHAM
RTÉ Environment Correspondent

Paul Cunningham
RTÉ Environment Correspondent

**Jean Monnet
Lecture Theatre**

**14:30
Wednesday, week 5
8 October**

Exclusion Soc: What societies in UL are really doing.

In primary and secondary school it was name-calling, taunting and nasty games designed to exclude some and empower others. Now we've reached university, a place by its very nature that is supposed to encourage diversity and appreciate differences and nothing has changed. Nothing, except the ages and the sophistication with which people are actively blacklisted and excluded.

This piece seeks to enlighten those who do not already know and to show those who do, that the manipulation and exclusion perpetrated by some of the most well-known societies in UL, is not an issue that should remain silent any longer and the progression shall, as in any good article, be from the who, to the how, to the why.

But first, surely adults, college students would not engage in the immature and cruel games that others did as children. But they do. Election fixing, manipulation and favouritism.

This willingness to take your membership fee, but not your input is rife in UL and this article focuses on three societies in particular: Drama Society, the Debating Union and Ógra Fianna Fáil.

In the last two or three years, core committee members of each

these societies have engaged in election fixing and manipulation of electorate and consequently election results.

Participants in this type of deception include some of the core members of last years' Drama Society committee, a former Debating Union President and prominent SU executive member in connection with another core committee member of that day, some core and – more importantly – senior members of the current Debating Union committee, as well as two former Ógra Fianna Fáil Cathaoirígh and other core members of those two committees.

Contributing sources to this article include former and current members of each of the societies in question, former committee members of each society, two former members of the Clubs and Societies Exec and three former members of the Students' Union Exec. Evidently quite a high number of people don't want to be part of Exclusion Soc anymore.

But how could one manipulate the results of an election without literally changing the names or preferences on the votes and it's a secret ballot anyway. Hey, that's the easy part. You do exactly what you did in the playground when you

wanted to exclude: you manipulate or in the case of the Drama Society, you just run multiple elections and take the result that you like best, allow non-members to vote and forbid a number of other members to vote for some frivolous reason.

Manipulation tactics seem to be the oldest trick in the book as regards getting what you want and Society elections are no different.

Once you, or the senior committee member, has decided who your favourite candidates are, you simply treat them as if they have already won; you make them privy to information that no other candidate is privy to; you invite them to be part of your committee gang; you give them all the extra information they could possibly need on the job and the election and Hey Presto! they get the win.

For the new first years or other new members, your preferred candidate seems just the kind of person they need in the job – well they have had your endorsement after all. Or in the case of the Debating Union you just ignore standing orders and procedures and have a recognisable and prominent committee member make an election speech for the absent candidate.

Oh, and of course you make sure that both the speech explaining the



Do students really know what they're signing up for in clubs and societies?

type of person that the best candidate would hypothetically be and the election speech made by the prominent committee member, for your favourite candidate have the same three or four key points in virtually the same words, completely relevant to the job or not. That ought to persuade those freshers what page we're all on – my page.

And that's just it. That's the why. Because I want it my way. Because I know what's best for this society. Because it's my society. Because I know who would be the best

President, the best Secretary, the best Treasurer. Because I know what kind of person will vote my way throughout the year. Because I know what kind of person thinks like me and I know what kind of person will run the society into the ground.

I'd love to be able to say that there is no "I" in "Society" but obviously there is, in more ways than one. How fast we become what we hated on the playground, in the corridors, on the pitch – the bully, the control-freak, the cheat. Sadly the real losers in all of this are the ordinary

members who joined each of these societies for fun and out of interest; the ones who have to put up or shut up, the ones who didn't join to be part of a dictatorship or a sinking ship, the ones who are just ignored.

These practices aren't new, nor are this year's committees likely to be the last. It's become the most convenient way for those already on the inside to maintain their grasp on power.

Valuing a privileged education

Emma Kerins

May 1968, the students of Paris marched and protested against what they viewed to be the government's failure to address the problems of university education, the lack of resources, the inadequacies of the system. Their 'malaise' came at a time of feared recession in France, against a backdrop of social injustice and of general discontent. Four decades on, the legacy of the 'student revolt' is visible in most Western societies. Only a few weeks ago, the students of Limerick marched into the city to voice their resistance to the reimplementing of full university fees and they demanded that their right to free education be recognised.

Student protest and activism among the younger generations are in one respect, admirable traits given the level of apathy us students are accused of expressing in general. But aside from that, what is our protests objective? What is it that we are hoping to gain or achieve from this?

At the time of the 1968 riots, historian Francis Fukuyama accused the 'pampered youth' of protesting without any right or reason. The first real expression of student activism was belittled as nothing more than a generation who had everything too easy complaining about why their lives weren't being made easier.

The grounds for our protest, for our struggle against fees seem on first appearances to be a lot more justified. However, in terms of reality, it comes across as nothing more than the whining of spoilt children who for too long have been given everything they wanted, and now, were being given a sharp dose of reality which shocked their otherwise cushioned

existence.

The fact is that the generation of students of the past decade has grown up with a sense of entitlement to this 'right to education' we seem to think we have. Education, at its most basic level, is a right which most nations throughout the world strive to provide, and the more advanced the nation, the greater the level of education you receive, or to a point at least.

What happened in 1995 was indeed a great thing. The state led us to believe that they had this epiphany that all students should be entitled to free education at third level. Realistically, however, this wasn't the fact.

If it was, the government at the time and since then would have thought about an investment plan into university education for the future. This wasn't done, so for now, we are left in a situation where the majority of state universities are heavily in debt and the state has been dragged into a national and global recession.

The standard of Irish university education is lagging behind and we are simply unable to keep up with international standards of excellence. Thus comes the need for a reality check. What exactly are we going to do about the crisis that third level education faces in Ireland? Where do we stand on this idea of idea of 'education as a right' and how much value do we have for it?

It is true that the more evolved a society, the greater the importance it puts on education. The gains Ireland would get from free education at all levels would be invaluable, that is true. At the same time, then so would

universally free healthcare, free child care and so forth.

The fact is we don't live in a utopia where we have a never-ending supply of money to accommodate our presumed 'rights'. So, the state and its citizens have to prioritise.

In reality, because of lack of funding, education at the highest level then has to become a privilege as opposed to a right. It's unreasonable for us to demand the cheque be picked up. The fact is we all want only higher education, but also higher education at its best. For the sake of pragmatism, this may have to come at a cost.

If you're really honest with yourself, and you do value the education you're getting, then maybe you will have to accept that it has a price tag. Protesting against fees and proclaiming how all students 'deserve' free education isn't really very productive.

Student protesting has picked up a bad name and lacked legitimacy because it never really set out to change anything, only to complain and voice the discontent of what, objectively, are a 'pampered youth'.

Free education at third level is definitely something for the Irish government to aspire to, and preferably maintain, but in terms of reality, this may not happen.

So instead of complaining, perhaps we should just reassess what we want out of education. If we really value it, then maybe we should pay for it, rather than just expect it to be handed to us on a plate.

Bus Eireann Puts the ‘fun’ in Dysfunctional

Mandy Halabi



When I decided to move to Limerick to complete my Masters Degree, I had a hard time deciding whether or not I wanted to live in the city or on campus. After doing some research, I found that Limerick City and UL were not that far away from each other; a twenty-minute bus ride, a thirty-minute bike ride or if you have a vehicle, about ten minutes. Also, with the population of Limerick at approximately eighty thousand, I really didn’t believe that a short commute to the university would be that big a deal. So, I

decided that living in the city would allow me to get the best of both worlds.

I had been living in Limerick for a short five days and in that time I had found a great apartment in the city and got to do some exploring of my new environment. Most of the useful information I had received since arriving in Limerick had been from chatting with random, very friendly people in pubs, including where the stop was on Williams Street. After seeing the bus stop, checking out the schedule and having a few pints of delicious Guinness, getting to campus did not seem like a big deal to me.

For many international students, our first day at UL was September 1, 2008. We had to be on campus by 1000 hours. I thought I would give myself a bit of extra time to get to the campus, as I am normally quite late for everything, I did not want to make a poor first impression. Figuring that an hour would be more than enough time to get to campus,

I made sure that I was at the bus stop at 0900 hours.

As I was congratulating myself for being on schedule I began to wonder where the bus was. I was told that the bus would be there at 0900 hours, I was sure of it. The I began to wonder if I had heard wrong, after all I had quite a few pints the night before...I looked at my watch, it was still only 0910 hours. I am usually quite patient, so I waited. By 0925 I started to get worried, so I asked one of the many people who had accumulated at the bus stop if the bus schedule was wrong. I will never forget what I was told: “there is no such thing as a schedule in Ireland.”

Surely this couldn’t be true? I was getting worried, by now it was 0935 hours and I really did not want to be late, so I got into a taxi. Just as it was driving away, the bus finally showed up! I tried not to let this upset me and got to UL on time. The day was great! I met some great people, I thought the campus was

beautiful and the orientation session was very informative. After saying my good-byes to my new friends, I started my wait at the bus stop. Again the schedule said the bus would be there at 1500 hours, but it finally arrived at 1545!!

Surely this couldn’t be true? I was getting worried, by now it was 0935 hours and I really did not want to be late, so I got into a taxi. Just as it was driving away, the bus finally showed up! I tried not to let this upset me and got to UL on time. I decided to give Bus Eireann another chance, empathizing with the fact that a lot of schools were reopening and that routes were getting busier. The first week was frustrating, but I kept reassuring myself that it would get better. By the second week the schedule had proven to be a mockery, to say the least. How is it possible that I have to allow myself one hour and fifteen minutes of travel time to get to UL in the morning?

Lets start off with the amount of time it takes to load and unload a

bus. Why on earth are there not two functional doors on every bus? It seems logical to have a second door closer to the back of the bus, which people could leave from rather than having to push to the front.

Furthermore, when did bus drivers start carrying a cash float? I mean really, how hard is it to expect that people traveling on the bus should carry correct change and if not, then suck up the fact that they pay a bit extra for the fare because they were too lazy to get change?

By the time the bus driver decides to show up, there is already a huge mass of people who have accumulated, each requiring to pay the driver directly, wait for their change and a useless ticket to print. What are the fare receipts for anyway? Chances are, if you are paying a one-way fare, your slip ends up on the floor of the bus. Every time I get my ticket I read it to see if it says anything useful; it doesn’t, its really a waste of paper that should say: “Here you go sucker,

thanks for waiting at least thirty minutes past the time the bus was supposed to be here to get to where you need to go. We truly appreciate your business.”

On average it takes around five minutes to load and unload the bus at the main stops, or if you accidentally get on the private busses, the drivers just wait until the have a full load, regardless if you are going to be late for class or not.

I have always been under the impression that busses are supposed to be a cheap, environmentally friendly and convenient form of transportation. I decided to take matters into my own hands and started walking to UL after an incredibly maddening morning of waiting forty minutes for a bus and then three show up, all going to UL, within three minutes of each other. I actually get to sleep an extra fifteen minutes and it beats the frustration, anxiety and anger I feel after waiting far too long for a bus to show up.

A Tribute to Ed Wood: A Positive Attitude Goes a Long Way

Luke Holmes

There are some things that are worth more than talent. These are enthusiasm, belief and determination or in short a positive attitude. Possessing talent is useless if you don’t also possess the determination and the passion to utilise your talent and develop it into something truly special.

Then there are people who possess absolutely no talent but manage to succeed through an excellent attitude and a genuine love for doing something. Ed Wood was one of these people.

Ed Wood was a film director from the 1950s who is widely regarded as the worst director of all time. Film connoisseurs who found the very existence of such films an insult to the craft that they loved ripped all of Ed Woods 18 independently produced films apart.

Plan 9 From Outer Space got particularly bad reviews with Ed Wood even getting attacked by angry film goers at the premiere (“This well-meaning disaster, rescued from the obscurity it surely craves, is without doubt a candidate for one of the worst films ever made”)

Other Wood classics include the self explanatory ‘The Bride of the Monster’ and ‘Glen or Glenda’ a ‘so bad it’s good film’ documenting the trials and tribulations of a cross dressing heterosexual man in the 1950s.

Johnny Depp wonderfully portrays Ed Wood’s enthusiasm in the Tim Burton’s Oscar nominated biopic film Ed Wood. Tim Burton creates a positive image of Wood and it is obvious to anyone who has seen the film that Depp and Burton also have admiration for Woods attitude. The only person that believed in him was himself. Ed Wood choose to ignore his critics and follow his dreams no matter what people were saying about

him and in a way Wood did become a success.

Woods movies have sold millions of copies worldwide (albeit as comedies.) His films and his famously positive approach to his work even in the face of adversity has led to Wood being worshipped by the more extreme legions of his fans.

In 1996 Steve Galindo of California USA created the religion ‘Woodism’ in which 3,500 are legally baptised members. These ‘Woodites’ try to imitate Woods attitude to life. The followers of this religion celebrate ‘Woodmas’ annually on October 10 (Wood’s birthday.) They assure any sceptical onlookers on their website that they are completely serious (not to mention crazy.) They can be found at www.edwood.org.

Ed Wood became successful with nothing but passion for filmmaking, enthusiasm and self-belief. Lesser men would have given up-defeated and broken. Ed Wood had a dream and a vision, which he pursued with zeal even when nobody believed in him. In the end Wood’s dreams were fulfilled. His dream was to be a famous film director and he achieved this ambition. He had a vision that he fought for and in the words of his hero Orson Welles, “visions are worth fighting for, why spend your life making someone else’s dreams?”

Wood’s enthusiasm for what he was doing outweighed anything negative that people could say about his work. This is why Wood is admirable. If you are to learn anything from Ed Woods’s legacy it should be that no matter what other people think, you shouldn’t let it effect you.

As long as you have faith in yourself and belief in your abilities. Ed Wood defeated his critics with his unlikely success. An attitude everyone should live by.



ed wood - possibly the worst director in history?

