



AN FOCAL



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THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER


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TERM 2 WEEK 6

PLEASE NOTE
WHEEL CLAMPING IS IN OPERATION FOR VEHICLES PARKED OUTSIDE OF DESIGNATED CAR PARKS


Clamping - The Story Continues

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KOLLEGE WEEK THREATENED ON ALL FRONTS

By David Flemming

The Students' Union offices buzzed with frenzied conversation and debate as news circulated that the President had advised the organisers of the biggest charity and entertainment event on the UL calendar should not go ahead.

Dr. Roger Downer advised in Week 4 that Kollege Week should be cancelled due to the current crisis surrounding the Foot-and-Mouth disease. As a result, a meeting of the organisers – the Students' Union, the Stables Club and the Scholars Club – was called for Monday of Week 5 to determine whether Kollege Week would go ahead or not.

Representatives, including the Ents Office, the Class Representative Council Ents Committee as well as the management of the Stables and Scholars Clubs, unanimously agreed, after an hour long meeting, that Kollege Week would go ahead as planned. The meeting heard how students on a daily basis, numbering thousands, transverse the campus which could spread the disease. Kollege Week therefore

carried the exact same risk. The University, seemingly, grasped the current crisis and tried to use it to force the organisers to cancel Kollege Week.

The meeting also agreed that extra precautionary measures, including the disaffection of all equipment and vehicles coming on campus for the events, would be undertaken to reassure the University and the public. The meeting also decided that should an outbreak of the disease appear in the Republic, an immediate review would take place.

However events outside the organisers control further threatened Kollege Week when, two days after the meeting, the Courts refused to grant a

license for a bar extension to the Stables. The judge informing the court of his decision cited the current Food-and-Month crisis as a factor in his ultimate ruling.

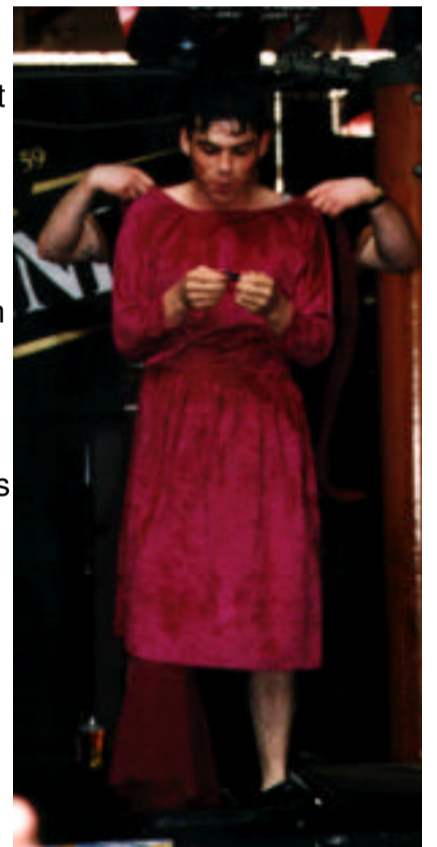
The Students' Union Executive met for two hours on Wednesday evening to discuss the impending crisis that was enveloping before them. The decision taken at the meeting was to continue plans for Kollege Week and to advise the Stables that they should appeal the judges ruling.

Over the weekend the student side was bolstered by the news that the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Joe Walsh, TD, had relaxed rules on certain gatherings, including events such as Kollege Week. At the time of writing the Stables Management were intending to launch their appeal to the Court ruling on Tuesday of Week 6. The Scholars Club will seek a bar extension license later this week.

The Students' Union stated that Kollege Week will go ahead, with or without the bar extensions and plans were being formulated to these ends.

The Union also stated that people should not travel to Limerick for Kollege Week as they will not gain entry to any of the events, as part of the precautionary measures. Only students having the new ULSU membership cards will gain access to events. These cards will be ready for collection in Week 7. It is expected that first year students will collect their cards first, followed by second years and so on. Students are advised to observe the notice-boards in the SU building and any official SU notice that is posted around the University.

Kollege Week is expected to be discussed at a meeting of the entire student body (UGM) in Week 7.



GRADUATES

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

- Computer Science
- Software Engineering/Development
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- Telecommunications

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



MARLBOROUGH I.T.

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

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



The biggest bone of contention over the last 2 weeks was the issue of Kollege week. Should we go ahead with it or not? The management of the University would prefer that this charity event be stopped for good, and I have the feeling that the FMD was not their only reason for asking the Union to cancel the week. After all isn't the Minister for Health, Micheal Martin adamant that excessive drinking be discouraged and juice bars on campus are the way to go!, or is that the feeling of this University? It is my opinion that the University view Kollege week as a major "piss up" and nothing else! Some of you may be in agreement with this statement, but if you sit back for a moment and have a good think for yourselves –every University in the country has a rag week, so the students of UL also demand a Kollege Week. Would all of you have come to UL, which is known as a tough University to get a degree if it was the only University without a Kollege week? It is almost part and parcel of every 3rd level institution, so what the ULSU along with both clubs does, is bring order to chaos and in the process generate over £23,000 for mainly local charities, - not bad for a five day event! After a meeting to discuss the event, it was decided to plough on, but take extra precautions. These precautions are listed in my Presidents Report. If the University was that worried about FMD, the Concert Hall events would have been shut down, and maybe even the entire University! What difference does it make if over 5000 students walk through the courtyard for their lunch or if they stand there for a few hours to get a few laughs? Most students travel home for the weekends, so in the opinion of the Kollege Week organisers, the charity week does not pose any additional threat of spreading FMD. **NOTE "Only students with UL ID or ULSU Club ID cards will be permitted entry to any of the night time events, and please discourage your friends from travelling to UL for the event."** It is only right that we make an effort in this respect as the only threat Kollege week poses is that it may encourage a large number of students from elsewhere around the country to travel to UL, which could be dangerous in light of the FMD crisis. Finally I would encourage you all to take a responsible attitude towards Kollege Week in every respect especially when returning home to the estates, as we should consider our neighbours in the Castletroy community. I hope you all enjoy the week and please give generously to charity.

Laters
Mick



What is Welfare Week? This is a week where you get a chance to focus a bit on your well-being. We all know that college life can be brilliant and great craic...but there are some issues that can cause barriers to these 'carefree' years of our lives. Issues, which can be very serious and real for some of us, and for others, may never have been a problem. But either way, it is very important to have an awareness that they exist. To be able to recognise symptoms in others so you can be there to help. Also, throughout the week, certain aspects of our lifestyles here in UL will be focused upon.

Are you happy that you are living your life to the fullest? Getting the most out of "the best days of your life"??

The fun and the freedom is great. Go out – have a laugh. But do **take this week, and use the opportunity it is giving you to take a quick look at your life - just make sure that you are getting the most of it...there's a balance. Lets try strike it...**

Siobhan

More on Welfare Week – go to page....



Here we are again, at that moment when I have write my piece for the paper. As usual the paper is almost finished, except for my piece.

I always seem to leave these small but important things to the last minute and then have to rush them, which of course leads to making mistakes. My time management seems to go out the window every two weeks, when this paper has to go out to the printers on time. Don't get me wrong I love doing the paper, but the trouble with it, is that sometimes you just need more time to give it the attention it deserves.

Now that all my bitchin' is out of the way, I can tell you about what has been happening in the last two weeks.

Firstly, there was this Kollege week thing, Is on or Is it off? I get a phone call from Mick whilst celebrating my birthday, saying we're having an emergency meeting to decide the faith of Kollege Week on Monday. This meeting went well and we decided to go ahead with it. However, there will have to be a lot of restrictions in place outlined later in an article from Mick, with which we will be asking for you full co-operation.

The students' union have put a lot of work into organising Kollege Week for you to enjoy yourselves safely during that week, so remember if your going to drink, please drink within your limits and also on your way home respect you neighbours. This will ensure that Kollege Week will go ahead for the remainder of your term in UL.

**See ya
Fergal F.**

PS Tune into Wired FM 106.8fm (if you live in Castletroy, that is, otherwise 96.8)



My younger brothers best friend passed away last week. It shocked a lot of people at home and also around campus as he had a large base of friends here in UL. It knocked me for six, as he was almost a brother to me too. It will be hard to go to the next gathering of my family and friends, as I will be expecting to see this guy there. He was always one to keep the singsong going. He will be sorely missed.

Death has been around a lot these past few weeks with many of the people I know losing family members tragically. Some we hear about immediately others not till much later. From the small number of people I know on campus the last few weeks have been very hard. It got me wondering about all the rest of you and what your particular situations are like at present. I'm sure there are many individuals on campus who are also going through tough times for one reason or another.

All of this thinking brought me to

the issue of Support Services. We have been arguing at every meeting for the need to increase the resources of these areas. Student Counselling is down from three permanent Counsellors to one at the moment, as the University is unwilling to pay the going rate for their services. They tell us we have positions for three Counsellors, but no one will take the jobs, as they don't pay enough. In fact last summer saw us lose one of the best Counsellor this institution ever had for that very reason.

In a time that suicide is on the rise, there were five alone in West Cork last week, are we going in the right direction here in UL? Mick, Siobhan, and Marcus have been hammering this message home at every opportunity in Governing Authority but it doesn't seem to be getting us anywhere quickly. Depression is on the rise all over the world with young people. The Counselling Services on campus has indicated as much here in UL. Will it take a student death to get something done? If you feel strongly about this email the President Rodger Downer at, Roger.Downer@ul.ie, and ask him what is happening on this issue.

CLAMPING – THE STORY CONTINUES.....



By Nicola Cooke

It appears from previous articles written in An Focal and a general feeling of hostility on the campus, that clamping is some sort of a thrill executed by towering, bitter, and contemptuous security officials, whose objectives are solely profit and punishment oriented.

This image that has been construed couldn't be more from the truth. In the research of this article Ger Manning, Buildings Officer who oversees issues relating to clamping, and one of the two security official, Shane Benson who carry out clamping daily were both spoken to. Their views with regard to clamping and the way it operates are very much in contrast to everything that had been publicised about it. It would be my estimate that 99.9% of students are not aware of the actual physical abuse and damage that the officials have been subjected to, or that the £1 fee for the car park, which provoked such controversy last semester is in fact charged in order to pay the debt of purchasing and constructing the car park in question.

There has been much discussion generated about the introduction of clamping on May 1 2000. The reason for its introduction was that the system that was in place previous was virtually a total failure. This system involved the placing of stickers on cars that were parked in non-designated areas, informing them the owners that they was not to do so. For the most part the stickers were completely ignored.

Ger Manning, of the Buildings Dept. stated that the situation had reached such a crisis level that some sort of action had to be taken, and it was decided that clamping would be the best and most effective way to combat the problem. It should be noted that clamping also exists in UCC and UCG. In the case of UCG an informed source revealed the cost of clamp removal there is £65, a whole £45 more expensive than the current charge in UL of £20.

Since it's introduction, Manning believes that it had been highly successful in it's aim if making the campus a safe and more accessible area. There has been a dramatic reduction in the amount of cars parking on the main avenue, on the sides of roads, on top of kerbs etc. Very few cars are actually parking in non-

designated areas long-term, in fact this has almost been eliminated, Manning states. The officer also explained that the clamping procedure is totally non-profit and no quota system exists to this effect. The costs of clamping involve the hiring of two officials and a vehicle to carry the procedure out, along with the costs of the clamps themselves. All bills incurred through clamping go into an account in the Building Dept., which is used to pay off bills and expenses derived from the construction of new car parks and buildings. It is our aim not to put clamps on

any cars at all, but to have everyone parking in designated areas, Manning concludes. He is aware that the numbers of those utilizing car parks has increased greatly in the last number of years, but the University has been creating new car parks to try to cater for this demand. One of these is of course the fee-paying car park. As Manning explains, again "This car-park is non-profit, the reason that a £1 fee is being charged is that land had to be purchased from Milford Hospice, and the car park constructed totally out of private funds". Therefore those users have to contribute to these costs because of the fact there were no subsidies or public funds.

And what of those terrible clampers themselves? I would strongly advise anybody who is under this impression to spend one or two hours with Shane Benson and his colleague, whose duty it is to clamp illegally parked cars on the campus. It won't be long before your minds are changed. Shane Benson works from 10.30am to 6.30am in the messy business. He says "we derive no pleasure whatsoever from clamping people, it's actually a great job to be in if you want to make enemies"

In his time spent working in Campus Security he has been struck a blow to the back from an irate female member of staff, and actually hit in the knee by a car whose driver he had cautioned. This blow to the knee actually required surgery, and a case went to court whose outcome is due in April.

Everyday Benson is subjected to various stories and pleas that range from humourous to ludicrous. "One of the most ridiculous excuses I ever heard from a guy parked in a disabled space was that he had the right to park there until a disabled person walked up to him and told him to get out of it", Benson recalls. So far there have been 816 incidents of clamping since May 2000. Benson also agrees that the system has been very successful in it's objective. He believes that the students are coping on and that as a group they are the least troublesome to deal with. What I think is fair about clamping is that it

operates right across the board, from members of the Governing Authority, through to professors and right down to students, anyone can and is clamped. So whether it's a Merc or a mini, you'd better watch out!

Benson believes the job is however very stressful, owing to the amount of hassle he receives. When a car is about to be clamped there is a ten-minute warning issued, and this very often materialises in 45 minutes. Benson states as "all the other car parks in the university have to be patrolled following the warning, and when this has been completed we then return to the vehicle which has been issued the warning. "We're not sitting in the car spying, with our watches counting every second up to ten minutes and then dashing out to clamp the car!" Benson laughs.

He does however note the imbalance in the fact that students parking in staff car parks without a permit can be clamped but staff parking in areas where students' parks are not subject to the same treatment. "Maybe students should be charged less, say £10, on the production of a student card. There is a major difference between them and a professor earning over £100,000 a year". So now do you still think the clampers are the terrible thrill-seekers you thought they were?

It is evident then that there are two sides to every coin and this article has attempted to give an insight into the side of the coin, which for most part has remained face down. What people must remember is that clamping has been employed so that traffic through the University can flow more easily and that Campus Security are just doing their job, and not particularly fond of having to clamp "us poor students". So a word of advice is to try to make life easier for everyone and attempt to park in a designated area at all times, it is acknowledged, is often very difficult. And please don't wallop or drive into Shane & Co., you wouldn't be very appreciative if it happened to you.



POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION MOVE INTO NEW CENTRE

By Nicola Cooke

The building in the courtyard once inhabited by the Student's Union, before they moved to their present location, is about to become occupied by the Postgraduate Student Association (PSA). The building had been renovated and now comprises of a large common room and an office for the President of the PSA. The stone walls, part of the original structure of the building when it functioned as a stables originally, have been maintained and add a tasty touch to the area. Along with this a very fashionable hot pink paint was used on the other remaining walls, no doubt an inspiration from the catwalks of Paris and Milan! Ger Manning and an interior designer from the Buildings Dept., along with Marcus Lynch, current PSA President, designed the new PSA Centre.

The new building has come to fruition owing to the efforts of the previous PSA President Niall

Dunphy, who along with other Student Union (SU) officials negotiated with the Building Dept and authorities, for the use of a centre. It was felt that because postgraduates, those carrying out both taught and researched courses, are such a disparate group throughout the University, a focal and meeting point for their operations was required. Marcus Lynch spoke to An Focal about the creation of the centre and what it means to postgrads. "At the moment the centre is functioning as a meeting area in informal surroundings, but long term we hope to have computers with web access available along with the provision of services which will be beneficial to postgraduates" Lynch states. He will be making a move from his current personal office located within the new SU Building, to a personal office within the centre. This will make life much easier for the President as he will have more of an ability

to interact with the postgrads in the centre, and his office will not have to be used as a continual base to such an extensive degree.

At the moment the centre provides seating and table areas for about 30 people along with tea and coffee making and some storage facilities. The reason that the PSA were eligible for a centre, is that they are represented in the Governing Authority by their President Marcus Lynch. No other society or association on campus has this position. Under the 1997 Universities Act postgrads were officially given the right to vote for a person to represent them on a Governing Authority on all campuses in Ireland. Every postgrad in UL has the right to vote for the election of the President of the PSA, who then sits on the Governing Authority. This post recognises the right to sit on the Authority. The Buildings Dept. in turn are funding the expenses incurred in the renovating of the

building.

Lynch, in his interview with An Focal spoke of what he hopes the centre will be utilised for and what it will mean to postgrads.

"Initially, we hope to start off small, with for example, coffee mornings and then progress on to for example, the invitation of guest speakers, use of the centre as a working area for the organisation of events, such as the Postgrad Ball etc." he stated. He is delighted that centre has been designated as a specific postgrad area as it can enable the group to integrate further, and it will also enable the Association's Committee to co-operate more flexibly. In a summary of his views on the new PSA Centre Lynch concludes "I'm delighted to be moving into a facility that will be of great benefit to all postgrads in UL and I hope that it will become a dynamic service-based centre for everyone in this group".

The World at Large in Association with



Widening access Vs maintaining completion rates

NUI Maynooth's President, Seamus Smyth, has defended his college's reputation in a column in the Irish Times, March 1, 2001, in the wake of the new Higher Education Report. A Study of Non-Completion In Undergraduate University Courses, revealed that NUI Maynooth has the worst retention rate in the country, with almost 30 per cent of students likely to drop out of courses, which is 13 per cent worse than the national average.

He criticised the conflict between widening access to university and maintaining high completion rates. "If Government policy and social justice favour the former, there is a clear imperative to recognise that widened social access requires a new approach to student and institutional support," he said.

"NUI Maynooth, which for more than a decade, has had the highest percentage of lower socio-economic groups and mature students would therefore be statistically most likely to have the highest non-completion rates of the seven universities. Disappointingly, but unsurprisingly, the statistical probability has proven true in this HEA report."

NUI Maynooth's access programme involves collaboration with five national schools from socio-economically disadvantaged areas.

Disadvantaged students at Maynooth are offered a two-week orientation programme prior to embarking on first year. Student shadowing and mentoring is another aspect of the

programme, as well as financial support.

Last year, 37 students participated in the programme, 10 of which later went on to become full-time students in NUI Maynooth. This compares favourably with national figures. Last year, less than 130 students entered university on access initiatives. Up to 40 entered UCD and only 67 entered Trinity College in five years.

With reference to colleges with higher retention rates, he believes this is because they are "more privileged in their middle-class composition than those which have had a long tradition of social inclusiveness."

"Support to correct this imbalance will be expensive, but it may be more honest to admit that than to ignore the inherent conflict between a political policy of inclusive access and a university's implied moral responsibility to minimise non-completion rates."

The current maintenance grant allocation need to be examined, he argued because he believes it "ignores the reality that the playing pitch is not level for all institutions, nor for all classes of students within them." This criticism comes only days after TCD's Provost Dr Thomas Mitchell, criticised various aspects of Government policy on third level education. The Provost had called for the decision to abolish third-level fees to be re-examined, because it had benefited middle-class students but had damaged attempts to get poorer students into university.

Feminist Lecturer becomes Lapdancer

A UK feminist university lecturer is leaving academia to become a lapdancer in Florida, the Guardian revealed.

Wolverhampton University's Cathy MacGregor specialises in drama and has written extensively about the portrayal of women in the work of sexist male dramatists.

Her career in lapdancing started when she studied the women's side of entertainment and went to New York to get a job as a lapdancer. Earning about \$500 a night, she became addicted to the financial gain of the business. As a lecturer, she earned less in a month than she did dancing for 48 hours.

MacGregor does not tell her dancing friends that she is a feminist academic, in case they think she is intellectually superior. But she says her gender theory is completely compatible with the sex business. "Lapdancing is a logical step from my intellectual, feminist work. You are empowered - You simply act out a parody of female sexuality, under stage names like Demon and Seduction. It is like being a female drag queen."

She recently performed a one-woman, nude art, Scarlett's story at her former university. The show features her video diaries, ballet dance and deconstruction of lapdancing moves to spoken views on the industry. "When the audience comes in, I am naked. I make a point of making eye contact with all of them. Later, as I am going through the moves of dancing, I speak the mundanity of what is going through my head. I say: 'God, my feet are killing me. I am dying for a cup of tea.'"

SPECIAL FOCUS – RACISM ON CAMPUS

In recent years, there has been a significant rise in the numbers of international students enrolling in universities here, on account of programmes such as ERASMUS, LINGUA and SOCRATES. Universities' interest in attracting high fee paying non-EU students on full time courses has also contributed to this increase. Yet, a fully comprehensive range of measures against discrimination is lacking in Irish universities, where there are no inclusive anti-discrimination policies. Although there are equal opportunities policies in place (Equal Status Bill 1999, Article 13, European Union Treaty of Amsterdam, 1997, Universities Act 1997, Employment Equality Act 1998, and the recent equality legislation), they are largely aimed at staff, covering in particular the areas of employment equality and sexual harassment.

The University Act 1997 states "one of the objects of a university is "to promote gender balance and equality of opportunity among students and employees of the university." It is hoped that the University Act 1997 will interpret equality policies as widely as possible, to include the dimension of race, ethnicity and religion, which are relevant both to international and ethnic minority university students. As to the extent bullying and harassment can be protracted to racism, the jury is still out.

But combating racism is about more than putting policies in place, its about changing attitudes, according to USI's equality officer, Rory Mc Daid. "We have a responsibility to international students who have been on campus for many years. They have faced a series of discrimination, not only in colleges, but in wider society," he explained.

On the 12th of March 2001 all third level colleges and higher education institutions in Ireland are getting involved in a project to promote inter-culturalism on their campus and to make students aware of the problem of racism as it exists in Ireland today.

"The campaign is about challenging the attitudes of tomorrow's professionals - if we can change attitudes, then the campaign will have been successful," he said. The campaign, which also recognises racism towards travellers, is likely to feature annually in organised college campaigns.

A vast array of activities are planned in colleges to mark the significance of the week. Guest speakers, debates challenging peoples' attitudes and various films depicting the detrimental impact of racism, such as American History X, will be shown. Some canteens will promote multi-culturalism canteen food fares, and Amnesty International are expected to deliver seminars. UCC are holding a fashion show on various ethnic dresses, and some colleges are holding music events with Nigerian musicians, to name a few.

During the campaign the USI are urging students to consider the enormous potential benefits to be derived from utilising the resources of an increasingly diverse and multi-cultural college community, which can offer all its members valuable opportunities for intercultural learning, both in formal and informal settings. After all, true international education is said to depend on a fundamental willingness, across all activities of an educational institution,

to allow space for understandings of reality which are different from each other and from our own.

It is even difficult to gauge the level of racism in Irish colleges in a European context, because student minority groups in Ireland visit on a temporary basis, so Irish people are less likely to identify them as a threat to their society, according to Paulina Chiwangu, from the Department of Applied Social Studies in University College Cork.

A 1997 report on Racism and International students in Ireland documented the experience, perception and discrimination against international students in three universities in the Republic of Ireland. The report found that many of the non-white students attributed the rise in their experiences with racism, to the economic boom and the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers.

One African student in the study believed that Irish behaviour towards black people was that black people as a group are assumed to be refugees, and as such they are perceived to be dependent on the Irish state, taking social welfare benefits from more deserving Irish people.

The study proposes that Irish discrimination makes sense in contemporary Irish conditions. Since Ireland has only recently emerged as "developed", and has even more recently become a destination for immigrants, fears of a return to the hard times, unemployment and high emigration of the past are not far below the surface. "One could even argue," the report says, "that Irish discrimination is partly the result of Irish people projecting negative cultural stereotypes about themselves onto the most available "others"". Ironically, then, their real underlying fear could be that people from the developing world will act like the Irish supposedly acted in the past, it concludes. As to whether the experience of international students in Ireland has improved since 1997 Dr Ronit Lentin, a lecturer on ethnic and racial studies at Trinity College, believes the situation has worsened because of Government Immigration Asylum policy. "As long as there is a notion that many of these people are here on bogus terms, some people will feel justified in making racist remarks."

Dr Lentin advocates colleges providing cultural awareness and sensitivity training for all categories of academic and administrative staff, as a normal and on going aspect of staff development, as in the UK. "Medical students from Malaysia, especially females, find it very difficult to study here because they are not really catered for, there is no real understanding of their different cultural needs," she said. While commending the HEA's published recommendations on ethnic Minorities in Higher Education, she believes they do not go far enough, and that a legislative framework is the only means of tackling the issue.

Although UCD and NUI Galway offer racial studies courses as a module, Trinity College's ethnic and racial studies course, now in its fourth year, is the only full-time course of its kind in Ireland. The situation is likely to change, if international models are anything to go on, Ms Lentin points out. "Many of the new sociolo-

gy jobs in US and UK businesses are in ethnic and racial studies, its very much a growth area," she explains.

There are also some inherent flaws in higher education world-wide. The absence of standardisation of foreign degrees in the Irish higher education system militates further against international students studying here. "There is no way to assess degrees from Africa and Asia for example, so those students cannot study postgraduates here," Dr Lentin said. An immediate challenge facing students, according to Ms Chiwangu, is to address "black" terminologies, an area of racism by and large overlooked by academics in Ireland. Even terms such as racism reduces the gravity of the misdeeds of the perpetrators, she suggests. "When black people have attacked white people, it is referred to as 'barbaric', and 'animalistic'. Yet when white people attack blacks, it is called racism and not 'barbaric', and 'animalistic'". "Perhaps people who perpetrate racism would be less inclined to do so if they knew that their behaviour would be seen in this manner". The PC war is gaining victory on sexist language, and similar measures should be taken with racist language, she believes. Racist attitudes in young Irish business graduates are set to be challenged, with the recent announcement that the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business in UCD, in conjunction with the United Nations, are to introduce a programme to combat racism. The programme will involve leading business schools worldwide, and introduce new topics to the curriculum. Although very much at the development stage, seminars are expected to take place before the end of the academic year, delivered by guest experts in the field.

"Smurfit Business School will become a catalyst for an international seminar, in this proactive approach to address racism," Smurfit school's executive chairman told campus.ie. At a national level, a Government advisory body recently announced that racist incidents will be monitored under a self-reporting system. Victims denied access to public places or shops or subject to attack or racist jokes can send details to a new database operated by the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI). Information will be gathered through self-reporting by community groups and organisations, with the results published annually.

The Higher Education Equality Unit (HEEU) is a national organisation, established in 1992 to promote equality in higher education in Ireland, through good policy and practice. It is funded by the Higher Education Authority and hosted by University College Cork. The HEEU recognise the need to build on the work of other national bodies, such as the HEA, ICOS and lecturer Trade Unions who have developed initiatives aimed at promoting equality at third level. Next April should see their latest work on racism in universities. For up to date progress, visit www.ucc.ie/equality/Recommendations/Doing_it_Differently.htm

Yale students get Cheaper Drugs for Africa

One of the world's biggest drugs companies yesterday relaxed its patent over two Aids drugs, allowing manufacturers in South Africa to produce cheaper copies for local use, representing a break through in the struggle against Aids in developing countries.

Its decision follows a series of protests about the high price of the treatments from students and scientists at Yale where major drugs research is carried out, and the key chemical compound within Zerit, was invented.

Pressure from students at Yale University, helped persuade Bristol-Myers Squibb to make the biggest concession yet by the pharmaceuticals industry to widening the availability of medicines in Africa. Bristol Myers Squibb has the license to make and sell an anti aids drug developed at Yale with the help of public money. In effect, Bristol-Myers Squibb is lowering the price of its drugs in Africa from \$20 a day to less than \$1.