Progressive Democrats: The Epitaph



Eric Doyle

Last week saw the hierarchy of the Progressive Democrats publically accept the inevitable. Since the fallout from the last general election, the PDs have been drifting as a party. The drawn-out leadership crisis and their relegation to the fringes of Irish politics have eroded their membership base and their long term electoral prospects. It fell to Ciarán Cannon as the latest and it would seem last leader, to deliver the final notice to the grassroots.

With only two sitting TDs and senators, their continued political existence has arguably been by virtue of their partnership with Fianna Fáil and Mary Harney’s commitment to the Health Department. But credit for this must

also be given to their membership that has endured despite months of impotence amongst the leadership. However the writing has been on the wall for a while now and nobody, not even the most ardent party member could deny the PDs have had their day.

When Des O’Malley, founding member of the PDs, broke away from FF to set them up in the mid-eighties he did so partly out of dissatisfaction with Charles Haughey’s leadership and also to create a genuine economically liberal party, that also espoused modern social values. With an all time high of twenty-five seats at their maiden election, the PDs made a dramatic entry into Irish politics. It heralded an end to the era of one-party government in Ireland and rise of

multi-party arrangements.

While pluralism gained a foothold, it came at a price. The PDs would enter into partnership with Fianna Fáil, despite having stronger ideological links to Fine Gael, and this would in turn prove the PDs ultimate end. The PDs became pigeon-holed as the Fianna Fáil sidekick in government. While Fianna Fáil support, like that of Fine Gael is almost institutionalised in Irish society, the PDs, being newer, never had the same level of embedded loyalty and was in turn more vulnerable to the vagaries of the public at election time. In the public imagination Fianna Fáil and the PDs were one in the same and after over two decades in partnership, this was not too far from reality.

Thus, the norm became that when

the Fianna Fáil lead government was riding high, so too would the PDs at the expense of FG’s swing votes, but when the FF government was unpopular, the PDs would suffer doubly as swing votes went back to FG and FF transfers dried up. This would see a gradual decline in the PDs support over successive elections as the PDs became increasingly painted as the bad guy. This wasn’t helped by their portfolios, such as Justice and Health which are perennially problematic.

But compounding these problems was poor leadership. Over the past few months the executive of the party failed miserably to deliver any solutions to their situation. Michael McDowell’s ignominious withdrawal from the party left a power vacuum and the disastrous

election result wiped out a lot of their talent.

What was to follow was infighting and division.

However a speedier resolution of the leadership question rather than months of dithering, may have rescued the situation. After all, in the most recent Red-C poll the PDs saw their support rise a percentage point. In fact, their recruitment also has been steady despite their low polling. The decline cannot be blamed on the membership; indeed a greater degree of focus from above could possibly have averted this slow death.

But a more fundamental weakness of the PDs has been their tendency to be elitist. Mostly drawn from the business and middle classes, they have always had difficulty attracting

broader support. This is not helped by their reluctance to reach out to marginal constituencies. Despite their public image, they sold a message that appeals to a wider part of the population than the party choose to recognise. Their economic liberalism espoused social mobility and their social values broke away from the traditionalism of the status quo and emphasised progressiveness.

Unfortunately, the failure of the party to package this effectively and the abject failure of the party’s leaders to arrest the decline ensured that what could have been a genuine alternative to the civil war politics of the two largest parties, would end up being a mere footnote in the history of those very same parties.

V for Vendetta

Ciarán O’Driscoll

After six weeks filming on location deep in the West Cork territory of the Beara Peninsula, the completion of Neil Jordan’s Ondine film starring our own Colin Farrell just this September has many locals wishing its success, including myself, after an eventful flurryful summer of extra extras and social highlights hitting ‘the Square’ in Castletownbere. It was welcomed during what was a summer of bleak weather and continual economic disappointments. The plot involves Farrell coming upon what is believes to be a mermaid, played by Polish actress Alicja Bachleda-Curus, in his fishing nets out at sea, but he’s also not sure if she’s a prostitute at the same time – we duno either! It portrays Castletownbere as a bubbly town alive and well based on it’s the live line to the fishing industry, one that has sustained itself in one way or another for many generations. However as the crew shipped up and left their guest houses, just as many locals wishing its success wonder will it bring any highlight to the fishing industry as it clings onto what it once was.

But with ‘crunches’ and ‘crisis’ ringing across news bulletins these days many have no alternative employment for the foreseeable future.

To begin with EU policies have failed to work for the industry, the introduction of the Common Fisheries Policy in the early 1980’s has only hampered fishermen to work within the limits given to them where they are now reduced to miserable working times to catch their livelihoods.

Combined with many far reaching Irish laws many off shore vessels tie up from February to October annually, with many turning to construction as an alternative area for employment. But with ‘crunches’ and ‘crisis’ ringing across news bulletins these days many have no alternative employment for the foreseeable future. The failure in providing a real continuity of employment is based with past governments, who have never acquired the real significance of what our own Irish Natural Recourses truly meant during our negotiations for entry into the European bloc. Although the agriculture sector boomed upon our admission it has seen its importance drop considerably in recent years, one only has to look at the collapse of the sugar beat industry, almost over night, once one of the foundation industries this country.

And during all this economic gloom, people are already wondering the long term basis of former Toaiseacht Ahern’s legacy; my own belief is that his government simply tripped over what was the Celtic Tiger. It almost appears like a myth now, one that can be told to future generations as the single greatest wasted opportunity to turn Ireland into a modern adaptable state. We hear the combination of many semi state bodies as an emergency tactic to save a few yo-yos but it was Bertie Ahern’s government’s assumption to build an economy based almost entirely on the building boom that allowed him to lead from under the stairs through the setting up of 900 semi-state bodies, full of unelected persons and a combined budget that has brought about massive wastage on public spending. Once such is the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, with the HQ based in Clonakilty, Co. Cork; many in the industry can only describe these people only as the Blank and Tans, armed with crippling powers that are now on a par with the Gardaí. They ‘enforce’ legislation to a point where they abuse their positions of authority utterly, with many having no backgrounds or an understanding of the Fishing Industry but as only as a means to acquire a salary. Case after case is aired of fishermen brought before the courts, amongst rapists, murders on accounts relating to over fishing. One such involved the case of two small boxes of extra fish – each about the size of a broadsheet newspaper - where it resulted in thousands of euros of needless expenses brought onto the skipper and his vessel, where in Scandinavian countries, a mere fine of €200 is usually imposed. I wonder

how many farmers have their houses raided or are brought before the courts if they go above their milk quota?

The failure for any Irish or pan-European fishing union to establish itself must also be taken into account.

Combined with international factors, such as the often spiralling price of diesel and the degrading prices of Irish fish, many in the industry have very little reason for to continue something that has excised in many cases for over eight generations. The failure for any Irish or pan-European fishing union to establish itself must also be taken into account. The farmers have always managed to pull their supporters together at elections or more recently seen at the Lisbon Treaty debate, while fishermen have allowed for words ‘treason’ to appear in recent past Irish fishing legalisation due to the complete lack of any political cohesion. Why is there such a fishing vendetta within any past or present Irish governments? This was born not by those who use the sea, these are people who still leave their families and the safety of land to often force themselves against the sea as a way of life. And it has far too often, with its violent temper, taken them from amongst us. Well why don’t they stop, I hear you say. It is in their blood and their determination that’s why. But I’m afraid that will be all what they have left, at some point to come.

Columnists

Pete’s Pet Peeves

What really pisses me off is the level of pretension in certain individuals utilising the “opinions” application in University emails. This is not to say that there shouldn’t be a healthy exchange of “opinions” between staff and students alike, particularly in such areas as the fees/no fees debate. The pretentiousness I’m referring to, and the target of the blame I’m hurling, is certain individuals who are always there to greet people when they log in to their University email account and takes the absolute piss out of the spirit of the “opinions” application.

These individuals have a silly little habit of picking out world leaders and events that they don’t particularly care for—largely because of what SkyNews tells them—and those world leaders always seem to come from the developing world. Needless to say, these individuals don’t come from the developing world.

Also needless to say, these individuals often know nothing of the discipline of politics or just how biased they actually are because (up until now) they have never had a big mirror put in front of their faces by someone who specialises in the area of politics.

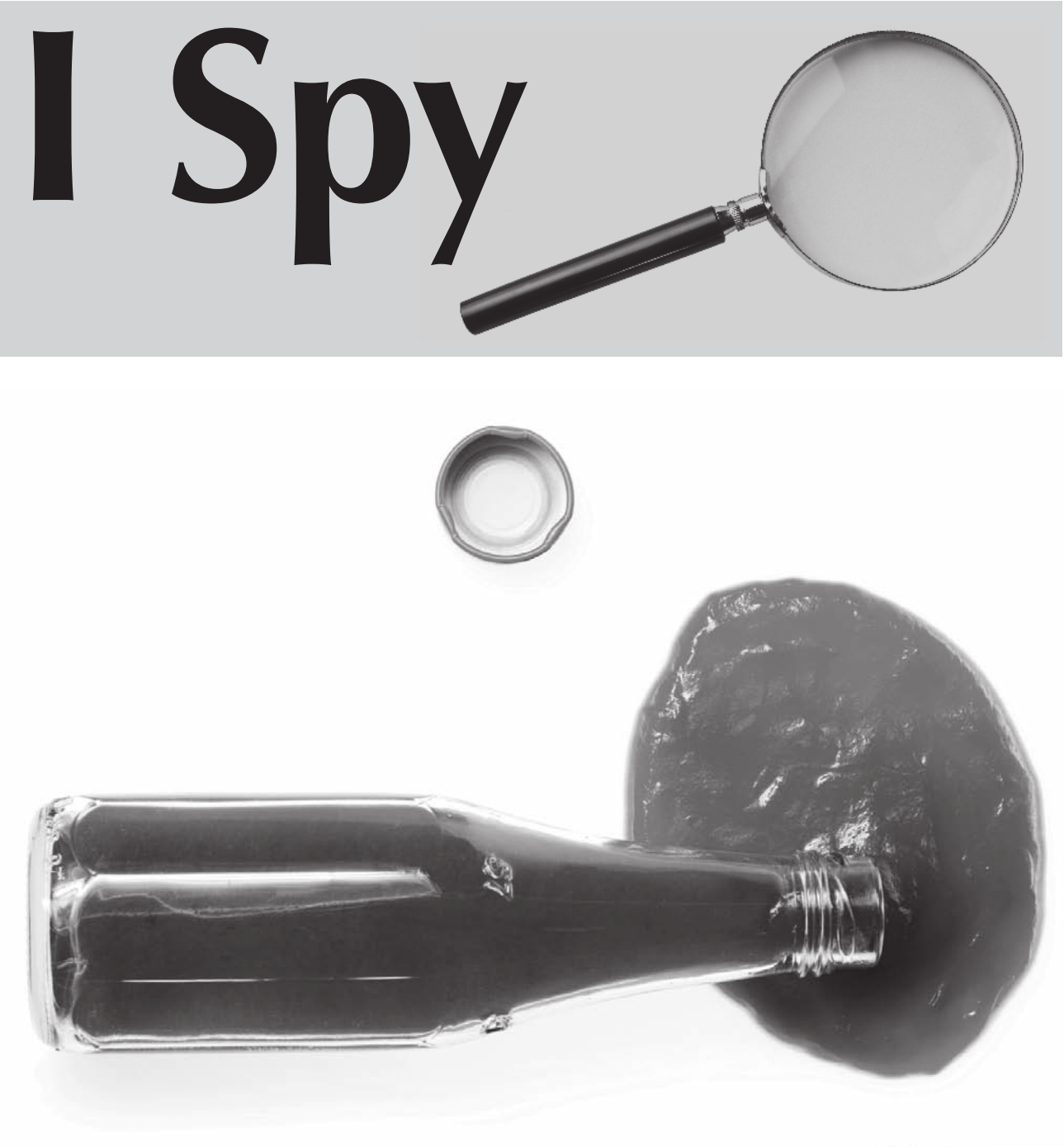
I mean, you don’t see people in the Politics Department giving out about the Periodic Table of Elements—so why the hell are people filling beakers all day trying to dabble in the science of politics and attempting to shape public opinion on issues they knows nothing about?

The last straw for me and my increasingly short fuse was some simplistic petition against the regime of Robert Mugabe. I had remained silent after the instigation of a very nasty debate between two people from two respective countries that were at war with each other in Eastern Europe a few weeks ago, but I couldn’t bite my tongue any longer when “opinions” started picking on the leaders of the poorest countries in the world.

Mugabe is no saint, and I’m no apologist, but don’t go casting blame at small countries that can’t defend themselves in the westernised, globalised media. If we’re going to start petitions against Mugabe, can we please, oh please, have petitions against George Bush; Fianna Fail; New Labour; Belgian Mining Interests in central Africa; and the Spanish Monarchy?

I think I’ll start a petition to get the Spanish government to fine and censure their former football manager Aragonnes. Last time I checked he backed up his supporters making monkey noises at Shaun Wright-Phillips, and kept his job. What happened to Lewis Hamilton when he drove through Spain with his Formula 1 team? People lined the streets wearing black faces! What happened when the Spanish basketball team went to Beijing? They posed for a team shot with their index fingers at the sides of their eyes mocking the entire Chinese nation that was hosting them!

Moral of this rant: there’s nothing wrong with an exchange of “opinions”, just don’t try to argue for or against things you really don’t have a notion of in the first place. That is to say, don’t use the “opinions” list to puke up what Sky has put into you!



Following the last two episodes, characterised by lack of Union funding for my drinking (damn recession – why don’t they cut O’Brien’s wages!), I have had to look to pastures cheaper for my column this week. I quizzed my friends on what would be cheap and cheerful and many suggestions aroused my interest. The most creative was being a test mule for the Union’s new flavoured condoms. Unfortunately I couldn’t find a willing volunteer – female; male; nobody.