Bristol Myers Squibb is not the only company reducing its prices. All the main companies have now said they will cut the price of their anti-retroviral drugs, the family of drugs used to combat AIDS.

The university earns \$40m in royalties a year from sales of the drug, but has little control over pricing under an agreement giving Bristol Myers-Squibb exclusive manufacturing rights. Yale law students had formed a pressure group aimed at shaming the university into taking greater responsibility for the social impact of the inventions it licenses for profit.

The case has highlighted the growing tension in US universities between their identity as icons of academic independence on one hand and wealthy "profit centres" for corporate sponsors on the other. Yale received a \$250,000 donation from Bristol-Myers Squibb three years ago, and there are other close ties between research staff members and the pharmaceutical industry.

The latest student unrest comes just months after student protests over the sweatshop factory conditions which they claim are commonplace in the production of American university-endorsed clothing and sportswear. Last year, college students led 16 separate sit-ins of university buildings. American clothing and sports manufacturers provide lucrative sponsorship deals to universities and colleges, something which American campaigners cite as one of the main reasons for the campaign's success

Tummy Bugs attacked at NUI Galway

Researchers at NUI Galway have come up with a rapid test to detect strains of a form of gastroenteritis which can lead to paralysis.

The test that the research team of Dr. Anthony Moran and Dr. Martina Prendergast of the Department of Microbiology in NUI, Galway have developed, which eliminates the need to grow large quantities of organism and substantially reduces the time needed for strain characterisation.

Enteritis most often results from consumption of untreated milk or water, or via consumption of undercooked poultry meat. Cont./ Patients with C. jejuni enteritis usually recover within a few days but in a small proportion of cases, a rare neurological disorder, known as Guillain-Barr syndrome (GBS) develops 7-10 days after the onset of enteritis symptoms.

Those unlucky enough to get this strain can be left paralysed for months, and one in five are left with residual disability, while a further five per cent of cases are fatal. Symptoms of GBS begin with a tingling or a 'pins and needles' feeling in the toes and tips of fingers, which rapidly progresses to include the whole of the limbs.

"There are increasing concerns at the level of illness caused by C. jejuni infection, which now exceeds the combined total of enteritis cases caused by Salmonella, E coli, and Shigella", says Dr. Anthony Moran of NUI, Galway's Department of Microbiology, who has done extensive research in this area. In total, 2085 cases of laboratory-confirmed C. jejuni enteritis were reported in 1999 in Ireland. In the UK and US, where there is significant public awareness of the condition, C. jejuni is regarded as a major contributor to employee absenteeism.

Future of digital plagiarism threatened

By Michelle Daly

Anyone whose ever been in college has thought about it. It's the middle of the night and your sitting mind bogglingly tired in front of a computer trying to finish (or even start) an essay which is due the next day.

Just as you are you finished you fiftieth coffee you start to think how easy it would be to just click your mouse and get a whole range of essays that are on the web to be used for that purpose.

Unfortunately new developments made by faculties in Berkeley College, University of California. This form of academic cheating is close to becoming a thing of the past.

According to a recent study by USA Today five percent of college students admitted to using a Paper mill, or other Internet source to plagiarise., despite warnings from lecturers that the essays on the net are sub-standard and often poorly graded. How many Irish student s do the same?

At the moment there is no accurate way to measure how much "digital plagiarism" takes place to prove it. If a professor even suspects an essay may not be the candidate's own work trying, to find the essay in its original source is like finding a needle in a haystack.

The number of essay sites is growing everyday and there is little academic staff can do to review the essays or papers available to students. However technological innovations to detect cheaters or copied essays are increasing as fast as the proliferation of paper mill sites.

The informatics and science industry and academic faculties of many universities have had services such as Integrigaurd, the essay verification engine and MOSS (or Measurement of software similarity) around for a while.

A new service called Plagiarism Org was developed at the University of California, Berkeley in the last year. The college administrators found that it saved faculty members hours of research in finding students guilty of academic cheating.

Doug Zuidema, director of the Office of Student Conduct at UC Berkeley stated that "people do cheat and they're taking away from your chances of succeeding." After the recent 100 per cent increase in cases of academic dishonesty in the University, the department decided to take drastic action. They developed "Plagiarism. Org" a new service that turns the computers against the digital cheater.

A PhD student at the university, Christian Storm, has helped develop the website that determines if a students paper is likely to have been plagiarised .The paper is given a mathematical abstraction that is a kind of fingerprint and then the search engine looks for a similar fingerprint on the websites that sell essays.

The result is a report to show the professor not only which portions of an essay is stolen but also exactly where on the Internet a student got the material.

The service has been so popular they now have a permanent contract with UC, Berkeley and other colleges and universities in the States.

Rumours are abounding that some Irish universities are in discussion with "Plagiarism.org". But one question remains, how long can it be before Irish universities and students are availing of this technology.

Remember if you are thinking about buying an essay off of the net, think twice the odds of getting caught are getting greater by

Student Protests Indonesian Style

Jakarta- Thousands of students recently rallied outside the Indonesian state palace in Jakarta demanding the resignation of the President Abdurrahman Wahid. Thousands more rallied at campuses across the capital and staged street marches.

Calls for Mr Wahid to quit or stand aside pending investigations mounted after parliament censured him over two multi-million-dollar corruption scandals. Mr Wahid has denied any wrongdoing and refused calls to quit.

The anti-Wahid protesters, many linking arms and waving banners, marched down to the palace through Jakarta's main street. Scores of riot police and soldiers guarded the palace and kept the students apart from a small group of the president's supporters. Students were reported to have faced off with Wahid supporters earlier at parliament. The protest caused jittery financial markets to plunge amid fears of a new round of unrest.

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A Word In Everyone's Ear

Get everything off your chest!!!!

Ref: Article "The Opinion of Mark Quinlan".

I may as well be clear from the outset. My primary New Years resolution is to make great enemies.

You, Mr. Quinlan, seem to be the most wastefully easy of targets. You may call me a coward to be focusing on you, but after all it is only barely March, and I am just getting into my stride.

It seems to me rather sad and regretful that your primary reaction to our new art installation was on monetary terms. Obviously, you have neither an appreciative fibre nor a scintilla of imagination in your being.

I do not wish to make you reach for the dictionary, for if you were in possession of one, it would no doubt be unidentifiable to you.

No doubt, also, it is not just an unhappy coincidence that as you seem to have a primordial fixation with quantities and figures, you also seem to represent on behalf of humanity the lowest common denominator.

In fact, I am surprised this civilised society even bothers to carry people like you forward. For years, society was carrying forward the pennies, and now we are reaping the pounds. Unfortunately, you were simultaneously carrying forward your syllables, and now you think it original and pertinent to reap your sordid sentences on Art, a subject in which you will clearly never reap anything.

When you look at the new figure you are only considered with the economic fallout, when it looks back at you, it sees the latest addition to the line of UL dropouts. And deservedly so. It is true after all. When 2 people come in contact things become calamitous.

Clearly, you have become exceedingly dull, no little consequence of your congealed soul. You represent a certain notable regression in humanity. A military man would call it mere collateral damage.

I suggest for your personal development you start by reading the Irish Times and then aim to progress up to the Harry Potter series by Christmas 2 years.

If the powers that be, wished to flex their muscles, they would have you expelled, as you clearly have an arrested intellectual development, and are entirely inadequate for UL, which purports to be a university, supporting you and your ilk in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I do not know, or wish to know, you personally, so it is easy at this remove to get personal. I should desist, but I found your pathetic opinion without an ounce of redeemable charm.

If something is unfathomable to you, do not immediately assume that you have the sole copyright to a sickly opinion that is all too commonly held by many others. It would be better for the health of humanity that you would pass over a subject, such as Art, in silence, than reveal your ignorance in all its' inglorious ejaculations in these pages. How can the majority of the student body not appreciate the new figure? Surely not on the grounds of not being in the possession of one.

You are probably one of these stupid people who take great pleasure in being grievously wrong on all issues, so I hope this vulgar soulless condition will be

**Yours always & forever,
David M.W. O'Gorman.**

In reply to Mr O'Gorman's bitchin'

Clearly we've tweaked a raw nerve of someone who deems themselves to be a connoisseur of art. Unfortunately, for Mr O'Gorman I am unable to spare the time necessary to be offended to his poorly constructed reprimands. But in the interest in fairness, I'll politely reply. I think it rather ironic that someone who has the boldness to categorise myself as "the latest in a line

of UL dropouts" does not possess the intelligence capacity of a sheep with Foot and Mouth disease, to realise that the whole purpose of the article was to gauge a reaction. Mr O'Gorman seems to think that I was trying to pathetically pass myself off as some sort of art critic who has nothing better to do in life than to worry about the arrangements of a few brush strokes on a canvas. That couldn't further from the truth, I mean don't get me wrong I didn't write the article to diss so-called 'art experts', the whole point of the article, which for someone who believes he is of a species of higher intellect (well I got news for you pal, you fuckin' ain't), was to determine if the majority of students in the college feel that not enough is being done in terms of the provision of students welfare, i.e. facilities and services? Hence the reason for the focus on monetary, aspect of the new line of modern art to grace UL. It was quite apparent from reading the reply that Mr O'Gorman got completely carried away and spewed off into his own tangent by proclaiming that I should be expelled from UL straight away. Have you ever heard of the concept of Freedom of Speech? If people were punished every time they expressed their perspective or opinion on something even if it is a matter which they are not world renowned experts in then you might as well try to get the vast majority of the college expelled you twat. It would be very interesting to gauge the overall perspective of the student body to see if they agree or disagree that the incomprehensible nature of UL expenditure is a load of bollocks and whether or not people really take any significant notice or art in UL. Again to reiterate for the benefit of those who find it difficult to grasp a simple concept such as humour, the objective of the article was gain a reaction and it was achieved. Just one last point, Mr O'Gorman, I feel sorry for people like you taking life so seriously, which might explain why you have an obvious chip on your shoulder as you feel its necessary for you to make as many enemies as possible. Why don't you try taking up a hobby, which is considered thrilling and fun to do and stop wasting my fucking time.

**David O'Gorman's Public Enemy #1,
Mark Quinlan.**

Letter of the Week

Dear Sir,

Does the Student Union have it right? Before I go on about how the Students Union executive committee get somethings wrong, it would be better to say that they also have so much right. This years SU are the best (I think) since I started University in 1998 (For all you silly people that means this is the third SU I have seen). They are the only committee I have seen that wanted to help the students and not themselves, and this cannot be left unsaid in any article that "criticises" this years SU. But as with everything else there are always mistakes, and this is what I wish to be seen so that hopefully this years SU will begin to rectify these "problems".

The biggest problem I had with this years committee was not the protest itself but the main reason for the protest (For those of you who do not know what I am talking about, I am talking about the Car Parking issue). I for one don't care whether or not students have to pay for the use of a car park, I would actually go as far as to support it. There are far too many cars in here already, an idea would be to set up something so willing drivers will put their name down for car pooling, and the SU can organise people (other drivers) to travel with these people. I have noticed that when I walk into the University that most of the cars in the long Jam at the entrance only have one person in them and this is why there should be an organised car pooling system.

But as usual this is only one of the problems, as most of you know, the protest was not only for car parking but that was the main issue, I was present at 7:30 at the protest for the other issues, issues such as Student Services, Student safety, Handicap access and Student recognition (to name a few things), these are the issues that really need to be tackled, one at a time, there is no easy fix, but I am sure that if students were asked to protest for most of these things they would do it in a second, and you wouldn't have only two hundred students out in the cold but nearly the whole University (including staff)

I spend far too much of my time in the CSIS building (is that still going to be called the Grace Hopper????) and I have noticed that there is no real wheelchair access to this building from the plaza due to those horrible steps between the plaza and the CSIS building (the Schumann should also be mentioned as there is no access to that either). Although most of the main building is completely wheelchair accessible it is worth to mention that most of those doors are too difficult to open sometimes so I think this needs to be looked into, the University did however install a door especially for people with disabilities but other people need to remember that if that door is over used it will break so all of you who like using this door please think of the people who actually need it.

Another issue worth mentioning is the student services, which is not due to the people working there (as these people do work very hard) but due to the facilities, Student Services to be honest really need their own building, if the university can afford to spend outrageous amounts of money for statues and fountains etc. I think they would also have enough for a necessary building for the students so that all the tittering in the queue for student services won't annoy the people in Jean Monet theatre. The Medical Centre in UL also seems to be below standard, there are clearly not nearly enough doctors there; this is another issue that needs to be mentioned. I believe most students don't want to queue for two hours just for the nurse to tell them that they will be fine and that there is nothing really wrong with them.

Student Safety has always been an issue since I started University, and it still is an issue that needs to be tackled. Where is this police station that was supposed to be set up in Castletroy a long time ago? This region of Limerick needs a constant police presence, there are too many people here for there not to be. I am however going to say a big thank you to the security service in the University as they keep a constant patrol even though they are vastly undermanned, I am annoyed with people criticising the security here in the University, although it is clearly not enough it needs to be said that the people that are there do a lot to make sure us students are safe.

But there are also issues that I can never remember the SU mentioning, for instance, there is a major problem in UL with litter, I have noticed it, and I have noticed even more the lack of Rubbish bins, between the Students Union Complex and the east gate there is a grand total of zero rubbish bins (excepting the one just off the path at the AIB). Is this right? I don't think so, many of our cleaner students are fed up of having to carry litter all the way home because there are no bins to put them in, Also on the path to the Schumann (although it is not really complete) there is no bins, another mistake by the University who say that they want a good image for visitors, well I don't think a filthy campus is good for visitors.

To finish I am going to say that this years SU are doing a great job and I hope that they will get the ball rolling on at least some of the issues that I mentioned above, and maybe next years SU will finish off what has only just begun

Ragdoll

If you've got something to say, or even nothing to say but you can say it in a clever way, drop us a line in An Focal. You might get it printed, and If it is good enough you might just win yourself £15.

**Either drop it in to An Focal Letter-box in the Students' Union Building ,
or e-mail it to**

fergal.fennessy@ul.ie

Education Tirade

As I mentioned in my greeting, my brother's best friend passed away last week and, therefore, I haven't much to say in terms of what has been going on with the Education Portfolio as I spent the best part of the week at home.

Junior Minister for Education on Campus.

On the plus side some efforts are beginning to pay off. The Junior Minister for Education Willie O'Dea came in to see us this week (week 5) in his capacity as both the Minister and as a TD for the Limerick East constituency. He met with Mick Phelan the SU President, Ella Daly the SU Societies Officer, Stan Blennerhassett the SU General Manager and myself the SU Education Officer. We thanked him for calling to see us and raised a number of issues with him.

Of concern to us, and following on from our protest last semester, we addressed the issue of bus lanes from the city to accommodate faster turn around times for buses getting on and off the campus. We informed him of the agreement we had gotten from the University to lobby on behalf of the campus to get these brought about. We also informed him of the other agreed actions the University were to take, covered bike shelters, bus shelters, and the possibility of covered walkways between buildings, all of which were still outstanding.

We told him that this inaction is indicative of the type of cooperation we can regularly expect from the University Management even though as the Student Representatives we are partners with the University under the Universities Act. We outlined the fact that although the University upheld the letter of the act and included us in all discussion processes, they were not fulfilling the spirit of the act as they only paid lip service to the issues we raised. This, we said, was the major reason behind our protest last semester, where our slogan had been, "What do we want? Recognition!" We informed him of the major issues we had with the University; resources for the support areas such as Student Services, the Medical Centre and Student Personnel Services. We told him space and better pay conditions were paramount in resolving these problems. We also outlined other issues such as the 40 to 1 student teacher ratio of the College of Business, and the issue of the National Student Grant, which to our understanding were for the government to address.

We will be continuing our contact with Mr. O Dea in the future and are open to any approaches by any other politicians who are genuinely interested in championing our concerns. We have every intention of continuing our Registration to Vote Programme and will be encouraging future SU's to do the same as it is already paying dividends!

A Word from the Equality Officer on Racism

The reason the issue of Racism has come to the fore at present is: a number of weeks ago a French Erasmus student of African origin was confronted in the Stables by an Irish Student and told to go home nigger. The truism that three quarters of all students in U.L live away from home was lost on that particular open minded individual. The aim of this article is to make people aware that this kind of sub-human behaviour goes on and promote understanding towards those of a different skin colour amongst the student body.

For centuries the Irish have been an homogeneous sect, this has begun to change with the influx of refugees, Asylum seekers and guests workers from abroad. For some this has been a frightening experience, but the vast majority of people in this country have embraced and welcomed those from foreign shores and divergent backgrounds who

endeavour to establish a new life for themselves in Ireland. Government policy on this matter has been ill thought out and malignly implemented. They have failed to consult and inform host communities of their policy of housing refugees/ asylum seekers in economically disadvantaged areas. This has lead to hostility and prejudice and has sowed the seeds of racial hate in this country.

I think it is imperative of the Students of U.L to demonstrate that we can rise above such despicable behaviour and attitudes to colleagues of ours of a dis-similar race. Lets make full sure that the aforementioned incident in the Stables was an incident too many.

Aengus O Malley (Equality Officer)



Thinking of Running for a Sabbatical Position in the Students' Union

Positions Available:

Students' Union President

Deputy President/Welfare Officer

Vice-President/Communication & Campaigns Officer

Vice-President/Education Officer

Nominations Open - Monday April 2nd

Nominations Close - Wednesday 4th 5pm

So You Want To Be Education Officer

The Vice President/Education Officer is a new position, which came into being in the academic year 2000/2001. The Education Officer is responsible for the representation of students in the area of education.

According to the Students Union Constitution

"The Vice President - Education Officer shall be responsible for the development and implementation of the Union Education Policy and for keeping the student body informed of same."

What this entails in practice.

As a definition of the Education Officer's role the Constitution only really touches on the tip of the iceberg. Policy development and implementation only comes about after extensive study and involvement in situational experiences. In other words only after an issue is highlighted, examined and discussed can a policy be brought forward and then implemented.

This means the job requires an awareness of the issues at both very broad and in-depth levels. Broad in the sense that one must be aware of the knock on implications, how it can impact on other areas and other issues outside of those directly involved. In-depth, in the sense that one must be aware of all aspects of the issue so that one can argue the case in front of the relevant parties, i.e. if the problem comes up at a University meeting you are expected to be able to give a coherent empirical argument, very often against the expert in the area, whose programme you might want to change.

Education Role of the Education Officer (Primary Role).

- i). Dealing with day-to-day student problems. - A large portion of the job entails advising students on the options open to them with regard choices they may want to make. Transferring from one course to another, leaving University, their rights with regard re-checks, their entitlements under the regulations and advising students who have personal problems that have affected their academic standing are just some examples of the areas covered.
- ii). Coordinating and overseeing the Class Representatives infrastructure. - Enrolling, training and informing Class Representatives of their roles and func-

tions. Ensuring that they are fulfilling those duties and providing whatever support they require.

iii). Educational standards and requirements. - Ensuring on behalf of the student body that the University maintains the highest educational standard at all times.

Monitoring course curriculums, lecturing standards, academic appeals and observing the tutor system would all fall under this part of the Education portfolio.

iv). Physical infrastructure of University. - Responsible for ensuring on behalf of the student body that the physical educational infrastructure of the University such as the library, laboratories, language-lab facilities, lecture theatres and tutorial rooms are of sufficient quality to allow students to get the best from them. To ensure the equipment and stocks of these resources such as books, computers, drawing tables and lab machinery are available in sufficient numbers and of a sufficient standard.

v). Responsible for the development and implementation of education policy. - In response to any or all of the above it may be necessary from time to time to introduce a Students' Union policy on an issue to outline the student position and action on an issue.

The Vice President Role of the Education Officer (Secondary Role).

- i). Responsible to Students' Union Executive and Class Representatives. - As part of the sabbatical team and outside of the education role already outlined above.
- ii). Director of the SU Company.

Committee Requirements:

The Education Officer sits on the following standing committees:

A). Within the University.

- 1). Academic Council:
This is the governing authority of academic issues within the University. All of the other committees feed into this one to have decisions ratified. For some issues an item may still need to be addressed to Governing Authority.
- 2). Academic Programme Review Committee:
This committee oversees the introduction of new modules and courses or changes to existing ones.
- 3). Academic Regulations Committee:
This committee oversees the academic regulations of the University, changing them where necessary and highlighting issues in them should the need arise.
- 4). Academic Calendar Planning and Implementation Committee:
This committee is responsible for any changes in the academic calendar and implementing the same.
- 5). Discipline Committee:
This committee deals with any serious infraction of the Code of Conduct. An Assessment Committee deals with minor infractions. It involves hearing cases and ruling on them in a court like environment.
- 6). Faculty Boards:
Each of the six colleges of the University have their own version of Academic Council where they make decisions for their college subject to the ultimate ratification of the relevant committee and Academic Council.
- 7). Library Student User Group:
A stand-alone working group made up of students and library personnel that examine ways of improving services and library conditions for all.
- 8). Stables Club Management Committee:
The committee that deals with the overall management of the Stables Club not its day-to-day operation. (Membership not necessarily ex-officio.)
- 9). Steering Committee on Quality:
A statutory committee responsible for organising

and overseeing quality audits across the entire University. This committee would make recommendations on necessary changes to Academic Council.

10). Student Affairs Committee:

Is a standing committee reporting to the University Management Committee, (therefore outside the normal structure), which sets up working groups on an issue basis. The working groups the Education Officer currently sit on are; the Student Advisor Working Group and the Orientation Week Working Group. See ad hoc committees below.

11). Student Status Committee (if asked to do so by the student before the committee meeting):

These committees sit to discuss individual student's should the need arise, normally in connection with progression. We have no standing on these committees nor are we allowed to attend, as the nature of these meetings are considered confidential. Our position on this however is should a student request we attend then we will do so as the student has waived that confidentiality.

B). Within the Students' Union.

1). Class Representative Council:

Is the Students' Union governing body. It deliberates on all matters pertaining to the Students' Union with the exception of Clubs and Societies.

2). Class Representative Education Committee:

This is a committee of Class Representative Council, which deals with all education issues. It reports to council and gives direction to the Education Officer as well as carrying out work of its own.

3). Company Board:

This is the financial division of the Students' Union responsible for the various ventures the SU has to increase funding for union activities.

4). Students' Union Executive:

This is the management committee of the Students' Union. It initiates policy for the Class Representative Council and acts in much the same way for that group as the cabinet does for the Dáil.

From year to year the Education Officer sits on various ad hoc committees, these could continue for the entire duration of his or her tenure or could just meet once or twice in total. Sometimes an ad hoc committee can span a number of sabbatical terms. The following are a list of the current ad hoc committees:

C). Within the University.

1). Implementation Steering Group of the Freedom of Information Act:

A committee set up to get the University ready for the implementation of the Act which will come into effect in November 2001. The committee is examining current procedures and how they will need to be changed to come into line with the requirements of the act. It is also responsible for overseeing those changes.

2). Orientation Week Working Group:

This group is examining Orientation Week process and examining ways of improving the same.

3). Student Advisor Working Group:

This group is examining the current Student Advisor system and is looking at how it can be improved.

D). Within the Students' Union.

1). Select Group on Wired FM:

A group set up to deal with the outstanding problems with the Students' Union participation with Wired FM. This group is made up of representative of all branches of the Union concerned with this issue.

2). Co-op Focus Group:

A student driven initiative set up to look at the Co-op experience. It is mandated to try and identify issues and suggest possible solutions. These will then be brought to the University and the Co-op office particularly for consideration.



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A Special Report From the President

Kollege Week

Following concerns of the President, Dr. Roger Downer, a meeting to discuss the possible cancellation of Kollege Week took place on Monday 12th of March.

Here is a list of the people invited to attend:

Chairperson

Joe Wallace

Stables Club

Brian Hand

Rose Merrigan

Dave Mahedy

Aileen McCarthy

Donal Fagan

Declan Collins

Scholars Club

Cliona Donnellan

Niall Murphy

Ian O'Donoghue

Michael Dolan

Brian Loughnane

Students' Union Executive

Michael Phelan

Siobhan O'Connell

Tom O'Donovan

Fergal Fennessy

Stephen Driver

Ella Daly

John Mulcahy

Eamonn O'Flynn

Aengus O'Malley

Stan Blennerhasset

ULSU Ents

Keith Piggott

Dave O'Donovan

Shane Dempsey

Edel O'Connell

Sarah Moloney

Teigh McKerring

Jean Barry

Dermot Hartigan

Not all of the above attended the meeting, but the unanimous decision was to proceed with Kollege Week, but with extra precautions.

In line with the Department of Agriculture's guidelines for the prevention of the disease the organisers have put in place the following precautionary measures:

- Mats will be placed at all entrances to events and will be disinfected every hour by Kollege Week Crew with the solution IOSAN Farm disinfectant as recommended by the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.
- In order to discourage visitors from travelling to Kollege Week, entry to all events will be limited to those with UL or ULSU Club card ID's. Other Unions will be contacted with this information and it will also be put on the ULSU website.

In addition to the Department of Agriculture's guidelines, the organisers will be taking the following extra precautions.

- All structures and fixtures will be disinfected daily.
- All vehicles and equipment coming on campus in relation to Kollege week will be disinfected on their arrival.
- Fire Walking and Bungee Jumping have been cancelled due to the large amount of machinery and manpower that would be needed from the UK.

In the event of a single case of FMD in the Republic or a large outbreak in the North of Ireland, the organisers will review the sta-

tus of the entire week.

Elections

Elections for sabbatical officers will take place on Provisionally (Wednesday April 11th from 10 am till 6pm in the main canteen.) Any one interested in going for a position should contact the General Manager

Update on Protest

On Wednesday 14th March, Tom, Stan, Ella Daly and myself met with Minister of State for Education, Mr. Wille O'Dea. He said he will look into the bus lane situation in the city centre and also he will look into the lack of partnership between the University and the Students' Union as your representatives, which is meant to exist according to the Universities Act 1997.

Hopefully this will bring some results.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Roger Downer has drawn up a Strategic Plan for the University. I feel that the Students' Union has a lot to offer the University with respect to services for students and also as representatives. I have indicated the same to the Governing Authority and have secured a position for the Students' Union on the Strategic Plan monitoring group. I feel that the time is ripe for a Union Strategic Plan. This will help the continuity of the Union which has been sadly lacking for a long time, if not indefinitely. I would encourage all the Sub Committees of Class Reps to make submissions to me regarding the future of these committees as they see them and their contribution to the improvement of the union. I would also encourage and welcome any suggestions and ideas that any Class Reps and students would have.

Basically there is no point in having a Strategic Plan that you as the members of the Union do not want.

The final draft of the Strategic Plan would be presented to Class Reps for ratification.

I do not have a date for this and it may not be ready for this semester, but I will present whatever I have at the last meeting of Class Reps this semester.

Having problems with landlords?

There were a couple of students in to me last week with a problem with their landlord.

Let's just say the house they were living in was a complete and utter disgrace. To cut a long story short I had to contact the Fire Chief of Limerick County Council. If a case can be made, the Fire Officer will be prosecuting the Landlord in question, and also there will be a council worker calling to houses in the near future checking to see do landlords have rent books. If there are no rent books and the houses are not in good condition, I will be pushing for prosecutions against landlords. If some landlords are renting sub standard housing, this should encourage them to wise up and keep their accommodation in order.