While I wallowed in a pool of sexual inactivity I searched the kitchen. What is worth testing I thought? What product causes contention amongst the masses? Barry’s or Lyon’s? Biscuit or cake? Daddy or chips? Or...Chef or Heinz?

Yes you know it, the age old battle between ketchups, or saussssssssss as it’s known in rural areas. Well anyone who knows me (it’s a secret) will know I’m a bit of a sauce fiend. Not a toasted sandwich passes my lips without pools of red sauce rutted

with dip marks gently caressing my plate.

Got a bit wanky there...let’s move on.

So, I’m not going to say I didn’t enter this competition without bias. This is why, again, I assembled a collection of vagrants, alcoholics and bastards to help me with this one. I didn’t even have to leave the house!

First up was Heinz. As the toasties sizzled, we filled a bowl with the stuff. The colour of the ketchup was good, but, like at other times, I noted that it was a little watery leaving the bottle. On tasting, the Heinz is well reliable and despite the watery appearance the consistency is smooth and tasty.

The kick at the end, the defining factor of which ketchup you prefer, is steady and depending on the individual in the group was “just right” or “could be tangy-er” so a personal thing really. All in all we had to give it an 8 3/4 , it’s a damn solid ketchup, damn solid.

The next ketchup I happened upon was when I entered the Stables

and ordered a plate of chips. I hate ketchup packets – they are on my “top ten things I hate” list along with Derek Mooney and Pot Noodles.

So I was delighted to find big huge bottles of the ketchup of my childhood. Oh the memories; in them days we had no cash but we had Kandee Ketchup on tap – every house in Ireland had it; indeed, it was a staple of kids’ birthday parties, much like the humble Rice Krispie bun.

As I dolloped the ketchup throughout my chips I reminisced of everything good about the early 90s.; raver clothes; step haircuts; those snappy bracelets; Milli Vanilli and Blackboard Jungle. When I shook myself from my 90’s daydream I found that this ketchup, much like the aforementioned fads, was shite. Six out of ten; no more.

Of course the battle was always going to come down to this in the end; civil wars have been fought over less. When it comes to ketchup there’s only one scene in town – Chef or Heinz. As we leased the ketchup

free from the bottle, the colour was rich, the consistency thick and the aroma spiked with a vinegar hue.

We decided to go for a glass Chef bottle which immediately gave it an advantage. But yet again we were split. Some found the extra vinegar kick too much; others thought it was the defining mark of fine ketchup. I have to say I like it.

Marks wise, we felt it deserved a 9, the glass bottle elevating above its ancient foe, Heinz. The glass bottle is serious factor!

I would say, though, that Chef is more suited to chips where its extra tang brings that extra factor. For toasties which have more flavours going on the Heinz maybe more suitable for the mellower ketchup fan.

So thus ends this week’s budget I Spy. My financial crisis shows no signs of abating so next week I may be reviewing free stuff. Free love anyone?! F**k me, I’ll make you famous!



Columnists

Since the last time I’ve been in touch much has happened in the world of student politics. The SU held a number of successful ‘No Fees’ protests—including something called a flashmob protest which sounds like some sort of grenade but after it had been explained to me, actually seems like a good way to hold a protest.

While the automatic reaction of all students to the fees issue is one of supporting the SU’s stand, from here in the Bath it looks like a poorly thought out and ultimately unsustainable position. It can be attacked from both an ethical and an economic perspective, but some solace can be found in the political sphere. Good news first.

By reintroducing fees, the government will ostracise a large proportion of the electorate (the middle classes) whose children benefit from free fees and will now have to foot the bill. As you may have gathered from my last offering dear readers, I’m not too convinced that even those students affected by a possible reintroduction of fees would vote against the government for it – probably just go to the pub and sleep in for your Friday morning tutorial.

This position is made better by the Green Party’s continued opposition to the reintroduction—not that they are in a wagging-the-dog position, but they could have enough

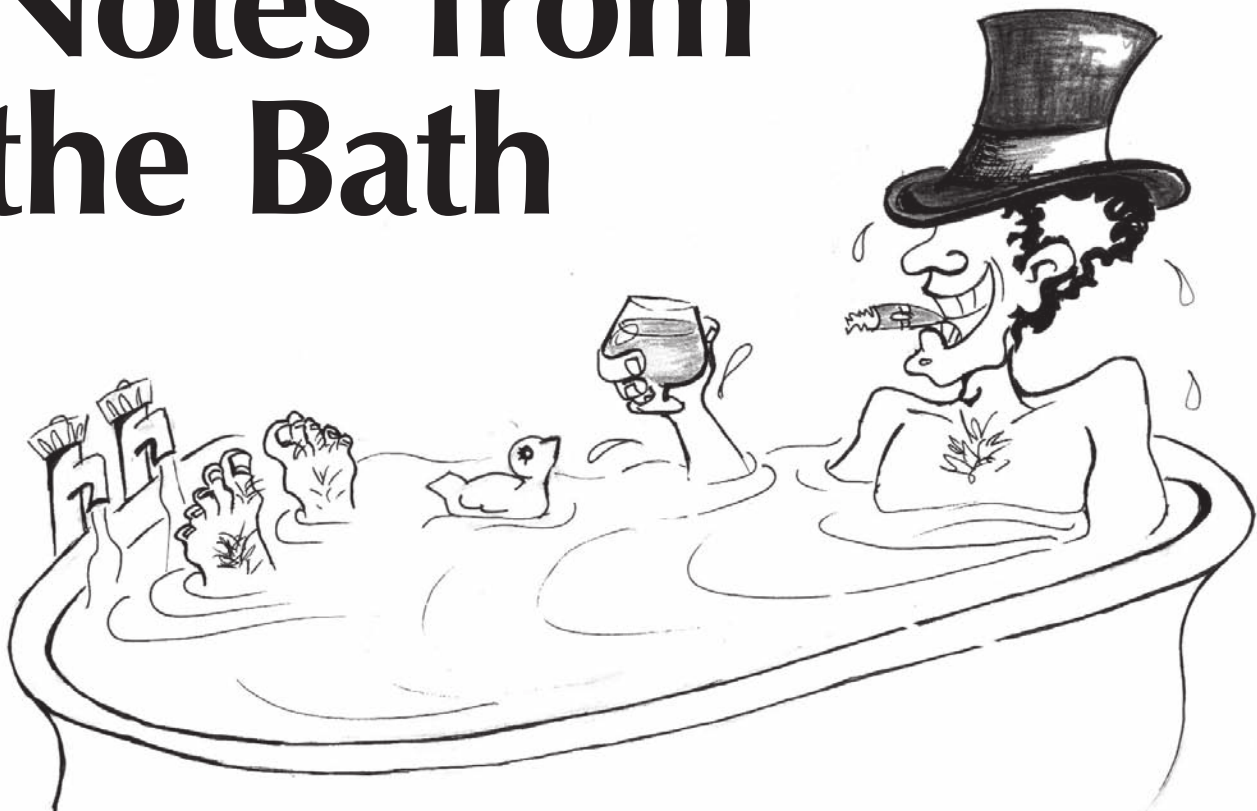
force to block an all-out reintroduction. Student protests could raise some awareness but outside of the middle class, particularly in the working class, the wider public’s perception of students is not good – try renting non-student accommodation and tell them you’re a student and see how fast they run.

Students aren’t seen as radicals anymore whose idealism is tolerated because they ask difficult questions. We’re seen as comfortable, middle-class children who spend four years breaking stuff and drinking. That, I’m afraid, is the good news.

Now, the bad news. As has been argued over the last few weeks, the free fees initiative was actually a pretty poorly thought out policy as it gave most benefit (and cash) to the middle classes while not directly influencing the number of students attending from less-well off families or areas of deprivation. Any changes in patterns of third level attendance are more likely the result of increased wealth in the country rather than a result of free fees per se.

The funding for the free fees initiative comes from tax payers. Everyone pays tax, both obvious ones, like PAYE and less obvious ones like VAT, VRT etc. But because everyone has to pay taxes, it means that everyone is paying for your and my education. When there is no instant return for the government,

Notes from the Bath



or the tax payer it becomes difficult to oppose cuts when required.

Few would argue that anyone has the right to free third level education, and anyone who does argue it is delusional. Within the Education Ministry, the Government’s priorities have to be primary and secondary education, it would be political

suicide to try and cut spending in those sectors. The reintroduction of third level fees is a pragmatic solution to the short term spending cuts required at the moment. Importantly, it’s not just a pragmatic decision, it will also give the government the opportunity to reassess the entire funding structure

of Irish institutions (which is in a bloody mess, an absolute mess) especially focusing on greater funding for those who genuinely need assistance attending college.

The SU and USI position of ‘not-an-inch’, or the catchy slogan of ‘You say cut backs, we say fight back’, is all very well but by

supporting a system which places a tax burden on all when few benefit and which will be generally supported by most in society – when everything is taken into account, they are fighting an impossible battle. I hope I’m proved wrong but I fear not.

From The Working World

The innermost thoughts of a co-op student

Finn McDuffie

22 September 2008

It’s really getting chilly out. The wind is bitter and sharp so that even a breeze slices your face like a kitchen knife. Yet for some reason outside the realm of logic, there are more begging homeless on the street. I’ve counted. Just yesterday I passed three and all of them wore underwear on the outside, as is common among the homeless. I might give money to a man without underwear. But I can never give money to a man who wears his underwear negligently, as he is obviously not of sound mind and would squander such money on pumpkins and/or bandanas. One of the homeless men I passed was sprawled across the street in a drunken stupor. He looked like... well, think of a leprechaun, inflate him a little and put a naggin in his hand and bob’s your uncle. In the other hand, he carried a sign which read ‘Please Give Me Money For Alcohol And Drugs (At Least I’m Honest!)’. I admire honesty, so I gave him a few quid.

23 September 2008

Along with Big Brother, and house-sharing in general for that matter, the city is one of the strangest of social experiments. You take a relatively small geographical space, cram it full of millions of people, each one with their own selfish agenda, and what results is both truly amazing and rather odd. What amazes me is how people tolerate each other. What’s odd is the manner by which they do so. For instance, let’s take the Luas - Dublin’s very own social Petri dish. Under the microscope, we have a confined space where normality goes out the window and in its place arises an innate social programming which tells us how to behave. We become acutely aware of the others around us. Eye contact is the biggie! Common practice is to avoid it. And it’s definitely a bad idea to search for eye contact as the consequences can be quite embarrassing. For instance, a person may think you’re sizing them up or that your

desires are not of moral sway or simply that you’re a lunatic. And the funny thing is – if eye contact is made and an awkward situation arises, everyone else in a tram will recognise it. This could be down to one of two things. Either they can somehow sense it by means of witchcraft or they can see out of the corner of their eye. Paranoid as it sounds; peripheral vision becomes a primary means of visual input when you’re face to face with a complete stranger for any length of time. I know because that’s what I do and that’s what everybody does. And amid such social paranoia and dilemma is the silence. People, who were talking moments before, suddenly become quiet on entering a tram. When people step on a tram, silence sets in and eyes generally move to the floor. Or out the window. And at night time things get really bad. The window becomes a mirror against the dark exterior. So even an innocent glance at the window could mean sudden eye contact. And nobody wants that.

25 September 2008

Three black limos and a hearse with a coffin went past me today. I’m in a taxi in Dublin city centre and the traffic is hectic. ‘Now there’s a trip we’ll all have to make one day,’ says the taxi driver prophetically. Not a nice thought. I said I’d rather not think about it because death scares me. And a philosophical discussion about god and life ensued. The taxi man even began telling me about his wife. ‘I’ve been married to my wife 22 years. She’s a right pain. I asked her mother to take her back ‘cos I’ve had her the longest. But her mother says “yea, but you wanted her more”. Don’t get married. If I could, I wouldn’t do it again.’

Lots of taxi drivers are not only a wealth of knowledge, but also very philosophical. So if you get a wise one driving you somewhere, listen! They’ll probably have something interesting to say.

A Fresh Approach

Jason Kennedy

Diary of a First Year

It really is amazing the way things change so quickly. For the past 15 years of school life I’ve been dealing with 9 o’clock starts and it never really bothered me, but all of a sudden they are the worst things in the world, followed by 6 o’clock finishes.

Granted, when I was nine years old I wasn’t waking up for school with hangovers. At least for the past few days my early-morning trips across the Living Bridge have been dry ones, unlike the first few weeks, when all my three layers would be saturated within five minutes of leaving my front door.

At least the rainwater was warm, unlike the biting cold water in the PESS diving pool, where my sub aqua swim test was. This was something I was nervous about for days. I haven’t swum in months, but the last time I did I was good.

Unfortunately, a repeat performance didn’t occur last Thursday. I swum unevenly, I lost my breath and I got in other swimmers’ way. Not the best first impression, I’m sure. Still, even though I was absolutely shite, I didn’t give up and doggy-paddled my way to the end of the test.

I skipped the sub-aqua lecture though; I can see why people would love the challenge and would be able to make the commitment to the club, but it’s just not for me.

At least the course is going great. You know you’re onto a winner if coursework involves watching a DVD with Dustin Hoffman in it, even if it is about Watergate.

The one problem I have with the course is the ever-expanding booklist. Not only did I have to cough up around €27 for a German dictionary that’s twice the size of the bible and just as confusing, but I was told I’d have to buy an even bigger one next year. Also, since I am in a new course, none of the books are available second hand. Still, I manage to save a few euro to have the occasional pint, even if it does mean sacrificing meat for the week. Sure after my last encounter cooking mince, who needs meat anyway?

It also looks like our kettle is shagged, so we’ll be making our tea in a saucepan from now on. This means that our house is going to have to hand over its crown as the resident post-pub tea and biscuit house. Any takers?

In Focus: Life after UL

Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye

It may be a bit early in the year to start thinking about what will happen when life at UL comes to an end and the time comes to wave goodbye to the Stables and the Venus labs and the Arena, but lurking at the back of all fourth year minds is the reality check that come next May the majority of this year's batch are out in the real world.