CULINARY GRACE -

a beginners guide to gourmet cooking

Hi everyone! I have a few nice recipes for you this week, they can be used as starters, snacks or accompaniments. I hope you enjoy them.

They include some extras that may be expensive such as chilli sauce, chutney and salsa, but these can be kept and used in other tasty dishes.

JAMACIAN JERK PITTA

Ingredients	Cost
4 pitta bread	£0.64
2 fillets of chicken	£1.99
2 tablespoons of jerk seasoning	£0.50
25g of chopped lettuce	£0.40
25g of chopped peppers	£0.23
? small onion chopped	£0.08
1 teaspoon of oil	£0.02
1 large tomato sliced	£0.15

dressing:

2 tablespoons of salsa	£0.60
1 tablespoon of mayonnaise	<u>£0.08</u>
	£4.69

Serves: 4

Prep.Time: 2 minutes

Cooking Time: 12 minutes

Instructions

Cut the chicken into strips. Fry in pan until brown (8 minutes) and stir in jerk seasoning coating all the chicken. To make the salsa you can of course buy some or you can make your own by chopping some tomatoes, pepper, onion and adding some chilli powder. The make the dressing stir the mayonnaise into the salsa to make a spicy sort of cocktail sauce. Cook the pittas singlely in the microwave until they puff up (1 ? minutes). The easiest way to open the pitta is to lay it flat and cut lengthways a tiny strip. Open up and fill with lettuce, chicken, onion, peppers and sliced tomato. Top with dressing. Mmmmm...delicious!!!!!!!

Quick Herby Courgettes

Ingredients	Cost
2 small onion, finely chopped	£0.30
2 oz (50g) fresh breadcrumbs	£0.30
2 large egg	£0.40
2 tablespoon of chutney	£0.30
1 teaspoon of hot chilli sauce	£0.20
2 tomatoes, chopped	£0.22
4 large courgettes	£2.86

1 teaspoon of dried mixed herbs	£0.05
tomato wedges to garnish	<u>£0.22</u>
	£4.85

Serves: 4

Prep.Time: 8 minutes

Cooking Time: 15 minutes

Instructions

Half the courgettes lengthways and scoop out the flesh with a teaspoon. Chop the flesh finely and set the shells aside.

Place the courgette flesh, onion, herbs and tomato in a microwave bowl and cook on full power for 5 minutes. Stir in the breadcrumbs, chilli sauce, eggs, chutney and salt and pepper.

Divide the mixture between the 4 shells and place on a flat microwave plate. Cover and cook on full power for 6 minutes, re-arranging halfway for even cooking.

Stand for 2 minutes, then garnish with tomato wedges.

WELSH RAREBIT SOUFFLÉ

Ingredients	Cost
? oz (12g) cornflour	£0.15
? pint (125ml) milk	£0.15
1 oz (25g) grated cheese	£0.75
salt and pepper	£0.02
1 tablespoon of milk for filling	£0.03
2 eggs	£0.20
a little mustard	<u>£0.05</u>
	£1.35

Serves: 4

Prep.Time: 2 minutes

Cooking Time: 10 minutes

Instructions

Mix the cornflour with the ? pint (125ml) of milk, put into a saucepan, bring to the boil for 1 minute stirring all the time.

Add seasoning and when cooked a little add the egg yolks. Beat the egg whites stiffly and fold into the mixture. Heat ? oz (12g) of butter in an omelette pan, pour in the mixture and cook until lightly browned on the under side, then brown the top under the grill. Melt the cheese with the rest of the butter, a tablespoon of milk and seasoning.

Pour over the omelette, fold in half and serve at once.

ROASTED STUFFED PEPPERS

Ingredients	Cost
4 large red peppers	£2.52
1 small yellow pepper	£0.63
50g of cheese	£0.75
1 large onion	£0.15
1 tin of tomatoes	£0.45
3 tablespoons of oil	£0.10
1 tablespoon of mixed herbs	£0.08
salt and pepper	<u>£0.02</u>
	£4.70

Serves: 4

Prep.Time: 10 minutes

Cooking Time: 40 minutes

Instructions

Cut the 4 red peppers down the middle including the stalk and de-seed. Chop the onion and yellow pepper and sauté in a saucepan, add in the breadcrumbs, herbs, tomatoes, salt and pepper and cook for 7 minutes. Stuff the peppers with the mixture and sprinkle with grated cheese. Place on greased oven dish and bake for 30 minutes in a hot oven.

BUBBLE AND SQUEAK

Try this age old recipe for using leftover potatoes and cabbage.

Ingredients	Cost
1lb (500g) leftover mashed potato	£0.80
1lb (500g) leftover cooked cabbage	£1.25
1 onion chopped	£0.15
1 teaspoon of mixed herbs	£0.05
salt and pepper	<u>£0.02</u>
	£2.27

Serves: 6

Prep. Time: 2minutes

Cooking Time: 15 minutes

Instructions

Fry off onions and herbs in a saucepan. Mix into a bowl with cabbage and potato and season with salt and pepper. Heat the butter in a large frying pan, add the potato mixture and smooth it flat with a palette knife.

Fry over a medium heat for about 8 minutes or under side brown.

Place a large plate over the pan and turn the pan, and plate over so that the bubble and squeak is on the plate. Heat the remaining butter in the pan and carefully slide the bubble and squeak back in the pan. Cook again over a medium heat until the other side is golden brown. Cut into wedges and serve.

Luach Ár n-Oidhreacht agus Cultúr

B'fhéidir go bhfuil an colún seo beagánín ró-dhéanach chun béim a chur ar Seachtain Na Gaeilge, ach, é sin ráite, feictear domsa go bhfuil ár ndúchais mar páirt dúinn an bhliain go léir! Ar ndóigh, níl aon rud cearr leis aon céil-iúradh chun tacaíocht a thabhairt don ár gcultúr náisiúnta agus ár n-oidhreacht, ach is oth liom a rá nach bhfuil formhór an náisiún ag baint fíor-thaitneamh as ár ndúchais!

In ionad bheith brodúil as ár gcultúr féin, caitheann an chuid is mó de na hÉirinnigh le suim san ealaín, go háirithe an Stát agus an t-Ollscoil seo, an iomarca airgead ar píosaí d'ealaín ón iasacht! I mo thuairim féin, níl na daoine seo ach ag importáil comhartha ón gcultúr níos laige ná ár ceann dhúchais féin, agus is trua an scéal é nuair nach bhfuil mórtas again ionainn féin! Tá an chuid is mó níos measa ná bruscar-go minic déanta as bruscar-go háirithe an seafóid darbh ainm "ealaín nua". Admhaím go bhfuil áilleacht éigean i bpíosaí áirithe, ach níl go leor samplaí san ealaín iasachtach, Go minic, níl na dánlainne ach ag ceannach ar ais pictiúirí agus dealbha a chruthaigh ealaínteoir Éireannach sa chéad áit! Táim lán ar son é sin, mar mheallann ceannaithe seo ealaínteoirí nua a thosú suas, chomh maith le cabhrú don forbairt cultúrtha istigh in Éirinn atá ag tarlú faoin dtrath seo.

Ach faraoir, taobh amuigh den leabharlann

(an foirgnimh mór i gcúinne an tOllscoil (an foirgnimh mór i gcúinne in aice leis an chlós os comhair an tOllscoil-dála an scéal!) is dealbh iasachta le feiceáil! Is fíor é a rá go bhfuil tréithe fisiciúla tarraingthe amach as an carraig go breá soiléir, agus dá fheicfeá níos gaire ag an dealbh, tá brón agus uaigneas an t-ábhar le mhothú freisin go han-láidir.

Ar aon ns, pé tuairim a bhfuil agaibh faoin cumas an dealbh, ta ceisteanna ar bhéal gach mac léinn. Cloistear fuilleach faoin costas an dealbh, agus an rogha amadánach é a fhágáil amuigh faoi na h-eilimintí, go háirithe an fearthainn, rud a bhfuil cáil bainte amach ag an cathair sin.

Ach tá ceist eile freisin gan freagra!

B'fhéarr liom a phlé libh cén fath nach dtabharfadh an tOllscoil níos mó airgead i dtreo ár gcultúr féin dúchasach! Táim ag déanamh tagairt do ceoil, don litríocht, agus go háirithe an teanga féin! Chonaic me na hoibríthe sa leabharlann ag cur suas fógraí Gaelach suas coicís ó shin. Áfach, níl an t-Ollscoil ag déanamh iarracht in aon chor. Nach bhfuil an méid mic léinn atá ag gabháil leis an Léann Dúchais i mbliana chomh bheag, timpeall deich go léir! Is mór an trua é sin go bhfuil eagraíocht oideachasúil ag cabhrú le bás ár gcultúr!

Mar a deirtear "Is tús maith leath na h-oibre", agus b'fhéidir go bhfuil sé níos easca

freisin! Is léir nach bhfuil go leor obair riachtanach chun béim a chur ar an teanga timpeall an t-ollscoil.

Fágfaidh mé libh le pointe beag faoin dealbd sa chlós. Feictear domsa go bhfuil sé clúdaithe le meirg. B'fhéidir go gcaithfeadh an Roinn Talmhaíochta iarracht é a dhíglaladh leis na mataí salach agus tirim atá timpeall an t-Ollscoil!

Gluais

Oidhreacht-heritage
Ealaín-art
an iomarca-too much
áilleacht éigean-certain beauty
iasachtach-foreign
mheallann-encourages/coaxes
forbairt cultúrtha-cultural development
faoin dtrath seo-at the present time
dála an scéal-by the way
seafóid-bruscar
na dánlainne-art galleries
chruthaigh-created
Fuilleach-plenty
Oideachasúil-educational
Roinn Talmhaíochta-Dept of Agriculture
Dhíghaladh-disinfect

Please F***k Off Letters

By Gerard Gill

Basically you go to College to get some sort of paid job. I'm aware that there are some Peter Pans in this College and in other academic institutions, but even they must leave Never Never Land some-time. Even those who have been stuck in Computer Systems, since the start of the Cold War will eventually find some type of employment. HPSS (sorry HPSSS) students will hopefully be promoted to management positions in glamorous organisations like Superdine and McDonalds, after 20+ years of working behind the counter. Public Administration graduates will spend 30 years justifying their existence and preventing all attempts to relate pay to productivity. Teachers and Nurses will spend their careers saying how much compassion they have, for those in their care while constantly refusing to work. Engineers and IT related androids will make large sums of money, but will have no one to spend it with, become increasingly depressed and die alone, due to the personality lobotomy and humanity bypass they received upon registering for College. Law graduates will break up families, get drug barons and terrorists free and fill up the jails with those who haven't paid them. They will be the happiest of the lot.

However first you must go through the tortuous process of actually getting a job. The most important term you must learn with relation to job seeking is PFO - The letter of rejection. This stands for the Please F*** Off letter. There are three distinct types of PFOs. 1. 'You are really stupid, worthless and an annoying flea'. This may also be known as a simple FO. 2. 'We will keep your application on file, honest' and 3. 'We'll say you are talented, intelligent but unfortunately unsuitable, because we value our public image'. The first type is best. It's honest and free from sycophancy. Upon receipt of this letter, you feel like a vivisection monkey who sees a scientist approaching him with a needle. The second type contains such gems as "unfortunately, we do not have any suitable position for your particular skills and qualifications..... should a suitable position arise, we will think, hang on that Gill chap is the only man suitable for this position.

Lets go down to the vault where we keep such valued applications". The final type of PFO is the best. A typical line is "... though we were highly impressed with your credentials, experience and qualifications, unfortunately we found some one just a teeny bit more qualified". This letter is the cruellest of them

all. To quote John Cleese, "I can handle the disappointment, its the hope that kills me". The receiver thinks, "oh I was so close, imagine the only person more qualified than me in the EU, applied for the same position, I will easily get the next position that pops up." This kind of letter makes you feel pretty big for a while. Then you think, "if I'm so damn smart, why do I have so much (letter) paper that was probably the cause of displacing all remaining indigenous pygmies from the rain forests; inconveniencing thousands of tree dwelling Monkeys and turning legions of brave Eco-warriors into blubbering wrecks.

Should your initial application/CV earn you an interview, don't fell proud. You have earned the right to be humiliated even more and feel inconsequential, sometimes by up to five people. You will have some practice of lying and bluffing. This is the greatest attribute, you can have Your CV/application, should be as truthful as a Bill Clinton affidavit. Take the question, what are your pastimes (excluding sport)?

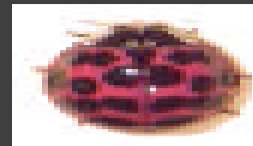
You could tell the truth and earn a sojourn in the County Jail, but instead you say "I enjoy reading and current affairs, every night I enjoy nothing better than curling up with a good book. While my flatmates engage in debauched

activities (incidentally my flatmate (name them) are applying for this job), I'm reading (name pretentious title) by (name even more pretentious author)". To paraphrase the SAS, "who dares (to bluff and stab friend in back) wins". Other equally inane questions you will be asked are "What are your weak points?" - I'm lazy, unmotivated, can't get up in the morning, hate my course, hate the people in my course, I think I'm an alcoholic. A truthful answer may be admirable, but who gets ahead by honesty. If you want to be honest and moral, you are already on the road to working for bad pay in a dead-end job.

Which brings me to another point, you may have heard about "good ethical companies" and "bad, evil, exploit everyone corporations". Basically you go to College to work for the latter, if not you would be building homes for lepers in Africa. Good ethical companies are lousy payers. Lefties and enviro soc. members may apply to work for them, but that's because they discovered idealism as soon as their QCAs hit the floor. They can say to their trendy, pseudo-intellectual friends, "Yah, I may be only earning \$100 dollars a week, but the company I work for, doesn't exploit anyone".

Marian's Voyeur Column

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



Are we living "meaningless consumer driven lives"?

Is everything we wear, drink, listen to and do a direct result of some ad we've seen on TV?

The fashion industry is a prime example, it's a multi-million-dollar/pound/euro industry and it milks its gullible customers for all they're worth! Who decided that we need a whole new wardrobe every spring, what's wrong with whatever was in last year? Logical answer-nothing!! But hey, if you can find someone who won't buy something "ultra fashionable" for this Summer (this being Ireland I'd suggest a rain proof jacket) let me know. And consider that most people's source of Fashion Info is Glossy magazines, an evil empire all on their own. They're mostly adverts for over priced designers stuff anyway. Any one who's been in Brown Thomas recently may have seen the range of Burberry stuff, I can't remember the exact price but let's just say there was a scrunchy/hair elastic type thing for an exorbitant price, I mean, seriously designer scrunchy's there's something sick about that. But, back to Glossy Mags, yes those magazines that promote the spending of hard earned money on Burberry hair products why anyone would hand over a fiver to look at airbrushed pictures of already skeletal models is beyond me anyway.

People's obsession with how they look can't be completely attributed to advertising and the media but the industry, as a whole has to accept some blame in making it worse. All

you have to do is walk into Boots to see that the cosmetics industry is absolutely huge, between hand-cream, anti-aging cream, skin firming cream, anti cellulite cream the list goes on and on.

And don't even get me started on hair products, as a non-user of hair gel/spray/mousse/dye I probably don't fully understand the need for two shelves devoted to hair products. One shelf with shampoo & conditioner should be enough. (I suspect I'm in the minority with that opinion though).

This fixation with appearance is by no means something that just applies to women, sometimes I think men are worse, at least women are open about it, men try to pretend that they don't care but we all know that they spend hours in front of the mirror before they go to the Lodge making sure their fringe is at a 90 degree angle. Misguidedly believing that this will help

them pull some gullible Mary I girl (or 2). Actually I take it back maybe it's not so misguided after all. Did you know girls, that the men's bathroom in the courtyard between the Scholars and the Stables have Mirrors and the Girls do not. I'm not going to explain how I know that. You're better off not knowing.

Trends, of course go deeper than fashion (deeper than FASHION could that be possible I hear you ask??). When we order a drink, how many of us could honestly say that in no way have we been influenced by some ad we



saw last week. Hey, when you think about it, lizards never seemed so cute before, Ads are designed to mess with your mind, I know they can't make you buy something but they make you think you want or need something that you could in all honesty do without. Ethics are by no means my strong point but I'm fairly sure it's unethical to aim ads for alcohol at people under 18 and some of the ads for so-called Alco -pops with their catchy slogans and cute animals are not aimed at adults.

I suppose the truth is that the ads we see on TV are only playing on our own vanity, something that already exists, and it didn't have to be created by anyone. The idea of Vanity only really became an issue for me last week when I got photos taken for the new ID card, the words Startled Rabbit come to mind. I figured it was my vanity that made me consider going back in and getting another set done, (I didn't by the way). I decided to blame the machine and avoid showing it to any one ever instead!!

Meningitis C Vaccination Programme

Phase 1 of Meningitis C Vaccination Programme (18 years and under) at UL, undertaken by the doctors and nurse of the University's Student Medical Centre, has been an outstanding success.

In agreement with the Mid-Western Health Board, the medical staff will now undertake the **SECOND** and **FINAL** phase of the Vaccination Programme during Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of **WEEK 6 (20th – 22nd March)** in **EGO 10** (from **5.30 pm**) each evening.

This Vaccination is available to ALL students 23 years and under.

Consent forms and information leaflets can be collected from Student Personnel Services (CM 073).

Meningitis C Vaccinations

**Available to ALL Students
23 yrs and under**

Hitch-Hikers Guide to the World-Wide-Web

OK-let's see, all the computers in the library have sound cards and support multi-media, and I just happen to have a set of earphones with me. Surprise, surprise I can watch videos on the computer! Not exactly much of a substitute for your local video shop, Extra-Vision or whatever else (depending on which sites you visit of course, but I'm not allowed to include THOSE ones here!) For a start, you can't be drinking beer and eating pizza in front of the monitor! However, that's not to say that there isn't a hidden horde of audio-visual diversions to be found online. Therefore, wet your taste-buds and tuck into a veritable feast for the eyes and ears, delectable to every taste-bud craving for humour, fun, jokes, more...more...more! OK enough hype, down to business!

For a change I'm not going to give you the URL for this first recommendation, not because I can't remember it, but because it's so much easier to just find the link to Celebrity Deathmatch for yourself off the **MTV.com** website, which is not only taking the scenic route, but ironic too! Of course, the archives, nobly entitled "The Gory Days-Fights of Old" are the first place of respite for the tiring WebTraveller in search of the Fabled Funniest VideoClip Ever, but I doubt you'll find it here! Nevertheless, as we all know from experience (I'm ashamed to say) the words Jerry Springer and punch-up are rarely inseparable, and a classic awaits the intrepid video-hunter who is thorough enough, but this time Jerry is on the more deserving end (and about time too!) Among the more noteworthy classics is the epic clash of the titans-Loch Ness Monster versus Bigfoot, and the fight someone didn't want us to know about: X Files v MIB. Then the big guns come out, Rambo v the Terminator, and Hillary v Monica. And that's only Season One! The Backstreet Boys take on Beastie Boys and Ling pummels Ally (and about time too), while the clash of the supermodels takes centre stage in another clip. Shakespeare takes on Busta Rhymes, the result of which will no doubt be celebrated by literary critics everywhere for the next 500 years as a titanic struggle operating on so many levels (most of which count for diddly squat in the real world!) Neve Campbell takes on Buffy in another match, but I'm still waiting for the clash of the airheads, Britney v Buffy! Only a championship match-up will tell, so watch this space!

www.Montypython.net is a site that is certain to appeal even to those who have not yet been converted to the humour of perhaps the only intentional English comic export that succeeded on an international stage. (boy and girl bands being unintentional ones) The side-menu is your first port of call, unless you're a die-hard fan and want the latest up-to-date info. The multi-media library is however entirely audio only, but that said, it's worth its weight in

earphones! Who could possibly condemn the first scene of "the Holy Grail" especially with the best of the sound-bites at their disposal here? It's a pity though that they couldn't have linked all of those clips together to cover the whole of the first scene, now that would be a legend in itself! Along with the entire version of the "Bright Side of Life" song from the "Life of Brian", the medieval myth of chivalry surrounding King Arthur's Camelot is flung aside as the Knights of the Round Table perform their own act-and to disastrous effect! And then of course there is the ballad of "Brave Sir Robin", an epic the likes of which even Shakespeare could not have rivalled-but which the "Brave Sir Robin ran away" ballad comes about as close to as is humorously possible! The "timely" dead parrot sketch is also preserved for posterity, but even though it loses some of its lustre on audio only, this version recorded during a live show more than makes up for it! As for the section devoted to the Flying Circus, there are so many sketches that cannot be done justice on audio only that I won't recommend any in particular, instead I would suggest watching the series on TV is a better idea.

The site also covers films linked in a lesser way to the python clan, including Time Bandits, but somehow they left out the best line in that film, a reflection on divinity that would make anyone stop and think, what sort of joke was God playing when he created slugs?

"Slugs. What use are slugs? Can't hear, can't speak, can't operate heavy machinery! Is that not proof that we are in the hands of a madman?"

And now.....for something not entirely different!

As the title suggests, this site is far from having the best taste in humour! Nevertheless, www.wackymovies.com does have a few redeeming features, OK it's only got one, LOADS of clips! However, it'll take you AGES to scroll through and find a good one, but I have to admit that, if you do have the patience, it's well worth it! Or you could just look up the ones mentioned below! The site has been divided into sections, which is not surprising considering the volume of clips that appear to be on it!

People- If it's not the guy who's so drunk he falls asleep during a police interrogation, it's the guy taking a dump in the elevator! I also recommend the Pee clip, taken from the "Busted On The Job" TV show's website, and the window-cleaner vainly trying to clean the automatic sliding door!

Sports- Loads of crashes involving horses, cars trucks etc. As if the Accidents section wasn't enough! Not my thing but if you have some morbid fascination with accidents.....

Animals- Don't animals do the cutest things? Well, see their dark side here, especially the monkeys! As for the dog

going boom, let's hope no animals were harmed in the making of THAT short film! One major flaw with this site though is that there's no search engine to quickly locate videos you already know are good. There's also no quick A-Z link that allows you to jump to a page with filenames all beginning with the same letter, even though the site insists on sorting all of its clips in alphabetical order! And that's why I'm not recommending any clips whose names start with z! However with such a wide selection to plough through as you try to track down that elusive classic, who knows what other favourites you might uncover for future reference!

And now for a quick roundup of the rest. www.looniebin-of-jokes.com Hit the archives and plunder the spoils! This site has both video and audio again, but here I would recommend that you give BOTH sections some serious attention! Check out under videos the marriage one the Yellow Pages one (I think) and the advert for vitamins which lead to stoned kids, it's almost practical! For songs anything at all, there are some pretty good parodies here. The Catfood one is very good and for those of you thinking of changing your answering machine message, DON'T use the first example on the site! (but maybe the second one regarding a busy signal warrants further R&D in the area) Beware some songs and adverts (such as the butt one) may cause offense! (which makes them even better!)

Since I'm on the subject of comic sound-clips, guess this is as good a time as any to mention

www.twistedtunes.com, a site which specialises in making parodies of well-known songs. My three personal favourites since this time last year have been the possibly nASTI-inspired "School's Out of Ammo" the misunderstood teenager that most of us were at some stage "Ass Hole Son" and the heretical "What if God Smoked Cannabis?" Sadly few updates have been made to the site since then, which hardly inspires much confidence in the site's future releases, nor does it act as good advertising for the webmaster who is trying to sell a CD through the site! . Indeed, I have been having problems connecting to the buffer as of late leading me to think that perhaps the site has been abandoned, but just in case it hasn't, I offer the URL as a place to check out, for the lyrics if for nothing else.

I'm off to destroy my eardrums with yet another dose of nonsensical acoustical chaos, with the volume turned up loud enough to annoy everyone else in the A-lab! Oh yeah, and if you're not listening to on-line radio stations instead of watching videos, check out Wired FM's stake on the Digital Drive-Thru Motorway, pull in and park your browsers @ www.csn.ul.ie/~radio

Welcome to the World of Wired FM 96.8 + 106.8 FM



the live gig (starting around 9 ish). If you miss that, we will bring you the highlights of the night, featuring interviews with the artists, the audience and demo's from the bands/ DJ's the following

Tired of singing into your hairbrush in front of the bed/bathroom mirror? Then get down to the Wired FM Studio's and get On Air!! Get a show, get producing, if you don't know where the studio's are see directions below!., in the meantime, what is Wired up to ?

First lets tell you about

The Lagging Jacket Sessions (cause they are in association with Hot Press, silly!!!)

Wired FM in association with **Hot Press** is proud to present **The Lagging Jacket** every Wednesday night in MacGregors Bar on Ellen st. in Limerick.

Featuring the best of local student talent, we will bring you

Wednesday night at 7:30-8:00pm on **Wired FM 96.8+106.8FM**. It's like two for the price of one (and its even better cause the gig is free in!)

We began our series of seriously interesting nights with two Limerick Based DJ's- Darragh Foley and Kevin Molyneaux. Playing their special brand of funky Disco and non commercial trance. DJ Foo and DJ Badger kept it real (with the 'troy massive). These dj's are well known for stopping the house in the Temple Bar Music Centre, Dublin and also for residencies in Ennis, Co.Clare.

Last Tuesday Wired FM proudly presented two Limerick

Bands, Bandog and Woodstar. Playing their own blend of alt.country and melancholia to a crowd of nearly 100 people these guys gave live music a hope for the future !!! Bandog have earned a well deserved reputation through supporting Bands like the Handsome Family and Chris Mills. Of the same ilk, Woodstar are currently in the running for a Bacardi Hot Press Unplugged Band of the year award....

So the gig will run every week (alternating between DJ's and Live Bands) until the summer holidays. Wired FM -keeping everyone concerned about the live music scene in Limerick extremely happy!!!! p.s. if you are a dj or you think your band is good enough to play why don't you get in touch with Stephan or Nessa on 061 315773? Or call up in person to Paula in the ULSU Studio's- bring a demo or a sample of what you can do!!!!

Don't know where the studio's are? Head up the stairs, hit the back wall (pick yourself off the floor!!! Oooucchhh) turn left in the door in the next door, there ya go!!! (Paula will give you a band aid if the head really hurts!!!) Other things that Wired FM is up to....

We at Wired are gearing up for our shot at the National Airwaves!! Someone in 2FM had a serious lapse of goodtaste and invited the Wired FM DJ's to contribute an hours worth of broadcasting every Saturday (from 6pm-7pm).... Do they know what they have done???? So everyone is practising their "Rowndabout" accents..... Are you ready ????? Should be starting sometime around St.Patricks Day.....

Get up to studio, volunteer to get your face painted, wear silly costumes, carry banners, hand out flyers, have a laugh!!!!!!

Wired FM 96.8 + 106.8 FM Limerick Student Radio schedule

Monday

8.30-10.00am **The Breakfast Show-News, Music, College Information**
 12.00- 12.30pm **Seachtáin- weekly guide to whazon in Limerick***
 12.30-1.00pm **Extemporaneous- Student Issues and Current Affairs**
 1.00- 1.30pm **Pulse- All the best in chart music**
 1.30-2.00pm **Dis Harmony- Local and alternative Bands live in studio**
 4.30- 5.00pm **Activate- College, Local, National and International Sport**
 5.00-5.15pm **Cúlcaint- *News and Chat**
 5.15- 6.00pm **Timewarp- Taking you back to yesterdaze music**
 6.00- 6.45pm **EXIT- L.C.A.D Students present a user friendly world of Art!**
 6.45- 7.30pm **The Big Sack- Music, Interviews and more.....**
 7.30- 8.00pm **Common People- Chart show**
 8.30- 9.00pm **Anything Goes- Music Show**
 8.45- 9.15pm **Creem- Music Show with guest DJ's**
 9.15-10.00pm **Composition of Sound- Heavy Metal Show**

Tuesday

8.30- 10.00am **The Breakfast Show**
 12.00- 1.00pm **Class 1 Laser Product- Lunchtime music and chat**
 1.00- 2.00pm **The Junk Show- Gems of Jazz and Funk...**
 4.30- 5.15pm **Inkblots- The Literary Show**
 5.15- 6.00pm **The Arts Show- All the weekly Arts events for Limerick-in assoc. with LimerickCorporation**
 6.00- 7.00pm **Sceitiminí- Magazine show***
 7.00- 7.30pm **In Focus- The Movie Show**
 7.30- 8.00pm **Dead Air- Comedy Show**
 8.00- 9.00pm **The Pat & Mike Show- Musically themed show in**

assoc with Bus Eireann

9.00- 10.00pm **Evil Monkeys in Space- Local Music and Gig guide**

Wednesday

8.30-10.00am **The Breakfast Show**
 12.00-12.30pm **Staying Alive- Health show- in assoc. with the Mid-WesternHealth Board**
 12.30- 1.00pm **Left of Field- Music Show**
 1.00- 2.00pm **Alternative World- Themed Rock music show**
 4.30- 5.00pm **Saor Am- Lighthearted look at College life***
 5.00-6.00pm **The Enchanting Wizard of Rhythm- all you need to know...**
 6.00- 7.00pm **Fargo-quality music and chat show**
 7.00-7.30pm **Ten Forward- Science Fiction Show**
 7.30- 8.00pm **The Lagging Jacket- live sessions and inter views- in assoc. with Hot Press**
 8.00- 9.00pm **Crazy Sexy Cool- Chart Music and Golden Oldies**
 9.00-10.00pm **Beats & Rhymes- Late night Dance Music**

Thursday

8.30-10.00am **The Breakfast Show**
 12.00-1.00pm **Soundbyte- Hollywood gossip and Music**
 1.00- 2.00pm **The Last Splash- Comedy chatshow- in assoc with Oxygen media**
 4.30- 5.15pm **Documentary Slot- Community Radio Bank**
 5.15- 5.45pm **Vortex- Dance Music Request Show**
 5.45- 6.30pm **Four to the Floor- Club Hits**
 6.30- 7.00pm **Side View- Current Affairs**
 7.00- 8.00pm **Pop is Dead- Indie Alternative Music Show**
 8.00- 9.00pm **Boyz and Girls- Funky Club Hits-**
 9.00- 10.00pm **Talking Headz- Late night Music Show**
 Show is produced and presented through Irish/ only Irish recording artists played.

Stars in Her Eyes

BY Máiréad Moriarty

Eminem – Is he a hero or a villain? Or just the voice of a voiceless generation?

I fail to understand why everyone is against the music industry lately. I mean, why can't they just allow U2 to play a second Slane?! What's the big deal?! And why is every DJ concealing the release date of the new Frames album?!!! It just seems like the music industry is undergoing much criticism lately. Why?!

Music is not some sort of cult or criminal organisation that is out to get everybody who has two ounces of talent to exhibit. (It's not your primary school principal, for chrissake!) Music is a gift to be savoured and appreciated. Not all will experience immediate enjoyment, but this will follow if the music is deserving enough of it. As we all know, there are those many artists who are walking legends and those who deserve to be put into a room together and forced to listen to each other for nineteen and a half weeks! But we'll not bear bitter bones on these pages.

Instead, we'll concentrate on one artist who changed the face of the twenty-first century music industry. Marshall Matthews, aka Eminem, was voted Time magazine's Man Of The Year in 2000. Many claim that he's out of line and careless when it comes to the younger generations of today. Fair enough – his lyrics are filled with hatred, resentment, venom and general confusion with the world.

But then again, his upbringing wasn't exactly love-filled or in any way steady. He was raised on the US Welfare system by his 17-year-old mother. His father had left. He grew up in a rough neighbourhood in East Detroit, one of few whites in the area. He was bullied and beaten a lot, once resulting in his being in a coma for nine days, suffering from a brain haemorrhage. He left school aged 15. Aged 16, he was shot by a

gang member. Aged 19, his close uncle committed suicide. He also witnessed the shooting of his brother-in-law.

Marshall Matthews saw it all - violence, drugs, racism, prejudice, ignorance as well as mental and physical trauma. To say that Eminem is brainwashing the youth of today is an understatement. He is brainwashing us. But it's a positive kind of brainwashing. He's telling us his life-story, as it is. Personally, when I listen to his lyrics I feel shock and dismay that he's actually coming out with what he's saying. And in that way he impresses me. He's not afraid to be original, honest or outrageous. He lays the facts before us and allows us to be the judges. He's setting an example. It's just that you can't take all of it seriously or read too far into his lyrics. If we do, we run the risk of interpreting his example wrongly. He is a bit messed up. But then again – who isn't?!!!

Eminem is Eminem. He's a white rapper who helped bring the music style to the foreground of the music industry from the black underground it used to be. Some say, just like Elvis. He's also aware of his potential influence, as is clear from his hit "Stan". Few musicians have showcased themselves and their respective celebrities as our hero has in this Dido-accompanied tune. (By the way – get the album – "No Angel" – excellent!) And he's done himself proud. After all, he's worked too hard to have come so far and not have anything to show for it.

I think Peter Murphy said it best in the January 2001 issue of Hot Press:

"In the end, Eminem's just another clown, like every pop star from Prince to Patti Smith, Morrison to Madonna. It's just a matter of how seriously you take the joke."

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

I have decided to diverge a little this week and not talk politics for a change, but something more abstract and local. There is nothing more abstract nor local than the piece of sculpture that apprehends the eye while one enters the library or passes its still features. I am of course referring to, what is being commonly called, 'The Rusty Man'.

It has come in for much criticism, even to the point of a specific article in the last edition of this paper. I think most people see it as simply a man that is slowly rusting away. This is to simplify too much. For those who see it differently, it is a piece symbolic of the very life a student leads. Its positioning in the plaza is the key to unlocking the meaning of the sculpture.

The sculpture is not the piece of art, it simply fits into the whole picture. It is the people who walk past the sculpture and the environment around it that represents the essence of its meaning. Everyday events pass us by, people come and go, and this forms the rhythm of our life. However the environment around us is only one part of our 'self'. Being alone, even when there are people around us, is a distinct feature of human character. The sculpture represents both of these states of mind.

The sculpture inspires everybody who

glances at it, either positively or negatively.

Even the person who wrote the disparaging remarks in the last edition was inspired, as he wrote his words - he wouldn't have wrote them if he was not inspired to do so. It is typical for UL students to deride any new form of abstractness. It fits the mindset of the UL student perfectly. Students who come to UL are often those who have spend most of their learning years examining the intricacies of formulae, physics and computation. Thus when the abstract appears before them they are somehow unable to analyse the basic concepts of the object. Similarly they often do not participate in campus activities as they presumably feel that these will not engender any material gain for them.

It is probably the University itself that has allowed this state of mind to exist on campus, as its very foundation was based on a firm understanding of a 'new', progressive, logical, mathematical and technical institution. The words abstract, artistic and humanity were relegated to things that could be pursued in later years. (I refer to Ed Walsh's infamous radio interview on Morning Ireland a number of years ago when he said that the humanities subjects were not a core part of the UL experience). Much has changed and is changing in UL

in recent years. The humanities have allowed for the development of a truly energetic campus life. Most of those involved in either clubs and societies or the Students' Union come from a distinctly humanities background.

Art is one expression that directly challenges the mindset of UL students. That is the very purpose of art. Whether that is some bloke fancying himself in a mirror or a little man managing to hold up a block of timber, it is something that attacks the regularity and stagnation of the eye and the mind.

Last year a mural was erected in the Stables courtyard exhibiting a political culture which exists in the north of Ireland. This aroused much attention and criticism from some quarters but managed to hold students' fascination for a time. Maybe then if the subject matter is controversial enough, either politically or sexually, students will find it more attractive or appealing.

The external art of the University needs a more energetic feel to it. The sculpture in the plaza, although not energetic in the common meaning of the word, goes some a little way on improving 5th the quality of the Schuman spider and the silver pencils of the Foundation. Maybe students need two people performing sexually on the green in front of Plassey House to inspire them. Or would this be pornography in some people's eyes? *Eagna chun gnímh.*

Welfare Week Supplement 2001 & Coming out Week

in Association with the Welfare Office & LGB Society



Tuesday-Thursday

Week 6



Tuesday - Health Day



Wednesday - Awareness Day



Thursday - Cutting Down Day



So what exactly is this week going to be about? Read on....

A strong theme of the week is that it's important to try get a balance in your life....Although this theme runs throughout the whole week, it is the corely focused on on **Tuesday**, as the title, **'Health' Day**, probably gives away!

TUESDAY - FOCUS ON YOUR HEALTH...

The **gym will be open to you for free** on both Tuesday & Thursday this week from 10.00 – 3.00. Once is all it takes to get sucked into the whole healthier lifestyle thing...so use this opportunity now – there's no point in wasting your free trial.

But it can be hard to get started and get motivated, so that's why it would be well worth your while to go along to one of the **talks on Tuesday which focuses on getting started, healthier eating etc...**the talks all will be taking place in **SU Meeting Room 4** – times **12.00; 2.00 and 4.00.**

There is also an opportunity for everyone to get relevant information on getting healthy and fit, and information on your general health in the **Canteen** as there will be **Information Stands from 12.00 – 3.00**

Tuesday is also a great day to start something new in your life....as many of the great clubs here in UL will be waiting in the canteen that day for anyone interested to come and join. How much easier can we make it?!

WEDNESDAY - AWARENESS OF ISSUES

Wednesday's theme is one which focuses more on creating an awareness of some of the issues which have potential to effect us all at some stage of our lives.

Sexual Awareness.

The aim is to recognise that the freedom and independence of living away from home brings with it choices, and the need to be responsible about whatever choice you make. Mistakes which could effect your whole entire life can be prevented or overcome; regrets can be avoided.

There will be many organisations in the Canteen on this day with relevant information, and representatives to answer any questions. It is too easy to find yourself landed in a very difficult situation as a direct effect of being under-cautious about some of the consequences of sexual activities, but know that there are people there to help. And even if you are not, and never have been one of those who got into a difficult and hard predicament, it is important to recognise signs of a problem in the other people in your life. So pick up the information, and do try to go to a few of the talks.

The seminars will cover Sex – the Responsibility and Choices; Labelling; Discrimination. Once again, they will take place in SU Meeting Room 4 – times 12.00; 2.00 and 4.00.

Discrimination:

The other focus will be on the area of feeling out-casted in UL. It is almost beyond belief, but **discrimination and bullying exists in this campus.** It is a very real and horrible problem for some here in UL. For example, some foreign students have suffered mean and unfair treatment. What's this about? It's hard enough to come to another country away from home, family and friends to try and just have a good experience, a taste of the 'friendly' Irish culture. We'd like to think we would all be treated with respect and all the rest when we go away....

People have asked me if it is really a problem here...the answer is yes. It can be hidden and go unnoticed for the majority who are not subject to it, but for those who are, it is a painful and lonely time they get to spend here. If you need more solid proof of the problem, I'll now quote what one student wrote after a really upsetting incident when out one night in the Stables, just having a few drinks with friends. The details of the discriminatory comments and act is not relevant here – the hurt was big, and this is what she has to say to **"whom it may concern"**.

"Difference is the key to evolution. In a place of knowledge, a place where every body should be open-minded, like our University, difference should be consid -

ered as a wealth. But unfortunately, intolerance is setting in minds. We all have a right to be here, no matter our nationality, origins, sexual tendance or physical appearance. We can't leave intolerant persons live in their ignorance. On behalf of all students who have suffered hurt for nothing, for difference which is hurting no-one."

I know most of us feel that we are open-minded and welcoming..well we'd like to think that anyway. But somewhere along the line, some of us are not, and are causing others hurt. Are you one of those? Maybe you didn't realise it 'til now, but just ask yourself that question, answer it honestly, and if you are, you can make a conscious effort from now on. We do all deserve to be here. Don't outcast anyone anymore....Say NO to discrimination.

COMING OUT??

The LGB Society have organised some great talks, events and stands throughout the week too, as this is UL's Coming Out week. I'd encourage participation and support for this group. Watch out for the great line-up that they have planned for the week, and really good articles in An Focal this week. Hope this week goes well for you, as I know a lot of time and effort has gone into it. So respect, support, and join in these activities this week.

Thursday –Cutting Down on Smoking, Drink, and Drugs...

Thursday is the day where you get a chance to consider cutting down on drink, drugs, and cigarettes. You may already be trying, maybe for your well-being, or probably for Lent, or most likely lack of money, or maybe you haven't tried at all....well whatever category you fall into, this day will be relevant to you.

Visit the canteen, where once again, there will be Information Stands, but there will also be a chance for you to get your lungs tested to see the effect of smoking....

The talks for this day will also be benefi-

cial...there is one on Trying to quit smoking, one on drugs – the reality- a real eye-opener from someone who has a painful story to tell, and also a talk on drinking – fun without going too far...

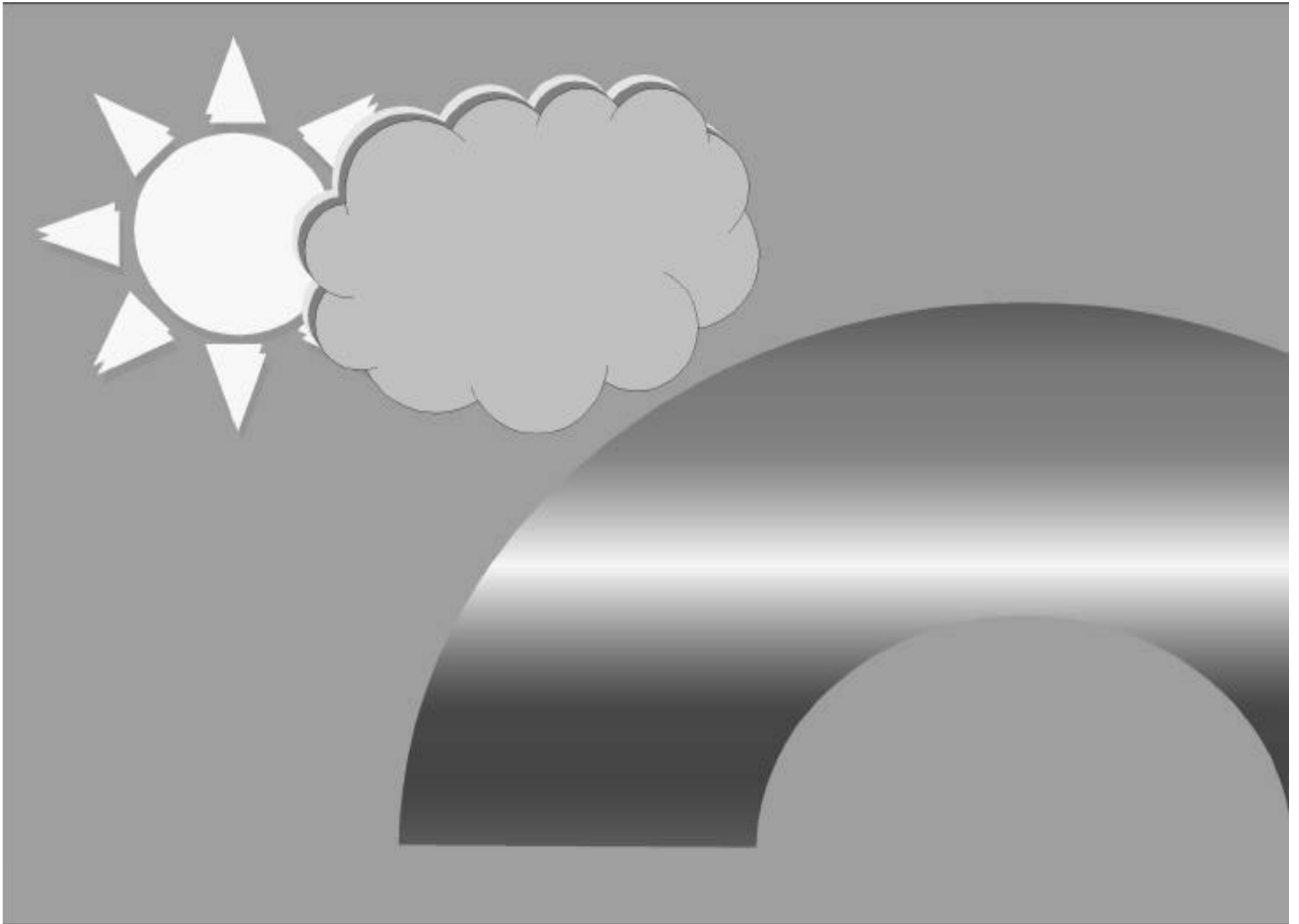
Its hard to give up a bad habit without replacing it with something else, so that's why the Arena will be free again today from 10.00 – 3.00 – last chance for a free trial, so get down there!

Each day there will also be you last chance to get your free Meningitis

Vaccinations. Meningitis is a life threatening and scary disease, which, if untreated, can kill in hours. Don't be at risk. Get down to EGO on either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 5.30 and 7.30 and get vaccinated.

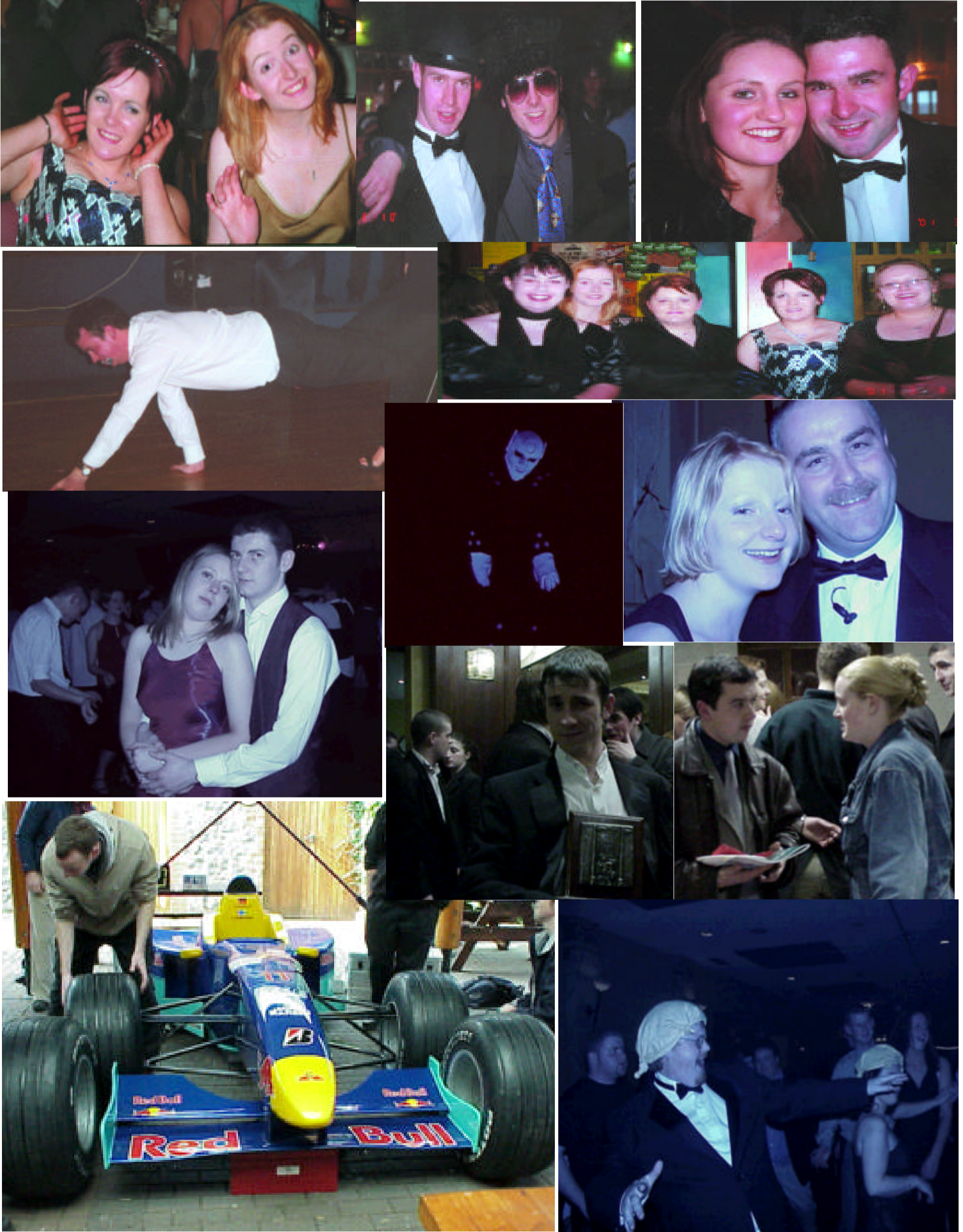
Coming Out Week 2000

The Sun will come out tomorrow.....

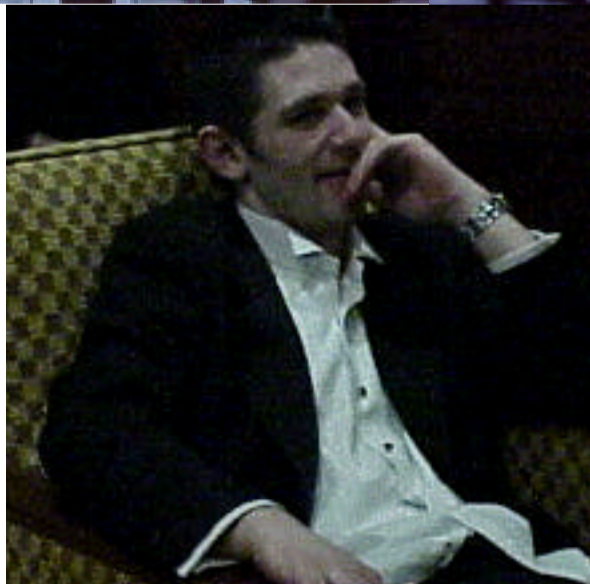


Will You.....

Out & About - Catching you in the Act



Out & About - And Boy! Did We Catch You This Week



Coming Out Week What's it all about?.....

In reality, college is where everyone comes out in one way or another. You discover interests you never had before and you learn how to live your life in the way that you want.

Students discover, develop and express their individuality in many ways, through dress sense, sport, music, whatever; your sexuality is just one of the ways in which you are an individual, everyone's sexual history is their own and it makes up a fundamental part of our self image.

During your time at Uni you will meet people from all backgrounds, college is a place where we should celebrate that diversity.

Why A Coming Out week?

A coming out week allows people who wish to come out to their friends and those who just wish to reflect on their sexuality an opportunity to do so.

For most people Uni is their first time away from home. Being away from home gives us the free-

dom to get out and experience new things. Many people discover or come to terms with their sexuality at Uni. Although sexuality is a vital part of everyone's life it forms only a small part of how we define ourselves. Being able to be open about your sexuality allows you to be more relaxed and therefore allows you to concentrate on getting on with your life.

Its not just for LGB people

This week allows every one the opportunity to think about their sexuality.

There is a wide spectrum of sexuality; some people see themselves as definitely one end of the spectrum or the other, and many see themselves as somewhere in between.

Assumptions shouldn't be made about someone's sexuality, as it is their own business.

All sexualities are valid choices and should be respected

A Word From the LGB Society

This year brought many changes to the L.G.B Soc, not least of which has been in membership. When we began in 1996 we had on average five regular members, but even from the beginning of this year it was obvious things were changing, our total membership so far is 24 of which 15 attend regular events and keep in contact with each other socially. The LGB Soc as a place where you can meet new people and gather a circle of friends with whom you can share common experiences, gain support and most of all have a laugh and be yourself. This year we have joined forces with Mary I and LIT to form an intercollegiate LGB Soc, this has been very successful. We now meet in town, and everybody feels much more relaxed in neutral ground plus its good to get off campus every now and again. This year has also seen the introduction of midweek Coffee Mornings on campus, these are great just to meet up have a coffee in the SU building and plan events and nights out.

We have as usual been involved in many intervarsities during the year, the LGB Soc in UL forms part of a wide network of other LGB Socs all over Ireland. We attended Pink Training in Belfast, this is a weekend long event of workshops and insanity...the topics ranged from the bizarre (something to do with bananas, cream and condoms...best not to ask!) to the more practical including coming out to your family and learning how to make this easier on them. At Christmas we went to Galway for a pretty damn good weekend (ask our first years!) and the 2-3 March seen our first intervarsity of 2001 in Cork, so you could say we get around.

This year has also seen the launch of our website www.lgbsoc.intranets.com where we organise and advertise our own events, but it is also a meeting point for all other LGB Socs, who publicise their events, and keep in contact. Check it out sometime.

I would like to say thanks to the Soc members for their nerves of steel and insane ideas. The LGB Soc has had a fantastic year, and I have been very proud to be auditor.

**All the best,
Clair Battle.**

auditor@lgbsoc.intranets.com

A Guide to Coming Out to Parents, Relatives and Friends

When you begin to come out to people, your experiences will probably vary. Sometimes it will go well. Occasionally a relationship will be terminated abruptly or will fade away unexpectedly. From the experiences of many queer people, their parents and friends, we offer a number of suggestions about coming out. You need to evaluate these suggestions in the light of your own personal situation and needs.

1. Be clear about your own feelings about being gay. If you are comfortable with your sexuality, those to whom you come out will often see that and will be happy for you.
2. Never come out during an argument. Never use coming out as a weapon. Never encourage parents to feel guilty for having "caused" your sexual orientation--because they didn't.
3. When coming out to parents or family, try to affirm mutual caring and love before launching into your announcement about your gay or lesbian life.
4. Be prepared that your revelation may surprise, anger or upset other people, at first. Try not to react angrily or defensively. Try to let other people be honest about their initial feelings even if they are negative. Remember that the initial reaction will not likely be the long-term one. We have had much longer in which we learned to accept ourselves, those you come out to will need time too.

5. Emphasise that you are still the same person. You were gay yesterday and will be gay tomorrow. If you were responsible and caring yesterday, then you will be loving and responsible tomorrow.

6. Keep lines of communication open with people after you come out to them--even if their response is negative. Respond to their questions and remember that they are probably in the process of re-examining the myths and stereotypes about gay people

7. Encourage your parents or others to whom you come out to meet some of your lesbian and gay friends.

8. If you are rejected by someone to whom you have come out, do not lose sight of your own self worth. If rejection does come, consider whether the relationship was really worthwhile. Is any relationship so important that it must continue in an atmosphere of dishonesty and hiding? Was the person really your friend or simply the friend of someone he or she imagined you to be? Most friends given the chance will be fine about your sexuality and they may have already guessed anyway.