The idea of finishing college once and for all may seem a little daunting given that, for four years, students live in a sort of utopia where partying, lie-ins and general lazing about are daily norms. Yes, there is plenty of hard work too and lots of late night cramming sessions, but all in all, life as a student is pretty ok.

So, it's no wonder that leaving this world scares many graduates-to-be into denial and they blindly push it behind the mountain of coursework, house parties and classes that consume their final year.

But it's almost worthwhile thinking about life after May 2009, and it's never too soon. In fact, the earlier, the better because it's far too easy to get caught in the whirlwind of FYPs and exams and final year QCA requirements and suddenly find yourself plonked out on the doorstep after you've handed up your last ever script and wonder what the hell you're going to do now.

Alas, the dream cannot last forever and it's better that you acknowledge the end of your studenthood to safeguard your future.

There are options - lots of options - of course. Whether it be employment, further study or travelling, no matter what you choose to do you won't be tied into it forever. And that's the biggest thing for any one in fourth year to understand: nothing's forever.

“Be wary also of the closing dates for postgraduate applications. They vary immensely between colleges so don't miss out and check the closing date!”

In particular, in the current economic climate, certainly nothing is forever. Whether you are for or against the idea of a 'job forever', the fact is that they just don't exist anymore.

So, with that backdrop of uncertainty it's a good idea to start thinking of alternatives – to plan for the what ifs; allow for plan B. And the only way you'll do this is by starting your research now into what your life beyond UL will be.

The careers fair next week (12-4pm, 16 October in the Arena) is a good starting point for those of you thinking of going into the workforce. There are a wide range of national and international employers setting up stands who will be available to answer questions and offer guidance on application

procedures.

Get your CV in order - do some necessary housekeeping on it; add in whatever extra curricular activities you're involved in - show that you're a well-rounded marvellous person. If you're not sure how to present yourself well, drop into the Careers Division who will offer advice on your CV.

If the idea of settling into a job and earning a wage and paying taxes is too daunting, then perhaps pursuing further study is a better option for you, but this choice certainly requires a lot of research and consideration.

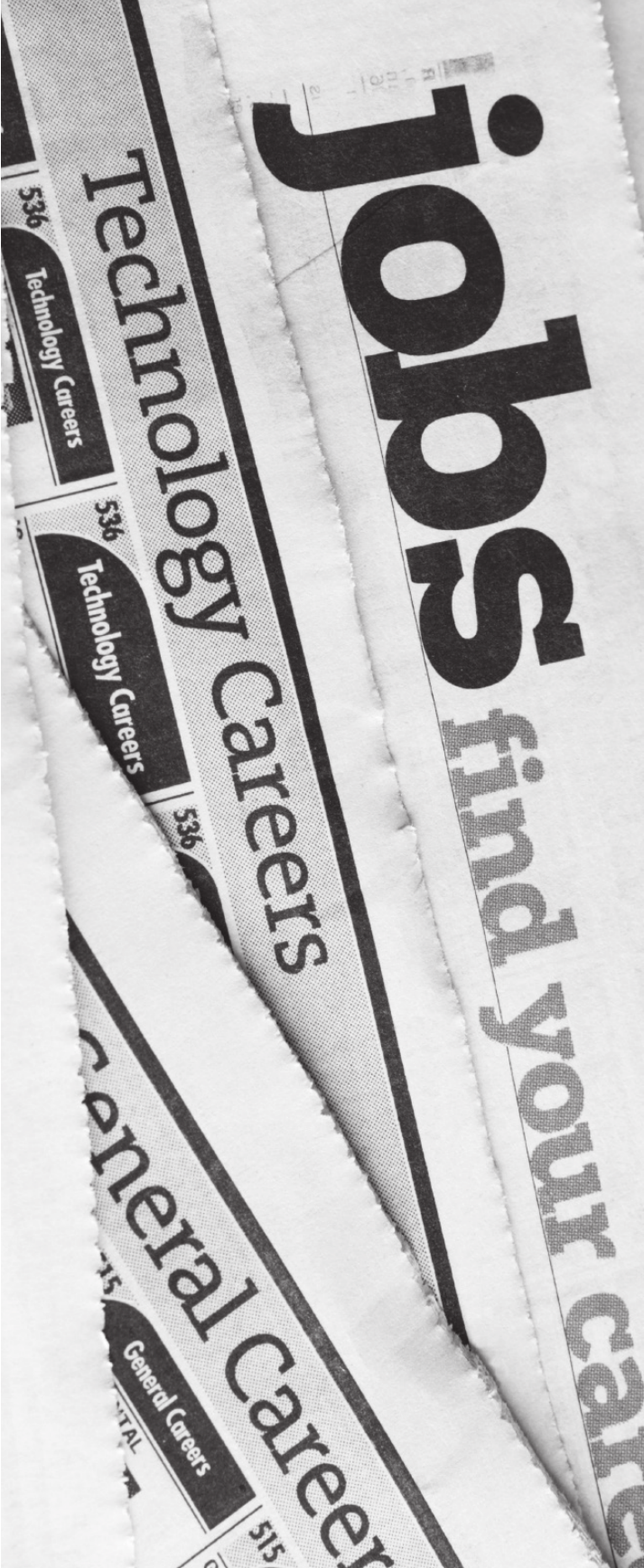
If you hope to specialise in a specific area of study, be sure to investigate the different courses available and to weigh up the modules on offer as well as any extra things such as placements or research projects. Look at the facilities available specifically for your chosen area and talk with faculty members about the course.

Be wary also of the closing dates for postgraduate applications. They vary immensely between colleges so don't miss out and check the closing date!

For some, the end of college means the chance to travel. Young and without any ties, fresh graduates nowadays seize the opportunity to see the world. With Australia still peeking as a popular destination, the 12 month working holiday visa is a sound option for many Irish students. Offering Irish citizens aged between 18 and 30 the chance to work under any employer for up to six months, the working holiday visa is a gateway to the southern hemisphere, allowing holders to exit and re-enter Australia as many times as they wish for as long as the visa remains valid.

The recent announcement that the United States' J1 visa programme is to be extended to 12 months will also be welcomed by many. Although the final details of the programme have yet to be announced, it is expected to be rolled out by the end of the year or early 2009 so next year's graduates will be able to avail of it.

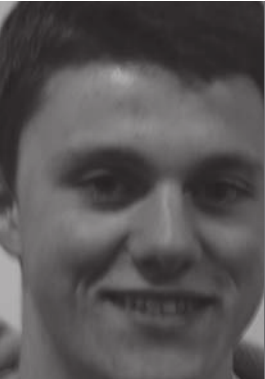
Don't worry, there are still a good seven months left of your UL life left and lots to preoccupy your mind with, including that torturous FYP hanging about the place demanding attention. Just don't forget to give some thought to what you'll do after it's all done and dusted.



Name: Ciarán O'Regan
Course: 1st Year Sports Science
What do you hope to do when you're finished? Strength and conditioning.
Does the current economic climate make you think about going abroad for employment when you're finished? I didn't plan to stay in Ireland anyway but the recession is world wide. I'd think about emerging economies in Russia or China, maybe.



Name: Eoghan Meagher
Course: 1st Year Physia
What do you hope to do when you're finished? Physiotherapist; maybe have a private practice.
Does the current economic climate make you think about going abroad for employment when you're finished? We'll get over it but yeah I'd consider going abroad all right.



UL: where graduates go

AFTER UL

Speaking to three graduates fresh out of UL, An Focal sees where they are now and how they got there. Looking at a graduate in employment, in further education and someone who's about to get on a plane to Australia via Asia, we see how they envisage their lives after UL.

Careers Route:

Sinead Farrell
Bachelor of Business Studies, 2007.

What did you do for your undergrad? Business, UL

What job are you in? Tax Trainee with KPMG

Why did you decide to go into the workforce? I have to do four years of training to become a fully qualified accountant and tax advisor so the sooner I get that done the sooner I can earn enough money to go travelling.

Did you apply for many jobs? I applied for about four and I was called for three interviews and then I got the job with KPMG.

What are the positives about going into the workforce directly after your undergrad? You earn money, so after four years of being broke, it's great being able to afford things.



What are the negatives? There are no more lie ins or late nights. It's a completely different lifestyle and there's a lot less socialising, although you can afford it now!

Is this an area you'd like to stay in or would you like to move on? I think I'll stay in it. There's a lot of training that I have to do and I'm under a three-and-a-half year contract at the moment with the firm so I have to stick with that.

Did your degree prepare you for it? It gave me a base but I'm learning most of it on the job. I do a lot of courses and on-the-job training so I'm always learning new things which I didn't learn during my degree.

Postgraduate Route:

Kate Nolan
MSc in Development Studies, UCD

What did you do for your undergrad? HPSS

Why did you decide to do further study? I majored in Politics. There are no jobs. I also really enjoyed my time as an undergrad and I wanted to specialise in Development Studies because it was an area I was really interested in.

Did you do much research into the courses you applied for? I researched three courses, and weighed up the positives and negatives of each; I looked at the course structure, the choice of modules, and the campus facilities.

What made you choose this course? I was very impressed by the variety of modules on offer in UCD, the quality of the teaching staff, and the fact that the Centre for Development Studies was based at UCD was also factored into my decision.

What are the positives about doing a postgrad directly after your undergrad? You're still in 'study mode', so hopefully you won't have formed any bad habits!

What are the negatives? You don't get to do any work experience, so there's the risk that you might be over-qualified.

What do you hope to do when you're finished? I'd love to work in Irish Aid (the government's overseas aid programme to countries in the developing world) or for an NGO.



Travelling Route:

Andrew Meehan
Bachelor of Business, 2008

What did you do for your undergrad? Business

Where are you travelling to? Thailand, Lao and Cambodia, hopefully, for a month and then on to Sydney until New Year's. Then we'll hopefully travel up the east coast working along the way.

When are you going? We're heading off at the start of November.

Why did you decide to go travelling? I've lots of family of over there. It was always on the cards and my friends and I have been talking about it for ages. We've been thinking about it and planning it for nearly two years now. Erasmus, as well, sort of put the idea in our heads.

How are you funding it? I'm working in Dell since I finished college so I'm saving a lot of that. But overall it'll be half savings, half bank loans that'll be paying for it.

Are you planning on working out there? My uncle is a carpenter out there so there's hope of getting some work with him. But we'll do anything - fruit picking, whatever!

Are you planning on coming back after the year out there? We'll see how things go. As I said, I've a lot of family out there who are doing well and like it so I'll see how I get on. I was looking at citizenship and that but it depends. But things certainly look a lot better there than they're looking here at the moment anyway.

Name: Gearóid Harrahill
Course: 1st Year Joint Arts
What do you hope to do when you're finished? No idea!
Does the current economic climate make you think about going abroad for employment when you're finished? Maybe, but I'd prefer to stay here.



Name: Paul O'Grady
Course: 1st Year Multimedia and Computer Games Development
What do you hope to do when you're finished? Something in IT
Does the current economic climate make you think about going abroad for employment when you're finished? I'm optimistic about things so hopefully it'll be ok by the time I graduate but I'd probably go abroad anyway.



Student Speak

With Mental Health Week in full swing, Eamon Heavey asks UL what they do to stay happy.

Anna Caplice
1st Year Arts
Smash into people playing rugby



2nd Year Woodwork
teaching Sports and the odd trad
session. Ger O'Donnell 2nd Year
Woodwork Listen to Music
and drink Buckfast.



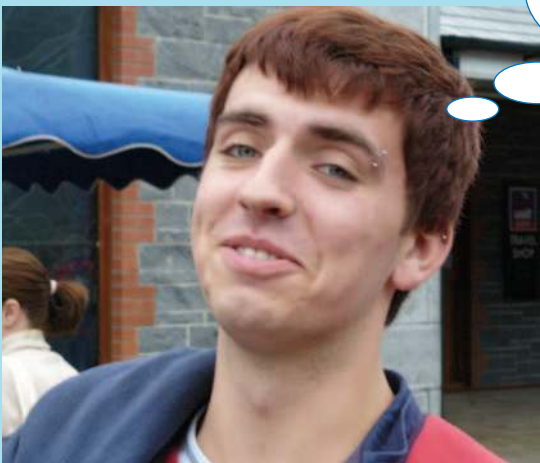
HelenKeswn
Stallholder, UL Farmers'
Market Picking fruit and then cooking
it; getting back to nature!



Conor McCarthy
and Hugh O'Brien
MSc in Marketing Getting
outdoors and for the odd sport
activity.



Dave Tinsell
1st Year Biological Science
Staying away from my
mad friends.



Nicky Holley, Elaine
Hanley, Elaine Griffey
2nd Year Business
Nights our and sport - great combination!



Welfare Officer,
ULSU
I work with the charity, UL Outreach.
The kids are fierce craic!



Editorial

An Focal

University of Limerick

Students' Union

University of Limerick, Plassey, Co Limerick

Volume XVII, Issue 3

Tuesday, 7 October, 2008

Letters to the editor may be sent to the above address or alternative may be emailed to editor@ulsu.ie. Please note that submission of a letter does not guarantee publication, but you never know, you may be lucky.