9. A casual or offhand approach often works best with work mates and college friends. Sometimes a confrontational situation can be avoided simply by being honest, in a conversational way, about whom you live with and date,

and how you spend your leisure time. The other person is given a chance to recognize your sexuality without being obliged to make some immediate response on this issue.

10. Remember that the decision to come out is yours. Don't be guilt-tripped into it by people who think that everyone must come out or by snooping people who ask impertinent questions. You can usually decide when, where, how, and to whom you wish to come out.

11. Try not to let your family and close friends find out about your sexuality from third parties. Try to tell them personally beforehand.

12. Never let yourself be pressured into coming out before you are ready.

Coming out is one of the most difficult things we do in our lives. But it is also one of the best decisions you can make. There is lots of support available in the run up to and after you have come out, remember you are not alone. Contact the LGB Soc, the Welfare Officer, one of the counsellors, or the Gay Switchboard, all of whom will be happy to talk things through with you.



Once You're Out

Once you are out, the strains and pressures you have been feeling either your whole life or just a short time will disappear.

It feels good to be yourself. I say that to everyone. Who wants to live their life under a facade of personalities to please their "friends"? I know I sure as hell don't, and anyone who admits to saying he or she is happier living life as someone they are not is a liar. This is not meant for strictly gay individuals, but for all people. For those of you out there that are not gay, and are reading this thinking negative thoughts, well put yourself in a position where a good friend of yours that you have known your entire life "comes out", now you have an important decision to make. Do you stay friends, or has this person changed too much to be a friend any longer? It is easy to put blinders on to what society as a whole

deems as "wrong", but when the subject touches you personally it is a different story.

I was lucky, being born and raised in America. No, not everyone is accepting, but for the most part people are ok with gay people. I can walk down the street holding my girlfriends hand and not think twice about it. In the beginning I couldn't do that, but once I became more accepting of my sexuality, it was great! Every single one of my friends accepted me with open arms and made me feel good about me. 90% of those friends are straight. If you have true friends and a loving family, they will accept you. It might take awhile for some, but in the long run they will come around because they miss your company and have finally justified it in their head that you are the same person.

When I was asked to write this I had no direction or clue what to write and I know it is a jum-

bled mess, but if it has helped one person have the courage to "come out" than it has served its purpose. It is understandable if you don't want everyone to know, many people don't deserve the pleasure of knowing the true you. There are ways of talking to people without the whole world knowing you have had thoughts or feelings about people of the same sex. We are here for you. We have been through it already and many are going through the same ordeal you are feeling right now. Take that step, make the choice that may be the best choice of your entire life, leaving you truly happy and not regretting a decision you could have made years ago. Be yourself, and be proud!

Sincerely,
C. Neuens

The Awakening of the Straight Minority

Recently, I found out that a good friend of mine was a lesbian. It didn't come as a real shock to me, guess I hadn't really thought about it. After she told me, I thought back on her actions out on the town; stuff that I had never noticed before suddenly became clear. I happily realised that I could now talk to her about the finer qualities of Angelina Jolie's acting career. I started to wonder about other friends, I watched people more closely at the clubs and pubs, even people I walked past on O'Connell street. If I had been oblivious to my close friend, I wondered how many more people I'd missed.

When you meet someone, unless they talk with a lisp or have a haircut like Sinead O'Connor, you assume that they are straight. The gorgeous girl you've had your eye on by the stage? The fact that she might be more interested in your sister than you doesn't really cross your mind. The guy in your class that sits in the back and talks over the lecturer? Could be, but you didn't really think about it. I started wondering about everyone, it became a game. I looked it up, there are as many people with red hair and freckles as there are homosexuals. Next time you're in a bar (I'm sure it won't be too long from

now), count the freckled redheads.

After my friend revealed her secret to me, I decided to turn my GAYDAR on next time I was out. So one night, if I saw an attractive girl, I'd ask myself if we had more in common than our choice of nightclubs. I became pretty convinced that I had finely tuned my GAYDAR after the rude awakening I suffered, but it proved to be quite a bit off. I decided that one girl with strange hair was gay, but next time I saw her she was in the corner with a guy. Next, I find a girl dancing with another girl, seems like a safe bet. Of course, she found a different corner and a different guy. I'm pretty slow, so it took me a while to realise that there was a reason my GAYDAR wasn't working. There really wasn't any difference in my friend from when I thought she was straight and when I found out she was gay. She was still the fun loving and caring person I'd been hanging out with. Her liking girls didn't make her any less fun to be with. If it made no difference in her, why did I think other people would be different because they happened to be gay? After I realised that, I stopped counting the redheads.

-Sean Ahern

The Heterosexual Questionnaire

Gay people have been asked some pretty ridiculous questions over the years. Here the tables are turned just for a laugh!

1. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?
2. When and how did you first decide you were a heterosexual?
3. Is it possible your heterosexuality is just a phase you may grow out of?
4. Is it possible your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?
5. If you've never slept with a person of the same sex, is it possible that all you need is a good Gay lover?
6. To whom have you disclosed your heterosexual tendencies? How did they react?
7. Why do heterosexuals feel compelled to seduce others into their lifestyle?
8. Why do you insist on flaunting your heterosexuality? Can't you just be what you are and keep it quiet?
9. Would you want your children to be heterosexual, knowing the problems they'd face?
10. A disproportionate majority of child molesters are heterosexual. Do you consider it safe to expose your children to heterosexual teachers?
11. With all the societal support marriage receives, the divorce rate is spiralling. Why are there so few stable relationships among heterosexuals?
12. Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?
13. Considering the menace of overpopulation, how could the human race survive if everyone were heterosexual like you?
14. Could you trust a heterosexual therapist to be objective? Don't you fear (s)he might be inclined to influence you in the direction of her/his own leanings?
15. How can you become a whole person if you limit yourself to compulsive, exclusive heterosexuality and fail to develop your natural, healthy homosexual potential?
16. There seem to be very few happy heterosexuals. Techniques have been developed which might enable you to change if you really want to. Have you considered trying aversion therapy?

The American Way

In order to graduate from my school back home, with a bachelor's degree, each student must complete at least three credits dealing with minority groups such as African American, Hispanic, American Indian, or Asian American. I feel that there is definitely a need for diversity policies on college campuses because many students come from small communities that have little or no exposure to minority groups in their immediate vicinity. Classes on diversity often deal with history of minority groups so students can realise where these minorities are coming from. This knowledge often brings about a feeling of deeper understanding of minorities in the student. However, our school's definition of diversity is extremely limited because it deals only with racial diversity and doesn't touch on other important topics such as sexual orientation. It is imperative for administration to work towards integrating sexual orientation into the definition of

diversity because in recent years, attacks on homosexuals have risen. The cruelty and viciousness of many of these crimes has also gotten more severe. All of this detestation stems from a lack of understanding and exposure and leads people to fear and hate what they don't understand. Homophobia is the hatred or fear of homosexuals or bisexuals and sometimes these feelings lead to acts of violence and expressions of hostility. Prejudiced views directed at homosexuals often branch from the idea that homosexuality is immoral, leading some to think they are superior over those of other sexual orientations. Psychiatrists used to think of homosexuality as a mental disorder but medical professionals today believe that it is not an illness, mental disorder or emotional problem. Most anti-gay people claim they do not accept or tolerate homosexuality because it is against their religion and moral beliefs. In response to that, I must

say that there are many organised religions that are not parallel to my personal beliefs and morals but I refuse to act against a person because of their religion. How many times do we need to be reminded of what went on overseas fifty-five years ago because one "organisation" thought of a religion and its followers and inferior and wasteful?

Many people wonder why gays, lesbians, or bisexuals feel they need to display their preferences to others by being in organisations such as LGB or displaying their rainbow flag. Gary Bauer, head of The Family Research Council, argues to stop wasting taxpayer funds that go toward encouraging Government agencies to accept homosexuality. In a bill to the president, Bauer states that, "No other group in America is given special rights based on their sexual preferences". It is very true that straight people in the government are not given special rights, but they are the majority. I think

the point here is that these funds are going toward educating Government agencies so homosexuals, which are a minority, are not discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. Would Mr. Bauer argue if the funds were being used to educate Government agencies on racial minorities? I think not because he claims that homosexuality is "a lifestyle that most Americans, and most religions, consider a sexual and moral perversion". The key term here is "lifestyle" because organised religion is a lifestyle and people have been oppressed in history because of their religion or "lifestyle".

Discrimination against gays, lesbians or bisexuals is still discrimination. This is not a small problem because hate crimes against homosexuals are rising. The entire country's College system must address this problem and work to include sexual orientation in its definition of diversity. Quick action could save lives.

Activism

If you stop to think about the world, it revolves, but it also provides a scenario for indecision. Life is full of controversial issues that each of us individually needs to assess our own opinion about. There is no right or wrong and there is no majority rule about many issues making them ideas that are open to discussion, disapproval, rational actions, irrational actions, success, failure and so on. Of course, these ideas and issues are spread across the board as to subject matter but just a few, just a handful of them, will really stick out and become prevalent to your everyday life. When it becomes so important that you must stand up to make sure that whoever is listening hears your opinion and comes to know that you take one side or the other is when you decide to become an active support to the issue at hand.

Activism is a courageous thing to take part in. It means that you have to label yourself to let others know what you think and where you stand. But sometimes it is more than just saying whether or not something is right or wrong, sometimes it is as important as saying who you are and trying to find acceptance within the world. Stand up to be accepted. When someone goes far enough to be open with the rest of us, I think that we should seriously consider understanding that the world is full of variety. It wouldn't be any fun anymore if we didn't have indecision, controversy, variety and uniqueness. Embrace diversity while actively supporting your cause, have the courage to be an activist.

Two incredible singer/songwriters from America had the following to say about activism:

Ray on activism (transcription from the interview on the cold beer and remote control promo cd):

"I'm not able to define myself by being an activist or a musician separately, or one or the

other as a priority because it's melded in my life. I mean I would, I would definitely be an activist if I wasn't a musician, but I don't think I'd be a musician if I wasn't an activist. So you know it feeds me and it feeds everything that we do, but it doesn't mean that I don't sit at home and just write songs and don't think about activism cause I, I do, I just mean it's part of me. It's the lens that I see everything through; you know I see everything through that and it either colours or taints everything in my world...we try not to lose sight of just being musicians sometimes too. I mean we really, I, when I'm at home I play every day, I make a concerted effort to learn how to play better, but the thing that inspired me to do that was my activism because it gave, when we started working with indigenous rights, it opened up so many doors. Not just indigenous rights doors and not just environmental doors but everything about the world, I could understand it better because of the activists that I met through that. And it, I felt more compelled to become a better, to become better at what I do because it became a more important vehicle for me." Emily Saliers on activism (transcription from the interview on the cold beer and remote control promo cd):

"My political activism and social awareness I think came even later than music in life, but I grew up in a household where my parents were very concerned what was going on in the world. You know we had the Vietnam war and we grew up in a neighbourhood where the black panthers were a heavy influence and there was a lot going on, a lot of volatility and a lot of education, and my parents are, you know taught me a lot about being open minded to diversity and things like that. So the seeds were planted early and just as Amy and I have been able to travel a lot and, and come across great grassroots activists we found people who

can mentor us and we sort of found our philosophy and our paradigm for activism, which is grass roots activism. And we've been able to I think to comfortably marry it with our music, not to the point where it would be oppressive for anybody I think, but just presenting things like resources in the back of the album jacket. There are groups that we have worked with before or know about and if you're interested in finding out about one of those groups there's the number and there's the address and there's the description. We have resource tables at our shows or we do lots of benefits, and it's just stuff that we're concerned about as people. You know I think no matter what we did for a living we would be activists."



Reel Queer Movies: Irish Premieres of great Gay titles

MetroSexuality



It's not where you're going in life.
It's who you're going with.
Tuesday Night 8pm Meeting Room 5 SU building.

Metrosexuality, the vibrant Channel 4 series, whips us through the Technicolour streets of hip Notting Hill Gate where sexuality is a slippery thing, and the 21st Century family is in full swing.

Kwame is seventeen, sexy and terminally straight, with his hormones raging like a forest fire. But there's no room in his packed schedule to feed the flames. His best mate is in love with his dad. His dad has just divorced his husband and plunged into a mid-life attack of adolescence, buying a skate park and becoming the original bitch-on-wheels. The family counsellor has run off with his girlfriend's nouveau riche millionaire father and the aforementioned bitch/angel girlfriend is hanging out with a pair of sexy lippy lesbians.

It ain't easy being straight in the 21st Century, but hey, someone's got to do it...
...and what a wild time Kwame has doing it — colliding with cop cars, dishing with drag queens and driving up to Leeds in a brand new BMW with his wigged-out punkette mother to meet his born-again grandparents, while struggling to piece his shattered family together over the telephone — being straight has never been more funky, freaky and fun!

If these walls could talk 2



Women Love Women

Wednesday Night 8pm in Meeting Room 4 SU building.

Semi-follow up of the first "If These Walls

Could Talk" with three segments set in the same house, but with different occupants, which spans nearly 40 years. While the first film dealt with women and the topic of abortion, this deals with women and the topic of lesbianism.

1961: When Abby dies of a stroke, her surviving partner of 50 years, Edith, must silently face heartbreak and the denial of her status as "family" by the hospital and Abby's heirs.

1972: Linda, a feminist, out, college student is ousted, along with her lesbian cohorts, from the on-campus women's group: the cause of feminism comes first, apparently. In an attempt to forget their troubles, the friends go to the only lesbian bar in town, where Linda meets Amy, who is too butch to pass muster with Linda's friends. Intrigued, despite her friends' disapproval, Linda comes to understand and fall in love with Amy while learning about her own prejudices.

2000: Fran and Kal want to have a baby. But they want the baby to be theirs and theirs alone, so to the sperm bank they go. But the decisions to be made! Ordering over the internet? Which donor? What race? What gender? And what if the sperm bank is out of that particular perfect donor? And above all, is it right to bring a baby into a world that will undoubtedly be prejudiced? Or will love and laughter see them through?

Where to Learn More - An Online Guide on Being Gay

The WWW is a bizarre place at the best of times but it holds some amazing information for LGB people and their mates.

Here are a few examples

Bibliography on Gay & Lesbian Language

<http://www.ling.nwu.edu/~ward/gaybib.html> - Cool site on every gay word you ever wanted to know....and some I didn't!

Gay & Lesbian Film

<http://worldfilm.about.com/movies/worldfilm/msub-gay.htm> - Great site on one of the highlights of my year, the Film Festival, usually a week long affair that travels worldwide and hits Dublin and Cork in the late summer.

Gay & Lesbian Humour

<http://ncf.davin.ottawa.on.ca/freeport/sigs/life/gay/leshumor/menu> - Seemingly we do have a sense of humour.

My child is gay...now what do I do?

<http://www.pe.net/~bidstrup/parents.html> - Interesting site for parents and relatives to check out.

Bills Story

http://www.members.tripod.com/~claytoly/Bills_Story - Inspirational story about why we cannot tolerate Hate Crimes.

One in Ten

<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/4808/main.html> - Online diary of a 16 year old coming out.

Coming Out Stories

<http://www.comingoutstories.com> - 320 coming out stories from those who did the deed and survived to tell the tale.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

<http://www.pflag.org/> - Does exactly what it says on the tin!

LGB Portals.....

There are so many new gay portals springing up on the net, here is a sample

PlanetOut - <http://www.planetout.com> - Kind'a like Gay Yahoo!

Gay Wired.com - <http://www.gaywired.com> - Much the same as above

Gaygate.com - <http://www.gaygate.com> - You are getting the idea now, aren't you?

Lesbian.com - <http://www.lesbian.com> - At last something for the Ladies.

Pridemail.com - <http://www.pridemail.com> - Yes we have our own mail, cute huh?

Queery.com - <http://www.queery.com> - All queery's answered... :-)

Queer Company - <http://www.queercompany.com> - One of the best UK sites.

GayIreland.com - <http://www.gay-ireland.com> - Good resource for everything *pink* in Eire

Gaire.com - <http://www.gaire.com> - New Irish directory and information site.

Life On Campus



WELFARE WEEK 2001

At a Glance.....

Tuesday = Health Day

Wednesday = Sexual Awareness and Anti-Discrimination Day

Thursday = Cutting Down on Drink, Drugs & Smoking.

MAIN CANTEEN - 12.00- 3.00

INFORMATION STANDS

Leaflets and relevant contact numbers and e-mail addresses etc..
representatives to answer questions.

Ego 10 - 5.30 – 7.30

NEW SPORTS ARENA

TUES & THURS- 10.00 – 3.00

free admission

THE ARENA FITNESS CENTRE WILL BE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS AT THESE TIMES

STUDENTS' UNION

12.00, 2.00 & 4.00

WELFARE SEMINARS

Tuesday – Healthy Eating Tips; Getting Motivated for Sport; Getting Fit Tips
Wednesday - Sex – the Responsibility and Choices; Labelling; Discrimination.

ENTERTAINMENTS FOR WELFARE WEEK:

Tuesday

Welfare debate on abortion, meeting room 4 of the SU at 7.30

Wednesday

Welfare tablequiz...great prizes – scholars function room at 7.30

Thursday

Dot.comedy...comedy club with Jason Byrne in Johnny Swift at 8.00

Welfare week was organised & co-ordinated by the Welfare Office, with the help of the Welfare Committee, Daniel Nagle; Tadhg McKerring; Brendan Keane; Sarah Allen – Thanks for all the help. Also thanks to our main sponsors – The President of the University of Limerick; The Students' Union, The Stables; The Scholars; Kilmurray Lodge.

Much time and effort has been put into this week, with the hope that it will benefit you. We've done all we can – now its only up to you how much of a benefit you try to get out of it. And as with everything you do in your life...try to enjoy!

Porn, Dinner and the Average Man.

By Karen O'Sullivan

Now ladies, we all know that the chances of us meeting Brad Pitt, Ethan Hawke, or even Leonardo DiCaprio (should you be so inclined, but I'm praying that you all have higher standards than that!) and making them our one and only are fairly slim. Let's face it, we hook the best member of the opposite sex and trap them into marriage*, or we end up a prune like spinster sharing our shelf with cats and knitting needles. It's a myth that we spend our hormonal lives searching for true love, companionship and a waist. What we really want is a steady man that will earn a good wage to keep us in the manner to which we've become accustomed and who will make love to us in the missionary once a week, on our birthdays and at Christmas for the purposes of procreation. So of course we shouldn't mind them gawping at porn! After all, the Water Polo club were so obliging in providing us with a little show of their own, only last week.

When our men have come in from a hard days work or study, we should have their dinner

ready and on the table. We should be pleasant, polite and nice to look at. The last thing they need is their woman moaning at them about their stash of magazines and videos under the bed; they obviously belong to a friend. Perhaps what we should really be doing is watching these videos for the fine performances of the actresses. Debbie must have been some woman to be able to do all of Dallas and look like she was enjoying it. Bless. She is a pioneer to the cause of satisfying men everywhere and I commend her on her stamina and determination. We should also watch them for tips on how to make our men happy, after all a satisfied man is a trapped man! Now obviously, there are some things that mortal women aren't going to be able to do first time around but I'm sure that with a little practise we will be able to do twist our bodies into those positions and we'll even be able to look like we enjoy it too.

Anois, ba mhaith liom cúpla focail a rá as Gaeilge. Tá orthú sos a thabhairt domsa mar níl mé ag chaint é go minic. Tá an meas agam faoi Peig Sayers freisin. Ba feidir léi a saol a caitheamh ar oileán beag gan aon rud- cairde,

a clann, ainimhithe, srl.- agus ní raibh aon garánta dí. Bhí a lán cupáin tae agus a lán scéalta aici agus mar sin, baineann gach dálda an, an taitneamh as a leabhar gach bliann san Ard Teist. Tabhar dom í mar shampla, nuair a rinne mé an ghriangreaf in aice mo pháosa. Dá mbeadh sibh ag fanacht ar do stór, is feidir libh an ghriangreaf a gearradh, agus do phictúir féin a chuir ar a aghaidh. Mar sin, is feidir libh do scéal féin a cheapadh!

Lets face it ladies, we may have the vote, we may be able to drive better than they can and we can definitely dress better than they can, but men need porn like women need chocolate. With most men, it's a fairly harmless occupation and at the end of the day a magazine can't cook their dinner. We will always come out on top.

* In this decade of the naughties, pregnancy is no longer a reliable trapping method. While some prefer rohypnol as a suitable alternative, I'll stick by the tried and tested "I'll cook your dinner and wash your clothes" approach.

Slane Statues

By Nick O' Brien

Sobriety gripped me like a maniacal tyrant this week as I decided to raise money for a one-legged radio-active seal child with bugs growing in his brain that gets 0.1 of a cent towards a life saving operation from an eccentric billionaire if the E-mail about him goes to 2 Gajillion people in the next 24 hours, and if you don't forward it to everyone you know he will get his evil hitmen after you and break up your marriage.

I decided to attempt a one hundred hour jaunt in a bouncy castle with some students from the Art College and my arch nemesis Lee-tor. But it turns out that a five hour stint on a bouncy castle has more hallucinogenic effects than a psychedelic rock band on Stonehenge.

That's right! While in the throes of the human effervescence that is the physics of the bouncy castle, I had a vision my children. And in this vision, I saw the Devil, and the devil did talk to me, and we did record his speech of peace and love! But when we played the recording backwards it was Kid A by Radiohead...

The devil does not have Slane tickets either, but he told me he will be seeing U2 Real soon anyway...

Those slane tickets are rarer than naked communists Preaching Manically on the Streets of Wales about their new two singles released on the same day instead of a double A-Side that costs half the price because that is the most non-capitalist thing you can do. Heartfelt empathy for anyone who didn't get tickets and was queuing since 12, I know the feeling, well, the mates that were queuing for me do. Needless to say, I was fairly pissed off

Diary of A First Year

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

when I got up at 1 p.m. to find that I wouldn't be reviewing Slane 2001 this year... Not that I had the £36.50 plus booking fee plus bono fee for the tickets anyway as I had to spend all my money buying 1000 cheap cigars from a Cuban bloke I met at the Docks. I meet plenty of strange people at the docks you know. But the cigars ended up being hollow.

Is it just me or are those Cubans always on the Fiddle?

Fair play though, to all those guys who got their kit off for the ladies in the Scholars last week. An aside: Who is this Monty and what is he filling? That is nearly as confusing as the Pocahontas thing. What's a Hontas anyway?

But I say Forget Slane! Forget U2 and Red Hot Chili Peppers and Kid A and all the crap we listen to, for Nicks band of the week to look out for in stores now is "Rage with the Machine", the machine in question I assume being a society about as useful as a Venis computer.

I'm leaving now to Look for America with Simon, Garfunkel, Baby Elian and a bouncy Castle, and We may even Smash some pumpkins on the way. That is of course if the rusty old pieces of crap that are sprouting up everywhere passing themselves off as sculptures these days, (Not at all a reference to a recent addition to the U.L. landscape. Would somebody please do me a favour and put a "Best Actress" sign around its neck (Being careful of course of tetanus) and give the bloody thing to Meg Ryan, so we can get rid of the stupid thing... and the statue. Till that glorious day comes my children, keep on Thinking, caring, knowing, FOLKING IN THE FREE WORLD! (Support "Students against rusty old pieces of crap")

Krank's Korner

What is a man? What should a man be? Hmm! Even asking that question seems kinda feminine, perhaps men are defined by their actions not their words- we shall see. Most blokes I know are like me: bad actors posing as men. It's all about swaggering about waving your lad- having an ego basically. We measure our manhood by our ego: small ego, small man, small lad; big ego, big man, big lad. I say pants to that idea. So what is a man if not his ego? Well, let's knock, knock, open wide, and see what's on the other side.

Okay, perhaps a man is something tough. Maybe a man is someone who stops fights instead of starting 'em. I saw an interview with Henry Rollins on a Channel 4 show called "Man Test.". By all accounts Henry Rollins is one tough c**t. He came from a tough neighbourhood and a dysfunctional family to be a stand up comic as well as lead singer with the crazy loons known as the Rollins Band. The show was assessing how masculine he was. He said some really interesting s**t. He felt a man should be physically strong- and not be "a pseudo intellectual man, who can quote Proust, with soft hands cos when the heavy stuff comes down, he's gonna be, 'But Plutonium said' and next thing WHAM!" "Doh!" said I, feeling like a college boy. He also said "If I were a woman, I'd want a man, who'd listen to me- not hit me, be smart, know about poetry and literature, not be like this guy with his knuckles scraping the ground, a drooling Neanderthal. An articulate sensitive man (pause)... who could whoop that ass." I think we can see the brutality he's seen by his "not hit me" line. A world away from a middle class man's description of what a woman wants. By and by when he says "whoop that ass" he means he'd whoop the ass of other guys. Also "Every young boy should have a male figure in his life, a father, a big brother... a man to say: 'here's how it is.'" "Pants!" I thought. At 22 I'm still looking around for someone to tell me how it is. But wait, there's more: "I don't know if I have a real fear of intimacy, but I've probably convinced myself that I don't need it, and also I'm pretty sure that if someone got really close, there might not be anything there." S**t! Spot on Mr Rollins. One more: "Boys are assaulted, mugged by puberty, infested by puberty- that's me. I went from human being, 'Hello there girl', to 'AWOOOO! UGGGG! HUBBA HUBBA', that's all I wanted, didn't even know what I wanted to do really but 'Ruff!'" It's funny cos it's true... sigh! Right, so, to surmise, a man should be tough but articulate.

I think as a part of a man's fear of intimacy is his idea of himself as Odysseus: a lonely wanderer. A man is half in love with the idea that he doesn't need anybody and anywhere he lays his head he calls his home. This kind've "On The Road" vision of what a man is, is so hackneyed it must be true. This archetypal Odysseus character is manifested in all kinds of places. Take the music of Tom Waits for example, a lot of his ballads are from the point of view of a dispossessed, lost man: "Now you're gone

And its hotels and whiskey and sad luck dames
And I don't care if they miss me
I don't remember their names."
-Blind Love, Tom Waits.

A must see film about an Odysseus style rogue surviving on his whiskey and his wits is a musical western called "Paint Your Wagon." You may recognise the name from a Simpsons episode which ripped the piss outta the movie but its brill. It is so absurdly funny that you forget how profound it is. If you know a bloke whose birthday is coming up, buy him this movie and you'll be friends for life. Lee Marvin is the gold prospectin' drunkard who sings the original version of "I was Born Under A Wandering Star." There's sparkling dialogue such as:

Lee Marvin: How's your girl back home?
Clint Eastwood: What? Oh... I just made her up.
Lee Marvin: Them's the best kind. But what I need now [swigs his whiskey], is the worst kind.

Ah Lee, ya oul rogue ya. The irony of all this bravado is a man isn't really capable of facing the wind on his own. He needs to be mammied and is gutted to admit it.