Sickening priorities

In a whirlwind of economic gloom and doom, the effects of a global malaise are trickling down and emerging right on our own doorstep. The University has justified its executive decision not to hire a new Health Promotions Officer by stating that there simply was not enough funding for the position. While all this may be true, it also rings clear where the University's priorities lie and massive doubt now hangs over where it ranks students. In July 2006 the position of Student Affairs Officer was axed – again, due to 'lack of funding' – but later reinstated. It seems that when push comes to shove, the University has no hesitations in giving the chop to positions that directly affect and benefit all students rather than looking elsewhere to appease the cutbacks. The Health Promotions

Officer played a key role in rolling out initiatives for healthy living and the promotion of responsible consumption of alcohol amongst students. Guiding campaigns like healthy living week and other similar projects, the position was key in implementing programmes to maintain students' wellbeing. In axing the position, the University has, once again, turned its back on student needs and shut the door on the betterment of its campus community. It is far too easy to think, on occasion, that those in receipt of University pay cheques forget that their very reason for being here in the first place is for the 10,000 or so students who battle their way through the campus on a daily basis. And what a battle it is. The University failed miserably in implementing the campus Alcohol Policy and has

shown that its commitment to student health is below a pitiful level. While Don Barry et al cry out for fees and funding, students at grassroots level bare the brunt of the cutbacks in the midst of this high brow game. Instead of prioritising and looking at all the available options, it was easier to axe the position that would cause the least administrative hassle but, obviously, have the greatest knock-on effects on students. It is ironic to see President Barry in a photo in this edition promoting positive mental health when he sits on the executive that ruled out the office which promotes mental wellbeing on a year long basis. In a University that strives to be of a world class standard, it is difficult to see how this can or will ever occur so long as its executive never places students at the top of its list.

Pa's Propaganda

Hey guys,

Firstly, thanks to everyone who contributed to the protest in week 3. I think I can speak for all of us when I say we had a damn good time. We went out to achieve media coverage, to get Limerick talking, have a bit of craic and to show that we wanted a say on our future and this was achieved. That of course was only the first blow. On 9 October we're heading to Cork for a Munster wide protest which will be mental altogether. We only have limited space for that one so we'll have a sign up sheet for who's attending in place.

So apart from ranting what have I been up to? Hmm...Well I've been planning Oktoberfest which will be over when you read this, so hopefully that goes well! Damien Dempsey will definitely be my highlight of the week – he's a complete legend. On good entertainment we will have a few surprises coming up for ye with

some real quality in the pipeline, watch this space.

I have to say my highlight of the past couple of weeks was the girl who came to me with a broken shoe strap and a malfunctioning laptop, while neither are my area of expertise (a very small area indeed) it made my day to be asked about them. While shoes aren't my own passion, I hope my advice worked out for you!

This week we have Positive Mental Health week which should be really good. Not only do we have a world record attempt at the Haka going on in the Arena, we also have a 60's theme fancy dress love parade on Wednesday 8th. The parade will include lots of great live music along the way including performances from the Irish Chamber Orchestra, who are pretty good at what they do. So even if you aren't dressed up come along.

I hate to close with something negative but I think it's really

important to come back to fees. The Government's budget is out this month and we expect a decision on fees by then.

Now is our one and only chance to fight this

We have very limited time left. This means going from paying €1,000 this year to over €6,000 next year, and that's the least expensive estimate. Now is our one and only chance to fight this. I can guarantee you will regret it if you don't.

Take it easy,
Pa



Pa O'Brien must have been speaking figuratively when he spoke of students being 'on their knees' because it wouldn't have been a very successful march otherwise. Cartoon by Kelly O'Brien

ULSU PART-TIME WORK AVAILABLE!

Students needed to make up a panel of floating Casual Labour.

Successful applicants will be called upon as required for tasks which may include the following:

- Reception Cover
- Postering / Flyering
- Common Room Maintenance
- Various Roles within the ULSU Shop.

Please reply with CV and a clear indication of the times available based on your timetable.

Drop a CV into the SU marked FAO Secretary General or email to tomas.costello@ul.ie

The Student Health Centre

So, remember, if your apple a day isn't keeping the doctor away then drop by the Student Health Centre and get yourself on the road to recovery.



Here's where you come in; we need students and staff to help us review as many properties as we can. The more people involved the sooner we can relieve the students of UL of the scourge of damp and infested houses! Free tickets to ULSU Ents for those who help! If you are interested in getting involved please send an email to welfare@ulsu.ie or call in to the welfare officer.

Dental dams are small, thin, square sheets of latex. Dental dams help to reduce the transmission of STIs during oral sex by acting as a barrier to vaginal and anal secretions that contain bacteria and viruses.



- The Dental Dam is square and comes in four different fragrances which are colour coded: - Violet = Blueberry, Yellow = Vanilla, Brown = Chocolate and Pink = Strawberry and different sizes
- They are cheap and cheerful
- Dental dams act as a barrier to bodily fluids, they help reduce STI transmission. (Many STIs, such as herpes, genital warts and HIV, can be transmitted through oral sex)
- Dental dams are extremely easy to use
- Using a dental dam with a water-based lube can offer your partner a new type of stimulation.

- Like condoms, dental dams must be used correctly and consistently in order to be effective.
- Dental dams cannot be used to cover both the anus and vagina at the same time
- They are a little awkward to use in the beginning
- Oil-based lubes and lotions can degrade the latex and decrease the dam's effectiveness.
- Dental dams are for one-time use only

An Focal sex columnist Annie Glyde-Dammes

5. Be sure just a casual thing is what really you want. If you're looking for attachment, a relationship, a deep meaningful connection or the best way to lose your virginity – this is not the place for you.



The Advice Bureau

PSA Notes

Hi All!

Welcome to the first edition of the year of An Focal! This page will be the place to find all information about Postgraduate life on campus for the coming year.

First of all let me introduce myself and the Association. I'm Emma and I am President of Postgraduate Students Association (PSA) for the second year running. My role is to act as a social and academic representative for the postgraduate students on campus. I deal with all of the issues relating to postgraduates from academic related issues such as exam queries and supervision problems to the non-academic related issues such as financial aid, childcare, sexual health, accommodation and

general well being.

As a postgraduate student you are automatically a member of the PSA and the easiest way of keeping in touch with is to visit the website www.ul.ie/~psa. I will be posting the lists of all the events coming up throughout the year on the site and through the new Postgraduate Newsletter which will be circulated to all postgrads by e-mail fortnightly. So keep an eye out!

Some of the main areas which I will be promoting this year is the election of class rep and particularly postgraduate class reps as well as involvement in the PSA. There are positions to be filled for all taught classes as class reps as well as for the research students in every department across all of the Colleges!

So come into the PSA or the SU, get a nomination and run for class rep. We also have an officer board with five positions in the PSA. Elections for these positions will be held during our AGM in Week 6 but I will update you on this in the next edition.

My points of wisdom for the year would be:

- Attend as many events as possible
- Be a class rep...or elect a class rep
- Bang on my door if you're unsure of anything!!.....That's what we're here for!
- Get involved in the PSA

So feel free to pop into my office in the Postgraduate Centre which is located just off the Stables Courtyard, my door is always open and I'd be only delighted to help



you out and point you in the right direction. We have just re-vamped the space and will hold fortnightly events in the Centre. The common area is open and there to be used! So pop in and use the facilities! Keep an eye out for the posters with the PSA logo for the details about up and coming postgraduate events throughout the year. Hopefully along with the guys in the Students' Union we will try and make this year as entertaining and memorable as possible for you.

I hope you have a fantastic year and I'll see you around campus!
Emma

Damo's Piece

Well guys, its week5 already.... soon enough I'll be unemployed again! just a re cap on the last few weeks the fee's protest on week 3 was a great success, with almost a thousand Limerick Third level students taking to the streets. I hope we got the message to the city that we are tota;;y opposed to the reintroduction of fees. the sun shone for us and in fairness it was brilliant crack, don't miss the next one in cork.

of course i was on crutches, yet another injury fresh off the back of the "nose" incident ha ha....

Class reps training in cork was an excellent weekend, no drinking or laughing just work work work....

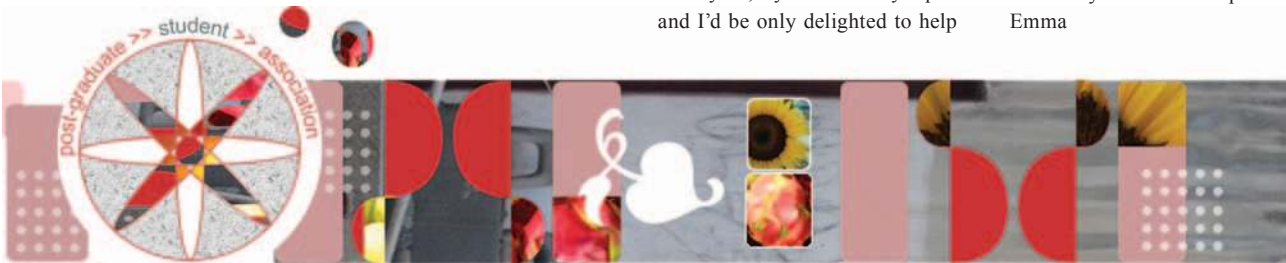
from my own office is everyone aware of the changes to the nitelink? If not the timetable is available in the students union reception and also printed in every issue of An Focal. Also calling all dodgy Nokia's and cracked screens....I've a service running now with the Nokia centre in town where for two euro you can get all those minor repairs and cleaning done to your phone. you just drop the phone to me by tuesdays

and provided it's not serious the phone will be back by thursday! not bad.

so hows the socialising going. word on the street is that the queues for club lodge are getting smaller meaning there's more of a chance that you'll get in within an hour of arriving. Haven't been out myself too much due to a horrific skydiving injury where i dislocated my big toe...uncool ending to that story.. but morphine rocks lol.

looking forward by the time you read this we should be all recovering from a savage freshers ball and the Fesht of Oktober and of course Sahg week 1. so thats it. i'll leave you all back to the books, cook books that is! mid terms are looming but remember, worrying is like a rocking chair, it gives you something to do but it gets you nowhere!!!

Ciao Amigo's...yes thats spanish and italians..i know!



ULSU Nitelink
Timetable for Academic Year 2008/09

Route A 19:00, 20:30, 22:00,

- Stop 1: Dromroe Village
- Stop 2: Thomand Village
- Stop 3: Cappavilla Village
- Stop 4: Plassey Village
- Stop 5: College Court
- Stop 6: Groody Student Village
- Stop 7: Courtyard Student Village
- Stop 8: Brookfield Hall
- Stop 9: Parkview Hall
- Stop 10: Park Mews (Kielys)

Returns to UL via Flag Pole Entrance

Route B 19:45, 21:15, 22:45,

- Stop 1: Kilmurry Village
- Stop 2: Elm Park
- Stop 3: Oaklawns
- Stop 4: Kilmurry Lodge
- Stop 5: Brierfield (Back of the Estate)
- Stop 6: Woodhaven
- Stop 7: Annacotty (Synotts)
- Stop 8: Spar (Dublin Road Bus Stop)
- Stop 9: Courtyard/Brookfield Roundabout

Returns to UL via East Gate entrance

Route C 23.30 Only

Route A+B Stops on Request
Drop off only

Out & About - the fortnight ahead - What’s on

Week 5 - Mental Health Week - ‘Pay it Forward’

Monday 06
Hallowe'en Ball tix go on sale at the SU Reception today!

Who: ULSU & Limerick Mental Health Association
What: Record Breaking Haka
Time: 11:00
Venue: Arena

Who: ULSU & Limerick Mental Health Association
What: Official launch of Mental Health Week 2008
Time: lunchtime
Venue: Stables

Who: UL Arts Office
What: Don’t Touch the Axe (Ne Touchez Pas la Hache)
Time: 18:30
Venue: Jonathan Swift Theatre, B1-023

Who: DebU
What: Speaker Development Workshop
Time: 19:00
Venue: Room 3, Students’ Union

Who: Outdoor Pursuits Club
What: Climbing Wall

Time: 19:00-22:00
Venue: PESS building

Who: ULTV
What: Member sign-up
Time:
Venue: Main Canteen

Tuesday 07
Who: Students’ Union
What: Clubs & Socs Council
Time: 18:00
Venue: CSG01

Who: Drama Soc
What: Reservoir Dogs
Time: TBC
Venue: Jonathan Swift Theatre, B1-023
How much: €5

Who: Outdoor Pursuits Club
What: Climbing Wall
Time: 19:00-22:00
Venue: PESS building

Who: UL Kayak Club
What: Pool Session
Time: 21:45-22:45
Venue: Sports Arena Pool

Wednesday 08
Who: G-Soc
What: Console Day
Time: 12:00 – 17:00
Venue: Room 3, Students’ Union

Who: Students’ Union

What: Annual General Meeting
Time: 14:00
Venue: B-block Canteen

Who: ULSU & Limerick Mental Health Association
What: Love Parade
Time: 16:00
Venue: Meet at SU

Who: Drama Soc
What: Reservoir Dogs
Time: TBC
Venue: Jonathan Swift Theatre, B1-023
How much: €5

Who: ULSU Ents – Penguin Session
What: Cathy Davey
How much: €12/€20
Venue: Jean Monnet

Who: UL Kayak Club
What: Pool Session
Time: 21:45-22:45
Venue: Sports Arena Pool

Thursday 09
Who: ULSU & Munster Students Against Fees
What: Anti-Fees Protest
Time: TBC
Venue: Cork

Who: Outdoor Pursuits Club
What: Climbing Wall

Time: 19:00-22:00
Venue: PESS building

Who: UL Kayak Club
What: Pool Session
Time: 21:45-22:45
Venue: Sports Arena Pool
Who: Drama Soc
What: Workshop
Time: 19:30 – 21:30
Venue: Jonathan Swift Theatre, B1-023

Friday 10
Who: UL Windsurfing Club
What: Beginner Trip
Time: TBC, 10th – 12th Oct
Venue: Galway. Contact Mark Ryan for more information.