There's a brilliant poem that gives a real insight into the inadequacy a man feels. It's called "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock", by T.S. Eliott. You know the one, twas in our "Soundings" poetry book in school. It's about a man who can't say how he feels. He's a gutless wonder, who's afraid of having his ego deflated by a curt comment so he says nothing. But inside he is a sprawling mass of feelings and imagination. He has internalised his emotions so much that he has created a world in his imagination more real to him than the paralytic world of dinner parties and small talk. He is a poet as an impotent man. It reminds me of how frail men are, even pathetic. But it also shows that although a man is ordinary (we can never

come to terms with the fact we are not unique snowflakes), poetry and imagination can raise him above his paltry self and he can be beautiful. A man can be beautiful. "A loada boll**s!" I hear ya say, f**k you, I say, f**k you. Another offshoot of T.S. Eliott's poem is a man's inner conflict. A man is a monster. Take "Steppenwolf" by Hermann Hesse. Its idea is that a man is both a wolf and man, where the wolf is the wild, lonely, hungry part of his soul: "If Harry, as man, had a beautiful thought, felt a fine and noble emotion, or performed a so-called good act, then the wolf bared his teeth at him and laughed and showed him with bitter scorn how laughable this noble show was in the eyes of a beast, of a wolf who knew well enough in his heart what suited him, namely, to trot alone over the Steppes and now and then to gorge himself with blood or to pursue a female wolf." Sorry bout the big f**k off quote but it re-enforces the idea that a bloke is at odds with his baser instincts. Is he a slave to his d**k or the master of it? He's afraid a woman will turn him into a lap dog when he enjoys the free loneliness of the Steppe mountains. Can he keep his destructive instincts under control? He can't let his guard down cos he's afraid of himself and his gnarled, ugly feelings. I guess what it comes down to is a man is never at peace.

So back here again- what is a man? Bates the s**t outta me. I'm one a these clowns whose read more about life than lived it. I did meet a real man once though. I was working for the summer on a factory floor in a fish packing plant. My job was to operate the vacuum packing machine. Ya line the packet up on the machine, press a button, then remove it and start again. That's it. As mind numbing a job as you can imagine. This new guy started this pants job and I was showing him the ropes. I asked him how come he ended up working at such a s***hole. He told he just needed the work till something better came along. He had left his wife and children somewhere in Ireland (can't remember where) and came to Limerick looking for work to send home money. I just went puse. Here I was, a kid showing this man how to do such a cat job, when I shoulda been working for him. This man was taking a step down in dignity to feed his family. He just got up and did it. That was an ordinary man made extraordinary by a simple selfless ACT. How many of us college boys can say we've done that?

FOCAIL EALAÍNE - Arts Section

Poetry Corner - Rhyming Thoughts of UL Students - Send your thoughts to anfocal@csn.ul.ie

*"You are invulnerable, you have no Achilles' heel.
You will go on, and when you have prevailed
You can say: at this point many a one has failed (T. S. Eliot.. "Portrait
of a lady")*

Beauty and I

Her flesh is of beauty
Her smile is the sun,
Her words are electricity
She is a song to be sung.

She stars in my dreams,
And plays every part
It's the only place,
I can steal her heart.

She knows not her beauty,
Which wins her again.
I'd tell her how I feel,
But wouldn't know where to begin.

I play a small part,
In her much larger world.
Eagerly waiting on queue,
Surely the fool,
But only for you.

She rhymes my words,
And I'm lost in hers.
Stealing time to waste on you.
And when she's gone my spirit dies,
I say, "I love you",
But my mirror never replies.

Her beauty enchants and taunts at my will,
But she's so far beyond me,
Upon her pedestal.
By.....Idle Dreamer

LIFE'S A BITCH (Part of the LGB Soc.)

Only a couple of months into 2001 and already it's the worst year of your life? Well,
here's a little poem from Miss Anastasia Veronica Bollocks (Aka Annie Balls) to let
you know you're not alone

Why does it never rain but pour?

Does the rent man appear when you open the door?

Do you give it your all, but people want more?

...Because life's a bitch!

Why does Hollywood call when your phones disconnected?

When you're desperate for cash, your pass card's rejected?

When passing through customs your drugs are detected?

...Because life's a bitch!

Why does the man of your dreams end up shagging your mate?

Does Quasimodo turn out to be your blind date?

Is your rod out for fishing, but no ones taking your bait?

...Because life's a bitch!

Why are your numbers picked when you forget to do Lotto?

If the body's a temple yours feels like a grotto?

Is "My tights have a ladder" becoming your motto?

...Because life's a bitch!

Babies here's my solution to burst this nasty bubble

Shout, "Pour me a drink! No, make it a double!"

Then look life in the eye and say, "Girl you've got trouble"

Because I'm a Bigger Bitch

A Loved one in my arms,
She lies with the burden of illness,
However, whatever grandure this illness possesses she will only lie crestfallen for now,
and not yet will she sleep the eternal slumber.

The potential life within this women,
(and) accompanied by the potential she too possesses,
will strive to become too much for any ailment the devil himself may put across her.

Life is simple for many,
but for many, life is a gift,
to be valued and relished,
if she was to save my life,
I would give my life to save hers.

Entertainment of Campus

The Stables Club Entertainment Week 6

Mon. 19th "Wired" musicians and singers welcome

Tue.20th "Miller Promo." And D.J.
Wed.21st 4pm "Noel Mc Loughlin"
9.30pm "Never heard of em"

Thurs.22nd "Blue Moose" and D.J.
Fri.23rd "Party Disco Night" with Aidan

Week 7

Mon.26th "Wired"

Tue; 27th D.J. Aidan

Wed. 28th D.J.

Thurs.29th "Blue Monday" and D.J.
Fri.30th "Party Disco Night"

The Scholars Club Entertainment Week 6

Tuesday: Heineken Promotion Part 2 - Win a Vespa Scooter

Wednesday: Sutas - Heineken Battle of the Bands Winner

Thursday: DJ from 5pm - Miller Chart Night

Week 7

Monday - Jody

Tuesday - Heinken Promotion Part 3 - Win a Vespa Scooter

Wednesday: Live Band TBC

Thursday - DJ from 5pm- Miller Chart Night

Watch out for the Murphy's Comedy Club, Tuesday's

Wk ,6,7,9,10&12

Rag Week Entertainment to be published Soon

Big Screen Coverage Published in Bar Weekly

Amstel Champions League Competition



Win yourself a Party Pack of Amstel to get you through the next Champions League game.

Question: Who is the current top scorer in the Champions League?

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



THE BACK ROW

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



CHOCOLAT

REVIEW BY JACINTA SHINNICK

"Chocolat" arrives on these shores just in time for Lent - a cruel and clever move as all those poor souls who have forsaken the stuff can look on and drool. Just don't make a mess. The Omniplex had enough problems with its carpets as it is.

The story is classic fairy tale escapism. Set in a tiny, picturesque village in 1950s France, the film follows the fortunes of the mysterious Vianne (Juliette Binoche) and her daughter Anouk (played by one of those rare Child actors that can be wide-eyed and innocent without inducing nausea) who have blown in with the "sly north wind". The village is personification of "tranquillite", i.e. more happens in the Lodge on Monday nights than in forty years in this place. That is until Vianne opens a chocolaterie during Lent, attracting the ire of the town's devout mayor and the curiosity of the locals.

Vianne displays an intriguing talent for guessing people's favourite. Through her quiet and intuitive manner, she learns some of the town's secrets: Judi Dench (in a spirited performance, i.e. she gets to swear) is estranged from her uptight daughter, Caroline (Carrie Anne Moss out of her "Matrix" leathers and in some sensible shoes), town drunk, Serge (Peter Stomare) beats his troubled wife, Josephine (Lena Olin), while charming old

man, John Wood, has been pining for the widowed Leslie Caron for nigh on forty years. Pretty soon Vianne's chocolates are proving to be a cure for impotence, kleptomania, family strife and that unspeakable scourge...bad hair.

Her attempts to bring some sweetness and light to the town, however, are met with fierce opposition from the Comte de Reynaud (Alfred Molina in a performance so over-the-top and cartoonish that you expect him to twirl his moustache at every available opportunity), the town's self-appointed moral guardian and classic control freak. The movie's message is laid on with all the subtlety of a sledgehammer: repression and self-denial are bad, while taking pleasure in life is good. Quelle surprise! We all know that Vianne's treats will eventually win over the Comte - it's only a matter of time.

The film does throw up a few pleasant surprises. Johnny Depp (who has worked with the director, Lasse Hallstrom, before) wanders in half way through and nonchalantly walks off with the entire film. An Irish gypsy with that rarest of things (i.e., a passable Irish accent), he sweeps fiercely independent single mum, Vianne, off her feet. Meanwhile, the mother-daughter relationship between Vianne and her moppet, who resents being uprooted at the whims of her flighty parent, is handled nicely. The fairytale motif (for instance, Vianne and Anouk arrive into town wearing matching scarlet cloaks) is present throughout, while Vianne's retelling of her own parentage is suitably magical.

There are flaws: the story is far too light and inconsequential for its own good. It's a bit-sweet tale that simply isn't bitter enough. Vianne's talent is never really explored - the possibility that she might be a witch is never entered into (a theme that would have had particular resonance in the devoutly Catholic setting) so her temptation of the villagers lacks any real edge. Meanwhile, the issue of spousal

abuse is poorly handled - one taste of Vianne's chocolates and Josephine is cured of the physical and mental abuse she suffered at the hands of her husband. And the ending is simply too sickly sweet for words.

The talented cast but are solid if unremarkable. Alarmingly, most of them boast sub-"Allo Allo" French accents that provide a few moments of unintentional hilarity. Dame Judi fares quite well having wisely chosen to ignore the location of the film and just give a gruffer version of her own speaking voice. The same can't be said for Ireland's own Hugh O'Connor (the young Christy Brown in "My Left Foot") who looks so uncomfortable as the meek, Elvis loving town priest that he's either plain embarrassed or is suffering from a lifetime of indigestion. And Juliette Binoche looks as tasty as ever, delivering a delicious performance (sorry! So sorry...).

Sweet but saccharine, charming but overly eager to please, too Hans Christian Andersen and not enough Brothers Grimm, it's a pleasant film to watch but be careful not to expect too much. And remember to floss.

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Now Showing at the Belltable World Cinema Season



Some more emotional pornography

Dancer In The Dark (Denmark/Sweden, 2000) has an interesting reputation: the winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes last year (an honour greeted with much booring) as well as many other critical plaudits, but also a resident of many critics' Worst Films of the Year polls. A British ad campaign even went as far as to prominently feature two quotes capturing these critical extremes of acclaim and revulsion. Extra seats had to be brought into the Savoy to accommodate the number of people wanting to find out for themselves, turning it from a simple screening into an event.

Dancer In The Dark has much in common with writer/director Lars Von Trier's previous film, *The Idiots*. Both films are shot on video and conform to (most of) the rules contained in the 'Vow of Chastity' manifesto laid out by Dogme95, a filmmaking collective. According to this manifesto, shooting must be done on location, the camera must be hand-held, the film must be in colour, and optical work and filters are forbidden. Set in his native Denmark, *The Idiots* concerns a group of twenty to thirty-something men and woman who set out to confront peoples' bourgeois mentality by "spazzing" – pretending to be mentally retarded in social situations and in the house they have occupied in order to free themselves and challenge others. Apart from its formal and stylistic brilliance and

great acting, *The Idiots* delivers an overwhelming emotional punch. Some of Von Trier's work, including *Breaking The Waves*, has been labelled "emotional pornography", partly because of the use of video, mostly because of the gratuitous wading-through of the characters' emotions.

Dancer is very much "pornographic". It has been said that lead actor Björk was not acting at all, but rather "feeling". If true, this would go some way to account for her astonishing *tour de force* performance, all the more astonishing for a debut feature film. I imagine that Von Trier, a man who added the 'Von' to make himself sound more important, put her through hell during the production – these two auteurs on a collision course are now on non-speaking terms. However, whereas a major strength of *The Idiots* was in the creation of an emotional hook between the viewer and the selfish, egotistical, and potentially offensive characters on-screen, *Dancer* tries the same with a cute, hard working, poverty-stricken, near blind, loving single mother facing execution for a crime she was forced to commit. She's impossible not to love, or at least like, so there's an air of careless manipulation about the film.

The musical set pieces may have been choreographed to within an inch of perfection, but we'll never know – in his quest for spontaneity, Von Trier threw cameras around to pick it all up, so we're left with many shots lasting short seconds of different angles of potentially glorious Busby Berkely style numbers. Perhaps this is the intention – watching these set pieces is akin to the scenes in the cinema where Catherine Deneuve narrates the dancing to the increasingly visually-impaired Selma, much to the annoyance of the other patrons. We're getting a translation of the real thing. Happily, this doesn't really matter – technically, this may be a musical, but



the musical set pieces aren't its *raison d'être*. What matters most in these scenes are the emotions that shine from the songs. Selma's joy is given a voice. The soundtrack and songs themselves, composed and written by Björk, are amongst her best work, full of imagination and idiosyncrasy, brilliantly adapting the conventions of the musical. That the songs "get old" towards the end is less a fault of the songs themselves and more due to the exhaustion that may be felt by the viewer.

However manipulative the story, there's no denying the emotional impact, thanks partly to Björk. I was left feeling very brittle afterwards, in need of wrapping in cotton wool. The woman in front of me had to laugh at the bawling convulsions she was reduced to. A male friend travelled from Cork to cry again at his second viewing. This film, a collision of two unique talents, is out now to buy on video and DVD. It's not something you'd watch over and over – it can be gruelling – but very rewarding.

The Belltable's final film of the season, *West Beirut*, is being screened on March 25th, and may be well worth checking out before the summer blockbuster season kicks in.



ULSU Accounts 1999/200

University of Limerick Students' Union
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
 for the year ended 30 June 2000

	Notes	2000 IRE	1999 IRE
Income			
Capitation	3	376,580	325,323
Subvention		17,700	17,300
Deposit Interest		816	1,297
Advertising/Information	4	20,490	24,502
Graphics		38,108	25,779
Entertainment		14,815	24,349
Amusement Income		16,000	-
Graduation Ball	5	9,459	11,115
Other		11,630	14,250
		<u>505,598</u>	<u>443,915</u>
Expenditure			
Executive		52,778	46,894
Administration		113,915	124,580
Clubs and Societies		248,444	221,845
Information		20,110	18,982
Festivals		8,387	13,261
Graphics Purchases and expenses		31,878	25,791
Entertainment Costs		28,981	40,526
		<u>504,493</u>	<u>491,879</u>
Excess income for the year		1,105	(47,964)
Retained profit brought forward		36	48,000
Retained profit carried forward		<u>1,141</u>	<u>36</u>

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the above two financial years.

University of Limerick Students' Union

Balance Sheet
as at 30 June 2000

	Notes	2000 IRE	1999 IRE
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	6	12,637	9,135
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	67,206	30,076
Cash at bank and in hand		31,768	37,244
		<u>98,974</u>	<u>67,320</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(110,470)	(76,419)
Net Current Liabilities		<u>(11,496)</u>	<u>(9,099)</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		1,141	36
Net Assets		<u>1,141</u>	<u>36</u>
Capital and Reserves			
Profit and loss account		1,141	36
Equity Shareholders' Funds		<u>1,141</u>	<u>36</u>

On behalf of the Students Union

President: Michael Phelan

Vice-President: Tom O Donovan

Date: 7 December, 2000

An Focal Editorial Team

editor *Fergal F.*

News editor *Michelle D.*

news collectors/gossipers Jennifer, Patrick, Michelle, Ella

Focal Ealiane Patricia Moriarty
John Murray

features Mystic, Sinead, Nicholas, Marrion, Dave Flem, Ger, Sinead

Show me the money Becky

c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.) Paul & CO.

phancy photo's Fergal F. & Photo Soc.

Gig goers *tommy finneran.*





Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

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

UL Volleyball Intervarsities 2001

The 2001 Volleyball Intervarsities took place from the 1st -3rd February here in UL. Most teams met up in the Stables on the Wednesday evening to catch up from previous years and to acquaint themselves with old friends.

Pool matches started bright and early for the girls on Thursday morning, but unfortunately we went down 2-1 to a tall and experienced Trinity team. We seemed to wake up later on, as we beat both DIT and NUI Galway, both by 2 sets to nil. Friday saw us in the Cup round, where we drew UCC and RCSI. After Thursday's performances, RCSI were being tipped as favourites, so the girls knew they had a bit of work to do to reach the semi final. We played UCC first, and although we lost the first set, somebody must have been kissing leprechauns, because we won the next two sets in a very tight game. We went in to the game against RCSI relaxed, as we knew we were both in the semis the next day, which obviously paid off, as we caused a bit of an upset by beating them two-nil.

We drew DCU in the Cup semi final, and luckily our sixth player arrived just as we were about to start, although a little worse for wear from the socialising the night before!!! We started well, and thanks to very consistent play from everyone and some excellent serving all weekend from Belen Verduch, we beat DCU 2-0 also, and made it to the final, where we were to meet RCSI again, the team that some of the lads (they shall remain nameless for now) had been drooling over for the weekend.

Unfortunately after the great solid play of the weekend, Surgeons were too strong for us in the final and beat us by 3 sets to nil. The UL team fought back very well in each set, but it was always a little bit too late. For a team of six players who have never played a match together before the weekend started, and who spent Thursday morning introducing themselves to each other, we achieved more than any of us ever expected.

The men's competition also started on Thursday with an afternoon match against DIT. As one of the tournament favourites our goal for this match was to put up a good performance and give them a good game. This we did taking more than 30 points from them over the two set loss. With our first game behind us we looked forward to the crunch game against Belfast. After DIT had also beaten Belfast the winner of UL vs. Belfast would be into the cup while the other would drop into the plate.

A good start against Belfast gave us a good lead and with Gerard setting as much as possible this left Carl, Fergal and Thomas to hit. With great blocking from Thomas and Shane O'Brien and good covering from Mike we won the first set 25-17. The second set turned out to be a closer set. Belfast started to cover better. This forced UL to keep up the pressure and with good serving from Gerard UL took the second set 25-21. With that we found ourselves into the plate and a night of fun to be had in the Scholars.

The draw for the Cup pitted us against Trinity, the Cup holders and UCC the Plate holders. As with the previous day we game up against the group favourites, this time Trinity, in the first match. In our favour we welcomed back Jonathan and Shane O' Sullivan, two experienced players, who had being unavailable the previous day. Against Trinity we set out to enjoy the game and score as many points as

possible. This we did testing Trinity for most of the first set until their experience got the better of us. With Trinity also beating UCC we found ourselves in with a chance of reaching the Cup semi finals. If we beat UCC we were through, if we lost we would drop back into the Plate semi-finals. The match itself was closely fought contest that went all the way to three sets. UL started strongly in the first set and built up a four point gap with good hitting from Carl and Fergal. Unfortunately we let the lead slip and UCC came back strongly. The teams matched each other point of point before UCC took the set 26-24. Disappointed that we had lost the first set we knew we were capable of beating UCC. Again we started strongly building up a good lead with strong serving from Shane O' Sullivan and Gerard and good hitting from Thomas and Jonathan. This time we didn't let UCC back into the set winning it 25-18. It was now down to the third and final set. This time UCC started the better, building up a five point lead. UL fought back strongly but had given UCC too much of a lead to claw back. UCC won the set by 5 points. Disappointed that we had lost a game we were capable of winning we looked forward to the fact that we still had a Plate semi final to play in.

After a great night in the Hurlers and the Lodge Saturday was semi final day in all competitions. We had drawn Carlow IT in our semi final while NUIG and UJJ were competition in the other semi.

We had started out at the beginning of the competition to win the plate and now we found ourselves one match away from the final. With this in mind we started the first set with a lot of confidence. With great team play and a great team sprit we easily won the first set against Carlow. Maybe at this stage some of us started looking towards final. The second set was a tighter affair with Carlow really fighting for it. As the lead switched over and back Carlow eventually won out 25-23. For the second time in two days we found ourselves in a position of perhaps losing to a team we were capable of beating. Determined not to let that be the story of our Varsities we fought back in the third set and with good setting from Gerard and Jonathan, great hitting from Fergal, Shane and Thomas and more great serving from Carl, won it 25-22.

The final pitted us against UJJ (University of Ulster Jordanstown). The first set turned out to be a cracker with both team matching each other point for point. Both teams exchanged the lead until UL took a 24-23 lead and set point. However UJJ didn't buckle under the pressure and levelled at 24-24. Whoever won the next point would be in a great position to take the set and unluckily for us UJJ got the point and a 25-24 lead. We were now under pressure to save match point, but failed as UJJ took the first set 26-24. The effort we put into the first set started to take it tool in the second as UJJ took control. They raised their game and built up a 7 point lead. Despite our best efforts we were unable to get back into the set as UJJ won both it and the Plate.

After a great Varsity we had a silver medal to show for all the work and effort we had put in. The team was : Gerard Conway (captain), Jonathan Collins, Carl Grapenfelt, Fergal Lyons, Shane O' Sullivan, Thomas, Mike Carey and Shane O' Brien. May thanks to our coach Cormac Byrne who put in

a lot of time into training in the weeks coming up to the Varsity.

Congratulations to Belen Verduch and Siobhan Cotter who played in the representative match on Friday afternoon for naturally enough, the victorious South of the Liffey team. They were both also selected for the Irish Student team which unfortunately now cannot travel to Glasgow in April to compete in the Home Nations tournament because of the Foot & Mouth outbreak.

UL Women's team: Siobhan Cotter, Belen Verduch, Lesley Kelly, Helen Wynne, Virginie Zuzaniuk, and Teresa Teppo.

Along with the volleyball, there was also the obligatory socialising to struggle through. Thursday night saw us in the Scholars bar, for a few pints and a bit of dancing (and wrestling with UCG lads for some!). Friday night brought us to the Hurler's and the Lodge, where for the girls from UL, DCU, DIT and UCG and some of the lads too, it turned into a five-hour aerobics session, interrupted only by the need to rehydrate ourselves with beer and vodka! I think some of the lads in the Hurler's were quite impressed by the dirty dancing being practiced in their presence! Needless to say that Saturday morning saw a few sore heads and queasy stomachs on the volleyball court. On Saturday night, when everything was finally over, the banquet was held in the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel. By this time, my voice was almost gone, and I was only able to squeak over the microphone at the presentation – myself and Ger really really enjoyed the presentation, as he got to kiss all the girls (the other lads were so jealous when the Surgeons collected their cup!), and I got to kiss the lovely lads from Trinity, mmmmm!! A great night was had by all who attended, I'd say that some of them may be having problems remembering everything though!

The full list of winners are as follows:

Men's Cup: Winners: Trinity College, Dublin

Runners Up: DIT

Women's Cup: Winners: RCSI
Runners Up: UL

Men's Plate: Winners: UJJ
Runners Up: UL

Women's Plate: Winners: NUI Galway
Runners Up: DIT

Men	Women
Best Hitter: Denis Walter (DCU)	
Julia Wivestad (RCSI)	
Best Setter: Mark Heffernan (TCD)	
Siobhan Cotter (UL)	

I would just like to thank the organising committee of UL Volleyball Club, that put so much work into the organising of the tournament, the UL players who all had medals to collect, Mac Ltd for sponsoring us, Neasa Fahy-O'Donnell, the Sports Dept, and the Arena staff, the Scholars, the Stables, The Lodge, and the Hurlers, and especially to Niall Merrigan for some great sounds on Saturday night at such short notice. What a superstar!

Clubs & Societies Ball - The Clubs & Societies Awards Night, Limerick Inn March 15th



By Michelle Daly

Thursday the 15th of March was one of the greatest dates on the UI calendar the Clubs and Societies Ball and awards ceremony. Only the third year of the event this year's ball was completely sold out days before the event. Organised by the clubs and societies development officer Paul Lee with a lot of help from the Arts officer Patricia Moriarty and Sports Adminstrar Nessa O'Donnell -Fahy.

The night started at the scholars and stables clubs where formally attired guests of each club or society gathered before getting on the specially organised Curtains buses to the event across the city in the Limerick Inn.

After dinner the main event of the evening was the awards voted upon by societies three weeks before at the night in Scholars. Clubs were the first to receive the gongs.

Clubs person of the year was of course Keith Piggott , with nominees Rosamund Healy and Stephan Driver runners up . Club event of



the year was The Hockey Intervarsity held in UL in November well deserved with Keith again popping up to receive that accolade. Best New or Improved club was the Water polo Club where Tara Curley was more than happy to accept the well-deserved prize. Finally last but not least Men's Soccer claimed the Best overall club trophy and clubs officer Stephan Driver claimed with pride.

Then Patricia Moriarty was up to present the societies awards Societies person of the year was a tag team of Michael Hourigan and yet again Keith Pigott for their work on The Debating Union . Runners up were Alan Powell of International Society and Eoin O Broin of Environmental Society. Society event of the year was The International Societies food fair. Best new or improved society was the Environmental society for their unforgettable campaigns both outside of and within the university. Best overall society of the year was the Environmental Society again and President Catriona Jackman was up with Eoin O' Broin, Nancy Serrano and Kalista Mountjoy to accept that with great pleasure .

Finally a new addition to the event was the presentation of The Mike Sadlier award to a society person who has made enormous contributions to societies in ul over their tenure there. This years recipient of this award was David Fleming for his work on and off the History society and his contributions to so much of c&s life here in the University of Limerick over the last 4 years .A standing ovation was held in his honour as he collected his plaque with surprise. It was probably the first time the entire Clubs and Soc.s have seen Dave speechless and more than likely the last.

The Jason Hackett memorial plaque was also presented this year and Jason's mother Deirdre made a touching speech to the gathered clubs and societies about the joy that Jason got from being involved in Clubs in UL and how he touched so many lives there .It was she who presented on behalf of the Clubs and Societies the Jason Hackett award to Deccie (Bronco) Burke of the Kayak Club for his outstanding effort for clubs in UL over the last four years here. Deccie was unable to give a speech due to shock and we suspect a good few drinks before hand but his appreciation was very much felt and he too got a standing ovation from the entire clubs and societies

council.

The night really took off to a flying start with a great band shoving out the hits, they claimed that they were spice girls but being all male and playing their own instruments this reporter has her doubts. Then the famed illusionist 'The Wizard' took over a darkened ball-room with a spectacular light and illusion show.

Finally Robbie Merrigan took the decks on an gave a great end to the night with a couple of hours of non-stop hits. Before it was back on the buses and back to lovely ol' castletroy where some diehard revellers went back to start the party all over again in the comfort of their own homes.

A special thank has to go to the man who really without it would never have happened the unstoppable Paul Lee. The Clubs officer Stephan Driver and Societies Officer Ella Daly, with the help of SU President Mick Phelan made a presentation to Paul and his fiancée Clodagh to show a little bit of the appreciation that everyone in UL clubs and societies feel for all the work Paul does the whole year round.

There was also a cake for Clubs executive Paul Ruddy whose 21st was Thursday night and a few drinks were in order at the exec table to celebrate that fact.

All in all there's not a great lot to say we all had a great night and are already looking forward to next year well done to all the guys who made it possible .

On another note well done to the best dressed outsiders you know who you are ... and to the clubs exec we decided to let you off the hook this time but I wouldn't relax just yet ...



An Focal Cream Live Competition

**Winnerof The Tickets For
Cream Live at the Point Depot, March 18th**

Was: Paul Gallagher

**The Answer:
Paul Oakenfold**

REVIEW NEXT EDITION



Dedication of The Memorial Wall



By Michelle Daly

Tuesday the 13th of March was again the night set aside for the dedication of the memorial wall to those students who were involved in clubs and societies and who passed away

through tragic circumstances. This year unfortunately there were three names to add to the wall including Darnell Largon of Celtic supporters club, Jason Hackett of Windsurfing club, and Ciaran Tracey of Debating Union.