Week 6
Monday 13
Who: UL Arts Office
What: The Edge of Heaven (Auf der Anderen Seite)
Time: 18:30
Venue: TBC

Who: DebU
What: American Election Debate
Time: 19:00
Venue: Jonathan Swift Theatre, B1-023

Who: Outdoor Pursuits Club
What: Climbing Wall

Time: 19:00-22:00
Venue: PESS building

Tuesday 14
UL OPEN DAY
Who: Students’ Union
What: Class Reps’ Council
Time: 18:00
Venue: CSG01

Who: Outdoor Pursuits Club
What: Climbing Wall
Time: 19:00-22:00
Venue: PESS building

Who: ULSU Ents – Green Session
What: The Aftermath
How much: FREE!
Venue: Stables

Who: UL Kayak Club
What: Pool Session
Time: 21:45-22:45
Venue: Sports Arena Pool

Wednesday 15
UL OPEN DAY
Who: G-Soc
What: Console Day
Time: 12:00 – 17:00
Venue: Room 3, Students’ Union

Who: UL Kayak Club
What: Pool Session
Time: 21:45-22:45
Venue: Sports Arena Pool
Who: Drama Soc

What: Workshop
Time: 19:30 – 21:30
Venue: Jonathan Swift Theatre, B1-023

Thursday 16
Who: Co-op & Careers Division
What: UL Careers’ Fair
Time: 12:00 – 16:00
Venue: Arena

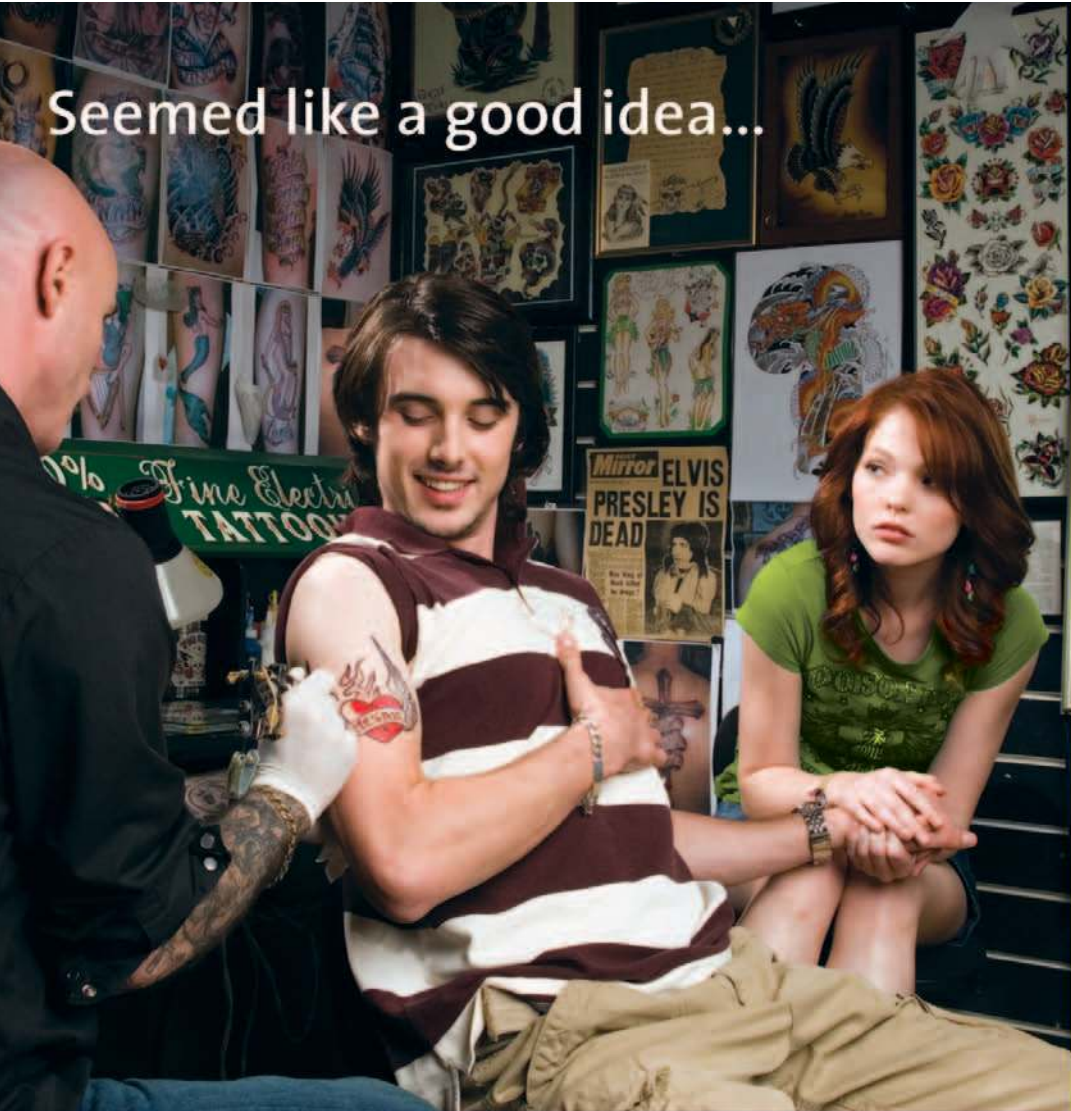
Who: Outdoor Pursuits Club
What: Climbing Wall
Time: 19:00-22:00
Venue: PESS building

Who: UL Kayak Club
What: Pool Session
Time: 21:45-22:45
Venue: Sports Arena Pool

What Not to Miss this Fortnight:

Wednesday, 8 October

What: Annual General Meeting
Time: 14:00
Venue: B-block Canteen
Here’s your chance to have your say in the SU’s direction this year. Want to shout out about how much you hate fees? Or would you like to see some more ents on campus? Come along to the b-block canteen at 2pm for the AGM.



Seemed like a good idea...

...here’s a better one

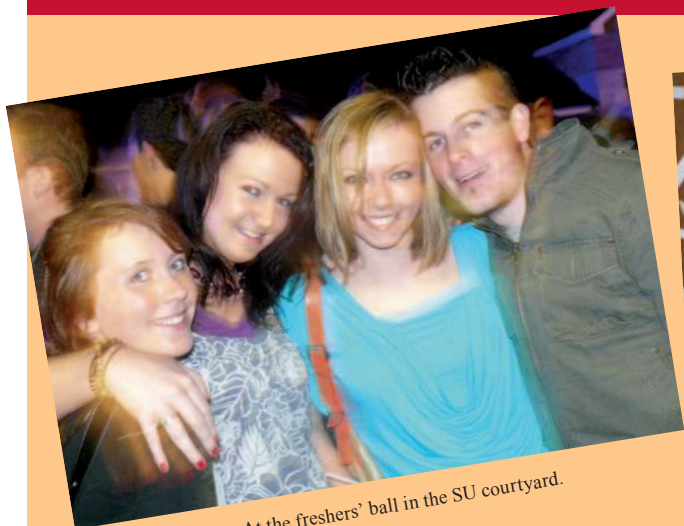
€100 cash*

when you open and use your Student Account

Talk to Mike Moran, Sinead Barry or Pat Egan our Customer Advisors at Ulster Bank University of Limerick or call 061 216260 for more information.

*Ulster Bank will lodge €100 into new student accounts which meet the requirements set out in the terms and conditions. The first instalment of €50 will be paid not later than 30 November 2008 and the second instalment will be paid not later than 31 January 2009 provided the customer has continued to operate the account in accordance with the terms and conditions until that date. €100 offer ends 31 October 2008. Terms and conditions apply. Please see in branch brochure for full details. Ulster Bank Ireland Limited. A private company limited by shares, trading as Ulster Bank, Ulster Bank Group and Banc Uladh. Registered in Republic of Ireland. Registered No 25766. Registered Office: Ulster Bank Group Centre, George’s Quay, Dublin 2. Member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group. Ulster Bank Ireland Limited is regulated by the Financial Regulator. Calls may be recorded.

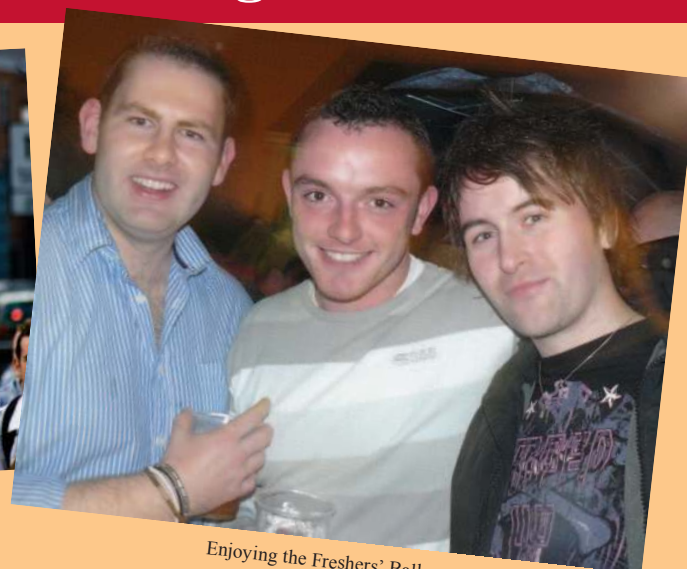
Caught on Camera



At the freshers' ball in the SU courtyard.



Down with that sort of thing (photos by Yann Ryan)



Enjoying the Freshers' Ball.



Saying No to Fees.ti (photos by Yann Ryan)



SU President Pa O'Brien rousing the crowd in Arthur's Quay P.
(photos by Yann Ryan)



Bobby Noonan supporting Damien Dempsey in the Jean Monnet



In the Stables during the Freshers' Ball



Damien Dempsey giving it all in the Jean Monnet in week 4



Enjoying the Saw Doctors



:In the SU courtyard for the Saw Doctors gig

Mental Health Week Special

Mental Health Week in UL

Damien Cahill,
Campaigns & Services Officer

From Monday, 6 October to Friday, 10 October, Limerick will be the venue for a week long focus on mental health. As one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in the city, UL will play its part in the week's activities. We have two major events happening on campus: the Haka world record attempt at the Arena on Monday morning and on Wednesday afternoon we'll have the love parade all around the campus.

Haka World Record attempt.

George Hook will be on hand on Monday morning, 6 October, to oversee what will be hopefully a successful attempt at establishing a world record for the most people involved in a Haka, the famous New Zealand All Blacks pre-match tribal

dance. There's plenty of room on campus so everyone is welcome to join in what will be a fun event to kick-start the week

The Love Parade

What's the best way to unwind after a tough week of lectures? Sport, socialising, cinema? Or maybe for one week only you can join the love parade. On Wednesday, 8 October, week 5, from 4 to 6pm don't be surprised if you think you're back in 1960's California with loads of flower power and free'ish love.

The sixties theme will be all the better if you decide to have an early Hallowe'en and dig out the flower shirts and flares. The parade will take up most of the campus including the north bank with Thomond, Cappavilla and the health science building as well as Kilmurry, Dromroe and the student centre. Led by a Volkswagen beetle and

with feel good music all around it this is going to be one of the most chilled out enjoyable events of the year so put on a happy face and come on down.

On Tuesday evening, Brenda Fitzsimons, Irish Times photographer will give a talk on styles of photography and what makes a 'good' photograph in the Studnest' Union Room 3 at 7pm.

On Wednesday evening Tom Humphries will be interviewing Sonia O'Sullivan in the Pery Hotel at 7.30pm.

These are just a few events in what really is a jam packed exciting week which in the end is to remind us all to look after our mental health. So whether it's declaring your love for the world or practicing your intimidation of rugby opponents come on down get involved.

Badges Galore

To the untrained eye it would seem that there has been an unexplained outbreak of red and green badges on campus this week, however there is nothing to fear. The badges offering favours and claiming to have done something are in fact props in this year's 'Pay it Forward' Positive Mental Health Week.

The red badge asking 'Fancy a Favour?' is the starting point for every individual who wants to take part in this year's positive mental health campaign. You are asked to wear this badge and honour it! We are hoping people will provide a favour, big or small, for a friend, classmate or even a complete stranger. Pay it Forward is not only the name but the entire mantra behind this year's Positive Mental Health week. We are asking students and staff alike to do good deeds for some one, it can be anyone, without asking for anything in return. The list of favours you can do is endless; fix some one's

bike, cook dinner for a stressed-out housemate, buy a classmate coffee.

The green 'I have, have you?' badge will be your reward for doing a favour for someone, that and knowing that you have contributed to UL's community spirit. We are one campus, one community! You are asked to pass your red badge on to whom ever you do the favour for so that they too can take part in the week's main activity; promoting community support!

The badges are available from the Students' Union, the Counselling Service on the CM corridor and at several other locations throughout the campus (wherever you see the 'Get your Pay it Forward badges here' signs). The badges will be in circulation until they fall apart because the beauty of this particular part of the 2008 Positive Mental Health week is that there is no deadline for on when you have to

do the favour, you can wait until next week or the following week or Christmas or the last day of the summer exams, just so long as you do it and you join the ranks of the green badge wearers!

Get involved, get your red 'Fancy a Favour?' badge, and get doing favours for every Tom, Dick and Harry! (No innuendo intended)

You are
asked to
wear this
badge and
honour it!



Where to turn
if your mental
health needs
aren't being met?

An Focal Reporter

All this talk of positive mental health should hopefully have you thinking about your own mental health! What state is it in? Is your mental health in need of a check up? Are you mentally well? If you are then good for you, but if you aren't there is no shame in looking for support. No one would ever think to hide a broken bone or suffer a flu in silence so why should your mental health be any different.

If you are concerned about your mental health there are several people you can turn to get the support you need including the Welfare officer, the staff in Student Counselling, the Connect service and the wealth of clubs and societies on campus.

The Students' Union Welfare Officer

Caitríona, this year's SU Welfare officer, is very of find of a cup of tea so why not indulge her and have a

chat about your mental health over a cuppa with her. She will also listen to anything you want to get off your chest in her office (which is the second door on the right on the ground floor of the Students' Union), in the que for the deli and just about anywhere else you wish. Caitríona can also be contacted by email (welfare@ulsu.ie) and by phone 061 202519.

Student Counselling

The counsellors who work here in UL are all mental health professionals. The service has over twenty years experience, there is no problem that they haven't come across before. Mental health is their business so if you feel that your mental health could do with a check up then why not call into them on the CM corridor during their daily drop-in service between 11am and 12noon and again between 3pm and 4pm.

Connect: A student Network

Last year it was called 'Peer Mentoring', this year it has been renamed 'Connect: Peer Networking' but nothing about the service hasn't changed, if anything its gotten better. Connect puts people who may be a little unsure about one or two aspects of college life in touch with someone who knows what's what in UL. If you feel like being more connected to UL and all it has to offer then email connect@ul.ie.

Clubs and Societies

Clubs and societies are beyond doubt the easiest way to get involved in the UL community. C&S unite engineers, economists and education students alike. With over 30 clubs and the same number of societies, there really is one for everybody in the audience. Your mental health will thank you for joining a club or society and the easiest way to do so is to call into the Clubs and Societies office upstairs in the Students' Union.

Clubs

Second...in the World

Eoghan Reade

The Softball World Series took place in the Concord centre near Heathrow airport in London. This year 18 teams took part including teams representing Zimbabwe, South Africa, Australia/New Zealand (named the Anzacs), England, USA, Canada, Germany, Belgium and Ireland. Three teams from Ireland entered, including a development Irish national squad and Munster. 2 members of the UL team (Eoin Coonan and Eugene O'Callaghan) were involved with the Irish squad. 5 current members of the UL team (Barry Casey, Kerrie Toomey, Amy Griggs, Brian Hehir and John Leonard) and 5 previous members (Adrian Crowe, Michael O'Sullivan, Emmett Byrne, Amberle Steinorth-Byrne and Ellie O'Neill) were part of the travelling Munster squad.

The level of competition was quite high and Munster were placed in the "group of death" with last years 1st, 3rd and 5th placed teams in the group with only 2 progressing to the Trophy round robin stages. In all there were 3 groups of 6. The top two teams from each group would enter into 2 groups of 3. Each team would then play each other, where the top two team progress to the knockout stages. The other teams in Munster's group were the Anzacs (last year's emphatic winners), Scotland (who beat Ireland in the 3rd 4th playoff last year), USA, Canada, and the Locals. Munster's first game was against the Anzacs. After getting off to a good start taking an 11-2 lead, Munster let this lead slip and went on to lose 14-13. The team was clearly shaken after this loss and begun badly against

the Canadians. Trailing by 6 runs going into the final inning, Munster came back thanks to a grand slam from outfielder Eric Kelly, but it was too late, losing 14-13 yet again.

Munster's third game was against the unfancied Locals. Scoring 11 runs in the second inning saw off any challenge, and Munster went on to win their first game of the tournament 16-1. The next obstacle was the ever strong Scottish side which featured several members of the Great Britain squad who won the European Championship in July. Munster faced a tough challenge, having to win the remaining 2 games to have any chance of qualifying for the Trophy competition. And win they did, beating the Scots 6-4 in a close and strong defensive game.

The final game of the day saw Munster take on the USA team. This again proved to be a close affair, with Munster scraping the win 6-5, and hence qualify for the round robin stages of the Trophy competition by finishing second in the group behind the undefeated Anzacs.

Ireland was place in Group B. Unfortunately they did not qualify for the trophy competition, but did however make it into the plate competition after finishing third in their group behind South Africa and England. Best they could hope for was 7th place in the overall competition.

Sunday began with Munster been placed in the round robin group consisting of the German team called Morning Wood and England. Both teams had been undefeated in their respective groups. Munster first game was against Morning Wood.



Going into the final inning Munster were leading 5-4. They extended this lead to 9-4 thanks to good base hitting from Michael O'Sullivan, Ellie O'Neill and John Leonard. However they were unable to keep this lead and ended up drawing with Morning Wood 9-9.

England then beat Morning Wood 10-8 which meant all Munster had to do to qualify was to concede less than 10 runs. However there is always rivalry when it comes to the English, and Munster was going out with ever intention to win. With the score tied 8-8 going into the bottom of the last inning, Brian Hehir hit a double with 1 out. Brian Hehir was able to advance to 3rd base with a right field groundout by Amy Griggs. Michael O'Sullivan was then

intentionally walked which loaded the bases as the girl following, Amberle Steinorth-Byrne is also then walked. Up came Eric Kelly to hit a line drive down the first base line to win the game 9-8. This meant that Munster progressed to the Semi Final as winner of the round robin group. Munster would now face the also undefeated England U24.

Ireland in the meantime had failed to progress out of their round robin stage despite very strong performances throughout the weekend from both Eoin Coonan and Eugene O'Callaghan. Ireland lost to both the Craicers (the third team from Ireland) and Scotland and hence failed to qualify. Ireland would finally finish 11th overall.

Munster however continued to

surprise by beating the England U24 team 7-4 to progress to the final against Anzacs. Looking for revenge from Saturday's loss, Munster aimed to be the first team to win the competition in their first appearance since South Africa achieved this in 2001. Unfortunately they never got going in the final and went on to lose 11-1. Basic errors in the field did not help Munster's cause. Despite the loss, Munster exceeded all expectations by progressing to the final and beating the strongly fancied English and Scottish teams. Having represented Ireland at the European Championships in July, Barry Casey, John Leonard and Brian Hehir were among the experience members of the Munster team and help in a considerable way to their progression

to the final. Great performances from Michael O'Sullivan at shortstop, Eric Kelly, shoring up the outfield, and Amberle Steinorth-Byrne on first base were also key components contributing to Munster's success. Until next year....

In picture:

Top (L-R) Adrian Crowe, Emmett Byrne, John Leonard, Barry Casey, Eric Kelly, Brian Hehir, Michael O'Sullivan, John Ryan (Coach)

Bottom (L-R) : Petra Dyckova, Michelle Flood, Michelle Hayden, Kerrie Toomey, Ellie O'Neill, Amy Griggs, Shea Chaffee, Amberle Steinorth-Byrne, Clíodhna Sharp

Heineken Cup preview

John Condren

It has only been four months since Munster battered their way to their second Heineken Cup title and the new European season is set to recommence once again. So far this season, the big two of Irish rugby, Munster and Leinster, have started the season impressively, picking up hard-fought and stylish wins in the Magners League. Both sides, who have enjoyed such contrasting fortunes in Europe, will be hoping that 2008/09 can prove a campaign to remember.

Of the three Irish challengers, Munster have been handed the easiest draw. Sale Sharks are a dangerous outfit, and in Luke McAlister they have a skilful gamebreaker at midfield of whom his fellow Kiwis Rua Tipoki and Lifeimi Mafi will need to beware. England half-backs Charlie Hodgson and Richard Wigglesworth are exciting players, as is the powerful Scots winger Rory Lamont. But Munster will not fear Clermont-Auvergne, whom they crushed so emphatically at home last winter, or the relative minnows Montauban. In my mind, there is no doubt that Munster will still be playing Heineken Cup rugby by the spring. They have attacking quality right throughout the backs, most noticeably the brilliant Doug Howlett, and it was their defensive steel that saw them over the finishing line in May.

Young players such as Donncha Ryan, Denis Hurley and Tony Buckley will become integral members of the starting XV this year. But can they retain their prize without the mercurial Declan Kidney?

Leinster will pray fervently that they too will still be involved. They recently thrashed one of their scheduled rivals, Edinburgh, at the RDS, with Luke Fitzgerald (surely Ireland's No 14 in the forthcoming autumn tests) in scintillating form. Isi Nacewa is a fantastic acquisition from New Zealand who provides the creativity, verve and versatility conspicuous by its absence in years gone by. And Contepomi, O'Driscoll and D'Arcy haven't gone away either; the Holy Trinity of Leinster's attacking rugby are yet again champing at the bit and ready for action. Wasps, the top seed in Pool Two, are floundering badly in the Guinness Premiership, but with players of the calibre of Dan Cipriani and coaches as experienced as Ian McGeechan, you can bet your bottom dollar they won't be struggling for long. Twice Heineken Cup winners in the past five years, they play superb rugby and are the reigning English champions. French side Castres have given Irish teams good stiff encounters in the past and will fancy themselves to edge past a Leinster side widely perceived as being mentally fragile.

Ulster, poor Ulster. In dire straits at the foot of the Magners League, and having lost the likes of Neil Best and Tommy Bowe across the water, they will meet Munster's 2007 conquerors Llanelli Scarlets and the 2005 finalists Stade Francais, as well as Harlequins, who can boast David Strettle and Nick Easter as squad members. I have a hunch that Matt Williams will sort them out and that they will qualify for the second phase at a squeeze. I would dearly love to see them do it – the Heineken Cup badly needs revitalisation – but the odds are stacked firmly against them.

And so, it starts again. As an aside, ladies might like to note that All Blacks fly-half Dan Carter, recently voted the sexiest man in the world, will star for Perpignan from December onwards – rough justice on the player he replaces! This competition, the showcase of European club rugby, has held a strange fascination for me since my secondary school days, and this year's campaign should be one of the most enjoyable and competitive in recent memory.

Club

Challenging Times

Liam Togher talks to UL football boss Cian O'Neill

It's a challenge to take on a coaching job at any sports team when the previous incumbent delivered plenty of success. It is an even greater task to assume the reins of coach at a sports team when it has been in the doldrums for a long period of time. That, however, did not frighten Cian O'Neill when he began coaching the beleaguered UL senior football team in 2007. Similarly, he worked this year as a fitness coach with the Tipperary senior hurlers, who had been through some rough times in recent years. In fact, the thrill of the challenge only furthered his desire and motivation to succeed.

From the outside looking in, one can only imagine the high-tempo intensity of a training session with a leading senior inter-county hurling team. "This particular group of Tipperary players were very self-motivated," acknowledged Cian.

"They had been starved of success for a long period of time. Since winning the All-Ireland in 2001 things went relatively downhill. At the start of the year we asked the players to draw a line under everything that has gone on before and start from scratch. There was a new group of players added to the existing core. Everyone showed the same high level of commitment and we never had to push the players to step it up in training. When that's at your disposal it makes the job so much easier. I set out my own training methodology and the players had a very clear picture of what was happening."

Cian also had a few words to say about motivation, a quality that he realises is priceless to succeed in sport. "Motivation has to be self-directed and come from within. You may be the best motivator in the world but unless the person has it

in them, it won't come out. The UL team hadn't won a Sigerson Cup game in something like nine years. Along with my management team I asked the players for full commitment and I got that. The players became more motivated over time as we started to win games and success is a great foundation for bringing players to the next level. There was an element of trust between the players and the management. We had good organisation but the motivation came from the players themselves.

Cian is satisfied with the progress made during the first year of his UL football tenure. "I enjoy great support from [GAA development officer] Patsy Morrissey, which is great because managers need support from above. Patsy and I worked over the summer to establish where the football team was going. I was also very fortunate to have two great

selectors in Declan O'Keeffe and Thomas Broderick. Then we met the players, several of whom were very disillusioned with the setup in UL. I sat down and had a chat with the core group of players to ask for names of lads who could come into the panel. I met with a few of these and we effectively had a full panel by the start of the season. I was delighted with the League, where we ultimately lost in a replay to a Garda College team that got to the Sigerson final. We won our first Sigerson game in nine years, although we didn't do ourselves justice in the quarter-final against GMT."

Cian is looking forward to even more improvement in 2008-09. "Everybody – the players, the management, administration – has the same goal, to take it one step further than last year. I would like us to get to at least a League semi-final this year. If you get that far, you're up against the top four that could also be challenging for the Sigerson. The McGrath Cup is a huge benefit to us as we play against senior county teams, a level to which all players aspire. We under-performed in the semis against Clare, who had a very good game plan on the day. I'd like to take it a step further. As for the Sigerson, our target is to get to the final weekend, something UL hasn't done since 1996. Once you get that far, anything could happen, irrespective of the so-called superstar teams with scholarship players, something we don't have in UL."

For all his optimism, though, Cian still has one major worry. "Training this year could be a problem. We have 16 GAA teams in UL and only one playable pitch. We have light that lasts until 7:45 and we have students timetabled to 6pm. How 16 teams can train on one pitch with that amount of time is beyond me. My players have no problem training at seven in the morning but as the winter approaches it won't get bright until 8:30. Unless we can improve the outdoor facilities here for the GAA club we're going to struggle. The soccer club might have four teams vying for one pitch; we have 16. Already we're trying to source Monaleen and Ahane to use their pitches. We need floodlit pitches, which almost every other third-level institution has, and some level of improvement in Maguire's. My biggest concern is not the players, the management or the support from the GAA office. It's the lack of facilities." Another challenge presents itself for this highly motivated individual.

Another case of Nick being Nick

Mark Connolly

For those of us who all covered our head in our hands on news of Nick Faldo's appointment as Ryder Cup captain, the fiasco of Valhalla represented a sad vindication of one of life's worst kept secrets- Nick Faldo can't run a bath, let alone Europe at golf's most prestigious team event.

The catalogue of errors made by this man were utterly extraordinary. From the omission of Europe's most in-form player from his wildcard selection to his overuse of a visibly exhausted Padraig Harrington and to ridiculously leaving his strongest players to the bottom of the singles order while we trailed 9-7, the Englishman never shirked from fully displaying his total incompetence.

...but I have never ever seen as inept an effort at team management in all my life as that which Faldo served up, not even from Stan...not even from Eddie.

The opening blunder of leaving out Darren Clarke was truly inexplicable. The Dungannon man has experience from five previous Ryder Cups, including the infamous Brookline event when the Europeans encountered vociferous American fans, deemed a crucial factor in determining that event and not too dissimilar from those they met in Valhalla this time out. But aside from experience, Clarke had won two major European tour events in the run up to Valhalla. There is no precedent in the history of team selection for ignoring that type of form and leads to believe that Faldo had a hidden agenda in omitting Clarke.

However the Faldo selection strategy must come under further scrutiny due to his confession that he was aware of Padraig Harrington's poor conditioning following a 'long, hard season'. He admitted he noticed the three times major winner falling back asleep four times on the flight to Louisville and sleeping during the daytime of tournament week. Well, why on Earth did he use him so frequently during the double's events of Friday and Saturday? Harrington was deployed as, or more, often than any other European player at Valhalla.