Immediately after the Clubs and societies council on Tuesday there was a large attendance from individual clubs and societies who were there to witness this important if sadness tinged event.

Student's Union president Mick Phelan and Clubs and Societies development officer Paul Lee unveiled the plaques in the Clubs and societies room that is dedicated to another former society person Mike Sadlier. The college chaplain PJ Somers said a few words and led the

gathering in prayer at the event. Keith Piggott of Deb U, and Aengus O'Malley informally spoke a few words on behalf of their former colleagues making the plaques to mean more than words on the wall, giving the names there life.

Afterwards a cheese and wine reception was held for the families and attendees. The idea behind the room dedication and the memorial plaques is that though people tragically die before they leave college, they will never be forgotten by those in UL whose lives they touched especially in Clubs and Societies.

WINDSURFING EXPAND IT'S MEMBERSHIP TO MARY I



"We are now a club of Many Beautiful Women"

The windsurfing club has achieved a lot since its last article in An Focal. We have found a new home, Recruited 60 new members from Mary I, and developed working cold fusion. The club, along with the sailing club, has relocated to the other side of the lake at Dromineer. Our new home has been likened to Dawson's Creek, and

Ronan O'Dwyer won't stop singing that

stupid theme tune.

Although I must admit, it is quite catchy. "I don't wanna wait, for our" Sorry, no more singing I promise.

We have been out on the water, four times in the last fortnight. And last

Wednesday, we had an

influx of beginners. But with Graham Brennon dropping his pearls of wisdom at their feet, they will no doubt be jibing & doing loops in no time.

Anyways, one of our fearless leaders, Diarmuid Boyle took upon himself the torturous chore of going to Mary I, with the intention of getting many, many beautiful women to join the club. Allegedly he succeeded.

I'll believe it when I see it. With the intervarsity cancelled due to the Foot & Mouth disease. Our other fearless leader, Brian Leddin has guaranteed us that as soon as events are confirmed, he'll let us know. Until then however, we'll be sailing every Wednesday so check the notice board in the canteen for further details. Or mail Diarmuid Boyle.

In other news, Rob Coyle, the other pro in the club has chosen to reveal himself to the world. He said himself that he has spent most of his time in oblivion. No better place for him if you ask me.

And finally, a tribute ceremony was held last night to commemorate the members of clubs and societies who have passed away. Including Jason Hackett, a member of the windsurfing club. A plaque now bearing his name now adorns the wall of the clubs and socks office.

University to receive chair of History

BY T. O'Brien

Last week it was announced that the University is to have its first chair of history since its inception almost thirty ago. The announcement means that the subject has been placed on a footing with every other University in the country.

Speaking to *An Focal*, David Fleming (joint-editor of the

University's only history journal, 1997-2000), said that, "the appointment should encourage the subject within the University and allow history students an enhanced environment to learn and research in". Asked if the University's History Society had helped in procuring the new position, he said that "the society played no part in the seek-

ing the position, but had by its very existence helped to promote history both within and outside the University". Tom O'Donovan (SU Education Officer), said that he welcomed the news and hoped that the subject would continue to grow and prosper. He went on to say that the University is obliged to provide the best education that

is comparable to other Irish universities and must work to the needs of students by providing them with the resources and quality of teaching they deserve and pay for.

It is not known when the position will be formally advertised, but it is expected that many prominent historians will seek to fill the £55,000+ position.

UL FC bring Silverware home from the Collingwood Cup



UL on the Tuesday and with one spot up for grabs, it was 'winners take all' for a cup spot. DIT led by 1 goal until the 65th minute, whereupon Conor Molan brought UL back on level terms with a crashing drive. A 1-1 final score-line saw the game go to the dreaded penalty shootout to decide who would compete in the Cup and Plate competitions respectively. DIT were the strongest in the war of nerves, winning 4-2 on penalties. and advanced as far as the Collingwood Cup Final whereupon Jordanstown

disposed of their challenge by 3 goals to 1.

NUIG provided the opposition in the Plate semi-final. With former NUIG student Gordon McCann finding the net twice for UL and Brian Donnellan adding a third, there was always only going to be one outcome, as UL ran out 3-0 winners.

Last year's winners of the Collingwood Cup, UCC, awaited UL in the plate final on the Friday. In a very tense and tight match the sides remained deadlocked until the 70th minute, when the ever-illusive Gordon McCann scored the winning goal for the Limerick students. McCann was rewarded with his excellent performance throughout the tournament when he received the Top Goal scorer award with his tally of 4 goals. Centre back Brendan Hughes, was UL's player of the tournament. Oran Weldrick and Scott Brady are also notable mentions for their performances throughout the hectic week in Dublin.

In the Cup final on the same day, UUU overcame a very tired looking DIT winning by 3-0 in a dour match. The draw for next year's Collingwood, which is being hosted by NUIG, took place at the banquet later that evening. UL were drawn in the group of death along with this year's cup winners UUU, semi-finalist TCD and a strong QUB side. The announcement of the International side saw only one UL player making the squad in the shape of Oran Weldrick.

UL have worked hard all season and now hope to continue to reap the rewards. Having just lost one league game all season, UL now face UCD in Belfield in the league semi-final on March 14th. While manager and trainer, Noel O' Connor admits that the effort put in by the squad throughout the year is now receiving fruition, UL soccer team are very appreciative of their sponsors – Analog Devices, Guinness, Kostal, The Scholars Club, The Stables Club, the Kilmurry Lodge and ULSU without whom success would not have been garnered.

The squad that represented UL in Collingwood Cup is as follows:
Darragh McMahon, Brendan McDermott, Eoghan Poil, Scott Brady, Brendan Hughes, Garry Gorman, Peter Murphy, Michael Ryan, Mark Holland, Oran Weldrick, Eoin Keating, Conor Molan, Ciaran McElwaine, Eoin McCormack, Ross Dunphy, Gordon McCann, Eddie O'Brien, Bryan Donnellan.
Manager: Noel O'Connor, Asst. Manager: Stephen Driver.

University of Limerick Football Club continued their impressive season last week when they brought the Plate back to Shannon side in the Collingwood Cup Competition.

University's premier soccer competition satisfied large attendances all week in Dublin, as the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland hosted the annual event. UL were drawn in the same group as Dublin City University and Dublin Institute of Technology.

UL began the competition in great style, when they overcame the challenge of DCU by 3 goals to 1 after going a goal down against the run of play. Brian Donnellan, Gordon McCann, and Eoin Keating all found the net, as UL controlled the game from start to finish in impressive fashion on the Monday of the competition. Tuesday saw UL have a free day as they were drawn in the only group of three.

The second group match against DIT had much at stake on the Wednesday. DIT had also defeated DCU by the same score line as

University of Limerick Mens Soccer Club News

Indoor Competition

The Competition kicked off last Friday with almost 30 goals in just 3 games. There is still an opportunity to enter a Squad, and this can be done by visiting the Club Website www.csn.ul.ie/~soccer <<http://www.csn.ul.ie/~soccer>>, and visiting the 5-a-Side page. Games continue on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10 o'Clock and 1 o'Clock. Register by sending an E-Mail to 9942203@student.ul.ie.

11 A Side

The Competition will kick off in Week 7. People are advised to visit the Club Web Site and use the E-Mail contact list to gain Information and Register a Team. We will take a break for Rag Week, and will resume in Week 9. The usual Squad rules apply, with a Squad of 16 costing £50 to enter.

Collingwood Cup News

Congratulations to the Mens Senior Team, who won the Collingwood Plate in Dublin. Beaten only on Penalties, they continued the clubs streak of no defeats in Intervarsity Competition, as the Freshers lost on Penalties in the Harding Cup Semi-Final in Belfast.

Crowley Cup News

The recent plague of Foot and Mouth has scuppered all plans for the Clubs Reserve Team. We were due to compete in Coleraine, but as all cross border competitions were cancelled, we are left to contemplate what might have been.

Other News

The Club have won the prestigious "Club of the Year" Award. We hope to have much scandal to report on for the next issue.

PS . The Club wishes to confirm its support of Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Cup.

Press Release ULFC

Announce Sponsorship Deal and Honour Victorious Collingwood Squad

The University of Limerick Football Club is proud to announce sponsorship deals with Kostal Ireland and Analog Devices and to honour the victorious Collingwood squad. A reception will take place in Plassey House on Thursday 15 h of March at 12 noon to celebrate both events.

This sponsorship will greatly ease the financial burden on the club and allow it to run efficiently and effectively. The club competes in three intervarsity as well as a national student league competition each year. In addition the club fields two sides in the local Junior leagues. In order to offset the huge travel and accommodation expenses that are incurred in national competition, support from companies like Kostal and Analog is essential.

Each year the club run a very successful internal 11 a side competition with over 50 teams entering. This is the oldest and biggest internal competition run in the University and it has traditionally been a great fundraiser for the club. This year we are delighted that Kostal Ireland, who are based in Abbeyfeale, have decided to sponsor the competition, thus already ensuring its success.

Analog Devices who are based in Raheen, have kindly sponsored the Collingwood squad who travelled to Dublin to compete in the competition recently. The team, managed by Noel O'Connor emerged from the competition as Plate winners. Indeed, but for an aversion to penalty shootouts, the club would be unbeaten in all student competitions this year.

In light of these recent achievements, it is fitting that the University should choose to honour the Collingwood squad- Hopefully this will spur the players onto bigger and better things this year. A national student league is there to be won, though when the semi-final versus UCD will take place is now uncertain. We also envisage making our debut in the League of Ireland U-21 division this Autumn so it is clear that there are exciting times ahead.

Stephen Driver
Director of Football
UL FC

Aeronautical Society trip to Volga Dnepr



On Wednesday of Week 5, 20 members of the Aeronautical Society went to visit Volga Dnepr Airlines in Shannon Airport. Volga Dnepr operates a fleet of Antonov AN-124 outsize cargo aircraft. These are the biggest production aircraft in the world. As an example it recently carried 50 cars for the World Rally Championships. It can be loaded from ramps at the front and back of the aircraft. We were shown around the whole aircraft by Joe from Volga Dnepr

while the engineers worked on the aircraft. All the engineers come over from Russia for a couple of months at a time to work on the planes at Volga Dnepr's maintenance base at Shannon. The highlight for most was getting into the cockpit, which required 6 flight crew for as opposed to the usual 2 or 3. The sheer complexity of the aircraft amazed us all. The size of the internal cargo bay was mind boggling, it even had its own internal crane to load cargo. It regularly carries stage sets for bands such as U2.

We would like to thank Volga Dnepr Airlines and Joe for showing us around the aircraft and also Shannon Airport Police for allow-

ing us out to the ramp to see the aircraft.

We would also like to thank our sponsors for the year; The Scholars Club and Ryanair.

Don't forget that we are having a lodge night out on Monday of Week 7. Tickets will be available from committee members.

We hope to see you all out then. Check out our website for more information

www.csn.ul.ie/~aerosoc



If You're interested in Writing for An Focal, Learning Publishing Skills or if you've any ideas about developing the paper.

**An Focal Meeting Wednesday Week 6,
5 pm
Meeting Room 4
Student Centre**

or

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

2001: The Scottish odyssey



The date was 21st of January, the time 8:00pm. 16 brave members of the university of Limerick's outdoor pursuits club took their first cautious steps towards the bus, which was to be their home for 15 hours. 15 hours with less legroom than your average tomato. After an argument over who was to get the best seats we left the university. Looking forward to a 'smooth' ferry crossing we sat back and enjoyed the view. One of the many things we learnt on the trip was how to survive a rough ferry crossing. This is now a closely guarded secret known only to survivors of Scotland.

We arrived at our base camp in Onich near Fort William, which was to keep us warm and dry for the next 10 days. As a result of overbooking, the bunkhouse we had planned on staying in was replaced by 4 chalets. No complaints!! We had some new arrivals that night who increased the size of the group to 20.

We arrived around mid-day on a Monday so it was too late to do anything. We packed our bags and got a good night's sleep. The next day, we went to the ski slopes of Aonach. More where we practiced snow techniques such as ice axe arrest, setting anchors and learning how to walk (on snow!!). We were ready to tackle anything the mountains could throw at us. That night we got together and decided that the next morning we would tackle Ben Nevis the highest mountain in Britain and Ireland at 1,344 metres. We felt that the conditions were reasonable and we would have achieved our main goal. Had we waited, the weather might have deteriorated and we would have lost our chance. Fortunately the opposite was true and the weather improved all week.

The day the OPC conquered Nevis. Conditions were reasonable, the wind was low but visibility was poor. The avalanche warning for the day was level 3, which meant we would have to be careful. The group split into two groups, one took a slightly easier path up the

summer tourist path, and the rest took a more adventurous route. Both groups had to get used to the snow very quickly. Those at the front soon realised how tiring it is to kick steps and those at the back found it difficult walking through snow that was broken up by those ahead of them. It quickly became necessary to put on crampons and rope up. This is an awkward job when you're standing on a 45-degree slope with spindrift and snow covering everything. The group taking the more adventurous route reached the summit around 1:00pm. Quickly took some pictures, got a bite to eat and continued on down the mountain, unfortunately the second group had to turn back when their map blew away before they reached the difficult section near the summit. This area in winter is difficult to navigate in poor visibility because you are passing near two gullies. Everyone got down safely and were glad to return to the chalets and a hot shower. That night we agreed to have a rest the next day and do an informal course on crevice rescue and rope techniques.

The rope techniques and crevice rescue are important skills on mountains and can get you out of trouble. Everyone was glad to have the opportunity to practise. We met again that evening and decided that some of us would go ice climbing near Aonach Dubh, while others would climb another mountain somewhere in Scotland.

We decided that if we were to get a good day's climbing, we would have to leave early, so we decided to wake at 5:15am and be on the bus by 6:00am. After a walk in of around 2 hours and a quick search we found somewhere suitable for an introduction to ice climbing. However, conditions were terrible, there was heavy snowfall and visibility was poor but it wasn't dangerous yet. Our brave/crazy leader set up a guideline and 3 top ropes. Meanwhile the rest of us started to build a shelter against a rock face. We each took our turn edging over to the climbs, using the guide rope for safety. The conditions were worsening. Those climbing and belaying experienced 'sluffs' (mini avalanche) regularly every 1 or 2 minutes, some bigger than others. When these 'sluffs' became less frequent and larger we started worrying, as this was a warning that a bigger avalanche was building up. We stripped the routes and packed up the shelter and gear. Quickly checked that everything was packed and 'got the hell out of Dodge'. We picked the safest way down from the ice climb and picked our way through a boulder field. Gradually the snow turned to rain and we were going to be soaked if we didn't find somewhere dry. We had descended earlier than we had planned so the bus was not ready

but thankfully were offered shelter in a farm shed by one of the locals. We took the opportunity to change into dry clothes and review what we had experienced and learned in the tough conditions above on the mountain.

As a result of worsening weather conditions we had to take a break the next day. Everyone had different plans for their 'rest' day. Some spent the day climbing at the indoor wall in Fort William, while others decided to rent mountain bikes. The next day we planned to bring one group, mainly those who didn't reach the summit of Nevis, up Ben Nevis again and the other group would tackle a mountain called Mullach on the other side of Glen Nevis. This time, conditions were absolutely perfect. From the summit of both mountains, you could see for miles. There was no hurry to get up and down, we had left early and the conditions meant we could move faster. Both groups reached their summits earlier than expected. To fill some spare time we practiced the sport of sliding down the snow slope in your survival bag. More fun than it sounds.

For our final day in Scotland we decided to abandon our ice axes and crampons and took to the ski slopes of the Glencoe ski range for a bit of snowboarding. This sport is just as exciting as it looks on TV. It involves balance, strength and a daredevil mentality. We started falling before we were strapped into the boards and by time we were finished 8 hours later we could just about manage to use the beginner slopes. It's very difficult to get the basics of snowboarding.

We got back on the bus the next morning and returned home, exhausted and bruised back to the green fields of Ireland.

Thanks to all those who helped organise the trip, raise sponsorship and training for Scotland. Also our sponsors Nevada Smiths and Ocean Recruitment, the Stables, the Scholars, the Lodge, the UL Sports Department and Bank of Ireland and a special thanks to Mc Nulty's coaches for driving us all over Scotland.



UL Badminton Club News

A lot has happened in the UL Badminton Club since the last article before Christmas. The first thing to mention was the resounding success of the Guinness sponsored Christmas party which was attended by over 40 members. Without getting anybody into trouble (mainly myself) with naming names and adding to rumours, I'd just like to state that all the photographic evidence is available on the Badminton website, you can make your own mind up after seeing the pictures.

As most Badminton enthusiasts know, January to April are the main competitive months, so over the past few months many of our members have been doing themselves and the club justice with some fine performances, the highlight of which took place on Saturday the 10th of February. On this day, at the Munster Juniors which took place in Clonmel, UL players came home with exactly half the medals on offer. The 1st round of games began at 10.00 in the morning while the final of the mixed didn't finish until 1.45 the following morning. Eric and Alan Nelligan easily won the men's doubles, Eric partnered by club-mate Fiona Farrell won the mixed by the narrowest of margins against Eric's brother Alan. Fiona also lost in the singles final. Other good performances came from Fiona and Gillian Holmes who narrowly lost in 3 sets to the eventual winners in the Ladies Doubles semi-final while Shane O'Sullivan and Gillian also narrowly lost in the Semi-final of the mixed.

To say that the players were tired the following morning is an understatement, for instance over the course of the day Alan Nelligan played 11 different games of Badminton, of which 5 were three setters. We reckon that a close estimate of the court time Alan played in was around 7 hours, the mixed final itself lasted well over one hour.

As well as individual action, many of the club players were selected to represent their county. Eric and Alan Nelligan helped Kerry to qualify for the All-

Ireland final which is due to take place at the end of March, however despite Fiona's best efforts, where she won 3 out of 4 of her games, her native Longford were unsuccessful in their games against Wexford and Wicklow.

Senior team update

With only two games left the UL Senior team look practically certain to qualify for the final of their league. With four big wins in the past five games, the only defeat came when a very under-strength team that included only three senior team regulars lost 4-3 to Mungret. The silver lining on the cloud was when our two most consistent performers on the second team won their respective games after being promoted.

The final two games of the season take place against 2nd placed Manister and bottom of the table Dromin, however the loss of Alan Nelligan on co-op and Fiona Farrell on Teaching practice soon will seriously weaken our team.

Here is a list of the past five results:

UL	V's Mungret	6-1	Win
Manister	V's UL	2-5	Win
UL	V's Dromin	5-2	Win
UL	V's Riverside	6-1	Win
Mungret	V's UL	4-3	Loss

2nd team update

Since the last league report the 2nd team have gone through some mixed fortunes, their final game before Christmas saw them hammer Athlaca 7-0, however a run of three successive defeats during the month of January saw their scoring average plummet. A well timed mini revival over the past two games have now given the 2nd team a chance of making the final. At the moment the 2nd team are top of the league, however they've played more games than their two closest rivals. The 2nd last league game of the season is an away game

against the team with the highest average – Hospital, and the final game is a home match against 4th placed Riverside.

Here is a list of the past six results:

UL	V's Athlaca	7-0	Win
UL	V's Manister	2-5	Loss
Riverside	V's UL	4-3	Loss
Effin	V's UL	4-3	Loss
UL	V's Mungret	6-1	Win
Manister	V's UL	2-5	Win

Intervarsities

The Badminton intervarsities which were due to take place at the end of week 4, here in UL were postponed as a pre-caution due to the Foot and Mouth crisis. This was a major disappointment to the organising committee as a huge effort had been put into its organisation. However in the past few days we've learnt that they have been re-scheduled for the Easter weekend, so anybody staying around for Easter be prepared for a great few days.

Up coming games:

Wednesday the 21st of April (Wk6): Grade 2 V's Manister in Old Sports hall
Wednesday the 28th of April (Wk7): Grade 4 V's Riverside in Old Sports hall

I'd also like to wish our very own Brid Walsh the best of luck in her new position on the Clubs and Socs exe, after she was successfully nominated and voted onto the exe in the previous Clubs and Socs council meeting.

We'd like to thank all our sponsors: The Scholars, The Stables, The Lodge, O'Mahonys Bookstore, Guinness and especially Mary Dinan Sports. And don't forget to check out the clubs website for all the latest news and fixtures on: <http://badminton.csn.ul.ie/> & <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~shuttle/>

UL Camogie Club's Report on the Ashbourne Cup

The captains Report

The UL camogie club would like to sincerely thank our sponsors "Tellabs" for their generous contribution and also the Stables Club for their support.

Ní féidir a shéanadh ach go raibh an- rath orainn mar chlub sa choláiste i mbliana. Ghlacamar páirt tuillteanach inár gcluiche iontach ag gach leibhéal ar an bpáirc imeartha, gan dearúd ar na heachtraí sin a tharla sa bheár!!!!

Buaicphointe na bliana dár ndóigh ná an deireadh seachtaine a chaitheamar in Áth Luain. B'shin é an chéad uair gur imríomar uilig- seachas Paula Carroll, veteran na fóirne- i gcrabhbh Ashbourne- agus is ócáid í nach ndéanfar dear-mad uirthi go deo! Admhaím gur iomaí oíche go ndúisím leis an '*8 minutes of madness V WIT*' ag triail ar m'intinn!!!!

Gabham buíochas ó chroí le gach duine a thug tacaíochta dúinn i rith na bliana:

Le Marian Neville, Bainisteoir na fóirne, Neasa Fahy ár nUachtarán, Dave Mahedy ár dTraenálaí, Ger Cunningham a dhein an- chuid oibre leis an gcamógaíocht san ollscoil le dhá bhliain anuas, David.'dot'.Daly, le Gerry an tiománaí bus is fearr in Éirinn, le Paul.Lee agus muintir an SU, lenár n- urraithe Tellabs, le lucht oibre na Stablaí, Lodge agus Scholars a raibh chomh foigh-

neach sin linn agus muid ag 'drowning our sorrows' an seachtain i ndiaidh dúinn an craobh a chailliúint- nach bhfuil sé sin fíor Connoley?

Ar nóta pearsanta ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil leis an 'gcommit-teeeee' a raibh mé ag obair leo i rith na bliana- b'shin iad Laura Connolly, Sharon Carty agus Karen 'air hostess' Fingleton.

Míle buíochas leis an bpainéal iomlán a thug an deis dom bheith im' chaptaen oraibh.

Moladh speisialta tuillte ag Siobhán, Louise, Orla, Sarah agus Niamh a thug an-ionspioráid dúinn uilig nuair a tháinig sibh isteach mar 'Freshers' i Meán Fómhair!!!!!!

Le Jean Cullinane agus Aoife O' Connor atá i mbliain 4- ***ní bheidh bhur lei - théid arís againn i UL.***

Mar dúirt sean- chaptaen na fóirne, Denny Walsh: "Tiocfaidh ár lá" . Níl comór-tas 2002 i bhfad uainn..... táim lán chinnte de go mbeidh lá eile ag an bPaorach!!!!!!

Fiona Ní Chorcoráin, Márta 2001

How they got on!



to score an impressive point.

In the other semi-final, Waterford Institute of Technology caused an upset by beating UCC, much to the latter's disappointment! It was a whole new ball game now for UL as we had expected to play UCC had we reached the final. Psychologically, the playing field was even as each team had one win and one loss out of the two league matches played during the course of the year. Both teams emerged victorious on their own home turf, so things were to get interesting on the neutral ground of Athlone! Despite WIT scoring the first

point, UL led in style by a margin of three points at the break, the scoreline at 0-6 to 0-3. A goal from full-forward Siobhan Ryan two minutes out of the break, and a subsequent point from Caroline Murray stretched UL's lead even further. Unfortunately, however, WIT responded, with just ten minutes to go, by pulling back two goals. This upset the control which UL had established in the preceding fifty minutes and UL were powerless to respond when WIT

continued their run of good fortune by scoring a point from a free and one from play, leaving the score at the final whistle 1-8 to 2-6, a devastating blow to the UL team that were so, so close to realising an elusive dream. A dream, it seems, that was just not meant to be. For this year anyway. And as the old cliché says "there's always next year"!

Congratulations are very much deserved for the five members of the UL panel who were chosen to represent the combined universities against all-ireland champions, Tipperary. (Who are you going to play for LOUISE???) The five are captain and centre-back Fiona Ní Chorcorain, goalkeeper Louise Ryan (guess what county she plays for!), midfielder Jean Cullinane, half-forward Caroline Murray and corner-forward Aoife Lane. Well done girls! Congratulations are also due to classy centre-forward Aoife O'Connor, who played a blinder of a tournament. She is the UL teams choice for player of the tournament.

UL went to this years Ashbourne Cup competition with high hopes. The semi-final, played in St.Brigids, Kiltoon against the host college,Athlone Institute of technology, seemed to be a mere formality. This was reflected in the scoreline of 3-16 to 0-3. The three goals were put past the Athlone 'keeper by Siobhan Ryan, Aoife Neary and Aoife O'Connor. A fine performance was put in by each team member, with substitute Eimear O'Leary even coming on

The Ashbourne Weekend- A Fresh point of view!

We were warned by the more "mature"(?) players, but did we listen? Even after the escapades of Killaloe we still hurled onwards to the battlefields of the Ashbourne weekend. Nothing could have prepared us for what lay ahead. We assembled in the carpark and it's amazing how any members of our camogie army didn't get killed. Buses had narrow escapes from flying sliotars. We were only warming up! As innocent first years, we were delighted to get UL gear. So with our "tea cosy" hats and distinctive rugby shirts we were ready to conquer all! The bus journey was memorable from start to finish and it was clear to see that spirits were high. The Creggan Court hotel was our lodgings but our next door neighbours along the hotel corridor were none other than the Waterford IT players! We hadn't anticipated this. Saturday's clash against Athlone couldn't come quickly enough. The semi-final really opened our eyes to what Ashbourne camogie meant-the passion, the commitment. Everyone was willing to give of their all. We couldn't believe it when the final whistle went. Our first year in college and we were in an Ashbourne Cup final, with none other than our WIT friends!!! It meant so much to

everyone to be in the final but we knew we couldn't stop here. The elusive Ashbourne Cup had to come back to UL. There was a strange atmosphere in the hotel on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Rival teams on the same premises! Minutes, hours went by-nerves began to set in but everyone looked forward to the game. This was the game we had aimed to be in and to win. As first years we had never experienced anything like it. Final words of inspiration were spoken. The whole panel couldn't have had more pride in the jersey. The game was in our grasp but...Utter disappointment swept over everyone. It was devastating. No words can actually do justice to how everyone felt, on losing by one single point.

As first years, we realised what an unbelievable experience it was to have been part of the Ashbourne weekend and in all the preparations that led up to it, with such an amazing panel of players. To everyone that made us feel so at home in the camogie club we can only say a hearty "thanks". Fiona's leadership as captain was overwhelming. There were so many leaders. Jean and Aoife gave so much. We're sorry that a

coveted Ashbourne medal eluded them in all their years in UL. We'll win it for you next year girls. While it wasn't the result we wanted it was a year of unbelievable craic and great memories.....the hill training sessions in the dark, Marian's multifunctional "plunger"....the list is endless. Beimid ar ais. Thanks for the memories.

Up the Freshers!

Siobhan Ryan and Louise Ryan..



Pen Pictures

Pen Pictures

Aoife Lane: In habitant no. 1 from Jones' Road. Claims to be an accountant but was left with an imbalance of £10,000 in GAA funds! The TV star from Ballindereen doesn't drink and keeps an eye on the first years! Laners is renowned to have telepathetic communications with chipsticks on the pitch!

Caroline Murray: Another resident in the luscious pad of the Joneser! Murray is your average train-aholic, can be spotted running up the dunes in the early hours of the morning and just loves the physicals! Gooooooo Murrmmmmrrrrayyyyyy!!!!!! Not a bad player, slots them over from all angles with her eyes closed!

Mary Hallahan: This feisty Corkwoman has taken to the capital for a 9 month duration. Little has been heard of her progress in the 'real' premier county such is her workload for GAA officials. Mary fits in perfectly in the Jon-ser just don't mention the ould' Tweety Tuesday or there'll be a few tears shed!

Sinead Holland: The loudest member of the Ashbourne panel. This tough Clarewoman should not be crossed. Another sports scientist who has taken up residence in Dublah! -She may meet her match down some dark alley near the Jonser!

Claire Walshe: This Limerick lady gets a little confused as to what club she plays for! Is it Ballyagran or Bruff Claire? Resides in Cork, in Washington Street in case that any of you need a place to stay when visiting UCC comrades!

Niamh Connolly: The next loudest member of the panel after Mizz Holland. This outstanding player from

Aoife Lane: In habitant no. 1 from

Tipp is currently excelling in Intel in Leixlip. So watch out yee Lilywhites!

Louise Ryan: This newcomer from the so called premier county takes residence between the posts and she ain't that bad either! Loves to take time off college to go on trips to the Canaries! Tis well for some!

Siobhan Ryan: Thin and Crispy all the way. Joined us in September and we thought that she was a nice quiet girl!!!!!!!!!!!!!! True colours revealed in appropriate fashion in Killaloe!!! CAO have since admitted that her acceptance was a mistake! We'll keep her though, she's not a bad hurler!

Sarah O' Brien: Now here's one that definitely slipped the system- Sarah-aka- Electronic Engineering- O' Brien, Is very fond of playing with tape and is renounced for getting tied up! Has trouble finding her way home at night and more senior members have been called to duty more than once!

Orla Bambury: Who says that the Lilywhites can't hurl? Another Fresher PE who has blended in well with the panel this year! Claims to know every word of the Curragh of Kildare but we have yet to hear the full rendition! doesn't usually drink shorts but makes exceptions when in the company of our other Lilywhite!

Niamh Harkin: Our outstanding full-back from the Drom- AND- Inch club in Tipp. Has brushed shoulders with the best of them. Held the record in 2000 for the youngest player to ever play in an- Ireland camogie final! A shady character for the moment, soon to be corrupted!

Eillen -determination- Hanrick: A tough year in the Hanrick household, Sister Mairead is still recovering from the injuries she sustained after accepting an Ashbourne medal for

Jones' Road. Claims to be an accoun-

tant but was left with an imbalance of WIT! Our steely corner back means business- once blocked a 'certain' goal with her head!

Jean Cullinane: Not one for the speeches- the 17- times all- Ireland medallist from Ballingarry! A current 4th year who is one of the classiest players in the pack- comes alive at the sniff of a pint. Was recently spotted sauntering from the student services office with a postgrad form in her hand!

Aoife O' Connor: The player's player from Ashbourne 2001. This Wexford lady can be found 'dancing at the crossroads' in the Eskimo White coat! doesn't drink, never smokes and has also been spotted with the 'postgrad' brochure!

Sharon Carty: With an e- mail address of A1 gazza its not that difficult to know that this lilywhite means business. Rumour has it that her home phone number has the 01- prefix so we're still unsure of her status! The PRO of the camogie club has also taken the PRO job on for the county of- the once- a -century Leinster Champions!

Paula Cronin: The Limerick lady from Bruff is one of the quieter members of the panel- tis them we gotta watch folks! Was recently spotted jumping on a 46A to the city- watch this space!

Aine Power- quote "I like them hard" Pears of course. Engaged in a lot of "figrollin rollin rollin" with limp bizkits.! Aine suffered the unfortunate mishap of breaking her thumb for the UL camogie cause earlier in the year but the Kilkenny woman was fighting fit for the tournament.

Karen Fingleton-Left a promising career as an airhostess to join the UL camogie team, although the skills came in handy in the lodge on

Monday night. Official fruit bearer of the weekend, facilitated Aine with some hard ones. (Pears, that is.) **Paula O'Carroll-**Official "energiser bunny", well on the bus home anyway! There's no song she doesn't know, and herself and Marian went home on Sunday night for a "cup of tea and 20 packets of taytos", only Aoife Lane and co. ate all the taytos....

Fiona Ni Chorcorain-Such a brilliant performance all weekend from this one you'd never think she was a Dub! (Only messin' with ye Fiona!) Didn't score too much on the pitch from centre-back but it was a different story on Wednesday night in the Lodge!

Aoife Neary-Great dancer in the lodge, especially to rock DJ (Carey) We're not sure what county she comes from, as she never goes on about it. Got some classy scores during the weekend.

Laura Connolly-We would like to make it known that Laura DOES NOT SNORE.

Connolly is the spring chicken of the team and the only member who has successfully completed first year three times. One of our sturdy cornerbacks on whom the rest of the team can depend, on the pitch and in the pub.

Claire Delaney-A multi-talented sportswoman who plays both hockey and camogie. Tends to get confused with the two from time to time. Tends to get confused generally. Ah no, a dependable wing back who would give her right arm for the club (just to outdo Aine!)

Eimear O'Leary-Supersub who came on in the semi-final and hammered one of the final nails into Athlone IT's coffin. Eimear doesn't really drink

Thomond Ball 2001: brought to you by the Student Teachers' Society



It was built to be a great night, the last organised by the S.T.S. Ticket sales were slow but in the last 2 days, and there was an almighty rush. Phones didn't stop ringing, emails being sent and loads arriving at our door: stragglers and the indecisive looking for tickets at the last minute.

Fake tans were a major priority for the day and there were a few unfortunate lads who got caught up in all the mess. The stables, was awash with style from about 5 o'clock on, (and some even before that.).

As usual the appeal of cheap drink made people reluctant to endure a 40-minute bus journey. This was solved by our president Gene, winner of the squeaky voice of the year, who climbed up onto a table and pleaded with people to get on the buses. Promises were made but were they kept? "A freak oil spillage" in Newmarket on Fergus, threatened to delay the ball by 2 hours as the buses proposed to divert via the Cliffs of Moher. How were we going to explain this to people who were waiting patiently in the hotel bar for the meal? We asked ourselves: How were going to handle that much drink after starving ourselves all day? However phone calls were made and soon the ball was back on track.

After a scrumptious meal (that some of us cant remember), the awards ceremony got under way.

The excitement, tension and controversy were enough to contend with the Oscars any day!! We had a few surprising and not so surprising nominations and winners. We would like to thank Mr. Patrick Comford for his moving speech and the graceful (??) way in which he accepted his prize! The love triangle of the year award, was repeated in all its glory by Colm, Aine and Karen (this triangle worked in everyway!!) However after the weekend, it could be called a pentagon with still only one guy. Flowers and a plaque were presented to Steff as personality of the year, which was well deserved. These flowers among others can be currently viewed in the cistern of a toilet in 213 Elm Park (pasta jars were our only other option). The band and Dj. did their job by setting the atmosphere and having everyone out of their seats for the first song and for the rest of the night. As with all events, there were a few casualties, some being knocked out, others being puked on and several with glass in their feet. This was all too much excitement for a certain 4th year P.E. girl who decided to take a nap under a dinner table on full view to wide eyed metal workers.

The night finished too early (at 3am). Those going home had to endure another bus journey, some not arriving home till 6am. Meanwhile back in the residents bar, the craic was only getting underway! (Thanks to our own personal magician: Richie the Great).

Sleeping arrangements in the night were varied and extreme to say the least. Room 135 had 2 guys and 4 girls and 3 beds: 2 of these beds were single. This was where the love triangle was extended. So who was sleeping with whom??? Next door was equally interesting: there were 4 in this room: 1 was asleep, 1 was watching the France Vs Germany match (well that's what he says) and the other 2? Well noises could be heard for miles around. As for

the occupant of room 107 seen wandering around the hotel in his boxers: we have video footage. Another individual in room 113 didn't know who the 2 guys who were sleeping in the same room as him or how they got in (Ya right!!). One girl spent most of the night trying every door in the hotel with her key: looking for her room was the reason she gave us: but was this the real reason? We are also on the lookout for the negatives of a certain Donegal metalworker that was modelling his conquests dress.

There were quite a few sick heads the morning after and several new possibilities for couple of the year. Back to the bar for a cure and a deep and meaningful discussion about mice in chefs hats, Flintstones and the most intriguing of all Scooby Doo. One woodworker recounted a story of being attacked by a curtain and one girl (a possibility for comment of the year for next year) told us how she "lost everything last night"

A convoy of cars left for Limerick at about 3pm with some very sick passengers, home for a bite to eat and off to the hurlers for a nightcap and onto the lodge for Part 2 of Thomond Ball 2001.

Special thanks goes out to The West County Hotel for having us, Finnegan's Bar and Restaurant for their sponsorship, The Pete Rivers Band and Dj Mark O'Reilly for the brilliant music and atmosphere they gave us, the organisers of the ball without which there would be no ball, The Ents crew for all their help, the residents of 213 Elm Park for their patience with the last minute ticket sales and No 7 Avignon who helped us keep sane and who saw us off from the stables, And of course most importantly of all, the people who attended.

Stephanie Flannery & Ruth Coughlan

Men's volleyball team secure promotion to division one

UL men's volleyball team have already started to look forward to life in division one of the VAI (Volleyball Association of Ireland) national league after three more convincing wins since the end of last January. On the 21st of January, the day after the Christmas exams! The team travelled to Dublin in the knowledge that full points from the two matches would guarantee promotion.

Our first match was against 3rd placed ESB. After the trip up from Limerick we were slow to get into our usual rhythm but despite this we were always comfortably ahead in each set. Worryingly however as the game progressed we never managed to raise our game. Still with the first match won we started to look towards the vital one against 2nd placed Trinity.

A win against Trinity would ensure us of promotion. However we knew that if we were to beat Trinity we had to improve quite a lot from the ESB game. Yet again we were slow starting and Trinity raced into a 5 - 0 lead. Knowing that if we didn't up our game we would lose we dug deep and clawed our way back to level at 10-10. Once we had achieved that the pressure was back on Trinity. They responded well but with excellent centre hitting and blocking from Rasmus and Donncha Trinity were closed down and we won a hard fought set 25-20. Having won a set that went down to the wire our confidence was high heading into the second. While UL were never behind it was another close set with Trinity matching us point for point. Good setting from

Jonathan and Gerard gave our wing hitter Olivier and Carl the ammunition to hurt Trinity. In the end it took some superb serving from Carl who score 5 consecutive points on his serve to close out the set 25-18.

The third set went along the lines of the previous with UL never in trouble but unable to open up a sizeable gap. With a good team effort we won the set 25-19 and promotion was secured.

Our next match was home in UL with Trinity providing the opposition again. With the league won our aim now was to finish with a 100% record. Injury and other commitments meant UL didn't have a full panel to choose from. The opening set went to Trinity, the first set that UL had lost in their league campaign to date. UL took the next set with good serving from Carl and strong play from Rasmus and Donncha. The third set went UL's way again with Jonathan both setting well from back court and hitting well in front court. Our new American player Shane started to come into the game more and with strong serving closed out the set. With a 2-1 lead UL needed only one more set for victory. The turning point in the set came when Trinity mixed up their rotation on court. As they had already score two point before the referee spotted the infringement these points were taken back and UL gained a point for the technical foul. The end result was UL going from 11-12 behind to 13-10 ahead. This proved to have big impact in the result as UL went on to win the set by the narrowest of

margins 26-24. A set in volleyball is up to 25 points, but you must win the set by at least two clear points, i.e. 25-23. If the score is 25-24 you keep playing until one team has a two-point lead, i.e. 26-24, 27-25 or even as happened in the Olympics 43-41.

UL always welcomes new players, both male and female. Whether you have played before or have just taken up the sport, we play both competitively and for fun.

Feel free to come along to one of our training sessions any time. We train every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.15 pm to 10.45 pm in the new Arena, courts 3 and 4

Here is a list of our upcoming fixtures.

Date	Venue	Match
1st April	ULArena	League game against ESB
7th/8th April	ULArena	VAI Tournament
21st April	UL Sports Building	Cup final against DCU

The UL Men's Squad is: Gerard Conway (captain), Jonathan Collins, Olivier Mellin, Carl Graphenfelt, Donncha Daly, Rasmus Quante, Fergal Lyons, Mike Carey, Shane O' Sullivan, Mike Hanlon, Shane O' Brien, Rohan West, Alex and Thomas.
Coach: Cormac Byrnes.

UL American Football Club

Training Monday 5pm

Thursdays 6 pm (Astro-Turf)

Astro-turf or Pitch (Bring Runners & Boots)

All New Members Welcome

e-mail: info@ulvikings.com

website: www.ulvikings.com

Heineken in association with both the Stables Club and the Scholars Club are giving away, not one but two Scooters in April, one in each Club. Over the next 4 weeks a finalist a week, will be selected in each of the clubs to go on to one of the grand finals of the competition.

All you have to do to enter is to buy a Heineken, Coors or Murphy's in either of the two clubs (or both) and you could be in with a chance to win.

The weekly draws are taking place in the Scholars on the 13th(last night), the 20th, the 27th of March and the grand final for the Scholars scooter is on Thursday 12th Of April. The Draws for the Stables Scooter take place on the 15th, 22nd and 29th of March with the final taking place on the Thursday of Kollege Week.

And just to make it a little bit fairer, the prize can only be won by a full time UL student. Anybody working with Heineken, The Scholars Club, The Stables Club, and any promotional agency involved in this promotion is not eligible to enter.

Congratulations go out to Eoin Murphy, who won the first Scholars draw last night.



ULAC Members to take the Plunge for Charity!!!

A 10,000 foot plunge to be exact! From a plane, with nothing but some nylon rope and a glorified bed-sheet and a whole bunch of air coming between us and a 200mph impact with planet earth. Some refer to this ridiculous activity as a parachute-jump. Call it what you will, it doesn't matter. It's still ridiculous. Are we stoopid, or just plain mad I hear you ask?

Both. With all sporting events presently just not happening cos of the oul' Foot and Mouth, we're just not able for it. With one intervarsity already cancelled, and another in serious doubt, we dunno what to be doing with ourselves. Between this, and the cancellation of the Ireland v england ruggers match which we had tickets for, AND the fact that we, like everyone else we know, failed to get Slane tickets, we just couldn't take it no more.....so we're jumping out of a plane.

Four members of the club, David Crowley, Mark Hamilton, Stephen Farrelly and Conor Fitzgerald will take to the skies sometime around Ragweek in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. This is where YOU come in! Our goal is to raise over £1000 for this, a very worthy cause. Please keep us in mind, and if you see us around, give whatever few shillings you can. It would much appreciated. Any sponsors which might be interested can contact Mark Hamilton at markhamilton@ireland.com or just ask any ULAC member. Cheers!

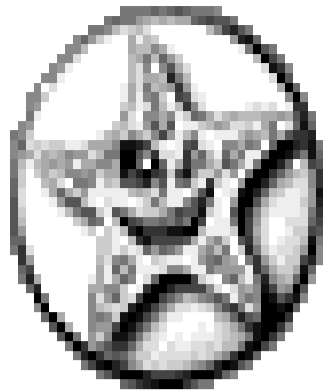
The club is also having a fundraising night in the lodge on Thursday of Week . Tickets may be purchased from club members, or in the canteen.

Athletics training times continue as normal. Keep an eye out for details of upcoming intervarsities on the notice board.

It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Aries 20 March – 18 April
There's no point dwelling on something that cannot be controlled. As with most things, time is the best healer. Concern yourself with the mysterious newcomer instead.

Taurus 19 April – 19 May
A friend is causing you to be even more stubborn than you usually are. Take a step back and decide whether you are taking it too far.

Gemini 20 May – 20 June
It must be that time of the month because you definitely are not your usual witty self! Stay in bed for a whole day. Pamper yourself and your stresses shall be relieved, especially if somebody keeps you company.

Cancer 21 June – 21 July
Try not to be so paranoid. Not everybody wants to steal your thunder! Learn how to trust those around you and also be aware that the whole world does not revolve around you!

Leo 22 July – 21 August
A close pal is acting exceptionally weird lately. Know that they are just going through a rough patch and wishes that the distance between ye will soon decline.

Virgo 22 August – 21 September
You are supremely skilled at manipulating others into doing what you want. But this week sees a more talented opponent attempting to outmanoeuvre you. Beware.

Libra 22 September – 22 October
Your special someone treats you to a surprise romantic evening. (Maybe I shouldn't have actually said that!) Know that a lot of time, effort and love has gone into making it special.

Scorpio 23 October – 21 November
Problems at work appear to calm down over the next week as an archrival makes themselves scarce. Make use of this time to allow yourself to do the things you have been wanting to do.

Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December
A recent break-up has left you surprisingly calm and relieved. But as usual you have the trump card up your sleeve. If you have your eye on somebody else, follow your heart.

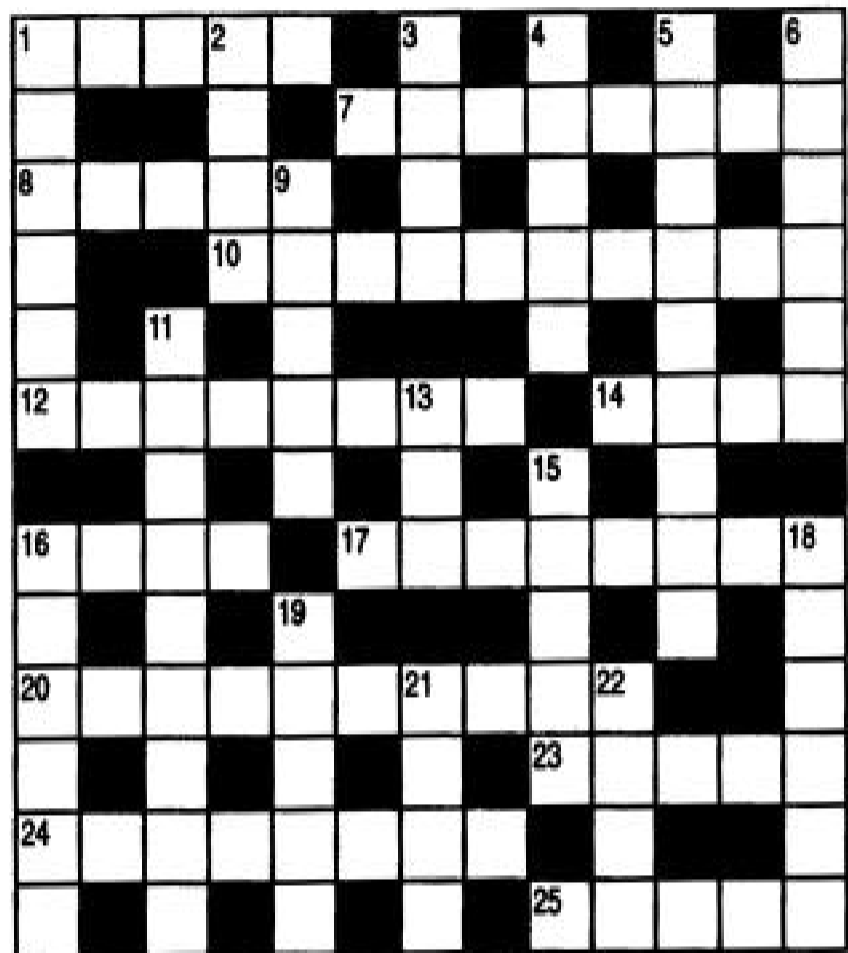
Capricorn 21 December – 19 January
Finances look dim. What's new?! But money can't buy you love and you'll certainly be so loved up this week that you won't have the time or the energy to worry about cash!

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February
Your romantic relationship is highlighted this week. If you are currently hooked up, it's a good week to reaffirm your commitment to each other.

Pisces 19 February – 19 March
Stop pretending to be someone that you are not. It's not worth it. Trust that people will appreciate and love you for who you are. Besides – you're not going to win any Oscars the way you're heading!!

Drop the correct answers into the New 95 Fm &

Win yourself a few CD's



ACROSS

- 1. Furrowed look (5)
- 7. Smoked beef (8)
- 8. Mixture of lettuce etc. (5)
- 10. Water bird (10)
- 12. Demythologised (8)
- 14. "Kiss Me —" (4)
- 16. Tints (4)
- 17. Family member (8)
- 20. Implement for getting at kernels (10)
- 23. Throw water over (5)
- 24. Was plentiful (8)
- 25. Polish "pound" (5)

DOWN

- 1. Starved (6)
- 2. Feeble (4)
- 3. Called (4)
- 4. Sedate (5)
- 5. Bowl for ablutions (4-5)
- 6. Cut into (6)
- 9. Princess of Wales (5)
- 11. Reason for dissatisfaction (9)
- 13. Before (3)
- 15. Held in great dislike (5)
- 16. Airport building (6)
- 18. Subtlety (6)
- 19. Squeeze and twist (5)
- 21. A cook in a restaurant (4)
- 22. Move like a wheel (4)

le scribble box

Life through a Lens

- Sinead's view of Life



Ba cheart dom plosa a scrloibh as Gaeilge, mar ag an pointe seo, níl sÉ ag teacht fÚs, t· sÉ ann anois, agus t· fola ghlas ag rith tríd mo chuisle, ach rinne mÉ dearmad ar mo chuid Gaeilge go leor, agus de bhrí sin, beidh an chuid is mÚ an plosa as Bearla tar Èis pointe seoÖ

Bulochas le Dia!!! Rag Week is going ahead. We need not sacrifice our five-day celebration of youth and culture, of revelry and roistering, and of puking up copious amounts of free lager, after the boat races, all over the Stables forecourt in the name of the National Interest. If we can't drown the Shamrock on St Patrick's Day, we will do it in style then

Has the entire Irish nation completely lost its marbles? Perhaps it's just a symptom of the onset of CJD and we've all gone mad because our brains have gone spongy. Mass cancellations of everything except Mass, and millions of miles of disinfectant mats and straw later we are still no closer to the prevention of a "once in a generation disaster". We even have our very own mutant mat at the East Gate, which has taken on a life of its own, and is slowly but surely slithering in the general direction of Elm Park. Be afraid, be very afraid. So intent are we on protecting the national herd that we have postponed St Patrick's Day, and stopped the import of anything that is remotely British. The message at the border seems to be unless you're Irish, don't come into the parlour (unless you wipe your feet on that matt)

The carry on across the water has (quite rightly) drawn bucketfuls denunciation, for their containment, or lack there of, of FMD. They'll carry on as normal, and we'll draw bucketfuls of disinfectant to quell the spread. The lack lustre, lack of intelligence approach has culminated in the current 200+ *diagnosed* cases. For a disease that was supposed to have peaked four days ago, it's still infecting with great vigour. This morning an English radio news broadcaster reported that a million sheep *may* have to be slaughtered to stop the epidemic, and they *may* have to get the army involved to help with the culling. You never know, one of these days they *may* get around to doing something, for instance, putting down a few bundles of straw at Heathrow, which is, as yet, a model of how the free movement of persons (and dairy produce) should work. Not

so much as one sporting fixture has been cancelled, and an estimated 1.2 million travelled this weekend to football and rugby matches. I don't expect that they should join in our mass hysteria, just perhaps go a little bit mad with the disinfectant.

It lightens up shortly, I swear.

All in all, the English track record in food safety would give a bout of gastroenteritis to the strongest constitution. The preferred method of disease prevention is turning a blind eye, which is a cheerfully optimistic way of dealing with anything. John Gummer was so confident in this method, that he fed his daughter a beef-burger on national television, in an effort to reassure the British public that British Beef is safe for consumption. Note that he didn't eat any of it himself, and in any rate, we *know* that the beef probably grew up on a farm in west Cork. The national policy of burying the head in the stand also requires that anyone who dares voice fears about the safety of their food be soundly heckled and booed all the way home. Edwina Currie had to resign when she caused mass panic, by pronouncing that all British eggs carried salmonella. The wise old men of the Tory party had Richard Lacey for their English Breakfast when he ventured the idea that BSE might be connected with CJD. A track record that any ostrich would be proud of.

So here we are, all limbered up for the annual dousing of the shamrock, and we're told not to go anywhere, unless absolutely necessary. With this in mind I took to the information super highway in search of fun Irish things to do without leaving the back garden and spreading the dreaded FMD.

It might interest some of you to know that between the 16 and 18 the American Stamp Dealers' Association are holding an auction in Rochester, New York, and wait for this: you can bid for *limited edition Irish stamps* on line. All major credit cards will be accepted...

Among other fun things to make and do you could try your hand at brewing some of the Black stuff, the traditional accompaniment to any Green celebration. You will need: hops (what ever they are), barley, a big copper saucepan and a Liebig condenser for distillation (this is not an absolute requirement, but remember, the more times you distil it, the stronger it becomes.) Boil and drink. A variation on this can be achieved by adding malt or potato skins or other such rubbish. The

result will be a near lethal concoction, which may euphemistically be called poitín.

Since it is seachtain na Gaeilge, one could try to learn coupla focal in honour of the occasion. The following may be useful to start with: Dunta = closed; Curtha ar ceal = cancelled; corantín = quarantine; níl cead agat dul isteach, mar ta galar cos-bhÉal ort.= You can't come in, as you have foot and mouth disease. Dia dhuit a shairsint t· galar cos-bhÉal ar mba mo chomharsana = hello sergeant, my neighbour's cattle have foot and mouth disease.

Play the "I am St Patrick" game, by killing serpents. As reptiles are thin on the ground in Ireland (fair play to you Paddy), one can substitute any dairy animal that you might have lying about the house, they're on the way to an abattoir anyway. The aim of the game is to kill as many snakes (sheep) as possible in sixty seconds. This game is not to be confused with the "I am Satan" game, played at Hallow'een, as it involves ritual animal slaughter and this game is purely for fun.

Indulge in some Gaelic games (explained in last edition), after drinking a bottle of Powers whiskey (not Scotch) and 17 pints of Guinness. Try to hit the síotar out of your best friend's cupped hands, with a hurley and watch the ball and his fingers fly off into the air. For a less painful but more mundane version, place an O'Neill's ball on top of your mother's favourite Ansley vase and see who can kick it the farthest.

Failing all of the above, drink the results of what ever home brew you tried to make and anything else remotely alcoholic that you can get your hands on (perfume will do), go outside tie your local GAA club's flag to the chimney, while singing Danny Boy or the Fields of Athenry horrendously out of key and try to douse the shamrocks in your next-door neighbour's garden, by shooting some of the aforementioned beverages down the drain pipe, that you've ripped off the roof.