But the lack of plain common sense doesn't end there. Despite trailing the Americans 9-7 heading into the singles events, golf's version of Steve Staunton had the brilliant idea of opting to put his best performers towards the end of the team line-up, so the Yanks could have the trophy nestled away nice and safely before our big guns had even finished their practice shots.

This article may seem a little harsh to say the least toward the Englishman, and I know that roared on by their vociferous home support the USA would probably have triumphed anyway, but I have never ever seen as inept an effort at team management in all my life as that which Faldo served up, not even from Stan...not even from Eddie. I know a lot of people in Europe felt that an American victory was required to inject some life into the cup after three consecutive European hammerings, but let's not just throw it away next time. Please.



Comments

Harte’s men in a league of Tyrone

Liam Togher

It was billed as the game to define a decade – Kerry v Tyrone. Between them they had won every All-Ireland football final since 2003, leaving them as the undoubted kingpins of the game since the dawn of the new millennium. While Kilkenny’s hurlers sauntered to a third All-Ireland crown in a row, Kerry’s attempt at the same achievement in football was thwarted by the Red Hand county. The two best teams of the year produced arguably the best game of the year. It was just as well; the 2008 football championship was crying out for some true quality.

Aside from these two, Wexford provided us with plenty of talking points. They had a tremendous run to the last four and their Leinster final drubbing by Dublin did not do justice to Jason Ryan’s splendid team. Cork twice rescued games that were petering out against old foes Kerry, only for them to lose their third meeting with the Kingdom. Kildare recovered from a dismal start to reach the quarter-finals, even if they did beat some mediocre opposition along the way. Then again, the quality of their opponents is not their problem.

Three of the four provincial champions fell in the quarter-finals. Galway tried valiantly to topple Kerry but ultimately fell short in the torrential rain. Armagh paid the price for their win in a physical Ulster final replay by losing to unfancied Wexford. Dublin, meanwhile, continued to promise false dawns. They followed up their 23-point win in the Leinster final with a shambolic display against eventual All-Ireland champions Tyrone.

In all honesty, it was a very disappointing championship. Some of the games, most notably Kildare-Fermanagh, were painful to watch. The Ulster-style blanket defence, Gaelic football’s form of catenaccio, was dominant, with all too few teams even managing to get the basic elements of the game right. Opinion leaders such as Pat Spillane used the term ‘puke football’ more than once. Also, indiscipline is rife in the game. There were several high-profile flashpoints over the course of the summer. For all the negative points, though, there is no talk about revamping the current championship to make football more competitive at provincial level.

2008 football championship highlights

Liam Togher

Tyrone’s indomitable team spirit and unflappable quality taking them to their third All-Ireland in six years

Trial by Sunday Game

Young manager Jason Ryan taking Wexford to unfamiliar heights

Cork’s dramatic revivals teaching Kerry how to count to 70

Floodlights at Croke at 5pm on a Saturday afternoon in August

Paul Galvin’s notebook slap

Limerick restricting Meath to a paltry three points (even if the Treaty men did leak four goals)

Pascal McConnell’s save from Declan O’Sullivan in the dying stages of the final

The Seamus McEnaney war dance

“This is Dublin’s year, lads!” – Groundhog Day or what?

Micko tripping over himself celebrating Wicklow’s defeat of Kildare

London beating then-Connacht champions Sligo

Quotes of the Edition

Liam Togher

“**It was really strange, almost as weird as a UFO landing.**” Watford manager Adrian Boothroyd believes the ‘phantom goal’ his team conceded to Reading was straight out of the Twilight Zone. To b fair, it was about four yards wide.

“**No wonder Spurs are bottom. Woodgate is a hypochondriac, Bentley is a shaper and don’t even get me started on that Jenas. Rubbish.**” Any Tottenham fans want to challenge that anonymous view?

“**The way they performed out there today was all that John or his late father would want, men doing their best for what they are about.**” Tyrone manager Mickey Harte praises his team’s display in the All-Ireland final and pays tribute to goalie John Devine’s recently deceased father. How right he is.

“**Sky Sports will air their first comedy programme on Wednesday night. It’s live Carling Cup football featuring Newcastle and Tottenham.**” A user in the soccer forum on boards.ie flexes his comedy muscles.

“**Wayne Rooney would start a fight in an empty room.**” BBC Radio Five Live icon Alan Green believes the ‘boy wonder’ still has some growing up to do. In the blue corner...the skirting board! In the red corner...Wayne Rooney!

“**I believe Bridge United bid €50 for Stokes but that fell just short of Sunderland’s bid of €52. He is absolutely useless.**” One Sky Sports News observer simply cannot believe that Anthony Stokes rescued Sunderland in the Carling Cup game against Northampton.

“**It’s just the sandwich list.**” Europe’s Ryder Cup captain Nick Faldo’s pathetic attempt to deny that a piece of paper he was spotted carrying by a cameraman contained the pairing for the opening day foursomes. He might fare out better as a restaurant waiter.

Sports Quiz

Liam Togher



- Which two countries were chosen to co-host the 2012 European Championships?
- What position does Italy rugby captain Sergio Parisse play?
- How many Majors have Padraig Harrington won in his career to date?
- Who are the reigning All-Ireland senior camogie champions?
- What Formula 1 team does Robert Kubica drive for?
- Did Real Madrid or Barcelona win last season’s Spanish league?
- How many consecutive Leinster football titles have Dublin now won?
- Wigan striker Amr Zaki plays international football for which country?
- Which Galway side won the All-Ireland club hurling title this year? Arsenal purchased Samir Nasri from which French club?
- Which former England coach is now in charge of Mexico’s national team?
- Who scored Spain’s winning goal in the Euro 2008 final?



J. Flynn - G. Reilly Limerick Open 2007
The game has played out quite naturally, however white has checkmate in 1.

- e4 e5
- Bf4 Bf5
- Qh5 Nf6
- ???

The UL Chess club meets every Thursday from 6pm to 7pm. Training offered to all members and beginners.

Solution: 4. Qxf7# checkmate.

Answers to Sports Quiz

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Poland and Ukraine | 2. Number Eight |
| 3. Three | 4. Cork |
| 5. BMW Sauber | 6. Real Madrid |
| 7. Four | 8. Egypt |
| 9. Portumna | 10. Marseille |
| 11. Sven Goran Eriksson | 12. Fernando Torres |

Magic Numbers

Liam Togher

- | | |
|----|---|
| 20 | Liverpool corners in the Reds’ match at home to Stoke. No bloody chance they’d actually score, though? |
| 21 | Seconds remaining in the All-Ireland minor football final when Tyrone’s Matthew Donnelly landed the equalising point. Rolex couldn’t do better timing. |
| 19 | Average age of Arsenal’s team in their 6-0 win over Sheffield United in the Carling Cup. You’d see older sides in the World Youth Championship. |
| 7 | Manchester United players booked in the 1-1 draw at Chelsea. It would have been easier for Mike Riley to write down the team beforehand and tick off whoever got a yellow card. |
| 8 | Points gained by Hull City in their first five Premier League games. So much for them being the new Derby. |
| 6 | Years since somebody other than Tyrone or Kerry won the football All-Ireland (Armagh in 2002). Sharing is caring but there are 30 other counties who want a piece. |
| 50 | Number worn by Stoke forward Mamady Sidibe in a couple of matches this season. I know he’s not World Player of the Year but surely he can’t be that far down the pecking order. |

Clubs & Societies

Flying without Wings

Aoife Breen

“Do you wanna go first?”
Me?

He continued to make direct eye contact me, ignoring the absolute fear welling up inside that I was certain could be detected by anyone in my vicinity.

Gulp.
“Sure!”

My faux-confidence replied for me.

“Why not? Might as well be first!”

I was getting cocky now.

Despite the fact that I was wearing a luminous orange jumpsuit, a helmet and clear plastic goggles, some part of me – not my brain, mind – had decided that this was a good idea; a great one, in fact. Ah, let’s be honest, that same part of me thought the whole thing was bloody marvellous – the best idea I’d ever had.

Jumping out a plane hovering at 3,500 feet above the safety of land has never been a lifelong ambition of mine. Being frank, it never really entered my mind until about March of this year, or so. It sort of came to me one day; wouldn’t it be great to me one day; wouldn’t it be great to go skydiving and just enjoy every moment of it because during those seconds in the air surely nothing else in the world matters? Surely, the time between letting go of the plane and plonking firmly back on

Earth is one helluva way to forget absolutely everything going on in the real world?

So with that mentality I finally got the balls to do a parachute training course at the beginning of August. Fuck it, it was time to do it. No more talking about it; let’s go.

“One-thousand-two-thousand-three-thousand-four-thousand-five-thousand...”

“Aoife, why are you going to five-thousand? Four is enough!”

Shit. My years in the Red Cross have, ironically, proved detrimental to the skills of saving me as I plummet through the air. Ingrained CPR protocols have overwritten any other possible sequence that begins with ‘one-thousand-two-thousand...’.

I try again.

“One-thousand-two-thousand-three-thousand-four-thousand-check canopy-is it square-is it stable-is it flyable-check twists-no twists-release brakes-pump breaks-one-two-three-locate target...”

Bingo.

So that’s what a few billion years of evolution taught birds. With that mantra firmly locked in my mind, I was ready to go.

Or so I thought.

The rain – the torrential rain – thought otherwise.

Off home I went, having never left the ground. Part of me was relieved. What in the name of God

was I doing anyway?

Six weeks later, plus a day, and a few unsuccessful trips out to the dropzone in between, and I found myself staring at this man offering me the first jump out of the plane. It was normal routine for him, to assign each skydiver a position. For me, it was the beginning of the end.

There I was, the least coordinate, athletic, ballsy person I know, waiting to board on a plane from which the only way back to the ground was parachuting.

I watched as the other seven lunatics were folded into the plane and their individual static lines secured. I yanked mine good and hard; that baby was going to ensure my survival.

The plane started taxiing. Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit. What was I doing?

And then the ground got further away, and the needle on the altimeter moved upwards in coordination. In my mind, “one-thousand-two-thousand...” started repeating itself.

We were shown the dropzone from above. A faint wry smile crossed my face.

The plane’s door was opened. The noise of the wind was startling. Christ.

At this point, my mind went blank. To me, at the moment, there existed only four things in the entire world: me, the plane, the wind and the gent

who’s only reason for being was to roar, “Go!” at me.

If I hesitated it’d be over and I’d never do it. It wasn’t worth thinking about.

So I went.

I’m not really sure if I did the whole “one-thousand-two-thousand...” part, but I do remember realising that I better check my canopy and see if it was square, stable and flyable. Thanks be to fuck it was. And I didn’t have any twists, either. There is a God and I was floating with him.

It was serene. Up there. Alone; completely alone – but in a good way. And without a single thought in the world, except about my new-found ability to fly. Nothing could stop me; I was completely in charge of my own destiny.

Then I began to turn in to land; for a brief moment flying in over a close of trees was a little worrying, but I decided to convince myself that I would avoid them – surely. I did.

Knees and feet together, I yanked on the brakes. Only a couple of feet left. Whoosh. On the ground again. Over. Alive. Rejuvenated. Beaming.

Only one question remained: when can I go again?



flying through the air but without any wings



Have your name in lights with ULTV

Louise McCormack

When you start noticing the television cameras recording around campus next month, it is not because a Hollywood helicopter has just landed with a hot young celebrity fresh out of rehab. However, the cameras may just be picking up a future Hollywoodite.

ULTV society will start recording for a brand new monthly program which will be broadcast via the web each month for the students of UL. The programme will be written, directed, produced, edited, acted and presented by students of the university. The show will comprise of news, sports, music, and drama, as well as competitions, and a comical student survival section. Teams will be formed to produce each section, and the entire show is then sent to the post production team to be edited.

The news section will be covering local, national, and international stories of interest to UL students. People interested in presenting or TV journalism can gain some valuable experience, working as reporters and presenters on the show. Or people interested in editing news can gain experience in editing, working with green screens, and special effects. Important sporting events and matches, as well as commentary and interviews will be covered by the sports reporters. Bigger music events around campus and events involving musical UL students will be covered by the music journalists. Music enthusiasts can also look forward to an

indie music section, or for musicians wishing to get more involved, original music and theme music is also needed for the show.

ULTV and the Drama Society have teamed up to create a mini student drama. The Drama Society has organised scriptwriters to come in and give a workshop on scriptwriting, to ULTV and drama society members in the coming weeks.

A team of writers will then work on writing a student drama series which will be cast later this month. The episodes will be shot on campus, with a short episode broadcast each month as part of the programme. The student survival section will also be shot around campus as we combine useful advice and humour to help students survive college life. For example, in the first episode we teach students how to feed themselves on less than a fiver a day.

All students are invited to join, whether you are studying a related course such as journalism, design, computers or media studies, or if you are just a complete beginner interested in television.

Workshops will be held throughout the year to provide students with practical skills in editing, special effects, scriptwriting, and acting. The programme will be made using professional video and sound recording equipment and workshops will also be held to train members to use the

equipment.

A society trip has been planned to Northern Ireland to tour the BBC studios this year. A poker night in aid of the society is also being run next semester as well as a raffle in stables, and a table quiz.

ULTV is also providing a service to other clubs and societies who wish to have events covered and featured in the program, or made into DVDs. Clubs and societies interested in having events or trips covered should also contact ULTV on the email below.

Filming is fun, but also a very useful hobby for anybody interested in film, film editing, film production and TV production, including entertainment shows, sitcoms, news or documentaries. Whether students are interested in working in front or behind the camera, writing, or interested in working in post production houses, ULTV is a fun way to gain some experience.

Sign up for ULTV Society will be held in the main canteen Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th, October.

If you are unable to make these dates contact the society to find out when meetings are being held. Contact: ULTV Society Email: ULTV - ultvsoc@gmail.com Drama Society – uldrama@gmail.com